The new president of MSU seems to be listening to the voices of his constituencies in open forums and intentionally designed smaller groups. He has been told that in the past we have not nurtured a climate of shared governance and open communication at this institution. I think President Richard Davenport will make a difference here: the campus climate will be thoroughly assessed; the campus culture is going to change for the better. Which brings me to my point: OUR voices must be heard loud and clear on matters, great and small, which reflect and impact our feminist presence and consciousness in the university. We do not all share the same ideological priorities and strategies, but I suspect we do share common expectations that have been expressed in our curriculum, our pedagogy, our activism over the decades: we want to live in an environment that affirms women’s equality, that acts against GLBT-phobia, that abhors racism and ethnocentrism, and that promotes peace and justice in the world.

At the campus memorial ceremony marking the one year anniversary of 9/11, two students shared the podium with religious representatives, civic leaders, university administrators and faculty representatives. While MSU international students marched silently carrying banners and signs that urged unity of purpose and of spirit, Cesia Kearns, president of the university chapter of Amnesty International, implored the crowd to listen to voices that do not seek vengeance through warfare, but instead seek resolution of differences through dialogue and continual negotiations. The costs will be too high if President Bush’s rhetoric of vengeance leads the U.S. into war in Iraq. The costs ARE too high in Afghanistan where U.S. bombing takes a civilian toll daily. Voices are being raised against U.S. unilateral action. Charlotte Bunch wrote in The Nation that feminists around the world wonder at the public silence of U.S. feminists. Ellen Goodman wrote that the U.S. has become a bully among the “United” Nations, that we have ignored the “united” moniker in our solitary (save Tony Blair) lust for vengeance against the terrorists, that we owe allegiance to the U.N. and we haven’t demonstrated allegiance. Susan Sontag, in her NY Times column of September 10, noted that “the call to reflectiveness [is] equated with dissent, dissent with lack of patriotism.” Our own Kessel Peace Institute under the leadership of Barbara Carson and many other faculty, staff and students, continues to wage peace efforts through informed dialogue weekly, daily. Without such commitments to constant reflectiveness about this “phantom war” (in Sontag’s words), we risk losing our constitutional rights at home and our right to be taken seriously among the nations who do abide by international agreements abroad.

As I move through this, my final year of teaching and chairing Women’s Studies at MSU, I find that I am hyper aware of details in my daily environments – the conversations with friends and business associates, the nuances of weather, the ebb and flow of organic life around me in my small gardens and along the trails and streets where I walk, in the insect life and squirrel activity everywhere. The tedium of paper work – of work that is never done – is balanced as it always is, by the discoveries of teaching and the rewards of collaborative enterprise with students, with colleagues, and with friends.

The seasons play out their grand drama around us as we muddle on. Work for peace.
A FEW GOOD MEN WITH JACKSON KATZ
By Joshua Cruz

September 19 was a phenomenal day for change when the MSU campus welcomed leading anti-sexist activist and reformer Jackson Katz. The event was sponsored by Athletics, MSU Fraternities & Sororities, Residential Life, Security, and the Women's Center. To my surprise I was privileged to spend the afternoon with Mr. Katz. I was especially elated because a bulk part of my academic and activist life involves challenging men of all walks of life to examine their own male power and the ways in which that power becomes toxic to all women and to themselves. I was enthralled to learn that like me Mr. Katz is nourished largely by feminism and the research and words of women who have been saying and uncovering these things all along.

Katz’s informational videos were confrontational, well-informed and engrossing. Clips from his video Tough Guise as well as clips from projects in progress were combined with engaging audience activities designed to raise consciousness about the ways in which myths of American manhood breed and perpetuate violence against women. The CSU Ballroom was a full house with standing room only. Special thanks to Deirdre Rosenfeld, director of the MSU Women's Center!!!

