



University of Massachusetts Amherst



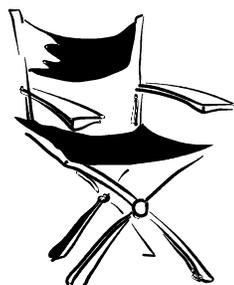
Women's Studies Program

Newsletter

Fall 2005

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Women's studies is now post-AQAD! (The external review required of all programs.) The process was an enormous effort by everyone in the program and I want to especially thank the faculty and staff who came to many meetings—some of which lasted all day. Thanks also to Linda Hillenbrand who in addition to many other things put the 53 page self-study and the 23 appendices together into 11 beautiful packages, the executive committee who helped us to think through the issues for the self-study and our response to the report, and our students and alums who came to meetings and filled out surveys. Women's studies came through with flying colors. The team said we have “accomplished extraordinary feats with exceedingly limited resources” including a rigorous curriculum “unique” in its emphasis on integrative analysis, “an ideal” they noted, “that is sought in many programs throughout the country but rarely achieved at the level we saw here.” Our faculty are “distinguished” for our diversity and our “expertise in the intersectionality of race, gender, class, sexuality, and nationality”; our “strong multicultural focus”; and our “involvement in social justice activism on and off campus.” They were very impressed with both our graduate and undergraduate students who conveyed a high level of satisfaction with the program. They recommended what we know all too well: we need more faculty, a larger space, and faculty offices that are contiguous. We look forward to the dean's response.

In addition to our work on the AQAD last semester, we continued planning our collaboration with Africana Women's Studies at Bennett College for Women in Greensboro, North Carolina. The director of the program at Bennett, Valerie Kaalund, came to our campus in March and despite having to brave an intense snow squall and frigid weather, had an excellent visit, meeting with faculty, students, and administrators. In April most of us went to Bennett where we met with their faculty, administrators, and students. Some of the ideas we discussed were: collaborations on research projects and course/curriculum development, traveling to conferences together, faculty development workshops, and faculty and student exchanges. We all agree that this collaboration between two very different institutions and programs would benefit both of us enormously. We are now seeking funds for planning meetings. Thank you to Dean Lee Edwards for her generous support of this collaboration.

More good news!! This Spring Claudia de Lima Costa will join our faculty. Her research on feminist and Latin American cultural studies, Latin American feminisms, and feminist cultural translations are terrific additions to the program. She will be teaching Feminist Theory in the Spring and we look forward to courses more closely focused on her expertise in the coming years.

Welcome back to Dayo Faloyan Gore who was a Scholar in Residence and Fellow at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture last year, and to Ann Ferguson who was off for the Spring semester in Spain for part of that time and in Mexico for a conference on Globalization which she co-organized. Congratulations to Miliann Kang for being awarded a Center for Teaching (Lilly) Fellowship, and to Alex Deschamps for the wonderful job she did chairing the

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**(Director's Message
continued from front page)**

Community, Diversity, Social Justice Committee for the College of Humanities and Fine Arts. Alex was also chosen to deliver the address at the Smith School for Social Work Commencement. Congratulations too to Banu whose new course, The Biology of Difference, was approved for an SIU General Education designation. SI is "Science Interdisciplinary" and U is "Diversity United States." Read more about all our tireless faculty, staff and students in the People News and Comings and Goings column in this issue.

Some of the developments for the campus are also excellent. The faculty/librarian union has successfully negotiated a good contract, and the legislature seems committed to providing the funds to begin rebuilding the faculty.

On the other hand, we are disturbed that the assault on the Office of ALANA Affairs and the ALANA caucus has proceeded apace despite student, faculty, and staff efforts against this move. Founded in 1979, the Office of ALANA Affairs provided crucial support and advocacy for ALANA students. It was one of the many gains won by students during those years of intense organizing and struggle for student control and autonomy. Once, an independent agency, making budgetary decisions without interference from the administration, the office will now be closely overseen by Student Affairs. Neither the director nor the ALANA caucus will have final decision making power as they once had, clearly a step backward for all students.

Finally, I want to welcome Barbara Cruikshank, faculty member in Political Science, who will take over as Director in the Fall while I am on sabbatical. Since we are such a small department and all of our faculty are needed to do what they are doing, we decided to ask one of our associated faculty to take over for a semester and, happily, Barbara agreed. She has served on the Graduate Studies Committee for many years and was also Summer Administrator one summer a long time ago. A popular and respected teacher, Barbara is well known to our students as well.

I hope everyone has a wonderful fall semester.



Hello,

I am thrilled to be the temporary Chair of Women's Studies this semester. With Arlene Avakian at the helm, the Women's Studies Program added great new faculty and is increasingly a visible and vibrant presence on campus. It is a very good time, while things are running strong and smooth, to step in temporarily as Chair. A crackerjack staff, bright students, and dedicated colleagues, this should be easy. Right? Actually, since I am coming over from another college to Humanities and Fine Arts, and with little administrative experience to speak of, I will be leaning hard on all of you and sincerely hope that I do not tax your patience too heavily. That said, I am looking forward to this semester and am determined to keep things on an even keel until Arlene gets back.

