

# Women's Studies Newsletter

A Program of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts  
University of Massachusetts Amherst



Fall 2007 208 Bartlett Hall 413-545-1922 www.umass.edu/wost



## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

The word for this academic year is change. People are coming and going. **Alex Deschamps** is now half time in our program and half time in Commonwealth College as the Associate Director, Advising Outreach and a Faculty Advisor. **Miliann Kang** is back after being on an AAUW Post-Doctoral Fellowship last year. After a semester as Associate Dean, **Banu Subramaniam** is on leave for the year. We look forward to having her back with us full time next fall. **Dayo Gore** is not going anywhere, but will not be teaching a full load since she was awarded a Lilly Teaching Fellowship. **Ann Ferguson** has officially retired, although from her activities, it does not look that way. For example, in August Ann was in Greensboro, North Carolina teaching a module of a philosophy course at Bennett College for Women with whom we have a collaboration.

We are delighted to welcome **Mary Elizabeth Strunk**, a lecturer whose most recent work is on gender and hormones. She will be teaching required courses and electives with a feminist science studies emphasis. And some old friends are back. This fall **Stacey Carvalho**, a graduate of our program and a current graduate student in Cellular and Molecular Biology and Women's Studies, is teaching the Biology of Difference and **Kirsten Isgro** (long time 187 TA and graduate of our Certificate Program) is co-teaching 187 with **Miliann Kang**.

In addition to all of this moving around, we have very exciting news – we will be searching for two tenure track positions this year. Collaborating with the directors of the other Five College Women's Studies Programs, we wrote a successful proposal for a Five College position in feminist science studies which will be housed on our campus and shared with Mount Holyoke and Hampshire Colleges. The other position is in gender and sexuality studies and will be totally in our department. **Ann Ferguson** – yes she is retired – will be chairing the feminist science studies search and **Alex Deschamps** will head the gender and sexuality search. We will be asking for help from those of you in the

area when candidates come for their talks. It is going to be a busy and happy time!

We also have some bragging to do. **Karen Lederer** won the University's Outstanding Advisor Award. We all know how much she deserved that honor. **Alex Deschamps** has been awarded a very well deserved promotion to Senior Lecturer. As noted above, **Dayo Gore** has a Lilly. **Ann Ferguson** was feted royally at the Feminist Philosophy conference honoring her work (see article). And to further help us to keep up our reputation that "women's studies is everywhere" our staff has been very busy. **Karen Lederer** was selected to be a member of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts' visioning committee, a group that will both set goals for the college and provide seed money for selected departmental projects. **Nancy Patteson** has been appointed to the Program Administration and Development Advisory Council for the National Women's Studies Association. **Linda Hillenbrand** is now the Reclassification Officer as well as the Vice President of the University Staff Association and was also appointed as the Treasurer of the Board of Higher Education/Massachusetts Teacher Association Health and Welfare Fund.

In addition to our individual work, women's studies faculty and staff worked closely on two projects last year. The Teaching and Learning in the Diverse Classroom (TLDC) grant from the Center for Teaching provided funds and staff support for a seminar including 187 teaching assistants as well as others in the women's studies community. Our focus was developing pedagogical approaches to an integrative analysis in women's studies. The other project continues our collaboration with Africana women's studies faculty from Bennett College for Women and furthers the work on integrative analysis. Faculty from both programs came together to discuss future plans with funds provided by a pilot grant from the Mellon foundation on mutual mentoring granted to us by our campus' Office of Faculty Development.



## Director's message continued....

The pilot was successful and Mellon awarded the Office of Faculty Development a large three year grant to continue this work. As part of this grant, we jointly wrote a proposal to work with faculty at Bennett College to develop a presentation for the National Women's Studies Association Annual meeting on our collaboration and creating a women's studies pedagogy based in integrative analysis across the differences and similarities between our programs.

Collaborating with STPEC and Labor Studies, women's studies organized a very successful career event bringing alums who work for social change agencies to come to meet our seniors (see alumni news). We also collaborated with STPEC to develop a first year residential academic program (RAP) focused on social justice and **Nancy Patteson** has very generously agreed to teach the seminar attached to the program.

