

Women's Studies News

May 2004

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History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be un-lived, but if faced with courage, need not be lived again.

-Writer, singer, actress, and activist

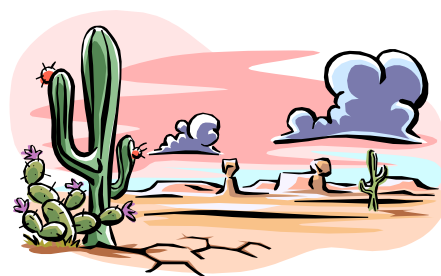
Maya Angelou



Amidst the California fiscal crisis, UCR Women's Studies has continued to grow, thanks to administrative support and the efforts of staff, faculty, and students. We now have 48 majors: 21 primary majors and 27 double majors. The number of minors is equally impressive. Our diversity in terms of both students and faculty is in all likelihood unparalleled among Women's Studies departments in the USA. So join with us in welcoming two new faculty who have decided to join the push to educate ourselves and fur-

ther the scholarly and practical agendas of comparative and transnational feminisms. This year Margie Waller moved 50% of her line—and her home—to Women's Studies, so we can look forward to her teaching more terrific courses for us. In addition, two new faculty will join us in July, raising the number of faculty with full or partial lines in Women's Studies to nine (7.25 FTE). With such dynamic and productive intellectuals who are

also socially involved, the Department stands poised to make a major impact on national and international feminisms. Reflecting this strength, we will be submitting a proposal for a MA/Ph. D. Program in Comparative and Transnational Feminisms in the Fall.



Welcome, Chikako Takeshita

The search for our newest faculty member --in Gender, Science, and Technology--has been successful. **Chikako Takeshita** will be joining Women's Studies full time in July 2004, beginning her teaching in Fall term with WMST 161 *Gender and Science*. She will have earned her Ph.D. in Science and

Technology Studies from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in May. Born in Japan, Chikako's undergraduate training was in Human Science at Keio University in Tokyo, one of the top two universities in Japan. During her undergraduate years she spent a year at Stanford University on an

exchange program in American Studies. She holds an MBA from the Institute European d'Administration (INSEAD), located outside Paris; this training in business gives her a distinctive lens through which to examine economic aspects of research and development in

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Faculty Notes

Christine Gailey will be spending Spring 2004 at the Center for Ideas and Society at UCR, where she will participate in a Ford Foundation-sponsored seminar on Reproductive Technologies and Ideologies. She will be preparing several articles for publication and writing a new piece on race and colonialism in the South Pacific.

Margie Waller will be Acting Chair for the Department during Spring 2004.



Alumnae Notes

Kendall Clark Bonner ('00), who graduated from UCR with honors in Women's Studies and went on to law school, passed the Florida Bar exam last year and is practicing in Tampa. She is an Assistant Public Defender for the 6th Judicial Circuit and has argued three jury cases thus far. Kendall married a fellow lawyer last year and they are expecting a baby in October.

One of the things I learned the hard way was that it doesn't pay to get discouraged. Keeping busy and making optimism a way of life can restore your faith in yourself.

-Actress
Lucille Ball

Darcy Wiewall: Dissertation Fellowship Award

Darcy Wiewall (Teaching Assistant for Gender and Sexuality in 2003-2004) has been awarded an **American Association of University**

Women Dissertation Fellowship for 2004-2005, to the tune of \$ 20,000! Her archaeological research on the impact of state formation on

the lives of indigenous women in the Belize corner of the Maya region is among the first anywhere to trace local women's responses to

taxation and conscription. Congratulations, Darcy!

Piya Chatterjee: Sabbatical in India

For her sabbatical, **Piya Chatterjee** went to **New Delhi, India** to begin new research work on the gender/sexuality and class politics of HIV/AIDS in India. She became both interested, and disenchanted, by the ways in which this pandemic has brought together a corporate funding ethos into both prevention and treatment programs at the grassroots. However, she met incredible people who were working with sex workers rights and sexual minority rights—making really important connections to human rights, and re-defining the politics of (sexual) identity as we might understand these in

