Women's Studies Newsletter

208 Bartlett Hall, University of Massachusetts at Amherst 545-1922

Fall 1989 Newsletter

WOMEN'S STUDIES FALL EVENTS

Brown Bag Series
Save your Wednesday lunchtimes!!!
12:15-1:30 in the Campus Center
Starts September 13!

Women's Studies continues its smash hit Brown Bag Lunch Series! What's the World Coming To II. Last semester speakers on topics ranging from "Women in Journalism" to "Dilemmas of a Male Feminist" dazzled a crowd of 50-80 people every Wednesday at lunch time. This semester tentative speakers include Ann Ferguson, Jan Whittaker, Isabella Matsikidze, Valerie Falk, Irma McCLaurin-Allen, Marta Calas and Linda Smircich and others. Topics include: "Single Parenting and Being a Student", "Feminist Perspectives on Organizations and Management", "Ladies Lunch: Gender Segregation in the Restaurant 1890-1930" and others. Some dates have been set aside for student speakers. The series starts September 13 and runs every Wednesday from 12:15-1:30 through December 6. On September 13 it is being held in Campus Center 911-15. The rest of the September and October dates are in Campus Center 804-08. For a complete schedule of speakers and rooms, stop by the office. One colloquium credit available. Come to the first brown bag to sign up. We hope to see you there.

Welcome Back Reception
Monday, September 25, 1989 4:00-6:00 p.m.
Campus Center 1001-02

Join everyone for tasty snacks and compelling conversation at our annual welcome back reception. Students, staff, faculty, friends and supporters of Women's Studies invited. Come see old friends and make some new ones. Informal child care available.

Alumni Career Forum
Tuesday, November 7, 1989 8:00 p.m.
Campus Center 165

Women's Studies graduates come back and talk about their lives, their jobs, and their choices. This is always an inspiring evening. The Career Forum is especially helpful to current students, but it is nice for graduates and faculty as well. Save the date. Sponsored by the University Career Center.

End of Semester Open House
Thursday, December 14, 1989 11:00-2:00 p.m.
Women's Studies Office, 208 Bartlett Hall

Come eat bagels, chat, and relax on the last day of classes. Grab some tea for a study break. Leave the library long enough for some levity. All are welcome.
LEILA AHMED is on leave for the fall. In July Leila gave a talk at the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for Iran Studies on "Women in Islam." Leila will be back on campus in the spring.

ARLENE AVAKIAN has been invited to San Francisco in October to be a presenter in a seminar entitled "Roles of Armenian Women in Contemporary Society" for the Armenian Professional Association. This summer Arlene has been frantically trying to cut her life story from 602 pages to 300 for publication in a series of autobiographies by the Feminist Press.

JOYCE BERKMAN's book on Olive Shreiner is out in this country, South Africa and throughout the United Kingdom. Joyce also organized a symposium on white and Black South African women writers in March. Joyce gets a headache combining reading and recreation, but when she is not on the beach she will read Gloria Naylor's most recent novel.

LEE EDWARDS helped organize the Five College Women's Studies conference this past June. The conference involved representatives of Women's Studies programs at the Five Colleges and guests from women's research centers around the country and focused on "Feminist Studies: The Next Stage." Lee also attended the National Council for Research on Women annual meeting in Washington D.C. in June, and participated in the National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) directors meeting at the annual conference. A well deserved vacation in Ireland during August rounds out Lee's summer.

ANN FERGUSON's new book Blood at the Root: Motherhood, Sexuality and Male Dominance from Pandora/Uwin & Hyman is out. The book is geared to teaching Feminist Theory and criticizes Marxist, radical, and psychoanalytic feminism and develops an original socialist feminist theory. In June, Ann was on a NWSA panel on "Reflections of Sexual and Personal Politics 1960s to 1980s." Ann recommends Bonds of Love, Jessica Benjamin (readable but not light feminist theory), Memory Board, Jane Rule on how to deal with Alzheimers in a lover (for older couples).


AMY HOFFMAN has left work at Women's Studies and has been busy this summer with Lesbian and Gay Pride Marches and related events. Amy's story "The Kind of Thing We Do These Days" which is about AIDS, was nominated for a Henfield Foundation Award by the UMass M.F.A. program. Amy recommends In Search of Gay America by Neil Miller.

