Just since the last UCR Women's Studies Newsletter, the number of our Women's Studies majors and minors has grown by about a third: we now benefit from 53 majors and 41 minors. Why such dramatic growth? According to student faculty/course evaluations, our combination of top quality courses, user-friendly and knowledgeable staff, and faculty who care about teaching while conducting cutting-edge research has a lot to do with the success. This year we will have 20 graduating majors, and 17 graduating minors: check this issue of the Newsletter again in June for an Addendum that profiles the graduating seniors. The ethnic, racial, sexual, and nationality diversity of our students and faculty is unparalleled among Women's Studies departments in the United States. UCR Women's Studies certainly “walks the walk” of our mission: “Producing Knowledge Through Diversity”. With such dynamic and productive upcoming and respected intellectuals who remain socially involved, the Department stands poised to make a major impact on national and international feminisms.

One way we plan to do this is through proposing an M.A./Ph.D. Program: Global Studies in Women, Genders, and Sexualities. The Department will be submitting it in Spring 2005, beginning what is generally a three-year process as the proposal wends its way through the U.C. evaluation/approval process. Alicia Arrizón wrote the draft that all of the faculty are now refining, based on a faculty-graduate student retreat: thank you, Professor Arrizón. The proposal builds on the integration of postcolonial (and so, comparative) feminist theories with critical race and queer theories that characterizes the undergraduate curriculum in Women’s Studies at UCR. We’re proposing that after a core series of courses in theories and methods, graduate students concentrate on two of the following three “Fields of Emphasis”:

1) Global Feminisms: Postcolonial Politics, Colonization, and Social Change
2) Theories of Sexuality: International and Comparative Perspectives
3) Critical Gender and Race Theories: Issues and Representations

The program complements other graduate offerings in the U.C. system and certainly provides a unique approach among other Women’s Studies graduate programs in the U.S. Watch here for updates and meanwhile, join the staff and faculty in a hearty “Congratulations!” for all the graduating seniors.
**Alumnae News**

**Dr. Jami Brown** (Ph.D. Sociology, 2003) has a tenure-track position at Riverside Community College (RCC) in the Sociology Department, starting this Fall. Jami’s dissertation was titled “Sexual Assault on University Campuses” and was affiliated with Women’s Studies throughout her graduate student years. Dr. Brown established and directs the Women’s Center at RCC. Congratulations, Jami!

Diana MacDougall, (alumna of Women’s Studies/Anthropology, 2003) was just approved for Associate Professorship status at Riverside Community College, where she is a full-time, tenured faculty member in the World Languages Department. Furthermore, she has been asked by the Sociology Department Chair to teach a Sociology course in the fall, along with her regular load as American Sign Language/Interpreter Educator. Congratulations, Diana!

**Tracy Fisher: Globalization, Grassroots, and Activism**

Tracy Fisher spent the Fall 2004 quarter on maternity leave after the birth of her son, Dylan, in the Summer of 2004. She is currently in residence at the Center for Ideas and Society and has been working with colleagues, Amalia Cabezas, Piya Chatterjee, Ellen Reese, and Margie Waller for three years on a Ford Foundation-sponsored project “Adjusting Women, Cloning Poverty? Global-ization, Neo-Liberalism, and Grass-roots Resistance.” The collaborative research project is committed to interdisciplinary approaches to globalization, women’s poverty, and women’s activism. Tracy will resume teaching in the Spring 2005 quarter. Next year will be teaching a new course “Women and Grass-roots Organizing in the U.S.”. She is currently developing a course on feminism and race.

**María Chee: Taiwanese American Transnationalism**

María W. L. Chee finally comes up for air – Routledge has just released her book *Taiwanese American Transnational Families: Women and Kin Work*. It examines the effect of transnationalism on Taiwanese American families in a global political economy with historical specificity, at the intersection of race, class, gender, and generation with special attention to its impact on women. She intersperses her personal narratives with research data, making the book both synchronic and diachronic in ways that are dialogic and polyphonic. This book is one of only a handful on Taiwanese Americans. It provides theoretical insights and needed comparative studies on non-working class transnational families and in the Pacific Rim region. The book is based on her dissertation co-chaired by Professors Christine Gailey and Michael Kearney. The dissertation was funded in part by a grant from the Pacific Rim Research Program and a Dissertation-Year Fellowship, both from the UC Office of the President, as well as a Fulbright grant, among others. Dr. Chee co-organized two panels with anthropologist Dr. Kyeyoung Park of UCLA for the Association of Asian American Studies Annual Conference held in Los Angeles, April 2005 where her own presentation dealt with space signification and power. She has also conceptualized her next book project. In addition, she said, “I’m onto caring for my flower and veggie gardens.”

