

# Voices

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT CENTER FOR WOMEN AND POLITICS

## Catt Center and League of Women Voters get "Ready to Run" on June 1, 2007

There is still time to register to participate in the campaign school *Ready to Run*<sup>™</sup>. The Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics and the League of Women Voters of Ames is sponsoring *Ready to Run*<sup>™</sup> on Friday, June 1, from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Scheman Center at the Iowa State Center.

This one day bi-partisan program is for anyone considering seeking elected or appointed office, working on a campaign, or becoming more active in the political process. "The workshop presents a unique opportunity for potential candidates to hear directly from prominent elected and appointed women leaders, campaign consultants and party officials about how to literally get ready to run," said Dianne Bystrom, director of the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics at ISU.

The workshop offers two different tracks to fit participants' interests in running for political office. *I'm Ready to Run, Now What?* provides a program for those who are planning to run for office in the near future. *I'm Not Ready to Run Yet, But...is* for those who are interested in getting more information about the ways to get involved in politics.

Track 1 sessions include "Launching your Campaign," which provides an overview of key elements of a campaign,

and "Navigating Iowa's Political Parties as a Potential Candidate," which highlights power dynamics of the party, building relationships and gaining support, and responding when the party organization is not supportive.

Track 2 sessions include "Laying the Groundwork for Public Life," which covers the different ways to get involved in politics and how to position oneself for a possible run in the future, and "Getting Active in the Party," which focuses on understanding the political parties, joining your local party and building relationships, and what to do when you consider yourself an independent.

Both tracks will participate in the opening keynote and luncheon and closing plenary sessions. The luncheon session, "Conquering the Camera: An Interactive Media Training," will include tips for successful interviews, how to look professional on camera, and public speaking techniques. The closing session, "Fundraising for Success," covers the crucial aspects of fundraising for campaigns, including assessing fundraising goals; utilizing direct mail, events and political action committees; how to make the "ask"; and building a donor list.

"We have a diverse and dynamic group of speakers, who will provide a lot of information during interactive sessions," Bystrom said. Confirmed speakers for the workshop include Mary Ann Spicer, Polk County

Republicans and Sisters on Target; Ann Campbell, mayor of Ames; former State Senator Maggie Tinsman (R-Davenport); Christine Hensley, Des Moines City Council; Chris Jahnke, president of Positive Communications in Washington, DC; Joe Shannahan and Karen Slifka, campaign strategists with Lincoln Strategies of Des Moines; State Representatives Carmine Boal (R-Ankeny), Lisa Heddens (D-Ames) and Beth Wessel-Kroeschell (D-Ames); State Senators Mary Lundby (R-Marion) and Staci Appel (D-Ackworth); Teree Caldwell-Johnson, Des Moines School Board; Jane Halliburton, Story County Board of Supervisors; Diane Crookham-Johnson, Republican Party of Iowa, and JoDee Winterhoff, Democratic campaign strategist.

The cost of the workshop is \$75 before May 21 and \$100 after May 21. Scholarships are available on a first-come basis as long as funds are available. Registration forms, scholarship applications and more information are available online at [www.las.iastate.edu/CattCenter](http://www.las.iastate.edu/CattCenter).

Ready to   
**RUN**<sup>™</sup>  
Campaign Training for Women

## Catt Center Students Recognized for Their Achievements

### ACT Peer Mentor Receives Award

Marisa Stadlman, senior from Ankeny, received an exemplary peer mentor award for her work with the Advancing Citizenship Together (ACT) learning community on Wednesday, April 4. She was nominated for the award by Chris Fowler, ACT learning community coordinator, and participants in ACT. ACT is a learning community for first-year students who are interested in politics, public service and women's issues.

Stadlman planned many events for the learning community throughout the year. At the start of the fall semester, she planned a BBQ for the ACT students to meet with their Catt Associates mentors. She encouraged the ACT students to become involved with service learning opportunities and student organizations on campus. She helped them organize a "Get Out of the Vote" quiz show for Ames High School government classes. She also helped plan activities for ACT's weekly meetings.

"Marisa's work ethic and her ability to work so well with the students made it a pleasure to work with her as the ACT peer mentor," said Chris Fowler, Catt Center student program coordinator.

"As a former ACT student, I realized how much the program did for me and am happy I was able to give back by serving as the peer mentor this year," Stadlman said.

This fall, Stadlman will be attending Iowa State University to work on her master's of public administration.



*Chris Fowler, Catt Center student program coordinator, congratulates ACT peer mentor, Marisa Stadlman, on her award.*

### Catt Center Employee Honored

On Tuesday, April 24, Jenna Jones, senior from Monticello, IA, received a student of distinction award from the Division of Student Affairs for her work over the last three years at the Catt Center. Jones was nominated for the award by the staff of the Center for her outstanding work.

