

NORTH SHORE VISIONS

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A WORD ABOUT OUR GRADUATING WOMEN'S STUDIES MAJORS BY BETH BARTLETT

What an amazing group of women! It's been my privilege to have each of them in several classes and now all together in Seminar. They are very diverse in their interests, as reflected in their Seminar projects: abortion rights, female genocide, expressive art and healing from self-injury, women coaches in women's athletics, the lost sacred feminine, dads and daughters, feminist therapy, the search for the authentic self, and adventures in

Women's Studies -- top discoveries and how they came to be "forgotten."

What these women all share is a passion for Women's Studies and a commitment to feminism. They are enormously dedicated individuals. Through internships, volunteer work, and other extracurricular activities, collectively they have given literally thousands of hours to activities and programs that benefit women and girls and advance femi-

nist goals, sharing their time and talents on campus -- women's athletics, MPIRG, WRAC, FACE; and in the community -- PAVSA, Safe Haven, New Moon, Range Women's Advocates, Women's Health Center, YWCA, Take Back the Night, and more. They are generous and wise, and I have learned much from them. We will all miss them, and wish them the very best.

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Congratulations to



Lila Kahmann, Women's Studies Minor: Lila has been accepted into the Master's in Women's Studies program at Minnesota State - Mankato, and will be continuing her studies there in the fall. A special thank you to Lila for all she has done this year, serving as the student representative to both the department and the Women's Studies Advisory Board.



Kathryn Gullicks, Women's Studies Minor: Kathryn has been accepted into the Master's in Women's Studies programs at Minnesota State - Mankato and the University of Northern Iowa and is in the process of deciding which she will attend in the fall.

Ann Wilcox, Women's Studies Major and Women's Studies Office Assistant a.k.a. Gnomie: Ann has been the student worker for Women's Studies for the past two years. Her affectionate nickname came from doing loads of work around the office hardly needing to be asked -- it just was magically done! We were pleased to nominate Ann for Student Employee of the Year for all her dedication, service to the department, generous spirit, party planning, and the way she lights up the place! Ann is graduating in May and the office just won't be the same without her. Come back and visit often!



Tineke Ritmeester, Department Head and Associate Professor of Women's Studies: Tineke was recently awarded the Dinosaur Award from GLBT Services ... in the words of Larry Knopp, "for her tireless activism and support of all people - especially lesbians, gay men, gender non-conformists, and queers of all colors, shapes, and sizes, for her history of accomplishments (most of them unsung), for her leadership, her huge heart, and her simple joyfulness."

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ON-CAMPUS

May 4. Guest speaker, **Njoki Kamau**, UMD Professor of Women's Studies presents "Everyday Racism in Academia," KSC 268, 12 Noon.

May 5. Meditation, Relaxation Exercises, a workshop by **Mark Langenfeld**, UMD Professor of Psychology, KSC 268, 12 Noon.

May 5. Guest speaker, **Joyce Benson** presents "Common Women, Uncommon Lives: The Changing Role of Women in Russia," Kirby Rafters, 12 Noon. Joyce Benson is a community activist and long-time resident of Duluth. She is the first UMD Women's Studies major.

OFF-CAMPUS

May 6. Intergenerational conversation and salads feast from 5:30-7 p.m. Performance by Terrol & Jane at 7 p.m., in the Northcountry Women's Coffeehouse Events, Building for Women, 32 E 1st St.

May 8. Intergenerational 2nd Sunday of the Month Potluck Brunch in Chester Creek House, 1306 E 2nd St, Noon-2p.m. All welcome. Call 728-5468 for more information.

UPCOMING NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

May 20-22. **Fifth National Conference on Gender and 10th National Gender**

Lobby Day in Arlington, VA. Keynote speakers Eve Kosofsky Sedwick and Anne Fausto-Sterling. For more information or registration go to www.gpac.org or call (202) 462-6610.

June 9-12. **NWSA 26th Annual Conference**, Orlando, FL. Registration forms available in the WS department office and at www.nwsa.org

June 19-21. 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

REGISTER NOW!!!

May/Summer 2005

Course Offerings:

WS 3600: Ecofeminist Theories and Practices, 9 a.m.–12 p.m., M, Tu, W, Th, F, Cina 202, Beth Bartlett.

WS 3400: Women and Film, 1 p.m.–3:30 p.m., M, Tu, W, Th in BohH 112, Susana Pelayo-Woodward.

FEMINIST TOUR:

The Feminist tour of local organizations (Safe Haven, Transitional Housing for Women, YWCA, Building for Women, PAVSA, Women's Health Center, Center for Non Violence, Domestic Abuse Intervention Project, Mending the Sacred Hoop, Chester Creek House) organized by Susana Pelayo-Woodward and Tineke Ritmeester on April 1st was a success. Ten students and three faculty members participated. Twenty-two people attended the dinner at Chester Creek House.

FOR RENT: *Chester Creek House, a 24-year old intergenerational lesbian household, has an opening in its beautiful queen Anne style Victorian home in the Duluth East Hillside. Call 218-728-5468 for an interview.*

If you'd like alumni updates via email, please email Beth, bbartlett@d.umn.edu or Geraldine, ws@d.umn.edu, your email address.

ALUMNI UPDATES

Emily Dockendorf: "Soon to be in Hamilton, New Zealand for an MA in Special Education and to live, work, study, and re-vamp, re-think, and organize my life...yeah! Remember the power of NOW and dig life. Duluth will always be home, but Em is ready for some adventure, soul-searching and travel. Love from the Goddess of Lake Superior and always-Peace and Cheers."

Claire Benton: "I just received the latest North Shore Visions newsletter and I am very interested in assisting with the organization of a Women's Studies Alumnae group! I think it is a wonderful idea, most of us probably

would not return for the general UMD reunion/alumnae functions. I would love and am willing to contribute in anyway possible.

