

Women's Studies Newsletter

A Program of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts
University of Massachusetts Amherst



Spring 2007 208 Bartlett Hall 413-545-1922 www.umass.edu/wost



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

As Acting Director for fall 2006, I am happy to report that Women's Studies had a very productive and rewarding semester. We have two on-going grants that engaged the core faculty in faculty co-mentoring and both faculty and TAs in course development and pedagogy. They are:

Bennett College for Women Collaboration with UMass Amherst Women's Studies

This grant was a pilot through the Office of Faculty Development from the Mellon foundation. It was designed to allow us to continue our faculty co-mentoring with faculty from the historically Black Bennett College for Women in Greensboro, North Carolina. Five of our faculty met with seven of Bennett's faculty at a mini-conference in Washington D.C. We defined our ongoing collaboration as the "**Voices of Resistance Learning Communities**" and we discussed particular collaborative projects to do this coming year, including team teaching, consulting with a Bennett oral history project of student involvement in the 1960s Civil Rights Movement, and some theatre and spoken word projects. This spring semester **Alex Deschamps** and **Priscilla Page** from UMass Amherst and **Valerie Kaalund** and **Steve Ellis** from Bennett College will collaborate on a mini-teaching module for a section of WOST 187H and a Bennett Women and Culture course that will involve student performances and video-conferencing. In fall 2007 **Ruth Lucier** and I will team-teach a module on Women and the Environment in my Social Justice course and her World Philosophy course. A future project may involve seeking funding for a summer institute at UMass Amherst for students of color, particularly from Bennett, interested in going to graduate school.

Teaching and Learning

Our second grant is the Teaching and Learning Development seminar, funded by the Center for Teaching, which includes the entire core faculty plus our teaching assistants, and aims to improve teaching of our core Women's Studies courses which use an integrated feminist analysis dealing with gender, race, class, and sexuality from a transnational perspective. We have had core seminars involving reading and discussing content and pedagogy, and we have had two Feminist Foundation public lectures with outside speakers, one on *Reproductive Health and Justice issues*, with **Tameka Gillum** from the School of Public Health and **Angela Moreno** from the Third Wave Foundation and one on *Gender Justice: Women's Human Rights, Tradition and Religion*, with **Anissa Helie** of Women Living Under Muslim Laws and **Rashida Manjoo** from the South Africa Gender Commission. We will continue this spring with core seminars and two Feminist Foundation speakers: **Elsa Barkley Brown**, prominent African-American historian, and **Uma Narayan**, well known feminist postcolonial philosopher (see the schedule of these lectures listed on page 4-5)

As you can see we have been busy!

I look forward to seeing you this spring at our events. Thanks to everyone for pitching in this fall to work on these projects. Thanks to the women's studies faculty, staff, graduate students and associated faculty.

Ann Ferguson, Women's Studies

Editor's note.....See page 4 for the Feminist Philosophy Conference in celebration of Ann Ferguson!

TRANSITIONS



Promotions/Changes/Busy People Becoming Even Busier!

Welcome to new instructors teaching courses this spring: **Carol Bailey, Mitch Boucher, Allia Matta** and **Angie Whitmal!** See our course guide for the great array of classes they are offering. Welcome to new 187 T.A.'s **Joy Miller** and **Jolane Flanigan.** Thanks to our instructors this past fall: **Elizabeth Cahn, Shelley Perdomo** and **Mirangela Buggs, Hikari Hori,** our Five College Fellow, **Lili Kim** and **Pamela Stone** from Hampshire College. Thanks to **Lynda Pickbourn** for her continuing work in Women's Studies.

Alex Deschamps will now be dividing her time between women's studies and Commonwealth College. Alex is the new Associate Director of Advising Outreach for Commonwealth College.

Banu Subramaniam will be on leave from women's studies this spring to assume the role of Associate Dean for Academic Personnel and Research in the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

Congratulations Alex and Banu!

Ann Ferguson will be retiring as of June 2007, although she will continue to teach courses as emerita for the fall 2007 semester. The newsletter would have to expand by several volumes to begin to encompass the incredible amount of work, service, research and activism Ann Ferguson has contributed to our campus and community. Please join us in the upcoming celebrations to appreciate her years of dedication.

