

# NORTH SHORE VISIONS

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 2 FEBRUARY 2005

**FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD** BY TINEKE RITMEESTER

Greetings! It is nice to be back in the proverbial "chair," except ours is a comfortably easy chair. I want to thank Beth Bartlett for all her encouragement and support that have helped make it so uncomplicated for me to take over from her. She has left our department in excellent shape. Thank you, Beth! For the leadership you have provided so passionately for the past 6 years. I am finding that Women's Studies is more resilient than ever before. How did you do it? For, alas, I am also finding out that our institutional resources have become even more limited and harder to come by than they were in the past.

Like the fist that is more than the simple sum of the individual fingers, Women's Studies at UMD has many interdependent players: our marvelous departmental staff (thank you, Ann and Geraldine)--the glue that keeps us all together in body and spirit--, all our magnificent students, our dedicated faculty (thank you, Angie, Beth, Cindy, Joan, Njoki, and Susana), the Women's Resource and Action Center (thank you Kris, Liana and Susana), the feminist activist student organization, called FACE (thank you, all), all our collaborating colleagues and friends on the Women's Studies Advisory Board (thank you, Linda and Susan for chairing), Jodi Carlson, our WS refer-

ence librarian, and our loyal supporters in the numerous Twin Ports feminist organizations, too many to mention, all of whose voices and maybe even faces--thanks to our newly acquired digital camera--you will encounter in these pages. I look forward to working with all of you.

Towards the end of fall semester our entire department was treated to another one of those awfully mean spirited direct attacks, courtesy our very own student newspaper. As often happens, the backlash turned into its opposite. Overnight, a loud and crystal clear grassroots PR campaign erupted to promote the importance of Women's Studies that is still going strong. Brilliant letters of support, especially from our alumnae and current students, meetings, hallway conversations, a flurry of email exchanges, not only helped put the writer and his ilk into their place but also contributed to more students enthusiastically signing up for Women's Studies.

Three feminist events overlapped at the Duluth Building for Women, February 4. A chili fundraiser for Aurora. A Northland Lesbian Center; the 3<sup>rd</sup> Intergenerational Conversation between Twin Port feminists; and the one and only Ellis at the Women's Coffee

House, all between 5 and 10 p.m.

The intergenerational conversation, ably led by Dianna Hunter, was another huge success. Age groups from the teens to the sixties, except for the 30-something generation (which warrants another conversation all by itself), were represented among the roughly 40 participants, among whom many WS students. Like the last time, we ran out of time, so much there was to talk about: Are there really all these different and distinct waves of feminism? What issues are the same (too many to mention)? What issues set us apart (none that I can remember)? None of us wanted to miss hearing Ellis (she and Terry also participated) perform. She drew a crowd larger than I have seen in a long time at the coffee house. How wonderful to see so many young women there. The Times They Are A-changing? By the way, check this newsletter for future intergenerational conversations. There's talk of having them on a monthly basis, just prior to the performance.

The Women's History Month Committee did it again! See inside for the schedule--chuck full with wonderfully interesting events on and off campus: don't forget to mark your calendar, and bring a friend!

See you there, I hope.

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## CALL FOR PROPOSALS/UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Apr. 1-3. **“From Abortion Rights to School Justice: Building the Movement for Reproductive Freedom,”** the 19th Annual Conference for student and community activists, Hampshire College, Amherst, MA. For more information or to register, go to [www.clpp.hampshire.edu](http://www.clpp.hampshire.edu).

Apr. 15. Women for Women International seeks submissions for the autumn 2005 edition of its bi-annual aca-

demical journal, *Critical Half*. **Deadline: Apr. 15.** Submission guidelines at [www.womenforwomen.org](http://www.womenforwomen.org).

May 20-22. **Fifth National Conference on Gender and 10th National Gender Lobby Day** in Arlington, VA. Keynote speakers Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick and Anne Fausto-Sterling. For more information or registration go to [www.gpac.org](http://www.gpac.org) or call (202) 462-6610.

