



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Feminist Pedagogy: To MOOC or not to MOOC

What counts as feminist pedagogy? That question has been at the top of my mind for months, as the issue of MOOCs—massive online open courses—have roiled the waters of academe. One after another elite private university has signed up to be part of the MOOC-offering community, working with for-profit course software companies, at a cost to universities of about \$25,000 a course and a cost to the students of close to zero. MOOCs have been called a “disruptive innovation” that will force us to completely re-think higher education, addressing the rising tuition/decreasing federal and state funding problem. Important funders, like Bill Gates and his Lumina Foundation, have been pushing the notion that we have to be about competency based education, giving people credit for what they know whether they learned it in a classroom or for free through a MOOC. College, in this account, will become more like summer camp for wealthy kids, if they want to sit around and contemplate their navels and have a growing and enriching experience.



We’ve had a year in which this view was occupying a lot of space in higher ed—especially after the board of trustees at the University of Virginia engaged in a failed attempt to oust President Teresa Sullivan, apparently because of her lack of enthusiasm about having UVA offer MOOCs. The CalState system is getting a lot of pressure to accept MOOCs for credit, now that years of budget cuts have resulted in fewer classes and long waiting lists to get into even required classes.

This summer, however, there seemed to be growing push-back at places like San Jose State University in California, which argued that this was second rate education, that while Harvard was offering MOOCs—mostly videotaped lectures and TA graders—it wasn’t offering credits for its own students to take them. Faculty there, particularly in the philosophy department, argued that the state needed to increase its funding for public education, not just try to outsource it. Georgia State offered to accept MOOCs for transfer credit—and no takers.

Women’s Studies folks have been on both sides of this issue. While on the whole we have long been at the forefront of innovation in pedagogy, we have also been adamant about the importance of the face-to-face intimacy of the classroom as a transformative space. Furthermore, MOOCs for the most part have been in the sciences and technology—the whole format is mostly geared to impart a particular knowledge base, rather than to develop critical thinking or writing skills, which is mostly what we do. Still, an educator and scholar I very much admire, Elsa Barkley Brown in the University of Maryland Women’s Studies Department, offered a course on **Women and the Civil Rights Movement** through Coursera (one of the big commercial platforms for MOOCs). Barkley Brown has been at the forefront of increasing the democratization of knowledge, from thinking about Black women’s quilts as a form of historical narrative to working with a theater project for incarcerated women. This gets to the heart of what I think speaks to feminists about the MOOC project—the dream of universal access to higher education has long been among our aspirations. On the other hand, at Duke, it was faculty in Women’s Studies who led an influential initiative to stop that university from moving rapidly into offering MOOCs.

At UMass Amherst last year, we worked with the Five College Women’s Research Center on a digital feminisms project that might have some kinship with MOOCs. We consciously tried to make our students part of widely accessible feminist digital public spheres. We improved our Facebook presence. Some of our faculty—Angie Willey, Mecca Jamilah Sullivan, Tanisha Ford, even me, your erstwhile chair—have been stepping up their involvement with feminist blogs and the twitterverse. Banu Subramaniam taught a blended course last fall that looked at the social relations of gender and technology, asking students to chart their (obsessive!) online lives and thinking about the ways that digital technologies are raced and gendered. I taught a **Biology of Difference** course that involved students intensely in in-class group research projects in a high-tech classroom that really turned around the relationships of expertise and learning. Usually, students walk into class with really high-powered learning technology in their backpacks: smartphones, tablets, and laptops, and then we get really mad if they use them for any reason except word processing, to write down the words of the faculty member in front of them. Instead, in this

course we tried to design questions and assignments that would harness the incredible knowledge on the Internet and teach them how to learn from it and use different kinds of presentation (and writing) formats to present it to their classmates.

