



CHAIR'S MESSAGE

I am ridiculously happy that it is my second year here, and I am no longer getting lost trying to find my way around campus while meeting the challenges of this exciting, dynamic department. There was certain vertiginous, high-wire-act-without-a-net energy about it all last year, but I'm very glad to have a year under my belt, to understand more about who our staff and core, affiliated, and adjunct faculty are and what particular skills and kinds of insights they bring to the table. I even know a bunch of returning students who I'll be delighted to see again. But of course, the steady stream of new students always bring a certain wild, wonderful, unpredictable energy to university departments. It's why every day in my life as a faculty member and administrator has been different, and why I look forward to each new semester with the same mixture of excitement and apprehension that I did that very first late summer, when the goldenrod was blooming and my mother packed me up and put me on the bus to kindergarten. Each year, I am just as excited about the promise that I will learn new things, get shaken up, and meet new and interesting people. It's just that my classrooms no longer have that new-crayon smell.

WGSS is growing! Welcome to Tanisha Ford! WGSS is growing! Welcome to Tanisha Ford! We have a terrific assembly of new faculty and other academic professionals (read the people news on page 8 and you'll see why we're excited about them) and the dean has authorized a search this year for a scholar specializing in the African diaspora. It also looks like the provost will give us two new lines. This is very new news, and the details are still emerging, but we know that they will be shared with other departments and help us strengthen existing relationships with other fields. The new lines represent real support in these times—the university took budget cuts this year—and we believe this bodes well for help with continuing to grow the department, and, in the future (sigh) deal with our space problems.

To a considerable extent, this commitment of new resources represents the provost's office's response to our "AQAD" review—see the article on page 5 about it. One of the most important conclusions of that report was to give us encouragement to start planning for a Ph.D. program, which could be the first, public or private, in New England. Our reviewers also argued for the administration to commit five new faculty lines to the department if we were to add a graduate degree while maintaining the excellence of the undergraduate program. We applaud that recommendation because we don't want to undermine a great undergrad program for a graduate degree. In fact, the 2011 UMass Graduating Senior Survey found the Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies undergraduate program to be the best major on campus! On every measure—faculty accessibility, quality of teaching, academic advising, faculty concerns for progress, writing preparation, access to classes, career preparation, and overall experience, our majors rated their experience in WGSS in numerical terms that were notably above the mean for all UMass Amherst majors.

In our fast-moving and innovative field, however, if we're not constantly revamping our curriculum, we're falling behind the curve. While we work hard to keep our courses up-to-date every year, the curriculum is (as it should be) more difficult to change regularly. WGSS at UMass-Amherst has long been a leader in the field, one of the first to put intersectionality at the heart of the curriculum and make it integral to every single course. So now we're planning a day-long departmental retreat in October to look at the curriculum again, trying to think (after adding sexuality to our name) if we are doing enough to make the study of sexuality one axis of all our courses, how the "transnational turn" in WGSS as a field is or should be reflected in our offerings, and what the relationship of "critical race feminisms" as an intellectual field and as a way of describing the history of social justice movements is to what we are doing with the required "women of color" course. We also want to talk very seriously about the possibility of a Ph.D. program. Of course, none of this could happen very quickly; if we drafted a proposal for the Ph.D. tomorrow, it would be four or five years before we could add the degree, and any changes we make to the undergraduate program would take a while to get through Faculty Senate, and then could only apply to the next incoming class.

If you take a look at the planned departmental events this year on page 3 you'll see we have an exciting year planned,

with lots of outside speakers and small conferences. The Valley continues to be a place where feminist ideas thrive, and ours is just one contribution to making sure that there is a lively variety of possibilities. We're also planning a series of seminars, drawing from local faculty, on problems for teaching in Women's Studies; what we're calling "**Artifacts of Feminism.**" How do we teach things that were once really productive interventions that have subsequently undergone vigorous critique? For example: historians these days find the idea of feminist "waves" untenable—as the "lulls" in feminism they posit, together with the insistence on the fundamental differences between feminist activism across generations—turn out to be not supported by the evidence. In fact, feminist activism has been continuous since the mid 19th century and has changed less than you might think. Do we teach students about "waves" and then un-teach it? Other topics include the notion of intersectionality and the genealogies of feminist thought. Since we are all wrestling with these same questions in one way or another, we've decided to organize some talks and discussions about teaching and feminism. The first workshop will be September 26 at 12:30 in Herter 301.

Finally, as chair, I'll spend part of this semester looking at our community relations and development program and asking whether we are doing enough of the right kinds of fundraising. When I was at the University of Arizona, our department was raising about \$250,000 a year. I came to understand that it wasn't just cute or wonky to call what we were doing "friend-raising". Building relationships with people of some means, but not necessarily particularly wealthy, enables them to express their feminist dreams by supporting faculty and students in Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies and enables them to build women's leadership in politics, civil society, and business through their work with our department. Historically WGSS at UMass-Amherst has done less fundraising than we did in Arizona. Massachusetts is in a stronger economic position. It's my hope and belief that somewhere down the line, WGSS can also be that kind of conduit for people's hopes and dreams, a place where folks can know that monetary contribution can make a difference.

For those of us who teach, learn, and work here, it's a done deal: we pour our heart into this place every day, and know that what we do makes a difference. So as the nights turn cold again, we are ramping up for another year, ready for the fireworks of the election, and certain that whatever we are expecting from this fall semester, it will be much more interesting than we can imagine.

Lauren B. J. M.

P.S. Our 40th anniversary is coming up in 2014. We'll have even more to celebrate so stay tuned!

Thanks to donors

We celebrated our graduating majors, minors and graduate certificate students at a lovely brunch in May. This is the first group to get the new T-shirts with our new logo! Without our steadfast donors this event would be reduced to pretzels, water, and maybe stickers. Instead, we can provide our graduates with breakfast, bread, roses, a t-shirt, and, most importantly, a lovely send off! This event is just one program funded by your donations. We are particularly grateful to our donors for supporting our programming and outside speakers. This contributes to a lively intellectual environment vital for exposing faculty and students to cutting edge scholarship in all corners of our field. Thank you to these donors who started off our 2012 donations:

M.C.Z. Abrahamsen
Lindsay Athanasiou
Robyn Bagley
Pamela Berkowitz
Linda Burt
Melanie DeSilva
Andrea Diamondstone
Andrea Fox
Samantha Head
Linda Leslie
Jane Lindfors
Susan Macchia
Diana Riddle

Leona Rockwood
Deborah Rose
Karen Shack
Inez Sieben
Malcolm Thomas
Timothy Valentine
Shirley Wagner
Susan Walker



We are pleased to offer a wonderful series of events this year. *Special thanks to Julie Hayes, Dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts for her generous financial support.*

Artifacts of Feminism

This series will revisit and update basic debates in the field of women's studies such as intersectionality, "waves" of feminist activism, genealogies of feminist theory and more. For details about the topics, visit our website and click on events.

September 26, October 31 and November 28 from 12:30-2:00 in Herter Hall 301.

New Work in Sexuality Studies

The field of sexuality studies is growing quickly, with new work being produced within the rubrics of the traditional academic disciplines, and within new frames of interdisciplinarity. This series is designed to highlight new work in sexuality studies, with an emphasis on work being produced within the social sciences. The series will include papers whose themes intersect with the department's Intersex Symposium, and a planned symposium on work on sexuality in Latin America for early March, 2013. For spring we have Mirielle Miller-Young and Sofian Merabet scheduled to speak.