WELCOME DR. ANNE LACSAMANA

Anne Lacsamana comes to MSU from the University at Albany where she taught for two years. She received her Ph.D. in American Culture Studies from Bowling Green State University of Alabama and her M.A. in Women’s Studies from The University of Alabama. She has published articles about colonialism, globalization and Filipina mail order brides—the subject of her dissertation and about Postmodern/Postcolonial feminism in the West. She helped establish an exchange program between the Women’s Studies program at Bowling Green and the Institute for Women’s Studies at St. Scholastica, Manila, Philippines to facilitate understanding between the First World and “Third World” feminism, theory and practice. From the entire faculty, staff, and students in the Department of Women’s Studies and from the MSU campus at large welcome Dr. Anne Lacsamana!

WOMEN & SPIRITUALITY 2002
By Lana Gertsen

The 21st annual Women & Spirituality Conference took place October 12 and 13 with over 860 people in attendance. Women’s spirituality pioneer, Carol P. Christ, presented a keynote talk which focused on her forthcoming book She Who Changes: Re-imagining the Divine in the World (due out in 2003).

Over 100 workshops, presentations, and performances occurred over the weekend, covering a variety of topics. Popular workshops such as “Achieving Financial Serenity,” “Psychic Jellybeans,” and “...An Intro to Rosen Method Bodywork,” drew audiences that filled classrooms in Armstrong Hall.

Next year's conference also happens in October. The keynote speaker will be Charlene Spretnak, author of several books including The Resurgence of the Real, The Politics of Women’s Spirituality: Essays by Founding Mothers of the Movement, and The Spiritual Dimension of Green Politics.

For further information about the 2003 Women & Spirituality Conference, and to be included on the mailing list, contact Cindy at: cynthia.veldhuisen@mnsu.edu.

BROWN BAG LUNCH
With Sara Stoltenburg

The Brown Bag Lunch discussion series is a place for feminist conversation, a place for sharing our experiences and knowledge and learning in an atmosphere of openness. The series is held in CSU 103 during fall semester and in CSU 256 starting in spring semester from noon to 1 P.M. each and every Tuesday. Topics include: Bisexuality; Being an Ally; Women in Sports; Women’s Health; Can I be feminist and religious?; cross-cultural relationships; generational differences among immigrants as well as many other topics yet to be decided. For further information or if you are interested in facilitating a discussion or have an idea for a discussion topic, please contact Sara Stoltenburg in the Women’s Center at 389-6146.

THINGS TO COME...

Alumna Jude Nutter (M.S. 1991) will visit MSU as a featured Minnesota writer (poet) in the Good Thunder Reading Series on November 12.

The first director of Women’s Studies at MSU, Peg Cruikshank, will visit in April. She has a new book on
aging. We will honor her at the spring banquet, April 25, 2003.

The Department of Women’s Studies Banquet will be on April 25, 2003.

F.U.C. (Feminists Under Construction) Stay tuned for more info regarding our feminist group on the MSU campus. Contact Hara at: itshara@aol.com for more information.

Spring Break Study Program: Professor Winnie Mitchell (Anthropology) and Carol Perkins will coordinate a spring break trip to Mexico, March 8-16. In our Goddesses of Mexico: An Exploration of the Female Divine, we will travel with Cecilia Corcoran and Linda Mershon, Franciscan sisters who lead Goddess Global Awareness Through Experience [GATE] tours of Mexico, Central America and Eastern Europe. The program will be based in San Angel, a neighborhood of Mexico City, where we will stay at a retreat center. We will take day trips to archeological sites where goddess artifacts and ritual sites are being discovered and studied. Part of our program also will bring us into contact with women in Mexico City who are involved with grassroots organizing of health clinics, political refugee programs, and children’s health and nutrition programs. Call or e-mail Carol or Winnie for information. Carol: 507-389-5025; carol.perkins@mnsu.edu; Winnie: 507-389-6612; winifred.mitchell@mnsu.edu.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE EDUCATION PROGRAM

By Wade Meyer and Danya Thomsen-Orellana

It’s a small office, but they get things done. Danya Thomsen-Orellana and Wade Meyer are-as you hear in their chant at Brown Bag Lunches-AmeriCorps members serving in the Women’s Center as Sexual Violence Education Program Advisors.

