WELCOME BACK FOR THE FALL SEMESTER!!

Women's Studies is taking this semester to focus inward on restructuring the program. We won't be doing quite the usual array of events, but the inward reflection promises to yield wonderful fruits. Look for a gathering to happen around pre-registration time, and please come have fun with us. At that time, we will introduce courses for the spring semester and our new adjunct faculty.

THE CONTINUITY OF CHANGE

As noted in prior newsletters, Women's Studies is continuing the difficult task of restructuring our program and the following objectives have either been met or are currently underway:


2. Associated faculty (from other departments who are active in the program) are going to formally affiliate with Women's Studies by becoming adjunct faculty members. By the fall, we hope to have 4 "new" adjunct members. We take this opportunity to thank all those faculty members from outside Women's Studies who have devoted time and energy to this program.

3. A Working Policy Group discussing curricular development met throughout the spring semester of 1992 and began revising the core Women's Studies curricula. In the 1992-93 year the core and adjunct faculty will continue to meet with students and staff to further advance our efforts to achieve curriculum reform.

4. A course entitled "Indigenous Women in Struggles for National Liberation" was co-taught in the spring by Diedre Almeida and Donna Goodleaf. Donna and Diedre will each teach a section of this course this fall. An experimental foundations course entitled "Women's Struggles and Visions for Liberation: Five Cultural Perspectives" was designed and taught in the spring by a collective of graduate students.

5. Women's Studies is applying for one of the new faculty special opportunities positions.

For more information about these or other changes, contact a member of the core faculty.
The following letter was delivered to the program in the summer of 1991. The letter was treated seriously and with warm concern. The program appreciates all the groups who've come together to thoughtfully share their hopes, aspirations and ideas. This letter was one of the catalysts for the curricular change currently taking place in Women's Studies. As is clear from its text students requested that it be published in the Women's Studies newsletter. We present it now in its entirety (with the exception of instructions for reaching the contact person):

To: Women's Studies faculty and staff:

As you are aware, African, Latina, Asian, and Native American students, faculty, and staff have been meeting to discuss problems with the Women's Studies department. We have focused primarily upon the environment it provides for ALANA students, faculty, and staff. Students who attended our meetings ranged from majors, minors, non-majors, non-minors, undergraduates, graduate students, those who have taken Women's Studies courses, those who have interacted with the Women's Studies community, and/or those who are concerned with the department on some other level. Faculty and staff who attended were members of the Women's Studies department as well as other departments on campus. Some taught courses cross-listed with Women's Studies, component courses, and/or interacted with the department on some other level.

During our discussions it became clear that individuals and groups of people associated with Women's Studies have been working to address racism, Eurocentrism, and ethnocentrism in the program —for instance, Women's Studies has been co-sponsoring courses with the African American Studies department, and for some time now a Middle Eastern woman has been included in the faculty. More recently such efforts have resulted in the hiring of two African American instructors to the department and the series, "Thinking Feminism/Rethinking Women's Studies," a mandatory set of workshops for majors and minors focusing upon racism in Women's Studies. We are genuinely pleased with these developments and look forward to future positive changes within the department.

However, despite these improvements, it also became clear through our discussions that the Women's Studies department, as a whole, does not provide a comfortable and encouraging environment (on a personal and intellectual level) for ALANA students and faculty. Most ALANA students, faculty, and staff have experienced both overt and subtle forms of racism from European American Women's Studies faculty, staff, and students. These interactions ranged from students being in courses in which their professors and fellow European American students rejected integral analyses of racism, Eurocentrism, sexism, and to some degree classism (in the case of professors, students were rejecting their teaching this) to offensive behavior on a more personal level. Sometimes the line was hard to draw between these two categories.

The curriculum does not facilitate ALANA students' desire to learn about women of color and non-Eurocentric/non-racist theorizing. ALANA faculty's teaching of European American Women's Studies majors and minors is made difficult because they carry the burden of making up for the deficiencies of the program; much of the time they are the first ones to introduce race as a concept which is essential to theorizing about women.

