

the colgate center for women's studies

COLGATE CENTER FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES
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NEWSLETTER

From the Director

As another academic year comes to a close, I look back on all the academic accomplishment and exciting events the Program for Women's Studies has orchestrated with enormous pleasure and pride. Faculty, graduating seniors and many other students have contributed in so many ways to our learning and growth this past year. A particularly exciting development is the minor in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered and Queer Studies (LGBTQ Studies) which will be available for students in the class of 2014.

This Newsletter provides details about much of what has been going on at the Center, and I want to thank Liz Thompson, our outgoing program assistant, for making much of it happen. Liz's shoes will be difficult to fill, but we are very lucky that Heather Dockstader, class of '04, has accepted the position as program assistant for next year. Heather graduated with a major in psychology, and I am very happy that she has agreed to come back to Colgate and enrich our program for 2009-2010.

The economic downturn has had a serious impact on the financial situation at Colgate. All departments and programs have been asked to cut five percent from their operating budgets for 2009-2010 and it is likely that more savings need to be found in the future. In Women's Studies, we are ready to deal with this changed environment. This year I have been enormously impressed with the student-generated programming and presentations around scholarship, local outreach and feminist activism. I have no doubt that in these hard times, Colgate students and faculty will live up to the challenge and take full advantage of the talent and energy we have right here on campus and in the upstate New York region even more than usual. I have great expectations for the upcoming year and the new initiatives that are already in the planning stages.

I look forward to seeing many of you in the fall and wish the best of luck for our graduates!

Ulla Grapard

Director, Women's Studies Program and Associate Professor of Economics and Women's Studies

From the Program Assistant

It has been a busy and exciting semester in Women's Studies! Some highlights of spring 2009 (which will be expanded upon throughout this newsletter) include: a very successful student-run production of "The Vagina Monologues," whose supporters raised over \$3,000 for the Victims of Violence program at Liberty Resources in Oneida, Vera House in Syracuse and the women and girls affected by rape and sexual violence in war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; continued collaboration between Africana and Latin American Studies and Women's Studies; and two presentations from our spring speaker, Margot Adler. We've also had great turnouts for brown bags on a wide range of topics: body image and eating, women in science, exoneration and wrongful conviction (as part of the Sio Symposium) and poverty in the lesbian, gay and bisexual communities, to name a few.

The Women's Studies website has also undergone significant renovation and my hope is that it more accurately reflects what we offer inside and outside of the classroom. An aspect of the website which I think best embodies the spirit of our Women's Studies community is the "Profiles" section, where current students, alumnae and faculty share what motivates them to be involved in the program and the impact it has on people personally and professionally. To see the website, visit www.colgate.edu/womensstudies.

As the semester comes to an end and I anticipate the start of graduate study this fall, I am also taking time to reflect on the state of Women's Studies at Colgate. I am proud and honored to have participated in such a vibrant, fun and intellectually stimulating community in Women's Studies and Colgate more broadly. Special thanks to Ulla Grapard, Letta Palmer, Women's Studies faculty, particularly Visiting Professors Angela Hattery and Earl Smith, and all who presented at brown bags. Thank you also to the Women's Studies students and interns for supporting and contributing to the initiatives I put together. The energy that exists and is fostered at the Center for Women's Studies is very special and unique and I will miss the interactions that happen here very much. On the back page of this newsletter you'll find a profile of Heather Dockstader '04, who will serve as the Women's Studies Program Assistant for this coming academic year. Have a wonderful summer!

Liz Thompson

Women's Studies Program Assistant

“Ain’t I a Woman”: Celebrating Four Influential African-American Women

By *Natalie Gaugh '12*

In Honor of Black History Month, the performance “Ain’t I a Woman!” was featured at the Palace Theater on Tuesday, February 19th. The show consisted of inspiring music and riveting speech, thanks to musical trio Core Ensemble and actress Shinnerrie Jackson. The Core Ensemble, consisting of a cellist, percussionist, and pianist, played pieces reminiscent of older blues and jazz, as well as modern music by African American composers. Meanwhile, Shinnerrie Jackson took on the roles of four African American women who had been influential in U.S. History: Fannie Lou Hamer, Clementine Hunter, Zora Neale Hurston, and Sojourner Truth.