Dr. Maria Chee smiles with her book for the camera inside Watkins Hall.
Piya Chatterjee: Research in India and Dooars Jagron

Piya Chatterjee has been busy traveling and working in India during the past year. She started a new research project on sex workers and AIDS in India during her sabbatical year (2003-2004) but this has gone “on hold” because of her organizing and research work in the North Bengal tea plantations, her first “field” site. Because small tea plantations in this area have not been able to compete in the global marketplace, they have been abandoned. As a result, thousands of workers have lost their livelihood and three thousand have died of starvation. To claim their lives against such a catastrophe, tea plantation women and other folks have formed a community based organization called Dooars Jagron.

Because of the generous support of folks in the US, UK and in India Dooars Jagron has taken off. Piya notes, “we are deeply organic and I am the only “outsider.” Rita Chetri, the principal organizer is a plantation worker herself. It is truly coalitional work.” Dooars Jagron is focusing on Literacy Circles, run by women themselves, which will teach both basic and political/human rights literacy in the communities. Rita and Piya are planning to write a book together on this project. If you are interested in knowing more about our organizing, and in helping us, please contact piya at piya-chatterjee@yahoo.com or dooarsjagron@yahoo.com.

Piya is also starting work on a new book project called Sipping Desire: Race, Capital and Its Labors which will be tracing the contemporary crises, and its genocidal effects, by looking closely at global multinational tea capital and its historical deployment through racial, ethnic and gendered registers.

Marguerite Waller: Dialogue and Difference

Marguerite Waller’s new volume, Dialogue and Difference: Feminisms Challenge Globalization, has just been published by Palgrave. The book, co-edited with Mexican feminist Sylvia Marcos, is the result of a collaborative residency at the U.C. Humanities Research Institute which brought UC faculty (including Women’s Studies professor Amalia Cabezas and Comparative Literature professor Yenna Wu) together with feminist scholar/activists from other parts of the world.

The book demonstrates the necessity of moving beyond the dominant paradigms of knowledge and communication that drive corporate globalization. The group’s working hypothesis was that profound differences in culture, cosmology, historical and political situatedness, language, and religious practice should not be seen as impediments to collaboration and mutual understanding. On the contrary, these differences are crucial to the development of feminist practices and epistemologies that can effectively challenge the “group think” of corporate expansionism. Drawing on diverse disciplinary and interdisciplinary backgrounds as well as divergent geographic and cultural experiences, the authors demonstrate the power of dialogue across difference for the creation of new feminist knowledge on human rights, development, social justice, and social change. They show how seemingly opposing views can provide the basis for new conceptual frameworks that challenge more limited forms of feminism while contesting imperial globalization.

Darcy Wiewall: TA of the Year!

Please join us in congratulating the Women’s Studies Teaching Assistant of the Year, Darcy Wiewall. Darcy, a PhD Candidate in the Department of Anthropology, has been teaching for us since Fall 2002. Her infectious and enthusiastic manner in the classroom has made her a real asset to our department and we are happy that she will be working for us as she completes her dissertation in 2006. In addition to her hard work in Women’s Studies, Darcy has been a Teaching Assistant for Anthropology and an instructor for several outreach programs focused on anthropology and archaeology. Darcy is also busy at work on her research on Mayan women, spending many months on site at Lamanai in Belize. In her “free” time, Darcy is an active member of Women in Anthropology and the Outreach Coordinator for UCR’s Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance. At her research site, she has implemented a program to train local women as archaeological research assistants. Thanks for all your hard work, Darcy!
Intricacy

By Amalia Cabezas

One of the course assignments for the “Women, Work and Capitalism” course this Winter was to conduct a labor history interview with an older woman. Most students chose to interview their mothers. Following is a composite of the interviews that reveal some of the commonalities that ran through most of labor histories.