Another network of feminist teachers has been trying to reverse the “sage on the stage (being videotaped)” aspects of MOOCs through what they are calling a DOCC: a distributed open collaborative course. Gender and technology scholar Ann Balsamo and her collaborators at 30 colleges and universities are basically proposing to link courses at diverse universities by co-convening parts of them through videolinks like Skype and through sharing content. The courses will not have a common syllabus, and will be composed of smallish seminars at diverse institutions and different kinds of institutions, from elite privates to large publics to community colleges. There will be videotaped conversations involving scholars doing research in the fields under discussion (like Feminism and Technology), and self-directed learners (those not enrolled in a college or university) are welcome and invited to drop in. The DOCC is not-for-profit, not massive, and definitely not about listening to a “genius professor” lecture. It’s about putting out critical content and inviting people to think about it and discuss it with others, taking advantage too of the massive learning resources already on the web.

It is, in short, the kind of innovative, accessible pedagogical model women’s studies folk have been working on for a long time. Pretty impressive.

What crisis in the humanities?

In a different pedagogy question, much pundit ink was spilled this summer on the supposed decline of the humanities, their increasing irrelevance in a world where the things that matter are business, science, and innovation. The most obnoxious version of this came from David Brooks in the *New York Times*, who argued that the humanities had made themselves irrelevant by focusing on silly things like gender, race, class, and imperialism. Aside from the fact that this discussion of the humanities relied on a really cynical view of the world, and the supposed lack of importance of the arts of citizenship or the cultivation of insight into human beings through art and culture, there is the small matter that it also (in the David Brooks’ version) was a pretty direct attack on the influence of women’s studies in the humanities curriculum.

However, it also turns out that their math isn’t very good. One problem is that it takes as its baseline—the number of humanities majors from which it charts a decline—an anomalous period in the late 1960s. Second, it misses the fact that there are now a lot more people going to college and university than there were then, so there are actually about the same number of people majoring in the humanities, it’s just that a greater proportion of the newer students are majoring elsewhere. Finally, and this is my favorite, the shift turns out to be all about women. The same percentage of men are majoring in the humanities; but as other majors have become less hostile, women have turned increasingly to business, math, and science majors. In short, it’s all about the success of women’s studies folk in transforming the university. (See our Facebook page for more on the math.) Take that, David Brooks.

The News from Here

As always, much is going on here. We’ve revamped the curriculum, as promised, and are adding classes to support it in things like **Asian American Feminisms** and **Girls in the System: The Juvenile Justice System**. We’re very excited about the pending arrival of **Mecca Jamilah Sullivan**, a fiction writer and literary scholar who works on gender and sexuality in the African Diaspora. She’s delayed for a year because she won a prestigious fellowship at Rutgers University, but we can wait...and speaking of prestigious fellowships, **Svati Shah** won a *Fulbright* and is off in India doing research on her next book, on the new spaces of India’s LGBTQI movements. Her current book, *Street Corner Secrets: Sex, Work, and Migration in the City of Mumbai*, will be out in 2014 with Duke University Press. **Angie Willey** is likewise off doing fabulous work elsewhere—after a summer at Dartmouth writing about the history of sexology, she is headed to Rice University (in Houston, hmm, bet she stays warmer than us). There, she’s on a fellowship for a humanities center seminar on “Materialism and the New Materialism,” taking up an argument that has been powerfully (and wrongly, I would say) leveled at feminism: that it has ignored the “real” body, turning it all into ideology.

Meanwhile, **Miliann Kang** is working on a new book about Asian American mothering that challenges the “tiger mother” stereotype and shows the complex influences of ethnic identity, racialization, reproductive politics and cultural citizenship that shape mothering practices. I’m also working on a book on work, race, and mothering, looking at the ways the arguments of feminists in the seventies for affordable 24-hour, high quality, community based daycare were defeated on the shoals of the racialized arguments about welfare mothers and immigrant nannies in the eighties and nineties. **Banu Subramaniam** has finished her new book, *A Question of Variation: Race, Gender and the Practice of Science*, that engages the feminist studies of science in the experimental practice of science through three case studies: morning glory flower color variation, invasion biology and women in the sciences. **Tanisha Ford** has just returned

from London, where she was doing research for her exciting book on gender and the politics of fashion in the Black diaspora in the context of the Black freedom movement, *Liberated Threads: Black Women and the Politics of Adornment*.

