



UNL'S Women's Studies Program Newsletter

Volume 7, Number 2

Spring 2000

We are Pleased to Announce the Following Faculty and Student Awards and Achievements.

Helen Moore and **Barbara DiBernard** were recipients of the OTICA, the Outstanding Teaching and Instructional Creativity Award, for the whole NU system (all 4 campuses).

Helen will also be named to the Academy of Distinguished Teachers.

Joy Ritchie has been named to the UNL Academy of Distinguished Teachers. Her book (co-authored with Dave Wilson) Narrative as Critical Inquiry: Rewriting the Script has just been published by Columbia University Teachers College Press.

Rashimi Bhatnagar won the 2000 Annis Chaikin Sorensen Award for teaching in the humanities. She also received a 2000 College Distinguished Teaching Award in honor of her outstanding teaching ability and dedication to student learning.

Adelaida Martinez has been recognized for promoting the literature of Mexican women writers through her contributions to Escritoras Mexicanas vistas por escritoras mexicanas (Mexican Women Writers Seen by Mexican Women Writers). The recognition came from Claridades, a cultural weekly magazine that, for the last sixty years, has been recognizing people in the arts, literature, film, and music. Reviews of the book have been published in the cultural sections of the most important Mexican newspapers such as Excelsior, El Universal, El Heraldo de Mexico, and Novedades. The book was also presented and reviewed by Professor Edward Luis Feher, at the Institute of Sciences and Humanities of the Mexican Literary Academy. Her article "Feminismo y literatura en Latinoamerica: unbalance historico" has been published in Mujer, creacion y problemas de identidad en America latina. Roland Forgues, ed. Merida, Venezuela: Universidad de Los Andes (1999), pp 260-282.

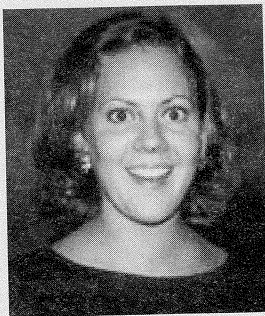
Grace Bauer's chapbook manuscript, "Field Guide to the Ineffable: Poems on Marcel Duchamp," won the Snail's Pace Press Annual Chapbook Competition and was recently published. Also, she was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor.

Ann M Kleimola was elected president of the Early Slavic Studies Association, an affiliate of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies.

Gretchen Obrist received the 2000 College of Arts and Sciences Student Leadership Award.

Students' Awards follow

Keri Wayne Receives Women's Studies Outstanding Achievement Award: for her work in producing "The Vagina Monologues" and the V-Day 2000 College Initiative.



Keri Wayne

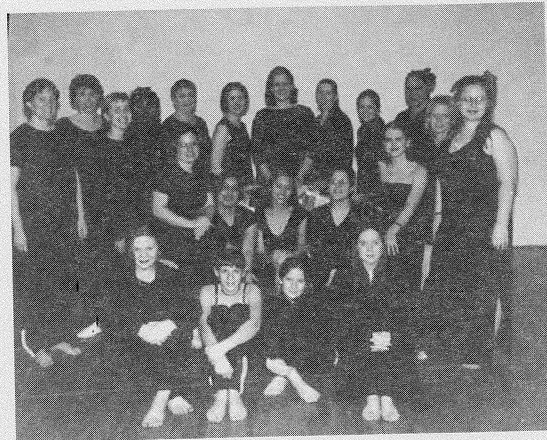
An estimated 500 people saw "The Vagina Monologues" here in Lincoln, while an estimated 66,000 saw it nationally and internationally. A total of \$257,000 was raised to benefit various women's shelters, crisis centers, and organizations. The money raised in Lincoln was donated to the Rape/Spouse Abuse Crisis Center.

While the numbers are rather impressive, nothing can truly represent all of the passion and energy that surrounds this movement and everyone involved with it. My participation in the V-Day 2000 College Initiative has awakened something within my soul. It has inspired and motivated me, urging me on, even though at times, the task seemed too difficult, too all-consuming. There were days when all I wanted to do was stop. And rest. Once the fruit of activism has been tasted, however, there is a semi-madness that tends to creep over you, propelling you forward. For each of my inconveniences and excuses, there was a woman being raped, beaten, genitally mutilated, or killed.

V-Day did not have this effect on me alone. Every one of the women who performed in the play talked about some change in herself over the months that we rehearsed. In addition to changing as individuals, we changed as a group.

Forty-two days have passed since V-Day, and the excitement has not quite left my system. V-Day 2000 may have come and gone within a few short hours, but not without an impact. V-Day was celebrated at over 150 Colleges and universities in the U.S. and abroad.