“A life history is full of intricacy, emotion, health, family, wok, entertainment, philosophy, religion and the interactions of all of these. To say that only one of these topics can tell the whole story of a person’s life would be naïve. Before this interview, I had no notion of the hate, discrimination, and obstacles my family had to face in order to reach the “American Dream.” Being a woman is not easy in this world.”

“My mother began working at around the age of three or four, at this age her duties were to help my grandmother, carry water, wash dishes, and assist her older sister in small household chores. At the age of nine, my mother began taking care of my grandmother’s fourth born child. Working in the strawberry fields every summer from age ten through age 14, she would pick up to 100 quarts being paid by the quart. At the age ten she was allowed to attend school, however, this did not mean that her duties at home had lessened. School was never an option for my mom.”

“Her struggle to get an education and then to find a job was a journey all its own. She only attended school up to the 5th grade, leaving behind her older siblings who had started school before her. At the age of 13 her brother took her out of school so that she could help take care of her newest sister. As [my] mother began to grow she seemed to be the only one that would help my grandmother the most. Her brothers were supposed to be doing the yard work but once they realized that she could do it they quickly gave it to her. Such is the irony of cultures, which even while allocating a higher share of food and nutrients to sons, expect (and even demand) daughters to have shoulders strong enough to bear the dual burden of household and outside work.”

“She got a job as a housekeeper, helping a woman with the washing, cleaning and cooking, she was paid 100 colones per month. However, this was not enough to support her four children so she took a job as a waitress. In order to make ends meet she decided to take in ironing and laundry of people in her neighborhood in order to make small amounts of money. In the weekends, she would make tamales to make some extra money to cover expenses. This was also when she first got cancer.”

“At the factory it was difficult for her because of her accent. The atmosphere was often tense and many people were mean. She was sometimes treated badly because men thought women were cheating men out of their jobs. And really it was not just a matter of ass-kissing, it was a matter of not taking any abuse or sexual harassment in order to remain in their employ. She told me about a night when she was asleep after there had been a big party; she said that a man entered her room in an at-

(Continued on page 6)
Congratulations, WMST Graduates!

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

**Karla Fernandez:** I have been at UCR too long to depart from it and not leave a personal mark behind. I originally enrolled at UCR in 1996, but decided to take time off after not being able to find affordable daycare for my son. I left convinced that I did not need a University diploma to find a decent paying job, thinking that it only required hard work on my part. I applied to several retail stores thinking that some of the years I had spent in college could aid me in being hired. Some responded that my qualifications were too high and that they did not have a job opening available in the position I was looking for.

In any case, I realized that it was harder than what I had thought, so I decided to come back to school in 2002, after my second child. I enrolled into “Sociology of Women,” which not only helped me understand some of my personal frustrations at home, but also decide to declare Women’s Studies as a minor.

One night I dreamt that I was pregnant, carrying a backpack and walking up a mountain along with several other students. Some passed me while I felt I was running out of breath. I felt the need to stop and rest, but seeing other students passing me by made me feel like I couldn’t.

Now I understand my dream: I not only had my academic load to carry, but also my role as a mother. Being a mother, a housewife, a housemaid, a worker, and a lover is a complicated task. Society cannot put such high expectations on mothers, to be everything all at once, and still force us to worry about appearance. If we follow society norms instead of having women helping other women, you have a society in which women criticize their own gender, never satisfied but confused with whom they are. Women’s Studies is not just the study of women, but everyone else who is born out of her. It is about the life of her sons, her daughters, and others who are not accepted in our society.

I am glad I took time off and extended my graduation date after having added a second minor, because prior to becoming a mother I felt lost within myself. I did not want to bring children into a world that even I did not understand. When I came here, I wanted not only academic knowledge, but also personal growth. This institution has provided me with tools that will allow me and my family a better lifestyle, and Women’s Studies has provided me the knowledge about how society impacts my life and my children’s lives.

**Kristen Schneider:** I am a third-year double major in Women’s Studies and History. I was in D.C. this past Fall quarter through my admission to the UCDC program, interning at the DC Rape Crisis Center.

