excellent turnout of over 250 people with our keynote speaker, feminist scholar and activist Dr. Ann Russo from DePaul University. For the keynote, Chemistry 200 was packed to capacity with both community and University members. On behalf of the Women’s History Month committee, I thank all of you that attended and those who worked tirelessly to make the event a huge success. In particular, I thank members of the planning committee, Susana Pelayo Woodward, Lynn Bye, Geraldine Hughes, Jodi Carlson, Krista Allgor, Kate Brandeis, and Laura Stolle Schmidt for not only helping plan the event but working long and hard to ensure that the event was without glitches. I also thank CLA Dean, Linda Krug for generously supporting the event financially as well as attending the event and offering brief remarks. Special thanks to co-sponsors including the Commission on Women, Multicultural Center, Women’s Resource and Action Center, History Department, Communication Department, Social Work Department, College of Science and Engineering, and College of Education and Human Service Professionals for their financial contributions towards Women’s History Month celebrations. Thank you all for your continued support. I also want to especially thank Vince Magnuson, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs for his support and remarks.

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Continued from front

FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD

“The course opened my eyes to many opinions and allowed me the possibility to re-evaluate my life. It opened my eyes to things that were engraved in my life, but I never really noticed until I learned about them in an open environment.”

These moving words were spoken to me the other day by Elisa, a sophomore who has just added a Women’s Studies minor after taking Introduction to Women’s Studies. Many of our students get asked all the time, what will you do with a Women’s Studies degree after you graduate? Like Elisa’s wonderful awakening, after taking Women’s Studies, you step into the world of with open eyes. Eyes that have learned not only to critically see the world, but to critically engage that world, transforming it while living life passionately, intensely, purposefully and consciously.

What an accomplishment. You can also become whatever you want to become after graduating. After all, you have all the skills you need to be the best of the best that universities produce- a well-rounded person.

As the academic year comes to a close the Women’s Studies Department can pride itself on several accomplishments: We had a successful Women’s History Month with the popular Women’s Studies/WRAC Sponsored Brown Bags, the International Women’s Day celebration with our very own musician Rachel Kilgour, and an excellent turnout of over 250 people with our keynote speaker, feminist scholar and activist Dr. Ann Russo from DePaul University. For the keynote, Chemistry 200 was packed to capacity with both community and University members. On behalf of the Women’s History Month committee, I thank all of you that attended and those who worked tirelessly to make the events a huge success. In particular, I thank members of the planning committee, Susana Pelayo Woodward, Lynn Bye, Geraldine Hughes, Jodi Carlson, Krista Allgor, Kate Brandeis, and Laura Stolle Schmidt for not only helping plan the event but working long and hard to ensure that the event was without glitches. I also thank CLA Dean, Linda Krug for generously supporting the event financially

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WS Graduates Speak about their experiences and plans.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:
2007 Women's Studies Graduates

After graduation, I am going on a trip to New Zealand with my family. I'll be staying in Duluth for a few years and hope to find a job with an organization here that works with girls and women. I would really like to work with Planned Parenthood, PAVSA, YWCA, or some of the various domestic violence shelters here, maybe starting out as a volunteer and going from there. I would also like to join the Peace Corps at some point and do lots of traveling. Women's Studies has meant so much to me. I have learned more from my Women's Studies classes, professors and other students than I probably have from all of my other classes combined. The understanding and strength that I have gained makes me look at myself, others, and the world differently and I will always carry that with me through life. The issues raised and discussed in Women's Studies are critical for everyone to know and I now have the skills to keep the conversation going and to try to make whatever difference I can.

Sarah Gross

Women's Studies has opened my mind and spirit to the amazing ideas and actions that can be attained through feminism. I have met AMAZING, INSPIRING women!! After graduation I plan on becoming a doula, and of course, constantly exploring and learning about myself and the world through feminism.

Anne Tower

Women's Studies has meant to me? Fantastic people, fantastic classes, and the best time of my life. After graduation I plan to... get my master's in the MAPL program. Then, proceed to get my doctorate in a very exciting field. Also, I will use my white male privilege to restructure society and the world.

Molly Duepner

Amanda DeVogt

Women's Studies is a magical place. It has allowed me to experience a deep social connection with others, a chance to question the institutions of our world, and place to celebrate my own unique qualities as a woman. I glow with inspiration after every class, and have learned many many life lessons while fulfilling this major. As I leave this summer for Montana, where I will be working in the beautiful national park Yellowstone, I will be bringing with me a new way to look at the world, a new way of communicating, and a new acceptance for others which I would not have had without the wonderful education I have recieved here in the Women's Studies department!

What has Women's Studies meant to me? Fantastic people, fantastic classes, and feminists who continue to be committed to working within the classroom and outside so that one day the freedom bell may ring truthfully for all individuals in our world.

Women's Studies has been a very positive part of my life, through it I have been able to find my passions and myself. Through the department and university I have also received a great education. This summer I will be doing an internship with The Refuge East, working with victims of Domestic Violence, from there the sky's the limit.

