Congratulations to all our graduating seniors! This issue of the Women’s Studies newsletter is devoted to your many achievements, your plans for the future, and your reflections on your years at UCR. We have been enriched by working with you, and we want you to stay in touch. Let us know where you are, what you are doing, and how so that we may all continue to support one another.

It has been an eventful Winter and Spring for the whole university community. Struggles to reverse the trend of defunding education are ongoing. We encourage you to keep those cards, letters, emails, and delegations coming to Sacramento. Our state legislators need to know what we do, how it benefits the state, and what the dire consequences will be of letting California students down.

Our faculty continue to break new ground in their teaching and scholarship. During Winter Quarter, we celebrated the publication of Professor Chikako Takeshita's new book, *The Global Politics of the IUD: How Science Constructs Contraceptive Users and Women’s Bodies*, with a festive lunch and a stimulating talk by Professor Adele Clark, UC San Francisco feminist sociologist and scholar of the history of health sciences, whose presentation was called "At last! The (Re)Turn to Contraception Studies." This Spring we celebrated Professor Sherine Hafez's new book *An Islam of Her Own: Reconsidering Religion and Secularism in Women's Islamic Movements*, again with a great lunch and wonderful talk by our nearby Pomona College colleague, Dr. Zayn Kas-sam of Pomona’s Religious Studies Department. Professor Christine Gailey organized this year’s Jane Block lecture, given by Professor Harriet Rosenberg of the University of Toronto. Professor Rosenberg's talk on "Evidence for Caution: A Women's Health Movement Perspective on Biomedicine and Cholesterol-Lowering Drugs" attracted a rapt audience numbering over 150 who came from across the UCR campus and the Riverside community.

Save the date and time! On June 6, noon to 2 pm we will have our end of the year awards ceremony and celebration of all of our majors and minors. Lunch, great company, and a lot of fun will be provided. Happy Graduation and have a wonderful summer!

Marguerite Waller
Acting Chair

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**Students interested in the major/minor should contact**

Cassee Barba
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"Congratulations to each and everyone of you--and your families--for your wonderful accomplishment. I know that it has been a struggle for many of you and your families to pay for your education and to come to this great moment of transition and change. I hope that what you learned in our classrooms was transformative for you and that you will take those seeds of critique and open-ness with you wherever you go. I know that as a WMST teacher for 17 years at UCR, I have been deeply transformed by so many of you--and full of gratitude for that. You have touched me with your disagreements, your curiosity and your care. The work that we do in feminist classrooms is that of "mutual" recognition" and I remember that everyday when I step into one of our classrooms. Thank YOU for making that possible. I will be leaving UCR to take up another job in the coming year (at Scripps College in Claremont). If you need any help or just want to be in touch, and have a cup of tea, please don't hesitate to contact me at piyachatterjee@yahoo.com."

Professor Piya Chatterjee

"Congratulations graduate! Be proud of your accomplishments. Remember that your graduation is a new and open door."

Professor Alicia Arrizón

“Dear Graduates: Congratulations on your tremendous accomplishment! I am inspired by the knowledge that you are our next generation of feminist and queer leaders. The world desperately needs you -- your analysis, your bravery, your passion, and your empathy. Go forth, fight the good fight, and please stay in touch!”

In solidarity, Professor Jane Ward

"Hoping you all enjoy this wonderful success. I wish you the best that life has to offer, I hope you will dare to be yourselves and have the courage to be the change you wish to see in the world!"

Professor Sherine Hafez

“Congratulations! I commend you for all the effort and hard work you put in to come this far. Keep moving forward and don't look back. I wish every one of you the very best for the future. And please remember, we faculty love hearing from alums. So, don't be a stranger!”

Professor Chikako Takeshita

“Congratulations to our graduating seniors! As you move toward your next set of adventures, remember that every effort is a step, every conversation is a spark, and every day is a chance. Best of luck and hope what you learned in Women's Studies serves you well in your future endeavors!”

Professor Tammy Ho
By Alicia Arrizón

This is a tribute to Adrienne Rich, lesbian feminist poet and essayist, who died March 27, 2012 at age 82.