June 9-12. **NWSA 26th An-**

**nual Conference**, Orlando, FL. Registration forms available in the WS department office.

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](mailto:conference@iwpr.org). For more conferences, go to the NWSA website: [www.nwsa.org](http://www.nwsa.org)



Mary E. Weems, is an award-winning African American poet, dramatist, performer, and researcher. She models and stimulates a level of civic engagement in part, by using her performance texts to encourage empathy, imagination-intellectual thinking, and political activism against racism and all forms of social injustice. Weems has published four collections of poetry including *Black-eyed* (Blackeyed, 1994)

### VISITING AWARD-WINNING POET, DRAMATIST

and *White*, (Wick Chapbook, Kent State, 1997). Her new collection *"Tampon Class"* has just been released by Pavement Saw Press. Weems' has also published one educational text *"Public Education and the Imagination-Intellect: I Speak from the Wound in my Mouth"* (Peter Lang, 2003), a collection of essays, poems, and stories titled *"Working Hard for the Money: America's Working Poor"* (Bottom Dog Press, 2002) and *"Poetry Power"* (Silvermoon Press, 2003) a book/workbook designed to introduce middle school students to the art of poetry. She is currently an adjunct professor in the English Department, at John Carroll University.

Her schedule is as follows:  
Apr. 18. Welcome dinner

and reception, including poetry reading and Q & A session from 4-8 p.m. Please check posters around campus for the location.

Apr. 20. *"I Speak from the Wound in My Mouth: Developing the Imagination-Intellect"* from 7:30-10 p.m., Library Rotunda. This campus-wide formal presentation is open and intended for the general public.

*Her visit is sponsored by the UMD Commission on Women and the 2004-05 Diversity Initiative Faculty-in-Residence Program.*

***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.***

## 2005 Nobel Peace Prize Winner: Professor Wangari Muta Maathai

By Njoki Kamau

Western media rarely deliver any success stories from the African continent. Most often, the stories reported from Africa are usually gut wrenching. We frequently read or hear about corrupt governments, ethnic wars, extreme poverty, famine, primordial traditions, and customs, diseases, human degradation, and victimization of women. Rarely do we hear about African people's creativity, resourcefulness, strength, or courage, especially women's. However, it is encouraging to know that there are individuals and organizations that recognize and acknowledge African peoples' contributions to the world, their struggles and positive strides. I was inspired to hear that a fellow Kenyan woman was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize; Professor Wangari Muta Maathai, founder of the Greenbelt Movement. I first met this intrepid woman when she visited my high school to lead a tree planting ceremony and again when I interviewed her for my doctoral thesis.

In the late 70's Maathai visited my school where she planted a tree. The tree planting ceremony, as I remember, was a simple one. She stressed the need for us, the students, to do our very best in our studies and not forget to nurture our earth. Maathai exhorted us to tend the trees that were planted and to always remember that our wellbeing is tied to the growth of those trees.

Professor Wangari Maathai founded the Green Belt Movement in 1977 as a grassroots response to Kenyan women's needs. The women would come to her when she was an official with the National Council of Women of Kenya and would provide her with a catalogue of problems. These problems included diseases, lack of nutritious foods, need for clean drinking water, fodder for their animals, firewood, and building materials. Maathai would carefully listen to the women's problems and then ask them where these problems came from. Quite often, the women blamed the government. True to Paulo Freire's model of *conscientization*, Maathai would lead the women to discover for themselves that these problems were symptoms of environmental degradation, broken social structures, bad governance and women as well, were part of the problem and solution. For example, the women realized that they were forced to participate in degrading the environment when they felled trees for wood fuel or cultivated the hillsides. Maathai led the women to come up with solutions to their own problems: we're deforesting; we're polluting, then we start replanting." The women felt empowered. They identified their problems and realized they could do something, which they did. To date, well over 30 million trees have been planted, thousands of women have been employed

by the organization and dozens of African countries have replicated the Green Belt model.