When Jackson switched roles between musical interludes and powerful songs, she skillfully took on different guises and voices, immersing herself in the characters. As Fannie Lou Hamer, she shared a story of the civil rights worker, including instances in which she dealt with beatings and racial injustice at the hands of the police during her adolescence. In the role of the folk artist Clementine Hunter, Jackson became an experienced old woman, painting and discussing her interactions with other people. She also took on the role of the exuberant Zora Neale Hurston, capturing the author and anthropologist’s charm and wit. The piece concluded with Sojourner Truth’s famous speech, “Ain’t I a Woman”, as Ms. Jackson embodied the powerful dialogue of the ex-slave and abolitionist.

Through these performances, Shinnerrie Jackson celebrated the accomplishments of the four women, illustrating their differing interactions with society and their strengths as they maintained their individuality through creativity, intelligence, and passion. Hence, in addition to the stirring and skillfully performed music, “Ain’t I a Woman” proved to be a powerful and thought-provoking show.

Women’s Studies Celebrates the New Minor in LGBTQ Studies

By *Liz Thompson, WMST Program Assistant*

Early in the spring semester, faculty and staff gathered at the Center for Women’s Studies (*pictured in the bottom right*) to celebrate the approval of a new affiliated minor in LGBTQ (lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender/queer) Studies.

The purpose of the minor, as established by members of the minor Advisory Committee, states “The affiliated minor in lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer studies (LGBTQ) examines the lives and representations of individuals and groups considered sexual minorities, as well as the various forces that have affected them across cultures and throughout time.” Professor Ken Valente, the director of the minor, said “I believe that courses in the minor draw attention to the ways in which sexuality and sexual identity can be used as analytic categories in various disciplines. Whether or not students choose to complete the minor, courses dedicated to LGBTQ Studies signal to all students that there are places within our existing curriculum that undertake this important academic project.” The minor in LGBTQ Studies adds to the depth and breadth of courses available at Colgate, a liberal arts institution. Professor Marilyn Thie had this to add: “LGBT Studies is an exciting, relatively new academic field found on many college and university campuses. Adding this interdisciplinary minor program to the Colgate liberal arts curriculum offers students the opportunity for careful, critical, and in depth study of diversity in areas of identity and sexuality. As Division Director for University Studies, I am pleased and proud to have helped bring this program into existence.”

Students interested in taking courses which count toward the minor should meet with Professor Ken Valente, Director of LGBTQ Studies.

Courses being offered in fall 2009 which may count toward the minor include:

LGBT 220 Exploration in LGBTQ Studies
ECON 234 Gender in the Economy
EDUC 204 Child and Adolescent Development
ENGL 340 Critical Theory: The Other
FMST 350 Hollywood Cinema and the World
PHIL 360 Philosophy and Feminisms
WMST 202 Introduction to Women’s Studies



Angela Davis' Wise Words

By Jie Liu '09 (with huge contributions from Liz Harkins '09)

As part of Black History Month, Sisters of the Round Table brought Dr. Angela Davis to Colgate to speak about her experience not only as a Black individual, but also as a Black woman. Davis, an outspoken activist for social justice, is known for her work in advocating rights for blacks, women, prisoners, members of the LGBTQ community, and “victims” of class, among others. She has written several books on these issues and received international recognition for her work. She was a graduate studies Professor in the University of California before she retired in the spring of 2008.

During the lecture event, she imparted many wise words to the large crowd of listeners in the Chapel. Among the many ideas that she addressed, she spoke of the accomplishments and progress made by the collective movement of Blacks. She pointed out that it was not the individual who made history and brought about the success of the movement; rather, history and success were derived from the collective and united efforts of all individuals who lived and supported the cause, whether it was Frederick Douglass or the old grandmother next door. Davis argued that rather than “creating” heroes and focusing on them, we need to focus on the masses of ordinary people and the united movement.

According to Davis, having a Black president is paradoxical in that since the beginning of the Black struggle, blackness, as a social structure, had always been associated with an anti-government sentiments; its movements toward equality always went against existing government policies. Also, she said that because we, as a people, have a tendency to confuse individual accomplishments with that of a community, many of us believed that having a Black president meant the end of the race struggle for equality and equity. Because of this and other paradoxes of the sort, racism today is sometimes “unremarkable, invisible, and structural.”

