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Continued on page 2
Meet Our New Visiting Professor: Christine Metzo

By Kim Burrow
Women's Studies Graduate Student

The Minnesota State Mankato Women's Studies department welcomes its new fixed-term Assistant Professor, Christine Metzo. Christine received Master’s degrees in both Geography and Philosophy, with Graduate Certificates in Women's Studies and Social Theory from the University of Kentucky. Currently, she is working on her Ph.D. in Philosophy at UK, which she will complete in 2007. This semester, Christine is teaching two sections of WOST 220, Global Perspectives on Women and Change; WOST 310, Feminist Thought; and WOST 610, a graduate seminar on sex, gender, and the body. She is excited to be teaching at the University, saying, "It is great to be in a program that is so well respected and recognized."

Prior to working at Minnesota State Mankato, she taught at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN, offering philosophy courses cross-listed with Women’s Studies. Her interests lie in feminist philosophy and theories of embodiment. The interest in feminist theory stems from a feminist philosophy class she took as a first year student, which “changed everything” about her world view and how she thought about society.

In the area of embodiment, she is particularly interested in constructions of motherhood and the maternal body, of which her dissertation deals, and constructions of the male body. She has edited a volume of UK’s social theory journal, disClosure, on masculinity and the body. She also just finished co-writing an article on masculinity, embodiment, and the discourses of scientific exploration with her partner. Christine lives with her partner, two stepchildren, and cat. Her advice to students is, "You shouldn’t be afraid to take risks. Pursue the things you are passionate about even if at first there doesn’t seem a clear way to do it. You can find a way to do it, because that is what is going to keep you going."

Continued from page 1

...hold unique perspectives on the bridging of feminist theory and practice. Chief Mankiller’s lecture (still forthcoming at the time of this writing) will surely advance both our thinking and our plans for feminist action. Once again, we are grateful to the Women’s Center, and Deirdre Rosenfeld in particular, for collaborating with us on this program.

This year we welcome fixed-term faculty member Christine Metzo (see story inside), who is replacing Dr. Jocelyn Stitt during her parental leave. We are also happy to have Dr. Catherine Chang as a new community faculty member. In October, Dr. Susan Freeman and Women’s Studies major Brad Freihofer presented a lecture on her class project, Coming of Age in the 20th Century (www.mnsu.edu/mngirls/), to the advisory board of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. The board was impressed, even inspired, by the presentation. Dr. Cheryl Radeloff brought her expertise on health policy to the National Home and Community Based Services Conference, presenting on gender and HIV. And I am pleased to have been elected the chair of Ethics, Equity, and Diversity for the National Women’s Studies Association, a position on the organization’s board of directors. Whew! We feel so fortunate to be surrounded by the powerful energy of feminist scholarship, activism, and inquiry. Good things are happening in Women’s Studies—these notes barely scratch the surface!

One further staffing detail: I will be taking a sabbatical during spring 2007—a truly remarkable opportunity to expand my research and teaching in exciting directions. Susan Freeman will be serving as department chair in my absence. I am confident the department will thrive under her leadership.
Meet the New Graduate Students

Katie Bowman
I was born and raised in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and graduated with a BA from the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire, in 2006 with a major in English Literature and minor in Women’s Studies. I have two dogs—a fourteen-year old dachshund and a two-year old black lab—and five quarter horses of varying ages, all of whom I love as much as the rest of my family. My primary interests include studying feminist-oriented literature and critically analyzing all texts, including non-literary texts (e.g., films, pop culture, and other cultural texts) from feminist theoretical perspectives. I hope to go on to get a Women’s Studies doctorate and eventually teach Women’s Studies and, potentially, English Literature at the university level after my MS is completed. Until then, I will continue to enjoy time spent with my family, friends, and animal companions, working on activism and studying, eating good food, and doing things outdoors.

