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Fall 2004

## Women's Studies University of Nebraska-Lincoln Fall 2004

Joy Ritchie

Carmel Morse

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# Women's Studies

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**NEWSLETTER**

**Fall 2004**

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## **From the Director Joy Ritchie**

I'm delighted to be introducing several newly appointed Women's Studies faculty in the pages of this newsletter and to welcome Rose Holz as the associate director. Rose has been invaluable to all of us this fall helping with independent studies, advising, planning activities, and serving as faculty advisor for the Women's Studies Student Association.

The Women's Studies faculty began this semester with a retreat where we considered future directions for the program. Several very energetic groups planned curriculum revisions and additions, considered changes in the structure of our program and updated and revised our by-laws; another group brainstormed potential research clusters on immigration and gender, girls in math and science, and LGBTQ studies.

Other highlights of the semester include the colloquium series. Visiting scholars and our own faculty demonstrated again the vitality of Women's Studies research and outreach. With support from the College of Education and Family Science and the College of Law, we brought Professor Angela Harris from the University of California at Berkeley as the featured speaker for "Women, Gender, and the Legacy of *Brown vs. Board of Education*." Other members of the panel were Anna Shavers and Susan Poser, UNL College of Law, and Helen Moore, UNL Sociology Department. Each of the panelists examined how *Brown* and subsequent legal and political decisions have continued to challenge our definitions of "equality" and have influenced educational, legal, and social policy for women, racial and sexual minorities. In

November, Professors Marcela Raffaelli and Gloria Gonzalez-Kruger presented the final colloquium. Professor Raffaelli described her research on sexual socialization in Latino/a families that in turn has implications for adolescent sexual behavior and risk-taking among young women. Dr. Gonzalez-Kruger described the program she has initiated to help create grass-roots support for sexuality and health education among Latina women and their families.

Last April Barbara DiBernard, Kris Gandara, and I applied for and received a Teaching and Learning Seed Grant from the Office of the Vice Chancellors for Research and Academic Affairs to begin developing an LGBTQ minor in Women's Studies. We believe it is now time for UNL to make available to students the flourishing scholarship on LGBTQ/sexuality studies. Over the summer Kris gathered information about programs and courses at many other institutions around the country. As part of that effort we brought to campus Dr. John Younger, professor of Classics at the University of Kansas, who developed the GLBTQ studies program at Duke University. Several faculty from around the university and from UNO attended Dr. Younger's workshop. We will be moving forward with new course proposals for the minor in the next few months.

We'll also be moving forward, or at least across campus, to Seaton Hall to newly renovated offices next to Ethnic Studies, International Studies, Judaic Studies, and the Plains Humanities Alliance.



## Professor Rose Holz Named Associate Director of Women's Studies Program



Rose Holz was named Associate Director of the Women's Studies Program last May. As Lecturer in History and Women's Studies, Rose has taught at UNL since 2002, including the Introduction to Women's Studies, the History of Sexuality in America, Women in History, as well as both halves of the U.S. History survey. Rose's main research focus is the history of birth control in 20<sup>th</sup> century America, and she is currently working on her book entitled, *The Birth Control Clinic in a Marketplace World*. Privately, however, she is interested in many other things, including cooking, gardening, music, and drawing.

As Associate Director, Rose looks forward to her new duties because, as she explains, not only does she get to advise and mentor students individually but by serving on various curriculum and advisory committees, acting as liaison to other departments, and assisting with long-range planning, she can help shape the WS program at its most fundamental level.

book, soon to be published in Germany, is a study of the largest corpus of oral discourse on "preaching" by women in the Ancien Regime in France. He is also editing a collection of "convent writing from the 17th century."

**Margaret Jacobs**, Associate Professor in the Department of History. She specializes in U.S. women's history, cross-cultural relations between women in the American West, and gender and colonialism. In 1999 she published *Engendered Encounters: Feminism and Pueblo Cultures, 1879-1934*. Her current book project, *White Mother to a Dark Race*, examines the role of white women in both the United States and Australia in removing indigenous children from their families to institutions between 1880 and 1940.



