



Message from the Chair - Looking towards a Ph.D. and more

As I write this, we are looking forward to 2013. There are signs of new life in the renewed mobilization of tens of thousands of Zapatistas to our south, and other activism in Native Canada to our north. The Occupy movement has taken on interesting forms, from the “Occupy Parliament” protest in Spain, to the Strike Debt/Rolling Jubilee movement to Occupy Sandy. People of color in the United States rose up, together with GLBT folk, feminists, and progressives to defeat the Republican presidential aspirations in the kind of electoral revolt that rainbow coalitions have dreamt of for decades. At the same time, we remember that there is much to mourn and organize about. Hurricane Sandy reminded us that global climate change is bringing frightening changes to coastal cities, and all of us. We have been at war for nearly a decade. And the Newtown shootings told us that there are way too many guns available to anyone who wants to do harm, and that the massive

violence against women, children, and men continues.

In *Somebody's Children*, I wrote about massacres and campaigns of terror against children in Latin America by governments during the Cold War, by states against Native American and African Americans in the United States, and what they did to communities. I'm not sure I fully understood what it meant though, until now, when the shooting at Sandy Hook elementary happened close to where I grew up. What I learned from Latin American activists, though, mothers of murdered and disappeared children and others, is to use this sorrow to recommit myself to watching for signs of positive change and support them.

There is work at hand for all of us in WGSS at UMass to do, where we are fortunate to have meaningful things to do that can, we hope, contribute to a better world. We continue to be a place that empowers people to be activists, to think critically, to develop theory that enhances our abilities to dream a different world and set out to build it.

After a retreat in October, we have committed ourselves to realizing a Ph.D. program here, and drafted a preliminary proposal. We considered carefully the recommendation of our outside reviewers and the administration to begin a Ph.D. program. Ours would be the only one in New England, and as a public university with such a depth of feminist scholarship and teaching, we see a role for ourselves in educating a new generation of feminist intellectuals and leaders.

For the past two years, our students have ranked WGSS as the best major on campus in the UMass senior survey and we continually challenge ourselves to stay in that position. We want to continue to grow and change in a way that builds on that success. We've particularly been thinking this fall about how to realize the promise implicit in changing our name to include sexuality studies. First, the Five College Certificate in Queer and Sexuality Studies, homed in WGSS, was passed by the Faculty Senate in December. Thinking about the certificate, together with our name change, has encouraged us to think about adding new courses in the field, and, we've submitted a proposal to add a requirement in sexuality studies to our major, and two new gen ed courses: *The History of Sexuality and Race in the United States* and *Transnational Approaches to Queer and Sexuality Studies*. We've also proposed renaming the “women of color inside/outside the US” requirement as critical race feminisms and transnational feminisms, which would slightly shift the courses that would be used to fulfill requirements. While none of these changes would affect currently enrolled students, we're looking forward to new directions for new majors that reflect the ever-changing field.

The department is excited about our search this year—we had a remarkable group of applicants who are currently finishing graduate school or have recently finished their Ph.D. and are scholars of some aspect of the African Diaspora, especially those interested in Latin America and/or sexuality studies. It's been fascinating to learn about the extraordinary work this group of scholars is doing. We owe quite a debt to the search committee, chaired by Alexandrina Deschamps, and including our faculty member Tanisha Ford, Sonia Alvarez, director of

the Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies, Kym Morrison of the Department of Afro-American Studies, and Julio Capó in History, who read a huge number of applications—articles, cvs, and letters. Thanks also to Linda Hillenbrand and work-study students Courtney Babcock and Geidy Romero for their work in organizing all that material. It looks like we would be lucky to have any of a great many people in this pool as colleagues. Fingers crossed for a successful search this year, and others next year.

In the coming year, we will continue to create and support opportunities for people to come together to speak on feminism and its associated political movements and intellectual currents. As you can see from our events on page 5, we are extending our successful “Artifacts of Feminism” into a second semester. Building on the idea of the “Hot Topics” panels of the past, this series is designed to bring together core and affiliated faculty and graduate students from across the university to ask: Have key concepts in Women’s Studies changed? What should we be teaching? The faculty and executive committee planned a spring series in sexuality studies, in keeping with the broader work of integrating sexuality studies across the curriculum, raising issues of violence, pleasure, political economy, and the relationship of queer and feminist theory. Sounds just like us, doesn’t it?

Thanks to Svati Shah for organizing the “New Works in Sexuality” series, which last semester brought us the amazing talk by Kimberly Hoang, “Chasing the Dragon: Sex, Finance, and Masculinities in Vietnam’s New Global Economy,” which argued that hostess bars were crucial spaces for global finance. It was a tour de force. We are looking forward to two more talks—Sofian Merabet’s on Sexuality in the Middle East this spring—and Mirielle Miller-Young’s on Black women and pornography in the Fall—to keep things lively.