Barbara Cruikshank



This fall we'll be putting news from the program on the front page of our website. Our faculty, staff and students do so many exciting things that they sometimes make the news and we want to spread the word. We will use the alum/friends listserv to link to important stories as well as announcements that we've added more good news to the WOST website. Our alum/friends listserv is under utilized. We established it so that our alums and friends can keep in touch. So, if you're an alum or a friend and want to be added, e-mail lindah@wost.umass.edu or call the office. Let us know who you are in the e-mail and your connection to the program. The list is closed so only members can post and spam will not be let through.

Women's Studies folks are so busy receiving awards, doing research and writing books, serving on or leading committees and designing new courses, it is amazing they have time to eat! Here are just a few of the highlights:

WOMEN'S STUDIES FACULTY

Arlene Avakian is very much looking forward to her sabbatical when she will be able to work on the intersection of race, gender, and class in the anti-busing movement in Boston, a project she has been thinking about for years. She was also very pleased to be part of the panel, "Translated Memory and the Language of Genocide: (Gendered) Responses to Traumatic Histories and Silences" in Canada last spring. Her paper, "Powerful Silences: Becoming a Survivor Through the Construction of Story," looked once again at her grandmother's genocide narrative. She is also delighted to have two manuscripts out of her house. From Betty Crocker to Feminist Food Studies will be out this Fall published by UMass Press, as will the Berg reprint of Through the Kitchen Window.

Alex Deschamps has again been recognized for her superb teaching with the College of Humanities and Fine Arts Teaching Award. Alex was selected to give the Commencement Speech at the Smith School for Social Work Graduate Program for the August 2005 graduates. Alex provides leadership on many committees. She has chaired the Community, Diversity and Social Justice Initiative (CDSJ) for the College of Humanities and Fine Arts. The Community, Diversity and Social Justice Initiative is a campus-wide effort to make UMass Amherst a more inclusive and equitable teaching, learning, working and living community. Alex has also designed a new culminating experience course for Women's Studies honors students (see student news) This fall she will also be acting director of BDIC. (Bachelor's Degree with Individual Concentration.)

Ann Ferguson traveled to Spain for several weeks last spring to do interdisciplinary and cross-national research on young people's response to violence against women in intimate relationships. Surveys from UMass Amherst classes in Anthropology and Women's Studies will be compared with surveys from Spain, France and Brazil. Ann reports that the **Women and Globalization Conference** July 26-August 3 in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico was "wonderful because of all the great talks and women (and some men), both activists and academics, from all over the world. There would have been more but the Mexican government in May imposed new visa restrictions on people from Asia, most of Africa and South America that made it impossible for people from Kenya,

Bangladesh, India, Nigeria, the Philippines and Venezuela to come! It is U.S. concern over so-called 'terrorists' from those countries which has caused this change in U.S. ally Mexico." Ann was a key member of the conference program committee, and reports that it was lots of work but worthwhile. "More than 180 people registered from all over the world, activists, artists and academics!" Ann spoke on "Cowboy Masculinity and the US War on Terrorism" along with Bonnie Mann, from the University of Oregon, who analyzed the "Shock and Awe" strategy of the U.S. military in Iraq. Other campus folks spoke at the conference including Maggie Cunha, (Public Health) and estheR Cuesta (Comparative Literature and WOST spring instructor.) Many of the conference papers are online, check it out www.globaljusticecenter.org

Dayo Gore is happy to be back after a year on fellowship in New York City at the Schomburg Center for Research on Black Culture. Her research focused on her book project which examines the activism of black women radicals affiliated with the organized left during the 1940's and 1950's. She has a forthcoming article "'The Law. The Precious Law:' Black Women Radicals and the Fight to End Legal Lynching." Welcome back Dayo!

Miliann Kang enjoyed working more closely with the Graduate Certificate students by teaching the course on Issues in Feminist Research and sponsoring student's final projects. For the fall she is excited about team teaching WOST 187 with Banu and Dayo and focusing on reaching the students who are just beginning to develop a feminist analysis and awareness. "I am very honored to have been selected as a Lilly Teaching Fellow. . . I have enjoyed serving as an editorial board member for the Rose Book Series of the American Sociological Association and a member of the Sister-to-Sister Task Force and the Nominations Committee of Sociologists for Women in Society." She continues as an active member of the Asian and Asian American Certificate program and encourages more Women's Studies students to check out some of the great courses, especially with the arrival of exciting new faculty. Miliann's big upcoming project is completing her book manuscript, "Manicuring Women: Race, Gender and Immigration in Beauty Service Work." Congratulations on your Lilly Fellowship!

