

NORTH SHORE VISIONS

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WORDS FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD



By Sheryl Grana

Hello!! If you haven't seen our new WGSS space on the first floor of Cina Hall, please stop by and do so! As I mentioned last year, we would be moving this past summer out of Humanities in to Cina, and the space is lovely. Cina Hall was renovated last year and the first floor of the building is a wonderful and vibrant space with a lot of traffic throughout the day. I mention the traffic because our suite is located in this high traffic zone (the first floor of Cina is a central walk through space on campus) with a lot of visibility. We have already showcased the space when we had our fall WGSS Open House and were happy to see many of you there. We've also already been a participant in the College of Liberal Arts (CLA) First Friday program where we shared the spotlight with Geography, Political Science and the Alworth Center.

Last year I also shared with you the department would be changing its name to the Department of Women's Studies, Intersectionality and Social Transformations (WIST). In the world of academe, things can change both slowly and quickly – for us it is the latter. That name change will not be happening and, furthermore, the department will, at this writing, cease to be a department and will be moving into the Department of Sociology-Anthropology, also in the College of Liberal Arts. WGSS' place in Sociology-Anthropology will be as one of several "programs" in that department – African-African American Studies, Anthropology, Criminology, Sociology and now also WGSS. The major and both minors will continue to exist, as will the ability to graduate with a WGSS degree. This combining of the department with another department is a move which is happening to several departments in CLA. UMD is in financial distress, and this response is seen partly as a way to address that money crunch. The move is also in step with the national trend of fewer and larger departments and greater interdisciplinarity.

The feelings about this change are, as one can imagine, quite mixed. The loss of department status feels like a huge void for many individuals. A number of our current WGSS students have created the FCU – Feminist Consciousness United – and have been lobbying the CLA Dean and UMD upper administration to stop this merger. Faculty are speaking out in different venues against the loss of the visibility and voice of a stand-alone department. It is an emotional time. As Department Head I will share with you what I shared with WGSS students on September 15th – at least we will still retain the degree, the WGSS major and minor, and the LGBTQ minor.

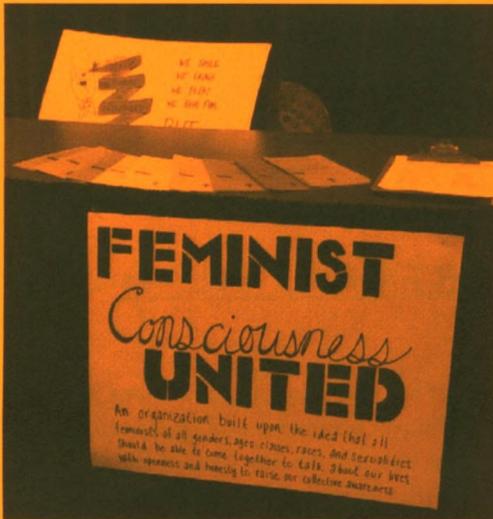
At the end of last spring, our colleague George Hoagland resigned from UMD and took a position with another institution in the Twin Cities. George was central to the development of, and coverage in, the LGBTQ minor. We are doing a national search for a two year position to help cover courses in the LGBTQ minor. We hope to see the number of LGBTQ minors increase over the next couple of years (as well as the number of WGSS majors and minors)!!

Many changes. Many emotions. Trying times. Your support during these times is appreciated. In sisterhood....

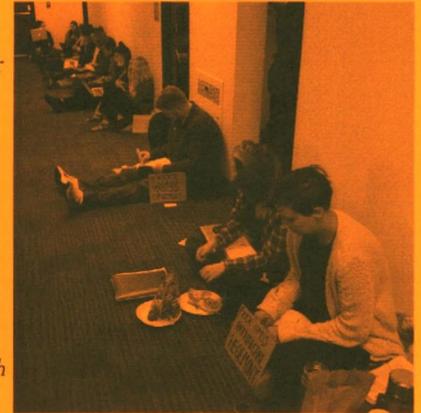
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FEMINIST CONSCIOUSNESS UNITED



