



# Women's *and* Gender Studies

## Celebrating 30 Years of Women's and Gender Studies

**SAVE THE DATE**

**March 13, 2008**

**30 Year Anniversary Banquet**

**Where were  
you in 1976?**



**By Margaret Jacobs, WGS Director**

Some of you weren't even born then; others may have been starting college, having your first child, dancing to K.C. and the Sunshine Band, beginning a new career, traveling in Europe, or campaigning for Jimmy Carter. (I was in 8th grade in Manitou Springs, Colorado, an aspiring violinist and pianist, an alto in the choir and a modern dancer, an over-achieving adolescent girl who was struggling to figure out her place in the world.) A small and dedicated group of you were initiating the Women's Studies program in 1976, putting your feminist fury and joy into a program that has endured 30 years (and hasn't given up yet, as Barbara DiBernard says).

This year we are paying homage to our first thirty years of Women's (and Gender) Studies at UNL and to all the people who have been involved in the program sometime during our first three decades. We've come a long way . . . grown-up women (and men). We began as a tiny program with no office and computer, grew to be a small program with a computer chained to a desk in a hallway, and evolved into a slightly bigger program with a couple offices and equipment, an associate director, but still no teaching budget. Now in our current state, we have beautiful offices in Seaton Hall, a gradually expanding program, and, at last, a teaching budget.

For many of us who've struggled to find a place where we belong in the academic system (and on the planet), Women's and Gender Studies has become our home, our community. We are fortunate that at UNL, our program is a place where we have created a microcosm of the kind of society we'd like to live in. Here we are inclusive. We welcome faculty and students from all corners of the campus, honor their diverse experiences and perspectives, constantly challenge ourselves to stretch our minds (or, as Hilda Raz puts it, to love the question), and laugh and have fun all the while. Just attend one of our graduate receptions (or even one of our faculty meetings) and you'll know what I mean.

As we celebrate our first thirty years at UNL, I hope you will consider supporting our important community by becoming a Friend of Women's and Gender Studies (see back page). Your financial support will help us sponsor events, fund scholarships, and sustain the significant work that we do at UNL. We've come a long way in thirty years, but there is still progress to be made. Your support will allow us to continue to advance.

## WGS Colloquium Series, Roundtable:

“Feminism Then and Now:  
An Intergenerational Exchange”



By Courtney Denise Robinson, Sophomore, Journalism and WGS Major, Political Science and Pre-Law Minor  
As part of its annual colloquium series (devoted this year to the program's 30th anniversary), on Tuesday, September 11, 2007 the Women's and Gender Studies program hosted an intergenerational roundtable at the Nebraska Union to discuss the evolution of the program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln as well as the changing nature of feminism. With Dr. Rose Holz, WGS Associate Director, serving as the moderator, the panelists consisted of past directors – Dr. Maureen Honey, Dr. Helen Moore, Dr. Barbara DiBernard, and Dr. Joy Ritchie – as well as some Women's and Gender Studies students, including undergraduates Lisa Lux, Maria Moreno-Hernandez, and Azure Wall, and graduate student Tamy Burnett.

One topic of discussion was the formation and transformation of the WGS program through the years. As the former directors explained, the WGS program started with few resources and operated on a shoestring budget for many years. Barbara DiBernard was the first director to be given a computer. However, as DiBernard laughingly explained, the program still lacked an office at that time, so the computer was chained to a desk in a hallway.

The panelists also discussed what being a feminist meant to them, prompting a variety of answers. Azure Wall said that feminism is a larger ideology that redistributes rights equally despite color or sexual preference. Maureen Honey added that it is also a belief and recognition of the myriad of power differentials in society. Tamy Burnett mentioned that one needed to be an activist in order to change the status quo as well as make people aware of feminist ideals. Joy Ritchie explained that the word “feminism” can open a pathway to many issues, including racial inequality, environment, and war, which may explain why a single definition doesn't exist for the word... (Cont. on page 3)

## WGS Colloquium Series, Roundtable:

“A Conversation with Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics”

By Tamy Burnett, Doctoral Student, English, and WGS Graduate Specialization Student



On Tuesday, October 2, 2007, the second colloquium of the Fall 2007 series sponsored by Women's and Gender Studies was held in Bessey Hall. This roundtable featured three speakers from STEM disciplines—Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math—at UNL. The speakers were Mary Anne Holmes, Research Associate Professor in Geosciences; Shireen Adenwalla, Associate Professor in Physics; and Donna Woudenberg, post-doctoral Research Associate for the National Drought Mitigation Center, which is housed within the School of Natural Resources. Woudenberg is also designer and co-instructor for Gender and Cultural Perspectives on the Environment, a senior/graduate level course being taught this semester.

