

Voices

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

Kunin to Discuss Pearls, Politics, Power on April 24

Madeleine Kunin—the first and only woman to have served as governor of Vermont and former ambassador to Switzerland—will visit Iowa State University on Thursday, April 24, as the spring 2008 Mary Louise Smith Chair in Women and Politics.

The nation's only three-term woman governor, holding office from 1985-1991, Kunin will discuss her new book, *Pearls, Politics, and Power: How Women Can Win and Lead*, in a public presentation at 7:30 p.m. in the Great Hall of Memorial Union. Informed by conversations with elected women leaders from all levels, Kunin's new book asks: What difference do women make? What is the worst part of politics, and what is the best part?



What inspired these women to run, and how did they prepare themselves for public life? How did they raise money, protect their families' privacy, and deal with criticism and attack ads?

"Kunin hopes to inspire the next generation of women leaders through stories of female politicians who have succeeded at all levels of government," said Dianne Bystrom, director of the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics, which hosts the Mary Louise Smith Chair. "Her core message is that the United States needs an infusion of new leadership to better address the major problems of our time."

Prior to serving as governor, she was lieutenant governor of Vermont from 1979-1983 and a member of the General Assembly from 1973-1979. Kunin also served as U.S. deputy secretary of education from 1993-1996 and as ambassador to her native Switzerland from 1996-1999. She currently is the Marsh Scholar Professor-at-Large at the University of Vermont, where she lectures on history and women's studies. She also serves as president of the board of the Institute for Sustainable Communities, a nongovernmental organization she founded in 1991.

In addition to *Pearls, Politics, and Power*, she is the author of books on

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Stanley Gift Ensures Catt Center Future



A major commitment from Mary Jo and Richard Stanley of Muscatine, IA, will provide a foundation of support for the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics, allowing it to continue and expand its programs to enhance student leadership development, support research on women and politics, encourage and train women to seek public office, and promote civic engagement and community service.

Through Campaign Iowa State: With Pride and Purpose, the Stanleys have pledged to provide a significant contribution over the next three years to support the Catt Center's general endowment fund, which provides a basis of support for all Catt Center programs. Their gift also will be used to expand Center programs in the areas of student

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Living a Political Life (1994) and *The Big Green Book* (1976). She has written numerous articles and columns for national newspapers and magazines, including the *Washington Post*, *Boston Globe* and *Christian Science Monitor*.

Kunin has received numerous awards for her work on the environment, education and human services. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts and master's degrees in journalism from Columbia University and English literature from the University of Vermont.

Kunin is the 17th prominent woman leader to visit Iowa State under sponsorship of the Mary Louise Smith Chair in Women and Politics, which was established in 1995 to honor the Iowa native and longtime political leader. The purpose of the Smith chair is to bring nationally renowned political leaders, scholars and activists to Iowa State to enrich the experiences of students and educate citizens about the role of women in the political process.

The Catt Center is in the process of confirming a Republican woman to serve as the Smith Chair in 2008-09.

Iowa Caucuses Affect Presidential Nomination Process

Although it's been 12 weeks since the Iowa caucuses, the nation's first test of presidential candidate strength continues to affect the national nomination process.

"The Iowa caucuses on Jan. 3 helped shape the national nomination process by elevating the candidacy of Barack Obama in the Democratic race and opening the door for John McCain on the Republican side," said Dianne Bystrom, director of the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics. "Obama, who placed first in Iowa, emerged with the aura of electability, which helped him in several subsequent primaries and caucuses."

McCain, who did not campaign much in Iowa, choosing instead to focus on the Jan. 8 New Hampshire primary, was still aided by the caucuses, she said. "By boosting Mike Huckabee over Mitt Romney, the Iowa caucuses also ended up helping McCain, who won in New Hampshire and South Carolina," Bystrom said. "The lack of consensus among social conservatives for Huckabee, Fred Thompson and Romney coupled with Rudy Giuliani's failed strategy to focus on Florida's Jan. 29 primary left the door open for McCain, who wrapped up the Republican nomination for president with the March 4 primaries."

The race continues on the Democratic side between Obama and Hillary Clinton with a battle over delegates that could go all the way to the August nominating convention.

Bystrom has given several presentations on the impact of the Iowa caucuses and the presidential nominating process. She took part in a panel presentation on Feb. 7 at Gettysburg (PA) College, gave a talk at the March 17 Ames Noon Rotary meeting, and will speak at the April 1 Iowa State Alumni Association breakfast in Des Moines. She also will speak about the presidential campaign as the keynote speaker at the March 30 Phi Kappa Phi initiation ceremony at Iowa State, at Marshalltown Community College on April 16, and at the University of Missouri on April 18.

