

Women's Studies Newsletter

A Program of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts
University of Massachusetts Amherst



Fall 2006

208 Bartlett Hall

413-545-1922

WELCOME BACK EVERYONE!

This newsletter is coming out later than usual; we wanted to include the latest program people changes. The program itself hasn't changed, rest assured. Ann Ferguson is acting director taking the place of Arlene Avakian who is on leave. Miliann Kang is also on leave (see article about her grant!). We will miss Claudia de Lima Costa who is no longer at the University. Nancy Patteson had an unusual summer (see related story on page 2). Linda Hillenbrand and Karen Lederer are working right along. For additional faculty news see below. Best wishes for a healthy fall and winter everyone.

Karen Lederer, newsletter editor



Faculty Headlines

Arlene Avakian is on leave for the fall semester. **Ann Ferguson** is stepping in this fall as acting director for Arlene Avakian. Thanks to Ann and we look forward to Arlene's return. As always, our faculty are busy as usual, coming and going, speaking at conferences, writing, teaching, developing new courses and more. Some items to highlight:

Alex Deschamps spoke on "Doing Women's Studies as an Interdiscipline" last September at Bennett College for Women in Greensboro North Carolina as part of their Academic Cultural Enrichment Series. In the spring Alex was an invited participant at the Johnnetta B. Cole Global Diversity and Inclusion Institute in North Carolina.

Ann Ferguson spoke this summer on "Women and Global Justice" in Mexico at the Globalization, Sovereignty, and Sustainable Development Conference. Ann taught a course on justice at Mount Holyoke College this past spring.

Dayo Gore has been traveling and working on her book project currently titled "*The Work of Radicals: Black Women's Political Thought and Activism in the*

1950's." Dayo spoke on African-American women and the civil rights movement to several summer programs in the area, including an enthusiastic crowd of parents of incoming UMass students.

Miliann Kang is completing her book "*Manicuring Women: Race, Gender and Immigration in Beauty Services Work*" and initiating a new grant funded research project on work-family conflicts for second-generation Asian American women (see article below.)

Banu Subramaniam was a plenary speaker on a panel entitled "Feminist Science Studies" at the National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) Annual Conference this past June in Oakland, California. The theme of the conference was "Locating Women's Studies: Formations of Power and Resistance."

Alex, Dayo and Banu gave a well received workshop at the NWSA conference entitled "Teaching at the Intersections: A Workshop on Doing Integrative Analysis in a Women's Studies Curriculum."



Grants, grants, grants *(We love having this section....)*

Miliann Kang Awarded Research Grant

Miliann Kang received a 2006-07 American Association of University Women Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship for her project, "Work and Mothering: Practices and Identities of Second Generation Asian American Women." This study aims to complicate the simplistic framing of stay-at-home versus career-oriented mothers and to provide a more nuanced analysis of the ways that gender, race, ethnicity and class influence the everyday practices of combining mothering and work responsibilities. Focusing on Asian American women's transitions to motherhood, the study explores the particular social contexts and cultural frameworks that

....continued from front page

shape practices and ideologies for combining paid work and mothering, and how they compare across racial and ethnic groups. It also seeks to make recommendations to address patterns of exclusion and inequality in contemporary U.S. workplaces, policies and culture. Miliann will give a talk based on this research at the Five College Women’s Studies Research Center in October, entitled “Whose Mommy Wars? Reframing Work-Family Debates for Women of Color.” *Congratulations Miliann!*

MENTORING

The campus has been awarded a planning grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to create an innovative, institution-wide mentoring initiative that will support new and underrepresented faculty. Women’s Studies has been awarded a pilot grant to develop faculty models. The grant will support our ongoing collaboration with Bennett College for Women. The core faculty and women’s studies associated faculty from Bennett met in a mini-conference in Washington, D.C. at the end of September. The meetings are designed to support curriculum development.

TEACHING INTEGRATIVELY

Women’s Studies has also been awarded a grant from the Center for Teaching for faculty and graduate students to focus on Departmental Teaching and Learning in the Diverse Classroom: Gender, Race, Class and Sexuality in Women’s Studies. In addition to a regular seminar, graduate students, faculty, scholars from the Five College Women’s Studies Research Center, and faculty from other disciplines will participate in retreats and events on this topic.