We believe that our meetings have made it clear that Women's Studies has a long way to go in order to live up to its name. Instead of being about all women, it is, by and large, about middle-class European and European American women and neglects the majority of the women in the world.
During our discussions we have come up with a series of different ideas on how the program can begin to ameliorate some of these problems. For now we are submitting these two recommendations for the department. However, we will be having more meetings to discuss other ideas and may forward additional recommendations in the future.

Women’s Studies needs to ensure that addressing racism and Eurocentrism is an ongoing process. One way in which this practice can be institutionalized is by having more ALANA faculty, staff, and teaching assistants. Every effort should be made to hire ALANA women for all types of positions (full/part time, faculty, work/study) that become available. Furthermore, every effort should be made to ensure that students of color be involved in every aspect of the hiring process.

2. Women’s Studies ought to support the idea of students creating and (team)teaching colloquia. This would enable women of color to do consciousness-raising, as well as teach, and learn from one another. Having student-led colloquia would also support the idea brought up by some of the European American students about teaching a collog to deal with issues of exclusion. Furthermore, it would encourage students to take an active role in their education while learning useful skills. At the same time, however, these collogs ought not carry the entire burden of making up for deficiencies of the program.

The option of creating and teaching colloquia should also be well publicized. The Women's Studies program may want to use the Honors Program and the Residential Education Colloquium program as models for how the process of creating and teaching colloquia can be facilitated.

In order to make our recommendations known by the Women’s Studies-related community, we ask that you place a copy or text of this letter into your next newsletter in unedited form.

Women's Studies policy board, Women's Studies chair

Signed by 8 students and 3 faculty and staff

STUDENT RUN-COLLOQUIS: As always, we encourage students to think about organizing colloquia series for other students. There are a variety of possible formats, and academic credit is available. Check with the office for more information.

GRANTWRITERS AT WORK: Arlene Avakian has been working with Joy James and Margo Culley on two grant proposals: the Rockefeller Scholars in Residence Program and a large curriculum development grant for FIPSE (Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education.) With the money from the EPIC grant we have been able to hire Pam Thompson a graduate student who is an experienced grant writer to help with these projects. See Karen’s note in people section for another grant-in-progress.

FIVE COLLEGE WOMEN’S STUDIES RESEARCH CENTER

This year the research center has 21 activists and scholars from all over the country and the world. In addition to housing this broad array of visiting research associates, the center offers regular colloquia and talks on works-in-progress by the associates. Friday, October 2 at 4:00 will be a gala first anniversary event. For more information, come by the Women’s Studies Office or contact the center directly in Dickinson House at Mount Holyoke College, 538-2275.
ACADEMIC NEWS

Sylvia Forman Prize

A group of friends and colleagues are establishing a prize in memory of Professor Sylvia Forman. The prize will be awarded for excellence in writing in Anthropology. Undergraduate Anthropology majors are eligible in their 3rd year. Contributions to the fund can be made by sending a check for The Forman Prize to the UMass Development Office.

Helen Hooven Santmyer Prize

A $2500 prize is available from Ohio State University Press for the best book-length manuscript in any discipline on the contributions of women in society. For information contact Charlotte Dihoff, Helen Hooven Santmyer Prize Committee, Ohio State University Press, 180 Pressy Hall, 1070 Carmack Road, Columbus, Ohio 43210-1002.

CONFERENCES

Celebrating Our Diversity: Women Revisioning the Future--the Second Annual Women's Studies Conference at Southern Connecticut State University will take place Saturday, October 2 in New Haven, Connecticut. Contact Dr. Rosalyn Amenta, Schwartz Hall (203) 397-4442 or Dr. Vara Neverow-Turk, English Department EN271 (203) 397-4204 at Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven, CT 06515.