SANDI MORGAN consulted on gender and the anthropology curriculum at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, and gave a talk at UCLA on "Women and the Politics of Empowerment" this spring. Sandi is celebrating the publication of the long-awaited "Gender and the Anthropology Curriculum" at the American Anthropology Association meeting in November in Washington D.C.

DAPHNE PATAI has lectured at the University of Miami, University of S. Florida, the University of Arizona and Stanford University. Rutgers University Press has just published a book of stories by Jorge de Sena edited by Daphne. Daphne will be on leave for school year 1989-90, continuing her work on British writer Katharine Burdekin, Brazilian women, and oral history and feminist methodology.

KATHY PEISS' anthology, Passion and Power: Sexuality in History, edited with Christina Simmons, was published this spring by Temple University Press. Resting on her laurels, she has been having fun this summer. Good reads: The Joy-Luck Club by Amy Tan, The Beggar Maid by Alice Munro, Waking the Dead by Scott Spencer, and Freud's Psychopathology of Everyday Life (Kathy says this last gives
you a whole new perspective on university politics.)

Jan Raymond visited Nicaragua in June where she attended an international environmental conference, spoke with women's groups, and traveled in the country. In April, she was a keynote speaker at the Wellesley Symposium on Surrogacy held at Wellesley College. She continues to write a regular "At Issue" column for the journal, Reproductive and Genetic Engineering.

Ann Williams enjoyed being on her own this summer in the office and attacking messy "trouble spots" in our notorious storeroom. Ann plans to bring "my daughter, her sandbucket and Parent's magazine" to the beach when she can.

Katy Wiss will be presenting a paper at the N.E. Popular Culture Association on "Feminist Critique of the Aestheticization of War in Film" in the fall. She taught Intro to Women's Studies this summer, and will be continuing her duties as a teaching assistant for the intro course this year, while preparing for her upcoming comps.

Welcome to our new Teaching Assistants!
The demand for our introductory course for this new school year is overwhelming. Fortunately for the department and the interested students, we were able to hire new T.A.'s to increase the course's capacity. These T.A.'s enrich our program with their wealth of knowledge and experience. Welcome to:

-Jyl Felman, M.F.A. student in English. Jyl has a varied background in writing, law, and multi-cultural issues.

-Jeanine Maland is a graduate student in anthropology and has worked in a variety of political groups and medical settings including family planning programs, and is an alum of our Women's Studies program.

-Nancy Ladd Muller is also a student in Anthropology with a broad background including work on "Legitimate Violence and the Battered Wife" and research on W.E.B. DuBois.

-Linda Piteika is a student in History researching how race, gender and ethnic relations have shaped social and political boundaries in the American West from the frontier era to the middle of this century.

Comings and Goings

Welcome to the majors who entered in Spring 1989: Michele Boardman (Women and Clothing), Linda Burtt, Leah Callahan, Katharine Daube, Jennifer Fox, Marci Lew (Women and Media), Dena Marger (Women and Health Care), Sharon Park (Women in Cross Cultural Gender Roles), and Cassie Smart.

This group is very diverse and brings lots of new perspectives to Women's Studies. Several other people have their paperwork in, or transferred into the University for the fall. We will hold interviews for new majors in mid-semester.

Several new minors were admitted in the spring as well. Welcome to: Jessica Basile, Christina Bolton, Jennifer Clark, Jeanine Dallamora, Liza Gallardo-Martín, Maya Gillingham, Peggy Klekotka, Christine McLary, Cheryl Murray, Janet Scott, Christine Shaw, Janee Stone, and Wendy West.

Congratulations to the following graduates: Major Jennifer Glover and minors Linda Chatfield, Stephanie Gumula, Christine McLary, Linda Lorantos, and Sarah Steinetz.

The graduates were applauded at a festive dinner at the end of May at the faculty club. Events included a toast by Jan Raymond, a spell by Lee Edwards, and the traditional awarding of the T-shirts. The Women's Studies Alumnae Association provided flower arrangements to help set the mood, and presented the library with a copy of The Road from Coorain, by Jill Ker Conway.

