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# WOMEN'S STUDIES

University of  
Massachusetts  
Amherst

Fall 2008 Newsletter [www.umass.edu/wost](http://www.umass.edu/wost) 413-545-1922

A Program of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts

## Director's Message

It has been a year since I wrote my last director's message. As many of you know, my daughter Leah Ryan was diagnosed with leukemia in the summer of 2006. Many months of treatment got her into remission for six months, but then the cancer returned. In January of 2008 she had a bone marrow transplant, but once again the leukemia came back. She died in June. [See obituary below] Just after Leah's transplant my son Neal was hit by a car and died. [Neal's obituary is on our website.] During the two years of Leah's illness, I was her primary care giver and was with her in New York City for extended periods. The women's studies staff and core faculty as well as the larger women's studies community came together to keep the department running. I cannot express how much their generosity helped ease my burden. I was living in a nightmare and because people really came together, I did not have to worry about the department. There are too many people to thank here, but I do want to recognize Alex Deschamps and Ann Ferguson who were acting directors, Ann coming out of retirement and Alex adding the directorship to her already full work load in women's studies and Commonwealth College. Alex also took over my class in October when Leah relapsed. Women's studies core faculty and staff also bore extra burdens with generosity and grace, and we were also blessed by associated faculty helping with department committees as well as the searches. Many associated faculty members gave even more of their time during this period: Special thanks to Marta Calas, Anne Herrington, Sara Lennox, Lisa Saunders, Linda Smircich, and all those other colleagues who assisted the program. The support was profound and revealed the strength of our community. A heartfelt thanks to all.

## New Faculty

Despite my being gone for extended periods, Miliann Kang being on leave for a semester, and Banu Subramaniam being on sabbatical for a year, women's studies moved forward during the last two years. We had two very successful searches: one in gender and sexuality studies and a Five College position in feminist science studies to be housed at UMass Amherst half-time. Our new faculty are so stellar, in fact, that they both have post docs next year so will not be arriving on campus until the fall of 2009. The gender and sexuality studies position will be filled by Svati Shah and feminist science studies by Sarah Richardson. An anthropologist whose work focuses on the political economy of migration, sex work, development, and urbanization in South Asia and the South Asian diaspora, Dr. Shah is currently working on a book on sex work and migration in Mumbai's informal sector. She has also been involved in queer, progressive, and feminist South Asian organizations in the U.S. and in India. Sarah Richardson's research focuses on race and gender in the biosciences and on the social dimensions of scientific knowledge. Dr. Richardson's dissertation, "Gendering the Genome" analyzes gender in the history of human sex chromosome genetics from 1900 to the present. She also co-edited the forthcoming book, Revisiting Race in a Genomic Age. We are looking forward to having Svati Shah and Sarah Richardson join the department next fall.

## New Courses

Next semester we have a number of new courses. We are pleased that Alex Deschamps will be teaching a new course "Gender and Transnational Activism: Challenges and Transformations" (which is being submitted for gen ed IG designation). Mitch Boucher will be teaching two undergraduate courses: "Queer U.S. Cultures: Contemporary Issues" and "Queer America: Alternative Sexualities and Genders in U.S. Literature and Film." Students be sure to stop by for our course description guide before pre-registration, yes we are still publishing it on paper, or check our web site.

## Continued Collaborations

Our collaboration with Bennett College for Women in Greensboro, North Carolina continues. Bennett President Julianne Malveaux accepted our invitation to come to campus at the end of September. A progressive economist, Dr. Malveaux is best described as a scholar activist and civic leader. Her weekly columns appear in many newspapers across the country and she is well known for her appearances on radio and television national networks. She gave

**25 years ago in this newsletter** and for many years prior and after we listed regional and national women's studies conferences in the newsletter. These were compiled by going through the stacks of snail mail the program received. Prior to the web, program newsletters (mailed by hand with stick on labels on laboriously maintained mailing lists) were one of the ways that women's studies students and scholars found out news about current issues and upcoming events! How else in the olden days could a student find out about a women's theater festival in Santa Cruz, California or learn about marches being planned or see a list of the women's studies recent library acquisitions.

