NOTES FROM THE CHAIR
Dr. Maria Bevacqua

Now that summer is a distant memory, it is time to contemplate all that autumn brings us, including this installment of the Women’s Studies Newsletter! Summer was a relaxing time for some of us, and a work-filled one for others. The NWSA conference was a highlight for me as a time to learn about new research, network, and catch up with friends from around the country. I attended with several students, as well as fixed-term faculty member Jocelyn Stitt and professor emerita Carol Perkins. See list of student participants on page 2.

This fall has been as busy as ever in the Women’s Studies Department. We kicked off the academic year, as we always do, with a reception for new and returning women faculty and staff. With our co-sponsor, the Commission on the Status of Women, we greeted dozens of new members of our community. We enjoy the networking and collaboration opportunities this event affords us. We also enjoyed some tasty treats!

The weekend of October 22 & 23, we hosted the two-dozenth Women & Spirituality Conference. Over a thousand people came to our campus to explore, to listen, to contemplate, and to place spirituality back in the hands of those who have been denied power in this realm. Our keynote speaker Starhawk delivered a sober, thoughtful address, then led the crowd in an amazing spiral dance that was probably as much fun to watch as to participate in. See the full story on the conference inside.

This semester we greeted a new fixed term faculty member, Jocelyn Fenton Stitt. Jocelyn’s specialty is global feminist theory and analysis, so we are thrilled to have her teaching our undergraduate and graduate global courses. We have been given permission to conduct a search for a probationary faculty member in the area of global feminism. In addition, this year we are excited to have Lisa Coons, Deirdre Rosenfeld, and Adriane Brown teaching in the department. We know that the department is strengthened by the teaching of all of these skilled instructors, along with Cheryl, Susan, and me.

The department was proud to learn recently that a Women’s Studies thesis was selected to represent all of Minnesota State Mankato in the Midwest Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS) Distinguished Thesis competition. Beatrice Korankyewa Quist, MS ‘05, wrote the thesis, titled “The Trokosi System and Its Impact on Women in Ghana.” Congratulations, Beatrice!

Finally, I am honored to announce that the second annual Carol Ortman Perkins Lecture will be delivered by Gloria Steinem. The event, “An Evening with Gloria Steinem,” will take place on February 14, 2006 in the CSU Ballroom. The Women’s Center will co-sponsor this as a featured V-Day event. More information will be made available when the details are in place. Check our website at www.mnsu.edu/womenst/
Welcome New Faculty Member
Dr. Jocelyn Stitt

Jocelyn Fenton Stitt became passionate about Women’s Studies by majoring in that subject at Pomona College, located near Los Angeles. While at Pomona, Stitt studied abroad in Glasgow, Scotland. This experience allowed her to make connections between multicultural feminist issues in the U.S. and international feminist studies. After graduating, Stitt returned to the U.K. in order to learn more about race, gender, ethnicity and nationalism in an international context. Her current research and teaching interests in multicultural British and Caribbean culture began as a graduate student at Edinburgh University. Stitt came back to the U.S. after she was accepted into the University of Michigan’s joint Ph.D. program in Women’s Studies and English. Her Ph.D. dissertation argues for an understanding of twentieth-century Caribbean culture as shaped by as well as resistant to gendered and raced British Romantic (1785-1835) discourses about nationalism, colonial education, and the colonial family. After graduating from Michigan, Stitt has taught women’s studies courses on Caribbean women’s history and culture, representations of mothering and multicultural British studies. She was also a Fellow at the International Museum of Women in San Francisco, where she created an educational outreach program about women’s lives internationally for underserved communities. She is very pleased to be a fixed-term faculty member this year in the Women’s Studies department, where she will teach courses such as the undergraduate Global Perspectives on Women and Change and the graduate course Global Feminisms.

NWSA Spring 2005 Conference

The following students presented papers at NWSA 2005: Maggie Weller, MS 2005; Hannah Miyamoto, MS 2005; and Beatrice Quist, MS 2005 (as well as Hara Bastas, MS 2004)

Jen Macken and Adriane Brown also attended the NWSA 2005 Conference in Orlando, Florida.

