

Voices

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

Soledad O'Brien to Discuss Mentoring as Fall 2005 Smith Chair

Soledad O'Brien, co-anchor of CNN's *American Morning* show, will discuss the importance of mentoring to women's leadership as the fall 2005 Mary Louise Smith Chair in Women and Politics at Iowa State University.

O'Brien will discuss "Women and Leadership: Mentoring the Next Generation" at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 27, in the Great Hall, Memorial Union. A public reception will follow the lecture. The event is free and open to the public.

"Ms. O'Brien has established herself not only as one of the top news anchors in the country, but also as a voice for diversity in the industry," said Dianne Bystrom, director of the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics. "She also



Soledad O'Brien

is a strong advocate of mentoring as a way to keep young people motivated and hopeful. A product of mentoring herself, Ms. O'Brien will discuss how mentoring allowed her to find her way in the world and learn the values of determination and hard work as a means to a greater end."

O'Brien joined CNN in 2003. She recently covered the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and, in December 2004, was among a handful of CNN anchors sent to Thailand to cover the disaster and aftermath of the tsunami that took more than 155,000 lives. In fall 2003, O'Brien was the only broadcast journalist permitted to travel with First Lady Laura Bush on her trip to Moscow.

Prior to joining CNN, she anchored NBC's *Weekend Today* show from 1999 to 2003. During that time, she contributed reports for the weekday *Today Show* and weekend editions of *NBC Nightly News*. O'Brien covered such notable stories as the school shootings in Colorado and Oregon and the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster and anchored NBC's weekend coverage of the war in Iraq. Additionally, in 1998, she traveled to Cuba to cover Pope John Paul II's historic visit. Before *Weekend Today*, O'Brien anchored MSNBC's award-winning technology program, *The Site*, and the cable network's weekend morning show.

O'Brien's work has been honored several times, including a local Emmy for her

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From the Director

Center Helps Celebrate Voting



2005 marks several important anniversaries in the history of voting in the United States.

To recognize these milestones, the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics joined with the Iowa Secretary of State's Office and several other statewide organizations in a bipartisan initiative to "Celebrate Voting" from August through November.

"Celebrate Voting" recognizes the 40th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, the 85th anniversary of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote, and the current implementation of the Help America Vote Act. Other partners in the "Celebrate Voting" initiative are the Iowa State Historical Foundation, Iowa Department of Human Rights, Iowa Civil Rights Commission, the NAACP State Conference, ID Action and the League of Women Voters of Iowa.

The focus of the Catt Center in "Celebrate Voting" is on the rights and responsibilities of women and young voters. On Friday, Aug. 26, the national observation of Women's Equality Day, the Catt Center held a series of events on campus to celebrate the 85th anniversary of women's suffrage and to honor namesake Carrie

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*From the Director
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Chapman Catt for the role she played in leading the final campaign to secure ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1920.

As part of the observation, Catt Center staff and students hosted booths on campus to hand out information about the Center, the “Celebrate Voting” initiative, Catt and the history of women’s suffrage. Displays also highlighted the Center, Catt and suffrage history. In addition, individuals could register to vote or change their voter registration.

The Center also hosted a “Celebrate Women’s Suffrage” complimentary buffet luncheon. Some 90 Iowa State students, faculty and staff and community members attended the luncheon, which featured remarks by Iowa Secretary of State Chet Culver and a performance by Jane Cox, director of ISU Theatre, of an excerpt from her one-woman play, “The Yellow Rose of Suffrage,” which depicts the life of Catt. Several members of the audience were moved to tears by Professor Cox’s poignant performance.

“Celebrate Voting” events also are being held in Des Moines and at the University of Iowa and the University of Northern Iowa to focus on the voting rights and responsibilities of minority and new American voters.

This celebration of one of our greatest rights—the right to vote—comes at a time when millions more Americans turned out at the polls in 2004 as compared to previous presidential elections years. The turnout of 122,294,978 voters in 2004—or 55.3% of the voting age population—reversed a downward trend in voting, which hit an all-time low in 1996, when just 49.1% of the voting age population went to the polls. The number of people voting in 2004 increased by 16.7 million from the 2000 election and by 25.8 million from the 1996 election.

And, despite what you may have read in the popular media after the results of the 2004 election were in, young people—defined as those 18-24 years old—did vote in record numbers in 2004. According to the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE), youth voting increased by 11 percentage points in 2004, after declining by 16 percentage points in the presidential election years between 1972 and 2000.

In 2004, 47% of 18-24 year old citizens voted, and 66% of those 25 years and older voted. Young women voted at higher rates than young men in 2004—50% of 18-24 year old women compared to 44% of 18-24 year old men. Much of the surge in youth voting in 2004 was led by single women age 18-24 years old, whose vote increased by 12%, or about one-third, since 2000.

