WOMEN'S STUDIES NEWSLETTER
Fall 1997
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WOMEN ACTIVISTS REUNION
September 25-28, 1997

*Highlights*

Thursday, September 25
Eleanor Bateman Alumni Scholar in Residence Award: Lecture and Presentation Susan Crane '88
Lois E. Toko '56 Lecture Series: Women in the Massachusetts Statehouse
Representative Ellen Story D-Amherst/ Pelham, joins other female State legislators to discuss local women in Massachusetts politics
Reception - An opportunity to meet and chat with the afternoon's speakers in an informal setting, while enjoying appetizers and the company of other women activists and friends.
Crossworlds: A Conversation Persuasive Voices of Constructive Change Mrs. Coretta Scott King, Widow of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Ms. Patricia Schroeder, Former Congresswoman for Colorado $$

Friday, September 26
Conversations with Foremothers
Friday Night at the Movies
Piano Bar
"Greetings from a Queer Senorita" $$
Presented from New World Theater

Saturday, September 27
Keynote Address
Beverly Guy-Sheftall, Professor
Women's Studies at Spelman College and Emory University
Faculty and Alumni Book Display and Signing
Campus tours
Social hour and banquet with a cappella group Meanwhile $$$
Dance to the music of D.J. Mary V
Continuous Movie showings
Open House at Women's Studies and Everywoman's Center
A wide variety of workshops, panels, discussions and lectures will be offered Saturday afternoon. Something for everyone. Complete schedule available at Memorial Hall.

Sunday, September 28
Farewell Brunch $$$
Eveline MacDougall's 25th Reunion Choir to perform
Brunch for Founding Funders of Friends of Women's Studies and Everywoman's Center
Open House at Lisa Baskin's Social Activism Library

Whatever your private or public involvement in women's issues, the UMass Women's Activists Reunion is for YOU! Come and enjoy the great company, food, workshops, music, and many other activities. Reconnect and network with other woman activists and former staff and friends of the University. Bring your family to spend the weekend with other women of vision in action. Join us!

Since the 1960s, women activists have been busy transforming UMass and the world around them. They have been breaking boundaries, establishing new program, enriching the curriculum, and speaking out against social injustices.

The Women's Studies Program, Everywoman's Center, and the Faculty Senate Council on the Status of Women have been working together since the 1970's to help make the Amherst campus an environment in which everyone can flourish. UMass women have joined forces to create opportunities for women, preserve the environment, and address a wide range of social problems on campus and within their communities.

WOMEN OF VISION IN ACTION
Women’s Studies has had another successful year of growth, in spite of continuing budget shortfalls and staff shortages. We have initiated our Graduate Certificate program after a pilot year of seminars and a successful Women’s Studies Lecture Series open to the public but also operating as our first graduate seminar in issues of Feminist Research. We had an exciting combination of graduate student and faculty research presented, which also included several visiting faculty members. We have formally admitted 11 graduate students already in residence at the University to our graduate certificate program, some with advanced standing because of the pilot seminars they took this past year. In getting the graduate program instituted and publicized we have had the help of a wonderful teaching assistant, Nancy Patteson, who just completed her M.Ed on women and higher education. We’ve been able to put together some funding [thanks to Deans Lee Edwards, Glen Gordon and Bailey Jackson who contributed funds to support Women’s Studies involvement in interdisciplinary studies] for Nancy to continue with her work on the graduate program.

In terms of faculty lines, we were able to offer Alex Deschamps, formerly a lecturer for WOST 1B7 and core WOST courses, a tenure track position as Assistant Professor. Congratulations Alex and welcome to your new position! We were also lucky to be able to retain Jenny Ire, who has had a lecturer position with us this year, for another year as lecturer. Congratulations to Jenny for finishing her dissertation and receiving her Ed.D. this past spring. We also welcomed back from leave Professor Janice Raymond, who will assume the position of Graduate Studies Director for next year. We also welcome home our distinguished faculty member Leila Ahmed. Professor Ahmed is returning from fellowship and sabbatical leaves of 1 1/2 years in England where she has been working on research on Muslim women immigrants as well as a book on reflections on colonialism, women and Islam. The course she is offering, “Women in Islam”, is available for both advanced undergraduates and graduate students, and will count as a core course for both the graduate and undergraduate programs.

Our dedicated graduate student office intern, Sue Lee, is leaving after 3 years of service. We will really miss her and we wish her well in her efforts and future career.

I want to thank all the people who served on Women’s Studies committees this year. Thanks to the executive committee for their fine work this year. They are: Deirdre Almeida [Education], Arlene Avakian, Joyce Berkman [History], Alex Deschamps, Marta Calas [School of Management], Carmen Diana Deere [Economics], Jennifer Ire, Karen Lederer, Janice Raymond, Lisa Robinson [graduate student representative], Deb Rose and Amanda Spadacinni [undergraduate student reps], Esther Terry [Afro-American Studies], and Carol Wallace [Everywoman’s Center]. Thanks also go to those who worked on other WOST committees, particularly Alex Deschamps who chaired Undergraduate Studies; Jan Raymond, Chair of the Personnel Committee and Marta Calas, chair of the Graduate Studies Committee. The Graduate Committee should be particularly commended since they had to meet nearly every week in the spring 1997 semester to iron out the details of our new program and go through the admission process for new graduate students. In addition to Marta and myself the members were Joyce Berkman, Julie Graham, Jan Raymond, and Nancy Patteson. I would also like to thank Linda Smircich and Susan Michaelman who served on the Personnel Committee.

Our students continue to be active in new and ongoing activities. The students enrolled in Professor Arlene Avakian’s innovative course The Social Construction of Whiteness and Women attended a national conference to discuss the course and impressed those present. [See page 6].

