Darlene Clark Hine, noted African American historian, kicked off the 20th Anniversary Year of the UNL Women's Studies Program with a Sept. 6 lecture in the City Union.

More than 100 people attended the speech "From Suffrage to Civil Rights: Black Women's Activism in 20th Century America."

Clark Hine is John A. Hannah professor of history at Michigan State University.

Black women connect the women's movement and the civil rights movement, the two most significant social movements of U.S. history, according to Clark Hine.

Her speech chronicled the development of the two movements, their overlaps and their diversions.

Clark Hine laid out black women's need to juggle gender and race and carve out a space for themselves. As women, black women engaged in the suffragist movement on many different levels. But unlike for many white women, the right to vote was not an untarnished victory; because it did not change black women's status. So black women retreated, Clark Hine noted.

When many white women, after winning the right to vote, refused to help blacks gain the right to vote, black women began forming their own alliances.

"Through separate clubs and networks, black women created their own space," she said.

Clark Hine noted the significance of compounded identities and multiple forms of consciousness typical of black women's historical experience.

"Black women had to confront the racism of white women and had to convince black men to embrace the suffrage movement," she said.

"Black women had to confront the racism of white women and had to convince black men to embrace the suffrage movement."

— Darlene Clark Hine

Black women still are not visible and lack a powerful voice in the political arena, Clark Hine said.

"It's getting harder and harder to survive in this society for black women," she said.

Earlier on Sept. 6, Clark Hine discussed her work in progress with a crowd of about 30 faculty and students.

"For the last four years, I've been, in a more concerted effort, on the trail of Madame C.J. Walker," Clark Hine said.

She sketched a view of Madame C.J. Walker's life, highlighting the challenges awaiting biographers. Biographies have become extremely popular, Clark Hine noted. She engaged the audience in a discussion focusing on why biography has become so compelling in the '90s in black history.

"If we study every individual black person, are there larger stories we're ignoring?" she asked her audience.


Intellectual Excitement

Introducing the program, Brian Foster, dean of the UNL College of Arts and Sciences, said intellectual excitement distinguishes an excellent university from a good university.

See Hine, Page 2.
Hine. From Front.

He noted that the Women's Studies Program contributes to the intellectual excitement at UNL. Foster also lauded the program for its community outreach.

"I think Women Studies really is central to what we do," Foster said, calling the faculty associated with Women's Studies "a superb group of people."

Moira Ferguson, James E. Ryan chair of English and women's literature, reviewed the beginnings of the Women's Studies Program, one of the oldest women's studies programs in the country. In 1976, Ferguson was appointed the founding chair of the newly created program.

New staff joins program

Transition. Staff members in the Women's Studies office are spelling the word with a capital "T" this semester.

Two new graduate assistants, a new secretary and a new interim director are getting established in the Women's Studies Program.

Christina E. Brantner, interim director of the Women's Studies Program, is an associate professor of German at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She specializes in romanticism and women in music.

Deb Davis has joined the staff as the new, half-time secretary. Davis comes to UNL from Nebraska Wesleyan University, where she was secretary to the Department of History and assistant director of the History Day Program. Her hours are 9:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Graduate Assistant Stephanie Witham is a second-year doctoral student in the UNL Department of English. She has an emphasis in medieval/Renaissance studies and linguistics.

Graduate Assistant Bettina Heinz is a third-year doctoral student in the UNL Department of Communication Studies with an emphasis in interpersonal communication.

From the director

Since this newsletter is coming to you at the beginning and not the end of an academic year, and since your entire Women's Studies staff is new, I would like to address you only briefly.

I am very excited about the opportunity to serve you all and am deeply honored by your confidence in me. I am not even going to try to fill Barbara DiBernard's wonderful shoes; I simply plan on keeping Women's Studies "on track" these two semesters.

Aside from curricular needs, speakers and other program-related issues, I would like for us to grow into all directions (even more majors, associated faculty, etc.) internally, and align ourselves externally even more strongly with other women's interest groups on campus. The latter became quite important to me when I noticed the horrific female faculty "brain drain" at rather senior levels upon returning to UNL after a year's leave.

Some of the on-going activities are the International Colloquium Series, which had a stronger attendance on its first day (congratulations, Anna Shavers!) than the Union's Pewter Room could hold.

Our 20th anniversary kick-off event with Darlene Clark Hine was also spectacular. She presented an inspiring talk on Madame C. J. Walker in the afternoon and a fascinating study on African American women's contributions to the Suffrage and Civil Rights Movements. Hearing from UNL's second-in-command, Irv Omtvedt, how proud the university is of Women's Studies, and then Brian Foster, dean of Arts and Sciences, stressing that Women's Studies plays a central role in the college's mission - that seems to me good proof that we have established ourselves on solid ground!