I was lucky to have met Adrienne Rich during my doctoral studies at Stanford University in 1990. The first time I attended one of her poetry readings, I was not only captivated by her voice but also by the beautiful poetic images of her poetry. Her poetry taught me that politics and poetics can be linked as an expressive journey by which love, feminism, power and humanism could be used as tools for transformation. In one of her online essays, she wrote “[w]e may feel bitterly how little our poems can do in the face of seemingly out-of-control technological power and seemingly limitless corporate greed, yet it has always been true that poetry can break isolation, show us to ourselves when we are outlawed or made invisible, remind us of beauty where no beauty seems possible, remind us of kinship where all is represented as separation”. She insisted on the power of language as means of coping with a world and life that are not always just and pleasing. Poetry for her, was a daily necessity, “the core of every language, something that is still spoken, aloud or in the mind, muttered in secret, subversive, reaching around corners, crumpled into a pocket, performed to a community, read aloud to the dying, recited by heart, scratched or sprayed on a wall. That kind of language.”

In 1978, Adrienne Rich wrote my favorite collection of poetry, *The Dreams of a Common Language*. The poetry collected in this book was written for women and about women. Although she wrote approximately 25 collections of poetry, I am most fascinated by *The Dreams* because it was the first book that she wrote after coming out publicly as a lesbian in 1976. The second section of the book, “Twenty-One Love Poems”, has been considered by many critics an open proclamation of her sexual desire and lesbianism. She ends poem XXI with a reaffirmation: “I choose to be a figure in that light, half-blotted by darkness, something moving across that space, the color of stone greeting the moon, yet more than stone: a woman. I choose to walk here. And to draw this circle.”

Most notably, in her 1980 essay “Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence,” Adrienne Rich critiques the effects of the institution of heterosexuality and encourages all women to examine its patriarchal effects. Her essay is considered a masterpiece in lesbian academic circles, but the greatest power of her ideological formulations lies precisely in their ability to reach other identified feminists who are not necessarily lesbians.

Adrienne Rich is widely read and recognized as one of the major American poets of the second half of the 20th century. Among her awards and honors, to mention a few, she received a Guggenheim Fellowship (1952); a MacArthur Fellowship (1994); Honorary Doctorates from Smith College (1979) and Harvard University (1989); the William Whitehead Award for Lifetime Achievement (for gay and lesbian writing); the Griffin Poetry Prize (2010). Notably, in 1997, she declined the National Medal of Arts as a protest against the House of Representatives’ vote to end the National Endowments for the Arts. In a letter published by the *New York Times* (July 11, 1997), Adrienne Rich wrote to Jane Alexander (head of the National Endowment for the Arts): “I cannot accept such award prom President Clinton of this White House because the very meaning of art, as I understand it, is incompatible with the cynical politics of this administration”.

Adrienne Rich was a powerful, brave and inspirational woman. Her achievements are far too numerous for me to list in this newsletter. Although I only mentioned a few of her major intellectual contributions, I want to urge you to take a moment to read one of her poems, or essays, or anything written by her or about her. Think for a moment of what we have lost and honor her legacy.

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Evidence for Caution: A Women’s Health Movement Perspective on Biomedicine and Cholesterol-Lowering Drugs

*Professor Harriet Rosenberg*

York University, Toronto, Canada

*Professor Harriet Rosenberg is a medical anthropologist and scholar/activist/public anthropologist with a specialization in women’s health advocacy. Her lecture focused on conflicting narratives about the benefits and harms of cholesterol-lowering drugs—especially statins—for women. She gave accounts of her work with a coalition of caregivers and knowledge activists who strive to understand statin adverse effects and support the recovery of those who have been harmed.*
Women's Studies Course Offerings

Fall 2012
WMST 001: Gender and Sexuality
WMST 010: Women and Culture
WMST 020: Women, Feminism, and Society in Global Perspective
WMST 148: Gender and the State
WMST 156: Women and Citizenship
WMST 185: Gender, Race, and Medicine
WMST 189: Gender, Technology, and the Body
WMST 191b: Feminist Research Methods

