

Winter 2008

Women's Studies Newsletter Winter 2008

Wright State University Women's Studies Program

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WOMEN'S STUDIES

FEBRUARY 2008

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FROM OUR DIRECTOR: KELLI ZAYTOUN, PH.D.

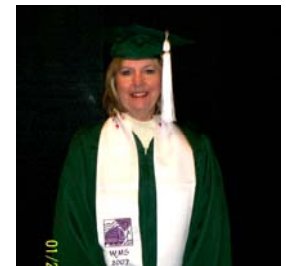
Winter quarter is always a bustling, eventful time for our program, but this quarter is an especially memorable one. In January, Wright State's Women's Center celebrated its 15 year anniversary by hosting a breakfast and initiating a "15 dollars for 15 years" fundraising campaign. At the event, the members of the committee who made the case for a women's studies program and a women's center at Wright State were honored. Over 200 people from the campus and community attended the event and \$3,000 has been raised so far. If you have yet to contribute, please call 775-4524.

cally white, middle-class, ethnocentric and self-absorbed?" This event is also a fundraiser for the Women's Studies Program Fund. This spring, look forward to a lecture by novelist and poet Maxine Hong Kingston on April 3rd, and a reading by Aaron Raz Link and Hilda Raz on their book *What Becomes You*. See page six for details on these and other upcoming programs.

The women's studies program now has 62 students pursuing majors, minors, or graduate certificates, an increase of 20% since last year. This year, we added courses by Andrea Harris on violence against women in literature and film, and by Judith Ezekiel on gender and U.S. social movements and race, class, and gender privilege. We're pleased that Dr. Ezekiel, our Visiting Professor from the Université de Toulouse-Le Mirail, will continue with us for the 2008-2009 academic year and help meet the needs of our quickly growing program. Lastly, we'd like to congratulate fall and winter women's studies graduates Dustin Baker, Darin Dillinger, Kelly Nordstrom, Suzanna Reed, and Jessica Rutter. Best wishes for a productive winter quarter.



Kelli Zaytoun, Ph.D.



Suzanna Reed
B.A., Women's Studies, 2007



Women's Studies Faculty Reading Group

Discussion will be on March 14

"This (book) is a call to arms for women and girls who are being sold pseudo empowerment, phony liberation, and fake rebellion - instead of the real thing: freedom."
-Robin Morgan

If you would like to participate, please contact Kelli at kelli.zaytoun@wright.edu.

Also in January, the women's studies program and women's center hosted a visit by Third Wave feminist activists and authors, Jennifer Baumgardner and Amy Richards, who facilitated a discussion in Dr. Ezekiel's Social Movements class, and gave a lecture on young women's relationship to feminism today. The Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance is sponsoring V-Day events on February 15-17. In addition to the Vagina Monologues, a second play by Ensler titled, A Memory, a Monologue, a Rant, and a Prayer, will be held. We'll close winter quarter activities with a lunch in honor of International Women's Day on March 11 with a lecture by Visiting Professor, Judith Ezekiel, titled, "International-or American--Women's Day: Is US Feminism histori-

NEW TO WRIGHT STATE'S LIBRARY

Piper Martin, Paul Lawrence Dunbar's Social Sciences and Humanities Librarian, has recommended several books and videos related to women's studies as follows:

Women, Power, and Politics by Anne Stevens

The Gendered Society by Michael S. Kimmel

Prude: How The Sex-Obsessed Culture Damages Girls (And America Too!) by Carol Platt Liebau

The New Politics of Gender Equality by Judith Squires

Gender, Generation, and Poverty: Exploring the 'Feminisation of Poverty' in Africa, Asia, and Latin America by Sylvia H. Chant

Butch Is A Noun by S. Bear Bergman

Imagining Transgender: An Ethnography of a Category by David Valentine

Videos available:

Cruel and Unusual

Judith Butler: Philosophical Encounters of the Third Kind



NEW PARENTS: TEACHING RELIEF

In February of 2006, Wright State University and AAUP-WSU signed an Agreement on Parental Accommodations to provide teaching relief for new parents in the Bargaining Unit. The agreement is intended to provide a birth or adoptive parent with additional time to care for a newborn or newly-adopted child under the age of six. Eligible Bargaining Unit Faculty Members may choose to take either one full quarter with no teaching responsibilities or two quarters with 50% of the customary teaching load without loss of pay. To be eligible, a Bargaining Unit Faculty Member must be the primary caretaker of the child for at least 25 hours per week, from Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. Requests for teaching relief must be submitted to the Provost and must include a signed statement that the Bargaining Unit Faculty Member meets eligibility requirements.