Kim Burrow
I am from Tuscaloosa, Alabama where I graduated from the University of Alabama with a BA in Communications and minors in Women’s Studies and Theatre. My areas of interest in Women’s Studies include feminist art, women’s sexuality, and an emphasis on race and class analysis. I am a poet, among other artistic endeavors. I enjoy riding my antique Vespa and playing with my two dogs and cat. Other interests include reading sci-fi novels, watching film/theatre, and listening to the music of the riot grrrl genre, Ani Difranco, and Tori Amos.

Jennafur Parks
I was born and raised in Exeter, New Hampshire where I exclaimed, "I am a feminist!" when I was about 13 years old. I graduated Summa Cum Laude from New England College, where I earned my BA in Women’s Studies and Sociology in 2005. My interests include sex work, feminist art, body image, LGBT studies, sex and power roles in film, feminist theory, feminist activism, globalization, women in literature, and women’s history. I enjoy reading, writing poetry, watching indie films and bad horror movies, listening to indie music, swimming, activism, gushing over Bust and Venus magazines, and spending time with my family, my partner Caleb, friends, and pets. I am continually carving this world into my own.
"I think, therefore I am dangerous."
"Many persons have a wrong idea of what constitutes true happiness. It is not attained through self-gratification but through fidelity to a worthy purpose." –Helen Keller

The following students are working on their theses and plan to graduate this December:
Haruko Fijiwara and Sara Stoltenburg
In the summer of 2002, in an effort to boost LGBT visibility in the area, several volunteers rallied together and called their assembly "South Central Minnesota Pridefest." Their efforts proved to be a success; SCMN Pridefest has become an annual LGBT institution and continues to enjoy growth today, in 2006.

This year’s Pridefest committee chose to adopt a new name for the event, "South Central Minnesota Pride," and assume a broader direction with Pride’s goals. Many of Minnesota State Mankato’s students, faculty, staff, and student organizations have had direct involvement with this year’s Pride events. Both the LGBT Center and SAGE (Sexuality and Gender Equality, a Registered Student Organization at the University) served as 2006 Pride sponsors. Additionally, Jessica Flatequal, Program Coordinator for the LGBT Center at the University, served as 2006 co-chair of SCMN Pride.

The coordinating committee consisted of Women’s Studies faculty, Maria Bevacqua and Susan Freeman. Other committee members included Women’s Studies majors Christal Lustig and Brad Freihoefer. We had the opportunity to speak with Brad one Tuesday where he had a few moments to reflect on the planning and implantation of Pridefest. Brad explained that there were committee leaders and that committees were broken up into various sections such as vendors, fundraising, sponsors, the parade, and so on. Women’s Studies major Rhea Wyss was head of the parade committee.

Jen Parks attended the Ms. South Central Pride Pageant and performance of Sister Gin which took place on Friday evening at The Coffee Hag prior to the parade. The night was full of music and laughter. A good time was had by all. As a participant in the Pride Parade, Jen had a wonderful time. There was a huge turn out. Brad said he was amazed how many parade participants showed up that Saturday morning.

There were many organizations in the parade, such as PFLAG – Mankato Chapter [Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays], Minnesota Atheists, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Mankato, Rural Aids Action Network, as well as many others.

Three student organizations marching were the LGBT Center’s Team MSQ, SAGE and IMPACT One particular group of students stood out amongst the crowd, as they were dressed in matching rainbow team uniforms. They called themselves The Flaming Avengers, which is the queer dodgeball team that consists of undergraduate and graduate students. Rhea was handing out rainbow pinwheels and flags prior to the start of the parade.

After the parade, everyone convened at Sibley Park for the Pride festivities. The fun was only beginning. At the festival, there was Dunk-A-Dyke, more drag performances including the naming of Mr. and Ms. South Central Pride Pageant, Rakstar Fusion Belly Dancers, Lineus Improv, Ellis, Fulton Follies, Sun/Moon Bellydancers, Starr Mackenzie, Ocho, and a big raffle. Congratulations to Ms. South Central Pride, Mirage, and Mr. South Central Pride, Abe. I had a chance to see these two fabulous performers Friday night at The Coffee Hag.