We are lucky to have medical anthropologist **Jacqueline Luce** with us again this year as a lecturer, and she is starting a major new research project on disability and chronic illness at a rehabilitation center in Northampton. **Alex Deschamps** is continuing to develop her signature initiative, the emerging scholars project, which is working with students from underserved communities, and first generation college students, getting them connected to the resources of the Honors College and the University that would give them the opportunity to be admitted to the Honors College, but more importantly to ensure that they graduate from UMass Amherst with applicable skills to be successful citizens. As the Honors College becomes more important to the financial and academic life of UMass Amherst, it is important for the university and the college that we outreach to our neighboring communities in our recruitment process and the project has already created partnerships with some schools in Springfield and Holyoke and with CMASS and Student Bridges at UMass Amherst.

We saw some significant goodbyes this past year, most notably **Nancy Patteson**, who retired after working with our graduate students for the past 15 years. (Watch for an announcement: while we aren't able to replace her position, we will be hiring a lecturer who will be taking on major administrative responsibility for the graduate program.) Farewell also to **Eve Ng**, teacher and teaching assistant for the department. **Joyce Berkman** retired and was celebrated at a richly deserved day-long tribute to her in May. Joyce's contributions have been many to the department to the field and to the University. As a parting gift, Joyce has established an endowed fund, the *Joyce Avrech Berkman Endowed Fund in Women's History and Women's Studies Award* to provide support for graduate students. Donation info for the fund is on our website. Thanks for all the wonderful work and farewell to retirees **Nancy Folbre** of Economics and **Anne Herrington** of English.

We're looking forward to a new year with new colleagues arriving every day. Stay tuned for news on the Ph.D.—we have submitted a preliminary proposal and anticipate that it will be approved soon.

Laura Briggs

Awards: Our Productive Faculty and Stellar Students Are Recognized!



Laura Briggs Chair, Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies, was awarded the *James A. Rawley Prize*, given annually by the Organization of American Historians to the author of the best book dealing with the history of race relations in the United States. Her book, *Somebody's Children: The Politics of Transracial and Transnational Adoption* was published in 2012 by Duke University Press.

Svati Shah will be a *Fulbright Scholar*. Her project is entitled "Economic Class and Equality in India's Emerging LGBTQ Movement." Her project examines the discourses of economic class and urbanization among LGBTQ organizations and networks in several Indian cities. This analysis will provide comparative context for understanding the vibrant discourses of materialism and enfranchisement among LGBTQ movements throughout the Global South. Svati Shah will be conducting this research in 2013-2014. Svati was also a recipient of the *Residential First-Year Experience (RFYE) Student Choice Award!* She was nominated for her positive contributions to student experience at UMass Amherst.

Angie Willey will be a *Rice University Humanities Research Institute Fellow* in a year-long seminar (2013-14) on "Materialism and New Materialism Across the Disciplines." At Rice she will be working on a project entitled "Feminist Genealogies for New Materialism." The project aims to disrupt a story that positions what has been termed "new materialism" as an intervention in feminist and critical theory and instead charts its genealogies within those traditions.

The summer of 2013 Angie was a *Dartmouth Leslie Center for the Humanities Fellow* at an institute called "Towards a Global History of Sexual Science, 1880-1950." At Dartmouth, Angie was working on a project entitled "Anti-Islamism and the Making of Sexology: Coupling and Nationalism in Krafft-Ebing's Psychopathia Sexualis." The project is a close reading of intertwined themes of nationalism and coupling in Psychopathia Sexualis in light of Krafft-Ebing's legacy in the making of modern sexual subjectivities.

Alexandrina Deschamps was chosen as a faculty in residence. She will reside in and work with students in the new Commonwealth Honors College Residential Community.

We are excited to announce the first recipient of the *Joyce Avrech Berkman award*: **F. Gizem Zencirci** for her final paper *Daughters or Wives?: Kemalist and Islamist Discourses about Women's Empowerment and Poverty in Turkey*. Gizem completed her B.A. and M.A. at Bilkent University, Turkey. She graduated from UMass with a Ph.D from the Political Science department as well as the Certificate in Advanced Feminist Studies. She will begin working as a tenure track faculty member at Providence College, Rhode Island in the Fall. Her research interests include neoliberalism, welfare governance, religion, secularism, NGOs, poverty and gender.