For the Wright State University this benefit is a valuable tool for recruitment and retention of young faculty members with families. This benefit is available to some employees in business and industry as well as faculty at

some other universities, so Wright State is now able to compete with them for top quality faculty and support them through their probationary period. AAUP-WSU negotiated this family-friendly policy especially in order to assist faculty parents in their efforts to balance employment and family responsibilities during their early careers.

It has been said that faculty women are more reluctant than men to take advantage of this teaching relief benefit. According to this view, women faculty members are concerned about negative impacts on annual evaluations and possible discrimination from faculty colleagues and administrators. But the new policy helps to protect against such outcomes by providing for a departmental average evaluation score if requested by the faculty member and by encouraging members to apply to their deans for support to maintain laboratory operations or other ongoing professional commitments.

In addition to Parental Teaching Relief, the current Collective Bargaining Agreement contains other provisions for families, including sick leave,

unpaid child care leave, partial unpaid leave, and probationary period extension. See the complete Agreement on Parental Accommodations detailing these provisions on the AAUP-WSU website

<http://www.wright.edu/admin/aaup/aaup.html>.

So far eleven Bargaining Unit Faculty Members (five women and six men) have been awarded parental teaching relief. You are strongly encouraged to apply if you are eligible. Contact any AAUP-WSU Executive Committee member (see contact list on AAUP-WSU website) if you have questions or concerns about this provision.

Anna Bellisari, Ph.D.

President AAUP-WSU

anna.bellisari@wright.edu

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Anna Bellisari, Ph.D.

A WOMAN'S VOICE FROM TEACHING AT SEA

Abuse, rape, and battering of women; female genital mutilation; public and private spheres of women; women and beauty; why do women need (or not need) men?; women's roles in family, education, religion, health care, politics, and economic systems; what can be done to improve the status of women? These and other topics were included in the course, "Women around the World" taught Fall 2007 on the program, Semester at Sea. This program, sponsored by University of Virginia, includes about 650 students from the U.S. and abroad and up to 30 faculty.

Although I have taught a similar course many times at WSU, it is a unique experience to teach it while

traveling from country to country. Students observed and talked to women in many countries, rich and poor, around the world. We visited organizations run for and by women, talked about women's issues (roles in politics, education, and families; abuse faced by women around the world; health issues of women), and studied projects to help women around the world such as micro-credit organizations.

Overall impressions? The situation for women in many countries is desperate. It is a constant daily struggle for them to stay alive and support their families. That does not even consider how they might improve their lives with education or other opportunities.

There are some glimmers of hope, generally not from governmental efforts or foreign aid which benefit few women, but from grassroots efforts of NGOs and from micro-loans.

We all came back more informed about women's status, perhaps more discouraged, but also with some ideas of what can and should be done to help women.

Jeanne Ballantine, Ph.D.

Professor of Sociology

Jeanne.Ballantine@wright.edu



Jeanne Ballantine, Ph.D.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: MICHELLE METZNER

Michelle Metzner maintains a long-time commitment to Wright State University. After graduating with her B.A. in Mass Communication from WSU in 1995, Ms. Metzner began her teaching career at Wright State as an English teaching assistant. Upon earning her M.A., in English Composition and Rhetoric in 1997, she began teaching as an adjunct, and soon after became full time instructor. She has now been teaching at Wright State University for thirteen years.

Beginning in winter 2006, Ms.

Metzner began teaching women's studies courses each winter quarter. Her interests in women's studies deal with the subject of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and queer (GLBTQ) studies. As a result, one of the courses she teaches is "Gays and Lesbians in Film." In an interview, she stated, "I'm fascinated by how Hollywood presents (or ignores) the GLBTQ community."

In the future, Ms. Metzner would like to design and instruct a course that compares Tennessee Williams'

plays to their film adaptations, since many of the plays differ significantly from the film counterparts. "It's always interesting to see how Hollywood sanitizes original works to make them more palatable (marketable) to 'regular folks.'"

In her spare time, Ms. Metzner enjoys being with her family, taking in an occasional comedy class taught at the Funnybone, and co-hosts Rainbow Alliance's Annual Drag Show.