As many of you know, I had a family medical emergency and was away for most of the year. Many people stepped up to the plate and kept things running as well as supporting me and I don't know how I would have managed without their help. I will always be grateful for our wonderful staff and faculty, and a very special thanks has to go to Ann Ferguson who took over the director's duties on top of teaching her full load in a very busy year for the program. She had two grants to administer – the TLDC seminar and the Bennett Africana Women's Studies and UMass Amherst women's studies Mutual Mentoring project. Ann was also involved in the planning for the Feminist Philosophy conference. And at the end of the fall semester, her mother died after a short illness, and she had other major family emergencies. So I want to thank her from the bottom of my heart for her enormous generosity of spirit.

It looks like I will have to be out of town a great deal again this school year. Thanks once again to all my colleagues, and especially to **Alex Deschamps** and **Ann Ferguson** for stepping up and working even harder because the program needs them.



## DONORS

We are literally living on your gifts to the program for many of our day to day expenses. You may have gotten a mailing this summer. Please keep those gifts coming. Thanks to all our donors, new and ongoing!

Cara Bedick  
Leslie Breault  
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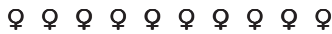
Some of the things you can find on our website: listings for job opportunities that come our way by e-mail, a complete list of faculty in all five colleges that teach about gender, hundreds of links on almost any topic you can think of, every newsletter and course guide since the program began back in the 1970s and a pretty cool link to a women's guide, which we continuously update. Check it out!

# NEWS FOR STUDENTS

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Potential majors and minors! Get your paperwork in! If you need help finding a sponsor, or have questions, contact Karen Lederer, [lederer@wost.umass.edu](mailto:lederer@wost.umass.edu). Feel free to make an appointment to check on your progress, discuss internships, see if a double major or minor is possible, or pursue other academic questions.



This fall we are experimenting with the intake process for our majors. We are expediting the process and having a rolling deadline. That's right: fill out the major application, have it signed by a faculty sponsor, and give it to Karen who can give you the university paperwork.



If you are considering graduate school at any point visit the Graduate and Professional Schools Fair, October 31, 2007 in the Student Union Ballroom, 10-3:00.



If you are worried about career choices, plan to come to our alumni career networking event in April! Our last one was a big success, people made great connections, so don't miss out!

## RESIDENTIAL ACADEMIC PROGRAM WITH A FOCUS ON SOCIAL JUSTICE

New this year is a Social Justice RAP (residential academic program) designed as a living and learning community for first year students with a desire to focus on concepts of social change and their relevance to current issues at UMass and in the world at-large. Nancy Patteson, staff in Women's Studies, is teaching a seminar this year focused on student retention and issues of social justice. She is excited to be back in the classroom and says "we will be learning about resources on and off campus, and reflecting on both internal and external issues of social activism." Students in the program enroll in College Writing 112 and Women's Studies 187 in the fall. This project is a collaboration between women's studies, STPEC (Social Thought and Political Economy) and other programs.

## WHAT OUR CERTIFICATE STUDENTS ARE DOING...

**Brenda Bethman** certificate class of 1997 is the Director of the Women's Center at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

**Pierre W. Orelus**, a doctoral candidate in the School of Education and graduate student in the Certificate in Advanced Feminist Studies, is the author of the newly released [Education Under Occupation: The Heavy Price of Living in a Neocolonized and Globalized World](#). Orelus critically analyzes the ongoing and wide-ranging effects of colonialism and globalization on the poor, especially on those living in the "Third World." A native of Haiti, Orelus grew up the son of a struggling carpenter father and a mother who is a "madan sara," a woman who buys and sells alimentary products under horrible working conditions. He attended and received his first formal basic education in an old church building. When he was 11 years old, he moved from the countryside to the capital, Port-au-Prince, with his older siblings to continue his education. Orelus finished high school at the age of 22 and attended college when he was almost 23 years old. Although he is the youngest child in his family, he was the first one to finish high school and attend college. Pierre will sign copies of his book after a reading at Food for Thought Books in Amherst on Thursday, Oct. 25 at 7 p.m.

**Graduate Program  
Application Deadline:  
The application deadline for  
2008 admission into the  
graduate Certificate in  
Advanced Feminist Studies is  
Friday, March 7, 2008.**

# EVENTS

## Spring 2007 Highlights

### CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

We are searching for two new faculty positions. (see director's message). Candidates will be coming to campus for public guest lectures.

Watch for dates. We hope you can join us at these presentations.

Women's Studies has an events listserv. You can subscribe yourself if you aren't already on the list by completing information on our website.