Banu Subramaniam has served on lots of committees including being the University rep on the Steering Committee of the Five College Women's Studies Research Center, a member of the Humanities and Fine Arts College Personnel Committee, the Chair of the Five College Race Gender Science Initiative and the co-chair of the Five College Race and Reproductive Rights Group. This fall she will teach a newly developed course, "Introduction to the Biology of Difference" which has been approved as a general education course. She will also teach the newly re-

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....PEOPLE NEWS CONTINUED....

designed Introduction to Women's Studies as a team taught course with her colleagues Miliann Kang and Dayo Gore. Banu also has a forthcoming book this fall: Making Threats: Biofears and Environmental Anxieties (Rowman and Littlefield, 2005) coedited with Betsy Hartmann and Charles Zerner.

Special note: Congratulations to **Joyce Berkman**, History department faculty member and active and long standing member of the Women's Studies Executive Committee and Graduate Studies committee. **Joyce** has received a Fulbright award for fall 2005. She will spend the semester as J. William Fulbright Professor in the History Department of the prestigious John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies at the Free University, Berlin, Germany

WOMEN'S STUDIES STAFF

Linda Hillenbrand has spent the last half of her summer filling in for her union's President, who had surgery, and has found that extra responsibility can be a learning experience. To add to this, she's been carrying around some extra weight on one leg in the form of a purple cast. She broke her fibula (calf bone) while hiking and is counting the days until it comes off. This fall she looks forward to making some changes to the WOST website, continuing her work with the Community, Diversity, Social Justice Committee for Academic Affairs and trying to keep up with all the work in her union.

Karen Lederer spent lots of last school year counting things for the AQAD review. She can assert with certainty that we have over 1000 alums and are in touch with well over half of them! Karen had a great time last year teaching a section of the Dean's Book course for Commonwealth College, and looks forward to doing it again this Fall. Also this fall, Karen has a once in a lifetime opportunity. Her father, Paul Lederer, is a refugee from Vienna, Austria. Paul Lederer arrived in the U.S. in the fall of 1939. Karen, Paul and her sister plan to travel to Vienna in November. The school that expelled Paul and all the other Jewish students in 1938 has invited those students back for a ceremony. Karen has been researching efforts around healing and restitution for victims and survivors of genocide. Perhaps these projects around the Holocaust will hasten other worldwide movements for justice and reparations.

Nancy Patteson continues her duties as Graduate Program/Program Development Coordinator. Last year she taught first year students in the Linkages program and thoroughly enjoyed being back in the classroom. She continues her service to the campus as Co-Chair of the Faculty Senate Council on the Status of Women and as a

member of the Committee on Committees. In addition to her professional work on campus, she is both an alum and a parent to a daughter she can't believe is old enough to graduate from UMass Amherst in May 2006. She spent her vacation time this summer building fences on the family farm, swimming and sailing.

For years we've been graced by our talented faculty, Ann Ferguson singing at graduation, other people offering inspirational cheers, wishes, poems. This year we had a special poetry offering:

Measure and Record the Loss

(for the UMASS Amherst Women's Studies Graduating Class of 2005)

By Miliann Kang

Endings are new beginnings
but endings are still endings.

Yes, childhood is an opening
into the delectable feast of
adult passions and entanglements,
freedom to choose one's own loves and be chosen
or not be chosen and walk away
barefoot down a dirt road with attitude.

The closing of childhood's door
is nonetheless a hard thud,
a moment marked by tasting the bittersweet fruit
of parental fallibility and
stomping on the clay feet of dethroned gods.

The new self that surges up when
looking power in the eye
comes with a price.
Know this, and pay the piper.
Then stand back and enjoy the fireworks.

But pay homage to the passing of the child
who once believed
in the piece of bone and saliva
that alchemized under her pillow into crisp dollar bills
as evidence of the universe's
investment in her personal happiness.

Casting off a child's insistence
that life's purpose is to be swaddled in
infinite nurturing and forbearance
is a grueling surrender.

Measure and record the loss.
What remains is knowledge
that what we are playing is only one rendition
of a mutable score.

The Sufis have a saying -
when the heart grieves for what is lost
the spirit can rejoice in what is left.

← COMINGS & GOINGS →

UPDATES ON INSTRUCTORS

Thanks to our able spring graduate student instructors, estheR Cuesta, Jeannine Marks, as well as Kirsten Isgro and Bev Weber who co-taught Women's Studies 187. Otherwise we are thrilled to have back again our team of experienced teaching assistants for 187. We bid farewell to Kirsten, best of luck at Keene State College. Welcome back to Bev who will be teaching a new course based on her research, Women's Studies 291, "Gender, Race and Immigration in Contemporary Western Europe." Welcome back to Juliette Lee who will be teaching Women's Studies 295B "Asian American Women: Gender, Race and Immigration." Welcome back to Claire Schomp who is teaching Women's Studies 391W Writing for Majors.

