



## WMS Newsletter

University of  
Massachusetts  
Dartmouth

WOMEN'S STUDIES program

### Women's Rights as Human Rights: Global Women's Rights Symposium

This spring the Policy Studies and Women's Studies programs have collaborated to exhibit the value of interdisciplinary work through the Global Women's Rights Symposium. The event is an opportunity "to bring the academic community as well as the general public to the symposium so that we can showcase some of the best research being done on women's rights and so we can also raise a level of awareness among individuals of the importance of focusing on women's rights," states Policy Studies Lecturer Shawna Sweeney.

The Global Women's Rights Symposium will be featuring women who are essential in the movement towards women's equality on a global level. Presenters include:

*Jennifer Jackman*, who is currently lecturing at Westfield State College, and the former director of Policy and Research of the Feminist Majority

Foundation (FMF), led the organization's campaign to stop gender apartheid in Afghanistan.

*Pippa Norris* is the McGuire Lecturer of Comparative Politics at Harvard. Norris has co-authored over thirty-six books and is an expert on the influence of Islam on women and cross-national patterns in women's political participation in national legislatures.

*Shawna Sweeney* is a new lecturer in Policy Studies this year at UMass and is a globalization scholar. Sweeney specializes in international human rights and comparative politics. For her dissertation, Sweeney conducted a cross-national examination of the economic, social, and political rights of women in over 161 countries, as well as the factors that limit women's rights.

*Janet Walsh* is the acting executive of the Women's Rights Division of the Human Rights Watch (HRW). Walsh's case-

based research has involved women's property and inheritance rights in African countries. This property research has been linked to domestic violence and HIV and AIDS.

This line-up of pioneering global women's rights activists and researchers will offer a balanced perspective to the symposium. As important as it is to highlight the barriers that women face in order to break them, it is equally as important to point out the progress that has taken place for women on a global scale. Sweeney explains that the Global Women's Rights Symposium will demonstrate that "when women and girls are given the same level of rights that they deserve in society, they contribute immensely to social progress, and that's why it's [the symposium] really important".

The symposium will take place Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup> in Woodland Commons from 1:00 – 4:00 PM and will be followed by a reception.



#### Inside this issue:

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| <b>Women's Rights as Human Rights</b>           | <b>1</b> |
| <b>WMS Affiliate Spotlights</b>                 | <b>2</b> |
| <b>Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance</b>    | <b>2</b> |
| <b>Schedule of Events</b>                       | <b>3</b> |
| <b>WMS Course Snapshots - Fall 2006</b>         | <b>4</b> |
| <b>Career Gear: Aiding Women in Transition</b>  | <b>4</b> |
| <b>Siren Submission Information</b>             | <b>5</b> |
| <b>A Feminist Resource Guide</b>                | <b>5</b> |
| <b>WMS Minor Course Offerings - Summer 2006</b> | <b>6</b> |
| <b>WMS Minor Course Offerings - Fall 2006</b>   | <b>7</b> |
| <b>The WMS Director's Report</b>                | <b>8</b> |

# WMS Affiliate Spotlights

## Shari Evans

Shari Evans is an Assistant Professor in the English Department. Her concentration is in African-American and multi-cultural American literature. Prior to coming to UMass Dartmouth, Professor Evans earned her Ph.D. and M.A. from the University of New Mexico. She is greatly interested in comparative ethnic literatures with a special focus on Native American and African American writers, as well as race and gender studies, and literary theory.

Currently Evans is preparing a paper to be presented at the NEMLA entitled, "'Endless Work' and Wide Open Spaces: The Ethics of Home in Toni Morrison's Paradise". She has received a number of awards, including the University of New Mexico Gunter Starkey Award for Teaching Excellence. As a Women's Studies affiliate, Evans would like to teach a major authors course on Toni Morrison, as well as develop courses in multi-cultural women writers, African American women writers, and African Diaspora women writers.

## Suzanne Joseph

Assistant Professor of Anthropology and WMS affiliate, Suzanne Joseph, is a second generation Lebanese American. Her bi-cultural upbringing as a Lebanese American, in West Virginia and Florida, allowed for Joseph to maintain a close relationship with her family through frequent visits to Lebanon. Joseph received her B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Central Florida and went on to receive her Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Georgia.

Joseph specializes in demography, reproduction, human-environment interactions, and the biological and cultural determinants of gender-related behavior. Currently, Joseph is working on a book about marriage and reproduction of Bedouin communities in the Bekaa Valley of Lebanon and explains, "I am excited to be an affiliate of Women's Studies since so much of my research focuses on issues of reproduction, marriage, and social class in a cross-cultural perspective."