Our student lounge (Bartlett 208A, formerly an office and meeting room) received a new computer and continues to serve as a place for schmoozing, meetings, studying and reading email. We hope students will volunteer to help staff the lounge so it can stay open more hours. See related article if you’d like to be involved.
This year I became the co-chair of the Faculty Senate Council on the Status of Women, with Carol Wallace, Director of Everywoman’s Center. We re-organized the work of the committee so that many subcommittees were formed to work on more particular topics. Of those, three have yielded concrete projects this year. First, the committee on Take Our Daughters to Work Day organized another very successful University wide day in April for all university employees to bring girl relatives to work, and Women’s Studies for the second year in a row organized a party in our student lounge for girls and their relatives to come have snacks and ask questions of some of our majors about what it is like to major in Women’s Studies, and what it is like to be a college student. Another subcommittee is busy putting together a Women’s Resource Guide to the university to help with orientation of new faculty, staff and students. [see page 6]

Finally, our subcommittee on Access for Low Income Women helped to organize a new Campus Coalition for Economic Justice which worked this past spring on various initiatives to defend the interests of low income students. We helped publicize an informative event sponsored by Sandy Mandel of Everywoman’s Center and Patti Prunhuber of Western Mass Legal Services for TAFDC welfare recipients to understand their rights under the new Welfare Reform laws and helped to organize a forum on welfare reform in the state and the need to lobby state representatives around pending legislation. We also sponsored a bill in the Faculty Senate requesting the Chancellor to attend to the needs of low income students in order to facilitate greater access to higher education at the university. These efforts also coincided with the efforts of many Women’s Studies students who were involved in the spring occupation of the Goodell building to demand more minority student and faculty recruitment and more attention to the needs of low income students, particularly in providing affordable childcare and financial assistance. The Women’s Studies Executive Committee unanimously supported the goals of this occupation.

Women’s Studies and Everywoman’s Center continue to gear up for our exciting 25th Anniversary Women Activists Reunion. We are overjoyed to be able to offer two exciting conversations with nationally prominent women in politics. One of these, organized by Marcellette Williams of the Chancellor’s Office will feature Pat Schroeder and Coretta Scott King talking on their experiences and priorities in politics in the Conversations Crossworlds Series Thursday night September 25 at 7:30 pm in the Mullins Center. The other is the Lois Toko Lecture Series which will feature women prominent in the Massachusetts legislature: Representatives Ellen Story (D-Amherst), Anne Paulsen (D-Belmont), Patricia Jehlen (D-Somerville) and Suleyhen Walker, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators in a roundtable panel on Thursday afternoon Sept. 25 at 4 pm in Memorial Hall. Please see the article on the Reunion (pg. 1 for further details. We will also be having the founding meeting of a new group, Friends of Women’s Studies, which will seek funding for our program and its projects. For more information on that group and the meeting, please contact Linda Hillenbrand at 545-1922.

This coming year Women’s Studies is honored to have a visiting scholar from China, Yingguo Xu, from Northwest University, X’ian, China. Professor Xu’s specialty is English and American women’s literature, and she is interested in learning about our Women’s Studies programs here in order to start a Women’s Studies program back at her own university. Professor Xu is anxious to meet with faculty and students who have ideas about how to create courses in English and American literature that deal with women’s writing and gender from a feminist perspective.

For Spring 1998, put on your calendar another Women’s Studies Lecture Series which will be offered as a Wednesday Brown Bag Lunch in the Campus Center. It will again be open to the public and will sponsor faculty (local and visiting) and graduate student feminist research. It will also be offered in conjunction with our Graduate Certificate Program, and a core graduate seminar in Issues in Feminist Research will accompany it. We also hope to offer a Showcase in undergraduate student writing and research during the Spring. In short another exciting year of women of vision in action is in the offing and we hope you’ll join us in these events!

Ann Ferguson, Director
Welcome to Nancy Patteson, new office staff member (see People News).

Congratulations to Alex Deschamp on your new, permanent tenure-track position on the faculty!

Welcome to the first group of graduate students in the program. We look forward to working with: Aida Bagic [Political Science], Ojae Beale [Social Justice Education], Brenda Bethman [German Languages and Literature], Jana Evans Braziel, [Comparative Literature], Melissa Click [Communications], Julie Frechette [Communications], Nina Beth Huntemann [Communications], Zoe Perry [Social Justice Education], Lisa Robinson [Social Justice Education], Kristin Strommer [Anthropology], and Viera Wallace-Lorencova [Communication].

Congratulations to Viera Wallace-Lorencova and Jana Evans Braziel. Viera was chosen to be a TA for WOST 187 and Jana will be teaching the junior year writing course, WOST 391W.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations and farewell to this stellar group of 1997 graduates. Best of luck to graduating minors:


Good luck to this terrific group of majors. This group of majors was so remarkable, there was a press release about them in the press packet prepared by the news office for commencement.

Students from Women's Studies were recognized with honors awards, senior leadership awards, alumni scholarships, and selection to honors societies.


Farewell Sue Lee. We really benefitted from your technical expertise, compassionate advising, and wealth of excellent ideas. You have contributed much to the program these past 3 years and we'll miss you.

Goodbye Kelly Facto, work study student extraordinaire, and congratulations on graduating and your new job at the Rosenberg Fund for Children. We will miss Kelly's effervescent, luminescent, perky personality as well as her myriad of office skills.

Good luck to Jean Sherlock, long time Women's Studies teaching assistant and thanks for your dedicated service to our intro students.

COMINGS & GOINGS

Undergraduates and Graduate students: Come hear the faculty describe their courses for the spring semester. All students and faculty teaching Women's Studies related courses are welcome. Refreshments of course are served.
Nancy Patteson is the new minor coordinator. If you are a current or prospective minor please stop by and say hello.

