New Graduate Certificate Program in Women’s Studies

The Graduate Certificate Program in Women’s Studies is designed to provide students with a focused program of study of women and gender, and to provide certification of the completion of the program on a graduate transcript. Students may enroll in the Program either as a stand alone program or in combination with a graduate degree program in another department. A graduate certificate in Women’s Studies may be particularly appealing to students in the humanities, social sciences, or sciences who seek academic employment in inter-disciplinary women’s studies programs, perhaps in addition to a main appointment in their home discipline. It would also be useful for those who currently work or hope to work with women’s organizations or in supervisory capacities in business or government.

The KU Women’s Studies Graduate Certificate requires 12 hours of coursework including: WS 801: Women and Gender Studies: Theory and Methods (3 hours); two three-hour electives chosen from the list at the end of this document, from two different disciplines; and WS 898: Research Colloquium (3 hours). All students in the Graduate Certificate program will be assigned an advisor to assist the student in selecting from among the electives, and to serve as an outside reader of the capstone paper required in WS 898.

At its first meeting of the Fall 2002 semester, seventeen graduate students showed up to take Prof. Gwynne Jenkins’ WS 801 course, necessitating a move to a larger seminar room. Clearly there is great interest and enthusiasm for graduate work on women and gender!

Visiting Lecturers Deliver Public Talks in Fall 2002

Professor Michael Kimmel, Sociology Department, S.U.N.Y at Stony Brook, Stony Brook, NY, will be on campus the evening of October 2, 2002, to give a talk entitled, “Mars and Venus? Or Planet Earth? Issues for Women and Men on Campus in the new Millennium.” Professor Kimmel will speak at 7:30 p.m. in Woodruff Auditorium, Kansas Union. This talk is sponsored by the Sociology Department, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the Women’s Studies Program.

Obioma G. Nnaemeka, Professor and Director of Women’s Studies, Indiana University, Indianapolis, Indiana and President of the Association of African Women Scholars, will present a lecture “Theorizing African Feminisms” on Wednesday, October 9, 2002, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Alderson Auditorium, Kansas Union. A reception will follow in Alderson Auditorium. Sponsored by the Women’s Studies Program.

New Directions Underway for Friends of Women’s Studies at KU

Last academic year has been a transition year for the Friends of Women’s Studies (FWS/KU). With leadership from Ann Cudd, in her second year as Director of the Women’s Studies Program, and the help of Gwynne Jenkins, faculty representative, FWS will take on a new direction this year while keeping the focus of building a supporting network of friends and developing financial support for the Program.

This year, the Board of the Friends of Women’s Studies will be composed of 12-16 members that represent faculty, current students, alumni, and community members. Their meetings will be held on campus and consist of learning about the academic focus of the faculty as well as participation in a project designed to raise funds for and awareness of the broad range of research, teaching, and service our faculty and students engage in.

Last year the generous gifts of the Friends have supported student and faculty work, particularly the annual Virginia’s Purse Awards for students. On behalf of the board I thank the donors for their faithful support. I would also like to thank Ann Cudd and her staff for their active leadership and direction for the 2002-2003 year.

I look forward to our new direction as a board, and
also the possibility of providing much needed resources for this wonderful program. In a time of tight budgets from the State it is all the more imperative that we gather support for this important work.

-Linda Luckey, Board Member,
FRIENDS of Women’s Studies at KU

Want to Join Friends?

If you are interested in becoming a Friends member, you may email Linda Luckey at lluckey@ku.edu and she will send you some information!

February Sisters Update

Marking the 30th anniversary of the original February Sisters occupation of the East Asian Studies building, February 2002 proved an especially exciting time for members of the February Sisters Association. As a new member, I was fortunate to benefit from the two years of experience and hard work that Christine Robinson and Sharon Sullivan (along with co-founder Carly Hayden Foster) had under their belts. By Fall of 2002, FSA was in great shape and looking toward the future – February 2002. Almas Sayeed and I, the two new “recruits,” were able to share in the enthusiasm generated by Chris and Sharon as we vigorously prepared for what we hoped would be an educational as well as a celebratory event. In an attempt to honor the courageous women who, in 1972, sought better conditions for women at the University of Kansas, FSA decided to invite our activist models and namesake, the original February Sisters, to be part of a panel that would follow the annual forum. Three of the February Sisters were able to sit on the panel. They spoke to an audience of about 200 of their experience with feminist activism past and present.

