



## Director's Chair

**“Women, Men, and the Professions in the Twenty-First Century Workplace”:** that was the title of a day-long symposium we held in March, together with the Dedman College Dean's office. Our subject was inspired by an e-mail conversation I had last summer with Peter Moore, then Acting Dean (now Senior Associate Dean) of Dedman College.

Dean Moore had begun asking questions about gender and the professions for reasons both professional and personal. As a college administrator, he was aware that in the U.S. more women than men earn college degrees every year—as has been the case since 1982. In his role as dean he had encountered the research of my colleague Anne Lincoln (sociology), who studies the feminization of the professions. As a father, he wondered what awaits his college-age daughter. And what, we began to muse in our e-mail conversation, does the changing professional workforce mean for young men? For society as a whole? For professional life?

The result of our conversation was our program's first all-day symposium. (See page 3). While acknowledging real gains for women in professional life over the decades, our speakers pointed out that women remain underrepresented on the higher rungs of the ladder even in fields where they are numerous. The talks provided fewer answers to our questions about what the influx of women in the professions means for men, but neither of our keynote speakers—sociologists who presented extensive quantitative research—predicted anything like the “unprecedented role reversal” presaged last summer in the *Atlantic Monthly* (see Hanna Rosin, “The End of Men,” July-August 2010). So, a shout-out to the young man who sent me anxious, angry e-mail: relax. Rumors of men's demise have been greatly exaggerated.

Some of our other activities and achievements this year:

**A discussion** of a work in progress by law professor Linda Eads, titled “Judges And Their Religious Beliefs About Women: What Do We Risk By Inquiring, And What Do We Risk By Not?”

**Co-sponsorship** of three lectures:

- Professor Srimati Basu (Women's and Gender Studies, University of Kentucky) on family violence and the law in India.
- Professor Mary Armstrong (English and Women's and Gender Studies), Lafayette College, on the once wildly popular but now mostly forgotten Victorian sensation novel *East Lynne*, by Ellen Wood.
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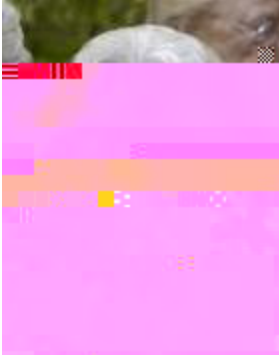


This year four declared WGS minors have been awarded \$16,000 from the two Maynard funds.

## Ann Early Award for Academic Excellence in WGS and Service to the Program

This award was named for the director of the Women's Studies Program from 1980-1989. Samaiya Mushtaq received the award for 2010-11.

*I M, ...*



The Women's and Gender Studies Program of SMU mourns the loss of Louise Ballerstadt Raggio, a trailblazing lawyer and SMU graduate, who died on January 24 at 91. She spearheaded a rewriting of the Texas law code in order to secure legal and property rights that were denied to married women before 1967. The Women's Studies Program hosted the

