

Educating and Empowering through the Media

Fifth Annual Fundraiser benefiting UMass Dartmouth's Women's Studies Program & Center for Women, Gender & Sexuality



Ellen Goodman

On April 12, 2012, Ellen Goodman will join the UMass Dartmouth community in support of the 5th annual fundraiser for the Women's Studies Program and the Center for Women, Gender & Sexuality. Goodman, a Pulitzer prize winning columnist, author, speaker, and commentator, has written about social change in America with a particular emphasis on the women's movement and its effects on our public and private lives.

Goodman follows a line of significant speakers and great events. The first fundraiser in 2008 was inaugurated by Gloria Steinem and sold out. Speakers that followed are American poet and essayist Adrienne Rich (2009); Ambassador Carol Moseley Braun (2010); and, Pulitzer prize winning writer Susan Faludi (2010). To date, the fundraising efforts have raised more than \$50,000 for student scholarships. As the endowment grows, the hope is that it will support a Center for Women, Gender & Sexuality speaker's series on campus in addition to the student scholarships. As in past years, this event is hosted by Chancellor Jean MacCormack and co-sponsored by the Women's Fund of Southeastern Massachusetts.

Goodman's talk for the event, *Supermom to Mama Grizzly: Where Are Women Headed?*, will discuss how a generation after the women's movement shattered the world of Mad Men, women have kicked the doors open but left the glass ceiling in place. Goodman will discuss how we still have conflicts between work and family, but Sarah Palin claims to be a feminist. The big question: What's next for the next wave?

Tickets go on sale in February 2012. For more on the fundraiser scholarship recipients, see page 8.

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"People have been inviting premature obituaries on the women's movement since its beginning."

—Ellen Goodman

Fulbright in Guatemala

Lisa Maya Knauer, *Associate Professor*, Department of Sociology/Anthropology/Crime and Justice Studies

(1) Oswaldo (l.) and Noe (r.) are volunteers at La Voz del Pueblo (The People's Voice), a community radio station in San Miguel Ixtahuacán, San Marcos. Their station has been at the forefront of the struggle against the Marlin Mine, operated by Canadian multinational Goldcorp.

(2) Voter education and outreach in a rural community near Joyabaj, El Quiché.

(3) Jeanet Sucuquí broadcasting from the studio of Radio Ixmukané Nuestra Voz.



Research projects have a way of shifting direction without warning. There you are, trying to find some research articles, and then you stumble upon something in a footnote that sets you off on a new path. Ethnographic fieldwork is probably more conducive to these kinds of unexpected changes, as one is “in the field,” observing everyday life of people, communities and/or organizations. Everyday life is quite unpredictable and as researchers the best we can do is be sensitive to the fluctuations—which sometimes means changing course entirely.

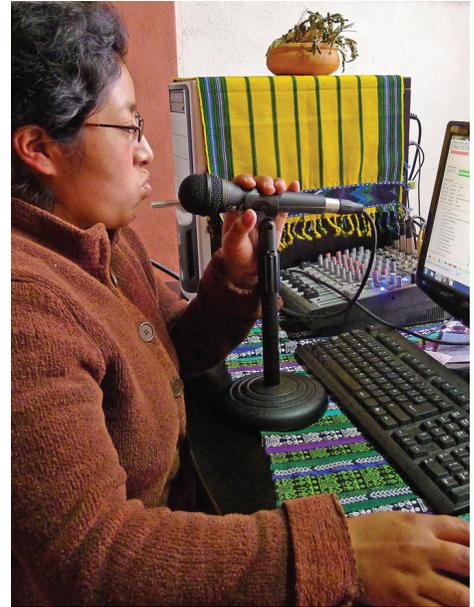
At least that’s one way of analyzing why on a bright morning in early September, I was driving up a narrow dirt road in the mountains of El Quiché, accompanying two Maya K’iche’ women who were running for diputada (congresswoman). We were off to do voter education and campaigning in remote rural communities, where the Maya population is largely marginalized and ignored by their elected officials. My original research topic was on the gendered effects of migration in El Quiché, the poorest of Guatemala’s 22 departments, and the site of the majority of the atrocities committed during the genocide of the 1980’s. El Quiché was my research site

because this is where the majority of the Maya in New Bedford, Massachusetts are from.

