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Women's Studies Program Newsletter, Spring 2000

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The University of Montana

Women's Studies Newsletter

LA 138 406-243-2584 wsprog@selway.umt.edu <http://www.cas.umt.edu/wsprog>
Vol. 8, No.2 Spring 2000

Notes from the Director

Missoula in winter—when days are darker than nights—time to travel metaphorically through performance, film and evening lectures. This spring the program cosponsors the debut of *The Vagina Monologues*, Francophone African filmmaker and Caribbean literary critic, Montana feminists and Native women's narratives for Women's History Month, plus a post-colonial historian from India, a Lacanian psychoanalyst and a speaker on manifestos (in honor of the millennium). Although faculty are busy with searches and students with classes, who says feminists can't have fun?

A record number of searches means farewell to colleagues who have been active in Women's Studies. Professors Mary Birch, Frank Clark (both Social Work) and Katherine Weist (Anthropology) have taught courses and provided wise counsel in the growth of the program. May they enjoy their new status as emeritus faculty.

Colleen Hunter has taken a new job at the Practical Ethics Center as of December; Dawn Walsh joins the program as the new Administrative Assistant until July 2000. Amazingly, the transition has been almost seamless. Dawn is a senior Women's Studies major, intern and scholarship recipient of the Program.

The College also bids farewell to retiring Dean Jim Flightner, who has been a staunch ally, gentle critic and friend to Women's Studies. May he continue to teach Don Quixote to Spanish aficionados in LA 138 (next door to the Program office) and remind us to strive 'to make the university better than it was the year before.

The Vagina Monologues Come to UM, Feb. 14!

The Women's Studies Program is thrilled to announce its co-sponsorship of V-Day 2000.

V-Day is an organized response against violence towards women.

Inspired by the Obie Award-winning play *The Vagina Monologues*, by Eve Ensler, the first V-Day was held in 1998 with a performance of the play by the likes of Glenn Close, Whoopi Goldberg, Susan Sarandon, Calista Flockhart, and others who sought to raise awareness of and money for a situation that has become epidemic. In 1999 65 colleges created V-Days of their own and this year upwards of 200 campuses around the nation will participate. Here at UM V-Day is a collaboration between UM Women's Studies, UM Women's Center, The Young Rep, Planned Parenthood, WORD, and Self Magazine. On *February 14, 2000* the day's events are as follows:

Vagina Invasion

UC 10am-2pm, free tables, merchandise, surprises!

The Vagina Monologues

University Theater 6:30 Soiree, 7:30 performance
Tickets available through TIC-IT-E-Z (only \$5.00!)

Vagina Celebration

Union Hall 9:30-12am, \$2 dancing, food, drink, fun!

As the day's centerpiece, *The Vagina Monologues* dives into the mystery, humor, pain, power, wisdom, outrage, and excitement buried in women's experiences. It is a performance not to be missed. V-Day is a vision, a spirit, a catalyst, a process, a day.

V-Day is a fierce, wild, unstoppable movement and community. Join us!

VALENTINE'S DAY IS V-DAY UNTIL THE VIOLENCE STOPS





News from the Women's Oral History Project

Women's Voices can be difficult to find in historical records, and women talking about personal matters can be even more elusive. Fortunately, through a joint project of the Women's Studies Program, the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library, and the Montana Committee for the Humanities, those rare voices are being saved and made available for researchers in Montana and around the world.

Between 1977 and 1981, oral historians in MT collected a group of interviews with MT women. Most of the subjects were in their seventies and eighties and are long lost to us. The women discussed their lives as children, courtship and marriage, their awareness of family planning, and family money management. Their tapes were placed in the collections of the K. Ross Toole Archives at the Mansfield Library and were available for use by students, scholars, and members of the public. However, there were no transcriptions of the tapes, which made them less usable.

Thanks to funding from the Women's Studies Program and the Montana Committee for the Humanities, these tapes are being transcribed. *A Brown Bag presentation in LA 138 at noon on March 15, 2000* will feature members of the project staff describing the fascinating stories they have heard.

The Women's Studies Program has, in addition, provided funding to transcribe a group of oral histories done by Jeff Hart in 1976-77 with Native American women on their use of medicinal plants. They are a fine addition to the rich source materials in the Archives collections.

