We have had a full year, a good year filled with reflection and review of our program, and exciting new possibilities and initiatives. Below are some of our highlights:

External Review: The department went through a routine external review in the fall. We spent months reviewing our program, including our curriculum, administration, diversity and outreach efforts, resources, and visions for the future. Lois Helmbold and Liza Fiol-Matta, from the University of Nevada-Las Vegas and New Jersey City University, respectively, visited us in November and assessed the strengths of our department and program, as well as ways we can improve and build upon our strengths. We have since spent many hours discussing their recommendations, and developing improvements to the department.

Engaged Department Grant: We received an Engaged Department Grant from the Office of Civic Engagement on the Twin Cities campus. The grant has enabled us to have extended conversations with representatives from several community organizations, as well as our students, as to how we might better partner with community organizations in our curricular and engagement efforts. We have also been able to work cooperatively to develop a course in feminist community organizing and activism which we hope to be able to offer next year.

Women’s History Month: With the Women’s Resource and Action Center, we coordinated several events for Women’s History Month. Our keynote speaker was Cathy Tactaquin from the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights. We also collaborated with the Music Department in promoting the visits of Margo Garrett and nationally-recognized composer Libby Larsen.

Duluth City Council Immigration Resolution: Along with several individuals and community organizations, the Women’s Studies Department was part of an effort for the Duluth City Council to pass a resolution calling for national immigration reform. The Department was an early signer of the petition, and Women’s Studies faculty, students, and alumnae were all in attendance at the Council meeting when the resolution was passed.

Congratulations to Susana Pelayo-Woodward: Women’s Studies faculty member, Susana Pelayo-Woodward received the 2010 Community Ally Award for her leadership on several community initiatives, including developing an on-campus sexual assault advocacy program, which is staffed by several Women’s Studies students.

Congratulations to Njoki Kamau: Women’s Studies faculty member, Njoki Kamau, received a Civic Engagement grant for her work on Closing the Achievement Gap in ISD 709.

Congratulations to Laura Stolle-Schmidt: Women’s Studies administrative assistant, Laura Stolle Schmidt received an Outstanding Service Award for her exemplary service to our department, the American Indian Studies Department, and UMD as a whole.

Congratulations to Our Graduating Seniors: We have a wonderful group of graduating seniors and we will miss them. See their stories inside.

-Beth Bartlett
2011 Women’s Studies Graduates

Molly DeBrock: Women’s Studies is the reason I survived this institution, have faith in this world, and have found a way to create change. It has been a loving, inspiring community from the start, and I will carry it with me wherever I go. It is because of Women’s Studies that I have learned about privilege and interconnected oppression and know that I will dedicate my life to changing our world for the better.

Women’s Studies has been my catalyst for personal change and growth, has nurtured me and let me come into my own. I will never forget this amazing community of professors, faculty, and students.

In love, peace, and solidarity –

Charles Grabuski: Women’s Studies saved my academic career and my love of writing. I was kicked out of the College of Science and Engineering, but found a loving home in the Women’s Studies department. Classes, professors, and peers all showed me a better world was possible, and that it takes a lot of hard work, but it’s totally do-able. Women’s Studies opened up my heart and my mind to so many beautiful and powerful women. My sincerest gratitude to everyone who has touched my life in the deepest way possible. Even though I still have one year left here at UMD, my time in Women’s Studies has shaped the rest of my life in ways I don’t even know yet.

Sadie Sigford: What Women’s Studies means to me: awareness, honesty, patience, community, acceptance, validation, communication, and revolution!

Zak Lemmer: Women's Studies has been simultaneously one of the most trying and enlightening experiences of my life. It's shown me my own complicity and taught me that the complex history of every single person is unique and worth hearing.

Catey Hintzen: What Women's Studies means to me is...something that I struggle to find words for. It has meant so much throughout these past four years, but it began and continues to be the breath of fresh air amongst all of the other academics which can be so suffocating. It wasn't just the air though it was the sun, the earth and the water as well. It was everything I needed to grow into the person I wanted to be, a person that I respect and love. A person's whose ideas were finally supported and shared by such an amazing group of people, the Women's Studies department, which provided me with hope, comfort, friendship and so much more. But to be honest these words do not do justice to what this program has given, I just hope I gave as much of myself as it did to me in return. I guess all that is left to say now is thank you, and I hope you know how truly grateful I am.

MaiNhia Vang: Women's Studies has allowed me to look beyond the horizon. It has allowed me to look myself in the mirror and to be proud, to proud of the Hmong American feminist that I see. Thank You.