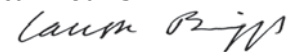
On a related note, the Latin@/Latin American Sexuality Studies symposium on March 4 has provided us with a welcome opportunity to collaborate with CLACLS and our Five College colleagues. Together with some of the talks in the faculty search, we should have some incredible opportunities to think about key issues in the scholarship and activism around sexuality in Latin@ and Latin America. Perhaps it will give us some ways of thinking about how it is that LGBT activism in Latin America has suddenly made such incredible gains in the last decade.

We’re also looking forward to the Center for Women and Community’s gala 40th anniversary event, now changed to February 22. Formerly Everywoman’s Center, CWC has been a leader in advocacy for survivors of domestic and sexual violence, and other women, children, and community issues since 1972. We were proud to receive a certificate of appreciation from them in September, and hope you will join us at the event, for an evening of music, hors d’oeuvres, and speakers Rep. Ellen Story and Valerie Young. Buy your tickets at <http://www.umass.edu/ewc/eventsca/>.

The Five College Feminist Science and Technology Studies Initiative is continuing its incredible field-building work, and hosting another amazing series of talks in the spring. The Valley is increasingly *the* place to come for feminist science studies, and Banu Subramaniam and Angie Willey are critical to these efforts. The Intersex symposium in the fall brought together more than one hundred people from the five colleges and the broader community, to think about activism and teaching that honors and celebrates the people in our midst whose sex challenges binary categorization.

As we peak around the corner at a new year coming, let’s hope for fewer dark moments in 2013. But whatever lies ahead, we can continue the work of educating those coming up behind us. Our long time goal is to build livable, sustainable communities for all of us where ideas and the courage to think new thoughts can flourish.

I look forward to seeing all of you this spring.



Thanks to donors

Our last newsletter listed over an entire year’s worth of fabulous donors. This newsletter is being published just a few short months later, so this list is of course shorter. We are beginning to think about fundraising more to build on our wonderful base of supporters. Thanks to everyone for your continual support for our department. We especially are touched by the many UMass alums who earmark their donations for us.

The link to give to us with a credit card is now direct – no more navigation! Check out our website!

Laurie Churchill
Kathleen Cote
Christine DiStefano
Rebecca Dobkins
Katherine Dwyer

Francine Germaine/Scott Latvalla
Lauren Mahoney
Dale Melcher
Sharani Rebecca Robins
Karen Shack

Alita Woodcock-Parody
Mary Werowski
Ann Williams
Eliza White

SEARCH UPDATES

We are in the midst of a search for a scholar whose work focuses on the African diaspora with a preference for Latin America and/or sexuality studies. This is for a tenure track faculty position to begin in Fall 2013. **Look for candidate talks at the start of the spring semester.** The search is being chaired by Alex Deschamps.

BRAGGING RIGHTS

As always we have much to be proud of: **Dara Nay**, one of our majors won a prestigious national Gilman Scholarship for study abroad in South Africa. **Adrienne Zahner**, one of our alums, spoke at both Smith College and UMass this past fall about her fascinating career journey. **Tameka Gillum**, faculty in Public Health and long time member of too many WGSS committees to count, was honored with the outstanding research award at the Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community's national conference. Finally **Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies** received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Center for Women and Community.

ENEWS

Our evolving website will see some changes this spring. We hope to modernize the look more and to add fill-in forms for majors, minors and certificate students.

The blog page is starting to come together nicely, but we still need more. Faculty, grad students, undergrads, alums.....please send us your blog address. You can also send us a link to your favorite blog if you think other WGSS folks would be interested.

We'll be slowly moving away from putting pictures on our website and adding them to Facebook instead, so please stay tuned to that and "like" us. Our Facebook posts tweet automatically, so if you love to tweet, our address is #UmassWGSS

As always, check our front page for links to Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube.

GSA OUTREACH

We don't just send mailings to you our readers, our alums, our donors, our colleagues. This year we did a mailing to faculty sponsors of Gay Straight Alliances in Massachusetts high schools. The mailing highlighted the fact that UMass Amherst has been awarded 5 out of 5 stars as an LGBT Friendly school in the Campus Pride Index and is one of the first schools with a center like *The Stonewall Center, A Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, Queer, and Transgender Educational Resource Center.*

Of course our department is one of the oldest in the country as well. We sent a letter and cards from admissions plus stickers. If you have contacts in high schools, and/or friends with college bound kids and can help spread the word, let us know.

STUDENT NEWS

The Ann Ferguson Women and Gender Scholarship Fund will be active this spring - watch for emails!

Undergraduate Student News

Sequence of required courses: We are offering our new Integrative Experience class *WGSS 494IE Unthinking the Transnational: Political Activisms and the Geographies of Development and Power* this spring. We will offer the IE every spring. As usual, our Theory class and Junior Writing will be offered every fall semester.

We are in the process of updating our major and minor requirements to reflect changes in the field, and to account for the wide range of WGSS-related classes that are now available. If you are already in the department, don't worry, your requirements remain the same. The requirements will apply to students who declare WGSS as their major or minor by a certain date, stay tuned for specifics. The new requirements travel through an approval process before being implemented.

