

# UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM

Volume 2 Number 2

Fall 1995 Newsletter

# Women's Studies

## Women's Studies Program Awarded Curriculum Development Grant

The Women's Studies Program has been awarded a grant totalling \$8200 to help fund faculty development activities for the modification and expansion of Women's Studies curriculum. Submitted by the Women's Studies Curriculum Development Committee composed of Linda Pratt, Helen Moore, and Suzy Beemer, the grant will fund two workshops addressing curriculum diversity in Women's Studies classes.

"This grant will allow Women's Studies to provide resources and faculty development activities that we couldn't otherwise provide," says Barbara DiBernard, Women's Studies Program Director. "This is a very important opportunity for the program to consider issues of pedagogy and diversity in our classes."

The proposed workshops will enhance the teaching of Women's Studies faculty with specific strategies to address diversity, both in substance and in classroom practices. To this end, two workshop topics have been identified by the committee: one on feminist pedagogy, and one on curriculum diversity and teaching.

The first workshop on feminist pedagogy is scheduled to be held on 29 October. The workshop subcommittee made up of Barbara DiBernard, Helen Moore, Maureen Honey, Kristin Mapel-Bloomberg, and Jennifer Putzi, has structured a workshop that will address questions of feminist teaching, including current critiques of feminist pedagogy and women's studies, risks of feminist teaching, and concerns relating to authority in the feminist classroom.

"This workshop will give women faculty much-needed space in which to discuss feminist teaching," reports Maureen Honey. "Such space is often difficult to come by in our daily routines."

Faculty attending the workshop can expect to receive a number of resource materials designed to aid in the development of their feminist teaching. Included will be a Feminist Pedagogy Resource Handbook which will provide faculty with extensive bibliographies listing sources on feminist pedagogy and feminist research methodology. Faculty will also be supplied with a textbook on feminist teaching and research by either bell hooks or Patti Lather.

The workshop is targeted at Women's Studies Faculty and those faculty who are interested in developing courses for inclusion in the Women's Studies Program curriculum. Due to the expected intensity of discussion and limitation of funds and space, enrollment will be limited to 30 participants. At the request of the participants, a follow-up workshop may be held.

The second workshop expected to be held during spring semester will focus on incorporating diversity into Women's Studies course curriculum. Research has begun on a similar resource handbook listing diversity sources available for inclusion into course curriculum.

## **From the Director . . .**

As you can see from this newsletter, the Women's Studies Program is thriving. Our numbers of majors and minors continue to increase and more faculty are showing interest in the program. Our courses have an excellent reputation among students, and usually close early in registration. Because of our success and growth, Dean Brian Foster of the College of Arts and Sciences has allocated us additional resources, including a 54% increase in our operating budget and, for the first time, a half-time secretary.

We have also been successful in bringing in diverse speakers of high local and national interest. In 1994-1995 we hosted lesbian historian Lillian Faderman; filmmaker Pratibha Parmar; scholar Jean Fagin Yellin; and lesbian Menominee poet and activist Chrystos. During the 1995-1996 academic year, we will be sponsoring visits by UNL Ph.D. graduate Norma Cantú, reading from her newly-published *Canícula: Snapshots of a Girlhood en la Frontera*; UNL B.A. graduate Londa Schiebinger, professor of History and Women's Studies at Penn State, and author of *Nature's Body: Gender in the Making of Modern Science*, and *The Mind Has No Sex? Women in the Origins of Modern Science*; poet and writer Minnie Bruce Pratt, author of *Crime Against Nature* and *S/He*; and author and transgender activist Leslie Feinberg, author of *Stone Butch Blues* and the upcoming *Transgender Warriors: A History of Resistance*.

Beginning in the spring of 1996, Women's Studies will be celebrating twenty years of education and activism at UNL. Please join us!

## **Women's Studies Program Office Welcomes Second Intern**

For the second semester, the UNL Women's Studies Program Office welcomes a student intern. This Fall, senior Women's Studies and Sociology major Kathy Acklin has chosen the Program office as her internship site.

Acklin chose the Women's Studies Program for her internship site, because it offered her experience in an administrative setting that focused on her interests. "I wanted to do something practical to help out," she explains. "I believe you should contribute something in addition to taking courses and studying."

Acklin's focus throughout her Bachelor's degree has been on social issues relating to women. Her major

areas of study and research have been on women and poverty, family issues, and women's health. She plans to graduate in December of this year. In addition to completing her coursework and an internship, Acklin is currently working on completion of her Honor's Thesis entitled "Common Misconceptions: Adolescent Pregnancy and Socially Situated Knowledge."