My position was in the Community Education department. For the first month, I worked very closely with both of my supervisors and elementary school children. No, we did not educate them on rape, don’t worry. The DCRCC deals with all issues relating to sexual violence in all its forms, including child sexual abuse.

Disclosures (where children tell you they have been abused) were extremely difficult, as we had to extract details from children to report to Child Protective Services. Perhaps what was most difficult was when children asked, “Why do people do these things to children?”

My second month was devoted to junior high schools, dealing with issues of self-image, mutual respect, and sexual harassment. What was most difficult was trying to break down the ideas that were already planted in their minds, which makes me wonder, how hard would it be to break down others?

Another challenge for me personally were my preconceived notions of race. DC is a city with one of the largest and diverse Black populations. I say “Black” specifically because a large portion of this group is composed of immigrants, not all of which are of African descent. The socioeconomic status of Blacks in D.C. is as diverse as there are colors in the rainbow. There are the poorest of the poor, and the richest of the rich.

Issues of race, gender, class and sexuality all intersect in DC. The neighborhood in which I lived, Dupont Circle, is known as a homosexual neighborhood, some point to the numerous art galleries and eclectic restaurants as a reason. It’s as though there is a belief in that locale that only homosexuals are culturally aware. Living in DC forced me to look at everything in my life under a new light and re-examine it.

In my next year before graduating in June of 2006, I hope to study in Rome and Paris to further focus and shatter my lens and any hidden assumptions that may lie within. How do race, gender, class and sexuality really function beyond the borders of the United States?
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Intricacy continued

(Continued from page 4)

tempt to rape her, luckily she woke up and screamed and the lady of the home came running in. She recalls these incidents as horrible memories. The internal pain that she gets is from all the hard work she has done. This was when cancer recurred for the 3rd time.

“It is so depressing to live in a society which is unwilling to accept and embrace those who kill their backs doing the dirty work for such little pay; to live in a society where it’s o.k. to take advantage of those who don’t speak English, those who look different. She recalls that since we were all illegal, it was work to take us to school, because she would always have to hide from the “migra” she would have to be very cautious because if she wasn’t we wouldn’t have a mother. My mom mentioned that her boss thought she was an illegal immigrant, because of the lack of English-language skills. Sometimes, people asked her “where you from?” in a derogatory, racist manner. She was unwilling to work for someone who had taken advantage of her.”

“She would have wanted to go into something where she would have liked to help people and not to take their money and invest it, and for them and make the rich richer and poor poorer. I think this definitely has a lot to do with the cultural upbringing. She loves her job. She is running a program and making decisions that affect how the employees do their work and how their clients are served. She enjoys her job because she is able to be close to home, and this is worth taking on a salary that is not as large as what she had previously earned. She was able to have a lot of fun exploring cities like Las Vegas and Los Angeles while doing something that she really enjoyed. She has health insurance, paid vacations, she just went to El Salvador in December of 2004 and she contributes to a 401K-retirement account, but most importantly she has a job that she enjoys.”

“She has given me the privilege to go to school and become a better person. My adult path is made smooth by the sacrifices of her youth. I admire her perseverance and strong mind, without it I don’t know where I'd be. However, her thoughts and experiences did confirm that women with paid jobs experience discrimination based on their race and gender, and encounter conflicts between their work and private lives. I have more respect for her now that I understand her background.”

“I am thankful for the opportunities I have gotten. Although, I should consider myself lucky to be here, I don’t. I have fought and struggled to open the doors. My mother has been the most hard working woman I have ever known, a woman quiet, determined, calm and always behind the scenes. Her story is chequered with periods of working outside the purview of the household, with the burden of household duties a constant duty to be completed with utmost sincerity at all times. After learning about all the different roles my mother had to take on as babysitter, maid, garden maintenance, mother, worker, wife, cook, etc. it make me realize how extremely lucky I am in that I have never had to labor so extensively in ways she has. She will find the perfect job soon, though, because for the last thirty-four years she has never given up on looking for it.”

Check out what Women’s Studies is offering this Summer 2005!

