



### ***Growing by Leaps and Bounds--New Faculty in Fall 2014!***

In the fall, we will welcome **Kirsten Leng**, a graduate of the Department of History at the University of Michigan and a scholar of European feminism and sexology. She has published articles in *Signs* and the *Journal of Women's History*, most recently on German women sexologists in Weimar Germany. Before coming to us, she held two prestigious postdoctoral fellowships: the American Council of Learned Societies at Columbia University and the Sexualities Project at Northwestern University. She will offer courses in Transnational Sexuality Studies, Feminist Science Studies, and Queer Studies.

We are also doing **two searches** this spring, one for a lecturer to be associate director of our graduate program, and one for a faculty member in environmental justice/food/sustainability. Look for news of public candidate presentations. This is very exciting!

Besides these new additions to the department, this fall we will also be joined by **Mecca Jamilah Sullivan**, a poet and literary scholar whom we hired last year. Mecca Sullivan received her Ph.D. from the Department of English at the University of Pennsylvania, and is on a postdoctoral fellowship at Rutgers this year. We are especially interested in what Mecca can bring to the department as a scholar of literature, a foundational discipline for WGSS and a felt absence in the department. She works on Afrodiasporic writers and artists in a transnational frame. She is on the program for this spring's symposium on **Critical Feminist Thought in the African Diaspora (schedule on page 2)**.

We will also be joined next year by **Cora Fernandez Anderson**, 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.

### ***...Coming Up...***

We have a symposium organized on the 40th anniversary of the department and the 20th anniversary of a conference hosted here on "Black Studies, Women's Studies, Where Are We Now?". Presentations will highlight the history of Black feminist scholarship at UMass, the future of Black cultural studies, and emergent sites of knowledge production. The symposium will also provide a space to engage historical and contemporary debates and contributions.

We will also once again have our fantastic career event on **Thursday, March 27 4:30 - 6:30 in the Cape Cod Lounge**. This event brings back grads to discuss their careers, and we do this in collaboration with STPEC, Afro-Am, History, the Labor Center and Career Services. If you are interested in participating please get in touch!

We hope you can join us! Events are free and open to all.

**Symposium: Critical Feminist Thought and the African Diaspora**  
**February 28, 2014, Amherst Room, 10th Floor Campus Center**

**9:30-10:00** Meet/greet & continental breakfast

**10:00-10:15** **Opening remarks**

Joe Bartolomeo, Associate Dean – College of Humanities & Fine Arts, UMass Amherst  
Laura Briggs, Chair – Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies, UMass Amherst

**10:15-11:15** **Keynote address: “The Place of Black Feminism”**

Dorothy E. Roberts, George A. Weiss University Professor of Law & Sociology,  
Raymond Pace & Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander Professor of Civil Rights, and  
Professor of Africana Studies, University of Pennsylvania

Professor Roberts is an acclaimed scholar of race, gender and the law, and her work in law and public policy focuses on urgent contemporary issues in health, social justice, and bioethics, especially as they impact the lives of women, children and African-Americans.

**11:15-12:30** **In the Beginning: Bringing Gender into AfroAmerican Studies/  
Bringing Race into Women’s Studies**

*Presenters:* John Bracey, Interim Chair – Afro-American Studies, UMass Amherst  
Arlene Avakian, Professor Emeritus – Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies, UMass Amherst  
*Moderator:* Paula Giddings, Professor – Afro-American Studies, Smith College

**12:30-1:30** **Buffet lunch**

**1:45-3:15** **New Directions in Black Cultural Studies**

*Presenters:* Tanisha Ford, Assistant Professor – Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies, UMass Amherst  
Salamishah Tillet, Associate Professor – English, University of Pennsylvania  
Emily Lordi, Assistant Professor – English, UMass Amherst  
*Moderator:* Daphne Lamothe, Associate Professor – Afro-American Studies, Smith College

**3:30-5:00** **The Place of Black Feminism: New Methodologies and Praxis**

*Presenters:* Brittney Cooper, Assistant Professor – Women's and Gender Studies / Africana Studies,  
Rutgers University  
Rhon Manigault-Bryant, Assistant Professor – Africana Studies, Williams College  
Whitney Battle-Baptiste, Assistant Professor – Anthropology, UMass Amherst  
*Moderator:* Mecca Sullivan, Assistant Professor – Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies, UMass Amherst

**5:00-5:30** **Closing remarks**

Banu Subramanian, Associate Dean – College of Humanities and Fine Arts and  
Associate Professor – Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies, UMass Amherst

The event is free, please register so we have a count for lunch.