In its nascent years, the Green Belt Movement was an environmental group that restored indigenous forests and assisted rural women by paying them to plant trees in their communities. Over the years, Green Belt Movement evolved to become a multi issue movement and a key role in the democratization of Kenya in 2002 General elections. Maathai was elected with a landslide victory of 98% of votes that were cast, in her Tetu constituency in Nyeri district, Central province, Kenya. Currently, Maathai is the Assistant Minister for Environment and Natural Resources in a government she helped bring to power in 2002.

Professor Wangari Maathai is an indomitable spirit. She is resilient and fits in the tradition of the bravest, most independent, and most innovative women this world has known.

To see the full article, please go to [www.d.umn.edu/ws](http://www.d.umn.edu/ws)

*Njoki Kamau is Associate Professor in the Department of Women's Studies.*



*"We are called to assist the earth to heal her wounds, and in the process heal our own, indeed to embrace the whole creation in all its diversity, beauty and wonder." - Wangari Muta Maathai*



## Women's History Month Calendar & WS/WRAC Brown Bags

Mar. 2. Guest speaker, **Candy Harshner** presents Feminism in the Twin Ports: The History of the Movement Against Sexual Assault in Duluth, KSC 268, 12 Noon.

Mar. 3. Film, "Beah: A Black Woman Speaks," directed by Lisa Gay Hamilton (90 minutes), KSC 268, 4 p.m.

**Mar. 3. Women's History Month Keynote Speakers Jacquelyn Zita and Judith Roy present "Why Women's Studies Is for Everybody," Kirby Ballroom, 7 p.m.** Jacquelyn Zita is president of the National Women's Studies Association, Professor of Women's Studies, University of Minnesota Twin Cities. Judith Roy, President-Elect, National Women's Studies Association, Program Coordinator, Women's Studies, Century College.

Mar. 7. Film, "Damned If you Don't," directed by Su Friedrich (42 minutes), Kirby Rafters, 6 p.m.

Mar. 8. International Women's Day Celebration with FREE music and food, Kirby Lounge, 12 Noon.

Mar. 9. Guest speaker, **Rebecca St. George** presents "Feminism in the Twin Ports: History of Violence against Native American Women," KSC 268, 12 Noon. Rebecca St. George is from Mending the Sacred Hoop.

Mar. 10. Women's night in the Climbing Wall! From 6-9 p.m. Cost: \$5 UMD Students and \$10 Others. We provide instruction, climbing equipment. You provide comfortable, flexible clothing.

Mar. 15. Female Open Mic, UMD Coffee House, 7 p.m.

Mar. 16. Guest speaker, **Janet Provost** presents "Feminism in

the Twin Ports: Grandmothers for Peace," KSC 268, 12 Noon.

Mar. 17. Film, "Breasts: A Documentary," directed by Meema Spadola (50 minutes), KSC 268, 4 p.m.

Mar. 30. Guest speaker, **Susan Morris**, UMD Professor of Political Science presents "Women and Globalization," KSC 355-57, 12 Noon.

Mar. 31. Guest speaker, **Nancy Gruver** discusses her new book, *How To Say It To Girls*, KSC 355-57, 12 Noon.

Apr. 6. Guest speaker, **Beth Olson**, PAVSA presents "Date Rape Drugs 101: What You Need To Know," KSC 268, 12 Noon.

Apr. 7. Guest speaker, **Maureen Tobin Stanley**, UMD Professor of Foreign Languages and Literatures presents "Voices of Gendered Resistance in Neus Català's De la resistència y la deportación: The Triumph of Life, Dignity and Solidarity during the Holocaust," Library Fourth Floor Rotunda, 12 Noon.

Apr. 8. Guest speaker, **Sara Evans** presents "Tidal Wave: How Women Changed America at Century's End," Weber Music Hall, 3 p.m. Sara Evans is a professor of History and Women's Studies at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities.

