

# Center News

## Feminism is good for Your Body

### Letter from the Director

Feminism is good for your body! I truly believe that. And this semester we're promoting that notion by having events focused on body image, body love, body respect and healthy bodies. From our kick-off "I (heart) Female Orgasm" to our now student production of The Vagina Monologues to Gail Dines, Ph.D. lecture "Sexism, Love and intimacy in a Pornographic Culture," we are promoting safe sex, knowledge of our bodies, the end of violence against women, and healthy attitudes.

Feminism is good for men, too, and we know that because it promotes parenting, equality and accountability for men in respect to sexual assault and dating violence. Our "Got Consent?" campaign is an example of that. Both men and women need to "get consent" before moving into the realm of sex.

We are also excited about the upcoming race to the presidency with unprecedented diversity being represented in the Democratic ticket. The possibility that an African-American, a Latino, or a woman could be the next President gives me goosebumps. Thus we will find ways to connect students to the different campaigns to get them actively involved in the election, no matter what their affiliation.

As we enter our 37<sup>th</sup> year on the campus, we strive to find ways to engage students as citizens of the now global culture, introducing them to opportunities and programs that will expand on the knowledge they are gaining in the classroom. I hope you will take some opportunities to support the WRC this spring and learn along with them.

Dr. Juli Parker  
Director

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*Feminism is the radical notion that woman are people!*

# International Women's Day & Women's Resource Center's Outstanding Woman Awards

## Presenter Dr. Marcellette Williams

For the 4th year in a row the Women's Resource Center will be collaborating with the International Student Center to celebrate International Women's Day on March 8th. This year, Dr. Marcellette Williams, Senior Vice President, Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and International Relations, for the five-campus UMass system will be the keynote.

Dr. Williams served for eight years as Deputy Chancellor at UMass Amherst, holding a tenured position Professor of English & Comparative Literature. Her ongoing research focuses on the language of leadership-its metaphors and other dimensions of rhetoric and its capacity to persuade, motivate, and renew.

As a result of recent work with Saizburg Seminar, Inc. she has served as faculty in the International Universities Project, site visitor at a Romanian university, at a Slovak Republican university and she has undertaken

initiatives in South Africa with several tertiary educational institutions.

Her current responsibilities include the oversight of the Office of Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and International Relations for the UMass System. AASAIR mobilizes the University of Massachusetts system resources to ensure the quality of faculty, students, programs, student services, and research and outreach; additionally, the Office promotes local and global innovation in education, research and outreach. To maintain and extend the academic quality of the University's faculty and programs, academic assessment and accountability are core functions of the Office. The efforts of the Office are guided by the principles of collaboration and cooperation.



March 8th  
1 :30 - 3:30 pm  
Library Browsing  
Area  
Light Refreshments

### 7th Annual Outstanding Women Awards

Two awards will be given: one to a faculty or staff person and one to a student or alumnus. The nominees can be any woman from the UMD community, including present and past faculty, staff and/or students. Nominations must include a description of how the nominee meets at least one of the criteria below.

The criteria are:

1. A demonstrated commitment to women students and/or employees.
2. A demonstrated record of enhancing the quality of opportunity for women at UMass Dartmouth.
3. A consistent advocate for issues that have a special impact on women.
4. A dedication to mentoring women students and/or employees.

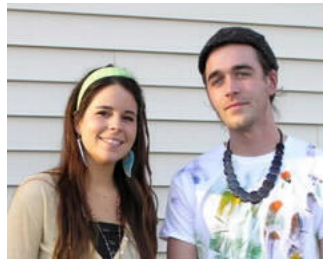
Please send your nominations to  
Dr. Juli Parker, WRC  
jparker@umassd.edu

# Mural, Mural on the Wall Paint for Peace

A collaborative program with the Girl Scout Council  
of Southeastern Massachusetts

The Women's Resource Center will proudly host an inspirational mural on peace, that will be created by approximately 30 young women, who will be learning about art through the Girl Scout Council of Southeastern MA. The students will be involved in a series of workshops where they will learn about several studio arts and study artists from old greats to contemporary painters and mural artists. Participants will get an intro to color theory, make a color wheel, mix paint and learn about perspective drawing, brush strokes, textures and stamping.

At the end of the series the participants will create murals that will be installed at the Environmental Discovery Center at Camp Wind-in-the-Pines and here at the Women's Resource Center. The projected installment dates are planned for Spring Break week. A reception to meet and greet the artists will be scheduled at the conclusion of the installation.