I have been researching and considering a PhD program in either Women's Studies, Sociology and/or Psychology (or some combination).

As one moves up within the administration, they continually move away from student contact towards planning, budgeting etc. I love being on a college campus in the administrative capacity but I see my movement "up" not fitting my needs of working directly with the students, therefore becoming a professor where I would have the chance to teach seems to fit my goals.

On a more personal note—I

am enjoying it here at Vassar, as I have finally adjusted to being so far away from friends and family. I have been enjoying all of the outdoor activities around here, as well as the activities and culture of NYC. It is like two opposite worlds so close to one another and I love them both!"

Editors: Beth Bartlett and Geraldine Hughes

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2005 Women's Studies Graduates



Brianna Peterson: I like Women's Studies because it lets me take my own shape and does not mold me into something I'm not. I also like monkeys and walks in the woods.

Caroline Ouellette:



My Women's Studies major has made me embrace feminism in my life. It has enlightened me on the issues that impact women. It has helped me see life through the eyes of women of different backgrounds and discover that obstacles faced by women are interconnected amongst gender, class, and race. It has given me vision to participate in the creation of a new culture of tolerance, mutual respect and the defeat of oppression. Women's Studies has taught me that equality is a right, not a privilege, and that both women and men must be activists for change for a better world than the one we started in. I hope to work in a field where I can challenge and be challenged by women in order to continue to grow as strong and independent woman.

Christina Ethier: Women's Studies has meant a lot to me. It has changed the way I see the world. It has also opened my eyes to all of the injustices in the world. Women's Studies has changed me personally. I have



grown a lot through these classes and for the better.



Emily Ringstad: Women's Studies has been for me a sanctuary in which I truly feel free to speak my mind without castigation or judgment. I am a feminist because I believe in the goodness of the human spirit—both incarnations, female and male. Viewing the world under the lens of feminism has allowed me to see (and/or better understand) things I had previously missed; such as misogyny, racism, violence against women, militarization, imperialism, and ecological destruction. It is a bittersweet awareness—bitter because of a sharpened consciousness in an unjust world—sweet because I have been introduced to a new world in which my experience as a woman are celebrated and taken seriously.



Melissa Rickman: Women's Studies has broadened my knowledge of the world.

Opened my eyes to all the possibilities that women have because you are a human whether male or female. All opportunities are open to you. It encouraged me to reach out to people of other classes, races, etc., and taught me to not fear the unknown, but to embrace it.



Elizabeth McPeck: The concepts and theories I have learned in my time in the Women's Studies Department have supplied me with the tools to truly succeed in the world. The ideologies that encompass Women's Studies have helped define who I am as a feminist and therefore as a woman. The lessons I have learned already impact my life in numerous ways and I am excited to see how Women's Studies will continue to shape my experiences in this world.



Chelsey Evans and Ann Wilcox

Chelsey Evans: *Love, Tolerance, Friendships, Taking A Stand, Womyn, SHAN LENC, War & Peace, Awakening, Knowledge, Challenge, & Exciting:* Words will never be able to describe my feelings and the knowledge I have gained.

Ann Wilcox: Women's Studies has been the calm within the storm.

You know that feeling...where you're comfortable and belong and truly *mean* something?

What have been the highlights? *Fine-tuning my critical thinking and writing skills, thanks to Tineke's tenacity. *Taking Njoki's course freed me. Cut loose from the ties of perfection and the importance of GPA, I was able to focus on attaining knowledge! *Beth's flexibility within assignments enabled me to grow and find my niche and the WS Senior Seminar research has guided me to a path I need to further explore: Expressive Art and Healing. *Then there's Geraldine, who has laughed so many times with me! Working in our small, hot, informal yet efficient office has taught me invaluable lessons, of which there are too many to count. *Feminist friendships!

I'm lucky to have stumbled upon this department and the magnificent women within! Women's Studies is the passion that lights my soul on fire—and keeps me alive.



Libby Brandt: I fell in love with the Women's Studies program my sophomore year in college, while attending Mankato State University. The Women's Studies program would soon shape my future and self. At UMD I became involved with certain individuals and events that brought me to life. I don't know when I first heard the word feminist, but I knew from the beginning that I was one. During my time here at school, I have had to deal with some difficult things. However, if it wasn't for my fighting ability, which I learned in my

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2005 GRADUATES CONTINUED

Women's Studies program, I would have never made it through. It has taught me that I can do anything I set my mind to. Nothing comes easy in this world and if you want something you need to fight for it. I learned how to respect others and look at men in a different light. Not in anger, with which so many people associate the word "feminist," but in the manner of looking at the differences between the genders and analyzing what similarities there actually are. On the flip side, we study about violence, abuse, and war that so many people are exposed to. I could not believe what actually happens out there when I just opened my eyes and allowed myself to see it.

I get a lot of questions about my major. People often ask me what it is, and what I am going to do with it. The way I approach that

question is what can't I do with a Women's Studies degree. Women's Studies is a program that takes on discrimination, oppression, sexism, and a wide variety of other areas. Quite frankly if you think about it, it is fighting for your rights and everyone you know, love, and respect. A feminist is just that; someone who stands up for her rights and those of others.

What I will be doing with my Women's Studies degree in the near future is attending law school at Colorado State. My hopes are to actively change the damaging patriarchal system and laws that have been imposed on us as a society. Unavoidably, my voice will be heard, for I am and always will be a feminist at heart and a rebel by spirit.

*Mark Your Calendar!!!

Guest speaker,
Njoki Kamau,
UMD Professor of
Women's Studies

presents

"Everyday
Racism in
Academia"



Wednesday, May 4

12 Noon

KSC 268

*All are welcome!