Apr. 12. Film, "Maria Full of Grace" in KSC 273, 4 p.m.

Apr. 14. Guest speaker, **Gesa Zinn**, UMD Professor of Foreign Languages and Literatures presents "The Life of the Gypsies: Roma and Sinti in Germany Today," Library Fourth Floor Rotunda, 12 Noon.

Apr. 18-25. Guest speaker, **Mary Weems** on campus for a week of poetry, workshops and discussions. See article on Page 2 for more information.

Apr. 20. Guest speaker, **Tineke Ritmeester**, UMD Professor of Women's Studies presents "Witches of the Medieval European Burning Times," KSC 268, 12 Noon.

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

May 5. Meditation, Relaxation Exercises, a workshop by **Marc Langelfel**, 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.

### OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

#### ON-CAMPUS

Feb. 24. A film, "*The Edge of Each Other's Battles: The Vision of Audre Lorde*" at 6 p.m., in KSC 273. This powerful documentary is a moving tribute to legendary black lesbian feminist poet Audre Lorde (1934-1992).

Feb. 28. *Sponge Bob Square Pants* reception in KSC 273 to defend his "promotion of homosexuality," as reported on CNN. Refreshments served. Enter a drawing to support a fund to purchase books for Duluth K-12 "Gay and Lesbian Families" collection.

Apr. 2. *Drag Show*, Kirby Ballroom, 7 p.m. Sponsored by Queer Students Union.

Apr. 5. Female-to-Male Transman, James Halleman speaking at 7 p.m., Kirby Ballroom.

Apr. 9. Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus benefit concert, Weber Music Hall, 3 p.m. Tickets: \$20. Call Angie Nichols at (218) 726-

7300 for tickets/info. Benefits Cruden-Riggs GLBT Scholarship.

Apr. 30. *Gay Prom*, 7 p.m., Kirby Ballroom. Open to high school and college students. For info, call QSU at (218) 726-7041.

#### OFF-CAMPUS

\*University of Wisconsin-Superior Women's History Month events:

Mar. 1. Women of Color Awards Reception and Ceremony, Noon-1p.m., UWS Multicultural Center, 232 Old Main.

Mar. 8. International Women's Day Open House, Reception and Office Warming, 4-5 p.m., 143 Sundquist Hall, UWS.

Mar. 9. *Words on Women*, a literary reading of original and other remarkable writing on women from Noon-1 p.m., UWS Multicultural Center, 232 Old Main.

Mar. 11. Reception and showing of *No Secret Anymore: The Time of Del Martin & Phyllis Lyon*, Reception at 6:30 p.m., with 7 p.m. showing, UWS Multicultural Center, 232 Old Main.

Mar. 15. Performance by local singer-songwriter, Sara Thomsen from 11:45 a.m.-1p.m., UWS Rothwell Student Center Snack Bar.

Contact Dianna Hunter at 715-394-8405, or Deborah Schlacks at 715-394-8235, for more information.

\*Northcountry Women's Coffeehouse Events, Building for Women, 32 E 1st St, Duluth:

Mar. 4. Music performance by Deidre McCalla at 7 p.m. Cost: \$6/members and \$9/Others.

Apr. 1. Performance by the Rebekka Fisher Trio

May 6. Performance by Terrol & Jane

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# About FACE



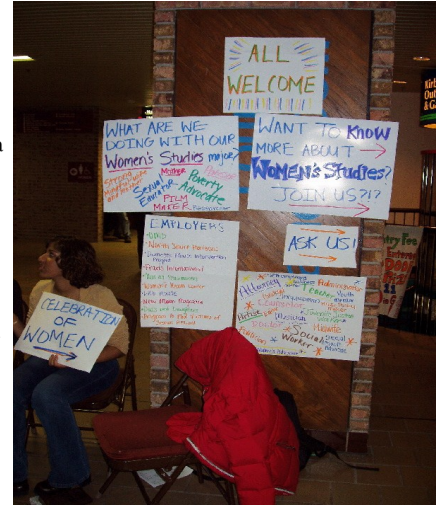
**F**eminists Advocating for Change Etc., or FACE is a feminist student group on campus open to all UMD students. FACE has been very active this school year. Fall semester FACE sponsored the Celebration of Women, a free event in the Kirby Lounge. Seven local musicians donated their time and talents for the event, which helped awareness of the Women's Studies Department, WRAC and FACE.