a U.S. context.. She then moved to Kolkata, in eastern India, to pursue new work with sex workers there because Kolkata (unlike Delhi) has been the site of some extraordinary mobilizing around these issues—and a place where the “rescue” and “rights” debates around sex workers' mobilizing is very pertinent. She is currently working with the daughter of a sex worker, and a veteran social worker, in the Kalighat para (neighborhood) to put together an anthology of women's oral histories. They are planning to start a small community-based organization (CBO) that brings some relief

to elderly, former sex-workers who exist in a state of destitution in this area. However, the work that she is most excited by is the mobilization of tea plantation women in North Bengal, an area experiencing famine-like conditions: “We have created a CBO, run almost entirely by local plantation women, that does medical relief work, adult women's literacy and micro-credit. Our organization is called **Dooars Jagron**, and the women's wing is called the **Jagron Mahila Manch** (Awake, Women's Place/

Organization). Jagron means “Awakening.” In our adult women's literacy programs, teachers are community women themselves and the textbooks are being written by our organizers, also plantation women. We are preparing to do a Barefoot Nurses Training Program as well.” Colleagues in the US, UK and India have donated generously to make this possible—and we are deeply grateful for these compassionate acts. Please get in touch with Piya at piyachatterjee@yahoo.com if you are interested in this our work. We welcome your solidarity and your interest!

Chikako Takeshita, *continued*

(Continued from page 1)

corporate health and life science industries. Equally unusual in Science and Technology Studies as a burgeoning field of inquiry, Takeshita also holds a graduate certificate in Women's Studies and was awarded one of the highly competitive Dissertation Fellowships from the UC Santa Barbara Women's Studies Program in 2003-2004.

Takeshita's dissertation, "Negotiating Acceptability of the IUD: Contraceptive Technology and the Politics of Fertility Control," examines the relationship of gender ideologies in various countries and business situations in the second half of the 20th century and how these concerns shaped the



development, promotion, and international distribution of various intrauterine devices. Her larger research agenda concerns the gendering of research and development processes in pharmaceutical and other health industries. Chi-

kako's interdisciplinary, comparative approach melds a keen sense of the medical, biochemical, historical, political economic dimensions of contraceptive technologies with a framework that puts the gendering of international research and development at the core rather than the periphery of questions posed.

Although she will come to UCR as a new Ph.D., Takeshita has published articles on bio-prospecting and indigenous rights, has an article on contraceptive technology and reproductive rights soon to appear in *Advances in Gender Research*, and has written about feminist pedagogies in the sciences. A versatile scholar, Takeshita also has published a multimedia textbook on *Engineering Culture in Japan*

(2001), having worked as a systems engineer for IBM. Beyond all of these contributions to scholarship, Chikako has translated a series of books into Japanese.

Chikako will be building our upper division curriculum in gender and science, including new courses such as *The Gender of Technologies/ Technologies of Gender, Race, Gender, Sexuality, and Medicine, Gender, Technology, and Globalization, Technology and Masculinity, Technology and the Feminization of Labor, and Gender and Globalizing Media.* The latter three courses link her research with that of other members of the Department. We will profile Chikako Takeshita in the Fall *Women's Studies News* online edition.

Welcome, Toby Miller

Professor Toby Miller is a world-renowned scholar of intersectional cultural studies who comes to UCR from New York University and a distinguished career on three continents. Starting in July, Women's Studies will be sharing Professor Miller's time with So-

ciology and English. Toby will be helping to shape the Film and Visual Culture program. Women's Studies is eagerly anticipating the contributions that his energy, vision, and comparative and political-economic perspective on gender and cultural production will make to our intellectual

lives in classroom and as a colleague.

Toby has published a great deal on gender, sexuality, and nationalism in film, including pieces on the James Bond movies and on "The Avengers" television series. One of his newest research projects analyzes the feminization of offshore software production for the video gaming industry, even as the games

themselves become increasingly aimed at twenty-something and adolescent male audiences in the post-industrial North. His writings on gender, sexuality, and sport will translate into a course on the topic for our upper division students. When he settles in, watch the *Women's Studies News* for an interview with Professor Miller.