Follow Up to How I Spent My Summer Vacation *by Nancy Patteson*

Nancy reports that she successfully completed the Seacoast Half Marathon on November 12, 2006 in 2 hours and 35 minutes and raised over \$2000.00 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. "Thank you to all who donated and challenged me to run this race." Visit her Team-In-Training website at <http://www.active.com/donate/tnmal/patteson>



DONORS

The weather was unpredictable this fall and winter, but our donors were not. Thanks to our steady supporters (and the new ones too!) For information about how to earmark your donations, www.umass.edu/development/giving/programs.html or of course go to our own page <http://www.umass.edu/wost/giving.htm> Many thanks to:

Barbara Bazemore
Kathleen Cote
Lynn Couturier
Rebecca Dobkins
Nancy Ferrer
Diane Gould
Donna Grant
Ann Ferguson
Samantha Head
Dale LaBonte
Sue Lee
Jacqueline Levin
Dale Melcher
Mary Ellen Reilly
Diana Riddle
Leona Rockwood
Deborah Rose
Karen Shack
Inez Sieben
Gustav Szlosek
Mitchell Tannenbaum
Jill Tregor
Cynthia Warren
Shirley Wagner
Anne Wiley



LIBRARY NEWS

For those who enjoy coming to the library, but want to get away from the noisy lower level, try studying in the newly refurbished quiet study areas on floors 2 and 3. Wireless access and cell phone booths available. Also, short-term use lockers to store your valuables have been installed on floors 2, 3, 7 and 10 of the Du Bois Library. Need help with your women's studies research projects? Contact Women's Studies librarian, Beth Lang, bwlang@library.umass.edu (5-6890) to make an appointment.



NEWS FOR STUDENTS

GLENNIE L. JONES MEMORIAL AWARD COMPETITION

Dr. Dale M. Jones, alumna of women's studies, 1986, 2004 (G) has funded a prize in honor of her late mother Glennie L. Jones. This is the 2nd year of this prize. The undergraduate prize is given to majors or minors who show a commitment to ending violence against women. The graduate student prize is presented to a student completing the Certificate in Advanced Feminist Studies. Tentative deadline to submit applications for spring awards is April 1st. Awards will be presented at the end of the semester. The prize includes a certificate, name on the plaque in the Women's Studies Office, and a cash award. Contact the office for details.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

The major application deadline is April 1st. Keep those minor (and major) applications coming! As always, contact us if you need assistance in setting up your program, finding a sponsor, or want to learn more about internships, honors opportunities, and more. Seniors, don't forget to come in to double check everything.

Help spread the word about women's studies! We have student reps on our committees. Contact Karen with your ideas.

Career Events for Students

Campus Wide Career Fair, February 14, 2007

10:00-3:00 Campus Center Auditorium

Life Sciences and Environmental Careers Fair,

February 14, 2007, 10:00-3:00

Lower level Campus Center

ALANA Job Fair, February 4, 2007, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Campus Center Auditorium

Summer, Co-op & Internship Opportunities Fair,

February 15, 2007, 10:00-3:00 p.m.

Campus Center Auditorium

Not-for-Profit/International Opportunities Fair,

March 9th, 12:00-4:00 p.m.

Amherst College Campus Center

The campus career network has a website where you can get information about events, search for jobs and find out about their services

www.umass.edu/careers. Visit them at 511 Goodell or call 545-2224.

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

If you, or anyone you know, are considering admission into the graduate Certificate program for Fall 2007 the deadline for applications is March 2, 2007. The internal application is available from our website or come to the Women's Studies office. Nancy Patteson, Graduate Program Coordinator, will be happy to answer your questions and sign you on to our graduate student listserv. We welcome Joyce Berkman, Professor in the History Department and Adjunct Professor in Women's Studies, as the interim Graduate Certificate Program Director (GCPD) this spring.

For those of you planning to complete the Certificate this spring, you must be registered for WOMENSST 793A, the final Graduate Research Project, and you must submit a Research Prospectus signed by your disciplinary advisor and the Women's Studies GCPD before the end of Add/Drop on February 12, 2007. There will be a meeting of all students working on final projects on Friday, February 9 at noontime and paperwork can be signed at that time. Students will be presenting their research-in-progress at an event being planned for early April. Stay tuned for more information. Final projects must be completed by the Graduate Degree Requirements deadline of April 30, 2007.

The graduate Certificate program depends on the members of the Graduate Studies Committee for admissions decisions and policy revisions. We thank Ann Ferguson, Philosophy and Women's Studies, Marta Calas, Management, Joyce Berkman, History, Shederick McClendon, Education and Julie Graham, Geography for their ongoing support and commitment.

....WOMEN'S STUDIES EVENTS.....

