It is our twentieth anniversary this year, and, like the nineteen years that have preceded this one, it has been an eventful year for UCR’s Women’s Studies Department. Despite budget cuts, and the restructuring of our offices and staff, the Department is launching new initiatives that take up the challenges of climate change and health care. We are introducing an interdisciplinary Bachelor of Science degree in Women’s Studies, which will offer two major tracks, one in Health Studies and one in Sustainability Studies. We have also submitted a request to change the name of the department to Gender and Sexuality Studies, a name that acknowledges our curricular breadth, the range of students’ interests, and the nature of faculty research. Meanwhile, eight of our colleagues in other departments, who already contribute generously to Women’s Studies, have agreed to become official co-operating members of the Department. Faculty research has also had a banner year. Highlights include Tammy Ho’s new book *Romancing Human Rights: Gender, Intimacy, and Power between Burma and the West*, which will be published by the University of Hawaii Press, and Jane Ward’s *Not Gay*, which is under contract with New York University Press. Professor Ho has also been granted a residency at the Center for Ideas and Society in Spring, 2014 for a collaborative study of “Gender and Anti-imperial Critique Across Asia.” Professor Arrizón’s forthcoming publication, “Martha Chaves’s ‘Staying Alive’ Narrative: Comedy, Migration, and Feminism” will be included in the first publications on Latina/o-theatre and performance studies in Canada: *New Essays on Canadian Theatre: Latina/o Canadian Theatre and Performance*. Read on in the Newsletter for more news of faculty publications.

Among the many events organized by department members are a colloquium on Teaching Islam, a conference on medical narratives, entitled Medical Examinations: Art, Story, Theory, a presentation and exhibition by artist/activist Heather Ault commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision, a talk by Ramon Rivera-Servera of Northwestern University entitled Performing Queer Latinidad: Dance, Sexuality, Politics, and a symposium on Postcolonial Cinema. Professor Hafez’s students have also organized an undergraduate colloquium called Queering The Middle East. The faculty are extremely proud of our graduating majors and minors, about whom you will read more throughout this issue of the newsletter. You continue to amaze your instructors and each other with your innovative ideas, your resourcefulness, your political and social activism, and your ambitions for the future. This year Women’s Studies major Kassy Peterson has been chosen by the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences to receive the Tomás Rivera Award for “outstanding academic and/or creative achievement and demonstrated commitment to community service.” Not least, our deepest gratitude for the hospitable good cheer and very hard work that volunteer Ryan Mariano (B.A. Women’s Studies 2012) and Work Study office manager Kassy Peterson have contributed to the department throughout the year. Ry and Kassy have kept the office and the neighborhood warm and lively, creating a hospitable oasis where students and faculty can come together to find support, incubate new ideas, and enjoy one another’s company. Thank you, Ry and Kassy! Save the date for our Graduating Senior Recognition and 20th Anniversary Celebration, June 5, 2013 from noon to two p.m. Guests will include the founder of the department, Professor Carole Shammas, now at USC in History, L.A. performance artist Jeanne Cordova, and community activist, departmental benefactor, Jane Block.
After having been on sabbatical leave the Fall and Winter quarters, Professor Arrizón returned to the classroom invigorated and ready to conduct the classes that are so integral to her professional growth. While on leave, she worked on multiple projects, though her focus has been on developing the theoretical concerns of her new book project. Tentatively titled *Borderless Borderlands: Performing Migration, Gender and Sexuality*, the book challenges the fixed notion of space and examines the complex factors involved in migration and the act of border crossing. During Professor Arrizón’s leave, she conducted research in Canada and produced an article for publication, “Martha Chaves’s 'Staying Alive' Narrative: Comedy, Migration, and Feminism.” The essay will appear in the first publication on Latina/o-theatre and performance studies in Canada: *Latin@ Canadian Theatre and Performance: New Essays on Canadian Theatre* (Forthcoming September 2013).