**How I Spent
My Summer Vacation:
An Unexpected Journey
By Nancy Patteson**

Looking back, I can hardly believe it. A routine procedure, recommended by my doctor simply because of my age, changed my life. On May 24, 2006 I had a colonoscopy. The procedure itself is uncomfortable but it’s not painful. The worst part is preparing for it the night before. It’s a routine medical procedure that I had put off for a year – for no good reason other than it was inconvenient.

I remember sitting in a curtained off recovery space after the procedure with my husband who had come to pick me up. They give you meds that make you spacey so you need a ride home. We could hear the doctor making his rounds informing others that all was well and they could go home. Then he came to me and said “You have cancer”. Just like that. What? Who me? Can’t be. I’m healthy. We have plans to go out for lunch. Graduation is in 2 days and I leave for California in 2 weeks.

Turns out I did have cancer. Colon cancer. Instead of lunch I went for blood tests. Then I tried hard to pretend that it wasn’t real which didn’t last long because the next day we met the surgeon and I hit bottom. Why me? There was no rational reason for it – no family history, no symptoms, and I take good care of myself. It didn’t matter. Within 2 weeks of my diagnosis I had surgery to remove 7 inches of my colon. I didn’t go to California.

My cancer was caught early. So no chemo and no radiation. My recovery was even enjoyable. I slowly but surely got my garden planted, read a novel, and worked on my suntan. I was lucky. Very lucky. Physically, I am now back to my old routine and emotionally, my life has taken on new meaning. As a member of a club that no one wants to join, I am a survivor. So what is my point in writing about this experience in the Women’s Studies newsletter? To advocate for everyone to get routine medical procedures when they are recommended even if you have no symptoms. Early intervention can save your life. For this to happen, we must advocate for better access to health care. If I had not had health care I would not have had an annual physical and would not have caught my cancer early. How would I have paid for my surgery? Would I have to choose between saving my life and feeding my family? Good health should not be a privilege for the wealthy or for those only employed with benefits.

My journey this past summer was unexpected but I have learned to expect the unexpected. I appreciate what I do have, like health care and good health, but I am aware that could all change in a moment. For now I reflect on what could have been and I look forward to to my next summer vacation.

Nancy Patteson is now training to participate in a half marathon to benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. The Seacoast Half Marathon is November 12, 2006 in Portsmouth, NH. To find out more stop by the office or visit her website at <http://www.active.com/donate/tntma/patteson>

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Farewell to **Chizu Sato**, long time teaching assistant in the program. Best of luck to you. **Shelley Perdomo** is now teaching the continuing education section of our intro class. We have very talented graduate students teaching courses this fall: Welcome to **Kat Jones**, and **Rani Varghese** new teaching assistants for Women's Studies 187. Welcome back to **Mirangela Buggs**, **Allia Matta** and **Mitch Boucher**. **Mirangela Buggs** has an expanded role with the intro class. Recent Ph.D. and Certificate graduate **Kirsten Isgro** is teaching Writing for Women's Studies majors this fall. Welcome to **Elizabeth Cahn** and **Joy Miller** who are teaching Critical Perspectives in Women's Studies!

We have three new adjunct faculty teaching courses with us this fall. Welcome to **Hikari Hori**, a visiting Ford Foundation associate is teaching "Gender, War and the State in Asia." **Pamela Stone** is teaching "Biology of Difference" and "Women and Health." She is a biocultural anthropologist who taught a course on nutritional anthropology last year at Hampshire College. **Lili Kim** is a Hampshire College faculty member who is teaching "Asian American Women: Gender, Race and Immigration." Welcome to you all!

Our newly minted grads were celebrated last May at a lovely breakfast. Congratulations to: **Stacy Carvalho, Tristan Craig, Kristine Flanagan, Erin Halperin, Jill Isabelle, April Krangel, Jen Mainville, Maureen McHugh, Meghan McNamara, Megan McNeil, Helen Petties, Jose Santiago, Lani Telian, and Liz Welch.** Congratulations to minor grads: **Sonia Batlle, Sofia Bur, Brietta Costa, Kelly Dolan, Deb Eskie, Boyuan Gao, Adrianna Gasset, Max Greenberg, Amy Grzybinski, Renee Hadad, Eun-mi Hur and Jessica Riley.** Special goodbye to grad **Renee Hadad**, who worked for several years in the Women's Studies office. Good luck to you!