FEMINIST PHILOSOPHY CONFERENCE

Sponsored by Women's Studies,
Philosophy and the journal Organization

In honor of Ann Ferguson

May 11-12, 2007

University of Massachusetts Amherst

*Noted feminist philosophers gather to share ideas,
deliver papers and honor Ann's many years of service
upon her retirement.*

Keynote speech by

Uma Narayan, Professor, Vassar College

The keynote address is part of the Feminist
Foundations Series/Teaching and Learning in a
Diverse Classroom

Speakers and Commentators:

Louise Antony, Philosophy, UMass Amherst

Sandra Bartky, Philosophy,
emerita University of Illinois/Chicago

Neta Crawford, International Relations and African
American Studies, Boston University

Ann Ferguson, Philosophy and Women's Studies,
UMass Amherst

Lori Gruen, Philosophy and Women's Studies,
Wesleyan University

Sally Haslanger, Philosophy and Women and
Gender Studies, MIT

Virginia Held, Philosophy, CUNY Graduate Center
and Emerita, Hunter College

Alison Jaggar, Philosophy and Women's Studies,
University of Colorado Boulder

Eva Kittay, Philosophy, SUNY/Stonybrook

Kimberly Leighton, Philosophy, Tufts University

Mecke Nagel, Philosophy, SUNY/Corland

Eileen O'Neill, Philosophy, UMass Amherst

E.V. Spelman, Philosophy, Smith College

Lisa Tessman, Philosophy, Binghamton University

For details: titles, schedule, location, check the
events page on our website www.umass.edu/wost.

Come celebrate and learn!



FEMINIST FOUNDATIONS SERIES/

TEACHING AND LEARNING IN A DIVERSE CLASSROOM

Elsa Barkley Brown

Associate Professor, History and Women's Studies
University of Maryland, College Park

will be speaking on Thursday, April 12 in the
evening, (date and location to be finalized)

*Professor Elsa Barkley Brown is a prominent scholar
and the author of pivotal articles in African American,*

*cultural, urban and southern women's history. Her
articles have appeared in Signs, Feminist Studies,
History Workshop, Sage, Public Culture, and The
Journal of Urban History.*



Save the date for our festive **end of the year
celebration breakfast!**

Friday, May 25, 2007

See you at **Commencement** that weekend!



Women in the Workplace

A lunch series - Wednesdays 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.

March 7 - Childcare Issues

March 14 - Sexual Harassment

March 28 - Gender Pay Inequities

Campus Center room #904-09

A panel of faculty and outside speakers will discuss
issues facing undergraduate and graduate women
entering the workplace. This event is in celebration
of International Women's History Month. Sponsors
include Graduate Student Senate (GSS), Graduate
Women's Network, EWC, Women's Studies Program,
Women of Color Leadership Network, Status of
Women Council, GEO Graduate Women's Caucus
and more. For information: Eboni Rafus, Graduate
Women's Network Coordinator, Graduate Student
Senate, gss-gwn@resgs.umass.edu, (413) 545-2897



**"Oh the Stories You'll Tell: History,
Communication and Empowerment in Quilting"**

Thursday, April 5th (tentative)

Cape Cod Lounge

As part of her senior honors project, **Women's
Studies major, Allison Slutter** will be hosting a
multidisciplinary quilt exhibition. Professor
Jacquelyn Hughes Mooney, renowned quilter and
quilt scholar from Bennett College, is the featured
speaker at the event. Photographs of quilts as well as
antique and modern quilts will be displayed. All are
invited and encouraged to attend! For more
information please check the Women's Studies
website or e-mail Allison at
ajslutte@student.umass.edu

. . . . C A M P U S E V E N T S

EVERYWOMAN'S CENTER (EWC) RECEPTION

March 6, 2007
Campus Center 10th floor 12:00 noon
For info on events, programs and services
www.umass.edu/ewc or call 545-0883



EWC ON THE ROAD

Everywoman's Center Resource Referral Program is coming to BARTLETT HALL! In addition to offering services in Wilder Hall, our trained staff will be available to make immediate referrals, answer questions, and offer resources in various locations around campus.

In the upcoming weeks, you can find us in Bartlett Hall on Thursday afternoons!



VAGINA MONOLOGUES

February 23 and 24 at 7:30 p.m.
February 25 at 2:00 p.m.
Bowker Auditorium
Ticket Price: \$5 students/seniors/low income and \$10 general public

Proceeds benefit Everywoman's Center and the V-DAY Campaign to end violence against women. This year's theme is Reclaiming Peace, with a spotlight piece on Women in Conflict Zones.



WOMEN OF HOPE EXHIBIT

Student Union Art Gallery
March 26-April 6, 2007
Reception on March 27 in the Gallery 5:00-7:00 p.m.