Blog: [blackfeminismsymposium.blogspot.com/](http://blackfeminismsymposium.blogspot.com/)

Use the QR code to register, or see the front page of the WGSS website for the link to register:

[www.umass.edu/wost](http://www.umass.edu/wost)



Co-sponsors: College of Humanities and Fine Arts – UMass Amherst ♦ W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies – UMass Amherst ♦ Department of History – UMass Amherst ♦ Department of Communication – UMass Amherst ♦ Social Thought and Political Economy Program – UMass Amherst ♦ Center for Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies – UMass Amherst ♦ Interdisciplinary Studies Institute – UMass Amherst ♦ Commonwealth Honors College – UMass Amherst ♦ Feminist Studies – Hampshire College ♦ Study of Women and Gender – Smith College ♦ Sexuality, Women’s and Gender Studies – Amherst College ♦ Gender Studies – Mount Holyoke College ♦ Five College Women’s Studies Research Center

Spring 2014 will be busy with these events plus presentations by faculty candidates for our open positions and final presentations by our graduate certificate students. See below and join our events listserv (check "listserv" link on our front page) to find out the specifics.

### ***Student, Alum and Department News***

- ❖ The application deadline for the Graduate Certificate Program in Advanced Feminist Studies is March 1st. Look for final presentations by the 2014 students this spring.
- ❖ For undergraduate majors and minors we are operating under new distribution requirements which began for students entering the department Fall 2013 or later. See an advisor for details and read up on our website.
- ❖ Spring is scholarship season! Do your financial aid applications and check for special scholarships through UMass departments and colleges. One community scholarship we urge you to apply for is:

Ann Ferguson Women and Gender Studies Scholarship

Undergraduate and graduate students pursuing study in women and gender studies at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

Ann established this scholarship in celebration of her retirement. Applications are through the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts. <http://www.communityfoundation.org/scholarships/>

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- ❖ If you graduated from our undergraduate program, look for a career survey coming your way this summer. We look forward to joining the national dialogue about the value of humanities degrees armed with information from people who have lived it, our wonderful alums. Speaking of which, please send us your news to include in the fall newsletter's alum news.
- ❖ The preliminary Ph.D. proposal has been approved by UMass Amherst with the support of the Women's Studies programs at the other UMass campuses. We are currently drafting the curriculum for the (final, formal) Ph.D. proposal. Stay tuned.
- ❖ We have entered our 40th year with staff reconfiguration plus plans for expansion. We look forward to celebrating with you. To that end and to support our ongoing efforts please consider donating to us. You can designate a UMass gift to our department. Your contributions help us pay for events, equipment, swag to give away at admissions events and more.

#### ***Thanks to our donors.....***

We are so gratified by our donors. Not just for needed financial support, but for the vote of confidence that your donations give us. We get small donations and large ones, we hear from alumni, community friends, parents of current students or graduates, even people who graduated before the program existed! We value each and every dollar we get, and we value all of you.

### ***News about the Newsletter***

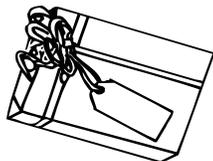
While this is a short edition, rest assured you will get a fall newsletter stuffed with news about our new faculty, our terrific alumni, achievements and accomplishments of the department and more.

This newsletter is written and edited by Karen Lederer, with contributions by Laura Briggs and Linda Hillenbrand. Design and production by Linda Hillenbrand. The newsletter is produced online and in written form twice a year funds permitting.

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## ***Wrapping Up: Bartlett, 40th Anniversary, Staffing and More...***

We knew Bartlett Hall was slated for demolition, but in November we received an email telling us that WGSS was not going to move with Philosophy and English into its effective replacement—the new South College Academic Facility. The current residents of Bartlett were upset by this news, saying that we hadn't been consulted and didn't appreciate being pitted against each other in the scramble for new space. Furthermore, proposed plans for the new building included very few small 25-35 student classrooms that are needed to effectively teach the humanities. After some vocal objections by current residents, it's been revealed that final decisions haven't been made. Check out David Fleming's lovely blog post about Bartlett Hall.

<http://cityofrhethoric.wordpress.com/2013/12/13/in-memorial-bartlett-hall/>

Everyone in the department remains incredibly busy, while we are searching we remain short-staffed so bear with us. Meanwhile the faculty are traveling and presenting as always. The fall newsletter will be chock full of more details!

As always, our Facebook page is active, so don't forget to "like" us.

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