In this past year, Professor Sherine Hafez has worked on various projects including presenting papers at national conferences and at UCR, coordinating events on campus and beyond. Hafez was voted President of the Association for Middle East Anthropologists this year. She has completed 4 invited essays that will appear in journals and encyclopedias, including an invited article on women in Tahrir for the journal *Signs*, another on Islamic citizenship in the Journal of Middle East Women’s Studies as well as an encyclopedia entry on Islamic Feminism and a chapter in a book on Islamic Education. She is currently working on a new research project that tackles the subject of women’s participation in protest movements in the Arab world for which she will be travelling to do research during the coming summer.
In October 2012, Professor Tammy Ho was a plenary speaker at "Feminist Sinologies," a conference hosted by U of Michigan, Ann Arbor. On February 1, 2013, Ho coordinated "Teaching Islam in the Post-9/11 University," a public symposium and workshop at UCR. Visiting Asian American faculty in Islamic Studies (Zayn Kassam, Aysha Hidayatullah, and Martin Nguyen) joined in productive conversation with UCR faculty Sherine Hafez (WMST) and Muhamad Ali (Religious Studies & SEATRiP), both affiliated with the Middle East and Islamic Studies (MEIS) program. In March, Ho shared her work on Chinese-Canadian author Larissa Lai at the UC Berkeley conference "Speculative Visions of Race, Technology, Science and Survival." In April, Ho spoke at the Association for Asian American Studies (AAAS) annual conference in Seattle, as part of an "Author Meets Critics" panel discussion on Joseph Cheah's book Race and Religion in American Buddhism: White Supremacy and Immigrant Adaptation (Oxford, 2011); the panel was organized as part of the Asian Pacific American and Religion Research Initiative (APARRI).

This academic year, Professor Takeshita worked on two publications. One is an article called "Eco-diapers: The American Discourse of Sustainable Motherhood," which will appear in an anthology called Motherhood in the Age of Neoliberalism from Demeter Press in the fall of 2013. The other is a contribution to a roundtable discussion marking the 40th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision. This will also appear in the fall of 2013 in a feminist scholars journal called Frontiers. She also gave several presentations based on her first book on the IUD that came out last year including the Association of Women in Science at UCR and the University of Basel in Switzerland. She started her second book project on cesarean section. This quarter, many of the students in WMST191b: Feminist Methodology in Research are acting as her research assistants and conducting group research on different aspects of surgical birth. They are making valuable contributions to the overall feminist study on C-section. The rest of her students in WMST191b are working with and conducting research for local feminist organizations through UCR Undergraduate Research in the Community. She is very happy for those students who were able to gain this experience. Next year, she will be teaching five courses and be continuing her study of maternity care.
Department Chair Margie Waller began the academic year with a talk in Paris, at the international Crossroads of Culture Conference, on her new edited volume Postcolonial Cinema Studies. Back at UCR she hosted a symposium that brought five of the book’s authors together with UC Riverside faculty to extend the book’s dialogue between cinema studies and postcolonial studies. She also presented a paper on Italian woman director, Sabina Guzzanti at a symposium on “New Trends in Modern and Contemporary Italian Cinema” at Indiana University and a paper on a feminist initiative in the Global South called the ”Courts of Women” at a meeting of the working group “Bridging Humanities and Social Science Frameworks to Human Rights: Feminist and Decolonial Approaches” at UC Santa Cruz. Her essay on Guzzanti is forthcoming in the journal Luci e Ombre and her essay on the Courts of Women is forthcoming in a volume from SUNY Press.

Professor Jane Ward is proud to report that this spring her blog FEMINIST PIGS reached over 100,000 hits and readership in over 90 countries; she braved the cold to present her research in Winnipeg and Vancouver (where she met many fabulous Canadian feminists); AND she potty-trained her 3-yr old. Her recent publications include essays in three provocative edited volumes: The Feminist Porn Book: The Politics of Producing Pleasure (The Feminist Press, 2013), A Critical Inquiry Into Queer Utopia (Palgrave 2013), and Chasing Rainbows: Exploring Gender Fluid Parenting Practices (Demeter Press, 2013). She is also working on a manuscript provisionally titled Not Gay: Straight White Men, Homosexual Sex, and the Making of Heterosexuality, which will be published in 2014 by NYU Press.
Course Offerings for the Academic Year of 2013-2014