The food and treats were provided by Brendon’s Ice Cream Express, The Pie Peddler, Pub 500, The Coffee Hag, and the Nile Café. I enjoyed veggie dishes from the Nile and an ice cream treat right off the truck from Brendons. The weather held out and the day brought in over 800 people. On behalf of the Department of Women’s Studies, thank you to all who helped and participated. We can’t wait for next year!

For more information, including the full lists of vendors and sponsors, visit www.scmnpride.com/ or contact southcentralmnpride@gmail.com or Jessica Flatequal at jessica.flatequal@mnsu.edu
I Had No Voice
By Christal Lustig, Women’s Studies Major

Entering college, I had no voice. Not that I was physically impaired; I had a voice, but I was either too afraid to use it or used it when no one was around to listen. I was extremely timid and unsure of myself when I first arrived at Minnesota State Mankato. I had been told that I would be better off at a technical college. I listened to other voices, not my own. Two years later, I entered the Women’s Studies program and found a place where the professors encouraged me to take a stance and use my voice. It began in my Intro to Women’s Studies class. I realized that in order to live, I had to let go of much of what I was taught growing up and be open to new ideas and ways of thinking. Everyone was expected to speak. The more raised hands I saw, the more eager I was to share my own opinion. This became the standard as I became more and more uncomfortable with silence. Not uncomfortable with silence per say, but with being silenced and with silencing myself.

Outside of class, I also began to come out of my shell. I became involved with a number of on-campus organizations. Before long, I was combating my silence through participating onstage in The Vagina Monologues. Thanks to the Women’s Center, I shared my voice by reading my poetry at Take Back the Night. This aided in my transition from a silent victim to an outspoken survivor. I also orchestrated my voice through performance in the University’s bi-annual Gender Bender Drag Show. I further empowered my voice through my association with SAGE and the LGBT Center, where I met the most amazing and committed activists who fight for social change through their collective voices. As one of my main tasks this last semester, I chose to do a teaching internship so that I may act as a guide for others who are searching for their voices.

In 1977, Adrienne Rich wrote, “To you who are students…you cannot afford to think of yourselves as being here to receive and education; you will do much better to think of yourselves as being here to claim one” (“Claiming an Education”). This is what I have done at Minnesota State Mankato, and will continue to do throughout my life because of the education I "claimed" here and the voice I set free.
Welcome to the Women's Center

By Deirdre Rosenfeld
Director of the Women’s Center

In our 29th year at Minnesota State Mankato, the Women’s Center is full of new additions and old favorites. Thanks to new funding we are proud to host the Sexual Violence Education Program. Staffed by full-time professional Lindsay Gullingsrud and supported by Katie Bowman, a graduate assistant, this program will work to support student survivors and provide educational prevention programs related to gender-based violence.

While Lindsay and Katie build a new program, graduate assistants Felicia Baptiste and Merlita Tiew are busy coordinating our core annual events, including a few new features. By the time you read this, we’ll have observed the National Young Women’s Day of Action with a screening and discussion of Chisholm ’72, a documentary focusing on the first African-American woman to seriously campaign to become the President of the United States. Mid-October will greet a festival celebrating Love Your Body Day, a presentation from Chong Kim on human trafficking and child sex exploitation, and a discussion with researcher and filmmaker Helen De Michiel about young women pursuing a college education in the high stakes professions of science, math, engineering and technology. None of our events would be possible without generous collaborative partners, including those featured above.

Personally, I’m most looking forward to a recurring program and a new initiative. For the third year in a row, the department of Women’s Studies has graciously invited us to co-host the Carol Ortman Perkins Lecture. On October 25 we will welcome Chief Wilma Mankiller to campus to talk about her own experiences with feminist activism. For the past two years, the Perkins Lecture has been a high point for the feminist community and injected excitement into the daily workings of the Women’s Center. We expect Chief Mankiller to do the same. In terms of new initiatives, as we wrap up the fall semester we’ll take 25 women students for a weekend retreat focused on developing empowering new perspectives on leadership. Merlita, Felicia and I are eager to establish new relationships, reflect on our own strengths and take an honest look at how social constructions of gender intersect with race, sexual identity and other factors impact our daily lives as well as our long-term goals.

