Message from the Director - Fall 1996

I am delighted to report that the Women's Studies Program this spring continued our whirlwind level of successful activities, and as a result our visibility and status in the University community continues to rise. We had a number of innovative events, some of which will continue next year.

Women's Studies Lunch Lecture Series: Particularly notable was the Women's Studies Lunchtime Lecture Series, organized by Julie Graham, Renee Heberle and Susan Michaelman of our Executive Committee. Designed to connect graduate students and faculty involved with Women's Studies-related research with each others' work, the lecture series met twelve times during the spring. The series opened with distinguished African-American playwright Pearl Cleage, author of "Flying West" and "Blues for an Alabama Sky", and continued with a number of graduate students and faculty discussing their work. The series was well attended and highlighted Women's Studies's attempts to lay the groundwork for the start of our Graduate Minor in Advanced Feminist Studies. We plan to continue the Lunch Lecture Series this fall with several well known outside speakers on issues of feminist research methods, and in spring 1997 there will be a fuller lunch lecture series that will be open to the public but also act as a one credit seminar on research methods for graduate students. It will feature more outside experts on this issue as well as local faculty and advanced graduate students talking about their research methods and feminist issues. Please contact Prof. Julie Graham in Geo-Sciences if you'd like to speak in the Spring.

Faculty/Grad Seminar on Race and Gender: Another event organized as groundwork for a graduate program in Women's Studies was a faculty/graduate student seminar, sponsored by the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (IASH), on Race and Gender, co-coordinated by myself and Prof. Manisha Sinha from Afro-American Studies. This seminar was also a follow up to the Black Studies/Women's Studies Ten Years Later seminar held last fall. About twenty faculty and graduate students from the Five College community met for 6 seminars to read and discuss research interests in the intersection of race and gender. Participating from Women's Studies were myself, Arlene Avakian, Alex Deschamps, Renee Heberle and Jean Sherlock. The seminar had some good readings and some lively discussions and was considered quite worthwhile by those who participated.

Personnel Changes: Professor Joy James will not be returning to UMass because she has accepted a position in Ethnic Studies at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Although Joy had not been teaching at the University for several years because of fellowship leaves, her courses and presence were much in demand. In the years that Joy has been on leave, her scholarship has put her at the forefront of theory on African American women. We are sorry to lose her but extend congratulations and best of luck to her in her new position. I am happy to report that Dean Edwards has given us a replacement position for her for next year. We are gratified to announce the unanimous decision to offer the position to Jennifer Ire, a present TA for WOST 187 and an Ed.D. candidate at the School of Education. Jennifer will be offering new Women of Color courses, welcome additions to our curriculum. Welcome to the faculty, Jennifer Ire! (see below for course info.) In addition to teaching, Jennifer will be available for advising and sponsoring students.
We also wish to congratulate Renee Heberle who filled a one year replacement position with WOST this year with energy and verve, and who has been offered a position in Political Science at SUNY/Potsdam for next year. It was great working with you, Renee, and best of luck in your new position, and keep in touch!

Possible New Opening: Women's Studies also was one of nine Departments out of 28 in the College of Humanities and Fine Arts which was recommended by the Dean's Committee on Hiring Priorities to receive a tenure track position. The Dean has promised to give us serious consideration for such a position. So we have high hopes that we will be given permission to do a national search for a tenure track faculty member next year.

Governance Document: The WOST Executive Committee and several members spent some time re-writing the WOST governance document which specifies procedures for setting up WOST committees, lines of authority, relations between core and associated WOST faculty in governance matters, procedures for evaluating TAs, staff and faculty, etc. At press time, that new document was in the process of being finalized.

Pilot WOST Graduate Minor Next Year: One of my favorite projects this year has been working to activate the graduate minor in Advanced Feminist Studies that the program won permission to offer in 1990 but has not had the staff to start until now. This year, however, with the help of Marta Calas (SOM), the very dedicated chair of the Graduate Studies Committee and the rest of the committee, Joyce Berkman (History) and Julie Graham (Geosciences), and valuable input from WOST staffers Sue Lee and Nica Poser, we have just about completed the necessary surveys of relevant faculty seminars, and decisions about core requirements. We have also received initial commitments from Dean Edwards and Graduate Dean Charlena Seymour to begin the program. (Thanks very much to our favorite Deans for their support so far.) Therefore, we plan to offer one graduate core seminar through WOST this fall (WOST 591B/SOM 591F, Feminist Theory, Organization and Diversity), team taught by Marta Calas and Ann Ferguson. We will also have a list of graduate seminars to be offered by associated faculty that meet core requirements of the Graduate Minor, as well as a list of all graduate faculty associated with WOST and their future seminars and research interests. (We are hoping to offer another graduate seminar by a WOST faculty person next spring if resources become available.) Graduate students already enrolled in graduate programs at the University who choose to take one or more of such seminars can apply for formal admission to the Graduate Minor by March 1 1997, and if admitted, can receive retroactive credit for seminars taken this year.

Thanks for Dedicated Service: I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all those who served on WOST committees, without whose work the Program could not function. Thanks to members of the Executive Committee: Leila Ahmed (fall 1995), Arlene Avakian, Joyce Berkman (Spring 1996), Marta Calas, Alex Deschamps, Julie Graham, Susan Jahoda, Renee Heberle, Susan Michaelman, Karen Lederer, Jean Sherlock, Nicole LaRace and Tricia Shoemaker. Thanks also to members of the Undergraduate Studies committee, with Alex Deschamps, chair, Arlene Avakian, Renee Heberle, Nicole LaRace, Karen Lederer, and Sue Lee; the Personnel Committee with Arlene Avakian, chair, Carlene Edie and Leila Ahmed (fall 1995) and Linda Smircich (spring 1996) as well as the already mentioned WOST Lecture Series Committee and the Graduate Studies Committee. Thanks also to the summer Personnel Committee (Arlene Avakian, Arlyn Diamond and Linda Smircich) and the Replacement Search Committee (Arlene Avakian, Liz Burke, Alex Deschamps, Diedre Royster). Thanks also to Alex Deschamps, our able summer administrator.