Our current major requirements include 2 courses on women of color, which include one course on Women of Color in the U.S. and 1 course on Women of Color outside the U.S. – this includes courses that take a diasporic or global approach. Minors are required to take at least one Women of Color class. The new requirements accommodate changes in the field that encompass the inclusion of rubrics of transnationalism, critical race feminisms, and sexuality studies. All three of these rubrics are being taught intersectionally, such that race, class, gender and sexuality are meaningfully included in all courses taught within these three frames. In order to reflect these developments in the Department's undergraduate curriculum, WGSS majors will be required to choose two core courses out of three new rubrics that replace the "Women of Color" requirements (transnational feminisms, critical race feminisms, and sexuality studies). Minors will be required to choose at least one course from these three categories: **Sexuality Studies; Critical Race Feminisms; Transnational Feminisms.**

Lists of classes which fulfill these requirements will be clearly marked in the WGSS Course Offerings Guide published each semester.

UMass Students Can Now Earn a Five-College Certificate in Queer and Sexuality Studies

UMass undergraduates can now earn a Five-College certificate in Queer and Sexuality Studies. This course of study will enable students to examine critically the relationship between queer sexual and gender identities, experiences, cultures, and communities in a wide range of historical and political contexts.

To earn the certificate, students must successfully complete a total of seven courses, including one introductory course, at least one critical race and transnational studies course, and five other courses.

For more information, go to <https://www.fivecolleges.edu/queerstudies> or contact UMass Stonewall Center Director Genny Beemyn: genny@stuaf.umass.edu

Double Majors between the College of Humanities and Fine Arts and the College of Social and Behavior Sciences:

Under most circumstances you will now only have to fulfill one set of college requirements (Global Education or the CHFA Foreign Language Requirement.) For complete information consult both College Dean's offices: CHFA E-20 Machmer, 545-2191, SBS 128 Thompson, 577-1057.

Spring is Scholarship Season! CHFA has scholarships available, deadline to apply is in February, for info: <http://www.umass.edu/hfa/students/scholarships.html>

Financial aid has a page with links to information about scholarships, including a link to the UMass system wide searchable scholarship database.

<http://www.umass.edu/umfa/aidtypes/scholarships/>

Keep your eyes open for other scholarship opportunities through departments, colleges, the alumni association.

<http://umassalumni.com/students/scholarships.html>

Spring is also Career Fair season! Whether you are graduating or not, take the time to attend a career fair and see the possibilities:

ALANA Career Fair

Tuesday, February 19, 2013 1:00-5:00 pm
Student Union Ballroom

Career Blast 2013

Wednesday, February 20, 2013 10:00-3:00 pm
UMass Campus Center Auditorium

Employers attending this event have a variety of opportunities and look forward to meeting UMass students in a friendly and professional atmosphere. All majors and degree level students will find employers with information about full-time employment,

internships, co-ops and summer jobs.

<http://www.umass.edu/careers>

Paid Summer Reproductive Rights Internship

The Reproductive Rights Activist Service Corps is a paid summer internship program that places undergraduate students from Western Massachusetts colleges at reproductive rights and social justice organizations for ten-week internships. The RRASC program defines reproductive justice broadly to include human rights, economic justice, racial equality, queer rights, immigrants' rights, access to health services, and youth empowerment. They are substantive in nature. Interns participate in organizing, advocacy, direct service, education, technical support, and research at a wide range of non-profit organizations throughout the country and internationally. Several WGSS students have done RRASC internships and gotten a great deal from the experience. Applications for this competitive program are due in February.

<http://clpp.hampshire.edu/leadership-programs/reproductive-rights-activist-service-corps-rrasc-internships>

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

We have terrific graduate students who will be presenting their research in February, March and April! See the events section page 5 for details.

ADMISSIONS APPLICATION DEADLINE

Applications for admission into the Certificate in Advanced Feminist Studies are due in the Graduate School by Friday, March 1, 2013. Information can be found on the WGSS website or contact Nancy Patteson, Graduate Program Coordinator, to get answers to your questions or to set up a time to meet.

GRADUATE STUDENT TRAVEL GRANTS

This fall, we offered our Certificate students funding for travel to present at regional, national and international conferences and professional meetings. Applications were competitive but we were able to award 7 students with almost \$3000 combined. Priority was given to students presenting at the National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) annual conference held in Oakland, California last November. Although resources are limited, WGSS realizes the importance of students participating in conferences so we hope to continue to provide this much needed funding opportunity.

Congratulations to **Allia Matta** for completing the Certificate for a February graduation date.

GRADUATE STUDENT PRESENTATION SERIES

Graduate students completing the Certificate in Advanced Feminist Studies are required to work independently with committee members to produce a final research project before graduating from the program. In their final semester they present their research in a public forum with faculty discussants providing scholarly feedback.

This spring we have many students working to complete the Certificate so we have scheduled three presentation dates. The first forum is **Friday, February 1 in Bartlett 316**. The following students will be discussing their research:

12:00 pm - Alix Olson, Political Science
Queer(y)ing Permanent Partnership

12:30 pm - Claire Brault, Political Science
Futurologies: Climate Sciences Rush to Gaia's Deathbed

1:00 pm - Josefa Scherer, Public Health
Put Your Theory Where Your Mouth Is: Public Health and Requisite Normativity

All are welcome. Join us for these exciting discussions of cutting edge research from our amazing graduate students. Upcoming presentations are scheduled for **Monday, March 11** and **Monday, April 8**, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Check our website for further details.