On a preliminary visit in summer 2010, I had come across a regional Maya women’s organization, the Asociación por Nosotras Ixmukané. I planned to do volunteer work for the organization and use its network of grassroots women’s groups as a base for my research. However, when I arrived in January, the organization was revising its priorities so I had to bide my time. And then during a workshop in March, the leader announced that we were going outside during the break to install a radio antenna. So I trooped outside with about 30 other women and climbed onto the roof of a bunker-like gray concrete building and we maneuvered the antenna into place. A few weeks later I helped out with the inaugural broadcast, a special assembly attended by Nobel Laureate Rigoberta Menchú and the Ambassador of Norway.

I had worked at my college radio station (WOBC, at Oberlin College), and for a few years produced programs at a community-supported radio station in New York, so it was easy to slip back

“Everyday life is quite unpredictable and as researchers the best we can do is be sensitive to the fluctuations—which sometimes means changing course entirely.”



into announcing and interviewing (although this time in Spanish). As the organization planned to start daily broadcasts in late April, I decided that this was too good an opportunity to pass by, as Radio Ixmukané Nuestra Voz (Our Voice) was the first radio station in the country established by Maya women.

Community radio is one of the battlegrounds for indigenous rights in Guatemala. Most stations are in Maya communities, broadcast in Maya languages, and have taken up the fight against extractive industries like mining. I had known about this, but since it was outside the domain of my original project, I had left it aside when I came to Guatemala. However, the emergence of Radio Ixmukané brought together my interests in race/gender issues and in the politics of media.

This meant starting from scratch. As I worked on a new proposal, two leaders in the organization decided to run for Congress, and they asked for help with their campaign. I am no expert on electoral politics. I vote, but that's about it. However, this was a unique opportunity to observe the process at a very intimate level. So I said yes, and the project I designed, "Representation

and Self-Representation of Maya women in El Quiché", includes three main axes: the media and specifically community radio; political participation in the 2011 elections; and national and local "indigenous queen" pageants. Thus the weeks before the September 11 elections found me attending a national indigenous queen festival, then participating in a national encounter of community radio stations and protesting in front of the Congress for a law to grant legal status to the stations, and then traversing the department with the candidates and monitoring polling sites on election day. They didn't win, but we are already making plans for 2016.

It's been a wild and fascinating journey, some of which I have been documenting in my blog, which you can find at guatebuenaguatemaya.blogspot.com. I am looking forward to sharing this when I return, and am putting together a spring break trip with help from the SAIL office, that will visit several of the community radio stations.

Read about Lisa Maya Knauer's work and experiences in Guatemala: guatebuenaguatemaya.blogspot.com

Have you considered a Women's Studies Internship?

Kathryn Williams, WMS Major, 2011



Kathryn at 2011 Graduation

"The crisis center gave me information of services in the Southcoast area along with experience dealing with clients in immediate crisis."

While I was a senior in Women's Studies at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, I was fortunate enough to be given the opportunity to do an internship at a domestic violence shelter called Our Sister's Place. I had taken Women's Studies classes before, but once I was placed in a real world setting I found a path my degree could lead me on.

My internship experience gave me so much knowledge into the world of domestic violence. Not only did I get to work with women and their children in a residential setting, I was also allowed to answer phone calls to a crisis center. The crisis center gave me information of services in the Southcoast area along with experience dealing with clients in immediate crisis.

My role at the shelter was assistant case manager and they encouraged me to be involved in the shelter as much as possible. My initial thought was that I would be limited on what I was allowed to do since I was only an intern. However, they allowed me to sit in on all meetings, the intake process and the group therapy sessions. The shelter wanted me to learn and take away as much as I possibly could while only there for a short time.

In the residential setting I assisted the families through an extremely difficult transition in their lives, but I was also involved in finding placement after leaving

Women's Studies Internship (WMS 399)

Our internship helps our students put feminist theory into practice. Over the course of one semester, you can earn academic credit by working in area public, private or non-profit organizations that provide services for women for a total of 140 hours. You work under the supervision of a women's studies faculty member and a sponsor at the selected organization. The internship requires students to keep a journal of daily experiences and to write a final reflection paper. On successful completion of the internship, students receive three credits toward their major or minor.

