

Wilkes professor educates about women's issues

By Bridgette Pebo
Covington Voice Item

3-20-03

The women's studies minor at Wilkes University has been gaining popularity throughout the years.

Since it began in 1990, the program has seen many students, both men and women.

Dr. Jennifer Nesbitt, 37, of Wilkes Barre, is an assistant professor of English at Wilkes and she has been a major factor in the success of the women's studies minor program.

Currently, there are 10 declared women's studies minors at Wilkes.

"There are even more students who are considering enrolling in the program," Nesbitt added.

Aside from being a professor at Wilkes, Dr. Nesbitt is married with two children.

She received her bachelor's degree from Harvard University and her master's and Ph.D. from Emory University in Atlanta, Ga. It was also at Emory where Dr. Nesbitt received her certificate in women's studies.

One of the most significant duties Dr. Nesbitt has is to work with the Woman's Studies Coor-

minating Committee to decide which courses at Wilkes can be designated eligible for the program.

Women's studies is considered interdisciplinary, meaning that classes from other fields — business, English, communications, etc. — must be declared as eligible for the minor.

Because of this, there is no stuffing for the program.

Professors from other disciplines must teach the courses. Each semester, about 20 professors teach classes suitable for the minor. Dr. Nesbitt is one responsible for making sure this process is carried out correctly.

Another of Dr. Nesbitt's responsibilities is working with students on their senior projects.

This is important because it shows students that gender has an impact on almost any subject.

For example, one political science student is "examining issues of gender discrimination in family law through a case study at the Luzerne County Courthouse," explained Nesbitt. All students with a minor in women's studies are required to



MARK MORAN/COVINGTON VOICE

Dr. Jennifer Nesbitt leads a women's studies class at Wilkes University.

do a capstone revolving around their education in the women's studies field. Nesbitt explained the capstone is a "substantial research project that culminates the student's experience in the minor."

Dr. Nesbitt, along with other members of the Women's Studies Committee, helps guide students through this process.

This process is important to the student because the project must meet certain guidelines.

Dr. Nesbitt is one who makes sure students are on the right track. Another part of her job is to sponsor events to promote the minor. This semester, Dr. Nesbitt

SEE NESBITT, PAGE B53

Nesbitt: Teaches awareness

FROM PAGE B5

sponsored a group of students who coordinated a "Take Back the Night" walk to raise awareness of violence against women.

Dr. Nesbitt explained there are many demands in the women's studies field, the most difficult is bringing about awareness, she said.

She is also concerned with "maintaining the presence of women as an interest group whose needs must be addressed."

Despite the benefits of the minor, major stereotypes need to be overcome, she admitted.

Many people think that a person will "suddenly change and become unfeminine" when they begin working in the women's studies field, according to Nesbitt.

"Gender stereotypes hurt all of us," she said. "Do not listen to people who say it will make you weird, unattractive or unfeminine."

Dr. Nesbitt urges all people, both men and women, to become involved in women's issues.

"If you want to find a remarkable woman, look at the person next to you — she is doing something remarkable."

Wilkes University News

Alissa M. Antosh
Writer/Editor
University Relations Office
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18766
Office (570) 408-4772 Fax (570) 408-7813
antosh@wilkes.edu

New Faculty Joins Wilkes University Family (Editors, Note Connection to Your Coverage Area)

Wilkes-Barre -- Wilkes recently held an orientation session for 11 new faculty members who join the University this fall.

New Jersey native Kristin C. Bewick is an assistant professor of Education. Since 1999, she has served as an adjunct instructor at King's College and as a graduate mentor at Marywood University. For the past eight years, she has worked as a private tutor in all academic areas, with emphasis on reading skills, study techniques, and cognitive and learning strategies.

Currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Education at Marywood, Bewick earned her master's degree in Special Education/Reading and bachelor's degree, with a major in Special Education and minor in communication disorders, from Marywood.

-MORE-

1st Add: New Faculty Joins Wilkes University

A native of New Jersey, Bewick earned post-bachelor credits in Speech Pathology and Elementary Education from Kean College, in Union, N.J.