We are very proud that our graduate, **Tracy Gebhardt**, was recognized at commencement with a *21st Century Leader Award*. The University states that this award is to "honor the exemplary achievement, initiative and leadership of its most talented and accomplished graduating seniors." Tracy Gebhardt, of Sioux Falls, S.D., majored in WGSS and, through the Bachelor's Degree with Individual Concentration program, completed a second major, "Civic Engagement and Public Health Education through Media Production." She is pursuing a master's degree in public policy from UMass Amherst. Tracy also received a *Senior Leadership Award*, and was selected to speak at the annual Community Breakfast, a town gown event that starts each school year.

WGSS minor **Renee Barouxis** was named a Finalist for a *Truman Scholarship*, a prestigious national program.

Zaynah Shaikh, one of our majors, was chosen to speak at a plenary session of the *Planned Parenthood Youth Organizing and Policy Conference* this July in Washington D.C.

Congratulations to Amherst Regional High School junior **Grace Findlan Golden** for receiving the *UMass Amherst WGSS Book Award*.

We are also thrilled that one of our alums, **Janet Aalfs** and one of our emerita profs, **Arlene Avakian**, were recognized with *40th Anniversary Leadership and Advocacy Awards* by the Center for Women and Community:

The *Arts Award* went to **Janet Aalfs**, former poet laureate of Northampton. This category recognizes the enormous positive impact that creative contributions have on our community. Janet is a poet & writer, movement artist, community educator, performer, and international peace activist. A 7th degree black belt, she is a founding member and the artistic director of Valley Women's Martial Arts: Institute for Healing and Violence-Prevention Strategies, now in its 36th year. She has been a featured poet at the world-renowned Dodge Festival in New Jersey, and a teaching artist in Cape Town, South Africa. Her poems and essays have been published widely in journals and anthologies, including *A Fierce Brightness: 25 Years of Women's Poetry* (Calyx). Her most recent book of poems is *Bird of a Thousand Eyes* (Levellers Press).

Arlene Avakian received the *Pioneer in the Field* award. Being one of "the first" paves the way for others, both on a societal and individual level. Arlene is Professor Emerita, former Chair and one of the founders of the Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies Department at UMass, Amherst. Until her retirement she was an active member of the UMass community serving on many advisory boards including: the Women of Color Leadership Network, Social Thought and Political Economy Program, University Without Walls, Asian American Studies Committee, and the Five College Women's Studies Research Center. She is now very happily retired and living in Northampton.

Thanks to donors

In honor of our 40th we will be making an extra push for donations. This is a great time to give as we are poised for expansion. Even though the state budget is improving on higher education, we still depend on our donors. Thank you to:

M.C.Z. Abrahamsen
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Catherine Stewart
Timothy Valentine
Anne Wiley



What's Happening this Fall

Celebrating our 40th! (Just about to anyway)

In 2014 the department will turn 40! It seems like just yesterday we were celebrating our 35th! By the way, interviews from the 35th and much more are on our Youtube channel, linked off our homepage.

Save the date for a spring symposium on **February 27-March 1** *Critical Feminist Thought and the African Diaspora*. More information forthcoming about location, panels and logistics.

The final *New Works in Sexuality* talk is rescheduled from the spring:



Mireille Miller-Young

Associate Professor Feminist Studies
at UC Santa Barbara

Putting Hypersexuality to Work: Black Women and Illicit Eroticism in Pornography
November 18, 2013 4:00 p.m.
803 Campus Center

Abstract: Black women's representations and experiences as sex workers in the pornography industry are shaped by a racialized and gendered sexual commerce where stereotypes, structural inequalities, and social biases are the norm. Black women are devalued as hyperaccessible and superdisposable in an industry that simultaneously invests in and ghettoizes fantasies about black sexuality. In light of feminist arguments against the victimization of women by pornography, Miller-Young contends that black sex workers, while facing multiple axes of discrimination and harm, also employ hypersexuality and deviance to achieve self-care and self-authorship. In the context of hegemonic capitalism that exploits all labor and social relations in society, black women's illicit erotic labor represents one strategy for survival. In choosing pornographic sex work as a path to mobility and erotic autonomy, this presentation explores the increasing significance of the sexual economy as a site of work, identity formation, and political expression for women of color in the 21st century.

