and we clearly know that women and children suffer disproportionately when their countries are ravaged by war, poverty or disease. What do women in Iraq, Afghanistan and Darfur have left to celebrate? Yes, let’s remember that Robin Morgan proclaimed that sisterhood is powerful and sisterhood is global, while Martin Luther King Jr. proclaimed that injury to one is injury to all.

Here in the Women’s Studies Department we have a lot of activities planned. Our kick off event was a very successful open house. Many students and staff were able to stop by, even on the brink of the blizzard. Throughout the month, please stop by for some tea or coffee and a visit. Please come and share with us the goals and aspirations you have for yourself and your hopes for women here and abroad. Come and share with us stories about women that have influenced your life. Come and share with us what changes you have witnessed in women’s lives over the years - including your own. Yes, statistics show that over 51% of college students in the USA are females and in greater numbers are breaking the marble ceiling! Oh Yes, Nancy Pelosi just did. To complete our celebrations, Dr. Ann Russo, will be our keynote speaker. She is the director of Women’s and Gender Studies at DePaul University in Chicago. Ann’s talk, “Feminism, Privilege and the Politics of Accountability” will be on Thursday March 29th, at 7:00 pm in the Chemistry 200 lecture hall. We will host a reception immediately afterward. We extend an invitation to all of you. Ann Russo’s career is a perfect blend of activism and scholarship. She fearlessly fights injustice both in the academy and society. Her

Dr. Ann Russo

FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD

Spring semester has rolled in so quickly that we are already sending those mid-term alerts! Daylight saving is around the corner, and yes, so is Spring. This past Sunday, I was so excited when I heard some brave birds sing in my backyard. Yes, these birds seemed to tell me new life is around. The changing of seasons seems to resonate with the flow and ebb of the Women’s Movement in the United States. March is Women’s History Month when we celebrate women’s contributions in history and society. Let’s ask ourselves some questions. For example, what if: Susan B.Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, Ida B. Wells, Sojourner Truth had not dared to dream and act on their dreams? What if Margaret Sanger had not dared? What if Rosa Parks just had not stood up for her rights? What if Mary had decided not to allow the Immaculate Conception? What if that young man Harry Burns had disobeyed his mother and had not cast that decisive vote? What if Betty Friedan had not written that white middle class women’s Feminist Bible- The Feminine Mystique? We need to pause and think about how our lives are much better because a few “famous” and thousands of nameless women and a handful of good men dared to live different dreams. They believed in the language of possibility. They fought tirelessly and selflessly not only for themselves, but for all women! Yes, following the 1848 Seneca Falls Meeting, at the 1851 Akron, Ohio women’s meeting, Sojourner Truth asked that resounding question: Ain’t I a Woman?

On March 8, we will celebrate International Women’s Day. Women in two-thirds of the world are the pillars of their society. We celebrate and mourn simultaneously, for there is also a lot of destruction going on around the world and we clearly know that women and children suffer disproportionately when their countries are ravaged by war, poverty or disease. What do women in Iraq, Afghanistan and Darfur have left to celebrate? Yes, let’s remember that Robin Morgan proclaimed that sisterhood is powerful and sisterhood is global, while Martin Luther King Jr. proclaimed that injury to one is injury to all.

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New in the Library

Feminist Anthropology: A Reader by Ellen Lewin (GN33.8.F44 2006)
Chick Lit: The New Woman's Fiction by Suzanne Ferriss (HV875.55.F465 2006)
Sisters in Science: Conversations with Black Women Scientists about Race, Gender, and Their Passion for Science by Diann Jordan (Q141.S556 2006)
Women and the Politics of Place by Wendy Hartcourt (HQ1236.W58518 2005)
DVD: Last Atomic Bomb   (DVD 1072)
More new materials related to Women Studies can be found at http://www.d.umn.edu/lib/ref/ws/index.htm

For assistance with your research or the library please contact Jodi Carlson, Women’s Studies Subject Librarian, at 218-726-7880 or jlcarlso@d.umn.edu

The March Library Display is about Women’s History Month, check it out!