Youth voting turnout in 2004 was the highest in Minnesota (69%), Wisconsin (63%), Iowa (62%), Maine (59%) and New Hampshire (58%). Not surprisingly, most of these states were among those targeted by youth voting organizations in 2004. And, the attention that Iowa and New Hampshire receive from presidential candidates and the media as the sites of the first-in-the-nation caucus and presidential primary undoubtedly helps increase voter turnout in these states.

According to CIRCLE, the surge in the youth vote in 2004 was due to the confluence of several factors—extensive voter outreach efforts, a close election and high levels of interest in the presidential campaign that year. It remains to be seen if the increase in young voters is part of a new trend or a single election year spike.

Efforts such as “Celebrate Voting” and other initiatives of the Carrie Chapman Catt Center are designed to educate, excite and encourage young people to be active citizens so that the percentage of 18-24 year olds voting continues to increase.

Dianne Bystrom

*Soledad O'Brien
continued from front page*

work as a co-host on Discovery Channel’s *The Know Zone*. She was included in *Crain’s Business Reports’* “40 under 40” and *Essence* magazine’s “40 under 40,” both in 2004. O’Brien has been named to *Irish American Magazine’s* “Top 100 Irish Americans” on two occasions. In 1997, she was awarded the Hispanic Achievement Award in Communications by *Hispanic Magazine*.

She is a member of the National Association of Black Journalists and the National Association of Hispanic Journalists. O’Brien also writes a bi-monthly column for *USA Weekend* magazine on parenting. She is a graduate of Harvard University.

O’Brien is the 13th prominent woman leader to visit Iowa State as the Mary Louise Smith Chair in Women and Politics. The chair was created in 1995 to honor Iowa native and longtime political and civic leader, Mary Louise Smith, and brings nationally renowned political leaders, scholars and activists to Iowa State. Smith was the only woman to chair the Republican National Party (1974-1977).

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Kennedy, Liswood Emphasize Women's Leadership

The importance of women's leadership in male-dominated fields was a common theme shared by Lt. General Claudia Kennedy and executive Laura Liswood, who visited Iowa State University in 2004-05 as the fall and spring Mary Louise Smith Chairs in Women and Politics.

Kennedy, the first and only woman to achieve the rank of three-star general in the U.S. Army, visited on Nov. 15, 2004. Liswood—co-founder of the Council of Women World Leaders, author of the book *Unveiling the Leadership Myth: Claiming A Women's Right to Lead*, and executive adviser for Goldman, Sachs & Co.—visited on March 29, 2005. More than 500 people attended their presentations.

During her visit, Kennedy led a roundtable discussion with students; gave remarks at a donor/scholar dinner hosted by the Center; and presented a public lecture titled, "Women, Leadership and the Future."

"It was interesting to hear what Kennedy had to say about her leadership abilities as a female in a male-dominated military world," said Peggy Baum, Catt Center program coordinator.

"If you think you are too small to make a difference, try being in a closed room with a mosquito," Kennedy said during her lecture. Two-thirds of the hours put into work are performed by women, yet women receive only 10 percent of the world's income and only own 1 percent of the property, she said.

Liswood discussed the status of women worldwide and how many countries have significantly more women in elected leadership positions than the United States. "It was interesting to see how the United States compares to other countries in terms of women leaders," said Catt Center director Dianne Bystrom.

Liswood led a roundtable discussion with students, faculty and staff during her visit; gave remarks at a donor/scholar dinner hosted by the Center; and presented a public lecture titled, "Women's World Leadership: Lessons and Myths." During her public lecture, Liswood showed clips from her documentary, *Women World Leaders*.

"Both speakers stimulated my thoughts and led me to be more aware of the hyper-masculine political system of the United States and the incredible struggles that women politicians face to win elections," said Luke Gran, Catt Associate.

"It was quite an experience to have the opportunity to interact with these women," said Legacy of Heroines scholar Anna King. "It broadened my concept of leadership and further demonstrated the leadership opportunities available to women worldwide."

The Mary Louise Smith Chair in Women and Politics was established in 1995 to honor the Iowa native and longtime political and civic leader. Its purpose 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.



Claudia Kennedy explains how to "Be a Mosquito" in her public presentation as the fall 2004 Mary Louise Smith Chair.



Laura Liswood smiles as she engages faculty, staff, students and community members in a dialogue about women's leadership.

Honor Women With Plaza of Heroines Bricks

Purchasing a brick in the Plaza of Heroines is a wonderful and permanent way to honor women for their contributions to their families, careers and communities.

Located in front of Catt Hall, the plaza currently displays more than 3,200 bricks with the names of women who made an impact as mothers, teachers, wives, scientists, friends and activists. A registry of every woman's name honored with a brick is available online at <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; the name(s) of the donor(s); and if provided by the donor, the heroine's biography and photograph.