Congratulations to the following students who completed the Graduate Certificate in Advanced Feminist Studies:

Beverly Weber (Comparative Literature), **Amrita Pande** (Sociology), **Sueyeun Juliette Lee** (MFA Writing), **Juliette Van de Geer** (Center for International Education.)

New Leadership on Campus!

Welcome to the new **Dean of Humanities and Fine Arts, Joel Martin.** We look forward to working with you! Farewell to departing Dean **Lee Edwards.**

Lee was involved with Women's Studies since the early days of the program. Best of luck Lee! Welcome to our new Dean!

Women's Studies also extends a warm welcome to the New Director of the **Everywoman's Center** (www.umass.edu/ewc), Marianne Winters, and the New Director of the **Stonewall Center** (www.umass.edu/stonewall), Brett Genny Beemyn. We look forward to continued collaboration with our new colleagues.

We also welcome all the new feminist faculty on campus. Special greetings to **Aline Gubrium** and **Tameka Gillum**, new faculty in the School of Public Health.

Spring 2006 Highlights

University of Massachusetts Amherst Women's Studies Program Announces First Recipients of the Glennie L. Jones Memorial Award

Dr. Dale M. Jones, alumna of women's studies, 1986, 2004 (G) has funded a prize in honor of her late mother Glennie L. Jones. Three prizes were awarded this year, two for undergraduate students, and one for a graduate student in Women's Studies. The undergraduate prize is given to students who show a commitment to ending violence against women. The graduate student prize is presented to a student completing the Advanced Certificate in Feminist Studies program. "This prize is meant to support students in a way that is not otherwise available and to recognize them in a fashion that applauds their individual work. My university degrees would not have been possible without the financial and academic assistance I received from my mother and from the Women's Studies Department, therefore I am compelled to give back. This is just a small token of my appreciation" said Dale Jones. The prize includes a certificate, ceremony and cash award. A plaque with the winners' names hangs in the Women's Studies office.

The undergraduate first prize winner was Helen Vinette Petties. Helen graduated in the spring with a degree in Women's Studies, and had done exemplary work in the field of domestic violence at both NELCWIT (New England Learning Center for Women In Transition) and the Everywoman's Center. Undergraduate second prize winner, Bryony Muniz-Dube, will be a senior and has worked with the Clothesline project and the Take Back the Night march. The winner of the graduate student award was Beverly Weber who was awarded a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature and the Certificate in

NEWS FOR STUDENTS



Advanced Feminist Studies in the spring. She submitted a chapter of her dissertation entitled "Headscarves and Mini-Skirts: Germanness, Islam, and the Politics of Cultural Difference." Look for details about the 2007 competition in upcoming newsletters and on our web page.

Student Run Research Conference Spring 2006: Voicing Transnational Feminisms

The students in Alex Deschamps Women's Studies 499/499F year long Culminating Experience class put together a conference May 5, 2006. Each student presented original research at the conference. The students surveyed the field of feminist research, locating transnational practices of resistance, gendered development strategies, and explored the implementation of feminist gendered projects that have been successful in ensuring some measurable social, cultural, political and economic success. Topics ranged from the Latin American Women's Health Movement to Body Politics and Polycultural Theatre. The quality of the student research was impressive, and the students were welcomed by representatives of the honors program and the women's studies faculty. <http://courses.umass.edu/wost499e/>

More program news: Our web architect Linda gave our **web page** a whole new look. Check it out. If you always yearned to see years of our history flash by in photo form, this is your chance. Three spoken word performers from **Bennett College for Women**, Janine Quarles, Wallis Burks and Ducky Reid were show stoppers at the Women of Color Leadership Network graduation last spring. The performers were accompanied by Bennett faculty members Valerie Kaalund and Steve Willis.



