OCW Spring Picnic
May 8, 4:30 p.m.
Gun Shelter, Myrick Park

REMINDER: Please join us for our annual OCW Spring Picnic on Wednesday, May 8 at 4:30 p.m. in the small shelter (Gun Club) at Myrick Park. Brats and salads will be provided by OCW. Friends and family members are welcome to attend too! For more information contact Sharie Brunk, 785-6950, brunk.shar@uwlax.edu or Kim Goldsmith, 785-8939, goldsmit.kim@uwlax.edu.

OCW Scholarship Recipient

The 2002 Jean L. Foss & Norene A. Smith OCW scholarship recipient is Taryn Greendeer. The scholarship will be presented at the annual Student Scholarship and Award Reception on Monday, April 30, in Valhalla, Cartwright Center, Gunning Addition.

Taryn is a single mom as of two years ago raising four children, of which one is five years old and two others are in college. Taryn was born in Los Angeles, CA, but grew up in Mexico, Italy, England, and Switzerland. She returned to the US when she was 21 years old.

Taryn studied Spanish for ten years in Europe. She has worked in several Spanish speaking motion pictures in Mexico, Colombia, Argentina, Spain, and Portugal. She has spent four years as a voluntary teacher’s aide in the Los Angeles Unified School system and is presently a volunteer tutor for Latino and Native American students in the Coulee region. Taryn is a sophomore undergraduate student at UWL majoring in Spanish. She aspires to be a Spanish teacher. A writer of one of her letters of recommendation addresses Taryn’s potential best: “Taryn will make a superb teacher. With a ready smile, a buoyant optimism, and a desire to serve others, she has the qualities demonstrated by the best teachers.”
Calendar of Events    May 2002
http://www.uwlax.edu/SAC/Campus_Events/Calendar/May.htm
http://www.uwlax.edu/WomensStudies/

2-4  THEATRE ARTS: "The Cripple of Innishman," @ 7:30 p.m., Toland Theatre, Center for the Arts, UW-La Crosse.

5  THEATRE ARTS: "The Cripple of Innishman," @ 2:00 p.m., Toland Theatre

8  WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP SERIES: "Women's View of the Male Perspective of Leadership," by Bridget Belgiovine; 8:30 a.m., Great Hall, Cleary Alumni & Friends Center, UW-La Crosse. Call 608/785-6500 to register or for more information.

8  OMSS Graduation Celebration, Valhalla, Cartwright Center, Sponsored by OMSS

10  Last day of classes.

18  Commencement

22  WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP SERIES: "Leadership Styles and Assessment," by Petra Roter; 8:30 a.m., Great Hall, Cleary Alumni & Friends Center, UW-La Crosse. Call 608/785-6500 to register or for more information

Work Life Conference / Work Life Web Information

Because of the uncertainty of the budget and the limits on travel, the Work Life conference planned for June has been cancelled. UW System had to pull financial support for the conference due to the state budget issues. But there are many interesting sites available for learning about work-life issues and how they are handled on other campuses and in the private sector. Here are just a few:

◊ MK Consultants on Work Life — http://www.mkconsultants.com/Index.htm
◊ Alliance of Work Life Professionals — http://www.awlp.org/
◊ UCSC Work Life website — http://www2.ucsc.edu/hr/worklife/
◊ Mary Ann Mason and Marc Goulden recently finished a report on the effects of family on gender equity in academia. This is some of the first evidence that it's not just discrimination against women, but discrimination against care giving that creates many of the problems for women faculty. For more, see:
   http://www.berkeley.edu/news/media/releases/2002/02/08_babies.html
WILL’s Mission

- To encourage critical thinking, intellectual curiosity, and active learning opportunities that empower women as leaders during and beyond their college tenure;
- To foster a deeper understanding of women’s diverse roles and contributions to society;
- To increase awareness of obstacles women have faced and are facing, and of individual and collective strategies to address these issues;
- To promote the self-esteem and self-confidence of its members; and
- To provide opportunities for women to explore career and life choices.

The WILL program is modeled after an extremely successful approach to addressing disturbing differences in the college experiences of women and men.

By promoting female achievement and leadership in strategic and innovative ways, WILL offers women a unique opportunity to increase their self-esteem and confidence and realize their full potential.