Alicia Arrizón: UCHRI

Alicia Arrizón has been in residence since Winter at the UCHRI (University of California Humanities Research Institute, UC Irvine). She is part of a

group organized and convened by **Professor Judith Halberstam** from UC San Diego. The group, "Queer Locations: Race, Space and Sexuality" is dedicated to interdisciplinary

research on sexual geographies or the interactions between place, space, desire, and sexual practice. While some scholars in the group may be working on queer cultural production in relation to specific locations, other scholars might be conducting ethno-

graphic or empirical research on "global sexuality," sex tourism, racialized desire or "translocal homosexualities." In addition to working in the group collectively, Professor Arrizón is completing her book manuscript, *Queering*

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María Chee: Exploring WMST 10

María W.L. Chee taught Women's Studies 10 (Women and Culture) in Winter 2004. This lower division course surveys the roles and images of women in culture as material artifacts and ideational systems, by looking at selected literature, music, paintings, films, and migration of African Americans, Asian Americans, Chicanas, Euro Americans, and Native Americans. Students learn the fluidity of the normative, and how age, class, gender, socio-political economy and race/ethnicity intersect within his-

torical contexts. They also see that biologically sex differences exceed the simple binary male/female dichotomy, and that gender systems are social constructions within cultural contexts. One course requirement is students' group cultural production such as drama, poetry, collages, paintings, or a combination of the above. Why this project? Dr. Chee answered, "So students get in touch with their artistic and creative psyche in addition to intellect; to tap both hemispheres of their brains, if you will." The stu-



María Chee beside student project. Located in Women's Studies Conference Room, Watkins 2122.



ents' enthusiasm was impressive, as evidenced by their masterpieces now on exhibit in the Dept's Conference Room in Watkins Hall. Please ask the Dept for a key to view these excellent works. María is re-

peating this course in Spring 2004, now enrolled beyond capacity.

Marguerite Waller: Challenging Globalization

Marguerite Waller is completing work on a volume of essays, called **Difference and Dialogue: Feminisms Challenge Globalization**, which she is co-editing with Mexican feminist **Sylvia Marcos**. The contributors to the volume write about feminist initiatives in many venues, but their focus is on what happens when we try to talk to one another and to collaborate politically across differences of many kinds. Collectively they hope to make this process more productive. Here is how Margie and Sylvia describe the overall project, to appear in March 2005 from St. Martins/

Palgrave Press: Calling for inclusion and dialogue, these essays by an international group of feminist scholars and activists, stress the need to put into relation seemingly discrepant approaches to reality and to scholarship in order to build coalitions across the usual North/South and East/West divides. This diverse group of authors, who spent fourteen weeks working collaboratively, dispense with unity and seek instead to use dialogue and difference in their production of knowledge about effective political action. The dialogues materialized here

among women's movements that have emerged within different contexts and cosmologies take feminisms' challenges to contemporary corporate globalization in new empirical and theoretical directions.

Margie is also headed for a conference on Feminist Challenges to Globalization to be held in Dublin, Ireland this July and is working with colleagues **Piya Chatterjee, Tracy Fisher, Ellen Reese, Manali Desai, and Amalia Cabezas** on a new project focusing on globalization, women's poverty, and

women's activist and theoretical responses to the workings of multi-national, corporate Empire.



Alicia Arrizón, *continued*

(Continued from page 3)

Mestizaje: Writings on Transculturation and Performance (tentatively title). In its analysis of postcolonial-Spanish sites in Latin American/U.S. Latino contexts, the Caribbean, and the Philippines, her book opens a space of negotiation regarding the hybridization produced by trans-cultural processes that generate new epistemologies, diverse

subject formations, and transdisciplinary affiliations. The book locates the imaginary borders of *mestizaje* as a form of transculturation by examining specific bodies, such as the *mestiza* and the *mulata* (both interchangeably with cultural *mestizaje*), and by tracing diverse genealogies of racialized, gendered and sexualized bodies.

Collectively, Professor Arrizón is contributing in the group organizing a symposium hosted by the "Queer Locations" residential group. The event took place at the University of California, Irvine on May 11 and 12, and featured panels organized around "Queer Keywords" and ways of reimagining and recontextualizing queer social, political and aesthetic

practices. The group is eager to engage in a dialogue with other scholars, artists and activists dealing with the notion of "queer" in diverse contexts. For more information about "Queer Locations: Race, Space and Sexuality" residential research group (including a full-length description of the group's research proposal), please visit the UCHRI website:

<http://www.uchri.org/resgroupsfellows03-04.html>



Teaching Assistant **Katrina Paxton** next to "Outstanding Teaching Assistant" Plaque.