An internship can be an important first step in giving you the skills and knowledge that will help you achieve your career goals. It can also help you decide what career goals you do have. An internship tells future employers that you are serious about your career. It also tells prospective graduate schools that you are serious about feminist praxis.

Our students have worked with community Women's Centers for survivors of intimate personal violence and sexual assault, centers for helping women deal with substance abuse problems, and women-focused/social justice focused independent state agencies and non-partisan political organizations

Contact Catherine Villanueva Gardner, WMS Director.
cgardner@umassd.edu

Internships are becoming increasingly popular, so they are becoming more competitive. Contact Dr. Gardner in February for a fall internship and September for one in the spring.

the shelter. My internship was over the holiday season, so I was able to distribute Thanksgiving meals to families that have recently left the shelter. I also got to play a major role in the donation collection for my shelter and other programs and families in the community. I gained a lot of information through my internship of the services that are available to the community and how to access them for people in need.

I enjoyed my time at the shelter and was able to take so much away from it. While I decided that working in a shelter is not exactly the job for me, it gave me insight into what I could envision myself doing for the rest of my life. During my time there I enjoyed working with the children and was extremely interested in the aftercare services for the families. From this internship I was able to envision my life after college confident in my decision of being a Women's Studies major. I knew that whatever road I took I would be positively affecting the lives of children in need.

Before my senior year even came to an end I was offered a Job as a Therapeutic Mentor. My internship prepared me for my job by showing me the appropriate ways to deal with clients and the services available to them. I also gained insight into the struggles they have been through. Most of all my internship gave me confidence when I applied for jobs. After I experienced the joy of being able to help others in need I knew that is where my career path would be headed.

"From this internship I was able to envision my life after college confident in my decision of being a Women's Studies major. I knew that whatever road I took I would be positively affecting the lives of children in need."

WMS Faculty and Affiliate Accomplishments

Michael Baum, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Political Science, and WMS Affiliate

Michael Baum was asked by the US State Department and its Embassy in Luanda, Angola to provide a keynote lecture via videoconference to a group of 20 representatives from Angolan civil society. These groups, including Angolan women's groups, are preparing for the upcoming Presidential elections and thus are seeking comparative information about best practices in civil society and electoral politics. Dr. Baum will provide his commentary in Portuguese.

Robin A. Robinson, Associate Professor, Department of SOC/ANT/CJS, and WMS Affiliate

Robin Robinson has been appointed to the Simon Visiting Professorship at the University of Manchester School of Law (UK). Her chapter proposing a feminist, psychoanalytic perspective on crime and justice in DeKeseredy & Dragiewicz, *Handbook of Critical Criminology*, Routledge Press, will be out in October. This fall she gave papers at two international conferences: *Intersections of Law and Culture: Human Rights, in Lugano, Switzerland*; and *Working within the Forensic Paradigm: Developing Effective Responses Across the Health, Helping, and Legal Professions, in Prato, Italy*. She is giving a paper at the Social Science History Association annual conference in Boston in November.

Dario Borim, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Portuguese, and WMS Affiliate

Dario Borim has just published (October 2011) *Antonio Carlos Jobim: An Illuminated Man*, his English translation of Helena Jobim's book *Antônio Carlos Jobim: um homem iluminado*, a biography of the Brazilian maestro, composer and bossa nova pioneer. It is a release by the distinguished New Jersey publisher, Amadeus Press/Hal Leonard.

In addition, the latest release of the *Portuguese Literary & Cultural Studies* journal, the double volume 19/20 *Facts and Fictions of António Lobo Antunes*, edited by Victor Mendes, closes with "Unpredictable Coherence: Caetano Veloso Beyond 'Ethnic' and Easy-Listening Tunes," Borim's essay on gender, sexuality and romance in Caetano Veloso's compact disc, *Cê* (pp. 527–539).

Borim published a study on issues of gender and figures of speech—"Disfunções: o porquê dos por quês, símiles, e outros tropos narrativos em 'A imitação da rosa'" (pp. 141–152). In a book edited by Luciana Namorato and César Ferreira and released in Lima, Peru by Universidad Mayor de San Marcos, *La palabra según Clarice Lispector: Aproximaciones críticas*, Borim published a study on issues of gender and figures of speech—"Disfunções: o porquê dos por quês, símiles, e outros tropos narrativos em 'A imitação da rosa'" (pp. 141–152). One of the journals from the Library of Congress, *Handbook of Latin American Studies*, included Borim's essay "Crônicas" (Vol. 66, pp. 565–580).

