



# University of Massachusetts Amherst Women's Studies Program



A Program of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts

**NEWSLETTER**

**SPRING 2006**

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## WELCOME BACK EVERYONE!

This edition of the newsletter aims to be economical with paper and words. If you miss more words, check out our website where you can read old newsletters, or check out news about the program and our grads. The fall newsletter will be fatter with people news and alumni news. Attention grads: be sure to send us your career and life news! Best wishes for a terrific spring.

Karen Lederer, newsletter editor

## ◆ COMINGS AND GOINGS ◆

### Welcome Claudia de Lima Costa!

We are pleased to welcome Claudia de Lima Costa to our faculty. She is Associate Professor in the Department of Literature and Vernacular Languages at the Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC), in Florianópolis, Brazil, where she teaches literary theory, feminist theories and cultural studies and is co-editor of *Revista Estudos Feministas*, Brazil's premier feminist studies journal. She has taught at the University of California, Santa Cruz, as well as in Venezuela and Mexico. Her published work on cultural studies, feminist theory and method, Latin American feminisms, communication studies, language and gender, feminist ethnography, and the theory and practice of women's life-histories/autobiographies has appeared in Spanish, English and Portuguese. Currently she is working on the travels and translations of feminist theories in the Americas, focusing more specifically on (uneven) theoretical flows between US, European, and Brazilian academic feminism as well as coordinating a Latin America-wide feminist studies data bank initiative.

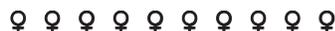
Many thanks to **Barbara Cruikshank** for serving as interim Women's Studies director this past fall. We appreciate her willingness to step in while **Arlene Avakian** was on sabbatical. Thank you Barbara and welcome back Arlene!

Farewell and thanks to able teachers: **Claire Schomp**, **Beverly Weber** and **Juliette Lee** for teaching classes in

the program. Bev continues as a teaching assistant for our Intro Course. **Shelley Perdomo** will be teaching WOST 394H *Theorizing Black Feminisms* this spring. **Chizu Sato** will be working with WOST 499F, *Cultivating Experience: Transnational Women's Economic and Political Activisms*. Thanks to Chizu and Shelley for their years of work with our Intro course. Welcome to new teaching assistants: **Allia Matta** and **Eve Ng**.

Welcome to **Anissa Hélie** who is teaching Women's Studies 294A *Politics of Gender and Identities in Muslim Countries and Communities: Colonial Legacies, Religious Fundamentalism and Feminist Strategies*. She has extensive international experience as a scholar, activist and speaker, including serving as Executive Director of the Women Living Under Muslim Law's (WLUML) Network's International Coordination Office.

*Women's Studies has a new piece of art!* Next time you are in the office, ask to see the art quilt created by Jacquelyn Hughes Mooney inspired by the collaboration between Women's Studies at UMass Amherst and Bennett College for Women.



## THANKS TO OUR DONORS

Donations enable us to celebrate our grads, and sometimes help us buy needed supplies. Thank you to our supporters.

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# ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ **EVENTS** ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀

Many Women's Studies Events are in the works! Dates are now being finalized. If you aren't on the wostevents listserv, join to get all the specifics. Send an e-mail to [wostevents-request@wost.umass.edu](mailto:wostevents-request@wost.umass.edu). Watch your email, or in some cases your snail mail, for invitations. Here is what we are planning:

*Feminist Foundations Series.* Graduate students interested in registering for credit will participate in field trips to local archives such as the Sophia Smith Center at Smith College with History Professor Laura Lovett. Most events held Monday afternoons.

*Grant Writing Workshop.* The Graduate Student Grants Services (GSGS) will offer a workshop on Friday, March 10, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. in the Campus Center for all certificate students. This workshop will provide information on applying for doctoral and post-doc funding.

*New majors/minors welcome event* will take place after the April 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for undergraduate major applications.

*Panel discussion of the new book: Making Threats: Biofears And Environmental Anxieties* edited by Betsy Hartmann, Banu Subramaniam, and Charles Zerner. Look for this event in late March/early April.

Tuesday, April 11, 7:30 p.m.  
Food for Thought Books  
Booksigning of Arlene Avakian and Barbara Haber's new book, *From Betty Crocker to Feminist Food Studies, Critical Perspectives on Women and Food*.