Students who are majors or minors in Women's Studies may register for 1-6 hours of credit through an internship. In addition to the opportunity through the Women's Studies Program Office, internships are offered through a variety of Lincoln area agencies.

## **Women's Studies Office Staff Is Growing!**

The UNL Women's Studies Program is not only increasing its rolls of majors and minors, but is also increasing its office staff. This semester the tiny office in 337 Andrews Hall will be busy with the projects of three graduate assistants, a part time secretary, and an undergraduate intern. Warmest wishes to Wendy Gagnon who left Women's Studies after a successful two years to pursue opportunities in Educational Psychology. Here is who you will see this year:

**Kristin Mapel-Bloomberg**, 1995-1996 Graduate Assistant. Kristin is a third-year Ph.D. student in English and is beginning her third year with the UNL Women's Studies Program. This summer she assisted the Curriculum Committee with research on a special teaching and curriculum development workshop. She continues this year with her many projects, including support to the UNL Women's Studies Association, newsletter production, grantwriting, publicity, and scheduling speakers.

**Jennifer Putzi**, 1995-1996 Graduate Assistant. Jennifer is a second-year Ph.D. student in English and is beginning her first year with Women's Studies. She was hired to fill Wendy's position as the Program's second graduate assistant. She will focus on coordinating with Kristin this fall on a special teaching and curriculum development workshop which will emphasize diversity in the curriculum.

**Tisha Gilreath Mullen**, Fall 1995 Graduate Assistant. Tisha is a first-year Ph.D. student in English and will work with Women's Studies this Fall doing general office and administrative work. Tisha is appointed to Women's Studies for Fall to help with the ever-increasing workload of a busy interdisciplinary program. She is currently working on securing funds for upcoming speakers.

**Kathy Acklin**, Fall 1995 Undergraduate Intern. Kathy is a senior Women's Studies major and the Program's second office intern. She follows in the footsteps of Spring '95 intern Thelma Ross. Kathy will devote her energies to cataloguing the Program's collection of audio and video resources, and contacting UNL Women's Studies alumni. Look for her flyer during Fall semester.

## **Women's Studies Fall Calendar of Events**

**Third Wednesdays of Each Month:** Colloquium on 19th Century Women. 3:30 p.m., place TBA. Colloquium on all aspects of women in the 19th Century--open to students and faculty in all subjects areas. Contact Heidi Jacobs at 402-472-3199 for more information.

**African American Women's Hour Fall Discussion Group:** Tuesdays, beginning 12 September. Nebraska Union 338, 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m. A forum for African American women to discuss issues and concerns. Facilitated by Reshell Ray, Student Involvement. For more information, call Reshell at 402-472-8156.

**Lesbian Fall Discussion Group:** Thursdays, beginning 14 September. Nebraska Union 338, 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m. Informal discussion group focusing on issues related to being a lesbian in today's society. Facilitated by Pat Tetreault, Health Center. Contact the UNL Women's Center for more information at 402-472-2597.

**Through Nov. 5:** "Interpreting the Great Hall: Catherine Ferguson." Exhibition, Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery.

Through Sept. 1, 1996: "Contemporary Quilts from the James Collection." Exhibition, Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery.

**Oct. 9:** New Women's Studies Faculty Reception. 3:30-5:00, Georgian Room, Nebraska Union.

**Oct. 9-16, 22-27:** Domestic Violence Awareness Month Display. Main lounge area, Nebraska Union. Co-sponsored by a number of groups, including the UNL Women's Studies Association, UNL Women's Center, and the Lincoln Rape/Spouse Abuse Crisis Center.

**Oct. 9-20:** "Outside Ourselves--Inside Each Other." A continuing creation of body casts and journals, exploring our bodies and our relationship as women and collaborators. Works by Katherine Bergstrom and Samantha Gaines. Opening and discussion Oct. 12 noon-1:30 p.m. room 338 Nebraska Union. For more information, call the UNL Women's Center at 402-472-2597.

**Oct. 11:** "Serving in Silence." Colonel Margarethe Cammermeyer talks about her experiences coming out as a lesbian in the military. 8:00 p.m. Centennial Room, Nebraska Union.

**Oct. 15-21:** "Seven Days, 168 Hours, 10,080 Minutes, 604,080 Seconds: A Week Without Violence." Series of events to be announced. Call the Lincoln YWCA at 402-476-2802 for more information. Part of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

**Oct. 17:** "Complaints of a Dutiful Daughter." 44-minute film by Deborah Hoffman. 3:15 p.m. Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater. Free.