EVENTS

As always, lots of great stuff is happening on campus: check out the websites of The Stonewall Center, Everywoman's Center, Fine Arts Center, and of course, the Five College Women's Studies Research Center. All these programs are conveniently linked off our website: www.umass.edu/wost.

Undergraduate news: There are opportunities for *student representatives* to serve on Women's Studies committees. If you are interested please contact Karen Lederer. Deadline for major applications is October 31 for the fall and April 1 for spring. The new major orientation will be scheduled for early November. Minor applications are always welcome. Get started early on your paperwork. If you are in Commonwealth College, be certain to talk to Alex Deschamps, Women's Studies Honors Coordinator, to start planning your research. Students can apply for honors research grants, look at the website for particulars. Many women's studies students have received funding from Commonwealth College in the past. For information: www.comcol.umass.edu/

Graduate Student News: We welcome Ann Ferguson back as the Graduate Certificate Program Director for 2006-2007. Given that Ann is also Acting Director of the Women's Studies Program this fall, Joyce Berkman, adjunct faculty from the History Department, has agreed to chair the Graduate Studies Committee during the fall. A grateful thank you to Millian Kang for filling in as interim GCPD in Ann's absence. Certificate students hoping to graduate in May 2007 should plan to meet with Ann as soon as possible to discuss their final research projects. We now have a course number, WOMENSST 793A, to cover the registration of the final research but the course is still off-line and you will need to see Nancy Patteson, Graduate Program Coordinator, to register.

Need help with finding library resources for your Women's Studies research projects? Please contact Beth Lang, the Women's Studies librarian. Beth works in the Du Bois Library, and is available by appointment week-days, 9am-5pm. Email: bwlang@library.umass.edu or phone 545-6890.



ALUMNI NEWS

As always we are delighted to hear from grads, especially when they tell us how happy they are and how well their work is going. Our grads are BUSY! Several people volunteered to be available to current students interested in their specific field. (Thanks fabulous alums.) If you are a current student and want to find out more about contacting alums, see Karen. Thanks to all of you who filled out the survey, if you didn't get a chance to do a survey, contact Linda: lindah@wost.umass.edu. If somehow we missed you, we apologize, and let us know for the next time.

Julia Becker is in her first year at Western New England College of Law. She writes "I have found that the intense theoretical readings I did during my undergraduate career in the Women's Studies department built my mental foundation for critically reading case law."

Cara Bedick is working at Simon Spotlight Entertainment, an imprint of Simon and Schuster devoted to readers 18-25.

Allyssa Bibeault is a licensed nationally certified massage therapist with a business called Body Solace, LLC. She had a baby boy in March and he "is the number one joy in my life."

Lauren Brannon has been "living on a feminist cloud in New York." She is doing research for a new book on feminism and motherhood by Amy Richards, coauthor of Manifesta and Grassroots. Two days a week Lauren works as Gloria Steinem's assistant. In addition to being an intern at the Third Wave foundation, Lauren also works on the Women's Liberation Birth Control Project and more.

Winnie Chen is in her final year of the MPA program from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. She spent the summer doing consulting work in low-income black communities in the Cape Town area of South Africa.

Susan Crane sent pictures of her daughter and news of her family at home in London. She and Karen got married in June, and she is working part time at the Women's Health Concern organization.

Maura Crowley is an attorney practicing law in Brookline, Massachusetts.

Jacqui DeJesus is working as a social worker in Greenfield.

Ellen (Donoghue) Church married Jason Church last fall. She works for Boston Medical Center as a Program Administrator/Manager for the Growth and Development Program in the Department of Pediatrics. When she isn't working, "Ellen and her husband, newly minted landlords, paint, call plumbers, and make too many trips to Home Depot."

Sarah Dunton is the Director of Youth Development at Girls Inc. of Holyoke. She writes "We are in need of some dedicated interns. . .students who are learning about the intersections of race, class and gender."

Amy Ferrer is in the Public Policy program here at UMass and in our graduate certificate program!

Sue Fine is living in Ithaca, New York, with 2 wonderful daughters and her partner Greg from UMass. She has been working at Cornell University as a Program Coordinator for Fitness Education.

Erica Gagne is still a civil rights investigator currently for the state of Colorado. She has also begun a clothing line called dharmagrll designs.

