Women's Studies Fall Events

Brown Bag Lunch Series: Every Wednesday 12:15 - 1:30 in the Campus Center.

The ever-successful, ever popular brown bag lunch series continues this fall. Bring your lunch and your friends to our exciting array of speakers. Students, faculty, staff, and guests are welcome to attend one or all of the sessions. Students, who wish to, can receive one credit for coming to every brown bag and participating. Registration takes place at the first lunch on September 11. For details or speaker schedule contact the office. Credit is only available for the brown bag once each year. All the brown bags take place in Campus Center 804-808 except for November 20 which takes place in Campus Center 903. The dates are as follows: September 11, 18 and 25; October 2, 9, 23, and 30; November 6, 13, 20; December 4

Student Meeting: There will be a student meeting early in the semester for a variety of reasons including updating students on what's going on in the program, selecting student reps for the Women's Studies Policy Board (the governing body of the program) and other issues. Join us on Wednesday, September 18, 1991 in Campus Center 165-169.

End of Semester Open House Friday, December 13, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in 208 Bartlett Hall
Join us for a study break--eat some bagels, drink some tea. Hang out with Women's Studies friends.

We plan to hold our ever-popular Alumni Career Forum during the Spring Semester. Women's Studies graduates from a variety of fields come back to campus and talk about their lives and choices. Don't miss this inspiring event. Watch for the date!

INSIDE: Program and People News
WOST PEOPLE NEWS

Leila Ahmed: directed Near Eastern Studies for academic year 1990-1991. She gave papers to Women's Studies at Emory and to a Women's History group at Harvard. Leila is currently engaged in doing research on Arab autobiographies and plans to travel to Egypt in January to continue that work.

Arlene Avakian: was on leave Spring 1991 doing research on ethnic identification and community involvement among Armenian American women, mostly in the greater Boston area. Lion Woman's Legacy, will be available in bookstores in November and has also been excerpted in Frontiers and the Women's Review of Books, this spring and summer. Radio France (heard around the world) interviewed Arlene on her book. Arlene was a member of a multi-cultural panel on diversity in ways of knowing at the Association for Women in Psychology/Western Massachusetts and Vermont. She also led a workshop on Infusing Race and Class issues into Women's Studies and Infusing Feminism into Anti-Bigotry Organizing on Campus for the National Association for Women in Psychology.

Vicki Crawford: just arrived in Amherst after a two-year postdoctoral fellowship at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill where she's been working on a book on Black Women in the Civil Rights Movement. Just published in 1990 is Trailblazers and Torchbearers, 1941-1965: Women in the Civil Rights Movement, a volume in the 16 volume series on Black Women in U.S. History published by Carlson Publishing Company. Vicki is currently compiling entries for Black Women in America: An Historical Encyclopedia, the first of its kind to carry over 1000 entries listing the lives and work of African-American Women in the twentieth century. Vicki is also in the very early stages of organizing an edited volume on women activists. Welcome to UMass!

Lee Edwards: having started out as a part-time instructor (a.b.d.) in 1967 Lee advanced through the ranks to Professor of English, Professor of English and Women's Studies, Director of Women's Studies and in July to Dean of Humanities and Fine Arts. This is the first time UMass/Amherst has had a woman Dean of Arts & Sciences. Lee aims to continue her work on psychotic narratives, but suspects that her new position will provide "more than enough psychosis for me to study." Congratulations Lee! We trust that Lee will continue her good work on all the causes and curricular innovations we (collectively) hold dear. Women's Studies is lucky to have a Dean with such impeccable Women's Studies credentials.

Joy James: served as acting WOST Chair and summer administrator for 1991. Joy has completed editing an anthology on African-American women in academia and is researching the racial and sexual politics of women's organizing against lynching, historical and contemporary. Joy is examining the activism of Ida B. Wells and political activism around the Scottsboro, Stuart and Central Park cases.

Sandi Morgen: After 5 1/2 years at the University, Sandi is leaving to become the Director for the Center for Study of Women and Society and an Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Oregon/Eugene. Sandi will miss folks here at UMass, but is looking forward to playing a major role in shaping and supporting research on gender, race and class. If you will be passing through Eugene, contact her at 636 Prince Lucien Campbell Hall, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403. Best of Luck Sandi!

