

NORTH SHORE VISIONS

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MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Keynote Speaker for Women's History Month:

Environmentalist Sandra Steingraber

This past fall marked the 50th anniversary of the publication of Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, and we are delighted that on March 4th we will be hosting the Rachel Carson of our generation, Sandra Steingraber, to be our keynote speaker for Women's History Month. Dr. Steingraber, Ph.D., Biology, University of Michigan, Scholar in Residence at Ithaca College, Ithaca, New York, is internationally renowned for her pioneering work in the connections between chemicals in the environment and human health. Her widely acclaimed first book, *Living Downstream: An Ecologist's Personal Investigation of Cancer and the Environment*, published in 1997, makes a compelling case for the risks posed to human health by the hundreds and thousands of chemicals released into our environment without testing every year. Written through the lens of her own pregnancy, her second book, *Having Faith*, documents the effects of chemicals in the environment on the developing fetus and breast milk. Her most recent book, *Raising Elijah*, looks at chemical exposure in the ordinary day-to-day choices in raising a child.

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“Called “a poet with a knife” by *Sojourner* magazine, Steingraber has received many honors for her work as a science writer. She was named a *Ms. Magazine* Woman of the Year and later received the Jenifer Altman Foundation's first annual Altman Award for “the inspiring and poetic use of science to elucidate the causes of cancer.” The Sierra Club has heralded Steingraber as “the new Rachel Carson,” and Carson's own alma mater, Chatham College, selected Steingraber to receive its biennial Rachel Carson Leadership Award. In 2006, Steingraber received a Hero Award from the Breast Cancer Fund and, in 2009, the Environmental Health Champion Award from Physicians for Social Responsibility, Los Angeles.” (<http://steingraber.com/bio/>).

We are thrilled that Dr. Steingraber will be with us in March. She will be presenting a free public lecture, “Living Downstream: The Impact of Chemical Exposure on Human Health” at 7 PM on March 4th in Chemistry 200 Lecture Hall. We hope you will be able to join us.

Related Events: We will be having two screenings of Dr. Steingraber's film, *Living Downstream*, on Monday, February 25th 7PM in Bohannon Hall 90 and again on Thursday, March 28th at noon in KSC 273.

-Beth Bartlett

FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD

Welcome to the Department of Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies! Our department officially changed its name in order better to represent our current course content as well as our vision of our future directions. We have had a full and fruitful fall, and look forward to a stimulating spring with our students and upcoming Women’s History Month events.

This fall we completed a new Vision Statement for the department. Look for it soon on our website, www.d.umn.edu/ws. We had very meaningful and successful learning and engagement with local and international community partners in our courses. (For more on that, see the stories in this newsletter.) One of our faculty, Njoki Kamau, was awarded significant grants that will enable her to travel to Kenya this summer to begin creating partnerships between our program and Kenyan universities and feminist community activists. Another of our faculty, George Hoagland, successfully created a new course on “Reading Race, Class and Gender,” which she is teaching this spring.

We have an exciting line-up of events for Women’s History Month coming up in March, beginning with our keynote on March 4th by nationally-known ecologist and writer, Sandra Steingraber. We hope you will be able to join us for some or all of these events.

-Beth Bartlett

Women’s Studies is now:
The
Women, Gender & Sexuality
Studies Department!

THE DISH ON THE CARBO-LOAD DINNER FOR DAIP

On Wednesday evening, January 30th, 2013 students from Transnational Perspectives on Feminism (WS3000) came together to throw a fundraising dinner for Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs (DAIP) at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church. The dinner was advertised as a “carbo-load” to help end domestic violence and support DAIP’s work in the community. The fundraising dinner was the culmination of the students’ involvement with DAIP throughout our Fall Semester course.



It was still beach weather when I first considered some type of project-based service learning for WS3000. Having taught the class before, I knew that students found it challenging to learn about the problems and activism of women in the Global South without having direct involvement in efforts for social change. I also knew that I

wanted to try project-based service learning in an upper-division class but I wondered how to create meaningful learning opportunities with agencies that were based far around the globe. I started reading through transcripts that local agencies had done with Paula Tracey when she worked for our department on a civic engagement grant, and realized that DAIP was a local agency with a global reach that had lots of ways to get involved. DAIP is known around the globe for its work around the issue of domestic violence using the power-control wheel to educate others about the dynamics of abuse and helping to re-socialize men who batter.

During our first weekly meeting of Transnational Perspectives on Feminism I asked students if they might be interested in project-based service learning, explaining that we would all work with the same agency. The answer was a nearly unanimous “yes” and the next step was to contact DAIP and see if they’d be willing to work with us on short notice. I contacted Gracia Swensen at DAIP and let her know that I had 14 students who wanted to work with them on whatever tasks they needed help with. After meeting with DAIP’s director Linda Riddle, Gracia let me know that





they had designed three distinct projects for us to work on.

