

# women's studies News

Colgate University Women's Studies Program

Fall 1997 Vol. 8 No. 2

From the Directors...

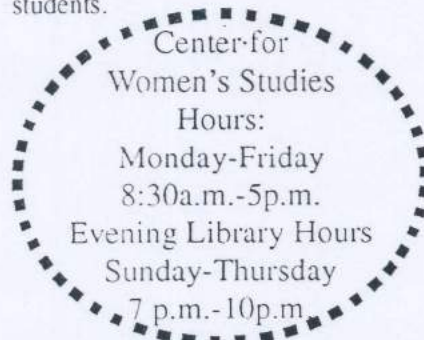
This issue's main story is the focus of our letter: the Women's Studies Curriculum, present and future. The energy and effort of many faculty and students are responsible for the rich variety listed in this issue.

Several new courses join traditionally strong ones to constitute the 15 WS offerings for Spring 1998.\* History Professor Fay Dudden's American Women's History, now to be offered regularly, provides historical grounding for many other courses in the program. Native American Writers, an English class taught by Professor Sarah Wider, gives special attention to women authors. Professor Camilla Townsend's Conquest and Colony examines race and gender dynamics as different cultures in South and North America encounter each other. A traditional Spring offering in Religion will be taught this year by Dr. Clarice Martin, Visiting O'Connor Professor of Literature in the Department of Philosophy and Religion, with a new title, Women's Experience and Sacred Texts in Cross-Cultural Perspective: Stories of Love and Trouble. Amidst a number of fine offerings in the English Department is Studies in 19th Century Fiction, focused on author Elizabeth Gaskell and Victorian Literary Culture, taught by Professor Constance Harsh.

Finally, the Women's Studies Seminar wears a new face, reflecting our experience Co-Directing Women's Studies as well as the interdisciplinary nature of Women's Studies. Although we each have experience team-teaching, it has not been with each other. Already we find ourselves stretched in envisioning the course and selecting materials. Our hope, of course, is that students will find this as rich a learning experience as we expect we will.

Concern for the vitality of this program's curriculum focuses on

the future possibilities, not simply finding sufficient courses each semester. It is in this context that we address, all too briefly, interested faculty and students.



Enriching the present curriculum with new courses, or freshly desinged courses, is something we hope faculty, and their Chairs, will encourage. Strong enrollments in Women's Studies courses indicate the Departments and Programs are more likely to draw additional students rather than lose them.

Adding new courses specific to the program is not the only concern. A second goal is to encourage faculty to integrate materials by and about women into regular courses throughout Colgate's curriculum. In addition to course topics and common resources, faculty might self-consciously address gender dynamics in the classroom and urge interested students to focus papers and research projects on issues related to women of different races, ethnic groups and classes. Should these inclusions by and about women constitute at least half a course, we invite faculty to consider submitting the syllabus for possible cross-listing as a Women's Studies course.

Finally, students have a responsibility to direct their own education in areas of particular importance to them. Surely, this governs selection of concentration, study group, and semester courses, but it can also guide

(continued on page 4)

## SPRING 1998: WOMEN'S STUDIES COURSES

CORE 180a, WOMEN IN CHINA. Liu MWF 2:00-2:50

ENGL 204, NATIVE AMERICAN WRITERS. Wider, MW 2:30-3:50

ENGL 305, THE FEMALE PROTAGONIST. Gregg, MW 1:00-2:20

ENGL 306, WRITING AND SOCIETY IN THE AMERICAN RENAISSANCE. L. Johnson, MTh 11:30-12:50

ENGL 433, WEST INDIAN LITERATURE. Ramchand, Th 3:00-5:30

ENGL 448, STUDIES IN 19th CENTURY FICTION: Elizabeth Gaskell and Victorian Literary Culture. Harsh, TuTh 1:00-2:20

GEOG 304, GENDER AND THE ENVIRONMENT. Hays-Mitchell, TuTh 9:00-10:20

HIST 311, AMERICAN WOMEN'S HISTORY. Dudden, MWF 9:30-10:20

(Continued on page 2)

# Fall 1997 Calendar

## October

28 Tuesday - 11:30 a.m.  
Brown Bag Lunch Series  
Professor Jill Tiefenthaler  
"The Gender Gap in Voting and  
Political Participation"  
Center for Women's Studies