Jones, a senior in journalism and management, began her involvement with the Center as a member of the ACT learning community her freshman year. During her sophomore year, she started working at the Center as an office assistant. In her junior year, she was promoted to an undergraduate research assistant. She also was an active member and officer of Catt Associates student leadership organization.

Her work at the Center has ranged from the simple tasks of answering the phones and running errands to writing for the Center's Voices newsletter, conducting research with the director and serving as the Catt Center's archivist. "Not only did Jenna come to us with a positive attitude and great personality, no matter what the task was, she always gave 100% and consistently produced quality work," said Julie Snyder-Yuly, assistant director.

Jones received a \$500 scholarship and several other gifts for this achievement. "Being nominated for this award and being chosen as a student of distinction is a great way to wrap up my senior year at Iowa State. I'm very appreciative to the staff at the Catt Center for nominating me and all the additional opportunities I have had while working there," Jones said.



*Catt Center undergraduate research assistant and Catt Associates secretary, Jenna Jones (far right), and Catt Associate, Rohini Ramnath, pose with Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Tom Hill (far left) and LAS Associate Dean and faculty appreciation recipient Dr. Doug Epperson.*

### Catt Associate No Longer Unsung

Rohini Ramnath has been an active member of Catt Associates, but that is not all she's done. A graduating senior in political science, Ramnath has left her mark at Iowa State University.

This year, Ramnath was selected as the Unsung Hero by the Division of Student Affairs, honoring her commitment and dedication to Iowa State University and the organizations she belongs to. She was also featured on the Catt Associates Women Impacting ISU calendar as one of the 12 women who are making a difference.

Ramnath also was selected as a Wallace E. Baron All-University Senior, which recognizes outstanding seniors who display high character, outstanding achievement in academics and university/community activities, and promise for continuing these exemplary qualities as alumni. No more than five seniors campus-wide are selected for the award.

Finally, Ramnath received one of the prestigious Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarships with a value up to \$24,000, which she will use to complete a master's program in Ghana.

"Rohini is a great example of the type of students who tend to get involved with the Catt Center," said Dianne Bystrom, Center director.

## Four Scholars Received 2006 Catt Prize for Research Projects

Twenty-two proposals from a variety of disciplines were received for the 2006 Carrie Chapman Catt Prize for Research on Women and Politics. Two projects received \$1,000 prizes and two projects received \$500 honorable mention awards.

Catt Prizes were awarded to:  
**Pamela Paxton**, associate professor of sociology and political science at The Ohio State University, for *How Women Attain*



*Political Power: Understanding Women's Representation in Parliaments, 1893-2003*. This project will examine women's inclusion into parliamentary bodies in more than 150 countries from 1893-2003. The goals of the project are to define and measure women's attainment of political power across political systems and time, and to examine what factors explain how long it takes countries to acquire their first female parliamentarian and to achieve 10%, 20% and 30% women in their parliament.



**Aili Mari Tripp**, associate dean of international studies and professor of political science and women's studies at the University of

Wisconsin-Madison, for *Women and Peacemaking in Africa: When, Why and How Gender Matters*. This project will contrast women's and men's peacemaking activities in select African countries with the goal of demonstrating that what distinguishes their approaches is not women's innate sensibilities as peacemaker, but rather women activists' unity around another cause, that of women's political, economic and social advancement.

Two honorable mention awards of \$500 were presented to:



**Jenny Barker-Devine**, Ph.D. candidate in history at Iowa State University, for *"Our Cherished Ideals": Rural Women, Activism, and Identity in the*

*Midwest, 1950-1990*. This research project examines how farm and rural women in the Midwest expressed their political, social, economic and gendered identities through memberships in agricultural organization. It explores how rural women's activism evolved alongside technology, economic policy and changing notions of gender.

**Petra Hejnova**, Ph.D. candidate in political science at Syracuse University, for *Free (Not) to Organize: Uncovering Effects of State Policies on Women's Activism in the Czech Republic and Chile*. This project examines the



processes through which the authoritarian states of the Czech Republic and Chile and their policies affected women's ability and willingness to organize for collective action during the period of political, economic and social transformation of the 1990s. In addition, it analyzes the causes of the surprising regional differences in women's mobilization.



## Competition Open for 2007 Catt Research Prize

The Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics is pleased to announce the competition for the 2007 Carrie Chapman Catt Prize for Research on Women and Politics.

This annual competition is designed to encourage and reward scholars embarking on significant research in the area of women and politics. The prize includes a \$1,000 cash award for each project selected. Honorable mention prizes of \$500 per project are sometimes given.

Proposals for the 2007 Carrie Chapman Catt Prize for Research on Women and Politics must be postmarked by Monday, October 1, 2007. Research projects submitted for prize consideration can address any topic related to women and politics. Scholars at any level, including graduate students and junior faculty members, can apply.