Michelle Metzner, M.A.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: DR. S. LYNETTE JONES

Lynette Jones' areas of specialty are American literature up to 1900, 20th century American literature, and African American literature. At Wright State University, Dr. Jones has taught many undergraduate and graduate courses focusing on African-American literature, which include African-American women writers, African American literature and film, and introduction to African American literature.

Born in Anderson, South Carolina, Dr. Jones received her B.A. and M.A. in English from Clemson University in Clemson, South Carolina. Dr. Jones

then earned her Ph.D. in English at The University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia. Dr. Jones' main focus in the area of women's studies is how race, class, and gender shape the writings of African American women.

Dr. Jones also enjoys traveling. Before becoming a professor at WSU, She traveled to Kenya, Tanzania, and Australia. After coming to WSU, Dr. Jones traveled to the University College Cork in Ireland, where she gave a presentation on African American literature. In addition to her trip to Ireland, Dr.

Jones presented in Tours, France for a conference.

Dr. Jones very much enjoys teaching at WSU and feels very happy about being able to teach and work with such wonderful faculty and students.



S. Lynette Jones, Ph.D.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: DR. CHERYL MEYER'S INTERVIEWS FROM PRISON



Cheryl L. Meyer, J.D., Ph.D.

Cheryl L. Meyer, Professor of Psychology at Wright State University School of Professional Psychology and Affiliate Faculty Member of Women's Studies has published, with co-author Michelle Oberman,

Professor of Law at Santa Clara University School of Law, a second book on mothers who kill their children, *When Mothers Kill: Interviews from Prison*. Meyer and Oberman are leading authorities on their subject. Their 2001 book, *Mothers Who Kill Their Children: Understanding the Acts of Moms* from Susan Smith to the "Prom Mom," drew from hundreds of newspaper articles as well as from medical and social science journals to propose a comprehensive typology of "maternal filicide." In that same year, driven by a desire to test their typology-and to better understand child-killing women not just as types but as individuals- Meyer and Oberman began interviewing women who had

been incarcerated for the crime. After conducting lengthy, face-to-face interviews with forty prison inmates, they returned and selected eight women to speak with at even greater length. This new book begins with these stories, recounted in the matter-of-fact words of the inmates themselves.

When *Mothers Kill* is compelling. In a clear, direct fashion the authors recount what they have learned from interviewing women imprisoned for killing their children. Readers will be shocked and outraged-as much by the violence the women have endured in their own lives as by the violence they engaged in-but they will also be informed and even

enlightened.

There are collective themes that emerge from these individual accounts, including histories of relentless interpersonal violence, troubled relationships with parents (particularly with mothers), twisted notions of romantic love, and deep conflicts about motherhood. These themes structure the book's overall narrative, which also includes an insightful examination of the social and institutional systems that have failed these women. Neither the mothers nor the authors offer these stories as excuses for these crimes.

Dr. Meyer also manages the Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual, Transgendered and Queer Allies listserv on the Wright State University campus. Her book is available for purchase from NYU Press at <http://www.nyupress.org/>.