Friday, May 5 Campus Center  
Transnational Women's Economic and Political Activisms  
Presentations by Women's Studies Undergraduate Honors Students. (Day long program)

May grads: Save the date of Friday, May 26 for the *Women's Studies graduation!*



## **CAMPUS EVENTS**

*The Women of Color Leadership Network* (413-545-1671) has many spring events planned. February 22-25 is a visit from author, scholar and adventurer Faith Adiele, Professor of English, University of Pittsburg.

**Nomad: The River** by Yin Mei Dance  
Friday, February 24  
8:00 p.m. Bowker Auditorium  
New World Theater and Asian Arts and Culture Program  
Fine Arts Center, [www.umass.edu/fac](http://www.umass.edu/fac)

**The Vagina Monologues**  
March 3 and 4 at 7 p.m.  
Bowker Auditorium  
Sponsored by VOX student group and Everywoman's Center, 545-0883.

**Nice Jewish Girls Gone Bad**  
Look for this comedy/spoken word/slam poetry/song dance performance in mid March.

**Body Politics:**  
**An Original Production by Women of Color About Body Image**  
April 1 7:00 p.m. & April 2 3:00 p.m.  
227 Herter Hall  
Women of Color Leadership Network

**Judith Halberstam**  
April 5, 7:30 p.m.  
Details TBA

**Project 2050 on the Frontlines: Sex, War and Lies**  
Thursday, April 6 8:00 p.m.  
Fine Arts Center Concert Hall  
Intersections IV, international theater conference and festival, kicks off with the Project 2050 youth exploring the frontlines and war zones that many youth encounter at home and abroad. [www.umass.edu/fac](http://www.umass.edu/fac)

**Women of Color Leadership Network Recognition Banquet featuring the Bennett Belles and the cast of Body Politics**  
April 27 at 6:00 p.m.  
Massachusetts Room, Mullins Center  
Special visit by students from Bennett College for Women in North Carolina. Bennett and Women's Studies are beginning on a collaboration between the two institutions. Call 413-545-1671 for details about the event.

**Presentations by candidates:** Searches are ongoing for several high administrative positions at UMass Amherst including the Everywoman's Center Director and the Dean of Humanities and Fine Arts. Women's Studies is a program of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts. Watch for public presentations by finalists in the spring. Generally all members of the campus community are invited to meet the candidates and give feedback to the search committee. Lend your voice to this process!



## **UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS**

**Kate Michelman**  
President Emeritus, NARAL Pro-Choice America  
Wednesday, February 8, 2006 7:00 p.m.  
Gamble Auditorium, Mount Holyoke College  
Co sponsored by the Five College Women's Studies Research Center, MHC Health Services, Planned Parenthood League and Tapestry Health.

# ♀ ♀ ♀ **EVENTS** ♀ ♀ ♀

# NEWS FOR STUDENTS

**The Five College Women's Studies Research Center** has many events this spring including a sexuality studies series beginning in March. <http://www.fivecolleges.edu/sites/fcwsrc/> Some events to note:

***"When Feminism Is Used Against the Left"***

Wednesday, February 22 4:00 p.m.

Dwight Hall 101, Mount Holyoke College.

Panel discussion:

Amrita Basu, Amherst College

Joan Cocks, Mount Holyoke College;

Lena Zuckerwise, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Moderator Martha Ackelsburg, Smith College

Images of Afghan and Iraqi women are often used to justify US-led occupations of these nations. Panel explores the political implications, of political actors adopting feminist language and claiming to act on behalf of women.

***International Women's Day Reception***

Wednesday, March 8 4:00-6:00 p.m. Five College

Women's Studies Research Center, Mt. Holyoke College.

Celebration of Five College authors of recent books on women and gender.

**Everywoman's Center** is offering support groups and workshops this spring. Contact them at 545-0883 for more information. [www.umass.edu/ewc](http://www.umass.edu/ewc)



## ***Worried about Getting a Job?***

### ***Take advantage of campus career fairs:***

**Campus Wide Career Fair**

February 15, 2006, 10:00-3:00

Campus Center Auditorium

Life Sciences and Environmental Careers Fair

same date/time, lower level Campus Center

**ALANA Job Fair**

February 15, 2006 5:00-7:30 p.m.