## Bridget Teboh

Bridget Teboh joins UMass this year as an Assistant Professor of African History. From the Republic of Cameroon, West Africa, Teboh specializes in African History, African –American History, Women's and Gender Studies, and historical ethnography. Teboh began her multi-cultural studies at the University of Cameroon, Yaounde where she received her B.A. (Hons.) in Languages (Bilingual Degree). She then went on to receive her DUEF (Diplôme d'Université d'Études Français) from Université Jean-Moulin, Lyon III, France, and both her M.A. in African Area Studies and her Ph.D. in African History from UCLA.

Teboh has experience in teaching, research, translation, and working with women's grassroots groups in Africa. Currently, she is focusing on research that includes women and gender relations in Cameroon and West Africa, colonialism and post-coloniality which is why "becoming an affiliate WMS at UMass is an honor and the most logical thing to do given her research and areas of specialization."

## Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance: Fresher than Spring Fashion

By Kerin Perez



The Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance (FMLA), a new organization at UMD, is back for the spring with new officers and exciting events. The FMLA is a pro-choice campus program created by the Feminist Majority Foundation to inform feminists and the general public about threats to women's rights, abortion and birth control access, as well as the rights of gay, lesbian, and transgendered people. The FMLA is based on informed activism, equality, diversity.

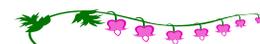
Last semester, you may have noticed boxes in your resident hall for

collecting used clothing or perhaps fliers around campus promoting a clothing drive.

Well, you can thank the FMLA for cleaning out your closet. During the holiday season, the FMLA ran a very successful clothing drive for the New Bedford Women's Shelter. The FMLA clothing drive was just a preview for what is to come during the spring semester. Newly elected President, Ellie Early (Sophomore), and Vice President, Anna Vust (Junior), and the rapidly growing activist group are very excited about the events planned for the next few

months. FMLA meetings are Wednesdays in Group I, room 111 at 6:00 PM; all are more than welcome to attend! Topics to be discussed are violence against women, Judge Samuel Alito, global feminism, issues concerning emergency contraception, and other feminist concerns.

To contact the FMLA for more information, e-mail [umdfmla@yahoo.com](mailto:umdfmla@yahoo.com) or call the Women's Resource center at 508-910-4584. We hope to see many new faces at the next meeting!



# Schedule Of Events:

## 3/1 – 3/31

### *Set in Stone: Women in 3- Dimensions*

Women sculptors exhibit in stone, steel, wood, and mixed media.

**9:00 AM - 9:00 PM - URI Providence Campus, 80 Washington St., Providence, RI.**

### **3/6:** *She Speaks: Celebrating Women Writers*

Performances by local actors, storytellers, singers, and drummers share the words of women writers. Performances presented with tea.

**3:00 PM - URI Feinstein Campus**

### **3/14 – 3/15:** *Career Gear* — collecting

clothes in the Campus Center.

**10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

### **3/15 - Extended Siren Deadline**

## April 2006

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|     |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |
| 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   |
| 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  |
| 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  |
| 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  |
| 30  |     |     |     |     |     |     |

### **5/4:** *Symposium on Girls and Society*

With International Expert and Scholar Dr. Meda Chesney-Lind (Contact Robin Robinson at rrobinson@umassd.edu).

**3:30 - 8:00 PM - ATMC, Fall River**

### **5/5:** *Girls in the Social Margins, Girls in Conflict with the Law*

2nd Annual Conference for Scholars, Practitioners, Advocates, and Policymakers.

**8:00 AM - 4:30 PM - ATMC, Fall River**

### **5/28:** *Graduation*

Finally, watch WMS Multidisciplinary majors Brooke, Shelby, and Nicole graduate today!!

**Amphitheatre**

## March 2006

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|     |     |     | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   |
| 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  |
| 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  |
| 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  |
| 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  |     |

### **4/7:** *Global Women's Rights Symposium*

Speakers on Women's Rights about global issues.

**1:00 - 5:00 PM - Woodland Commons**

### **4/8:** *Rhode Island Folk Festival*

Workshops in singing, instruments, dance, and more. For ticket information and registration visit: [www.rifolkfestival.org](http://www.rifolkfestival.org).

**9:00 AM - PeepToad Coffeehouse, 81 Killingly Rd. Foster, RI.**

### **4/18:** *Breakfast With Feminism*

Women's Studies Minor Open House and discussion of how feminism is used in everyday life with WMS faculty and students.