As always... there are many academic opportunities for Women’s Studies students. For information on internship opportunities or honors options, contact Karen in the office.

### Volunteer Opportunities

Notes from Students in the Lounge: The Women’s Studies Lounge, located in 208A Bartlett, is looking for interested and motivated staffers [women and men] for this fall semester. The lounge is a great resource for all students in the Women’s Studies program and related majors, offering a library, copier, couches to lounge on, snacks, and computers (for writing papers, checking email and surfing the Internet.)

It is imperative to find dedicated staffers to make the lounge run smoothly this semester, while also creating a productive environment for all. Positions for staffing the lounge are available both as volunteer slots or for credit, with the understanding that each staff member will undertake a special project of her/his own design. If you want more information about the lounge contact the office 208 Bartlett or call 545-1922. We hope to hear from you during the first week of classes, so that we can get ready for a successful semester.

Note from the Women’s Studies Office staff: The lounge has more facilities than ever now, a new ethernet connection to the internet [for you non techno-geeks that means the information comes really, really fast], 2 computers and printers.

Please note: The computers have been heavily used, and also unfortunately plagued with viruses. **You MUST scan your discs before using.** Because of the virus problem [and the availability of lounge computers] students will not be able to print papers etc. in the Women’s Studies office.

We’d love to help, but we can’t, so please don’t ask. Students must follow all directions in using the copier in the lounge in order for it to remain an available resource.

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**End-of-Program Reports**

In keeping with the process goals stated above, all majors graduating in Spring 1998 and later will be required to fill out an end-of-program report. Forms will be available in the office, and the report will allow students to detail courses counting towards the major [including component and skills courses], reflect on their course of study and give feedback to the program.

**Attention all prospective majors:** We’ve changed the major requirements to include a required orientation session prior to admission into the major. The application is still required, and students will sign up for a group orientation session in the office (or by phone or email). The orientations will be in small groups with a few faculty members, current students and an advisor. The purpose of the orientation is to welcome students into the program. Incoming students will have an opportunity to discuss their interests and specific course of study. Orientations will be scheduled in November. After submitting an application [complete with sponsor’s signature] students will be expected to sign up for one of several orientation sessions.

The Undergraduate Studies committee [with the endorsement of the Executive Committee] has been working on creating a better process for entering and exiting the program. The goals of these changes include: to create more of a sense of community amongst the students, to provide more opportunities for faculty/student connections and to encourage self-reflection on the part of individual students.

In order to be accepted in the major during Fall 1997 [change your major designation to WOST] **you must turn in your application by October 31, 1997.** Only students who have submitted applications by that date will be assured of attending an orientation session and officially changing majors in the fall. This is effective for all major applications submitted on or after September 2, 1997.

The Women’s Studies major application has been updated in light of the new application, orientation and report requirements. Contact the office to get one.
Volunteer and Internship Opportunities at Everywoman’s Center

Resource/Referral Program Intern Positions

The Everywoman’s Center is a multicultural women’s center based at UMass, servicing diverse cultural and linguistic populations in the area. The Resource/Referral Program provides information on issues of concern to women and their families such as child care, employment and housing, and referrals to services such as aid to families, legal services, medical practitioners, and support groups. The program is currently looking for interns to be trained during Fall 1997 and to staff the Resource Room. Candidates must make a commitment of at least one year to the Program. Application deadline is September 5, 1997. Call 545-0883.

Counselor/Advocate and Education/Advocate Trainings

Do you want to know more about issues of violence against women? Have you always wanted to make an impact in someone’s life by educating or supporting her or him about these issues? Well, here’s your chance! The Everywoman’s Center offers two programs that work together to break the silence surrounding issues against violence against women and to end the isolation of victims/survivors: the Counselor/Advocate and Educator/Advocate programs. These programs are now accepting applications from University and community members who want to learn more about issues of violence against women and make a difference in the areas of sexual assault and relationship violence as peer counselors or community educators. For more information regarding our programs or to join our fall seventy-hour training for new volunteers, please call 545-0883 as soon as possible. The application deadline is SEPTEMBER 8, 1997. Bilingual women and women of color are strongly encouraged to apply. Academic credit for undergraduates is available.

Graduate Student News: Welcome to the new class! Please be sure to check your mailboxes in the office, and to join us at the welcome back reception on Tuesday September 16, 5:00 at the Faculty Club.

Undergraduate Students: Welcome Back! The reception is for you too, so mark your calendars, Tuesday, September 16, 5:00 at the Faculty Club. (located near Wilder Hall.)

Women’s Studies Faculty and Students Make Their Mark

1996-1997 The Social Construction of Whiteness and Women

Arlene Avakian and students from her “Social Construction of Whiteness and Women” class extended their learning from the classroom. She and several students presented a workshop/performance at a conference on Whiteness in November 1996 in New Jersey.

A write up on the conference in the “Center for the Study of White American Culture, Quarterly Newsletter” not ed about the UMass presentation that “Collectively their presence added much to the vitality and enthusiasm of the conference atmosphere.” The audience and workshop participants themselves were moved by the experience, leaving some with watery eyes...” The presentation was repeated in the spring on campus at an event sponsored by the Anthropology Department. In June, Arlene and students Tina Cincotti, Nicole Lisa and Andrew Susen did a presentation “Unmaking the Beast: Teaching and Learning about Whiteness” at a conference at Wheelock College: “Race and Racism in the 90’s: Teaching Social Justice, Living Social Justice.” She and many of the students are currently writing an article on their experiences in the class.