NEW STUDENTS AND GRADS

As always, we had a lovely celebration for our graduates in May. This year was even more festive because of a performance by the musical group Ntelekt, sponsored by Alex Deschamps and a poem (pg. 4). Our students are accomplished and dedicated as ever:

Congratulations and best of luck to our departing majors: Christine Carter, Aiysha Cooper, Shannon Farrington, Liz Forbes, Rachel Gordon, Kinna Harland, Christina Knowles, Jya Plavin, Marjorie Valdivia, Stephanie Veseskis and Stacy Wasserman.

Good luck to our graduating minors: Abisola Alade, Aimee Bechan, Cailin Campbell, Michelle Chardaroyne, Kimberly Ann Childs, Melissa Decker, Jacqueline DeJesus, Ravan East, Jessica Filipowski, Jackie Govoni, Katherine Hanley, Tracy Kirschen, Astariea Martin, Brittany Nelson, Katy Noone, Samantha Sharac, Kristin Simonds, Annmarie Wacha, Kate Walsh, Mamei Willie Bongto and Jennifer Wood.

Congratulations to the following graduate students who completed all requirements to graduate from our Certificate in Advanced Feminist Studies in Spring 2005:

Amy Cronin, M.P.A., Center for Public Policy and Administration; Monica Fambrough, M.F.A., Poetry; Amy Hines, M.A., Labor Relations; Mariela Mendez-Coudriet, Ph.D., Comparative Literature degree candidate; Maria Stehle, Ph.D., Germanic Languages degree candidate.

As always, we welcome a new group of wonderful students. Joining the major in spring 2005 were: Aiysha Cooper, Jenny Crabbe, Emma McAlary, Megan McNeil, Bryony Muniz-Dube, Helen Petties, Morganne Ray, Lisa Rua, Alana Telian and Jenna Wright.

New minors included: Abisola Alade, Lauren Brannon, Cailin Campbell, Brietta Costa, Michelle Chardaroyne, Alicia Desjardins, Loren Fields, Jessica Filipowski, Boyaan Gao, Jackie Govoni, Amy Grzybinski, Renée Hadad, Katherine Hanley, David Ho, Eun-mi Hur, April Krangel, Vannye Lima, Brittany Nelson, Jessica Riley, Alannah Sharry, Samantha Sharac, Aviva Vincent, Arianne Waldron, Joseph Wohl.

CERTIFICATE IN ADVANCED FEMINIST STUDIES

Welcome to the incoming class, accepted in Spring of 2005. We are pleased to have another strong and diverse group of students: Elizabeth Cahn, Ph.D. candidate in Planning, Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning; estheR Cuesta, M.A./Ph.D. candidate, Comparative Literature; Emily Honey, Ph.D. candidate, American Studies; Sue Yeun Juliette Lee, M.F.A. candidate, Poetry, English; Allia Matta, Ph.D., Afro-American Studies; Jacqueline Morse, Ph.D. candidate, Economics; Pierre Orelus, Ed.D. candidate, Education: Language, Lit & Culture; Maeve Powlick, Ph.D. candidate, Economics; Youngju Seo, Ph.D. candidate, Sociology; Juliette Van de Geer, M.Ed. candidate, Center for International Education, Lena Zuckerwise, Ph.D. candidate, Political Science

Library News

By Beth Lang

Welcome, WOST students! It is mid-August as I write this from my desk on the Main floor of the Du Bois Library. I can hear the sound of carpenters and smell the odor of paint as the renovations continue in high gear to the Library's Main floor. For you returning students, you will be amazed at the changes and for you new students - you are arriving right at the start of the new Learning Commons located here in the library.

I am the Women's Studies librarian, and am available to help WOST students, faculty and staff find library resources that they need.

My contact info:
bwlang@library.umass.edu.
545-6890. Please feel free to contact me to make an appointment for library research help.



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

WOST Student Network Forms!

Message from the founders—

The WOST Student Network was formed at the end of last semester in response to a call from WOST students for community building and organizing. We met and circulated a survey in WOST classes to provide a forum, get a sense of general interest, and find a place to start. If you are interested in speaking about your experiences with Women's Studies and your plans for the future with prospective and incoming majors and minors, or if you are interested in being involved with the group that will be organizing events in the future, please email WOSTStudentNetwork@gmail.com or contact the Women's Studies office.

Look for the welcome back/pizza party/book swap in early September. Plans are in the works for senior Women's Studies students and possibly graduate students to share info with prospective students in October. Stay tuned for announcements. Thanks to Lauren Brannon, Stacy Carvalho, and Becky Hawes-Sivitz for their excellent organizing work, great ideas and energy! In addition to these new initiatives, there are student reps on program committees! To find out more, contact the office.

