

Fall 2008

Women's Studies Newsletter Fall 2008

Wright State University Women's Studies Program

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WOMEN'S STUDIES

FALL 2008

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FROM OUR DIRECTOR: KELLI ZAYTOUN, PH.D.

The 2007-2008 academic year extended through mid-June for Women's Studies faculty and students, as Wright State University was one of six co-sponsors of this year's National Women's Studies Annual Conference which convened in Cincinnati June 19-22. This year's conference, titled *Resisting Hegemonies: Race and Sexual Politics in Nation, Region, Empire*, brought 2,000 university scholars and students to Ohio for simulating paper presentations, keynote addresses, and films. This year featured a keynote address by sociologist Patricia Hill Collins and a tribute panel on black feminist thought. A number of WSU faculty, staff, and students participated in this rare occasion to interact with Women's Studies scholars from across the United States. Page 4 of this newsletter features comments from students about

their experience at this year's NWSA Conference.

Women's Studies is pleased to be collaborating with the Women's Center on several events this fall. See page 6 for a full list of programs.

In celebration of the Dayton Literary Peace Prize week, a Women Working for Peace workshop and panel presentation in September will feature Bobbie Wren Banks from Women's Action for New Direction's national office, and other prominent scholars and activists. The Women's Studies Lecture Series will feature Dr. Rebecca Whisnant who will present **"Who Wants to be a Porn Star: Sex, Violence, and the Contemporary Pornography Industry"** on October 15th. Whisnant, who is a philosophy professor and the new director of Women's Studies at the University of Dayton, is author of *Not for Sale: Feminists*

Resisting Prostitution and Pornography and Global Feminist Ethics. This event is part of Women's Studies' first Honors Approaches to Women's Studies curriculum, and is co-sponsored with the Women's Center and the University Honors Program.



Women's Studies welcomes back Visiting Professor Judith Ezekiel, who is teaching a series of courses on social movements and Approaches to Women's Studies, and instructor Andrea Harris, who is teaching *Violence against Women in Literature*, Approaches to Women's Studies, and a new course this winter on Christianity and Feminism. Have a great fall and we look forward to seeing you soon.

New to the Women's Studies Program Library:



Identities: Race, Class, Gender, and Nationality
Edited by: Linda Martin Alcoff and Eduardo Mendieta

"A landmark reader in the borderlands of our 'post' and 'trans' existences. *Identities* demonstrates the historical centrality of identity to Western philosophy and explores the philosophical dimensions of our contemporary struggle with identity, politics, and culture."

Johnnella Butler, University of Washington, editor of *Color-Line to Borderlands: The Matrix of American Ethnic Studies*

"Who Wants to be a Porn Star? Sex, Violence & the Contemporary Pornography Industry"

Wednesday, October 15, 2008, 5:00 p.m., 116 Health Sciences

Presented by Dr. Rebecca Whisnant



Once considered seedy and marginal, the pornography industry has become a mainstream multi-billion dollar enterprise. In this lecture and slide presentation, Rebecca Whisnant challenges the myth that pornography is mere fantasy, offering a feminist analysis that takes seriously pornography's consequences in the lives of real human beings. (Not suitable for individuals under 18 years of age.)

CONGRATULATIONS 2008 GRADUATES

A special congratulations is extended to all 2008 graduates, especially our women's studies majors, minors and certificate holders. Five of our fifteen graduates went on to pursue Master's degrees and two are pursuing Ph.D's.

- Suchismita Banerjee
- Dustin Baker
- Darin Dillinger
- Brandi Martin
- Teisha Murray
- Kelly Nordstrom
- Morgan Patten
- Frederick Patten
- Kristi Patzman
- Christina Pusecker
- Jessica Rutter
- Cassandra Shepherd
- Karen Sisk
- Ashley Slouffman
- Ashley Vance



WSU Commencement
June 14, 2008



Ashley Slouffman
B.A., Women's Studies, 2008



Suchismita Banerjee
M.A., English, Women's Studies
Certificate, 2008



Cassandra Shepherd
B.S., Psychology, Minor
Women's Studies, 2008



Kristi Patzman
B.S., Organizational Leadership,
Minor Women's Studies, 2008

NEWS FROM AAUP

Last year we informed you about a new agreement with the Wright State University administration which provides for teaching relief for parents of a newborn or newly adopted infant. That agreement is now part of the current Collective Bargaining Agreement, which took effect in August and will continue until June 30, 2011. Check out Article 31.6 for the details regarding eligibility and other information. Our agreement about health care coverage for domestic partners is now also a part of the contract, in Article 26.4.2.