Bridget Teboh, Associate Professor, Department of History and WMS Affiliate

Has published the following Research Article & Book Reviews:
"Science, Technology and the African Woman during (British) Colonization: 1916–1960 : the Case of Bamenda Province," in Toyin Falola and Emily Brownell (eds.) *Landscape and Environment in Colonial and Post-Colonial in Africa*. (London and New York: Routledge, August 2011), (pp. 85–110).

Review of *Picturing Hope in the Face of Poverty, as seen through the Eyes of Teachers*, by T. Olivier, L. Wood & N. de Lange, Cape Town, South Africa: Juta, 2009, in *African Book Publishing Record (ABPR)* Le Bourg: Petit Bersac, France, Fall 2010.

Review of *From Cameroon to Paris: Mousgoum Architecture in and out of Africa*, by Nelson Steven, University of Chicago Press, 2007 in *African Studies Quarterly*, (Volume 11, Issues 2 & 3, Spring 2010), (pp. 180–182).

Dr. Teboh also presented three conference papers:

"Re-thinking African Culture and Identity: Community Building in the US Diaspora" at the 10th International SIEF 2011 Congress, *People Make Places: Ways of Feeling the World*, Lisbon (April 17–21, 2011).

"Foodways, Njanggis and Language Use: African Identity Problematic in the Diaspora" at the 53rd African Studies Association (ASA) Annual Meeting, *African Diaspora and Diasporas in Africa*, San Francisco, CA (November 18–21, 2010).

"Third Person Narrative: The Life and Times of 'Madame Maternity' (Cameroon, Africa)," on *Life Writing and Intimate Publics*, at the 7th Biennial International Auto / Biography Association Conference, University of Sussex, UK (June 28–July 02, 2010).

Anna M. Klobucka, Professor, Department of Portuguese and WMS Affiliate

Anna M. Klobucka delivered the closing keynote address at the Tenth Congress of the Associação Internacional de Lusitanistas, a global association of Lusophone studies scholars, which took place in July 2011 at the University of Algarve in Faro, Portugal. In her lecture, among other matters, she reflected on transnational convergences and discontinuities in feminist scholarship and pedagogy.

Shannon Jenkins, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, and WMS Affiliate

Shannon Jenkins is on sabbatical during the 2011–2012 academic year. In fall 2011, she will be working on a project analyzing the legislative process in US state legislature. In spring 2012, she was awarded a Fulbright at East China University of Politics and Law in Shanghai where she will be teaching two classes about US politics. She has an article forthcoming at *Social Science Quarterly* that examines the effect of gender on roll call voting in state legislatures.

Announcements

Juli Parker, Director of the Center for Women, Gender, Sexuality (WGS) and WMS Affiliate, proudly announces the Women's Resource Center has moved and is now located on the second floor of the Campus Center in Suite 207. They have expanded their services. They will be having a grand opening in late fall to celebrate the new name and space.

The new mission is below:

Originally founded in 1970 as the Women's Center, the Center for Women, Gender & Sexuality offers resources and support on LGBT and women's issues and coordinates campus initiatives to prevent sexual violence. The Center for WGS gives voice for women and the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered community, with purpose to eliminate barriers, diminish prejudices, and create a supportive climate and space for all.

Central to our mission is the recognition that explorations of gender must take place in tandem with explorations of race, class, sexual orientation and other significant aspects of individual identity. As a department of Student Affairs, the Center also acts as a central coordinating agency for campus and community groups.

Congratulations to the following faculty:

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor in 2011

Bridget Teboh, Department of History

Shari Evans, Department of English

Heidi Berggren, Department of Political Science

Promoted to Full Professor in 2011

Memory Holloway, Department of Art History

The Second in a Series on the Scholarship of Women's Studies Faculty and Affiliates

Stephanie O'Hara, Assistant Professor of French and Women's Studies, Department of Foreign Literature and Languages, and WMS Affiliate



My main research project consists of a scholarly translation, from French into English, of the first midwifery treatise written and published by an actual midwife, *Diverse Observations Concerning Sterility, Miscarriages, Fertility, Births, and Diseases of Women and Newborn Children* (first edition, 1609). This treatise was written by Louise Bourgeois (1563–1636), midwife to Queen Marie de Médicis of France, the consort of King Henry IV.