The 2002 forum, focusing on the theme “Honor Crimes and Crimes of Passion,” also reunited the original February Sisters with feminist poet and author Robin Morgan, the featured speaker at the forum. Thirty years earlier Morgan had visited KU, delivering a speech that has been noted as the final inspiration for the February Sisters peaceful, yet powerful demonstration. In addition to Robin Morgan, the audience at the forum enjoyed the words and experiences of Pamela Schifman, attorney and Co-Director of the New York-based Equality Now.

Beyond the annual forum and panel discussion, we organized and helped sponsor several campus events this year including a “Donate-a-Phone” campaign in conjunction with the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence as well as a staged reading of “I, Unseen,” an original work by Marika Mashburn depicting the struggles of Afghan women under the Taliban. Due to past popularity, we were also able to bring back Eve Ensler’s “The Vagina Monologues,” presenting performances at Washburn University and KU. This year we accommodated a larger number of people at the University of Kansas, using the Kansas Ballroom for two sold-out performances. Through “The Vagina Monologues” as well as the V-Day Festival that preceded the show we were able to raise a total of $6500. Proceeds from “The Vagina Monologues” presented at KU were divided among Rape Victim and Support Services, Women’s Transitional Care Services and the Emily Taylor Women’s Resource Center Stalking Fund while funds raised through Washburn were donated to the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence.

Planning for 2002-2003 has already begun. Topics for this year’s February Sisters Forum are under consideration and we are also planning another production of “The Vagina Monologues”. We are excited to welcome several new “recruits” who have already added fresh ideas and renewed enthusiasm in the organization of this year’s events. The new members are Women’s Studies Graduate Teaching Assistants Kelley Massoni, Zoe Peterson and Carey Scheerer, and Dr. Lorraine Bayard de Volo will continue as our faculty advisor. Everyone interested in women’s issues is welcome to join FSA. You can get all our updates by joining our list serve. Just send an email to: februarysisters-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. To make a donation, you can email Sharon Sullivan at fbsisters@yahoo.com. We hope to see you participating in and enjoying the Feb Sisters’ events this year!

-Gail Krotky
Women’s Studies Graduate Teaching Assistant

“The Vagina Monologues,” Spring 2002, Kansas Union
Director’s Notes

This academic year begins with multiple prospects and challenges for KU’s Women’s Studies Program. In June our offices moved into a suite we share with American Studies in 213 Bailey Hall. The offices are full of light and air, in sharp contrast to the offices we vacated. The Core faculty is at full strength for the Fall, including all seven tenured and tenure-track faculty, and in addition, Prof. Kathryn Libal, who is now on a continuing appointment in the College and teaching for Women’s Studies half-time. We are now able to offer an Honors version of our popular introductory course, as well as a good selection of courses for our majors and minors. We are likely to see record enrollments in Women’s Studies courses this year. In addition, the Women’s Studies Graduate Certificate program gets off the ground this Fall with Gwynne Jenkins’ WS 801 Women and Gender Studies: Theory and Methods. We also welcome a new Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Kim Wilcox, and a new Associate Dean for Social Sciences, Barbara Romzek. I look forward to sharing my excitement and enthusiasm for our program with them. For the first time we have a graduate program, and so we will be working as well with Women’s Studies Advisory Board member and Dean of the Graduate School, Diana Carlin. Women’s Studies also faces less welcome challenges, however. As in the rest of the University, there are more budget uncertainties this year than we have faced for some time. College-wide Departmental lecture and travel funds have been cut, and we will need to rely more heavily on Endowment funds for faculty development and Program events. Nonetheless, we will maintain an exciting schedule of lectures and events by making efficient use of our limited resources.

The Women’s Studies Program accomplished a major goal this past year by proposing and securing the approval of a Graduate Certificate Program. This will allow graduate students to pursue graduate level studies of women and gender, and to receive certification of their work on their transcripts. A separate story in this News and Notes describes this program more fully.