Spring 2013
WMST 001: Gender and Sexuality
WMST 009: Women, Politics & Social Movements
WMST 010: Women and Culture
WMST 020: Women, Feminism, and Society in Global Perspective
WMST 100: Gender Theory
WMST 128: Critical Approaches to Heterosexuality
WMST 176: Gender, Human Rights, and Transnationalism
WMST 191b: Feminist Research Methods

Winter 2013
WMST 001: Gender and Sexuality
WMST 030: Violence Against Women
WMST 100: Gender Theory

WMST 134: Queer Identities and Movements
WMST 162: Women's Issues in Modern Muslim Thought
WMST 191a: Feminist Epistemologies

Women's Studies Sponsored Events

Women Challenging Militarism & State Repression
Lecture celebrating the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize Winners, Leymah Gbowee, Tawakkul Karman, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf (Organized by Christine Gailey and Sherine Hafez)

Disaster Patriarchy and Hurricane Katrina: The Intersectional Politics of the Movement for a Just Reconstruction
Rachel E. Luft, Associate Professor of Sociology, University of New Orleans

At Last! The (Re)Turn to Contraception Studies
Adele Clarke, Professor of Sociology of Medicine, UCSF Celebrating the publication of The Global Biopolitics of the IUD (MIT, by Professor Chikako Takeshita

An Islam of Her Own: Reconsidering Religion and Secularism in Women's Islamic Movements
Zayn Kassam, Professor of Religious Studies at Pomona College
Celebrating the publication of the book by Professor Sherine Hafez by the same title.
Tammy Ho was awarded a Wabash Pre-Tenure Workshop Summer Fellowship in March 2012; the $5,000 award supports research during the second summer of a Wabash Pre-Tenure Teaching Workshop. Dr. Ho’s “Larissa Lai’s ‘New Cultural Politics of Intimacy’: Animal. Asian. Cyborg” was published in *Periscope*, the online forum for the journal *Social Text*. The January 2012 *Periscope*, curated by Jayna Brown (Ethnic Studies, UCR) and Alexis Lothian (USC), focuses on “Speculative Life.” Joining an interview with China Miéville and other pieces on Afro-Futurism, Octavia Butler, and Janelle Monáé, Ho’s essay examines the fiction and poetry of Lai, a well-known Chinese-Canadian author-scholar-activist.


Sherine Hafez’s article, “No Longer a Bargain: Women, Masculinity, and the Egyptian Uprising,” was published in *American Ethnologist* as part of the journal’s special issue on the 2011 Egyptian Revolt.

Tracy Fisher’s forthcoming book, *What’s Left of Blackness: Feminism, Transracial Solidarities, and the Politics of Belonging in Britain*, will be published from Palgrave McMillan as part of the Comparative Feminist Studies Series. *What’s Left of Blackness* analyzes the political transformations in black women’s socially engaged community-based political work in England from the late 1960s until the 2000s. It situates these shifts alongside Britain’s political economy; and against the discourse and deployment of *blackness* as a political imaginary in which to engage in struggles for social justice.

Chikako Takeshita brought a number of speakers to UCR as co-organizer (with Juliet McMullin, Anthropology) of the Mellon Workshop on Medical Narratives. Her article (co-authored with Christine Gailey and Jenni Keys), “Clicking in the Women’s Classroom” was published in the book *Feminist Cyberspaces*. (see Faculty Co-authored Article).


Based on the experiences of teaching WMST 001: Gender and Sexuality in a large stadium classroom, this article explores the ways in which clickers or a classroom response technology may be used to enhance feminist pedagogy.
Piya Chatterjee, Associate Professor

Dr. Chatterjee is starting a new professional career as the Dorothy Backstrand Endowed Chairship in Women and Gender Studies at Scripps College. Originally in the Anthropology Department, Dr. Chatterjee has been a faculty of UCR for 17 years. She is one of the founders of the Center for Women in Coalition and has given her services in countless areas of research, teaching, activism, and mentoring.

Congratulations, Piya. We are proud to have you as a colleague. Thank you for your friendship, wisdom, and work you have done. We will miss you and we wish you the best.