As you can tell from our calendar of events, fall will bring a selection of other events and speakers sponsored by the Women's Studies Program.

Let me close by urging you, whether you are a student, staff, faculty or community member, to become involved in the Women's Studies Program in some way, whether it be by attending our events, taking our classes, or helping organize our activities.

If you would like to become involved, please call me at (402) 472-1828, or Bettina, Deb and Stephanie at (402) 472-9392. You can also e-mail me at brantner@unlinfo.unl.edu. I'll be glad to hear from you!
International Affairs grant enhances program's global outlook

Thanks to a $5,000-grant from the UNL International Affairs Program, the Women's Studies Program has been bringing the world a bit closer to home.

Funds from the first International Affairs Department Internationalization grant are being used to sponsor speakers, to establish a target course and to organize a spring workshop and to set up a colloquium series.

"The internationalization efforts in Women Studies are going well this year as a result of the grant," said Maureen Honey, professor of English and Women's Studies. Honey chairs the International Grant Dispersal Committee.

New Course

As part of the project, Alpana Knippling, assistant professor of English, has developed a new course. Two sections of the 215 English, "Introduction to World Literature by Women" are offered this fall. The course introduces students to literature by women from Africa, India, the Caribbean, the United States and Britain.

"This course will furnish the centerpiece for our spring workshop," Honey said.

Among the authors read are Harriet Jacobs, Charlotte Bronte, Jean Rhys, Buchi Emecheta, Mahasweta Devi and Jamaica Kincaid. Students also view documentaries and films and participate in on-campus activities related to international women's issues.

Colloquium Series

Also sponsored by the grant, the Women's Studies Program is organizing a colloquium series. Professor Anna Shaver of the UNL Law College gave the first colloquium on Sept. 11. Her lecture on "Gender, Neutrality and Immigration Law" drew more than 70 individuals.

The second fall colloquium took place Oct. 10, with two presentations by graduate students.

Soraya Cardenas, graduate student in the UNL Department of Sociology, gave an overview of her cross-cultural analysis of water use; and Lydia Kualapai, graduate student in the UNL Department of English, spoke on "Hawaii: An Emerging Nation?"

A November presentation by Emilia Gonzalez-Clements, UNL Department of Anthropology, will address gender issues in anthropology; and Fran Kaye, UNL Department of English, will speak on Native Canadian Women Writers at the December colloquium. (For dates and times, consult the calendar on Pages 4-5). The series will continue in the spring.

As part of the internationalization project, the Women's Studies Program cosponsored an Oct. 8 slide show and lecture on Greek culture by visiting professor Theodora Kaldi-Kolikidou of Aristotle University in Thessaloniki, Greece. Kaldi-Kolikidou is a professor of modern Greek language.

International Resources

Part of the grant has been applied toward the purchase of books and other instructional material. The following material has been acquired and will be available to the campus community after the fall semester:

Film: Hidden Faces. By Claire Hunt and Kim Longinotto. 1990. 52 minutes. Originally intended as a film about internationally renowned feminist writer Nawal El Saadawi, Hidden Faces develops into a portrayal of Egyptian women's lives in Muslim society. Safaa Fathay, a young Egyptian woman living in Paris, returns home to interview the famed writer and activist but becomes disillusioned with her. Illuminated by passages from El Saadawi's work, the film follows Fathay's journey to her family home and discovers similar complex frictions between modernity and tradition.


For more information on international grant activities, contact Bettina Heinz (bhurst@unlinfo.unl.edu) or Honey (mhoney@unlinfo.unl.edu) at Women's Studies, 337 Andrews Hall, UNL, Lincoln, NE 68588-0303, (402) 472-9329.
October — Domestic Violence Awareness Month; Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Oct. 17 — “What Can You Do With a Women’s Studies Major?” Women’s Studies Alumnae Panel. 3:30 p.m., Nebraska Union, UNL. (Room will be posted.) The panel, titled “What Can You Do With a Women’s Studies Major?” will consist of UNL women’s studies alumnae who have a variety of answers to this question, based on their own experiences.

Graduates who have been out a number of years and graduates who have graduated within the last year will be part of the panel. Each panel member will talk about what she is doing for paid work now, how she got into that job, and how her women’s studies major helped her get there.

The results of a survey of all UNL Women’s Studies graduates on what they are doing for paid and volunteer work since their graduation will also be discussed.