## ANNOUNCE

Check out the new front page of the website! You won't see the logo as prominently but you will see a picture of our window. Students love our window! The 2007 and 2008 graduates that attended our end-of-year celebration have now been added to the picture on the front page that flashes through the years. This semester we will be adding more pictures and changing the look and feel of most of the pages.



***This newsletter is published twice a year funds permitting. This newsletter is written and edited by Karen Lederer. Design, production, and distribution by Linda Hillenbrand. Thank you to Arlene Avakian, Nancy Patteson, and Linda Hillenbrand for written contributions. This newsletter and past newsletters are available on line. [www.umass.edu/wost](http://www.umass.edu/wost).***

**GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN ADVANCED FEMINIST STUDIES NEWS**

The Certificate welcomes Banu Subramaniam, Associate Professor in Women's Studies, as the new Graduate Certificate Program Director (GCPD). Banu brings excitement and vision to our growing program. We thank Miliann Kang for her hard work last year as GCPD. The Certificate continues to attract a rich cross section of students with a variety of interests. Over the past year, the Graduate Studies Committee evaluated and developed new frameworks to strengthen the curriculum.

Our sincere thanks to the members of the Graduate Studies Committee for their energy and insight over the past year: Joyce Berkman, History; Marta Calas, Management; Laura Doyle, English; Nancy Folbre, Economics; Linda Smircich, Management; Ximena Zuniga, Education and Daphne Berry, graduate student representative and doctoral candidate in the School of Management. Happily, all members will continue to serve on the committee this coming year. The next deadline for admissions applications is **March 6, 2009**. Interested students should contact Nancy Patteson, Graduate Program Coordinator, in the women's studies office or email her: [patteson@educ.umass.edu](mailto:patteson@educ.umass.edu)

Welcome to students admitted in 2008: Julie De Chantal, History; Jillian Crocker, Sociology; Rachel Jessica Daniel, English; Carolyn Gustason, Nursing; Andy Inkster, Sociology; Judith Obiero, Education and Alyssa Schneebaum, Economics.

Congratulations to the following students who have successfully completed the Certificate in 2008: Lori Bindig, Communications; estheR Cuesta, Comparative Literature; Sandra Haley, History; Katherine Mallory, Social Justice Education; Yasser Munif, Sociology; Pierre Orelus, Education; Shannon Payne, English; Tashi Zangmo, Center for International Education.

**Mariela Mendez**, a 2005 graduate of the Certificate writes that she "was completely and absolutely devoted to my [Comp Lit] Ph.D. Dissertation up until last May, when I defended it successfully." She now has a Visiting Lectureship in Spanish for one year at the University of Richmond, Virginia and Joaquin is entering preschool.

**Kyle Frackman**, a 2007 graduate of the Certificate, is a lecturer and the Language Program Coordinator for German & Scandinavian Studies here at UMass Amherst.

**Jana Evans Braziel**, a 2000 graduate of the Certificate and presently an Assistant Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of Cincinnati, writes that she is running in the Chicago Marathon on October 12 to benefit the American Cancer Society. You go girl!!

**Shannon Payne**, recent Certificate grad, has accepted a 3 year post-doctoral position at Tulane University in New Orleans. She will be teaching on issues of homelessness and narrative for the English Department.

**Chizu Sato**, a 2001 graduate of the Certificate program, successfully defended her dissertation, *Rethinking Women, Development and Empowerment: Toward Transnational Feminist Literacy Practices*, in May 2008. Chizu is teaching an intro level class and feminist theory for Women's Studies at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, where she lives with Peter and Tyne.

**Undergraduate News:** New Classes Coming for the Spring! See the Director's message for info. Advisors are here to help you! Check with us regarding your program and learn about educational options.