These same ideas about race are parallel to those found in the feminist movement. For example, one could argue that just because women have attained leadership positions, that does not mean that sexism no longer exists. Just like how Davis asked us how we could be supportive of our Black president yet still be critical of the paradox that his position created for the race movement, we should ask how the paradox of feminist achievements affects women and feminist allies today.

“Race is always gendered, classed, sexualized...it can't exist by itself,” she concluded.

Though several criticisms have circulated after her talk concerning the disorganized nature of her speech, we have to remember that she is known and respected for being an activist, not a speechmaker; the messages that she was conveying should be the focus of our attention.

It was an honor for us to have Dr. Angela Davis come speak about these issues that she is so passionate about. She shared many wise words that inspired us to think critically about the social issues around us, and that is perhaps one of the most important lessons from her lecture.



Celebrating the End of the Year in Women's Studies

By Liz Thompson, Women's Studies Program Assistant

On Monday, April 13th, members of the Women's Studies community at Colgate came together to celebrate the conclusion of the semester and to honor graduating seniors in the Women's Studies Program, including Ilana Cooper, Becca Gildiner, Emily Ha, Elise Man, Gabby Jones-Casey and Nina Merrill. The celebration included two honors presentations: Elise Man presented *Parental Expectations toward Conformity among Underrepresented Asian-American Women at Colgate*; and Gabby Jones-Casey presented *Representations of Sex Workers in the Dominican Republic*.

In recognition of their contributions to the program, graduates were presented with gifts, such as mugs with the Center's logo and blank journals for them to use as a source of reflection as they find ways to “live feminisms” in their lives outside of the Colgate campus.

Best Wishes to all graduating seniors in Women's Studies!

Chanting with Margot Adler

By Jie Liu '09

Margot Adler is a journalist, writer, radio correspondent, and a Wiccan Priestess. Not many people in the world, much less in the United States, have such an interesting mixture of titles. It's no surprise then that the Women's Studies Program invited Adler to be its main speaker this semester.

On Monday, March 30th, Adler gave us a brief introduction to her Paganism. She began by giving definitions of words we commonly associate with Paganism, such as "heathen," "Wicca," "witches and wizards," and of course, "Pagan." What we learn is that our modern, quotidian usages of these words are perhaps not the most correct. "Pagan," for example, which comes from the word "paganus" actually means "of the country[side]," but because the word has evolved so much over time, we now come to define it as a religion that worships nature rather than a god, one that is not of the scriptures. To bring the context of Paganism closer to us, Adler used the second definition. Adler then spoke about her experiences as a young girl being curious about these earthy religions and that she felt she was able to identify more with the ideas behind these religions than with those in the more mainstream religions.



In a lot of ways, Paganism seems to be about looking at "common" ideas differently and embracing the differences in the self instead of conforming to the mainstream. There seems to be a sort of openness in the religion in the sense that there are not many restrictions in the practice of it. We saw this in the group chant that we performed after the talk. There were not specific hymns or incantations that we used; instead, we merely formed a circle, held hands, and came up with something that we wanted very strongly to happen – in this case, spring in Hamilton – and followed as simple chant that she created. We chanted for spring, warm weather, summer, and flowers in this simple melody over and over again, until we all felt a little warmer. Another chant we did was singing to each person in the circle the phrase, "love and respect to you"; this is special in that in our daily lives we sometimes forget to thank the people around us and to show them our respect.

Margot Adler was definitely a very interesting guest at Colgate. She introduced her religion to us while respecting ours, and she really showed us how something as simple and natural as holding hands and chanting together can bring about good spirits among all of us, which is especially important in modern technological times.

Women's Studies Brown Bags Fall 2009

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|---------------------|---|
| September 1 | The F Word
Rachel Greenburg '10, Dena Robinson '12, Damaly Ferreira '12, Joshua Morris '12 |
| September 15 | Mary Everest Boole and Victorian Women Who Cultivated Scientific Enterprises
Ken Valente, Associate Professor of Mathematics and the Core Program |
| September 22 | Everything You Wanted to Know About Counseling, but Didn't Know How to Ask
Jane Jones, Shelly Lear, and Dawn LaFrance, Counseling and Psychological Services |
| September 29 | ALST/WMST Women of Color Brown Bag
Results of the Campus Climate Survey
Carolyn Hsu, Associate Professor of Sociology; Landon Reid, Assistant Professor of Psychology |
| October 6 | Masculinities
Students from Men at Colgate |
| October 13 | Women in the Muslim World
Ayesha Chaudry, Pre-Doctoral Fellow in Religion |

Speaker Spotlight: Margot Adler

By *Amanda McKeon '10*

Margot Adler, National Public Radio journalist, was the Women's Studies Spring Speaker. Within this role, Adler spoke not only about her work as a female journalist, but also led a pagan ritual on the quad. In an interview, she spoke of her path to journalism, Paganism, and everything in between.

