

UMD DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN'S STUDIES

NORTH SHORE VISIONS

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FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD

BY BETH BARTLETT

"Women in the Middle: Borders, Barriers, Intersections" – this was the theme of the National Women's Studies Association 25th Annual Conference in Milwaukee that I and many others from the Twin Ports attended this summer. I was impressed by how many of us were there from the Twin Ports – writers, activists, students and academics from St. Scholastica, Lake Superior College, UWS, and UMD. We are fortunate to be part of a community that is so actively engaged in generating feminism. As the theme of the conference suggested, I look forward in the upcoming year to overcoming some of the barriers of time and location that act to separate us, so that we may join together in the common interests that brought us together in a different city.

The opening keynote panel of the Conference focused on the generations of feminism, and bridging the Second Wave/Third Wave gap. As I reflect on that theme with regard to our own department at UMD, I am quite struck by the ab-

sence of such a gap. We are continually in the process of creating deep and strong connections among generations of feminists here. I think of our many generations (an academic generation seems about 2 years to me) of WS graduates – of how they have gone on to become strong activists and advocates for women, as well as teachers of future generations, and mothers of future generations, and know that our work takes seed and blossoms in so many ways. I am also glad to report that our most recent graduates have all found good uses for their many talents in feminist work, further study, and parenting.

The closing plenary focused on "Women and Globalism: Coalitions and Conflict Across Difference," and I think of how every day I feel blessed to be working in a department that is so enriched by our diverse racial, sexual, ethnic, and international backgrounds. This theme also brings to mind feminist thinker and activist, Gloria Anzaldua, who did so much work on crossing borders and barri-

ers. All of feminism lost a great voice this summer, and in tribute to her and her many contributions, I end with some of her words:

La mestiza has discovered that she can't hold concepts or ideas in rigid boundaries. The borders and walls that are supposed to keep the undesirable ideas out are entrenched habits and patterns of behavior; these habits and patterns are the enemy within. Rigidity means death. Only by remaining flexible is she able to stretch the psyche horizontally and vertically...La mestiza creates a new consciousness....The answer to the problem between the white race and the colored, between males and females, lies in healing the split that originates in the very foundation of our lives, our culture, our languages, our thoughts. A massive uprooting of dualistic thinking in the individual and collective consciousness is the beginning of a long struggle, but one that could, in our best hopes, bring us to the end of rape, of violence, of war.

"La conciencia de la mestiza: Towards a New Consciousness" from *Making Face, Making Soul: Haciendo Caras*

May it be so.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO ...



Helen Velishek

Helen Velishek who received a Raymond W. Darland All-American Scholarship for the 2004-2005 academic year. The scholarship program was

established by Regent Emeritus Richard L. Griggs in honor of Provost Emeritus Raymond W. Darland. Scholarship criteria are academic achievement and leadership contributions to UMD.

Helen is a Women's Studies major with a Spanish minor. This UMD senior has interests in love (and the propagation of), humans, wisdom, the Universe and all it entails, communication, walking, music and reading. Besides

the Darland All-American Scholarship, Helen also received the Harry Oden Scholarship.

Heather Hamilton, psychology and women's studies major, coaching minor graduated last year, current graduate student at UMD received a NCAA postgraduate scholarship in July. The 22-year-old is a track All-American and also an Academic All-American who carried a

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UPCOMING EVENTS

ON-CAMPUS

Oct. 16. *Fall Drag Show* by the Queer Students Union, Kirby Ballroom, 7 p.m.

Oct. 26. *Multicultural Student Union Open House*, 2nd Floor Kirby, 2-5 p.m.

Oct. 28. *Women's Resource & Action Center OPEN HOUSE*. Everyone Welcome for Free Food and Live Music! 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. KSC 266

Wednesday Brown Bags at Noon: Bring a lunch and get informed!!

Oct. 20. "*Sexual Assault & Date Rape*" Information and Prevention presented by Beth Olson from PAVSA (Program to Aid Victims of Sexual Assault), Kirby 355

Oct. 27. "*The Margin of Victory*" A film designed to encourage voting by women & promote discussion on the economy, health care, terror-

ism, education and the environment through a female lens, Kirby 311.

Nov. 3. *Post Election Discussion: "Celebration or Disappointment"* round table discussion providing a safe area for voters to share their position about the results of the election. All viewpoints welcome and encouraged. Kirby 355.

Nov. 17. "*Women and Poverty*" panel discussion on the impact of the economy on women and children. Kirby 355.

Dec. 1. "*Breaking the Mirror*:" Ten women presenting monologues, sharing their anger and frustrations about unrealistic beauty standards and being at war with their bodies. Kirby Lounge.

For more upcoming events, please check our website: www.d.umn.edu/ws

OFF-CAMPUS

The YWCA presents *Dying to Vote: A Film and Discussion Series* in Trepanier Hall, 202 W. Superior St.

Oct. 20. *Not For Ourselves Alone, Part 1* by Ken Burns.

Oct. 27. *Not For Ourselves Alone, Part 2* by Ken Burns.

Films start at 5:15 p.m., Discussion at 7 p.m. Bring your dinner and friends. Free and open to the public.

