

HIGHLIGHTING WOMEN'S ISSUES

Mansfield University Women's Studies Program Newsletter

Vol. 14 No. 2 Spring 2007

Director's Note

The Fall 2006 issue of *Highlighting Women's Issues* featured an article about the ways that Women's Studies courses helped to create leaders. The current issue was to include a follow-up article about the ways that extra-curricular aspects of the Women's Studies Program did so. However, discussing this issue with the Women's Studies Steering Committee, we decided that the best way to showcase Women's Studies minors as leaders was to let them take over writing this issue of the newsletter. While we suggested some of the article topics to them, they came up with quite a few others on their own. In addition to the student-written articles, you will find a list of courses offered in Summer and Fall 2006 that count toward the Women's Studies minor, along with course descriptions, as well as an outline of the Women's Studies minor. We are proud of our Women's Studies minors and trust that, after reading this issue, you will see why.

--Judith Sornberger

Student views of the PASSHE Women's Consortium

By Renee Scoviak and Sara Moyers

PASSHE Women's What?

By Renee Scoviak

Elementary Education major, Women's Studies minor

The Women's Consortium was held at IUP last semester. It is a time which all the women's studies minors from the PASSHE schools can meet and discuss what is going on in their own programs. As the crazy student on campus who is trying desperately to start a Women's Studies Student Organization going, I thought it would be a great opportunity to go to this conference and possibly learn some new ideas. I planned on learning a lot of useful information but I never thought I would make such great friends. Three faculty members, myself, and another student would be attending the consortium. It seemed pretty exciting, but I never could have guessed what was in store for me over the next two days.

The first friend I made was someone

I knew as an acquaintance and a professor before the conference; her name is Dr. Judith Sornberger. I learned so many wonderful things about her and from her while we were away at this two day retreat. I have to say that driving with a professor is something I had never experienced, and she made it worth my while. Dr. Sornberger pulled up in the University van and we all hopped in and set off for a four hour journey to IUP. Her crazy antics and pit stops made the driving much more fun than I expected.

Women's Arts and Culture Event:



Tissa Hami: "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Mosque"
Tuesday, March 27, 7pm
Straughn Auditorium

The next person I met is Dr. Shawndra Holderby. I must confess that I didn't really know her at all before the conference, but I had bumped into her several times at various meetings and events through out my time as women's studies minor. She was sweet and inviting and seemed to have a ton of things to talk about. We chatted about her favorite thing: history. We also talked about her son and my work on and off campus. I was informed from the beginning that these women were now Judith and Shawn, not Dr. Sornberger and Dr. Holderby. Also on the trip was faculty member Elizabeth Shaffer, the women's center and advocacy center director. Elizabeth had many insightful bits of information for me regarding sexual harassment, campus events, and getting my club started in conjunction with the advocacy center. Finally there was my room mate and fellow student, Sara Moyer. I got to know her pretty well in the next few days and she and I talked about anything and everything. I really enjoyed her company. I feel like we bonded on our way to IUP. In fact, I felt so comfortable with this group of women that I revealed very personal parts of my life.

At the conference I had the opportunity to attend many different sessions in different areas of interest. I went to several sessions that I found encouraging, but the first keynote speaker was fantastic. She was the adult in charge of a group called "The Women and Girls Foundation" which led the first ever "girl-cott". The girls found a problem with some shirts by a very popular company, Abercrombie and Fitch. The girls found the t-shirts so offensive and demeaning that they decided to do something about it. The girls ranging in ages from 10- 16 from PA wanted more than just the shirts pulled from the shelves so they went right to the corporate company to discuss their issues with the shirts. I left that session feeling empowered. I felt as though I could do anything I put my mind to, including get a WS club started at Mansfield.. It was a great way to start the conference off.

The next session I went to was about women in Television. I then attended one about pornography and the feminist. Each session offered different views and opinions and exposed me to new things. Later that night our group went out for dinner, and we had some great authentic Indian food and a great time. After dinner, I returned to my room with all the new things I had learned that day. My head was racing with new thoughts and, of course, Sara and I had to stay up until the early hours of the morning talking about all the things we learned and our lives here at Mansfield University.