Finally I would like to welcome back Jan Raymond who is returning from leave, and who we are happy to have on board again after her internationally recognized activities in support of women, and to welcome old and new members of WOST committees for next year. Joining the Executive Committee will be Deidre Almeida (School of Education), Susan Jahoda (Art) and Esther Terry (Afro-American Studies), while the Personnel Committee will add Jan Raymond as chair and Susan Michaelman as member.

I hope everyone had a relaxing and prosperous summer and I look forward to working with and interacting with you this year.

Ann Ferguson
As always, we are grateful to our many donors for making the 90's a bit more livable. We rely on alumni donations for many things: this newsletter, events for our students, co-sponsorship of events on campus, T-shirts for our graduates, and, much, much more. Every month when we go over the list of donors we are gratified to see the names of our repeat donors, and pleased to welcome the new donors. Special thank yous to:

Judson and Jeanine Boardman
Judith Branzburg
Joan Brinton
Susan Brown-Zimmerman
Louise M. Bryan
Nancy Callahan-Arienti
Judith S. Claire
Diane Lynch Curley
Catherine Dooley
Donna J. Grant
Suzanne L. Graver
Debra M. Grzywacz
Abbie Hatton
Susan E. Horne
Jackson Katz
Dale M. LaBonte
Karen E. McClure
Michele Melchionda
Elaine Morse
Constance Curtis Peterson
Janice L. Rayner
John and Carla Rensenbrink
Patricia A. Shea
Inez Sieben
K. Marilyn Stampa
Deborah Toppan
Lillian J. Waugh
Elisabeth Wilson

Farewell and Best of Luck to Spring and Summer Women's Studies Major Graduates: Emily Antonelli, Suzanne Bozenski, Tamara Breunes, Jeanne Burke, Liz Burke, Lisa Catalanotti, Brett Chiarello, Jeanne Fuqua, Meredith Doyle, Sara Heath, Marni Helfner, Erin Jackson, Robin Johnson, Alison Kamar, Judace Keilitz, Cristin Martineau, Lori Murphy, Ann Marie Peavey, Rachel Tanenhaus, Toiya Taylor, Catherine Van Dam, and Maria Willett.

Best Wishes to our graduating minors: Derek Cash (BDIC), Dorothea Hertzberg (STPEC), Denise Kelly (Soc), Rebecca Kiernan (Psych), Eve LaRochelle (STPEC), Katarina Noyes (Psych), Ariella Papa (Comm), Lisa Walker (Psych/Soc). Belated congratulations Class of 1995 graduate Krista Coombs.

Welcome to the new WOST minors: Robin Bartlett (Comm), Narly Bedoya (Spanish), Erin Hickey (Legal Studies), Michelle Hillman (Journ/Eng), Yajaira Fuentes (AfroAm), Kathryn Hitchcock (Psych), Sarah LePage (Soc), and Marie Robinson (UWW).

Welcome to the new WOST majors (who entered last school year): Elena Azzoni, Tamara Breunes, Courtney Burke, Liz Burke, Lisa Catalanotti, Amy Corveleyn, Rebecca Filman, Jennie Horton, Erin Jackson, Kaolin, Tara Kennedy, Kerry Leen, Nicole Lisa, Kathryn McGarvey, Erica Millner, Lori Murphy, Ann Marie Pennola, Hollie Sarrazin, Judith Schneider, and Toiya Taylor.
Spring of 1996 was chock full of fascinating events. In
addition to the lecture series we held (detailed in the
Director’s message) we had several other successful
programs.

On International Women’s Day (March 8) Women’s
Studies thawed a blizzard by sponsoring,
*Yagotawanna*, acapella singing sensations, in
conjunction with the *Something Every Friday* Series.
Women's Studies students, alumni, faculty, staff, and
others came to the Bluewall to enjoy the show despite
the rest of campus being shut down by the storm.

On *Take Our Daughters To Work Day* (April 25)
WOst buttons and scrap pads went like hotcakes, and
an interested crowd of daughters and parents came to
the tour in our lounge, and heard about college life from
gracious hosts students Liz Burke, Nicolle LaRace and
Deborah Rose.

Once again, current students were inspired by the lives
and stories of alumni at the Edwin Rossman Alumni
Career Forum. Anna Bowen, R.N., Holyoke Visiting
Nurse Association and Self-Employed Counselor
Consultant and Writer; Judy LeBold; Fundraising
Consultant and Producer, Director and Filmmaker;
Ginny Rees, Director of Alumni Relations, University
of Massachusetts; and Cate Rowen, Vice President,
Market Street Research, Inc., Northampton, MA joined
a group of students for an informal dinner and stories of
surprise, success, and following your heart. Favorite
lines from the event include: Cate Rowen saying: “You
can be anything you want to be...except maybe a rock
singer.” “Well, ... I was a rock singer for 15 years.”
Ginny Rees.

Our graduates were celebrated at a festive graduation
event party at the end of the semester. In addition to
our wonderful graduates, food, and pithy comments,
attendants were treated to the premiere of the newly
reworded “Battle Hymn of Women’s Studies (new
lyrics by Ann and Karen)” A small selection (to the
tune of Battle Hymn of the Republic):

> “Why is there domination here, and
> why are things so rough?
> We’ve looked at sex, then race, then class
> It wasn’t quite enough
> We added sexuality and lots of other stuff.
> Now women’s time has come!

Women’s Studies forever... etc. etc.

We know that Women’s Studies students are high
achievers, often balancing heavy course loads, jobs,
families and community activism. It is nice when
students get recognition by the “outside world” as well.
In addition to many commonwealth scholars, winners
of Senior Leadership Awards, students who made the
Dean’s List, and members of honor societies, these other
awards were given to Women’ Studies students in
Spring 1996:

Honors Research Fellowship: Cheri Ehrlich
Honors Director Award: Erin Jackson
William F. Field Alumni Scholarship Award: Kerry
Leen, Tina Cincotti
Kathryn F. Furcolo Award (for outstanding interns in
government or public service internships): Tricia
Shoemaker

**TECHNO-NEWS@WOST**

**INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY NEWS:** Our Web
Page is up and running! Linda worked hard this summer
learning HTML and has created a Web Page that is both
beautiful and filled with valuable information! Check
it out! Address is:

[http://www-unix.oit.umass.edu/~wostu](http://www-unix.oit.umass.edu/~wostu)

Attention Grads: We are thinking of having a page of
links to institutional or organization’s Web Pages that
our graduates have done are doing, or are associated
with. Contact Linda to find out more. E-mail:

lindah@wost.umass.edu

**Women’s Studies Email Discussion Group:** The E-mail
discussion group for faculty has begun, but little
discussion has occurred! To collaborate with other
faculty members, learn about feminist research, or just
get to know other feminist scholars, E-mail:

womens-studies@wostu.umass.edu
Welcome Back Fall Reception!!

