FALL 1988

WOMEN'S STUDIES FALL EVENTS

Welcome Back Reception

Monday, September 26, 1988
4:00-6:00 p.m.
Room 1009 Campus Center, University of Massachusetts

Please join Women's Studies students, staff, faculty, friends, and supporters in an afternoon of food and good will. Come meet new people, and renew old friendships. Informal childcare available.

****

End of Semester Open House
December 15, 1988 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Women's Studies Office 208 Bartlett Hall

Women's Studies continues the tradition of providing a study break on reading day (the day between the end of classes and the beginning of exams) with refreshments and pleasant company. Stop by and join in to commiserate or celebrate.

****

Other Events

Other Women's Studies events had not been set at press time. Call or visit the office for more information, or watch for posters and announcements.

- Comings and Goings........ 2
- Alumnae News............... 3
- Course Guide Changes....... 4
- Spring 88 Semester News... 5,6
- Upcoming Events........... 7
Comings and Goings

Staff and Faculty: Belated welcome to 2 wonderful work study students who joined us during the spring semester—Chantal Pierrat and Vicky Stampa. Chantal is a wiz at typing, filing, and the like, and Vicky is a genius at redecorating and reorganizing the office. Vicky is also a Women's Studies major. Chantal and Vicky will be working again during the fall and spring, so if you haven't met them yet, be sure to stop in and say hello. This summer we are lucky to have Sue Reed, senior graduate student in English and fastest typist in Western Mass., to help with our data conversion. (see article on the new equipment, page 5)

Welcome Sarah Morgen Long daughter of Sandi Morgen and Robert Long. Sarah arrived on May 17, and is already enrolled in the Women's Studies pre-pre major program. In addition to having a baby, Sandi was awarded the Lilly fellowship for academic year 88-89. This honor is given to junior faculty who have demonstrated an aptitude for undergraduate teaching. The "fellows" are released from some of their teaching duties in order to attend workshops and seminars designed to further develop their teaching skills and abilities. Congratulations Sandi!

Hello and goodbye to Shevvy Craig who filled in the later part of spring semester for Karin Obermeier as an assistant in the office. Shevvy stepped in and helped out on very short notice. Goodbye and good luck to Paulla Ebron who has been a T.A. for Introduction to Women's Studies for the past 2 years. Paulla remains a graduate student, but will be doing field work. Katy Weiss the other T.A. for Introduction to Women's Studies is returning for academic year 1988-89. Belated welcome to Katy.

Budget permitting, of course, we hope to replace Paulla Ebron and Karin Obermeier in the fall; stop in to meet the new folks.

Welcome back to campus Jan Raymond and Kathy Peiss, both of whom spent productive years off during 1987-1988. Kathy was busy with her cosmetics research, and writing papers for a variety of international conferences. Jan travelled through Europe meeting with people on the new reproductive technologies. Jan has also been writing a column for the new journal Reproductive and Genetic Engineering. Both Jan and Kathy were missed.

Incoming Students: It has been a busy period for Women's Studies. In school year 87-88 Christina Cahillane, Barbara Delollis, Kim Fountain, Aliina Laine, Andrea Levine, Debbie Glass, Amy Nordahl, Gail Peters, and Janet Scott all entered the program as minors. New majors admitted to the program in the spring were Lauren Becker, Lisa Bernard, Adelle Michaud, and Penny Percival. Welcome to all.

Graduated Students: Congratulations and farewell to Sandra DeJesus, Patty Favreau, Nancy Gringras, Debbie Glass, Laura MacKay, Gail Peters, graduated minors. Many long time Women's Studies majors also graduated last spring: Lian Akana, Christine Arieta, Pilar Alessandra, Debbie Cohen, Susan Crane, Jessica Diamondstone, Celeste Friend, Helene Goncalves, Robin Moulds, Inez Sieben, and Tracy Welsh. Many of the graduates are going on to exciting career, travel, or graduate school plans. Best of luck to all. Keep in touch, and tell us what you are up to.

All of the exiting majors and minors made a special contribution to the spirit of the program. The staff and faculty look forward to new, enthusiastic, diverse students to fill your shoes.
Celebration: On May 21, the graduates were feted at a festive lunch at the faculty club. Highlights included a good luck spell by Lee (complete with magic wand), presentations to Valerie Traub (superb writing teacher for spring 88) and outgoing Deputy Provost Fern Johnson, who has been a long time friend of the program, presentation of T-shirts, and lots of picture taking. Celeste Friend and Susan Crane also unveiled the new, official, Women's Studies banner which was proudly carried in the University Commencement on the following day. The banner, labor donated by graduating seniors, has dates on it which can be modified so that it will be carried each year. Thanks for such a terrific gift to the program.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO CURRENT STUDENTS: To see your name on the above list in subsequent newsletters, be sure your paperwork is up to date. If you aren't officially a major yet, turn in your application, interviews will take place mid-semester. If you are about to graduate, make an appointment with Arlene for a credit check.