Fall 2013:

- Women's Studies 001: Introduction to Gender and Sexuality, two sections, (Lecturers)
- Women's Studies 010: Women and Culture (Hafez)
- Women's Studies 020: Women, Feminism and Society in a Global Perspective (Takeshita)
- Women's Studies 100: Gender Theory (Arrizón)
- Women's Studies/CPLT 123: Transnational Feminism in Film and Media (Waller)
- Women's Studies 166/MCS 127: Chicana/o Cultural Studies and Gender Politics (Ho)

Winter 2014:

- Women's Studies 001: Introduction to Gender and Sexuality (Ho)
- Women's Studies 010: Women and Culture (Ho)
- Women's Studies 030: Violence Against Women (Lecturer)
- Women's Studies 128: Critical Approaches to Heterosexuality (Ward)
- Women's Studies 134: Queer Identities and Movements in the U.S. (Ward)
- Women's Studies 151: Islam, Women and the State (Hafez)
- Women's Studies/ETST 175: Gender, Ethnicity and Borders (Arrizón)
- Women's Studies 191B: Senior Seminar: Feminist Methodologies (Takeshita)

Spring 2014:

- Women's Studies 001: Introduction to Gender and Sexuality (Lecturer)
- Women's Studies 010: Women and Culture (Waller)
- Women's Studies 020: Women, Feminism and Society (Takeshita)
- Women's Studies 100: Gender Theory (Arrizón)
- Women's Studies/ETST 175: Gender, Ethnicity and Borders (Arrizón)
- Women's Studies 103/ANTH: Sexualities and Culture (Arrizón)
- Women's Studies 135: Love, Desire and Lesbian Sexuality (Ward)
- Women's Studies 152: Theory of Gender Inequality (Ward)
- Women's Studies 198G: Internship (Waller)
Academic Excellence

Congratulations to Kassy Peterson for receiving the CHASS Tomas Rivera Award!

Congratulations to Kassy Peterson and Elizabeth Tizcareno for receiving the Activist/Scholar Award!

Congratulations to Precious Odum, Jovi Hernandez, and Holly Wood for receiving the Departmental Service Award!

Congratulations to Ry Mariano for receiving the Friends of the Department Award!

Congratulations to Monica Uppal and Yesenia Gurrola for receiving the highest GPA awards for the WMST department!
Where Our Seniors of the Class of 2013 are Going

**John Costello** took one Women’s Studies class and has been hooked from the start, and is able to balance his life as both Anthropology and Women’s Studies major. John Costello intends to use his background in Women’s studies in his future endeavors. His degree in Women’s Studies will enable him to help labor movements and discuss the gender division of labor at his internship in UCLA. Later, he plans on going to grad school and he will focus on Women’s Studies.

**Tyler Davis** showcases the various things people can do with a Women’s Studies major. She will be working at a rehab center assisting a physical therapist, when she graduates. Eventually she plans on starting a non-profit organization for women’s health issues. Taking WMST 001 and taking Women and Sex Trade with Professor Cabezas influenced her passion for women’s health issues.

**Arturo Garcia** is a Women’s Studies Major who is currently working at the House of Ruth, which is a domestic violence resource center. He uses his education in Women’s studies to help both men and women who have been abused, and also to give a broader perspective on the discourse that is being used with regards to domestic violence. He plans on studying Gender Theory in grad school and he intends to push for a more androgynous world because he believes that a penis-centered world is unjust.

**Amina Gass** is a Psychology and Anthropology major with a minor in Women’s Studies. She plans on applying to grad school in the Fall and wants to pursue Medical anthropology and study health disparities and racialized medicine. Women’s Studies will be incorporated in her future endeavors because some of the trajectories that are in grad school touch base on Women’s Studies. For example, classes that are in relation to Women’s Studies, women, gender, and health, and how women are used in the reproductive policies. Nonetheless, these trajectories will allow her to look at impact of health policies and gender.
**Jovi Hernandez** is going to graduate over the summer quarter but will participate in the commencement ceremony. She plans on applying to grad school in the Fall quarter after she finishes summer. Jovi’s area of interest is gender issues in relation to family dynamics. She plans on attending a graduate program that allows for her to learn more about these issues. Women Studies has changed her politics on family life and gender, which she feels are important in her interest of study.