We transformed ourselves from a group of women into a unit. A unit of passion, and fire and energy, with random origin, that expanded into a definite purpose. We performed an over-the-top show, spreading a very necessary message. Hundreds of people were moved by our performance, and a nice sum of money was raised for R/SACC. V-Day was a success in Lincoln!



Back Row: Michelle Miller, Joan Corte, Christy Brugh, Venita Kelley, Cynthia Hartley, Rachael Robinson-Keilig, Keri Wayne, Nancy Goff, Amy Higgins, Zanna George, Keri Bernadt, Kacy Fallon

Seated on Couch: Gretchen Obrist, Tagi Adams, Julie Thai, Emilie Sinclair, Lindsey Borg

Seated on Floor: Jody Christopherson, Kiri Miller, Cambra Benford-Miller, Melody Jones.

But we cannot be satisfied with this success. Rape still exists. Women are still being beaten, mutilated and killed. I fear that the end of the battle is not near. I fear that we have just begun. And so, we continue on. There will be an extravagant V-Day 2001 celebration. Eve Ensler has written another book for the event titled, Points of Re-Entry, which will be presented at a gala event in Madison Square Garden on V-Day. Talk of the V-Day 2001 celebration here in Lincoln has begun, which will also touch the lives of even more people, commanding even greater change.

I look forward to V-Day 2001. I'm not sure where I will be celebrating, or if I will be a participant or a spectator. All I know is that I will continue to believe in the spirit of V-day and that I will not stop until the violence stops.

Students Receive Karen Dunning Awards:

Each spring Women's Studies Program sponsors the Karen Dunning Award for Scholarly Papers or Creative Activity in Women's Studies.

Undergraduate Award



Megan Spilinek

Fighting with my parents, in a tantrum not unlike that which a child might throw, I struggled to find a paper topic for my English composition course. I needed to choose a historical event of the twentieth century that had affected my family. Finally, when my mother mentioned the women's rights

movement, I knew I had an excellent subject. Although my mother never participated in women's rights marches or sported an equality-for-all button, the movement influenced her life in tremendous ways. Hours flew by as I began studying about the remarkable events in women's history. I found myself growing angry as I learned about the set backs and discrimination my mother and many other women faced. While finishing my paper, I felt an overwhelming sense of gratitude for all the American men and women who have and continue to dedicate themselves in the fight for women's rights. I wanted others outside of my class to learn about the nationwide movement and how it affected all of us. Being only a freshman, I was a bit unsure of whether I should submit my paper for the Karen Dunning award, but was encouraged to try. I am delighted to accept this award and want to express my appreciation to the Women's Studies Program. I believe our campus is blessed with wonderfully strong support for its students.

Erin Hansbrough

As a student of women's studies, Spanish and journalism, the idea of representation—who has access to it, where it comes from, what it means—is on my mind a lot. I got to explore these ideas for my Women's Studies Senior Seminar last year, focusing specifically on the (mis) representation of feminism and feminists in mainstream North American news media. In my paper, "From Silent Riot to Hot Sell: Feminism in the American News Media," I discussed the images of feminism we have seen (and not seen) on television, in magazines and in newspapers since the 1970's. It seems to me that the news media alternates between ignoring feminist movement completely, misrepresenting it in order to comply with "popular" ideas (such as a 1995 Esquire article heralding the birth of "Do Me Feminists") and declaring it dead (as in the 1998 Time article, "Feminism: It's All About Me!")

It seems that the male domination of powerful positions in the news media, in addition to the dependence on advertising dollars to keep news outfits going, keeps meaningful, relevant and fair reporting on feminism from happening. As we all know, feminism is a complex ideology/movement/site for identification and action. We cannot hope to see it summed up accurately in 12-second sound bites and slick images. For this reason, some of us may choose to abandon mainstream media altogether. However, I think there may also be ways to influence the mainstream. When we choose to talk back, write letters, demand better coverage, we are taking the power of representation into our own hands. I encourage women, as well as any person who is misrepresented by our hegemonic news media, to fight back with their own words and images.