During our second class meeting, students signed up to work on either fundraising and marketing, social media development, or furthering international connections. We discussed that everyone in the class could contribute to some type of final fundraising event but that it would be up to the fundraising group to do the planning. The fundraising group decided to be ambitious and plan a dinner, and everyone decided that the dinner should take place early in the Spring Semester. Students held four bake sales, sought donations, located a venue and developed the menu and marketing plan. Meanwhile, the social media group helped DAIP to enhance their facebook and website pages and the international group contacted representatives of agencies in other countries to help strengthen the relationships they had with DAIP and their work related to ending domestic violence.

Gracia sent articles for us to read about the history, philosophy and workings of DAIP. We set aside class time each week to discuss the readings, and to talk about what students were doing and what needed to be done. Students were sometimes frustrated and expressed feeling that they didn't have enough direction but we (Gracia, Linda and I) reminded them that the lack of direction that they felt could also be viewed as an opportunity to take initiative and accomplish a variety of tasks related to their projects. At the end of Fall Semester students in each group had accomplished a lot but we still had the dinner to execute and I think all of us were wondering if it was really going to come together.

The fundraising group members had a lot of work to do in the first few weeks after our winter break. Donations had to be secured, word had to get out about the dinner, food had to be purchased and prepped, and the venue had to be set up. Students who didn't know what DAIP stood for at the beginning of the semester were now invested in seeing their service learning end in a successful fundraiser. Students had started to share the power-control wheel with others and had become passionate about its importance as a means to help people see the dynamics of abusive relationships. And so it was that on Wednesday evening, community members lined up for homemade pizza, spaghetti, garlic bread, salad and dessert. Students from the class came together one final time to cook and serve the food and interact with the community. St. Paul's Episcopal Church was a wonderful venue and the staff and church members were very supportive. There was a great turnout and students ended up collecting over \$1300 for DAIP which will go to fund the Family Visitation Center. There was also a great community conversation about domestic violence and the work done by DAIP.

It was DAIP's willingness to work with us that made the success of the fundraiser possible, and it was students' interest in doing something more than a standard research project that first led to the project-based learning. We all learned a lot about working in groups, and the importance of communication and collaboration, as well as how to trust in the process even when the outcomes aren't entirely clear. I learned that students really appreciate the opportunity to be engaged in meaningful ways and that they can accomplish great things when they work together for a good cause, such as ending domestic violence. Thanks to all of the students in WS3000 who worked so hard to plan and execute a very successful carbohydrate-rich fundraiser for DAIP.

-Deborah Plechner



THREE EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING TO WOMEN, GENDER & SEXUALITY STUDIES!

Jane Maddy Scholarship

Thanks to the immense generosity of Daniel and Sarah Maddy, as well as the earlier Maddy family donation, we are thrilled to announce that we have achieved our initial goal of \$10,000, enabling us to establish an endowed scholarship fund in Jane Maddy's honor. Jane was one of the founding members of Women's Studies and taught Psychology courses that were part of the Women's Studies curriculum. Jane also served on the Women's Studies Advisory Board during all of her years at UMD, and after she retired, served as the Chair of that group for many years. She was very dedicated to Women's Studies and feminist scholarship and causes, and we are very much looking forward to being able to offer scholarships to our students in her honor. This endowed fund will enable us to offer two \$500 scholarships annually to Women's Studies majors who have demonstrated their commitment to the mission of Women's Studies through their scholarship and activism. As we continue to grow this fund, we will be able to offer scholarships to even more of our students.

To inform you of some of what these scholarships will mean to our students in the future, what follows are stories from some of our students who would have appreciated this scholarship during their time here:

Alexa McIndo: *I graduated this fall and wish I could have had the opportunity to get a Women's Studies scholarship. My first women's studies class was Women- Identified Culture and that class not only helped me make my decision in minoring in Women's Studies, but it also helped me come out of the closet. The entire department is very accepting, helpful, and understanding. I don't know what I would do or who I would have been if I didn't have the support from them. I have grown to appreciate the Women's Studies Department because it made me an overall better person. They encourage students to look at all the types of systems in the world and to question them, to see what really matters, how it all works, and if it doesn't what changes we can make. The students in Women's Studies are very inspiring and I am honored to know them. It is very reassuring to know that you're not alone and that you have all these wonderful people in Women's Studies who are on your side and are working with you. If I had the scholarship I would have majored in women's studies. By the time I found out about Women's Studies I could only minor in it because I could not afford to go to school 'x' many more years than what I already put in.*