The translation will be published by the Toronto Centre for Renaissance and Reformation Studies, at the University of Toronto, as part of "The Other Voice in Early Modern Europe" series, originally begun at the University of Chicago Press. Since 1996, over fifty books have been published in this series, which aims to make available in English a variety of texts by women from the period 1300–1800. See crs.ca/pub/other-voice/

Louise Bourgeois is a remarkable figure. Her status as the royal midwife gave her a professional identity of which she was proud, long before it was common for women to work outside the home. It enabled her to cross social boundaries, whether she was delivering a poor neighbor or the Queen of France. Unlike many midwives, she was literate, and she read the works of the surgeon Ambroise Paré, with whom her husband Martin Boursier had apprenticed.

Bourgeois was a driven, confident woman who knew that her case studies were worth publishing in order to help others learn from her experience and knowledge. She also wrote accounts of the births of the royal children, of how she became a midwife and then the royal midwife, and an open letter entitled "Advice to My Daughter," for the benefit of her own daughter who also became a midwife. Making this unique text available in English represents an important contribution to the history of medicine, to women's history, and to early modern European history.

This project has required me to become familiar with specialized 17th–century French vocabulary concerning obstetrics, gynecology, pharmacy, and botany, in addition to expanding my knowledge of early modern French socio-political history. I have been fortunate to work on this project with the historian Alison Klairmont Lingo, (University of California at Berkeley). Dr. Lingo and I have both contributed to the translation's scholarly apparatus, in the form of critical introductions, extensive footnotes, and a medical glossary, all of which will help the reader better understand Bourgeois' work.

In conjunction with working on this translation, I began re-searching an anonymous treatise, *The Compleat [sic] Midwives Practice* (first edition, 1656), a text commonly but erroneously thought to represent a translation of Bourgeois' *Diverse Observations*. I concluded that *The Compleat Midwives Practice's* entire practice of translation is informed by a bias against midwives. Indeed, early modern cross-cultural practices of translation and adaptation contribute to the history of how the midwife's role in the birthing process was diminished over time, in favor of male medical practitioners who viewed childbirth in pathological terms. This is the subject of an article in progress, "Translation: A Blind Spot in the History of Medicine?"

Women's Studies Scholarship Opportunities

Women's Studies is pleased to be able to offer our students Major and Minor Scholarships and the Dr. Janet Freedman Women's Studies Book Scholarship. Applications for these awards are available in the Women's Studies Office, LARTS 321. Scholarships are awarded each May for the following academic year.

Women's Studies Major Scholarship Recipient

Vanessa Ortiz-Lora, *WMS Major, Sociology Minor*



My name is Vanessa Ortiz-Lora and I am a senior here at UMass Dartmouth, I am a Women's Studies major with a minor in Sociology.

Throughout my years here at UMass Dartmouth I was very indecisive on what I wanted to study or do with my life. I bounced from different types of majors assuming that I wanted to do them but not taking into account that there are certain

things that I am not that strong in. I knew I wanted to do something with women's health and education, so I decided to major in Medical Laboratory Science and minor in Women's Studies. As the semesters were passing by my interest in Medical Laboratory slowly started to wear off, and I no longer felt the motivation to continue in that major.

There were many people who knew me, friends and acquaintances, who said that they did not see me being trapped in

a lab looking at microorganisms, but rather could envision me being out there helping people. I finally took the time to reanalyze my life and realized that I have a passion for Social Work.

I want to help young adolescent girls, who undergo so many issues in their lives and help them succeed. I currently work at a residential home where I am a counselor to women who are in DCYF custody. While working here I have become very interested in social work and helping these adolescent girls. I also work for College Now as a Peer Counselor and worked for Upward Bound in the summer as well. I love working with students, because to me "Every little thing counts." I plan to go to Simmons for Graduate school to get my Master's in Social Work (MSW) and maybe later get my Ph.D.

Lastly, I really want to thank Professor Elizabeth Lehr for everything she has done for me. Since my first WMS 101 class, Professor Lehr has helped me and never given up on me. Thank you so much for your hard work and dedication.

