



# WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM

## UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST

### NEWSLETTER

### FALL 2003



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## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am writing this message while we are still waiting for the other shoe to drop. Although we know specifics about some cuts and layoffs, we do not yet know the full impact of this year's devastating budget cuts and President Bulger's recent resignation on the campus and the system, either in the short or long term. In the face of all of the terrible news around us we need to focus some of our attention on the positive, and Women's Studies has some very good news indeed. After years of trying to run our department with a tiny permanent core faculty augmented, often at the last minute, with one year lecturers, Women's Studies begins this semester with two wonderful new **tenure track faculty members**. We are very excited that **Dayo Faloyan Gore** and **Milann Kang** are joining us—look inside for bios of each of them. I want to thank the search committee – **Banu Subramaniam**, **Margo Culley**, **Sunaina Maira**, **Jeannine Marks**, and **Amy Ferrer**—all of who worked enormously hard under the excellent direction of **Alex Deschamps**, the chair of the committee. I want to also acknowledge the important work of the one-year lecturers who enriched us with their wonderful courses, and often gave above and beyond what we could expect from people in these very difficult positions. I also want to thank our Dean, **Lee Edwards**, for making these appointments possible.

We have other good news about the accomplishments of our faculty. **Alex Deschamps** was awarded a Teachnology Grant to bring WOMENSST 187, our large general education course, into the 21st century, and **Banu Subramaniam** was chosen from among a crowded and exceptionally gifted field of applicants for a Lily Fellowship. We also begin this academic year with an exciting new seminar series for faculty, graduate and undergraduate students. Providing a forum for discussion of issues in the field, the seminar will meet bi-monthly. **Ann Ferguson** is working with faculty at the University of Havana to organize a women's studies conference for January of 2004. See inside for details on the seminar and the conference.

Unfortunately, we are once again apprehensive about the future of this campus and the UMass system, but this year we also look forward to an exciting year.

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***Arlene Avakian** has been very busy herself, teaching, being director, fighting budget cuts and appearing in several national media forums this summer. Arlene's class "The Social Construction of Whiteness and Women" was featured in a front page article on whiteness studies in the Washington Post in June. This article generated national attention, with several TV networks calling in to schedule Arlene and her students to discuss issues of race on different talk shows. Arlene appeared on MSNBC's "Scarborough Country", New England Cable News Network, students were interviewed on CNN, and she was on several radio shows including the Tavis Smiley Show on NPR. Because of the national coverage, she was contacted by interested people, some angry and many supportive, from all over the country. Arlene articulated the legitimacy of studying whiteness in the presence of provocative questions and hostile attitudes. We are proud that a member of our faculty is once again on the cutting edge of innovative scholarship. (For more info on this issue, and links to budget sites, check out our website.)*

# WOMEN'S STUDIES NEWS



## Welcome to new Women's Studies faculty!



**Dayo F. Gore** just completed her Ph.D. "To Light a Candle in A Gale Wind: Black Women Radicals and Post-World War II U.S. Politics" from New York University. She was the recipient of numerous fellowships and awards and has taught courses on African American Women's Politics, U.S. History, History of Women and Gender, the African Diaspora and U.S. Political and Cultural Activism. She has been involved in community activism in New York City and will be teaching WOMENSST 301 "Theorizing Women's Issues" in the fall and will be teaching "African American Women in the Civil Rights Movement" in the Spring of 2004.

**Miliann Kang** most recently taught at Grinnell College in Sociology. Her Ph.D., "Manicuring Interactions: Race, Gender, and Class in New York City Korean-Owned Nail Salons," is from New York University. She received numerous awards and fellowships and has been an activist in the Asian and Asian American community. She has taught introductory Sociology courses, Sociology of the Body, and courses on Immigration, Law, Race and Ethnicity, and Asian American Life. She will teach WOMENSST 201 "Critical Perspectives in Women's Studies" and WOMENSST 295B "Asian American Women: Gender, Race and Immigration in the Fall".