Alumnae News

A film by Dawn Mikkelson and Jamie Lee, Green Green Water is a story about power...power from hydroelectric dams...the power to destroy an ancient culture...the power of money...the power of Indigenous people who refuse to be powerless in their struggle to survive...and the power of activism. Green Green Water held its World Premiere at the 2006 imagine-NATIVE Film Festival in Toronto and its U.S. Premiere at the 2006 American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco. They are currently working to raise $20,000 to pay for music licensing and other out-of-pocket expenses to finalize this project and get it out to the world! They are still accepting donations and are also offering community screenings with directors in attendance to lead discussions to help raise this money. If you are interested in booking a screening, visit their website at greengreenwater.com.

A big thanks to those alumnae who continue to come back and visit and share their stories in our classrooms!

If you have some news we can publish, please let us know at ws@d.umn.edu! Or call or write at 218-726-7953, 494 Humanities, 1201 Ordean Ct, Duluth, MN 55812.

Community News & Events

Check out the North Country Women’s Coffee House every first Friday of the month (except Summer). Usually at the Building for Women. Ellis will perform on April 6 at 7 pm. (See Tineke’s write up in “Mark Your Calendar”)

Intergenerational Conversation and Chili Feed at the Building for Women, 323 E. 1st St., Friday, April 6, 5pm—7pm preceding the coffeehouse performance. Free to students, optional donations for others.

Take Back the Night, April 26, 5:30 pm to 9ish at Washington Community Center at Lake Ave and 4th St. Tables, info, musicians, speakers, march, rally and speakout. Watch our website at www.d.umn.edu/ws or call PAVSA at 726-1442 for more.

Regional Young Women’s Activists Conference sponsored by the Feminist Majority Foundation will be April 27 and 28. Reception at the Building for Women Friday at 7 pm, Conference all day Saturday at UMD. Cost $25.

To list your community event here, please email ws@d.umn.edu. The next deadline is April 12 for a May 1 distribution.

National News and Events

National Day of Appreciation for Abortion Providers, March 10, To acknowledge those without whom there can be no choice.


“Global Feminisms,” Brooklyn Museum, New York City. This large-scale survey inaugurates the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art, which houses “The Dinner Party.”
I was lucky enough to be able to study abroad over winter break this year in the amazing country that is our next door neighbor, Mexico. Eleven students, Susana Pelayo Woodward and I spent two weeks in the beautiful country; the first week in Mexico City and the second week in San Cristobal De Las Casas and the indigenous community of Tzajalchen. The first week was spent sight-seeing to get ourselves orientated with Mexico’s complex and mesmerizing history, which is so intertwined and connected with our own, but for some reason is not usually taught to us from that perspective.

We did so much that first week that I can’t believe I made it to the second. We visited Teotihuacán and climbed the Pyramid of the Sun and the Pyramid of the Moon. We visited the National Museum of Anthropology, the National Palace, Frida Kahlo’s house, which could be another article entirely, and many more places of cultural and historical significance.

All of my experiences were very powerful, but none more so than visiting the Place of the Three Cultures in the Tlateloco district of Mexico City and seeing the Massacre of 1968 memorial. The site is incredibly sobering because you can actually see how the different cultures collided and who took the power from whom. Santiago Church looms over what is left of the once enormous ancient Aztec temple. The gears started to turn in my head as I realized that the stones making up the ancient Aztec temple are the same stones used to build Santiago Church. The Spaniards actually forced the great Aztec people to take apart their own majestic creation and then made them use those stones to build a church. This is a trend I saw countless times during our trip: those with the power make those with none actually participate in their own oppression, in order to keep the cycle going. This was the last stronghold of the Aztecs before they were overtaken by the Spaniards on August 13th, 1521. Another bloody collision would occur at the same site over 400 years later.