By Jodi L. Allison- Bunnell, Archivist/Asst. Professor, UM

New on Campus: The Student Chapter of WEEL

Working for Equality and Economic Liberation (WEEL) is a grassroots economic justice organization. Since its creation in 1996, WEEL has played an important role in the welfare reform debate. WEEL is currently working with other economic justice organizations in seven western states as part of a regional conference to shape the national welfare policy. WEEL also provides advocacy to people receiving assistance.

The Student Chapter of WEEL was started last semester as a way to reach out to students who are affected by, or simply interested in welfare reform. We wish to provide the resources, support, action and education necessary to ensure that students/welfare recipients have access to all that is available to them.

This semester we would like to increase campus awareness about our organization and become more accessible to students at the College of Technology. Our major activity for the semester will be helping to organize WEEL's 2nd Annual Mama Jam. Mama Jam is a celebration of families. We will have live music and activities for children. Mama Jam gives families of all types and income levels the chance to spend a relaxing day together.

Our first meeting of the semester will be:

Tuesday, February 8 at 7:15pm

University Villages Community Center

We will provide child care and food -just let us know ahead of time if you need child care.

For more info. about the meeting, or WEEL in general, contact *Sarah Sorenson at 543-2530.*

About Outfield Alliance

The Outfield Alliance is a coalition of lesbian and gay faculty, staff, graduate students and their supporters at the University of Montana at Missoula. Our mission is to promote awareness, acceptance, and exploration of queer issues on campus. The Alliance is presently working to add same-sex domestic partners to the present health insurance coverage, and its members have taught classes in Topics in Homoeroticism and Gay and Lesbian Film and Literature in the past two years. Last year Outfield sponsored, in conjunction with Women's Studies and other departments, a lecture by lesbian historian Lillian Faderman. This spring Outfield Alliance will sponsor Agha Shahid Ali who will give a poetry reading on Friday, March 10, Time and Place TBA.

The Alliance welcomes new members. Please contact Casey Charles at charles@selway.umt.edu or call 243-2762 to get on the mailing list.



Women's Studies Program Spring 2000 Calendar of Events

BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES

Wednesdays at noon in Liberal Arts Room 138

- February 16 "African American 'New Woman'-hood: Pauline Hopkins and the Colored American Magazine"
Jill Bergman, Assistant Professor of English, UM
- March 1 "Taking Charge"
Wayne Chamberlain, Dir. Blue Mountain Clinic
Betsy Grimley, Executive Dir. Sexual Assault Response Team
- March 15 "Women's Voices: Oral History Collections at the Mansfield Library"
Jodi L. Allison-Bunnell (& panel), Archivist/Asst. Professor, UM
- March 29 "Building a Healthy Gay Community: Missoula as a Model for Other Montana Communities"
Cat Carrell, Publisher OutSpoken; Member WMGLCC
- "We the People: Homosexuals and Our Place in American Society"
Chad Ballentine, Chair & Susan Eavenson, Co-Chair, Lambda Alliance
- April 12 "Gathering: Women's Changing Role as Gathers in the Commercialization of Wild Plant Production"
Rebecca Richards, Associate Professor of Sociology, UM
- April 26 "Healing Herbs for Women of All Ages"
Elaine Sheff, Clinical Herbalist, Owner Meadowsweet Herbs
- May 3 "Marriage, Memiors, and Gender in Late 19th Century Iran"
Mehrdad Kia, Associate Professor of History, UM

THE 7TH ANNUAL MAXINE VAN de WETERING LECTURE

"Herstory in Our Hands: A History of Feminism in Montana"

Diane Sands, BA Anthropology, Activist, Organizer, Educator

7:00PM, Urey Lecture Hall

9:00pm Reception in the Davidson Honors College

March 14

Sands will explore the history of Montana's women's movement from the late 1960s to the present. She will reflect on feminism and its impact on public policy issues in Montana, including reproductive rights, violence against women and children, Title IX, the Constitutional Convention, and welfare reform. A second theme will recount feminist institution building, including women's studies, economic empowerment programs, and political organizations. Included with the lecture will be an exhibit of feminist memorabilia of the last four decades.

In 1994, the Women's Studies Program established an annual lecture series named for Maxine Van de Wetering, a recently retired colleague who was instrumental in founding the Women's Studies Program and in fostering work in feminist history and philosophy. Named the Maxine Van de Wetering "American Women Making History" Lecture, this series has included Carroll Smith-Rosenberg (1994), Gloria Steinem (1995), Alison Jaggar (1996), Carol Delany (1997), Val Plumwood (1998), and Drew Gilpin Faust (1999).