Honoring Katrina Paxton

We are sorry to say goodbye to a valued member of our department, TA **Katrina Paxton**.

Katrina began working for Women's Studies in 2001 as a reader and has been a teaching assistant for WMST 001 numerous times. During her time here, she was not only an active, well-liked TA who

did several guest lectures in the class, but she was also TA of the Year, 2002.

Katrina earned her Masters' Degree in Public History in 2003 and is currently studying in the Sociology Department. Spring 2004, Katrina is working with professors

and graduate students in a group at the Center for Ideas and Society.

In early summer, Katrina is moving to Washington state. We will miss Katrina's warm, energetic personality and wish her the best in her future endeavors!

Mark Bernhardt: TA of the Year

Women's Studies would like to congratulate our TA of the Year, **Mark Bernhardt**. Mark, a third year PhD candidate in History who recently passed his oral exam, has been with us for seven quarters. As a TA, he has created an interesting guest lecture on gender, race, and body ideals. He is well-liked by his students, which is reflected in his stellar evaluations each quarter. Additionally, he is an eager, hard-working colleague.



In addition to his great work in Women's Studies, Mark has been the recipient of a number of honors, including the Graduate Dean's Dissertation Research Grant and the Humanities Research Grant. Mark plans on completing his dissertation, which looks at representations of class, gender, and politics in pictorial news reporting, in Spring 2006. Until then, you can find him doing a wonderful job in our department. Thanks Mark!



WMST Volunteers Help Spread the Word

**Tuesday & Wednesday, April 13th & 14th, 2004,
Commons Mall**

Women's Studies represents what the department has to offer to inquiring students. With the help of current WMST students (*featured on right and below*), others were informed about the details regarding the major and minor, what classes are available, and also had the opportunity to have their questions answered.



Volunteers working Women's Studies booth.



From left to right: Susana Lopez, Elizabeth Chavez, Vanessa Lam, Tina Giacalone, Catherine Lim

UCR student **Leanne Thach** comments, "What I got out of the WMST table was the chance to meet five nice young ladies. The people there were very friendly and we talked about the issue of sweatshops. I walked away knowing that there are people who do care, such as the five I met, and that is a sign of hope to change the apathetic environment at UCR." Thank you, volunteers, for all your help!

Congratulations, WMST Graduates!

Here's what some of our graduates had to say about experiences and future plans:

Dinery Villagomez: After graduation, I am planning to take a great vacation to Europe for about twelve days. I recently got accepted to California Baptist University for grad school to become a marriage family therapist. In the Fall (September 7th to be exact) I will start the program. I am extremely excited about both these plans. I will definitely miss UCR, and in

particular the Women's Studies Department. All of the professors and the faculty in the department are a complete delight to associate with. These are the future plans for me. Congratulations to all the graduates, but of course a special congrats to all the ladies in the Women's Studies Department; aim high and good luck to all your future endeavors.

Ani Varitanians: I do not have anything to say about myself. I do have something to say about the people who work in the Women's Studies Department. You guys are some of the most wonderful people I have ever come across. Thank you for all your help and support. I really appreciate it.

Modern invention has banished the spinning wheel, and the same law of progress makes the woman of today a different woman from her grandmother.

*-Primary organizer, speaker, and writer
Susan B. Anthony*

WMST Graduates, *continued*

Kristina Schuster: I will be leaving for Europe to venture through 18 countries and journaling all of our adventures. Next year, I hope to attend La Verne Law School in January and obtain a law degree. Hopefully I will live close to the university. Also, my favorite memory of UCR is the compassion and intelligence of the Women's Studies Department. The department always put the education of students first and promoted the growth of an individual. I give my gratitude to all who educated me.