Women's Studies is hosting a welcome back reception on Wednesday, September 25, 1996 from 12:00-2:00 in Campus Center 1001-2. There will be yummy snacks, Women's Studies literature, a chance to meet new and old faculty, students, and staff. All are welcome, please join us!

SAVE THE DATE!
March 7-8, 1997
University of Massachusetts Women Activists Reunion

Plans are currently underway for a very exciting project, a UMass Women Activists Reunion. Women’s Studies and Everywoman’s Center are approaching our 25th anniversaries and we are inviting ALL Women's Studies majors and minors, ALL volunteers, student staff or interns at Everywoman's Center, and ALL the staff, faculty, graduate students and campus activists of the last 25 years or so that we can find! We have wonderful leadership from Ginny Rees, Women's Studies alum and director of Alumni Relations. We will need alums on the planning committee. If you are interested, call Ginny at 1-800-456-UMAS.

The weekend will include a major speaker, networking opportunities, a banquet, workshops, receptions, etc.

You will be receiving information about this in a separate mailing soon. PLEASE respond to it. If you have the names and addresses of old friends of Women's Studies, call, email or send them in so they can be invited too.

Mailing List Consolidation: Welcome New Folks!

One of the side benefits of working on a large project like this reunion is the opportunity to update and streamline everyone's mailing lists. As a result of this we've added some long lost WOST alums and friends to our list. If this is the first ever, or first in a long time newsletter from us, welcome back! If you are a graduate and we haven't heard from you in awhile, please let us know what you are doing! If for some reason you don't want to be on our mailing list, drop us a card, fax, or email.

ARTS EVENT
Grapes and Figs Are in Season
A Palestinian Women's Story
Tuesday, November 12, 1996
7:30 p.m. Campus Center 174-176

On Tuesday, November 12 Women's Studies presents Palestinian storyteller Emily Shihadeh in a performance of her one-woman show, Grapes and Figs Are in Season: A Palestinian Woman’s Story. In this piece Emily Shihadeh uses a blend of comedy, storytelling and songs to tell her personal story of losing her homeland, immigrating to the United States, and coming to terms with family, relationship, and political issues. She draws parallels between her personal struggles and the history of struggle between Jews and Palestinians. It should be a very special evening!

The event will be held in the Campus Center, 174-176 at 7:30 p.m. and thanks to generous support from the Student Affairs Cultural Enrichment Fund, this event is free of charge. Please join us for this wonderful program!

PRE-REGISTRATION EVENT
Date: Thursday, November 21, 4:00 p.m.
Place: Women’s Studies Lounge, 208 Bartlett

We will continue our new tradition of holding a pre-registration event where faculty and staff discuss courses for the Spring 97 semester, amidst informal snacking and discussion.

SLEEVELESS THEATER:
MILL AMERICA
September 11-14, 1996
Curtain Theater

Sleeveless Theater, local feminist theater group, has put together a new play about women and work called Mill America. This play is written by Anna Dolan, directed by Lisa Channer, with music by Gideon Freudmann. In the early 19th century thousands of young women came to Lowell, Massachusetts to work in the textile mills. The play uses fantasy and larger-than-life characters to explore women's changing roles, the industrial revolution, and other issues. For ticket information contact the Fine Arts Center at 545-2511.

NEW LIBRARY WORKSHOPS

The assortment of databases available to UMass community members through the Library continues to grow. To help you
Alex Deschamps continues researching on new paradigms of development by placing Women As Center of the Process. She is also writing on Pedagogy as Text in which she questions how one's teaching as situated discourse and what it means to “do” critical emancipatory research in a post-foundational context.

This past year Alex presented at the Lily New England Conference on Teaching Undergraduates: Lessons Learned at New England Land Grant Universities. Her presentation was “Teaching and Learning in Diverse Classrooms.” She also co-presented with Ann Ferguson (see related article) at the NWSA conference on “Women, Empowerment and Development.” Her paper was “Feminization of Development: Alternative Futures for Women. A Context-Centered Approach.”

This past year, Alex was nominated for the Distinguished Teaching Award and the Chancellor's Multicultural Award. She will continue her work with the Center for Teaching specifically with the Teaching and Learning in the Diverse Classroom project.

Ann Ferguson is going to team teach with Marta Calas of SOM this fall the first core seminar in feminist theory (Feminist Theory, Organization and Diversity) for the new graduate minor in Advanced Feminist Studies which will be opened unofficially this fall and officially the year after. She is also participating in a number of conferences this fall, including the 2nd National Radical Philosophers’ Association conference at Purdue, the National Re-Thinking Marxism conference at UMass and two conferences in China at the Beijing Academy of Social Sciences, one on feminist philosophy and one on prostitution and HIV. She is also recovering from a summer family reunion in West Virginia, nostalgically thinking of her vacation on the Cape and trying not to bounce too many checks due to her cash flow problems in having her house and barn repainted and her study renovated.

We congratulate Renee Heberle on her new position as Professor of Politics at the State University of New York at Potsdam. Renee taught, advised, organized events and served on committees in a replacement position during 1995-96. We thank Renee for her hard work and dedication, and wish her well in her new position.

Linda Hillenbrand has strong opinions about pressing social issues such as welfare, single parenting, and special education. This past year she found several ways to get her ideas out to broader audiences. As a result of the well-received editorial she wrote on welfare in the last issue of this newsletter, she was asked to speak at the Take Back Our Rights Rally in April 1996. Linda's writing also appeared in “Reflections Beneath the Surface/We Are More Than You See” a book arising from an advanced writing class for University workers. Linda not only wrote 2 pieces in...
the book, she emceed the reception for the launching of the book and was then quoted in the local media. Joey, Linda's 6-year-old, was thrilled with his mom's frequent media appearances (The Collegian, the Union-News, The Campus Chronicle, the Union News and local radio stations) and was at her speaking engagements to cheer her on.