Suzanne Gardinier lives in Manhattan and is beginning her twelfth year teaching writing at Sarah Lawrence college. She is working on a series of essays about Israel and Palestine after a trip with Faculty for Israeli-Palestinian Peace.

Melissa Hayford wrote to say she is an Administrative Associate at Planned Parenthood On-Line in Boston. The job allows her to travel to New York and Washington, and she credits her women's studies experience in helping her get the position.

Kathleen Herzig wrote us to say she was in a clinical psychology Ph.D. program at UConn.

Jackson Katz published a new book entitled "The Macho Paradox: Why Some Men Hurt Women and How All Men Can Help" published by sourcebooks.

Christina Knowles is beginning the UMass Boston Women in Politics and Public Policy Program and is doing grant writing for Caribbean U-Turn, an after school program for inner-city teens.

Michelle Kozlowski is going to Eastern Washington University for her Masters in Fine Arts in Poetry.

Lisa Krug is the Assistant Director of Career Services at the Art Institute of Colorado. She assists students with finding employment, resume writing, salary negotiation and interviewing techniques.

Nicole Lisa works with social change organizations as a free lance translator (Spanish to English) copy editor and web project manager. She works with organizations including Women's Link Worldwide, UNIFEM, Doctors Without Borders, and International Planned Parenthood. She is on the Publications Committee for the Woodhull Institute for Ethical Leadership, and is enrolled in the Certificate in Translations Studies at NYU. She lives in Brooklyn with her partner of 5 years.

Lisa McCarthy started a new job as a Prevention Specialist for the Suicide Prevention Resource Center at the Educational Development Center.

Kristi Nelson has been admitted to the Kennedy School's Mid-Career Master's in Public Administration.

Katy Noone wrote last fall to say she was working as a legal secretary at a law firm in East Cambridge.

Hollie Sarrazin is a research analyst for a social investment research firm which focuses on corporate social responsibilities in areas such as environment, diversity and human rights. She is also in the MPA program at the Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service NYU.

Alex Tracy-Ramirez (Keri-Ann Tracy) is in school at the University of Arizona as part of a dual degree J.D./M.A. in Women's Studies. "So far it has been a wonderful experience." She writes that it is "scorchingly hot, but we get to gloat from November-May to winter-weary New Englanders."

Danielle Randazzo is a lawyer practicing in Manhattan. She works for White & Case LLP and primarily works in the white collar criminal defense group. She also does "a ton of criminal pro-bono work." Danielle tells us she was inspired to choose law because of a class on women of color in the legal system.

Tinker Ready began teaching journalism and writing part-time last year at Boston University and Northeastern University. Earlier this year, her story on the links between patient advocacy groups and the pharmaceutical industry ran in The Washington Post. She also writes for Nature Network Boston.

Sara Schmidt is living in Boston, working for The Second Step, a transitional living program for women and children survivors of domestic violence as a therapeutic afterschool teacher. She is planning on beginning an MSW program in the future.

Jenn Schreiner is a sales associate and stock manager at Eileen Fisher, Inc. in Northampton. She serves as the local Philanthropic Coordinator and is a representative to the National Social Consciousness committee of the company. This fall she has been working on a philanthropic event to benefit the Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts.

Leighanne Scott wrote to say she completed law school with additional training in Taxation.

Pati Stillwater is expanding her somatic movement and healing practice, Stillwater Somatics, to include working with organizations such as rape crisis counseling centers, college programs for voice and dance, and a gynecological/fertility clinic. She reports that despite being diagnosed with a disabling condition several years ago, she has "regained all capacities through natural healing methods." She adds that she lives in Springfield with her long time partner and "a pond of spunky goldfish!"

Ilona Sturm is working on a short musical video "Together We Can" about the diverse children that go to Malcolm X Elementary in Berkeley, CA. The program, which is non narrative, will showcase children engaging with one another in spontaneous and inclusive ways. It will be aired on Berkeley's Public Access TV in November.

Kerry Terrell is the Senior Associate Director for Graduate Admission at Bentley College in Waltham. She recruits MBA students for the McCallum Graduate School of Business, and had a baby boy, Cameron in March.

