



# Women's Studies Newsletter

AUSTIN PEAY STATE UNIVERSITY

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Spring 2009

## Director's Notes

Welcome to the first edition of the Women's Studies Program's e-newsletter. Last year President Tim Hall offered faculty the opportunity to apply for money to support student academic success. Faculty serving on the Women's Studies Council met and proposed buying a laptop computer for student use to design and produce the newsletter. Here it is!



In the meantime, the Women's Studies office was moved from its cramped space in Harned 139 to Harned 143, and we acquired the office space in 144 next door, providing a space for a Women's Center. We bought a phone, installed the computer, moved in bookshelves, and now we have a Women's Center open for business. The program is thriving with 25 minors and all sections of Women's Studies courses are full. In addition, we have been able to offer a section of the Introduction to Women's Studies each semester and during the Summer I term. I'm thrilled to report that the Women's Studies Program is thriving at APSU.

In Fall 2008, 10 students presented their capstone projects at the Women's Studies Capstone Symposium. Projects were wide-ranging. The projects

included Brooke Hill, theatre performance, and Kat Farmer, psychology, staged "Emma: An Act in Two Plays" about the life of Emma Goldman in Clement Auditorium; Amanda Abbot, majoring in psychology, examined cultural beliefs about menstruation in "Aunt Flow: A Secret Relative"; and Nicolette Tomaszewski, majoring in psychology, investigated the political bias offered to young women seeking solutions to unwanted pregnancies at crisis pregnancy centers. It took us two evenings to present everyone's research projects.

More evidence of the growth of the program is the activity of the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance (FMLA), the student organization that is attached to the Feminist Majority Foundation in Washington, D.C. In this e-newsletter you will find an article by FMLA President Nicolette Tomaszewski reporting on FMLA's campus and community political work and an article about their trip to the Women of Color Conference in North Carolina. I'm excited that membership is growing in FMLA.

Finally, campus was active with the Film Series showing "When Abortion Was Illegal" and "Women Running in High Heels," resuming the Women's Studies Booktalks, coordinated by Dr.

Jill Franks, Languages and Literature, and the Clothesline Project draping the Morgan University Center columns in October observing Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

If you are alumni, please keep in touch with us. Check out events on the Web site calendar, especially the annual performance of "The Vagina Monologues" at 7 p.m., March 3 and 4 in Clement Auditorium. We would love to hear about your accomplishments and journeys, especially how your Women's Studies courses have prepared you for work and/or life. We welcome your visits and would like to publish what you have to share with us. Cati Montgomery graduated in December with an M.A. in English and went off to a job managing a writing lab in North Carolina. Corrie Cecil, psychology, is pursuing an M.A. in counseling through University of Tennessee and working at a domestic violence shelter in Nashville. Laura Golobish, art, is pursuing a master's degree in art history at University of Georgia. Jenny Renegar, foreign language major, is a book representative for foreign language titles with Ingram Booksellers in Nashville. Jennifer Harris, communication, is working for the university library at Georgia College and State University. We wish you all well and delight in your successes.

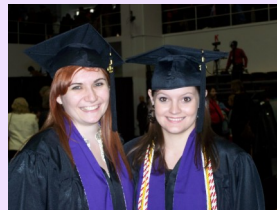
## Congratulations 2008 Graduates



(left to right) Laura Golobish, Blair Jamison, Dr. Eichhorn, Jeri Verissimo, Jennifer Harris



Laura Golobish, Jeri Verissimo, and Kelsey Foster



Sienna Finney and Laura Smith



Jennifer Goddard and Christina Graves

# Women's Studies Newsletter

## FMLA News



Holly Lanham, Nicolette Tomaszewski and Ashley Lanham hand out candy for GHOST.