**Oct. 18:** "Complaints of a Dutiful Daughter." 44-minute film by Deborah Hoffman. 1:00 p.m. Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater. Free.

**Oct. 27:** Candelight Vigil for Victims of Domestic Violence. 7:30 p.m. in front of the Nebraska Union.

Participants should bring their own candle. For more information, call the UNL Women's Center at 402-472-2597.

**Oct. 28:** Cris Williamson and Tret Fure in concert. 8:30 p.m. at the Joslyn, 2200 Dodge Street, Omaha. Concert to celebrate their first duo album, "Postcards from Paradise." Tickets are \$15.00 in advance, \$17.00 at the door. Tickets are available from Albino Rhino, 101 North 14th Street in Lincoln.

**Nov. 3:** Reading--Norma Cantu, author of *Canicula: Snapshots of a Girlhood on La Frontera*. Afternoon, exact time to be announced. 228 Andrews Hall. Free. For more information, contact the Women's Studies Program at 402-472-9392.

**Nov. 3:** "Life in the Blender." Discussion facilitated by Sharon Kuska, College of Architecture on blending traditional with non-traditional aspects of family, home, and career. Noon-1:30 p.m., room 338 Nebraska Union. For more information, call the UNL Women's Center at 402-472-2597.

**Nov. 7:** "Storme: Lady of the Jewel Box." 3:15 p.m. Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater. 21-minute film about a cross-dressing musician.

**Nov. 8:** "Storme: Lady of the Jewel Box." 1:00 p.m. Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater.

**Nov. 8:** Kathy Buckley, hearing impaired comedian. Pershing Auditorium, time and cost to be announced.

**Nov. 6-17:** "Without Words--How Memories and Secrets Find Their Way Into Art." Works by Najla Abdullah. Opening and discussion Nov. 9, noon-1:30 p.m. 338 Nebraska Union. For more information, call the UNL Women's Center at 402-472-2597.

**Nov. 30-Dec. 2:** "Ballot Measure." Film about anti-gay and lesbian initiative in Oregon. Evenings, Saturday and Sunday matinees. Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater. Cost.

**Dec. 5:** "Forbidden Love." Film by Aerlyn Weissman, Lynne Fernie. Interviews with Canadian lesbians and the place "pulp" novels had in their coming out. 3:15 p.m. 85 minutes. Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater. Free.

**Dec. 6:** "Forbidden Love." 1:00 p.m., Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater. Free.

**Dec. 7:** "Breaking the Glass Ceiling--Recognize Women At the Top-Learn Strategies for Success." Presentation and reception co-sponsored by the UNL Women's Center and the Lincoln-Lancaster Commission on the Status of Women. 7:00 p.m. Nebraska Union. For more information, call the UNL Women's Center at 402-472-2597.

**Dec. 7-Dec. 10:** "The Incredibly True Adventure of Two Girls in Love." Film. Evenings, Saturday and Sunday matinees. Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater. Cost.

**Dec. 7-8:** "Spiderwoman Theater," American Indian women's theater company. 8:00 p.m., Johnny Carson Theater. Contact Lied Center Box Office for tickets and more information.

## Development Fund Continues to Grow Thanks to Donors

In the last newsletter, we reported the establishment of a Women's Studies Development Fund through the University Foundation in the fall of 1994. Happily, thanks to a number of contributions, we can report that this fund continues to grow!

The Fund does not pay for general operating expenses; instead, it supplements funds for visiting speakers, special activities, travel grants for students and faculty, and for seed money for long-term projects and major purchases. Last year, a small amount of Fund resources helped to bring feminist filmmaker **Pratibha Parmar** and a retrospective of her films to Lincoln. Parmar is most well-known for her films "A Place of Rage" and "Warrior Marks."

Donations of any size are accepted from anyone who wishes to help fund Women's Studies activities. Faculty, students, and alumni are encouraged to donate to the Fund. Send donations to Women's Studies Development Fund, University of Nebraska Foundation, 1111 Bldg., 1111 Lincoln Mall, Suite 200, Lincoln, Nebraska, 68588-0650. Please be sure to specify "Account #5285" on all correspondence and checks. It is also possible for UNL employees to donate to the Fund through payroll deduction. Payroll deduction forms can be obtained through the Women's Studies Program.

The Women's Studies Program would like to gratefully acknowledge the following contributions made by these people through 1 September, 1995: Christina Brantner, Esther Cope, Thom K Cope, Barbara DiBernard, Kathleen Hall, Sharon Harris, Pamela Killion, Thomas J Kunkle, Hilda Raz, Joy Ritchie, Linda Pratt, Myra and Donald Wilhite, Luann Wandsnider.