**8:30 - 9:30 AM - Sunset Room**

### **4/18:** *Judith Arcana - Author*

Viewing of *Jane: An Abortion Service*, reading from her new book of poetry *What if Your Mother*, and discussion to follow.

**3:00 - 5:00 PM - Library Browsing Area**

### **4/27:** *Erica Funkhouser - Poet*

Readings and discussion with the poet. Co-sponsored with the Department of English

## May 2006

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|     | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   |
| 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  |
| 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  |
| 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  |
| 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  |     |     |     |

# WMS Course Snapshots For Fall 2006

## WMS 200: Introduction to Feminist Theory

For the Fall 2006 semester, Juli Parker will be teaching Introduction to Feminist Theory which will become part of our core curriculum for the Women's Studies Program. This class will be an overview of the many branches of feminist theory, including Liberal, Radical, Cultural, Marxist/Socialist, and Womanist feminism. Readings in this course will exemplify each theory and explain how the ideology can be applied to women's lives and institutions. Professor Parker also teaches a course called Mothers & Daughters. The class is broken up into themes: the institution of motherhood, racial identity and culture, defining mother, adoption and identity, reproductive rights, daughterless mothers, & motherless daughters. While Professor Parker is not a mother, she believes that motherhood is an undervalued identity in our society and is one that is often pushed upon women of all races and classes.

## WMS 307: Ecofeminism

Ecofeminism is an intriguing new course being offered by WMS. The ecofeminist view explores the connection between the oppression of women and the oppression of nature. Team-taught by Philosophy professor Cathy Gardner and English professor Jen Riley, Ecofeminism allows for different feminist perspectives to be discovered through the lens of different disciplines. Through occasional opposing positions, Gardner and Riley demonstrate how all forms of oppression intersect by illustrating how their differences are essentially connected. Ecofeminism is a course in which perspectives are constantly shifting, and Professor Gardner explains that "the best way of understanding it is to experience it yourself."

## WMS/ENL 370: Women, Writing, and Media

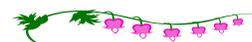
Catherine Houser of the English Department will be teaching Women, Writing, and Media for the Fall 2006 semester. The course will focus on the topics of gender, gendered language, and how women are portrayed in the media. Professor Houser would like for this course to include collaboration with our own campus radio station, WSMU. She hopes for students in the class to write 2-3 minute radio essays on hot topic issues in the media as part of one of their projects. If Professor Houser is able to link up with the radio station, she would also push for students to write one minute essays for Women's History Month that would air throughout the month of March. She is also considering pod-casting these radio essays. The usage of the university's radio station and possibility of pod-casting, as Professor Houser remarks, will depend mostly on grant funding.

## CAREER GEAR: Aiding Women in Transition

Career Gear seeks to improve the lives of women in transition and women in low-income situations by providing women with work-appropriate clothing. The organization works closely with other helpful programs in the community that will assist women in searching for jobs as well as aid women in acquiring necessary work skills. Career Gear is a non-profit group that is sponsored by the New Bedford Women's Fund. Partner groups to the Southeastern Massachusetts Women's Fund work to provide job training, free hair cuts and manicures, and interview tips for women seeking to enter the work force. The Women's Fund relies on financial contributions and volunteer services to aid clients in empowering themselves.

### How You Can Help:

Interns of the Women's Fund will be organizing a business clothing drive here on campus for the month of March (Women's History Month). They will have a table in the campus center on March 14th and 15th from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM. If you are unable to come by on these dates, clothing drop boxes will be located in the Women's Studies Office (Gr I - Rm 321) and in the Women's Resource Center. For more information contact [U\\_Avust@umassd.edu](mailto:U_Avust@umassd.edu) or visit <http://www.cfsema.org/womensfund/careergear.htm>



## Submit to Siren

---

**SIREN** 2006 IS ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS OF  
POETRY, FICTION, NON-FICTION, & ARTWORK FROM  
STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF.

THEME: VOICE

**Extended Deadline: March 15th**

Siren is a literary journal dedicated to the awareness of women's issues. Siren archives can be found in the UMass Library. Use your voice to contribute to Siren.

- ◆ Type and double space all submissions (except poetry)
- ◆ Include name, address, phone number, and e-mail
- ◆ Submit pieces to Prof. Catherine Houser (Gr I-340) **AND** e-mail to [siren@umassd.edu](mailto:siren@umassd.edu)

Questions? Contact Deirdre Bush: [a dbush@umassd.edu](mailto:dbush@umassd.edu)

---

### A Feminist Resource Guide

---

**Feminist.com** (<http://www.feminist.com>) - This site includes interesting columns, how to be an activist, national events, as well as job listings.