## About the Artists

**Abbe Ciulla** is a student at UMass Dartmouth's College of Visual and Performing Arts. Her focus is on jewelry design and precious metal fabrication, with a specialty in enameling, the ancient art of fusing vitreous glass over metal. Abbe's work reflects many aspects of her personality -- color, uniqueness, fun and evolution. Ceramics, painting and textiles are among her other main interests. She plans to be a student for and of life, taking inspiration and learning from everyone and everything she encounters.

**John Ryan's** number one love is painting. He feels that visual expression is limitless and enjoys expanding his creativity through all artistic media -- from painting and drawing to printmaking and sculpture. After earning his degree in art from UMass Dartmouth, he intends to pursue a career teaching the arts at the university level. With his own growth as an artist as a lifelong pursuit, he will take great satisfaction in helping others to realize their creative potential.

# Spring 2007

## February

### **6th & 7th**

Movie Siesta

*When the Levees Broke*

2-06 viewing 12 noon at the  
Frederick Douglass Unity House

2-07 viewing 3 pm WRC

### **14th**

*I (heart) Female Orgasm*

7 pm

Main Auditorium

sponsored by WRC &  
Office of the Peer Health Educator

### **20th**

*Wearing the Right Bra?*

Workshop and Professional Fittings  
7:00 pm

WRC, Pine Dale Hall

## March

Women's History Month

### **1st**

*This Is What A Feminist Looks*

*Like*

Information Tabling/Picture Taking  
10 - 12

Campus Center

*WRC Open House*

1 - 3

## March

### **8th**

*International Women's Day*  
&

*Women's Resource Center's*  
*Outstanding Woman Awards*

1:30 - 3:30

Library Browsing Area

### **9th**

The Vagina Monologues

8 pm

Main Auditorium

### **13th & 14th**

Movie Siesta

*Chutney Popcorn*

3-13 viewing 12 noon at the  
Frederick Douglass Unity House

3-14 viewing 3 pm WRC

### **15th**

Safe Sex Pub Night  
informational tabling, goodie bags,  
& DJ. All proceeds will go directly  
to the WRC

8 pm

UMD Pub \$ 5 Cover Charge

## week of the 18th

Installation of

*Mural, Mural on the Wall*

Reception TBA

## April

### **3rd**

Healthy Relationships

4 - 5:30 pm

Woodland Commons

cosponsored w/ Women's Studies

### **10th & 11th**

Siesta Movie

*To Be Announced*

4-10 viewing at 12 noon at the  
Frederick Douglass Unity House

4-11 viewing at 3 pm WRC

### **18th**

Gail Dines, Ph.D.

*Sexism, Love & Intimacy in a*

*Pornographic Industry*

7 pm

Woodland Commons

### **26th**

*Sexual Assault Awareness*

*Pub Night*

Informational tabling, resources &  
DJ. All proceeds will go directly to  
the WRC

8 pm

UMD Pub \$5 Cover Charge

# Calendar of Events

## Highlights

### **February 14th I (heart) Female Orgasm 7 pm Main Auditorium**

Join us to laugh and learn about the "big O," the most popular topic sex educators Marshall Miller and Dorian Solot teach about.

Orgasm aficionados and beginners of all genders are welcome to come learn about everything from multiple orgasms to that mysterious G-spot.

Whether you want to learn how to have your first orgasm, how to have better ones, or how to help your girlfriend, Dorian and Marshall cover it all with lots of humor, plenty of honesty, and an underlying message of sexual health and women's empowerment.

### **March 9th *The Vagina Monologues* 8 pm Main Auditorium**

Once again Eve Ensler's Obie Award winning production will be brought to the UMass campus. This down scaled version will be completely run by students.

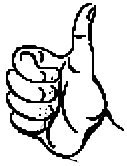
All proceeds will benefit the UMD Women's Resource Center and local women agencies.

To learn more about V-Day and it's campaign visit [www.vday.org](http://www.vday.org)  
Auditions will be held January 31st and February 1st. Location TBD

### **April 3rd Healthy Relationships 4 pm Woodland Commons**

This is a valuable workshop for all students. The topics discussed in the presentation will cover sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and date rape drugs and is geared toward students who could potentially be bystanders to violence against women and provides some suggestions about personal action.