**Michael James**, Ardis James Professor of Textiles, Clothing and Design. His research and creative work is in non-traditional quilting. His quilts have been displayed at many prominent museums, including the National Museum of American Art (Smithsonian). Michael has also brought several quilt artists to campus, including feminist quiltmaker Radke Donnell. For the 2005 Symposium, he has arranged to bring the Guerrilla Girls to UNL.



**Jeannette Jones**, Assistant Professor in the Department of History. Her area of expertise is women's experiences in American, African, and African American History. Jeannette has taught courses in these topics at SUNY Fredonia and SUNY Buffalo and is currently preparing an African American Women's History Course at UNL.



**Karen Lyons**, Associate Director of the UNL Honors Program. Her teaching includes women's literature courses, 20th century women writers, and an honors seminar called "Great Love Stories." Karen has presented talks on N. Scott



## Women's Studies New Faculty

**Donna Akers**, Assistant Professor in the Department of History and Ethnic Studies. Her latest book, *Living in the Land of Death*, relates the tragedies endured by the Choctaw Indians when they were forced from their native lands to a reservation. Professor Akers' current research includes 19th century Native American women and their everyday lives. Using autobiographical and historical documents, she is writing a paper about five Native American women using information from their letters and journals.



**Tom Carr**, Professor in the Department of Modern Languages. He is interested in recovering a neglected form of women's religious writing, especially of two Quebec women authors: Gabrielle Roy and Lauren Conan. Tom's latest







## New Faculty (Cont.)

Momadaya's *The Way to Rainy Mountain* as well as on study abroad opportunities for honors students at the National Collegiate Honors Faculty Institute. Karen currently chairs the Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Women.

**Jennifer McKittrick**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Philosophy. Jennifer's research and teaching interests include metaphysics, philosophy of science, and feminist philosophy. She is currently preparing a proposal for a Feminist Philosophy course to be cross-listed with Women's Studies. Her publications include a forthcoming essay entitled "Gender Identity Disorder" in *Philosophical Issues in the Biomedical Sciences* of which she is co-editor. Presentations include "Liberty, Gender, and the Family" which Jennifer gave at the Molinari Society Symposium in December 2004.



**Carleen Sanchez**, Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology and Ethnic Studies. Her research and teaching focuses on Ancient cultures of Mesoamerica and Central America; Latin American History; Feminism and Gender Theory; Human Rights in Central America; and Violence in Contemporary Society. She is currently teaching Anthropology of Women and Men in Latin American Archaeology. Publications include research reports on Central American and Latin American archeology and a chapter for *The Pottery of Prehistoric Honduras*.



## Professor Alison Stewart Receives Award

Alison Stewart, Associate Professor of Art History, has received an Honorable Mention from the Society for the Study of Early Modern Women for her co-edited book *Saints, Sinners, and Sisters: Gender and Northern Art in Medieval and Early Modern Europe*. The book was edited with Jane Carroll from Dartmouth College and was published by Ashgate Press in December 2003.

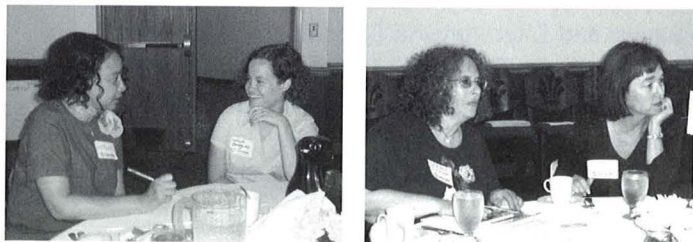
## Professor Ann Mari May Recipient of Academic Senate Award

Ann Mari May, Associate Professor of Economics, was awarded the James A. Lake Academic Freedom Award in May 2004. The Academic Senate established this award in 1980 to honor "acts which support, defend, explain, and apply in practice the principles of academic freedom at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln." Previous recipients include Mary Beck, Helen Moore, and Linda Pratt.

## Professor Amelia Montes' Book Published



The University of Nebraska Press recently published *Maria Amparo Ruiz de Burton: Critical and Pedagogical Perspectives* by English, Ethnic Studies and Women's Studies Professor Amelia Montes. The book discusses Ruiz de Burton's 1885 novel *The Squatter and the Don* which called attention to the illegal appropriation of Mexican land by the United States. Montes analyzes Ruiz de Burton's work as an important text excluded from the 19th century literary canon. Also included is a section on pedagogy relating to Ruiz de Burton's novel which offers teaching approaches, sample syllabi, discussion questions and assignments.



