

Women's Studies News

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Carol Moseley, to speak at Women's Studies and Women's Resource Center Fundraiser

Carol Moseley Braun to Speak at 3rd Annual Women's Studies Program and Women's Resource Center Fundraiser

On April 15, 2010, Carol Moseley Braun will visit the UMass Dartmouth community as the featured speaker at the 3rd Annual Women's Studies Program and Women's Resource Center Fundraiser. In addition to speaking at the fundraiser, Ambassador Braun will provide a public talk and discussion for students.

Carol Moseley Braun received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Illinois, Juris Doctorate from the University of Chicago. She is a former candidate for the Democratic nomination for President of the United States. She has served her country as Ambassador to New Zealand and Samoa, United States Senator from Illinois, Cook County Executive Officer, Illinois State Representative and United States Attorney.

Ambassador Braun is known for her career path in public service, and she was the first African American woman elected to the United States Senate.

As the first permanent female member of the Senate Finance Committee, she proposed the first modern federal school construction legislation, and the first women's pension equity laws, and advocated for health care reform and support of family farms. She sponsored Environmental Justice legislation, historic preservation of the Underground Railroad, and the first federal support of Lupus research. She was a cosponsor of a Balanced Budget Constitutional Amendment. Her legislative record reflects a commitment to social progress and fiscal prudence. Her work has earned her more than 200 awards and 11 honorary degrees for contributions in the public interest.

More information regarding the fundraiser will be available in January 2010 at <http://www.umassd.edu/cas/wms>. We hope you join us for another great event in support of our endowment that funds scholarships for Women's Studies majors and minors and the work of the Women's Resource Center.

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Semester Away

Samantha Coffin



After great encouragement from everyone in my UMass Dartmouth family I decided to spend the first semester of my junior year participating in an internship program with The Washington Center. Through The Washington Center, not only will I be completing a semester long internship but I also will participate in several events as well as partake in one course. I chose to complete my internship with the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE). They are a bipartisan organization that collects information and studies to educate both State Board Members and Policymakers. I have only been with NASBE for a little over a month now and I am having the time of my life.

Within the first month I have been approached by each of my co-workers with kindness and sincerity. They are wanting me to learn the most that I possibly can. One in particular pushes me to the front lines at meetings, thus resulting in the pictures of me with Senator Patrick Kennedy, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and Speaker of

the House Nancy Pelosi. He encourages me to attend as many meetings as possible and is always filling my brain with new important information. I have learned how to work Women's Studies into the Education field and do so bipartisan. I have done a lot of my work thus far on sex segregated classrooms and the pros and cons of schools involvement in such activity. I hope to create a policy update on this issue that can then be sent to all State Boards Members of NASBE.

My class is on Peaceful Solutions and is taught by the amazing Colman McCarthy. If anyone ever gets the chance to meet him, hear him speak or take a course with Colman I HIGHLY suggest it. He is fantastic. Women Studies has also been incorporated in so many ways it would be hard to distinguish each of them.

As well as all the TWC activities, I am also committing to as much civic engagement as possible while here in DC. Originally I wanted to volunteer with DC public school's but that

ended up falling through the cracks due to the extent of the application process. Instead I have participated in the DC AIDS Walk and the Green Festival. I also have become a regular volunteer at the Carpenters Shelter in Alexandria, VA. I will be volunteering at Boo at the Zoo, Make a Difference Day and I am sure there will be many more to come.

If anyone is ever given the opportunity to work with TWC, I suggest you take advantage of this incredible networking tool and run with it. Remember, as a women studies major, you do not have to work at a women's center. We are needed everywhere! Please keep in touch, next semester I will be blogging away all the way from South Africa.

Love always,
Your Missing Feminist,
Samantha Coffin

Above: Samantha Coffin with
Nancy Pelosi and Patrick
Kennedy

Events



Robyn Ochs—Beyond Binaries: Identity and Sexuality Spectrum presented by the Womens Studies Program Thurs Nov 5th

Like snowflakes, no two people are alike. Robyn Ochs will give an interactive program in which we can explore our sexual orientation identities. How do we assign labels to unique experiences? What relationship exists between our self identity and the way others see us? Is identity fixed for everyone, or do some individuals experience change over time? What generational changes are we experiencing around labeling?