Campus Center Auditorium

**Summer, Co-op & Internship Opportunities Fair**

February 16, 2006, 10:00-3:00 p.m.

Campus Center Auditorium

For info: [www.umass.edu/careers](http://www.umass.edu/careers) or visit 511 Goodell

**Five College Not-for-Profit  
and International Career Fair**

March 3, 11:30-2:30

Amherst College Campus Center

Open to all Five College students

Employers include local, national, federal and international organizations.

If you haven't already been over to the Du Bois Library to use our new Learning Commons on the Main floor, go take a look! The library is now open round the clock during the week, Sunday 11 a.m. through Friday 9 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Beth Lang, Women's Studies Librarian, is available to help with your research projects (daytime hours). Email [bwlang@library.umass.edu](mailto:bwlang@library.umass.edu) or call 545-6890 for an appointment.

**Undergrads:** The application deadline for the major is April 1<sup>st</sup>. Come in to discuss the major, minor, internships or finding a sponsor. Seniors should come in and check requirements. You are welcome to come in and discuss classes, career issues, academic problems or options. Potential women's studies students are welcome. If you are in **Commonwealth College**, or considering it, you are urged to keep in touch with our departmental honors coordinator, Alex Deschamps.

**Graduate Students: The due date for Certificate in Advanced Feminist Studies applications is Friday, February 24, 2006.** This is a change from the March 10th deadline of previous years. The reason for moving up the date is to give accepted students the opportunity to participate in a Certificate reception and workshop (formerly the Certificate retreat) being held in early March. Students interested in applying for the Certificate should contact Nancy Campbell Pattenon in the Women's Studies office.

**Five College Women's Studies Research Center**

**Reception:** The Women's Studies Graduate Certificate program is organizing a trip to the Five College Women's Studies Research Center at Mount Holyoke for International Women's Day, *Wednesday, March 8, 2006 at 4:00 p.m.* for the reception. Authors from the Five Colleges will be on hand to discuss their recent books on women and gender and graduate Certificate students are being asked to attend. This is a wonderful opportunity for both new and veteran Certificate students to meet local faculty and research associates. Sign up with Nancy Campbell Pattenon at 413-545-1922 or ([pattenon@edu.umass.edu](mailto:pattenon@edu.umass.edu)). Carpools are being arranged.

**New Leadership for the Faculty Senate Council  
on the Status of Women**

Women's Studies Graduate Program Coordinator Nancy Campbell Pattenon has stepped down as Co-Chair of the Faculty Senate Council on the Status of Women. "It's time for new leadership with fresh ideas," said Pattenon. She will continue to be an active member of the committee. The new co-chairs are Associate Professors Eve Weinbaum, Labor Center, and Aura Ganz, Electrical and Computer Engineering.



If you are on one of the many WOST listservs and need to be removed, you can do that by clicking on the link at the bottom of any message sent to the list. You can find the same link on our website as well as instructions and ways to subscribe to the other listservs. E-mailing one of the staff directly with your removal request is fine too. Please remember that we do not add you without permission and there is a good chance you will not be removed when you graduate, so please let us know when you want to be taken off after you graduate. We'd be happy to move you to the alum/friends list.

*Way back when: when many of us were younger and.....*

**10 years ago in this newsletter, Spring 1996** We opened the lounge. . .we reported on the Black Studies/Women's Studies conference the prior fall. . .we celebrated International Women's Day with a concert by Yagottawanna a women's acapella singing group. . .we inaugurated a faculty/grad student lunchtime lecture series. . .we announced that we had acquired that marvel of technology, a FAX machine.

**20 years ago in this newsletter, Spring 1986:** The lead article focused on the second symposium in the Feminism and Difference project sponsored by the Five College Women's Studies committee and Faculty Seminar which focused on film. . .and an alum reported on the March for Women's Lives. . .*the more things change, the more they stay the same.* The 1986 newsletter was produced by a typewriter! "A writing machine that produces characters similar to typeset print by means of a manually operated keyboard" from dictionary.com.



*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 Nancy Campbell Patteson and Linda Hillenbrand for their contributions.. Alum news appears in the fall, send us your updates! This newsletter, and past newsletters are online at [www.umass.edu/wost](http://www.umass.edu/wost).*



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