There will be plenty of time for questions and discussions and free food. The program will be very informative for all women’s studies students, and majors and minors should be sure to attend. Barbara DiBernard will moderate the session.

October 31, Nov. 1, 2, 5, 6, 9 — “A Shayna Maidel.” UNL Theatre Department, Studio Theatre. Written by Barbara Lebow, directed by Karen Libman. Rose and her father Mordechai came to the United States from Poland, leaving Rose’s mother and sister Luisa, who was ill with scarlet fever, behind. Soon the rise of Nazism cuts off their escape. Their ordeal in the concentration camps, which only Luisa survived, has brought a burden of guilt to Mordechai as he anxiously awaits becoming reacquainted with his elder daughter who has finally made her way to America. Contact the University Theatre Box Office, (402) 472-2073.

Nov. 3 — “Flower of My Secret.” UPC International Film Series, Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater, UNL. Screenings at 3, 5, 7 and 9 p.m. “Leo, who is struggling through a wretched marriage, longs to be taken seriously as a novelist but has been churning out schlock romances for years, with horrible success, under a pseudonym. Her efforts to strip the dead wood from her life and discover what’s left alive include flirting with a literary editor and making peace with her family” — Anthony Lane, New Yorker.

Nov. 5 — Election Day.

Nov. 7-9 — Wilma E. Grote Symposium for the Advancement of Women. “Heroic and Outrageous Women” Morehead State University, Morehead, KY. For more information, contact Women’s Symposium, 201 Ginger Hall, Morehead, KY 40351-1689, (606) 783-2004.

Nov. 13 — “Gender Issues in Anthropology.” Professor Emilia Gonzalez-Clements, UNL Department of Anthropology. Women’s Studies International Colloquium Series. 3:30 p.m., City Campus Union, UNL. Sponsored by UNL Women’s Studies Program.


“Nitrate Kisses” explores eroded emulsions and images
for lost vestiges of lesbian and gay culture. "Tender Fictions" is Hammer's post-post-modern, autobiographical sequel to "Nitrate Kisses." Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater, UNL. Screenings at 7 and 9:15 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and at 2:30, 4:45, 7 and 9:15 p.m. on Sunday. For more information, call (402) 472-5353.

Nov. 24 — A Musical Evening with Emily Dickinson. 8 p.m., Kimball Hall, UNL.

Nov. 29-Dec. 1, Dec. 5-7 — "Ma Saison Préférée." By André Téchiné. Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater, UNL.

Dec. 11 — "Writing the Circle: Native Canadian Women Writers." Professor Fran Kaye, UNL Departments of English, Native American Studies and Center for Great Plains Studies. Women's Studies International Colloquium Series. 3:30 p.m., City Campus Union, UNL. Sponsored by UNL Women's Studies Program.

Dec. 13 — Reception for Women's Studies Graduates. Sponsored by UNL Women's Studies Program.

Jan. 16-18, 1997 — "Frontline Feminisms: Women, War, and Resistance." Conference organized by the Center for Women in Coalition, University of California, Riverside. For more information, contact Piya Chatterjee and Marguerite Waller, Department of Women's Studies, University of California, Riverside, CA 92521. E-mail: mwaller@ucrac1.ucr.edu or piya@ucrac1.ucr.edu. Http://wizard.ucr.edu/~charmer/women_coalition.html.

Jan. 23 — Breaking the Glass Ceiling. Career-focused session at which professional women speak about their work. For more information, contact the UNL Women's Center at (402) 472-2597.

March 9-15 — Women's Week. Focus on the different faces of feminism. Brown bag discussions, speakers, art exhibits and much more. For more information, contact the UNL Women's Center at (402) 472-2597.


April 6-8 — Western Jewish Studies Association. Third Annual Conference. Theme: "Women in Jewish Life and Culture." The University of Arizona, Tucson. For more information, contact Esther Fuchs, Judaic Studies Program, University of Arizona, P.O. Box 210080, Tucson, AZ 85721-0080.

For events sponsored by the UNL Women's Studies Program, call (402) 472-9392 for more information.
The Women's Studies Program cosponsored a campus visit by Patricia Foster of the University of Iowa. Foster read from her creative nonfiction work on Oct. 1 in Andrews Lounge. She is the author of *Minding the Body* and *Sister to Sister*.

The same week, the Women's Studies Program brought in Literary Historian Susan Koppelman, who is traveling to promote her book. She discussed her work, notably her recent collection of short stories relating to domestic violence, at a presentation Oct. 2 and a brown bag luncheon with graduate students Oct. 3. Lincoln's CBS-Affiliate KOLN/KGIN interviewed Koppelman Oct. 2 as part of the station's yearlong coverage of domestic violence.