Jan looked in her book of Irish toasts but couldn't find anything appropriate for our graduates. As part of her toast she read this section of a Swedish poem:

There exists a necessary sort
Of madness to believe that precisely you
Can change the world
Madness that borders on genius
and that is, also the simplest of
everyday wisdom
You are capable of it and you do it
Together with others

Best wishes and congratulations to all the 1988-89 graduates.
Joy James: Assistant Professor of Black Women's Studies Fall 1990

Joy James has accepted a position as Assistant Professor in Women's Studies beginning Fall 1990. The selection was made after a lengthy search process with students, faculty and staff all agreeing that Joy was an excellent choice. Joy's work focuses on African-American women. She holds a Ph.D. from Fordham University in Political Philosophy, an M.A. from Fordham in International Politics, and an M.A. from Union Theological Seminary in Liberation Theology. Her interests in Women's Studies and African American studies focus on the role of women in political and religious movements for social change.

Since 1988 Joy has worked as the Women's International Democratic Federation Representative to the United Nations serving on the Non Governmental Organization Committee on Human Rights and the Sub-Committee on Human Rights in Southern Africa. She has also produced a radio series on human rights, worked for Bread for the World, been a researcher for the Women's Coalition for Nairobi, consulted for the National Women's Political Caucus-Manhattan, and travelled all over the world. She is currently researching material on the human rights violations of women of color in the U.S. and her scholarly works on Hannah Arendt and Ella Baker are being reviewed for publication.

Joy will be able to teach on a variety of subjects, all of which will serve our students well, and enrich the program. We are very lucky that Joy will be joining us, and we look forward to her arrival.

Academic News for Students

Requirement Change: Starting this fall, WOST 311, Methods in Women's Studies is no longer a required course for the major. Some of the material from Methods will be incorporated into WOST 489, The Advanced Integrative Seminar. The total number of major credits remains 36. If you have taken Methods it will of course still count toward the major. For more information about the change, see an advisor or WOST faculty member.

Field Work: There are now many new and updated field work placements for Women's Studies students. Listings include: Gay Community News, 20/20 Vision (a group that lobbies against the arms race), Mass. Caucus of Women Legislators, Everywoman's Center, Traprock Peace Center, and many others. If you are interested in working in an agency on or off campus for credit, please see Karen.

Honors: Women's Studies offers a departmental honors option. To be eligible you must take honors courses within the department, and do a final project such as a thesis or portfolio. For more information contact Arlene in the office.

Women's Studies Library: The Women's Studies Library added several books in the last year. Books can be borrowed for 2 weeks at a time. Check it out.

Policy Board and Student Involvement in Women's Studies

The Women's Studies Policy Board was involved with many issues this past year including the Black women's studies search, planning of the graduate program (graduate minor hopefully to be in place by Fall 1990), brown bag and other event planning, curriculum revisions, amendments to the governance document, and response to the regents review report. Helen Harrison and Vicky Stampa were elected as student representatives to Policy Board for the 1989-90 year. Penny Percival was the student representative to the search committee. Thanks to Helen, Vicky, and Penny for their good service! If you are interested in getting involved with promoting Women's Studies, or finding out more about how the program is run, see one of your student reps, or call the office.
Women's Studies Alumnae Association

As always, the University of Massachusetts Women's Studies Alumnae Association invites program graduates, majors and minors to join their ranks. The goals of the association include supporting the program and maintaining contact among graduates. There is a voluntary fee of $5.00 which can be sent to Kelly Erwin, 16 Applewood Lane, Amherst, MA 01002 with a check to the Association.

Donations

As always we wish to thank our generous donors. Their largesse helps to distinguish Women's Studies from other programs because we are able to offer special events for our students. The following people gave donations between December 1988 and June 1989: Janet Aalfs, M.C. Abrahamsen, Pilar Alessandra, Andrea Berman, Ann della Bitta, Joan Brinton, Tara Caffrey, Mary Comi, Diane Curley, Kathryn Daniels, Donna Grant, Donolyn Hagelberg, Patricia Hannigan, Cynthia Holmes, Donna Jacques, Susan Karlson, Judith Lebold, Deirdre Ling and Edward Russell, Mary Reilly, John and Carla Rensenbrink, Nancy Rubin, Karen Shack and Marilyn Stampa. Thank you to all.

EVENTS

Five College Women's Studies Reception

The Five College Women's Studies Reception will take place September 18 at 4:00 at the Five Colleges Office, 97 Spring Street.

Housing Now!