For specific details on the submission process, please contact us at 515-294-3181, by email at [cattctr@iastate.edu](mailto:cattctr@iastate.edu) or visit our website at: [www.las.iastate.edu/CattCenter/](http://www.las.iastate.edu/CattCenter/)

Awards will be announced in January 2008. Winners of the Carrie Chapman Catt Prize for Research on Women and Politics are to acknowledge their honor when their research results are published and to transmit one copy of each publication for the Center's archives.

Numerous proposals from a variety of academic disciplines are received each year. Proposals are blind-reviewed by faculty serving on the Catt Prize Selection Committee. After careful review and deliberations, the committee selects projects to receive a prize of \$1,000 each and projects for honorable mention recognition of \$500 each.

The Catt Prize was created in 1997, and the Center has awarded \$40,000 to established researchers and up-and-coming scholars.

## Catt Center Celebrates Year End with Graduates and Friends

The Carrie Chapman Catt Center held a year-end tea celebration "A Finale with Friends" on Wednesday, April 25. The annual event provides time for the Center to recognize the students and friends that have been involved in its events throughout the year.

During the tea, Dianne Bystrom, director, introduced the Center's staff and described the various projects the Center has been working on, including the Archives of Women's Political Communication and the Joni and John Axel leadership courses. Chris Fowler, program coordinator, spoke about activities of the Advancing Citizenship Together (ACT) learning community and the service learning projects they worked on individually during the spring

## ACT Learning Community Accepting Freshman Applications

The Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics is now accepting applications for its Advancing Citizenship Together (ACT) freshman learning community. ACT seeks to increase participants' knowledge of political and women's issues, promote civic participation in the local community, and encourage exploration of career opportunities in public service, public policy and administration. The learning community acts as a way to connect first-year students with similar interests to enhance their learning experiences at Iowa State University.

As a small group, the ACT students will take the "Fundamentals of Public Speaking" course together in the fall and "Introduction to Women's Studies" in the spring. Outside of class, ACT meets for



semester. She also introduced several friends of the Center who attended the tea: academic advisers Bruce Allen and Dan Rice, faculty members Diane Price Herndl and Amy Slagel, and Jeana Gingery of LAS Career Services. Assistant Director Julie Snyder-Yuly provided an update on the Catt Associates student organization and announced its new executive board members for the upcoming school year.

The graduating seniors were recognized during the event as well. Seven students who have been involved in the Center's programs graduated this spring. They are Anna King, Jenna Jones, Marisa Stadlman, Gretchen Stromer, Rohini Ramnath, Nicole Vance and Stephanie Strasko.

an hour each week in a seminar. Their activities include meeting with local and state legislators on campus and at the Capitol, attending lectures and events on campus, and taking part in service learning opportunities in the community.

ACT students can also apply for a Legacy of Heroines scholarship from the Carrie Chapman Catt Center. The Legacy of Heroines scholarship program prepares women for participation in politics, public service and community leadership in ways that will enhance their careers and enrich their lives. Scholars are chosen on the basis of academic merit, leadership experience, commitment to public service, and interest in becoming involved with the political process.

Applications are available online at [www.las.iastate.edu/CattCenter](http://www.las.iastate.edu/CattCenter). If you are interested or know someone who would be interested in joining ACT, please contact Chris Fowler at [cfowler@iastate.edu](mailto:cfowler@iastate.edu) or (515) 294-3181.

*Former members of ACT serve as mentors for new participants.. Hillary Noneman (far left) ACT 06-07 poses with Jessica Lambert, Jenna Jones and Anna King, ACT 03-04.*

## Plaza of Heroines Continues to Honor Women

It is not too late to permanently honor a woman who has made an impact on your life. The Plaza of Heroines, the impressive entryway into Carrie Chapman Catt Hall on the Iowa State University's central campus, continues to accept brick orders.

Orders are placed on February 15 for installation by VEISHEA (mid-April); on May 15 for placement in early July; and on August 15 for placement by ISU Homecoming (mid-October).

Iowa State is a particularly appropriate site for the Plaza of Heroines, since the University was one of the first colleges in the nation to admit women and men on an equal basis when it opened in 1868. Heroines do not have to be affiliated with Iowa State University. Holidays, birthdays, graduations, retirements and special occasions offer the perfect opportunity to permanently honor a heroine or women's organization.

A registry of every woman's name honored with a brick is now online at: [www.las.iastate.edu/kiosk/index.shtml](http://www.las.iastate.edu/kiosk/index.shtml). The registry includes a statement provided by the donor about why the woman is being honored; the location of her brick within the Plaza of Heroines; the donor's names; and if provided by the donor, her biography and photo.

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