Kate Mensing: *A Women's Studies scholarship would open up an entire dimension of opportunity for me, as a Women's Studies student, to be more involved in the wider Duluth community. At present time I am working almost full-time, studying with a full class schedule, and acting as a co-chair of the UMD Chapter of the Minnesota Public Interest Research Group. While I love what I am currently doing, I am left with nearly no time to apply my Women's Studies skills where I see need in the community. If I had a scholarship to help pay for school, I could spend less time working and more time volunteering or interning. In the future I plan on using my major to help feed women and children in need to find nourishing food, particularly in food deserts. The Women's Studies major is a key major to fund because it guides students to be compassionate, motivated human beings and often sees graduates becoming backbones of community programs. I am an out-of-state and transfer student, which has put me at a disadvantage for other scholarship opportunities, so having one in my major would be a tremendous help. Thank you!*

Nicole Hackbarth: *If I had the opportunity to receive a Women's Studies scholarship, I would have used this to aid with my funding for school tuition and fees. This is a large burden upon many students and is ever increasing; especially as students are asked to do more and more while seeking their undergraduate degree in order to "stay competitive" (such as holding unpaid internships, studying abroad, volunteer commitments. Though I do see the value in these activities in student as well as personal development, they are an added challenge to a situation of limited time and financial resources. Having a Women's Studies scholarship available to students would assist in their not having to hold one or two, even three jobs while in school and actively involved. I am planning on using my Women's Studies major matched with my Accounting major to assist non-profit organizations with their financial capacities. It is through my Women's Studies field that I became aware that this could be a possibility, and is a large need. I do believe that this is of utmost importance for future students. I believe that this will not only lessen the burden of student debt, but will also create a sense of solidarity within the department as those students feel that they are supported and valued members of the Women's Studies community at UMD.*

Women's Studies Gift Fund

Your contributions to the non-specified Women's Studies Gift Fund are always welcome! This year, the Gift Fund is helping to fund one of our students, Abbie Scheiderer, to attend the 9th Annual National Young Feminist Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. at the end of March. The conference, put on by the Feminist Majority Foundation, will provide informational workshops and trainings on such topics as women's reproductive health rights, economic literacy, and advocacy. Abbie will also have an opportunity to spend a day on Capitol Hill visiting with our Congressional leaders and advocating for women's rights pertinent to Minnesota. Thank you to all who have helped to fund this wonderful opportunity!

Women's History Month Speaker Fund

We are very excited that ecologist and writer Sandra Steingraber will be our keynote speaker for Women's History Month this year. We would love to bring in speakers of such caliber every year, however, to do so is expensive. Thus, we are beginning a new initiative to establish a Women's History Month Speaker fund that will enable us to bring in such world-class speakers annually far into the future. We will let you know more about this fund as it progresses, and your contributions to it are very welcome!

We welcome and appreciate your contributions of any amount to any of these endeavors. Checks for the Jane Maddy scholarship may be made out to UMD, with "Jane Maddy Scholarship Fund" written on the memo line. Checks for either of the other two funds may be made out to the UMD Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Department, with Gift Fund or Speaker Fund written on the memo line. All may be sent to: Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Department, Humanities 494, 1201 Ordean Court, University of Minnesota Duluth, Duluth, MN 55812. Many thanks!

-Beth Bartlett

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT!



Networking with Community Partners

The WGSS Department hosts luncheons with community partners twice a year. These are opportunities to network, share ideas and upcoming events, and develop collaborative partnerships and support in doing our common work of gender equity and the empowerment of women and girls. At this fall's luncheon we were joined by representatives of American Association of University Women (AAUW), The Building for Women, Center Against Sexual and Domestic Abuse (CASDA), Community Action Duluth, The Domestic Abuse Intervention Project (DAIP) The League of Women Voters, North Shore Horizons, The Program for Aid to Victims of Sexual Assault (PAVSA), Safe Haven Shelter, The Women's Health Center, and The Women's Resource and Action Center of UMD.