October 7 is a national march from the Pentagon to the Capitol to demand the end to homelessness in the U.S. American Friends Service Committee is organizing buses from this area. Contact them at 584-8975, 3 Langworthy Road, Northampton.

Creating Culture

Creating Culture, a festival of performances, exhibitions and participatory events is the fourth annual Unity and Diversity conference sponsored by the Hampshire College Women's Center. The festival will celebrate all the varieties and aspects of culture of the gay and lesbian community. The festival takes place October 28-29 1989. For more information contact Unity and Diversity 1989, P.O. Box 30004, Springfield, MA 01103-0004 or call (413) 737-3630 or 584-9338.

Understanding the AIDS Challenge: Request for Proposals

The Massachusetts Foundation for Humanities and Public Policy announces the establishment of a special fund for grants in support of public education programs which promote an increased understanding of the social, cultural and ethical dimensions of the AIDS crisis. Any Massachusetts non-profit organization is eligible to apply. There are many possible ways that public humanities programs using humanities scholars can be put together for these grants. Funding cycle is several times each year. For more information contact the Massachusetts Foundation for Humanities and Public Policy, One Woodbridge Street, South Hadley, MA 01075 or call 536-1385, in Boston call 617-451-9021.
As always, our grads are doing wonderful things. For a list of what many of our graduates are doing, stop by the office. To see your name in print, write and tell us what you are doing. Alumnae News is published in the fall newsletter. Here is the latest news on our alums:

**Janet Aals** entered the MFA Writing Program at Sarah Lawrence College last fall, and continues to teach at Valley Women's Martial Arts in Easthampton.

**Sylvia Battey** entered the Management Information Systems at Syracuse University last fall. She vows never to be a glorified secretary again.

**Andrea Berman** received a Master's Degree in education from Harvard Graduate School of Education in June. She lives in Boston and works at the Institute for the Study of Smoking Behavior and Policy at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard on a project concerning adolescent alcohol and drug abuse prevention.

**Daniel Burgess** changed his name to Jan Passion. He has opened a private therapy practice offering "Opening the Heart" workshops and working with adult children of alcoholic and abusive parents. He is also involved with Men Alive, a local organization of changing men. He works part time at Burlington College in financial aid.

**Kelly Erwin** is the program director of First Call for Help, a human services information and referral agency located in Amherst.

**Donna Grant** and James Mayer had a baby girl - Jessica Grant Mayer in January of 1988. Donna is enjoying being a mom and psychotherapist in private practice. She also wanted to acknowledge the support of La Leche League.

**Cynthia Holmes** gave birth to Stephen Praete Pega in November of 1988, Stephen's sister Alison is now two years old.

**Holly Hendricks** is working at Digital in Nashua, N.H. as a Software Course Developer. She has been very involved in women's and minority issues in Digital's "Valuing Difference" program.

**Donna Jacques** is living in Newburyport with her golden retriever, Brendon. She is considering moving to Costa Rica. She was recently hired as the Bibliographic Instruction Librarian in the Reference Dept. at Brandeis University in Waltham. Donna welcomes Women's Studies visitors.

**Judy LeBold** works at the Annual Giving office at Mount Holyoke College. She is responsible for raising over $1.5 million each year, and coordinating 300 volunteers.

**Birdie MacLennan** completed a Master's Degree in Library/Information Science at Simmons College in October of 1988. She now works as a librarian at Merrimack College in North Andover. In addition to her duties she is "working to change the traditional views of librarians as meek, docile, and upright by being outspoken and unconventional whenever possible."

**Judith Roland** is a partner and Administrative Vice President of Smith and Rosenthal, an executive recruiting and placement firm in California.

**Inez Sieben** is the manager of the minority AIDS prevention project in Rhode Island. She is researching people's sexual attitudes, behavioral patterns, and drug abuse incidence as well as their cultural belief systems regarding healing and disease. She writes that this job suits her well and "I wouldn't have gotten the job I now hold without my degree."

**Sarah Van Arsdale** got her MFA from Vermont College last summer and is teaching English at Holyoke Community College. She read poetry at the New England Women's Studies Association conference and her poems are being published in various literary journals.

**Tracy Welsh** is going to law school at the City University of New York.
CONFERENCES to watch for

From Aztec to Amazonia world resource conference sponsored by Smith College is coming up in September. Call Smith College for more information.