*We look forward to our program being enriched by these vital scholars in the years to come. Come meet the new faculty and find out about their courses at our preregistration event in November (see next page)!*



### **EVERYWOMAN'S CENTER SUPPORT 24-HOUR RAPE CRISIS SERVICES**

Funding for rape crisis centers in Massachusetts has been cut by nearly 75% by the legislature. Everywoman's Center has been providing 24-hour rape crisis services to this county since 1976. They need to raise at least \$25,000 to maintain round the clock service, which includes short-term counseling, legal, medical and police advocacy. These are essential services for the campus and local community. Checks can be made payable to EWC and earmarked for rape crisis services. EWC is located at Wilder Hall, 221 Stockbridge Road UMass. Their main number is 545-0883, rape crisis hotline is (413) 545-0800 or toll free (888) 337-0800. EWC's web site has more information on their programs and the current political and funding crisis and actions you can take [www.umass.edu/ewc](http://www.umass.edu/ewc).

*Editors note: This is one of the most appalling budget cuts of this year of unbelievably bad budget news. Please find out more about this and other drastic cuts to services and education and take action!*

### **FIVE COLLEGES/UNIVERSITY OF HAVANA GENDER STUDIES CONFERENCE**

Ann Ferguson is working on a joint Gender Studies conference between the Five Colleges and the University of Havana for 2004. Faculty and students can participate, with students receiving academic credit. Interested students should contact Ann Ferguson about a 1 credit independent study this fall. In addition to participating in academic panels with their Cuban hosts, delegates will hear lectures, participate in workshops, and visit educational and cultural sites in and around Havana. If you want to find out more, contact Ann Ferguson at [ferguson@philos.umass.edu](mailto:ferguson@philos.umass.edu), 5-5802.

### **LIBRARY UPDATE**

Reminder: there are many new electronic databases (and services) available through the Library's web site ([www.library.umass.edu](http://www.library.umass.edu)). Emily Silverman, Women's Studies librarian is available to help WOST students, staff, and faculty find the resources they need. Feel free to contact her to make an appointment: [essilverman@library.umass.edu](mailto:essilverman@library.umass.edu). 545-0995

# EVENTS

## FEMINIST FOUNDATIONS SEMINAR SERIES

Meeting Wednesdays 12:00-1:30; Herter Hall 601

[Open to all faculty, graduate and advanced undergraduate students]

The series is every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday beginning Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>, the complete schedule of topics and presenters will be available in the office and on our website, click on "events".

This bi-monthly research and discussion series will revisit some foundational issues in Women's Studies. The series will critically revisit four foundational and interdisciplinary texts followed by contemporary engagement of the questions they raise. Faculty presenters will give a critical overview of the books, and faculty and graduate students are invited to bring up key issues in their own research in the discussions. Among the questions to be addressed are: What were some of the foundational issues in Women's Studies? How has the field addressed and critiqued these ideas? What are the critical issues in the field today? Graduate students and senior undergraduates can take the series for credit. Please contact Nancy Patteson, Women's Studies [patteson@educ.umass.edu](mailto:patteson@educ.umass.edu) for more information.

## WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS ARE MEETING TIMES FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES!

### NEW MAJOR ORIENTATION

Wednesday, November 5, 2003  
6:00 p.m. Campus Center

If you are applying to the major this semester, mark this date for the mandatory welcome orientation. Meet other incoming students! Meet the faculty! And, phew. . .get your change of major form signed.

### WOMEN'S STUDIES PREREGISTRATION EVENT

Monday, November 17 4:00 p.m.  
Herter 601

Come to this informal gathering, share some snacks, and find out what is being offered for Spring 2004. Women's Studies Faculty will describe the courses they are offering in the spring. Come join us for a revival of this old tradition.

**Pre-registration begins 11/13/03!**

## UPCOMING CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Sandra Harding will speak on Feminist Epistemology on *Friday, September 12, at 3:30 p.m. in Bartlett 206* (room # tentative at press time). This talk is sponsored by the Philosophy Department and open to the public.