If you are thinking about graduate school mark your calendar:

**Graduate School and Professional School's Day '08**

**October 29, 2008 - Student Union Ballroom, [www.umass.edu/careers](http://www.umass.edu/careers)**

Women's Studies has students on our decision making bodies. Stay tuned for announcements from our student representatives.



**Arlene Avakian** had an excerpt from her memoir and two poems included among the work of 17 other Armenian American writers in *Forgotten Bread: First Generation Armenian American Writers*, David Kherdian, editor, 2007. In addition, Arlene's article, "Mismatched or Productively Provocative? Using the Color of Fear in a Women's Studies Whiteness Class" was included in *Lessons from The Color of Fear* published by Speak Out -- the Institute for Democratic Education.



**Alex Deschamps** continues to be involved in her campus community work including the General Education Council and General Education Task Force and earlier this year, she attended the American Association of Colleges and Universities General Education and Assessment Conference with other committee members. She also did Spring and Summer Orientation presentations for parents of prospective students. Her off campus outreach involves, among others, participating and facilitating at the Johnetta B. Cole Global Diversity and Inclusion Institute, and being a member of the Power Girls Advisory and Mentoring Council of that Institute. She will teach a new course in the Spring on Gender and Transnational Issues.



**Ann Ferguson** was in Sweden for several weeks this past spring to participate in GEXcel (Excellence in Gender Studies) Institute at Örebro University. While there she spoke on "Global Gender Solidarity and Feminist Paradigms of Justice." She also spoke in Oslo, Norway at a Global Gender Justice conference on the same theme, and spoke in Barcelona Spain at the feminist center La Bonne Maison on feminist justice theories. She is working on a book of writings about Iris Young's work, to be published by Oxford University Press. Ann will be teaching the Advanced Intro to Feminist Theory this fall, Women's Studies 591E. (Yes, she is retired!) Ann continues her activism by being a member of the Leverett Affordable Housing Committee, and working with Feminist Aid to Central America to bring a tour of a Nicaraguan poor women's dance group to the Valley in October (see page 7).



**Dayo Gore** reports that it has been a busy summer. She is working on an anthology, *Want to Start a Revolution? Women and the Black Freedom Struggle, 1940-1980*, co-edited with Jeanne Theoharis and Komozi Woodard that will be coming out next year. She is also finishing up her manuscript "The Work of Radicals: Black Women's Political Thought and Activism during the Early Cold War." Dayo gave a lecture on the "Multiple Voices of Feminism" at the seminar on Twentieth Century Women's Rights Movements led by Professor Nancy Cott. It was part of the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History summer seminars for teachers and was "great fun." Dayo also received a Mellon Mutual Mentoring Micro-grant for 2008-09.



**Miliann Kang** is completing her book, *Nailed: Gender, Race and Immigration in Beauty Service Work*, which is under contract with the University of California Press. She has been invited to present a paper on this work at the University of Warwick in the United Kingdom at the "Body Work: Critical Themes, Future Agendas" seminar sponsored by the Economic and Social Research Council. She is also moderating a panel at the upcoming "Women and Work: Choices and Constraints" conference here at the University, sponsored by the Center for Research on Families, Oct 30-31. In 2007-8, Miliann participated in several projects, including "Gender, Low-Wage Work and Migration" sponsored by the Ford Foundation and "Intimate Labors," a multi-disciplinary conference at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She is collaborating with several of our graduate and undergraduate students, including Sueyeon Juliette Lee on "White Guilt, Asian Guilt and Feminist Guilt: Obstacles to Learning in the Women of Color Classroom." This past year, she was the Acting Graduate Program Director for the Graduate Certificate in Feminist Studies and she continues to teach the graduate seminar on Issues in Feminist Research. She continues to be an active member of the UMass Amherst Asian/Asian American Studies Certificate Program and the Five College Asian Pacific American Studies program.

a public lecture on the impact of race, class, and gender in the presidential election and met with us. She will be joined by Valerie Johnson, the Director of Africana Women's Studies. We look forward to moving ahead on the many exciting ideas that were generated at the meeting last year.