Lindsey Boller: Women’s Studies means everything to me. It’s everywhere and in everything. It’s a way to see life and the people in it; a way to question and a way to end unjustified oppression.
2011 Graduates Continued

Kaitlin Broom: Women’s Studies has allowed me to learn about myself and how to do it. It has taught me that I am important and deserve to know about my mind and body. I have the right to know what makes me happy and what makes me sad. I have learned it is ok to be angry and it is ok not to agree with people. I have found what I expect from other people. I expect respect and understanding from people I encounter and give them respect and understanding in return. Women’s Studies has provided me with the knowledge and assertiveness to ask questions. I now know that I am allowed tough questions and I do deserve an answer. I get to know things as a daughter, a student and a woman. I don’t sugar coat my words and that is okay. Women’s Studies has gifted me with understanding my personal needs in a very difficult time and offered acceptance when no one else did. Women’s Studies offered a mental safe place to express all my feelings that I was not allowed to do outside of the department. While the world seemed to be kicking a woman while she was down, Women’s Studies let me stay down as long as I needed and helped me pick up the pieces when I was ready. I never would have known I was ready without Women’s Studies.

Mary Cowen: I would not have graduated from college if I had not found the love, support, and passion that I did in Women’s Studies. I am very excited to be moving into the next phase of my life, but hope to always stay connected to the amazing womyn I have met in my time here.

Laura Tollefson: Ever Changing
We received so many updates on our alumnae while preparing our external review documents, that we will need to devote an entire newsletter simply to alumnae news! (forthcoming soon!) But we wanted to include this remarkable story of enduring Women’s Studies friendships in this newsletter. Amanda, Kelly, Renee, and Leah sent this last July, so the children are all a year older now.

We hope this inspires some of you to send us more stories of enduring Women’s Studies friendships.

![Image of four alumnae]

We still frequently see one another and cannot believe it’s been 11 years (12 for Renee) since leaving UMD. We thought we'd send you a picture of us together and give you a little update on our lives.

Among the four of us, we earned eight bachelor's degrees from UMD; we have three master's degrees (Kelly in Communication Studies from the University of Montana-Missoula, Amanda in Children's Literature from Simmons College in Boston, MA, and Renee in Elementary School Education and Middle School Social Studies from St. Catherine University in St. Paul); and Kelly is nearly finished with her EdD in Higher Education Administration from St. Cloud State University.

Renee has a son, Andy, age 6, and a daughter, Abby, age 8. Kelly's daughter Isabel is 3 and her son Thomas is nearly 2. Leah's son Alex is nearly 2 and she's expecting another baby in September. My son Callum is 4. I worked as a children's librarian before having Callum, but now stay home with him (in St. Cloud) and work as a freelance writer. Leah works as an insurance agent at Enterprise in St. Cloud. Kelly recently left the College of Saint Benedict and will start teaching communication classes at St. Cloud State Technical and Community College this fall. Renee is a teacher at The Children's Center Montessori School in St. Paul. We enjoy getting together when we can and it's a blast to see our children become friends. I still can't get over that Kelly and I lived 2,600 miles apart during graduate school, but now live within 4 miles of one another. We all met through Women's Studies classes at UMD and often wind up talking about the program, teachers we had, classes we remember, and the impact they've had on us. We hope all is well with you and send our best wishes to our friends in the Women's Studies department.

AMANDA HUGHES MCGREGOR, KELLY SCHACKMANN CRUE, RENEE MAU MAREK, LEAH FUNK TRIERWEILER (2000)
IN MEMORIAM: JANE MADDY

Dr. Jane Maddy, Professor Emerita of Psychology, passed away on Tuesday, May 3, 2011. Jane was one of the founding mothers of our Women’s Studies Department. In her doctoral work, she was one of the first to use the work of feminist psychologist, Carol Gilligan. She taught a Psychology course on women’s roles that was one of the first Women’s Studies-related courses at UMD, and later was part of the group that worked to establish Women’s Studies as a minor, and then later as a department and a major. Jane was an active member of the Women’s Studies Advisory Board from its inception, serving as the chair for many years. She was a leader in the struggle for women's rights. In the 1960s, 1970s, and through 1980 she worked with the Greater Minnesota Women’s Alliance to pass the ERA. She served as the first chair of the UMD’s Women Commission and was a founding member of the Human Development Center Foundation. She also served in numerous civic, civil rights, and health organizations: the Human Rights Commission, the Women’s Health Center Board, both the local and state AAUW, and the UMD University for Seniors Brownlee Endowment Committee. Jane was honored in November 2010 as a Duluth Woman of Distinction. She was a role model and inspiration to us all, and we will miss her.

UPCOMING: WOMEN’S STUDIES 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

SPRING 2012

WATCH FOR NEWS ABOUT OUR UPCOMING CELEBRATION CONCERT IN MARCH 2012
Women’s Studies now has a group on Facebook where we can post events, have discussions, share photos, and stay in touch with alumnae and friends of the department. Find us under groups at “University of Minnesota Duluth Women’s Studies Department”

Check out our website at www.d.umn.edu/ws Especially note our new calendar for UMD and local community events during the school year. Also find this newsletter in color and many back issues.