Individuals who wish to recognize an important woman in their lives in the Plaza of Heroines should contact Christina Gallup at the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics at 515-294-3181 or cgallup@iastate.edu. Available levels of recognition include bricks, \$100; medium granite paver, \$500; large granite paver, \$1,000; and bench, \$10,000. Any proceeds, after costs of maintaining the plaza, go toward the Catt Center's general endowment fund.

Students Learn Leadership through Learning Community, Student Organization and Courses

Students involved in the Catt Center's 2005-2006 student programs will be a step above the rest when it comes to leadership. Through the Joni and John Axel Leadership Development Series, the Legacy of Heroines scholarship program, the Catt Associates student organization and the ACT (Advancing Citizenship Together) Learning Community for freshmen, the Center seeks to develop student leadership in politics, public service and women's issues.

ACT Gets Active

This year the ACT Learning Community could stand for "ACTION" instead of Advancing Citizenship Together. Incoming freshmen dove right into the activities of the Center starting the first week of class. "The idea was to involve the students right away with Center staff and students, so they understand what a great resource the Center is for students," said program coordinator Chris Fowler.

On Aug. 26, ACT helped the Catt Associates register voters and hand out punch and cake as part of the Center's involvement with the "Celebrate Voting" initiative. Several students had the opportunity to meet Secretary of State Chet Culver prior to the Center's

"Celebrate Women's Suffrage" luncheon and performance by Jane Cox.

The students continued their involvement with "Celebrate Voting," by attending a town hall meeting sponsored by the Drake University Constitutional Law Center on Sept. 15. The meeting, "Removing Barriers, Effecting Change," focused on voting rights issues and barriers facing bilingual and new citizen voting.

The Catt Center and ACT co-sponsored a screening of the premier of *Commander in Chief* on Sept. 27. Following the screening, Marisue Hartung of the Iowa Women's Foundation led a discussion about the realities of a future female president.

ACT students also attended "Advancing Women's Leadership," a presentation by Roxanne Conlin, one of the first women to become a United States Attorney. The students also met with Washington insider, Dwight Ink, who worked for every president from Eisenhower through Carter and who has been called upon by every administration since to give advice on government management.

The 10 students enrolled in the 2005-06 learning community also take several

classes together. During the year, the group takes the Center's *Advancing Citizenship Together* seminar along with *Fundamentals of Public Speaking* in the fall and *Introduction to Women's Studies* in the spring. The seminar meetings further the community building activities led by the peer mentor and provide a time and a place to discuss their course work, explore their personality, and learn about leadership and choosing a major.

Upcoming events for the students involved with ACT include visiting the Iowa State Capitol in Des Moines, serving on VEISHEA committees, and hosting a series of movies related to women or politics followed by a discussion with invited faculty members.

Catt Associates Learn About Finances

The Catt Associates have another busy year in store for the 2005-2006 school year.

The co-presidents kicked off this year by hosting a barbeque to get to know new members and reacquaint returning members.

The Center's student organization offers opportunities for leadership development and practice. On Aug. 26, the student organization helped with the Catt Center's "Celebrate Voting" day by serving free cake and punch to students who registered to vote.

The Catt Associates focus this year is on career building skills. On Oct. 22, Becky Stadlman, human resource manager for Sauer Danfoss, spoke to the Catt Associates about resume building. The student group will also follow the 2006 gubernatorial election this year.

Another achievement the Catt Associates made last year was raising approximately \$1,700 in funding from the Government of the Student Body. This



ACT Learning Community members pose with their peer mentor and learning community adviser on the balcony of Catt Hall.



Catt Associates officers are (standing) Renee Oehlerking, Luke Gran, Marisa Stadlman and Jenna Jones and (seated) Amanda Wolf and Melissa Gibbs.

money will be used for advertising, activities and to send three students to the PLEN Women in Congress seminar in Washington, DC, over spring break.

Currently, Catt Associates are working on a proposal to Citigroup to create a spring seminar focusing on financial empowerment for college students. The seminar will feature several women speakers who will address topics such as investment, negotiating, financial planning and credit. The event will be open to the public.

This past year, Catt Associates met with the 2004-2005 Mary Louise Smith Chairs, three-star Army Lt. General Claudia Kennedy and executive Laura Liswood, during their visits to campus.

Last spring, a group of Catt Associates held a "Lobby Day" at the Capitol with



ACT Learning Community members meet with Iowa Secretary of State Chet Culver.

the League of Women Voters to lobby their legislators. The students met with the president of the Iowa Senate and discussed current legislation.

"This year, the Catt Associates plan to reach out to more student organizations to work together to create even stronger programs and activities," said co-president Jenna Jones.

Center Encourages Scholars to Lead

The Legacy of Heroines program, launched in 1996, provides scholarships to outstanding young women who seek involvement in and knowledge about the political process, women's issues and public service. Scholarship awards are based on academic merit, leadership and specific criteria set by donors.