Pencil in these spring dates:

Women's Studies, STPEC, the Labor Center and Career Services are planning to repeat our successful career networking event! **Tentative date, April 3, 2008.**

Alums: Contact Karen Lederer if you want to be part of this event.

**Our end of semester celebration will take place May 23, 2008!**



### CAMPUS EVENTS

There are wonderful events on campus and in the community. The Fine Arts Center has many events of interest to the readers of this newsletter. New World Theater has several programs in their series this year that focus on women's issues, as does the Asian Arts and Culture Program. <http://www.umass.edu/fac/> for complete information. The Stonewall Center has terrific events and resources: info: <http://www.umass.edu/stonewall/> Everywoman's Center can be reached at 545-0883 or [www.umass.edu/ewc](http://www.umass.edu/ewc). The Women of Color Leadership network is again doing their body politics series, contact the program for information.

The Five College Women's Studies Research Center has their usual wonderful array of talks and readings. <http://www.fivecolleges.edu/sites/fcwsrc/> Their website also lists area events.

All of these and more are linked from our extensive website [www.umass.edu/wost](http://www.umass.edu/wost).

### FEMINIST PHILOSOPHY CONFERENCE *CELEBRATING THE CAREER AND LEGACY OF ANN FERGUSON*

This very successful conference was held in May 2007 to celebrate Ann Ferguson's incredible energetic career as a philosopher, feminist and activist. This quote is from the invitation to the conference: *Ann Ferguson, one of the mothers of feminist philosophy, stands as a shining example of the engaged academic, the public intellectual. Her research, while engaging heady theoretical issues about materiality, sexuality, and political life, has always been firmly rooted in her deep and active commitment to the establishment of justice. Through her teaching, public service, and activism, she has inspired countless others to link thinking to acting, and acting to thinking. The University of Massachusetts Amherst, has been the home base of Ann's inspiring work for over four decades. The keynote speaker was Uma Narayan, from Philosophy at Vassar College.*

Nearly 200 current and former students, colleagues and friends of Ann's attended the conference for a lively series of debates, discussions, meals and conversations. The conference was sponsored by the Department of Philosophy, Women's Studies Program, Interdisciplinary Seminar in Humanities and Fine Arts (ISHA), College of Humanities and Fine Arts, Vice-Provost for Research, and *Organization* (*Organization Studies Journal*) and was free to all.

A link to the conference, complete list of speakers, and some of the papers are on our website:

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

Added note: Ann was recognized by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts House of Representatives and the State Senate. The citations for Ann Ferguson read: *In recognition of Your Pivotal Role in the Development of Feminist Philosophy, And Over Four Decades of Contributions to Academia and the University of Massachusetts.*

**EDITORS NOTE:  
WE COULDN'T HAVE SAID IT BETTER!**



## ANN FERGUSON WOMEN'S STUDIES SCHOLARSHIP

In memory of her mother, Elizabeth, who died in January 2007, Ann has established a Women's Studies scholarship. Ann's mother was a schoolteacher who valued education and the right to pursue it to the highest level. The *Ann Ferguson Women's Studies Scholarship* is designed to fund a scholarship every three years for an older, low income, returning graduate student or undergraduate in any discipline who is also pursuing a Women Studies Graduate Certificate in Advanced Feminist Studies. The initial announcement of this scholarship program was made at the feminist philosophy conference in honor of Ann Ferguson's retirement in the spring of 2007.

Checks can be made out to the Ann Ferguson Women and Gender Studies Scholarship Fund and sent to the Women's Studies Program, c/o Nancy Patteson, 208 Bartlett Hall, UMass Amherst, 01003.

Thanks to the inaugural donors to the Ann Ferguson Women's Studies Scholarship Fund:

Louise Antony and Joe Levine

Bat-Ami Bar On

Lynne Rudder Baker

Sandra Bartkey

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Marta Calas

Phil Cox

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## 2007 WINNERS OF THE GLENNIE L. JONES MEMORIAL AWARD

Dr. Dale M. Jones, alumna of women's studies, 1986, 2004 (G) funded an annual prize in honor of her late mother Glennie L. Jones in 2006. Four prizes were awarded this year, two for undergraduate students, and two for graduate students 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 students 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 office.