After graduating, **Precious Odum** plans on studying for the upcoming LSATS and applying to Law School this fall for the next academic year. She intends to study Criminal Law and hopes to become a prosecutor one day. She has both a Political Science and Women’s Studies degree, and her degree in Women’s Studies will help her pursue her law career. She intends to give a voice to voiceless women in various communities by defending women who have experienced various forms of violence, and intends to work closely with prostitutes and sex trafficking victims around the world.

**Kimberly Ortiz** went to an Eco-Femme project on campus, where Kathy Walkling started an eco fem project in India. Women in India either bury sanitary napkins or burn them so Kathy Walkling decided to help them make their own sanitary napkins, in order to eliminate waste. It was at this pivotal moment when Kimberly Ortiz decided to develop this same Indian eco-fem project in Zambia. She has already started thinking about how Zambian women can generate their own income. She has been keeping in contact with the women in India who are giving her samples of sanitary napkins so she can get started. Additionally, since her parents live in Africa, Kimberley intends on moving out there herself where she can work with focus groups for women to raise awareness about the topic of sanitary napkins. Incorporating women’s studies, she wants to help women, especially in Africa where health and environmental issues are such a big problem.
Arnold Quirino is a Philosophy/Law and Society and Women’s Studies major, who plans on going into law enforcement. He plans on incorporating his Women’s Studies background in his work by being involved in the Rape Crisis Center that allows him to have a better understanding of women who have been sexually assaulted. He wants to be able to gain a broader perspective not only for himself, but hopefully for his fellow co-workers will could develop a better approach when dealing with sexual assault victims with the help of some critical knowledge gained in WMST.

Tarra Samuelson is a Women’s Studies major who intends to keep her job at Klatch coffee where she interns for the International Women’s Coffee Alliance. It’s an international forum for women in all coffee producing companies to come together to voice their needs and concerns. She discovered that she is an asset at her internship because of her education in Women’s studies, which will allow her to give her work a different perspective on issues that involve women.

Nancy Duron is a Women’s Studies major who had originally planned on doing business, but after being drawn by the concepts of Women’s Studies, she plans on going to nursing school to help women. She plans on opening up a free clinic for women, especially battered women. She also uses her Women’s Studies education by being part of the Litinic Societas Unitas (LSU) which is a sisterhood, that focuses on women’s empowerment.

Vanessa Ortiz is an Anthropology and Women’s Studies Major who plans on applying to grad school after taking a year off. She sees Women’s studies as a field that opened her mind to a lot of issues and helped her develop a critical eye on everyday life. She is able to use her critical and analytical skills in her community service project: the Mujeres Unidas where she is co-chair of the organization and mentors students. Also, she uses her critical eye in her internship with the Wiley Center by analyzing men’s health.
Besides juggling life as a Sociology major and Women’s Studies minor, in the fall, Susie Youssef will be attending the Loma Linda Social Work program in the School of Behavioral Health. Her background in Women’s Studies piqued her passion for women and racial issues, and she intends to integrate these issues in her clinical studies as well. “Women deserve to be helped: no matter what race, class, religion, privilege, or age they may be.”

Aside from balancing her life as a Biology and Women’s Studies Major, Monica Uppal is also a member of the sorority Pi Beta Phi, where she also received the highest academic award in her sorority! She has participated in many honor societies such as Order of Omega. Monica is involved in her community by working with Riverside Community Outreach programs, where she is also doing research with UGRC regarding Men’s Health. Her Women’s Studies education will help her in her future education in medical school, and when she becomes a physician. Women’s studies will allow her to look at things with a more critical eye where she can treat patients better because of her knowledge of intersectionality. She can look at how disease and treatments are influenced by patients’ culture, race, gender, and socio-economic status.