Symposium on the History of Women in Massachusetts takes place on Saturday, October 24, at Westfield State College. For information contact Susan Porter, History Department, Simmons College, 300 The Fenway, Boston, MA 02115, (617) 738-2160.

A Symposium on Feminism and Classics will take place November 5-7 in Cincinnati, Ohio. For information contact Ann Michelini (513) 556-1941 or Kathryn Butzwiler (513) 556-1936 at the Department of Classics, ML #226, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH 45221-0226.

Indo-U.S. Conference on Women's Issues November 17-22 in New Delhi, India. For information contact Jerrie Ueberle, Global Interactions, Inc., P.O. Box 23244, Phoenix AZ 85063, (602) 272-3438, FAX (602) 272-2260.

An International Symposium on Academic Knowledge and Political Power will take place November 20-22 at the University of Maryland, College Park. For information contact Richard Harvey Brown, Sociology Department, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742-1315.


The Inclusive Curriculum: Setting Our Own Agenda, a conference on transforming curriculum to reflect issues of gender, race/ethnicity, class, sexuality and multiculturalism will be held April 15-18 1993 in Princeton, New Jersey. For information: New Jersey Project, Room 315, White Hall, William Paterson College, Wayne, NJ 07470, (201) 595-2296, FAX (201) 595-2418.

Central European Conference, Women, the Family and Social Change is May 16-22 1993 in Warsaw, Poland and May 23-29 in Prague, Czechoslovakia. For information contact Global Interactions, Joyce Story, P.O. Box 23244, Phoenix, AZ 85063, (602) 272-3438, FAX (602) 272-2260.
PEOPLE NEWS--COMINGS AND GOINGS:

Goodbye to Ann Williams, our secretary of 5 years. Ann has been secretary to the Dean of Humanities and Fine Arts since early spring. Best of luck to Ann. Much as Ann is missed, we are delighted to welcome Ruth Carey, the new office manager in Women's Studies. Ruth brings many years of experience, remarkable organizational skills and a great sense of humor to her role in Women's Studies. We were lucky to find her. (Come into the office to check out the new arrangement.) Welcome Ruth! Thanks to Helen Page of the Anthropology Department for serving as the Women's Studies summer administrator.


CONGRATULATIONS to all our graduates who are now our alums!

Graduation from college is an achievement! We are especially proud of this our largest class ever and the many brave and bold political activists, single parents and older students amongst the class. These students worked in the community and struggled for social justice on campus. We look forward to news of your continued good works. Please keep in touch with the program and tell us what you are doing.

THANKS TO DONORS

Without our donors, graduation presentations and related events would be a thing of the past. Thanks as always to Kathleen Cote, Joanne Gangi, Jan Passion, Christine McGinnis, Mary Reilly, Michelle Melchiona, Trish Murphy, Bonnie McKee, Cynthia Holmes, Kathy Daniels, Nancy Roy, Deluxe Corporation, Barbara Bazemore, Donalyn Hagemberg, Amy Smith, Mary Coni, Nancy Arienti, Dale LaBonte, Jacqueline Levin, Janet Gezork, Karen Shack, Sally Majewski, Janice Rayner.

ALUMNI NEWS--Our illustrious grads’ news on what they are up to.