THE WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM

CO-SPONSORED EVENTS

February 14

"The Vagina Monologues" by Eve Ensler

6:30pm Rotunda Soiree, 7:30 Performance in The University Theater
Co-sponsored with The Women's Center, The Young Rep, Planned Parenthood, & WORD

February 16

"Le Jass dans la Literature Francophone"

Dr. Sylvie Kande, Assistant Professor at New York University
7:30pm, Missoula Public Library, Reception to Follow
Co-sponsored with Alliance Francaise

February 20

"The Aesthetics and Economic Stakes of Black African Film"

Apsita Berthelot, Film Maker and Producer
7:00pm, JOUR 301, Reception to Follow
Co-sponsored with Alliance Francaise and UM Productions

February 23

"Fire Eyes" Film

7:00pm, Urey Lecture Hall
Co-sponsored with UM Productions

February 28

"When Colonial Law Met Precolonial 'Prostitution': The Context of the 19th Century Legislation"

Indrani Chatterjee, PhD. History, SOAS, University of London
12:00-1:00pm, LA 204
Co-sponsored with Asian Studies

March 1

"Whose Bodies, Whose Rights?" Film & Panel Discussion

7:00pm, Urey Lecture Hall
Co-sponsored with Multicultural Alliance & UM Productions

March 28

"The Usual Suspects? Youth Violence in the U.S. and the (mis)understanding of the Littleton tragedy"

Cindy Linse, Lacanian Psychoanalyst
Time and Place TBA
Co-sponsored with the Philosophy

April 14

"How to Write a Manifesto: A View from the Periphery"

Janet Lyon, Assoc. Prof. of English/Women's Studies, University of Illinois
3:30pm, Place TBA
Co-sponsored with the English Department

April 24-28

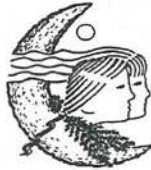
"Take Back the Night"

Details TBA, for more info. contact the Women's Center, 243-4153
Co-sponsored with The Women's Center

May 10

"New Threats, Next Steps: Your Stake in the Future of Reproductive Health"

Gloria Feldt, President of Planned Parenthood of America
3:00pm, Botany 307
Co-sponsored with InterMountain Planned Parenthood





Women's History Month

March	Women's History Month Exhibits at the Mansfield Library
March 1 noon, LA 138	"Taking Charge" Wayne Chamberlain, Dir. BMC and Betsy Grimley, Dir. SART Women's Studies Brown Bag Lunch Series
March 1 7pm, Urey Hall	"Whose Bodies, Whose Rights?" film and panel discussion co-sponsored with the Multicultural Alliance & UM Productions
March 8 noon, MSLA Courthouse	International Women's Day Rally organized by WORD
March 10 7pm, Elks Lodge	The Many Faces of Women: An Evening of Women's Entertainment sponsored by WORD
March 13 3pm, Pope Rm Law Building	"Reflections on the Process and Politics of 'An Oral History of Illegal Abortion in MT, 1883-1973'" Diane Sands, MA Anthropology; Activist, Organizer, Educator
March 13 7pm, Urey Hall	"From Danger to Dignity: The Fight for Safe Abortion in US" film, co-sponsored with UM Productions
March 14 7pm, Urey Hall	7th Annual Maxine Van de Wetering Lecture "Hertory in Our Hands: A History of Feminism in MT" Diane Sands, MA Anthropology; Activist, Organizer, Educator
March 15 noon, LA 138	"Women's Voices: Oral History Collections at the Mansfield Library" Jodi Allison-Bunnell (& panel), Archivist/Asst. Professor, UM Women's Studies Brown Bag Lunch Series
March 28 Time & Place TBA	"The Usual Suspects? Youth Violence in the U.S. and the (mis)understanding of the Littleton Tragedy" Cindy Linse, Lacanian Psychoanalyst co-sponsored with the UM Philosophy Forum
March 29 noon, LA 138	"Building a Healthy Gay Community" Cat Carrell, Publisher OutSpoken; member WMGLCC "We the People: Homosexuals & Our Place in American Society" Chad Ballentine, Susan Eavenson, Chair, Co-Chair Lambda Alliance Women's Studies Brown Bag Lunch Series
March 29 7pm Urey Hall	"Absolutely Positive" film sponsored by the Multicultural Alliance & UM Productions



Activity of a few Women's Studies Students

Julie Evans, Senior, WS Major

For the past three years, Julie has been volunteering at the YWCA's domestic violence shelter. The past year and a half, she has also facilitated the domestic violence peer support groups. Julie will graduate in August and plans to do Women's Studies graduate work at Trinity College in Dublin.