The Iowa caucuses also kept Bystrom and other Iowa State faculty busy with media interviews. In a report to the Feb. 22 President's Council, News Services documented 474 interviews, resulting in 731 print or Web site placements, from January 2007 through Jan. 11, 2008. During that time period, Bystrom did 163 media interviews (17 international, 75 national, 12 regional, 40 Iowa, 19 other) resulting in 286 (21 international, 158 national, 26 regional, 31 Iowa, 50 other) placements.

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On Dec. 12, Dianne Bystrom, Center director, and Greta Johnson, Rodine intern, attended the Des Moines Register's Republican Presidential Candidate Debate in Johnston, IA. Both Bystrom and Johnson were interviewed by National Public Radio regarding their reactions following the debate.

Stanley Gift
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leadership development, research on women and politics, and training for those interested in political office and public service.

“Mary Jo and Dick understand the importance of providing a foundation for the Catt Center’s overall operations and teaching, research and outreach programs,” said Dianne Bystrom, Center director. “Their gift will also support the development of an interdisciplinary certificate program in Community Leadership and Public Service, which will be open to all undergraduate students at Iowa State; provide a funding base for the annual Carrie Chapman Catt Prize for Research on Women and Politics; and allow us to continue the Ready to Run campaign training school for women, which we debuted in 2007 with a one-time grant.”

Previous gifts from the Stanleys have supported the development of the Catt Center’s web-based Archives of Women’s Political Communication—an important resource for faculty, students and researchers throughout the United States and abroad with an average of 1,350 hits per day—and provide a major source of funding for the Mary Louise Smith Chair in Women and Politics. The Smith chair has brought to the Iowa State campus 16 outstanding women political leaders, including women presidential candidates, cabinet members, and current and former U.S. Senators and Representatives from both major political parties as well as leaders of women’s organizations and newspaper and television journalists.

“The significant and continuing support of Mary Jo and Dick Stanley has been instrumental to the development of the Catt Center and its teaching, research and outreach programs,” Bystrom noted. “Their new commitment has ensured the very future of the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics.”

Four Studies Receive Support Through 2007 Catt Prize

Four studies in the areas of political science, history, communication and women’s studies have received support through the 2007 Carrie Chapman Catt Prize for Research on Women and Politics.

Receiving prizes of \$1,000 each were:



Karen Kedrowski, professor and chair of the Department of Political Science, Winthrop University, Rock Hill, SC, for “Gender

and the Public Speakership: News Media Coverage of Speaker Nancy Pelosi.” This project will compare the media coverage of Pelosi—the first woman to serve as Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives—to that of her predecessors. It also will determine whether or not Pelosi’s media coverage is characterized by references to her sex, traditional women’s issues or gendered themes.

Candice Orbals, assistant professor of political science, Pepperdine University, Malibu, CA, and **Meg**



Rincker, visiting assistant professor of political science, Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, IL, for “Decentralization and Women’s Policy Agencies:

Relocating Feminist Policy in Spain, Chile, Poland and Pakistan.” This comparative research project examines the ways in which sub-national women’s policy agencies improve women’s lives and whether and why these agencies pursue feminist policies that advance the status of women and challenge gender hierarchies.

Receiving honorable mention awards of \$500 each were:

Nicole Eaton, doctoral student in history at Brown University, Providence, RI, for “Women’s History and Women’s



Rights: Gender and Collective Memory in American Feminism, 1948-1998.” This dissertation investigates how feminism has been collectively remembered within the larger culture as well as how women’s rights reformers have used women’s history as a tool to inspire political mobilization.

Carly Woods, doctoral teaching fellow in communication and women’s studies at the University of Pittsburgh, PA, for “Women’s Debating Societies as Argumentative Laboratories for Political Activism: The Cases of Lucy



Stone and Genevieve Blatt.” This project examines debate as a precursor to women’s involvement in the broader spheres of political deliberation using the cases of Stone, a prominent American suffragist known for her oratorical and organizational skills, and Blatt, the first woman elected to statewide public office in Pennsylvania.



Catt Center Encourages Students to Participate in Activities that Enhance their Education

Students involved in the Catt Center's 2007-2008 student programs discover the importance of active participation in their education. Through the learning community, internship opportunities, scholarships, outreach and activism, the Center seeks to encourage students to take an active role in their education at Iowa State University.

ACT Sees Some Action

The ACT (Advancing Citizenship Together) freshman learning community has once again been very active this year. "This year we wanted to work harder to really engage the students in campus and community life. Because of this, we focused the group activities around community involvement, cultural participation and civic engagement," said program coordinator Chris Fowler.

In an effort to get the students to understand that community involvement can be fun, the ACT students volunteered for the Jaycees Haunted House, where they participated as ghosts and goblins, in October. In January, the students participated in Dance Marathon, which raised more than \$190,000 for Children's Miracle Network and the University of Iowa Children's Hospital.



Five of the ACT learning community students traveled to the State Capitol in February.

