
For Your Information

Volume 5 Issue 4

Summer 2000

SUSAN B. ANTHONY INSTITUTE FOR GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

We are pleased to announce that beginning July 1, 2000, Lisa Cartwright will be taking over as director of the Susan B. Anthony Institute. Welcome to Amy Wicks who joined our staff following Elizabeth Ormond's retirement. Her's is a year round position. Feel free to stop in over the summer and say hello! Thank you again to Elizabeth Ormond for all of her contributions to the Institute over the years.

- September 26 Janet Heidinger Kafka award ceremony and reading by Cristina García, author of *The Agüero Sisters* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1997)
- October 28 Special Advising Hours with Curriculum Director Susan Gustafson and Institute Director Rosemary Kegl
- November 1 Introductory & planning meeting for graduate students
- November 3 Undergraduate Council: regular meetings throughout the year
- December 2 Visiting scholar/artist Mary Kelly, Chair, UCLA Art Department
Artist's talk
- December 2-3 Visiting scholar/artist Mary Kelly had a seminar with undergraduate & graduate students and held informal office hours for interested individuals
- January 17 Dissertation Support Group: regular meetings throughout the semester
- January 31 "Life After Women's Studies," an opportunity for students to hear from women's studies alumni about their

Co-sponsored Events

- September 22 B. Ruby Rich, film critic
"Lethal Lesbians," film clip
presentation
- October 8 Amalia Sa'ar, Boston University
"Neither Girls Nor Mother: Femininity
and Social Adulthood Among
Unmarried Israeli-Palestinian Women"
- October 15 Jackie Stacey, Sociology, Lancaster
University, England
"Delirium, Deviance and

1999-2000 Research Seminars

- September 16 Ewa Hauser, Political Science; Director,
Polish and Central European Studies
"Past Imperfect,' Re-construction of
National Identity: Poles and Ukrainians,
among the Others in Jerzy Hoffman's
With Fire and Sword"
- November 4 Susan Gustafson, Modern Languages &
Cultures; Curriculum Director,
Women's Studies
"Beyond Sodomy: Goethe's Translation

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Graduate Students

Mara Amster

Presented "The Lady Accused: Frances Howard, Felony, and Female Violence" at the Renaissance Society of America conference.

Bobbi Carothers

Research for a study, "Personality Traits and Family Characteristics."

Jacalyn Eddy

Research about Louise Seaman Bechtel for dissertation project concerning women's roles in the creation of a juvenile reading public in the United States.

Undergraduates

Rebecca Anne Green

Research at the "Women Challenging Violence" conference.

Awarded April 2000

Associates

Kimberley J. Healey

Research for a chapter about French women who traveled and wrote about their journeys, as part of a book project.

Rebecca Resinski

Presented "Reading and Repitition: Constituting an Adorned Female Body in Green Literature" at "Toward a Semiotics of the Body" conference.

Graduate Students

Jomarie Alano

Research trip to determine whether primary source materials are available for dissertation, "Women, Anti-Facism and Resistance in Italy."

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Diana Havens
Internship in the Monroe County District Attorney's
Office

Cassandra Mark
Independent study about women and gender in science

Jocelyn Mazurkiewicz
Internship at Center for Dispute Settlement

Tiffany Miller
Independent study about women in higher education

Grace Pazdan
Internship at Alternatives for Battered Women

Essie Sierra
Independent study about women as leaders

Monica Valdez
Independent study to produce resource guide for a
women's center, as a follow-up to a summer
internship at Houston Area Women's Center

Renée Weller
Internship at Rochester Adolescent Maternity
Program, Strong Hospital

For Your Information

Gloria Diaz

I began my career at the University of Rochester as a psychology major. Though I had enjoyed the experience, I felt limited in the kind of education I was receiving.

The problem was that I needed to find a discipline that would sustain my varied interest and curiosity.

Unfortunately with psychology, I could only study this discipline within the context of psychology.

My boredom soon began to be reflected in my grades and lack of attendance in class. It wasn't until I had returned to school after a leave of absence, that I chose to change my major to one that catered to my needs. Women's studies did just that for me. I found that the interdisciplinary set up allowed me to finally quench my need to explore my core study of women (and gender) in many different contexts. From physics to music, I finally had found a way to explore other disciplines of interest, without sacrificing my academic standing. I will always be thankful for that, and I hope other departments can use women's studies as an example of how to produce a well-rounded student.

I would like to thank the department for being very helpful when I needed anything at all. I would also like to thank my family and friends for assisting in the process of making me the woman that I am today.