For more information contact Dr. Jen Riley, Director, Women's Studies program at ext. 4586 or email [j1riley@umassd.edu](mailto:j1riley@umassd.edu)



# In the News



## Maryland

A three-judge panel of the Maryland Special Court of Appeals reinforced the provision of Maryland's rape law that says a woman who gives consent prior to intercourse cannot withdraw her legal consent during the act. The decision came about after the Court overturned a rape conviction in which a woman who had just been raped assented briefly, probably out of fear, to intercourse with the rapist's companion. She then said no and resisted.



## India

Courts can convict a rapist SOLELY on the victim's evidence, unless her testimony is proven untrustworthy, the Supreme Court has affirmed. Furthermore a new law went into effect that offers women protection from domestic abuse- physical, sexual, verbal, emotional and economic- by husband or live in partner.



## Hillary Clinton Will Run For President

New York Democratic Senator, Hillary Rodham Clinton has launched a much-anticipated 2008 presidential campaign that could make her the first female president in the nation's history and the only former first lady to follow her husband in the White House. She will also be the first female to run on the democratic party's ticket for presidency if elected.

In an ABC News/ Washington Post poll completed last month, Clinton is the clear front-runner for the Democratic nomination with 39 percent of the Democrats, giving her more than double the support of any of her potential rivals- Senator Barack Obama with 17 percent, and Senator John Edwards with 12 percent.

Clinton's support is strong among Democratic women (49 percent) compared with 29 percent of Democratic men. Clinton's announcement was posted on her website where she said **'I'm in and I'm in to win'**. The hope is to establish Clinton as the best prepared to become the first Democrat in the White House since Bush succeeded Bill Clinton six years ago.



## Pakistan

In November, parliament's lower house and senate finally voted to reform the rape and adultery laws, long criticized by women. The law provides the elimination of four-witnesses (previously required); permits judges' discretion in trying rape cases in criminal, not religious, courts and in introducing DNA evidence; and drops the death penalty and flogging for those convicted of consensual sex outside the marriage.



## Massachusetts

A 19 year old prostitute has turned a Boston police officer's badge against him- the same badge he flashed to force her into performing oral sex. Officer Michael LoPriore had ordered the woman into his car several times while off duty, with the understanding that he would not arrest her, if she complied, according to her lawyer. She decided to take LoPriore's badge as evidence, then hired a lawyer, who took her case to the FBI.

A federal court charged LoPriore with abusing his position and depriving the woman of her rights; a plea agreement is pending.

*Ms. Magazine, Winter 2007*

# Gail Dines, Ph.D.

## Sex(ism), Identity & Intimacy in a Pornographic Culture

A POWERFUL MULTI-MEDIA  
PRESENTATION BY  
GAIL DINES, Ph.D.

From Internet pornography to MTV, popular culture bombards us with sexualized images of idealized women and men, and conveys powerful messages that help shape our sexuality. These pictures jump off the screen and into our culture and are now so common place that they seep into our gender identity, our body image and especially our intimate relationships.

The result is not a more liberated, edgy sexuality, but a mass produced vision of sex that is profoundly sexist – a vision that limits our ability to create authentic, equal relationships that are free of violence and degradation. In this powerful multi-media presentation, Dr. Gail Dines uses examples from pornography, magazines, television shows, and movies to explore how masculinity and femininity are shaped by a consumer- driven image-based culture, and the ways public images spill over into our most private worlds.

For more information

[http://www.jodisolomonspeakers.com/speakerspdfs/GailDines\\_Broadside\\_Final.pdf](http://www.jodisolomonspeakers.com/speakerspdfs/GailDines_Broadside_Final.pdf)

### About the Presenter

Dr. Gail Dines, Professor of Sociology and Women's Studies at Wheelock College in Boston, is a nationally know lecturer on college campuses. She is co-editor of the best-selling textbook Gender, Race and Class in Media and co-author of Pornography: The Production and Consumption of Inequality. She has written numerous articles on pornography, media images of women and the representation of race in popular culture. Her work has appeared in academic journals, edited books, newspapers, and magazines, and she is a recipient of the Myers Center Award for the Study of Human Rights in North America.

Gail Dines is a regular guest on television and radio shows including ABC News, Entertainment Tonight, new England Cable News and National Public Radio. She has appeared in *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Vogue*, *Marie Claire* and has worked with Hollywood studios to develop strategies for creating progressive images of women on national television. She is also a featured speaker in documentaries such as *Beyond Killing Us Softly: The Strength to Resist*, *Mickey Mouse Monopoly* and *A Drug Called Pornography*. Dr. Dines is due to appear in the forthcoming documentary, *Fantasies Matter: Pornography, Sexualities and Relationships*, produced by Chyng Sun and the Media Education Foundation

# Women's Health

## An STD Vaccine for All Girls?

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control recently advised parents to have their middle-school-aged daughters vaccinated against a common sexually transmitted disease closely linked to cervical cancer. But legislators in 10 states are seeking to go one step further and require vaccinations against the human papillomavirus (HPV) for all girls entering middle school.