On October 2nd, 1968, ten days before the Olympics in Mexico City, 10,000 students took to the streets to protest the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), president Gustavo Diaz Ordaz. The government knew it needed to act fast before the issue was given any international attention, due to the approaching Olympic Games. The country had a front of democracy on the international level, but the reality was anything but. Ordaz was one of the most authoritarian presidents during the entire rule of the PRI, which lasted seventy years, and the students were demanding reform. It is interesting to note that students all over the world were speaking out against their governments at this time in history, even here in our own country.

At 6:10 pm red and green flares were shot into the air, giving the plainclothes police and troops instruction to open fire on the crowd of peaceful protesters. The shooting lasted for about two hours and afterwards there were two different death toll numbers, one according to the official government report and one according to the students themselves counted 190 and the actual number is said by many to be over 300.

Standing in front of the memorial, reading the names and ages of those lost, I realized these people were true patriots guilty of only one thing: a love for their country so strong they lost their lives trying to make it a better place. Tears flood my eyes typing this now and thinking of the names, “Cornelio Benigno Caballero Garduño, 15 años; Reynaldo Monzaloy Soto, 68 años; Ana Maria Maximiana Mendoza, 19 años, y muchos otros compañeros cuyos nombres y edades aún no conocemos” or in English: “...and many other comrades whose ages and names we do not yet know.”

Sally Miller Gearheart once wrote “what we are not we each could be and every woman is myself”. I remembered this quote as I read her name one more time, “Ana Maria Maximiana Mendoza, 19 años” and it hit me hard: that could have been me. Had I been born in her place at her time I know I would have been out there protesting too, it is who I am. And had Ana Maria been born in my place at my time, she would still be alive today...“what we are not we each could be and every woman is myself”.

As a new generation of young feminists emerges, we will be confronting patriarchy and oppression on an intangible global scale, and it is crucial we do not forget our brothers and sisters who fought for humanity, no matter what the consequences. They have given their lives trying to change the world for the good. Out of respect, great admiration and pure love I hope we will all be brave enough to continue the fight for justice.
2007 WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH CALENDAR

Wednesday, March 7, UMD WRAC Brown Bag, 12 Noon in Kirby Student Center 268 Speaker: Dr. Runa Das, "Replaying Orientalism: Colonial Legacies, Construction of Identities, and Politics of (In)security in Post-Colonial India." Sponsored by WRAC and the Department of Women's Studies.

Wednesday, March 7, College of St. Scholastica, International Women's Day Celebration, Somers Lounge, 3:30-5 pm. Free food and flowers for all! Hmong dancing at 4 pm, International Women's Day speaker, Dr. Njoki Kamau, from 4:15-5 pm.

Thursday, March 8, UMD International Women's Day Celebration, 11 am-1 pm in the Kirby Lounge, Music, Poetry, Food. FREE. Sponsored by Women's Resource and Action Center and Department of Women's Studies.

Thursday, March 8, UW-Superior Multicultural Center, 232 Old Main, 11:30-12:30 p.m. UW-Superior Multicultural Center, 232 Old Main, "Who Put the 'L' in LGBT: Lesbian Content and Characters in Young Adult Literature." Light refreshments and talk by Christine Jenkins, co-author of The Heart Has Its Reasons: Young Adult Fiction with Gay/Lesbian Content, 1969-2006.

Thursday, March 8, UW-Superior Multicultural Center, 232 Old Main, 7-9 p.m. Fourth Annual LGBTQ Campus and Community Honoring Reception, Keynote by Christine Jenkins, "Finding the LGBT Community on the Page: Seeking People Like Me."

Saturday, March 10, Duluth Public Library, Green Room, 1 pm, Talk by Christine Jenkins on the history of LGBT young adult literature, its growth and development, and what is still needed. Sponsored by UW-Superior.

