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The University of Montana
Women's Studies Newsletter

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Vol. 9, No. 1

Fall 2000

Notes from the Director

The Women's Studies Program goes international this year! A record number of WS majors and minors are abroad, as is the acting director for spring 2001, Ione Crummy, who is in Paris this fall leading UM's study abroad program in France. Ione returns in January to take up office residence in LA 138B, to advise students and host events through May. Dawn Walsh, who was hired in July as the permanent WS administrative assistant, will be coordinating Asian Studies part-time, as well as keeping the WS office open, accessible and publicity current for students, staff, and faculty.

After three years as WS director, I have been awarded both a sabbatical and a research Fulbright for fieldwork in Indonesia during 2000-2001. Jill Belsky, Rita Sommers-Flanagan, Jill Bergman, and Tom Huff are the search committee for a new WS director. They will receive applications through November 1, 2000. In coordination with Thomas Storch, the new dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, they will interview and select the best candidate to head the program next year. May the new director enjoy the post as much as I have.

Our program is even stronger than one could have imagined at its inception almost ten years ago. 42 students have graduated UM with degrees in Women's Studies; and this year half of new College faculty hires are women, eight of whom have gender-related expertise in their fields. More importantly, Women's Studies is now part of the fabric of everyday life at UM. Our burgeoning course lists includes new courses on sexuality as well as gender analysis; we've expanded outreach to our branch campus, Montana Tech in Butte, and our programming and research now embrace international issues. Our faculty adjunct, Professor Dyan Mazurana, is teaching "Women and War," an innovative seminar addressing topics such as girl soldiers and rape as a war crime.

I hope the next challenge for the Women's Studies program will be to increase intellectual and financial support for graduate students at UM, who, like the undergraduates, seek coursework, internships and career opportunities about and on behalf of women, as well as an understanding of the crucial roles of gender and sexuality are imbricated in our lives.

G.G. Weix, Women's Studies Director

Layout: Dawn Walsh Editor: Lynn Purl



Women's Studies

Brown Bag Lunch Series

Fall 2000

Wednesdays at noon in Liberal Arts, Room 138

September 20

"Marriage, economy and reproduction: The maintenance of high fertility among Mukogodo Maasai of Northern Kenya"

Kimber Haddix, Assistant Professor of Anthropology

October 4

"Literacies, lies and silences: Writing in a high school Women's Studies class"

Heather Bruce, Assistant Professor of English

October 18

"A logic to the violence: Gender and armed conflict"

Dyan Mazurana, Visiting Professor of Women's Studies

November 1

"Knowledge, gender and community in the sustainable agricultural movement"

Neva Hassanein, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies

November 15

"Libuse Monikova and her work: Rewriting identity and society from the 'in-between' spaces"

Hiltrud Arens, Assistant Professor of Foreign Lang. & Lit.

November 29

"Japanese war violence against women in Ishikawa Tatsuo's *Soliders Alive*"

Charles Cabell, Assistant Professor of Foreign Lang. & Lit.

December 6

"Risky business: Assessing and coping with life's risks"

Carla Grayson, Assistant Professor of Psychology

The Women's Studies Program is delighted to announce that all of the Brown Bag presenters are new UM faculty with an interest in women's and gender studies.





News from the Montana Feminist History Project

Did you know that the Montana League of Women Voters was largely responsible for instigating and shepherding the 1972 Montana Constitutional Convention? Have you heard about the five Montana Women's Music Festivals that drew hundreds to "all-womyn encampments" in the mountains of Montana? Did you know that three women from Missoula Women's Liberation were arrested on Women's Equality Day, 8/28/70, for painting women's symbols on the street corners of Missoula? Did you know that Missoula's Blue Mountain Women's Clinic was burned to the ground, presumably by antiabortionist activists? These and many other exciting events are the subject of the Montana Feminist History Project.

During the past year the new project has begun a variety of activities to record, archive, preserve and interpret the history of women activists, 1970-2000. Over the summer, the project held a community meeting in Basin with women who have been activists for thirty years or more in order to seek their input and participation in the project. The project also organized a panel and discussion, "Herstory in Our Hands: Creating a Northwest Feminist Network," presented at the 5th Women's West Conference, held at Washington State University in July. This panel brought together women from academic and community organizations, who worked together beginning in the 1970s, to discuss the formal and informal networks that created the Northwest Women's Studies Association, numerous conferences, and feminist projects.

The MFHP has been granted \$10,000 by the newly forming Montana Women's Foundation to begin work collecting oral histories, creating a chronology of activities and an index to organizations and individuals, and to begin working with the University of Montana Archives on plans for creating a permanent collection.