Feminist Consciousness United is a new student group at UMD dedicated to feminist connection and awareness. We are currently resisting the WGSS department merger and the loss of faculty, autonomy, visibility, and funding. We are hoping to build a more feminist community on campus and gather together as many people who believe in women and minority groups as possible. We want the diversity of people of color, the LGBTQ+ community, and women to be appreciated by all. FCU is hoping love can cross the divides that we are facing in society and on campus regarding race, religion, class, gender, sexuality, age, and ability. Our meetings have been centered on the protest and activism for the WGSS department lately, however, we are hoping to start having regular meetings on Fridays and one other day every week so that there are two time options for people to go to.



Please contact schle475@d.umn.edu to be added to the email list and/or mcgra350@d.umn.edu to be added to the Facebook page!

FCU students organized a sit-in outside the Chancellor's office on October 20th

THE TWIN PORTS WOMEN'S RIGHTS COALITION

By H. Bradford

The Twin Ports Women's Rights Coalition (TPWRC), Duluth's own feminist activist group, was founded in September 2014 by a group of activists involved with ad hoc protests of the 40 Days for Life, an international anti-choice event begun in 2004, where volunteers organized through local churches spend forty days outside of abortion providers with the hope of ending abortion through prayer and protest. Locally, 40 Days for Life is held September through October outside of the Building for Women. Counter protesting is important because their presence shames women who use the clinic and seeks to sway public opinion against abortion. Because 95% of Minnesota counties do not have abortion providers, defending our clinic in Duluth is essential for ensuring that women in the region continue to have access to abortion services. Abortion rights have been whittled away by a relentless onslaught of anti-choice legislation that mandates biased counseling, parental consent, waiting periods, and funding restrictions. With this in mind, the activists who founded the TPWRC have hosted regular protests of the 40 Days for Life since 2010, and in 2014 we formalized our organization to continue these protests into the future and organize other feminist actions in the community.

Among these activities are a support picket of *Roe v. Wade*, a "glo-test" wherein participants carried signs and wore glow sticks, "Chalk for Choice" events to create positive messages and artwork in the plaza of the Building for Women. The group organized a feminist book club, which will resume this winter. Other events include panels for International Women's Day and *Roe v. Wade* and monthly "Feminist Frolics," which combine education with outdoor adventure, such as hiking after a lecture about how patriarchy shapes our relationship to nature, and foraging for wild food while learning about the history and economics of foraging and gleaning. We also launched a radical cheerleading group, the Rah Rah Revolutionaries, that has participated in several local protests. Through these, the TPWRC seeks to promote feminist activism while educating ourselves and our community about feminism. The call to feminist activism has hardly been greater. Feminism is misunderstood and misrepresented in society. At the same time, women continue to be underpaid and undervalued in the economy. They continue to be sexually assaulted and abused, then blamed and shamed for the violence against them. Abortion rights are curtailed, while students are provided skeletal sex education, daycare is as expensive as rent, and we are the one of three nations in the world that does not provide women with paid maternity leave. Shockingly, denying voting rights to women has become a popular demand in some circles! It seems that even the most basic rights granted to women have been called into question. Feminism should be not feared and averted, but should be reclaimed and asserted to make the powers of capitalist patriarchy tremble with fear. If you would like to join this fight, the Twin Ports Women's Rights Coalition can be found on Facebook or can be contacted via email at Hbradford@css.edu.

UPCOMING WOMEN'S RESOURCE & ACTION CENTER (WRAC) EVENTS

Thursday, November 10th: Location TBD; 12-2pm
Bystander Intervention

Friday, November 11th: Garden Room; 5:00pm - 6:00pm
Mending the Sacred Hoop

Patti Larsen, the director of Mending the Sacred Hoop, will be presenting a brief history of the organization and a Native perspective on Domestic Violence. *Co-Sponsored by the Anishinaabe Student Organization, and Mending the Sacred Hoop*

Wednesday, November 16th: KSC 268; 12:00pm - 1:00pm
Brown Bag: Healthy & Unhealthy Relationships

Presentation presented by Kristi of Safe Haven.
Co-sponsored by WGSS

Monday, November 21, 2016; Kirby Tabling Area- 11 - 1pm
Pizza Rolls, Not Gender Roles,

Come learn about the harmful nature of gender roles, while enjoying free pizza rolls.