Doctor Janet Freedman Women's Studies Book Scholarship

Sean Connell, *WMS and Political Science Major*



I am a senior here at UMass Dartmouth currently dual majoring in Political Science and Women's Studies. I first came to WMS through my political involvement. As a political science major I started to see the big gender divide in politics: the lack of female representation, women's issues such as abortion becoming a wedge issue, and the debate surrounding the LGBT community

and LGBT rights. With the encouragement from my sister and mother I decided to enroll in WMS 101. "It was indeed that class that incited my mind to combine my political activism with gender activism."

Politics is a very gendered field and as I went through more WMS courses I started to see all the research that combined political science with the sociological theories around women and gender. "I began to love WMS classes and how it beautifully fused my politics with my activism." I learned all about the F word: feminism. Feminist research is pivotal to understanding

the oppression that women and men alike endure in our current society. Within WMS each concentration sounded interesting but "the Politics, Justice, and Policy area literally was everything I could have imagined a perfect major to be." The activist side and my political side were fused flawlessly.

I also work at the Center for Women, Gender, and Sexuality, where the issues that we learned about in class were grounded by the work we did with the center. Currently I am the President of our campus' Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance and the group gives me yet another outlet to practice my activism in a university setting; teaching me invaluable lessons about activism that will translate to my work after college.

After I receive my degrees this coming spring, I am applying to several graduate programs including UMass Dartmouth's Public Policy program. I am also applying to the Peace Corps. I eventually want to earn my Ph.D. in Conflict Resolutions/Peace Studies and then go on to law and politics; I intend on running for office one day! I have had an amazing experience with WMS on this campus and I would highly recommend it to anyone interested in the great gender debate!

Update from WMS Alumni

Kathleen Gearty
WMS Minor, 2007

In 2009 I started at a large non-admitted insurance company as a contracted administrative assistant to the personal lines department, assisting a VP and a staff of 15 managers and underwriters. After a short year I was contacted by the president and CEO of the company to be hired on as a full time employee as his 2nd assistant. After 6 months I started taking on more and more responsibilities and before I knew it I was his 1st executive assistant. I then interviewed and hired my own assistant but realized there was no need as I could handle the work on my own. I've been handling it ever since. Recently, my boss received another promotion and took on his boss' role as our mother company's president and CEO of the whole U.S., Canada and Bermuda. I have followed him in this role. I am now transferring into my company's U.S. Human Resources department where I will assist the head of U.S. HR and be a project manager. I am really excited about this opportunity because I have always been interested in being in HR.

Shara Sarnelli
WMS Minor, 2010

Last May I graduated from Boston College with a Master's Degree in Secondary Education. Currently, I am an eighth grade English Language Arts teacher at Kiley Middle School in Springfield, Massachusetts, which is a level 4 school. This job is incredibly challenging, but I love it; I am passionate about working with these students who throw up a wall, blocking out education, these students who need someone to believe in them.

Samantha Coffin
WMS Major, 2011

After four very active years at UMass Dartmouth, I have gone on to graduate school. I am currently attending Minnesota State University, Mankato where I am getting my Master's in Gender and Women's Studies. In my Master's program I am working on a collective action project where my cohort is petitioning the current Minnesota sex education curriculum to include masturbation as a safe sex alternative. I am also the program coordinator at MNSU's Women's Center, where I am working on several events from movie nights, discussion groups, women's health fair and a women's leadership conference. I will be presenting at the first Midwest Feminist Conference at the University of Iowa in November. Although I greatly miss the ocean and the UMass feminist community, I am excited to be exposed to Midwest feminisms.

Denise Schultz
WMS Online Major, 2011

After finishing my final coursework in mid-August, I took a couple weeks to regroup and have been pounding the pavement looking for a career where I will advocate for women. I recently participated in the Run For Congo Women: Boston, and was proud to be part of a team that raised over \$21,000 to benefit women in the DR Congo. I continue to network and look for opportunities within feminist organizations. Graduate school admission has been deferred for one year, but I look forward to picking up school work again!

Editors Note: Denise has recently accepted a position at UMass Boston in the Women and Policy Center.

Congratulations Denise!

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Alexandra Obolensky (Lexi), who won an "Honorable Mention" for the Kingston-Mann Student Achievement Awards for Excellence in Diversity/Inclusion Scholarship. The paper was for Professor Anupama Arora's special topics course in women's literature, WMS/ENL 347: Global Women Writers.