## November

3 Monday - 7:30 p.m.  
Crystal Byndless  
"Black Protest Movements"  
Persson Auditorium

4 Tuesday - 11:30 a.m.  
Brown Bag Lunch Series  
Professor Nancy Hirschmann from  
Cornell University "Domestic  
Violence and the Theo-retical  
Discourse of Freedom"  
Center for Women's Studies

6 Thursday - 7 p.m.  
"POWER: The James Bay Cree v.  
Hydro-Quebec"  
ALANA Cultural Center

10 Monday - 7:30 p.m.  
Donna Harris "Tracking in our  
Schools" Persson Auditorium

11 Tuesday - 11:30 a.m.  
Brown Bag Lunch Series  
Patrick Doyle and student panel  
discuss careers and internships.  
Center for Women's Studies

18 Tuesday - 11:30 a.m.  
Brown Bag Lunch Series  
Professor Rika Schmitt  
"Do Women Matter?: Prosecutorial  
Decision Making"  
Center for Women's Studies

18 Tuesday - 7 p.m.  
"American Pictures" Presentation  
of photographs depicting poverty  
in the South.  
Hall of Presidents

19 Wednesday - 8 p.m.  
Warren Blumenfeld, author of  
"Homophobia: How we all pay the  
price" Hall of Presidents

21 Friday - 8 p.m.  
Women of Color Film Series  
"Waiting to Exhale"  
Center for Women's Studies

## November 24-December 9 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence

(As our itinerary for this observance  
continues to grow, keep an eye out for  
our complete schedule)

24 Monday - 4:30 p.m.  
Video and discussion about brut-  
ality faced by Native Americans.  
Center for Women's Studies

25 Tuesday  
Theme: "Why I'm Not Thankful  
for Thanksgiving". Pick up an  
information packet at the Center  
for Women's Studies.

## December

1 Monday  
Theme: Women's Apartheid in  
Afganistan

2 Tuesday  
Theme: The Violence of Welfare:  
Making the Poor More Impover-  
ished. Tentative presentation by  
Welfare Watch

2 Tuesday - 11:30 a.m.  
Brown Bag Lunch Series  
Professor Ulla Grapard  
"Gender in Economics: Does It  
Make A Difference?"  
Center for Women's Studies

3 Wednesday  
Theme: Plowshares Movement

4 Thursday - 4:30 p.m.  
Theme: School of the Americas  
Video: "School of the Assassins"

5 Friday - 4:30 p.m.  
Theme: Religious Persecution: The  
Holocaust and Beyond  
Panel presentation and discussion

6-7 Saturday-Sunday  
Theme: The Home is a Battle  
Field: Stopping Domestic  
Violence Trips to volunteer at  
battered women's shelter. Call  
Ami for more details x7156

8 Monday  
Theme: Female Infanticide in Asia

9 Tuesday  
Theme: International Labor  
Exploitation: Sweatshops

9 Tuesday - 11:30 a.m.  
Brown Bag Lunch Series  
Christina Kelly, former editor of  
*Sassy* magazine  
Center for Women's Studies

10 Friday - 8 p.m.  
Women of Color Film Series  
"The Color Purple"

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Colgate University,  
Hamilton, NY 13346  
(315) 824-7156  
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Program Assistant: Ami Lynch  
Secretary: Mary Keys

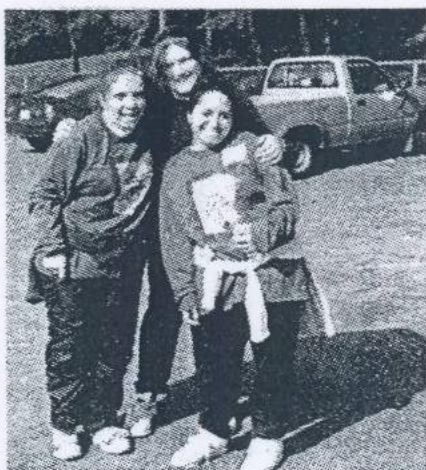
## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE CENTER FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES

### Library becomes more user friendly

Student assistant Chi-Chi Obichere '00 has been spending her time reorganizing the Center's library. It is now easier to find books and publications with alphabetical markers on each shelf. Come in during our new night hours, Sunday-Thursday 7 p.m.-10p.m., and check things out.