Daphne Patal: This past year Daphne was at the National Humanities Center in North Carolina, working on 2 books: On Becoming Human: the Utopian Fiction of Katharine Burdekin and Gendermania: Male and Female Power in Utopian Fiction. A number of essays related to this work will be forthcoming in different publications including the Bucknell Review and American Literary History. Daphne has continued her work on Brazil: she reviewed the last few years of English-language translations from Brazilian literature for the Handbook of Latin American Studies v.52, wrote the intro for and translated "Women and the New Brazilian Constitution," by the Brazilian jurist Floisa Verucci for Feminist Studies, and is at work on an essay on women in Brazilian art and literature for the new International Encyclopedia of Women's Studies. Daphne also co-edited a book with Sherna Gluck, Women's Words: The Feminist Practice of Oral History, recently published by Routledge. The book includes her essay "U.S. Academics and Third World Women: Is Ethical Research Possible?" Together with Angela Ingram, Daphne is also at work editing a book of essays entitled Forgotten Radicals: British Women Writers, 1889-1939. Welcome back Daphne!
Continuing Efforts Against Racism in Academe and the Development of Our Program:
During the Spring 1991 semester, students, staff and faculty met formally and informally to discuss race as central to gender analysis. Classroom environment, curricular changes, and related issues were and are being discussed. Two events were held, in February and May entitled "Thinking Feminism/Rethinking Women's Studies: A New Agenda." The events included small and large group discussion, writing, and presentations. The 2nd event was actually 2 events in one: one for and by ALANA women (women who identify as being of African, Latina, Asian and Native American descent,) and and the other event focused on "white" as a racial identity. The program is committed to keeping this work going and exploring more comprehensive and inclusive approaches to Women's Studies. See below story on colloqs.

Student Run Colloqs: Students, faculty, and staff have identified the need for more opportunities for informal discussion within the program. Students need time and supportive space to process new ideas, and work on key issues such as the interrelation between gender issues and racial, class, and ethnic identity, and sexual orientation. There are many possibilities for exploring issues outside the classroom for academic credit. A small group of students, in conjunction with a faculty sponsor, can meet and share readings, insights, and discussion on a particular issue. This sort of less formal independent study could be undertaken in the fall in order to plan for a coloq in the spring. One or more students (with a sponsor) can put together a structured colloquium series with readings, lectures, guest speakers, assignments and grades. We have had good success with these and other models in the past. The possibilities are endless. We encourage you to be creative and take advantage of opportunities. See Karen for details.

Honors: If you are interested in getting honors, talk to Arlene ASAP. To receive departmental honors, students must (in addition to having a high GPA) do a year long thesis, project or portfolio.

Fieldwork: As always, there are numerous fieldwork opportunities, on and off campus. Work for credit and see the budget crisis up close. For information see Karen.
Five College Women's Studies Research Center Opening: After years of hard work, the five College Women's Studies Research Center is opening this fall. It is located at Dickinson House at Mount Holyoke College. The building has offices, meeting rooms, an apartment for a visiting scholar and some student housing. Research associates will get an office and participate in a weekly seminar. The center will also host faculty seminars, provide an institutional home for visiting scholars and international visitors, organize conferences and promote important archival collections on women. As we watch programs and services shrink around us, it is exciting to start something new. The Center plans a gala opening on Monday, September 30 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Save the date! The center's phone number is 538-2275, FAX 538-2082.

Volunteers wanted: The Dean's Office and Women's Studies are making preliminary plans for a Five College faculty mini-symposium this academic year here on campus. The event would focus on Women's Studies, pedagogy, and dealing with issues of diversity and democracy. This idea emerged from Lee's attendance at a meeting of Women's Studies program directors. Amongst the issues discussed were student's different perceptions of faculty of color and white faculty. Faculty who wish to work on this event, contact Joy James or the WOST director.

Work Study Position in the Office: Want to be close to the action in Women's Studies? We need a clerical assistant for typing, filing, answering phones, running errands and assorted other tasks. Must be self-motivated. Word processing experience desirable. Come to the office and fill out an application by September 9. See Ann for details.

Student Surveys: When students apply to be a major or minor, they have the option of filling out an interest survey that is available for other students to see. The survey includes questions about academic and extra academic interests, political activities, jobs, etc. This survey notebook is available in the office. Stop by and ask to see it.