Jocelyn J. Mazurkiewicz

I entered the University of Rochester with a strong feminist perspective and tradition already intact. I had

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and it is worth it. Much work has been accomplished, but there is so much left to do. I am starting law school in the fall, and I know that because of my women's studies background, I will be among those continuing the struggle. Feminism is a way of life. Once that door has been opened, it cannot be closed. I want to thank our professors, who have opened our minds and continue to encourage us. I especially want to thank my parents, who taught me from birth that I could do anything. And here I go. . . .

Renée J. Weller

My first experience with the women's studies department was during my freshman year when I took a course on American women's history. That course so intrigued me that I soon found myself climbing the stairs of Lattimore Hall in search of the Susan B. Anthony Institute for Gender and Women's Studies. From the minute I walked into that office, I knew I was in for a treat, and I was right. My four years as a women's studies major proved to me what a supportive and well-organized program the University of Rochester has to offer. Both the staff and the faculty repeatedly offered me opportunities to grow and learn through academic and extracurricular experiences, and I am a better person because I took advantage of some of them. Throughout my women's studies journey I have interviewed my grandmothers, researched the Girl Scouts of America and worked with pregnant teenagers at Strong Memorial Hospital, all of which taught me invaluable lessons I would not have learned otherwise.

Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." At this time of transition for me, I have realized that many people have believed in the beauty of my dreams over the last few years. I would first like to thank the women's studies department, particularly Mary Fox, for the instruction and guidance. I would also like to acknowledge my boyfriend and brother for their continued love and support, and most importantly I would like to thank my parents and grandparents for continually being there and for teaching me about life. I will always be grateful to you all.

Lagusta P. Yearwood

I became a women's studies major because I was angry. Ani DiFranco's rant about the necessity of anger was my heartbeat ("If you're not angry, you're just stupid or you don't care / how else can you react when you know something's so unfair / when the men of the hour can kill half the world in war / or make them slaves to a super-power and let them die poor . . ."), and I thought women's studies would be the closest I could come to activism in an academic setting. Looking back, I realize that women's studies taught-or made me teach myself-two primary lessons.

First, feminism has shown me how personal the problems I see all around me are. The personal IS political. My

work in the animal rights movement had shown me that "the problem" was outside of myself. I was a good little vegan, I spayed and neutered my cats, I followed all the rules-the hard thing was just to convince everyone else how right I was. Feminism taught me that these problems belonged to us all—you're still a part of The System even if you wear used clothes and your boyfriend cleans the house (and even if you feel you've moved beyond labels like "boyfriend" and call him "partner"), and your cat is named after a Toni Morrison book. We must constantly look deeper and try harder. We all have to realize that problems like patriarchy, racism, classism, ageism, sizism, speciesism, heterocentrism, and all the other million other "-isms" are ingrained deeply within us. Second, by combining my feminist education and my activist extracurricular activities I have developed an understanding of the ways all oppressions are connected. The philosophy of ecofeminism has made me see that my animal rights work and my environmental work are inseparable from my feminist beliefs because all problems spring from the same source. All actions and all oppressions are interconnected.

I am graduating a women's studies major with absolutely none of my freshman anger having dissipated. I am proud of this, because I still believe that anger can be a powerful force for change. I have, however, developed tools that will help me use my anger in the most productive ways. Now, degree in hand, I'm ready to go out and fight the good fight. My mother, the brilliant Pauline Dubkin-Yearwood, has been my best friend for 22 years now, and her intelligence, bottomless love, complete fearlessness, and dedication to envisioning new ways of living have always been the platform from which my own activism has sprung. I can never thank her enough for being the woman she is. As well, without knowing that my rock-star partner Jacob Feinberg-Pyne would care for, respect

Monica L. Valdez sang in a recital in April and will give another recital in Houston in May. She has received scholarships to Tulane Law School, University of Southern California Law School, Northeastern Law School, Southern Methodist University Law School, and University of Houston Law School.

Renée Weller is interning at Monroe Middle School as part of her Warner School Counseling Program. As a member of the Outside Speakers Committee, Renée helped to arrange Patricia Ireland's visit to campus and participated in a small group session about coordinating small women's movements. Renée will be completing her MA in school counseling at the Warner School and expects to graduate in May 2001.

Lagusta P. Yearwood was instrumental in bringing Carol Adams to campus. She plans to attend the Natural Gourmet Cookery School next year. Lagusta has also been accepted to NYU's Gallatin School of Individualized Study to study Ecofeminist Literary Criticism where she plans to work on her MA the following year.