### NATIONAL YOUNG WOMEN'S DAY OF ACTION

October 23, 2003

Contact The Civil Liberties and Public Policy Program at Hampshire College, 559-5506  
<http://clpp.hampshire.edu>

### FIVE COLLEGE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL INFORMATION DAY

Wednesday, October 29, 2003  
Student Union Ballroom, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.  
For info: [www-cnn.acad.umass.edu](http://www-cnn.acad.umass.edu)

### FIVE COLLEGE WOMEN'S STUDIES RESEARCH CENTER ANNUAL FALL RECEPTION

Thursday September 25  
4:00-6:00 p.m.

Check out this and many upcoming events at 83 College Street, Mount Holyoke College. <http://wscenter.hampshire.edu> 413-538-2275

The Fine Arts Center has great programs including the Asian Arts and Culture Program and New World Theater. [www.umass.edu/fac](http://www.umass.edu/fac) for more information

### EVERYWOMAN'S CENTER EVENTS

On September 23 Everywoman's Center, University Health Services and UMass Police Department will be participating in the national "Get Carded Day" sponsored by RAINN (Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network). The programs will be distributing resource cards with information about the RAINN National Sexual Assault Hotline and Everywoman's Center Rape Crisis hotline and support services. The campaign is being sponsored on college campuses across the country because people age 16-24 are three times more at risk of being sexually assaulted than any other group. Call 545-0883 for details.

# E-NEWS

Did you know Women's Studies has 4 listservs to serve our friends, students, faculty and graduates? There is one that is right for you and it's a great way to keep in touch with the program. Remember to check out the rules and information button – everything you always wanted to know about listservs is there.

Linda would love to keep a more extensive e-mail listing of graduates on our website. If you're interested in putting a link to your e-mail address on this site, please e-mail Linda with your information ([lindah@wost.umass.edu](mailto:lindah@wost.umass.edu)) and she'll put you on.

Things change all the time on the website – it's worth keeping us bookmarked! [www.umass.edu/wost](http://www.umass.edu/wost)

## HESTIA MURAL PROJECT

For those of you who were in the Valley in the 1970's, the creation of the women's history mural in Northampton was a major event. The mural is now almost 25 years old and showing its age. A collective of artists (the original creators of the mural and others) and community members have come together to restore and preserve the Masonic Street Hestia Mural on the wall of the Verizon building. There are many ways to be involved ranging from making donations to participating in events. For more information call 413 427-0689.



### *WELCOME TO NEW GRADUATE CERTIFICATE STUDENTS*

Greetings to the Incoming Class of 2003:

A warm welcome to **Thelma Belmonte-Alcantara, Monica Fambrough, Gardy Guiteau, Karen Marie Lennon, Shelly Perdomo, Natalia Pommier, Claire Schomp,** and **Rani Varghese.**

Welcome to New Undergraduate Students:

We have an exciting group of students who entered the program in Spring 2003. These students have a broad range of interests from women and fashion to constructions of sexuality and gender to working with survivors of violence. Welcome to New Majors: **Iva Brito, Jacqueline Campos, Winnie Chen, Jackie DeQuinzio, Jennifer Eastwood, Shannon Farrington, Larissa Jones, Caroline Goodman, Rachel Gordon, Becky Hawes-Sivitz, David Lambert, Lauren Mollomo, Erin Nadeau, Jessica Pearson, Sarah Riga, Kate Rodriguez, Kate Roza, Lauren Slaby,** and **Kernan Willis.**

Welcome to the following new Women's Studies minors: **Naomi Cairns, Marisa Crawford, Courtney deBlieck, Anatasia Dubrovsky, Danielle Lapierre,**

**Maya Perepelitsky, Kristin Simonds, and Kate Walsh.**

Once again, thanks to the generosity of those who've gone before, we were able to celebrate our graduates at a breakfast in the campus center. This year each graduate was invited to share a few words on their way to picking up their T-shirt and rose. There were touching and funny moments as we appreciated their accomplishments and sent them out into the world.