L to R: Kwakiutl Dreher, Whitney Douglas, Carole Levin and Maureen Honey at the Fall Retreat

Check out our web site at:  
[www.unl.edu/womenssp/wshome.html](http://www.unl.edu/womenssp/wshome.html)



## News from our Majors and Graduates

**Katherine Acosta** received her Ph.D. in August 2003, and has taken a position as an Evaluation Researcher at the LEAD Center at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Much of her research involves course innovations and programs to recruit and retain women and minorities in targeted fields. One of Kathy's projects this year is an evaluation of course changes that a computer science professor is making in an effort to recruit and retain more women in the field. Kathy feels that she is making a contribution to women and minorities through her work.

**Congratulations to Andrea Curtis** (May, 2004 graduate) who received the 2004 Runza Spirit of Service Student Award for her volunteer efforts with the Homestead Girl Scout Council. Andrea has been a program leader since 1999 and has dedicated more than 1,000 hours. The Runza Spirit of Service Award honors volunteers who have donated their time and energy to improving the UNL and Lincoln communities.

**Tina Giambastiani** (May, 1999 graduate) has left her teaching job at the Phiippa Schuyler Middle School for the Gifted and Talented in New York City and has moved to a new school, the Amnesty International School for Human Rights. Each class will have a maximum of 20 students, a vast difference from the 38 students per class that Tina had in her previous school. This past summer, Tina took a seminar entitled "Facing History and Ourselves" which focused on implementing strategies for teaching community, ethics, democracy and service.

**Rebecca Kaiser** (May, 2002 graduate) was a 2004 recipient for the Tribute to Women Award given by the YWCA of Lincoln. Becca was chosen for the award based on her community activism in the areas of world peace and equality. Her recent work includes making the public aware of the effects the Patriot Act has had on immigrant communities, serving as youth representative for the League of Women Voters, and being a leader in the Lancaster County Democratic Party, among other volunteer activities.

**Gretchen Obrist** (May, 2000 graduate) will graduate from the UNL College of Law in May and has been hired by a federal trial judge in Seattle, Washington, John C. Coughenour, Chief Judge for the Western District of Washington. Judge Coughenour has served as Chair of the Ninth Circuit working groups on Gender Bias and on Jury Instructions. In this two-year judicial clerkship position, Gretchen's primary function will be researching and writing opinions and orders for the judge, in addition to analyzing the pleadings and motions of the parties in litigation to aid in the decision making process in chambers. Gretchen will also occasionally attend hearings and trials.

**Angeline Camille Petak** (a current student) worked at the Olson Center research laboratories in the Durham Research Center for 12 weeks this past summer. Angeline's research involved learning how to isolate ovarian cells and prepare tissue cultures of the cells for treatment protocols and biochemical analysis. Her work was supported by a National Institute of Health Supplemental Summer Funds for Minority Undergraduate Students Award. Angeline is a junior majoring in Women's Studies & Biological Sciences. She plans to attend medical school and specialize in obstetrics and gynecology.

**Lisa Vanderwerff** graduated in May, 2001 and spent two months in Cuernavaca studying Spanish and one month traveling in Mexico. Lisa is currently in her final semester in the Physician Assistant Program at UNMC. She will then begin 15 months of clinicals located throughout the state of Nebraska. Lisa states that the class she took from Joy Ritchie here at UNL "shaped me in so many ways."

**Amy Young** will be graduating with a Ph.D. in Modern Languages and Literatures in December, 2004. Her specialization is in German and she has a minor in English. Amy is currently employed as a German Instructor at Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kansas.



## Mona Domosh Presents "A Feminine City? Women, Shopping and the Creation of Late-19th Century Downtown"

For the first Women's Studies Colloquium this academic year, Mona Domosh, Professor of Geography at Dartmouth College, described shopping as an integral part of women's work that emerged in the late nineteenth century. As women took to the city streets to find sanctuary from the stresses of domestic life, New York City's department stores and sellers began to accommodate to the tastes of women, bringing femininity into the objective forms of buildings, street layouts, and buyer-seller interactions. As shopping increasingly became a ritual in the regular duties of a wife and mother, homemade clothing ceased to be socially acceptable, and haggling with merchants disappeared, vendors recognized that the new activity of comparison among goods and prices would have to take place in a feminine environment. Department stores brought the domestic into the retail district: stores included frescos, chandeliers, and mirrors; art galleries were displayed inside rotundas; ladies parlors were elegant and extravagant; buildings were constructed of marble and mahogany rather than brick and wood.