Mireille is an Associate Professor in the Department of Feminist Studies at the UC Santa Barbara. Her research explores sexual economies in the U.S. and African Diaspora, with a special interest in the intersections between labor, visual culture, and social history. Dr. Miller-Young's forthcoming book, *A Taste for Brown Sugar: Black Women, Sex Work, and Pornography* (Duke University Press), examines black women's representations, performances, and sex work in the adult entertainment industry. An editor of *The Feminist Porn Book: The Politics of Producing Pleasure* (The Feminist Press, 2013), she has also published in *Sexualities*, *Meridians: Feminism, Race and Transnationalism*, *Blackness and Sexualities*, *Pornification: Sex and Sexuality in Media Culture*, and *C'Lick*

Me: A Netporn Studies Reader, Feminist Theory, Colorlines, The New York Times, and *\$pread*, a sex worker produced magazine.



Elizabeth Oglesby

Associate Professor of Geography and Latin American Studies at the University of Arizona
Confronting the Impunity Machine: Genocide, Justice and the Ríos Montt Trial in Guatemala
October 24th at 4:00 p.m
Campus Center 911-15

Liz has worked in Guatemala since 1986, conducting research on the aftermath of counterinsurgency in Maya regions, and on post-war politics and development. She is a former editor of *Central America Report* (Guatemala City), & former Associate Editor of *Report on the Americas* (North American Congress on Latin America, NY). From 97-99, she was a researcher with the Guatemalan Commission for Historical Clarification (Truth Commission), and in April 2013 she was an expert witness in the genocide trial of former General Efraín Ríos Montt. She is co-editor of *The Guatemala Reader: History, Culture, Politics* (Duke University Press, 2011), as well as numerous articles on Latin American development politics, historical memory, and transitional justice.

Spring 2013 Recap: we were busy, busy, busy. . .

In March many of our faculty were involved with *Frontiers/Fronteras/Fronteiras in Latin American/Latin@ Queer and Sexuality Studies Symposium*. The symposium addressed the burgeoning field of Latin American Sexuality Studies, bringing together scholars working in this growing field. In April many of our faculty were involved in a symposium *Mediating Public Spheres: Genealogies of Feminist Knowledge in the Digital Age* to mark the 21st year of the Five College Women's Studies Research Center. We also brought **Sofian Merabet**, of the University of Texas Austin to speak on queerness in a working class neighborhood of Lebanon as part of our *New Works in Sexuality Studies* series. **Julie Castro**, visiting research scholar from Paris gave a talk on April 3 "Market or non-market relationships? Re-embedding Sex Work Transactions within Contemporary Malian society."

The Five College Feminist Science and Technology Studies Initiative had a wonderful series of events and we continued to have lively discussions about current debates in feminist scholarship and teaching. We cosponsored lots of terrific events including a showing of *Miss Representation* a Stir Fry Seminar and much more. As always, we had a festive send off to our grads and their guests in the spring.

At our end of year celebration **Miliann Kang** read a poem by her daughter, **Sangha**, that won the *Forbes Library Book Spine poetry contest*. Miliann used the poem, which was constructed out of the titles of women's studies related books, as an example of taking the knowledge in books and creating something new out of them.

All over creation
Things fall apart
Wait
Body, remember
The cure within
Grace

For better or for worse
She was one of us
Born for love
Forced to care
Longing to tell
The unsayable
Heartbeat of struggle

News for Undergraduates

As we have been announcing, WGSS has changed the major and minor requirements. For students entering as of Fall 2013 the "Women of Color requirement" has been replaced with a distribution requirement. Majors will be required to take at least two courses (total) chosen from two of the following three categories: critical race feminisms, transnational feminisms and sexuality studies. Minors will be required to take at least one course from one of the above categories. Continuing students see an advisor with questions.