Legacy of Heroines scholars register for academic credit through the Catt Center, ensuring that the Center is meeting its responsibility to Legacy donors to provide leadership training and development and mentoring opportunities to scholarship recipients. This year, participants will be able to fulfill the credit requirement through guaranteed enrollment in the Joni and John Axel Leadership Development Series three-credit hour courses - *Leadership Styles and Strategies in a Diverse Society*, offered in the fall, and *Interdisciplinary Research on Women and Politics*, offered in the spring.

In addition to the leadership courses, scholars are encouraged to participate in the Catt Associates student organization, to attend special events, to meet leaders who visit the Center, and to take on leadership roles offered on and off campus. Students involved in the Center's programs have assumed some of the most prestigious leadership roles on campus, including: president of the student body, VEISHEA co-chair, executive co-chair of Family Weekend, and executive council of the Student Alumni Leadership Council.



Renee Oehlerking and Emily Balch discuss strategies during a Catt Associates croquet outing.

New Peer Mentor Joins Learning Community

Mary Kuster, senior in food science from Johnston, Iowa, has joined the staff of the Catt Center to serve as the new peer mentor for the ACT Learning Community.



As an Iowa State student, Kuster has participated in a variety of activities including Family Weekend, Cyclone Aides, Student Admissions Representatives, VEISHEA Executive Committee and Student Alumni Leadership Council. As a freshman, she participated in the Center's learning community and has been a Legacy of Heroines scholar for four years.

Following Kuster's sophomore year, she served as a product development intern at Well's Blue Bunny, where she helped develop ice cream flavors. This past summer, she accepted another internship opportunity to work in the processing department at Kellogg as a food engineer.

"I am looking forward to serving as peer mentor. It is a great opportunity for me to hone my leadership skills and encourage others to develop theirs," Kuster said.

Center Recognizes Donors for Supporting Programs, Scholarships, Activities in 2004-2005

The Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics wishes to thank the following donors for their friendship, support and contributions to its 2004-2005 programs, scholarships and activities. With the help of their donations, the Center brought noted guest speakers to the ISU campus, provided scholarships and leadership development programs to students, sponsored research awards, and began building an endowment.

*The estate of Katherine Annin – Sun City, AZ
*Colleen Armstrong – West Des Moines, IA
*Peg Armstrong-Gustafson – Waukee, IA
*Joan & John Axel – Muscatine, IA
Amy Beert – Bossier City, LA
Beth Bierbaum – Wellesley, MA
Cargill Incorporated – Fargo, ND
Federal Home Loan Bank – Des Moines, IA

*Richard Gimer – Potomac, MD
*Diane & Robert Greenlee – Boulder, CO
Richard Heuwinkel & Judith Raak – Washington, DC
*Elizabeth Hoffman & Brian Binger – Boulder, CO
Darleane & Marvin Hoffman – Oakland, CA
*Helen & Stanley Howe – Muscatine, IA
Dwight Ink & Dona Wolf – Lansdowne, VA
*Pat & Robert Jester – Des Moines, IA
*Patricia & Philip Larson – Washington, DC
*Barbara Mack – Des Moines, IA
Johnny & Terry Pickett – Ames, IA
Kyle Pitsor – Washington, DC
*Rose Lee & Marvin Pomerantz – Des Moines, IA
Principal Financial Group – Des Moines, IA

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Gail Robinson – Takoma Park, MD
*Sharon & Richard Rodine – Norman, OK
Diane & Charles Ruebling – Longville, MN
*Kay Kretschmar Runge – Des Moines, IA
Dorcas Jane Schoppe – Walnut Creek, CA
Jill Shannan – Gilbert, IA
*James Socknat – McLean, VA
Kappie Spencer – Sarasota, FL
*Mary Jo & Richard Stanley – Muscatine, IA
Maureen & Terrance Tobin – Clive, IA
Lauri & James Young – Cedar Falls, IA

** Denotes members of the Sapphire Club, whose gifts and pledges to the Center provide a basis of support for all its activities and programs.*

Fund-Raising Continues to Establishment \$500,000 Endowment

In 2002, as part of its 10th anniversary celebration, the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics began efforts to establish an endowment to ensure its future and provide support for its programs in the areas of women and politics research, civic education and community outreach.

In May 2005, the Catt Center moved closer to that goal when its proposal to create a \$500,000 general endowment fund was selected as a campaign priority project following review by the colleges, Office of the Provost and President Geoffroy of the some 450 proposals submitted.

“Our greatest need, as we look forward to the future of the Catt Center, is to create an general endowment fund of \$500,000 by the year 2010 to provide for program expenses that no longer can be covered with the money the Center receives through the university’s state budget allocation,” said Dianne Bystrom, Center director. Earnings from

this endowment will replace recent state funding cuts and provide a more stable source of support for Catt Center programs focused on research on women and politics, including the annual Carrie Chapman Catt Prize, and community outreach efforts emphasizing civic education, political participation and public service, and women’s leadership.