If you are aware of someone who donated to the Fund whose name does not appear on this list, please contact Barbara DiBernard at 402-472-1828.

## Women's Studies Majors Participate in Research Conference

Three Women's Studies majors presented research papers at the first Undergraduate Research Conference held April 25 on City Campus. Majors Jeanne Holdren, Kathy Acklin, and Thelma Ross participated in a session entitled "Women's Health/Women's Lives/Women's Bodies." Presenters were nominated for participation by Barbara DiBernard, Director of the Women's Studies Program. With more than thirty students attending the session, the Women's Studies panel was a success. Audience members were educated on three different topics relating to women including, "Female Genital Mutilation: What is Happening to Our Sisters?" by Jeanne Holdren; "Understanding the Cesarean Birthrate: Economics, Technology, Women, and Motherhood" by Kathy Acklin; and "Fem/Butch Lesbians: Stories Worth Telling, Lives Worth Writing About" presented by Thelma Ross.

## Spotlight on New Women's Studies Faculty

Last year, four faculty members were approved by the Women's Studies Program and appointed by the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences as Women's Studies Faculty. Adelaida Martinez, Hilda Raz, Kate Ronald, and Alison Stewart joined the Program faculty. **Adelaida Lopez de Martinez** began teaching with the Department of Modern Languages in 1988. Her teaching and research reflects her interest and concentration in Women's Studies. Martinez teaches the graduate seminar "Theory and Praxis of Feminine Discourse in Contemporary Spanish Narrative" in its regular rotation. **Hilda Raz** joined the staff of Prairie Schooner in 1970, and became Editor-in-Chief in 1987. Raz is also a faculty member of the Department of English, where she teaches several poetry classes, including a seminar on Women and Poetry. **Kate Ronald** began her appointment with the Department of English in 1984. She has taught the seminar on Black Women Authors, and has directed independent studies which include the study of the Rhetoric of Women Writers. **Alison Stewart** has been a member of the Department of Art and Art History since 1989. Her publications include *Unequal Lovers. A Study of Unequal Couples in Northern Art* (1979).

*Yes, You can help!*

I would like to support the teaching, research, and service activities of the UNL Women's Studies Program.  
Please use my gift to support:

Women's Studies Development Fund (For general support of Women's Studies projects and activities.)

I would like to donate for this specific activity:

Enclosed is my gift of (please circle amount):

\$1000    \$5000    \$250    \$100    \$50    \$35\*  
other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Gifts of at least this amount make a big difference in the work of the UNL Women's Studies Program.

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Please make checks payable to University of Nebraska Foundation and specify account #5285: Women's Studies Development Fund. Send to University of Nebraska Foundation, 1111 Bldg., 1111 Lincoln Mall, Suite 200, 68588-0650.

## Melba Cope Awarded Second Outstanding Achievement Award

At an honors reception during Spring semester, Women's Studies major Melba Cope became the second recipient of the \$500 Women's Studies Outstanding Achievement Award for her project entitled "All Sleeping Women, Awake and Rise." Cope's project was a study of selected Nineteenth and Twentieth Century women composers. She presented not only a scholarly paper on her topic to the nominating committee, but also a recording of her vocal and piano performance of the composers' works. The project reflects her ongoing interest relating to women and music. Cope had begun her education as a Music major, but changed after taking a Women's Studies class early in her program.

"I changed majors because I felt that I could really make a difference by getting involved in Women's Studies and women's issues," says Cope. "Changing my major to Women's Studies offered a way for me to be active in both community and school."

Cope's activism is shown by her commitment to the Rape Spouse Abuse Crisis Center. After completing a one-semester internship for RSACC, she signed on to another semester. This internship provided an opportunity for employment, but school commitments compelled her to later change her employment to a volunteer position.

With an honors thesis on women and music in the works, Cope plans to graduate in December of 1996. She still has many options after graduation, however, which include continuing her education by enrolling in a graduate program, or moving into the workforce again--preferably in a position where she can be involved with the community and with women's issues. Overall, Cope is glad that she decided to pursue her education in Women's Studies. "Women's Studies has taken me down different paths that I wouldn't have taken--it has worked well for me," she reports.

### Other Students Honored

Because the nominating committee received many outstanding applications, three students were given a special Certificate of Recognition along with at \$25 cash award. Peggy Anderson was honored for her project entitled "I Am Exactly Who I Need: A Celebration of the Writing of Becky Birtha." Nell Eckersley was honored for her project "POWERTOOL," a woman-oriented and produced 'Zine. Kristi Klein was also honored for her project "Feminism."