Congratulations to major graduates: **Jacqui Campos, Winnie Chen, Jacqueline DeQuinzeo, Sam Einhorn, Nadhege Jean, Lisa MacVarish, Kristi Nelson, Noriko Oiwake, Sarah Riga, Deborah Rose, Sara Schmidt, Lynn Simonds, and Nicole Tominsky.**

Best of luck to minor graduates: **Nicole Caltaglione, Sarah Demas, Natalie Forte, Melissa Hayford, Kate Iacobucci, Rebecca Lowe, Jennifer Martin, Theresa Nelson and Edwina Nunez.**

The following students were awarded a Certificate in Advanced Feminist Studies:

**Keith William Forrest, Kristen Isgro and Lisa Dawn Thompson.** Good luck to all of you.

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# ...NEWS FOR STUDENTS...

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## STUDENT INPUT IN THE PROGRAM

There are many opportunities for student input in Women's Studies. There are 2 undergraduate slots and 1 graduate student slot on the Women's Studies executive committee, the main policy making body of the program. The Executive Committee meets monthly, and serving on it gives students lots of insights into how both the program and the University work, and gives the program vital student input. If you are free on Wednesday afternoons, are an accepted Women's Studies (paperwork done) major or minor, or graduate certificate student, contact the office. Student representatives must commit to attending meetings, and organizing communication with other students in the program.

There are other committees with student slots including undergraduate studies and graduate studies. Contact the office for more details.

## UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

As always, it makes sense to set up an advising appointment to check on requirements, and discuss your academic plans. If you haven't done your paperwork yet, or need help finding a sponsor, we are happy to assist with that. The major application deadline for fall is October 31<sup>st</sup>. Minor applications are accepted at any point. All applications must be signed by a faculty sponsor. If you are thinking about internships or independent studies, come in and see Karen. Seniors, it is especially important to check your major, college, and University requirements.

Current or potential Honors students should speak to Professor Alexandrina Deschamps about their research plans as early as possible. There will be a meeting for Women's Studies Commonwealth College students early in the semester. Check with the office, or watch for announcements of the specifics. Commonwealth College provides research grants for undergraduate students, and our students have a good track record of receiving them. Come to the meeting to find out more.

## OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENT WRITERS

Jen Eastwood, one of our students, is the Editor in Chief of the Daily Collegian, and she is looking for

writers for the Collegian. She writes "there are topics that arise in every class: women's health issues; the job market; local, state, and national politics; feminism's role in the arts; media's typecasting and so much more. . .And each of these topics begs for all sorts of stories." News stories, feature stories, arts reviews, sports coverage and editorials are all needed. If you want to find out more, contact her at 545-1809 or email [ChiefEdJen@aol.com](mailto:ChiefEdJen@aol.com)

## STUDENT RUN CLASS: ANALYZING TODAY'S FEMINISM

Julia Becker and Amy Ferrer, two senior Women's Studies majors, are offering a 2 credit pass/fail class "Analyzing Today's Feminism." The class meets Wednesdays, 2:00-4:30 beginning September 3 in Herter 112. The class will focus on current issues in feminism, with readings relevant to pop culture, politics and other issues students want to discuss. To sign up you must attend the first meeting. For information contact [aferrer@student.umass.edu](mailto:aferrer@student.umass.edu) or [eiffelcat@hotmail.co9m](mailto:eiffelcat@hotmail.co9m).

## GRADUATE CERTIFICATE NEWS

### Save the Date for the Fall Retreat:

The annual fall retreat for Certificate Students is scheduled for **Friday, October 3, 2003** (at press time there was a chance the date could change) from **12 noon to 5:00 PM** in the UMass Campus Center rooms #904-08. This retreat again provides an opportunity for all graduate students, past and present, admitted into the Women's Studies Certificate in Advanced Feminist Studies to come together for social and professional conversation. This year the event will feature a luncheon with core and cross-listed faculty, and several planned discussion groups of alumni and new faculty speaking of their job market experiences.

This retreat brings together Certificate students from many disciplinary homes to foster interdisciplinary collaboration and expand the boundaries of the feminist community.