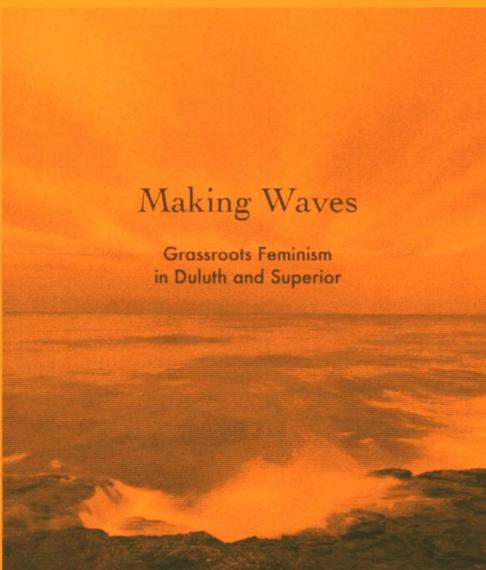
Tuesday, November 22nd: KSC 268; 8:00pm - 9:00pm
WRAC Volunteer Meeting

Wednesday, November 30th: KSC 268; 12:00pm - 1:00pm
Brown Bag: Trafficking in the Twin Ports

A look at human trafficking in the Twin Ports, particularly of Native women and girls.

Co-Sponsored by WGSS

MAKING WAVES!



Making Waves

Grassroots Feminism
in Duluth and Superior

Elizabeth Ann Bartlett

Making Waves: Grassroots Feminist Organizing in Duluth and Superior, a 40-year history of grassroots feminist organizations in the Twin Ports, was published by Minnesota Historical Society Press this fall. The book began as a collaborative project of members of the Women's Studies Department, and faculty member Beth Bartlett completed writing the book during a sabbatical two years ago. Among the featured departments are the American Indian Community Housing Organization (AICHO), Aurora, Center Against Sexual and Domestic Abuse (CASDA), Domestic Abuse Intervention Project (DAIP), Mending the Sacred Hoop, Northcountry Women's Coffeehouse, Praxis International, Program to Aid Victims of Sexual Assault (PAVSA), Safe Haven Shelter and Resource Center, Women in Construction, the Women's Health Center, and Women's Transitional Housing.

Book release events at Gimaajii-Mino-Bimaadizimin in Duluth and Moon Palace Books in Minneapolis have seen wonderful reunions of UMD Women's Studies and Political Science alums, ranging from Beth's first Political Science classes in 1980 and 1981 to the present. See photo.

Books are available from Minnesota Historical Society Press, <http://www.mnhs.org/mnhspress/books/making-waves>, Amazon, and your local booksellers.



FAREWELL

In early January 1980, I came to a Women's Coordinating noon Brown Bag, where I met women who would change my life. I quickly became part of the group working on developing a Women's Studies minor at UMD, and had the honor and privilege of teaching the first Intro to Women's Studies course ever offered at UMD. What an amazing time we had. We were all learning together.

I was fortunate to be offered a position in Political Science, where I taught mostly political theory courses, and where I had wonderful students and colleagues. But I was always an active member of the Women's Studies Advisory Board, and routinely taught at least one, and often two courses in Women's Studies, and this is where my heart ultimately was.