Her interest in journalism began, in her own words, "completely by fluke." Despite a brief stint on UC-Berkeley's newspaper and a course on the muckrakers, Adler, in her senior year, was unsure of what she wanted to do after college. She recounted the story of her foray into radio and journalism: "I turned on Radio KPFA in Berkeley, [they] had a guy on the air, who was the news director, reading "Politics and English Language." I was totally fascinated; after he read said his philosophy was you call things by their real names. [It was] January 1968, [so there was] flamboyant colored language at the time. At the end he asked for volunteers, I went in wired copied, fluky thing."

After her work with KPFA, Adler went to New York City, where she tried to find work in radio. At the station where she came to work, she was initially told that, "women didn't do news because their voices were too high." In spite of this blatant sexism, Adler persevered; at first she worked for free at the station, but eventually was offered a job.

Adler reflected thoughtfully on the sexism she faced at the beginning of her career. "It's funny," she said, "I just did a story on [renowned photojournalist] Eddie Adams and went and looked at all these shots, I realized they were all men, it was men on the news, not a lot of women."

She shared another anecdote about her early work in the Pacifica Radio Washington D.C. bureau to illustrate better the pervasiveness of sexism against women in journalism. "I ran the Pacifica Washington bureau, there was sexism in Washington in 1970, it was extremely hard for women" she explained, "My first day there, a guy took me out, wanted to give me a lesson in the sexual mooring in Washington, the staffers are really like playboy bunnies; he told me the skirt length in Washington was shorter than the national average."

She also spoke of how sexism undermined her legitimacy as a journalist, "shared an office with Seymour Hirsch told me I had no business in Washington." Hirsch told Adler that she would probably be the type of journalist that asks ridiculous, irrelevant questions.

Though she faced many obstacles in her career path, Adler has endured to become a well-respected and well-loved radio journalist whose pieces are both moving and entertaining. In her work, she has brought to light important stories, such as that of Claudette Colvin, who was actually the first black woman in Montgomery to refuse to give up her seat on a city bus. Adler also cites a story she did on the first AIDS counselors in San Francisco and on the ERISA laws as especially meaningful and influential pieces.

While deeply involved in her journalism, Adler maintains other passions. She is especially involved in Neopaganism, as both a writer on and a follower of it. Adler was drawn to Neopaganism's emphasis on the Goddess. She first came to it as a young girl, "When I studied the Middle Ages as a 10 year old, on May 1st, we came to school and picked flowers and danced around the May pole, after that I became a junkie," she said, and continued, "when we studied ancient Greece, I felt Goddesses were the most powerful human beings, I wanted to be them, they were such powerful images."

Adler, however, felt compelled to put her interest aside, but began a course of return to the power of Goddesses when she studied zoology and botany at Berkeley and then when she began reading, "the nature writers, [she] started realizing the feeling of the same connection to ecstasy." In turn, Adler looked for an ecological religion; she spoke of her search on the radio and received a package from listeners that included tapes of rituals and invocations, which she was moved by. She described the connection she felt between the environment and Pagan traditions, stating, "[she] was very excited by an alternative religious position that was more in keeping with ecological, feminist ideals: helping the earth, religion without the middle person, all based on doing and community, not white-bread religion; it's much more ecstatic."

Adler shared her beliefs with the Colgate community in an evening ritual on the quad in which she led a chant that mystified and engaged all in attendance. In each capacity—sharer of both the story of her religion and her career, Adler emphasized the power of women. The feeling of empowerment parceled during her brief time at Colgate will surely have a lasting impact; it would be hard to forget the power of Adler's words, be they in out on the quad in the cold March air or within the warm confines of the Women's Studies Center.