The Center has other endowment accounts dedicated to specific initiatives. For example, Joni and John Axel of Muscatine are providing \$100,000 over a 10-year period to fund current student leadership activities as well as create an endowment for future programming.

And, Mary Jo and Richard Stanley of Muscatine pledged \$150,000 over three years to establish the Center’s new Archive of Women’s Political Communication. The gift is structured to provide start-up costs for staffing and equipment

while building an endowment to support the archives’ operation in the future.

Two other key programs—the Legacy of Heroines scholarships and Mary Louise Smith Chair in Women and Politics—are supported through other foundation accounts. The Center awards 15 Legacy of Heroines scholarships each year, most of which are \$1,000 each and funded through endowments or annual gifts. The endowment for the Mary Louise Smith Chair has grown to support the visits of two speakers each year to Iowa State.

“While our current focus is on establishing a general endowment fund of \$500,000 in the next five years, we appreciate donations of any size to fund our leadership development, research and outreach programs,” Bystrom emphasized. To make a donation to the Center, please send a check to the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics, 309 Catt Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, IA, 50011-1305.



Velma Siegrist Zimmerman

“For more than 50 years, Velma has meant the difference between healing and suffering for countless patients, friends and family,” write Zora and Thomas Zimmerman of his mother. “She is a pillar of strength in the community, loved and respected by all who have known her caring touch.”

Zimmerman is a familiar face in St. John, Kansas, the town she has spent more than 50 years of her life. Born in 1917 in rural Kansas, she graduated high school in 1934 and decided to pursue a career in nursing. Despite family difficulties, she finished school on the wishes of her father and became a registered nurse. She married Dillian Zimmerman and had six children. As well as being a nurse, Zimmerman volunteers many hours for the American Cancer Society and the Shepherd’s Center and serves on several local boards. She is cherished for all her commitment to her family, work and friends.

When presenting the Citizen of the Year Award to Zimmerman, Lions Club secretary Vic Martin said, “Character is what you do when no one is looking. While no one was looking, Velma Zimmerman demonstrated character distinguished by a caring commitment to help others, serving as an example to all.”



Stories from the

Plaza of Heroines



VaLinda Henze Parsons

In recognition of their wife and mother, Mike and Meredith Parsons write, “Her family and friends love her unconditionally. VaLinda is a role model forever and a true heroine.”

Parsons was born on a family farm near Dike, Iowa. She was a top student during high school, and after graduating, continued her education at Iowa State University, where she received her bachelor’s degree in home economics journalism. She married Mike Parsons, and they had a daughter, Meredith. She later earned her associate degree in dental hygiene. With the Story County Dental Task Force, she helped start a dental clinic for low-income residents. She also visits elementary schools to teach the children about oral health.

“Currently, VaLinda strives to share what she can with her community,” her husband writes. “Even more amazing is the work she does for her family at home. She is the foundation of her household, a loving mother to her daughter and a devoted wife.”

Dorothy Booth Lewis

According to one of Dorothy Lewis’s students, “I do believe that she was that kind of teacher...one who gets students thinking, and then teaches them to think for themselves.”

Born in Youngstown, Ohio, in 1910, Lewis attended Wells College for two years. In 1948, she moved with her two children to the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, where she earned a bachelor’s degree. She then moved to Ames and earned her master’s degree. She was hired by Utah State University and taught there until her retirement in 1975. Lewis dedicated hundreds of hours to helping others and the community. She registered hundreds of voters through the League of Women Voters as well as volunteered at the local hospital. Lewis also received the Women over 65 Achievement Award for furthering the cause of women.

She is regarded as a great teacher who touches the lives of many. One of her friends stated, “We will miss her feisty spirit, her many contributions to Logan City (Utah)...and her brilliant mind, which never slowed down.”

A librarian, advocate of children, educator of parents and reformer of everything, she was a true friend to anyone with time to knock on the back door and come in for a cup of coffee.



Of Note...

We are pleased to recognize the professional and academic achievements of alumni, staff, supporters and students of the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics:

Dawn Ashbacher (ISU-05, Catt Associate) graduated with her Master of Public Administration and received a fellowship to work with the city of Winchester, VA.

Dianne Bystrom, Catt Center director, published two book chapters and a journal article in 2005. She is the author of *Media Content and Candidate Viability: The Case of Elizabeth Dole in Communicating Politics: Engaging the Public in Democratic Life*, a book that she also co-edited, and *Advertising, Web Sites, and Media Coverage: Gender and Communication Along the Campaign Trail in Gender and Elections: Shaping the Future of American Politics*. She is co-author of *Gendered Reactions: Young Voters Responses to the 2004 Presidential Advertisements in American Behavioral Scientist*.