Annie Tummino has been working on the Morning-After Pill Campaign including being involved in a lawsuit to challenge the age restrictions. She has an article coming out in ZMag in October. In addition to managing the office at Realbirth, a childbirth education center, Annie is also working with the Women's Liberation Birth Control Project and Redstockings which has reformed since the 1960s. Annie observes that it is tiring to work full time, maintain such a high level of activism and have a life. (!)

DONORS

We love to feed our graduates at graduation....and buy them t-shirts....and buy the occasional large piece of equipment...but best of all we love the vote of confidence when we see those monthly lists of donors. Thank you so much for your contributions. For information about donating, see our website and click on the appropriate button.

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Michelle Sheridan-Milovanski
Karen Shramko
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Jill Tregor is working on her Masters in Public Health. She is a consultant, trainer, and director of The Greenbook Project San Francisco, which is an attempt to address the co-occurrence of child abuse and intimate partner violence in families. The project is a collaboration between Child Protective Services, Domestic Violence service providers, the Family Courts, and the community.

Marcela Velasco just finished her Ph.D. in Political Science at Boston University and is an assistant professor of political science at the Universidad de los Andes in Bogota, Colombia.

Cheryl Walters was accepted into Widener University's graduate school for education.

Stacey Wasserman is the Development Associate at Crittenton Women's Union, a non profit agency in Boston.

Adrienne Zahner works in Boston as an Associate at DLA Piper US LLP an international law firm. She practices commercial real estate law.

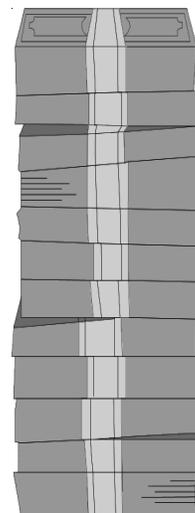
Very inspiring everyone! Keep those postcards, lively emails, and announcements coming!

CERTIFICATE ALUM NEWS:

Beverly Weber reports from her new position as a Visiting Assistant Professor of German Studies at the University of Rochester that she has also become an affiliate faculty member in the Gender & Women's Studies Department. Now that she has settled in to her new apartment she is off and running.

Kirsten Isgro gave birth to twin girls, Uma and Sylvie, on January 23rd. The twins come to visit us in the Women's Studies office now that Kirsten is teaching our Junior Year Writing class. The girls are beautiful. Great job, Kirsten and Tom.

Congratulations to **Chizu Sato** and Peter Tamas. They are the proud parents of Tyné [pronunciation: Tai-neh] whom they call Ty [Tai]. They are using the family name — SATO — for him since Japan has a family registry system and in that system Chizu is the head of the household since Peter is not Japanese. Along with the arrival of Ty on July 30 came news of Peter accepting his first teaching job as a Visiting Assistant Professor in International Development Studies at St. Francis Xavier in Antigonish, Nova Scotia starting September 1st. Talk about life changes!





Many changes to the website! Besides a brand new look, we have a slide show on the front page of the group pictures from our brunch celebrations. More pictures have been scanned and will be added as slide shows very soon. For another trip down memory lane, you'll see that we've scanned all the newsletters back to the beginning of the program and our wonderful work study student, Marcie, is working on the course guides this semester. You'll need Adobe reader to see these and we've provided a link to download Reader. The "breaking news" section on the front page will be updated regularly with news from students, alums and faculty.

Twenty Five years ago in this newsletter: one of the news items was about how Women's Studies had recently become part of the "College of Arts and Sciences under the Faculty of Humanities and Fine Arts." The newsletter had many other news items including the formation of a student group "The Women's Studies Union Council" and the publication of alum Janet Aalf's first book of poetry, available for sale in the office for \$4.00. *Editor's note: if we sold all of our alums' books in our office we would need a small warehouse!*

This newsletter is published twice a year funds permitting. It is written and edited by Karen Lederer. Some information was extracted from University websites and press releases. Design and production by Linda Hillenbrand. Thanks to Linda Hillenbrand, Nancy Patteson, Alex Deschamps, Ann Ferguson, Dayo Gore, Miliann Kang and Banu Subramaniam for their contributions. This publication is online www.umass.edu/wost.



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