Danya is a returning AmeriCorps member who will use this year to build on last year’s accomplishments. She is available Monday-Thursday for non-therapeutic sexual violence support services to MSU faculty, staff and students and their friends and families. She is also the advisor for the recognized student organization R.A.I.S.E. (Raising Awareness in Social Education), a peer education group raising awareness in the campus community about sexual violence. Both Danya and Wade are available for educational programs on a variety of topics related to sexual violence, including date rape, alcohol, drugs and sexual violence, gender construction, consent issues, sexual violence and the media, power and control, and more.

Wade is new to Mankato, serving part-time at the Women’s Center and part-time at the Summit Center, Mankato’s senior citizens’ center. When he finishes training through the Blue Earth County Sexual Violence Resource Center, Wade will be available for non-therapeutic sexual violence support services on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Wade is also the advisor for the student organization Men Against Rape, as well as the newly forming MSU chapter of NOMAS – the National Organization of Men Against Sexism. This year, Wade will work on developing programs aimed at engaging and educating men on the realities of sexual violence.

Wade and Danya look forward to their year of AmeriCorps service dedicated to ending sexual violence in our world.
INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN’S STUDIES
WOST-110-01, 02, 03  3 credits
110-01 - TH   Coons  1:30 P.M. - 2:45 P.M.
110-02 - MWF Hedlund  9:00 A.M. - 9:50 A.M.
110-03 - M   Lacsamana  6:00 P.M. - 8:50 P.M.

TOPIC: VIOLENCE PREVENTION EDUCATION
WOST-120-01
TH / 10:30 - 11:45 A.M. / Bevacqua
3 credits

PERSPECTIVES ON WOMEN AND CHANGE
WOST-220-01
MWF / 10:00 - 10:50 A.M. / Perkins
3 credits

PERSPECTIVES ON WOMEN AND CHANGE
WOST-220-02
T / 6:00 - 8:45 P.M. / Perkins
3 credits

ASSERTIVENESS AND SELF ESTEEM
WOST-230-01
H / 7:00 - 8:45 P.M. / Gabriel
2 credits

COMING OF AGE: GENDER AND CULTURE
WOST-251-01
W / 6:00 - 8:45 P.M. / Coons
3 credits

INDIVIDUAL STUDY
WOST-277-00* / WOST-477-00* / WOST-677-00*
1-6 credits

WKP: WOMEN AND LEADERSHIP
WOST-290-01 and 490-01
W / 12:00 - 12:45 P.M. / Gabriel
1 credit

SEMINAR: WOMEN & POVERTY
WOST-320-01
MW / 2:00 - 3:15 P.M. / Lacsamana
3 credits

FEMINIST RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP
WOST-4/530-01
MWF / 1:00 - 1:50 P.M. / Perkins
3 credits

WOMEN AND AGING
WOST -4/545-01
T / 6:00 - 8:45 P.M. / Elliott

INTERNSHIP: COLLEGE TEACHING
WOST-497-00* / WOST-697-00* / Staff
1-6 credits

INTERNSHIP
WOST-498* / WOST-698*
1-6 credits / Bevacqua

GRADUATE SEMINAR: GENDER AND LAW
WOST-610-01
M / 2:00 - 4:45 P.M. / Bevacqua
3 credits

FEMINIST RESEARCH
WOST-620-01
F / 9:00 - 11:45 A.M. / Lacsamana
3 credits

ALTERNATE PLAN PAPER
WOST-694-00*
1-2 credits

THESIS
WOST-699-00*
3-6 credits
*PERMISSION REQUIRED

SEMINAR IN APPLIED ANTHROPOLOGY
ANTH 603-01
T / 6:00 - 8:50 P.M. / Schalge
3 credits

THEATRE OF DIVERSITY
THEA 285-01 (general ed course)
MW / 2:00 - 2:45 P.M. / LeNoir
3 credits