Courses Offered Summer 2000

WST 170 (CRN 15876) Introduction to Contemporary Feminist Theory
Narin Hassan
Summer session B-6 June 26-August 11
MWR 6:00-8:55 PM

WST 171 (CRN 15887) Women and Music
Sara Nicholson
Summer session B-6 June 26-August 11
MTWR 9:30-11:45 AM

WST 172 (CRN 15983) "From Birth to Death: Feminism and the Life Cycle"
Summer session A-6 May 15- June 23
TWR 6:00-8:55 PM

2000-2001 Courses of Interest

WST 100 Introduction to Women's Studies
This 2 credit hour course, a general introduction to the field of Women's Studies, will meet on Tuesdays, 4:50-6:05 PM. It is offered in the fall and spring. Watch for more information about this course.

WST 225 Quilts in Women's Lives—A Social and Feminist History
This seminar, taught by Susan B. Anthony Professor of Gender & Women's Studies Janet Berlo, will look at the American art of quilt-making as a locus for women's artistic, political and social aspirations during the last 200 years. It will meet Mondays, 2:00-4:40 PM.

For Your Information

The following foundation courses will be offered in the fall semester.

WST 200 Colloquium in Women's Studies
The Colloquium, taught by Mary Fox, explores the diversity of feminist thought and practice in its importance in forming the intellectual grounding in Women's Studies, in its impact on a variety of disciplines, and in its articulation with lives and social practices. A summary of the fall 1999 colloquium can be accessed at <http://www.courses.rochester.edu/fox/>. This course, which fulfills one of the upper-level writing requirements for Women's Studies majors, will meet on Tuesdays, 2:00 - 4:40 PM.

WST 203 Women in Politics
This course, taught by Nora Bredes, will explore women's evolving roles in American politics. It will meet Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:30-1:45 PM.

WST 235 Contemporary Women Writers (Can be substituted for *WST 204 Feminism in Literature*)
This course, taught by Bette London, will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00-3:15 PM. It fulfills the requirements one of the upper-level writing requirements for Women's Studies majors.

WST 207 Feminism in Science and Technology
This course, taught by Priscilla Auchincloss, will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:40-10:55 AM

WST 215 Nationalism and Gender (Can be substituted for *WST 208 Women and Ethnicity*)
This course, taught by Kamran Ali, will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00-3:15 PM.

More information about these courses can be found at the Institute's web site, <http://www.rochester.edu/college/wst> or by calling the Institute at 275-8318.

Graduate Student Activity

The Gender & Women's Studies Graduate Certificate Advisor for 2000-2001 is Professor Anne Merideth (aemh@troi.cc.rochester.edu, 59367)

Dissertation Support Group

The dissertation support group worked at an intensive writing retreat attended by Helen Bittel, Ed Chan, Narin Hassan, Jennifer Klein, Joanna Mitchell, and Kirsi Peltomäki. (Helen Bittel stepped in for group member Amy Herzog who wasn't able to attend.) The group, which met throughout the spring semester, will continue to meet during the summer.

**Seventh Annual Susan B. Anthony Institute for
Gender & Women's Studies Interdisciplinary
Graduate Student Conference**

Conference Planning Committee: Anne Birien, Joanna Grant, Kelly Hankin, Narin Hassan, Alissa Herschbach-McElreath, Katherine Kyger, Andrea Patterson, Craig Sellers, and Lisa Soccio

Panel I: "Work in Progress: Susan B. Anthony Dissertation Fellowships," moderated by Anne Birien, English

Kelly Hankin, English

"Potent Shots: The Production of Lesbian Bar Space in Robert Aldrich's *The Killing of Sister George* (1969)"

Lina Kavar, Nursing

"Jordanian Women's Knowledge of, Attitudes Towards, and Participation in Breast Cancer Screening Programs"

Panel II: "Public Bodies: Gender, Medical Culture, and Social Change," moderated by Craig Sellers, Nursing

Lynn Wemett Niciowohiitn att0.4n3ngci(A)l4n3HWh217 -5.5(e)4.3i(A)c2h9.6(a)-1,6ee7ac-0.002hdgt4 Tc9.5(e)ie7ac-.1(to8(,altTc9.t)4.3

2000-2001 Fellowships

Teaching Fellowships will be announced in June

Dissertation Fellowships:

Mara Amster, English, "Reading and Writing the Female Body: Sexuality and Legibility in Early Modern Discourses"

Narin Hassan, English, "Foreign Bodies: Medicine, Gender and Colonialism in Nineteenth-Century British Culture"

Lynn Wemett Nichols, Nursing, "Prediction of Adherence of Women to Health Care Regimens"

News About Graduate Students

Mark Anderson has accepted a one-year position as a visiting assistant professor at Hobart and William Smith Colleges.

Lynn Arner has accepted a two-year position at Hobart and William Smith Colleges where she will be teaching medieval English literature and women's studies.

Nancy Feinstein, 1998-99 SBAI Dissertation Fellow, finished the data collection for her study on women coping with pre-term labor and is completing data analysis with the hopes of defending this summer. The

