

N.E.W. Leadership 2005

This year's N.E.W. (National Education for Women's) Leadership class brought together 33 dynamic undergraduate students from various backgrounds, hometowns, and universities. These extraordinary women range in age from 19-40; some have no children and others have seven; their majors ranged from engineering to political science. Despite their differences, all of these women spent five days together in a program that we hope was life-changing. Cindy Simon Rosenthal, Director and Curator for the Carl Albert Center, and Hannah Brenner, Executive Coordinator of Civic Education & Leadership, facilitated N.E.W. Leadership 2005, a project housed at the Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center at the University of Oklahoma.



N.E.W. Leadership
Class of 2005

Each year, three different "Faculty-In-Residence" (FIR) are asked to join the program. These exceptional women leaders, each with diverse professional and political experience, spend the entire five days with the participants and literally take up residence with the program. This year, the FIRs included **Marilyn Murrell**, Mayor of the City of Arcadia, Oklahoma; **Penny Painter**, Executive Director for the Resonance Women's Center; and **Judy Goforth Parker**, Chickasaw Tribal Legislator and Professor of Nursing at East Central University. These adult mentors attended each of the sessions along with the students and also stayed with the class at the Sooner Hotel.

Friday, May 20

The students were welcomed to N.E.W. Leadership by **Susan Savage**, Oklahoma Secretary of State, whose insightful remarks about her own political path laid an inspirational framework to kick off the program. Students later engaged in a scavenger hunt, working together in small groups to gather current and historical information - basic data, obscure factoids, and important biographical details - related to women in politics. The teams spanned across the campus to find the information and contacts needed to answer the challenge. At the conclusion of this activity, each group produced a short video that documented their hunt. Later Friday evening, students gathered at the Honor's College Library for dessert, coffee, and panel discussion featuring our 2005 NEW Leadership F.I.R.s - who shared their perspectives on the rewards and challenges of public leadership.



The F.I.R.S: Penny Painter,
Marilyn Murrell, and Judy
Goforth Parker at the
Dessert Discussion.

Students meeting new
friends!



Educating, Inspiring, Empowering Women to Become Political Leaders

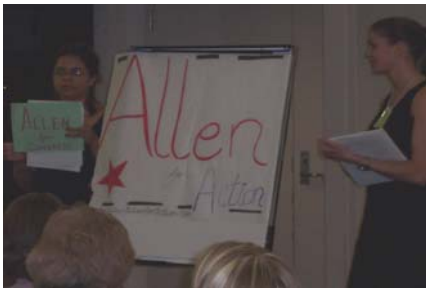
Saturday, May 21

The second day started off with **Carolyn Pickthorn**, Administrative Assistant to Lt. Governor Mary Fallin (and 2002 NEW Leadership Graduate), presenting a *Career Jump Start* session all about internships. From there, the students selected several workshops: *Dreams to Realities: Successful Career Planning Strategies* led by **Ginger Decoteau**, Founder of the Community Learning Council, Inc.; *I Love to Tell My Story, But Who Is Listening?* led by **Ann Way**, Senior Program Officer for the Sarkeys Foundation; and *Analyzing Your Leadership Effectiveness* led by **Penny Painter**, Executive Director of the Resonance Women's Center. Later, **Marilyn McDow**, Executive Assistant to Senator Scott Pruitt and 2003 NEW Leadership Graduate, presented a dynamic *Career Jump Start* that related to political campaigns. Saturday afternoon, **Linda Terrell**, Executive Director for the Center for Children and Families, Inc., facilitated a workshop on team building and effective leadership. At their dinner reception, the students had a chance to hear from **Lisa Pryor**, Chair of the Oklahoma Democratic Party, and **Dana Murphy**, Vice-chair of the Oklahoma Republican Party, about what it means to be a Democrat and what it means to be a Republican. One of the highlights for the students later that evening was the campaign simulation exercise, where they



True Colors Workshop

worked in teams and prepared a campaign strategy, publicity, fundraising techniques, etc. for a specific candidate. The groups were given expert advice by campaign consultants **Leslie Blair**, Cabinet Secretary Liaison, Oklahoma Department of Commerce and Tourism (and 2002 NEW Leadership Graduate); **Deby Snodgrass**, Director of Political Affairs, Chesapeake Energy Corporation; **Shelly Perkins**, Executive Director, Action Plan Oklahoma, Inc.; and **Deneka Turney**, Cain Consulting.



Campaign Simulation

Sunday, May 22

The students' day began with a panel discussion focusing on *Community Activism and Politics: Mobilizing Communities and Shaping Public Policy* led by Community Activists **Nancy McDonald**, **Toni Rice**, and **Celeste Smith-Warah**. The students spent the duration of the day in a diversity workshop entitled, *Tools for Diversity: Connecting as Human Beings, Women, and World Citizens*, led by **Teresa Collado**, Associate Director, NAIC - Center for Alcohol and Drug Services and **Jan Tipton**, Director of Training and Prevention, Gateway to Prevention and Recovery. This session underscored the challenges and sensitivities required to work effectively in an increasingly diverse society. There was also a speech, *Places You'll Go*, by **LaRita Aragon**, Brigadier General, the Oklahoma Air National Guard.