### Silent Witness Initiative March is well attended

At 3 a.m. on October 18, 30 students piled into a charter bus and made their way to Washington D.C. At 10 p.m. they got back on and road back. The cause? The Silent Witness Initiative March to "End the Silence of Domestic Violence". Student Assistant Alisa Herrin '98 organized the trip and reached out to different organizations around campus to draw attention to the march. The march from the Washington Monument to the Capitol was followed by a series of speakers and survivors, and then by a candlelight vigil around the reflecting pool. The experience was an emotional and memorable one.



Tina Cassillo, Tammy LeClair, and Ami Lynch participated in the "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" walk and raised over \$100.

The literary magazine, *Allegorical Athena* is now accepting submissions! Art, literature and photographs are due by December 5! Send your work to the Center for Women's Studies

### N.Y.W.D. A. brings together different campus organizations as well as the community

October 23 was National Young Women's Day of Action. Student Assistants Jennifer Tierney '98 and Heather Brown '99 (representing Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance) along with Gamma Phi Beta, who organized the sororities, set up a day of action that hit most of campus. Numerous poster campaigns, table tents, information flyers, voter registration, a toiletry drive, a bottle and can drive, a food drive, and the painting of a classroom for Headstart, are a few examples of what happens when campus organizations put their efforts together.

Grave markers representing women who died of illegal abortions graced random spots on campus and forced people to think about reproductive choice and what happens when that freedom is taken away. The unity that came out of National Young Women's Day of Action proves the success that is possible when we all put our energy to good use and combine efforts to create something that may have seemed impossible.

### SPRING 1998: WOMEN'S STUDIES COURSES

*(Continued from page 1)*

**HIST 358, CONQUEST & COLONY.** Townsend, TuTh 2:30-3:50

**PEAC 260, WOMEN AND PEACE: War, Resistance, and Justice.** Meeker, TuTh 1:00-2:20

**RELG 334, WOMEN'S EXPERIENCE AND SACRED TEXTS IN CROSS CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE: Stories of Love and Trouble.** Martin, Tu 1:30-3:50

**SOAN 215, WOMEN, WORK AND FAMILY.** Moran, MWF 11:30-12:20

**SOAN 301, KINSHIP AND MARRIAGE.** Peletz, MW 2:30-3:50

**WMST 201/PSYCH 300, TOPICS IN PSYCHOLOGY: Psychology of Women.** Fontana, TuTh 1:00-2:20

**WMST 490, SENIOR SEMINAR: The Relational Self: Feminist Perspectives on Ethics and Morality.** Thie and Johnston, MW 2:30-3:50

### To Subscribe to our Online Outreach:

Send an email to JAMES and ask to be subscribed!

Coming Soon...

## Yolanda King



*“Is the Dream  
Still a Dream?”*

**Brought to you by:  
Campus Life,  
Center for Women’s Studies,  
Office of Undergraduate Studies,  
and  
Sisters of the Round Table**

From the Directors (*from page 1*) choice of research topics and/or class presentation, when there are options. In our experience, students often fail to realize the influence you can have with faculty. Your questions may well invite individual faculty to look again at a course’s structure.

As we look forward toward strengthening the academic program we thank faculty, and Department Chairs, who have been the main supports to date, but we also invite any member of the faculty or department chair to talk with one of us about ways they and their departments or programs might further enhance Colgate’s Women’s Studies Program.

\*A Note: This Spring, there will not be an “Introduction to Women’s Studies” offered on campus. (one will be part of the London Economics Department Study Group, offered by Jill Tiefenthaler.) We do encourage first and second year students interested in beginning Women’s Studies to register for 200 or 300-level courses. You might confer with the instructor, or one of us, should you have questions about this.

Kay Johnston and Marilyn Thie

Join the Center for Women’s Studies !  
Spring 1998 Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Box Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I am interested in volunteering at the Center for Women’s Studies.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am interested in applying for a Student Assistant position at the Center for Women’s Studies

Return this form to Ami Lynch at the Center for Women’s Studies by November 14. If you have any questions, stop by or email Ami at ALYNCH.