Janet Aalfs just published a poetry chap book called Angels and Survivors, by Two Herons Press . . . Nancy Arnold wrote last fall to say she is continuing her ministry at 2 Unitarian-Universalist churches, one in New Haven, and one in Meriden, Connecticut. She continues her interfaith and multi-racial community work in those cities. . . Liz Bennett is working as a counselor at the University of Texas Counseling and Mental Health Center in Austin. . . Maureen Carney is still working as a union electrician and studying at the University’s labor center. . . Debbie Connelly is a Ph.D student in Anthropology at University of California at Santa Cruz. . . Andrea Fox earned an R.N. and a Master’s in Labor Relations and is the staff rep for the Massachusetts Nurses Association. . . Maureen Geraghty got her law degree and is working for a federal judge in Washington D.C. after a stint in Florida at the Dade County Public Defenders' Office. . . Holly Hendricks is at Digital Equipment Corporation where she develops technical training materials for engineers and systems analysts. She travels and teaches in other countries, and has received several awards for her work. In addition, she works on diversity in the workplace and hosts a public radio folk show where she plays lots of women’s music. . . Cynthia Holmes gave birth to Louise Madison Fega in February. Maddie joins her siblings Alison and Stephen. . . Donna Jacques is the Reference Librarian/Coordinator of Bibliographic instruction in the Arts and Sciences Library at Tufts. She is developing a course "Library Research Skills in Women’s Studies." She is "overjoyed she chose this 'career path' and hopes everyone
finds this kind of fulfillment." . . . Bonnie McIntosh is a clinical therapist getting her MSW at Smith College after 10 years in human services. . . Sandy Perpignani lives in San Francisco and works as a secretary for a "wonderful woman obstetrician at UCSF." She is active in the secretaries' union, and takes labor studies courses. . . Birdie MacLennon is a librarian at the University of Vermont in Burlington and active in university and community politics. She wrote: "I'd take Anita Hill as a Supreme Court Nominee over Clarence Thomas any day!" . . . KJo Siess is manager of Stuff-It Storage in Hadley. . . Tinker Ready is on the staff of the News and Observer, a daily newspaper in Raleigh, North Carolina. Her beat is health care policy and economics. She's written on the high cost of prescription drugs, high tech health care, rural health care and related topics. . . Leslie Schwalm is teaching in the History Department at the University of Iowa having completed her Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin's Women's History Program.

FACULTY NEWS--Here are the tidbits sent to us by our traveling faculty.

Leila Ahmed--attended a conference in Finland and gave a paper on "Sufism and Feminism in Islam." She also gave a paper at MIT on "Colonialism and Feminism in the Arab World." Her book, Women and Gender in Islam, published by Yale University Press, came out in January 1992. Leila attended a conference in Paris and gave a paper on "Palestinian Women and Feminism." The book has been favorably reviewed in publications in Europe, and Leila has done several radio and TV interviews about the book. In addition to taking on the directorship of Women's Studies, Leila has 2 new projects in the works.

Arlene Avakian--received a curriculum development grant from the Five College American Indian Studies Committee to bring more material on Indigenous women into WOST 187. Arlene read from her book, Lion Woman's Legacy at the International Feminist Book Fair in Amsterdam, Holland in June. Arlene was elected to the Board of directors of the Armenian International Women's Association. Arlene will travel to Yerevan, Armenia this September to participate in a women's conference.

Vicki Crawford--finished off her first year here by participating in the Columbia Oral History Institute this summer. In addition, she completed two entries on Unita Blackwell and Annie Belle Robinson Devine for Black Women in America: An Historical Encyclopedia, the first comprehensive encyclopedia of Black women's history, due out in 1993 from Carlson Publishing Company Inc. Vicki also participated on a panel of African-American scholars at the University on the Clarence-Thomas hearings. Out of this came a published article in the Black Scholar, Vol.22 in the Winter 1991-Spring 1992 issue. She is hard at work on We Shall Not Be Moved: Black Women in the Civil Rights Movement. Vicki was awarded a Lilly Teaching Fellowship for the 92-93 year.


Karen Lederer--in addition to her regular advising and programming duties has been working on a large project in collaboration with Louise Bloomberg of Art History. The project is storing images and associated information of the AIDS Memorial Quilt in interactive video. The system we have here at the University is capable of storing over 30,000 full color images with an unlimited accompanying database. Images of the quilt as a whole and all 20,000+ 3 x 6 foot individual panels can be stored. The NAMES Project (the folks who keep the quilt) is enthusiastic about this collaboration and the Samuel Rubin Foundation has awarded
Karen and Louise a seed grant to begin the work and to seek additional funds. In addition to working on the quilt project, Karen and Ann Williams gave several talks about "Work and Family" and "Birth Experiences" in Women's Studies classes. In the spring Karen received the Chancellor's Citation Award and a certificate of appreciation from the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual community at UMass.