Exoneration Symposium: Exposing the Pitfalls of our Legal System

By Brienne Moore '11

April 19th marked the beginning of the Exoneration Symposium, a 3-day long event that focused on the wrongful conviction and exoneration of 3 men: Darryl Hunt, Kirk Bloodsworth, and Stephen Barnes. The first event of the Symposium was a screening of *The Trials of Darryl Hunt*, a film which documents the story of Darryl Hunt, a man who spent twenty years in prison for a brutal rape and murder which he did not commit. In 1984, a young white newspaper reporter, Deborah Sykes, was raped, sodomized and stabbed to death just blocks from where she worked in Winston-Salem, NC. Based on an ID made by a former Klan member, Darryl Hunt— only 19-years-old at the time of the trial— was charged although no physical evidence linked Hunt to the crime. Hunt was convicted by an all white jury, and sentenced to life imprisonment. In 1994, DNA testing cleared Hunt, yet he would spend another ten years behind bars. The film chronicled the case from 1984 through 2004.

The second event of the Symposium was a panel discussion led by the three exonerees and two lawyers who worked on their cases; Mark Rabil and Larry Golden. All of the men shared their experiences, insights into the judicial system, and answered questions that people in the audience had. The symposium continued the next day with a brown bag that focused on the impact of incarceration on families and finally ended with a lecture by Sociology Professor Earl Smith.

At the brown bag, the audience was given the chance to ask Steve Barnes' mother (and the aforementioned exonerees and lawyers) questions. In response to inquiries about how people in her community responded to Mr. Barnes conviction, she explained that he, like Darryl Hunt, always had support from the community behind him. She claimed that the whole county knew that he was innocent, and it was the Innocent Project that finally helped her gain connections.



From left to right: Mark Rabil, Sylovia Bouchard, Darryl Hunt, and Kirk Bloodsworth



Center: Attendees of the Women's Studies Brown Bag, "Impact of Incarceration on Families"

One concept that was repeated throughout the events of the symposium was the idea that when you become part of the prison system, your family similarly becomes a part of the system. They may not be behind physical bars, but they feel just as trapped as their loved ones who become incarcerated, and when that loved one has been wrongfully convicted, the feeling becomes magnified.

The symposium was quite an enlightening experience. At the Brown Bag, a question was posed to the exonerees asking them to explain why no one was listening to them within the judicial system and what is it that prevents people from listening. Hunt answered very clearly and explained that people can't see themselves in other people's shoes and so that prevents them from seeing a point of view that is different from their own. Adding to his explanation, Bloodsworth stated that people also want to believe that they are right and that leads to a tunnel vision that is ultimately flawed.

An avid advocate for communication and education about these issues, Hunt ended with words of wisdom: All of us could wind up in prison [for a mistake based on poor judgment]. More victims are created when we don't forgive [them].

Practicum Projects: Women's Studies Concentrators Practice Feminism on Campus

By Elise Man '09

This semester, as part of a Women's Studies Senior Seminar course, six Women's Studies concentrators completed various semester-long practicum projects, in which they practiced activism and feminism on campus by developing events, programs and initiatives concerning various social and gender issues. In total, there were three practicums this semester: a forum on sex education, led by Ilana Cooper and Rebecca Gildiner; a panel discussion on white male bias and white male privilege, led by Emily Ha and Gabriella Jones-Casey; and the *Colgate Post Secret Project*, organized and led by Nina Merrill and Elise Man.

All in all, these practicums were incredibly successful. Not only were their respective Brown Bag lectures well-attended, but they generated probing and interesting discussions within the Colgate community as well. During the Brown Bag on sex education, for example, Cooper and Gildiner raised the issue of sex education versus abstinence education. More specifically, they asked attendees what their thoughts were on each, and whether or not they preferred one over the other. They also asked students whether or not they wanted sex education beyond high school. "Would a sex health course be well-received at Colgate?" they asked.

Ha and Jones-Casey's Brown Bag was equally engaging and probing. During their panel discussion, Ha and Jones-Casey provided an overview of white male privilege and white male bias. They then discussed some of the issues surrounding white male privilege and white male bias, including patriarchy, sexism, and social resistance to change.

Merrill and Man's Brown Bag touched upon those issues as well. After creating the *Colgate Post Secret Project*— an online blog which consisted of anonymously-submitted postcards on which members of the Colgate community wrote secrets about themselves— they talked about some of the Post Secrets' themes during their Brown Bag discussion. Such themes included: body image, college life, sexuality, love, and white privilege.

To view the book version of the *Colgate Post Secret Project* or to learn more about Women's Studies Brown Bags and programming, please stop by the Center in East Hall.