Some of the accomplishments of the program faculty last year included: Omololapo Ajayi spent part of the Fall in Germany on a Deutsche Akademische Austauschdienst Fellowship, and traveled to Kenya and Senegal to make research presentations. Lorraine Bayard de Volo led a group of graduate and undergraduate students to a conference on Women and Politics at Washington University in St. Louis in March. Lorraine spent two weeks in Colombia this summer interviewing women for a book she is working on about the mobilization of women in Latin American wars. In the Fall I was awarded a W.T. Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence, and this Spring I published a book that I co-edited with Anita Superson of the University of Kentucky entitled Theorizing Backlash: Philosophical Reflections on the Backlash to Feminism. Over the summer I presented a paper entitled “Is Globalization Bad for Women?” at the International Association for Feminist Economics conference in Los Angeles. Gwynne Jenkins was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to spend the Spring 2003 semester at the University of Costa Rica’s Center for Research on Women, teaching and doing research on midwifery and population control policies. Charlene Muehlenhard co-chaired a Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality conference, “Sex and the Brain,” held in June. She spent the summer editing a special issue of the Journal of Sex Research on gender and sexuality. Ann Schofield spent her year of sabbatical working on her book “Isn’t it Nice to Be Middle-Class?": Narratives of Respectability in America, 1870-1920. Last fall she was Lizzie Borden in the Hall Center Chataqua for the KU Open House (joining Homer, Clarence Darrow, and Timothy Leary on the Chataqua stage.) Marta Vicente spent the year on leave in North Carolina working on her book Clothing the Spanish Empire: Families and the Calico Trade in the Early Modern Atlantic World, and completing an edited volume entitled, Women, Texts and Authority in the Early Modern Spanish World.

Our GTAs for this year come from a variety of Departments in the College. Returning from last year is Gail Krotky, who is finishing her M.A. in Latin American Studies in December. Next semester she will be replaced by another M.A. student in the same program, Carey Scheerer. Both of them will teach our introductory course, WS 201. Zoë Peterson, a Ph.D. student in Psychology, will be teaching WS 201 and WS/ Psych 468 Psychology of Women. Kelley Massoni, a Ph.D. student in Sociology, teaches WS 201 in the Fall and in addition will teach a special topics course in the Spring on Women in Popular Culture. The WS GTAs have traditionally taken on the job of organizing the February Sisters Forum, and have begun working on that.

Although our lecture funds for the year have been cut by the College, we will still be hosting two major events for the year and helping to sponsor at least one other. On October 2 Michael Kimmel will present a lecture, co-sponsored with Sociology and the College, on “Mars and Venus? Or Planet Earth? Issues for Women and Men on Campus in the new Millennium.” Prof. Kimmel is Professor of Sociology at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, and author of many books, including The Gendered Society and Manhood in America: A Cultural History. On October 9 Professor Obioma Nnaemeka will visit as the 2002 Verne I. Wagner Visiting Professor of Women’s Studies. She
will present a public lecture entitled “Theorizing African Feminisms” at 7pm in the Alderson Room of the Kansas Union. Prof. Nnaemeka is Associate Professor of French, Women’s Studies, and African American Studies at Indiana University, Indianapolis, and is the President of the Association of African Women Scholars. She has published extensively on literature by Black women from Africa and the African Diaspora, women in development, African oral and written literatures, multiculturalism, race relations, globalization, and postcolonial studies. In February we will host the annual February Sisters Forum that commemorates the founding of our Program. This year the theme will be Women and Poverty.

Linda Luckey continues as President of Friends of Women’s Studies, and a brief report from her is included in these pages. It is widely recognized today’s higher education community that state-supported universities cannot maintain their quality and effectiveness without this kind of private support, and we appreciate it. Our Endowment funds are the only funds the Program has for faculty development and student support. We are often able to use these funds to “leverage” other funding from the College, making sure that we get maximal value from your investments in us. This past year we have been able to support research trips for Lorraine Bayard de Volo and Marta Vicente, hire a research assistant for Gwynne Jenkins, sponsor the students’ and Lorraine’s trip to St. Louis for the Women and Politics conference, co-sponsor the Waggoner Colloquium in Latin American Studies and the February Sisters Annual forum, make two Virginia’s Purse scholarship awards to students, and host our annual New Women Faculty reception and our end-of-the-year banquet for graduating seniors and the Virginia’s Purse winners. Our ability to help faculty fund their research, to provide scholarships to deserving students, and to hold these recognition events is crucial to our continued success as a Program. This year your support will be more important than ever, as we seek to replace lost state funding with our Endowment funds. If you would like to support our Program, please contact me or Linda Luckey.