Wednesday, March 14, UW-Superior Multicultural Center, 232 Old Main, Noon to 1 pm, Women of Color Reception

Thursday, March 15, UW-Superior Multicultural Center, 232 Old Main, 11:45-1 pm, Words on Women, a reading of original and favorite writing by, for, and about women.

Wednesday, March 21, UMD WRAC Brown Bag, 12 Noon in Kirby Student Center 268, Speaker TBA, Sponsored by the Women's Resource and Action Center and Department of Women's Studies.

Wednesday, March 28, UMD WRAC Brown Bag, 12 Noon in Kirby Student Center 268, Speaker Dr. Cindy Christian "Changes in the Role of Women in the United States Politics." Sponsored by the Women's Resource and Action Center and Department of Women's Studies.

Wednesday, March 28, WOMEN ON THE WALL, UMD Inland Wall (by the ice rink) 6-9 pm, Join us for an all women's night in the Climbing Wall. Women instructors and a supportive environment welcome new and experienced climbers alike. Expect to laugh, challenge yourself and get a great work-out. We Provide: Instruction, climbing equipment, You Provide: Comfortable, flexible clothing. No experience required. Cost: $3 UMD Students/$10 Others. Sponsored by UMD Recreational Sports Outdoor Program.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER, DR. ANN RUSSO

Thursday, March 29, Chemistry 200, 7 pm, UMD Women's History Month Keynote Speaker: Dr. Ann Russo, "Feminism, Privilege and the Politics of Accountability." Reception will follow after her lecture. Sponsored by Department of Women's Studies, Women's Resource and Action Center, Multicultural Center, Commission on Women, College of Liberal Arts, College of Education and Human Service Professionals, College of Science and Engineering, Department of Social Work, Department of History, and Department of Communication.
MULTICULTURAL CENTER EVENT CALENDAR

MARCH 2007 Disability Awareness Month, Women’s History Month

Wednesday, March 21, AFA Meeting-Help with Disability Crash Course in KSC 268 at 4:30-5:30 pm. Sponsored by Access For All.

Thursday, March 29, Film: TBA, Rafters 11:30 am. Sponsored by the Diversity Commission.

APRIL 2007 Latin American Awareness Celebration, Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Tuesday, April 3, Film Granito de Arena "A Grain of Sand" KSC 273, 12 Noon. Sponsored by Latino/Chicana Student Association.

Wednesday, April 4, Disability Crash Course-Full day in Kirby Ballroom from 10-4pm. Free refreshments and yummy food. Come and experience different types of disabilities. Sponsored by Access For All.


Wednesday, April 11, Speaker: Dr. Mary Caprioli, "Top 10 Vacation Destinations for Misogynists" 12:00 Noon in Kirby Student Center 268, Sponsored by the Women's Resource and Action Center and Department of Women's Studies.

April 13 to 15, Democracy Summit, for more information go to www.freedemocracysummit.org. Sponsored by MPIRG.

Monday, April 16, Speaker: Professor Sebastian Oleas, KSC 355-57, 12 Noon. Sponsored by Latino/Chicana Student Organization.

Tuesday April 17, Film "Maquilapolis: City Of Factories" KSC 273, 12 Noon. Sponsored by Latino/Chicana Student Association.

Tuesday, April 17, 2007 FABULOUS FAREWELL at 6 pm, UMD Kirby Ballroom. Please contact Angie Nichols at 726-7300 if you are a graduating student Spring or Fall 07, and identify as GLBTA to receive an invite! Dinner, keynote, awards, graduates receive rainbow tassles and annual slideshow!

Wednesday, April 18, AFA Movie Night in KSC 273 (TV room) at 4:30-6:30 pm. Free refreshments. Sponsored by Access For All.

Thursday, April 19, OutFront Minnesota's JustFair Lobby Day at the Minnesota State Capitol in St. Paul, MN. See OutFront MN For information on buses leaving UMD, and to register, please call GLBT Services at: 726-6744.