The next morning I was excited and ready to learn more about the women of the PASSHE system, even though I was incredibly tired. I had my sessions picked out and was ready to go with paper and pen in hand, a hunger for knowledge. The first session I went to was "The Body Image Project". When I first arrived at IUP there were beautiful colorful casts or bodies on display. The artist, Larry Kirkwood, a white man, has this idea in his mind of erasing the body and dealing with the person. I was genuinely moved by his lecture and wanted to learn more. Elizabeth and I went to this together and were impressed with his work and knowledge. She looked at me and asked if it was something I thought students would be interested in. It thought so. So eventually we, Mansfield University, brought "The Body Image Project" here for our students to experience.

The next session I attended was about women and forestry. It was incredibly informing and I learned a lot about the first women involved with forestry and how much they impacted Pennsylvania with their knowledge. After Judith, Shawndra, and I discussed the idea of the speaker coming here as well because our faculty lecture series matched up perfectly with her lecture. The final speaker which was for everyone to listen to was going to talk about women in the workforce. It was about how women can get the deals men get; all they have to do is ask. It was interesting and very informative. It taught me that women don't have to make

less than men.

Overall I would say that this conference was a great learning experience for me. I learned about my professors as women and friends, who I am sure I will be in contact with for a very long time. I got to have some great learning experiences in the sessions I went to. I allied with the other women at the conference from Mansfield in bringing some quality lectures to this University. Most of all, I got to experience the thrill of learning about something I am passionate about and that I feel strongly for. Learning about what other women are doing and how they are making a difference in the world is one of the biggest inspirations I have experienced in my life to date. There is no way I could ever pass up the opportunity to go to another conference again. It was a fulfilling, fun and exciting opportunity that I would encourage anyone to take advantage of. Oh and by the way, I bought a car that weekend and got a sweet deal, mostly because of the skills I learned at the final lecture. Who says Women's Studies isn't a practical minor?

New Day, New Experience

By Sara Moyer

English major, Women's Studies minor

At the women's consortium last fall at Indiana University, I was expecting a new experience as well as new information, yet I was unprepared for the amount that I had acquired. Not only attending the workshops but also traveling with professors gave me new perspectives.

The workshop that I found the most interesting was "Woman as a Doll." A student had taken a large blow up doll and placed it in the common area of the university with the words "I am the Object." Beside the doll was a table full of different items; all of which could be used on the doll. The purpose of the experiment was to see what the passing students would do to a female figure. The results were astounding for the pictures showed a deflated and mutilated doll that barely resembled what

was placed in the common area eight hours earlier. The fact that the students mutilated the doll just confirmed her theory that when imagined as an object, treatment changes drastically.

Another aspect of the consortium that I enjoyed was the Body Image Project created by Larry Kirkwood, which was also presented here at Mansfield University last month. I found the uniqueness of each body cast as well as the perfection so enthralling that I never seemed to have enough time to take the project in its entirety. No one body cast was the perfect media image that we all assume we should possess, yet they were perfect. The fact that no two casts resembled the other made me question my own ideals of the perfect image. The perfection and individuality of each cast allowed me to broaden my perspective of my own image, and realize that every little "imperfection" in society's eyes made me one step closer to being who I am, just as the casts changed their owners' perspectives of themselves.

At first, traveling with professors seemed slightly unnerving to me. I was not sure how formal, or informal, the trip would be. At the time, I was taking a course with Dr. Judith Sornberger, but I had never talked to Elizabeth Shaffer or taken a course with Dr. Shawndra Holderby, so I was slightly cautious at first since I did not know them well. Soon enough I put my fears to the side as the formality that I imagined was broken and first name basis was taken to prevent any awkward situations. This created a much easier setting for me to thrive in, and therefore I was able to participate sooner in the traveling conversation than I would have normally been able to. The stories told on the trip ranged from women's issues to life issues, and not only did I gain a new perspective on my professors, but also new facts that I had been previously oblivious to pertaining to women's issues.

Overall, I enjoyed the Women's Consortium and I would love to attend another similar conference. I gained new perspectives on women's issues. I never

realized that I would acquire a breadth of information at the consortium and therefore not only was it a pleasant surprise but enjoyable as well.

Women in Music: Someone Will Remember Us

By Kellie Barbato

Vocal Music Education Major, Women's Studies Minor

On January 26th, 2007, Lauren Pelon graced the stage of Steadman Theater in Butler Music Center at Mansfield University. Ms. Pelon performed a program entitled "Women in

Music: Someone Will Remember Us," which featured music written by and for women spanning first century until present day. She also brought over twenty different instruments with

her and performed with all of them, and most of the time, she played more than one at a time. Some of the instruments she played were traditionally played by women, and some were forbidden. This performance was very empowering because, not only did she play many instruments, but she sang as well.