*As always, the next application deadline for entrance into the graduate certificate program is March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2004.*



# .....ALUMNI NEWS.....ALUMNI NEWS.....ALUMNI NEWS.....

**Adam Keigwin** also wrote last fall to say he was the legislative aide to San Mateo Supervisor Rose Jacobs Gibson and to tell us of the White Ribbon Campaign, an effort of men working to end men's violence against women.

**Megan Murphy Flood** wrote around the holidays that she was about to start her clinical rotations in her nursing program and was "excited to begin working with patients."

**Nicole Lisa** is living in Brooklyn, New York and has begun her own business providing translation, copyediting and related services to social change organizations. She adds that she got married in September and is "having fun figuring it out." <http://www.auroralanguage.com/>

**Birdie MacLennan** is a catalog/periodicals librarian at the University of Vermont and an M.A. candidate in French, "fun and useful for a librarian who lives close to the border with French-speaking Quebec)" she writes.

**Susan Manatt** has been the director of the Victim/Witness Assistance unit of the Northwestern District Attorney's Office in Northampton for the past 11 years. The unit provides advocacy and information about the court process to victims and witnesses of crime, as well as referrals, counseling, support and assistance in filing for abuse prevention orders. Many Women's Studies students have done valuable internships in her office.

**Tessa Munasinghe** is the Membership and Special Events Assistant for the Organic Trade Association.

**Christine Murphy** wrote that last fall's alum news inspired her to write in about herself (*hint, hint dear readers. . .*) Christine has done technical training and consulting for Liberty Mutual for the past 2 years while finishing a grad. certificate at UMass/Boston in Dispute Resolution. She is working on a house and plans to begin a part time MBA program at Boston College, focusing on mediation as a method of teambuilding in the private and non profit sectors. She is involved in interfaith work in Boston and with the Unitarian Universalist Association on a national level with their Journey Towards Wholeness Anti-Racism Program. Christine adds "*I will be forever*

*grateful to the Women's Studies program at UMass which gave me the firmest foundation possible in critical thinking, creative scholarship, and how Race, Gender, Class and Culture intersect in the formation and maintenance of both institutional and personal power."*

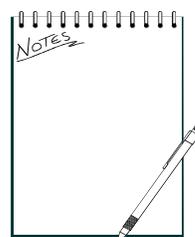
**Jan Passion** teaches Conflict Transformation at the School for International Training and is the Strategic Liaison with the Nonviolent Peaceforce. He recently adopted a son, who he had been a big brother to for the last 17 years.

**Tinker Ready** has settled for now in East Cambridge after travels south (North Carolina) and east (Cambodia.) She is on her fifth year as a freelance health writer/mom. Her byline is on occasion in Nature Medicine, The Boston Phoenix and other magazines, metro papers, and University publications. She enjoys interspersing the magazine world with Lego spaceship building sessions with her son and husband.

**Yifat Suskind** is the Assistant Director of Madre, an International Women's Human Rights Organization. She is coordinator of the Middle East Program and writes the public education materials including editing their newsletter. Yifat has a 2 year old son and lives in New York.

**Leah Tyler** is working as a Special Education teacher at a behavioral school in Wendell. She finished her masters in Special Education this May. Congratulations!

**Shana Zatinsky** wrote last fall that she was in her second year of a 2 year Masters Nurse Midwifery degree at the University of California, San Francisco. Shana "*jumped on the idea of midwifery as an endeavor that combines my intellect, intuition, social justice, feminist, anti-poverty, spiritual and communication skills and inclinations in a very real and useful way."*



Send Karen a note about what you're doing! E-mail is fine - [lederer@wost.umass.edu](mailto:lederer@wost.umass.edu)

## **Donations**

*Our donors sustain us morally, physically and spiritually. Each year I write this, and each year the state budget is grimmer for higher education. This year is one of the worst ever. If your household economy allows, consider donating to Women's Studies, you can either designate your donation through the annual fund or donate directly. Information is available online at: <http://www.umass.edu/development/> or contact Women's Studies. Special thanks to our recent donors:*



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