SPRING QUARTER 2008 WOMEN'S STUDIES APPROVED COURSES

UNDERGRADUATE					
CRN	Department	Course Name	Day	Time	Instructor
36643	WMS-200-01	Approaches to Women's Studies	TR	12:20 pm - 2:00 pm	Ezekiel, Judith
**37310	WMS-200W-01	Writing in WMS 200			Ezekiel, Judith
39042	WMS-200-02	Women's Studies	MWF	11:00 am - 12:05 pm	Harris, Andrea
**39043	WMS-200W-02	Writing in WMS 200			Harris, Andrea
*39040	WMS-300-01	Black Women, Community Activism	T	6:05 pm - 9:35 pm	Hairston, Cherise
**39041	WMS-300W-01	Writing in WMS 300			Hairston, Cherise
37889	WMS-399-01	Women & Disability: Fem. Disability Studies	M	6:05 pm - 9:35 pm	Roberts, Patricia
**37891	WMS-399W-01	Writing in WMS 399			Roberts, Patricia
37892	WMS-399-02	Privilege: Race, Class, Gender, and Location	R	4:10 pm - 7:45 pm	Ezekiel, Judith
**37894	WMS-399W-02	Writing in WMS 399			Ezekiel, Judith
*	WMS-399-03	Psych. Of Men and Women	TR	12:20-2:00 p.m.	Konik, Julie
*	WMS-399-04	Feminist Memoirs	TR	2:15 pm-3:55 pm	Zaytoun, Kelli
**	WMS-399W-04	Writing in WMS 399			Zaytoun, Kelli
36647	WMS-498-01	Ind. Field Experience			Zaytoun, Kelli
36648	WMS-498-02	Ind. Field Experience			Zaytoun, Kelli
36649	WMS-498-03	Ind. Field Experience			Zaytoun, Kelli
36646	WMS-498-04	Ind. Field Experience			Zaytoun, Kelli
36651	WMS-499-01	Independent Study			Staff, TBA
36652	WMS-499-02	Independent Study			Staff, TBA
36653	WMS-499-03	Independent Study			Staff, TBA
36650	WMS-499-04	Independent Study			Staff, TBA
31065	COM-432-01	Race, Class and Gender	MWF	9:45 am - 10:50 am	Bennett, Carol
37379	EC-477-01	Int'l Perspective on Gender & Public Policy	TR	2:15 pm - 3:55 pm	Hopkins, Barbara
32399	ENG-357-01	American Texts: 20 th Century	MWF	2:45 pm - 3:50 pm	Jones, Lynette
37187	ENG-410-03	Contemporary British Fiction	TR	4:10-5:50 pm	Oxindine, Annette
37188	ENG-410W-03	Writing in ENG 410			Oxindine, Annette
*38853	ENG-430-01	Feminist Memoirs	TR	2:15 pm - 3:55 pm	Zaytoun, Kelli
**38854	ENG-430W-01	Writing in ENG 430			Zaytoun, Kelli
39213	ENG-440-01	Literature of African Diaspora	W	4:10-7:40	Seon, Yvonne
39214	ENG-440W-01	Writing in ENG 440			Seon, Yvonne
32411	ENG-483-01	Sociolinguistics	TR	4:10 pm - 5:50 pm	MacDonald, Maggie
32902	HPR-100-21	Weight Training for Women	MW	9:40 am - 10:40 am	Davis, Janette
37634	HPR-100-55	Self Defense for Women	MW	12:10 pm - 1:10 pm	Anastasio, Carmine
32924	HPR-100-58	Weight Training for Women	TR	10:25 am - 11:25 am	Davis, Janette
32931	HPR-101-04	Weight Training for Women	TR	10:25 am - 11:25 am	Davis, Janette
32936	HPR-101-10	Weight Training for Women	MW	9:40 am - 10:40 am	Davis, Janette
38724	HPR-101-15	Adv Rape Defense Strategies	MW	3:45 pm - 5:00 pm	Finnie, David

