



WMS  
Newsletter



program

STUDIES

**A Community Partnership:  
Women's Studies and  
the New Bedford  
WRAP House**

The Women's Recovery Addiction Program, WRAP House, is a 14-bed women's residential program, which provides housing and case management services to women who are homeless and seeking treatment for substance abuse issues. The goals of the WRAP House include providing women with substance abuse issues the structure and support they need in order to maintain a consistent path toward recovery. The WRAP House also works to empower women to make the life changes necessary to carry them forward to independent living. One of the innovative ways the WRAP House is attempting to meet these goals is the implementation of a community partnership between the UMass Dartmouth Women's Studies Program, which grew out of conversations between Lise Turner, Director of the WRAP house, and Jen Riley, Director of Women's

Studies at UMass Dartmouth. At Lise's request, Jen visited the WRAP house in April 2004 and provided a talk about the power of education.

This visit motivated them to form the community partnership in order to help the WRAP House achieve its goals.

The community partnership has several objectives, among them:

- Assisting WRAP House residents with gaining skills for today's workplace;
- Developing computer skills (Microsoft Word; Excel; PowerPoint; using the internet);
- Improving WRAP House residents' written and oral communication skills;
- Facilitating efforts of WRAP House residents toward earning a degree in higher education;
- Involving Women's Studies students and Women's Resource Center student staff members in community and service learning through workshops and internships;
- Engaging UMass Dartmouth faculty in community outreach;

and,  
• Seeking grants for partnership development and the benefit of the WRAP House.

The benefits of this community partnership are threefold and affect the WRAP House, UMass Dartmouth Women's Studies Program and university as a whole, and the local community of New Bedford. Most importantly, the community partnership will help WRAP House residents develop skills that will assist them in becoming successful, stable, contributing members to the community not just while they complete their programs, but also after they leave the WRAP House. This partnership can help the WRAP House residents gain a foundation in the community that may lead to increased life successes for them. Also, Women's Studies Program students and Women's Resource Center student staff will have a place to apply their educations. A key focus of the WMS Program and the Women's Resource Center is **praxis**. Praxis means taking one's theoretical knowledge and

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## Wrap House—A Community Partnership (cont.)

applying it to the worlds in which you live in an effort to create positive cultural change. Students will have a place to apply their areas of study which are teaching them about women's issues in the real world. Furthermore, they will have the

opportunity for experiential learning classes and/or internships working directly with Lise Turner. Finally, the city of New Bedford will benefit because the partnership can help the WRAP House residents recognize their place in the community's economy and

culture. Educating citizens and helping them move their lives forward to become stable, contributing members of the community will benefit the city as a whole.



## New England Women's Studies Conference 2005

On March 4-5, 2005, the Women's Studies Program at UMass Dartmouth will host the New England Women's Studies Association (NEWSA) 4<sup>th</sup> annual conference.

For a full schedule, go to:  
[www.umassd.edu/wms](http://www.umassd.edu/wms)

### Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup>

1:00 Conference Registration  
2:00–3:00: Concurrent Sessions  
3:10-4:20: Concurrent Sessions  
4:30-5:45: Keynote Address: Dawn Lundy Martin & Vivian Labaton; Co-editors, *The Fire This Time: Young Activists and the New Feminism* (2004)

*The Fire This Time: Young Activists and the New Feminism* (2004) examines how 21<sup>st</sup> century feminists utilize the tools developed by the Women's Liberation Movement to analyze issues like racial and economic inequality, militarization and state violence, the environment, the rise of the prison industrial complex, and the

consequences of globalization. They propose that feminism must be relevant not only to women of a certain race, class, political sensibility or education, but to the broadest, most diverse community possible.

6:00-7:15pm Supper Reception (free for conference attendees who register by February 22nd)

### Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>

8:30 Conference Registration  
9:00-10:15: Concurrent Sessions  
10:30-11:45: Concurrent Sessions  
12:00-2:00: Lunch & Keynote Address (Lunch free for conference attendees who register by February 22nd).