From Angelica Chapman, Director of the Vagina Monologues

Raising more than \$3,000, this year's performance of the Vagina Monologues was the most successful yet! The benefactors of the fundraising were Vera House and Liberty Resources, two programs which seek to help women and children currently dealing with domestic violence in Syracuse and Utica respectively. Other important benefactors were women of the Congo, who are currently in the middle of a conflict zone and have become subject to horrible crimes, mainly rape, murder, and femicide. The opening monologue, "Baptized," sought to shed some light on the atrocities committed in the Congo and raise awareness about sexual violence in places other than the United States, which ultimately still affect us here.

As director of and performer in The Vagina Monologues, I was pleasantly surprised at how well the performance was received this year. In fact, the final showing was a great success! So many people showed up, that I had to go outside myself and help collect tickets and money. People were lined up from the doors of The Palace to the Colgate Bookstore. Everyone was excited and eager to see the show. It was very rewarding to see this side of the event; engaging with the audience before and after the performance and understanding how well it was received. While performing, I also realized how reactive and in tune everyone was. During my performance of "The Little Coochie Snorcher that Could," everyone in the audience groaned, laughed, and sighed in response to everything I was saying. It was wonderful! My fellow performers said the same as well; the audience was fully engaged. I cannot begin to describe how happy it makes me to know that there are people out there who care to learn about gender- and sexual-based violence, and listen, and respond. I've been involved with coordinating The Vagina Monologues for over 3 years now, and it never gets old. I look forward to engaging with the performance and fundraising again next year.

Angelica Chapman

Alumna Spotlight: Nancy Ng-Tam '08

By *Natalie Gaugh '12*

Nancy Ng '08, a former History major and Women's Studies minor at Colgate, is currently one of three graduate students at NYU working on the Asian/Pacific American Documentary Heritage Survey Project, a collaboration funded by METRO and the Asian/Pacific/American Institute. The project's purpose is "to map available and potential Asian/Pacific American archival collections in the NY Metropolitan area" and "to address the under representation of East Coast Asian America in archives and historic scholarship."

Nancy thinks that her experience at Colgate has positively affected the rest of her life. "I feel more empowered as an individual. I'm more politically aware and socially responsible," she says. "I see that as important in a job... it's definitely shaped who I am."

Impressed by both her professors and Women's Studies courses, Nancy encourages other students to explore the department's offerings. "The beauty of it is that you take what you want and need from it," Nancy comments. "It gives you a lot of room to explore. Everyone gets a different experience." She also praised the "open-ended projects", where it was "more about the process than the product".



One course that impacted her was Professor Kezia Page's African/Diaspora Women's Narrative, as the narratives reminded her of her "own life as a woman of color". She also enjoyed the WMST Senior Seminar, where students were able "to practice what they learned in Women's Studies classes... working with a professor and advocating for something they're passionate about." Lastly, she thanked Professors Helene Julien and Sarah Wider, who "would always ask how I was... taking an interest. They were encouraging."

Students, Faculty, Staff and Community Members Take Back the Night

By *Liz Thompson, Women's Studies Program Assistant*

On Monday, April 6, students, faculty, staff and community members joined together to participate in the annual Take Back the Night march, rally and speakout against rape and sexual violence. Led by Katrin Murano '10, participants raised awareness by raising their voices in chant about stopping rape and sexual violence and dismantling patriarchal structures. At various spots on campus, students stopped and read spoken word pieces focused on women's survival and empowerment. Gabby Jones-Casey '09, read a poem by Jamaican-American poet and political activist, Staceyann Chin. Dena Robinson '12, read an original poem focused on issues of sexual and gender-based violence in families and the ways in which these patterns are reproduced over time. The rain became increasingly more intense as the march continued, but that did not stop students, faculty, staff and community members from chanting loudly to Take Back the Night.

Following the march, many participants crowded into the Coop TV Room and sat in comfortable chairs to support victims and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in a confidential environment. Carlene Holt and Joanne Smith, two staff members from the Liberty Resources Victims of Violence program, provided statistics for people in attendance and reminded the attendees that while sexual violence and abuse often occur at higher rates for women than men, one in six men is affected by sexual abuse. Take Back the Night is one opportunity to speak out about the need to eradicate all forms of sexual and gender-based violence and hopefully gave those in attendance the support they need.