HPV is an increasingly common sexually transmitted disease and one that scientists say is linked to 70% of all cases of cervical cancer. Cervical cancer was estimated to have affected nearly 10,000 women in 2006, killing 3,700.

### Believe It or Not

Not everyone is happy with the move by state legislators to make the vaccine mandatory.

Many conservative groups are arguing that if parents raise their daughters to be chaste and pure until she reaches her marriage bed, she won't need this vaccine.

Also, the Home School Legal Defense Association, a national legal and political advocacy group, says the bill is too intrusive.

"It's very offensive to parents," said Christopher Klicka, a senior attorney with the legal association. "They have to have their young daughters, as young as 10, immunized against a sexually transmitted disease. The home-schoolers, some of them have religious objections. But others just think it is misguided. There may be a real problem out there, but they should deal with the kids that have the problem, and not all the innocent children who wouldn't even think about anything close to sexual contact. It simply oversteps the line."

[www.time.com/time/health/article](http://www.time.com/time/health/article)

# Women's Health

## 85% of American women are wearing the wrong bra

### As seen on Oprah, 85% of American women are in the wrong bra size!

Bra straps can dig into one's skin, leaving unattractive and painful indentations or the bra band can inch up your back. Many women may be familiar with the annoyance of an ill-fitting bra, but did you know that there are potential health issues if you are wearing the wrong bra size? Here are just a few:

- Pain in the upper back, neck, shoulders or arms
  - Pinched nerve in the neck
  - Headaches
- Skin abrasions or infections underneath the breast in full-breasted women
  - Sagging breasts

A well-fitting bra can provide the necessary support to take tension off the breasts alleviating or preventing these potential problems.

On Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, a group of women from the Night and Day Boutique in Andover MA will be coming to UMass Dartmouth to do proper bra fittings as seen on Oprah. While you may think you are wearing the right size bra, come and find out!

Light refreshments will be served.

We will have some quality merchandise for sale.

To find out more about Night & Day visit their website

[www.nightanddaylingerie.com](http://www.nightanddaylingerie.com)

### Got Consent?

The Women's Resource Center staff and the UMass Dartmouth Peer Health Educators are developing Got Consent?, an educational program about sexual assault. The Got Consent? campaign will be developed over the course of the semester and launch in April as part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

**Got Consent?** is an effort to change the way college students think and talk about sex. We know college students talk about sex; we want them to talk about consent too. The message of the campaign is that consent makes for healthier, safer, and sexier sex.

The Sexual Harassment and Rape Prevention Program (SHARPP) at the University of New Hampshire developed the original "Got Consent?" program which has since been replicated at many colleges and universities.

### What is consent?

A person who is drunk, high, asleep, passed out, or otherwise too out of it to be sure what's going on can't legally meet the criteria for consent. Nor can someone who feels threatened, or is afraid that if they say "no" something worse will happen.

Every person, no matter what the circumstances, has the right to withhold consent for sexual activity at any time. If you do not have consent from the person you're with, you risk committing a sexual assault, maybe without even realizing it.

If you are interested in learning more about the "Got Consent?" campaign, please contact the Women's Resource Center or Beth-Anne Vieira, Health Educator, at 508.910.6965 or [bvieira@umassd.edu](mailto:bvieira@umassd.edu).

# COMING EVENTS

"I knew I could participate in a service organization, or I could clean toilets, which I quickly decided would not be happening."

## Looking to fulfill community service hours?

Got some time on your hands? Well the good news is that there are a multitude of different opportunities available to students on campus. The bad news is for many of these jobs you'll probably end up doing monotonous tasks like filing papers and making copies. I guess this could sound appealing to someone who just wanted to bang out some quick hours...but if you think by making a few copies and filing away student tuition bills you're serving your community, you might as well go home, and facebook.

When I decided to get involved in community service on campus I knew I could participate in a service organization, or I could clean toilets, which I quickly decided would not be happening. I looked online for various opportunities which frankly got me nowhere. So, I took the matter into my own hands and decided that I would visit some places around campus and see if they were looking for help.