Saturday, April 21, 18th Annual Fiesta, UMD Kirby Ballroom, 6:00 pm Tickets: General Public $15, Students $12, Children (5-10) $8, Children under 5 FREE. Tickets wil go on sale on April 2, 2007. For more information please contact: Susana Pelayo-Woodward at 726-8444. Sponsored by the Latino/Chicana Student Association.

Tuesday and Wednesday, April 24-25, Egg roll Sale in front of bookstore from 11-3 pm. Sponsored by Access For All.

Wednesday, April 25, Brown Bag "Toxin Free Makeup Workshop," 12 Noon in Kirby Student Center 268, Speaker TBA, Sponsored by the Women's Resource and Action Center and Department of Women's Studies.

Wednesday, April 25, AFA End of Year Party!! In KSC 270D (AFA room) at 4:30-5:30 pm. Free food and drinks! Sponsored by Access For All.

Thursday, April 26, Take Our Children to Work Day, "Revolutionizing the Workplace" free for children 8-12 years old-for more information please contact 726-8444 or 726-6296. Sponsored by UMD Women's Resource and Action Center, UMD Chancellor's Office and UMD Commission on Women.

Thursday, April 26, Film: TBA Rafters 11:30 am. Sponsored by the Diversity Commission.

MAY 2007

Please mark your calendars for FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 5-7 pm for the Chili Feed and Intergenerational Conversation (FREE to all), and 7 - 9:30 pm Ellis in Concert ($10 or optional donations). At The Building for Women (basement) 32 E. 1st Street on the corner of 1st Ave. E.

On par with the National Women’s History Month 2007 Theme, “Generations of Women Moving History Forward,” you are invited to join us in an intergenerational conversation. We want “to recognize the wisdom and tenacity of the generations of women who have come before us and those who will follow” (NWHP). This will be the fourth such conversation at the Building. It brings together young and old to talk about the meaning of feminisms (be it 2nd, 3rd, or 4th wave). The fabulous Ellis (check her out at: http://www.ellismusic.com/bio/), who will be performing at the Women’s Coffeehouse that same evening, will also be at the conversation table.

Last year, several speakers from different countries spoke in my Transnational Perspectives on Feminism about the emancipation of women in their respective countries based on the lives of their grandmothers and mothers. We heard stories of incredible courage, endurance, resiliency, resistance and love from Cecilia Ramon (Argentina), Maria Vuldjeva (Bulgaria), Gesa Zinn (Germany), Njoki Kamau (Kenya), Geraldine Hughes (Malaysia), Susana Pelayo Woodward (Mexico) and yours truly (the Netherlands).

All the speakers could identify with one kind of feminism or another. We belong to different generations, come from different class backgrounds and ideologies, and hail from different continents. What became apparent though is that no matter the enormous historical, economical, political and cultural divides, women are gaining in autonomy across the globe. For example, while our mothers and foremothers did not have the choice not to get married and/or not to want children, today perhaps one big measure of the success of the feminist revolution is that in a growing number of countries women do have that option. For another example, several of us were the first in our families to become university students and pursue graduate studies. These stories echo everywhere.

Please join us at the table for good food, more inspiring stories, and further lively conversation. There is so much we can learn from each other!

Tineke Ritmeester
Women’s Studies Department

Motor Queens

Hot pink pedal pushers
long dangle earrings
tan bodied gal on yellow moped,
I am the flier of the sidestreets.

Hoots and howls
from all my girlfriends
and watch out, bitch!
from small minded big boys.

Rock ’n roll fuels my ride
and best of all
are the curbside flowers
the five, six and seven year old
ghetto Hmong and Indian girls,
who flag their arms,
widen their eyes and mouths
Oh! Queen of the Road!
Motorcycle Mama!

I wave back grand I wave back all
their devotion all their surprise
Yes, you can! Yes, you will!
You are the motor queens
of my heart!
Speeding! Speeding!