FACE has been putting together discussion groups that are open to the campus. Spring semester the discussions will be weekly. Upcoming topics are "Women and the Iraqi elections," "Let's Talk about Sex," and "The Politics of Makeup."

Recently we have started a campus-wide campaign to promote feminism and raise awareness of issues of sexism. This will entail posters around campus and tabling in the Kirby Student Center.

FACE members are also active in the Duluth community, adding a feminist perspective to volunteer work. Some volunteer activities include volunteering at the Life House for their Valentine Dance and serving on committees for Take Back the Night.

For more information, contact Beth Bartlett at 218-726-8284.



## A JOURNEY THROUGH WS 3000: OH, SO THIS IS THE LIGHT AT THE END BY TARYN RUNCK

I am a new taryn.

Empowered, alive, defying the impossible with a new spectrum of possibilities.

Now I see society for what it is.

No longer blinded by the status quo.

No longer delicate, helpless

Not meager,

Nor merely domestic.

"taryn" ...meaning innocent. Innocent?

Now free from the ideas of patriarchy, yet bound by a society still full with it.

And so it seems...this is what feminism feels like:

"no one is free when others are oppressed"



**to my sisters,**  
what is there to say of  
the strength  
of you strong women,  
so taken for granted?  
nothing i can say could  
offer enough consulta-  
tion, enough remorse.  
but i will **SPEAK UP!**

sometimes it seems i  
am only one. one.  
what can one do? but i  
will raise my fist! i  
will **RISE UP! MY  
HANDS ARE NOT  
CLEAN.** they are  
stained with the pain  
and sorrow of my sis-

ters. for our culture,  
for my role in it, for  
your suffering i am  
sorry. i am sorry. with  
my deepest regret, i  
am sorry. thus, i dare  
say, hope is on its way.

~taryn runck

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## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH CALENDAR & WS/WRAC BROWN BAGS

Continued from Page 4

\*Others:

Mar. 11&12. *The Art of Peace* will be at the "Coppertop," First United Methodist Church, 230 E Skyline Pkwy, begins with the art exhibit Mar. 11, 6-8 p.m., and continues Mar. 12 with an opening ceremony at 12:30 p.m. Performing artists from 1-5 p.m., and concludes at 7 p.m. with a performance. Free and open to the public.

Mar. 18. The YWCA and The Northland Foundation present "*Knowledge is Power*," a conference for empowering young women ages 14-18. Registration at 12:30pm, Friday, Mar. 18. The confer-

ence will be from 1-4:45pm. Cost: \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. For more information, contact Susan Engel at (218) 722-7425.

Apr. 5. *Ramsey County Women's Political Caucus's Founding Feminist Festival*. For more information, email [women@mnwpc.org](mailto:women@mnwpc.org) or call (651) 228-0995.

**For more events, go to**  
**[www.d.umn.edu/ws](http://www.d.umn.edu/ws)**



### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!!

**THURSDAY**

**March 3, 2005**

**Women's Studies' Annual Women's History Month  
Keynote Speakers JACQUELYN ZITA and JUDITH  
ROY present:**

***Why Women's Studies Is For Everybody!***

**Kirby Ballroom, 7 p.m.**

Jacquelyn Zita is president of the National Women's Studies Association, Professor of Women's Studies, University of Minnesota Twin Cities. Judith Roy, President-Elect, National Women's Studies Association, Program Coordinator, Women's Studies, Century College.