Fall Semester Events

“Without Consent: Sex Violence Prevention”

September 29th, 2011

Susan Sun Kyu Dodenhoff, *WMS Major*

Considering the fact that date rape has become such a widespread problem on college campuses, it is no surprise why a sexual violence prevention seminar has become so necessary. As I sat down in Woodland Commons, I observed my surroundings. An audience made up of mostly female students with a few males scattered throughout and a couple of faculty members from the Women’s Studies Program filled the seats. Our speakers were a man and a woman named Keith Labelle and Jennifer Longa Moio, from the University of Rhode Island, who gave off a humorous vibe mixed with a seriousness that came with the content of what they would be talking to us about. They opened by asking us what we did to protect ourselves from rape daily and separated the answers by the sex of the audience members. The guys had mostly humorous answers that ranged from: “don’t go to jail” to “don’t drop the soap.” More seriously, one answered that he “rolled with other guys.” The young women gave more conventional answers such as, “don’t walk around at night alone,” “be on the phone while walking to the car after dark,” and “carry a rape whistle.” It seemed that the point of the question was to illustrate that sexual assault and violence are problems that are more associated with women. Keith was angry with the whole idea of it because the implication for all of the responses was that all men are potential rapists while women have to worry about the threat at almost every minute of their lives.

Another aspect of the seminar that made it unique was the excessive use of curse words. Jennifer asked us how we termed “having sex” and they ended the bit by saying: “it’s called fucking!” We were provided with a flurry of statistics that helped to illustrate the seriousness of the situation. A statistic that actually surprised me was that only 2% of reported sexual assaults have been determined to be false. I was led to believe that this number would have been higher, as I remembered the old adage, “hell hath no fury like a woman scorned.”

Women are at the most risk for being the victims of date rape during their freshmen year at college: there are 78 rapes perpetrated every one hour. I was also shocked to find out that the domestic homicide number occurring in Massachusetts has continued to rise every year: in 2009 there were 25 cases while in 2010 there were around 34. The most important piece of advice that the speakers left us with was to tell a victim of sexual abuse that what happened to them was not their fault before we say anything else, because the victim will most likely blame themselves and be blamed by society for the assault. I will never forget this advice, and it will be the first thing I will say to one of my friends or family if they ever decide to come to me for help.

Stereotypes and Perceptions

October 19th, 2011

Brandi Ruiz, *WMS Minor*

The Frederick Douglas Unity House is known as a place where students can go to participate in cultural events, workshops, watch television, do homework, or just simply hang out with friends. According to Keith Wilder, Director of the Unity House and Assistant Dean of Students, the Unity House does three things: Surface programs to explore diversity, Significant programs which ask questions, and Signature programs that focus on differences and how to be a leader. On October 19th, at 4pm, he gave a presentation on stereotypes and perceptions where he talked about recognizing one’s own biases. To start his discussion, Keith asked all participating students to pick up two “descriptors”, including words such as lazy, unprivileged, ugly, smart, beautiful, judged, etc. Students were then asked to place said descriptors around the room on labels that were hung up. The labels included, but were not limited to, people who are obese, handicapped people, people with gold teeth, Asian Americans, Jewish people, African American males, Native Americans, politicians, old people, Latinos, and Africans. Students were asked to place descriptors on the labels of things they’ve heard people say or stereotypes that they believed to be true about each group.

Upon completion of the activity, Keith read each category and the descriptors that were placed in each one aloud to the group. He asked students if these perceptions were thought to be true. After further discussion, students were able to recognize that stereotypes and perceptions happen for a reason, but that does not mean that they are necessarily true. These messages can come from the media, religion, beliefs, family, one’s environment, and friends. Keith urged students to explore their own biases and prejudices and to think about how we exacerbate the problem. This can be accomplished by thinking about how you view others. He explained that “perception is an illusion and sometimes what we perceive to be isn’t what is.” I think that overall, the message of his presentation was about making students aware of perceptions that exist based on what society has already taught us, and challenging them.

