Women's Studies Program Newsletter, Spring 2001

University of Montana–Missoula. Department of Women's Studies

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Notes from the Director

On October 29th at a WS program retreat at Lubrecht, participating faculty decided to suspend efforts for an internal search for a new director, and instead formed an ad-hoc committee to ask the administration for a national search for a full-time director in 2001 or 2002. Professor Anya Jabour, committee chair, announces their progress (see below).

In early November, the College retracted program funding for an (adjunct replacement) teaching release for an Acting Director this spring. Professor Iione Crummy, upon her return from Paris in December, wisely chose to stay with the French unit rather than direct the Women’s Studies program as an overload. I thank her for her willingness to serve, and apologize for the circumstances that arose. Since her service would have been for one semester only, it further highlights the need for a permanent director of Women’s Studies whose administrative service is not contingent on adjunct teaching arrangements.

Also in the first week of November my sabbatical research plans took an unexpected turn. Due to political violence and threats against the U.S. ambassador, the U.S. State Department issued a travel advisory for Americans going to Jakarta and parts of Java that is still in effect as I write. Accordingly, I canceled my plans to do fieldwork, and arranged to stay in Missoula for the year. It is unlikely I will be able to take advantage of the Fulbright award. Instead, I have begun new U.S.-based projects, including a grant proposal submitted to AAUW Education Foundation to fund 3 research assistantships for UM graduate students. The research on oral histories with Native American women leaders in tribal communities in Montana would assist the Montana Feminist History Project, directed by Diane Sands. Linda Juneau and I will present this research proposal as a paper, “Engendering Diversity: Feminist and Native American Subjects and Methodologies in Dialogue,” at the NAS sponsored conference “Speaking Truth to Each Other: the Role of Native American Studies in K-16 Education” here on campus March 30, 31 and April 1, 2001.

Also this spring the program is cosponsoring a variety of campus and community events on feminism through the arts, film and speakers. This summer, Olympiad rower, Monica Tranel Michini will teach an exciting new WS course, “Issues and Perspectives of Women and Sports” cross-listed with Health and Human Performance. Finally, congratulations to those WS faculty granted sabbatical for next year (Liz Ametsbichler, Sara Hayden, Kay Unger, and Jennifer Waltz). May they encounter no travel advisory in the coming year.

G.G. Weix, Women’s Studies Director

Long Term Planning Committee Report
At the Women’s Studies Retreat last fall, the Long-Term Planning Committee was formed. The immediate impetus for the creation of this committee was to lobby for a new line for a full-time director of women’s studies. In pursuit of this goal, the LTPC has worked to create documents outlining the history, mission, and future of Women’s Studies at UM. Representatives of the LTPC have met several times with CAS Dean Storch and with UM Provost Lois Muir to advocate for the program and for the creation of a full-time directorship. In addition, several faculty members have written to these administrators in support of the program and the directorship. While both Dean Storch and Provost Muir agree that Women’s Studies is an important and productive program that deserves more administrative support, due to continuing (and worsening) budget problems, neither has yet come forward with funding for a new position as a full-time director.

Assoc. Professor Anya Jabour, LTPC Chair
Women's Studies
Brown Bag Lunch Series
Spring 2001
Wednesdays at noon in Liberal Arts, Room 138

February 14
"Sexual Revictimization of Child Sexual Abuse Survivors on College Campuses"
Jennifer Waltz, Associate Professor of Psychology

February 28
"(Un)Doing Gender: Contemporary Images"
Mona Bachmann, PhD Candidate in English & Women's Studies, University of Michigan

March 14
"The Women's Movement is Alive & Well: Good News from the Grass Roots"
Susanna Felder, PhD English Lit, University of Pittsburgh

March 28
"Children, Waterborne Disease, and the Social Construction of Vulnerability in Northern Pakistan"
Sarah Halvorson, Assistant Professor of Geography

April 11
"Tunisia Today: Voices & Views from a UM Faculty Perspective"
Maureen Curnow & Wil Rolfe, Professors of Foreign Language & Literature

April 25
"Skipping School in Montana: Post-Secondary Education & Welfare Reform"
Maxine Jacobson, Assistant Professor of Social Work
Judy Smith, Co-founder of WORD

May 2
"I Can Scarcely Believe I Live: Sarah Winnemucca and the Performance of Native Presence"
David Moore, Assistant Professor of English
The V-Day 2001 College Initiative Comes to the University of Montana!

