This is my favorite time of the year! Fall marks the ending of summer and the beginning of the academic year. Ideally the weather will become cooler and soon we can begin to break out our warmer wardrobe.

Whenever we have an ending in our lives we have opportunities, and sometimes challenges, before the beginning of something new. It is the time between endings and beginnings that we learn the most about ourselves. It is in this “neutral zone” that we become better at being ourselves. Pay attention to the lessons given to you during this time and you will be transformed.

Working on a college campus I frequently have the privilege of watching and working with students, staff, and faculty as they experience endings and beginnings. I have the joy of supporting transformations of individuals as they become better at being themselves—or perhaps they are finding themselves for the first time. There is not another career I can imagine that would provide me the opportunity to engage with a diverse group of people on a diverse range of issues.

I hope each of you find ways to use your skills in ways that improve your life and the lives of others. I hope each of you find new experiences that provide you opportunities to learn more about you.

The Margaret Sloss Women’s Center is excited to offer a variety of ways to get involved, learn more about yourself and others, and to be creative and entertained. Take a look at our calendar of events for fall semester and make sure to check back for updates and additions.

Welcome back to a new academic year. My hope is that you and Iowa State University have listened to the lessons provided you over the summer and we all become better at being!

Peace, Penny Rice

If we don't change, we don't grow. If we don't grow, we are not really living. Growth demands a temporary surrender of security. ~Gail Sheehy

Are you interested in working towards gender justice? Are you looking for volunteer opportunities, but don’t know where to start? Look no more, we have a wide range of volunteer opportunities at the Margaret Sloss Women’s Center. Some of the opportunities include planning and staffing events throughout the year and greeting people at the Sloss House. Volunteers help provide quality services and assist in accomplishing the mission of the Women’s Center. If you would like more information about volunteer opportunities contact Val Erwin at verwin@iastate.edu and she will set up an interview time to help make your volunteering experience more personalized to your skills and interests.
Meet the Graduate Assistants!

Som Mongtin is a first year graduate student in the Educational Leadership and Policy Studies Program. She graduated in 2008 from Iowa State University with a B.A. in Psychology and a minor in Linguistics. Som is excited for the opportunity to work at the Women’s Center and looks forward to students and faculty utilizing her skills or even to just stop by and say “Hello.”

Val Erwin is a second year graduate student in the Educational Leadership and Policy Studies program. She received her B.A. in History with a minor in Disability Studies from Michigan State University. She is originally from Detroit, Michigan and enjoys watching MSU and Detroit sports teams, reading a good book, and walking around campus. She is currently the contact for the Margaret Sloss Women’s Center Volunteers and The Vagina Monologues.

Marissa Klousie is a second year graduate student in the Educational Leadership and Policy Studies program. She attended the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire and received her B.A. in Psychology with a minor in Women’s Studies in 2005. Marissa hails from Wisconsin and yes, she is a Cheese-head! Marissa will be splitting her time between the Margaret Sloss Women’s Center and LGBT Student Services this semester. She is looking forward to the upcoming year and is excited to have the opportunity to work with students, staff, and faculty throughout the year.

Equality Day Herstory & Get Out and Vote by Som Mongtin

The belief that all men and women are created equal and therefore should have the same rights motivated Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Carrie Chapman Catt, and Alice Paul to start the women’s suffrage movement. In 1848, Mott and Stanton held the first women’s rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York. After 56 referenda campaigns, 480 state legislature campaigns, 277 state party convention campaigns, and introducing the women’s suffrage amendment to congress 19 times, the hard work and dedication of the suffragettes finally paid off. Seventy two years after the first women’s convention in 1848, the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote was adopted into the U.S. Constitution on August 26, 1920. It wasn’t until 1971 that Congress officially designated August 26 as Women’s Equality Day. Since then, women have influenced society by holding positions from Governor to U.S. Supreme Court Justice and making sure their voices are heard and making a difference. Today, 88 years later, women and men are created equal thanks to women like Mott, Stanton, Anthony, Catt, and Paul. Thank you to everyone who stopped at the table sponsored by the Catt Center for Women and Politics and the Margaret Sloss Women’s Center on August 26 to celebrate this historic day!