Women’s Guide to UMass

Women’s Studies, the Everywoman’s Center, and the Faculty Senate Council on the Status of Women received a grant from the Chancellor’s Counsel on Community, Diversity, and Social Justice, to create a women’s guide to UMass. The guide should be available this fall, in print and on the Web—watch for further announcements! The publication will include brief entries on campus and community resources in such areas as health, academics, family, and crisis services. Funds are still being sought to help defray printing. For info contact Emily Silverman, Du Bois Library, 545-0995 or esssilverman@library.umass.edu. Women’s Studies’ own Linda Hillenbrand and Deb Rose are key members of the group putting out the guide. Feel free to talk with them as well.
ALUMNI NEWS

Books! Travel! The List goes on and on

Special thanks to Maren Brown, Jeanne Burke, Robin Johnson and Tania Phillips for participating in the Alumni Career Forum in April 1997. Their stories were helpful and inspirational.

Nancy Arnold writes from Ohio that she is “pleased to hear of the BIG plans for celebrating the 25th anniversary...seems like only yesterday we were preparing for the 10th!” She adds that her ministry continues to go well and every once in awhile a former WOST student surfaces. “It is a small world for both UU’s (Unitarian Universalists) and WOST students.” She continues to lecture and participate in the Women’s Studies program at Akron University.

Jessica Basile writes that she received her MA in “History and Phenomenology of Religions” from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA. Her thesis was on witch persecutions of early modern England, thanks to the inspiration of Sigrid Brauner’s, (Siggy was a former professor of German and good friend of Women’s Studies) memory. She is now at Brandeis University, getting her Ph.D. in Anthropology. She adds she “will try” to attend the reunion.

Maren Brown is the Program Director for the UMass Arts Council and is also a fine artist. Among many other noteworthy activities, Maren spearheaded a beautiful landscape and sculptural installation outside of Bartlett Hall. If you are on campus check it out, it is beautiful.

Katherine Boates says “life has had many twists and turns.” After several temp gigs, she’s opening a business called, “Cleaned by Sonics,” in South Hadley, an ultrasonic cleaning company that specializes in hospital and lab equipment.

Jeanne Burke is the coordinator of Teen Programs for the Hampshire Regional YMCA. As part of her job she directs the teen center at Florence Grammar School.

Tina Cincotti is working on a mayoral campaign in Newton, MA.

Susan Crane continues her work as Executive Director of International Family Health, a British Charity she started several years ago. Her travels have taken her to India, Nigeria, Kenya and Cambodia to name a few. She is the winner of the UMass Eleanor Bateman Alumni Scholar in

Norma Cullen (Dana) is opening a new family daycare September 1 in Amherst. She is hoping to help take care of Women’s Studies babies, toddlers and preschoolers. Call the office for information. Norma decided to work with children after 6 years as a pastoral counselor at the local hospice.

Katherine Daube finished a position working at Highland Valley Elder Services and was heading to Boston for graduate school as of last fall.

Kelly Facto is the Grants Coordinator and Database Manager for the Rosenberg Fund for Children.

Suzanne Gardiner published a collection of essays “A World That Will Hold All the People.” from University of Michigan Press.

Gina Gombar is heading to the New England School of Law in Boston, although she is still waiting to hear from one more school. She would be happy to stay in New England and “will most definitely be at the reunion along with many friends from POWER, we can’t wait!”

Deb Kutenplon and Ellen Olmstead just published a critical annotated guide entitled “Young Adult Fiction by African American Writers, 1968-1993,” Garland publishing. Last winter Deb wrote that she is working as a midwife in a clinic in Northern Rhode Island, that she and Ellen remain close friends sharing custody of a dog, Pride. She writes also that the”greatest blessing of all” is her daughter Alexis Rose who moved in with her at the age of 6 months. She wishes she had time to “learn more Spanish, study Talmud, work on the medical van for homeless people, sort the laundry” but she is mentoring a woman in prison and trying to be the best mother she can be.

Robin Johnson is Assistant Office Manager, Assistant Volunteer Coordinator, and Technical Resource Specialist for the Family Planning Council of Western Massachusetts.

Caledonia Kearns just published an Anthology of Irish American Women’s Fiction called, “Cabbage and Bones”, Owl Books, Henry Holt publisher.

Nicole Lisa is working in the Victim/Witness Assistance Program in Lowell, MA.

Amanda McGibney Steng writes that she has thought of UMass and WOST a great deal lately,
Leila Ahmed received a Distinguished Faculty Fellowship from the University and was a visiting fellow at Clare Hall, in Cambridge, England for school year 1996-97. While in England, she researched a type of “historical memoir” about Egypt. Last September she gave a keynote address at a conference on “Ottoman Women” held in Istanbul. This coming December she will travel to Denmark to present a paper at a conference on Muslim women in Europe. Welcome back Leila! We are glad you are back and teaching in the program this coming school year.