NEWS ABOUT UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

As highlighted in the people news, our innovative faculty have gotten together and redesigned our large introductory class, **Introduction to Women's Studies**, as a team taught class. Discussion sessions are being offered in Southwest to reach out more to students. Women's Studies has many honors students. ComCol students have to do a culminating experience as part of their requirements. Alex Deschamps designed a course: **Culminating Experience: Transnational Women's Economic and Political Activisms** for this year. This two-semester Culminating Experience course (4 & 4 credits) fulfills the Honor's Requirements for Senior Theses/projects and allows Women's Studies majors and minors to put their academic and scholarly work into Praxis. This course will research the geographies of Development, Gendered Violence, and Resistance. Students will work on individual research projects as well and participate in an undergraduate research project in the spring.

Commonwealth College: If you are interested in the Commonwealth college, talk to the Women's Studies honors coordinator, Alex Deschamps. Look for notification of meetings for honors students in the program. Keep in

touch with the honors coordinator, meet with her well in advance of beginning honors theses or projects. Commonwealth college has an extensive website, including a large array of scholarships, grants, and research fellowships. Many women's studies students have received funding from these sources. Check it out: <http://www.comcol.umass.edu/>

Advising: Make an appointment to see Karen if you a major or minor, or are considering Women's Studies. Seniors should come in to check that they are on track. Major applications for the fall semester are due October 31st. Minor applications are welcome at any time, new minors who turn in applications by Oct. 31st will be invited to the welcome dinner. All current majors and minors will be invited to the dinner in late October/early November. We have some new advising materials to help you, stop by for an appointment and to pick up the advising grid. For new students: all major and minor applications must be signed by a faculty sponsor. For assistance in finding a sponsor, make an advising appointment. Current students, we urge you to check in with your faculty sponsor and the office on a regular basis.

Special note: Karen plans to be away for about 2-3 weeks in November. Because she will be out during the beginning of Spring 2006 registration, make your advising appointments EARLY! Email with several good times to meet for you: Lederer@wost.umass.edu.

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

A reminder that the deadline for application to the Certificate is not until March of 2006, but students can receive up to 6 credits, or credit for 2 approved classes, taken prior to admission to the Certificate. Approved courses can be taken either semester and applied toward your application for admission. Contact Nancy in the Women's Studies office for a list of approved classes for Fall 2005 and for advising. As always, students in the program are encouraged to stop into the office for advising.

Issues in Feminist Research, Women's Studies 691B, offered only in the spring semester is now restricted to Certificate students only. Students must be accepted into the Certificate for Advanced Feminist Studies to be registered for the course. Plan accordingly.

Graduate student representatives on Women's Studies committees this coming academic year are: Elizabeth Cahn, Executive Committee and Kyle Frackman, Graduate Studies Committee. Both committees meet every month. Let them know your concerns and your ideas.

♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ **EVENTS** ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀

The Feminist Foundation Series planning was in process at press time. Contact the Women's Studies office for details.



As always, the **Stonewall Center** has a number of events in the works. Contact them for information, 545-4824, www.umass.edu/stonewall.



THERE ARE SOME FABULOUS EVENTS THIS FALL. SAVE THESE DATES:

Jody Williams, Nobel Prize winner returns to UMass Amherst. The Center for Public Policy and Administration will honor Jody Williams of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines with the annual Public Service Award. The title of her talk is "What You *Do* Matters: Creating Communities to Solve Global Problems." The event is open to all, Thursday, Sept. 29, 4 p.m. Campus Center Auditorium. For info www.masspolicy.org



As always, the **Fine Arts Center** has wonderful programs this year, too numerous to list here, and several programs focus on gender issues. Check out the websites for Asian Arts and Culture, and New World Theater, www.umass.edu/fac. Look for innovative theater and music, programs on women directors and more. The focus this fall of the New Asia Cinema Tuesday night film series is "Genders." One special event:

"Voices of the Sidis"
2 documentaries by Beheroze Shroff
Monday, October 3

Campus Center 904-908 7:00 pm
We're Indian And African: Voices Of The Sidis gives voice to the conflicts and dilemmas of an Afro-Indian Sidi community in Gujarat and in *Voices Of The Sidis: Ancestral Links* an urban Sidi family in Bombay is portrayed. Screening and a talk with feminist filmmaker (and former Women's Studies instructor!) Beheroze Shroff. Beheroze has explored issues of diaspora, dislocation and relocation and issues of gender. She presently teaches in the Asian American Studies Department at UC Irvine. Her films include "Sweet Jail: The Sikhs of Yuba City." Presented in collaboration with the Women's Studies Program.