SPRING QUARTER 2008 WOMEN'S STUDIES APPROVED COURSES

UNDERGRADUATE					
CRN	Department	Course Name	Day	Time	Instructor
*39470	HST-485-04	Privilege: Race, Class, Gender, and Location	R	4:10 pm - 7:45 pm	Ezekiel, Judith
39471	HST-485W-04	Writing in HST 485			Ezekiel, Judith
33498	LAW-420-01	Legal Aspects of Managing a Diverse Workforce	MWF	9:45 am - 10:50 am	Wendt, Ann
*38908	PLS-399-03	Black Women, Community and Activism	T	6:05 pm - 9:25 pm	Hairston, Cherise
**38909	PLS-399W-03	Writing in PLS 399			Hairston, Cherise
39225	PLS-406-01	Global Theories & Gender Politics	R	4:10 pm - 7:45 pm	Ezekiel, Judith
**39232	PLS-406W-01	Writing in PLS 406			Ezekiel, Judith
*39308	PSY-210-01	Psych. Of Men and Women	TR	12:20 pm - 2:00 pm	Konik, Julie
38166	PSY-251-01	Stereotyping & Prejudice	TR	12:20 pm - 2:00 pm	Gooden, Martin
39028	SOC-405-01	Seminar in Sociological Theory	TR	4:10 pm-5:50 pm	Bergdahl, Jacqueline
36426	SW-375-01	Human Behavior and Social Functioning	TR	8:30 am - 10:10 am	Twill, Sarah
36427	SW-380-01	Basic Practice Theory	TR	12:20 pm - 1:35 pm	Twill, Sarah
**37347	SW-380W-01	Writing in SW 380			Twill, Sarah
38986	TH-399-09	Women Playwrights	MWF	3:00 pm - 3:50 pm	Donahoe, Mary
GRADUATE					
CRN	Department	Course Name	Day	Time	Instructor
37890	WMS-599-01	Women & Disability: Fem. Disability. Studies	M	6:05 pm - 9:35 pm	Roberts, Patricia
37893	WMS-599-02	Privilege: Race, Class, Gender, and Location	R	4:10 pm - 7:45 pm	Ezekiel, Judith
36656	WMS-699-01	Independent Study			Staff, TBA
36657	WMS-699-02	Independent Study			Staff, TBA
36658	WMS-699-03	Independent Study			Staff, TBA
36655	WMS-699-04	Independent Study			Staff, TBA
31079	COM-632-01	Race, Class and Gender	MWF	9:45 am -10:50 am	Bennett, Carol
39215	ENG-630-01	Feminist Memoir	TR	2:15 pm - 3:55 pm	Zaytoun, Kelli
32433	ENG-683-01	Sociolinguistics	TR	4:10 pm - 5:50 pm	MacDonald, Maggie
32440	ENG-730-01	Toni Morrison & Alice Walker	W	6:05-9:35 pm	Jones, Lynette
*39472	HST-685-04	Privilege: Race, Class, Gender, and Location	R	4:10 pm - 7:45 pm	Ezekiel, Judith
38910	PLS-599-03	Black Women, Community and Activism	T	6:05-9:25 pm	Hairston, Cherise
39233	PLS-606-01	Global Theories & Gender Politics	R	4:10 pm - 7:45 pm	Ezekiel, Judith
	SOC-605-01	Seminar in Sociological Theory	TR	4:10 pm-5:50 pm	Bergdahl, Jacqueline

*course is cross-listed

** writing intensive component of class

UPCOMING WOMEN CENTERED EVENTS

Event	Location	Date	Time
The Vagina Monologues (More Information Below)	WSU Medical Sciences Auditorium	Saturday, February 16, 2008	3:00 pm and 7:00 pm
A Memory, a Monologue, a Rant, and a Prayer (More Information Below)	WSU Medical Sciences Auditorium	Sunday, February 17, 2008	3:00 pm and 7:00 pm
"Broken Levees" A play by Sandra Crews, Associate Professor of Theater	Creative Arts Center, Director's Lab T131	Tuesday, February 26, 2008	2:15 pm
Diversity Film Series "Fund: The Story of Ella Baker" Activist, Civil Rights Organizer, 1903-1986 Discussion following film	161 Millett Hall, Multicultural Center Lounge	Monday, March 3, 2008	Noon-1:00 p.m.
International Women's Day Luncheon Lecture by Visiting Professor Judith Ezekiel "International-or American-Women's Day: Is US Feminism Historically White, Middle-class, Ethnocentric and Self-absorbed?" RSVP required by March 5 to 775-4818	E156 Student Union	Tuesday, March 11, 2008	12:15 pm - 1:30 pm
Maxine Hong Kingston	Student Union Apollo Room	Thursday, April 3, 2008	7:00 pm
Aaron Raz Link & Hilda Raz: Authors of <i>What Becomes You</i>	More Information Forthcoming	Tuesday, April 15, 2008	More Information Forthcoming



Saturday, February 16th, a talented group of students and faculty will be presenting "The Vagina Monologues."

Sunday, February 17th, another talented group of students and faculty will be presenting, "A Memory, a Monologue, a Rant and a Prayer," A new play by "Vagina Monologues" writer Eve Ensler

Both shows will be performed at 3:00 and 7:00pm on their respective days, in the Medical Sciences Auditorium at Wright State University. Tickets can be purchased presale for \$10.00 (\$15.00 day of show) in Millett Hall Atrium from 12:30pm to 1:30pm the week of the show, or by visiting the WSU Women's Center at Wright State University.

Ten percent of the proceeds will go to the V-Day Katrina Fund to help rebuild New Orleans and the Gulf Region, and the rest will go into the WSU Sexual Assault Prevention and Education fund to help stop sexual assault on Wright State's campus. Please contact organizer Toby Kling at kling.7@wright.edu for more information.

Visit Our Website!

www.cola.wright.edu/prog/wms/

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UNIVERSITY**

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Hours:

Monday-Friday
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Carol Nathanson

Sarah Tebbens

Ashley Vance

Amber Vlasnik

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.