Megan Darbyshire, (ISU-05, Catt Associate, Legacy of Heroines scholar) was accepted at Kansas State University to pursue her Ph.D. in social/personality psychology.

Ann Gordon and Jerry Miller, (2001 Catt Prize recipients) recently published *When Stereotypes Collide: Race/Ethnicity, Gender, and Videostyle in Congressional Campaigns*. This book was the result of their research honored with a Catt Prize.

Angela Groh, (2002-03 ACT Learning Community) was honored as *Glamour* magazine's top 10 college women in America.

Lauren Hughes (ISU-02, Catt Associate) is a second year medical student at the University of Iowa.

Kristi Kielhorn (ISU-05, ACT peer mentor) was recognized as an outstanding student by the political science

department and is now attending law school at Drake University.

Kelly Larsen (Catt Associate, Legacy of Heroines scholar) was recognized as an outstanding student by the political science department and will complete a congressional internship with the Washington Center in Washington, DC, in fall 2005.

Katherine Mellen Charron, (2001 Catt Prize recipient) has joined the history faculty at Iowa State University as an assistant professor.

Laura Pfeffer (ISU-04, Catt Associate) has accepted a position as a program associate at the Literacy Center for the Midlands in Omaha, NE. She is also attending law school at Creighton University.

Rohini Ramnath (Catt Associate, Legacy of Heroines scholar) was recognized as an outstanding student by the political science department.

Beth Sickelka, (ISU-05, Catt Associate, Legacy of Heroines scholar) received the Alda and Weldon Brown Award for the highest GPA (3.96) among 2005 ISU political science graduates and the Ross Talbot Outstanding Graduating Senior Award.

Gretchen Stromer (Catt Center staff assistant) was presented with the Don Hadwiger Working Student Scholarship by the political science department.

Catt Center Honors Memory of Two Friends

This year marked the passing of two friends of the Carrie Chapman Catt Center, James Socknat and Minnette Doderer.

Socknat, a 1961 graduate of Iowa State University, served on the Political Science Alumni Advisory Board. He was instrumental in the creation of the Carrie Chapman Catt Center. In addition, Socknat supported students by providing financial support to the Political Science Alumni Advisory Board Legacy of Heroines scholarship.

Center Welcomes New Program Coordinator

Chris Fowler has joined the staff of the Carrie Chapman Catt Center as coordinator of student programs. Fowler replaces Peggy Baum, who is moving to Columbia, MO.



Fowler coordinates the Center's ACT (Advancing Citizenship Together) learning community and the Legacy of Heroines scholarship program and co-advises the Catt Associates student organization. The Center's student programs provide support and educational opportunities for young women interested in politics, public service and leadership. She earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and elementary education from the University of Dubuque and a master's degree in counseling education from the University of Wisconsin at Platteville.

Fowler worked previously with the Division of Student Affairs in the Department of Residence at Iowa State University. Her interests include social justice and children's issues. She is excited to join the staff at the Catt Center and is looking forward to meeting, teaching and learning from students in the program.

Socknat died June 11, 2005, of complications following a lung transplant.

Doderer, former state legislator from Johnson County, was an outspoken advocate of women's rights. She served 12 terms in the Iowa House and two terms in the Senate, and twice ran for lieutenant governor. Doderer participated as a speaker in several events sponsored by the Catt Center.

Doderer died on August 12, 2005, of colon cancer.

Five Scholars Win 2004 Catt Prize for Research Projects

From a field of 30 proposals in a variety of academic disciplines, four projects were selected to receive recognition as part of the competition for the 2004 Carrie Chapman Catt Prize for Research on Women and Politics. Three projects won \$1,000 prizes, and one project was given a \$500 honorable mention award.

Prizes of \$1,000 each were awarded to:



Kathleen A. Laughlin, professor and chair of the department of history, Metropolitan State University in Minnesota, for *Citizen Clubwoman: The Politics and Culture of Women's*

Clubs in Postwar America. This project examines why millions of organized clubwomen, who were more interested in civic improvement and community uplift than in women's rights in the 1950s, organized the state commission on the status of the women movement in the 1960s. Research for this project has been completed by examining papers and activities of national women's organizations.



Patricia Melzer, assistant professor and director of women's studies, Temple University, for *"Terroristenmädchen" ("Terrorist Girls"): Women in Radical Left Political Groups in Germany and the U.S.*

in the 1970s. This project examines the involvement of women in terrorist groups in the 1970s, in particular, the Red Army Faction in Germany and the Weather Underground in the United States. The project involves archival research of publications of social movements in the 1960s and 1970s as well as personal interviews with former activists.