Note: If a course has more than one designation listed, it can only fulfill ONE of the requirements. The student can select which designation they want that particular class to fulfill. Please be patient with us as we change all our paper and web literature to reflect the new requirements.

Reminders: Our junior writing class for majors is offered every FALL. A theory course is offered every FALL. The Integrative Experience class is offered every SPRING.

Shakuntala Ray is excited to be your writing TA this semester. She looks forward to engaging and solving your writing issues in a variety of ways. She will be available for one-on-one conferencing, workshops on writing assignments, on-line writing modules and providing a stress free writing environment. She will hold office hours twice a week at Bartlett 208 for you to drop by. Her email is: shakuntalaray5@gmail.com. Make sure to use this resource!

Annual Five College Graduate and Professional Schools Information Day 2013

Wednesday, October 30, 2013 11:00-3:00 pm
Student Union Ballroom

If you are thinking of going to Graduate School now, next year, or two years from now, you should plan to attend this event. Take this opportunity to meet 1-on-1 with representatives from over 125 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. <http://www.umass.edu/careers>

News for Graduate Students

Our new Graduate Program Director is **Miliann Kang**. Thank you to **Banu Subramaniam** for all her hard work and diligent service as GPD these past few years.

Nancy Patteson has retired and we are currently in transition. We will be searching for a new faculty member with responsibility for administering the graduate program. Our goal is to have that person in place in January. Please be patient as we reconfigure our staffing. If you have questions about requirement fulfillment or need assistance finding faculty committee members come to the office, call us, or email lindah@vost.umass.edu and we will do the best we can.

In spring of 2013 we admitted 11 new students. In the spring we also graduated 11 students (symmetrical, huh?). It looks like we'll have large group of certificate students finishing this spring. They will present their work in the spring. Deadline for application to the program is March 1, 2014. We love to brag about our students! Here is a small sample of what our certificate students are up to:

Sonny Nordmarken, doctoral student in Sociology, recently won the Graduate Student Paper Award from the Sociology of Emotions Section of the American Sociological Association for this paper: *Everyday Transgender Emotional Inequality: Microaggressions, Micropower Dynamics, Emotional Exertion, and Cisgender Emotional Leisure*.

Congratulations to **Chris Smith**, sociology PhD candidate and a WGSS Graduate Certificate student. Chris received the *National Science Foundation Sociology Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant* last year for dissertation research on women in prohibition era Chicago organized crime networks. This grant funded two months of archival research in Chicago over the summer. In addition, Chris was one of 13 students to receive the *Graduate School Fellowship* for the 2013-14 academic year.

ALUMNI NEWS

Published authors: Lots of new knowledge and insight in the world!

Congratulations to **Anna Bowen**. Her novel "*Hattie*" published by Small Batch Books in 2012 is getting rave reviews and awards including being featured on the cover of Publisher's Weekly in March.

Susan Crane and colleagues, **Judith Stephenson**, **Caren Levy** and **Mark Maslin** just published an article in *The Lancet* "*Population, development, and climate change: links and effects on human health*." Susan is International Health Research Programme Director UCL Institute for Global Health University College in London.

Kaolin's book *Talking About Race: A Workbook About White People Fostering Racial Equality in Their Lives* and her public leadership is being recognized with the *Common Ground Award*. She is speaking this fall (October 23) at Holyoke Community College.

Congratulations are also due to **Jackson Katz** for his latest book, *Leading Men, Presidential Campaigns and the Politics of Manhood* which came out last fall by Interlink Publishing.

Megan Lieff just published an article *Safe Words* in Bitch Magazine.

Several alums, friends and colleagues are featured in the new book *Mothers in Academia* edited by **Mari Castaneda** and **Kirsten Isgro**, 2013 Columbia University Press. Mari is a wonderful colleague in Communication and Kirsten was one of our graduate students who taught in the department for many years. Congratulations to Mari and Kirsten, as well as graduate alum **Allia Matta** and undergrad alum **Wendy Wilde** for their contributions.

More news from alums...