Domosh further explained that shopping and fashion allowed women a status-displaying technique, one free of occupation. Good taste became the mark of higher social prestige. The Victorian ideals of women exemplified their moral character as one of sainthood, capable of a "controlled materialism," indulgent enough to contribute to the perpetuation of the industries yet restricted enough to keep the family budget in line.

WS Program Newsletter  
Carmel Morse  
editor and designer  
(cmorse@unlnotes.unl.edu)

### Please join us for the **Women's Studies Graduation Reception**

*in honor of December Graduating Students:*

**Melissa Dinnel, Major**

**Anna Oehme, Major**

**Janel Simons, Minor**

**Amy Young, Ph.D.**

Women's Studies Graduate Specialization

*We will also be welcoming new  
Women's Studies Faculty Members*

Friends, partners, and children are welcome to attend.  
Refreshments will be served.

**Friday, December 10, 2004**

**4:00 - 6:30 p.m.**

**At Joy Ritchie's Home:**

**3004 Stratford Avenue**

(Travel south on 27th St. Stratford is the 3rd street on the left after South St. Call 474-2259 if you need further directions)

*Please RSVP by calling the Women's Studies Office at 472-9392 or email: gmoore3@unl.edu.*

## Spring Semester Women's Studies Events

**Thursday, January 13, 3:30 p.m.:** Workshop for writing No Limits proposals. Come for advice and hands-on help to develop your proposal. Conference Room, 1208 Oldfather Hall.

**Friday, January 14, 12:00-4:00:** Third UNL, UNL, UNK Faculty Institute, "Developing Effective Grant Proposals." UNL City Union.

**Monday, January 24, 3:30-5:00:** Women's Studies Colloquium: "Sharing the Stories of Our Feminist Journeys: A Faculty-Student Dialogue."

**Thursday, February 24, 1:30 p.m.:** A workshop for students with the "Guerrilla Girls." 7:00 p.m.: Guerrilla Girls Presentation, Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery.

*(Continued on page 6)*





## **No Limits Conference 2005 Call For Papers**

***Erasing Borders: Women's Studies in the New Millennium, March 4 - 5, 2005***  
**University of Nebraska, Kearney**

The annual *No Limits* Conference focuses on student presentations of research and/or creative activity. We invite proposals from undergraduate students, graduate students, and recent graduates on any topic from any discipline related to: Women's lives, history, cultures, feminism, and women's studies. Creative writing, visual arts, film, music, performance and academic papers are welcome. Please submit a 250 to 500 word abstract outlining your proposed paper, workshop, creative reading, film or project by January 24, 2005. Submit to: Carol Lilly, Director of Women's Studies, Founders Hall 2124, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Kearney, NE 68849. Email: [lillyc@unk.edu](mailto:lillyc@unk.edu) or call her at (308) 865-8757.

**No Limits Keynote Speakers/ Performers include:**  
**Tres Vidas:** Dramatic and musical performance of three legendary Latin American Women.

**Ann Goetting:** "Expert Witness Work on Battering and Its Effects as Feminist Activism."

**Margaret Anderson:** "Understanding Intersections: Race, Call, Gender and the Sex Question."

### **Spring Semester Events (Cont.)**

**February 28 - March 5: WOMEN'S WEEK Events including: Tuesday, March 1:** Shakespeare's Sister, an all-day reading of women's writing. Sponsored by the Women's Studies Student Association.

**Thursday, March 3:** Reading by Dorothy Allison, author of *Bastard Out of Carolina*, *Two or Three Things I Know for Sure* and *Trash*.

**Friday - Saturday March 4-5,** Women's Studies annual *No Limits* Conference, UNK.

**Tuesday, April 12, 3:30 p.m.:** Women's Studies Colloquium, Dr. Molara Ogundipe "From African Women Studies to Gender Studies in Africa."

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