Kimberly Hoang

Postdoctoral Fellow at Rice University

Chasing the Dragon: Sex, Finance, and Masculinities in Vietnam's New Global Economy

Wednesday October 10, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Campus Center 165-169

The talk will be followed by a reception

Kimberly Hoang is a sociologist and a Postdoctoral Fellow at Rice University in Poverty, Justice, and Human Capabilities at the Center for the Study of Women Gender and Sexuality and the Kinder Institute for Urban Research. She will join the Department of Sociology and the International Studies Program as an Assistant Professor at Boston College in 2013. She received her Ph.D. from the Department of Sociology at the University of California, Berkeley, her M.A. from Sociology at Stanford University, her B.A. from the Communication and ASAM Studies Departments at the University of California, Santa Barbara in 2005. She is currently working on a book project, *Chasing the Tiger: Sex and Finance in the New Global Economy*, that is under contract with the University of California Press. The monograph draws on 22 months of ethnographic research between 2006-2007 and 2009-2010 where she worked as a bartender and hostess analyzing four different bars that cater to wealthy local Vietnamese men and their Asian business partners, overseas Vietnamese men living in the diaspora, Western businessmen, and Western budget travelers. She is interested in the links between changing political economies and intimacy, globalization and transnationalism, gender and migration, and

changing urban spaces in Vietnam's contemporary sex industry. She has written and published academic journal articles, in *Sexualities* and *The Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, as well as news articles for BBC on the global sex industry in Vietnam.

Sex and Pizza – To spark more discussion, Angie Willey and Svati Shah offered to host the humorously titled "Sex and Pizza." Svati opened her class's film screening of Deepa Mehta's *Fire*, about lesbian desire in a traditional Indian household that had sparked protests by Mumbai and New Delhi religious conservatives. It was lively, fun, and well-attended. Watch for Sex and Pizza events!

Five College Intersex Symposium

Friday, October 5, 2012, 10:00-5:00 p.m.

Chapin Auditorium, Mount Holyoke College

The Five College Feminist Science and Technology Studies Initiative (FISTI) is hosting a symposium on intersex. Three exciting talks by intersex scholars and activists will culminate in a roundtable discussion about teaching intersex. The speakers will field questions and share reflections on ways of incorporating it into a curriculum, challenges, and how to move past "The Five Sexes". Follow up will include a workshopping session, sponsored by the Five College Women's Studies Research Center, on syllabi and course modules for teaching intersex in our classes. This is an opportunity to come together and celebrate the rich feminist WGSS community we have here in the Valley by thinking together. There will also be a follow up event for students.

Speakers include:

Caitlin Childs

Activist & Educator

Intersections: How disability can inform intersex in the classroom and beyond



Lynnell Stephani Long

Intersex Activist & Educator

Intersex 201 – Alliance with your LGBT organization on or off campus



David A. Rubin

Senior Lecturer

Women's and Gender Studies
Vanderbilt University



For information about the conference contact the organizer, Angie Willey (awilley@wost.umass.edu) and please put "intersex symposium" in the subject line.

Everywoman's Center Changes Name to Center for Women and Community

CWC's 40th Anniversary Gala Hosted by Representative Ellen Story with Special Guest Author Valerie Young

The Center for Women and Community (CWC), formerly known as the Everywoman's Center, has been providing leadership and advocacy to the University of Massachusetts Amherst, the Five Colleges, and Hampshire County since 1972.

CWC will celebrate at the 40th Anniversary Gala on Thursday, October 25th 2012, 7:00-10:00 PM, 10th Floor Campus Center-Amherst Room at UMASS.

Enjoy hors d'oeuvres, music, performances, our host Representative Ellen Story, and author and inspirational speaker Valerie Young who will sign copies of her new book *The Secret Thoughts of Successful Women*. This is a ticketed semi-formal event, with limited seating, open to the public, and wheelchair accessible.

General Admission: \$40 Student Admission: \$20
Proceeds will benefit CWC's programs and services. If you are unable to attend, donations are welcome.

Leadership and Advocacy Awards will also be presented to four recipients. For more information about the event or nomination process www.umass.edu/ewc or call (413) 545-0883

EVENTS AROUND THE VALLEY

So Much To Do, So Little Time! New Electronic Five College Feminist Events Calendar!

The Five College Women's Studies Research Center has a new website and should have a new calendar up and running by the time you read this newsletter. The calendar will list most events in the five colleges of interest to the WGSS community and friends. For more info: www.fivecolleges.edu/fcwsrc

Five College Feminist Science and Technology Studies Initiative Speaker Series, Fall 2012

Tuesday, September 18
Kiran Asher
Associate Professor of International Development and Social Change, Clark University

Friday, October 5 - Intersex symposium (see page 3)

Tuesday, October 23
Khary Polk
Robert E. Keiter 1957 Postdoctoral Fellow and Visiting Assistant Professor, Black Studies, Amherst College

Tuesday, November 13
Virginia Eubanks
Associate Professor
Women's Studies, University of Albany

Tuesday, December 4
Jacquelyne Luce,
Visiting Faculty, Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies
UMass Amherst

All talks are from 5.30-7:00 pm at Five College Inc, 97 Spring Street, Amherst, www.fivecolleges.edu

Digital Humanities and Gender Studies

Five Colleges, Inc. was awarded a five-year grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the goal of which is to enrich curricula and student scholarship through projects involving the digital humanities.

The Five College Women's Research Center applied for a project grant as part of that initiative, which will enable a host of new activities under the rubric of "The Role of Digital Humanities in Gender Studies: From Research to the Classroom." As a result of the grant, the Center organized the selection of new associates around a theme, "New Media in Feminist Scholarship, Teaching, and Activism." We anticipate that they will help us read, discuss and think in new ways about questions of online teaching and research, the growing digitization of all our lives, and what these mean for everything from security and surveillance to blogging, transnational feminist networking, and building social movements. We anticipate many terrific talks and seminars!

The Center will also sponsor a New Media seminar that, in addition to meeting with the Center Associates and faculty from the Valley, will sponsor two outside speakers. Ann Everett, author of *Digital Diaspora: A Race for Cyberspace*, will give a public lecture on **September 20**. The second, Lisa Nakamura, author of *Digitizing Race: Visual Cultures of the Internet*, will do a short-term residency in the spring.

There will also be five pedagogy working groups/learning communities organized out of this project, four of which are housed primarily at UMass. TreaAndrea Russworm in the English department will be working on "Race, Gender, and New Media"; Leda Cooks in Communication will focus on "Gender and Bread: Embodied Gender Online"; Mari Casteñeda, Martha Fuentes-Bautista, Demetria Rougeaux Shabazz (all UMass Communication) and Bernadine Mellis, Five College Lecturer in Film & Video Production, based in the Film Studies Program at Mount Holyoke College, are working on a project entitled "Five College Feminist Media Justice Colloquium." Banu Subramaniam, Angela Willey, Eve Ng, and Laura Briggs will work on a "Digital Feminisms" project that will enhance the WGSS

digital presence online, develop resources and modules for teaching across the curriculum, and substantially revise several courses to build exciting web resources specific to them. For more information:

www.fivecolleges.edu/fcwsrc/programs/node/3691

All five working groups will be conspiring together to improve their teaching, design new courses, do community outreach, and develop new ways to use digital media for liberatory pedagogy.