Congratulations!!!
To the 2005-2006 Scholarship winners

Terri Taylor/Lucille Lorenzen Scholarship
Trinity Sol
Grace Lundquist Scholarship
Shayna Collins and Christal Lustig
Dorie Morinville Scholarship
Sharon Dexheimer
Ione Howe Louk Scholarship
Julie Mortensen
As the field of women’s studies increasingly adopts a global focus, I, like many of my colleagues, have sought to broaden and deepen my understanding of women around the world. This summer’s Fulbright-Hays Seminar Abroad in India, focused on women, seemed like the perfect opportunity to gain a better understanding of women’s realities outside the Western world. The program guided participants to learn about the status of women in contemporary India through an academic program and field visits across the country. I could not have imagined a place I’d rather have visited than India, a country known for its committed women activists as well as for its well-established women’s studies programs.

The summer program hosted sixteen teachers from the United States to study abroad for five weeks, and we began with a two-day pre-departure orientation at University of California Berkeley’s Center for South Asia Studies. Here we heard from experts about their scholarship on Indian women; we learned pointers for adjusting to Indian culture; and we began to get to know one another. There were 14 women and two men in the group, ranging in age from 30 to 65, and employed as teachers at high schools, community colleges, and four-year colleges and universities. A few among us had women’s studies affiliations, yet many participants were engaging in women’s studies for the first time. Two had previously traveled to South Asia, but most participants had extensive study and teaching abroad experience, including travel in the “developing” world and the East. I was the least traveled of the group, never having been outside the U.S. and Europe.

Five weeks in India with a large group of diverse personalities was challenging for lots of reasons. Yet, as I had hoped, the experience was well worth the occasional frustrations. Arriving in New Delhi on July 1 just following the arrival of the monsoons, we became tourists and students, treated to extremely gracious hospitality. Countless hours were spent observing cultural differences; listening to speakers and tour guides; reading newspapers and magazines as well as travel books; and discussing informally our perspectives on gender, culture, and society.

Following a week in Delhi, we traveled to eight additional cities and visited a handful of rural areas along the way. At each location, USEFI (U.S. Educational Foundation in India) staff and hosts-the latter were often people associated with a local university or agency-oriented us to life in the region and prepared us for the upcoming program. Most field visits included lectures, sight seeing, cultural performances, and visits to schools, workplaces, and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). On several occasions, we visited families in their homes. Most of our glimpses of daily life, however, were out the windows of tour buses, amid crowds at tourist attractions, in the waiting rooms of airports, or while walking through marketplaces or neighborhoods. And then there were many conversations with Indian women, men, and young people, in which they shared information and inquired about our impressions of India.

Participants in the program each proposed a curriculum project, which will eventually be featured on the Fulbright India website for use by teachers. Mine focuses on women’s activism in India. Because of the well known achievements of women’s activism in India-through the freedom struggle, against environmental degradation, for Dalit (formerly called “untouchable”) rights, and opposing violence against women, to name a few examples-my topic was ideally suited to the program. I had the opportunity to connect with women’s studies scholars, most of whom were actively engaged in community-based struggles; to hear from numerous activists who did paid or unpaid organizing work with NGOs; and to meet women and girls who benefited from the services of NGOs.

I also explored another interest during my travels: Indian food. I rarely missed an opportunity to savor cuisine from the country’s different regions, and I collected cookbooks, recipes, and spices. I also had the pleasure of enjoying a traditional Bengali meal prepared by the mother of our new graduate student Saswati Sarkar, both of whom I was delighted to meet for the first time in Calcutta.

As the head of USEFI commented, Americans visit India for four weeks and come away feeling educated about the country. Those who stay for five weeks, however, depart aware of how little they’ve learned relative to the subcontinent’s complex history and culture. And it’s true that in the end, I had a tremendous learning experience, but one that is incomplete. Thanks to the generosity and kindness of new Indian (and U.S.) friends and colleagues, however, I remain a student of Indian women, curious and eager to continue my education about women in South Asia and around the world.
Meet the New Women’s Studies Grad Students

Abby Buck
Hometown: Twin Lakes, WI. I received a BA in Women’s Studies at the University of Wisconsin, Whitewater. My academic interests include: activism, the suffrage movement, gender roles, and breaking various stereotypes. I like dancing, going to concerts, music, scrap-booking and seeing plays and movies. Something everyone should know about me: I will always be a feminist.