The learning community has also been active in various cultural events. On Sept. 23, the students attended "The Yellow Rose of Suffrage," a play about Carrie Chapman Catt, written and performed by Iowa State Professor Jane Cox. On Feb. 14, they attended "The Vagina Monologues" with Diane Price Herndl, Women's Studies director. Following the performance, the students discussed the relevance of the play to their work in the "Introduction to Women's Studies" class.

The learning community has also had several movie nights where they invite a faculty member or a graduate teaching assistant to attend and discuss the movie they saw. Currently, the students are reading and discussing the book "Nickel and Dime," which will be performed next fall by the Women's Studies program.

Since 2008 is the year of the Iowa Caucuses and upcoming presidential election, the ACT learning community also focused on civic engagement. On Oct. 24, learning community members had the opportunity to meet Sen. Hillary Clinton. On Nov. 13, the students participated in the Catt Center's Iowa Caucus Education Workshop, where they learned where and how to caucus for the candidate of their choice.

On Feb. 28, the ACT students visited the Iowa Capitol in Des Moines. During their visit, they toured the Capitol, observed the lobbying process and visited the State Historical Society museum. They also met with Pete McRoberts, a writer for Gov. Chet Culver, and Rep. Geri Huser, the chair of the House Transportation Committee.

Throughout the semester, the learning community members met Brian Phillips, president of the Government of the Student Body (GSB), and State Representatives Lisa Heddens and Beth Wessel-Kroeschell.



Rodine intern and Legacy scholar, Greta Johnson has the opportunity to meet former First Lady of Iowa, Christie Vilsack.

"One of our goals this year was for the students to have the opportunity to experience the variety of activities available to them as students and community members," said peer mentor Maggie Luttrell.

The 2007-2008 ACT students take two classes together, "Fundamentals of Public Speaking" and "Introduction to Women's Studies." They also meet once a week in their learning community seminar for activities related to their course work and the Catt Center. In addition to these activities, the students participated in disc golf and intramural bowling league and attended several men's and women's athletic events.

Donors Support Students

The Legacy of Heroines program, which was launched in 1996 to provide scholarships to outstanding young women, has added a new opportunity for students to gain knowledge and earn money – Legacy internships.

This year, the Alice Rodine community activism internship was awarded to Greta Johnson. The purpose of this internship is to directly involve students with community or political activism. As part of her internship, Johnson helped organize the Center's Caucus Education

Workshop and the Women Impacting ISU 2008 and 2009 calendars.

Two additional internships will be available in fall 2008, the Rice-Neville internship and the Hoffman-Binger internship. Both of these internships focus on getting students involved in the work of the Center in a broad range of activities, including research, event planning, assisting with leadership courses and public relations.

Legacy of Heroines scholars gain leadership training and development and mentoring opportunities in a variety of ways. Scholars can participate in the ACT learning community, enroll in one of the Center's three leadership classes, take an independent study course with Center staff, or work or volunteer at the Center.

In addition to the leadership courses, scholars and interns are encouraged to participate in the Catt Associates student organization, attend special events, meet leaders who visit the Center, and take on leadership roles offered on and off campus. For example, Legacy scholars Maggie Luttrell and Greta Johnson joined Dianne Bystrom at the Democratic and Republican presidential candidate debates in Johnston, IA. Luttrell, an active member of GSB and an ex-officio member of Ames City Council, was elected GSB vice president for 2008-09.

Catt Associates Send Two to PLEN



Catt Associates Beth Wilbur and Christina Vik attended PLEN in January.

For the last four years, the Catt Associates have been raising money to help send members to seminars hosted by the Public Leadership Education Network (PLEN). This year, Catt Associates Christina Vik and Beth Wilbur traveled to Washington, DC, to attend the "Women and Public Policy" seminar, which was held Jan. 2-7.

During the workshop, the students attended seminars, briefings and discussions and took field trips to various organizations and agencies. Students were also able to network with women leaders in governmental agencies, the media and various advocacy groups.

"Attending PLEN was a great opportunity for me. Learning how policy is made and the impact women have on it was very empowering to me. It made me feel that I really can make an impact," said Vik.

Leadership Classes Engage Students through Activities and Research

It is not unusual to find students playing with hula hoops, crayons or Legos in LAS 222, "Leadership Styles and Strategies in a Diverse Society." Because the course is set up as a leadership-training environment, a variety of activities are implemented to illustrate the leadership concepts students read about. The activities used give students the opportunity to see how they would respond in various situations, to try different leadership approaches, to learn that communication is not just about talking, and to value the skills and abilities others bring to the situation.

"Students have a lot of misconceptions about what leadership is and what it means to be a leader," said Julie Snyder-Yuly, course instructor. "Reading about leadership is a great start to the learning process, but it is not until they become active when they start seeing the complexities involved in different situations. Using games and activities gives students the opportunity to try out

their leadership skills, experiment and face challenges in a safe environment."