The day's discussions and presentations focused around the gap in representation for women in STEM fields, especially in tenured or tenure-track faculty positions. While some of these disciplines are closing the gap in undergraduate student populations towards a 50/50 split, those ratios dramatically shift in favor of men over women as we look at graduate programs, adjunct faculty, and tenured/tenure track faculty positions, with a widening of the gap at each level. The reasons for these gaps include institutional barriers related to women's and family issues.

One example is considerations for dual career job candidates, which is the idea that many academic couples will only take jobs where both can be employed. Another consideration discussed as a hindrance to increasing gender equity for faculty is the possible lack of clear policies related to tenure clock-stopping, specifically in regards to childbirth and elder-care. Such policies would offer male and female tenure candidates a “time-out” from their pursuit of tenure to birth and/or care for children or to care for elderly parents...(Cont. on Page 3).



## WGS Career Workshop



By Laura Roost, Master's Student, Political Science, WGS Graduate Specialization Student and WGS Graduate Assistant

On October 16th, the Women's and Gender Studies program put on a Career Workshop that sought to help answer the age-old question: what can I do with a Women's and Gender Studies degree? The workshop focused on three areas: Internships (presented by Kelli Smith of UNL Career Services), Law School (presented by UNL Professor of Law and Associate to the Chancellor Susan Poser), and Graduate School (presented by Michelle Howell, Director of Graduate Recruitment). This career workshop was the first of what will hopefully become an annual event.

## SAGE Body Image Exhibit

Students Advocating Gender Equity, or SAGE, did body casts for their Body Image Exhibit, which ran from October 15-18 in the Union Rotunda. Pictures of some of their works are below, and throughout the newsletter. SAGE & UNL Students for Choice are both now groups on Facebook.



Art by Brady Usher



Art by Jihan Naggarr



"Ode to Irreverence" by Lisa Lux

"The Total(ed) Woman" by Erica L. Wright



"Red Like Mehendi" Poem and Art by Sinduja Sathiyaseelan (poem is on the WGS website)



## WGS Graduates:

Congratulations to the following WGS majors and minors graduating this December!

### Majors:

Bronwyn Milliken  
Azure Wall

### Minors:

Kathleen Kenney  
Erica Odasz  
Melissa Chen  
Anastasia Smallcomb

Continued from page 2

### Feminism Then and Now

One question that came up in the discussion was whether or not there was a conflict between the different generations of feminists. Overall, the panelists agreed that there was not, although some students did reveal how envious they were of older generations who took part in more activist events, and that their groups were more focused compared to nowadays. But if there was a distinction, as Lisa Lux noted, it would be more a matter of what issues to address. In other words, because of all the improvements previous generations have made, it's harder to see the inequality so it needs to be tackled in different ways.

A video of the colloquium is available at the WGS office.

### Women in STEM

A third consideration discussed is the sometimes obvious lack of facilities designed to help with gender equity, including child care (especially for infants) and lactation facilities (private rooms for breastfeeding or pumping mothers). Shireen Adenwalla noted wryly that one of the advantages to being a female physicist is that there are no lines for women's restrooms at conferences. She also lamented, however, that one disadvantage is that in some cases there are *no* restrooms for women!

Although the speakers agreed that the balance of gender equity is slowly changing, there is still a long way to go before true equality is achieved. To work toward greater gender equity in STEM fields at UNL, Mary Anne Holmes is writing a grant for institutional transformation to the National Science Foundation. There is a Blackboard community for all female STEM faculty, and anyone interested in more information about that community or joining it may contact Mary Anne Holmes (mholmes2@unl.edu).

A DVD of this event is available at the WGS office.