Arlene Avakian’s edited book on women and food “Through the Kitchen Window: Women Explore the Intimate Meanings of Food and Cooking” (Beacon Press, 1997) has been widely reviewed. Arlene has done readings, talks and interviews related to the book locally and nationally including in South Hadley, Cambridge, New York, Maine and at radio stations in New York, California, Wisconsin. She wrote “Organizing Women’s Studies—Who Were Those Women and What Did They Want? A Personal Reflection on a Women’s Studies Program” for the special issue of the journal Organization: The Interdisciplinary Journal of Organization, Theory, and Society guest edited by Marta Calas and Linda Smircich. Arlene’s class on “The Social Construction of Whiteness and Women” expanded on their work during the semester by taking projects on the road [see page ...] Arlene also continues her work on Armenian women, last spring she led a workshop at Columbia and Barnard on “Women in the Armenian Community: Is Feminism an Oxymoron?” and she organized a panel “Resisting Silence: Armenian Women’s Voices and the Legacy of Genocide” for a conference on Armenian women in Paris this summer. Arlene’s paper was “Surviving the Survival: Daughters and Granddaughters of Genocide Survivors.” Arlene was elected to her union board [Massachusetts Society of Professors] and is on the negotiating committee for domestic partner benefits. She also spoke on the mixed income, limited equity cooperative housing she developed at “Kaleidoscope: Exploring the Rich Possibilities for an Inclusive Community” a conference on integration of people with disabilities and is currently a member of the Integration Network’s Amherst Integration committee.
Alex Deschamps over the past year devoted much of her time to student oriented issues: advising, presenting and participating in a number of programs and projects including the Women of Color Program and CCEBMS. She has also completed her first year as a BDIC faculty supervisor and Faculty in Residence in the Orchard Hill Residential Area, and presented a paper "Starting From One’s Experience: Another View of the Epistemology of Insideness in Feminist Research" at the WOST Proseminar Lecture Series for the Women’s Studies Graduate Certificate in Advanced Feminist Studies. As Faculty in Residence she will also be involved in the new LINKAGES program initiated and coordinated by the STPEC department. She was also elected to the Faculty Senate. This summer, Alex attended the National Women’s Studies Conference at the University of Missouri - St. Louis where she presented on “Pedagogy in Motion: Women’s Studies Students Speak Themselves into Existence - Catalytic Validity”, and became involved in the Women of Color Caucus, a sub-group of the National Women’s Studies Association. She says, “I’ve been extremely busy, but pleasantly so. Now much of my time is being and will be focused on fine tuning my articles and research for publication.”

Ann Ferguson’s duties as Director have occupied much of her time [see page 2-3.] Nevertheless she visited Puebla, Mexico this spring as part of the first North American/Mexican International Radical Philosophers Conference and spoke on the international women’s movement. She also spoke at the National Radical Philosophy conference at Purdue University and the Eastern Division of the American Philosophical Association in Atlanta. Ann is co-editing a book with Bat-Ami Bar On entitled “Daring to be Good, Feminist Essays in Ethico/Politics” coming out from Routledge in 1998. On a personal note Ann became a grandmother for the first time this past spring.

Linda Hillenbrand coordinated yet another book and reading by the Labor/Management Workplace Education Advanced Writing class—she volunteered her extraordinary design skills for the production of the 2nd collection of readings entitled “Somewhere in Time.” Linda is also on the committee to create a Women’s Guide to UMass [see page 6]. Look for the guide in the late fall. The Women’s Studies Web page grows and beautifies as Linda collects new techniques for great web design. This past Spring Linda spoke in the Intro to Women’s Studies discussion sections on welfare and single parenting. Linda continues to be an important resource and support for single moms in the program.

Jennifer Iré completed her doctorate this past year while working as a temporary lecturer in Women’s Studies. [Obviously she has great time management skills!] Jenny chose to accept an Ed.D. instead of adding two years of internship work to obtain the Ph.D. in Counseling. Her dissertation was entitled, “Autobiographical Writing as Part of Therapy: A Tool for Self-Understanding and Change.” Jenny’s courses “Black Women and Work in the U.S.” and “Immigrant Women in the U.S.: The Dilemma of Caribbean Women” were well received last year and will be offered again. She had an essay published this past year, “The Power of Pepper: From Slave Food to Spirit Food” in Arlene’s book “Through the Kitchen Window.”

Karen Lederer was busily writing job and award recommendations for our high achieving students last spring. Karen is on 2 planning committees for conferences coming up this fall, one on community building and one advising students in crisis. [see related articles.] The proposal for a retention course “Self Advocacy Skills for Women” that she and Alex Deschamps developed was recognized by the Chancellor’s Counsel on Community, Diversity and Social Justice with a materials grant. In March Karen spoke on “Fabric Protest Art” at a panel “Social Fabric in Quilting” at a conference Celebrating Women’s Creativity at Quinnipiac College in Connecticut. Karen continues her health and safety activities with her union, SEIU Local 509, and her service as a Chapter Board member and Steward, and is working on the Hampshire College union drive. “This seems like the year for reunions” is something Karen has been overheard muttering. This past summer Karen survived (and had a good time at) her 20th high school reunion. Karen is convinced she will have even more fun in late September—seeing alums of the program, old college friends and fellow activists at the upcoming Women’s Activist Reunion [see page 1].

Welcome to Nancy Patteson. Nancy will be working with the Graduate Certificate in Advanced Feminist Studies, coordinating the production of the course guide, and serving as the undergraduate minor coordinator. Nancy recently got an M.Ed.
from the School of Education, where her focus was on program development and Higher Education Administration. Her particular interests are in women and higher education, including gender and organizational policy as well as issues for reentry women. She is looking forward to developing interdisciplinary programs in higher education by building bridges between existing programs. Nancy is an active member of the New England Land Grant University Women’s Council. In addition she is actively involved with K-12 education because of her participation on school councils and community projects, and as a parent of 3 daughters. Nancy has also been involved in sports and recreation programs, and helps run a complex household of kids, horses, and a dog. Nancy is friendly, well organized and thorough, and we are looking forward to having her in Women’s Studies.

Jan Raymond gave a keynote address in last October at a conference in Germany on the subject of “Organ Transplantation and Cultural Diversity: Humanity and Nature in the Mirror of Medicine.” A month later Jan was in the U.K. keynoting an international conference of 2500 academics and activists on “Violence, Abuse, and Women’s Citizenship.” In February in Norway she keynoted the 25th Anniversary of Kvinnefronten [the Women’s Front] the largest feminist organization in Norway. In addition to her world travels, Jan published 2 articles: one on RU 486 in the collection “Gendered Practices: Feminist Studies of Technology and Society” (Lingkoping University, Sweden: 1997) and the other on prostitution and sex trafficking in the Swedish feminist journal, Kvinnortryck, [1, 1997]. She was invited to join the editorial board of the series Women and Social Class, published by Taylor and Francis in London.

