



UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS
AMHERST

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♀ Friends of Women's Studies
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Dear Friends of Women Studies,

As the semester is quickly ending, 25 UMass and 5 College students are patiently waiting to experience an opportunity of a lifetime. This January, for ten days, we will be participating in a cultural and educational immersion experience in Cuba, including a three-day gender studies conference at the University of Havana. Many of the participants have been working on papers they will be presenting on topics dealing with the social construction of race, social systems of domination, curriculum and identity, globalization, women's movements, and many other development issues. In addition to the conference, we will be meeting with local activists and artists working on issues of race and class within the Cuban women's movement. We will be meeting with groups of Cuban university students to learn about their work and promote contacts within the Women's Studies network in this unique country, and we will be visiting a few cultural sites in the old city of Havana.

This trip is about bridging the gap between two cultures by understanding and transcending the political tensions that have existed historically. This trip demonstrates our desire to take our education into our own hands. It is about making the world our classroom. We have studied scores of texts, written papers and even collectively watched a film series in preparation for this experience. We want to demonstrate our solidarity, bring our own challenges, but we also want to listen and absorb a deep history that is both very different from and profoundly affected by the U.S.

However, such an enriching educational experience comes with a price tag. With the rising cost of tuition at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, many students are finding it quite difficult to pay for this experience in Cuba. Women's Studies at UMass has been inspired by the generosity of Friends of Women Studies in the past, and we are hoping you are able to be generous again. We would be grateful if you could make a contribution of \$50 dollars or more so this trip to Cuba can become a real possibility. Please see the enclosed informational summary of the trip, clip the donor form from the bottom and send your contribution in with the envelope provided. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Nancy Campbell Patteson at the Women's Studies office at UMass (413-545-1922 patteson@educ.umass.edu), or Katherine Mallory at the STPEC office (413-545-0043 stpecinternship@sbs.umass.edu).

Thank you very much for your continued support for Women's Studies programs at UMass Amherst!

Sincerely,

Song Anh Nguyen
Student Government Senator
Social Thought and Political Economy
Political Science '05
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Victoria Roystenberg
Community Leader
Social Thought and Political Economy
Political Science '05
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Katherine Mallory
Masters Candidate, Social Justice
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P.S. Please send in your gift soon! As we enter an era of heightened global awareness we need to intensify our fervor for education on a global perspective, which is exactly what this trip to Cuba embodies.