Five College Queer and Sexuality Studies

A Five College certificate in Queer and Sexuality Studies is set to begin this fall at the four Colleges. The certificate will hopefully be approved at UMass for next spring. For more information about the certificate and how to apply for it, go to: www.fivecolleges.edu/queerstudies

To coincide with the start of the queer and sexuality studies program, the UMass Stonewall Center, in conjunction with other offices and departments, is sponsoring a lecture series to be held on all five campuses. For information contact the Stonewall Center.

The fall events will be at UMass and Amherst College:

Lee Badgett

Director, Center for Public Policy and Administration,
UMass & Research Director, Williams Institute for Sexual
Orientation Law and Public Policy, UCLA

*Assessing the Case for Diversity: The Value for LGBT
Workers and for Employers*

Tuesday, September 25, 4:30 p.m.

Stonewall Center, UMass

E. Patrick Johnson

Professor of Performance Studies and African American
Studies, Northwestern University

Pouring Tea: Black Gay Men of the South Tell Their Tales

Thursday, October 18, 7:00 p.m.

Cole Assembly Room, Converse Hall, Amherst College

Mitch Boucher

Transgender Representation and the Politics of the Real
Lecturer, University Without Walls, UMass

Thursday, November 8, 4:30 p.m.

Stonewall Center, UMass

Rafael Campo

Award-winning poet and instructor and medical
practitioner at Harvard Medical School and Beth Israel
Deaconess Medical Center, Boston

Friday, November 30, 2012

Room TBA, Amherst College

More talks are scheduled for spring, stay tuned.

We will bring candidates for our new faculty position next spring!

Academic Quality Assessment and Development referred to on campus as "AQAD"

At regular intervals each academic department undergoes a year long rigorous assessment by a team of external reviewers. The department does a thorough self study in the fall semester, and the review team visits campus in the spring and meets with many constituencies and administrators and issues a report. The self study, hundreds of pages long, included history, mission, the field, scholarly productivity, advising, website, undergraduate and graduate education, outreach, resources, university metrics, our department compared to other benchmark institutions and more. We surveyed graduates, had focus groups with current students, supplied tons of documents, and articulated the resource needs necessary to implement our long range plans. The results? We are, indeed, good at what we do, and if we listed all the ways in this article, the newsletter would be nearly as long as the self study document!

Thanks to all of our students, core, adjunct and affiliate faculty, staff, alumni, and colleagues who attended meetings, helped us prepare information, answered surveys and contributed to the review. Our new chair, Laura Briggs, indeed "hit the ground running" with a national level review amongst her very first tasks!

Our Review Team was: Professor Angela Ginorio, University of Washington, Chair of Review Team, Professor Mary Margaret Fonow, Arizona State University; Professor Mary Hawkesworth, Rutgers University all well known and accomplished feminist scholars. The report by the review team included the following:

"On the basis of written materials and oral reports, it is our considered opinion that the department excels in research, teaching, mentoring, and service. We are impressed that the faculty has achieved such an outstanding record despite such limited resources and the challenges created by inadequate space and a diminished number of faculty members. WGSS has cultivated a vibrant intellectual community by building strong relationships with feminist faculty across campus and at Amherst, Hampshire, Mt. Holyoke and Smith."

The reviewers noticed and noted everything--our inadequate space, our past lack of programming money, our excellent staff and superlative students. The graduating senior survey has our department at the very top for student satisfaction. Our graduate students are first rate. Our faculty are leaders in the field. The team encouraged the department to move towards developing a Ph.D.

The report was well received at the Dean's office and we appreciate all their support. Stay tuned for new developments and thanks again everyone!

AWARDS

Congratulations are due to many, including **Jennifer Bergus** and **Tracy Gebhart**, both recognized as William F. Field Alumni Scholars. Congratulations to **Sophia Zaman** for winning a Senior Leadership Award. Our students are always well represented in local activities, fellowships, at the honors research conference and more. In addition, every year our department presents the UMass Amherst WGSS Book Award to an Amherst Regional High School junior. This year the winner is **Aliyah Sarro-Schwartz**. The award is presented to a junior who is active in feminist issues and/or has done outstanding work in the area of women's studies. Congratulations all!

Shu-Jen Oliver, WGSS Major is Chair of the Women of Color Caucus for United States Student Association!

"I am a sophomore with a double major in Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies and Sociology; and the Pre-Med track. Recently I attended the National Student Congress and was elected Chair of the Women of Color Caucus for the United States Student Association for the year 2012-2013.

The vision of USSA: "The student members of the USSA work together with a vision for a just society in which generations of representative leaders understand their power and engage and empower diverse communities to create social change". The mission: "The USSA, the country's oldest, largest, and most inclusive national student-led organization, develops current and future leaders and amplifies the student voice at the local, state, and national levels by mobilizing grassroots power to win concrete victories on student issues. The United States Student Association Foundation ensures the pipeline of effective student leadership by facilitating education, training and other development opportunities at national, state, and local levels in advocating for issues that affect students."

My role as Chair of the Women of Color Caucus is divided into three categories: constituency, national, and campus.

Constituency Role: create a network at UMass Amherst consisting of 10 student organizations; follow through on our work plans decided at Congress; inform the USSA about the progress made by UMass Amherst. National Role: attend six Board meetings and a Board retreat; serve as a model for USSA; recruit new members to USSA. Campus Role: attain 10 large student organizations to assist my organizing efforts; arrange four USSA events on campus; present a USSA legislative briefing to student government, student organizations and the larger student body twice during the school year; organize a USSA Action Team that includes five student organizations.

The USSA is there for all students and defends student's rights such as the right to an education. I was able to

voice myself at the National Student Congress in a way that I never really could have anywhere else. If this is something you would like to be a part of contact CEPA, this is where I found my way to USSA. To find out more they may contact me by email, shujen@student.umass.edu or contact CEPA (Center for Education Policy & Advocacy) by email, cepadirector@stuaf.umass.edu. Organizations can contact me as well as CEPA. For information about USSA www.usstudents.org. "

Congratulations Shu-jen!

NEWS FOR UNDERGRAD STUDENTS

Integrative Experience! Revised GenEd In Major Requirement (IE) for All UMass Students Entering Fall 2010 or later

This spring we will be offering *WGSS 494 Integrative Experience Seminar Unthinking the Transnational: Political Activisms and the Geographies of Development and Power* taught by Alex Deschamps. This is a changed major requirement, instituted for most students entering Fall 2010 or later. (Students: Check your academic requirements page on SPIRE to see if this requirement applies to you.) The goal of this new requirement is to integrate your general education background with the expertise and scholarship you have developed in your major. This course will only be offered in the spring, and will be offered every spring and open to WGSS majors only. Plan accordingly. You are required to take the IE in your primary major. As always, if you double major, carefully check requirements with both majors and the College Dean's Offices.

Five College Certificate in Queer and Sexuality Studies is on the way. . .

A Five College certificate in Queer and Sexuality Studies is set to begin this fall at the four Colleges. The certificate will hopefully be approved at UMass for next spring. For more information about the certificate and how to apply for it, go to: www.fivecolleges.edu/queerstudies See information about this and related events on page 5.

Thinking about your future?