"The Real Me" by Cameron Helgren



# Faculty/Staff Achievements

Congratulations to the Women's and Gender Studies faculty that have been awarded Employee Service Awards in honor of their service to the University of Nebraska–Lincoln:

**Jennifer Brand** (15 years)  
**Christina Brantner** (20 yrs)  
**Tom Carr** (35 years)  
**Sidnie Crawford** (10 years)  
**Rose Holz** (5 years)  
**Christin Mamiya** (20 years)  
**Ann Mari May** (20 years)  
**Susan Poser** (10 years)

**Tom Carr**, professor of French and Graduate Chair of the Department of Modern Languages and Literature, guest edited an issue of *EMF: Studies in Early Modern France* that appeared in June 2007. Entitled “The Cloister and the World: Early Modern Convent Voices,” it contains eleven essays by historians and literary scholars. It is introduced by a review of current scholarship on French convent writing by Carr and closes with his twenty-six page bibliography listing over three hundred published texts written between the Renaissance and the French Revolution by some hundred and seventy nuns in France, Belgium, Canada, and Switzerland.

**Maureen Honey**, professor of English, was videotaped in an interview for an NEH funded documentary on women war reporters in World War II by a New York City filmmaker in May 2007. The film company is Hurry Up Sister Productions and is a feminist independent film group. The documentary will feature three journalists who

traveled to combat zones to report the war and fought against restrictions in order to do that. Maureen's interview emphasized the image of the woman reporter in 1930s and 1940s popular culture.

**Margaret Jacobs** has received a Visiting Fellowship in the Australian Centre for Indigenous History of the Research School of Social Sciences at the Australian National University from June to August 2008.

**Margaret Jacobs** has guest-edited (with Australian historian Victoria Haskins) a special issue of *Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies* 28, nos. 1 and 2 (2007), on “Domestic Frontiers: The Home and Colonization.” The volume includes an article by Margaret, “Working on the Domestic Frontier: American Indian Domestic Servants in White Women's Households in the San Francisco Bay Area, 1920-1940,” as well as a contribution from another WGS faculty member, **Christin Mamiya** (Art and Art History), “Nineteenth-Century French Women, the Home, and the Colonial Vision: Les Sauvages de la Mer Pacifique Wallpaper.”

**Michael James**, professor of Textiles, Clothing and Design, will be honored at the Governor's Arts Awards Luncheon on February 5, 2008. There, Professor James will receive a 2008 Artist of the Year Award.

**Glenda Dietrich Moore**, WGS Program Secretary and

creator of the “Dance of Joy” painting used for the WGS logo, will be the featured artist during the month of January, 2008, at So...Oh! Fine Art Gallery at 137 S 9th Street in Lincoln. Glenda's website is [www.GlendaDietrich.com](http://www.GlendaDietrich.com)

**Susan Poser**, associate professor of law, took the position of Associate to the Chancellor on August 1, 2007, replacing Herb Howe.

**Oksana Yakushko**, assistant professor of Educational Psychology, has recently published several articles, including: “Xenophobia: Understanding the roots and consequences of negative attitudes towards immigrants” in *The Counseling Psychologist*; “Do feminists feel better about their lives? Examining patterns of feminist identity development and women's subjective well-being” in *Sex*

*Roles: Journal of Research*; “Impact of social and political changes on survivors of political persecutions in rural Russia and Ukraine” in *Political Psychology*; Hobza, C., Yakushko, O., & Walker, K. “What about men? Evolution, social comparison, and the effects of media images on body and self-esteem” in *Psychology of Men and Masculinity*, 8, 161-172; Yakushko, O., & Espin, O. (in review) “Immigrant and refugee women” in H. Landrine (Ed.), *Bringing Cultural Diversity To Feminist Psychology: Theory, Research, and Practice*. Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association; and “Immigrant women and work” in J. Johnston & R. Dalla (Eds.), *Perspectives on Immigrant Families*.

“Working Hand” by  
Dené Oglesby



“Tides of Change” by  
Maria Moreno-Hernandez



## Student/Alumni Achievements

**Elizabeth Ribarsky**, Women's and Gender Studies Graduate Specialization Student and doctoral student and graduate teaching assistant in Communication Studies, received the 2007 Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award.