Everywoman's Center Events. For information www.umass.edu/ewc, 545-0883



September 17th from 7:00-9:00
Why We Teach: An Evening with Sonia Nieto
 at Food for Thought Books

October 6th from 4:00-6:00
Reproductive Freedom and the New Supreme Court
 Campus Center 917
 (co-sponsored with Civil Liberties and Public Policy Program at Hampshire College)

November 17th from 12:00-1:30 pm
Our Bodies, Ourselves:2005
 a talk with Judy Norsigian-CC 917
 7:00-8:30 pm
Our Bodies, Ourselves:2005:
An Evening with Judy Norsigian 7:00-8:30 pm
 at Food for Thought Books
 (co-sponsored with Women's Studies, the Civil Liberties and Public Policy Program at Hampshire College and Food For Thought Books)



Women of Color Leadership Network (WOCLN) has several excellent series in place for the fall.

The Women of Color reception is
 Wednesday, September 14th, 2005
 4:00-7:00 pm, Durfee Conservatory Lawn

There is an alumnae weekend October 27-30

Contact the program for information about their series:

Lecture series on selected Friday afternoons
"Conversations in Leadership"

Film Series *"Women of Color Direct"*
 on several Wednesdays

Workshop Series *"Professional Skills Development"*
 on selected Tuesdays

Workshop Series *"Developing Leadership from the InsideOut"* Thursdays beginning September 22.

For information contact WOCLN at 545-1671.

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Five College Women's Studies Research Center
 By Janice Irvine, Director FCWSRC, and professor of Sociology, University of Massachusetts Amherst and Elizabeth (EB) Lehman, Assistant Director Five College Women's Studies Research Center

This is a very exciting time to be assuming the directorship of the Five College Women's Studies Research Center. The Center has become an internationally known hub for gender scholarship under the dynamic leadership of its prior directors, Amrita Basu and Gail Hornstein. This year promises to be busy and lively. Our 19 research associates are coming from around the globe, including South Africa, Australia, and Japan. As always, they will be presenting their work in regularly scheduled talks at the Center. We will also feature talks by Valley faculty, among them Lynn Morgan from Mt. Holyoke College, Naomi Miller and Daphne Lamothe from Smith College, and Margaret Hunt and Michele Barale from Amherst College. We are facing a terrifying political climate, and FCWSRC, located at Mount Holyoke College, will sponsor a number of programs addressing the connections between our research and our politics. Two upcoming topics are marriage politics, and the right-wing appropriation of feminist rhetoric. This is your research center, and we welcome input and ideas from all of you. Please contact us at fcwsrc@fivecolleges.edu to be placed on the mailing list, and check out our website for a full schedule of events: www.fivecolleges.edu/sites/fcwsrc/

One special event slated for the fall, in cosponsorship with The Poetry Center at Smith College: "Voices from Inside: Women Speak from Prison", Tuesday, November 15, 7:30pm, Wright Hall, Weinstein Auditorium, Smith College. With raw honesty, courage, and insight, these women bring their hopes and histories to life in an intimate ensemble performance of poetry and monologue. Writing together in creative-writing workshops sponsored by western Massachusetts-based Voices from Inside and created in collaboration with performance poet Magdalena Gomez, this piece brings immediacy and urgency to issues of oppression and compassion. The women of Voices from Inside challenge public perception about incarceration, about those we put into prison and why, and about what happens to the heart inside those walls.

ALSO: The annual five college women's studies reception at the Center takes place **Tuesday, September 27 from 4-6pm**. Come meet this year's research associates, and reconnect with faculty and friends of women's studies. All welcome.



Thinking of going to graduate school? Spend some time at the **Graduate and Professional Schools Information Day** on October 26, 2005, 11:00-3:00 pm Student Union Ballroom. Program includes over 130+ graduate, medical, dental, law, social work, theology, international relations, education, library science programs and a range of other post-baccalaureate options from across the US and abroad. www.umass.edu/careers for more info. The contact person for career assistance for Humanities and Fine Arts (including of course Women's Studies) students is Caroline Gould, clgould@acad.umass.edu, or stop by 512 Goodell.



Demilitarization, Environmental and Economic Justice Conference: The Case Study of Vieques, Puerto Rico will take place here on campus, October 29. Rev. Al Sharpton is scheduled to be the keynote speaker, and the conference focuses on the role of professors and students in the Vieques movement. The conference follows an earlier conference focusing on the role of women in the struggle. For information contact the office of ALANA affairs 545-2517.



A new film entitled "**Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price**" by Robert Greenwald is scheduled to be screened around the country on November 16, sponsored by the National Organization for Women. The film will focus on how Wal-Mart's practices impact U.S. women and families. (www.walmartmovie.com) Look for local listings.

With all the competing sources of information in the world, it is important to seek information from multiple places. Our website (www.umass.edu/wost) links to many such sites. Click on "Women's Studies Related Links" or "Links to Resources/Topics." We have alternative news sources, information on current women's issues, war and peace, global issues, and topics A to Z.

Here are a few great sites to check:

<http://www.vote-smart.org/>
 Find out how your representatives voted.