Ms. Pelon's performance was also very empowering because she performed music she had written. To this day, female composers are still discriminated against, though Clara Wieck Schumann, wife of the famous German composer Robert Schumann, and Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel, sister of the famous German composer Felix Mendelssohn, certainly paved the way for women composers back in the nineteenth century. Both women wrote in many different genres, and both



were also extremely talented pianists and considered virtuosic in their time. Due to social conditions of the time, Fanny was not allowed to publish her own music or go on performance tours because she was part of the aristocracy, and women of that class were supposed to take care of the house and kids. Sounds pretty typical, right?

Clara Wieck Schumann was the exception to the rule. She was raised by middle-class musician parents, so she learned to play piano before she even learned to talk, literally, because she had speech problems as a child. Her father began to take her on performance tours at the age of thirteen, and also encouraged her to write her own music. Because she was such a brilliant pianist, many of her lieder (German for art songs) have very impressive piano accompaniments, which is why I love them so much. Her music was published from day one, as opposed to Fanny's, whose wasn't published under her name until much longer after she wanted it to be. Many of Fanny's early works are published under Felix's name. Basically, it's a big deal to be a female composer, even today. There are many more well-known male composers than female.

Since picking up my women's studies minor last semester, I have taken a particular interest in Clara Wieck Schumann's vocal music. I am a vocal music education major, and I have found it more natural to express her music than any other music I have ever performed in my life. It's quite exhilarating to know that I'm singing music by the woman who paved the way for composers and performers like Lauren Pelon. That is why I was so inspired by her when Ms. Pelon performed her own music. I hope one day I can have the courage to perform music that I have written. Until that day, I will continue singing the music of other fabulous female composers like Clara Wieck Schumann, Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel, and Lauren Pelon.

Jessica Coope visits Mansfield for Women in Islam lecture

By Melanie Mood

History major, Women's Studies minor

On Thursday, February 8, 2007, Doctor Jessica Coope from the University of Nebraska gave a presentation on Women in Islam. I attended with several friends, and although I don't know very much about women in other cultures, I am certainly fascinated when it comes to studying and learning about them. I found this



presentation to be very interesting. Doctor Coope focused mainly on Islamic scripture and law to

educate us on the roles of women in Islam. She explained that there are different areas and countries that practice Islam, but they are different variations of the religion, almost like in the Christian religion with Protestants, Lutherans and Episcopalianism.

In Afghanistan, the Taliban is the largest group that practices Islam. The Taliban does not allow women to be educated or to work outside of the home. As a matter of fact, women are not allowed to leave their homes without a male accompanying them. They are completely and totally reliant on men.

In Iran, however, women are treated differently. They are allowed to have careers and to work outside of the home. They are allowed to hold public office, as well as to be educated. It is almost the exact opposite in Iran that in Afghanistan.

Doctor Coope discussed the history of the religion. It started in Arabia by Muhammad. They followed the Koran,

almost the equivalent to the Christian Bible, and the Hadiths. The Hadiths were stories about Muhammad, what he said and what he did. They were meant to explain and illustrate different passages in the Koran and to be an example of perfect morals and behavior. All of their laws, or Shari'ahs were based on the Hadiths and the Koran.

After talking about the religious practices of the Muslim faith, Doctor Coope then discussed the cultural and domestic roles of women. When couples were joined in marriage, it was the husband's responsibility to transfer a certain amount of money to his bride. The bride would get half of it at the wedding and if the couple were to divorce, then the woman would get the rest of it. It was a polygamous culture, therefore the men also held a number of wives. They were all kept inside, in seclusion, and were always veiled. A woman that was not veiled and did not have a male to protect her at all times outside of the home was thought to be a prostitute. The worst part about being a woman in Islam, I feel, is that your husband can not only be polygamous, but he can also lend wives out to other men. Women were passed around as if they were not even human which to me is degrading and demoralizing.

Overall, I found Doctor Jessica Coope's presentation on Women in Islam to be extremely interesting and something that would encourage me to look more into the religion and culture. It may not be something that I totally agree with or even believe in, and I certainly disagree completely with some parts of the religion, but I enjoyed the talk very much.