Oct. 22. Candidate Forum, County Commissioners and State Representatives, YWCA, 202 W. Superior St. at 6:30 p.m.

IF YOU GIVE TO THE UMD FUND AND DESIGNATE WOMEN'S STUDIES TO RECEIVE YOUR GIFT, WE DO RECEIVE IT AND ARE VERY GRATEFUL. YOUR DONATIONS HELP US FUND GREAT FEMINIST SPEAKERS, PROGRAMMING, ETC.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ...

Continued from Page 2

4.0 grade-point average while completing a double-major and a minor. As a junior, Heather reached the NCAA Division II Outdoor Championships. Last May, she made a return trip, qualifying for the finals and finishing eighth, which was enough to earn All-American honors.

In the classroom, she made the Dean's List every semester and received Academic All-American honors from the

College Sports Information Directors of America the past two years.

Between track, school, a few shifts at the Austin-Jarrow running store and hanging out with husband Josh Dark, Heather has found time to spare. She gives much of it to the Program for Aid to Victims of Sexual Assault, which serves St. Louis County. She began volunteering two years ago after going through the PAVSA training as part of an

internship. Several weeks during the year, Heather is on call for PAVSA's crisis line, keeping a cell phone with her in case someone needs help.

She'll pursue a master's degree in social work and do field work with PAVSA, when she'll get more involved in the group's daily activities. Her women's studies courses and time with PAVSA led to her interest in social work. Heather also wants to coach.



Heather Hamilton

CALL FOR PROPOSALS/UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Oct. 28-29, 2004. 6th Annual Conference on Illinois History, Prairie Capital Center, Springfield, IL. Registration deadline: Oct. 18. For more info, contact Donna Lawrence at donna_lawrence@ihpa.state.il.us or call 217-785-7933.

June 9-12, 2005. NWSA 26th Annual Conference, Orlando, FL. Proposal sub-

mission deadline: Nov. 8, 2004. Registration forms available in the WS department office.

June 19-21, 2005. IWPR 8th International Women's Policy Research Conference, When Women Gain, So Does the World, Washington, D.C. For more info, email conference@iwpr.org.

For more conferences, go to the NWSA website: www.nwsa.org



"You believe now in the necessity and beauty of struggle: that feminism for you means working for the equality and humanity of women and men, for children, for the love that is possible." - Nellie Wong

EMPLOYMENT

Tenure-Track Faculty (2 positions) for the Department of Gender Studies at Indiana University-Bloomington. Please submit a letter of interest, detailing research agendas as well as teaching experience and philosophy, along with a CV and names, addresses, emails, and phone numbers of three references by Nov. 1, 2004, to

Chairperson, Search Committee, Indiana University, Dept of Gender Studies, Memorial Hall East, Room 130, 1021 E 3rd St, Bloomington, IN 47405.

Entry-level tenure-eligible Assistant Professor of Women's Studies at Northern Arizona University. To apply, please send a letter

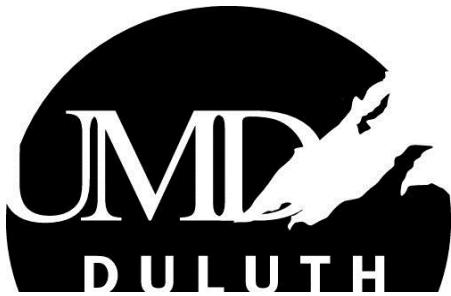
of interest, CV, transcripts, three original letters of reference, evidence of quality of teaching and teaching effectiveness, writing sample, and evidence of scholarship and publications to Chair, Women's Studies Search Committee, Box 5695, North Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ 86011. Review of applications begins Oct. 15, 2004.



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AS WE GO TO PRESS ...

BY BETH BARTLETT

We have just finished the last round of three presidential debates, and in each case, the moderator, the person charged with choosing the questions, was a privileged white male. What I found most appalling and disturbing about this were the questions that were NOT asked – questions about the increasing poverty rates of women and children, women who are disproportionately single mothers, women of color, and elderly women living alone, and the slashing of support for programs that serve this population, such as housing subsidies, WIC, child care and early education, and possibly Social Se-

curity benefits; questions about the state of the environment and the increasing toxic stew in which we live, with its resultant alarming increases in breast cancer rates and exposures of ourselves and our children to neurotoxins and reproductive toxins, some of the greatest concentrations of which are in mothers' milk; questions about our abandonment of global partnerships that advance the rights and health of women and the environment -- the Kyoto Treaty on global warming, the United Nations Population Fund that works for family planning, safe births, HIV/AIDS prevention and a

reduction of violence against women, and the International Criminal Court, which for the first time will try rape as a war crime. This is just the beginning of a list of hard questions that were not asked, that need to be asked. In these last few weeks before the election, we need to do whatever we can – writing letters to the editor, talking with our neighbors, contacting the campaigns -- to make these issues visible. We must not be silenced. Thousands dedicated their lives to gaining the right to vote for women, thousands more to the achievement of the Voting Rights Act (celebrating its 40th annivers-

ary this year), but this campaign process has allowed our concerns to be marginalized. We need to demonstrate – through our voices and through our votes – that candidates must be held accountable to the needs and concerns of ALL of the citizens of this country, not just a privileged few.



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