HUMAN SEXUALITY
SOC 209
H / 6:00 - 8:45 P.M. / Langstraat
3 credits

WOMEN’S HEALTH
HLTH 4/500-01
T / 6:00 - 8:45 P.M. / Ceniceros
3 credits

ANTHROPOLOGY OF GENDER
ANTH 4/533-01
MWF / 11:00 - 11:45 A.M. / Mitchell
3 credits

LANGUAGE AND CULTURE
ANTH 240-01 (general Ed course)
MWF / 12:00 - 12:45 p.m. / Scale
3 credits

SPECIAL SESSION – Spring Break 2003

WKP: GODDESSES OF MEXICO: AN EXPLORATION OF THE FEMALE DIVINE
WOST 4/590 OR ANTH 4/586
Spring Break / Mitchell & Perkins
3 credits

In the largest city of North America are found traces of ancient civilizations whose cosmology grew out a nature-centered spirituality. The earliest traditions honored a pantheon of deities who were the source of life, of mystery and regeneration. This course explores the remnants of past cultures at the ancient sacred sites, the ecological crises, and the courage of Mexican women in grassroots movements.

*Note: Students will meet three times prior to the trip, dates and times to be announced
ATTENTION ALL WOMEN’S STUDIES ALUMNAE!!!

Have some news you’re dying to share? Have you relocated? Do you want to make sure you are on our mailing list?

Contact Cindy at: cynthia.veldhuisen@mnsu.edu

BOOKIN’ IT: GOOD READS IN WOMEN’S STUDIES, LITERATURE, AND SUCH

*Pink Think: Becoming a Woman in Many Uneasy Lessons* by Lynn Peril (Norton Publishing, 2002)
Review by Lana Gertsen

“From the moment she’s wrapped in a pink blanket, long past the traumatic birthday when she realizes her age is greater than her bust measurement, the human female is bombarded with advice on how to wield those feminine wiles.”

In her debut book *Pink Think: Becoming a Woman in Many Uneasy Lessons*, cultural historian Lynn Peril’s research on female images in mid-twentieth century media provides plenty of smiles on the subject of “feminine wiles,” (5).

Peril’s book focuses on advertisements and books, especially teen advice guides that promoted hyper-femininity in the 1940’s to the 1970’s. From the media of that time, comes the idea of “pink think,” which can best be described as “attitudes about what constitutes proper female behavior…that was consciously or not adhered to by advice writers, manufacturers of toys and other consumer products…and the public at large” (7).

Peril’s collection of “femorabilia” is fascinating, horrifying, and highly amusing. From the pink “Lionel Lady” train set for girls to teen guides on “flinging the woo,” this book is filled with full-color and black-and-white reproductions of ads and images that make even Britney Spears seem not so offensive.

The book is available in paperback at an affordable price. You will be enthralled (and dumbfounded) by the material; you truly won’t be able to put it down, even if you are (oh golly!) a “boyish girl!”

Review by Joshua Cruz

In the first pages of Caitlin R. Kiernan’s *Threshold: A Novel of Deep Time*, the author gives us this caveat: “this book is best read aloud.” A suggestion that invokes memories of childhood bedtime rituals of *Winnie the Pooh* or Lewis Carroll’s *Alice and Wonderland*. In *Threshold’s* first chapter protagonist Chance Matthews asks herself, “…how many miles I’ve fallen by this time?” A self-interrogative question *Wonderland’s* Alice asked herself more than once after tumbling down the rabbit’s hole. This is a question you will ask yourself before, during, and after reading *Threshold*, I guarantee it. For those still in the dark about Caitlin R. Kiernan she is the Gen-X answer to H.P. Lovecraft and Edgar Allen Poe. A self-proclaimed “Goth” Kiernan is resuscitating a modern fiction form that has long fallen to mass market pulp comics for adults. The horror/dark fiction genre will survive remarkably through talent like Kiernan, who along with a handful of other talented “dark” women (i.e. Poppy Z. Brite, Storm Constantine, and Kathe Koja) is staking her claim and distressing us in the meantime.