Monday, November 16th at 5 pm and Tuesday, November 17th at 4 pm in Woodland Commons.

The WAGE Project: Start Smart Workshops for Juniors and Seniors of the College of Arts & Sciences, presented by Dr. Juli Parker, Director of the Women's Resource Center. Join us for Start Smart, a hands-on workshop that shows you how to benchmark salary ranges in your field and negotiate for the job you want. Only 30 seats available—register by November 9th with Kim Sylvia, ksylvia@umassd.edu or 508.910.4584. Co-sponsored by the College of Engineering & Grant Received by Southeastern Massachusetts Women's Fund

A Film and discussion series presented by the Women's Studies program

Join WMS affiliate faculty and friends for these provocative films that explore some of the complexities of gender and sexuality in different cultures and contexts. Faculty members will introduce the films they have selected and lead discussion following.

Weds, Nov. 4, 4 p.m. *Black Girl* (1966)

The first feature-length film by Senegalese director Ousmane Sembène, the father of African film, dramatizes a young Senegalese woman's psychological struggle against the dehumanizing racism of the white Frenchwoman who employs her. The conflict between the two women highlights the complexities of the relationship between gender and exploitation in post-colonial society. Presented by Dr. Stephanie O'Hara

Thurs Nov 12, 2 p.m. *Born Into Brothels* (2005)

This documentary by Zana Briski and Ross Kauffman, looks at the children of Calcutta's red light district. Presented by Dr. Anupama Arora

Weds. Nov. 18, 4 p.m. *Mardi Gras Made in China* (2006)

David Redmond's award-winning documentary follows the path of Mardi Gras beads from the streets of New Orleans during Carnival – where women bare their breasts in exchange for beaded necklaces – to the disciplined factories in Fuzhou, China – where teenage girls live and sew beads together all day and night. Presented by Dr. Lisa Maya Knauer

Weds. Dec. 9, 4 p.m. *Me, You, Them (Eu, Tu, Eles)* (2000)

Director Andruchka Waddinton based her bittersweetly comic film on the true story of a peasant woman in the dry, impoverished northeast of Brazil, who lived with her three husbands, all under the same roof. Presented by Dr. Dario Borim. Light refreshments will be served at all screenings.

All films will be presented in the Frederick Douglass Unity House. This program was organized by Dr. Lisa Maya Knauer and is supported by funds from the Provost's Departmental Colloquium Series

"What would happen if one woman told the truth about her life?

The world would split open." — Muriel Rukeyser, poet

SIREN

a literary journal focusing on women's issues
is accepting submissions of
poetry, fiction, non-fiction, and artwork.

Submit your work to Siren@umassd.edu

Welcoming a New WMS Affilate

Prof. Glória de Sa began working at UMD in September 2007. In addition to teaching in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Crime and Justice Studies, she is also the faculty director for the Ferreira-Mendes Portuguese- American Archives, an organization dedicated to documenting the experience of the Portuguese in the U.S. She is a member of the Executive Board of the Center for Portuguese Studies and Culture, an honorary member of UMD's National Portuguese Honor Society, the Students as Scholars Program and an affiliate of the Women's Studies Program.

In many ways her various roles at UMD reflect her personal history and her attempts to make sense out of her experiences as a woman, and an immigrant. Like many residents of this area she immigrated from Portugal with her parents in the early 1970s and settled in New Bedford where she still lives. Three days after arriving in the U.S., she began working in a local garment factory. Shortly after, she married as a teenager to save her boyfriend from the Portuguese military service, and found herself juggling the multiple roles of mother, worker, and homemaker, in a foreign country. To get away from these pressures, and find intellectual stimulation and self-understanding she studied sociology at night in this university, then called SMU.

As her education progressed she left the factory to work at various local educational and human services institutions that served the needs of immigrants. After graduating from SMU in 1982, she went on to get a PhD in sociology, at Brown University, where she specialized in immigration, ethnicity and development studies. She wrote both her master's thesis and her doctoral dissertation on the integration of the Portuguese into American society.