We hope those of you in the area will join us for our events. Check your email and our web page for postings.

*Arlene Avakian*

**Here is an excerpt of Arlene's daughter, Leah Ryan's obituary written by Moira Gentry. It was written to capture Leah's great talent and remarkable humor.**

*Leah Ryan, playwright, author, teacher, gourmet cook, and noted cat butler, died of leukemia in June in New York City. She had initially planned to die of emphysema in Paris, but was unable to secure funding. She was 44.*

*Leah Ryan received numerous academic awards and honors. She attended Holyoke Community College and graduated from Smith College as an Ada Comstock Scholar. She earned her Artist Diploma in Playwriting at Julliard and her MFA from the University of Iowa Writer's Workshop. Ms. Ryan's plays are performed all over the United States, often by actors. She collaborated with the creators of "Just Say Blow Me", "Birth of a nAsian", "Kate's Chink-O-Rama", and on a piece for "Brave New World: American Theater Responds to 9/11." Ms. Ryan's work has been commissioned by several theatres.*

*Ms. Ryan's play "Bleach", a dark comedy about the legacy of the Armenian genocide, received the Maibaum Award for plays dealing with issues of social justice, even though it was funny. Her family comedy "Raised By Lesbians" has been produced all over the US, including the recent performance at The New York International Fringe Festival. Leah was an accomplished and versatile writer: She wrote scripts for the PBS children's show Arthur, including a version of Chekhov's "The Cherry Orchard" and an episode about cancer co-sponsored by the Lance Armstrong Foundation. She wrote plays, post-modern greeting cards, literary reviews, zines, fiction and more. Ms. Ryan was a professor in the Arts and Communications department at The Laboratory Institute of Merchandising and taught playwriting, English, and creative writing to a wide variety of students at elementary, middle, and high schools, colleges, playwriting workshops, technical schools, community colleges and universities.*

*Leah Ryan's publications include the literary anthology For Here or To Go (Garrett County Press), which shamelessly exploited her years of shameless exploitation by the service industry; and work in the small magazines and the anthologies Through the Kitchen Window, Even More Monologues By Women For Women, and The Best of Temp Slave. Her play "Pigeon" was published by Playscripts, Inc. Her short work appeared in 400 Words, including the debut issue, and she was Fiction Editor and a regular columnist at Punk Planet magazine.*

*Memorial contributions may be sent to the Leah Ryan Emerging Writers Fund, c/o Powerhouse Theater at Vassar College, Box 225, Poughkeepsie, NY 12604.*

The entire text is available on our website [www.umass.edu/wost](http://www.umass.edu/wost)

## THANKS TO OUR DONORS

We appreciate the generous donations from our fans, graduates of the program, parents, or admirers from afar. We use your donations to host special events for our students (like our end of semester celebration) and to make necessary purchases. Thank you to:

Nancy Arienti	Lian Jewell	Amanda Ramlow	Iлона Sturm
Judith Branzburg	Teresa Kristan	Mary Ellen Reilly	Gustav Szlosek
Leslie Breault	Linda Leslie	Diana Riddle	Cynthia Warren
Susan Brown-Zimmerman	Jacqueline Levin	Sharani R. Robins	Wendy Wilde
Laurie S. Churchill	Susan Macchia	Nicole Ross	
Jessica Diamondstone	John and Debra Martin	Laura Royse	
Mary Hawkesworth	Kathleen Mirabile-Wagner	Rachel Rubin	
Harris Elder	Jessica Parker	Inez Sieben	