On the heels of the highly successfully and internationally-acclaimed V-Day 1998 and the V-Day 1999 and 2000 College Initiatives, Eve Ensler's ground-breaking, Obie Award winning play, The Vagina Monologues, will be performed by Yeahgirl Productions at the Wilma Theater on Wednesday, February 14, 2001 at 8:00pm. The performance and day's events are sponsored by the UM Women's Center, Yeahgirl Productions, and the UM Women's Studies Program.

V-Day is a campaign to end sexual violence against women and to proclaim Valentine's Day as the day to celebrate women and demand the end of abuse. The first V-Day was held in 1998 with a performance of the play by some of our country's biggest stars - Glenn Close, Whoopi Goldberg, Susan Sarandon, Winona Ryder, Lily Tomlin, and Calista Flockhart - who sought to raise awareness of and money for the situation that has become epidemic:

* Somewhere in America, a woman is raped every two minutes. (National Crime Victimization Survey, Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, 1996)
* In Montana in 1997, one rape or attempted rape was committed every 38 hours, 15 minutes. (Montana Board of Crime Control, 1997 Annual Report)
* In Montana, rapes in 1997 accounted for 15% of all violent crimes reported. (Montana Board of Crime Control, 1997 Annual Report)

V-Day 1998 took place only in New York, but in 1999 the V-Day College Initiative marked the full arrival of the issue of violence against women into mainstream America by bringing it to 65 of the country's campuses. V-Day 2000 saw close to 300 campuses participating, both national and international. This year the number has grown to well over 300.

Hailed by The New York Times as "funny" and "poignant" and by the Daily News as "intelligent" and "courageous," 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!**

**V-DAY IS ACTIVISM, ART, AND VOICE!**

**V-DAY IS A BELIEF!**

**V-DAY IS A FIERCE, WILD, UNSTOPPABLE MOVEMENT!**

**V-DAY IS HERE UNTIL THE VIOLENCE STOPS!**

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**FEBRUARY 14, 2001**

Vagina Invasion at the University Center: 10am-2pm Music, Merchandise, Education, Fun
Pre-Show Party at The Wilma Theater: 7-8pm Music, Art, Hors d'oeuvres, Cash Bar
Performance at The Wilma Theater: 8pm The Vagina Monologues

Tickets are $5.00 students, $8.00 general public.
Purchase tickets through TIC-IT-E-Z outlets or by phoning 888-MONTANA
For More Information Contact the Women's Center at 243-4153
**Women's History Month**  
**March 2001**

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<th>All of March</th>
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<td>Mansfield Library</td>
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| March 1  
7pm  
Art Museum of Msla | Helen McAuslan Exhibit Opens  
Gallery talk on a Montana Modernist with  
Rafael Chacon, Assoc. Professor of Art & Gennie DeWeese, Artist |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|

| March 2  
7pm  
The Dana Gallery | “Works”  
(...and I will show thee my faith by my works. James 2:18)  
A celebration of Montana women who showed their faith through their works, plus a  
panel discussion on the history of BMC with Sally Mullen, Judy Smith & Willa Graig  
A Blue Mountain Clinic Art Auction |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|

| March 5  
12pm  
Science Complex  
Rm 131 | “Leona’s Sister, Gerri:  
The Ethics of Feminist Media on Abortion”  
G.G. Weix, Assoc. Professor of Anthropology & Deni Elliot, Director, PEC  
Practical Ethics Center’s Seminar Series |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|

| March 6  
7pm  
UC Theater | “Abortion: Stories from North and South”  
Film and Discussion  
Sponsored with UC Programming & Multicultural Alliance |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|

| March 8  
7pm UC Theater  
(& March 10, 1pm) | “Emporte-moi” (Set Me Free)  
Film and Discussion  
Sponsored with French Film Series Presented by Le Cercle Francais & Facsea |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|

| March 8  
12pm  
Missoula Courthouse | International Women’s Day Rally  
Speakers, Music, Celebration & Inspiration  
Sponsored by WORD (Women’s Opportunity & Resource Development) |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|

| March 8  
3pm  
Mansfield Center | “The Problem of Male Degeneracy  
& the Allure of the Philippines”  
Kristin Hoganson, Assistant Professor of History, University of Illinois  
Maxine Van de Wetering Seminar co-sponsored with the Mansfield Center |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|

| March 8  
7pm  
UC 330 | 8th Annual Maxine Van de Wetering Lecture  
“Cosmopolitan Domesticity:  
International Interiors in a Globalizing Age (1865-1920)”  
Kristin Hoganson, Assistant Professor of History, University of Illinois |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|

| March 10  
7:30pm  
Orchard Homes | “The Many Faces of Women”  
A Night of Women’s Art & Entertainment  
In Celebration of WORD’s 15th Anniversary & International Women’s Day |
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**THE 8th ANNUAL MAXINE VAN de WETERING LECTURE**