Jordan Dobrovolsky, Junior, WS Minor

Jordan feels strongly that activism and education go hand in hand. Her work as an activist allows her to work with people about the issues that mean so much to her. Jordan's work as the Outreach Coordinator in UM Women's Center provides her a creative outlet to work pro-actively to help make changes where gender inequality occurs.

Dawn Walsh, senior, WS Major

Dawn will present a research paper on Gender and Melancholia at this spring's NCUR in April. Using a feminist slant on psychoanalytic theory of melancholia and identity formation, these theories are then applied to Jeanette Winterson's novel, *Written On The Body* in such a way that offers an understanding of self as existing beyond dichotomous gender identity.

Katie Kleinhesselink, Senior, WS Major

Katie successfully completed an exciting year of Women's Studies course work at England's University of Central Lancashire in Preston. A couple of her classes were: *Women in Postwar Britain*, and *Women in Modern British Society: Images and Realities*. She also took a course on Hollywood Cinema. Katie has a keen interest in film and is inquiring into graduate work in film.

WEB SITES & LISTSERVS OF NOTE

Women's Studies Programs, Dept., & Research

<http://research.umbc.edu/~korenman/wmst/programs.html>

University LGBT and Queer Studies in the U.S. and Canada

<http://www.duke.edu/web/jyounger/lgbprogs.html>

Women's Review of Books

<http://www.wellesley.edu/WCW/CRW/WROB/welcome.html>

Women's Community on the Web

<http://www.women2women.com>

Listsrv focusing on Women's Studies teaching, research, & adm.

send "SUB WMST-L Your Name" to LISTSERV@UMDD.UMD.EDU

Listsrv of Feminist Pedagogy

send "Subscribe femped-1 First Name Last Name" to LISTSERV@UGA.CC.UGA.EDU

UM Women's Studies Web Page: <http://www.cas.umt.edu/wsprog>

If Amelia Had Wings

When she realized she could not fly,
she counted her bruises-
there were seven

night she wished for wings to grow
for wind to blow her stretched onto its waves
and then she wished for rain

water falling on her skin
for the pooling clean and slick
into canyons between her toes.
For fingers of rain to clothe her bare,
lace along her wrists the caught slips of sky.

Seven nights, the sky hologrammed to water
blended river and black,
black sky, seven nights she walked to the treeline
to meet Amelia against the moss lips of the river,
to speak in sign about what it means to fly
and never come down.

Seven nights she felt the ache of her fingers
-for seven nights
walking in these quiet leaves,
the soaking silence of sign.

For seven nights sliding mud into letters
into her thighs, reading the words
into blood into blended river red
until the ground gripped her tight,
pulled her between the caves
of river slips and drinking roots

the water smart around her and calm,
her body half-buried where land
slipped to mud to river to field to night-
seven nights pulling the waves into her lungs
and breathing there,
breathing in the watermark
of Amelia in the sky.

Megan Garr
Junior, WS Minor





Women's Studies Faculty Update

Hilturd Arens, FLL, presented "Libuse Monikova: Rewriting Society and Identity from a Czech-German Perspective" at the Second Biennial Feminim(s) and Rhetoric(s) Conference at the University of Minnesota, MN October 8, 1999.

Jill Bergman, English, is a new faculty member in the Department of English. She received her Ph.D from the University of Illinois, Urban in 1999. Her current research focuses on 19th C American women who politicize the role of mother in their writing.

Ione Crummy, FLL, presented "A Blue-blooded Bluestocking under the Critical Gaze: the Case of Daniel Stern" at the 25th Annual Colloquium in 19th C French Studies, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario October 21-23, 1999.

Juliette Crump, Drama/Dance, presented "Performing Arts and National Identity in Manipur" at Pomona College on December 3, 1999. The paper was published in the Proceedings of the 32nd International Congress on Research in Dance, a conference entitled "Choreographic Politics: Theatrical Representations of the Body." She will present a slid show on her Mongolian trip 2/10, McGill 215, 7pm.