Jennifer Ire has been hired as a year replacement for Joy James. Jennifer comes from the island of Trinidad, in the West Indies, and is now a naturalized citizen of the U.S. She came in 1978 "bringing with me the experience of living in a land created from the mixing of various cultures and languages." Jennifer earned a BBA in Accounting from Baruch College, CUNY, a Masters in Management from Yale, and is completing a Ph.D. in Counseling from UMass. She has worked both in Women's Studies as a T.A. and at the Everywoman's Center for the past several years. Jennifer describes her loves as "numbers, writing, giving things, living beings of all kinds and looking for the potential in every experience."

Joy James has a new position in the Department of Ethnic Studies at the University of Colorado/Boulder, and won't be returning to the University. Joy will be missed by many people. Farewell and good luck Joy!

Karen Leiderer continues to be busy with increasing numbers of Women's Studies students and Women's Studies events. Karen has deepened her involvement in her union, SEIU Local 509, by being recently elected to the chapter board, and acting as facilitator of the union's new Health and Safety Committee. Thanks in part to said union's successful efforts to win professional development funds, Karen attended her first ever NWSA conference this past June in Saratoga Springs, NY. Her red UMass Women's Studies T-shirt turned quite a few heads there! (Ann and Alex went as well). Karen and colleagues have been working on various strategies to assist in student retention, including developing a pilot course on "Self-Advocacy Skills for Women."

Sue Lee continues to combine dissertation research with her advising and administrative duties here in Women's Studies. Her research focuses on male/female wage differentials and development issues in Korea. She does consulting on these issues in Korea and locally for the state of Massachusetts. Sue also maintains her active involvement in community issues in the town of Amherst.

Jan Raymond was abroad almost more than in the U.S. during the last year. As Co-Executive Director of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, a human rights non-governmental organization working with the U.N., she traveled to the 4th World Women's Conference in Beijing in September 1995. She wrote a report on the international aspects of prostitution and sex trafficking for the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women. In October Jan gave the keynote address at an international feminist conference in Germany. In November she spoke on "Prostitution as Violence Against Women" at the Symposium on Women's International Human Rights held at University of Michigan Law School. A section of the talk was published in the University of Michigan Journal of the International Institute, Winter 1996. In March Jan was invited to Paris to give one of six key note addresses on prostitution and sex trafficking at a UNESCO and French government conference on violence against women. In April she spoke on violence against women to medical and support staff at Children's Hospital in Boston. The next week she was in Brasilia speaking on sexual exploitation of children at a UNICEF and Brazilian government-sponsored seminar organized against child sexual exploitation. In June Jan was in Istanbul, Turkey to attend the UN Conference on cities and settlements, Habitat II. In addition to speaking at conferences and writing, Jan traveled to Thailand, Brazil, and Morocco as part of a documentation and site visitation project on human rights violations and sex trafficking and prostitution. In 1995 Jan's book, Women as Wombs: Reproductive Technologies and the Battle Over Women's Freedom was translated and published in Germany, and a Spanish language edition is forthcoming. Jan was also invited to be a member of the editorial board of the new Journal of Lesbian Studies, published by Haworth Press.

We are pleased to welcome back noted Indian filmmaker Beherose Shroff to the teaching staff of the Department for the fall semester. Beherose will be teaching her well-received "Representations of Women: Film and Social Change." We missed you Beherose! In addition to teaching at UMass, Beherose will give a series of 3 Faculty seminars through Five Colleges, Inc.

T.A.'s farewell and congratulations: MaryAnn Levine, is teaching at Ithaca College. Valerie Carey is teaching at Tufts, Mecke Nagel is teaching at Mankato State University, Suzanne LaGrande is off to San Francisco to embark on many adventures.

Welcome to new T.A.'s for Women's Studies 187: Nandini Balakrishna (a master's student in Political Science), Heather Hackman, Lisa Robinson (both doctoral candidates in the School of Education's Social Justice Program, and Deborah May (a doctoral student in Sociology.) Welcome to Kathleen LeBesco, doctoral Student in Philosophy, who will teach the writing course. Welcome back Jean Sherlock!

We are also welcoming back Suki (Sucharitha Seetharaman) as the work study student in the office. Suki started working last spring and impressed us all with her calm, enthusiastic, and knowledgeable manner. Stop in and say hello.
THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S STUDIES ASSOCIATION
SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
BORDERS/CROSSINGS/PASSAGES
WOMEN REINTERPRETING DEVELOPMENT

The seventeenth annual conference of the National Women's Studies Association took place at Skidmore College from June 11-16, 1996. Narratives of Development, Sexualities, Crossing Educational Borders and Working in the Fields were the primary themes of the Plenary Sessions. Panelists examined ways in which women initiate and author their own "master" narratives of development that address identities — racial, national, and gendered, — creativity, and the effects of colonization; sexuality was redefined from a feminist perspective which involves going beyond notions of women as "the sex" to understanding sexuality in its multiple facets; education as an invaluable tool in women's quest to cross borders historically closed to them was posited as empowerment measures, and in the rewriting of women's and girls' development on the local and national level; and adolescent motherhood, feminist interventions in the print media, and activism with women around the world were considered as new passages for women's activism in a variety of spheres.

NWSA's decision to present an embedded conference entitled *Diverse Paths: Perspectives on Adolescent Girls* must be recognized. The embedded conference included an opening panel and reception, a Third World panel, over 40 concurrent sessions, and several featured presentations by young women themselves. In addition, there were 300 concurrent sessions and presentations creating space for dialoguing and sharing of information and research critical to women's studies nationally and internationally.

We should all be encouraged by the movement in women's studies programs nationally to revive and reform the curriculum so that the images of ethnic groups and the roles that women of color have played in the development of their nation-states and societies would be more accurately and comprehensively depicted. That we can step back and question across disciplines, the limited extent to which these goals have been realized and the factors that have prevented significant curriculum reform, permit a new surge of energy and hope to propose strategies that could conceptualize a transformative curriculum integrative of gender, class, race, sexuality, and other social factors; as well as the internationalizing of women's issues and making connections intergenerationally.