Old Papers Never Die. ...We keep unclaimed papers in the office for one semester. Right now we have papers from Spring 1991. If you didn't get yours, come by 208 Bartlett Hall to save them from the recycle bin.

We Recycle!

T-SHIRTS, T-shirts, t-shirts. Yes, we still have T-shirt for sale in the office--Royal blue with that striking Women's Studies logo. Adult sizes M, L and XL and a few kid's sizes too. Call or stop in for a look. Adult prices $7.00 and $10.00. Discounts on purchases of 3 or more.

Thanks Donors: As always, Women's Studies relies on donations for all our little extras like T-shirts for our grads, receptions and parties. This past year the following people donated generously: Sarah Chase, Barry Siegel, Joanne Gangl, Sandra Lofchie, Andrea Berman, Mary Ellen Kelly, Sally Majewski, Andrea Fox, Susan Karlson, Sandra Taylor, Mary Comi, Lillian Waugh, Dale LaBonte, Jan Passion, Kathryn Daniels, Judith Branzburg, Cynthia Holmes, Bonnie McKee, Herbert and Doris Bomengen, Nina Dabek, Digital Equipment, John and Carla Rensenbrink, Susan Vickory, Ann Ready, Mary Reilly, Karen Shack, Ann della Bitta, Nancy Arnold, Michele Melchionda, Diane Curley, Patricia Murphy.

If the TeleFund calls you, and you decide to pledge to UMass, remember, you have the option of earmarking your donation for the program of your choice.

Everywomen's Songbook: The Everywoman's Songbook, a collection of songs of women's and children's safety, healing, and resistance, continues to move forward. Over 70 songs have been submitted both from established songwriters and songwriters from the Five Colleges and the local community. The project has internship opportunities for school year 91-92. For information contact Donna Hebert at 545-0883.

**Answers to "Bad Habits" quiz from Fall 1990: 1.i. 2.j. 3.d. 4.f. 5.l. 6.a. 7.h. 8.e. (Note: no one won the contest.)
Congratulations
Graduates!

Our graduating class keeps growing by leaps and bounds—over 50 majors and minors! This year our end-of-the-year celebration was at the faculty club again. Due to tough times we scaled back from a dinner to a reception, but kept all the customary pomp and circumstance. Karen wore a slinky dress, Lee received a "Question Authority" T-Shirt then wanded the graduates, and the soon-to-be-ex-students received T-shirts and flowers while onlookers cheered. A few days later at a sunny commencement, a WOST tradition was maintained as our graduates marched together with the Women's Studies banner. Congratulations and best of luck to:

Marisa Berman, Michelle Boardman, Caroline Buckler, Leah Callahan, Katharine Daube, Elizabeth Donohue, Nancy Fish, Sarah Getoff, Gina Gombar, Stephanie Haskins, Shira Katz, Caledonia Kearns, Stephanie Kelley, Katherine Koloseike, Alice Lanzi, Lisa Levesque, Rebecca O'Donnell, Sarah Olivier, Sharon Park, Penny Percival, Sandy Perpignani, Lynley Rappaport, Pamela Remy, Sheila Rhodes, Suzanne Rotondo, Catherine Rowen, Rachel Rubin, Kathleen Rutherford, Christine Selig, Kristin Jo Siess, Deborah Connolly, Sharon Stapel, Karen Sumner, and Lorain Tonna-Lamuniere—all majors just graduated, or expected to graduate in December. Best wishes to graduating minors: Christina Bolton, Julie Bomengen, Jessica Cates, Laura Cohen, Kimberly Dahowski, Kristin Damigella, Laura Denkew, Rory Evans, Heather Heniques, Lisa Herman, Panagoula Katsoulis, Amy Morgan, Deborah Noel, Lisa Pontius, Zohar Porat, Luz Rubero, Janet Rubinstein, Anne Spears and Melissa Traber. Please keep in touch with the program—send a card or letter with news of what you are doing. We love to hear from you.

FLASH!! An 8 x 12 color glossy photograph of the grads at this year's celebration is available in the office. To order one for $5.00 contact Karen.

