



Women's & Gender Studies Newsletter

Sonoma State University Volume 10, No. 1 Spring 2004

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Greetings from the Department Chair

A warm thank you to all of you who sent in donations to help WGS during this especially acute budget crisis. So far, we have raised over \$400 from our fundraising efforts and this money is earmarked for curricular materials, including videos in the area of *Gender and Globalization* and *Queer Studies*. We welcome continuing financial contributions and appreciate them enormously. Not only is it wonderful to be in touch with supporters and alumni, it also allows us to directly enrich and enhance the curriculum for students.

Successful fundraising also lets the larger university system know that WGS is important to its alumni. Many alumni and students have expressed concern about whether a program like WGS will survive during a budget crisis. We are hopeful that our contributions to the general education curriculum, our strong faculty, our mission that aligns with the larger mission of SSU, and our growing (48!) body of dynamic and hardworking majors will keep us safe.

In fact, WGS is thriving at SSU. In the following pages, we invite you to take a look closely at all the work our students are doing in the community. Most recently, many WGS majors and minors performed in the Vagina Monologues, a sold-out and powerful event. Our own WGS major, Jamie Simon, was named as the Woman Student Leader of the year for her work in sexual assault

education. Students in my service learning class are working with children in schools and programs across Sonoma County. Nan Alamilla Boyd's lecture series on Queer Studies has drawn an audience of enthusiastic learners from on and off campus. Finally, Charlene Tung, along with WGS majors, will be welcoming 40 girls ages 10-14 to the campus for workshops run by WGS students on media literacy and healthy relationships. WGS is indeed prospering. We thank you for all your support!

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*Cindy Stearns, Department Chair
Women's and Gender Studies*

WGS MAJORS: ACADEMIC ADVISING REQUIRED

**Registration on-line for Fall 2004
Check out the Schedule of Classes
ON-LINE Registration
May 3-7**

Majors/Minors **must** drop in for advising each semester.
Advising Hours Below are for April 26-May 7

Cindy Stearns

T 2:30-4:30

TH 2:30-4:30

W 10-11:30

Charlene Tung

T 10-12

TH 10-12

F 12-1

Nan Alamilla Boyd

M 1-4

W 12-1



WGS SPRING NEWS



WGS STUDENTS INTERNSHIPS

As usual, WGS students are out assisting the community while they fulfill their internship requirements and gaining valuable experience! Check out the sites below and consider where you want to intern in the future. Utilize your fellow students for input on their internship sites as well.

Emerald Anderson, WGS women's health minor, is interning at Health Solutions in Santa Rosa--an organization that provides nutritional counseling and testing and resources to enhance health and wellness.

Jonathan Brady, WGS Minor, is earning a credit with SSU's ESAS division co-creating, implementing, and teaching a leadership class.

Guyla Caldwell, WGS and Nursing double major, volunteers with La Clinica, a free public health clinic in Sebastopol affiliated with St. Stephens Episcopal Church. She also is a volunteer/social coordinator with St. Mels Senior Group in Woodland Hills, providing assistance for seniors regarding budgeting, nutrition and social activities.

Mary Farrar interns with United Against Sexual Assault (UASA), Santa Rosa, as a Crisis Line Counselor. She also continues to work as a hospice caregiver with Hospice of Petaluma.

Silvia Guerrero is interning at Planned Parenthood of Rohnert Park.

Ellen Heinman is with Circle of Sisters (COS), a local middle school program aimed at empowering girls aged 10-14. She reports that she is loving the experience!

Stephanie Horn and Andrea Martini are also interning with Circle of Sisters this semester.

Kira Kayler interns with the Marin Abused Women's Services (MAWS) working the domestic violence hotline.

Julie Mayeda is working with *Project Censored* at SSU gaining experience in story management, writing and grant writing.

Kathryn Rankin is an intern at SSU's Women's Resource Center where she assists in supervising student assistants, organizes events, Center programs, and works the front desk.

Jamie Simon is a Peer Educator with Student Advocates for Education, whose goal it is to educate students on health issues and produce workshops on sexual assault, safer sex, and responsible alcohol use.