The LAS 488, "Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Women and Leadership," students are conducting a survey of 250 Iowa women on their political participation and ambition to run for elected to office. Their project is based on previous research that assesses political ambition in certain eligibility pools, including women in business, education, politics and law. Their survey sample includes women in the Iowa state legislature; women at Iowa State in student leadership positions; and members of an executive women's alliance in Des Moines.

"The students are hoping to answer several questions through the survey results," said Dianne Bystrom, who teaches the course. "Since Iowa is one of only four states that has never elected a woman to the U.S. Congress, they want to measure ambition to run for federal office as well as collect opinions about why the state has not sent a woman to Congress. They also want to see if there are different levels of political ambition by such demographics as age, political party, marital status and occupation."

In addition to the leadership courses taught by Catt Center staff in 2007-08, efforts are moving forward to offer a new 21-hour certificate program in Community Leadership and Public Service. The Catt Center worked with all colleges and numerous academic departments in writing the proposal, which has been approved by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee and Representative Assembly. The proposal is now before the Faculty Senate, where it will be reviewed by the Curriculum Committee, Academic Affairs Council and full Faculty Senate. Upon approval, it will be second official certificate program offered by Iowa State.

Stories from the

Plaza of Heroines



Helen Horton Carroll

Helen Horton Carroll was born June 25, 1921. She started her college career at what is now the University of Northern Iowa, but after her freshman year had to return home to care for her ill mother.

After that year at home, she transferred to Iowa State. She was involved in Phi Upsilon Omicron, the home economics honorary society; was on the staff of *Homemaker* magazine; and served as vice president of Mary Lyon Hall. She graduated in 1944 with a degree in foods and nutrition-experimental cookery and a minor in technical journalism. After graduation, Carroll worked as a home economist for the American Meat Institute in Chicago and taught home economics in Hospers, IA. She always loved Iowa State and even influenced six of her eight children to attend. Carroll and her husband were selected as ISU Parents of the Year in 1976.

In 1949-50, she developed the first symptoms of multiple sclerosis. Both during the remission and after the disease's reemergence, Carroll believed that it was her responsibility to contribute to her community. She continued to be involved in church and community activities, leading both Boy and Girl Scouts for 15 years and working on the Sibley Parks Commission. Carroll never gave up, adapting to each new challenge that the disease presented.

"In the face of disability and disappointment, Helen Horton Carroll is a heroine who lives with courage and grace," write her children. She died in 1999.



Karen Sue Baker

Karen Sue Baker was born and raised in Iowa, spending most of her life in Sioux City. With a lifelong dedication to improving the lives of others, she has worked with such agencies as the Lutheran Committee for Refugee Resettlement, Lutheran Social Services of Iowa, and the Lutheran Immigration and Resettlement Services based in New York City to help refugees find new homes and lives in Sioux City. She has been responsible for relocating hundreds of individuals and families from Vietnam, Laos, Hungary, Cambodia, Ethiopia and Poland.

When individuals and families are selected, Baker works to arrange flight schedules, living quarters and provisions, English tutors, volunteers, jobs, financial assistance and anything else needed to aid in the adjustment to new surroundings. She continues to work with everyone until they are able to succeed on their own. This process most often results in lifelong friendships.

For her work, Baker received the State of Iowa Governor's Volunteer Award in 1985 and the Women of Excellence award in 1989. She continues to serve on the Human Rights Commission and the Siouxland Refugee and Immigrant Network Committee. "It takes people like Karen Baker to make refugees' dreams come true," writes Deborah Klagge.



Hazel C. Hammer

"Hazel's greatest gifts were her abilities to love all people unconditionally, to be accepting of others, to have tolerance, to be non-judgmental and sensitive to the needs of others, to master community spirit, and to give generously and hospitably," writes her family.

Hazel Churchill Mills Hammer was born on August 29, 1925, in Willcox, AZ. She attended the University of Michigan until 1946, where she met her husband. In 1954, the Hammer family moved to Ames.

Hammer stayed very active in the community. She was involved in Ames Choral Society and Ames Community Theatre of Recreational Services (ACTORS) productions, Unitarian Fellowship and Ames Community Arts Council. Their volunteers and members could feel Hammer's love and deep commitment. In addition to volunteering, she enjoyed gardening, cooking, rock collecting, fishing, hunting for edible mushrooms, traveling and gathering mementos of her children's lives.

In May 1994, Hammer was diagnosed with glioblastoma multiforme, an aggressive form of brain cancer. She faced her terminal illness with steadfast courage and strength. She never complained about her disease, and comforted and reassured everyone who offered their concern. Hammer learned much and taught much during this period of her life. She passed away on April 18, 1995, but will always be remembered for her cheerful attitude and ever-present smile.