Piya Chatterjee is the author of *A Time for Tea: Women, Labor and Post/Colonial Politics on an Indian Plantation* (Duke University Press, 2001). She is also the series editor of Dissident Feminisms (University of Illinois Press).

Kris King, Former MSO

I began working at UCR in Sept. 1997 as temporary office help in the Philosophy Department. In April 1998, I was hired permanently as the Graduate Secretary in the Department of Philosophy. Then in August 2002, I transferred to the Department of Women’s Studies. I was the only permanent staff person in the department for several years, until Renee DeGuire was hired. I loved my job in WMST, working with the fantastic faculty and students. 2011 and the beginning of 2012 brought many changes, and proved to be a very difficult time in my career and personal life. These changes led me to making the decision to taking an early retirement from UCR. Although I do miss everyone in WMST, so far I love retirement. My husband and myself plan on traveling and spending time with family, including my grandchildren.

Kris played a vital role in the department: she kept the department running for us. Faculty was able to focus on research and teaching relying on Kris to take care of everything else for us (which she always did quickly and meticulously). Students will remember Kris as the face of the department who was always friendly and helpful. We miss you and wish you a happy retirement.

Christine Gailey

Dr. Gailey is moving her full line to Anthropology in the Fall. Dr. Gailey has been with UCR since 1999. As department chair (1999~2006), Dr. Gailey built UCR Women’s Studies into one of the strongest program in the nation. We thank her for the dedication with which she supported our department, colleagues, staff, and students. Her energy, creativity, and insight will be missed in faculty meetings. Students will still be able to take Dr. Gailey’s classes that are cross-listed between Women’s Studies and Anthropology.

Introducing!

Cassee Barba, Undergraduate Academic Advisor

Hi, my name is Cassee Barba and I am 1 of 4 advisors in the Department of Women’s Studies. I currently assist all Women Studies freshman and meet with all students who are interested in changing their major to Women Studies, interested in declaring Women Studies as a second major, or declaring a minor in Women Studies. I also maintain the enrollment for all Women Studies classes.

I was first introduced to the field of Woman Studies at UCLA where I earned my BA in History. I had the amazing opportunity to take a class (then another and another) with Professor Ellen Dubois who taught classes on the History of Feminism and Feminist Movements around the World. After earning my degree, I relocated to the Inland Empire and began my career here at UCR in Teacher Education. I then became an Admissions Counselor and eventually landed my career goal as an Academic Advisor. I have been at UCR for close to 15 years and I love my job and I love UCR. I love the diversity of the UCR Campus and I love the accessibility to professors here at UCR. I am a product of a UC Education and I believe in the transformative powers of an education.

On a personal note, I am married and have three great children. AsiaLynn is my oldest. She will be 21 in August and is an aspiring Rap Artist. My younger children are Sophia (4 years old) and Jesse (3 years old) and make their moma feel like a child again. The baby of the family is my Chihuahua-Yorkie mix, Chico. He is 2 years old and runs the household.
Women’s Studies in the 2012 UCR Undergraduate Research Symposium
by Chikako Takeshita

Students who participate in the Undergraduate Research Symposium present their faculty-mentored projects to an audience of peers, faculty and administrators. They also have their abstracts published in the Symposium Proceedings. This year, three sets of dedicated participants mentored by Professor Takeshita presented their research projects.

Yvon Guzman-Ragel (Women's Studies and Chicano Studies) and Sandra Robles (Women's Studies) started "The Complexities of 'Community Gardens'" as a final project for WMST191b: Feminist Methodologies in Research (Winter 2012). During the Spring quarter, they continued to work on the project, which involved interviewing community garden organizers and participants in Riverside and San Bernardino. They found that gardens in wealthier communities were better attended and crops were more bountiful than the one in a predominantly Latino neighborhood. They also discovered that the significance of community gardens for various people were different and it reflected their values and life conditions. Organizers on college campuses and wealthier neighborhoods viewed community gardens as a means to promote local food sourcing that is healthier and eco-friendlier than conventional industrially produced foods. Those who attended the garden tour in the Latino neighborhood, on the other hand, conceptualized the space as a potential safe haven from street violence for young adults, a place of healing through growing life, and a way to address health issues such as diabetes in their community. Yvon and Sandra's study turned into activism. They are now actively involved in vitalizing this particular community garden while they continue to learn from local organizers, environmental activists, and gardening experts.