If you are a victim or survivor of rape, sexual violence or abuse and need support, here are some resources:

On campus: Campus Safety (x7333), Counseling and Psychological Services (x7385), your Administrative Advisor
Off-campus: Victims of Violence 24-hour hotline – (315) 366-5000, Vera House hotline (315) 468-3260

Special thanks to the Network, Colleen Nassimos, Katrin Murano, Gabby Jones-Casey, Dena Robinson, Joanne Smith and Carlene Holt and all who attended Take Back the Night for your support.

Announcements

WOMEN'S SPACES, WOMEN'S PLACES:

The fifteenth anniversary celebration of the Center for Women's Studies

PURPOSE:

The fifteenth anniversary celebration of the Colgate Center for Women's Studies is an opportunity for Women's Studies alumnae, current Women's Studies students, faculty and friends of the Center to recognize and honor a space that has fostered critical thinking and dialogue around women, gender and social justice at Colgate. Moreover, the Center for Women's Studies has supported learning inside and outside of the classroom, providing a space for courses like Introduction to Women's Studies, Gender in the Economy and the Women's Studies Senior Seminar and has been "home" to the weekly Women's Studies brown bags and the Women's Studies library. "The Center" often serves as a comfortable space for students to study, relax and grow into engaged citizens for whom gender equality and rights for women and other marginalized populations are priorities at Colgate and beyond.

So, to celebrate the role that the Center for Women's Studies has played in many of our lives at Colgate, we bring you "Women's Spaces, Women's Places," a gathering which includes panel discussions, breakout sessions and social events. Throughout the anniversary celebration, there will be ample opportunities to re-visit Colgate, catch up with faculty, Women's Studies graduates and current students. A central focus of the anniversary celebration is sharing the common bond of Women's Studies scholarship and activism at Colgate and exploring how members of our community "live feminisms" after graduation as they make life choices and career plans.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

Thursday, November 5, 2009

6:00 pm Cocktail Hour at Donovan's Pub

7:00 pm Dinner at the Hall of Presidents

Introduction to "Women's Spaces, Women's Places" and introducing Ann Lane

Ann Lane, Keynote Speaker

Friday, November 6, 2009

12:15 pm Living Feminisms after Graduation (brown bag panel discussion with lunch)

Women's Studies alumnae

2:00 pm Break

2:30 pm Colgate Women's Studies Then and Now: Continuity and Change

Two current students, two faculty, two alumnae

4:00 pm Break with refreshments/coffee/tea

4:30- 5:30 pm Breakout Sessions (three different topics to be determined)

6:00 pm Dinner

If you are interested in attending or have questions, contact Liz Thompson (erthompson@mail.colgate.edu, x7156) before May 29th, or Ulla Grapard (ugrapard@mail.colgate.edu) or go to www.colgate.edu/womensstudies and click on "Women's Spaces, Women's Places."

Spotlight on Heather Dockstader '04, the next WMST Program Assistant



Hailing from Atlanta, Georgia, Heather Dockstader graduated with a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Colgate in 2004. As she looks ahead to coming back to Colgate, she remarks "It's been five years already since I graduated from Colgate; and in that time, I have enjoyed some unique employment opportunities. My top two include a year and a half at a non-for-profit women's health clinic in Atlanta and 140 field days working wilderness therapy for troubled teens in the high desert of Oregon" (pictured at left).

"I am excited to experience the amazing energy of the Women's Studies Program from a different perspective," she says. Having worked as a student intern [in Women's Studies] for the majority of my time at Colgate, I am looking forward to creating a space that manages both the academic and activist sides of the program and, ultimately, serves the needs of the students."

Heather's musical tastes include Atlanta hip hop and college radio stations, which she's been catching up on after moving back from Oregon in the past year. Her favorite food is "created and shared amongst good company."

Heather Dockstader will take on the role of Women's Studies Program Assistant in mid-August. Her office will be in room 107B in the Center for Women's Studies. Please give Heather a warm welcome (back) to Colgate!

the colgate center for
women's
studies

The Center for Women's Studies Staff

Director:

Ulla Grapard, Associate Professor of Economics and Women's Studies

Program Assistant:

Liz Thompson

Administrative Assistant:

Letta Palmer

Student Interns

Jie Liu '09

Elise Man '09

Amanda McKeon '10

Angelica Chapman '10

Brianne Moore '11

Natalie Gaugh '12