Being on campus gives you lots of opportunities to contemplate academic offerings (double majors, minors, honors, and more) and opportunities for after you graduate. The fall is a great time to explore internships, study abroad and domestic exchange and more. Keep your eyes out for events and visit the various offices that are there to assist you:

Domestic Exchange,
ualc.umass.edu/domestic_exchange/
Field Experience
www.umass.edu/careers/internships/

International Programs, www.umass.edu/ipo/ and of course, close to home, Five College opportunities: ualc.umass.edu/five_college_interchange/

If you want to find out about other majors and minors attend the **Majors Fair**

October 24, 2012, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

ualc.umass.edu/advising/majorsexploration/majorsfair/

Career Services offers numerous events this fall:

Engineering, Sciences and Technology Career, Co-op and Internship Fair

Thursday, September 27, 2012 10:00-3:00 p.m.

Campus Center Auditorium

Annual 5 College Graduate and Professional Schools Information Day

Wednesday, October 31, 2012 11:00-3:00

Student Union Ballroom www.umass.edu/careers/

Commonwealth College

There are many honors opportunities at UMass. The benefits of being part of Commonwealth College include: the opportunity to work with faculty members who are outstanding in their fields of research; the opportunity to do a capstone course or project which will be an asset in applying for graduate school, jobs and internships; possibilities for research funding, fellowships, scholarships, publishing and the opportunity to present at the Undergraduate Research Conference. Applications are due Monday, September 17, 2012.

www.honors.umass.edu/joining-honors-college

In addition to Commonwealth Honors College, WGSS has departmental honors. To find out more about departmental honors, contact the WGSS Honors Coordinator, Alex Deschamps, afd@wost.umass.edu. www.honors.umass.edu/

NEWS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

The graduate Certificate in Advanced Feminist Studies continues to provide an outstanding opportunity for graduate students to broaden their disciplinary research through a coherent and integrated curriculum in feminist scholarship. As reported in past newsletters, we have made some minor revisions to the requirements to be both more inclusive and more focused. In addition to the name change for our interdisciplinary elective we have changed the name of the "Intercultural Perspective" elective requirement to become the "Transnational/Critical Race Feminisms" requirement. While the intent is still to ensure that students understand the critical

importance of the anti-racist politics of racial justice movements and women of color to feminism, it further accommodates the inclusion of transnationalism, critical race studies and sexuality studies into the field of inquiry.

Questions regarding these changes, or anything related to the graduate Certificate program, can be directed toward Nancy Patteson, Graduate Program Coordinator.

This fall Assistant Professor Svati Shah will be teaching our **WOMENSST 791B Feminist Theory** course on Tuesday evenings and on Thursday evenings Professor Laura Briggs will be offering **WOMENSST 695, Transnational Feminisms**. As always, we are indebted to adjunct and affiliated faculty across campus and throughout the five college area for teaching courses that fulfill our elective requirements.

Welcome and farewell!

We welcome the incoming class of 2012! This spring we admitted 8 new students into the Certificate from a variety of disciplinary programs. As we say an enthusiastic "hello" to our new cohort, we must also say a proud "farewell" to the 7 students graduating and moving on from the Certificate program. In addition to the students who are officially coming and going, we are delighted to have so many active and engaged students participating in our program. For those of you wondering, the next admission application due date is March 1, 2013.

News from our present Certificate students:

Kate Marantz, MA/PhD candidate in English received the English department's John Hicks Prize, awarded for the best essay on a literary subject exclusive of Shakespeare, for her paper, "*Making it (In)Visible: The Politics of Absence in Margaret Atwood's Bodily Harm*," which she wrote for Svati Shah's Feminist Theory course, and she also presented a paper, "*The Meaning of the World: Proportion, Space, and Global Awareness in Mrs. Dalloway*," at the Northeast Modern Language Association's 2011 conference in March in Rochester, NY.

Jeff Robinson, PhD candidate in History was awarded the History Department's Simon and Satenig Ermonian Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching, and in March, gave an invited paper entitled, "*Boston's Ladies: Gender, Class, and Cultural Heritage in Boston, Massachusetts' Gilded Age*" at the Value of Historical Work Conference at the University of Massachusetts Boston. He is now a regular contributor to a national blog in his field of public history called "History@Work" www.publichistorycommons.com. "History@Work" is a multi-authored, multi-interest blog sponsored by the National Council on Public History as a digital meeting place--a commons--for all those with an interest in the practice and study of history in public. He writes about connections between historical practice, community, and social activism. Check it out!

Alex Deschamps chaired our successful search for a new faculty member last year. She was also faculty advisor and sponsor for the Women of Color Leadership Network and served as Faculty in Residence at the Residential Academic Program in Orchard Hill. She continued working intensively with first generation college students and underserved ALANA students as Outreach Faculty Advisor of Emerging Scholars, and in recruitment and retention activities more generally in her role as Director, External Student Recruitment, Commonwealth Honors College. At the University level, she was member of 16 bodies and committees, including the Faculty Senate and served as associate delegate to the Board of Trustees up to last year. She continues to be associate faculty in Labor Studies, and is affiliated faculty in Latin American and Caribbean Studies, and in the Language, Literacy and Culture Doctoral Program of the School of Education.

Laura Briggs' book, *Somebody's Children: The Politics of Transnational and Transracial Adoption*, came out in March, and she is nervously awaiting reviews. She published two new articles on poverty and how single mothers lose children in a transnational context, one for Scripta Nova (Spain) and another in Feminist Theory (UK). She is currently working on a piece for a roundtable in Frontiers on the current state of reproductive politics and an introduction to a special issue on child removal for American Indian Studies. She submitted an article on the U.S. and the science of torture to the International Feminist Journal of Politics, after giving it as a talk to the Five College Women's Research Center. She keynoted a couple of conferences—one at Dartmouth on the *Child and the Place of Child Studies*, the other, the National Women's Studies Association annual meeting, on immigration and feminism. At UMass, she gave a talk on WGSS and higher education spending, and another at Brown University on the under-noted importance of women of color in the feminist movement in the US in the 70s and 80s. She has also been active in getting out new and innovative books in Ethnic Studies, serving on the editorial board of the American Crossroads Series at University of California Press.

Laura is trying to do more work as a public intellectual, and started a blog at somebodyschildren.com that comments on current events. The blog has started to generate interest; the Guatemalan consulate and an indigenous rights group contacted her to assist in adoption cases; her work has been cross-posted to Mujeres Talk and mentioned by other feminist blogs. She is also consulting on two PBS documentary films; one on sterilization in Puerto Rico, and one on the kidnapping of children under Franco in Spain.

Tanisha Ford, our exciting new faculty member has a bio and an interview on page 10.

Miliann Kang is working on a new book with the working title: *We Are Not All Tiger Mothers: Asian*

American Women, Work and Family. This year her earlier book, *The Managed Hand: Race, Gender and the Body in Beauty Service Work* (2010, University of California Press) swept the prestigious national awards in the field, including: the Oliver Cromwell Cox Award (American Sociological Association Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities); the Distinguished Book Award (American Sociological Association Section on Sex and Gender); the Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Book Award (American Sociological Association Section on Race, Gender, and Class); and the Sara Whaley book prize from the National Women's Studies Association. She also received the book prize from the Asia/Asian American Section of the ASA. Miliann published a co-authored book chapter on Filipina certified nursing assistants in a forthcoming volume as part of the Ford Foundation's project on gender, migration and low wage work, a chapter in a forthcoming volume on the nexus of body work and sex work, and several book reviews. In addition she received a Smith College Kahn Institute Fellowship and gave invited presentations at Berkeley, Boston College, Pomona College and more.