**Feminista: The Journal of Feminist Construction** (<http://www.feminista.com/>) - A feminist online journal that offers feminist essays, artwork, poetry, and many other mediums of creative expression.

**Feminist Majority Foundation** (<http://www.feminist.org>) - FMF was founded in 1987 and is dedicated to all women's issues. The site is searchable by topics in order to easily stay up-to-date with current issues.



**Grrrl Zine Network** (<http://www.grrrlzines.net/>) - A politically charged independent online magazine that discusses activism, politics, and feminist theory.

**National Organization for Women (NOW)** (<http://www.now.org/>) - Co-founded by Betty Friedan in 1966, NOW is the largest organization of feminist activists. With 550 chapters in 50 states, they are at the forefront of seeking equality for women.



**Rhode Island Feminist Resources Network** (<http://www.rifrn.net/>) - A place to find local feminist organizations with which to become involved, as well as feminist based events in the RI area.

## WMS Minor Course Offerings for Summer 2006

| FIVE WEEK SESSION, MAY 30—JUNE 28          |  |                               |                                 |
|--|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| COURSE NO.                                 | TITLE & DESCRIPTION  | INSTRUCTOR                    | TIME                            |
| <b>WMS 101<br/>Section 71</b>              | <b>Introduction to Women's Studies</b> —Basic concepts and perspectives in Women's Studies, placing women's experience at the center of interpretation. With focus on women's history and contemporary issues, the course examines women's lives with emphasis on how gender interacts with race, class, sexual orientation, and ethnicity. The central aim is to foster critical reading and thinking about women's lives: how the interlocking systems of oppression, colonialism, racism, sexism, and ethnocentrism shape women's lives; and how women have worked to resist these oppressions. This course satisfies a social science distribution requirement for students earning a BA in the College of Arts and Sciences, as well as the general education diversity requirement.                            | <b>Prof. Jen Riley</b>        | <b>Online</b>                   |
| <b>WMS 350<br/>Section 81</b>              | <b>Readings in Sociological &amp; Anthropological Literature I</b> —Directed readings and analysis in selected sociological topics. Cross-listed as SOC/ANT 350.   | <b>Prof. Isabel Rodrigues</b> | <b>MTuW<br/>9 am-<br/>12 pm</b> |
| FIVE WEEK SESSION, JULY 3—AUGUST 2         |  |                               |                                 |
| <b>WMS 347/<br/>ENL 347<br/>Section 71</b> | <b>Contemporary Women Novelists</b> —Read and discuss novels by contemporary women writers from the United States, Canada, India, and Jamaica against a backdrop of feminist literary criticism as we examine how the identity of "Woman" necessarily intersects and merges with the identities of race, class, sexuality, and history. We will also discuss how these novels (re)present contemporary issues. In doing so, we will discover and examine how "[I]f one <i>is</i> a woman, that is surely not all one is" (Butler).   | <b>Prof. Jen Riley</b>        | <b>Online</b>                   |
| SEVEN WEEK SESSION, JUNE 5-JULY 27         |  |                               |                                 |
| COURSE NO                                  | TITLE & DESCRIPTION  | INSTRUCTOR                    | TIME                            |
| <b>WMS 300<br/>Section 71</b>              | <b>Gender and Communication</b> —This course focuses on the interactive relationships between gender and communication in contemporary American culture. Thus, we are concerned with the social construction of gender, beliefs about gender encoded in language itself, how gender affects communication in the workplace and other public domains, gendered violence, and other important and relevant issues. Because we will be connecting theory and research to our every day lives, your experiences, insights, questions, and ideas are a key part of this course. Throughout the course, we will consider not only what IS in terms of gender roles and expectations, but also what might be and how we, as agents of change, may take action to improve our individual lives and those of our communities. | <b>Prof. Kathleen Torrens</b> | <b>Online</b>                   |
| <b>WMS 336/<br/>PST 355<br/>Section 71</b> | <b>Women &amp; Social Policy</b> —Family policy issues in the U.S. such as childcare, family leave, job equity, and marriage and family relationships. U.S. public policy is compared with that of other countries. Cross-listed as PST 355 and WMS 336.   | <b>Prof. Susan Krumholz</b>   | <b>Online</b>                   |