The Women's Studies department has meant a lot to me in that the faculty, staff and my fellow classmates have inspired me to be an active feminist. I will always be grateful for learning and experiencing many new things. My plans for the future are to attend graduate school at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces. I will be working towards getting my M.A. in Mesoamerican Archaeology and I will be working with more great female professors who also have a background in Gender Studies. I am so excited about embarking a new journey, but I am sad to be leaving the Women's Studies Department who has been a loving second family to me.

Women's Studies has meant that I have a voice and I matter no matter how small or large the group. It has taught me that I didn't know I cared or had so much compassion for humanity and the earth. After graduation I plan on helping women receive health care and health education to improve the quality of lives all around.

Eric Buegler

Sarah Gross

Anne Tower

Molly Duepner

Amanda DeVogt

Stefanie Morrison

Nicki Hulsebusch

Iztla Castano
Dear Friends of Green Green Water,

The past couple weeks have been monumental for those associated with Green Green Water and the communities of Northern Manitoba. With a bill just signed by Minnesota's Governor and a massive protest scheduled for Jenpeg Dam tomorrow (both detailed below), we had to take the time to fill y'all in!

The team behind Green Green Water is honored to be a part of this change. According to Ken Bradley of Fresh Energy, "The documentary Green Green Water helped to educate thousands of Minnesota electricity consumers about the impacts caused by Manitoba Hydro's dam system to Indigenous communities environment and livelihood. It as well educate numerous legislators which was crucial to passing the Manitoba Hydro monitoring and reporting legislation this session."

This film has been life-changing for those who are in it, as well as the entire crew. We are honored to share this story and hope to continue sharing it for years to come. Since the completion of the film, we were saddened to hear that Pimicikamak elder Charlie Osborne (one of the film's memorable storytellers) passed away. We assured Charlie's family that his story would not be forgotten and would continue to be heard by millions of people through Green Green Water. Please help us do this. Please tell your friends about this film. Send them to the website (www.greengreenwater.com). Organize a local screening and invite the community to talk about the film and how this story connects to us all. From Cree residents of northern Manitoba to energy consumers across the globe, this story is for us all.

DVD's are now available and for those who have purchased copies, they are in the mail! If you have any suggestions for potential ways to get this story out to a larger audience or want to coordinate a local screening, please contact us at info@greengreenwater.com. We will be happy to help in any way we can.

Respectfully,
Women's Studies has been my lifesource; it has been my strength—the strength that has allowed me to question and to explore, even when it was uncomfortable, to question even myself with continued support, to learn and to grow. The strength that has allowed me to find my voice and encouraged me to speak up, to speak truth to others, to speak truth to power. Women's Studies has been my community; a community that fills me with hope. Through Women's Studies I have become involved in what is our biggest struggle, but also our greatest strength: seeing that the world could be better and setting out, with a vision, to change it. That is what I intend to do.

My education in Women's Studies reminded me that I am alive. Audre Lorde said that “the learning process is something you can incite, literally incite, like a riot” and in that sense, for me, Women's Studies has been a riot. I was challenged to question the ways I’ve been taught to perceive power, to think critically and creatively about the world around me, to value my own intuitive knowledge, and to live as authentically and rebelliously as I possibly can. Women's Studies offered me an empowered framework and a language for understanding my own experiences and the injustices I have observed in the lives of those around me. Thankfully, I am not leaving UMD with a clearly determined career path, but as a woman prepared to do the work I must do as a conscious being in the world.

What are you doing after graduation?

Not to sound too vague, idealistic, or anything that I can do to make the world a better place, even for a handful of people. But, secretly, I plan to go big...

What does WS mean to me:

Let's just say my eyes were very closed previous to my WS exposure. I feel as if they have been opened to seeing the world through a new and different lens while recognizing how I want to see myself and my role in the world. WS has allowed me to explore myself and the world I live in and show as much love and empathy as much as possible. I couldn't imagine anything less.

Editors:
Laura Stolle Schmidt, Tineke Ritmeester, and Geraldine Hughes

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New in the Library


To my colleagues, Elizabeth Bartlett, Tineke Ritmeester, Susana Pelayo Woodward, Joan Varney, and Cindy Christian, I say Thank you! Thank you for all that you individually and collectively contribute, and the hard work that you do, including going beyond the call of duty in nurturing our students, sometimes attending to our students’ needs outside the University, advocating for them, and educating the whole person. Because of your wonderful work we have so many of our students graduating this May.

To our graduating students, I heartily congratulate you on behalf of the Women’s Studies Department for your impeccable accomplishments. I also thank you for giving us a chance to work with you throughout your academic journey. We have learned so much from each one of you. It is because of the energy that our students give back to the faculty that we derive the courage and determination to do the work that we believe in and are dedicated to in Women’s Studies. As you step into the world, remain authentic as you have been throughout your academic journey in Women’s Studies. Yes, you have claimed an education. Embodied in each one of you are the seeds of positive social transformation. These are seeds of justice. Plant these seeds as you step into the world; water and nurture them with the full knowledge and conviction that a just world is not only possible but is already here. As Arundhati Roy says: “I can hear her breathing”.

Congratulations once again. My mother so wisely advised me to step into the world and smile to the sun and the sun will smile back! Smile, breathe and engage in living purposefully and intentionally.

-Njoki Kamau