Body Image Project

By: Angel Clayberger

Psychology major

Artist Larry Kirkwood had an exhibit that portrayed real human bodies in Alumni Student Center at Mansfield University on February 22, 2007. He made casts out of bronze of people of all shapes and sizes then painted them to make art. His bronze cast artwork is phenomenal!

I was so intrigued by the colors he used, the type of people he used for models, and the fact that they were "real" people, not the images you see in magazines. I think the most eye opening one was the pregnant woman, and the woman who had lost a breast to breast cancer. The images I saw were beautiful, and I think many people should see this exhibit.

So many lessons can be learned from Kirkwood's body image project. For many, self-image is negative, and usually results in eating disorders or plastic surgery for attempts to be "perfect," but what is perfect? Who is to say who is ugly, fat, hot, and gorgeous? No one. Everyone is beautiful in their own way, no matter their shape, or size.

I believe that everyone has a purpose in life, and your body should have nothing to do with it. Your body is just a host for your brain, that makes the real you. The brain gives you your personality, attitude, feelings, intelligence, etc.

Overall, this art exhibit was by far worth going to see as an experience to

open your eyes to what is really around you, and how you view the people around you.

***The Vagina Monologues* at M.U.**

By: Corey Tarreto

Women's Studies minor

The Vagina Monologues is a play written by Eve Ensler which has been performed on Broadway and on stages across the world as part of the V-Day Campaign. The V-Day slogan is "until the violence stops," meaning V-Day will be 'celebrated' every year between mid-February and mid-March until violence against women and girls around the world ends. The main goal of V-Day is to raise awareness and funds in order to end the atrocities women daily face. Each year there is a spot-light group of women; this year's spot-light was women in conflict zones and the theme this year was "Reclaiming Peace."

For the third year in a row *The Vagina Monologues* were performed here at MU and two women's studies minors were involved directly in the production. Connie Jordan (a minor) and Jamie Sweitzer student-directed the production, and I, Corey Tarreto (also a minor), was the campus contact to the V-Day organization. Along with the help of a few other minors and Elizabeth Shaffer, we raised \$1,470. The show was a great success (despite inclement weather conditions) and we were able to make the show "new" once again.

Each year we try to hold the show in a different location and utilize different venues around campus. We've used Steadmen Auditorium, Allen Auditorium, and this year Upper Manser. We also try to vary the theme, costumes, and actresses. This year about half the cast had performed in 'the monologues' before but each woman had a new monologue to read.

The Vagina Monologues were written after Eve Ensler conducted hundreds

of, what she called, "vagina interviews." She asked women such questions like, "If your vagina could talk what would it say? And if it could get dressed what would it wear?" "The monologues" cover a range of topics, some funny and some serious. There is a "Happy Fact" telling of the amazing powers of the clitoris which is shortly followed by "A Not-So-Happy Fact" which tells of female genital mutilation practices across the world. Subjects covered include: hair, menstruation, masturbation, prostitution, rape, war, discovery, torture, domestic violence, social norms, names for the vagina, birth, and sex. For many watching *The Vagina Monologues* can be "an emotional roller coaster." Speaking as a woman who has been heavily involved in "the monologues," I can say with surety that this experience has changed my life.

My first year involved in the performance I became aware of a new part of my identity. Vagina-talk is rarely heard in polite conversation but it is a vital part of who we are as women. Because our society values masculine traits over feminine we learn to down-play that which makes us female, mostly our vaginas. I was shocked to realize how little I even thought about my own vagina: the part of me that most greatly defines who I am. Through my experiences I've become empowered and I am supported by the amazing women I've had the opportunity to work with. Because I did *The Vagina Monologues* as a freshman I decided to take the women's studies intro. course and then I became a minor. Since then I have become a peer mentor and a Woman of Power. That one single experience has opened more doors than I ever thought possible for me at Mansfield. I know my life and education would not have been the same had I never performed in *The Vagina Monologues*.

Maidens of Melodies

By Elizabeth Welshans

Mass communications major, Women's Studies minor

Wednesday afternoons I host a show with Chuck Hoy called "We Interrupt this Program." This is where we invite a member of the university or community to come in and speak out his or her life. One afternoon Dr. Judith Sornberger joined us to discuss the Women's Studies minor and other programs offered by the department. Between talking segments we ask guests to bring in music that they enjoy. Dr. Sornberger brought in all female artists. As we were sitting there listening to Joni Mitchell, I thought to myself "Wouldn't it be great to have a radio show that only showcased female artists?"