New Online Journal: Journal of Feminist Scholarship

www.umassd.edu/jfs

The Women's Studies Program is pleased to announce the creation of a new peer-reviewed, open-access journal published online, the *Journal of Feminist Scholarship*. We see this as a way of gaining recognition for our program outside of the UMD community and also as a way of raising our scholarly profile. The *JFS* was founded by Catherine Villanueva Gardner (PHL/WMS), Jen Riley (ENL/WMS) and Anna Klobucka (POR). Issue 1 (Fall 2011) was published on November 15th 2011.

The editors would like to thank the following people for their help: Dean William Hogan of the College of Arts and Sciences for his support of the project; Nicole Nelson (UMD Alumni) for her web design; and Don King (UMD's webmaster) for his technical support.



Journal of Feminist Scholarship

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Issue 1 (Fall 2011)

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Welcome to the *Journal of Feminist Scholarship*

The *Journal of Feminist Scholarship* is a new twice-yearly, peer-reviewed, open-access journal published online and aimed at promoting feminist scholarship across the disciplines, as well as expanding the reach and definitions of feminist research.

Why a new journal? Why now?

We believe it is time to explore the state of feminist scholarship at the turn of the new century, and we see the endeavor as part of a larger question of where feminism itself is heading. We wish to encourage a discussion of feminist thought for the twenty-first century. What are its directions today, and what relationship does it sustain with the foundations laid down by feminist inquiry and action in earlier centuries? We aim to publish work that explores the multiple theoretical paradigms and political agendas of contemporary and historical feminist scholarship and the potential intersections and tensions between these paradigms and agendas. We are especially interested in examining productive controversies and divergences between local and global contexts of feminism. We also welcome submissions that focus on feminist pedagogies and activism.

Publishing the journal online means that we are able to offer open access to its contents to feminist scholars anywhere in the world where there is an internet connection. It also has an immediacy that allows us to publish articles on topics that are in the here and now and to significantly shorten the time lag from submission to publication for our contributors.

Please visit the submissions page to see our guidelines for authors and our contact page for contact information for the *JFS*.

editors
Catherine Villanueva Gardner – cgardner@umassd.edu
Anna M. Klobucka – aklobucka@umassd.edu
Jeannette E. Riley – jen.riley@umassd.edu

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Women's Studies Program

UMass Dartmouth
285 Old Westport Road
North Dartmouth, MA
02747-2300

Phone: 508.910.4586
Fax: 508.999.9235
WMS Website: www.umassd.edu/CAS/WMS

Designer: Arianne Del Rios

Editor: Claire Travers

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Director's Report

Catherine Villanueva Gardner, *Director, Women's Studies*

This semester's Director's Report is—in fact—an editor's report. Claire Travers will be retiring at the end of the year. She will be sorely missed. Rather than WMS write about Claire, her contributions and her life, we decided that the feminist thing to do was to have Claire speak in her own voice. Thank you, Claire, for all your work and our best for what you are calling your next phase!

—Catherine Villanueva Gardner

Retirement—A New Phase of Life

Born and raised in Fall River, I commuted to SMU (Southeastern Massachusetts University) back when there were no dormitories on campus. It was the time when students were discussing what their "number" was for the draft for the Vietnam War. It was a time of becoming aware, which seemed to lead to "protests"—protesting the Vietnam War, protesting the Kent State fiasco, and even the President at SMU, and learning about the Women's Liberation movement.

Coming to work at UMass Dartmouth in the Women's Studies Program has been an exciting experience. It's been a fulfilling 6 years and 6 months, working with faculty and students and watching the growth of the WMS program from becoming

a Major to the point of becoming a Department. It's been equally challenging and rewarding. I've learned a great respect for faculty and students, faculty trying to reach students and students grappling with their courses and what they want to do in life. I'm so thankful and impressed with student achievements I've witnessed: WMS students, Design students, Nursing students, English students I've had the pleasure of meeting and getting to know.

Thank you to all the Women's Studies Affiliates, especially Jen Riley and Cathy Houser, who hired me to work half time for WMS and half time for the English Department and helped to keep me on track. Thanks to all the WMS Affiliates, Majors, Minors and Alumni, who wrote articles for the newsletters and answered my myriad emails. Thanks to all the English Faculty I've grown to know and share life stories with.

I especially want to thank Linda Girard for helping me with all my questions about budgets and reports, her expertise and willingness to help were invaluable. Lastly, I want to thank Sue Foley from the History Department for standing by me through all my anxieties and triumphs, from my first requisition to my retirement.

—Claire Travers