

The Ann Ferguson Feminist Social Activist Award in honor of the Thirty-Fifth Anniversary of Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies at UMass Amherst

Ann Ferguson will give two special social activism awards to honor the 35th anniversary of the University of Massachusetts Amherst Women's Studies program. Ann Ferguson has been a longtime faculty member in Philosophy and Women's Studies and was a Director of women's studies from 1995 to 2001 and a founder of the graduate certificate in Advanced Feminist Studies in 1996. She is a feminist scholar and activist. Ann has written several books on feminist theory, is one of the co-founders of the local group Feminist Aid to Central America, and is involved in global solidarity projects in Central America, Mexico, Cuba, Spain, and the US.

When Ann retired in 2007, she established the Ann Ferguson Women and Gender Studies Scholarship through the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts. The Ferguson scholarship at the Community Foundation continues to raise funds to support needy students concentrating on women, gender and sexuality in their university studies, and will provide scholarships in years to come.

This year, in celebration of the women, gender and sexuality studies anniversary, the one-time Ferguson Social Activist Awards will make two \$500 grants, one to an undergraduate major or minor in women, gender, sexuality studies and one to a graduate student in the certificate program in Advanced Feminist Studies. The awardees will show excellence in a feminist activist project for social change. Projects may include: 1) an internship in a social change project that benefits women, which may include international travel and work in another country; 2) participation in a conference that deals with issues relating to social justice; and/or 3) a research project on social movements. Projects with a transnational emphasis are particularly welcome, and the financial need of applicants will be taken into account.

Candidates applying to receive an award must send a 2 page resume and an application letter describing their project, and 2 letters of recommendation, by December 15, 2009 to: Ann Ferguson Social Activist Award, Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies, 208 Bartlett Hall, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003.