Dr. Sally Bormann is an assistant professor of English in the Department of Humanities. A native of Minneapolis, Minn., she previously worked as an assistant professor of English at Western Montana College of the University of Montana. Bormann's experiences abroad include teaching at People's University in the People's Republic of China, Beijing; teaching English to children in Kaohsiung, Taiwan; and she studied for a year in Salzburg, Austria.

After earning a bachelor's degree in both Humanities and German, Bormann received a master's degree and doctorate in English Language and Literature from the University of Michigan.

Wilkes alumna, Concetta M. DeMarco, is an instructor in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. A native of Philadelphia, she has taught Quantitative Reasoning as an adjunct faculty member at King's. She also taught a variety of mathematics courses as an adjunct at Keystone College, in La Plume, Pa., and served as a professional tutor there. DeMarco earned a bachelor's degree in Mathematics and Chemistry from Alvernia College in 1992 and a master's in Mathematics from Wilkes this past May.

Jermyn, Pa. resident, Dr. Edward Foote, is an associate professor of Pharmacy Practice in the Nesbitt School of Pharmacy. Foote comes to Wilkes from the College of Pharmacy at Rutgers University, in Piscataway, N.J., where he served as assistant professor of pharmacy practice.

-MORE-

2nd Add: New Faculty Joins Wilkes University

For the past five years, he has also worked as an adjunct assistant professor of Medicine in the Division of Nephrology and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of N.J./Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

Foote received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Pharmacy and Doctor of Pharmacy Degree from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science. He is board certified as a pharmacotherapy specialist and is licensed in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Minnesota and New Jersey.

An associate professor in the Department of Social Sciences and Communications, Eric W. Hoffman moved to Wilkes-Barre from Jupiter, Florida. At Florida State University, in Tallahassee, he served as a teaching assistant in media productions. At Lynn University in Boca Raton, Flor., he worked as an assistant professor in Communication and instructor in Communication.

Hoffman is pursuing a Doctorate of Philosophy in Mass Communication from Florida State University. He earned a Master of Science in Marketing Communication and Information Technology from FSU in 1992.

Mary F. McManus, R.Ph., Ph.D., formerly from Long Island, N.Y., is an associate professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences. During her five years with the Arnold & Marie Schwartz College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Long Island University at University Plaza, in Brooklyn, N.Y., she served as assistant professor of pharmacology/toxicology and assistant director of continuing professional education.

-MORE-

3rd Add: New Faculty Joins Wilkes University

She has also worked as an adjunct professor of the graduate program at St. John's University, College of Pharmacy & Allied Health Professions, in Jamaica, N.Y.

McManus, a New York State Registered Pharmacist, earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Pharmacy and a Doctor of Philosophy Degree from St. John's.

Atlanta, Georgia native, Dr. Jennifer Poulos Nesbitt, is an assistant professor of English. At Emory University, she was a visiting assistant professor, English instructor, teaching associate, and graduate assistant. Nesbitt was also a Dean's Teaching Fellow at Oxford College of Emory University. This past spring, she was an instructor of English at Agnes Scott College, in Decatur, Georgia.

Nesbitt graduated magna cum laude, receiving an A.B. in History and Literature from Harvard University. She received an M.A. in English, a certificate in Women's Studies, and her Ph.D. in English from Emory University.

Barbara Nostrand, Ph.D., is an associate professor of Computer Science. She's previously worked as an assistant professor of CS at both Bradley University, Simpson College, and Philander Smith College. She earned two Bachelor of Arts Degrees from Central Washington State College — one in Philosophy and the other in Mathematics.

At Northeastern University, Nostrand completed the Master of Science program in Dynamic System Modeling and Formal Languages and a Ph.D., with the dissertation Chiral Honeycombs. Currently, she is pursuing a Master of Arts Degree through the University of Toronto. Her thesis is Women in Kyogen. Nostrand is a native of Richland, Washington.