My first, and thankfully, only stop was the Women's Resource Center, which is located on the first floor of Pine Dale Hall.

I was greeted by the oh so cheery administrative assistant, Kim Sylvia, who told me to pull up a chair. After I had introduced myself, she got right down to business creating a schedule that revolved around my classes and what was most convenient for me. I was a bit shocked that I had been in her office for a mere five minutes and was already a staff member, but I rationalized that the sooner I could start, the better, which is exactly what I did.

On my first day, which happened to be the very next morning, I was introduced to a group of young women who were lounging around a room trying to agree on a current definition of sex. Amidst the discussion of sex toys, simultaneous orgasms, and multiple partners, I was introduced to each woman who responded with a friendly "hey!" Although I wasn't uncomfortable with the discussion,

the freedom with which they spoke about these topics was different from the more traditional office chatter I was expecting. I soon learned however, that this type of talk was everyday lingo at the WRC, and I shouldn't hesitate to yell down the hall and ask where the female orgasm file is.

Even though I have only been working here for two months I am impressed with the changes I have seen in myself. I have become much more perceptive of how the environment I live in affects me as a female and the specific adversaries facing women in today's society. I have taken an active role in bringing local awareness to obstacles that specifically affect the woman on this campus and what can be done to overcome them. Overall, I am simply proud of the work my fellow staff members and I have done to negate misogyny and promote a safe and equal society for future generations of women. After all, feminism is the notion that women are people too!

Gretchen Hergrueter, Student

# On -going Events

## Tea Time, Tuesdays At Ten



Is an open women's support and therapy group held weekly at the Women's Resource Center, tuesdays at 10am. Come and enjoy some tea while getting to know others. Share what's going on in your life or simply come and listen.

Everyone is welcome. Sponsored by the Women's Resource Center and led by Leah Lomeland, Graduate Intern in Counseling & Higher Educaiton at Bridgewater State College.

## Monthly Book Club

Do you enjoy reading? Would you like a chance to read something for fun and not mandatory during the semester? Then join our book club. Meet new people, read something fun and then have a great discussion about it.

Books will be agreed upon by the entire group.

Don't worry we'll keep them light.

All meetings will take place at the Women's Resource Center, Pine Dale

## Monthly Siesta Movies

### February

#### *When the Levees Broke*

This intimate, heart-rending portrait of New Orleans in the wake of the destruction tells the heartbreaking personal stories of those who endured this harrowing ordeal and survived to tell the tale of misery, despair and triumph.

The film also looks at a community that has been through hell and back, surviving death, devastation and disease at every turn. Yet, somehow, amidst the ruins, the people of New Orleans are finding new hope and strength as the city rises from the ashes, buoyed by their own resilience and a rich cultural legacy.

### March

#### *Chutney Popcorn*

When married Sarita discovers she can't have children, for the first time in their lives Reena can do something her perfect sister Sarita can't: get pregnant. Obsessed with helping her sister and winning her mom's approval, Reena decides she'll have the baby and then give it to her sister and brother-in-law, Mitch. Now she just needs to convince her commitment-phobic girlfriend to go along with the idea. With Indian traditions on the one hand and modern New York City values on the other, Chutney Popcorn is a provocative new comedy that shows you can find family somewhere between the two.

### April

Movie TBA

# Our Fundraising Efforts

We tried growing money on trees, but the nickels we planted never sprouted.

Now we're trying some fundraising events.

Right now the Women's Resource Center is selling T-Shirts to help raise money for the center and our Spring Events.

Look for us selling them in the campus center, or come down to our office and buy one.

Super Woman of Tomorrow  
\$15

Sizes run small.  
Call 508-910-4584 for more information



Super Women of Tomorrow

Logo on shirt

## Volunteer Opportunities

Need to fulfill community service hours for a class, book voucher or just interested in getting involved?

The Women's Resource Center is a great place to spend that time.

Not only will you be fulfilling an obligation but you will be engaged in fun, rewarding tasks that might actually teach you a thing or two.

We have a semester full of events that we can use help with.

Don't wait until the end of the semester to complete those hours. Come early.

For more information contact Kim Sylvia,

508-910-4584  
or email  
ksylvia@umassd.edu

Help the Women's Resource Center with our important and educational goals and events. Consider making a donation.

All checks can be made payable to UMD Foundation/WRC and sent directly to:

Women's Resource Center  
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth  
285 Old Westport Road  
North Dartmouth, MA 02747

Created & Designed by Kim Sylvia  
Edited by Dr. Juli Parker