When my group and I first began working on this research it was for a class assignment, we each had motives as to why we chose to research the community within community gardens. While working on this project we realized that there were many issues with the awareness toward these gardens within low-income communities. Seeing these issues made us realize that we are capable of doing something to promote awareness, thus we conducted a case study, which involved organizing a garden tour. Doing this was a great experience because I felt like I was able to contribute something to the community. It was a fun and great learning experience, while working on this research topic, it felt good to know that we are doing something for the community that benefits it in many ways.

Sandra Robles

Jasmine Barba (Sociology and Chicano Studies) and Lauren Chavez (Women's Studies and Anthropology) presented the final project they produced for WMST191b: Feminist Methodologies in Research (Winter 2012). Their study, "Yo Quiero Taco Bell: A Critical Look at the Recreation of Mexican/Mexican American Food -- Commercialization and Colonization into American Society," analyzes the history and TV commercials of "Mexican" Fast Food Restaurants. They found that typical advertisements utilize Mexican icons such as a Chihuahua and a Mariachi band to present their products as exotic and fun. An older commercial showed a hyper-masculine white male to demonstrate that an iconic American loved tacos and found "crossing the boarder" exciting. Either way Mexican-ness is marked as the "other." Jazmine and Lauren argue that Taco Bell, Del Taco, and such, which were founded by non-Mexican Americans, turned cultural heritage into a commodity and colonizes Mexican food.

Alanna Ocson (Global Studies) developed a final group project she did in WMST185: Gender, Race, and Medicine (Fall 2011) into a poster presentation entitled "Native American Visibility and Infant Mortality." She noticed that while Native Americans had high infant mortality rates only second to African Americans, she had scarcely heard of their plight. Comparing major newspaper articles that addressed the health conditions of Native Americans and African Americans, she found that the latter had been reported far more frequently than the former and with suggestions for solutions. Native Americans were mostly discussed only in passing if at all. She argues that increased media visibility would foster a better understanding of Native Americans' struggles, which might help communities receive more support for efforts to improve their health.
Jordan Rohde
Women’s Studies Academic Excellence Award; Barbara and Donald Donner Essay Award (Religious Studies); Social Justice award, A Day of Appreciation and Recognition of Women Students; Nominee, Chancellor's Excellence Award

Honors Thesis
“Strait-Laced Sephardim: The Ideologies of Tzniut Modesty Practices in Sephardic Orthodox Jewish Women of Brooklyn, NY” (Senior Thesis Advisor: Professor Piya Chatterjee)

I work with women in Middle Eastern Sephardic Jewish Orthodox communities of Brooklyn, NY—attempting to identify the importance of tzniut (modesty) and personal aesthetics codes in this community. The aim of this ethnography is to identify how modesty and personal choices of dress can act as a window to larger political and social themes and implications. Orthodox Judaism is a matriarchal religion, and thus the Sephardic Orthodox Jewish fertile female body is the tool used for building the Sephardic Jewish nation. Adding on to the responsibility to nation-building, the female observer of tzniut takes the religious usage of her body further by exercising her understanding of piety and purity through the covering of her body. This specific community is unique in that some women have fully adopted tzniut codes of wearing wigs, full length skirts and high necklines, whereas other women in the same community dress in American secular style clothing—pants, short sleeves, and no head covering to speak of. The gradient of clothing practices that exists in this community reveals how individual agency is used in choosing to visibly express religious identity—which further illuminates another method in which the female body may be used as a tool for religious ritual practice. My hope is that this study will add to the larger body of academic knowledge on tzniut codes, and the implications of Jewish female modesty.

I'm inspired, taken aback, and delighted to have majored in women's studies, and to have worked so closely with such truly amazing professors. You all have challenged me, pushed me, and helped me grow academically and personally. Your encouragement to pursue my research interests has changed my life forever. Through my undergraduate career, I was drawn to ethnographic work in Orthodox Jewish modesty. At times, I got raised eyebrows from faculty about my research interest, but the continued support from women's studies professors has led me to want to take my research goals to graduate school. Before joining women's studies, I never could have guessed that I would have taken this path, but now that I have, it couldn't feel more right. I am overjoyed to have found passion and empowerment in the women's studies department at UCR. I am eternally grateful to the women's studies faculty for the continued support, wisdom, and guidance. Thank you all for being such incredible and caring individuals.