-Ann Cudd
Professor of Philosophy and Women’s Studies
Director, Women’s Studies Program

The Gender Seminar

We have an exciting year ahead for the Gender Seminar. The Seminar will start its series by presenting on September 9 Women’s Studies and History’s faculty Marta Vicente, who will present “Textual Uncertainties: The Legacy of Women Entrepreneurs in Eighteenth-Century Barcelona.” On October 7, Elizabeth MacGonagle from History and African Studies will present “Ngungunyana was a Problem: Gender and a Legacy of Overrule among the Ndau of Mozambique and Zimbabwe.” On November 18, Marni Kessler from Art History, will present “The Flâneuse, the Veil, and the Parisian Grid.” The grand finale of the Seminar will come on December 2 when our Ann Schofield from Women’s Studies and American Studies presents “Disciplining Feminism: A Conversation About the Past, Present, and Future of Feminist Scholarship.” This paper comes at the right time, and, by all means, at the right place and audience, marking the thirtieth anniversary of scholarly feminism at the University of Kansas. Schofield’s paper will surely make us rethink our notions of Feminism(s) to look forward to thirty more years working toward a better world for women.

Looking ahead to the Spring semester, we will have Marie Kelleher from History along with three visiting scholars, Sherry M. Velasco, from the Modern Languages Department at Washington University, Lisa Bitel, former director of Women’s Studies Program at KU, and now in the History Department of the University of Southern California. Finally, the Gender Seminar will present Kris Lane, from the History Department at the College of William and Mary. (This last speaker’s presentation will be co-sponsored by KU’s Early Modern Seminar). As always, papers for all sessions are available
to anyone wishing to attend the seminar. If you would like to receive a paper, please contact the Hall Center (864-4798 or hallcenter@ku.edu) and a PDF file of the paper will be sent to you via e-mail.

The Gender Seminar has become part of our intellectual community and the community of feminist activists as well as those who simply want to know more about research on gender. The main focus of the Seminar is its interdisciplinarity. For that reason we encourage people from all fields and interests to come and participate. We are hoping that more newcomers will join us this year to make the Gender Seminar great.

- **Professor Marta Vicente**
- **Women’s Studies/History**

Lawrence Spinner Visits Class

Spinning is not an easy task. It requires skill, training, patience, physical energy and great coordination. This is what students learn in just one session of my course “History of Women and Work.” During one hour and twenty minutes, guided by the skillful hands of local spinner Natalya Lowther of Pinwheel Farm in Lawrence, students learn the basic techniques of drop spinning (without the aid of a wheel). We went through this interesting exercise on September 3 to introduce us to the problematic of women and work in society. Are there some aspects of women’s work that are “natural”? or are they all “cultural” and therefore can be altered and changed? After students check for themselves that there is nothing natural about knowing how to spin, that it requires work and hours of learning, they start to think why for centuries women were expected to spin “naturally.” Throughout the following weeks students examine the ideal image of the women worker as one dedicated to the home and child rearing. This construction set women’s work apart from the public work of men from the 1400s and up to nowadays society. But, let’s be hopeful! We have now a semester ahead to deconstruct notions of women’s work and rebuild them again with a more critical point of view.

- **Professor Marta Vicente**
- **Women’s Studies/History**

Women’s Studies Student Assistants

This Fall semester, Women’s Studies is fortunate to have two students assisting us with our program. Kara Rechterman recently joined us and will be helping out at our reception desk. Kara is a senior this year, and majoring in Psychology. We also have Vimbayi Kajese working in the Women’s Studies reception area. Vimbayi is a Sophomore in Pre-Business. We wish them both a great year at KU!

Womens Studies Endowment Contributors

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