This Award is given each Spring to an undergraduate Women's Studies student who has done outstanding work in Women's Studies at UNL during the student's last two completed semesters. Submissions for the award allow a student to showcase a variety of talents, including unpublished term papers, projects, creativeworks, or contributions to the Program or the campus community.

## Reception for All UNL Women Faculty to Honor New Women Faculty

Scarcely anyone would disagree that the University of Nebraska-Lincoln can be a large and often overwhelming place for new faculty. Hence, on Monday 9 October from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m., the Women's Studies Program has planned an opportunity to bring together new women faculty members from different departments with women faculty who are more experienced with the "ins and outs" of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Interim Chancellor Joan Leitzel will welcome the faculty followed by a panel discussion of how new women faculty can "plug in" to opportunities at UNL. Scheduled to participate in this discussion are representatives from the Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Women, the Women's Faculty Caucus, the Women's Center, and the Women's Studies Program. Barbara DiBernard, Director of the Women's Studies Program will facilitate the discussion.

As with all good Women's Studies activities, refreshments will be served. The new faculty meeting and reception will take place in the Georgian Room of the Nebraska Union. For more information, please contact Barbara

## Women's Studies Association Ready for Fall

The UNL Women's Studies Association has planned a very busy Fall Semester. October will be a busy month, as co-sponsored events are planned with the Women's Center, the Rape/Spouse Abuse Crisis Center of Lincoln, and the Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Coalition. WSA will sponsor a two-week exhibit to help raise awareness about domestic violence and sexual assault in the Lincoln area as part of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The display can be seen on the main gallery walls of the Nebraska Union from 9 Oct. to 16 Oct., and again from 22 Oct. to 27 Oct. Designed to give factual information regarding the frequent occurrence of domestic violence, sexual assault, and incest, the display will feature facts, myths, pictures, personal testimonies, and statistical information on violence against women.

WSA is also busy planning the 1996 *No Limits* Conference scheduled for 1-2 March in the Nebraska East Union. The conference will again be interdisciplinary and open to all graduate and undergraduate students. The keynote address will be given by UNL alum Londa Schiebinger who currently teaches history at Penn State University. Her address will relate to the sub-theme of the conference which will emphasize women in science and theory. As it did this year, the 1996 conference will also feature a discussion forum for local High School women who are interested in Women's Studies issues.

Lincoln, NE 68588-0303  
337 Andrews Hall  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
Women's Studies Program

## Women's Studies Faculty

**Art & Art History:** Shelly Fuller, Christin Mamiya, Allison Stewart.

**Biological Sciences:** Margaret Bolick.

**Economics:** Ann Mari May.

**English:** Barbara DiBernard, Moira Ferguson, Sharon Harris, Maureen Honey, Linda Pratt, Joy Ritchie, Hilda Raz, Kate Ronald, Susan Rosowski.

**History:** Esther Cope, Ann Kleimola.

**University Libraries:** Eva Martin Sartori.

**Modern Languages & Literatures:** Christina

Brantner, Adelaida Martinez.

**Sociology:** Mary Jo Deegan, Jennifer Lehmann, Helen Moore.

**Textiles, Clothing & Design:** Wendy Weiss.

**Women's Studies Adjunct Faculty Members:**

Alpana Sharma Knippling, Department of English

**Women's Studies Advisory Committee:**

Linda Pratt, Moira Ferguson, Sharon Harris, Christin Brantner, Christin Mamiya, Julie Harms Cannon. Barbara DiBernard, Chair.

The Women's Studies Newsletter is published intermittently during the academic year by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Women's Studies Program. If you have suggestions for future articles, or if you would like to submit an article or an announcement for the newsletter, please contact Barbara DiBernard, Women's Studies Program Director, 337 Andrews Hall, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, Nebraska, 68588-0303. Or call 402-472-9392.

**The Fall 1995 Women's Studies Staff:** Barbara DiBernard, Director. Kristin Mapel-Bloomberg, Jennifer Putzi, and Tisha Gilreath, Graduate Assistants. Kathy Adkin, Undergraduate Intern.

**Newsletter Editor:** Kristin Mapel-Bloomberg

### Women's Studies Fall Office Hours

Monday:	9:00-4:00
Tuesday:	8:00-5:00
Wednesday:	9:00-noon 3:00-6:00
Thursday:	8:00-5:00
Friday:	8:00-5:00

Barbara DiBernard, Program Director  
Office Hours T/TH 9:30-11:30, 2:30-4:00  
and by appointment