<http://www.about-face.org/>
 Don't fall for the media circus! A site that promotes self-esteem in girls and women of all ages.

❖❖ALUMNI NEWS❖❖

ALUMNI SURVEY

As part of the AQAD review we attempted to get in touch with as many of our alumni as we could. Thanks so much to everyone who filled out and returned the alumni survey. We got to brag about you with our review team, and catch up on your many impressive activities. Your suggestions were great—about fundraising, reunions, and even to challenge grads to make art projects out of the t-shirts they were awarded! We loved the encouraging little notes such as “You women rock!!” We are in the process of compiling your suggestions, and an alumni database, and lists of committee volunteers. For those of you who granted permission, we will create a database of career contacts for current students. Stay tuned for more developments, and thanks for responding. We welcome more surveys! Fill it out and send it in, or call the office or email Linda (lindah@wost.umass.edu) for a copy. *Current students:* we are beginning to develop an alumni contact list from the surveys. For info contact Karen or Linda in the office.

ALUMNI NEWS

As always, we love to hear from our graduates throughout the year. Many of you sent baby pictures and news of further educational projects. As always, the balance that our grads maintain between work, family, politics and education is impressive! Because there are so many alums of Women’s Studies (1000 and counting. . .) I am experimenting with grouping news by decade. Of course, sometimes people were scheduled to graduate in one decade. . . but perhaps didn’t actually finish until the next. We did our best. We couldn’t fit in everyone’s news, but please keep those cards and letters coming! Send your updates to Lederer@wost.umass.edu by next August for next fall’s alumni news.

Special thanks to Lisa Dawn Thompson and Gina Gobar who spoke at our Alumni Career forum in the spring!

1970’s

Janet Aalfs was appointed Poet Laureate of Northampton in 2003. She continues as director of Valley Women’s Martial Arts and the Institute for Healing and Violence Prevention Strategies.

Cyndi Daniels wrote last December that she is “living on a horse farm now with 4 horses, 13 chickens, 4 ducks, two cats and one dog (oh also Bob Higgins and two daughters.)”

Joanne Gangi is a Park Ranger with the National Park Service in Springfield.

Birdie MacLennan is a librarian at the Bailey/Howe Library at the University of Vermont.

1980’s

Liz Bennett works as a psychologist in New Bedford.

Lisa Bernard-Pearl is a gynecologist in New York state.

Maren Brown is the interim director of the UMass Arts Extension Service. The announcement of her wedding to her long time partner, Patricia Morrison, was featured recently in the Daily Hampshire Gazette.

Mindy Chateauvert is a faculty member in the African American Studies department at the University of Maryland at College Park.

Susan Crane writes often with great family pictures of her life in London. She thanked everyone for their concern about their well being this summer, and adds that she has a new full time job: Chief Executive of the Daycare Trust.

Suzanne Gardinier is a writer/professor at Sarah Lawrence College in New York City.

Adena Gilbert is an Administrative Law Judge in California.

Jackie Levin is a clinical nurse specialist/holistic nursing and pilates instructor in New York.

Daniella Liebling is a self employed legal social worker in the New York area.

Vicky Pillard is a pediatrician in Holyoke.

Tinker Ready wrote that she was working on her MA in journalism at Northeastern, and included a recent story of hers from the Washington Post on breast cancer patients and surgery decisions.

.....ALUMNI NEWS CONTINUED.....

Nina (Ryan) Douglas is a clinical social worker at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston.

Paula Sayword is working as a public housing administrator in the area.

Iiona Sturm is a photographer/writer/artist and teacher in California. She has written a book "Breastfeeding Success Stories" in conjunction with the WIC program which is designed to reach out to low income and minority women. She is having trouble distributing the book and invites suggestions.

Jill Tregor is a non profit manager working in the field of Domestic Violence in the Bay Area in California.

1990's

Cheryl Alper is working in Artist Management and Event Planning in the New York area.

Tammi Brandon wrote last winter that she received her Master's Degree in Community counseling, and was working for Phoenix Interfaith Counseling. She also works one night a week at a transitional housing shelter for women and children recovering from Domestic Violence. "I love seeing the spark come back into their eyes."

Nancy Buffone is the director of special initiatives at UMass and has begun work on her doctorate in Educational Policy and Leadership, while parenting her two small sons.

Tina Cincotti was working in development/fundraising at Neighbor to Neighbor in Boston.

Elizabeth Cohen continues as Vice President, Business and Legal Affairs, at NBC Universal Television Distribution in California.

Gina Gombar is a securities attorney for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Lisa Krug is a career counselor at the Art Institute of Colorado.

Alina Laine is in Financial Planning and Insurance in the Northampton area.

Kerry (Leen) Terrell is a senior associate director of Graduate Admissions at Bentley College in eastern Massachusetts.

Andrea Levine is a pediatrician in New York.