ALUMNAE NEWS

Sylvia Battey wrote last fall that she had just moved to Syracuse, NY and was job hunting there. Daniel Burgess is working in the town clerk’s office in Burlington, VT. Birdie MacLennan wrote around the same time that she was living in the Boston suburbs and gradually progressing toward an MLS degree at Simmons College while working at Harvard's Lamont Library as an acquisitions assistant for the general collection, and as an assistant to the Curator of the Poetry Room. She would love to hear from other WOST grads working in library/information related fields. Birdie has also been working on an index to The Mists of Avalon. Venetia Pimley writes that she will be starting her MA this fall at the University of Vermont, and will be teaching Freshman Composition there. Leslie Schwalm is working on her dissertation which concerns emancipation and the former slave women of the South Carolina lowcountry. This past year she was the National Historical Publications and Records Commission “Fellow” at the Freedmen and Southern Society Project, housed at the University of Maryland. Leslie is willing to be a contact person for students considering graduate work in women's history and/or Afro-American history. This summer she will be moving to Champaign/Urbana, Illinois. Jill Tregor wrote in December that she is the Program Coordinator for Community United Against Violence, a non-profit agency that works with victims of lesbian/gay related violence. The program offers many services including a hotline, speakers bureau, police training, etc. Her current job comes from five years of working with free mediation, five years of paralegal work, and "of course, my organizing roots . . . at UMass."

PLEASE, please, please send us news about yourself. Look for another alumnae update in next fall's newsletter.

Thanks to Donors

Without the support of our donors, events like the graduate luncheon, and our event series would not be possible. Women's Studies extends our thanks for the generous donations in 1988 to Janet Aalfs, Ann Della Bitta, Diane Curley, Kathryn Daniels, Donna Grant, Janis Higgins, Judith Lebold, Diane Martell, Mass. Mutual Life, Jean Orsini, Linda Simpson, Jill Tregor and Elizabeth White. We couldn't do it without your help!

Late News Flash!

The date for the Everywoman's Center fall Open House has been set: Tuesday, October 18, 1988. The open house will take place in the late afternoon and all are welcome. For more information call 545-0883.
The following are changes and additions to the WOST Fall 1988 Course Offering Guide.

CORRECTIONS

WOST 201H Foundations of Feminism, Honors Section taught by Lee Edwards will NOT be offered MWF at 10:10. The new time is MWF 12:20.

WOST 391H Ethnic Women of the United States has been CANCELLED. Ethnic Women will be offered in Spring 1989 instead.

ECON 330 Labor Problems is MW 1:25-2:40, not MWF.

ADDITIONS

**Apologies to Marlene Fried and Hampshire College for the omission of the following course from the guide:

Hampshire College SS 215 Choice or Liberation: The Politics of the Abortion Rights Movement Marlene Fried, Thursday, 9:00-12:00

Abortion rights have been continuously challenged since abortion became legal in 1973. There have been significant erosions of the right to choose abortion. Legislation has been enacted making abortion less accessible to large numbers of women, especially young women and poor women. There have also been illegal and violent challenges to abortion rights. This course will focus on ways in which the abortion rights movement has responded to these and other challenges to abortion rights in particular and to broad attacks on reproductive rights. We will look at two competing ideologies within the movements: the civil libertarian and the reproductive rights perspectives. Each will be evaluated in terms of its ability to stop the opposition; implications of each vision and their political strategies for overcoming racial and class biases; and their relationship to women's liberation.

COMLIT 592A Medieval Women Writers
Elizabeth Petroff, Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. Lecture/Seminar

A close study of selected works of five medieval women writers: Marie de France, Angela da Foligno, Christine de Pizan, Margery Kempe, and Suor Juana de la Cruz, applying recent ideas in feminist literary theory, both French and American, to the treatment of desire in these works. Modern English translations and original texts in French, Italian, Middle English and Spanish. All theoretical materials will be available in English. Requirements: Senior or graduate standing or consent of instructor. Call department for more information.