## History of Women's Softball in the Valley

The Valley Women's History Collaborative (VWHC) received funds from the Community Foundation of Western Mass to hold 3 public forums about the Mary Vasquez Women's Softball League. This League, begun in the 1970s and ongoing, was pivotal to the development of feminist and lesbian community in the Valley. Lacey Johnson's video documentary of the history of the League combined with excerpts from oral histories undertaken by the VWHC will launch discussions this fall in 3 locations:

Saturday, October 11, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

The Ark (University's Episcopal Chaplaincy across from Totman Field) Amherst

Wednesday, October 27, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Second Congregational Church, Greenfield (Court Square)

Sunday, November 9, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Florence Civic Center (Park Street)

## The Center for Research on Families announces a two day symposium:

### "WOMEN AND WORK: Choices and Constraints" University of Massachusetts Amherst October 30-31, 2008

The focus will be on key workplace challenges for women in the workforce by reconsidering the notion of 'opting out'. This program brings together experts in the field to consider the factors that lead women to leave the workforce and what factors make it difficult for them to enter the workforce.

#### Thursday, October 30th, 7 p.m.

Joan C. Williams, Distinguished Professor at the University of California Hastings College of Law and Director of the Center for WorkLife Law  
"Opt Out or Pushed Out:

The Real Deal Re Women and Work"

Campus Center Reading Room, Free and Open to All

#### Friday, October 31st, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Workshop: Panel Sessions, 917 Campus Center

REGISTRATION REQUIRED BY OCTOBER 18th:  
[www.umass.edu/family/womenandwork](http://www.umass.edu/family/womenandwork)

For more information contact [wendy@sbs.umass.edu](mailto:wendy@sbs.umass.edu)

Oct. 31, FEE (includes lunch): reduced fees for students

## "A Menace To Society"

### Bill Baird, Crusader for Reproductive Rights December 12 & 13, 2008 8:00 pm, Curtain Theater

This is a staged reading and discussion of the daring crusade of Bill Baird to legalize contraception and abortion. Imprisoned for his civil disobedience, e.g. promoting and displaying contraceptives publicly, his 1967 sentence to jail in Cambridge, Massachusetts triggered organized protests at UMass Amherst. Baird's sentence led to the Supreme Court ruling in Baird v. Eisenstadt, 1972, that legalized contraceptives for unmarried individuals throughout the country, and paved the way for Roe v. Wade. This docudrama is an interdisciplinary effort of faculty and students, coordinated by Professor Joyce Berkman (History), and Women's Studies, History, Creative Writing, Legal Studies and Theater. Project supported in part by a visioning grant from the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

## Sweet Honey in the Rock

Saturday, November 1st, 8:00 p.m.

Fine Arts Center Concert Hall

For information <http://www.umass.edu/fac>

## English Department Troy Lecture 2008

Margaret Atwood

November 6, 2008, 4:30 p.m.

Fine Arts Center Concert Hall

Lecture and book signing is open to all.

## Falling in Love with a Poet

Sunday, November 9, 2008 3:00 p.m.

Jones Library, Amherst

Come spend a late fall afternoon with Smith Poet in residence Nikky Finney and Nancy Pearson, Perugia Press Winner of 2008. Co-sponsored by Everywoman's Center, Perugia Press and the Jones Library. Free, open to the public, and wheelchair accessible.

## Women of Color Leadership Network

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

## Everywoman's Center

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

## Fine Arts Center series

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

## Stonewall Center

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

## Five College Women's Studies Research Center

[www.fivecolleges.edu/sites/fcwsrsc](http://www.fivecolleges.edu/sites/fcwsrsc)

**For other great events, check out these websites!**



**Banu Subramaniam** is back after a productive year on sabbatical. She worked on a book, *A Question of Variation: Gender, Race, and the Practice of Science*. The book seeks to engage the cultural and feminist studies of science in the practice of science. She is back to teaching and research and will also be Graduate Program Director this year.