**Kristin Mapel Bloomberg**, Women's and Gender Studies alum, is the Director and associate professor of the Women's Studies Program at Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota.

## WGS Faculty Around the World

This summer a number of our Women's and Gender Studies faculty members traveled around the world. Professor Wendy Weiss of Textiles, Clothing and Design was a part of a delegation that traveled to Guatemala from May 26-June 3 for "Resisting the Politics of Free Trade: Women Organizing for Labor Justice," a conference sponsored by STITCH ([www.stitchonline.org](http://www.stitchonline.org)).

Professors Joy Ritchie, Barbara DiBernard, Amelia Montes, and Chantal Kalisa traveled to Africa. Joy, Amelia, and Barbara spent three weeks in Kenya and Tanzania this summer. They traveled with a group of friends, organized by Betty Levitov, a professor at Doane College in Crete, NE, who takes students on semester-long study trips to Africa. Betty has published a book, "Africa on Six Wheels," about her experiences. While in Africa, the group went on several safaris,

and because of the connections Betty has made, visited orphanages and schools, including a Special Unit for children with disabilities which gets no funding from the government. Chantal Kalisa spent 2 1/2 months in Rwanda thanks to a UNL grant-in-aid to research the topic of "Theatre of the Rwandan Genocide." During the trip, she also was an instructor for 50 students and scholars from Rwanda, US, Canada, Uganda and Tanzania on the subject of genocide. The 2 week course organized by IGSC (The Interdisciplinary Genocide Study Center-Rwanda) included visit to genocide sites, and to different survivors' organizations, some of which respond to specific children's and women's issues.



Joy and Amelia at a Kenyan school.

Joy, Amelia and Barbara in Kenya



For news, events, & info, go to:  
<http://www.unl.edu/womenssp>

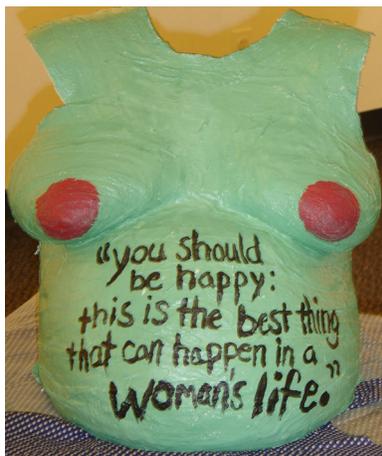
### Upcoming Conferences

#### WGS No Limits Conference:

- Topic - "Transnational Feminism"
- University of Nebraska-Kearney, Feb. 29-March 1

#### NWSA Conference:

- Topic - "Resisting Hegemonies: Race and Sexual Politics in Nation, Region, Empire"
- Millenium Hotel, Cincinnati, Ohio, June 19-22



Art by Ember Shrag

### Upcoming Events

#### November 29, 2007:

- Cecile Richards, Planned Parenthood National Director, presentation on "Every Voice Matters: Individual Involvements in Public Health Policy," UNL City Campus Union, Auditorium, 9:00am
- WGS Fall Colloquium Series, Oliva Espín, "The Colors of the Kaleidoscope: Perils and Possibilities of Multiple Identities," UNL City Campus Union, 7pm

#### December 14, 2007:

- WGS Graduate Reception, 5:00-7:00pm, Home of Margaret Jacobs, 4119 Sheridan Blvd.

#### January 28, 2008:

- WGS Spring Colloquium Series, "Studying Nature and the Environment: Why Gender Matters," UNL City Campus Union, 3:30pm (Room Posted)

#### February 6, 2008:

- Stop Modern Slavery Now - Dr. Donna Akers, UNL City Campus Union, 6pm (Room Posted)

#### March 13, 2008:

- Banquet - Women's History Month/30 Years of Women's (and Gender) Studies at UNL, Wick Alumni Center

#### April 10, 2008:

- WGS Spring Colloquium Series, Joan Jensen, "Tending Our Mother's Gardens: Digging Into Women's Expressive Culture," Great Plains Art Museum, 3:30-5pm

*In honor of the 30th anniversary of Women's and Gender Studies at UNL*

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Campaign: LASWMNS07

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