ARTIFACTS OF FEMINISM

This series revisits and problematizes basic debates in the field of women's studies. In the fall we had lively discussions on intersectionality, genealogies of feminist thought and "waves" of feminist activism. WGSS faculty, affiliates, adjuncts, and graduate students talk about teaching crucial but contested paradigms. We start with short presentations by panelists and then open it up to a wide-ranging, no holds barred conversation about what we are doing in the classroom.

The spring topics will include; *Conversations between Queer and Feminist Theory; Teaching Provocative Material in the Classroom; Neoliberalism and Sexuality*

Save these Wednesdays, 12:15-2:00 pm, Herter 301.

February 27, 2013
March 27, 2013
April 24, 2013

For more details about the speakers and topics visit our website and click on events.

NEW WORKS IN SEXUALITY SERIES

Sofian Merabet, Assistant Professor at University of Texas, Austin
Topic: *Sexuality in the Middle East*
Wednesday, April 10, 2013 4:00-6:00 pm
905-09 UMass Campus Center

Mireille Miller-Young, Associate Professor of Feminist Studies at UC Santa Barbara.
Postponed until Fall - stay tuned

CLACLS/WGSS SYMPOSIUM

Frontiers/Fronteras in Latin American/Latin@ Studies March 4, 2013
Herter Hall 301

Sponsored jointly by the Department of Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies and the Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino/a Studies.

This day long symposium focuses on Latin@ and Latin American Sexuality Studies. Some of the questions that animate the meeting include: How are queer and sexuality studies developing in tandem and in tension with LGBT/Queer movements and politics in Latin America? What characterizes the conversation about sexuality among Latina/o Americans? What are the keywords and crucial issues? What are their relationships to the Left, to decoloniality, indigeneity, feminism, militarism, law and marriage, human rights, development, and/or neoliberalism?

Participants will give talks on either the "state of the field" or the "state of political movements," understanding that these things are not always separable (and sometimes are fiercely distinct). It will be free and open to all.

Those who have agreed to give papers include:

Marysol Asencio, University of Connecticut
Julio Capó, UMass Amherst History Department
Tara Daly, Mt. Holyoke College
Rafael de la Dehasa, City University of New York
Michaela Diaz-Sanchez, Mt. Holyoke College
Pasca Bueno-Hansen, University of Delaware
Amy Lind, University of Cincinnati

Co-sponsors at press time: Sociology Department, Communication, Stonewall Center, College of Public Health at UMass, Five College Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies Council, Mt. Holyoke Gender Studies and Latin American Studies, Hampshire College Feminist Studies Program and Latin@ and Latin American Studies.

FILM SHOWING: MISS REPRESENTATION

WGSS in collaboration with the UMass Dartmouth Center for Women, Gender and Sexuality is proud to present: *From Miss Representation to Mass Representation: Educating for Change*, an educational pilot program, **Tuesday, March 12, 2013.**

The documentary Miss Representation (www.Missrepresentation.org) examines the role and status of women in the media and in today's society. The film will be screened at each of the 5 UMass campuses. Students who attend will be invited to a conference at UMass Dartmouth in Fall 2013 for a comprehensive media literacy training to become facilitators of the film.

Trained student facilitators will then go into high schools and middle schools across Massachusetts, and show the film with an age appropriate tailored curriculum. The goal is for students to gain knowledge of the media bias against women and the deep-rooted sexism against women in leadership. Students will then be introduced to strategies to counteract this bias and move to social change.

Juli Parker, Director of the Center for Women, Gender, & Sexuality at UMass Dartmouth, received a Zuckerberg Endowed Leadership Prize from the UMass system to facilitate this pilot program. She "hopes it will inspire young women and men, boys and girls, throughout Massachusetts, to take an active role in ending media bias and sexism within the media and within their own lives. The only way to accomplish this is by educating for change."

See our website for information on time and location.

**FIVE COLLEGE FEMINIST SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY STUDIES INITIATIVE
SPEAKER SERIES - SPRING 2013**

Unless otherwise indicated, all talks will be held at Five College Inc, 97 Spring Street, Amherst

<https://www.fivecolleges.edu>

To join the mailing list for announcements, write Angie Willey awilley@wost.umass.edu or Banu Subramaniam banu@wost.umass.edu.

Monday, February 11, 5:30 pm

Amy E. Slaton

Department of History and Politics, Drexel University
Impossible and Necessary: Crafting a Critical Scholarship of (Dis)ability in Scientific Practice

Tuesday, February 26, 2013 5:30 pm

Michael Dietrich

Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at Dartmouth College, Adjunct Professor in the Center

for Biology and Society at Arizona State University, and Adjunct Senior Scientist at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole

Beyond the Boss and the Boys: Women and the Division of Labor in Genetics and Developmental Biology

Tuesday, March 26, 5:30pm

Kristen Leng

Postdoctoral Fellow in Sexuality Studies at Northwestern University and affiliated with The Sexualities Project at Northwestern (SPAN), the Department of History, and the Women and Gender Studies Program

Sex, Science and Subjectivity: Interrogating Relations of Power/Knowledge in 'First-Wave' Feminism

Friday, April 12, 1:30 pm

A Conversation with **Alondra Nelson**, Columbia University, Department of Sociology and the Institute for Research on Women and Gender.