-Beth Bartlett

WGSS STUDENT GOES TO WASHINGTON



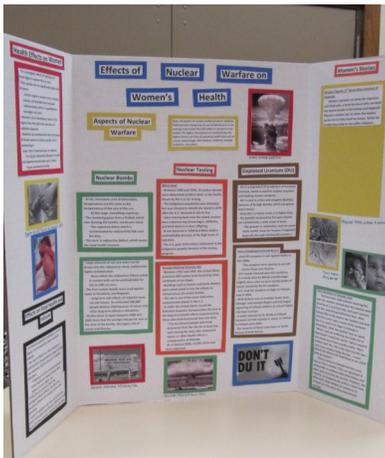
The Young Feminist Leadership Conference is being held in Washington, D.C. this year on March 23-25th. I have a great opportunity to attend this conference thanks to the UMD College of Liberal Arts, and The Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department. The conference will consist of several workshops that cover issues like abortion access, reproductive health and rights, youth voting rights and mobilization, global women's rights, sexual assault, LGBTQ+ rights, and MUCH MORE. The conference is being put on by the Feminist Majority Foundation (FMF). FMF works to build campus programs to inform young feminists across the country about the threats to women's rights, abortion access, and GLBTQ rights that are continuously being posed by right-wing extremists in our government. Activism is a huge part of the Feminist Majority Foundation's' mission, and I am so happy to be a part of this conference. I would like to send a huge thank you to the WGSS Department as well as Dean Maher and CLA for supporting me in this journey.

- Abigail Scheiderer

“WOMEN, PEACE, AND WAR” STUDENTS HOST FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT *WOMEN FOR WOMEN INTERNATIONAL*

Students taking WS 3250: Women, Peace and War this fall were very moved by all they were learning about the devastating consequences of armed conflict on women’s lives. Throughout the semester they often said, “other people should know about this.” In addition, they wanted to do something to reach out to women whose lives had been directly affected by armed conflict. So, to their credit, the students decided to hold an educational fundraiser for Women for Women International, an international organization dedicated to aiding women survivors of war go from victims to active citizens. They provide education and training for women survivors of armed conflict in eight countries where armed conflict has devastated lives and communities: Afghanistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, DRC, Iraq, Kosovo, Nigeria, Rwanda, and South Sudan.

Students created informational posters to educate others on many of the ways in which women’s lives are impacted by war and militarism, as well as about women’s efforts towards peacemaking. Topics included land mines; rape and its effects, including vaginal fistulas and children born of rape; health consequences of nuclear radiation from bomb testing and depleted uranium bullets; militarizing women’s bodies as “pin-ups;” and many more. Students raised nearly \$300 for Women for Women International, and educated dozens of students, faculty, staff, and community members who attended the event.



-Beth Bartlett

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Monday, February 25th 7PM in Bohannon 90

Film Screening of "Living Downstream" a Cinematic documentary based on the acclaimed book by ecologist and cancer survivor Sandra Steingraber, Ph.D.

At once Sandra's personal journey and her scientific exploration, Living Downstream is a powerful reminder of the intimate connection between the health of our bodies and the health of our air, land, and water.

Wednesday, February 27th, 12pm in KSC 268

Brown Bag - "Body Appreciation Mediation and Art" With Jean Baribeau-Thoennes From Health Services

Sponsored by Women's Resource and Action Center & the Women's Studies Department

Thursday February 28th 12pm in KSC 273

Film: "Living Downstream"

Sponsored by Women's Resource and Action Center & the Women's Studies Department

MARCH- Women's History Month

Women Inspiring Innovation Through Imagination:

Celebrating Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

Monday, March 4th, 7:00 p.m. in Chemistry200 lecture hall

Women's History Month Keynote address by Sandra Steingraber

Ecologist, author, and cancer survivor, Dr Steingraber, is an internationally recognized authority on the environment links to cancer and human health.

"Living Downstream: The Impact of Chemical Exposure on Human Health"

Sponsored by Women's Studies Department, College of Liberal Arts, Commission on Women, Women's Resource and Action Center, Swanson College of Science and Engineering, Office of Cultural Diversity, GIS,

Wednesday, March 6th, 12-2 p.m. in H494

WGSS Open House

Tuesday, March 12th, 7:30 p.m. in the Ballroom

Sex Signals

A 90-minute program that covers various topics such as dating, rape, consent, alcohol, intervention, and body language in the form of improv comedy and audience interaction

Sponsored by Kirby Program Board and Office of Cultural Diversity

Wednesday, March 13th, 12pm in KSC 268

Brown Bag - The Emily Program

Sponsored by Women's Resource and Action Center & the Women's Studies Department

Monday, March 18th-22nd

UMD Spring Break

Wednesday, March 27th, 12pm in KSC 268

Brown Bag - TBD

Sponsored by Women's Resource and Action Center & the Women's Studies Department

Thursday, March 28th at 4PM in the Library Rotunda

Panel Discussion: Celebrating Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

UMD Women faculty will discuss their research, experience, and how they inspire those around them.

Women's History Month Sponsors:

College of Liberal Arts, Swanson College of Science & Engineering, Geospatial Analyses Center, University of Minnesota Medical School at Duluth, University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy at Duluth, The Office of Sustainability, The Office of Cultural Diversity, The Commission on Women, Women's Resource & Action Center, and the Department of Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies

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