*Woman's Heritage and Strength* is the Third Annual Western Kentucky University Women's Studies conference. It takes place September 27-29 at Western Kentucky University. For more information contact the program committee, WKU Women's Studies Conference, c/o History Department, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY 42101, 502-745-5728.

**Conference on Gender and Colonialism** is coming up October 5-8 in Berkeley, California. Speakers from around the U.S. and the world who concentrate on the overlap between gender and colonial studies will be invited. For more information contact David Lloyd, Department of English, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720, 415-642-2377.

**First Annual Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts** is scheduled to take place January 25-28, 1990 in Eatonville, Florida, the home town of the author. Papers from all disciplines will be included and selected festival proceedings will be published. Alice Walker is the keynote speaker. For more information write to Hurston Papers, 1990, The Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community, Inc., P.O. Box 2586, Eatonville, FL 32751.

**Re-Visioning Knowledge and the Curriculum: Feminist Perspectives** is sponsored by the Michigan State Women's Studies Program and the Modern Literature Conference. The conference will take place April 19-22, 1990 in East Lansing Michigan and will engage scholars and educators at all levels—from elementary through graduate—in exploring ways feminist scholarship has transformed our understanding of our disciplines and our approaches to teaching. Keynote speakers include: Bonnie Thornton Dill, Carol Gilligan, Ruth Hubbard, and Catharine Stimpson. For information contact the 1990 Conference Committee, Women's Studies Program, 300 Linton Hall, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824, 517-355-4495.

**The Fourth International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women: Women's Worlds, Realities and Choices** will be held in New York City June 3-7, 1990. This Congress will explore women's realities and choices as they intersect with analysis, research, theory, and action. Work on women in all fields, and on a wide variety of topics will be included. For more information write to Dr. Florence Denmark, Congress Co-ordinator, Hunter College CUNY. 695 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10021.

**The 8th Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, "Crossing Boundaries in Feminist History"** will be held June 7-10, 1990 at Douglass College, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ. For information contact Jane Caplan, History Department, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010 or Nancy Cott, American Studies Program, 1504A Yale Station, New Haven, CT 06520.

---

**Address Correction**

Would you like to be added to our mailing list? Have you moved? If you want to receive this newsletter in a timely fashion, please send us your current address.

( ) New address ( ) Change of Address

name ____________________________

address ____________________________

( ) current student ( ) faculty ( ) staff ( ) alum ( ) community

If this is a change of address, please give us your former address:

Return to: Women's Studies, 208 Bartlett Hall, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003. Thank you.
Most of the courses being held in the Women's Studies department are oversubscribed. WOST 187 has hit a new high with an enrollment of over 300. Fortunately, so far we haven't had to cancel classes due to the budget crisis, but budget cuts will make this a tough year at the University for everybody. If you are concerned about the state fiscal crisis, contact your state legislators and express your opinion, and encourage your friends and relations to do the same. The following are changes, additions and deletions to the WOST Fall 1989 Course Offerings Guide.

**ADDITION**

WOST 301H Feminist Theory (honors) with Janice Raymond on TuTh at 2:30 has been added to the Women's Studies Schedule.

**CANCELLATIONS**

WOST 311 Methods in Women's Studies with Janice Raymond.
WOST 392D Women's Utopias with Daphne Patai.
WOST 392M/COMLIT 310D Women's Magazines with Ellen McCracken.
EDUC 1190A History of Native Americans
EDUC 1377 Foundations of Multi-Cultural Education

**CORRECTION**

WOST 187 Introduction to Women's Studies TIME CHANGED TO: MW at 4:40 with discussion sections: THURS 5:30, FRI 9:05, FRI 10:10, FRI 11:15, FRI 12:20, FRI 1:25.

The complete Women's Studies Course Offerings Guide, Fall 1989 is available in 208 Bartlett Hall. For any further information or assistance please contact the office at 545-1922.

---

**This Newsletter**

This newsletter is written and edited by Karen Lederer. Thanks to Ann Williams for her assistance. Send information about events, or ideas to: Women's Studies Newsletter, 208 Bartlett Hall, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003. The newsletter is published twice a year, at the beginning of the fall and spring semesters. If you move, please send us your new address on the form attached. Graduates of the program, please send information about what you are doing.

Women's Studies Program
208 Bartlett Hall
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, MA 01003

Account No. 4-12004

Address Correction Requested