The contract also contains other provisions that may be of special interest to women faculty members, although all faculty members are eligible. Tuition and

fee remission benefits are available for dependents as well as Bargaining Unit Faculty Members (Article 31.1). Extension of the probationary period for assistant professors is described in Article 13.5.4, the Family Medical Leave Act is covered in Article 30.1, and child care provisions can be found in Article 30.3. These benefits have been available for many years, but a new one was added to the current contract – Adoption Assistance. The university will reimburse Bargaining Unit Faculty Members up to \$4,000 per child for eligible adoption related expenses. See Article 31.7 for the details of this provision.

Bargaining Unit Faculty Members will be receiving own paper copies of the Collec-

tive Bargaining Agreement soon. The complete contract can also be viewed on the AAUP website, <http://www.wright.edu/admin/aaup/aaup.html>. Please contact AAUP if you have any questions.

With all my best wishes for a productive and satisfying academic year,

Anna Bellisari,
President AAUP
-WSU

775-2923



Anna Bellisari, Ph.D.

FACULTY & STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

**Carol Engelhardt Herringer**

Associate Professor of History and Director of Social Science Education Program

Dr. Herringer recently published a new book, "Victorians and the Virgin Mary: Religion and Gender in England, 1830-1885," an interdisciplinary analysis of representations of the Virgin Mary, examining how anxieties about religious and gender identities intersected to create public controversies that, while ostensibly about theology and liturgy, were also attempts to define the role and nature of woman. The book was published by Manchester UP.

*Congratulations to Women's Studies faculty and students
for their achievements within the College of Liberal Arts for the 2007-2008
academic year.*

ANNETTE OXINDINE

Associate Professor, English

Faculty Advisor, *Fogdog* and English Club

Recipient of a 2008 College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Teaching Award

LINDA MORGAN

WMS Major

Presented her paper "Losing a Child, Bearing a Star: A Personal Inquiry into the 'Gold Star Mother'" at the fourth annual Undergraduate Student Symposium in May

MORGAN PATTEN

B.A., Women's Studies 2008

Recipient of the 2008 Outstanding Women's Studies Student Award

KAREN SISK

M.A., English, Women's Studies Certificate 2008

Recipient of the 2008 Outstanding Women's Studies Graduate Student Award

EMILY YANTIS

WMS Major

Recipient of a CoLA Student Leadership Scholarship

NATIONAL WOMEN'S STUDIES ASSOCIATION 29TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE, JUNE 19-22, 2008, CINCINNATI, OHIO- "RESISTING HEGEMONIES: RACE AND SEXUAL POLITICS IN NATION, REGION, EMPIRE"



The National Women's Studies Association was established in 1977. Today it has more than 2,000 members worldwide. The annual conference regularly draws more than 1,200 attendees (this year it drew 2,000) and is the only annual meeting in the US exclusively dedicated to showcasing the latest feminist scholarship.

<http://www.nwsaconference.org/cms/>

This year, six WSU Women's Studies students, Suchismita Banerjee, Teisha Murray, Morgan Patten, Karen Sisk, Caroline Tefft and Angela Zippin, volunteered their time in exchange for the opportunity to be participants in this year's conference. These students summed up their experiences as follows:

Suchi Banerjee *"NWSA was a great experience. I was so inspired by Dr. Patricia Collins' speech. She made me think of different questions like how capitalism and consumerism shape concepts that are legitimized by the dominant culture. Listening to her, I was thinking how the Miss Universe and Miss World competitions affected the Indians when two Indian women won the titles for the first time. I really wanted to talk about this to Dr. Collins, but could not muster the courage to go up to her. Some of the panels I attended were also eye opening to me because they dealt with empire and hegemony and I intend to specialize in post colonial literature in my doctoral program. Also meeting with like-minded people, engaging in conversations, making good friends made the conference so memorable to me. Thanks...for giving me the opportunity to be a part of this scholarly family."*

Morgan Patten *"Attending the NWSA Conference was a great opportunity for me not only to learn about the latest research in the field of Women's Studies, but also to make connections with faculty and students from other universities. One of the most exciting events I attended at NWSA was the keynote address by Dr. Patricia Hill Collins. It was a powerful experience to see a speaker whose thought has been so influential in feminist theory and whose work we studied in several of my Women's Studies classes. In addition, I attended a session led by Jessica Valenti and Courtney Martin, editors of the popular Feministing.com blog. Again, having the opportunity to talk to the women whose analysis I read daily was invigorating."*