Stacey Wood and Lana Tyer, as part of their Community Involvement Project (CIP) units, helped to successfully organize the panel, "Gendered Justice: Forum on Women Prisoners" on March 4, 2004 in the Cooperaage. Speakers included **SSU**

Professor Barbara Bloom, Cynthia Chandler & Cassandra Shaylor, Co-directors of *Justice Now* (non-profit working with women prisoners to ensure health and legal justice); Gloria Killian, Executive Director of *Action Committee for Women in Prison*, who had been imprisoned for 16 years on false charges of murder and robbery; and Ida McCray, former prisoner sentenced to 20 years and now Executive Director of *Families with a Future*. It was a powerful evening of speakers!

WGS STUDENT

ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Kira Kayler, WGS major, has been accepted into an MA in Counseling program at Dominican University.

Gina Monaco and Elise Gressman are both working as student assistants at the SSU Women's Resource Center.

Julie O'Neill, WGS major, has been accepted into the MA in Depth Psychology program at SSU.

Maureen O'Connor, WGS and AMCS double major, has been accepted into the SSU masters program in the Hutchins School.

Angela Rush and Don Perry, Hutchins MA students, completed their M.A. exhibit on sustainable communities in Nicaragua.

Congratulations to WGS major, **Jamie Simon**! She has been honored twice this year. She and Wendy Zepeda were awarded the SSU 2003-04 Woman Student Leader of the Year award! Jamie, as student coordinator of SSU's Student Advocates for Education (SAFE), was also named "Out-standing Student of the Year" for her commitment to peer education on campus!

Patricia Spiva, ITDS MA student, is completing her MA entitled "The Crisis of Representation: International Relations of Power and Privilege in Constructing Middle Eastern Women". She has been accepted into the PhD program at the Wright Institute in Berkeley.



**Point
Of
View**

will return in Fall



IN STEP WITH *Dean of Social Sciences* *Dr. Elaine Leeder*

"[I've] made it a point to live an interesting life."

The consummate story teller, an interview with Dean Elaine Leeder, reveals that indeed, she has lived an interesting life and leaves no doubt that she will continue to do so.

As an unabashedly self-proclaimed "feminist", Dean Elaine Leeder arrived at Sonoma State University with a wealth of professional and personal experiences. Her professional career ranges from social worker, to psychotherapist, to professor, to administrator. A look at her life experiences is to catch a glimpse into the social movements of the 60s and 70s.

"I knew I was a feminist early on" she explains, pointing to a brother that was pampered, while she was "expected to make challah, get married and have babies." In her Orthodox Jewish home, she noted that men and women sat at separate tables during the holidays. She recalls with some amusement, one holiday when the women's table (a rickety one) was about to collapse and one of her male relatives said, "Let it collapse. It's the women's table". And collapse it did. Dean Leeder remembers walking out in protest.

And yet a sense of social justice was instilled early on from her father's own experience as a Holocaust survivor. Further, she notes that as a young girl, "I always wanted to be where the action was." And she continued to follow this desire throughout the 1960s and early 1970s as she marched with Martin Luther King Jr., attended demonstrations with baby daughter in tow, and with her former husband became what she calls a "hippie homesteader" in upstate New York. She shares that they grew their own food, churned butter, made their own clothing; and at the same time she continued her education and supported her family financially while her husband stayed home and raised their daughter.

After finishing her Masters in Social Work in 1969 from Yeshiva University, Wurzweiler School of Social Work in New York City, she eventually opened her own psychotherapy practice in Ithaca, New York. She wryly explains, "I became a social worker because I thought I had nothing to say and thought 'well, at least

I can listen." She focused on the then-evolving field of "feminist psychotherapy", which incorporated feminist consciousness-raising into the mental health professions. She ran this practice until 1992, and during this time, she also completed her Ph.D. from Cornell University. The book which came out of her dissertation was entitled "The Gentle General: Rose Pesotta, Anarchist and Labor Organizer: (SUNY, 1993). Among her many other accomplishments, Dean Leeder taught one of the first courses ever offered on battered women and family violence, beginning in 1980.

