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## IWU Explores the Psychology of Gender

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## IWU Explores the Psychology of Gender

March 25, 2005

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. - Illinois Wesleyan Professor of Art/Graphic Design Sherri McElroy will present a multimedia presentation exploring the psychology of gender on Tuesday, March 29, at 7 p.m. in the Joyce Eichhorn Ames School of Art (6 Ames Plaza West, Bloomington), Room 218.

The event, titled *Aprons and Ashtrays*, is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

*Aprons and Ashtrays* is named after the kitchens and dens that once divided a household in the 1950s. The kitchen (or the apron) represents the women and their stereotypical emotional availability, the den (or the ashtrays) represents the men and their stereotypical intellectual side, with emotional unavailability. This experimental presentation in interactive storytelling is based on McElroy's childhood memories of her grandparents' lifestyle. She was especially inspired by her recollections of her grandmother laughing in the kitchen and her grandfather smoking cigars in the den. McElroy will take the audience through five decades - the 50s, through the 90s - as she explores the psychology of gender through the ages, including gender empowerment, getting rid of gender stereotypes, and leading finally to a gender neutrality. The program will be presented using various mediums, including computer projection and acting.

For additional information contact Vicki Magee, director of Women's Studies, at 309/556-3574.

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