Undergraduate seniors Allison Slutter and Loren Fields shared the undergraduate award. Allison Slutter graduated with honors, a double major in Women's Studies and Sociology. She volunteered at Everywoman's Center as a Sexual Assault Counselor Advocate and was a key organizer for Take Back the Night. She just started at Columbia University's School of Social Work and Mailman School of Public Health. Loren Fields was a Psychology major and a Women's Studies minor and graduated with honors. She studied and did community service in Cape Town, South Africa. Loren worked at the Everywoman's Center in the Resource Referral Program. She is attending Yale University to become a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner.

Graduate students Michel J. Boucher and Katherine Maich are sharing the Glennie L. Jones Memorial Award for Outstanding Graduate Feminist Scholarship. Both winners completed the Women's Studies graduate Certificate in Advanced Feminist Studies last spring. Michel "Mitch" Boucher is a doctoral candidate in the English Department. Mitch was a teaching assistant for Women's Studies for many years and taught 'Queer America: Alternative Genders and Sexualities in 20th Century U.S.' last spring. The award acknowledges outstanding scholarship on his final research paper "Transforming Connections: Toward an Intersectional Trans Feminist Theory." Katherine Maich completed a Master's degree in Labor Studies. Kate's final paper was on "Representations of Gendered Service Workers: Examining Resistance, Agency, and Positionality."

The Glennie L. Jones Awards were awarded at our festive end of year celebration where we toasted the accomplishments of our undergraduate and graduate students.

# ....ALUMNI NEWS....

*Ms. Magazine had an article in Spring 2007 with follow up posts entitled "What you can do with a Women's Studies degree?"* [www.msmagazine.com](http://www.msmagazine.com)

*We know what wonderful things women's studies grads can do, graduates of our major, minor and graduate certificate program make us proud. Send us your news for our next round of alumni updates!*



Special thanks to our alums who attended our career networking event: *Making Connections: Life after UMass Amherst, Jobs and Internships in Social Change* co-sponsored with The Labor Center, STPEC, Career Services and the Social and Behavioral Sciences Dean's Office.

Thanks to **Cara Bedick**, Assistant Editor, Simon Spotlight Entertainment; **Sarah T. Dunton**, Director of Youth Development Programs, Girls Inc. of Holyoke; **Cheri Ehrlich**, Senior Museum Educator/Teen Programs Coordinator, Brooklyn Museum; **Victoria Pillard**, Primary Care Pediatrician, Holyoke Pediatric Associates; **Jennifer Schreiner**, Eileen Fisher, Inc.; **Amy Summers-Hayes**, Case Manager/Recruitment Coordinator; Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hampshire County. We will repeat this event in spring 2008, contact us if you would like to participate.



**Janet Aalfs** poet and director since 1982 of Valley Women's Martial Arts: Institute for Healing and Violence Prevention Strategies has been honored as one of the [Feminists Who Changed America 1963-1975](#) by Barbara J. Love, University of Illinois Press 2006. The book includes biographies of 2200 women and men who were activists in the 2<sup>nd</sup> wave of the feminist movement.

**Elena Azzoni** was recently published in [We Don't Need Another Wave: Dispatches from the Next Generation of Feminists](#), an anthology by Seal Press. Elena earned an MFA in Ritual Theater from New College of California and has moved back to the east coast.

**Nashira Baril** wrote enthusiastically about her participation in the Massachusetts Institute for Community Health Leadership through the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Foundation.

**Bonnie Conefrey**, now Mazza (married July 06) graduated with her MPA from NYU Wagner in May of 2006 and is now working as Director of Lending for the Philadelphia Development Partnership, a small business training, technical assistance, and loan program serving greater Philadelphia.

**Lauren Brannon** started a masters program in humanities and social thought at New York University this fall. She continues to work for Gloria Steinem and Amy Richards.

**Natalie Cusano** is the morning manager of Bambara restaurant in the Hotel Marlowe in Cambridge.

**Sarah Dunton** is Director of Youth Development at Girls Incorporated of Holyoke. Sarah is seeking undergraduate interns who want to "inspire all girls to be strong smart and bold." She urges students to contact her: "If you want to put feminist theory into practice." (more info at Women's Studies.)

**Melanie DeSilva** is the Executive Director of MotherWoman, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting and empowering mothers to create positive personal and social change for themselves, their families, their communities and the world. Under her leadership, MotherWoman, Inc. was recently awarded a grant from the Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts. She lives in Amherst with her two young daughters.