"Cosmopolitan Domesticity: International Interiors in a Globalizing Age (1865-1920)"

Kristin Hoganson, Asst. Professor of History
University of Illinois

March 8, 7:00PM Free
University Center Room 330
Reception to follow in the Grand Foyer

Hoganson's lecture will cover the appeal of imported household goods and styles perceived to be foreign among bourgeois U.S. women from the end of Civil War through World War I. She will argue that middle-class American women actively promoted globalizing trends in this period, through their consumption habits and preferences. This lecture will include a slide show presentation.

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**THE 2nd ANNUAL W.O.R.D FUND-RAISER**

"The Many Faces of Women"

March 10
Doors Open 6:45pm, Show @ 7:30pm
Orchard Homes, $15.00

In Celebration of WORD's 15th Anniversary & International Women's Day, WORD will hold its 2nd Annual Fund-Raiser. It will be a joyous evening celebration of women with international music, dance, performance arts, worldly foods, and a lively auction of art masks.

Since 1986, WORD has been an integral part of Missoula's non-profit network, working with thousands of low-income women and families to advance the principles of empowerment & social justice. Through affordable housing development, social service programs for teen parents & low-income families, career training for women in construction and trades, and our nationally recognized housing counseling program, WORD works to address the root causes of poverty in our community.
In October, Jill Bergman, attended a conference at the University of Arizona, "The Future of Women's Studies: Foundations, Interrogations, Politics." The conference was a celebration of, among other things, the 25th anniversary of Women's Studies. In spite of the remarkable success experienced in its 25 years, as indicated by the increase and growth of Women's Studies departments and graduate degree programs, Women's Studies now finds itself in a "post-feminist" society and an increasingly conservative political environment. The conference sought to take stock of women's studies and to discuss hopes and concerns for the future. The schedule was full, alternating plenaries featuring well-known speakers like Bonnie Zimmerman and Chandra Talpade Mohanty with smaller workshops on a variety of topics.

The central debate of the conference centered around efforts to define Women's Studies and raises some issues we may find it valuable to discuss as our Women's Studies program at UM finds itself at a crucial point in its development. In an age of poststructuralism, is it possible or profitable to continue identity based academic fields like women's studies? Several speakers identified a danger in losing sight of the material conditions of women's lives. Zimmerman objected to the shift from women's studies to gender studies as a step toward losing the political focus on women's experience. Both Mohanty and Zimmerman were troubled by the tendency of poststructuralism to undermine the reality of women's lives, a concern echoed in the conference's focus on feminist theory's tendency to overwhelm feminist practice. Making the conflict between theory and practice a central issue, conference organizers tried to balance academic theorists with local feminist activists. Robyn Wiegman (Director of Women's Studies at Duke) countered by arguing that the theory/practice split is not a failure, as a prevalent narrative would have it. This narrative, she said, describes Women's Studies as a radical movement from the street that moved into the academy where it lost its edge and now looks for ways to get it back. Wiegman defended academic feminism against the charge that it is somehow responsible for the well-being of feminism as a whole. The knowledge project that takes place in the academy is not the same as the political movement; academic feminists, she said, need to get over their guilt for elitism or dilettantism.

One of the workshops I attended - "Can Women's Studies Survive Academic Capitalism" - was particularly timely for me in October, a week after the teach-out and in the midst of UM faculty and administration discussions of our budget crisis. Sheila Slaughter, co-author of [ital]Academic Capitalism, did not offer answers but rather tried to understand university budget crunches in the larger context of corporatization, deregulation, and privatization that marginalizes public institutions. Her book might make for worthwhile reading for us in our current, and undoubtedly ongoing, fiscal situation.

Jill Bergman, Women's Studies Faculty, Department of English

The Louise Greene/Elizabeth Smith Scholarship in Women's Studies

Two $500.00 scholarships are available to Women's Studies students. Applications may be picked up in the Women's Studies office, LA 138. Deadline is March 30, 2001.

Women's Studies Faculty Prize for Outstanding Research or Creative Activities in the Study of Women or Gender

One $100.00 award is available. Applications may be picked up in the Women's Studies office, LA 138A. Deadline is March 30, 2001.
The Montana Women's Sports Committee, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization currently based in Missoula, Montana, was started in 1999 by Montana native and U.S. Olympic Rower Monica Tranel Michini in an effort to increase the visibility of women's sports in Montana, as well as the number and quality of sports programs available to girls and women. The Committee is comprised of community members, athletes, and representatives of university and high school athletics who share a vision of improving opportunities for female athletes of all ages in all regions of the state.