(left to right) Holly Lanham, Eleanor Smeal, Nicolette Tomaszewski, Rebecca Fisher, Amanda Abbott

What an exciting semester FMLA had! At the beginning of the semester, we had a membership of only one and now we are boasting 39 members! FMLA did a great job of recruiting some fabulous feminists. We participated in the Organization Fair on Sept. 3 and received third place for best booth. We also Got Out Her Vote with a voter registration drive and registered more than 60 people. As part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, FMLA was invited to participate at Community Awareness Day and set up a table with information about the organization. FMLA helped set up the Clothesline Project and sold hot chocolate so everyone could stay warm while viewing the shirts. The Feminist Film Series was a big success with the showing of "Running in High Heels" and "When Abortion Was Illegal." Both movies had an open discussion afterward and people had a lot to say

about the movies. Among all of this, we also participated in GHOST and Homecoming.

The highlight of the semester for FMLA was the invitation to attend the Second Annual Women of Color Conference in Greensboro, N.C. We were promised by the Feminist Majority Foundation, if we could make the trip to the Conference, all our expenses would be paid. Our vice president, treasurer, a member and I were able to attend the conference. It proved to be a great experience and opportunity to learn about issues affecting women of color. We also met Eleanor Smeal, president of the Feminist Majority Foundation. It was an exciting trip!

On top of everything, I also took part in a campaign called Exposing Fake Clinics. I went undercover to a local crisis pregnancy center pretending to be pregnant. The information and counseling they gave me was shocking, false and misleading. Fake clinics lie about birth control and abortion in

order to scare young, pregnant women out of their options. They also use this clinic as a means for proselytizing. I did a radio talk show interview on the Gary Baumgarten Report with the executive editor of Ms. Magazine Kathy Spillar. The interview was broadcast nationwide and hopefully many people were able to tune in and learn about crisis pregnancy centers.

FMLA has become quite active and this semester was only the beginning. We have a lot of plans for next semester and the future. We hope you can be there to support your local feminists and even join in the fight. I want to wish everyone luck on their finals and a happy holiday. I hope to see more activists next semester!

Peace and Feminism,  
Nicolette Tomaszewski  
APSU FMLA president

WELL  
BEHAVED  
WOMEN  
SELDOM  
MAKE  
HISTORY—

Laurel  
Thatcher  
Ulrich

## Women of Color Conference

The Women of Color Conference was an opportunity to not only meet with feminist activists my age and commiserate over issues that are facing all of us as female college students but was a learning experience as well. During one of the sessions of the Women of Color Conference I was made familiar about the horrible injustices of The Global Gag Rule. In short, The Global Gag Rule is a policy that was created by President Reagan and recently implemented again by the Bush administration that ceases funding to overseas women's clinics if they provide abortions or information on how to obtain an abortion. Regardless of your stand on the issues of

abortion it is easy to see that this policy has larger implications than just unwanted pregnancies.

Once funding is stopped for these clinics it does not just mean that women will no longer be able to maintain abortions. The cut-off from vital United States funding also stops the prevalence of contraceptives, namely condoms. From this, HIV rates and underage pregnancies soar. Also, by cutting the funding for providing information about abortion the United States is limiting free speech.

The conference allowed me to become aware of problems that exist for young women of my age who do not have the privileges that I have.

The Women of Color Conference, to me, is a vital experience for any young woman. Not only are you exposed to information but the networking with other young feminists is immeasurable. From this networking you are able to form plans and strategies on how to set forth action on a cause that particularly concerns you. These conferences introduce you to women who can help you in your growth as a feminist. Most importantly, this conference allowed me to spend a weekend talking about issues I care about and gave me a sense of power and confidence to make strides in making changes for my community.

Amanda Abbott



(front to back) Rebecca Fisher, Nicolette Tomaszewski, Amanda Abbott, Holly Lanham

## Symposium Article

As part of the Women's Studies Capstone course, students were asked to research topics that explore the construction of gender, race, class, sexual orientation and ability. Students engage in this analysis with a variety of topics. This semester, 10 students completed projects which included "Sex and Marriage in the Late 19th and Early 20th Century" and a fundraiser for Azea, a foundation that supports a school for girls in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Students presented their research at two symposiums in

December. These research projects are designed to offer students the opportunity to synthesize the knowledge and experience they have gained as Women's Studies minors.