Svati Shah finished her monograph *Street Corner Secrets: Sex, Work and Migration in the City of Mumbai*, which is now in preparation at Duke University Press. She has multiple forthcoming journal articles, book reviews and book chapters. During the year she presented six invited papers at national and international conferences, including one at the prestigious Bellagio Center (Italy) of the Rockefeller Foundation. She also received a grant from the American Institute of Indian Studies for a senior summer research fellowship, and spent the summer in India working on her new book. The American Institute of Indian Studies is based at the University of Chicago. AIIS disburses funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and is a nationally recognized scholarly center for the study of India. Her reputation as a distinguished international lecturer continues to be demonstrated by the two-day course on Sexuality and Human Rights she taught in Turkey during the summer. Back in Amherst, Svati co-organized a series of three panel discussions on sexuality studies, and organized a talk on queer digital communities featuring an international scholar.

Banu Subramaniam had a busy year. She is completing her book, *A Question of Variation: Race, Gender, and the Practice of Science*. In this book she describes how over the past three decades, feminists have developed the field of feminist science studies to powerfully demonstrate that scientific knowledge is not "objective" or value neutral but rather always embedded in its historical, cultural and political contexts. After all, scientific knowledge has been central to claims of biological differences of sex, race, class, sexuality, nation etc. Feminists have carefully and painstakingly taken apart and demolished scientific studies claiming biological differences. But what of new knowledge

about the natural world? Why does the field of Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies continue to be grounded in the humanities and social sciences? The book argues that that feminists needs to embrace the natural sciences as a central project for feminism and that feminists need to establish “laboratories of their own.” Using case studies of morning glory flower color variation and invasion biology, she demonstrates how we can use the feminist studies of science in the experimental practice of science. Concurrently she had one active sponsored activity as a General Education Fellow on campus. Banu served as the Graduate Program Director for the Department and also chaired the CHFA Curriculum Committee, and served on the University of Massachusetts Press Board and Committee, the Board of the Massachusetts Society of Professors (faculty union), the Board of the Interdisciplinary Studies Institute, and continues her service on the Steering Committee of the Five College Race, Gender, Science Initiative and as Co-Convener of the Five College Reproductive Politics Group.

Angie Willey was awarded a Lilly Teaching Fellowship and a Mellon Mutual Mentoring Team Grant for this coming school year. She will also be participating in the Interdisciplinary Studies Institute and Crossroads in the Study of the Americas seminars. Next summer she will be a fellow at the Leslie Humanities Center at Dartmouth College’s “Towards a Global History of Sexual Science, 1880-1950” Institute. In 2010-2011 she received a Culture, Brain and Development Faculty Working Group grant on “Engendering Circuits of Power: A Working Group on Feminism and Neuroscience” as well as a course development grant from the Five College Program in Culture, Health, and Science. She co-authored an article “Why Do Voles Fall in Love? Sexual Dimorphism and Monogamy Gene Research” for *Gender and the Science of Difference: Cultural Politics of Contemporary Science and Medicine*, 2011 Rutgers University Press and was interviewed about her research for a blog on neuroethics this summer.

www.theneuroethicsblog.com/2012/06/why-do-voles-fall-in-love-interview.html

She delivered papers at conferences in Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Georgia. Angie is on the Steering Committee of the Five College Certificate in Queer and Sexuality Studies and Chairs the Five College Feminist Science and Technology Studies Initiative.

Linda Hillenbrand is enjoying the challenges of gardening and landscaping in her fairly new house and learning a lot about tomatoes, blueberries and especially about keeping lawns green. Her Vice Presidential duties for the University Staff Association (clerical and technical union on campus) are always interesting – this year she is chair of the Constitutional Review Committee, which is charged with updating and revising the union’s constitution. She is also Reclassification Officer which guides members through the cumbersome process of reclassifying their positions. She is also treasurer of

the Health and Welfare Trust, which pays for the dental plan for her union and other state employees. On the workforce, she is excited about the new website, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube and would love to find time to learn more about all of them.

Karen Lederer spent much of the summer on a family medical leave, but is back and ready to go. Last year was notable for her getting her 25 year award (yikes--how is that possible?) and branching out and joining a committee for Dining Services. Much as Karen has a passion for politics, (and of course, food is very political) it is a nice break to think about food, allergies and our award winning dining commons. She is also working with the community based conference “Through Her Eyes: Empowering Girls Through Social Change” coming up this fall.

Nancy Patteson and her family sold their cows and moved out of Amherst this summer. She will miss bicycling to work but otherwise couldn’t be happier with her life changes. In the fall, she will be teaching the Social Justice Seminar for first year students. Along with the teaching, she is excited to be working with Svati Shah to bring in some fabulous guest speakers and, most especially, she can’t wait to be inspired, as always, by the amazing graduate students in the Certificate in Advanced Feminist Studies.

And yes, Arlene Avakian and Ann Ferguson are both now Emerita (retired) and yet are as busy as ever:

Arlene Avakian traveled to Istanbul again this May for two conferences: “Gendered Memories of Trauma and Political Violence” and the “Hrant Dink Memorial Conference” which focused on new forms of political activism this year. She was the respondent for a panel on *Gendering the Armenian Genocide* at the first conference. It was a wonderful panel and the first that focused on this topic. She also had the opportunity to travel to Habab, a small village in Southeastern Turkey for the celebration of the restoration of the fountains in what was once the Armenian section of the village. Other than that she is working on Elizabeth Warren’s campaign, the Valley Jazz Network, developing a Resident Association for Village Hill where she now lives, really enjoying retirement and her new home in Northampton.

Ann Ferguson presented a talk on a panel on gender and social movements at the *Latin American Studies Conference* in San Francisco in May and spent 3 weeks in Sweden working at the GEXcel Institute (Institute for Excellence in Gender Studies) on an anthology of writings called *Love: A Question for Feminism in the Twenty First Century* with co-editor Anna Jonasdottir. She continues to do anti-nuclear power organizing against the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant, and is currently helping to organize an advisory board for ARISE for Social Justice in Springfield.

FAREWELLS

Best of luck to **Dayo Gore**. After teaching in the program for several years (and writing books, inspiring students and more) Dayo is now an Associate Professor of Ethnic Studies and Critical Gender Studies at the University of California San Diego. We will miss you!

Sara Lennox, German professor and STPEC program director retired in the spring. We appreciate all of Sara's support, involvement and indefatigable activism over the many years she was at the University. UMass would be a very different place without her years of service, leadership and brilliant scholarship. (*Editor's note: Special thanks from an old STPEC alum!*)

WELCOMES

Meet Tanish Ford!

We did a national search last year for an assistant professor and Tanisha Ford is our new faculty member. Thanks to Alex Deschamps who chaired the search committee and everyone else who assisted.