In September 1999, I changed my tenure home to Women's Studies and became department head. It has been a wonderful place to be. I often tell people that I teach the best students in the university. They are so passionate, engaged, and committed to making the world a better place, and when they leave here, they do just that. There are so many memorable moments – those priceless moments when the class is on fire, alive with so many questions and insights, or when the connections among us all are so palpable, working through problems and issues together, the trips up to the top of Hawk Ridge with Women and Spirituality, and to the winter woods and the Food Farm with Ecofeminism, the bus trip to St Paul with Feminist Activism, doing the spiral dance with Starhawk in Lester Park, midnight drumming in the woods behind my house with a Women and Spirituality class, Vandana Shiva coming to talk with the Ecofem class, the class of 2004 kidnapping me and taking me out to bonfire on Park Point, potlucks and grad parties, watching beautiful friendships form, the last days of class when nobody wants it to be over. You have given me the best of my life, and what a rich life it has been. I will be forever grateful for all of you in my life.

Continued on page 5...



Top left - ERA march with her first UMD class, Women and Politics, 1980;

Bottom left - Beth's first UMD faculty photo, 1980;

Top right: - 2016 WGSS graduation party;

Bottom right: Class of 2004 at Park Point;

Center: Code Pink protest in 20

FROM BETH BARTLETT

...Continued from page 4

My leaving at this time is difficult. I was stunned this fall to learn that my tenure track line would not be replaced. I am heartbroken. I believe in Women's Studies, and have given it my heart and soul. It has been my welcoming home and has been a sisterhood in which I have felt supported and have been able to thrive. I am more grateful than I can possibly say. So it is with deepest regret that because I am leaving at this time, the position that I have helped to grow -- if nothing else, through persistence and longevity -- will not be passed on to continue to contribute to the vitality of Women's Studies, or even liberal arts, or to provide long-term employment to a new Women's Studies PhD. Instead, it is simply dissolving into the cesspool of UMD's debt. For that I am so deeply sorrowful.

I know that you -- students, staff, alumnae, my wonderful colleagues in Women's Studies, the Women/s Resource and Action Center, and on the Advisory Board, and allies throughout campus and the community -- are dedicated, intelligent, wise, strong, and spirited and you will do what women have done through the centuries -- make beauty, warmth, and abundance from scraps. But you deserve more and better, and it pains me deeply to know I am leaving you weaker in terms of faculty available to teach courses than when I came. All these things and more have been heavy in my heart as I prepare to leave UMD.

In closing, the words of Marge Piercy inspired me as we began this program and they continue to as I leave it, so I reiterate them here:

To Be of Use

- Marge Piercy

What can they do to you?

Whatever they want.

They can set you up, they can bust you, they can break your fingers, they can burn your brain with electricity, blur you with drugs till you can't walk, can't remember, they can take your child, wall up your lover.

They can do anything you can't stop them from doing. How can you stop them?

Alone, you can fight, you can refuse, you can take what revenge you can but they roll over you.

But two people fighting back to back can cut through a mob, a snake-dancing file can break a cordon, an army can meet an army.

Two people can keep each other sane, can give support, conviction, love, massage, hope, sex.

Three people are a delegation, a committee, a wedge.

With four you can play bridge and start an organization.

With six you can rent a whole house, eat pie for dinner with no seconds, and hold a fund raising party.

A dozen make a demonstration.

A hundred fill a hall.

A thousand have solidarity and your own newsletter; ten thousand, power and your own paper; a hundred thousand, your own media; ten million, your own country.

It goes on one at a time,

it starts when you care to act, it starts when you do it again and they said no,

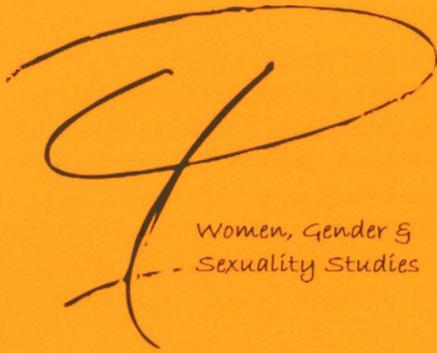
it starts when you say We and know who you mean, and each day you mean one more.

Thank you all more than I can possibly say for being all of this for me and more for all of my years here. May you continue to do this for each other

With gratitude and love -- in sisterhood,
Beth



UMD DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN,
GENDER & SEXUALITY STUDIES



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