--Jordan Rohde

We proudly present examples of Women's Studies majors and minors who are applying their feminist academic training to activism/advocacy on campus. Here are three Women's Resource Center sponsored presentations and discussions organized by our majors and minors for the campus community and another with the LGBT Resource Center. Kudos to Sanisha, Karla, Jennifer, Mariam, Joe, Liz, and Malhar!

**Invisible: A Genderqueer Perspective**
As a project for WMST198G: Internship led by professor Jane Ward, Sanisha Meador (4th year Women's Studies major, LGBT minor) facilitated this event regarding the challenges faced by trans-identified people. The 1.5 hour session included guest speakers, video clips, information on how to be an ally, and on- and off-campus resources, and Q & A.

**Disappeared: A Presentation about the Women in Juarez**
Karla Deleon (5th year Women's Studies/Psychology major), also a student of professor Ward's Internship course, organized this presentation, which brings attention to the international institutional structures that drive national violence against women. Through her presentation of Mexican women who "disappeared" in Juarez, Karla raised questions about U.S. investor's indirect role in their plight and informed the audience what they can do to assist families of the victims in Juarez.

**A Mental Blueprint: The Psychological Effects of Domestic Violence on Victims from Childhood to Adult**
Jennifer Galarze (5th year Psychology major and Women's Studies minor) coordinated this event, which screened "First Impressions: Exposure to Violence and a Child's Developing Brain" and featured guest speaker Deb Alexander from Alternative to Domestic Violence. This session, which examines the psychological effects of domestic violence on children and explores the socio-emotional development of those children, was repeated twice by popular demand.

**QueerMinds: Past, Present, Future**
Mariam Hakimi, Joseph Louis, Elizabeth Tizcareno, and Malhar Shah put this event together for professor Ward's class WMST134: Queer Identities and Movements. Radical queer group, "we are who we say we are," showcased art, poetry, photography and a student-produced documentary pertaining to queer life at UCR. Defining queerness as a broad but all-inclusive term relating to any sexual activity or identity that falls into the "deviant" category, they highlighted the history, challenges, and progression of the queer movement in the United States as well as presented the talent and stories of the queer community at UCR.
The most memorable moment I had in Women’s Studies is when my group did a presentation for Professor Cabezas’ WMST 40: Women, Aids and the Global Economy class, and instead of just presenting our article, we critiqued the article so much. Professor Cabezas loved our presentation and called us “Grad Students.” It was rewarding and an honor to have given that big of a praise from the Professor Cabezas.

My most memorable moments in Women’s Studies was when I first started college and took my FIRST Women’s Studies class. After that, I was eager to learn more and more, until I figured it might be best to just declare it as another major instead of just taking them for fun.

All the great discussions in Professor Ward’s classes.

My most memorable moment in women studies, I would have to say was in the veil and Muslim class because that was the class that made me realize I wanted to major in women studies.

The most memorable experience in Women’s Studies was the bonds I have created with numerous classmates because I feel so fortunate to have experienced these bonds from Women’s Studies. I feel grateful that I have met wonderful people who are passionate about Women’s Studies as much as I am. I also hope to keep in contact with them after I graduate because I think I have made plenty of intelligent and amazing lifelong friends.

My most memorable moment in Women Studies was actually coming to an understanding that every single woman brings/contributes great ideas/works to societies. Throughout my elementary, Jr. high and high school life all I’ve ever learned about was men and the ideas they contributed. Learning about extraordinary women and the simple lives they lived and their ideas have really opened my eyes and has allowed me to want to help to make a change in society.

My most memorable moment in Women’s Studies took place in the Fall 2008 in Women’s Studies 001 with Professor Gailey. It was the moment I fell in love with Women’s Studies & it was love at first sight. :)

Every class that I have taken with the women’s studies department has opened my eyes tremendously. I have not had a class in which my perceptions of the world have changed and furthered my understanding. Although I cannot pinpoint an exact moment, I would like to say each class has.