In its 21st century approach to curriculum change women's studies nationally seems to be progressing beyond the contribution and additive approach to a more transformative approach. There is consensus that the additive approach fails to challenge students to view society from its diverse cultural and ethnic perspectives, and to understand the ways in which histories and cultures of the nation's diverse ethnic, racial, cultural, and religious groups are inextricably bound. If we are concerned with infusing our curriculum with perspectives, frames or reference, and content from various groups that will extend students' understandings of the nature, development, and complexity of U.S. society, how then do we equip our students with adequate tools of analysis when we speak of race, class and gender?

We require new categories of connection, new visions of what our relationships with one another can be. How can we reconceptualize race, class, gender as categories of analysis? How can we transcend the barriers created by our experiences with race, class and gender oppression in order to build the types of coalitions essential for social change? Our new lenses should focus on acquiring new theories of how race, class and gender have shaped the experiences not just of women of color, but of all groups. We have to make ourselves see the connections between these categories of analysis and the personal issues in our everyday lives, particularly our scholarship, our teaching and our relationships with our colleagues and students. We must examine our own positions. There is hope if we heed the words of Audre Lorde,

"The true focus of revolutionary change is never merely the oppressive situations which we seek to escape, but that piece of the oppressor which is planted deep within each of us." (Sister Outsider, pp. 123).

In the international arena, "feminism" has always been a contested concept. In the North/South debate perhaps
the time has come when we should all admit that feminism carries multiple meanings, limited neither to recent movements, nor to western contexts, but that feminism is located in the struggles of both public and private domains, since these private struggles are always expressions of the external collective processes. Many of us seem willing to agree that feminism is not a one-dimensional social critique, but a multi-layered, transformational, political practice. That transformation must and should be towards feminization and democratization on domestic, social and political levels, as well as towards new economic equity and an end to racial discrimination. May we always be mindful however that in different social and historical contexts, there are varying other issues in which women engage in continuous battle.

Will there be an increase in mutual respect and understanding between women in the North and women in the South? Conferences in the North like NWSA, allows for issues of race and imperialism (cultural, economic, and political) to be featured and not only brought up by Women of Color and Third World Women. The immediacy and urgency seems centered around creating multiscoped and multicentral alliances among women on the basis of respect for each other's identities, struggles and analytical positions. Our critical pedagogy needs to focus on difference as challenging and politically transformative.

Let us never forget that the transformational power of women's struggles lies in its varied approaches to women's subordination and in the recognition that this diversity is a source of strength, as it enables women to challenge patterns of domination from various sides and from several levels simultaneously. Not only our content, but our pedagogy should be geared towards linking theory to action, building new theory, taking new action, and engaging in new theoretical debates — the old dilemma between theory and practice, and as Gramsci urged, let us adhere to a 'praxis of the present' to become conscious of our own actions and situations in the world.

By ALEX DESCHAMPS

ALUMNI NEWS

Thanks so much to all of you who sent us news of your careers and lives. Keep those cards and letters coming!

Rachel Barber sends hello from the "sweltering state of Texas" she is still teaching Developmental Writing at a local community college and enjoying it. She also recently started working in reservations for Delta airlines, and is very excited about the travel benefits that job entails. She plans to go to graduate school "soon."

Linda Burtt is the Circulation Manager at Banker and Tradesman, a weekly newspaper for banking and real estate professionals in Massachusetts. She oversees all marketing and distribution for the paper as well as in house database management and promotional advising for the other two divisions of the company.

Rhedonda Cox writes that she is 1) National Sales and Marketing Director for the Larkin Group, producers of International Fashion Boutique Show (3 shows per year in New York City), 2) she runs 3 sales offices in Newton, MA, New York, NY, and Los Angeles, CA, and 3) she produces two publications. She adds that she is a "fitness expert and part time actress."

Angeleque Decoste is working as a teaching assistant with emotionally disturbed adolescent girls at Germaine Lawrence Assessment. "My job ranges from assistance with personal care, to helping out with geometry, teaching about AIDS or other "life skills" topics, and being a disciplinarian.

Jackson Katz is the co-creator and director of the Mentors in Violence Prevention Project at Northeastern University's Center for the Study of Sport in Society. The multi-racial, mixed-gender MVP Project utilizes college and high school student-athletes in the fight against all forms of gender violence. He is also the spokesperson for Real Men, an activist anti-sexist men's organization he founded in Boston in 1988. He has published several articles on subjects relating to masculinities, media, sports, politics, and violence, and lectures at colleges, universities, military academies, high schools and professional conferences all over the U.S.

Caledonia Kearns is earning her Masters in teaching at the New School for Social Research and is currently teaching towards her certification. A job she held before returning to school was working as an assistant to Gloria Naylor.

Tamera Kupfer is a Development Officer in Corporate and Foundation Funding at Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York. She comments that she "loves it, it is an amazing group of people." Her responsibilities include writing grant proposals and researching organizations and working on their capital campaign.

Lisa Kruš wrote a few months ago that she graduated in 1996 from Boston College with her masters in Clinical Social work, and was looking for a job in outpatient mental health, sports counseling, or women's health care.

Lisa Levesque has returned from Guatemala where she has been working for the past few years and will be...
Andrea Levine as of Spring 1996 is “happily married... adjusting to life as a first year medical student... following up on my WOST generated interests of women’s health issues by writing a research paper on the argument for a women’s (general, comprehensive) health specialty.” She added that her summer plans included working in a Women’s Health Center.

Robyn Novick is working at Hillel at Kent State University on a one year fellowship.

Jan Passion writes that he is “raising a future guiding eye dog, trying to trust that my oldest daughter is doing well at Simon’s Rock, remembering not to wear pink when I visit my younger daughter in her class and enjoying my work at Spring Hill and as a psychotherapist working with survivors of sexual abuse and recovering batterers, learning how to be an EMT, and continuing to open and change... me and the world.”

Tania Phillips just completed her Master’s in Special Education from the University of Massachusetts.

Cate Rowen is living in Northampton with her partner Rhys and their dog and cats. “We bought a 2-family house and have a great friend living upstairs to make a fabulous lesbian extended family. I finally found my niche professionally and am Vice President of Market Street Research, Inc, a lesbian-owned marketing research company in Northampton.” Cate is also attending UMass’s Professional MBA program at night.