**Linda Hillenbrand** took on a few new roles that have kept her very busy. She is now the reclassification officer for her union, which means she helps fellow union members navigate the process of upgrading their positions. Since position descriptions for her union were done in 1987, it's challenging to match duties with the descriptions when they talk about mimeograph machines! For the past two years she has also assumed the role of Treasurer as well as Trustee for the health and welfare fund that covers the dental plan for her own unit of classified and technical staff as well as for faculty in bargaining units at UMass Amherst and across the state.

This past summer has been about learning new computer programs as well as keeping up with the family business of tree removal.



**Karen Lederer** enjoyed her service on the College of Humanities and Fine Arts (CHFA) Visioning Committee and her work with the CHFA Career Connections Event. A special treat was her guest lecture on the start of the AIDS epidemic in the U.S. in Women's Studies 294M "Pictures of Health, Gender, Medicine and Film" this past spring. This lecture enabled her to reflect on her years of work on the AIDS Memorial Quilt Project. Karen drove to Chicago this summer (thus achieving 1/3 of her travel goal to drive across the country.) She has redesigned her career class, is still teaching a Dean's Book class, advising of course, reading too many

newspapers and experiencing life as the parent of a college student.



**Nancy Patteson** continues to enjoy her various Women's Studies roles as coordinator of the Graduate Certificate program, departmental scheduling representative, event planner, and data collector for the Women's Studies course guide. She is active on the Faculty Senate Council on the Status of Women, and on the Committee on Committees where she keeps busy recruiting faculty to diversify faculty senate committees. Nancy is happy to have an opportunity to connect with first year undergraduate students by teaching a Social Justice seminar for Residential Academic Programs. Nancy commutes to work on her bicycle and walks at lunchtime whenever possible. When she is not working, she is usually home in her gardens, running, or caring for her animals.

We welcome back **Mary Strunk** who is teaching Women's Studies 290A "The Biology of Difference" and Women's Studies 297P "Hormones, Body Languages and the Politics of Life" this fall. We also welcome back **Alix Paschkowiak** who is again teaching Women's Studies 391W, Writing for Women's Studies Majors. Welcome to new teaching assistant **Jessica Montagna**.

Farewell to **Zetta Elliott**, **Lori Bindig**, and **Sandra Haley** who taught for us this past spring.

Women's Studies bids farewell to **Marianne Winters**, the Everywoman's Center Director. We enjoyed working with her, and wish her well in her continuing efforts to combat violence against women.



## THE 2008 GLENNIE L. JONES MEMORIAL AWARDS

Dr. Dale M. Jones, alumna of women's studies, funded a prize several years ago in honor of her late mother Glennie L. Jones. Three Glennie L. Jones Memorial prizes were awarded this year, two for undergraduate students, and one for a graduate student in Women's Studies. The undergraduate prize is given to students who show a commitment to ending violence against women. The graduate student prize is presented to a student completing the Advanced Certificate in Feminist Studies program. The prize includes a certificate, ceremony and cash award. A plaque with the winners' names hangs in the Women's Studies office.

This year, two undergraduate students shared the undergraduate award: Amanda Molina is a junior double majoring in women's studies and history and was recognized for her work against violence against women. Amanda is an officer of her sorority and has been active in raising money to support agencies that work against domestic violence. She also volunteers with the Women's Health Project as a peer educator. Matthew McDonald graduated in the spring and is a comparative literature major. He took many women's studies courses during his program. Matthew is a certified rape crisis counselor/advocate and worked in connection with the Everywoman's Center. He also

worked with his fraternity and the interfraternity council to pilot a workshop on "Masculinity and Sexism."



Sandra K. Haley was the winner of the graduate Glennie L. Jones Memorial Award. Sandra Haley completed a Master's degree in the History Department and was a teaching assistant for Introduction to Women's Studies. The title of her project was "Expanded Citizenship: Working Women and Labor Rights in 1930's Oaxaca." Her specialty is Latin American history and she has an interest in transnational feminist work.