Teisha Murray *"I can definitely say that a discussion of the Bailey controversy made me more open to trans-individuals and their choice. It was at the end of the panel that I realized that no matter what I don't understand, I still uphold a person's right to be themselves, to do what makes them happy in their life & their own skin."*

Angela Zippin *"Attending the NWSA conference was such a wonderful experience. Since I plan on teaching Women's Studies in the future, it was a great opportunity to see what I can aspire to be. It was not only educational, but a lot of fun! I got to meet people from all over the country with interests similar to mine. As a student looking forward to graduate school, NWSA was a great chance to see what all is out there and what is best for me. It also gave me a great sense of pride in Wright State University. Every time I spoke about my experience in college, it reminded me of how much I appreciate WSU."*

WMS WMS

The Women's Studies Program at Wright State University places women at the center of scholarly inquiry, examining how gender roles influence not only personal identities, but also culture, society, economics, and political systems. The program studies women and women's issues primarily through an interdisciplinary lens, investigating women's concern from the perspectives of history, English literature, communication, sociology, business, economics, and political science. Our 42 affiliate faculty members come from numerous departments/colleges across the university.

Mark your Calendars

- September 10 Women's Center Open House**
148 Millett Hall, Women's Center
9 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
- September 15 Multicultural Welcome Reception**
Multicultural Lounge & Millett Atrium
2:00-4:00 p.m.

- September 25 Women Working for Peace Workshop**
010 Student Union
9:00 a.m.— Noon
- September 25 Feminist Perspectives on Cultures of Peace**
E163 Student Union
2:30– 4:00 p.m.
- September 26 Fall Quarter Women Faculty Rendezvous**
148 Millett Hall, Women's Center
5:30 p.m.
- October 2 The Junkyard Ghost Revival**
Student Union Apollo Room
7:00 p.m.
- October 15 Who Wants to be a Porn Star? Sex, Violence & the Contemporary Pornography Industry**
116 Health Sciences Building
5:00 p.m.
- October 21 "All of Us" Film Screening & Discussion**
E156 Student Union
6:00–10:00 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE

Angela Davis—February 2009, More information forthcoming



NWSA Conference 2008

Front Row (left to right): Suchi Banerjee, Morgan Patten, Teisha Murray, Pegah Rahmadian

Back Row (left to right): Caroline Tefft, Angela Zippin, Karen Sisk, Amber Vlasnik, Kelli Zaytoun, Cindy Vanzant

"I think the importance of doing activist work is precisely because it allows you to give back and to consider yourself not as a single individual who may have achieved whatever but to be a part of an ongoing historical movement."

—Angela Davis

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Individualized field experiences are available to students seeking opportunities to earn credit for developing a women's studies project idea, for promoting advocacy for women, and for service and activism that challenges the patriarchal social structure. Please call the Women's Studies Program for more information. (WMS 498)

NEW WMS CLASS—WINTER 2009

Christianity and Feminism: "Neither Male nor Female" is a critical examination of the popular contention that Christianity and Feminism are irreconcilable. Through the work of theologians and feminist scholars, we will explore connections between Christian doctrine and the feminist movement for social equality, and ultimately ponder the seemingly audacious claim that Christians *are* feminists.

SNEAK PEEK AT WINTER 2009 EVENTS

Watch for these upcoming events:

February ~ Angela Davis *

March **Women's History Month**
~ Women's International Day Luncheon*
~ Women in Art: Unheard Voices 10th Anniversary Exhibit, March 15-20, 2009

April ~ Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day, April 23, 2009

***More information forthcoming.**

A FEMINIST RESOURCE GUIDE

**Grrrl Zine Network**

<http://www.grrrlzines.net/index.htm>

A politically charged independent online magazine that discusses activism, politics, and feminist theory.

National Organization for Women

<http://www.now.org/>

Co-founded by Betty Friedan in 1966, NOW is the largest organization of feminist activists taking action for women's equality.

**Feminist Majority Foundation**

<http://feminist.org/>

The Feminist Majority Foundation (FMF), which was founded in 1987, is a cutting edge organization dedicated to women's equality, reproductive health, and non-violence. In all spheres, FMF utilizes research and action to empower women economically, socially, and politically. Our organization believes that feminists - both women and men, girls and boys - are the majority, but this majority must be empowered.



Visit Our Website!

<http://www.wright.edu/cola/Prog/>

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