(First Session)

WMST 001 Gender and Sexuality
MTWR 11:20-am - 12:50pm (4)  P. Chatterjee

WMST 030 Violence Against Women
MTWR 1:00pm - 2:30pm (4)  B. Ptalis

WMST 133 Women, Gender, and Sexuality in US History: 1850 - Present
TR 1:00pm - 4:00pm (4)  D. Weber

Please visit summer.ucr.edu or phone UCR Riverside Extension Center at (951) 827-3044 for more information.

Far away there in the sunshine are my highest aspirations. I may not reach them, but I can look up and see their beauty, believe in them, and try to follow where they lead.

- Louisa May Alcott
Congratulations, Majors!

Arlene Tingas: In the spirit of this being my last year at UCR, I determined that my Senior Thesis should be something that would spark an interest and discussion. After taking the Sexualities and Culture Class, taught by Assistant Professor Dr. Amalia Cabezas, I have begun my research based on the need to find reasons for why certain subjects are taboo for women more than they are for men. Specifically, my Senior Thesis is “Masturbation: More Taboo for Women than Men.”

My first ambition was to discover the reasons for why sex is so taboo for women than it is for men. However, the subject of sex became too broad of a topic, and in looking at the specifics within the category, I came across the subject of masturbation – a subject that is hardly ever discussed.

Yet even when masturbation becomes a matter of discussion, why is it that the taboo is placed more on women than it is for men? With help from Dr. Cabezas and the Women’s Studies Department, my Senior Thesis will be delving into the reasons behind this taboo. By researching the reasons why such a taboo is in place, I hope to generate a better understanding of what makes masturbation such a forbidden topic.

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 To

Jequetta Bellard, Sheri Correa, and Shiva Darbandi, nominees for the 14th Annual Awards Celebration for “Women Who Make A Difference,” presented by the Women's Resource Center. You are all wonderful, beautiful women who have helped make the world a better place. Once again, congratulations, and good luck with all your future goals!

Special Thanks

To Jinhee Kim for her time and volunteerism in Fall of 2004. We greatly appreciate all your help and presence around the office! You’ve helped 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!

Your Women’s Studies Faculty, 2005 - 2006:

Alicia Arrizón
Amalia Cabezas
Piya Chatterjee
Tracy Fisher
Christine Gailey
Toby Miller
Chikako Takeshita
Marguerite Waller

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

Women’s Studies Potluck and Year End Celebration

When: Wednesday, June 1, 2005
Where: Women’s Studies Conference Room
2122 Watkins Hall
Time: 12:30pm – 2:00 pm

Please join us in celebrating graduating seniors, and in presenting student and TA awards.

A sign up sheet for the potluck will be available in the Women’s Studies Department, or send it by email to Kris.

Please RSVP by May 27, 2005 to Kris King at kris.king@ucr.edu or by phone at (951) 827-6361.

Please come for all or part of it. We would like to acknowledge all of our graduating seniors.
Congratulations, Women’s Studies Majors and Minors!

Fall 2004 Majors
Jacqueline Crabtree
Michelle Ellis

Winter 2005 Minors
Astra Anderson
Dacie Leyva-Gomez
Crystal Mansker
Lucy Olivera

Spring 2005 Majors
Joquetta Bellard
Angela Bolanos
Samantha Bramske
Carmen Gomez-Albarran
Rocio Guerrero
Elizabeth Hui
Maria Martinez
Linda Medrano
Wajiba Raniot
Martin Roskarte
Shannon Shafroth
Natalie Thropay
Tambilo Toongson
Jane-Arlene Tinga
Rebecca Vazquez

Summer 2005 Majors
Katherine Beagle
Jihan Ghoul$query
Kelly Herrera

Fall 2004 Minors
Laura Gonzalez
Lora Kojagolian

Winter 2005 Minors
Kimberly Hordash

Spring 2005 Minors
Patricia Aguayo
Jacob Barnhart
Jennifer Davis
Karla Fernandez
Yulisna Iniguez
Aarti Maharaj
Eileen McCann
Jessica Heintz-Miller
Heidi Marillo
Silvia Ramirez
Kimberly Schmidt
Eileen Ward

Summer 2005 Minors
Elisa Haro
Lisa Yu