Reflecting on what has been called the "third wave" of feminism, Dean Leeder shares "there are young women who are feminist [and] there are feminists who haven't named it." Acknowledging that "feminism" often holds a stigma for young women and men today, she optimistically views the present stage of feminism as just one in the "process and dialectic" of social

change. She explains, "I had to have to act it [feminism] out, scream it, so that my daughter can just live it and it's just the norm...I've taught my daughter to be strong, self-respectful, independent, able to take care of herself financially and emotionally". She concludes with steadfastness, "I don't care what you call yourself, so long as you live your life as powerfully as you can." Clearly, this is an understanding of incorporating feminism far beyond the confines of academia. In fact, Dean Leeder envisions feminism as a "global movement" and not something that is centered in "the West." As part of this vision her newest book, *The Family in Global Perspective: A Gendered Journey* was just recently published by Sage Press in December 2003—the latest of her numerous books and articles. As a woman who has traveled to 42 different countries, Dean Leeder understatedly remarks, "I've been on a lot of adventures." When you've traveled the world, been a homesteader, and marched with Martin Luther King Jr., what's left? Well, becoming Dean of the School of Social Sciences at Sonoma State University. Indeed, why not?

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*Charlene Tung
Women's and Gender Studies*

ALUMNI NEWS

Corey Hale (2000), has been accepted at Pacifica Graduate Institute in Santa Barbara where she will be starting her PhD program in Depth Psychology this coming Fall.

Nora Pearl (Nora Cousens, 1993) has been keeping busy as a post-partum doula, an activist to stop Genetically Modified Food on Maui, a yoga teacher, and a chaplain in Unity Church in Hawaii.

Spotlight on WGS Alumna

Yuka Kamiishi graduated in Spring 2001 with a WGS major and minor in Sociology. She has been a regular guest speaker in various WGS courses speaking on her full-time position as a domestic violence victim's advocate for the city of Sonoma. How she got there is a great example of how WGS' internship/community involvement project requirements can lead to post-graduation work.

Yuka has been with the **YWCA of Sonoma County, Domestic Violence and Sexual Services Program** since her senior year at SSU in 2001. She started out as a volunteer on the 24-hour crisis hotline and in addition, worked at the Safe House (women's emergency shelter) for two months.

About her current position, Yuka wants folks to know that her services include peer counseling, women's support group facilitation, legal assistance, community outreach, and case management. Her work often includes safety planning, domestic violence education and community resource referrals. All services are confidential and police contact is not required.

Recently, Yuka was also involved in "The Vagina Monologues" produced by the City of Sonoma--where she was awarded the "Vagina Warrior" award! She writes that "[performing] was such a powerful experience that I intend to keep being involved every year." In fact, Yuka now has the goal to produce "The Vagina Monologues" in Spanish in the year 2007! She welcomes any assistance/suggestions and asks that you contact her at 707-933-2263.

FACULTY/STAFF NEWS

Nan Alamilla Boyd, Assistant Professor WGS, was invited to read from her book Wide Open Town at the San Francisco Writer's Conference, February 13-15, 2004. March 4th, she was interviewed live on KFTY Ch. 50 Santa Rosa providing commentary on same-sex marriage. Among other conferences, she presented a paper at the Organization of American Historians annual meetings, March 26-28, 2004, in Boston, MA. She has been awarded a RSCAP Summer Grant for her project, "The Economic Implications of Same-Sex Marriage".

Professor Emeritus of WGS **Kay Trimberger** research on single women was featured in the Press Democrat February 29, 2004 article entitled "Singular Lives". It also featured SSU faculty **Velma Guillory Taylor** (AMCS and WGS) and **Catherine Nelson** (Political Science). Check out www.northbay.com/lifestyle/general/29single_d1prerund.html. She has also signed a contract with Beacon Press to publish her book, The New Single Woman due out Fall 2005.

Elaine Leeder, Dean of Social Sciences and Professor of Sociology, had her newest book entitled, The Family in Global Perspective: A Gendered Journey released by Sage Press in December 2003.

Charlene Tung, Assistant Professor WGS, has an article "Embodying an Image: Gender, Race and Sexuality in *La Femme Nikita*" in the just published Action Chicks: New Images of Tough Women in Popular Culture (ed. Inness, Palgrave MacMillan Press). She also presented at the National Association of Asian American Studies conference in Boston, MA March 24-27.

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY

YWCA is currently looking for dedicated volunteers and interns to assist survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. After completing the 40-hour comprehensive volunteer training, you will receive certification to volunteer within the following areas: Staffing the 24-hour crisis line, assisting in the Temporary Restraining Order Clinic, or providing court accompaniment. For more info, contact our Volunteer Coordinator at **(707) 546-9922 ext. 18**.

COMING UP ...