Location: Faculty Lounge, Franklin Patterson Hall (FPH)

Alondra Nelson will also discuss her book, *Body and Soul: The Black Panther Party and the Fight Against Medical Discrimination*, on **Thursday, April 11, 2:00-3:30 pm**, in the Shirley Graham Reading Room, 2nd floor, New Africa House, UMass.

Alondra Nelson will also give a talk: "*African American Health Activism and the Long Civil Rights Era: The Case of the Black Panther Party*" on **Thursday, April 11, 4.30 pm**, 904 UMass Campus Center

Thursday, April 18 4:00 pm

Rebecca Herzig

Christian A. Johnson Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies, Program in Women and Gender Studies
Bates College

What is Biological Labor?

Tuesday, April 30 5:30 pm

Laura Lovett

Department of History, UMass Amherst

**Mediating Public Spheres:
Genealogies of Feminist Knowledge
in the Digital Age
April 4-6, 2013**

Locations include Amherst College, Hampshire College, and Mount Holyoke College.

Confirmed keynote speakers include Lisa Nakamura, Susan Squier, Alex Juhasz, Anna Balsamo and Jackie Stacey.

This symposium marks the twenty-first year of the Five College Women's Studies Research Center by celebrating the work of Research Associates, Five

College faculty, students, and community partners in women's, gender, and sexuality studies across the disciplines. This interdisciplinary, transnational symposium seeks to create opportunities for sharing ideas about current work in progress and new approaches to integrating media in the (re)emerging areas of WGSS, including feminist science and technology studies, intersectionalities, queer and sexuality studies, global feminisms, and visual, film, and media studies. Major questions guiding the symposium include:

- * Who constitutes public spheres in the digital age?
- * How does academic research in the (re)emerging fields intersect with debates about access and applicability in public spaces?
- * Who participates in the transmission of knowledge and cultural production? To what end?
- * What are the implications of delivering knowledge from one generation of the digital divide to the other?
- * What are the effects of virtual means of transmission on the materiality of lives?
- * What are the pivotal means to incorporate digital media in feminist scholarship and practice?

For specifics: <https://www.fivecolleges.edu/fcwsrc/>
There are other events associated with the Mellon Digital Humanities Grant through the Five College Women's Studies Research Center:
<https://www.fivecolleges.edu/fcwsrc/events>

As always, check out the website of the center to find out about more great programs this spring!

Joyce Berkman retirement celebration

May 3, 2013

Morning: Valley Women's History Collaborative on the Domestic Violence Project

Afternoon: Panel of graduate students

Keynote by Kathy Peiss, University of Pennsylvania

Reception follows

See page 9 for an article and interview!

May 9 is our festive end of year celebration. Stay tuned for specifics!

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

There are always a plethora of wonderful events. WGSS is co-sponsoring a host of programs at UMass and in the Five College area. Check our website for up to date information.

<http://www.umass.edu/wost/events/events.htm>

Mothers in Academia

sponsored by UMass Mutual Mentoring "MotherWIT"

*Note: *THREE* of the panelists are WGSS alums!

Friday February 15, 2013 2:00-4:00 pm

803 UMass Campus Center

Panelists:

Kirsten Isgro, SUNY Plattsburgh, "*Speaking Truth to Power to Change the Ivory Tower*"

Vanessa Adel, UMass Amherst, "*Four Kids and a Dissertation: Queering the Balance Between Family and Academia*"

Wendy Wilde, UMass Amherst, "*Diverse Academic Support for an Employee, Mother, and Nontraditional Student*"

Allia Matta, CUNY LaGuardia Community College, "*Revolving Doors: Mother-Woman Rhythms in Academic Spaces*"

Brenda Bushouse, UMass Amherst, "*Supporting Academic Mothers: Creating a Work Environment with Choices*"

Moderator: **Mari Castañeda**, UMass Amherst

As higher learning institutions move toward more corporate-based models of teaching, the immense structural and cultural changes are transforming women's academic lives and, by extension, their families. This panel features authors from the forthcoming book, *Mothers in Academia* (Columbia University Press, May 2013) and their experiences with the conditions of working motherhood and academic life.

This event is supported by the UMass Amherst Center for Teaching and Faculty Development Mutual Mentoring Initiative, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

STONEWALL CENTER EVENTS

"Hooking Up, Shacking Up, or Breaking Up: How Students Handle Relationships"

Tuesday, February 12, 7:00 pm

174-76 UMass Campus Center

This is the 6th "Where's Love 101" Program. Panel discussion involving students of different races, ethnicities, genders, and sexualities.

Free, Anonymous HIV and STD Testing

Thursday, February 14, Noon-3:30 pm

101 UMass Campus Center

No appointment necessary and no blood is involved, just oral swabs. An HIV test will take about 20 minutes. Testing is conducted by Tapestry Health.