An exhibit of portraits and mini-biographies of 70 local, national and international women of color who have made a difference in their communities. For more information please contact the Women of Color Leadership Network (413-545-1671).



BODY POLITICS

April 27 and April 28 at 7:00 p.m.
Student Union Ballroom
Free and open to the public

A performance that culminates a sixteen-week process of holistic exploration, which chronicles the unique histories of African-American, Latina, Asian, Native-American (ALANA) women through first person narratives transformed into dramatic forms. Free and open to all. For more information please contact WOCLN.



FAMILY FRIENDLY WORKPLACE FORUM

Faculty Senate Council on the Status of Women
Friday, April 13, 2007
12:00-2:00 p.m.

Speakers will discuss family issues and policy here on campus and compare UMass Amherst with national trends. This forum will focus on how family friendly UMass Amherst is as a workplace. For information contact Nancy Patteson in Women's Studies.



These aren't the only exciting events coming up this spring, be sure to contact all the wonderful nearby organizations As always, the Fine Arts Center has great events, check out New World Theater, Asian Arts and Culture programs and more. www.umass.edu/fac.

The Five College Women's Studies Research Center has several ongoing program series: <http://www.fivecolleges.edu/sites/fcwsrcl>

The Stonewall Center has many events lined up for the spring semester. Check out their website at <http://www.umass.edu/stonewall> or call them 413-545-4824.

For information on the Women of Color Leadership Network (WOCLN) call 545-1671.

POST-GRAD REFLECTIONS

Editor's note: When space permits, we invite program grads to reflect on their education in the spring newsletter and tell us what they are doing now. Cheri and Viera were impressive as students, and are integrating women's studies into every aspect of their important work in the world. Thanks to them both.



As a high school senior, I dreamt of being an art major. But I decided not to enroll in an all arts college in case I changed my mind or wanted to double major in another area. After two years at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, my instincts were proved correct: Inspired by an introductory Women's Studies class, I decided to pursue a double major in both Women's Studies and Painting. I had the pleasure of taking classes with Ann Mochon, from the Art History Department, and Susan Jahoda, from the Art Department. Through their tutelage and guidance, I was able to immerse myself in an intense study of feminist art.

Two years after graduating from UMass Amherst, I began a M.A.T. program in Art Education at Tufts University and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts. The program helped prepare me for two wonderful years as an art teacher at Andover High School. But eventually I yearned for New York City and soon moved there in search of a job in an arts organization rather than in a public school. After searching and searching, I learned how painfully difficult it was to: A) find a job and B) find a job that paid enough money for me to support myself. I took a job teaching in a New York City public school: a challenging obstacle course of poor classroom conditions, behavioral issues, and substituting for absent teachers on a daily basis. Throughout those challenges, I believe it was my Women's Studies background that enabled me to persevere through three and a half years. Just as I had learned at UMass Amherst, I felt I needed to accomplish several things: I had a desire to give back to society; I wanted to learn to be comfortable in an unfamiliar environment; and I was determined to succeed in a place where improvements needed to be made (even if that only meant that I would help a handful of children and not save the world).

Once I felt I achieved those goals, I transitioned to a job where I could continue to teach teens about art. In the fall, I started as a Museum Educator at the Brooklyn Museum in Brooklyn, New York. I'm proud to say that in March, the Museum will open The Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art — the Nation's first museum center devoted to Feminist Art. As the Museum's Teen Program Coordinator, I will be designing programs inviting teens to come to the Museum to learn about the art in the new center. My first project has been to design a Teen Master Class to be offered in conjunction with the opening. The class, *Interpreting Judy Chicago's Dinner Party through Dance*, will be offered free to teens and taught by professional dancer, Valerie Ho.

It has been almost ten years since my graduation in 1997. Although I was unsure of how I would use my Women's Studies and painting degrees, I was well aware that my experiences at UMass Amherst provided me with a strong foundation to accomplish anything I set out to do. The Women's Studies program helped me to find my niche.

Cheri Ehrlich
January 2007

I earned my B.A. degree in Journalism years ago from Univerzita Komenského in Bratislava, Slovakia. When I first traveled to the United States, I took my first Women's Studies course and started to think how to meaningfully combine my interests in media and women's studies. I began reading feminist theory on my own, and upon my return to my previous job at Slovak Public Radio, I gradually began incorporating women's issues into my radio production. Months later, I co-founded and co-produced the feminist radio program *Hlas Medúzy*, the first of its kind in Slovakia. In 1995, I returned to Amherst, for an MA in Communications. In retrospect, these years were transitional in more ways than one. Residing in Amherst, returning periodically to Slovakia to visit family and friends while pursuing academic research, I could no longer articulate a clear-cut answer to where I felt more at home. I was excited to become a graduate student at UMass Amherst but was uncertain how to manage raising my two children on a very limited income. Ultimately, my temporary solution was to work endless hours and supplement my income with student loans.