The Committee's big spring event celebrating "National Girls and Women in Sports Day" will feature workshops for female high school athletes, visits by elite female athletes to middle school P.E. classes, and a special evening appearance by:

Stacy Dragila, the first ever female Olympic Gold Medalist in Pole Vault, 2000 Olympics.
Ms. Dragila hails from Idaho and grew up active in rodeo.
She will speak at the University Theater on Wednesday, March 28 at 7pm.

The Committee works in coordination with the Women's Sports Foundation, established by Billie Jean King in 1974. "National Girls and Women in Sports Day" was created to encourage communities to recognize the achievements of local female athletes, and to increase participation and education for women athletics.

For more information contact Anne-Blanche Adams at 543-2385, mtwomensports@yahoo.com

New Women's Studies Course Offered Summer 2001!

ISSUES AND PERSPECTIVES OF WOMEN IN SPORTS
LS 395/HHP 395  MWF 8:10-10:00AM  MAY 29 - JUNE 29

This course will consider the role of female athletes in modern American society. Part I will consider women's participation in sports and the impact of that participation on their socioeconomic status. Part II will consider the media's perception of female athletes, and the media's effect on women's individual and collective self-images. Part III will consider health implications of women's participation in sport and will explore the idea of the female body as myth and reality.

The goals of this course will be to challenge students to analyze the relationships between women's participation in sport and women's status in society, women's individual and collective images of themselves, and women's health and fitness.

The course will be taught by Montana native and U.S. Olympic Rower Monica Tranel Michini and will be offered through the Continuing Education Program. For more information about the course contact: monica_montana@yahoo.com. For information about how to register for the course contact: 243-6014 or nesbitt@selway.umt.edu
Women’s Studies Faculty
Writes In From Northampton

I, Rita Sommers-Flannagan, am currently teaching at the University College of Northampton as a visiting international faculty. UCN has two campuses and approximately 10,000 full-time students, studying everything from Leather Technology to Parapsychology. Students come from all over the world, with a large contingent from Pakistan. However, most are local undergrads who will finish their three-year degree at age 20 or 21 and then wonder what to do with their lives. I am co-teaching an undergraduate module on clinical psychology with one of the UCN faculty. She gives guest lectures on applied ethics and anticipates further similar opportunities. My husband, John and daughter, Rylee have come with me and are quite involved in British academic and social life. John was asked to give a talk to the psychology faculty, and Rylee is playing on a co-ed 8th grade basketball team in gyms the size of the Women’s Studies classroom. Lots of rough and tumble. She had developed some feminist anger at the ways girl’s athletics do (and do not!) take place here.

Local feminist faculty ask me about various aspects of faculty life in the U.S. They were astonished to hear that we have no mandatory, paid maternity leave. Here, they have even some maternity leave, and the maternity leave can extend, partly funded, up to one year.

I noticed posters for gay and lesbian rights, and mention of a lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgendered campus support group. There seems to be far less racial/cultural discrimination, but it may be because we are newcomers. Our two bedroom bungalow is sufficient, but challengingly small. We are biking everywhere, which makes us quite aware of how much food we eat everyday! All in all, it’s an excellent adventure so far.

Professor Rita Sommers-Flannagan, Women’s Studies Faculty, Educational Leadership & Counseling

NEW WOMEN’S STUDIES CAPSTONE COURSE OFFERED FALL 2001!
GENDER AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Taught by new Women’s Studies Faculty, Sarah Halvorson, Geography, this course, "Gender and International Development," will examine the impact of economic development strategies on gender relations with particular emphasis on “Third World” or “non-Western” societies. We will analyze some of the key concepts involved in gender, development, and social change with a focus on the consequences of global social and economic transitions as these differ for men and women of various classes, “races,” ethnicities, and address the systematic nature of global processes and how they affect men's and women's experiences and actions at various geographical scales ranging from the household to the international level. Particular attention will be paid to the role of global trade regimes, international aid, population politics, environmental hazards and disasters, and approaches to empowerment and political mobilization.