2004 Graduation



**Congratulations to our
Class of 2004
WGS Majors and Minors!**



Majors

Lana Kay Tyer
Guyla M. Noel Caldwell (double major Nursing)
Stacy M. Cohen
Stephanie Horn
Kira Sue Kayler
Verity J. Lanag (double major Psychology)
Julie Leishman
Gina C. Monaco
Maureen O'Connor (double major AMCS)
Julie O'Neill (double major Psychology)
Stacey L. Wood

Minors

Jonathan P. Brady
Lauren Kristina Dallas
Andrea M. Guibao
Stephanie Jean Newell (Women's Health Minor)
Andrea Lynn Martini (Women's Health Minor)

**Join us for the Ceremonies on
Saturday May 22, 2004
10:00 a.m.
Commencement Lawn at the Lakes**



WGS Year-End Potluck Celebration!!! Join our graduates, faculty and students as we celebrate the end of the semester and graduation!

**Monday May 17th
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
RCH 20**

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SUMMER SESSION

WGS 350: Gender, Sexuality and Family

Fulfills WGS Major/Minor Requirement and
GE Category E

When: June 1-17th

Time: M-TH 1:30-5:30

Where: RCH 20

Note: Summer is an excellent time to take a WGS required course and/or fulfill a GE requirement.

FROM THE SCHULZ LIBRARY



University Library's Voter Engagement Project

During a major election year I sometimes get discouraged about election polls or voter apathy or the seemingly glacial pace of social & political change, and I wonder why I should even bother to vote. Then I stop and remember the struggles of those before me who fought long and hard to assure that I have that right.

For example, I think of Carrie Chapman Catt, a suffragist who described the non-violent, 72-year struggle for white American women to have the right to vote.:

...During that time they were forced to conduct 56 campaigns of referenda to male voters; 480 campaigns to get state legislatures to submit suffrage amendments to voters; 47 state campaigns to get state constitutional conventions to write women's suffrage into state constitutions; 277 campaigns to get state party conventions to include woman suffrage planks; 30 campaigns to get presidential party conventions to adopt women suffrage planks in party platforms; and 19 campaigns in 19 successive Congresses.

Millions of dollars were raised... Hundreds of women gave the accumulated possibilities of an entire lifetime, thousands gave years of their lives, hundreds gave constant interest and such aid as they could... Young suffragists who helped forge the last links of that chain were not born when it began. Old suffragists who forged the first links were dead when it ended.

I think of Fannie Lou Hamer, a sharecropper's daughter, who fought long and hard for voting rights by being one of the first African Americans to register to vote in Mississippi in 1962. She went on in 1964 to challenge the seating of Mississippi's all-white delegation at the Democratic National Convention, with two members of her Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party winning speaking rights at the convention due to her persuasive arguments.

I think of Wilma Mankiller and Dolores Huerta and Yuri Kochiyama, and Vilma Martinez and Margaret Fung

and the countless others who continue to this day to struggle to protect our voting rights.

When I think of these multigenerational, decades-long efforts to win the right to vote, and to safeguard that right, how can I not vote?

So what does this have to do with the library, you may ask? The University Library, working with a coalition of folks across campus, is planning a comprehensive voter engagement project for the fall semester. The University Library will offer a venue for the campus community to explore together the vast notion of voting. It will include keynote speakers, a noontime lecture series, art exhibits, multimedia displays, a theater performance, debate-watching nights, educational workshops, voter registration drives, and much more. The planning is still in progress but we're putting together a great lineup.

Let's be inspired by those who came before us and engage in the democratic process. Let's move beyond the excuses most people give for not voting (too busy, not interested, out of town, didn't like candidates, overwhelmed by the ballot, forgot to register, etc.). Let's surpass the statistics for the 2000 election that showed that only 36.1% of the 18-24 year-olds voted while 72.2% of those between 65-74 voted.

Come join with us in the library to learn, discuss, and engage in the process. More information will be posted on the library's website at <http://library.sonoma.edu>.

Paula Hammett, University Librarian

Coming Next Fall.... Voter Registration/Noontime lecture series

Topics will include:

- the disenfranchised voter,
- why we can't or don't vote
- the politics of protest
- voting and technology
- the electoral college
- the culture of democracy
- an open forum for students to discuss issues around the elections.

WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES FALL 2004 CLASS SCHEDULE

COURSE	GE	TITLE	UNITS	DAYS	TIMES	INSTRUCTOR
280	E	Women's Bodies: Health & Image	3.0	Tues	1 - 3:40	Cindy Stearns
301.1		Women's Health Lecture Series	2.0	Tues	4 - 5:50	Cindy Stearns
311.1	(x-list Soc)	Sociology of Reproduction	3.0	Th	9 - 11:40	Cindy Stearns
311.2	(x-list Soc)	Sociology of Gender	4.0	W	1 - 4:40	Melinda Milligan Meets in SAL 2021.
350.1	E	Gender, Sexuality & Family	3.0	W	4 - 6:40	Barbara Lesch McCaffry
350.2	E	Gender, Sexuality & Family	3.0	W	4 - 8:40	UKIAH-- Guillory Taylor
355		Queer Theory, Queer Lives	4.0	Th	1- 4:40	Nan Alamilla Boyd
375.1	D1	Gender, Race & Ethnic Studies Class	3.0	Wed	1 - 3:40	Charlene Tung
375.2	D1	Gender, Race & Ethnic Studies Class	3.0	F	9 - 11:40	Nan Alamilla Boyd
385	(x-list Soc)	Gender & Globalization	4.0	M/W	10-11:50	Charlene Tung
425	(x-list Soc & Psych)	Feminist Research Methods	4.0	T	8-11:40	Nan Alamilla Boyd
475		Contemporary Feminist Theory	4.0	M	2-5:40	Charlene Tung
492		Syllabus Design	1.0	TBA	TBA	Cindy Stearns
493		Teaching Supervision	1.0	TBA	TBA	Charlene Tung

All classes are held in Rachel Carson Hall Room 20, unless otherwise noted.

FALL 2004 COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

311.1 Sociology of Reproduction. In this seminar style course, the sociology of reproduction is broadly defined to include contraception, abortion, pregnancy, childbirth, reproductive technologies, breastfeeding, and other relevant topics. The course will look at various aspects of reproduction and reproductive freedom from both macro and micro sociological perspectives.

355 Queer Theory, Queer Lives. This course offers an introduction to Queer Theory and Queer Studies by looking at queer lives in the context of U.S. history, politics, and culture. We will begin by tracing the emergence of same-sex sexual identities and LGBT communities in the U.S. We will also consider the limits of identity politics and conflicts within queer communities. And finally we will address contemporary questions of religion and the religious right, gay marriage and adoption, queer representation in popular media, and transgender culture.

385 Gender and Globalization. This course examines how globalization processes impact women around the world, including within the U.S. Utilizing sociological, historical, and anthropological studies, literary essays, and films we will examine the role the U.S. plays in the global political economy in relation to women's labor migration, sweatshop labor, and sex trafficking among other topics.

QUEER STUDIES LECTURE SERIES SPRING 2004 HIGHLIGHTS

The Queer Studies Lecture Series showcased a number of topics this semester. Organized by Professor Nan Alamilla Boyd, we were lucky to bring in talent from the Sonoma State University faculty, including Dr. Richard Rodriguez, from Counseling and Psychological Services, who facilitated a workshop on the “pull” people with multiple identities often feel; Dr. Julie Allen, from the English Department, who presented on the subversive uses of humor in lesbian fiction; Nan Alamilla Boyd, from the Women’s and Gender Studies Department, who presented on constructions of masculinity, and Jann Nunn, from the Art Department, who discussed the production of her recent film, “The Bradfords Tour America.” The lecture series also brought a number of wonderful speakers from off-campus. Dr. Martin Meeker, an historian from U.C. Berkeley, spoke on lesbian pulp novels and the politics of representation. N’Tanya Lee, an activist working in San Francisco with the Coleman Institute, discussed the wedge tactics used by the religious right to divide LGBTQ communities from communities of color. KC Bly, a transgender activist and scholar, spoke on Judith Butler’s theory of abjection and transgender politics. Cheryl Chase, the Executive Director of the Intersex Society of North America, gave a

sobering presentation on the medical management of children born with intersex conditions, and Patrick Egan, a doctoral candidate from U.C. Berkeley’s Political Science discussed GLBT voting patterns.

Nan Alamilla Boyd, WGS

Final upcoming lecture is also open to the public!

Tues May 5, Damon Scott, SSU Geography Dept.
RCH 20. 12-12:50
“The Intersections of Sexuality and
Space in San Francisco.”

WGS Newsletter

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