Her current teaching and research intersect the fields of immigration, gender, ethnicity and race, especially as they relate to the adjustment process of Portuguese-speaking groups. She is an advocate and practitioner of community-based learning through research and service. Prof. de Sá teaches courses about the family and the Portuguese in America as well as the internship and introduction courses in sociology.

WMS Faculty Affiliates and Alumni

Michael Baum, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science, co-authored a paper, "The Causes of the Adoption of a Gender Quota Law in Portugal," explaining the key actors behind Portugal's 2006 passage of the parity law that requires all candidate lists for national parliamentary, European parliament, and local election contests in that country to be composed in such a way as to ensure a minimum representation of 33% from both genders.

Memory Holloway, Associate Professor of Art History was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship to study prostitutes and marriage arrangers in the 1499 Spanish text *La Celestina* by Spanish playwright Fernando Rojas. She worked with other scholars at the University of Virginia, where she delivered a paper on "Paula Rego: In the Company of Women." Rego, a Portuguese painter, has used the text as a basis for a series of paintings and drawings over the past decade. Dr. Holloway also presented a conference paper, "Salazar's Boots," on women and fascism in Portugal at the international conference "Gender and Empire and Postcolony: Intersections in Luso-Afro-Brazilian Studies," held at UMass Dartmouth in October of 2009. The conference was organized by Professor Anna Klobucka (UMD) Hilary Owen (University of Manchester) with the assistance of Gina Reis (UMD).

Catherine Villanueva Gardner, Associate Professor of Philosophy/Women's Studies was appointed the Director of the Office of Faculty Development. Since arriving at UMass Dartmouth in 2001, Professor Gardner taught courses in Philosophy and Women's Studies. She has been Director of the New Faculty Institute (NFI) for the past three academic years. The NFI offers the information and skills necessary to help new faculty succeed in their first year and provides a foundation for future professional success.

Anna Klobucka, Associate Professor of the Portuguese Department, was the keynote speaker at the 10th Anniversary Conference of a UK-based association called WiSPS (Women in Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies) on October 2-3, 2010 at Oxford University. Prof. Klobucka is a single-author book on women's poetry coming out in Portugal before the end of the year and an edited volume in early-to-mid 2010. More information will be forthcoming on her book in our Spring Newsletter.

Yoon Soo Lee, Associate Professor of Art and Design presented a peer reviewed paper, "Functional Criticism Guide to Critiques in the Graphic Design Classroom," at the University & College Designers Association (UCDA) Design Education Summit. Prof. Lee also designed a website, "Ghetto Biennale: A Salon des Refuses for the 21st Century," hosted by Leah Gordon of the U.K. & Myron Beasley of the U.S., to be held in December of 2009 in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti. Forthcoming presentations by Prof. Lee: The 4th International Conference on Design Principles and Practices, University of Illinois, Chicago, and February 13-15, 2010 her paper "Functional Criticism Guide to Critiques in the Graphic Design Classroom," accepted for presentation. 2007, Lee was featured in "Access: A Feminist Perspective, National Juried Exhibition" at the Rhonda Schaller Studio in New York City.

Elizabeth Lehr, Associate Prof. of English and WMS Affiliate Faculty earned a second master's degree in Gender/Cultural Studies and her thesis was an analysis of power and a Puritan construction of female gender imposed on Native women in John Eliot's/Indian Dialogues. Eliot was a 17th century Puritan missionary to the tribes in southern New England, title: "Kinswoman" on Stage: A Puritan Construction of Multiple Female Roles for Indian Women in Southern New England.

Dr. Jeannette Riley, Associate Professor of English and Women's Studies most recent publications include "Writing the Eco-Narrative: Form and Engagement" in *Interdisciplinary Literary Studies: A Journal of Criticism and Theory* (Summer 2009) and "Women's Studies 101: Online Feminism in Action," co-written with Dr. Kathleen Torrens in *Webbing Cyberfeminist Practice: Communities, Pedagogies, and Social Action* (Fall 2008). Dr. Riley has also been named the new director of the New England Women's Studies Association (NEWSA). UMass Dartmouth will host the NEWSA conference in Spring 2010.