Amherst College English 49 Lesbian Literature: Fiction
Professor Barale, TuTh 2:00-3:20 p.m. Taught at Amherst College

Smith College Women's Studies and French 5
Contemporary French Canadian Women Writers
MWF 10:00-11:15
New Honors Guidelines
The Honors Program has instituted new requirements for departmental honors. Women Studies has had to make some changes in our honors requirements in order to be in compliance with the changes in the University Honors Program. Students must now take honors courses for any of the honors options. In addition there is now the Portfolio, a non-thesis honors option. Because of the newly instituted course requirements, all students who are interested in pursuing departmental honors, regardless of class, should make an appointment with Arlene. Departmental honors allows for the possibility of in-depth work on a project. Remember, departmental honors is a one year commitment. If you are considering honors, CONTACT ARLENE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Field Work
As always, there are a variety of placements available for work in the community and on campus for credit. Field work placements can be structured to meet your specific needs and skills. For more information, make an appointment with Karen in the office.

WOST's New Look
Due to a special allocation of equipment money the Women's Studies office has made several long needed improvements. We have rearranged the offices so that we now have a "real" reception area (with nice furniture) and little more privacy for Karen and Arlene to talk to students. In addition to these changes, we are finally switching over from our somewhat antiquated Digital Decimate system to a new IBM. We are fortunate to be able to have made these improvements in a period of budget crisis. If you haven't been to the office since last year, stop by—you won't believe your eyes.

COMPUTER WIZ WANTED
Women's Studies could use the services of a volunteer computer genius. The new IBM equipment has, among other things, some graphics capability which could be used for the benefit of the program. Using the graphics requires programming knowledge, so if you have aptitude in this direction, and are interested in applying your skills, stop in.

Foreign Language Resource Center
Five Colleges Inc. received a grant to establish a Five College Foreign Language Resource Center. The services of the center include equipment to convert videotapes between any of the five international television standards, and a satellite receiver system. The satellite dish will be able to receive signals from all over the world. Five College foreign language faculty have priority for use of the center, although it will also be available to other faculty and to students on a limited basis. For more information contact the center, 102 Bartlett Hall, University of Massachusetts, 545-3453 or 545-0950, 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. or by appointment.

Spring Semester News
Student Input into Women's Studies
Spring 1988 saw a great deal of input by Women's Studies students into the program. The student concerns included increasing diversity within the program, building a stronger community among Women's Studies students, and instituting new procedures such as a welcome to new students and a grievance procedure. The ideas were discussed at Policy Board, and discussions will continue this fall in the relevant
committees and on Policy Board. A retreat is tentatively planned to allow time for in depth discussion and planning of these and related curricular and political issues. Student participation is valued and is available through student seats on the Policy Board and on program committees.

For more information, contact the office to get a copy of the Policy Board minutes, or the list of student issues, or talk to one of the current juniors or seniors. Stay tuned for more news on these topics.

Racism on Campus

Spring of 1988 was the semester that further racist attacks took place on campus. One of the attacks was followed by the occupation of New Africa House by Black and other Third World students. On February 19, 1988 the Women's Studies Policy Board held an emergency meeting and adopted the following statement:

"The Women's Studies Policy Board supports the call by the Graduate Student Senate and Minority Graduate Student Association to observe a two day moratorium on business as usual Tuesday and Wednesday, February 23 and 24. The recent attacks on students of color and the courageous occupation of New Africa House have brought home the need to act against racism on campus and in the larger community. Therefore, we urge all faculty to participate in the long term struggle to confront racism and sexism by focusing on these issues in their classes Tuesday and Wednesday and by continuing throughout the semester to seek ways to integrate these issues into the curriculum. We urge all students, faculty, and staff to participate in the full range of activities offered on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The Women's Studies office will be open to discussions and the showing of relevant documentaries on the issues during the moratorium, and refreshments will be served. In addition, we urge other offices on campus to devise creative ways to use their resources to foster full university participation in the fight against racism."

The above statement was distributed across campus, and many Women's Studies classes were opened during the moratorium to students not enrolled in the course to discuss issues of race and sex. The WOST event, "Students Work in Progress" scheduled for February 23 was postponed, and the time was used to discuss the Women's Studies response to racism. Out of this meeting came subsequent student meetings that organized students to work towards a better and stronger program. (see related article)

We look forward to continuing our self examination around the issue of racism, and contributing as a program to efforts on campus to increase and support diversity.