Quote: “Well behaved women rarely make history.” – Laurel Thatcher Ulrich

Yuko Endo
Hometown: Osaka, Japan. I earned a BA in Nursing at Osaka Prefecture College of Nursing and also a BA in Sociology at the University of Missouri, Kansas City. My academic interests are gender harassment and classism in the workplace and gender roles and the family structure. My hobbies include going to hot springs and reading books.

Kate Goff
Hometown: Born in Atlanta, GA then moved up to Carmel, IN, next San Antonio, TX, then Severna Park, MD and now finally Mankato, MN! I matriculated at Frostburg State University in Frostburg, MD where I earned a BS in Sociology. My academic interests are obviously women’s studies...but more specifically women in religion (past, present, and future), violence against women, the family structure/marriage relationships, and the portrayal of women in the media. I enjoy gardening, which mainly consists of lots of pots in my little apartment. I’m an animal lover and attempt to have as many pets as possible. Other hobbies include playing video games, watching movies and quilting/sewing. I can only be me...

Quote: “You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough.” – Mae West.

Kathryn Gullicks
Hometown: Duluth, MN, — I’m missing Lake Superior. I earned a BA in Philosophy and Spanish at the University of Minnesota, Duluth. I’m interested in feminist theories within philosophy of language, existentialism and sex work, and feminist epistemology. I love learning new languages, canoeing, gardening, cooking, and pretending I know the words while singing Radiohead. P.S. I’ve got a serious mind crush on Ludwig Wittgenstein.

Quote: “The maestro says it’s Mozart but it sounds like bubble gum when you’re waiting for the miracle to come.” – Leonard Cohen.

Lila Kahmann
Hometown: For the past seven years Duluth, MN, has been my home. I graduated from University of Minnesota Duluth with a Bachelor’s in Anthropology and a minor in Women’s Studies. Every aspect of Women’s Studies interests me. I am excited to have found an area of study in which almost every topic sparks a passionate response in me. I have been writing children’s stories that defy the gender roles and expectations that are often found in children’s literature. My dream is to find an illustrator who can capture the images I envision for the characters and then find a publisher. I enjoy exploring local playgrounds with my 1 1/2 year old daughter, Aurora Rain, and my husband Zach. In warm weather I love bike rides and hikes. In cold weather nothing beats a comfy chair, warm sweater, mug of steaming coffee, and a good book.

Quote: “The greatest challenge of the day is: how to bring about a revolution of the heart.” – Dorothy Day.
Cindy Mark

**Hometown:** Currently, I live in Prior Lake, MN, but was born and raised in Towson, Maryland. I graduated with a BA in Art, Women and Culture. Some of my academic interests include feminist art, body image, spirituality, and sexuality. My hobbies are writing, sculpture, ballroom dancing, sustainable hobby farming, horseback riding, et al. Something everyone should know about me is that I am an honest, loving, and loyal friend…and to quote Hallmark cards, “All I want is peace on earth and really cute shoes!”

**Quote:** “Follow your intuition, plant your desire, stand still, be patient. The universe will provide bounty the likes of which you can only dream” – unknown.

Mia Miller

**Hometown:** Somerset, Pennsylvania. I earned a BA in Philosophy and Religion at McPherson College, in McPherson, KS and also a Master’s of Divinity at Bethany Theological Seminary, in Richmond, IN. I’m interested in peace activism, women in religion, feminist spirituality, LGBT concerns, and eco-feminism. I like camping, organic gardening and cooking.

**Quote:** “Imagine all the people living life in peace. You may say I’m a dreamer, but I’m not the only one. I hope someday you’ll join us, and the world will live as one.” – John Lennon.

Shelly Owen

**Hometown:** Currently, Roseville, MN. I earned a BS in Accounting from Minnesota State University, Mankato. My academic interests include social policy, domestic violence, history and labor/work issues. I am totally animal-empathetic. I cannot watch or read anything with animal angst in it—I almost walked out on the movie Babe when the pig was trapped in the corner with a rope around its neck awaiting slaughter. If my friend hadn’t really pitched that Babe lived, I was gone. P.S. Yep, I am back. Never finished my thesis the first time through.

**Quote:** None — I hate to memorize things.

Cristina Primerano

**Hometown:** Jersey City, NJ. BA, Women’s Studies, William Paterson University of New Jersey in Wayne, NJ. My academic interests include feminist, classical and postmodern philosophy; ethics; feminist theory; images of women in popular culture; and sex workers and their rights. My hobbies are playing guitar and banjo, black and white film photography, crocheting, reading, amateur geography, backpacking, misadventures, and sentimental journeys.