The program enhances women’s collegiate experiences through a three-pronged approach:

- Women’s studies curriculum
- Gender-related programs outside the classroom
- A leadership development organization

WILL students say...

““What makes WILL different from anything else is that it makes you look at things as you have never looked at them before. Everything…your entire life, your family, your relationships…”

—WILL student

“I think I’ve gained a lot of confidence that I might not have had before. I tend to speak up more in class and to be more confident just because I have had that base.”

—WILL student

“…Will has affected my relationship with my Mom the most of any of the people I interact with…She always worked, and I always resented a lot of the choices she had to make…I guess I [now] understand a lot more…and how hard it must have been for her, and I think we talk a lot more now than we did when I was younger”

—WILL student

Research Findings

WILL students were more likely than non-WILL respondents to credit their college experience with contributing to:

- choice of careers
- success in their chosen careers
- expansion overall life options
- ability to assume leadership roles in both their professional and community lives
- increased self-confidence
- ability to stand up for their beliefs,
- commitment to social change, and
- ability to think critically and communicate effectively.
We are sitting at lunch when my daughter casually mentions that she and her husband are thinking of "starting a family." "We're taking a survey," she says, half-joking. "Do you think I should have a baby?" "It will change your life," I say, carefully keeping my tone neutral. "I know," she says, "no more sleeping in on weekends, no more spontaneous vacations...." But that is not what I meant at all. I look at my daughter, trying to decide what to tell her. I want her to know what she will never learn in childbirth classes. I want to tell her that the physical wounds of child bearing will heal, but that becoming a mother will leave her with an emotional wound so raw that she will forever be vulnerable.

I consider warning her that she will never again read a newspaper without asking “What if that had been MY child?” That every plane crash, every house fire will haunt her. That when she sees pictures of starving children, she will wonder if anything could be worse than watching your child die.

I look at her carefully manicured nails and stylish suit and think that no matter how sophisticated she is, becoming a mother will reduce her to the primitive level of a bear protecting her cub.

That an urgent call of "Mom!" will cause her to drop a soufflé or her best crystal without a moment's hesitation. I feel I should warn her that no matter how many years she has invested in her career, she will be professionally derailed by motherhood. She might arrange for childcare, but one day she will be going into an important business meeting and she will think of her baby's sweet smell. She will have to use every ounce of her discipline to keep from running home, just to make sure her baby is all right.

I want my daughter to know that everyday decisions will no longer be routine. That a five year old boy's desire to go to the men's room rather than the women's at McDonald's will become a major dilemma. That right there, in the midst of clattering trays and screaming children, issues of independence and gender identity will be weighed against the prospect that a child molester may be lurking in that restroom.

However decisive she may be at the office, she will second-guess herself constantly as a mother. Looking at my attractive daughter, I want to assure her that eventually she will shed the pounds of pregnancy, but she will never feel the same about herself. That her life, now so important, will be of less value to her once she has a child. That she would give it up in a moment to save her offspring, but will also begin to hope for more years -- not to accomplish her own dreams, but to watch her child accomplish theirs.

I want her to know that a cesarean scar or shiny stretch marks will become badges of honor. My daughter's relationship with her husband will change, but not in the way she thinks. I wish she could understand how much more you can love a man who is careful to powder the baby or who never hesitates to play with his child. I think she should know that she will fall in love with him again for reasons she would now find very unromantic.

I wish my daughter could sense the bond she will feel with women throughout history who have tried to stop war, prejudice and drunk driving. I hope she will understand why I can think rationally about most issues, but become temporarily insane when I discuss the threat of nuclear war to my children's future.

I want to describe to my daughter the exhilaration of seeing your child learn to ride a bike. I want to capture for her the belly laugh of a baby who is touching the soft fur of a dog or a cat for the first time. I want her to taste the joy that is so real, it actually hurts.

My daughter's quizzical look makes me realize that tears have formed in my eyes. "You'll never regret it," I finally say. Then I reach across the table, squeeze my daughter's hand and offer a silent prayer for her, and for me, and for all of the mere mortal women who stumble their way into this most wonderful of callings . . . . that of being a Mother.

—Compliments of Anne Galbraith (Author unknown)