Linda Gillison, FLL, spent this January as a Visiting Scholar at the American Academy in Rome, where she researched both her long standing project of ancient Roman parks and a topic for presentation in the March 2000 joint meeting of the Classical Association of the Pacific NW and the Classical Association of the Canadian West on "Agrippina, Laborum Periculorumque Socia."

Sara Hayden, Communications, essay, "Teenage Bodies, Teenage Selves: Tracing the Implications of Bio-Power in Contemporary Sexuality Education Texts," is forthcoming in Women's Studies in Communications.

Anya Jabour, History, has recently published an article, "Albums of Affection: Female Friendship and Coming of Age in Antebellum Virginia," in the Virginia Magazine of History and Biography. She is currently at work on a book manuscript, tentatively titled "Daughters of the South: Coming of Age in the Nineteenth Century," and spent two weeks in January at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond.

Peter Koehn, Political Science, published, with Olatunde J.B. Ojo, Making Aid Work, Innovative Approaches for Africa at the Turn of the Century with University Press of American, Inc.

Lynn Purl, Liberal Studies, is secretary of the New Crystal Board of Directors, Board member and Academic Committee chair, Five Rivers Festival of Film; Faculty Advisor, East Timor Action Network; UM chapter Advisor and script consultant, *The Mirror and the Hammer*, a film about documentary pioneers Robert Flaherty & John Grierson in conjunction with Profs. Aig and Scheerer at MSU Bozeman.

Shirley Van de Veur, adjunct faculty in Liberal Studies at Montana Tech, was awarded a curriculum mini-grant for her course, Women and Africa, in which Katherine Weist spoke on women in Tanzania. This spring Effie Koehn will travel to Butte to speak in the course, Gender and Communication, and a Montana Tech faculty will be invited to UM. This pilot exchange encourages more integration of Liberal Studies curriculum and liaisons with Women's Studies throughout the University of Montana system.

Missoula Community Volunteer Opportunities

YWCA

The YWCA Pathways program has many volunteer opportunities available to address the needs of women and children who have survived domestic and sexual violence. If being a YWCA advocate interests you, please call to sign up for the next free 45 hour training to begin February 16. For more info. call 543-6691

WMGLCC

Volunteer positions at the Western Montana Gay and Lesbian Community Center include: staffing the office, events planning, grant writing, program committee, program director, and board of directors. If interested or for more information, please call 543-2224

Big Sisters

Mentoring is a multi-cultural, age-old concept where adults befriend a young person in order to pass on wisdom. Mentoring is making a difference in children's lives. Currently we are in need of mentors for middle school children; however children of all ages are looking for a friend. Please call 721-2380

Women's Studies Web Page

<http://www.cas.umt.edu/wsprog>

Please look to our web page for information on:

- ~scholarships
- ~internships
- ~studies abroad
- ~research opportunities
- ~calls for papers
- ~conferences/seminars
- ~courses/curriculum
- ~Women's Studies faculty
- ~advising
- ~work study
- ~faculty job openings

and much, much more!



1045

*Women's Studies Program
Liberal Arts 138A
The University of Montana
Missoula, MT 59812-1045*

Missoula Resources For Women

- ~AAUW 243-6170
- ~Blue Mountain Clinic 721-1646
- ~Jeanette Rankin Peace
Resource Center 543-3995
- ~Lambda Alliance 243-5922
- ~MT Human Rights Network
406-442-5506
- ~MT NARAL 406-443-0276
- ~Planned Parenthood 728-5490
- ~Student Assault Recovery
Services 243-6559
- ~Welfare Advocates of
Missoula 728-5297
- ~WMGLCC 543-2224
- ~Women's Center 243-4153
- ~Women's Opportunity and
Resource Development
543-3550
- ~Women's Voices for the Earth
543-3747
- ~WEEL 543-2530
- ~WIC 523-4740
- ~YWCA 543-6691

International Women's Day Rally

A rally will be held at noon on March 8th at the Msla County Courthouse to commemorate International Women's Day. Speakers will be addressing the historical aspects of IWD, women's international achievements and struggles, and local and global issues concerning women's labor.

The Many Faces of Women

In celebration of IWD, WORD is sponsoring a fund raising benefit on March 10th, 7pm at the Elks Lodge. Come join in the fun and applaud women's achievements and be entertained by the MT Women's Chorus, African dancing & drumming, and more. For more info.-Call Maxine Jacobson 243-6384

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