The anthology includes stories such as "Sweat" by Zora Neale Hurston (1926) and "Minerva Writes Poems" by Sandra Cisneros (1984). Author Barbara Harman, whose 1994 story "Happy Ending" is the last selection in the anthology, accompanied Koppelman and read her story to the audience.

Funding sponsors for the Koppelman visit included the Center for Children, Family and the Law; Women's Center; and Departments of Educational Psychology, English and Sociology; YWCA. The Rape/Spouse Abuse Crisis Center cosponsored the event.


Women's Studies Faculty Member Sherry Harris has become a coeditor of *Legacy: A Journal of American Women Writers*. She has also been appointed to the Advisory Council of Boston's Public Media Foundation. The Public Media Foundation is working with state Humanities Councils to fund the dramatization of 19th century women's short fiction and produce them as radio plays.

This fall, Andrea Bolland and Alison Stewart are offering a new course. AHIS 498/898 is titled "Gender and the Visual Arts in Early Modern Europe."

Women's Studies Faculty — Please send us news items about your publications, travel grants and awards for inclusion in the next newsletter!
Shavers brings feminist-humanist analysis to U.S. immigration law

Anna Shavers, associate professor of law at UNL, started off the yearlong international colloquium series Sept. 10 with a quiz.

Shavers, who spoke on "Gender, Neutrality, and the Immigration Law," wanted to make the audience aware of incorrect perceptions of immigration facts and trends.

Whites typically underestimate the population percentage of whites and overestimate the percentage of people of color, Shavers said.

While 9.5 percent of the U.S. population is Hispanic, 3.1 percent Asian, 11.8 percent African American and 74 percent white, white Americans typically perceive the numbers to be 14.7 percent for Hispanics, 10.8 percent for Asians, 23.8 percent for African Americans and 49.9 percent for whites.

About 54 percent of the legal immigrants admitted in 1995 were women. Of those, 61 percent were married to U.S. citizens.

U.S. immigration law has not been scrutinized for gender or race discrimination, as other areas of U.S. law have, Shavers pointed out.

Women traditionally have had to immigrate based on their relationships to men because they did not meet any of the other preference categories used in awarding immigration rights.

Many traditional women's activities fall under "unskilled labor" categories in the context of U.S. immigration law.

Immigration law has profound effects on the lives of women in the United States and abroad, Shavers said, referring to competition for domestic jobs and the practice of "mail-order brides."

Immigration law ties a woman's immigration status to her husband. The law does not address women's situation in terms of abuse or divorce, oftentimes leaving women with having to choose between losing their U.S. citizenship or staying in an abusive marriage. Rape and gender-based persecution are just now being debated as considerations in awarding asylum status, Shavers noted.

To change immigration law, the best strategy is a proactive, political approach. Feminist comments and criticisms of pending laws are necessary, Shavers emphasized.

Shavers teaches courses in immigration law, administrative law, civil procedure, advanced trial advocacy and gender issues.

She received her J.D. cum laude from the University of Minnesota Law School in Minneapolis in 1979. Since 1993, she has been serving as chair of the Immigration Committee of the Administrative Law Section of the American Bar Association.
Did you know?

IN NEBRASKA
61 percent of Nebraska women are in the labor force.
80 percent of working women are in the 10 lowest paying jobs.
30 percent of single mother households are below poverty level.
Women earn 71 cents for each $1 men earn.
75 percent of the elderly poor are women.
Women are 24.4 percent of Nebraska's legislators.
Women are 9 percent of Nebraska's judges.

Source: Nebraska Commission on the Status of Women

Newsletter
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 Bettina Heinz, newsletter editor, 338 Andrews Hall, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE 68588-0303. You may also call (402) 472-9392 or send an e-mail to bhurst@unlinfo.unl.edu.

General Meeting for Women's Studies
Mark your calendar now! On Oct. 22, a general meeting for Women's Studies will take place at 3:30 p.m. in the Andrews Hall Lounge. This meeting is open to all faculty members and students interested in the Women's Studies Program. Current issues and future directions for the program will be discussed.

Women's Studies Fall Hours
Monday: 9:15-4 p.m.
Tuesday: 9:15-5 p.m.
Wednesday: 9:15-4 p.m.
Thursday: 9:15-5 p.m.
Friday: 9:15-1:15 p.m.

Christina E. Brantner
Interim Director

Office Hours (337 Andrews)
Wednesday: 3-5 p.m.
Thursday: 1-2 p.m.
Friday: 2-3 p.m.

Office Hours (1141 Oldfather)
Monday: 12:30-1:30 p.m.

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

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