Sarah Van Arsdale published her first novel “Toward Amnesia” (Riverhead Books, 1996) and continues to work as a curatorial assistant in the birds and mammals collection at the California Academy of Sciences.

Heather Vova is back in the valley, mothering her 6 month old daughter Quinlyn.

Susanna Yurick is an advisor in the Honors Program at the Brooklyn Campus of Long Island University. She also coordinates the “Bridge Program” for high school students and teaches courses.

Cynthia Warren has been a practicing attorney for 5 years and currently works as a law clerk to a Federal Magistrate Judge in U. S. District Court, New Orleans. She has been married for over 8 years, and has a 2 1/2 year old daughter. She previously worked as a civil rights attorney for the EEOC, and prior to law school was a social worker/counselor for a domestic violence program in New Orleans.

We will continue our process of having 10 minute check-in appointments with an advisor during preregistration. Watch your mail for information on this.

There are Fieldwork opportunities of many types. Field work gives you the opportunity to work on campus or in the community for academic credit. Recently Women’s Studies students worked at Necessities/Necesidades, Mass Migrant Education, the Victim-Witness Assistance Program of the District Attorney’s Office, the Family Planning Council of Western Massachusetts, ARISE for Social Justice, The Breast Health Project, The Amherst Family Center, the Massachusetts Daily Collegian and WMUA. See Karen for information.

We encourage you to consider The Honors Program. If you enjoy studying, and are interested in a creative project and/or intensive research the honors option in Women’s Studies may be for you! Contact Karen for details about Women’s Studies departmental honors, or the Honors Program itself (located in Goodell) at 545-2483.

WAIVER AND SUBSTITUTION PROCEDURES

The Undergraduate Studies Committee has clarified and published all the policies related to counting courses towards your Women’s Studies major or minor. If you have questions about component courses, waivers or substitutions for requirements come by to get a copy of Waiver and Substitution Procedures for Women’s Studies.

IN THE WORKS.

The Undergraduate Studies Committee is revisiting the idea of some type of exit process for the program—a form, interview, group interview, or some yet unconceived off new idea. If you have thoughts on this, contact Alex Deschamps, chair of the committee.

BAKE SALE

In the spring a group of students working in the lounge decided to do a fundraiser for a community organization. The students chose Necessities/Necesidades, the local program for battered women and set to work. Not only did students, faculty, and staff bake for the sale,
the students solicited donations from local restaurants, bakeries and stores producing a sumptuous spread of rolls, cakes, eclairs, brownies, muffins, danish, and more. The sale not only filled empty stomachs but raised hundreds of dollars for Necessities/Necesidades. Rumors abound that a fundraiser like this could be an annual event.........volunteers?

LOUNGE NEWS

The Women's Studies Lounge completed its first year of operation with some memorable events, good feelings, and delicious food. The Women's Studies office staff thanks Carla Laurenzano and Nicole Larace for their work in 1995-96 and wish them the best of luck in their new endeavors. We look forward to the upcoming year with new leadership and fresh ideas.

Help!

I have so much to offer if only I had some dedicated people to keep my doors open! You may remember me from the past couple of semesters. I'm the Women's Studies Lounge, located right in the heart of Bartlett (208A). Students and all people with an interest in the Women's Studies program enjoy meeting, chatting, and just lounging on my couches.

Love, The Lounge

The lounge is not just being boastful, but only a limited number of people seem to know about the lounge. Women's Studies majors and minors have this space to relax in between classes, to keep in touch with each other, to research women's issues in the library (located in the lounge), and to use the computer.

The lounge needs a few committed students to staff, coordinate events, and help straighten out the library. Volunteers can receive credit for their work. So if you would like to volunteer, please contact me (Gina) through the Women's Studies office.

Thank you,
Gina Oovoni

ORCHARD HILL/CENTRAL WOMEN'S CENTER REBORN

This past semester the Orchard Hill/Central Women's Center offered a one credit course in violence against women and community activism in conjunction with Women's Studies. The center, in Van Meter, has been in and out of use for the past 20 odd years. Recently, residential staff of the Van Meter/Butterfield cluster have made several attempts to reopen the center.

Resident Assistants (R.A.'s) were hoping to build on the Center's history of educating students around women's issues and creating a safe atmosphere for women to discuss their experience in the UMass dorms. Thanks to the leadership of Beth Ann Manchester, twenty-five women in OH/Central participated in this pass/fail class. One night a week the women attended workshops on rape awareness, relationship violence, media images of women, pornography, and sexual harassment. The women then planned activities to educate the wider residence hall community. Their accomplishments included two very successful workshops, four bulletin boards, and other projects. For more information about future classes sponsored by the OH/Central Women's Center, leave a message for Beth c/o Women's Studies.

FALL 1996 COURSE CHANGES

CANCELLATIONS:

WOST 393J - Racialized Representations of Sexualized Violence
WOST 394B - Black Feminist/Womanist Theory

NEW COURSE

WOST 294C - Black Women and Work in the U.S.
TuTh 1:00-2:15 - Jennifer Ire

This class will chart and attempt to understand Black women's experience with work in the U.S. and focus on African-American women. Using Black feminist thought, we will examine the historical, social, and cultural factors that impact both the meanings and the experiences of work for African-American women, and acknowledge their achievements. Finally we will begin to create for ourselves an understanding of how their experiences and meanings can help in making work, career and life choices.

NEW DEPARTMENTAL COURSES

LAS 391A/SOCIOL 391L Gender and Politics in Latin America
Amy Lind, MWF 11:15

LAS 394A/SOCIOL 397L Development Theories, Practices, Politics
Amy Lind, MW 3:35-4:50

Contact Latin American Studies (545-0455) for descriptions.
Incompletes: Temporary Solution = Long Term Headache

For the past several years I've often worked with students who are graduating sometimes several years after their original graduation date. Oftentimes part of the reason for delays is one, or several, grades of Incomplete. When these students finally finish up and we have a chance to discuss it, they often times regret the original impulse to get the incomplete. Here is a summary of some of the things I've seen.