These are just two programs, check website for more.

<http://www.umass.edu/stonewall/>

An Unfinished Conversation With Lee Mun Wah

Inviting students, faculty, and staff from the Five Colleges

All events on Tuesday, February 12, 2013

UMass Student Union Ballroom

Free Event! Registration Required

Workplace Learning & Development, as part of the Five College Diversity and Dialogue Initiatives Group is proud to announce *An Unfinished Conversation*, a new educational program designed by StirFry Seminars, to support diversity and cross-cultural communication training initiatives across the Five Colleges. This program is designed for students, staff and administrators to co-create a strong sense of community and build trusting relationships with one another. In addition to this event, at UMass WL&D plans to follow-up with a Days of Dialogue, building off the Unfinished Conversation event and inviting students for the first time to participate with faculty and staff. These will take place March 26, 27 & 28, 2013

<http://www.umass.edu/wld/unfinished-conversation-lee-mun-wah>

Center for Women & Community

40th Anniversary Gala

Friday February 22, 2013

7:00-10:00 pm

10th Floor UMass Campus Center

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



Enjoy hors d'oeuvres, music and performances. Representative Ellen Story will discuss her experiences as one of the first female legislators in Massachusetts and author and inspirational speaker Valerie Young who will sign copies of her new book *The Secret Thoughts of Successful Women*. CWC will also be presenting its Leadership and Advocacy Awards to four recipients.

Ticket Prices:

General Admission \$40

Student Admission \$20

Proceeds from this event benefit CWC's programs and services. Donations are also welcome.

This is a ticketed semi-formal event, with limited seating, open to the public, and wheelchair accessible.

<http://www.umass.edu/ewc/eventscal/>

From Abortion Rights to Social Justice: Building the Movement for Reproductive Freedom

Friday, April 12, 2013 3:00 pm

to Sunday, April 14, 2013, 12:15 pm

27th Annual Conference for Student and Community Activists, Hampshire College's Civil Liberty and Public Policy's annual conference connects activists from across the U.S. and internationally to build a stronger movement for reproductive justice and social change. The conference supports intergenerational dialogue, encourages youth leadership, and fosters cross-movement collaborations. Through plenaries, workshops, panels, and trainings, speakers will highlight successful examples of activism and illuminate how struggles for reproductive and sexual rights are intricately linked to movements for economic, social, gender, and environmental justice.

<http://clpp.hampshire.edu/conference>



Miliann Kang, Laura Briggs and friends (recognize anybody?) getting ready for the Northampton Hot Chocolate Walk/Race on Dec 2, 2012. This annual sold-out event benefits Safe Passage where women can find the support and information that they need to keep themselves and their children safe and to rebuild their lives in the wake of domestic violence. Many other friends of WGSS also happily participated in the 5K run/2 mile walk. <http://www.safepass.org/>

MORE RETIREMENTS TO CELEBRATE!

Our founding generation is moving on into busy and active retirements. We are ever grateful to them because without their vision and hard work, the department would not exist as it does today. Thanks to all their efforts establishing and strengthening the department.

Dale Melcher Retires

Dale Melcher coordinated the Labor Extension program at UMass and holds an M.S. in Labor Studies from our Labor Relations and Research Center. She was a founding member and serves on the Board of Directors for the Women's Institute for Leadership Development (WILD) and also teaches for the United Association of Labor Educators (UALE) Northeast Regional Summer Institute for Union Women. She is the co-author of *Women and Local Union Leadership: The Massachusetts Experience*, published in the *Industrial and Labor Relations Review*.

Dale has taught Labor Education, Women and Work, and Immigration, Race, and Gender. Prior to all this terrific work at the Labor Center, Dale was staff in (then) Women's Studies from the start of the program in 1974 until 1986. Dale worked with Arlene Avakian, got the program running, developed and taught courses and established our long running internship program. Thanks Dale for giving us a great start.



Joyce Berkman Retires and Establishes Endowed Fund

After 48 years at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Joyce Avrech Berkman, Professor of History and Adjunct Professor of Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies, will be retiring at the end of this academic year. In 1973 Joyce launched the first undergrad and grad courses in US and European Women and Gender History on our campus. That year she was one of the pioneers of Women's Studies (now Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies) and has served on the Graduate Studies and Executive Committees for decades. She co-founded the Valley



Women's History Collaborative, which undertakes diverse projects to collect, preserve and share the past experience of area progressive women activists since 1960. Joyce's wide ranging five colleges and public outreach encompasses the development of Five College Women's Studies, K-12 public education, theatrical productions here and elsewhere, and much more. Joyce's interdisciplinary lectures, workshops and published scholarship span the experience of women in the United States, England, Europe and South Africa, while her teaching and mentoring extend from our campus to campuses in Canada, England and Germany. Joyce has won many awards including the University of Massachusetts Distinguished Teacher Award, University Distinguished Outreach in Research Award, and the University Distinguished Merit Award.