This summer Jan organized an international conference on “Working with Women in Prostitution: Programs and Policies” funded by a grant given to the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women from the Norwegian Research and Development Agency (see page ____ for editorial). The conference, attended by direct service organizations, survivors of prostitution and sex trafficking, and policy makers was in New York City in July. Back home, Jan is the new graduate certificate program director of our recently established graduate program.

As always, we thank our donors for their generous support. Every month graduates and community members, friends and parents recognize the program with financial gifts. This money is crucial for many of our regular activities, including the printing and mailing of this newsletter. Heart-felt thanks to all of our donors:

M.C. Abrahamsen
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Michelle M. Sheridan
Christine C. Willis
Elisabeth B. Wilson

Women’s Studies is excited to announce the formation of a new group, Friends of Women’s Studies. This is in conjunction with the Women Activist’s Reunion, the 25th anniversary joint celebration of three sister organizations at UMass: Everywoman’s Center, Women’s Studies and the Faculty Senate Council on the Status of Women, being held on September 25-28, 1997 (see page 1). Donations will help to fund special events and speakers, student scholarships and visiting lecturers, etc. As an added plus, donors will receive special gifts, all of which were created especially for Friends of Women’s Studies. For more information, please call Linda Hillenbrand at 413-545-1922. The next newsletter will list all members! Please consider joining!!
THE ROAD FORWARD FROM BEIJING - VIA A SLIGHT DETOUR
Janice G. Raymond

In September, 1995, I had the opportunity to participate in both the governmental and non-governmental meetings at the 4th World Women’s Conference in Beijing. Anyone who attended will testify to the palpable political and personal energy that was evident simply from being in China with 40,000 other women, literally from every corner of the globe. But Beijing was no global camp revival meeting where only good feeling was generated, after which everyone went home satisfied that women’s rights had finally been recognized as human rights!

That was two years ago, and this summer I helped organize a much smaller international gathering in New York City on prostitution and sex trafficking. Sponsored by the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, a feminist human rights network that I co-direct, this conference was a direct result of the networking done in Beijing. Its purpose was to carry forward the work begun by international activists on developing programs and policies for organizing against sexual exploitation.

The working conference was attended by 30 women from 14 different countries, at least 1/4 of whom had been victims/survivors of sex trafficking and prostitution. One woman had been trafficked at age 9 from Puerto Rico to several countries in Latin America, eventually ending up in prostitution in San Francisco. Another activist who founded a direct service organization primarily for African American women in prostitution, had been a street prostitute for 10 years and writes a lot about the myth that prostitution is accepted in the African American community. A Spanish participant represented her government both at Beijing and within the European Union meetings to develop a common policy on sex trafficking and prostitution, although she constantly votes against her official governmental position! A Filipina coordinator of an organization called the BUKLIND center told how the U.S. Navy virtually created the sex industry in and around Olongapo City, site of the former Subic Bay Naval Base. A Bangladeshi lawyer spoke of two fatawa (written legal opinions) that had called for her death after she exposed the hypocrisy of the government’s policy of legalizing prostitution, and then forcibly removing prostituted women and children to jail from certain red light districts in Dhaka. One activist whose entire family had been wiped out in the “Killing Fields” of Cambodia, established the Cambodian Women’s Crisis Center. We did not know until the day the conference commenced whether she could leave Phnom Penh, since the U.S. embassy had been closed down in the midst of the current strife there.

Simply getting some of the participants into the United States, through the discriminatory maze of the visa and immigration process, was an ordeal that started weeks before the conference began. Obtaining a visa to enter the United States is difficult in most circumstances if you are an Asian, African or Latin American national who is not a diplomat, a businessman, a certain type of professional, or a well-heeled tourist. In this current climate of anti-immigration sentiment, it is doubly difficult for a brown or black-skinned human rights worker to obtain a U. S. visa, particularly if she had been a political prisoner in her country during a U.S.-supported dictatorial regime. And it is almost impossible to obtain a visa if you are a woman who has been arrested for prostitution which inevitably will appear in your background check.

The U.S. embassies in the Philippines, Mali, and several countries in Latin America demanded letters of verification from the Coalition, the sponsoring organization in the United States, stating the exact length of stay and who would be financing what. Although the Norwegian Development Agency subsidized the expenses of all participants, the embassies still required women seeking visas to produce evidence of and amounts in their personal bank accounts. Several had no such accounts. Women who had formerly been trafficked into prostitution had to produce evidence of current marital status and motherhood.
I spent hours and days on the phone cajoling various U.S. embassy officials in these countries, after six of our participants had been initially denied visas. Finally they were granted visas only to face a second hurdle of passing through U.S. immigration. Immigration officials in Los Angeles and New York detained several of our participants in holding rooms at the airports, one for nine hours. Another participant’s diary was read, and she was quizzed about its personal details. The conference roommate of one of our Asian participants was phoned and awakened at 2:00 a.m. in the morning by a U.S. immigration official and grilled about the roommate, the purpose of the conference, and the amenities of the hotel!

I initially set out to write more about the conference reports and discussions of this extraordinary meeting of international activists. The participants who attended painted a graphic and dynamic picture, making sex trafficking and prostitution visible as violence against women, and depicting the harm of prostitution and sex trafficking as just as real as that of domestic violence and sexual abuse. All challenged the dominant western view of prostitution as choice and simply another form of work.

The road forward from Beijing took a bit of a detour, however. I had not intended to write so much about the visa and immigration obstacles. But for me, this was an enormous enlightenment in a process that we in the States often take for granted – the relative ease with which many of us travel to most other countries. Sometimes the detours are as educational as the main roads.