In September we hosted the first meeting of the Student Advisory Board. Twelve diverse students are providing critical input to help our Center reach as many Minnesota State Mankato students as possible. To inform this work we have completed collecting data in a campus-wide survey that asks questions about core programs and services. We’ve been working with the Integrated Marketing Team on campus to develop a new logo and departmental publications. Be on the lookout for our new graphic identity throughout these next few months. On top of all this, Gail Abraham, our office manager, is working to keep our Center warm and welcoming. Next time you’re on campus, swing by 218 Centennial Student Union to check out our new decor. From all of us here in the Women’s Center, trust me when I say you’re welcome anytime.

The following Women's Studies Undergraduates will be graduating this semester:

Christal Lustig
Emily Haas (graduated Summer 2006)
Trinity Sol
I had the pleasure of sitting down to an afternoon interview with one of our graduate students Haruko Fujiwara. She is full of energy and enthusiasm. Haruko is from Tokyo, Japan where she graduated in 1997 with a Bachelor’s degree in English and American Literature from Keio University, Tokyo. Upon graduation, she worked in marketing for six years. In marketing, she found inequality for women at every turn. She has been able to draw upon these experiences in her feminist analyses in Women’s Studies at Minnesota State Mankato.

Women’s Studies at the University has proved to be a better opportunity for egalitarian treatment and gender analysis than marketing did for Haruko. She explained to me some of the challenges specific to her work when she first entered the Women’s Studies MS last year. Haruko expressed that her first semester was a difficult time initially because she moved here from Japan without her husband and pet lovebird into a different culture. “I was nervous about everything,” she said. More optimistically, Haruko went on to tell me that although each person in the program had different identities and opinions, each were able to connect with one another in the classroom. She believes that commonality can be found not just through race and ethnicity, but in our experiences especially as women.

Haruko decided to pursue Women’s Studies based on her experiences of inequality in Japan. Haruko adopted the idea of feminism and chose Minnesota State Mankato’s Women’s Studies grad program above all others. She revealed that there were no women’s studies programs back home. Haruko seemed to find the answers to many of her questions about social institutions and issues in feminism. She was truly able to connect her new feminist ideas to social justice action in one of her first courses, Collective Action. For her, the course was about learning how to contribute to society through action as a woman in women’s studies. The collective action project she participated in was designing a directory of women-owned and women-friendly business, clinics, and other places where women are respected and validated. She enjoyed discussing her ideas with her classmates and putting forth an action to reflect those ideas.

Currently, Haruko is working on her Alternative Plan Paper (similar to a thesis, the capstone project of her Minnesota State Mankato Women’s Studies academic career) which she will finish Fall semester of 2006. For her APP, she is writing about internship work she has done in various women-owned and–operated cooperatives in Japan that encourage women to seek various employment options and learn the tools necessary for success in their particular fields. The cooperatives are especially available for women who wish to start their own business. Haruko observed two different cooperatives for her internship. She also worked on a solo project which consisted of creating databases and websites. She is analyzing her experiences through her internship and personal project.

Haruko has big plans after graduation. She revealed that she really wants to work for a non-profit organization. She has been offered a job at one of the cooperatives where she interned. She will be helping Japanese women who want to work find jobs and help those women who wish to start their own businesses. However, she does see herself in ten years running her own non-profit where she will connect her background in women’s studies, feminism, and activism to her work.

When I asked her about advice she would give to students who are interested in pursuing the kind of work she has done and those writing a thesis or APP, she had lots of ideas. Haruko explained that students should write down their interests first, research women and the workplace, look for various forms of work, and keep in mind original thoughts or interests prior to beginning your research. Excellent advice Haruko. The Department of Women’s Studies wishes her all the best.
I was able to squeeze some time into Women’s Studies graduate student Shelly Owen’s very busy schedule to set up a casual interview where I would learn not only about Shelly, but also some of the history of the Department of Women’s Studies from the 1980s. We met in the early afternoon when Shelly was enjoying a quick lunch before her Feminist Pedagogy class. Her perspective on the Women’s Studies program is unique because she was in the program nearly 17 years ago after receiving her Accounting degree from Mankato State. In her undergraduate work, she started to focus on non-profit organizations which became her interest in pursuing a graduate degree in Women’s Studies.