-MORE-

4th Add: New Faculty Joins Wilkes University

Born in Shanghai, China, Dr. Youyu Phillips, of Scranton, is a visiting assistant professor of Chemistry. Since 1994, she has served as an adjunct associate professor at Wilkes, and, since 1995, she's worked as an adjunct professor at Northampton Community College's Monroe Campus, in Tannersville, Pa.

Phillips received a certificate in Chemistry and a Master of Science Degree in Chemistry from Shanghai Teachers' College of Technology in China. She also earned a Doctorate of Philosophy in Chemistry from the University of Ottawa, in Ontario, Canada.

Margaret R. Sullivan, of Lehman, Pa., is a visiting assistant professor of Mathematics. She has an extensive teaching experience, having worked as an instructor at Louisiana State University; as a graduate assistant at SUNY Binghamton; a visiting assistant professor at Broome Community College; and an adjunct professor at both Penn State Wilkes-Barre and Wilkes. Sullivan earned both a bachelor's and master's degree in Mathematics from Louisiana State University.

Dr. Terry Zipay, from Columbus, Ohio, is the new chairperson and a professor for the Department of Visual and Performing Arts. He has served a number of teaching posts throughout his career, most recently as Dean of the Conservatory of Music at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio. He supervised 45 employees, doubled enrollment, expanded programs of the Community Music School, initiated student-to-student orientation program and implemented a technology requirement for freshmen.

-MORE-

5th Add: New Faculty Joins Wilkes University

Zipay earned a Bachelor of Music Degree from Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester and a Master of Music Degree from the University of Arizona. He received a doctorate in Music History and Art History from State University of New York at Buffalo.

###

090100

Photo:

(Front Row, Left to Right) Dr. Jane Elmes-Crahall, of Larksville, Associate Professor of Communications and Chair of the Faculty Affairs Council; Kristin Bewick, of Moscow, Pa., Dr. Youyu Phillips, of Scranton, Pa., Concetta DeMarco, of Factoryville, Pa., and Dr. James P. Rodechko, of Wilkes-Barre, Vice President for Academic Affairs

(Middle Row, Left to Right) Dr. Terry Zipay, of Wilkes-Barre, Dr. Barbara Nostrand, of Wilkes-Barre, Dr. Jennifer P. Nesbitt, of Wilkes-Barre, and Mary McManus, of Shavertown, Pa.

(Top Row, Left to Right) Eric W. Hoffman, of Wilkes-Barre, Dr. Sally Bormann, of Shavertown, Pa., Dr. Edward Foote, of Jermyn, Pa., and Margaret Sullivan, of Lehman, Pa.



3rd Add: New Faculty Joins Wilkes University

9/1/00
Jennifer
Nesbitt

She has also worked as an adjunct professor of the graduate program at St. John's University, College of Pharmacy & Allied Health Professions, in Jamaica, N.Y. McManus, a New York State Registered Pharmacist, earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Pharmacy and a Doctor of Philosophy Degree from St. John's.

Atlanta, Georgia native, Dr. Jennifer Poulos Nesbitt, is an assistant professor of English. At Emory University, she was a visiting assistant professor, English instructor, teaching associate, and graduate assistant. Nesbitt was also a Dean's Teaching Fellow at Oxford College of Emory University. This past spring, she was an instructor of English at Agnes Scott College, in Decatur, Georgia.

Nesbitt graduated magna cum laude, receiving an A.B. in History and Literature from Harvard University. She received an M.A. in English, a certificate in Women's Studies, and her Ph.D. in English from Emory University.

Barbara Nostrand, Ph.D., is an associate professor of Computer Science. She's previously worked as an assistant professor of CS at both Bradley University, Simpson College, and Philander Smith College. She earned two Bachelor of Arts Degrees from Central Washington State College — one in Philosophy and the other in Mathematics.

At Northeastern University, Nostrand completed the Master of Science program in Dynamic System Modeling and Formal Languages and a Ph.D., with the dissertation Chiral Honeycombs. Currently, she is pursuing a Master of Arts Degree through the University of Toronto. Her thesis is Women in Kyogen. Nostrand is a native of Richland, Washington.

-MORE-