

# NORTH SHORE VISIONS

VOLUME 29, ISSUE 1 NOVEMBER 2014

## WORDS FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD



By Gesa Zinn

Beth Bartlett has been on a well-deserved sabbatical, leaving behind an empty chair. I stepped forward, grabbing one leg, then the other and am still groping for the seat and hoping to — one day—be able to sit on it with at least half as much passion, dedication and knowledge as Beth. Beth, you are missed, especially in these trying times of prioritization! But you should also know that WGSS faculty and staff have provided a comfy cushion, allowing for a soft landing, along with some nice and sturdy armrests for wonderful support. -I thank all of you, Wgssies, for having received me with open arms. You have made me feel most welcome!

Having mentioned ‘prioritization,’ to which Beth Bartlett has referred to in the May newsletter of this year already, let me address the ‘bad’ and the ‘good’ it brings for our department.

The ‘bad’: we will be losing our status as department within the next two to three years. The decision appears to have been made over the summer despite collaborative efforts and advice by our department, our board, and our colleagues in Women and Gender programs nationwide to speak about WGSS’ many, many strengths. Just take a look at the last two newsletters that show our faculty’s connections and explorations world wide, our involvement across campus and within the community, and that showcase some of our stellar students, who, enlightened, confident and open-minded, have evolved into independent young women and men who have taken on leadership roles in many areas.

Yet despite these news, we will continue what we are doing, and highlighting more than ever our support of the many valuable goals the university has set for itself, in particular those that include ‘diversity’ and ‘social justice.’ In fact--and this is the ‘good’ --we have been given the opportunity to lead the formation of an interdisciplinary studies department which may contribute to these goals on an even larger scale. The building of a new department in which WGSS with its major and minor degrees is solidly grounded, will provide creative new possibilities for interactions with other programs in this department for faculty and students alike. And it continues the push for the interdisciplinarity women studies (formerly) and women, gender and sexuality studies (recently) has always been about. We are looking forward to this new adventure and count on your support.

Expect to hear more about our creative new possibilities in the next newsletter or, if you like, stop by in our new office location, Cina 112, to find out the latest.

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The Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies office has moved.  
We are now located in Cina 112 with the American Indian Studies Department.  
Mailing address : Cina 112 1123 University Drive Duluth MN 55812  
Stop by and visit!

## MEET THE WGSS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE



By Lee Hansen

Hi everybody! My name is Lee Hansen and I'm the current UMD WGSS student rep. I'm a Criminology/WGSS double major. I'm hoping to go to law school after I complete my undergraduate degree and practice law in advocacy. On campus I'm active in both the WGSS department and in the Queer and Allied Student Center in the Multi-Cultural Center. I have two bearded dragons, Puff and Mushu, and three roommates. The dragons aren't quite sure about the roommates. I enjoy reading, writing and over the top crime shows. Like most college students, I am a Netflix champion.

I'm still figuring out this student rep thing but basically I'm here for you guys. Got questions? Email me!

*Continued on the bottom of page 3...*

## GIRL POWER

By Kate Mensing

Imagine an environment where girls learn to trust other girls, then learn to trust themselves; an environment where girls get their hands messy, and love every bit of it; where girls learn how to be leaders, and then actually put leadership into practice in their communities.

This fantastical place exists, inside of elementary and middle schools around Duluth and as an eight week summer camp with YWCA Girl Power! program. We are currently at six schools and serve girls between 3rd and 8th grades, focusing on STEM, leadership, and loving girlhood. At Girl Power! lunch time or after school program, girls get to play, explore, and learn in an all-female space. We focus both on matters traditionally understood in the female sphere, such as self-esteem, friendship, and body image, but also diving into science, math, assertiveness, and other themes not commonly encouraged for adolescent girls by mainstream culture.

Involvement from women in the community is a crucial part of Girl Power! Wo-Mentors (female volunteers who join us once a week) build relationships with the girls over the course of the semester. Women of the Week are female leaders in the community who come in one time to speak with girls and do a short activity with them. We strive to show girls as many different examples of leadership as possible; they love meeting inspiring women, and often these interactions develop into mentoring relationships.