Daphne Patai--continues to teach, lecture, and write in several fields. A collection of essays she co-edited with Angela Ingram on radical British women writers will be published by the University of North Carolina Press in 1993. She has also provided a foreword and an afterword to a new edition of Katharine Burdekin's 1934 novel Proud Man, forthcoming with the Feminist Press. Her on-going projects on Burdekin and gender in utopian fiction are currently on the back burner (as is another oral history project in Brazil) as she works on a co-authored book on problems of contemporary feminism, to be published by Basic Books in 1994.

Kathy Peiss--is returning to the Valley for this school year. This past year Kathy was at the Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis studying consumer culture. In addition to a busy schedule of talks and articles, Kathy is continuing her research on the cosmetics industry in the United States in the 19th and 20th centuries. Welcome back!

Jan Raymond--will, this fall, finish a book on RU486, the new abortion pill. She has also begun editing the International feminist book series The Athene Series for Columbia Teachers' College Press. Jan was also acting co-director of Women's Studies spring 1992. Jan has given several talks at the Harvard Center for Population Studies, the University of South Carolina Women's Studies and at the Grailville Women's Program, in Ohio.

Course Guide Changes FALL 1992-------

The following courses have been cancelled:
WOST 191A (Women's Studies Brown Bag Lunch)
WOST 201 Foundations of Feminism
WOST 293D/AFROAM 293D Issues of Race, Class, Gender and Sexuality
WOST 392D/COMLIT 392 New Latina Narrative
WOST 597C/COMLIT 531 Cross Cultural Theory and Text

JUDAIC 390G Women in Patriarchy

COMLIT 122 Spiritual Autobiography lecture is now at 11:15 on Monday and Wednesday.

Two sections of WOST 290I Indigenous Women in Struggles for National Liberation have been added. (D)
Section 1: Monday 1-3:30 Diedre Almeida
Section 2: Monday 4-6:30 Donna Goodleaf

This course is designed to introduce students to the role of Indigenous women in the struggle for national Self-Determination from an historical/cultural/spiritual/political context. Historically, Indigenous women have always played a very prominent and powerful role within all spheres of Indigenous societies. This course will examine primarily the many social/political/cultural and economic issues affecting Indigenous nations from a contemporary context. The breadth and scope of this course will examine Indigenous nationals such as the Kanienkehaka Mohawk nation, Navajo, Cree nation, Wamonoags, Miq 'Mac nation, and the Lakota/Dakota nation. Indigenous women from other countries such as Boliva, Salvador, Chile, Australia, and New Zealand will be discussed.

NOTE: WOST Majors and Minors. For this semester, any 3 credit, 200 level Women's Studies or Departmental Women's Studies course, or WOST 397A or 397X will serve as a prerequisite for WOST 301 and a substitute for WOST 201.
WOMEN'S STUDIES FALL 1992 NEWSLETTER

Inside this issue:

- news about changes in Women's Studies
- reprint of "ALANA Letter"
- news about WOST people: grads, alums, faculty and staff
- academic conferences
- changes to fall 1992 courses

This newsletter was written and edited by Karen Lederer. Thanks to Leila Ahmed, Joy James, and Helen Page for their assistance. Special thanks to Ruth Carey for vital production assistance, and Ann Williams for design consultation. Please keep us up to date with your new address--the newsletter is not forwarded. Graduates: we publish your news every fall. Keep in touch with us because we like to hear what you are up to. Women's Studies, 208 Bartlett Hall, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003. (413) 545-1922.