- Maggie Kazel
SLIMMING AND WHITENING CREAM PART DEUX  
BY GERALDINE HUGHES

Editor’s note: This article is part two of a series of reflections on attitudes about skin lightness or darkness. Geraldine’s hometown is Kuala Lampur, Malaysia, and in part one she shared the attitudes she witnessed among adults discussing whether she and her sister should be allowed to “tan” as they played on the beach. On a recent visit to Singapore, she noticed the great variety and availability of whitening creams. To see the whole article after digging up some articles from our library’s database, I found out the whitening creams are in demand in Africa, Saudi Arabia and Mexico too. In sub-Saharan Africa, women use a soap and bleach solution as part of their beauty regime. The solution is applied before bedtime, and by morning, the outer layer of the epidermis peels off revealing a lighter complexion. This is done until the woman is satisfied with the results. No matter what the name of the product, or the ingredients found in it, the bottom line is women make this part of their daily beauty routine to attract the attention of men. But is that the bottom line? I think not.

Most of the women I read about in my research said it’s because they depend on their men for economic reasons. “The lighter one’s skin, it is widely believed here (Nairobi), the wealthier, better educated and more attractive one is.” -Irene Njoroge, in “Fighting ‘Light Skin’ as a Standard of Beauty” by Marc Lacey, New York Times, June 15, 2002. Dark skinned women are viewed as less than beautiful in those cultures and are the ones who remain single.

I have female friends who have dark skin who are highly educated, and independently wealthy, who choose to remain single. I also have fair skinned female friends who are single, wealthy and highly educated. People think the latter has more of a choice in the matter. In Malaysia, the push for marriage to a well to do family is from the elders who arrange the marriages of their sons and daughters. Now if you’re “unlucky” and that is what your parents want, heaven forbid you rebel. If you are a parent, and you have a daughter who has darker skin that her siblings, it seems harder to find a suitable partner for her. No one is going to tell you (the parents), we don’t want your daughter because her skin is not fair enough, the blame will be pinned on the woman. She’s too picky or her standards are too high are some of the excuses. My childhood friend’s sister is one of those women who are single because no “suitable” man has come forth but she’s fine with it. She is not out there bleaching or applying whitening agents to her skin. Instead she is pursuing her doctorate degree in education while teaching in the United Kingdom. I could go on with other cases but I won’t.

Speaking for myself, having fair skin is not all that it is cut out to be. You get freckles and they are visible to the naked eye. You burn easier in the sun, so you end up looking like a red lobster. Some colors do not look good on you – take me and yellow, yuck! You have a zit, it. If you have dark hair like me and you don’t shave your legs, those fine hairs are visible with all the red around your eye. You burn easier in the sun, so you end up looking like a red lobster. Some colors do not look good on you – take me and yellow, yuck! You have a zit, they are visible to the naked eye. You burn easier in the sun, so you end up looking like a red lobster. Some colors do not look good on you – take me and yellow, yuck! You have a zit, it.
Continued from page 1

fight is multi-pronged, using the power of her pen, her organizing skills, and her voice. She speaks out in the National Women’s Studies Governing council. She understands the interlocking nature of systems of oppression and how sometimes women, feminists not withstanding, are used as pawns when heterosexist, racist, classist white privileged expansionists plunder other countries under the guise of saving women.

In her work, Russo quotes Cherrie Moraga: “What threatens our movement … is our refusal to acknowledge that to change the world we have to change ourselves—even sometimes our most cherished, block-hard convictions….I must confess I hate the thought of this. Change don’t come easy. For anyone. But this state of war we live in, this world on fire provides us with no other choice.” (Moraga, 1983) And I add that feminists/womanists who embrace global sisterhood may have no choice but to take action for those who are marginalized, excluded, devalued, and dispossessed. On behalf of the Women’s Studies Department, I wish you joy as Spring’s sprouts appear. Enjoy Women’s History Month!