Corina Galdamez: It was not until last Spring quarter that I decided to become a Women's Studies major. I took a phenomenal class my sophomore year—the Sociology of Women led by Marilyn Engstrom—and fell in love. I decided to take on Women's Studies as a second major, and it was the best thing I could have ever done. When people ask me about women's studies or why I chose it as a major, I try to tell them that I see it more as an ideology that empowers me. Women Studies is more than a major, it is a way of life. Fortunately, I had the opportunity to fulfill some of my Women's Studies requirements abroad in Barba-

dos. It was a rewarding experience which exposed me to a culture completely unlike my own, and allowed me to explore gender issues from a different perspective. Most importantly, it allowed me to indulge myself into their culture, not as a tourist, but as a student. As for my future endeavors, I plan on attending graduate school and having a career of my own, but I'm in no hurry to run down that path. Until then, I'd rather live life impulsively as it comes, hopefully exploring and taking in all that the world has to offer.



*Graduating Senior,
Corina Galdamez*

To our graduating majors and minors, the **Women's Studies Department** would like to wish you good luck in your future goals and congratulate you on your past achievements. You've all worked very hard these past few years here at UCR, and a very bright future awaits you. We would love to stay in contact, so please don't be strangers!

Congratulations, Majors!

Fall 2003
Nancy Garcia

Winter 2004
Jenny Ramirez
April Smith

Spring 2004
Tricia Alicante
Pamela Alvarado
Scotia Amirault
Amanda Card
Corina Galdamez
Tina Giacalone
Jeena Narula
Elaine Paz

Laura Sanchez
Kristina Schuster
Dinery Villagomez
Susan Walls

Summer 2004
Sylvia Aguirre
Ani Vartanians
Erin Yates



... and Congratulations, Minors!

Fall 2003
Michelle Cardenas
Luckevia Thurman

Winter 2004
Blanca Gonzales

Spring 2004
Julie Andrews
Kristen Barron
Michelle Berumen
Carolina Bojorquez
Sharon Ehrhart
Laura Escobar
Denise Goerisch

Peggy Gutierrez
Sahib Jon
Karina Martinez
Rosanna Parizek
Cynthia Romero
Evelyn Santana
Rebecca Zapico



Your Women's Studies Faculty, 2003-2004:

Christine Gailey

Alicia Arrizón

Amalia Cabezas

Piya Chatterjee

Tracy Fisher

Georgia Warnke

Marguerite Waller

—and over **35 Affiliated Faculty** in other departments who teach courses related to Women's Studies.

Check out what Women's Studies is offering this

Summer 2004!

(First Session)

WMST 001 Gender and Sexuality:

MTWR 11:20-am-12:50pm

WMST 030 Violence Against Women:

MTWR 2:40pm-4:10pm

Please visit <http://summer.ucr.edu> or phone UCR Riverside Extension Center at (909) 787-3044 for more information.

In the **Fall 2004**, Women's Studies is also offering:

WMST 001 Gender and Sexuality

WMST 011 Media Imagery of Women and Class

WMST 020 Women, Feminism, and Society in a Global Perspective

WMST 100 Gender Theory

WMST 132 US Women, Gender, and Sexuality

WMST 161 Gender and Science

WMST 195 Senior Thesis

WMST 198-I Individual Internship

WMST 103 Sexualities and Culture

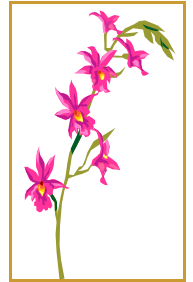
WMST 302 Teaching Practicum

The Fall 2004 Schedule of Classes is available online at <http://www.students.ucr.edu/schedule/current/search/>

Special Thanks

To **Tina Giacolone, Jequetta Bellard,** and **Kristina Schuster** for their time and volunteerism. We greatly appreciate all your help and presence around the office! You all contributed to make the office a more pleasant and helpful environment for other students as well as faculty members. Once again, thank you!

Nancy Huynh designed and organized this issue of the newsletter. Fabulous job, Nancy!



**Women's Studies
Year End Celebration**

When: Tuesday, June 1, 2004
Where: Women's Studies Conference Room
2122 Watkins Hall
Time: 11:30am – 2:00pm

Please come help the Women's Studies faculty, staff, and students celebrate graduating seniors; present student, TA, and staff awards.

A light luncheon will be served.

Please RSVP by May 28, 2004 to Kris King at kris.king@ucr.edu or by phone at (909) 787-6361.

Please come for all or part of it. We would like to acknowledge all of our graduating seniors.

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