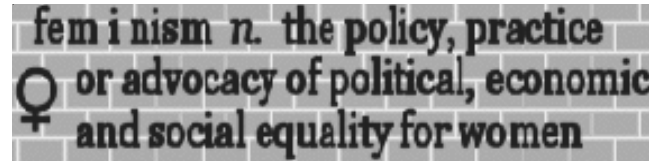
In 1997, while working on my M.A. thesis on the role of media in the emerging feminist and anti-feminist discourses in postsocialist Slovakia, I was thrilled and honored to join the first cohort of graduate students in the newly established Women's Studies Graduate Certificate in Advanced Feminist Studies. In 1998, I completed my M.A. degree but continued work on my interdisciplinary PhD coursework with a focus on feminist and queer theory, media representation of gender and sexuality, feminist and LGBTQ activism and politics, globalization and alternative media production. I also focused on learning how to become an effective teacher sharing the transformative potential of knowledge by teaching many courses for both Communication and Women's Studies. Teaching the honors sections of Critical Perspectives in Women's Studies was, probably, my most rewarding teaching experience to date, but my most valuable teaching lessons came from being a TA for Women's Studies 187 where I was supervised by Professors Arlene Avakian, Ann Ferguson, Alex Deschamps and Banu Subramaniam. I was inspired by their talents, dedication and passion for teaching, and am indebted to them for all I learned throughout those years.

I completed the Graduate Certificate in Advanced Feminist Studies in 1999 and temporarily moved to Zagreb, Croatia to volunteer at the Center for Women's Studies, under the sponsorship of Freedom House's American Volunteers for International Development program. I collaborated closely with a team of feminist scholars and activists, and applied my skills as researcher, conference co-organizer, workshop facilitator, newsletter editor, translator, and fundraiser. I assisted coordinators of feminist and LGBT non-profit organizations in Slovakia and contributed to the Slovak feminist journal *Aspekt*, and the LGBT periodicals *Atribút g/l* and *Q archív*. My English translation of the intra-community *Report on Discrimination Against Lesbians, Gay Men and Bisexuals in Slovakia*, initiated by the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA-Europe) was presented by Slovak LGBT activists at the Public Hearing on the Position of Lesbian Women and Gay Men in the European Union Accession Countries in Brussels, Belgium, and at ILGA-Europe's 24th annual conference in Lisbon, Portugal in 2002. I also took part in many LGBT community events while working on my dissertation research: an ethnographic study of the emerging visibility of sexual minorities in post-1989 Slovakia. My research enabled me to foster connections with feminist and LGBT scholars and NGO activists from Slovakia and other Central and East European countries.

This past August, I defended my dissertation under the supervision of Lisa Henderson, Associate Professor of Communication, to whom I am indebted for her advising expertise and intellectual vigor. In September I became a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Communication at Fitchburg State College (FSC) and am currently teaching courses in Communication theory. Upon my arrival at FSC, I joined the Women's Studies Advisory Committee, and look forward to contributing to the Women's Studies minor curriculum development. Currently, I am working on a new special topic seminar, Gender and Communication that will be offered this spring at FSC. I am also looking forward to teaching a graduate level Research Methods seminar, advising dozens of undergraduate and several graduate students, and continuing to integrate my interdisciplinary teaching and research interests.

ALUMNI NEWS

We are still working on compiling data from our recent survey of our grads. We are building a database that will assist current students in finding career contacts and aid in planning alumni activities for the program. It is not too late! If you graduated from the program and would like another survey, call (413-545-1922), email (womens-studies@wost.umass.edu), or go to our website and click on the feminism definition on the bottom left of the Women's Studies website. (www.umass.edu/wost)



The Fall newsletter contains our alumni news. Send us news about yourself—jobs, degrees, activism, family, and we'll publish it next fall! (We reserve the right to edit of course.)



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 Ann Ferguson, Linda Hillenbrand, and Nancy Patteson for their written contributions. Special thanks to our grads, Cheri Ehrlich and Viera Lorencová for taking time from their busy schedules to write articles. This newsletter and past newsletters are online at www.umass.edu/wost

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