Working with UM's Women's Studies Program, we have begun planning for a conference about the history of contemporary feminist and women activists during the second half of the 20th century. Interns and volunteers are also invited to work on the project, delving into organizational histories, conducting oral histories, working with photographs and other memorabilia, or working on a topic of special interest. (Contributed by Diane Sands)

Interested in learning more?

Contact Diane Sands, MFHP Director at 251-2001

Interested in an internship?

Contact the Women's Studies Program at 243-2584



News from the Outfield Alliance

The Outfield Alliance is a coalition of GLBT faculty, staff, graduate students and their supporters dedicated to promoting queer studies and rights at the University of Montana.

In May, after the Alliance garnered the support of ASUM, the Faculty Senate, the Executive Board of the University Teacher's Union, and over 700 signed endorsements including the vast majority of the law school and the president of the University, the Board of Regents unanimously upheld Commissioner Croft's decision not to provide health insurance for qualified same-sex domestic partners in the university system.

Within a month of that decision, General Motors, one of the largest corporations in the world, included gay and lesbian partners on their health insurance rolls, joining hundreds of companies, government entities, and universities around the country, including most comparably the Universities of Alaska, Oregon, Iowa and Minnesota. The regents gave no reason for their unanimous decision, which was made after hearing members of the Christian Coalition align gays and lesbians with murderers, and warning of a slippery slope that would open health insurance up to domestic animals like horses.

The Alliance is presently preparing to bring legal action against the Board of Regents for denial of equal protection.

On a happier note, the Alliance, in conjunction with the University of Montana, Women's Studies and the English Department, will sponsor the following the events:

Friday, October 27 8:00pm Dell Brown Rm (Turner Hall)	Agha Shahid Ali prize-winning poet from the University of Utah will read from his work
Monday, November 13 3:10pm Gallagher Business Bldg Rm 106	Martha Vicinus Eliza M. Mosher Distinguished Professor, Dept. of English University of Michigan "What is obscene? Looking at <i>The Well of Loneliness</i> Trail Seventy-seven years later"
Monday, November 13 8:00pm Montana Theatre	Martha Vicinus "Alternative victorian families and same-sex love" (President's Lecture Series)

The Outfield Alliance welcomes new members.

For more information, contact Casey Charles at charles@selway.umt.edu or 243-2762



NEW WOMEN'S STUDIES CAPSTONE COURSE FOR SPRING '01

SAME-SEX LOVE: THE HISTORY OF INDIAN & WESTERN THOUGHT

RUTH VANITA, LIBERAL STUDIES, will offer a new Women's Studies Capstone course exploring same-sex love in India and Europe. The course is listed as WS 494 and will meet Wednesdays from 3:10 - 6:00pm in LA 138. The course will compare representations of same-sex desire in a selection of Indian and European literary texts, from the fifth century BC onwards. Professor Vanita, along with Saleem Kidwai, has edited the newly released book from St. Martin's Press, *Same Sex Love in India: Readings from Literature and History*. Presently, she is editing an anthology of essays by scholars from different disciplines. Called *Queering India: Same-Sex Love and Eroticism in Indian Culture and Society*, it will appear from Routledge next year.

ALSO OF NOTE: For Spring '01, Professor Vanita will offer a new option within the Liberal Studies Humanities sequence. As an experimental course, she will teach LS 195, which will be an introduction to Western Humanities with a **GENDER EMPHASIS**, from the Renaissance to the present.

WOMEN'S STUDIES STUDENT AND GRADUATE: WORKING TO CHANGE THE WORLD!

JENNIFER EUELL, WOMEN'S STUDIES GRADUATE 2000, is the new Student Assault Recovery Services Coordinator. **SARS** provides free and confidential support, advocacy, and therapeutic services to victims of rape, sexual assault, child sexual abuse, relationship violence, sexual harassment, and stalking. SARS offers a 24-hour crisis-line (**243-6559**) and a walk-in Resource Center (Curry Health Center, M-F 10:00-5:00pm)

JORDAN DOBROVOLNY, WOMEN'S STUDIES MINOR, is the new Program Coordinator of UM's college radio, KGBA. Jordan has already initiated a new program with a focus on women, provocatively called **FEMALE FORM**. Female Form airs on Tuesdays from 5:00 - 6:30pm. Jordan will focus on feminist and human rights issues. Ideas or questions? Call Jordan at **243-6427**.