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**Women's Studies Film Series**

What are you doing Tuesday evenings this semester? How about a little sex, murder and intrigue? Great! Well come on by the Women’s Studies Lounge and partake in the very first ever film series to be hosted by WOST and the lounge staffers. The series is entitled “Women in Film Noir” featur-

Each Tuesday, beginning 9/9 through 12/9, the films will be shown in Bartlett 208A at 5:30 pm and there is no admission fee. Popcorn and drinks will be available for a minimal charge. Come on by, relax, watch a film classic, fantasize and enjoy a break from your classes. All are welcome.

Any questions regarding the screening or any other aspect of the series can be directed to Deb Rose at 259-2115 or at the e-mail address; drose@student.umass.edu.

**WOMEN IN FILM NOIR**

The film noir heroine, the femme fatale, specializes in murder, seduction and revenge. The femmes fatale is both desirable and dangerous. They are in control of their own sexuality. Some feminist critic’s argue that film noir is particularly oppressive in its representations of women, since heroines who are shown to be in control of their own sexuality are seen as a threat and ultimately they have to be controlled, put in their place, or killed off by the male order. Other approaches, however, are more positive, arguing that in so far as the genre shuns domestic harmony and obvious resolutions it creates a space for exploring (often critically) the contradictions of patriarchal culture.

**DOUBLE INDEMNITY (1944)** Barbara Stanwyck

**GILDA (1946)** Rita Hayworth

**JOHNNY GUITAR (1954)** Joan Crawford

**RISS ME DEADLY (1955)**

**RUTHE (1971)** Jane Fonda

**LADY FROM SHANGHAI (1948)** Orson Welles directs

**LAURA (1944)**

**THE MALTESE FALCON (1941)** Classic Dashiell Hammett

**MILDRED PIERCE (1945)** Joan Crawford

**THE POSTMAN ALWAYS RINGS TWICE (1946)** Lana Turner and John Garfield

**SUNSET BOULEVARD (1950)** Gloria Swanson

**TOUCH OF EVIL (1958)**

**WOMAN IN THE WINDOW (1944)**
Everywoman's Center

Open House
September 8
9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Wilder Hall

Students are encouraged to come by the center, check out the Center’s services and volunteer opportunities.

Women of Color Program Reception
September 18  6-9 p.m.
Mullins Center, VIP Room

The Programs Against Violence Against Women at Everywoman’s Center
Annual Volunteer Training Graduation
Tuesday, November 25
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Bangs Community Center, Amherst
Musical guest and keynote speaker TBA

SERVICES FOR WOMEN: Support Groups

The Counselor/Advocate Program of Everywoman’s Center will be offering 2 support groups this semester: ‘Child Sexual Abuse Survivors’ and ‘Rape Survivors.’ Call the hotline 545-0800 for information and/or to register.

The Center will offer other support groups as well. Call 545-0883 for a complete list.

Five-College WOST Research Center

All special events are co-sponsored with the Odyssey Bookshop in South Hadley, MA

Thursday, October 2, 7:30 pm,
Chapin Auditorium, Mount Holyoke College
Anita Hill will read from & speak about her book Speaking Truth to Power [Doubleday]
Booksighting to follow

October 23, 5:00 p.m.
Ruth Harriet Jacobs
Reading/booksighting, Be an Outrageous Older Woman

October 6
Helen Lefkowitz Horowitz, Smith [American Studies]
Culture War: The Battle Over Sex in Nineteenth-Century America

October 20
Constance Johnson, Community Associate Center for Human Development, Amherst, MA [Social Work and Human Development]
African-American Females and Gender Dysphoria

November 3
Nancy Saporta Sternbach, Smith College [Spanish and Portuguese] & Alberto Sandoval, Mt Holyoke College [Spanish and Italian]
New Latina Theatre: Constructing Hybrid Identities, Performing Lesbian Subjectivities, and Finding a Way Back Home

November 17
Gender, Class, and Social Desirability
Eleanor Towneslym, Mt. Holyoke College [Sociology]
Wives and Husbands Housework Reporting

COLLOQUIA  Tuesdays 7:30 pm

September 23
Margaret S. Ewing, Oklahoma State [Zoology]
Sustaining Women in Science

October 7
Alexandra Halkias, UC San Diego, [Communication]
Abortion and Agon: The Nation-Gender Connection in Contemporary Greece

October 21
Susan Grant Rosen
Union Theological Seminary, [American Religious History]

October 28
Adetoun Ilumoka, Empowerment & Action Research Centre, Lagos, Nigeria [Law]
Making Rights Meaningful

November 4
Luciana Parisi, Univ. of Warwick, U.K. [WOS]
Molecular Replication of the Same: Technical and Social Machines of the Late 20th Century

November 18
Gender and Sexuality in India: Implications for AIDS Spread
Lakshmi Goparaju,
Syracuse University [Anthropology]

All events are free and open to the public and held in the living room of Dickinson House.
For updated event information or directions, call 413-538-2527.
http://persephone.hampshire.edu/~fcwsr
GLBT Lecture Series

Lectures are held EVERY THURSDAY at 12:30 pm in the Campus Center. Sponsored by The Stonewall Center, UMass Chancellor's Task Force on GLBT Matters, UMass Women's Studies Program, and the GLB GSO.

September 11
Susan Tracy, American Studies-Hampshire College
Queer Autobiography

September 18
Fernando Chang-Muy, Director of the International Center at Swarthmore College and adjunct professor of law at the University of Pennsylvania
Lesbian & Gay Adoption: Cutting Edge Issues

September 25
Monica Palacios, California based writer and performer
Queer of Color in American Theater
This event is co-sponsored by NEW WORLD THEATER. There will be a performance of Palacios’ one-woman play, Greetings from a Queer Senorita, on Friday, 9/26

October 9
Riki Anne Wilchins, Co-founder of Transsexual Menace, the Executive Director of GenderPAC, and one of the most prominent writers on the transgender scene
Read My Lips: Sexual Subversion and the End of Gender

November 13
Betsy Reed
Homo Economics: Capitalism, Community, & Lesbian & Gay Life

December 4
Amy Hoffman
Hospital Time— A Memoir of Taking Care of Friends with AIDS

December 11
Christian McEwen
A Celebration of Tom Boys

October 2, 16, 23, 30 and November 6, 20
Speakers - To be announced

New World Theater

For information contact them at 545-1972 For tickets call 545-2511.