The next round of prizes will be awarded in the spring of 2009. Deadlines will be announced in early 2009, contact us for details. Congratulations to all and thank you to Dale Jones.

## WOMEN'S STUDIES BOOK AWARD GIVEN TO LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT

This past spring was the first year of the UMass Amherst Women's Studies Program book award at Amherst Pelham Regional High School. Congratulations to Sarah Cycon, a junior at the high school. This award is in recognition of activist work on feminist issues and/or outstanding academic work in the area of women's studies.

## GIRLS INC. VISITS UMASS AMHERST TO LEARN ABOUT TECH

More than a dozen girls from the Holyoke Chapter of Girls Incorporated recently visited UMass Amherst to tour informational technology workplaces and learn about careers. This is part of a program called Build IT: Girls Building Information Technology Fluency Through Design. Build IT is a design-based curriculum that promotes middle school girls' information technology (IT) fluency and incorporates mathematics and computer science. Build IT uses design to both entice and teach girls information technology and computer science concepts. The Commonwealth Alliance for Information Technology (part of the UMass Amherst computer science department) along with the academic computing department at the Office of Informational Technologies worked together for this program. Sarah Dunton, an alum of our program, helped arrange this by posting something on the women's studies list serv. Great community = great results. The program has multiple funders including the National Science Foundation, SRI International and Girls Inc.

# ALUMNI NEWS

**Special thanks to our wonderful alums who made the trip back to campus to speak to current students at career events in the spring of 2008. Stop by the office for contact information for any of our panelists.**

**Maren Brown**

Director Arts Extension Service  
UMass Amherst

**Andrew Elder**

Operations Coordinator/Archivist  
The History Project: Documenting LGBT Boston

**Maureen Carney**

Rapid Response Coordinator  
Massachusetts AFL-CIO

**Gina Govoni**

Homeownership Director  
Massachusetts Housing Partnership

**Ellen Church**

Boston Medical Center

**Michelle Veno Roberts**

Principal CEO  
Chatham Hill Residential Design and Build

**Melanie DeSilva**

Executive Director, MotherWoman  
Special Projects Coordinator, Dean's Beans

**Emily Weiss**

Head of Reference Services  
Bedford Public Library, New Hampshire

**Sarah Dunton**

Director of Youth Development Programs  
Girls, Inc. of Holyoke

\*\*special thanks to Sarah for participating in two career events!

***There will be more events featuring visiting graduates this spring! Stay tuned. These networking events have been lots of fun. Here is even more news about our illustrious grads. See what our terrific certificate alums are up to on page 6.***

**Nancy Arnold** left her Akron congregation after 13 years of parish ministry, and spent the year starting a business called Life Change Consultants and offering Changing Woman workshops for women in transition. She recently moved to Brooklyn, where she will continue her consulting practice and serve as the Pastoral Care Minister for the Bay Shore Long Island congregation.

**Liz Burke** writes that for the past four years she has been Affiliate Faculty at JFK University in the San Francisco Bay Area, teaching writing, research, critical thinking and poetry. This fall she will begin as a Lecturer at San Jose State University.

**Linda Burt** is the circulation business analyst at the Globe.

**Amy (Buswell) LeBlanc** writes that she has been married for 5 years and is the mother of three beautiful girls. She is a mom by day, a bartender by night and pursuing her dream of becoming a midwife by being a student on the weekends studying at Heaven and Earth Midwifery School. Wow!

**Ellen Church** has been promoted to the Associate Administrative Director in the Growth and Development Program, Department of Pediatrics at Boston Medical Center. She adds: "We often have research internship and volunteer opportunities for people who are interested in doing emergency room data collection with low-income families. . . To learn more check out our website at [www.c-snap.org](http://www.c-snap.org)."

**Susan Crane** is working for Women's Health Concern in the United Kingdom. She and Karen celebrated their 2nd year of civil partnership, although they have been together 23 years! Their daughter Lily is turning 7, and Susan is finding old friends on social networking sites.