Dr. Hughes is well known for her activist work and scholarship regarding women's rights. In particular, Dr. Hughes investigates violence, sex trafficking, sexual exploitation, and women's work to resist violence. Dr. Hughes has

worked with government and other organizations on policies regarding women's human rights.

2:15-3:30: Concurrent Sessions

3:30-4:30 Closing Reception in the Group VI Art Gallery celebrating the exhibit: *art + design: feminists perspectives in art 2005*. Coffee, Tea, and chocolates served.



## WMS Affiliate Spotlight: Yoon Soo Lee

Yoon Soo Lee, Associate Professor of Design and Women's Studies Affiliate, started painting in 2002 and as a result of her endeavors has already been in the following shows in the New England and New York area: Space and Surface Painting, Juried Show, Gallery Korea, New York, NY ('03) <sup>3</sup>Space and Surface Painting,<sup>2</sup> was held at Gallery Korea where other prominent artists such as Nam June Baik have shown their work. The curator, Gerard McCarthy, is a curator of modern and contemporary art and is

a frequent contributor to Art in America magazine. Paintings from my <sup>3</sup>Practice Love Series<sup>2</sup> were included in the show. The painting <sup>3</sup>Practice Love #26<sup>2</sup> was singled out to announce the

*"I honor process like I honor time."*

show in a brochure and postcard. Intersections - Celebration of Women Mentors and Their Students ('03)

<sup>3</sup>Intersections, the Celebration of Women Mentors and Their Students,<sup>2</sup> was shown at the Sarah Doyle Gallery of Brown University, March 4 - April 11, 2003. Women mentors from Brown University, Massachusetts College of Art, UMass Dartmouth, Fairfield University as well as artists from New York City, Boston and Providence were represented in the show. This show was held in conjunction with the celebration of Women's History Month.

## Upcoming Events

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- **3/4 & 3/5—NEWSA Conference** (see abbreviated schedule on page 2) For more information, contact Jen Riley, [j1riley@umassd.edu](mailto:j1riley@umassd.edu)
- **3/8—International Women's Day & the Chancellor's Outstanding Women Awards—2:00-4:00 PM—Library Browsing Area**
- **5/13—Girls and Justice Conference**—for more information contact Robin Robinson, [rrobinson@umassd.edu](mailto:rrobinson@umassd.edu)

## Siren: CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

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**Siren, a contemporary literary journal focusing on women's issues, wants your short stories, essays, journal entries, poetry, and artwork (drawings and sketches) for its 2005 edition.**

- ♦ Any student, faculty member, or staff member may submit work.
- ♦ All written submissions must be typed and double-spaced (except for poetry) and include your name, address, phone number, and email.
- ♦ Submissions must be received by Friday March 25, 2005.
- ♦ All submissions are to be delivered to Professor Catherine Houser's office in the English Department, Gr. I, Rm. 340. (Please put submissions in Siren envelope).
- ♦ Submissions will not be returned (please keep a copy for yourself).
- ♦ If chosen for the 2005 edition, you will be asked to submit your piece electronically, so be sure your contact info is on your submission.

**For further information, please feel free to contact Missy Muszynski at [mmuszynski@umassd.edu](mailto:mmuszynski@umassd.edu)**

## Women's Studies Goes Online!

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In Fall 2002, the UMass Dartmouth Women's Studies Program moved forward with implementing their minor curriculum online. The WMS program trained faculty, provided course development grants, and provided support for faculty when teaching their classes. Developments also included a new website advertising the online minor and working with the administration to provide support for the program (see [www.umassd.edu/wms](http://www.umassd.edu/wms)). The flourishing online program is just one of the many reasons the WMS Program at UMass Dartmouth is currently experiencing an exciting stage of growth.

Why take Women's Studies online?