Juli Parker, Director of the Women's Resource Center won a \$5,000 grant from the Southeastern Massachusetts Women's fund to fund 10 Start Smart Workshops. She also wrote, produced, and directed a play entitled "Smashing the Glass Ceiling at the Hall of Justice", for Culture Parks annual short play festival last fall.

Robin Robinson, Associate Professor of Sociology and Crime and Justice Studies, is a Visiting Research Fellow this year at the Research Institute of Law, Politics, and Justice at Keele University in the United Kingdom. The subject of my research is: "When unprotected by parents or friends": Girls, sanctions, and legacy of expectation in Britain and post colonial America and contemporary policy implications." In the first year, the work explores powerful influences of the 19th century British social and moral mandates upon treatment of perceived female deviance and delinquency in Britain and the U.S., up to the present day. Analysis of archival materials, housed at Keele, Hull, Lancaster, and London, by social critics, theorists, politicians, and literary figures will extend the work to historical and contemporary policy analysis of legacies of gendered expectations and ideals, and effects of such social rubrics upon justice for girls and women today, including implications for restorative justice, immigration, and diffusion of sanctions philosophies.

Teal Pedlow, Assistant Professor, Psychology recently received a Healey Grant for her study, "The College Women's Health Study: A Pilot Study to Evaluate the Effectiveness of a Brief Motivational Intervention to Reduce Alcohol Abuse and HIV/STI Risk in College Women." This research project will evaluate the behavioral intervention that she developed to help young women to reduce sexual risk behavior and problem drinking.

Meghan Thompson, a Women's Studies major, graduated in 2009 and has encouraging words for our undergraduates. She spent the summer looking for a job, and has succeeded! She is currently a Hall Director at Providence College in an all female, freshmen residence hall. She is currently working towards her Master's Degree in Counseling while residing on campus at PC. She is very excited about her new environment, and says it is extremely different from UMass Dartmouth. "It's very weird to walk into the classroom and not see people that I know, or faces that I recognize, but the people on campus are very friendly and great to be around." Congratulations, Meghan, on finding a job and pursuing your Master's Degree. Keep in touch—we love to hear from our WMS Graduates..

Michelle Jimenez, graduated in 2009 with a double major in Nursing and Women's Studies. In Michelle's own words... "The Women's Studies program allowed me to think beyond my normal realm of thinking. It forced me to see past my own upbringing to be able to understand how other women around the world live their lives. Because of the courses I took, I became more aware of differences among people even on our own campus. Now I am a graduate student at Suffolk University pursuing a degree in Women's Health and I could not be more prepared and open-minded for everything being taught to me. I have also been hired at Planned Parenthood and the experience there is indescribable. The most important thing I have carried with me from the program is learning to be accepting of those around me. Every one has a different story and thanks to the program I am able to listen to them all without passing judgement." Congratulations Michelle and thank you for your thoughtful words on our WMS program.

Megan Gauthier, Graduated from UMass Dartmouth with a BA in English Literature and a double minor in Women's Studies and Secondary Education in Spring 2009. However, her stint at UMass Dartmouth is far from over! This year, Megan enrolled in the Masters of Arts and Teaching here and is working as a first-time RA in Roberts Hall and a Graduate Assistant at the Student Activities, Involvement and Leadership Office. She is also the co-founder of a new student group on campus, the Scrapbooking and Crafting Club, which will be partnering with the Dartmouth Girl Scouts and the Women's Resource Center to put on some really great programs! She also plans to continue working with The Vagina Monologues and FMLA. She is excited to remain part of the UMassD and Women's Studies campus community. Congratulations and thank you for updating us on your progress.

Spring 2009 Course Highlights

Women and International Politics WMS 200-01, Tu/Th 9:30-10:45 am – Prof. Kristen Abatsis McHenry

We will be examining the role women and gender play in International Politics. Specifically we try to understand international politics through a gendered lens. Therefore, this course will critically examine the way masculinity/femininity shapes International institutions, law, and conflict. We will analyze the way women's issues are treated in international institutions, and look at feminist theories of International Relations. Lastly, we will highlight women's accomplishments, roles, and status in International politics.