The students presented these projects:

Laura Smith, "Raising Money for Azea: A School For Girls in the Democratic Republic of Congo"; Holly Lanham, "Sex and Marriage in the Late 19th and Early 20th Century"; Alisa Lewis, "Sexual Objectification of Women: Explicit or Subtle";

Jamila Weaver, "Legalizing and Regulating Prostitution in the United States"; Amanda Abbott, "Aunt Flow: A Secret Relative"; Shana Patton, "What Lies Beneath: Women, Depression and Addiction"; Nicolette Tomaszewski, "Roe vs. Wade's Dirty Little Secret: Legal but not Available"; Brooke Hill and Kat Farmer, "Staging *Emma: A Play in Two Acts*"; Rebecca Fisher, "Abortion"; Rebecca Rickard, "Women and AIDS."



(left to right) Jamila Weaver, Alisa Lewis, Brooke Hill, Amanda Abbott, Kat Farmer



(left to right) Shana Patton, Nicolette Tomaszewski, Rebecca Fisher, Rebecca Rickard, Laura Smith, Holly Lanham

## Clothesline Project

The Clothesline Project began in 1990 in Hyannis, Mass., with 31 shirts, each depicting a story of abuse, hung on a clothesline. The Clothesline Project made its way through the United States and came to Austin Peay campus in 1997.

Three times a year, Dr. Eichhorn and the Women's Studies students display the T-shirts on campus to bring awareness to the violence against women. In February, the

Clothesline project is hung to commemorate V-Day, April marks Sexual Assault Awareness month, and October observes Domestic Violence Awareness month.

APSU students get the chance to read the t-shirts, and learn about the unspoken numbers of women who are subject to violence every day. Women are invited to make T-shirts for themselves, or any woman they know who has been a victim of

violence. This process helps give victims a voice, and provides a source of healing. Men are invited to participate in the Handprint Project, where they are asked to add their handprint to a t-shirt, pledging to take a stand against sexual violence.

For more information on the Clothesline Project or domestic abuse, contact the Women's Studies office at 931-221-6314.



## Women's Studies

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The Women's Studies Program introduces students to an interdisciplinary framework with the lives and experiences of women as its focus. Students learn to analyze and assess the impact of the multiple layers of identity women juggle—for example, gender, ethnicity, class, disabilities and sexual orientation—as they study the fields of human history, creativity, economics, society and social sciences. As statistics continue to show more women pursuing higher education and more women in the work force, this program prepares students to negotiate conflicts in the workplace and in their personal lives.

Women's Studies students learn to understand the impact of gender, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation and ability on their lives and the lives of people in the past. Synthesizing the subject of women's lives with skills in critical thinking, the program seeks to create active and informed citizens, workers and parents, guardians or stewards of children.

## Upcoming Events—Spring 2009

- Feb. 10—VDay Movie @ 7p.m. MUC 308
- Feb. 16—Speaker: Kabahita @ 4 p.m. MUC Ballroom BC  
Film: Lumo @ 7 p.m. MUC 305
- Feb. 18—Women's Studies Book Talk Series  
12:30-1:30 p.m. Presenter: Dr. Dwonna Goldstone,
- March 3 & 4—Vagina Monologues @ 7 p.m. CL Auditorium
- March 5—Comedian Tissa Hami @ 5:30 p.m. MUC Ballroom BC
- March 23-27—The Veil Exhibit in the Woodward Library
- March 25—The Veil Exhibit in the MUC Plaza
- March 25—Women's Studies Book Talk Series  
12-1 p.m. Presenter: Dr. Sally Lundin-Schiller
- March 26—Film: Persepolis @ 6:30 MUC 305
- April 2—The Clothesline Project in the MUC Plaza
- April 22—Women's Studies Book Talk Series  
12:30-1:30 p.m. Presenter: Dr. Jill Franks

ARE YOU A WOMEN'S STUDIES ALUM?  
WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!  
[EICHHORNJE@APSU.EDU](mailto:EICHHORNJE@APSU.EDU) OR  
931.221.6314/6315

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Denise Marin, editor



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