My most memorable moment was making a movie for Dr. Ward’s class.
Women Studies is a very useful major. Many may think it is a major that only discusses women’s issues, when in reality that is not the case. In Women’s Studies we discuss a wide range of issues, and in the long run the information that is learned can benefit everyone in any career choice they plan on taking.

Enjoy it! It is a wonderful program that gives you a new way to look at the world.

Women's Studies is such a broad yet inclusive field. It's so interesting because the things we learn are relevant to everything in our lives and in our society. Many people have the common misconception that this major is all about studying women; that’s just one part of this major. Keep an open mind and be willing to open yourself up to things you've never thought of before. Challenge yourself. This major prompts you to challenge everybody.

Women studies is a very interesting major that would get you to think outside of the norms that society has created for you, but it is also challenging because you begin to look at things in a different light which may not always be what you are used to.

Enjoy every bit of it!

I would like to say get ready for an amazing and definitely challenging department, classes, and material. Depending of your own investment and abilities remember to have an open yet critical mindset within the classroom atmosphere as well as your own reflections on things presented to you. One last thing, don't be afraid to challenge yourself, your peers, and your professors because this, in my opinion, is a mutual growing experience for everyone.

Women’s Studies is not about hating men. It is about empowering women and everyone who is put down by society. It is a safe place to voice our opinions, critique society, and advocate for our rights. I would like to quote the movie the Matrix, “This is your last chance. After this, there is no turning back. You take the blue pill - the story ends, you wake up in your bed and believe whatever you want to believe. You take the red pill - you stay in Wonderland and I show you how deep.

Enjoy every minute of it and of what all the professors have to offer, which is a lot. Make sure to volunteer or do internships, have fun and enjoy it all. Women Studies is one of those few majors that allow you to have fun while learning, not only about women but also men, children all in different situations from all walks of life. Stay connected with the Women Studies department and the Women's Resource Center.

To incoming Women's Studies majors I would say try to take a course with each Women’s Studies professor because their different teaching styles and background broaden your knowledge with women’s issues. I have truly enjoyed the variety of professors I have encountered and their knowledge.

Question everything. Ask a lot of questions. And don’t leave class depressed; praxis is power.

I would like to tell the students to keep an open mind because Women's Studies can change a person's perspectives on the status quo on society and while it may seem bleak at times, I would also tell them to remember that they make actions to change it as long as they have a group who agrees with their views along with passion and diligence. Also be willing to communicate with people who have different views and come from different backgrounds because these dynamics are the best to challenge oneself.

Stay focused and don’t lose hope because you can make a difference.

To the future Women's Studies students: WELCOME WELCOME WELCOME!!!. Even though others might give you a hard time about why you chose such a major, EDUCATE them on what Women's Studies is about and how this major will prepare you for any field.
Congratulations to the Class of 2012! We did it! Good luck to you & your future endeavors.

I would like to say farewell to Professor Piya Chatterjee as she will be leaving UCR after 17 years teaching here. Future women's studies majors will definitely be missing out on one of the greatest professors here at UCR. I believe the world needs more people like her who aren't afraid to voice their opinions no matter how aggressive that opinion may come across. I have transferred that same passion into my life and my own convictions.

UCR has an amazing Women's Studies program. I have 2 majors and all of the professors who have mentored me the most, gave me a helping hand or advice, and wrote my letters of recommendations have all been my WMST professors.

It might feel lonely sometimes, but remember that your voice truly matters and one person can start a movement!

I want to say thank you to every professor I have interacted because of the major; Professor Waller, Professor Ho, Professor Fisher, Professor Arrizon, Professor Hafez and Professor Ward. I also want to thank all the great classmates I have met because all of these interactions have made me a better person than I have ever been before.

Thank-you to all the Professors and Staff in the Women's Studies Department. Your strength and knowledge enable all of us graduates and Women's Studies students to be empowered and aware about the world. You have taught us to appreciate our differences, to listen and read critically, and most importantly