## WMS Course Offerings for Fall 2006

| COURSE NO.  | TITLE  | INSTRUCTOR                  | TIME                          |
|-------------|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| WMS 101     | Introduction to Women's Studies                                  | Staff                       | MWF 10:00-10:50 AM            |
| WMS101      | Introduction to Women's Studies                                  | Staff                       | MWF 12:00-12:50 PM            |
| WMS/ECO 103 | Cities, Minorities, and Poverty                                  | Prof. Berger                | Check COIN for days and times |
| WMS 200     | Introduction to Feminist Theory                                  | Prof. Parker                | M 4:00-6:30 PM                |
| PSC 208     | Politics of Welfare  | Prof. Berggren              | MWF 10:00-10:50 AM            |
| WMS 208     | Global Perspectives on Women                                     | Prof. Rodrigues             | TR 9:30-10:45 AM              |
| WMS/PHL 307 | Ecofeminism: Theory and Practice                                 | Prof. Gardner & Prof. Riley | TR 2:00-3:15 PM               |
| WMS/SOC 332 | Sex Roles and Politics<br>Pre-Req. WMS 101 or PSC 101 or PSC 238 | Prof. Berggren              | MWF 12:00-12:50 PM            |
| WMS/SOC 336 | Women and Social Policy  | Prof. Robinson              | TR 2:00-3:15 PM               |
| WMS/PSC 339 | Women and Public Policy  | Prof. Berggren              | MWF 2:00-2:50 PM              |
| WMS/ENL 347 | ST: Women's Literature<br>Pre-Requisite: ENL 102                 | Prof. Jacobskind            | MWF 1:00-1:50 PM              |
| WMS/ENL 370 | Women, Writing, and the Media<br>Pre-Requisite: ENL 260          | Prof. Houser                | TR 11:00 AM-12:15 PM          |
| WMS/HST 391 | Topics in African History: Women and Gender                      | Prof. Teboh                 | MWF 11:00-11:50 AM            |

WMS Studies Program  
UMass Dartmouth  
285 Old Westport Rd.  
N. Dartmouth, MA 02747

Designers/Editors  
Nicole Di Fabio  
Brooke Syvertsen  
Claire Travers  
Phone: 508-910-4586  
Fax: 508-999-9235

**Women's Studies  
Information, Discussion and  
Events**

If you want to subscribe to the  
WMS ListServ,  
Send an email request to:  
j1riley@umassd.edu

University of  
Massachusetts  
Dartmouth



***What is Women's Studies?***

*The field of Women's Studies is interdisciplinary. Calling upon such fields as history, economics, psychology, health, music, literature, and visual arts, Women's Studies seeks to understand the position of women in society. The interdisciplinary nature of Women's Studies fosters an active examination of the varying influences upon women's and men's lives such as race, class, ethnicity, gender, sex, sexuality, and age. The University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Women's Studies program provides students an opportunity to think about the construction and influences of gender in contemporary society, to discover the historical factors that have shaped the current status of women from varying backgrounds and countries, and to explore paths to achieve equality for all people.*

## The WMS Director's Report

Hello Spring 2006! It's hard to believe that in the four years since I joined UMass Dartmouth that the Women's Studies Program has grown as much as it has. We continue to develop our minor program. The WMS program also continues to gain enrollments as we reach out to students via the online minor offered through Professional and Continuing Education.

Even better, we're seeing a growth in student interest in experiential learning, internships, and student organizations. Currently, we have two WMS multidisciplinary majors (Nicole DiFabio and Brooke Syvertsen) and two minors (Stephanie Levine and Anna Vust) working with the Southeastern Massachusetts Women's

Fund as interns. Another WMS minor (Jennifer Saltalamachia) is working as an intern for the WRAP House in New Bedford where she develops and runs bi-weekly educational meetings.

And yet another minor (Brooke Boucher) is working as a WMS office intern helping us develop our advising sheets, update and maintain our bulletin boards, and help with advertising for events. I'm also excited to see WMS minors (such as Kathleen Gearty) involved in re-starting and re-energizing the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance, a student group, on campus. Look for FMLA events this spring! We also continue to grow in terms of faculty commitment and energy. As this newsletter notes, we

have three new WMS affiliates joining the program (Shari Evans; Susanne Joseph; Bridget Teboh). We also have great Summer and Fall 2006 course offerings that demonstrate the expanding WMS curriculum.

As a result of these developments, and many more that I don't have space to mention here, I'm pleased to report that the state of Women's Studies at UMass Dartmouth is strong. As always, WMS appreciates your ongoing support!

Best wishes,  
Jen Riley  
Director, Women's Studies  
UMass Dartmouth  
J1Riley@umassd.edu

## We're on the Web!

<http://www.umassd.edu/wms/>