Alyx Akers is an agent at Goggins Real Estate in Northampton.

Shelley Alcott will start at the New School this fall in the Media Studies Program.

Julia Becker Collins is working as the Manager of Communications and Events at Hyde Square Task Force, a non-profit organization in Jamaica Plain focused on youth development and violence prevention. Julia just graduated with a Masters in Public Administration from Framington State University.

Ellen Church is a School Readiness Pipeline Coordinator at Thrive in Boston.

Sarah T. Dunton, worked with her team at Girls Incorporated of Holyoke and the College of Natural Sciences to launch Eureka! a 5-year science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) program for girls. During the summer 30 girls from Holyoke, Chicopee and Springfield engaged with professors in the College of Natural Sciences in classes on astronomy, water quality and green building.

Shannon Farrington teaches high school Special Education, ELA and reading. Shannon lives in Boston and has been making homemade organic low fat Greek frozen yogurt this summer.

Amy Ferrer is now the executive director of the American Philosophical Association, the learned society promoting the discipline of philosophy and supporting the work of philosophers. The APA is based at the University of Delaware in Newark, where Amy lives with her husband

and two cats.

Keith Forrest, Grad Certificate alum writes: "I am a tenured assistant professor of communication at Atlantic Cape Community College in NJ--where I had the good fortune of being able to found the communication program in 2006. In May, I was honored as a Communication Pioneer. I also ran my 7th marathon in May. My wife Kris and I have four kids including 7-year-old Madeline--the future president of the United States."

Ashley Hamel joined the New Teachers Project and taught Biology in a Title I high needs school in Providence. Ashley is now teaching middle school at a Title 1 charter school in Boston where she also is a mentor and advisor for students. Next steps include medical school with a possible dual degree in public health.

Christina Knowles is the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators. She writes: "It is great to be working in the State House again." She added that she has just been elected to the national Board of Directors for the women's health organization Our Bodies Ourselves. "I am so honored and absolutely thrilled to be involved with this amazing organization."

Jill Tregor is faculty in the Health Education Department at City College of San Francisco, teaching Women's Health classes and courses that train Alcohol and Drug Counselors, and Community Health Workers. She is "...most excited about...my participation in a groundbreaking, federally funded, online education and certification program for post-prison health workers (re-entry workers) at community based health clinics throughout the U.S. and Puerto Rico. The model employs formerly incarcerated health workers to reach out, support, and bring into health care individuals as they are released from prison/jail." The project partners with Harvard, Yale, University of California San Francisco, and more to demonstrate improved health outcomes and cost savings through a community health worker (CHW) centered healthcare team approach at clinics that are culturally responsive to the needs of formerly incarcerated patients. she helped develop the curriculum including an extensive library of videos, the facilitators guide and wrote chapters in *Foundations for Community Health Workers* published by Jossey-Bass.

Annie Tummino was the lead plaintiff in *Tummino et al. V. Hamburg* to expand access to emergency contraception and continues her advocacy on this issue.

Send us your news! Post your ideas and links on facebook! Keep in touch!

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The Facebook page needs you!

As you may have noticed, some of us are more adept than others at social media. Karen and Linda like to blame their age... but there are lots of counter examples to that theory. Anyhow, you social media savvy folks, make our facebook page more lively! Post interesting news stories, commentaries, announcements or just read the ones we post and comment. Be sure to "Like" our page. We hope the page will be a vehicle for lively interaction and networking.



This newsletter is produced online and in written form twice a year funds permitting. The newsletter is written and edited by Karen Lederer. Design and production by Linda Hillenbrand. Thanks to Laura Briggs and Linda Hillenbrand for their contributions, and to the rest of the WGSS faculty.

Grads: Send your alum news, if you have a blog send to Linda to link off our (forthcoming) blog page. Like our facebook page, join our LinkedIn group (UMass Amherst Women's Studies Grads). Please use these social networking sites to find one another and make connections! Watch for a career survey. We know you are doing great things so we are trying to add to the data on what humanities grads go on to do. If you graduated with a major or minor we will get in touch. As always, keep us up to date with your mailing and email addresses.