The WMS Program decided to go online for a number of reasons. First, the online environment provided a way to reach a non-traditional student group; many of our online students are women in the workforce and/or with children and family demands that make getting to campus for a face to face class difficult. Second, online learning is a growing part of higher education, and the WMS Program wanted to be involved in this movement. And finally, the WMS Program realized online classes could help raise the visibility of the program not just on

campus but also in the community. At this time, the three core minor classes (WMS 101: Introduction to Women's Studies; WMS 208: Global Perspectives of Women; and WMS 305: Contemporary Feminist Theory & Practice) are available online, along with a variety of upper level courses (WMS 300: Gender and Communication; WMS/ENL 246: Women Writers; WMS/ARH 380: Feminist Perspectives in Art History; WMS/SOC 336: Women and Social Policy; WMS/SOC 400: Women in Criminal Justice; WMS/ENL 200: Women's Creative Non-Fiction, and

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Women's Studies Goes Online! (cont.)

more.) See page 5 for Summer 2005 online offerings.

Student response to online courses has been positive as you can see from the following student comments.

*I recently took an online Women's Studies course at UMass Dartmouth entitled Women Writers (WMS/ENL 246). I had taken the Introduction to Women's Studies online with Professor Riley last semester and wanted to continue with both teacher and online format. I was thrilled with the format change to WebCT Vista, the posting was easier, the format was precise, and most of my questions were answered right in the course information presented. This information was also easy to refer back to throughout the semester. . . . The issues and topics presented were up to date, relevant to women's issues, and the instructor's comments and grading notes were extremely helpful in modifying my own writings. I work full time, have a part time job, and have three kids. The online format allowed me to work school around my extremely busy schedule. I would highly recommend the online format and the class to anyone interested in Women's Studies.* -- **Lise Turner, Sociology major with a minor in Women's Studies**

*I have taken "Introduction to Women's Studies", "Women and Social Policy", "Special Topic: The Abortion Debate", "A Seminar: Women in the Criminal Justice System", "Global Perspectives", and to finish my minor, Dr. Riley agreed to a Directed Study on "Contemporary Feminist Theory and Practice." I would not have been able to complete this minor without the ability to take online classes, as well as the flexibility that is allowed by the Women's Studies Department. A Directed Study class is a one on one class, and it is a risk for both the professor and the student, as it requires diligence and communication above the average online class. The Women's*

*Studies classes online have focused a great deal on sharing communication with other students via the website "classroom", and this format has been very helpful in formulating and/or changing opinions on various subjects. . . . The professors in the Women's Studies program are supportive, available and the individual response received for work done is*



*more than one would receive in a classroom setting. The medium of the internet allows for more in-depth discussion about work, assignments and results than a classroom setting simply because a student does not have to make an appointment with a professor to get in-depth feedback on work. While the online setting does require a student to be proactive, the results of taking an online course are worth the discipline involved. Not only does the student learn about the subject matter, but also about time management, personal responsibility and the feeling of accomplishment when a project is completed."*

-- **Kimberly Simone, Psychology/ Sociology Major with a minor in Women's Studies**

*I really liked taking an online course because it offers flexibility where you don't have to meet at class at say 3 pm everyday; instead you had deadlines and could sit down whenever was convenient for you before the deadline and get it done. Another great thing about the online course is that although you never meet the people in your class, everyone seemed really comfortable holding their views and discussing the various topics with*