*Threshold’s* impressiveness relies heavily on Kiernan’s dreamy prose and her uncanny use of atmosphere and unearthly presence to invoke both wonder and horror. *Threshold* gives us one Chance Matthews, a bereft Geology graduate student who has suffered the deaths of all her loved ones. A not so random meeting with one Dancy Flammarion and all of Chance’s cool, scientific meditations on loss and reality go falling by the wayside. Dancy is a strange albino girl who claims to talk with angels, angels she claims have charged her with hunting “monsters”. Chance soon learns through Dancy that she is part of an intricate plot involving an unearthly conspiracy. Incidentally all of Dancy’s claims coincide with a “specimen” Chance’s grandmother (also a geologist) discovered in the Birmingham, Alabama Water Works nearly 50 years previous…This beautiful and gritty mind-bender makes you ask yourself, *who are my monsters and where are they hiding?* Along with 3 prose collections and Kiernan’s first novel, *Silk*, *Threshold* gives us a lilting, revivifying voice in a literary genre where, “the sun makes no difference whatsoever.”
KUDOS to the following graduate students for successfully defending their theses...

Kaaren M. Williamsen, Advisor: Carol Perkins  
Uncovering Gender in Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Coming Out Models (April 2002)

Catherine Conover, Advisor: Maria Bevacqua  
Dykes Without Tykes Amid the Lesbian Baby Boom (May 2002)

Maria Del Pilar Duque, Advisor: Carol Perkins  
Social Representations of Gender Roles in the Private Sphere: A Cross-Cultural Perspective on Old Women (May 2002)

Karmen McQuitty, Advisor: Maria Bevacqua  
Packing an Pulsating: Drag Queens of the Twin Cities (July 2002)

Jennifer Pritchett, Advisor: Carol Perkins  
Ordinarily, Intergenerationally Queer: A Feminist Resignification of Our Dyke Lives (July 2002)

Kim Schmitz, Advisor: Carol Perkins  
The Birds and the Bees: A Creative Exploration of Girls’ Transitions from Childhood to Adolescence (July 2002)

NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK: MEET YOUR NEW WOMEN’S STUDIES GRAD STUDENTS (2002-2003)...

Hara Bastas  Hometown: Southern California  
I received my BA in Women’s Studies at California State University, Long Beach with an emphasis in Social Change. Women’s Studies is more than just an academic discipline, it’s a way of life for me. I advocate for the empowerment of women both nationally and internationally cutting across barriers of economics, ethnicities, ages, abilities and sexual orientations. My main area of research and involvement is with middle school/pre-teen girls, inspiring girls to realize their maximum potential and capabilities in all facets of life.  
Favorite quote: “The eyes are the messenger of the soul, but the voice reveals the spirit,” - anonymous

Anne Craigie-Bates  Hometown: Santa Monica, California  
My primary research interests involve sexual assault, war time rape, and how best to move forward with the anti-rape movement in America. Despite the unearned white privilege I received growing up (and almost because of it) my research interests also include how sexual assault and other forms of violence against women break down in terms of race, class and sexual orientation. I am likewise interested in violence against gay men. In my leisure time, I like to talk to my two children on the phone, listen to good music, occasionally have drinks or coffee with friends, and sleep!

Signe Brunner  Hometown: Fairbanks, Alaska  
Interests in Feminism/Activism include the socialization of gender; art as therapy; gay parenting; and the incorporation of Feminism in elementary school education. Hobbies and other interests include my dog, art (in its many forms), gardening, and whatever else strikes my fancy!  
Quote: “The mind is not a vessel to be filled, but a fire to be kindled.”-Plutarch

Breezy Bryant  Hometown: Sioux Falls, South Dakota  
I am interested in Rape and Sexual Assault Advocacy; Issues Affecting Indigenous Women; ways in which the educational system perpetuates negative images of Minority communities; Feminism in the Fashion Industry; and
Joshua Cruz  
**Hometown: El Paso, Texas**