Appreciate your right to vote and make a difference in your community, your country, and the world. Let your voice be heard on issues concerning the war, unemployment rates, health insurance, budget cuts, and other issues that affect you. If you are 18 or older and a U.S. citizen, you are eligible to vote on November 4. If you are not registered to vote, you can register at http://www.vote411.org. The voter registration deadline for Iowa is Saturday, October 25.

“To the wrongs that need resistance, To the right that needs assistance, To the future in the distance, Give yourselves.”

~Carrie Chapman Catt
**UST 160 Gender Justice**

Gender Justice (GJ) was created and is coordinated by the Margaret Sloss Women’s Center. The course fulfills one credit of students’ U.S. diversity three credit requirement. GJ focuses on contemporary gender issues present in the United States and will examine how the socialization process impacts our perspectives, experiences, and personal and professional relationships.

Students are exposed to theories and topics necessary to create understandings of issues occurring in society as well as develop skills to enhance communication and understanding among men and women. The purpose of GJ is for students to receive practical and purposeful knowledge, grounded in research and theory that can be used to develop their own interpersonal and intrapersonal communication abilities and effect social change.

GJ is a seminar-style course which relies upon active participation and thoughtful commentary. Check out the syllabus: [http://www.dso.iastate.edu/wc](http://www.dso.iastate.edu/wc) and register now. Spaces are still available for Fall ‘08. Class begins October 20.

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**Margaret Sloss Women’s Center Open House**

Iowa State University offers a variety of resources, including counseling, tutoring services, computer labs, informative lectures, resume building workshops, career placement, and renting multimedia equipment free of charge. These resources are scattered around campus and to make use of them, you would have to walk from one end of the campus to the other. Wouldn’t it be nice to have one location on central campus that offers free computer and laptop use, free printing, a library, a fully equipped kitchen, locker use, and a quiet place to study or de-stress from the day?

The Margaret Sloss Women’s Center is the place. We would like to invite you to join us Monday, September 29 through Monday, October 6 anytime between 8 am to 5 pm for a tour of the Sloss House and learn more about the resources we offer, plus events and ways to get involved.

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**Lactation Locations**

Motherhood is an amazing journey and for those of you moms who may be taking classes or working, you have some additional things to consider when returning to your education/career after the arrival of your child. Please utilize our resources by noting where our lactation areas are on campus. A more descriptive list of locations and additional resources can be found at [http://www.dso.iastate.edu/wc/support/lactation-locations.html](http://www.dso.iastate.edu/wc/support/lactation-locations.html)

- Agronomy Hall | Room RG364
- Bessey Hall | Room 140
- Carver Hall | Room R025
- Communication Building
- General Services Building | Room 13
- Gerdin Business Building
- Margaret Sloss Women’s Center
- Marston Hall | Room 111
- Molecular Biology Building
- Memorial Union | Room 3517
- Parks Library | Room 63
- Pearson Hall | Room 306
- Scheman Building
- Thielens Student Health Center | Room 2015A
- College of Veterinary Medicine

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**Have you been carded?**

Get Carded Day is RAINN’s (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network) annual campaign to raise awareness about sexual assault on campuses around the country. According to RAINN’S website, “Every 2 minutes, another American is sexually assaulted. 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men will be victims of sexual assault or rape in their lifetime.” RAINN is the nation’s largest anti-sexual assault organization the country.

This year the Margaret Sloss Women’s Center will be collaborating with ACCESS (Assault Care Center Extending Shelter & Support) and SART (Story County Sexual Assault Response Team) to distribute cards with information about how to reduce the risk of sexual assault, what to do if you are sexually assaulted, and how to help a friend. The cards also include RAINN’s national hotline — 1.800.656.HOPE. Join us Thursday, September 25 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in front of the Sloss House to ‘Get Carded’! We will also have information about local resources available.
The Faculty Women’s Network (FWN) is an organization dedicated to establishing collegiality among faculty women and indeed among all University faculty members. To obtain this goal, FWN presents programs of interest for faculty women, forums for open discussion, and informal mentoring opportunities.

All people who support gender equity are welcome to attend. Meeting times/dates are below.

**Faculty Women’s Network (FWN)**

All meetings are in the Cardinal Room, MU

- Sept. 15 11:30 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.
- Oct. 21 11:30 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.
- Nov. 20 11:30 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

If you would like to receive additional information about the FWN, please email us at womenctr@iastate.edu.