Girl Power! has a thriving relationship with the UMD Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies department, as many current employees of the YWCA are alumni with WGSS degrees, and the programs greatly align in values. At the end of the day, we are all focused on demonstrating to girls that they can grow to be strong, empowered women, with skills and talents beyond measure to use for the betterment of our community and the world.

If you have any questions or are interested in joining this venture, contact Girl Power! Program Coordinator Alice Jacobson at [Alice@ywcaduluth.org](mailto:Alice@ywcaduluth.org) or (218)722-7425 x102.



Pictured above from left to right

Photo 1: Girl Power at UMD—During this field trip we learned about going to college from the women of the Multicultural Center.

Photo 2: Girls met with Dr. Dirt, a UMD professor and soil scientist. We got up close and personal with some worm friends.

Photo 3: In this activity girls mixed paints together to find their skin tone and added onto our girl in celebration of our differences.

## HUMANS IN HUMANITIES

By Aprill Emig

*This article originally appeared in the UMD Statesman*

Whenever someone asks what my major is, I brace myself for their response to my answer. On the one hand, I could not be more happy with my major. If I had to choose it all over again, I would always make the same choice. On the other hand, it can be really exhausting to have the following conversation three times a week:

Them: "What are you majoring in?"

Me: "Women's Studies and Philosophy."

Them: "Oh... So, what are you going to do with that?"

Me: "Well, I'm interested in working in the nonprofit field, but first I want to go to graduate school..."

Them: (Blank stare.)



It is times like that where I wish I could just say I'm majoring in accounting. Everyone knows accounting majors become accountants - there's no reason to elaborate on an answer to the "major question."

When I used to dream of going to college, I never imagined I'd be learning a trade. I envisioned stacks of ancient books up to my eye-balls while I read under a shady tree. I pictured challenging material and endless sources of knowledge. I never thought of learning basic skills that would directly translate to a job; I just wanted to learn.

But there was a time last year when I suffered from a minor existential crisis. The naysayers were getting to me. I couldn't help but feel that I needed 'practical' major, so I chose economics in a panic. The first lesson I learned was that just because I can do something (like math) doesn't mean that I should. The second lesson I learned was not to pick a major during a crisis.

The entire concept of choosing a 'practical' major makes little sense to me. I understand that when people say practical they really mean something that will lead to better job prospects and, ultimately, more money. But those of us pursuing humanities degrees are not ignorant; we realize that we are choosing majors that rarely have a direct path to a career. If we wanted a major like that, we would have chose one. Instead, we wanted to pick majors that suited both our skill sets and our passions. Our society would be a very one-dimensional place if colleges only produced business and STEM graduates.

Of course, I could have stuck with the economics degree. The material was fairly interesting and not very difficult, but I just couldn't bring myself to care about it. And there was always money to take into consideration. According to UMD's Graduate Follow-up Report from 2012, economics graduates earned a median salary of \$41,600. Women's Studies graduates earned a median of \$20,800 (the lowest of all humanities degrees). I read these statistics over and over again, but I still could not make them matter enough. I come from a lower-class family, so the idea of making over \$40,000 a year is certainly enticing, but I also know that I don't need money to be happy. What I do need is passion. I need to feel purpose in the work I'm doing (and believe me, I've had eight different jobs during my college career; I'm well aware of the 'real world'). What I don't need is a mind-numbing desk job, regretting the fact that I didn't study what I wanted to in college. I'm proud of myself for not letting the naysayers get me down, and I'm even more happy that I can answer the "major question" with no hesitations.

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*...continued from page 2*

Have a great idea? Please email me! I might not have the answer but I can probably find someone who does. We're starting up a Facebook page (UMD WGGGS Students) and a Twitter handle (@UMDWGGS) and we have an email account ([WGGStudentrep@gmail.com](mailto:WGGStudentrep@gmail.com)). Like I said- I might not have the answers but I know the people who do- and I have their emails.

Let me know your ideas, your questions- let's start a dialog!