I see many students who have genuine emergencies in their lives during the semester. Sometimes, the best thing to do is to withdraw totally from a class if life circumstances don't permit completing the work. There are many variables to consider including time of the semester, the nature of the crisis, overall course load, etc. At other times, the prospect of an Incomplete looks like having your cake and eating it too: "I'll get an incomplete right now because I'm so overwhelmed, and then, right at the end of the semester, when I'm done with everything else, I'll do it. I'll finish it by mid-June (or mid-January)" is the type of statement I often hear. Sometimes, of course, students do indeed just need that little bit of extra time to finish everything up, and they do! Often, however, the original problem or crisis continues to expand, or new problems mount up, and/or students feel embarrassed or unclear about the arrangements with the faculty member. After a few months go by, it gets harder to discuss the incomplete with the faculty member. Sometimes the faculty member goes on leave, or even leaves the institution, further complicating matters. The student gets in increasing difficulty as the I grade drags down their cumulative average (I's are factored in as F's, and then flip to actual F's once the next semester is completed.) The course work for the incomplete class fades slowly as new courses begin. The incomplete takes on a life of its own, often exerting more pressure and anxiety on the student than the original demands of the course. If there is more than one incomplete, the student often feels overwhelmed by the demands of past courses coupled with present course loads.

So the incomplete, that looked like a neat solution to a big problem, becomes a problem of its own.

If you are getting behind in a class, or life circumstances get in the way of your schoolwork, there are several options for you:

Talk with an advisor. We are here to help and problem solve with you. There are advisors in Women's Studies, in Arts and Sciences and in particular programs and services around the University ranging from the Center for Counseling and Academic Development (CCAD) to Collegiate Committee for the Education of Black and Minority Students (CCEMBS). Contact us for help or a referral.

See the faculty member and/or teaching assistant for the class. Instructors have office hours to be available to students. If you are having trouble, are getting behind, or need a special arrangement, this is one of the first places to go.

Visit the Learning Resources Center, 10th floor of the DuBois Library

There are many other positive actions you can take including reinforcing your support system, meeting with the professor, working in study groups with other students, etc. An advisor or faculty member can help you figure out the strategy that works best for you. Sometimes an Incomplete IS just the thing a student needs to get through, but sometimes those I's are more trouble than help.
Open House
Wednesday, September 11
9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Open House
4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Reception
Wilder Hall, 2nd Floor
Refreshments

Staff will be available to provide information about:
work-study, student hourly, internship and volunteer
opportunities, EWC programs and services. For more
information 545-0883.

Fourth Annual Women of Color Reception
Featuring Comedienne Emmy Gay
October 3 6:00-9:00 p.m.
VIP Room, Mullins Center

The New York Post called her a 'Perky MC' and added
if you could harness one fifth of the energy that Emmy
Gay uses in her new show you could send a woman to
the moon! This year alone Emmy has performed at
over 70 colleges and clubs out the country. Johnson
and Wales University Campus herald called her "A definite
10 out of 10." She also formed at the Fourth World
Conference on Women in Beijing. Emmy Gay is a
stand-up comic actress for the 90's who will make you
feel good, think hard, and laugh loud.

Enid Santiaño Welch
October 16
Time and place TBA

In collaboration with Augusta Savage Gallery. Welch
is a member and trainer of the Amherst Writers and
Artists Institute. She will be doing a workshop in the
afternoon. Place and time are still to be determined.

“What Mask Are You Wearing?”
Mask-Making Workshop
October 26 10:00-4:00 Campus Center

Facilitated by Rose Sacky Milligan, the workshop is a
prelude to the Women of Color Institute being planned
for Spring 1997. This workshop was successful last
spring and a focus group will be established from the
outcome of this fall's workshop. The focus group will
help determine ensuing modules/topics for the Women
of Color Institute. Sponsored by the Women and Color
and Educator/Advocates programs.

The Programs Against Violence Against Women at the
Everywoman's Center at UMass are looking for
volunteers to join the work against violence against
women. Volunteer positions involved counseling,
education, advocacy, support, prevention, and staffing
the 24 hour hotline. The next 60 hour training
volunteer training begins on September 15, 1996.
Application deadline is September 11. Bilingual
women and women of color encouraged to apply. For
information or to apply call Joanne (pronounced
Joanie) or Rachel at 545-0883

Stonewall Center Events

The Stonewall Center is a Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay &
Transgender Educational Resource Center. They
provide a variety of programming including a
monthly cafe series, a weekly lecture series and a
variety of other events. For specifics on the cafe series,
or any of these programs, contact them at:
Phone: 545-4824
Web site: www.umass.edu/stonewall
E-mail: stonewall@stuaf.umass.edu

Stonewall Center Open House
Melissa Etheridge Pre-Concert Party
Saturday, September 7, 1996 4 p.m.-7 p.m.
food, drink and prizes

Cafe Series

Visual Arts Exhibit and Poetry Reading
Thursday, September 19
Hampden Gallery
This exhibit features painting and other works on
paper by local Latino/a artists and reading from
PoeSida: An Anthology of AIDS Poetry from the U.S.,
Latin American and Spain edited by Carlos Rodriguez.
This event is part of the New WORLD Theater's Gay
Latino Theater Festival.

“Sorry I Don't Speak the Language”
one person show by performance artist Dan Bacalzo
Thursday, Oct. 17 time TBA
Hampden Theater

Contact the Stonewall Center for info
on the November and December events.
GLBT Studies
Brown Bag Lecture Series

This weekly lecture series takes place on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. in the Campus Center.