Nicole Lisa is a freelance translator/copyeditor for non profits based in New York.

Ron-na J'Q Lytle is a technical services assistant librarian at Westfield State College. She was recently honored at the Amherst Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast.

Lisa McCarthy is a health educator with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.

Meghan (Murphy) Flood wrote last winter to say she finished nursing school.

Deb Rose is a systems administrator for World Learning in Vermont.

Brenda Santos is working toward a Ph.D. at Yale in U.S. Women's History.

Emily Twarog wrote last winter that she was still working on her Ph.D. at the University of Illinois in Chicago and planning on getting married over the summer.

Marcela Velasco is a professor of Sociology at the Universidad del Rosario in Colombia.

Adrienne Zahner finished law school and is a judicial law clerk in Maine.

2000 and more

Kristina Bourne (graduate certificate program) will be teaching at the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire beginning this fall as an Assistant Professor of Management.

Ellen Donoghue is working as a research assistant at the Education Development Center, Health and Human Development, Center for College Health and Safety in Newton, Massachusetts.

Cara Bedick wrote last spring to say she got her "dream job." She is an Editorial Assistant with Simon and Schuster, working on their new imprint "Spotlight Entertainment."

Winnie Chen was heading off to Columbia for graduate school.

Bonnie Conefrey wrote about her travels in Mongolia. She was doing an internship about land valuation for an organization called CHF International, which works in 32 countries and does a broad range of economic development projects. She described incredible sights and experiences.

Jen Eastwood wrote to say she is working at Family Fun magazine.

Amy Ferrer is the office manager at Tapestry Health in Northampton.

Melissa Hayford wrote last winter that she had accepted a job with Sony Music in New York City.

Kirsten Isgro (graduate certificate program) writes that an article she wrote for her comps will be featured as a chapter in an edited anthology "Women and Children First: Feminism, Rhetoric and Public Policy."

Laura Mele wrote that she was opening Down to Earth Landscaping Services in Northampton.

Lucy MacMillan is a health center manager for Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains.

Michelle Paranto (graduate certificate program) received an Ed.D. from the Language, Literacy and Culture Program in the School of Education in May, and has taken a job with Victory Productions, an educational publishing company in Worcester.

Carla Samson Potts is working at the University of Massachusetts Press.

Nicole Tominsky works in the UMass Amherst Isenberg School of Management as an office manager and is taking graduate courses.

Keri-Ann Tracey was involved in the Relay for Life (cancer fundraiser) in the spring.

Annie Tummino was featured in a *Boston Globe* article in May about the morning after pill. The story focused on her cofounding of the Morning After Pill conspiracy, a national group demanding that the FDA make Plan B available to women and girls of all ages. She was arrested after a demonstration, and became the lead plaintiff in a lawsuit against the FDA in conjunction with the Center for Reproductive Rights. She is an administrative assistant at Realbirth, a childbirth education and post partum support center in New York.

Teresa Walker writes that she is working at Time Inc. for Real Simple and In Style magazines as the assistant brand manager.

As always, our graduates make us proud! Send us updates for the Fall 2006 edition of Alumni News!

Special Thanks to Our Donors

Poetry and heartfelt sentiments alone don't make a celebration! We rely on our donors to underwrite the flowers, t-shirts and breakfast at our graduation. Sometimes we also use donor funds for other special projects, events, or equipment. If the Tele Fund calls and you want to send the money to a specific department (like us!) tell them you want to earmark the funds for that program. Thanks very much for all the new and continued support from the following people:

Nancy Arienti
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Lisa Baskin
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Susan Macchia
Jessica Martin
Katy Noone



Ann G. Ready
Rachel Rubin
Jill Tregor
Joanne Gangi Walman
Joanne Wellman
Leslie Winter
K. Marilyn Stampa
Susan Brown-Zimmerman

Alums of UMass Amherst will receive phone calls from the telefund folks. We got this in a letter from an alum:

". . .the UMass Amherst fundraisers call me every year and I didn't give until she told me I could direct it to my department. Also, they told me that the state legislators often look at the number of alum who give, not just the amount, when considering the budget. So, it feels like my little donation helps twice. Perhaps if alums knew that, you might get more little checks!"

These are good insights. If you'd rather not wait for their inevitable phone call you can give on-line with your credit card at the Development Office website:
<http://www.umass.edu/development/>.

Editors note: checks of all sizes are always welcome! Our website gives details about about how to give to Women's Studies and the perks of giving.

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, Nancy Patteson and the women's studies faculty as well as Barbara Cruikshank, Janice Irvine, Beth Lang, EB Lehman, the WOST student network, as well as other friends of women's studies for their written contributions. Parts of this newsletter are online www.umass.edu/wost.

Inside you'll find news for students and about alums, comings and goings, upcoming events in Women's Studies and on-campus, post grad reflections and much more. Get your date book out and catch up on old friends!

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