Fundraising: We did a special fundraiser to alums to support the end of the year celebration. Several faculty and the following alums responded to our call: Cynthia Holmes, Frances Neumann, Linda Buttt, Janet Aalfs, Birdie McLenann, Michele Melchionda, Celeste Friend, Louise Bryan, Maya Gillingham, Jessica Diamondstone, and Jill Tregor. Thanks！！！！！！！！

NEWS ABOUT GRADS

Yes...the recession continues...
Be inspired by these women!

Janet Aalfs received her MFA in poetry from Sarah Lawrence College in May 1990 and continues to write and publish both poetry and short fiction. She has been running Valley Women's Martial Arts "sola" for the past several months with the help of dedicated students, teachers and board members. VWMA is in it's 14th year and looking for board members.

Louise Bryan is working and has started a small pet sitting business. She continues to compete with her 2 golden retrievers, Chestnut and Kendal in obedience and field events. Economics in California aren't much better than Massachusetts she writes, but she plans to stay there for a while.

Linda Burtt is working as a Business Assistant at The Writer, a small magazine in Boston. "It took a very long time, but I was finally able to enter the publishing field."

Jessy Diamondstone wrote that she is going to begin building a "little house with low impact on the environment" with her husband in Newfane, Vermont. She is researching alternative methods of pumping water, disposing of sewage, etc. Jessica is the activities director at an adult day program for frail elders and differently abled adults. She also teaches yoga at Northfield Mt. Hermon, is an activities consultant at a residential home for elders, and has started a salve and herbal extract business called Mother's Garden. She writes that "the big challenge is preventing fatigue with all these great things going on"

Cheryl Donovan is working in "lovely Monterey, California as a technical editor for CTB Macmillian/McGraw-Hill. Part of the challenge of my job is to find acceptable ways of standardizing... alternative performance assessments." The combination of Women's Studies and Educational Research serves as an interesting background for this job. Cheryl is enjoying the beauty around her, taking management courses at the Monterey International Institute, sharpening her research skills, and attending the Monterey County's Council on the Status of Women meetings. "You know the old adage--think globally and act locally."
Carolyn Frimpter wrote last summer that she was pursuing a dual masters degree in Social work with a concentration in community organizing and Public Health at Boston University. She has been active in the housing and homelessness movement, working with the Mass. Coalition for the Homeless and focusing on changing the state policies that effect single homeless people.

Virginia Holmes (formerly Sal Holmes) will start a doctoral program in history at the University of Michigan/Ann Arbor this fall. She will study modern European and modern Jewish history. She completed a master's degree in international relations from the Fletcher School at Tufts University in 1988.

Maya Gillingham is living in Oakland and working at a catering company as a cook/administrator. Work is hard to find these days, but Maya enjoys the Bay area and is settling in. She is "still working some in the arts."

Andrea Levine spent last summer driving all over the U.S.A. with her partner, trying to decide where to move. They ended up in the East Village in New York city, despite Andrea's love of the outdoors. She writes that after buying interview clothes and applying unsuccessfully to numerous women's organizations she is working at Payne Whitney Psychiatric Clinic as a mental health worker. She likes her work, and has lots of time to interact with her patients.

Fran Neumann is working at the Adult Day Health Care Center in Northampton on a part-time basis with mostly women clients. The center helps keep elders out of long term institutional care. She sends her best to the new WOST graduates.

Bonnie McIntosh is attending Smith School for Social Work.

Patricia Murphy (after a very long job search) is working at Boston University as a secretary in the Pharmacology Department. The pay and benefits are good she tells us.

Chantal Pierat is living in Washington, D.C., and working as a program assistant in the education department of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Chantal writes press releases and does slide presentations. She is also working National Endowment for the Humanities-funded project.

Jen Schreiner spent 8 months with Franklin/Hampshire Community Mental Health in Northampton as the Management Information Systems Specialist, and was then promoted to the Administrative Assistant to the Director of Administrative Services. She loves her work and has become fluent in many database and spreadsheet programs. She likes her colleagues and is looking forward to the workplace becoming more diversified.

Jill Tregor is still the program coordinator at Community United Against Violence. They provide services to victims of anti-gay/lesbian violence and do education and preventative work as well. She writes that she has developed into "sort of a national expert on Police Training/Sensitivity re: Lesbians/Gays/ Bisexuals," and she hopes the "current fiscal nightmare does not wreck havoc on my favorite program at UMass."