**Quote:** “Gnothi Seauton” – Know Thyself-the Oracle at Delphi.
“There’s no shame in being a pariah” – Marge Simpson.

Saswati Sarkar

**Hometown:** Calcutta, India. I have done both my BA and MA in Philosophy, from Jadavpur University, Calcutta, India. My areas of interest are gender discrimination; violence against women; the interlocking systems of oppression and how they operate differently in different societies; the changing role of women in an age of globalization; pornography; how women are portrayed in television and films, and its social effect; queer theories; and feminist pedagogy. (I hope to add to this list as I read more and more!) My hobbies are travel, photography, driving, playing computer games (especially NFS and ROADRASH), star gazing, movie critiquing, and hiking. Something that everyone should know about me is that I can’t pretend and I hate liars. My parents are the most important to me, and all I care for in my life is to make them happy and proud. I know I fail to do that sometimes. (Please don’t think my parents are very demanding. They are not! In fact I am.) And yes, I am really really scared of dogs and crazy about cars!

**Quote:** “Everything has been figured out, except how to live.” – Jean-Paul Sartre.
Spring 2006
WOMEN'S STUDIES COURSE OFFERINGS

Please see Minnesota State University, Mankato website for further course details at www3.mnsu.edu/courses/

* WOST 110: INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN'S STUDIES
* WOST 120: VIOLENCE AND GENDER
* WOST 220: GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON WOMEN AND CHANGE
* WOST 251: COMING OF AGE: GENDER AND CULTURE
* WOST 290: WKP: VAGINA MONOLOGUES WOST Contact Women’s Center, CSU 218 for more information
* WOST 320: UNDERGRADUATE SEMINAR
* WOST 430: FEMINIST RESEARCH AND ACTION
* WOST 460: TOPIC: WOMEN AND WORK
* WOST 630: GLOBAL FEMINISMS: THEORY
* WOST 640: FEMINIST THEORIES

WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM / RELATED COURSES

*SOWK 4/585: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SOCIAL WORK: ISSUES, POLICIES, AND INTERVENTIONS

Women & Spirituality

Conference 2005

The 24th Annual Women & Spirituality Conference nearly set an attendance record with 1,049 people attending on the weekend of October 22 and 23rd on the Minnesota State Mankato campus. Keynote speaker and earth-based spirituality activist Starhawk discussed her recent relief work in New Orleans and abroad in her speech titled “Frontline Spirituality.” She also signed copies of her newest book, The Earth Path: Grounding Your Spirit in the Rhythm of Nature. In addition to the keynote, attendees also enjoyed a variety of workshops about topics including spirituality and finances, feng shui, past life regression, Native American spirituality, and meditation, among many others. Along with attending workshops, participants browsed exhibits provided by 95 merchandise and service vendors. The 25th annual conference will be held October 7 and 8, 2006. For more information about the conference, please contact Cindy Veldhuisen at 507-389-2077.
From Julie A. Wilbert

Julie currently works full time as a Health Promotion Specialist for Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health Department in downtown Minneapolis. She also teaches Women’s Studies part time at Metropolitan State University in St. Paul. She teaches Introduction to Women’s Studies, Women’s Health, and Women and Theatre. Julie recently won the Minnesota State Mountain Bike Championship Series in her division and age group. Every season she puts in over 2,000 miles on her bikes and this year finally paid off! Julie says, “Women’s participation in U.S. cycling is low but growing due to heightened publicity of the Tour De France victories and women’s overall increasing level of fitness. My hope is that more women will join the local racing scene because it’s definitely a very rewarding physical and mental challenge. This year I raced with a girl as young as eleven years old! It was great to see her out there challenging stereotypes that girls aren’t as athletically inclined as young boys.”
WOMEN’S STUDIES ALUMNAE
Please Keep Us Posted

Name: ____________________________________________

Degree: __________________________ Major: __________________________ Year: __________

Home Address: ____________________________________________

City: __________________________ State: __________ Zip: __________

Home Phone: (____) __________ Work Phone: (____) __________

Fax: (____) __________ E-mail: __________________________

Employed By: __________________________ Title: __________________________

Business Address: ____________________________________________

Comments/Memories: ____________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

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