Immediately I put my plan into action. I decided to start my own radio show at the station, where each week I could showcase a female artist or two. During my show I would also discuss facts about the artist, facts and issues with women and anything else as long as it involved a woman. I was so excited for my new show but I couldn't think of a name. So I went home for the day and as I was driving home I listened to only females artists and that is when the name hit me, "Maidens Of Melody". I feel shows like Maidens of Melody are important because not only are we spreading the knowledge about female musicians, but giving ourselves a chance to talk to a lot of people about things we want to see change for women.

My first show was a tribute to Billie Holiday. Holiday was an amazing musician and she had been through so much in her life. I thought it would be appropriate to showcase her on my first show. I wasn't sure that many people would be interested in an all woman artist show, especially the same woman for about an hour. However, during my show I got several phone calls

requesting Billie Holiday songs or telling me they liked my show. I was extremely happy that people were interested in listening to Maidens of Melody.

I am about to graduate in May and sad that I am going to be leaving my radio show for good instead of just for the summer. I hope that another Women's Studies minor loves female artists as much as myself and takes over my spot on the show. During the rest of the semester I plan to feature many other female artists just as Janis Joplin, Joni Mitchell, Pat Benetar, Blondie, and many more.

If you missed Maidens of Melody's first show that's okay; you can always catch another. The show airs Monday nights from 6 – 8 PM. You can tune in at WNTN 89.5 FM or listen online at www.wnte.com.

The Sexualization of Girl's in Today's Media Society

By Hillarie Grumbine

Graduate student in Education with a Women's Studies emphasis.

On February 20, 2007 I was reading Yahoo! News as I usually do each morning and came across an article of interest. "Sexed-up images in media hurt young girls: study" was the title that called to me from the list of headlines. According to the news article, The American Psychological Association released a 60-page report on how detrimental the media has become on young women's psyches.

According to the report itself sexualization occurs when

- A person's value comes only from his or her sexual appeal or behavior, to the exclusion of other characteristics;
- A person is held to a standard that equates physical attractiveness (narrowly defined) with being sexy;

- A person is sexually objectified--that is, made into a thing for others' sexual use, rather than seen as a person with the capacity for independent action and decision making; and/or
- Sexuality is inappropriately imposed upon a person.

(American Psychological Association, Task Force on the Sexualization of Girls. (2007). *Report of the APA Task Force on the Sexualization of Girls*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. Retrieved from www.apa.org/pi/wpo/sexualization.html)

The report mentions toys, clothing advertisements and the music industry as main sources of such sexualization. For me, this seems like a no-brainer. With dolls like the popular "Bratz" dolls out on the market, how could one *not* expect girls to get the wrong impression. "Bratz" dolls, for those who have never seen them, are often dressed in skimpy clothing with completely unrealistic body structures. Typically they have very small bodies, larger breasts and large heads, featuring enormous eyes and pouty lips. The makers of Barbie changed proportions of their doll after much criticism from the media and protest groups, however the makers of "Bratz" seemed disinclined to do so, despite public attention to the unrealistic proportions of their doll and the data showing that such toys have a negative effect on young girls.

The report mentions clothing as well and one that is subtly referred to is a thong designed for 7-10 year old girls with sayings on the buttocks such as "eye candy." The very idea that as a society we are responsible for the making of a young girl-sized thong with the words "eye candy" on the rear disgusts me. The popular clothing store, Abercrombie & Fitch is responsible for producing that very invention in 2002. Thanks to nationwide protests outside of stores, the thongs were removed from the shelves. Many boycotted the stores but few realized that the company that owns

Abercrombie & Fitch also owns Hollister Co. yet another popular clothing store.

Sadly, that is not the only controversy the store has had over the years. Just three years ago, A&F received flack over T-shirts with phrases that were derogatory to both men and women. The phrase “L is for Loser” next to a screen printed male gymnast on the rings was boycotted by the group, USA Gymnastics and shortly after A&F pulled them from the shelves as well. A campaign run by the Women & Girls Foundation of Southwest Pennsylvania got shirts pulled from shelves in 2005 after A&F featured shirts with the phrase “Who Needs Brains When You Have These?” across the chest of women’s shirts.