Assistant Professor **Tanisha C. Ford** is a self-proclaimed "feministorian." She blends her passion for fashion, performance, and women's rights activism to create her own innovative approaches to studying the social movements of the 20th and 21st



centuries. She received her B.A. in English and African American Studies (Indiana University-Bloomington), her M.A. in Afro-American Studies (University of Wisconsin-Madison), and her Ph.D. in U.S. History (Indiana University-Bloomington). Before coming to UMass-Amherst, she was the Du Bois-Mandela-Rodney Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Michigan. She is invested in research and grassroots initiatives that bring the often marginalized voices of young women of color to the forefront. She is currently working on a book manuscript titled *Liberated Threads: Black Women and the Politics of Adornment*. The book reveals how and why activists, entertainers, and everyday women in the U.S., Britain, and South Africa use beauty culture and fashion to develop modern methods of resistance and cultural-political expression. Her other publications include a forthcoming article entitled "SNCC Women, Denim, and the Politics of Dress" (Journal of Southern History, Summer 2013), "Slavery, Interracial Marriage, and the Presidential Election of 1836" (OAH Magazine of History, April 2009), and a book of primary source material she co-

edited on the Black Feminist and Black Power movements in Britain titled *Do You Remember Olive Morris?* (Gaslight, 2010). To find out more about *Olive Morris*, check out this link to the most comprehensive digital source on the Black Power/Black Feminist and Squatters movement in Britain. rememberolivemorris.wordpress.com/about/

In the fall, Tanisha will be teaching "**Feminism(s) and Fashion in the African Diaspora**" and "**Gender and Difference: Critical Analyses**."

What are you most looking forward to about coming to our program at UMass-Amherst?

I've always felt a cosmic connection to UMass-Amherst. When I saw the job listing in Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies, I was excited to apply and even more excited for my campus visit. During my visit, I loved the energy I felt from the intellectual community. It's that intellectual energy that has sustained my excitement (even through a grueling cross-country move!). I'm looking forward to joining a lively and prolific community of feminist scholars and activists. I am also eager to work with students in the department. I know that UMass-Amherst's WGSS Department is a favorite among students. I believe my style of teaching and mentorship will complement the department's community feel, which blends the best of a large state university with the personal attention of a liberal arts college.

What do you want students to know about you?

I'm a social media junkie! I tweet regularly (@SoulistaPhD), and I write for popular blogs and digital magazines. I like to find innovative ways to incorporate social and digital media into my teaching. My students can expect classes that involve a lot of hands-on learning such as creating blogs, collecting oral histories, and producing feminist viral video projects. I believe that these are excellent ways to reinforce the analytical skill set that our majors need while teaching them how to apply these skills outside of the classroom. I find that such projects also allow me to learn more about my students' creative, professional, and activist interests.

Is there anything else about your background, training, or expertise you would like to share with us?

A little-known fact about me: after I finished my M.A. at the University of Wisconsin, I was an Assistant Director of Academic Programs at Emory University. My major responsibility was to advise more than fifty students in the Master of Public Health program. I enjoyed learning about my advisees' career interests and helping them select the classes and internships that would enable them meet their professional goals. That job taught me the invaluable skill of interacting with students outside of the classroom. Along with research and teaching, mentorship is an important—often undervalued—aspect of what we

do as professors. And, it is a skill that we are not taught in graduate school. For me, the Emory position provided me with on the job training that made me appreciate having less formal interactions with students. I look forward to getting to know the WGSS undergraduate majors/minors and the graduate certificate students. Be sure to introduce yourselves!

And is there anything else you can tell us about other activities you are or have been involved in including special interests, activist projects, etc.?

I love to travel because it allows me to meet new people and find new projects to participate in. I've been fortunate to have opportunities to conduct research in Africa, the Caribbean, and Europe. While on Fellowship in London, I joined the Remembering Olive Collective (ROC), a diverse group comprised of women activists, scholars, and artists from around the globe. I worked with ROC on an oral history project called "Do You Remember Olive Morris?". The interviews ROC conducted with Black Power and black feminist activists in Britain are part of the Olive Morris Papers (which ROC compiled) housed at London's South Lambeth Archive. Along with three other ROC members, I co-edited *Do You Remember Olive Morris?*, a collection of original essays, photographs, and primary documents used to introduce London students to Afro-British history. The book was distributed to public schools in Lambeth borough, which was the epicenter of the movement in the 1960s and '70s. My work with ROC, though brief, was highly rewarding. It changed the way I think about activism and how I can use my history training to make an impact in communities of color around the globe. In Amherst, I'm looking forward to joining The Valley Women's History Collective.

Welcome Jacquelyne Luce!

Welcome back! Jacquelyne taught Race, Gender, Science for us a couple of years ago and we are thrilled to have her back. She will be teaching our intro class (**WOMENSST 187**), Junior Year Writing (**WOMENSST 391W**) and **Feminist Health Politics** in the fall, and three courses in the spring. Jacquelyne's primary interest is in doing critical and engaged ethnography that addresses complex issues at the interface of science, medicine and society. Her book, *Beyond Expectation: Lesbian/Bi/Queer Women and Assisted Conception* focuses on interviewee's stories of trying to become pregnant or a parent between 1980 to 2000 in Canada. This was a period that witnessed many



changes with regard to the rights of LGBT individuals, developments in the field of reproductive medicine, and transformations in understandings of who is and can be recognized as a parent. She has published chapters in gender and sexuality readers and interdisciplinary anthologies and is the co-editor of two successful journal issues of *Innovation: the European Journal of Social Science Research* on converging sciences and technologies.

In her current research, she explores the tensions of patient organizing and lobbying with regard to disability and/or health rights and the politics of internationalizing rare disease patient activism and research. She is interested in the use of collaborative performance projects and new virtual platforms to raise awareness and produce knowledge about experiences with multiple disabilities and having a rare disease in the family.

Welcome to **Onni Gust**, teaching 301 this fall. Onni is a historian of gender and empire in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, focusing on questions of home, exile and belonging. They hold a PhD from University College London and taught at University College London and the London School of Economics. Onni has run a number of community history projects for young people in London on questions of identity and belonging. They are currently a Five College Associate and will be teaching a course UMass and Amherst College this fall, as well as writing their book, *Empire, Exile, Identity: Colonial Networks and the Configuration of Belonging*.



Welcome Cora Fernandez! **Cora Fernandez Anderson** is a Five College Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Comparative Reproductive Politics. She holds an M.A. in International Peace Studies and a Ph.D in political science from the University of Notre Dame. Her research focuses on human rights and women's movements in Latin America and the impact these movements had on shaping and implementing state policy. She is currently working on a project to explain the successes and failures of the campaigns for the decriminalization of abortion in Argentina, Chile and Uruguay.

Welcome to **Julie Castro** as a visiting scholar. Look for her upcoming public lecture later this year. She is a Ph.D candidate in Anthropology at the Institut de Recherche Interdisciplinaire sur les enjeux Sociaux (Iris), researching transactional sex and HIV/AIDS in Mali. Her dissertation is entitled "*Transnational Sex in the Times of AIDS: Social Transformations, Spaces, and Politics of "Prostitution" in Bamako*". She also is a medical doctor with qualifications in international health and public health in developing countries.

Every year or so we ask one of our illustrious alums (one each from the graduate and undergraduate programs) to write about what they are doing and how it connects to their education in Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies.