WMS 302-01 Global Feminism W 4-6:30 pm – Prof. Anna Klobucka – Feminism is as old as human culture and as diverse as the variety of cultures that exist in the world today. WMS 302, Global Feminism, will examine cultural, social and political issues affecting the condition of women and women's movements for development and change around the world. Parallel and contrastive study of both Western and non-Westerns sex/gender systems will draw on texts, documents and objects from the realm of history, political theory, sociology, anthropology, literature, and art. A substantial part of the course will consist of five "country modules," in-depth case studies focusing on five distinct countries on four continents (Brazil, Iran, Mozambique, Poland and Portugal). In addition to exploring the experience of women's lives in these culturally specific contexts through assigned readings and student research, the course will rely on UMD faculty with personal and academic expertise in respective country settings, who will visit class meetings as guest speakers and serve as consultants on student projects.

Women, Gender, Domesticity & Contemporary Art WMS 300-02/ARH 390-02 MWF 11:00-11:50 am Prof. Pamela Karimi This course will introduce students to some important concepts found at the intersection of gender studies, architectural design, art, and visual culture. While reviewing the work of theorists who have taken the house or housing as a problem (e.g., bell hooks and Betty Friedan), we contemplate such questions as: In what ways do labor and class divisions as well as political tensions implicit in the design of homes and residential neighborhoods aggravate the roots of sexism? We will then examine the ways in which these ideas are perpetuated and/or questioned in contemporary visual culture and (feminist) art. In-depth analyses of selected works of art from the 1950s up to the present involve issues including vision and power, masculinity, and cyberspace. In all these cases we will study representations of domesticity against related examples of actual built environments. The readings include sociological, architectural, art-historical, and theoretical texts with particular focus on North American and Asian contexts.

Women in World History HST 389/WMS 300-7101, online – Prof. Cristina Mehrkens – Women in World History/ weaves regional histories to explore the lives of ordinary women in Eurasia, Africa, Oceania, and America; to bring them into the fabric of global history. Gender roles are socially constructed, which is to say that they are created by human history rather than generated by the biology of our sexual differences. This course's focus on gender aims at adding depth to the goal of restoring women to the world-history narrative and by filling in an essentially blank space in the historical record. By weaving regional histories, tracing, and comparing patterns and concepts, students investigate and identify prominent issues of gender and representation entangled in narratives and images. The course aims at actively engaging students in exploring what it means to be female in a certain time and place by asking: What does the particular construction of gender do in a society? What does it tell us about that society and our own society? Classes will consist primarily of lectures, discussions, in-class activities and /MyCourses/ activities. Special events, such as guest lecturers, films, and presentations may be expected. The course ****requires**** attendance, readings, participation in both in-class and online (/MyCourses/ activities (e.g. map quizzes, visual literacy aids, exams and an original three-part paper).

Congratulations Shara Sarnelli!

winner of WMS Minor Scholarship award and the Dr. Janet Freedman WMS Book Scholarship

Women's Studies Program

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Director's Report

Cathy Gardner

Greetings from the Women's Studies Program! Much has changed since last academic year. Jen Riley has retired as Program Director in order to pursue other areas of service to the university and our students. Since coming here in 2002, Jen's tireless work has created a thriving program that is producing excellent students, some of whom are already making their mark on the world. Whether you know Jen as a teacher or as a colleague, you will know what I mean when I say that her energy is infectious, her politics are solid, and her commitment to the program and its students is 100%. Jen, you will be sorely missed.

We are offering some really interesting courses this coming semester, many of them with a global emphasis, and we are putting together a series of exciting events, in particular, this year's fundraiser with Carol Moseley Braun.

I have been elected to succeed Jen to serve for a four year term as Program Director. It has been a bit of a steep learning curve and I could not have done it without the assistance of Claire Travers, our WMS support staff.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter. All that remains for me to do is to thank everyone who helped in the production process, particularly Claire Travers and Allison Terkowitz.