There will be a celebration of Joyce's work on May 3 featuring the Valley Women's History Collaborative's past and present work, presentations by her former students on women's and gender history, and a keynote address by Professor Kathy Peiss of the University of Pennsylvania.

As a parting gift and another act of generosity, Joyce has established the **Joyce A. Berkman Endowed Fund in Women's History and Women's Studies**. The purpose of the Fund is to provide support to graduate students in the Departments of History and Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies. The Chair of History, in consultation with the WGSS Chair will make at least two awards annually. These awards may be for students in one or both departments, determined by an applicant's eligibility, interests, and the nature of the funding request. Priority shall be given to students who demonstrate financial need.

Recipients of awards generated by this endowment will be graduate students whose research, coursework, and academic interests are focused primarily on female experiences and consciousness. Their work should take a multi-faceted approach to intersectional analysis that considers, for example, gender, race, social class, and sexuality, but is not limited to these areas. These funds could be awarded for the following: conference-related expenses (travel, registration, accommodations, per diem, etc.), expenses for research visits to archival holdings, and participation in networking activities related to pedagogy or research. Contributions can be made into this endowed fund, in celebration of Joyce's retirement. <http://umass.edu/give/?a=570>

Joyce Berkman has never flagged in her work for our department from its founding up through today. We decided to get her thoughts in a virtual interview as she retires. Read on.....

JOYCE BERKMAN INTERVIEW

What inspired you to make this gift and structure it the way you did?

Even though my full time position is with the History department, I identify equally with history and WGSS, devoting substantial service to both. I am elated that I am Adjunct Professor of WGSS. I participated in shaping the beginning of the graduate certificate in Feminist Studies and have always served on the graduate committee in WGSS. At one point I stepped in as Graduate Program Director for WGSS. I have sponsored a number of Certificate students. Similarly, in history I serve and have served on the graduate studies committee and have acted as a Reader and as Director of numerous dissertations. I have been involved with masters and doctoral students engaged in the study of women in many other departments on campus. Frequently, these students lack funding and are very worried how they'll manage to survive graduate school economically.

Most graduate students, especially female graduate students, lack sufficient university support in the humanities for professional trips to attend conferences or undertake research projects that require travel. This severely curtails opportunities for professional development as presenters as well as mentoring and networking opportunities with others who share research interests. Inability to travel can curb graduate student archival work, intellectual imagination and limit potential research topics.

You have done a wide variety of things from research and writing books to launching new initiatives. Of all your many accomplishments--helping launch WGSS, the Valley Women's History Collaborative, your research on Edith Stein, Olive Schreiner and more, what stands out for you? Why?

Although I gain immense satisfaction in all of the above and related activities and achievements, I take most pleasure from Teaching – in the widest sense – undergraduates, grad students, other faculty, K-12 teachers, and the broad public. My two university awards for distinguished teaching and for distinguished outreach reflect my priority of values. I get excited by intellectual interaction with others, discussions about ideas, probing the meanings of the past. The intersubjectivity of teaching means that students and I clarify our ideas together, explore our feelings together, redefine our convictions together. By the way, I see this dynamic as working best in face to face education, rather than via the internet screen. I like to stretch my mind and stretch others' minds, to see the gleam in someone's eyes when they see a vital connection between phenomena,

when they make a discovery of links between themselves and a past woman or past patterns of life and present arrangements. Though we never reach full objective truth, the struggle to be as true to experience as possible, whether our own or others, is for me part of our central human mission in life. I love the process of reflecting on how our particular place in specific time enables and limits our imagination, ditto women in the past, including all the variables of social class, sexuality, race, ethnicity and other categories of self-perception and group identification. I find that only in teaching can I experience palpably the process of a student growing into an enlightened and compassionate world citizen. Teaching adults is quite similar, enhanced by adults' greater readiness to bring their life experience and mature passions to bear on a topic. But students are a special population since they are "in formation," more malleable, ready to make mental somersaults.

Looking back on your own education how have things changed for women in the academy?

When from 1954-1965 I took courses as an undergraduate, graduate student and up through my dissertation, women's history as a field of study did not exist. I had never heard of the term "feminism" until I read Betty Friedan in 1963. But I was a feminist, i.e. I believed in gender equality, I believed in women's reproductive rights, I believed that gender equality included all women and all men. These beliefs grew from my democratic idealism, my horror at all forms of oppression, discrimination, injustice. As a child and adolescent I fought against any unfairness inflicted on me or others. I can easily become righteously indignant. Still, I never questioned the dominant male-defined history and the way the academy was organized.

I entered Yale for a Master's Degree for high school teaching, and only after I was in the program did I envision the possibility of a doctorate and college teaching. At the time there was not a single female faculty member in the UCLA and Yale history departments. Of the 25 or so entering grad students at Yale in History, I was one of four women. I applied to Yale, Columbia, Harvard and Princeton, and surprising to me I was accepted at all but Princeton, which sent me a curt one line rejection letter: "We do not accept women into our graduate program in history." I chose Yale because my primary undergraduate advisor held a Yale doctorate. In my studies at Yale we never ever studied a female figure in history, other than queens.