Women's Studies Co-Sponsored Events

Women in French Cinema

Friday, October 27, 7:00pm Journalism Rm 304

Today women film directors have gained well-deserved recognition in the realm of French cinema. **Herve Dalmais**, who considers himself a "cultural consultant," will introduce the audience to the talented female filmmakers and actresses of the 1990s who have marked the era with their sensibility. Mr. Dalmais is an author, educator and recipient of the Le Vesinet Theatre Contest award for his play *Partie remise* which was selected by the Francophonie Theatre Festival of Cholet.

(Co-Sponsored with Alliance Francaise)

Native American Two Spirit People, Bea Medicine

Thursday, December 7, 7pm Brantly Hall, President's Rm

Bea Medicine, retired professor of Anthropology from Cal State University, Northridge, has been a visiting professor here at UM, as well as Stanford, Humboldt, Dartmouth and many other campuses. Bea Medicine has done research on gender, filmmaking, and substance abuse. She has edited the book, *Native American Two Spirit People*, and was the first to write an article about gay American Indians.

(Co-Sponsored with Multicultural Alliance)

Volunteer Opportunities

Big Sisters

Matches children from single parent homes with adult volunteer companions.

721-2380

GUTS

Girls Understanding Their Strengths, a leadership program for teenage girls that emphasizes the use of wilderness education.

543-3747

WMGLCC

Western Montana Gay & Lesbian Community Center facilitates communication within the gay & lesbian community & the community at large.

543-2224

WVE

Women's Voices for the Earth focuses on toxins in the environment & potential health effects.

543-3747

WEEL

Working for Equality & Economic Liberation is a welfare rights group that lobbies for more humane social service policies.

543-2530

YWCA

Runs programs for women & children who are homeless and for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault

543-6691



An Update from the University of Montana Women's Center

The Women's Center is a volunteer feminist organization dedicated to providing education, information, and awareness of issues relating to women.

September in Montana is generally when the ground begins to nap and frosty grips of cold earth pull the land into winter. This year, however, the land is being prepared for winter with fire. Though the fires have been devastating, new seeds have been planted, and with precipitation, the spring will bring new life.

The Women's Center is mirroring these changes as the Fall brings in three brand new staff members and new volunteers. Not only have staff members changed, but some of the names and faces of the volunteers, too. We are excited to have every volunteer involved in this experience! Without you, the organization could never exist.

New internships are being proposed as you read this. There are rumors of Women's Center activism engaging more than ever in the presidential election this year. There is a human rights internship this fall to raise funds for goods and programs to help women and children in Honduras. Also, one motivated volunteer has been busy organizing a plan to overthrow the diet industry by pouring out over ten million servings of meal bars and lunch shakes. Actually, that is not true but it is a true dream of mine.

Other opportunities at the Women's Center include getting involved in: Young Women's Day of Action and Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October and preparation for the *Vagina Monologues* (by Eve Ensler) in February,. This is only the beginning of the wonderful programs that will be produced through the Women's Center this year.

Everyone is welcome to join the staff and volunteers for our weekly meetings on **Thursday nights at 7pm. Hope to see you in UC 210!** (Contributed by Andrea Shipley)

Women's Center Staff

Andrea Shipley, Outreach Coordinator
Courtney Langley, Volunteer Coordinator
Melissa Knight, Office Coordinator

The Women's Center is located in the University Center Rm 210
Office Hours M-F 10:00-3:00pm
Weekly meeting Thursdays at 7:00pm 243-4153



University of Montana Names First Woman Provost!

An administrator at Ohio's Kent State University has become the first woman to oversee academic affairs at The University of Montana. Lois Muir, former associate provost and professor of educational psychology at Kent State, started her new job as UM's provost and vice-president for academic affairs July 1. As UM's No. 2 administrator, she is the highest ranking woman in UM history. Muir said she looks forward to living in Montana, where her mother grew up. "I was raised with her stories of childhood in Montana. As an adult, she taught school in a one-room schoolhouse that still is in use in Eastern Montana," Muir said. "She longed to return to Montana but was never able to do so. In a sense, I am returning in her place to the home she loved." Muir had been associate provost at Kent State since 1996. Before that she served as dean of graduate studies, dean of arts, humanities and social sciences; and psychology professor at Kennesaw State University in Georgia. As a researcher, Muir specializes in developmental psychology with an emphasis on parent-infant relationships and the psychology of women. (Contributed by UM News Forum)

**Looking for scholarships, research or job opportunities,
internships, study abroad programs, Women's Studies
course listings & programming?**

Visit our web site at **www.cas.umt.edu/wsprog**

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