Spring 1988 Co-Sponsorships

Thanks in part to the generosity of our donors, Women's Studies was able to help bring several important events to campus this past spring. These included a reading by Irene Klepfisz as part of the Jewish Cultural Festival and a lecture by Fay Ginsburg, "The Word Made Flesh: Reinterpreting Reproduction in the Abortion Controversy" in February. In March was a lecture and slide show by Jane Caputi, a film "With Eyes Fixed on the Money" by Helga Reidemeister, and Beatrix Campbell spoke as part of a lecture series at Hampshire College. April brought "Women in Northern
Ireland" a panel discussion at Amherst College, "19th of September" Mexican Garment Workers Union U.S. Solidarity Tour, and Dr. Marcia Magolda offering a seminar on "Gender & Style in Student Development". In May the program co-sponsored the Five College Faculty Seminar on South Asian History with Mt. Holyoke College, and a Book Party for Assata Shakur at Augusta Savage Gallery. Women's Studies was able to support the work of different departments and offices, as well as the other colleges to make these events happen.

Students Work in Progress
The Students Work in Progress event was held in April. The event was a great success. Robin Moulds outlined a new treatment model for women survivors of incest. Robin's work is so groundbreaking that she is touring the country giving trainings on incest with one of the foremost feminist authorities on incest, Ellen Bass. Maya Gillingham outlined her research on the mail order bride industry, how it works, what countries are involved, and what type of men and women participate in it. One of Maya's more interesting discoveries is that the mail order bride industry has grown as a response to feminism, supplying "good old fashioned women" for U.S. men. Susan Crane discussed her work on women's development projects, challenging many traditional assumptions about the best forms of development. Susan discussed women's particular needs, such as the implications of automating one aspect of agriculture (say, cultivation) and thereby inadvertently creating an undoable amount of work for women who process the harvest. Susan also challenged Women's Studies students to develop an internationalist perspective. This event was an impressive display of the good work of Women's Studies students. We hope to have more events on student work in the future.

More Student Work: Michelle Boardman, a student in Women's Studies 187 in the Spring, also delivered a paper entitled "Single Motherhood in America" at the Five College Women's Studies conference in April at Amherst College.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Conference on Unity and Diversity
Hampshire College Women's Center is sponsoring a conference entitled "Celebrate Our Unity and Diversity" on October 8 and 9 1988. The conference is a gathering of gays, lesbians, and bisexuals to grow, learn, and rejoice through the sharing of common experiences and the recognition of diversity. The conference will also include Community Awards to men and women who have contributed to wellness in the gay/lesbian/bisexual community. Nominations accepted to September 15. Nominees can be gay, lesbian, bisexual or heterosexual. For more information write to P.O. Box 662, Hadley, MA 01035.

New World Theater Fall Season 1988
The fall season of the New World Theater Series is dedicated to James Baldwin and the continuing struggle.

You Strike the Woman, You Strike the Rock-A production of The Vusisizwe players from South Africa—Thursday through Saturday, September 22-24—Bowker Auditorium, 8:00 p.m.

Dark Cowgirls and Prairie Queens-Carpetbag Theater of Knoxville Tennessee
Saturday, October 1—Bowker Auditorium, 8:00 p.m.

Blues for Mr. Charlie-By James Baldwin. An original production. Thursday through Saturday, October 13-16 Bowker Auditorium, 8:00 p.m.

Ma Rainey's Black Bottom-By August Wilson. Amaryllis Productions. Friday, December 2
Fine Arts Center Concert Hall, 8:00 p.m.

For further information call 545-1945.
This Newsletter

This newsletter is written and edited by Karen Lederer. Thanks to Arlene Avakian, Lee Edwards, and Ann Williams for their assistance. Special thanks to Vicky Stampa and Ann Williams for their heroic effort in getting the last issue of the newsletter out.

Send your ideas and submissions to: Women's Studies Newsletter, 208 Bartlett Hall, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003. The next newsletter will be out in time for spring semester. If you move, and wish to keep receiving the newsletter, send the office your new address on the form below. We don't always get forwarding orders, so contacting us directly is the best way to ensure your address is correct.

Send news of what you are doing to the office. We like to stay in touch.

ADDRESS UPDATE

Do you want to be added to the Women's Studies mailing list? Have you moved? Are you about to move? If you want to continue receiving this newsletter, please send us your new address.

   )New Address  )Change of Address
   
   name
   address
( )current student  )faculty  )staff  ( )alum  ( )community

If this is a change of name or address, please include your old address below:

Return to: Women's Studies, 208 Bartlett Hall, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003.