Visit our WStudies Program Web Site at <http://www.unl.edu/womenssp/whomg.html>

Graduate Award



Ebru Gokdag

My play "White Flag" is about female genital mutilation (FGM). The United Nations indicates that up to 114 million women have already been genitally mutilated. FGM is practiced in about 26 African countries and also in some Middle Eastern countries. For example, 30 million women in Nigeria, 24 million

in Ethiopia and 3 million women in Mali have already been genitally mutilated. Most of these women are mutilated between the ages of eight and thirteen. When I started doing research on FGM, I just wanted to blame either the mother or the father for putting their daughters through such horrible practices. Then I realized that most parents subjected their children to FGM because they believed that it was best for their daughters' future. They had to do it because of the intense social pressure. After reading so many articles about FGM, I couldn't blame the parents anymore and I couldn't sit and do nothing about it either. I had to take an active part in the combat to fight FGM. I thought I could help more people hear about FGM by writing a play. In "White Flag," I am trying very hard not to blame anyone, any culture or any religion for FGM. I am just trying to present as objectively as possible what the women go through and the parents go through.

In "White Flag," I did not specifically state in which country the play is taking place with the fear that the audience might blame that country. The most important thing in this play is not to show how bad some customs, religions or some parents are. The point is 114 million women worldwide have been mutilated. And there are so many people working hard to stop this practice. I believe we can join these people in their fight not by judging those who practice FGM, but by trying to understand them as the first step.

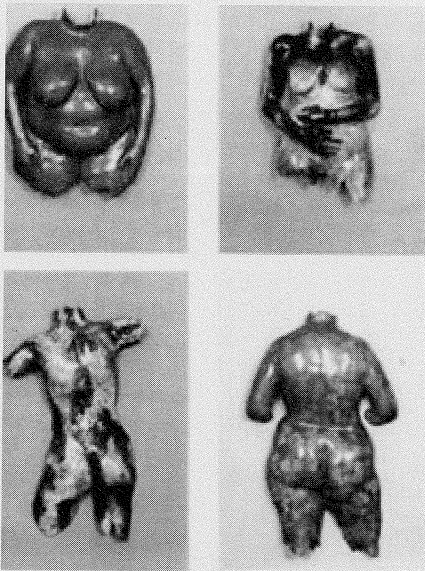
No Limits 2000: Feminist Visioning: Re-Imagining, Re-Creating, and Re-Telling

One hundred and fifty people officially registered for the No Limits conference although a greater number did frequent the two-day conference to attend various panels, and/or keynote addresses by Larry Kirkwood and Nomy Lamm. The audience and conference presenters ranged from high school students and professionals to community activists, undergraduate, and graduate students. While regional presence was not as high as in past years, several students from Kansas and one from Iowa did present work in their various academic fields, and local participation came from high schools (Lincoln East and Northeast High School students participated), UNL, as well as Nebraska Wesleyan University. Both keynote addresses drew large and diverse audiences with both speakers contributing richly to the conference.

The work of Larry Kirkwood—a visual artist from Kansas City working with body casts to critique popular images of beauty—was on display both days of the conference and elicited enthusiastic responses from many conference participants. Kirkwood talked about his work at the No Limits luncheon on Friday of the conference, underscoring the importance of each of us actively examining and critiquing popular ideas of beauty on an everyday basis. Kirkwood gave the body sculptures he brought with him immediacy by telling their particular stories and challenging his audience to appreciate the beauty in all our forms.

Nomy Lamm drew an audience of both people from the Lincoln community and campus for her talk entitled "New Directions for the Feminist Movement." With her humor, vitality, complexity, and princessness, Lamm easily won

over her audience. Beginning with a reading from her essay in the anthology *Adios Barbie*, Nomy Lamm (in a shirt that read “*choose your gender*”) told a personal and political story—of being fat, queer, hairy, disabled, Jewish, anarchist, and a gorgeous princess—while outlining how transgenderism complicates and enriches the possibilities for feminism. Nomy Lamm is multi-talented and prolific in her creativity, having published her own pioneering work against fat oppression in her ‘zine *I’m So Fucking Beautiful* at the age of seventeen, successfully publishing in various anthologies and magazines since, and currently working on a full-length rock opera with other Olympia, Washington, artists. We look forward to seeing, reading, and hearing much more of Nomy in the years to come.



Torso, Larry Kirkwood



Nomy Lamm

The No Limits Conference Committee would like to thank its sponsors for making the 2000 conference a success:

- *Campus Recreation Center*
- *Creative Writing Program*
- *College of Arts & Sciences*
- *Dept. of Economics*
- *Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs*
- *Prairie Schooner*
- *University Health Center’s Sexuality Education Program*
- *University Program Council (Funding Allocation Committee)*
- *UNL’s Women’s Studies Program (especially program secretary Glenda Moore for her advice and support)*
- *UNL’s Women’s Center*

A Few Anti-Fat Oppression Web Sites:

<http://naafa.org/>

national association to advance fat acceptance

<http://www.fatso.com/fatgirl/>

Fat Girl-the zine for fat dykes and the women who want them

<http://www.about-face.org/index.html>

a San Francisco-based group protesting negative and distorted images of women

<http://www.bayarea.net/~stef/Fatfaqs/publications.html>:

FAQ about publications for big folks

A Few Transgender Resources:

<http://www.gpac.org/> : GenderPAC is a national organization working to guarantee every American’s Civil right to express their gender orientation free of stereotypes, discrimination and Violence.