*comfort and ease. I feel that sometimes in regular classrooms, people become self-conscious and don't want to speak up because there's always that person that knows so much in the class and always offers to talk, and then you don't want to sound stupid, or if you believe something that's contrary to the majority of the class some people get afraid to speak up. So that's the beauty of an online course...no one ever sees or hears you but reads what you had time to think and write about. As for the course itself, I learned so much about women's studies and issues. But this course was much more than that as it explored issues of race, class, sexuality, sexual orientation, violence against women, gender, how to create a more just society and more. It's been a long time since a class has engulfed my entire attention, and Contemporary Feminist Theory really drew me in. I found myself reading excerpts from the required texts to my friends, which fueled so many discussions and ultimately helped me fully take in all the material. The best part about this course was one of the first "extra readings" on the site. It was an excerpt from Adrienne Rich's philosophy that the best students don't just accept and learn information but instead claim their education because after all everything is what you make of it. I suppose this quote is what ultimately drew me in and really made me think. So to anyone thinking about taking a women's studies course on or offline: If you claim your education, these classes will offer you an atmosphere rich in discussion, open to a variety of opinions, and all encompassing to various aspects of life. In a nutshell, women's studies courses are "thinkers" and that's what college is about... opening your eyes and expanding your mind.* -- **Jamielee Croteau, Psychology Major with a minor in Women's Studies, Class of 2005**



## WMS Minor Course Offerings for Summer 2005

FIVE WEEK SESSION, MAY 29—JUNE 29			
COURSE NO	TITLE & DESCRIPTION	INSTRUCTOR	
WMS 101	<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.	Prof. Kathleen Torrens	Online
WMS/ENL 246	<b>Women Writers</b> —Examination of the relationship between the woman writer and her work: through a study of literature by and about women.	Prof. Jen Riley	Online
WMS 300 MWF 1:00-4:00 PM	<b>ST: Third Wave Feminism</b> —Our course will begin with a look at the First and Second Waves of the women's movement in the United States. Then, we will turn our attention to the Third Wave—the term given to the feminist movement from 1990 forward. Our readings will include <i>Manifesta: Young Women, Feminism, and the Future</i> , as well as <i>Colonize This: Young Women of Color on Today's Feminism</i> and <i>To Be Real: Telling the Truth and the Changing Face of Feminism</i> . We will particularly focus on women of color in the Third Wave, a group often excluded from the First and Second Waves of the women's movement, as we explore the contributions and future of women's rights and issues today.	Prof. Jen Riley  <b>Note:</b> This is a blended class, which means we meet in person on certain dates and we also hold class online.	UMD & Online

SEVEN WEEK SESSION, MW JUNE 6-JULY 25; TR JUNE 7-JULY 21			
COURSE NO	TITLE & DESCRIPTION	INSTRUCTOR	
WMS 300	<b>ST: 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.	Prof. Kathleen Torrens	Online
WMS/ARH 380	<b>Feminist Perspectives in Art</b> —Analyzes the feminist critique of the history of art. This course will review recent critiques of both art and culture through an investigation of the production and evaluation of art and the role of the artist in Western and non-Western culture.	Prof. Magali Carrera	Online
WMS 333	<b>Mothers &amp; Daughters</b> —Mother/daughter relationships: biological mothers and daughters, adopted mothers and daughters, motherless daughters. Explorations are based on a multi-cultural perspective. The course examines how culture, patriarchy, and stereotypes of the family affect mother/daughter relationships. Topics include competition between mothers and daughters, the women's movement in their lives, feminist parenting, Lesbian mothers or daughters, and motherhood as an institution.	Prof. Andrea Humphrey	UMD

## WMS and the Multidisciplinary Major

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As many students know, the Women's Studies Program does not yet have a major, although one is in development. For students who want to major in Women's Studies, you do have the option of pursuing a multidisciplinary major.

### What is the multidisciplinary major (MDS)?

MDS enables students to span two or three disciplines in order to create their own major and course plan. The program works like other majors and is composed of 36 credits, and students must satisfy the degree requirements for a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Sciences depending on their chosen course plan. At this time, there are six students pursuing a multidisciplinary major in Women's Studies and another area; they are:

Sarah Briggs, Women's Studies & Sociology  
Pamela Edmunds, Women's Studies & Psychology  
Nicole di Fabio, Women's Studies & Anthropology  
Caitlin Hawes, Women's Studies & English  
Brooke Syvertsen, Women's Studies & Sociology  
Angela Todisco, Women's Studies & Psychology

Each student set up her plan with Dr. Jen Riley, Director of Women's Studies, and then the student was also set up with a WMS faculty advisor in the other program area.