The Return of Elijah, the African by Sekou Sundiata
Friday, Sept. 19, 8 p.m. Bowker Auditorium
Sundiata depicts the mythic tale of Elijah a former slave returning to Africa. The play is a collaboration with composer Craig Harris and is filled with jazz, blues, and improvisation.

Greetings from a Queer Senorita
Written and performed by Monica Palacios
This event is part of the Women Activists Reunion
Friday, Sept. 26, 8 p.m. Bowker Auditorium

Find out about Monica Palacios’ happy childhood, bringing home her wife to meet the family, her lesbian sister “double dyke familia”, the lesbo lambada, a gynecologist cabaret singer, and more. Monica Palacios will also speak on the topic “Queers of Color in American Theater” at the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Brown Bag series on Thursday, 9/25 12:30-2:00 in CC 803.

An Evening of One Acts by Early African American Women Playwrights
Co-sponsored with the UMass Theater Department
Wednesday October 8-Saturday October 11
Rand Theater, Fine Arts Center

A common misconception is that the first African American woman playwright was Lorraine Hansberry. These 3 playwrights, Shirley Graham, Marita Bonner and Georgia Douglas Johnson were the true foremothers, vital participants and voices of the Harlem Renaissance, beginning a tradition of playwriting in the 1920s.

Flipzoids by Ralph Pena
presented by Ma-Yi Theatre Ensemble, Inc.
Thursday-Saturday, October 16-18 8:00 p.m.
October 18, 2:00 p.m., Hampden Theatre

The lives of three immigrant Filipinos living in Orange County, California: an aging Catholic peasant proud of her heritage, her cappuccino-sipping daughter eager to sever the roots of her homeland, and a gay Generation X-er, intelligent, well-read, well-to-do with everything but an identity.
OTHER EVENTS

R.A.D. Rape Aggression Defense Courses
A Self Defense Course for Women

The R.A.D. Instructors from the UMass Police Department invite people to join this intensive 12 hour program (4 nights of 3 hours each). The class focuses on rape awareness, prevention, risk reduction, options, and physical defense moves. The class requires a 12 hour commitment and is limited to 16 students (first come, first serve.) It is free of charge, and students receive a free lifetime return and practice policy. For dates and locations contact Detective O’Connor at 545-0893.

Arts Exhibits at Hampshire College on Reproductive Rights Issues

The Civil Liberties and Public Policy Program at Hampshire College [with a number of co-sponsors including Women’s Studies] will present 2 art exhibits and presentations on reproductive rights. “Wake Up Little Susie” is a three-dimensional, mixed media installation about pregnancy and race in postwar, pre-Roe v. Wade America. The exhibition is a collaboration between three artists, Kathy Hutton, Kathleen Meadows, and Kay Obening. It is based on a book by Rickie Solinger entitled: “Wake Up Little Susie: Single Pregnancy and Race before Roe v. Wade.” This innovative exhibition is a chessboard with a series of human-scale sculptures. “Warnings” is created by artist Lisa Link and consists of 31 computer/ photographic montages and a video entitled “Electronic Action.” Link’s work illustrates the parallel between the Nazi party’s obliteration of women’s reproductive rights and anti-choice groups in the U.S. today. The exhibits will run from September 1-September 27. There will be an opening reception on September 18 which will feature presentations by Lisa Link, Rickie Solinger, and Helen Caulton Commission of Health and Human Services, City of Springfield.

Building Communities at UMass
Breaking Barriers, Making Connections

This Community Building Conference will be held on Friday, September 19, 1997, from 8:30-3:30 and is open to students, faculty, and staff. This conference was sparked by University Resource Network conversations following the Goodell occupation. In these conversations, undergraduates expressed strong concerns about their sense of disconnection from faculty and staff and the general lack of community on the campus. The conference will examine the current state of community on the campus and explore ways of expanding opportunities for building community between students and faculty and staff. Community building on this large, compartmentalized campus is a difficult task made complex by issues of social justice, power and affiliation. There are many successful smaller communities on the campus, but they are often isolated from one another. How can we build bridges between these communities and build upon these successes? To register for the conference call the Office of Human Relations, 545-0851. Registration is limited, call now!

When Academic Advising Becomes Personal: Skillful Referrals for Students in Crisis for Graduate Students, Faculty and Staff who are Academic Advisors

This conference will take place on Friday, November 7, 1997 - 8:30-2:00 and is for all academic advisors to focus on strategies for identifying, talking with, and making referrals for students in personal crisis. For more information contact the Office of Human Relations, 545-0851.

COURSE GUIDE ADDENDA
As of 8/7/97

Cancellations:
STPEC 394A
Women Organizing in the Third World

STPEC 394B - Sexuality & Gender: Contemporary Theories, Politics, & Practices

New Core Course:
WOST 694H - Women in Islam - Leila Ahmed
Offered in conjunction with WOST 494H
Fulfills requirements for WOST major/minor and the graduate certificate

New Departmental Courses:
THEATER 497A - Outreach Theater
Harley Edelman
Special focus for Fall '97 will be on issues of violence against women

BIOEPI 591A - Special Topics in Epidemiology:
Reproductive Epidemiology - Lisa Chason-Taber, Sc.D.