## WGSS MATERIALS AVAILABLE IN THE UMD LIBRARY

Books related to Women, Gender & Sexuality recently added to the UMD Library

### **Streaming Access:**

*Out in Suburbia the Stories of Eleven Lesbians*

### **DVD's**

*Earth Water Woman Community and Sustainability in Trinidad & Tobago*  
DVD(GE199.T74 E27 2013 )

*The Price of Sand*

DVD (TD195.S3 P75 2013 )

### **Books:**

*Representations of Femininity in American Genre Cinema : the woman's film, film noir, and modern horror*  
(PN1995.9.W6 G745 2013 )

*The Secret History of Wonder Woman*

(PN6728.W6 L48 2014 )

*Feminism & popular Culture : investigating the postfeminist mystique*  
(HQ1190 .M86 2014)

*Gender and Sexual Identity Transcending Feminist and Queer Theory*  
(ebook)

### **DVD's Coming Soon**

*Disruption*

*Yesterday*

## WHAT IS FEMINISM?



The UMD Women's Resource and Action Center sponsored its first brownbag of fall semester on "WHAT IS FEMINISM?", facilitated by Tineke Ritmeester from the WGSS department and students from her current Feminist Thought class. There were about 30 people in attendance, including a fair number of men, many of whom were in search of extra credit. Discussion was lively, especially after viewing Emma Watson's plea for feminism in front of the UN assembly and for which she received cruel attacks on her person on the internet. More questions were raised that highlighted the complexity of the feminist cause. It was decided that there will be a follow up session in the spring that will focus on "The Feminist Revolution: What Remains to Be Done?" Also in 45 minutes or less, which only makes it more challenging and exciting.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## OCTOBER

*All month*

### **Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

Sponsored by WRAC  
Multicultural Center

*All Month*

### **Queer History Month**

#### **Monday, October 20 to October 25: Clothesline Project Display**

Display from Clothesline Project made by UMD students, faculty, and staff.

Sponsored by UMD's Women's Resource and Action Center.

*UMD Kirby Bus Hub - all day exhibit*

#### **Monday, October 27th 5:30-7:00pm Art Enrichment Workshop**

Come and join Susan Meyers in Art enrichment Group for students, staff, faculty and community members who are victims/survivors of intimate partner violence, family violence, and PTSD, regardless of creative experience or ability, who wish to use art as a healing tool in a safe setting.

Sponsored by the Women's Resource and Action Center and North Central Windows Program

*UMD Kirby Student Center 268*

#### **Thursday, October 30th 5:00 pm**

### **Mock Rape Trial**

St. Louis County Judge Tarnowsky will preside over a mock rape trial based on actual events. Student volunteers from the audience will comprise the jury.

Sponsored by the Women's Resource and Action Center

*UMD Kirby Ballroom*



## NOVEMBER

**Saturday, Nov. 1st 2:00pm-4:00pm**

### **International Taste of UMD**

Come sample delicious food from around the world! Suggested donation of \$1 for students and \$3 for non-students.

Sponsored by International Club

*Hope United Methodist Church (301 W. St. Marie St.)*

**Monday, November 10th 5:30 - 7**

### **Art Enrichment Workshop**

*See Oct 27th event for description & location*

**Saturday, Nov 15th 7pm-10pm**

### **Fall Drag Show**

Performances by Drag Kings and Queens from the campus and community \$5

Sponsored by the Queer and Allied Student

Union

*UMD Kirby Ballroom*

**Thursday, Nov. 20th 10am-2pm**

### **Transgender Day of Remembrance**

Stop by the table and learn about patterns of violence inflicted upon Transgender people worldwide

Sponsored by the Queer and Allied Student Union

*UMD Kirby Commons*

**Monday, November 24th 5:30 - 7:00**

### **Art Enrichment Workshop**

*See October 27th for description & location*

## DECEMBER

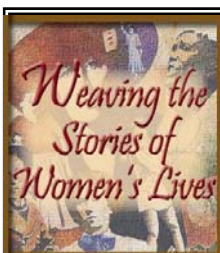
**Monday, Dec. 1st 10:00am-2:00pm**

### **World AIDS Day**

Stop by the table to learn about HIV/AIDS, get free condoms, and find out where you can get tested.

Sponsored by Queer and Allied Students Union

*UMD Kirby Commons*



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH IS IN MARCH. THE THEME FOR 2015:

*"Weaving The Stories of Women's Lives".*

STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION!

UMD DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN,  
GENDER & SEXUALITY STUDIES

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Women's Studies Department



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**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING UMD'S DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN,  
GENDER, & SEXUALITY STUDIES**

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I/We would like to make a gift to Women's Studies: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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