Shelly admitted that she was young when she began her Master’s the first time and wasn’t necessarily taking her academics as seriously as her ever growing social life. She said that she and her friends would organize parties where people were required to “leave your ideologies at the door.” Regardless of her personal life, she did succeed in the program. She finished all but her thesis, which is why she is back at Minnesota State Mankato a second time, now older and wiser.

She shared some rather interesting information about her earlier experiences in the program. Shelly revealed at the time the campus was not exactly welcoming to Women’s Studies students. She said the Department of Women’s Studies, events, and students were under constant attack from The Reporter, the school newspaper. Equally under attack was the “Alternative Lifestyles Office,” which was the name of the LGBT Center at the time. There was political conflict between those identifying as feminist and those who did not. Shelly claimed that LGBT people and women were really the “Other” on campus, which she felt was partly due to the fact that women’s studies scholarship, including LGBT studies, were not as defined as they are today. Shelly came back to the University as a Graduate student in History. A friend of hers introduced her to a course on the History of Sexuality and Dr. Susan Freeman who taught the course. History of Sexuality allowed Shelly to start thinking in an academic environment again. She credits Dr. Freeman for helping her to think critically and begin writing again. Shelly also credits Dr. Chris Corley in the Department of History, where she did historical research and writing, for teaching her how to start writing in a more academic way. Both professors gave her the tools to begin her academic career again here at Minnesota State Mankato.

For her thesis, Shelly is focusing on the influence of feminism on battered women’s shelters from 1988 to 1989. After graduation she hopes to get accepted into a Ph.D. program and study the intersection of feminism and public policy. When I asked her to share advice for prospective and current graduate students, Shelly expressed that it is important to think about what you want to get out of the program and incorporate that into how you approach your classes.

~Shelly Owen~
I hit the ground running this semester by collaborating with both on and off campus resources and ensuring student survivors of sexual violence are provided with support, resources, and information to find answers. I provide confidential support services to female and male student survivors of sexual violence, any person that is close to the survivor and to faculty and staff as they address the multiple layers of healing.

In addition to providing support services, Katie Bowman, my graduate assistant, and I work together to provide effective prevention programming addressing gender-based violence. We are proud to announce on September 13, 2006 Mike Domitrz came to campus to present “Can I Kiss You?” This event was a major success with over 750 people attending. After the event, over 300 students signed pledge cards to do their part to end sexual violence. Keep your eyes open in April when they will be posted in the Centennial Student Union. For future prevention programming, watch for programs such as the Family Violence Awareness Conference on October 30th, White Ribbon Campaign in November, The Vagina Monologues in February, and Sexual Assault Awareness month in April.

Last but not least, we are proud to announce three very important ways to get involved. I serve as the advisor of Men Against Rape, a studentrun organization for men whose mission is to support men to use their strength to end sexual violence. Look for announcements in November for a new peer education group. This group will use the combination of their knowledge, fun activities, and dialogue to enhance students’ understanding of gender-based violence. Finally, during second semester, there will be a women’s group that will concentrate on self-reflection in terms of sexism, violence, and oppression.

For more information on getting involved please contact me at 389-5127 or by e-mail at lindsay.gullingsrud@mnsu.edu. If you want to learn more about the Sexual Violence Education Program, please do not hesitate to stop by the Women’s Center. My door is open to any one for any reason.