Adrienne Zahner
head honcho
Turtle Love Co.
www.TurtleLoveCo.com



Every once in a while, I marvel at how different my work life is from what I could have imagined as an undergrad. In fact, my work life is dramatically different even from what I could have imagined just five years ago. These days, I run Turtle Love Co. (www.turtleloveco.com), the fine jewelry e-tailer that I started in 2008. Among other things, my job involves buying diamonds, inspecting vintage engagement rings, recruiting artisan jewelers, and managing a team of six.

After graduating from UMass in 1999 with a double major in STPEC and Women's Studies, I went to law school, followed by two years of federal judicial clerkships and several years practicing commercial real estate law at a big law firm in Chicago and Boston. None of that preparation is an obvious precursor to my current work, but it actually works very well. I expect myself to participate in positive change, to do the right thing, and have the practical know-how to understand the operations of the business world.

I see the work that we do at Turtle Love Co. as a market-based approach to social change. Our core offering is wedding and engagement rings, in a variety of styles and price points. In our culture, the engagement rings and wedding bands that we wear have an enormous impact on the way that we see ourselves and on the way that we are perceived by the outside world. An engagement ring or a wedding band is not merely a personal accessory – worn for many, many years, it speaks to the wearer and to the outside world about identity, ideology, class, and status. If you wear an engagement ring or wedding band, you see it every time you wash your hands, or look down at your computer keyboard, or grab a handful of grapes. When our work at Turtle Love Co. contributes to making a space in the market where couples can make meaningful (and affordable) choices about the symbols that will represent their relationship, I think that we are doing tremendous work towards promoting authenticity (and, by extension, gender equity) in marriage. I find this really exciting.

There are lots of other things that are exciting about my work at Turtle Love Co. Supporting emerging jewelry artisans, promoting ecologically-sound fine jewelry made from recycled metals and recycled stones, designing a

company that is a place of growth and support for each employee, and building an enterprise that is successful in the marketplace are all aspects of my job. It's a job that doesn't sound like a natural follow-on to a major in Women's Studies, but once you get down to it, the whole business is about putting feminism and the lessons learned as a Women's Studies major into practice within the existing cultural context.

I am always learning about people's experiences about wedding and engagement rings, and would LOVE to hear from other WOST/WGSS students and alums about your perspective on the wedding ring/engagement ring experience. I'm also happy to talk to students or alums about building a business based on WOST/WGSS principles. You can email me at adrienne@turtleloveco.com, or you can come see me at Smith College on October 19 where I'll be speaking about my career and offering some lessons learned.

Jolane Flanigan



Having completed my first year as a professor of Communication Studies at Rocky Mountain College, I find myself reflecting on my time as a graduate student at the University of Massachusetts. I have much gratitude for the opportunity I had to work with and learn from the wonderful students, faculty, and staff of the Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies Department. The mentorships, education, and teaching experiences I had as a WGSS certificate student prepared me for the research, writing, and teaching that constitute my career. The theoretical foundations of the WGSS curriculum taught me to ask better questions and find better answers. My teaching experience in WGSS provided me a rich tool kit with which to successfully integrate gender in the classes I teach.

All of this is absolutely true and I am immensely grateful for it, but it says little about what I am most grateful for. To explain I must shift from professional prose to a more personal tone. From this vantage point, my story begins as I nervously dropped off my application to the certificate program—I was sure I wanted to work toward the certificate, but I wasn't sure I would be accepted. A few weeks later I was excited to be chosen as a certificate student and eagerly registered for feminist theory. During class the following fall, I listened as two other certificate students talked about TAing for 187. Both students explained that it was a wonderful opportunity to work with talented professors who were great mentors and to participate more in the WGSS community. That is what I wanted and that is why I turned in my application to be a 187 TA. I was, to say the least, a rather rough applicant.

My interview went poorly. I was intimidated to be sitting around a table with Arlene and Alex—amazing academics and strong women (who I later discovered were also kind and generous with the time they gave to graduate students). I realized, too, that I needed to learn more to be able to teach 187 well. I was not hired then, but I took more classes to broaden my knowledge base, kept my application on file and was (eventually!) hired. The wait was absolutely worth it. Ann, Alex, Arlene, Banu, and Dayo provided feedback and teaching examples that have made me a far better teacher than when I began as a 187 TA.

And it was indeed in large part through TAing for 187 that I became more integrated into the WGSS community. On TA days I had the opportunity to get to know my fellow TAs and to engage in intellectually stimulating conversations. On meeting days, I had the opportunity to stop by the office and talk with Karen, Linda, and Nancy. I grew more comfortable around Bartlett 208 and at some point I began to stay after our weekly meetings to work in the WGSS lounge grading, holding office hours, and working on my dissertation. Eventually, after a couple of years, this grew into long work days spent in the lounge working at the computer only to emerge for popcorn or some encouragement from Karen, Linda, and Nancy. My last year before graduating I spent nearly every Tuesday and Thursday as well as vacation days in the lounge working on teaching prep and my dissertation. In my last weeks of that year, I finished writing my dissertation and fielded job offers while sitting in the green chair at the computer desk.

That summer WGSS began a much needed remodeling project and the lounge was converted to the department chair's office. There was a part of me that was sad at this change until I realized that it wasn't the conversion of the lounge to an office that was the change causing tears to form at the corners of my eyes... it was my impending move and leaving the wonderful people, the conversations, the intellectual stimulation, and the laughter. I have heard it said by other certificate graduates that there is something special about the community of folks that form around the department. I can say that much of what I gained from my time in WGSS I could take with me, but the weekly contact with the WGSS community, well, that is much harder to move! Thankfully, having a good model makes it easier for me to build that type of community in my new position. I suppose, then, that in some ways I have taken it with me.

I thank all those who made WGSS what it was to me—a vibrant and warm academic community.

We love to hear from our grads, whether it is about degrees you earned, new jobs, political projects, family news, travels far and wide or more. Here is our latest batch of news--but keep those cards, emails, calls and messages coming and congratulations to you all.

1970's and 1980's

Maureen Carney completed an electrical apprenticeship with IBEW Local 7, was elected to numerous positions in her union, and went on to earn a M.S. in Labor Relations and Research, as well as an M.Ed at UMASS Amherst. While at the Labor Center, Maureen wrote *A History of Electricians in Western Massachusetts* for the Local 7 centennial, and taught electrical construction technology at Smith Vocational and Agricultural School. Maureen continued her graduate work as a doctoral student in Anthropology, taught in the UMASS Writing program, and works now in workforce and economic development for the Massachusetts AFL-CIO. She is also a four term elected City Councilor in Northampton, and plays violin with the Pioneer Valley Symphony Orchestra.

Susan Crane writes that she and her family became boarders for Guide Dogs for the blind in their final three months of training and are busy working, traveling, and more.

Suzanne Gardinier will be in Havana this fall directing the Sarah Lawrence Program in Cuba. She wrote that she will be celebrating 18 years of teaching poetry at Sarah Lawrence. In February Suzanne will be part of a panel on Adrienne Rich at the *Associate Writing Programs Conference* in Boston. Her most recent book is *Iridium & Selected Poems, 1986-2009*.

1990's

Adam Keigwin, Chief of Staff to California Senator Leland Yee (D-San Francisco), recently received the "Vagina Warrior" award from the Filipina Women's Network and V-Day for his work to help end violence against women.

Norma Palazzo got her certificate as a thanatologist from Mt. Ida College and is the bereavement and spiritual coordinator at the Fisher Home, a residential hospice in Amherst. She reports that she is "very blessed to be doing the work that she loves."