These are just some examples of sexualization that can be found in today’s society. Some ask, what is the big deal? How much harm do these things really cause? According to the report, this sexualization can “undermine confidence in and comfort with one’s own body, leading to a host of negative emotional consequences, such as shame, anxiety, and even self-disgust.”

The report also pointed out that “studies based on the objectification theory have shown that the near-constant monitoring of appearance that accompanies self-objectification leads to increased feelings of shame about one’s body.” In 1997, teenage girls between the ages of 12-19 years of age spent over \$8 billion on beauty products alone. That says something about how teenagers are feeling about their appearance.

Overall the report is quite informative. It shows through research, what many have said before and haven’t backed up with concrete facts. Girls in this nation are in trouble. The report calls for parents to start becoming more aware and making efforts to combat the sexualization of young girls by putting pressure on various media sources. However, personally, I believe it is not just a parent’s job. It is everyone’s job to ensure the well being of our youth. Those ideas of poor self worth do not just end once adulthood is reached, feelings of self

disgust stay with you. As a society, we need to start showing young women that we value them not just as a commodity but as human beings with intelligence and a bright future.

Opinion – Celebrating Achievement

By Aurora Ariel Rathfon

Social Studies/History major

I am a non-traditional student and have always known that I wanted to teach, but when I graduated high school, things did not go the way I would have liked. Long story short, after raising two daughters, having a husband (which I still do), and working two jobs, I started college. Now three and a half years later, I am currently student teaching and looking forward to graduation in May of this year. For me this is a dream come true, something I can check off my “to do list” I started years ago.

It has been a long three and a half years, but I will be graduating with a B.S. in Social Studies/History Secondary Education and with a minor in women's studies. Some ask me how I achieved this with my home life, especially when my husband was sent overseas to Iraq, and I was left alone to finish raising our youngest daughter and take care of everything that our family life encompasses, plus working. Frankly, I tell them, “one day at a time and with lots of will power and God’s strength.” As for getting through school, with lots of help from some wonderful people at the college such as Dr. Holderby, Dr. Guenther, Dr. Linda Iseri, Christina Fry, Beth McClure and awesome friends such as Karin Bradley, Maurine Gehring and so many more. However, I would be remiss in stating that my best friend ShawnMarie, who graduated from Mansfield University years ago has been a constant encouragement in my life with lot of support even from afar!

I am a firm believer that we are in control of how our lives progress and women need to be strong because with our society, if we are not, we will be ran over in the fast lane of life. With sheer grit and will power, and most importantly your friends and family, we women are capable of doing anything. Sometimes it takes some longer than others. I am one of those who took longer to achieve my dream but as of May, I will. More importantly I look forward to receiving my diploma to show every woman I know, that no matter how old you are, we women can achieve and never give up your dreams, it just may take longer to get them. I am living proof of that.

What advice to I give anyone woman both young and old, it would be, "never give up who you are for someone else."

Editor's note: Aurora will graduate Cum Laude this May. Congratulations!

CELEBRATIONS

The **Men Who Cook** fundraiser was a success! The Women's Studies made over \$2000 for student scholarships at this annual event. Thanks to all who organized, cooked, and donated items for auction.

Lynn Pifer, English, presented a paper, "Shaun of the Dead: Revenge of The Slacker," at the Louisville Conference for Literature and Culture Since 1900 in Louisville, KY, February 23.

Kristin Sanner, English, presented a paper, "Reading Heads: Phrenology, Sentimentalism & the Author in Fannie Fern's *Ruth Hall*" at the North East Modern Language Association conference in Baltimore, MD, March 3-4.

Denise Seigart, Nursing, co-authored a chapter, "Feminist Evaluation Research" by Brisolara and Seigart, which appears in the

Handbook of Feminist Research, Ed. Sharlene Nagy Hesse-Biber, Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications, 2007.

During Fall 2006, **Judith Sornberger**, English, had an alternate work assignment grant to work on her collection of art-inspired poems about the Virgin Mary titled *Madonnas of the Disappeared*. English major **Bobbi Van Druff** was her research assistant for this project and together they created a power point presentation and poetry reading that they presented on campus on February 27. Judith has had poems published so far this semester in *Prairie Schooner* and *Calyx*. Twelve poems are forthcoming in the following journals: *Puerto del Sol*, *13th Moon*, *Angel Face*, *Pilgrimage*, and *Tiferet: A Journal of Spiritual Literature*.