I am interested in Feminism and psychology; Homophobia as a weapon of sexism; Women in action movies; “French feminism” (especially Julia Kristeva); Anti-sexism work with boys and young men; Feminism and Literature (esp. Gothic/Horror Fiction); Feminism and censorship; Gender deconstruction; Feminism and the Philippines; Confessional poetry and spoken word poetry by women; Rethinking gendered and sexual subjectivity; and looking at where women, modern medicine and folk healing intersect. I dig: MUSIC, especially post-punk, goth, industrial, rock, shoegazing, and new wave; Dancing; obsessive compulsive reader (esp. outré Fiction), writing purple prose, herbology, fashion, my beautiful kitty Lucy-Fur, enjoying Greg Araki and John Waters movies; and Kickboxing.

Quote: “Beauty is a simple passion, but, oh my friends, in the end you will dance the fire dance in iron shoes.” – Anne Sexton

Lana Gertsen  
isa native Iowan, who attended Iowa State University, graduating with degrees in Journalism and English. She spent some time working in Charleston, South Carolina, (and misses the ocean!) in community relations for Barnes & Noble. Lana currently is attending MSU as a first year graduate student and hopes to focus her studies on the role(s) of women as journalists and media professionals. She is also interested in the antifeminist movement and women and poverty.

Janice Hibbs  
**Hometown: Windom, Minnesota**

I have an Associate of Applied Science in Architectural Drafting from Central Community College in Hastings, NE and a B.S. in Psychology from Minnesota State University, Mankato. I’m not certain when I recognized myself as a Feminist, but a minor in Women’s Studies helped me to realize a passion in this area. Although I don’t know what I will do once I obtain a graduate degree, I know that somehow I want to facilitate other women on their journey to self discovery and self-actualization.

Erin King-Luce  
**Hometown: Puyallup, Washington**

I am from Puyallup, WA which is 30 miles south of Seattle. I received my undergraduate degree from Gonzaga University in Spokane, WA. My degrees are Integrated Women’s Studies and Sociology. I am interested in pursuing further graduate work in either a Ph.D. in Women’s Studies or perhaps law school. Currently my research interests include anti-feminism, sociology of gender and family, and feminist theologies. I like to ride my bike, play racquetball with my husband, boating/camping, and reading before going to sleep!

Paige Petersen  
**Hometown: St. Peter, Minnesota**

but raised and conditioned as an Iowegian. Interests in Feminism/activism: the development of the adolescent psyche in terms of the socialization process; conducting and creating research that benefits the deconstruction of negative gender roles; political/feminist activism that specifically addresses global and environmental issues. I enjoy doing the chicken dance with my 7-year old daughter; hunting down, listening to, and dissecting deep, power-mama music; and reading books that most people hate to read.

Quote: “Morals are based on religion, when religion should be based on morals.” - Marquis de Sade

Sarah Stoltenburg  
**Hometown: Springfield, Minnesota**

I attended Riverland Community College and Southwest State University, where I earned an undergraduate degree in an interdisciplinary major in women and ethnic studies. My interests in feminism are quite scattered. I am interested in mythology and ancient goddess and earth worship practices, and the rise of a new age sort of spirituality that we are currently seeing. I tend to see the present as the past and often view my world from a historical perspective. Questions like: What will be important in 1,000 years? Of what we have now, whether it is material, mental or spiritual, what will be left standing, what will be talked about and practiced? What will gender roles be in the future? I’d like to do more exploration in feminist philosophy. I am also interested in film, feminist literary theory and in depth media analyses of gender…as well as many other aspects of feminism not mentioned for lack of space. Activism is my life. I support breast cancer awareness and consciousness-raising- especially as an illness that affects not only white women, but women from all backgrounds. Some of my most favorite hobbies include biking, hiking, pottery & photography. I also do tai chi. I love simplicity, beauty, nature and art.

Quote: “As a woman I have no country. As a woman my country is the whole world.” - Virginia Woolf