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**New Sexual Violence Education Program**

By Lindsay Gullingsrud
Sexual Violence Education Coordinator

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**Spring Course Offerings**

**Spring 2007 Course Offerings**

- WOST 110: Introduction to Women's Studies
- WOST 220: Global Perspectives on Women and Change
- WOST 225: Introduction to LGBT Studies
- WOST 330: Feminist Research and Action
- WOST 630: Global Feminisms: Theory and Practice
- WOST 640: Feminist Theories

**Women's Studies Program Related Courses**

- ENGL 321: British Literature After 1785
- ENGL 612: Gender and Genre
- ENGL 4/595-01: World Cinema- Women Directors
- PHIL 4/545: Feminist Philosophy
- PSYC 4/560-01: Psychology of Women
- SOWK 4/527-01: Social Work and Domestic Violence

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**Special Thank You:**

- Katie Bowman, Graduate Student, Women’s Studies
- Cindy Veldhuisen, Office Manager, Women’s Studies
- Brad Freihoefer, Undergraduate Student, Women’s Studies/Philosophy
- Lila Kahmann, Graduate Student, Women’s Studies
- Everyone who submitted articles and photos
Interview with 2001 Alum Chelsea Hibbard
By Jen Parks

What kind of work have you been doing since graduation?

I worked as a Research and Web Design Consultant for St. Cloud State University’s Women’s Studies program before moving to the Twin Cities Metro Area to conduct social research for the Wilder Research Center. I then worked for people with disabilities at the Courage Center while doing additional Research Consulting for a religious institution. A year ago I took a position as a Development Associate at Rebuild Resources, a non-profit social enterprise in St. Paul. We serve womyn and men in recovery from drug and alcohol addiction by providing transitional employment while they become sober, self-sufficient and of service. I’ve learned a lot at the different jobs I’ve taken since graduate school. I’ve had the opportunity to interview people who are homeless, I’ve learned about the effects of Traumatic Brain Injuries and I’ve written grants to sponsor womyn in recovery.

What kind of work are you doing now? Explain in detail your job and its components.

I love my job, which entails writing compelling grant proposals, managing individual giving campaigns and special events, and overseeing our donor database. I am also responsible for our corporate communications, such as coordinating our newsletter.

What was the topic of your master’s thesis? Was it related to the work you do now?

My thesis is entitled “Womyn’s Marital Names: An Examination of Identity, Sexism and Language.” While it is not directly related to the work I do now, the topic comes up from time to time and I still receive requests to read my thesis. It feels good to know my topic of interest and original research made a lasting contribution to the feminist research collection and womyn are still interested in exploring it.

What other activities have you been up to? (including social, academic, political, and activism)

I have come to love camping and boating, and I am involved in volunteer activities and study groups at my church. With my hectic lifestyle, I’ve limited my activism to mostly online activism, letter-writing campaigns, girlcotting, and philanthropy in the causes I support.

What are your future plans or goals?

My current goals are to continue to pursue my career in the development field and continue to learn new things. I may write a memoir on womyn, animals and the environment someday. Intermediately, I plan to take up dance, train my dog Bella in agility, and work with my partner on our plans to build our own home.

Do you have any advice you could offer students who are graduating this year? Or any advice to first year graduates?

My advice to students is to take classes you are most interested in. I took Maria Bevacqua’s Women, Sex, and Identity (now titled Politics of Sexuality) course and found it to be my favorite. I highly recommend it.
Alum Josh Cruz of Hartford, Connecticut has sent us word he is currently working as a Child, Adolescent, and Family therapist at the Child Guidance Clinic of Greater Waterbury in Waterbury, Connecticut.

Have some news to share? Have you relocated? Please tell us! Contact the Department of Women’s Studies at: 507-389-2077 or e-mail Cindy Veldhuisen at veldhc@mnsu.edu

Please consider making a donation to Women’s Studies at Minnesota State University, Mankato

Women’s Studies needs your support. We have numerous fundraising efforts underway, and with your help we can meet our goals. One effort is to raise funds for Women’s Studies students to attend the National Women’s Studies Association conference in St. Charles, IL this June. Another effort is to endow the Carol Ortman Perkins Lectureship, which invites lecturers to campus based on their contributions to feminist scholarship and their ability to think creatively about the connections between theory and practice. Finally, you can support the department’s general foundation account, which helps to fund other student travel and purchase educational DVDs and other instructional supports. Any amount is appreciated with any of these efforts. You can help Women’s Studies fulfill our mission of promoting interdisciplinary feminist teaching, learning, and research. Thank you! Use the pledge form below for any gifts you can make.

Pledge Form

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$250 $100 $50
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