September 12
"Hirjas in India: an all-male religious sect considered an alternative, third gender in India"
Serena Nanda, Anthropology,
John Jay College of Criminal Justice/CUNY

September 19
"Gays and Lesbians in the Workplace"
Sharon Silverstein, author

September 26
"The Intersection of International Human Rights Law and Lesbian and Gay Refugees"
Fernando Chang-Muy, Director, Intercultural Center,
Swarthmore College

October 3
"Representing Invisibility or the Lesbian on the Beach: Gender, Sexuality and Colonialism in French Polynesia"
Deborah Elliston, Graduate Student, Adjunct Professor, Anthropology, NYU

October 17
"Deconstructing Silence: Queer Political Economy and the Social Articulation of Desire"
Richard Cornwell, Professor, Economics,
Middlebury College

October 24
"Gay and Lesbian Writing: The Ship and the Safe Harbor"
Ken Stuckey, Graduate Student,
Wake Forest University

October 31
"Schubert Out of the Closet: A New Look at the Composer and His Music"
Doris Tishkoff, Franklin Pierce College

November 7
"Being Red and Gay in the USA Today"
Gary Doterman, Union Activist, Boston

November 14
TBA

November 21
"Outing American Poetry: Towards a Gay Male Poetic Tradition from 1945 to Present"
Walter Holland

December 5
"Platonic Pleasures and Dangerous Desires: Representations of Lesbian Sexuality."
Suzanne Iasenza, Associate Professor, Counseling,
John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY

December 12
TBA

Five College Women's Studies Research Center

For a Fall 1996 schedule of talks in both the colloquium and works-in-progress series, or for more information about the Center's programs, please contact the Center at Dickinson House, Mount Holyoke College, 538-2022, FAX 538-2082, email 5CWSRC@mitholyoke.edu. All events are free and open to the public.

Special upcoming events:

Five College Women's Studies Annual Fall Reception
Dickinson House, Mount Holyoke College
Monday, September 16th - 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Inauguration of the Community Associates Program
Dickinson House, Mount Holyoke College
Tuesday, September 24th - 4:30 p.m.
Featured speaker: Paula Meara, Chief of Police,
Springfield Police Department, Springfield, MA

1996-97 Associates

Yamila Azize-Vargas
Ford Associate, Cayey University, Puerto Rico
(Public Health & Women's Studies)
"Abortion in Puerto Rico and Chile: Extreme Legalities, Close Realities"

Leslie Bender
Research Associate, Syracuse University
College of Law (Law & Women's Studies)
"Legal Challenges to Social Injustice: How Women Can Use Tort Law to Continue Feminist Struggle"

Hyoung Cho
Research Associate, Ewha Womans University,
Korea (Sociology)
"Women's Power and Sex/Gender Politics in Domestic and Public Spheres (with Special Reference to Korea)"

Susan Clarke
Community Associate, South Hadley High School, South Hadley, MA (Education)
"Mid-life Women High School Teachers: Models of Transition for Adolescent Students"
Eva Federmayer  
Research Associate, Etnus Lornd University, Hungary (Literature)  
African-American Women Writers of the Harlem Renaissance

Katharina Gerstenberger  
Research Associate, University of Cincinnati (Germanic Languages & Literature)  
but I wanted to write an honest book...  
Autobiographies by German-Speaking Women

Judith C. Harper  
Community Associate, DIAL/SELF, Greenfield, MA (Family Therapy & Human Development)  
The Impact of Welfare Reform on Teen Parents in Rural Communities

Louise Knight  
Research Associate, Independent Scholar, Chicago, IL (Biography)  
The Civic Self: A Biography of Jane Addams

Sylvia Marcos  
Ford Associate, Center for Psychoethnological Research, Mexico (Psychology)  
Muted Voices: The Survival, Revival and Invention of Indigenous Medical Practices in Mexico

Sandra Matthews  
Research Associate, Hampshire College (Film & Photography)  
Pregnant Pictures: The Work of Women in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction

Aorewa McLeod  
Research Associate, University of Auckland, New Zealand (Literature)  
Silenced Narratives: Why New Zealand Women Stopped Writing

Linda Meccourl  
Community Associate, Holyoke Community College, Holyoke, MA (Education)  
Making It: Resilient Women Overcoming Adversity

Tanagra Melgarejo  
Community Associate, Housing Discrimination Project, Holyoke, MA (Social Thought & Political Economy)  
Latinas in Their Own Voices: Living with Housing Segregation in the Pioneer Valley

Deborah Owen  
Research Associate, College of William and Mary (American Studies)  
"Old" New England in the Age of Literary Reproduction

Karen O’Meara Pullen  
Community Associate, Wilbraham and Mouson Academy, Wilbraham, MA (Education)  
Gender Equity Network: Creating Advocacy for the Education of Young Women

Laura Schwendinger  
Research Associate, San Francisco Conservatory of Music (Music Composition) Songs of Heaven and Earth

Susan Elizabeth Sweeney  
Research Associate, College of the Holy Cross (Literature & Women's Studies)  
Feminist Revisions of the Gothic Romance

Dana Tracy  
Community Associate, Family Planning Council, Springfield, MA (Family Studies & Health)  
Barriers to Breast-Feeding Among Low-Income Women

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**NEW WORLD THEATER**

*Milk of Amnesia*  
written and performed by Carmelita Tropicana  
Hampden Theater  
Sept. 20, 8 p.m. & Sept. 21 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

*H.I.VATO*  
written and performed by Beto Arriaiza  
Hampden Theater  
Sept. 27, 8 p.m. & Sept. 28 at 2 p.m. and 8 m.

*Son Corazon: Heartstrung: For Myrna Vazquez*  
written by Rosa Luisa Marquez  
Produced by Next Stage Inc., the M.I. T. Office of the Arts, I.B.A. Arte Y Cultura, and the New WORLD Theater  
Bowker Auditorium - October 5 - 8:00 p.m.

*Under Siege Stories*  
written by Keith Antar Mason and performed by the Hittite Empire  
Bowker Auditorium - October 25 and 26

*R.A.W. by Diana Son and Combination Skin*  
By Lisa Jones  
A collaboration between Smith College Theater Department and New World Theater  
Hallie Flanagan Studio Theater, Smith College  
October 30-November 3, November 7-9  
Bowker Auditorium - November 15 and 16

*Red Fiery Summer*  
written and performed by Le Thi Diem Thuy  
Hampden Theater - December 6 and 7

For more information about New World Theater shows call 545-1972.
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WELCOME NEW READERS!
ATTENTION GRADS!
The reunion of a lifetime is coming!
25 years of feminist activists reunite at UMass in March 1997.
See page 5 for details.

This newsletter is written and edited by Karen Lederer. Design and production by Linda Hillenbrand. Thanks to Alex Deschamps, Ann Ferguson, Gina Govoni, Beth Ann Manchester and Emily Silverman for their contributions. Reprints with permission only.