<http://www.ifge.org> : The International Foundation for Gender Education-with lists of publications, news, links, etc.

<http://www.tgforum.com/> : Transgender forum-lots of different resources

Shari Clarke To Teach Introduction to Women's Studies, Fall 2000

Introduction to Women's Studies, will be offered in the Fall, 2000, for the first time in the Women's Studies Program curriculum.

The instructor, Shari Clarke, is a Woman's Studies Program faculty associate. She currently serves as Special Assistant to the President for Diversity & Equity at the University of Nebraska. In this role she is responsible for advising the President on issues concerning gender and ethnic diversity in higher education. She works in collaboration with campus administration, faculty, staff and students to ensure a welcoming and inclusive environment on the campuses. In addition, Ms. Clarke works with campus committees in formulating policies and strategies for enhancing diversity.

Introduction to Women's Studies is an interdisciplinary course designed to familiarize students with the fundamental concepts and analysis in the study of women. The course will explore personal, interpersonal and the institutions that shape women's lives.

This introductory course will critically examine the lives of women and institutional dimensions of women's experience from various academic perspectives. The course will provide an opportunity for students to hear presentations from women on campus and local community leaders, and to engage in discussion on topical issues affecting women. To register for the class, please call Glenda Moore, program secretary, at 472-9392 to obtain the call number.

THANK YOU TO OUR INTERIM DIRECTOR

Ellen Weissinger, Professor of Health and Human Performance, has served the Women's Studies Program since January 1, 2000, as our Interim Director. Ellen has sparked new ideas and creative discussion on many topics, besides overseeing the administering of the program. Making this transition time as possible, Ellen helped us follow through on current important items, and take some courageous steps on new items. Thank you, Ellen, for all you have done so well.

A MESSAGE FROM MICHELLE MILLER

As Chair of the Women's Studies Director Search Committee, I want to pass on a large thank you to the members of this committee who worked so hard to accomplish our task.

To Sherry Harris, Amy Goodburn, Sheri Fritz, Keri Wayne and Stephanie Witham— it was a pleasure to work with such dedicated and knowledgeable women.

To all of the Women's Studies Faculty members and associates and, especially, the members of the Women's Studies Advisory Committee: thank you for your input in this process and your willingness to share your visions for the Director position with the members of the committee.

Our new director will be announced soon by the Dean's office, College of Arts and Sciences.

WS Colloquium Series Panelists

The Women's Studies Program students and faculty members would like to show their appreciation for those distinguished panelists who participated in the Colloquium Series 2000.

October 1999 colloquium, Asian Women Scholars in American Academia: **Alpana Knippling, Jung-Hi Rhee, Em-Orn Dispanya**

January 2000, African-American Women Scholars: **Anna W. Shavers, M. Colleen Jones**

February 2000 with Latina Scholars: **Marcela Raffaelli, Elizabeth A. Carranza**

March 2000 with Native-American Women Scholars: **Malea Powell, Helen Long Soldier**



Em-Orn Dispanya, Alpana Knippling, Jung-Hi Rhee

WS Program Colloquium Series Fall, 2000 To Be Announced
Women's Studies Program offers students the colloquium series for the Independent Study with the Director of the program. Requirements are attendance at the events and corresponding journals. Fall Colloquium series schedule TBA.

Tea and Talk



Tea and Talk



Tea and Talk



Tea and Talk is an international women's group that has been meeting for almost 15 years. We meet every Second Saturday of each month at 1:00 p.m. and have a pot luck lunch for about an hour. After that, we share various topics such as women's roles in agriculture, society, marriage, family, or current issues. We do invite speakers for the presentation. Our next meeting will be on Saturday, May 13, 2000 and we will have our 'end of the year picnic.' The location is my house at 1545 N 71ST, just ½ block North Of Holdrege on 71ST. We can provide rides. Please call Patti at 467-1957 or Dika at 472-3426 for more information.

Patti Bohner

*Congratulations to the following
Women's Studies Majors and Minors
who will be graduating:*

MAJORS

Rachel West

Keri Wayne

Alisa Wills

Kathryn Koscho

Liz Cole (May)

Erin Hansbrough (August)

Minors

Cheri Olinger

Gwen Hustvedt

Barbara Shamburg

Katherine Schlentz

Trina Smith

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