Professor Halvorson's interest include water resources, gender geography, international development, the politics of child survival, and South Asia. Following her undergraduate studies at S. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, she was a Peace Corps volunteer in Chad, Central Africa from 1990-92. While there she worked in the sectors of rural water supplies, community development and child health. After this experience, she embarked upon graduate studies in the Department of Geography at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Her focus shifted geographically from Africa to South Asia, and more specifically to Pakistan where she spent 1 ½ years conducting research with the support of the Social Science Research Council and the Fulbright Foundation. She completed her degree in May 2000.

Day and time of course TBA, please check with the Women's Studies Office, 243-2584.
Girls in Militaries, Paramilitaries, Militias, & Armed Opposition Groups

In fall of 2000, I, Dyan Mazurana, had the pleasure of teaching a Women’s Studies seminar on “Women and War” at the University of Montana and working with a dynamic student body and the Women’s Studies faculty on this campus. This spring semester, I will work with Research Assistants Colin Holtz (Senior, English/Literature and Creative Writing) and Khris Carlson (Senior, History) on a five-year research project funded by the Canadian International Development Agency, Ottawa, and the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development, Montreal, on the topic of girls in militaries, paramilitaries, militias, and armed opposition groups. My research partner is Dr. Susan McKay, Professor of Nursing, International Studies, and Women’s Studies at the University of Wyoming.

As a means of a brief introduction to this topic, impacts of armed conflict on children and adolescents, and their multiple roles as fighters, spies, lookouts, medics, porters, cooks, agricultural labor, and sexual slaves have been the subject of recent landmark reports. In part because of such reports, there is growing support for addressing the issues of children and adolescents in armed forces, paramilitaries, militias, and armed opposition groups. Yet the question “Where are the girls?” is seldom raised in discussions about children or adolescents in armed forces and armed opposition groups. Just as the use of child soldiers has, until recently, been a largely invisible and unacknowledged international phenomenon, scant attention has been given to issues of girls in armed forces and armed opposition groups, such as their distinct experiences or gender-specific human rights violations.

Preliminary research I conducted during 2000 suggested that during the last ten years (1990-2000), girls were active in armed forces and armed opposition groups in at in at least 40 countries in every region of the world. It appears that girls may be recruited differently than are boys, have distinct experiences, occupy multiple roles that are often overlapping, and have health and medical problems related to their sexuality and gender identity. Though girls are clearly participating in armed forces and armed opposition groups, their invisibility in policy, programs, and many reports undermines a comprehensive understanding of the recruitment, participation, and experiences of children and adolescents in armed forces, paramilitaries, and armed opposition groups. In turn, the work of the UN, governmental organizations, Peace Support Operations, peacekeeping missions, NGOs, advocacy networks, and various programs are undermined, especially with regard to girls. Systematic collection and analysis of data on girls are needed to better identify the scope of girls’ participation and experiences in armed forces and armed opposition groups, their experiences of disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) and community-based rehabilitation and reintegration (RR) programs, and the health and medical problems they face.

Our study seeks to provide such data and analyses. In the first part of the study, we will compile a comprehensive database about the use of girls during 1990-2000, and employ quantitative and qualitative methods to assess the presence, recruitment practices, and roles of girls in these forces and groups, among other issues. This database will provide the first comprehensive, comparative, longitudinal data to evaluate the pressing issues facing these girls including information regarding recruitment, joining, and abduction and gang-pressing practices. This information will inform programs that seek to counter recruitment strategies, as well as disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) programs and community-based rehabilitation and reintegration (RR) programs, and health programs that are addressing the economic, cultural, and psycho-social needs of such girls. Access to reliable, comprehensive data on girls will facilitate better strategies by advocacy networks and policy formulation working on issues relating to child soldiers and war-affected children, and enhance links among international, regional, and national initiatives.

The second part of the study entails fieldwork in three countries in Africa (Uganda, Liberia, and Sierra Leone) to collect data on DDR and RR programs, and the health and medical issues of girls in armed forces and armed opposition groups. In particular, we will conduct studies of the socio-political context and psycho-social and health impact of the armed conflict on girls. During the fieldwork we will work in close coordination with our contacts on the ground to conduct a series of participatory, qualitative interviews with local health care providers and personnel operating DDR and community-based RR programs, the girls themselves, and mothers of these girls and other family members, when possible and appropriate. We will pay particular attention to issues of girls’ reproductive health, mother and child health, and community-based practices used for the rehabilitation and reintegration of girls, including adaptation of traditional ceremonies. Finally, we will use various quantitative and qualitative methods for country-specific and comparative analyses of findings from Uganda, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. The results of this study will be published in three languages and distributed by the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development, Montreal, Canada.

Dyan Mazurana, PhD, Women’s Studies Faculty Affiliate
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