Sarah Van Arsdele has left her post as UMass alumni editor to live on an island in Lake Champlain and write poetry, fiction, and essays on science and nature. "I can't believe it but it's true" she writes and encourages alums to continue sending their notes about their lives to Massachusetts Magazine, 105 Munson Hall, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003. (Ed. note: . . .in addition to sending them to these pages, of course.)

Michelle Veno has been working for an attorney's office for 1 year. She is also a District Advertising Sales Manager for "Parenting Magazine" due to come out in September. "It's like Boston Magazine, but directed to parents."

Tracy Welsh just graduated from law school is working as a clerk.

The WOST News

Graduates of Women's Studies
Make Good in the Real World

[Image: Graduates of Women's Studies Make Good in the Real World]
CONFERENCES:

African Philosophy: Gendered and Nongendered Principles of Community Development. Five College Black Studies will host and Women's Studies will sponsor a symposium on this topic in mid-November. For information contact Joy James in Women's Studies.


Gender in Academe: Who Cares? 2nd Biennial Conference, October 31-November 2, 1991 at the University of South Florida, Tampa Florida. For information: Lagretta Lenker University of South Florida 4202 E. Fowler Avenue, LLL 012 Tampa, FL 33620, (813) 974-2403.

Translation/Transformations: Gender and Culture in Film and Literature East and West. An interdisciplinary conference to explore the construction, perception, and perpetuation of gender differences within cultures and across cultures in mutually adaptive media. The conference is November 14-15 at the East-West Center, Honolulu, Hawaii. For information write: Cornelia Moore, Conference Coordinator Transformations University of Hawaii Webster Hall 204 Honolulu, Hawaii 96822.

New World Regionalism Versus Old World Domination, April 24-25, 1992 at SUNY Binghamton. The conference is designed to explore the literary implications of the clash of cultures in the Americas, Africa, etc., the subsequent politics of colonialism, and the general rise of cultural imperialism. For information: Professor Antonia Sobejano-Morgan Department of Romance Languages and Literatures P.O. Box 6000 Binghamton, NY 13902-600 (607) 777-4635 or (607) 777-2644. Paper abstracts due by December 10, 1991.

Reassessing the Grounds for Our Struggle: Connecting Women's Lives In Theory, Practice, Performance. Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio, April 24-25 1992. Conference Objectives: to explore the commonalities of women's experience and come to terms with our differences. To engage in feminist dialogue regarding the grounds from which we speak about women's position in the culture. To celebrate the performance(s) of women's lives. For information: Karen Gould, Director Lynn Walkiewicz, Conference Coordinator Women's Studies Program Bowling Green State University Bowling Green, Ohio 43403 (419) 372-2720 or 372-7133.

Helen Hooven Santmyer Prize: Ohio University Press offers an annual prize of $2500 for the best book-length manuscript, in any discipline, on the contributions of women, their lives and experiences, and their roles in society. Submissions due byOctober 1, 1991. For information: Charlotte Dihoff Helen Hooven Santmyer Prize Committee Ohio State University Press 180 Pressy Hall 1070 Carmack Rd. Columbus, Ohio 43210-1002.
NEWSLETTER ADDRESS CORRECTION AND QUESTIONNAIRE

We invite feedback about this newsletter. Does it meet your needs about news in the program? Are there special topics or concerns you would like to see addressed?

1. What part of the newsletter do you like best?

2. What part of the newsletter do you like least?

3. Other comments:

We also need your correct address. NOTE: If your copy of this newsletter includes a letter saying you may be removed from the mailing list, and you want to stay on it, please respond promptly.

Name

Address

( )Current student ( )Alum ( )Faculty ( )Staff ( )Community

If you have changed your name, please write your former name here:

Return to: Women's Studies/Address, 208 Bartlett Hall, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003

This Newsletter is written and edited by Karen Lederer. Design by Ann Williams. Thanks to Ann Williams and Joy James for their assistance. Due to budgetary constraints (how often has that phrase appeared here?) there was no Spring 1991 newsletter. We hope to get back to a semi-annual schedule, but it is too early to tell if that is possible. Alums: send us your news and updates. Everyone: please keep us up to date with your address. This newsletter is not forwarded -- so let us know.

Women's Studies Program
208 Bartlett Hall
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, MA 01003

Account No. 2-79640

Address Correction Requested