Michelle (Veno) Roberts Business Development Leader within the Corporate Sustainability Group of Owens Corning, was selected to sit on the NAHB Research Center Board of Directors. The Research Center, a third-party testing and certification firm, is an independent subsidiary of the National Association of Home Builders.

2000 and counting

Julia Becker wrote “I am going to be the Director of Community Engagement at Mayyim Hayyim: www.mayyimhayyim.org/About in Newton. I’ll be working on their national consultation model (both in structure and implementation) and on their fundraising model (on the transition to a major gifts model and on implementation from there). It’s an amazing organization that I have been passionate about for a while now and I’m very excited to start working there professionally.”

Zurima Cisneros called to say she is a case manager for a woman’s shelter in Florida.

Sarah Dunton completed her M.Ed. in the Learning, Media and Technology program at UMass Amherst. Sarah’s research focused on the integration of mobile technologies in informal STEM education for girls. To celebrate her accomplishment she, along with her wife and their two dogs, summited the highest point in Massachusetts, Mt. Greylock. Sarah was recently promoted to Director of Education at Girls Incorporated of Holyoke.

Tyran Grillo wrote us about the birth of a beautiful baby boy in August. Congratulations!

Karly Henry graduated in May and is pursuing an M.S. in Plant Science at South Dakota State University this fall.

Kaolin is speaking, blogging and consulting about her book, “*Talking about Race: A Workbook About White People Fostering Racial Equality in Their Lives.*” www.ltar.biz/

Katy Noone Kesselman just completed a CAGS (Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study) at Northeastern University in Psychology, Education and Community with a focus on counseling psychology and school counseling.

Jessica Kinckman is graduating from the Tulane School of Social Work. She plans to work in New Orleans, and is a founding board member of the New Orleans Abortion Fund, the first in the surrounding five states. The fund seeks to provide financial aid to women seeking abortion services.

Ellen Matthews is Assistant to the Vice President of Membership, Corporate, and International for the Council on Foreign Relations in Manhattan.

Christine Rutkoski is the Development Manager at Community Healthcare Network, a non-profit agency in New York City and is working on her Master’s in Public Administration, focusing on Non-Profit Administration. She is getting married next summer.

Parisa Saranj is a columnist at Aslan Media where she writes the weekly *I Heart Iran* about contradictions, ironies and craziness of Iranian politics, culture and Iran-US relations. Currently an MFA Creative non-

Fiction writing candidate at Goucher College, Parisa is working on a series of essays and memoirs about life in modern Iran with a focus on women and their struggle in a country rapidly running toward modernization and change.

Stefana Soitos received a one year fellowship to work with NYC Service, a department of the NYC Mayor’s office.

Annie Tummino is very busy, working as the Manager of Civil Rights Archive at Queens College and is the chair of National Women’s Liberation NY Chapter. In addition, congratulations on the birth of her adorable son in July!

Sophia Zaman is running for Vice President of the United States Student Association, the national’s oldest student-run association that works with campuses across the country developing statewide networks and lobbying for federal legislation that advocates for students.

From our graduate certificate alums:

Lisa Robinson, 2000, is in her 2nd year at Princeton Theology Seminary. She called from Ghana, where she interned this summer. She and her daughter Laci enjoyed their stay. “It has been a very rewarding experience. Our blog address is www.lisasghanaexcursion.blogspot.com. When I return, I will be co-moderator (president) of the Women’s Center and continue to edit their online health magazine. Women’s issues is still a major part of what I do. Time goes by so fast and the past few years have been very busy. I am scheduled to do a mission trip to Haiti over Christmas and in the spring I will be in India with one of my preaching classes from Princeton. Here is a link to an article from the daily newspaper in Charleston about my mission trip to South Africa a couple of years ago. www.postandcourier.com/article/20091030/ARCHIVES/310309909

I (along with my cousin and twin sister) just finished a book for the faith-based community on violence against women. We have received great feedback from police, clergy, seminary and college faculty, churches, survivors, women’s groups, etc. so we are making a few final little edits so that we can work on marketing it across the country.”

Tashi Zangmo, Certificate class of 2008, is Director of the Bhutan Nuns Foundation (BNF), a non-profit organization that was founded in 2009 under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Mother Ashi Tshering Yangdon Wangchuck. The Foundation seeks to help make nunneries leading agents and self-reliant institutions for women. It is committed to women’s education and empowerment as a way of enhancing their capacity to support society in its search for Gross National Happiness. You can learn more about BNF by visiting their website at www.bhutannuns.org or by liking them on Facebook. Tashi’s final project for the Certificate was a research study leading to the formation of this foundation.

ENews

We've had a brand new front page with the new logo for months now and are keeping the news on the front page fresh, so please don't forget to bookmark us. We're still working on the history page and hope to kick that off this semester. Also in the works is a blog page, so please send your blog information – or a blog you love – to lindah@wost.umass.edu.



Thanks to some terrific student interns we have revamped our Facebook page. We no longer have separate groups for alums and the department. Look for us under UMass Amherst Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies Department. We are posting events, photos, and other items of interest so don't miss out! "Like" us on facebook! www.facebook.com/umasswgss



We are tweeting! If you love Twitter, please follow us. [@umasswgss](https://twitter.com/umasswgss)



If you haven't seen it yet, please check out our YouTube channel. Videos of the 35th anniversary are posted and Laura Briggs' welcome reception/panel are also there. We plan to upload as much as we can and will announce when we do so on our listservs.



Our linkedin group for alums still has the same name (UMass Amherst Women's Studies Grads). Join the group to connect with other grads.



The WGSS office is looking good! Remember how it used to look? We don't want to! The pic on the right is where Nancy Patteson sat.

Some of our graduates celebrating at our end-of-year breakfast in May of 2012. See more pictures on Facebook.



Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies Program
208 Bartlett Hall
130 Hicks Way
University of Massachusetts/Amherst
Amherst, MA 01003-9269
#A105185

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 2
Amherst, MA 01002

Address Service Requested

Where was the spring newsletter?

Our readers missed reading it and we missed writing it. This past spring we were busy making news and hardly had time to write it. Here is a partial list of what happened in the spring of 2012 (and this is also the table of contents for the newsletter!)

- Faculty search, welcome Tanisha Ford!
- Review of the Department by External Review Team
(Academic Quality Assessment and Development (AQAD))
- New! Postdoctoral Fellowship Comparative Reproductive Politics in the Americas
- New! Digital Feminisms, Five College grant in digital humanities
- Books were published, awards were won
- Our students were scholars and organizers
- Farewells, retirements, graduations, celebrations

and of course...events, meetings, organizing, developing new courses and more

So we are back, with a newsletter that covers last year and previews this academic year.

This newsletter is produced online and in written form twice yearly if resources allow.

Editor and writer: Karen Lederer. Graphic Design and production: Linda Hillenbrand.

Thanks to Genny Beemyn, Laura Briggs, Tanisha Ford, Linda Hillenbrand, Jacquelyne Luce, Shu-jen Oliver, Nancy Patteson. Svati Shah and Angie Willey for their contributions. Special thank you to Jolane Flanigan and Adrienne Zahner for their thoughtful post-grad reflections.

Thanks also to our alums and faculty for their information.

Send your alum news to: lederer@wost.umass.edu