All that has changed, at least here in the five colleges and in many other universities, though far from all. The change came slowly and only through advocacy. When I entered the history department I was one of four women out of roughly 50 faculty members.

When I was hired, the chair asked me whether I would promise “not to get knocked up for three years.” Indeed, in my previous part time position, at Connecticut College, several male and female faculty were upset that I had become pregnant. Now the numbers of men and women in our history department are fairly equal. Issues of gender and women’s lives appear not only in my courses and those of others who teach women’s history but in the courses of others who teach non-gender specific history. Most of this change has taken place in the past two decades. From the early 1970s when I launched women’s history in our department until the late 1980s, progress was quite slow. I needed the support of other women and a few men who understood the limits of male defined history. I needed the support of the ever growing Women’s Studies program. Many of my colleagues viewed women’s history as a passing fad, they resented my adamant questioning of scholars about the place of women and gender in their presentations of topics; some of my colleagues viewed me as a strident feminist who distorted history as they knew it and spent too much time contributing to the development of women’s studies and related projects in the five colleges and community beyond. Quite a few male students were irked that women figured as equal historical creators in my courses in European History and in Twentieth Century England.

These changes are significant, but the feminist vision that I adopted in the late 60s and 70s remains far from realized. At that time, as a creature of the 1960s democratic and social justice ferment, I understood feminism as a radical revolutionary force to reconfigure the structure and values of academia. I took seriously the vision of a more egalitarian, more nurturant, kinder, gentler professional environment, one that subverted the self-centered competitive world that traditional professional hierarchy had fostered. It appalled me that as idealistic feminists continued on in academia they adopted the same male definitions of professional success. Of course, many women did not identify as feminists anyway. They, along with too many feminists, fully accepted that it was okay to be tough and cynical and place self-interest first. These were survival requirements, they argued, or they believed that to critique openly, publicly, male control of department and college politics was too risky and would undermine their and women’s ambitions more generally. Some questioned the idea of a feminist community of mutually supportive students and faculty. The most positive aspect of this questioning was the insistence that the feminist community as initially envisioned did not take into account profound differences among women, but, at times, this important critique was a mask for an inability to act on the principle of care for one another as women. Despite these criticisms, I

am heartened by recent developments in both WGSS and History. I see more feisty responses to university and departmental policies. Some of that wonderful, albeit romantic passion, of the early years seems to be returning. Hurray!

Any other parting words? Advice?

I believe profoundly in the importance of liberal arts, that we are in the business of liberating minds and imagination and hearts to meet phenomena head on, to explore it without blinders (or to discover what our blinders might be). To do this, each thinker must ask questions with no holds barred. And never settle for one response--always follow that question up with at least two more questions. I want students to hate shallow thinking, but instead dive deeper and deeper into the complexities of reality. So, my advice is: be bold, unrelenting questioners of one’s self, of others, of those in authority, of texts of whatever kind. For students: view every position through two lenses: one that is tentative, skeptical, eager for challenges; the other lens is one of confident assertion that you test in action, through experience, political and other kinds, learning through doing.

A similar dual approach concerns your feminism: be an idealist, a visionary, even a utopian, since only that way can you imagine a better world for all women, all sexualities, all genders. And also be a realist, constantly figuring out what is possible at a given moment, making the compromises required, whether in your collective social change activism or in your interpersonal relationships but always as a step to further progress and not as a resting place. And never let anyone tell you that to work on being loving is an old fashioned feminine behavior.



Thank you Joyce!

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30 years ago in this newsletter.....

The more things change the more they stay the same. Some things get better and some injustices take a very long time to address. . .

The fall 1982 newsletter announced the upcoming FIFTH National Women's Studies Association conference. Last fall was the 33rd annual. . . In that same 1982 issue there was an article on Women and Poverty. It read in part: "In a recently released report. . .by Mary Rubin, women's poverty and women's employment are seen as two sides of the same coin. . .other things being equal, women household heads would be paid 30 percent more if they were male." *This December, 2012*, the news broke that Massachusetts gap in pay between men and women is now one of the largest in the country. According to US Census figures analyzed by the American Association of University Women, women earned 77 percent of what men took home in median full time pay, placing us 37th amongst states. In fact, one of our grads was profiled in the press for bringing a pay equity case at UMass. Thanks to AnnMarie Duchon, Associate Director of Accommodation Services, Disability Services for persevering and winning her case.

<http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/2012/12/10/massachusetts-women-forefront-pay-gap/GgRg7bLVbAWMKqCpae3trK/story.html>

<http://www.aauw.org/learn/research/upload/simpletruthaboutpaygap1.pdf>

This newsletter is produced online and in written form twice a year funds permitting. The newsletter is written and edited by Karen Lederer. Design and production by Linda Hillenbrand. Thanks to Joyce Berkman, Laura Briggs, Linda Hillenbrand, Nancy Patteson, Svati Shah, Banu Subramaniam and Angie Willey for their contributions. **Attention grads:** We publish alumni news and updates every fall. Send your alum news to us by June for the fall newsletter and if you have a blog send to Linda to link off our blog page. lindah@wost.umass.edu