The Graduate Women’s Network (GWN) is a place for female graduate students to come together for support, professional skill building, and more.

Graduate students from all disciplines are welcome!

Meeting times/dates are below.

**Graduate Women’s Network (GWN)**

- 2nd Wednesday of every month @ the Sloss House
  - Sept. 10 2:00 p.m. — 3:30 p.m.
  - Oct. 15 2:00 p.m. — 3:30 p.m.
  - Nov. 12 2:00 p.m. — 3:30 p.m.

- 3rd Thursday of every month @ Stomping Grounds
  - Sept. 18 6:00 p.m.
  - Oct. 16 6:00 p.m.
  - Nov. 20 6:00 p.m.

If you have any questions or would like to be added to the GWN listserv, feel free to contact Som at SMonigin@gmail.com.
Knit-wits!

All meetings are in the Sloss House
Tuesday, September 16 12:00 p.m. — 1:00 p.m.
Thursday, September 25 5:30 p.m. — 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, October 7 12:00 p.m. — 1:00 p.m.
Thursday, October 30 5:30 p.m. — 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, November 13 5:30 p.m. — 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, November 18 12:00 p.m. — 1:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 4 5:30 p.m. — 7:00 p.m.

Do you knit, crochet, spin, or sew...or would you like to learn? Join us throughout the semester to craft and make connections with others.

Knit-wit! --nouns
A person with a desire to create while making connections.

All skill levels welcome!

QUESTIONS? Contact us at 515/294-4154 or Marissa at mklousie@iastate.edu

What is Secret Agents?

It’s a place to let it all out. Write down what you won’t tell anyone and send them in. Tell us your flaws, most embarrassing moments, what you did last summer, your guilty pleasures, your addictions, your feats over them, your crimes, your punishments – your secrets. We all have skeletons – so share them in the most anonymous way possible. We won’t tell.

Secrets are posted in the Sloss House. Come check them out!

Anonymously share what you won’t tell
DROP ’EM OFF OR MAIL ’EM:
205 Sloss House 50011-1220

Knit-wits!

Bring your own supplies/materials.

To have courage is not only admirable, it is inspirational.
~Maya Angelou

MSWC Zine

The Margaret Sloss Women’s Center is starting a Zine! Tap into your creative self and enter a submission for inclusion in the Zine.

We will be accepting submissions (anonymous/or not) through November 5th.

Join us Thursday, November 6 at 7 p.m. in the Sloss House for the Zine Creation Party. We will name and compile the Zine as a group.

Submissions can include artwork, poetry, letters, stories, rants, photos, etc...
You can mail or drop of submissions at 205 Sloss House.

QUESTIONS? Contact us at 515/294-4154 or Marissa at mklousie@iastate.edu
Picture It Project by Val Erwin

The Picture It Project is one component of a training and education effort federally funded by the Violence Against Women Act grant. The grant was received by a coalition of Iowa’s three regent universities, with the purpose of helping to create and enhance programs and policies on campuses across Iowa to prevent gender violence and enhance victim support services.

Last Spring students enrolled in a designated section of University Studies 160 studied gender violence and forum theater techniques. Together, they wrote vignettes which were performed prior to classes starting this semester. The vignettes included issues of consent, stalking, sexual assault, and relationship violence. The interactive program was presented to over 1,300 first year students to help students begin to engage in dialogues on gender violence.

A big thanks goes out to all of the students involved in the production and to everyone who attended the program. The students and everyone involved did a great job!! If you are interested in learning more about this project please contact pip@iastate.edu.

UST 161X Gender Justice: Applied Performance & Social Change

Understanding the socialization process and the effect this has on equity, opportunity, and relationships. Current perspectives, challenges, and improvements will be discussed the first half of the semester. The second half students will learn, practice, and understand forum theatre skills and techniques. Scenes on campus gender violence will be prepared and will be presented the week before fall semester 2009 to new and transfer students.

Spring Semester 2009
Day and Time To Be Announced
This course is an approved 3-credit U.S. Diversity requirement

QUESTIONS? Contact us at 515/294-4154 or womenctr@iastate.edu