Catherine E. Rymph, assistant professor of history, University of Missouri, for *As Women Go, the Country Goes: American Women, Gender, and Nation Building after World*



War II. This archival research project explores the ways in which gendered notions of citizenship interacted with understandings of culture, race and national histories as part of the complicated process of nation-building in the post-World War II years.

An honorable mention award of \$500 was presented to:



Kathleen A. Bratton, assistant professor in the department of political science at Louisiana State University, and **Michelle A. Barnello**, assistant professor in the

department of government and public affairs, Christopher Newport University, for *Bridging the Gender Gap: The Representation of "Women's Interests" in State Legislatures*. This research project posits that to understand the gender gap in legislative behavior and priorities, more attention must be paid to the behavior of men. Using an original state legislative database, the authors examined what factors increase the likelihood that men will focus on women's interests.



Review of 2005 Prize Proposals Begins

The process has begun to select the 2005 recipients of the Carrie Chapman Catt Prize for Research on Women and Politics. This year, the Center received 26 proposals from a variety of fields, including anthropology, communication, curriculum and instruction, history, human development, law, political science, sociology and women's studies.

The Center is in the process of setting up the selection committee. The committee is not selected until all proposals are received. This allows the Center to select committee members who represent the various fields from which the proposals are received. This year, the committee will be made up of seven to nine members.

Each member of the committee reads 8 to 10 proposals in his or her field and assigns a score. Each proposal submitted is read by a minimum of three committee members. The committee then meets to review and discuss the proposals they read and how they scored them. During this meeting, the top 5 to 8 proposals are selected to move to the next round.

The top proposals are re-distributed to the committee members for all to read. Each committee member selects which proposals she/he thinks should receive awards. The committee then reconvenes to select the top three to four projects.

Plans are to announce the recipients of the 2005 Catt Prize in December. The top three to four proposals will receive either a \$1,000 prize or a \$500 honorable mention award.

The Catt Prize for research was created in 1997, and the Center has awarded more than \$30,000 to established researchers and up-and-coming scholars.



Catt Center Student Staff Members Reflect on Study Abroad Experiences, Internships

Anna King's Experience

I arrived in Chester, England, on a blustery, rainy, typical early February day for England. Over the next six months, I traveled Europe, made friends, took excellent classes and, most important, learned about myself. I would highly recommend to anyone to choose a place in the world and spend some time studying and traveling there. You won't regret it!

During my spring semester at the University College Chester, I took a course on feminist theory and how it's applied to British women's literature. In this course, we covered materials like Virginia Woolf's *A Room of One's Own*, Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility* and Sarah Waters' very modern, lesbian-focused novel, *Tipping the Velvet*. I had another English course that was an introductory level class on literature and film. That was a fun class to offer my bits of Americanism to the students who had very little knowledge of what America is like outside of the movies and television shows. I then had a history class that was called *The Jazz Age to FDR*. It was very interesting to hear that period of history described from the British person's point of view, especially as stereotypes and generalizations were applied.

My final, and favorite, class in Chester was another history class called *Northern Ireland and Great Britain, the Troubles*. My professor was amazing, the class was very small, and we had all sorts of time to discuss this very confusing and often misunderstood point in Ireland's and Great Britain's history. The class consisted of two Irish, three British, and three American students and thus offered a wide array of experiences, knowledge and questions. I found this class to be absolutely fascinating and very educational.

My study abroad time was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience. It was enjoyable, stressful, amazing and tiring... all rolled into one! I wouldn't redo any of it for anything!



Anna King is a junior in English, history and women's studies from Duluth, Minnesota.

Gretchen Stromer's Experience

This past summer, I was awarded an administrative internship to work for U.S. Sen. Charles Grassley (R-Iowa). Working and living in Washington, DC, was a great experience, and I had the opportunity to meet a lot of influential people. My responsibilities included scheduling appointments for Sen. Grassley, preparing his schedule for the day, and, my favorite, giving tours of the U.S. Capitol to Iowa constituents. I gave tours of the Capitol two times per day, at 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. I think I learned something new every time I gave a tour. Sometimes the constituents had researched some of the art or statues more than I had and they educated me.

I think the thing that most surprised me is how much work is done by the Senator's staff. There are so many people who work extremely hard behind the scenes to help ensure that the Senator succeeds.

The greatest aspect of working with such an influential and powerful Senator is seeing the most influential and powerful people in Washington he has the opportunity to meet with. Since the interns had his schedule, we knew when people came in for meetings and, if we wanted to see them, we carefully positioned ourselves in their path. I had the opportunity to meet White House Chief of Staff Karl Rove, Sen. John Kerry, Sen. Hillary Clinton, FBI Director Robert

Mueller and U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts.

Once, the interns had lunch with Sen. Grassley in the members dining room. I saw Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison there and asked Sen. Grassley if he would introduce me. When I met her, I mentioned how much the Catt Center would love to have her as an upcoming Mary Louise Smith Chair, so maybe she will be kind enough to come.