**Megan Murphy Flood** writes that she is enjoying her work as an RN in the special care nursery of a community hospital.

# ALUMNI NEWS

**Suzanne Gardinier** has several publications including a book of poems called Today: “101 Ghazels”, published by Sheep Meadow Press. In May, the book was featured on Susan Stamberg’s NPR summer books show. In the fall 2007/Winter 2008 issue of The Manhattan Review she wrote an essay about Mahmoud Darwish, the great Palestinian poet who passed away in August. Next year Sheep Meadow will publish a long poem called “Dialogue with the Archipelago.” Congratulations Suzanne!

**Beth Jasniewicz** is the Office Manager and Volunteer Coordinator at the Northampton Survival Center. She writes about how wonderful it is to work in such a brilliant and community-minded organization.

**Dale Jones** was working as the volunteer coordinator at the RECOVER Project in Greenfield, a peer led participatory community program that supports people in recovery from addiction. While in graduate school at the UMass Amherst Center for International Education Dale worked with the center to further their programs. She has also worked at the Cancer House of Hope and volunteered at the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society. Thanks to Dale for founding the Glennie L. Jones Memorial Award!

**Christina Knowles** is now the Statewide Manager and Lobbyist for the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Organization for Women. She had an op-ed piece published in the Patriot Ledger. Christina blogged from the Democratic National Convention this summer.

**M. Dru Levasseur** is an admitted attorney in Massachusetts, New York, and the District of Columbia. He clerked for the Massachusetts Superior Court for the past two years and is now relocating to New York City to pursue public interest law work. In 2007, he initiated New England’s first ever Transgender Pride March and Rally which was this past June in Northampton. This event helped bring national attention to the growing transgender civil rights movement.

**Liz Kupiec** was recently hired by Behavioral Health Networks to work in the Forensics Department at the Hampden County Sheriff’s department. She got her Masters in Mental Health Psychology from Westfield State. She adds that she is “getting married in October” and has a high needs dog.

**Jen Mainville** worked at PETA and Farm Sanctuary doing outreach and education after graduating. She now has the “job of her dreams” working as a Sexuality Educator at Planned Parenthood of the Southern Finger Lakes.

**Roseanne Malfucci** is living in New York City. Her short autobiographical story “Chair Work” was published in an anthology called The Bigger the Better the Tighter the Sweater, Avalon Press, a humorous collection of short stories about women’s relationship to their bodies.

**Katy Noone** just started her 2nd year as a Middle School Literacy Specialist in Framingham. She got engaged to her “best friend and partner” Justin Kesselman who she met while waitressing in Amherst her senior year in college. They will marry this coming summer and just purchased their first home where they live with a “very talkative cat, Freddy.”

**Jan Passion** returned from 3 years living and working in Sri Lanka with the Nonviolent Peaceforce, and is now living in a CoHousing community in Pleasant Hill, CA. He lives with his partner Ellen Furnari, and their 20 year old cat, Fashion. He continues to work for the Nonviolent Peaceforce as a Programme Officer, and when he has time, enjoys sailing on the San Francisco Bay. [www.janpassion.org](http://www.janpassion.org).

**Tinker Ready** sent a recent clip of an article she wrote for the Boston Globe. The article is entitled: “Lightman’s Dream, MIT Physicist and Author Empowers Young Cambodian Women By Building a Dormitory for Them in Phnom Penh.”

**Annie Tummino** will be starting a program leading to a degree in Library and Information Science with a concentration in Archives and Record Management from Queens College, City University of New York. Her interest is in the preservation and distribution of social justice history. Congratulations are in order to Annie who was awarded a David Putter Scholarship in recognition of her activist work.

**Keep those cards, letters, baby announcements, scholarship announcements, publications, change of addresses, and business cards coming! Alumni news is published every fall. We love to hear from you, and we especially like to hear your positive words about the benefits of your women’s studies education.**