### Why choose a multidisciplinary major?

Many students want to focus in Women's Studies for very specific reasons. According to Nicole Di Fabio:

*I chose to pursue a multidisciplinary major in the areas of Anthropology and Women Studies in order to study my two passions. Anthropology and Women's Studies are very closely linked, and by combining the two I am able to study women's issues on a global level. I believe it is absolutely necessary to understand the oppression and inequalities women face in our own country, as well as internationally. Practicing Anthropology and Women's Studies will aid me in having a better understanding, and will demonstrate the importance of diversity and equality throughout each and every culture.*

Brooke Syvertsen offers these reasons for pursuing her major in WMS and Sociology:

*Choosing a multidisciplinary major seemed like the most logical step for me. Almost three years ago I was placed into a Women's Studies class to fulfill a requirement. I really did not want to take the class because of how I preconceived the idea of feminism. On the first day of class Prof. Jen Riley*

*had us list words that we had associated with feminism and Women's Studies. Sadly, these negative words at that point in my college career had summed up how I had felt about feminism. But the course was such an eye-opener and it made me realize how wrong I had been to stereotype the subject. From then on I was hooked. I took many more classes pertaining to women's studies and soon found myself minoring in it. After taking a global feminism class, I realized that Women's Studies was my passion. I did not just want to minor in the subject, I wanted it to become my major. My advisor and teacher, Dr. Jen Riley, had also noticed my increased interest in the program and with a little encouragement from her I happily became a Women's Studies/ Sociology multidisciplinary major. The multidisciplinary major gives me the freedom to select courses that I feel will aid me in my future. I highly suggest the multidisciplinary major to anyone seeking to combine multiple subjects of interest or make your major more specific to your needs.*

If you are interested in pursuing a multidisciplinary major in Women's Studies, drop by Dr. Jen Riley's office in Group I-339. Also, for more information, consult the UMass Dartmouth catalogue online at: <http://www.umassd.edu/catalog/undergraduate/2003-2004/multidisciplinarystudies.pdf>



## Fundraising

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Yes, I support the Women's Studies Program at UMass Dartmouth.

***Become a Friend of Women's Studies and make a contribution to one of our two program funds:***

**The Dr. Janet Freedman WMS Minor Book Scholarship**  
This scholarship fund provides a \$250 certificate for books for one semester for a WMS minor who demonstrates his or her growth in the program.

**The Women's Studies Program Development Fund.**  
This fund provides for WMS programming, curriculum, and faculty development.

Checks can be made payable to the UMass Dartmouth WMS Freedman Scholarship Fund **OR** the UMass Dartmouth WMS Program Fund. Please complete this form and return it with your contribution to:

**Women's Studies Program, UMass Dartmouth,  
285 Old Westport Road, Group 1, Room 321,  
N. Dartmouth, MA 02747**

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Name

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Address

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

If you want to subscribe to the  
WMS ListServ,  
Send an email request to:  
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***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

A new semester is upon us, and the UMass Dartmouth Women's Studies Program is anticipating an exciting spring. In March, we are joining forces with the Women's Resource Center and hosting the New England Women's Studies conference. This regional conference will run from March 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> and include faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students presenting their work and ideas related to our conference theme, "Performing

Activism." We are also hosting an art exhibit during the end of February into March, developed by Professor Yoon Soo Lee in the College of Visual and Performing Arts, entitled "feminist perspectives in art 2005." This exhibit follows up on our first feminist art exhibit held in Fall 2003, and I'm sure it will be as wonderful an event as the first one!

In other news, I'm hopeful students will submit their work for this year's publication of

*Siren*, a long running journal featuring creative and nonfiction writing by UMass Dartmouth women students, staff, and faculty. And, make sure you check out all the updates and information in this newsletter. Women's Studies is on the move—I hope to see you at one of our spring events!

Best wishes,

Jen Riley



## We're on the Web!

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