Course Descriptions

Summer Session I A-B



WS 1100 *Introduction to Women's Studies*

Although most American women believe in their right to equality, a basic definition of feminism, many of them do not define themselves as feminists. In this course, we'll consider the relevance of feminism for women today by examining connections and differences between women as well as feminist approaches to work, families, race, class, and sexuality. We will focus on the significant impact of the feminist movement on American life particularly in the past 40 years.

Professor Judith Sornberger

HST 3294 *American Women's History through Film*

This course will focus upon film portrayals of American Women's history from the

early twentieth century to the present. Both feature films and television movies will be used to examine and evaluate the historical accuracy of these media as they interpret American women's history from colonial times to the present.

Professor Karen Guenther

Summer Session II

PSY 4420 *Psychology of Women*

Catalogue description: Designed to introduce students to the myriad factors influencing the development of girls and women in a variety of cultures and societies. Areas covered include feminist scholarship and research; gender socialization, women's biology and health; sexuality, relationships and family; and work, career, and power issues.

Prerequisite: PSY 1101.

About this course: Think "feminist" is a dirty word? Think gender discrimination is ancient history? Think science and the media are gender-fair? Then think again! This course will challenge, stimulate, outrage, and inspire you! And it's not for women only. If you are or know someone who is a woman, this course is for you! This course is designed to introduce you to the myriad factors influencing the psychological development of girls and women around world. Readings, assignments and projects will be designed to include a global, international emphasis.

Professor Margaret Launius

Fall 2007

WS 1100 *Introduction to Women's Studies*

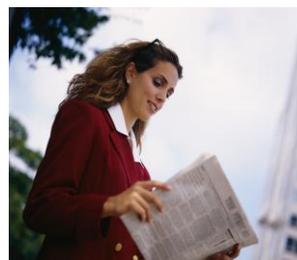
Although most American women believe in their right to equality, a basic definition of feminism, many of them do not define

themselves as feminists. In this course, we'll consider the relevance of feminism for women today by examining connections and differences between women as well as feminist approaches to work, families, race, class, and sexuality. We will focus on the significant impact of the feminist movement on American life particularly in the past 40 years. Professor Andrea Harris

NUR 4402 *Women's Health Issues*

This course is designed to explore and analyze a wide range of women's health issues from a multi-disciplinary perspective. Topics include reproductive health, violence against women, occupational health, poverty and women's health, incarceration, health of minority women, world women's health and many others. This course is presented in a seminar format utilizing feminist pedagogy. A high level of student participation is expected. The course is not limited to nursing majors.

Professor Denise Seigart



Highlighting Women's Issues is brought to you by the M.U. Women's Studies Program.

Editors: Judith Sornberger & Lynn Pifer.

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Women's Studies Minor: 18 s.h. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

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| WS 1100 | Introduction to Women's Studies | 3 |
| Choose one Humanities course: | | 3 |
| ENG 3326 | Women's Literature | |
| ENG 3328 | Lesbian and Gay Literature | |
| HST 2210 | American Women's History | |
| HST 3313 | European Women's History | |
| HST 3325 | History of Witches | |
| MU 2205 | Women in Music | |
| Choose one Social Sciences course: | | 3 |
| COM 3334 | Gender and Communication | |
| NUR 4402 | Women's Health Issues | |
| PSY 4422 | Psychology of Women | |
| Choose two electives (6 s.h.) from the courses listed below, any of the courses listed above, and/or courses cross-listed with Women's Studies. | | 6 |
| ENG 2220* | Special Topics in Literature (*when offered with Women's Studies content) | |
| ENG 3305* | Comparative Literature (*when offered with Women's Studies content) | |
| ENG 3307* | Literature in English from around the World (*when offered with Women's Studies content) | |
| ENG 3320* | Special Topics in Literature (*when offered with Women's Studies content) | |
| ENG 4401* | Seminar in Literary Studies (*when offered with Women's Studies content) | |
| HST 3294* | Topics in American History (*when offered with Women's Studies content) | |
| HST 3295* | Topics in Global History (*when offered with Women's Studies content) | |
| HST 3296* | Topics in European History (*when offered with Women's Studies content) | |
| WS 4410 | Seminar in Women's Studies | 3 |
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| Total | | 18 |