Gretchen Stromer is a junior in political science from Garner, Iowa.

Jenna Jones' Experience

This summer I had the opportunity to study abroad in Paderno del Grappa, Italy, a small town about 45 minutes away from Venice. The program was sponsored by the University of Kansas as part of the Consortium of International Universities, and hosts more than 35 U.S. universities. Paderno is a very secluded town that was about 30 minutes from the nearest train station, but its location at the foot of the Dolomite Mountains made it very beautiful. It also provided a great way to see Italian life and experience the culture, food and people in Italy.

While in Italy, I took six credits over a four-week period. I was enrolled in two business courses: *International Human*



Jenna Jones is a junior in business and journalism from Monticello, Iowa.

Resource Management and Introduction to Finance.

Before this trip, I had never been outside the United States, and it was a life-changing experience for me. Besides what I learned in my business classes, I learned what it is like to be taken from the culture in which I have always lived and into a world that doesn't even speak the same language as me. I learned how I react in situations in which I get on the wrong train going the wrong direction, what it is like to be the person speaking a different language, and what it is like to look and dress differently than the people around you.

This experience taught me so much about the world I live in, and at the same time, allowed me to meet a lot of amazing people, whom I am sure I will keep in touch with for years to come. My experience abroad was something I will never forget and something I would encourage any student to take part in.

Emily Fifield's Experience

This past summer, I traveled to India for seven weeks as one of 18 students in the Iowa State study abroad program. While in India, we spent most of our time in the city of Bangalore and in the nearby town of Kolar studying with the Society for Informal Education and Development Studies and the connected women's rights group, Vimochana.

The best description I can offer of my experiences in India without launching into a four-hour narrative is simply, "life-changing." I saw things in India that I had previously only read about in books. I encountered issues I knew existed in the world, but with which I had never been face to face. And, guided by teachers from SIEDS and ISU, and further removed from my own culture and its accompanying assumptions than ever before, I began the process of questioning what seemed to be every belief upon which my first 20 years of life had been based.

At the end of our formal classes, we began the service-learning component of our trip in which we spent one week working on a project addressing some social issue in India. It was at this time that I was introduced to the Hakki Pikki tribe. I learned about the struggles of this strong-willed group as they dealt with land rights and increased contact with urban populations and globalization. In one home, I found myself sitting on a dirt floor, eating from a gourd with my hands, and watching a Bollywood film on a brand new TV and DVD player.

If all goes as planned, I hope to return to India in the next two years to hear more of the Hakki Pikki's story and perhaps aid in their struggle in some way. Until then, I intend to do as Madhu advised, and set myself up as a speed bump so that we have time to pause, look around us, and contemplate where we are heading.



Emily Fifield is a junior in history and international studies from Des Moines, Iowa.

Catt Center Continues Work on Archive Project

A gift from Dick and Mary Jo Stanley allowed the Catt Center to begin work on establishing an Archive of Women's Political Communication last year. This year, the Center continues gathering speeches and will begin work on the creation of the archive web site.

The gift from the Stanleys also supported the hiring of two undergraduate students, Emily Fifield, junior in history and international studies, and Anna King, junior in history, women's studies and English.

Last year, the students began researching and creating a database of women governors, lieutenant governors, U.S. Senators, U.S. Representatives and Cabinet members. Following the completion of the database, letters were sent to these women requesting copies of their speeches and political commercials. During the 2005 spring semester, the Catt Center began following up with women leaders who had not responded to our requests.

Currently, the Catt Center has collected speeches from several outstanding women as well as identified numerous online copies of speeches, which may be copied onto the archive web site. The archive will continue to grow during the next year as Fifield and King proceed to work on the project.

Fifield is working on gathering speeches from current women office holders. She also will begin identifying international women leaders. King will continue to research and gather historical speeches to include on the archive web site.

Catt Center program coordinator Julie Snyder-Yuly is overseeing the archive, working with Catt Center director Dianne Bystrom and Tanya Zanish-Belcher, head of Special Collections/ University Archives at Parks Library.



Students take advantage of all the opportunities offered by the Catt Center. Former student program coordinator, Peggy Baum, gives Amanda Ehrler a hug at Baum's farewell party on Sept. 30 (top left). Baum was instrumental in restructuring and developing many of the Center's student programs. A student looks at a display of the American Voting Rights Timeline created for Celebrate Voting by the State Historical Society (top right). The Catt Center sponsored a Celebrate Voting event on Aug. 26, 2005, which featured voter registration, a presentation by Secretary of State Chet Culver, and a performance of "The Yellow Rose of Suffrage" by Jane Cox. ACT Learning Community students, Legacy of Heroines scholars and Catt Associates pose with Laura Liswood during her visit to campus on March 29, 2005 (bottom).

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