**Cheri Ehrlich** is working at the Brooklyn Museum of Art as the Teen Programs Coordinator. Cheri worked as a high school teacher in Andover and then Brooklyn. She is continuing her graduate studies in education. The museum recently opened the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art which exhibits "The Dinner Party" by Judy Chicago and currently has an exhibit entitled "Global Feminisms." <http://www.brooklynmuseum.org/>

**Andrew Elder** is back in Massachusetts after a few years in Seattle. He is a student at Simmons College in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, concentrating on Archival Management. He works at The History Project, an archives focusing on documenting and preserving the history of Boston's LGBT communities.

**Sarah Hamill** wrote that she worked as a carpenter in Western Massachusetts, then worked in a group home for

# ...ALUMNI NEWS....

children on the Cherokee boundary in North Carolina. Now she and her husband Jeremy are in Maine and in addition to growing and pickling/freezing/canning vegetables she is working for an organization that runs group homes for people with development disabilities and autism.

**Christina Knowles** is very busy as a Legislative Aide to State Representative Ruth B. Balsler, Chairwoman of The Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse, in the state of Massachusetts. Christina is also active in the Boston chapter of NOW and is active in her town politically.

**Maureen McHugh** wrote last fall that after an internship at Tapestry Health, she was working part time in retail and part time at Tapestry.

**Katy Noone** is working as a Literacy Specialist in the Framingham Public Schools. Katy enjoys working with middle school students to help "turn them into lifelong, active readers." She is finishing up her M.Ed. at UMass Boston, and living in Brighton.

**Jya Plavin** is the co-owner of a collective restaurant and volunteering with the Berkeley Free Clinic, a collectively-run free health clinic.

**Michelle Roberts** is the founder of Chatham Hill Residential Design and Build, LLC; a woman-owned Residential Design-Build-Consulting Firm. Michelle has been appointed to the Woman-Centric Matters National Advisory Panel, a division of Design Basics, the nation's largest home plan design service to the building industry and a leading expert in marketing to women. Michelle dropped by the office to share her excitement about women in construction and sustainable and ecological design.

*We were sad to hear of the death of one of our recent graduates, Stephanie Parker. Our thoughts go out to her family and friends.*

## GRADUATE STUDENT ALUM NEWS

**Jana Braziel** writes that she just received tenure in the Department of English and Comparative Literature at the University of Cincinnati. She has three books scheduled for publication in 2008, one an introduction to diaspora and

international migration (from Blackwell); one a study of Haitian diaspora artists and transnational black masculinities (from Indiana); and one a monograph on the writings of Jamaica Kincaid (from SUNY.) Congratulations on all counts!

**Kristina Bourne**, certificate class of 1999, reports that Daley Bourne Valentine was born on July 5, 2007. He weighed 8.82 oz. and was 22 in. long. Both mother and baby are happy and healthy. Kristina graduated from the certificate in 2000 and is now an Assistant Professor in the Department of Management and Marketing at the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire.

**Stephanie Evans**, certificate class of 2000, and Assistant Professor in African American Studies and Women's Studies at the University of Florida in Gainesville is the author of the recently published Black Women in the Ivory Tower, 1850-1954; An Intellectual History. Stephanie graduated from the certificate in 2002.

**Claire Schomp**, certificate class of 2003, announces that she has accepted a fulltime position as an English teacher at Weston High School. She is "really excited about the job: it pays well, is extremely family friendly, and offers me space and resources to grow as a teacher while also giving me time for my own writing, especially during those golden summers off." Claire graduated from the certificate in May 2007 and still plans to finish her dissertation next year to complete her PhD in English.

**Beverly Weber**, certificate class of 2000, reports that she has accepted a position as an Assistant Professor of German at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Bev is particularly excited that the department is extremely supportive of women's and gender studies. She thanks Women's Studies for allowing her to engage in interdisciplinary work. Bev graduated from the certificate in 2006.



***Inside this issue.....***

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***25 years ago in this newsletter....***

In the spring 1982 newsletter an alumni survey was underway. The story includes "the first glance through the response to the mail questionnaire indicates a high degree of success in finding jobs and gaining acceptance to graduate schools." *The more things change, the more they stay the same. . .*

This newsletter is published twice a year, funds permitting. It is written and edited by Karen Lederer. Design, production and distribution by Linda Hillenbrand. Thanks to Arlene Avakian, Linda Hillenbrand and Nancy Patteson for their contributions. Special thanks to our graduates who sent their news. The newsletter and past newsletters are online at [www.umass.edu/wost](http://www.umass.edu/wost).

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