Panel Discussion



Brigadier General
LaRita Aragon

Monday May 23

Jill Tao, Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Oklahoma, presented a *Career Jump Start* session that focused on graduate school. The students then boarded a bus for Oklahoma City where they had lunch with **Kathy Taylor**, Secretary of Commerce and Tourism. Next, students headed to the State Capitol where they participated in a panel entitled, *A Women's Place is in the House and in the Senate*, featuring House Democratic Leader **Jari Askins**, Senator **Debbe Leftwich**, Senate Majority Whip **Susan Paddack**, Senate Minority Whip **Nancy Riley**, and House Speaker Pro Tempore **Susan Winchester**. For the first time since its inception, N.E.W. Leadership facilitated a panel entitled, *Women in the Judiciary*. This new panel included retired Oklahoma County District Court Judge **Nancy Coats**, retired Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals Judge **Reta Strubhar**, and Oklahoma County District Court Judge **Barbara Swinton**. Next, participants gathered in small groups to hear about what goes on behind the scenes at the State Capitol; these groups were facilitated by **Margaret Erling**, lobbyist and President, Erling & Associates; **Kathy Jones**, Executive Director, Higher Education Alumni Council of Oklahoma (HEACO); **Lou Kohlman**, Law Clerk for Judge Charles Chapel, Oklahoma Criminal Court of Appeals; **Anne Roberts**, Executive Director, Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy; **Trish Weedn**, Executive Director, Oklahoma Association of Regional Councils; and **Tina Majors**, President, National Association of Women Business Owners of Central Oklahoma. The class then proceeded to a series of round robin networking panels that dealt with *Issues and Opportunities in Government*. The panel on *Education* included **Fern Green Bowling**, Equity and Diversity Specialist, Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education; Representative **Sally Kern**; and Senator **Kathleen Wilcoxson**. The panel on *Health for Women: Issues of Access and Equity* included Representative **Jeannie McDaniel**; Senator **Judy Eason McIntyre**; F.I.R. **Marilyn Murrell**; and **Marcia Smith**, Executive Director of Oklahoma Coalition against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. The panel concerning *Children, Youth and Families* included Representative **Lisa Billy**; **Sandy Ingraham**, Attorney and Social Policy Consultant; **Sharon Neuwald**, Director of Legislative Relation, Oklahoma Department of Human Services; F.I.R. **Penny Painter**; and Representative **Barbara Staggs**. Lt. Governor **Mary Fallin** shared some of her personal experiences and challenges that brought her to where she is today. A reception in the rotunda of the State Capitol provided opportunity to celebrate women in government, honor the N.E.W. Leadership class of 2005, and acknowledge supporters and friends of the program.



Lt. Gov. Mary Fallin



Rep. Askins, Rep. Winchester,
Senator Paddack, Senator Leftwich

Sandy Ingraham, Attorney and Social Policy Consultant; **Sharon Neuwald**, Director of Legislative Relation, Oklahoma Department of Human Services; F.I.R. **Penny Painter**; and Representative **Barbara Staggs**. Lt. Governor **Mary Fallin** shared some of her personal experiences and challenges that brought her to where she is today. A reception in the rotunda of the State Capitol provided opportunity to celebrate women in government, honor the N.E.W. Leadership class of 2005, and acknowledge supporters and friends of the program.



Judge Swinton, Judge Coats, Judge Strubhar



Tuesday, May 24

The day started with a *Career Jump-Start* session addressing the many paths to and from law school, presented by **Kathleen Guzman**, Associate Dean for Academics, University of Oklahoma Law Center. The students then participated in a public policy simulation about leadership in action, working with a case involving a variety of leadership challenges and dilemmas. Teams diagnosed the problems, developed policy alternatives, and identified leadership strategies to resolve the



Reneau, Hatfield, Johnson

case effectively. The groups were headed by University of

Oklahoma Professors **Cindy Simon Rosenthal**, **Margaret Ellis**, and **Jill Tao**. The last panel of N.E.W 2005 Institute dealt with *Choices and Commitments: The Many Options of Public Service*, led by **Willa Johnson**, City Council-woman, City of Oklahoma City; **Judy Hatfield**, President and CEO, Equity Realty, Inc.; and **Brenda Reneau**, Oklahoma Labor Commissioner.



Sarah Blaney, N.E.W. Leadership Intern, at the Final Ceremony with Cindy Simon Rosenthal and Hannah Brenner

N.E.W. Leadership is funded through contributions from corporations, foundations, and individual. Our 2005 donors include:

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N.E.W. Leadership 2005 Participants

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 Angela Abraham — Oral Roberts University
 Lori Allen — Oklahoma State University
 Sarah Blaney — University of Oklahoma
 Mary Brazier — University of Oklahoma
 Cerissa Brown — Northeastern State University
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 Amanda Hoel — University of Tulsa
 Debra Howard — Oral Roberts University
 Comelia Jackson — Rose State College
 Karin Jonsson — University of Oklahoma
 Holly Licht — Oklahoma State University
 Lindsey McClure — University of Oklahoma
 Kara Morris — Cameron University
 Rebecca Roepke — Tulsa Community College
 Jami Schevette — Seminole State College
 Carol Ann Shockley — Rose State College
 Rebecca Stayton — Oklahoma State University OKC
 Monica Storozyzyn — Oklahoma City University
 Tanna Thompson — University of Oklahoma
 Sarah Thurman — University of Tulsa
 Elisabeth Tolbert — Oklahoma State University
 Renee Waters — East Central University
 Kristy Williams — University of Oklahoma
 Latasha Wilson — Oklahoma State University
 Hillary Winn — University of Oklahoma
 Amyie Vuong — University of Oklahoma

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