During Holly Wood’s year off from school after she graduates, she plans on developing her custom cake and cupcake business, and further her participation with the I.E. Perinatal Health Collaborative to help continue raising awareness for post-partum depression and find aid for those who are underprivileged in the community. When she returns to school the following Fall she intends to combine what she has learned in Women’s Studies with her personal feminist standpoint of finding strength in overt feminine sexuality to obtain her MA in Human Sexuality. She then hopes to further her love for interdisciplinary education by obtaining a doctorate in clinical sexology and continuing on to her ultimate goal of becoming a board certified sexologist, counseling those who’ve experienced sexual trauma to develop happy healthy sex lives thereafter.
This year, Jordan Rhode moved to Los Angeles to work as a co-teacher in a third grade class. Here is her account: I'm in a year-long teaching fellowship through Hebrew Union College, I'll be graduating this summer with my California Teaching Credential and a Certificate in Day School Education, where I will get to be a head teacher in my own classroom and I’ll be starting a Masters in Teaching program at AJU. I feel that I incorporate WMST into my teaching all the time! We teach the children about having respect for all people, that there is no "normal," I have tried to stick to gender-neutral terms while teaching as well. An especially exciting day for me was International Women's Day, where we were able to create a whole assembly where the children read stories and poems about the women in their lives. Another way that WMST influenced my career, is being aware of the attention given to boy students versus girls. I remember reading an article in one of my undergrad classes about how teachers tend to call on and give more attention to boys. I think being a teacher has given me a wonderful opportunity to fight against androcentrism and heteronormativity in the next generation. I really recommend majoring in WMST because it is a discipline that you can combine with so many other disciplines. I am really interested in Jewish studies and anthropology and I was able to focus my undergrad senior thesis on all three subject areas. "WMST gives a critical eye when looking at the world around you—which is in my opinion, and invaluable skill to take with you for the rest of your life." - Jordan Rhode

Ynez Canela briefly began a credential program at the National Hispanic University in San Jose, CA. Ynez took three classes in the program before moving to Southern California to work. She currently serves as a Field Representative for California State Assemblywoman, Norma J. Torres. She is the Assembly member's primary liaison and official representative throughout the district, including Chino, Ontario, Montclair, Pomona, and portions of Fontana with California State Assembly, Norma J. Torres. Ynez Canela was able to incorporate her Women’s Studies education, that gave her the necessary base she needed to work in government. She attained tremendous research skills as well as writing skills through her coursework. All the different issues and key individuals that she studied throughout the WMST courses made the transition into government extremely easy. In WMST she learned about issues, such as the Prison Industrial Complex, that would have not been taught in other courses. "Practically everything that we studied was political," she said. She never realized that until after the fact. She is extremely grateful for what the WMST program at UC Riverside offered her. "I would not be where I am today without it." - Ynez Canela
Having it ALL?

Presented by Jovi Hernandez

Held during the Winter Quarter 2013 and sponsored by the Women’s Resource Center

Can women have it ALL? This question occupied the room where the event was held. Different faculty, staff, and students spoke about their experiences as women juggling careers, school and being mothers. The room was filled with curious students hoping to get answers about how some of these women juggle all the different obligations in their lives. This panel was more intimate, which allowed for more questions and answers between the audience and the speakers.

No Homonationalism

Presented by NAMES and Neighbors

Held during Spring Quarter 2013 and sponsored by the Women’s Resource Center

This event was filled with skits and poetry, which touched on important issues that the queer and community of color face. Racism, neo-liberalism, colonialism, sexuality and patriarchy were all topics that were discussed through creative forms of art. The role of such topics in the way the body is viewed in society, particularly in the West is crucial in understanding queer identities.

Feminism vs. Tradition in Mexican Culture

Presented by Zuleima Ramirez

Held during Spring Quarter 2013 and sponsored by the Women’s Resource Center

The struggle of identity between two cultures was the topic of this event. This panel of speakers spoke about their experiences growing up influenced by Mexican traditions, while attempting to assimilate into American culture. It becomes problematic for individuals who relate to both cultures because the sense of belonging is not found in one or the other. This panel of speakers brought up the struggles that first generation students experience when they first begin their higher education.

Queering the Middle East

Presented by WMST department, LGBT Resource Center, Names and Neighbors, and The Middle East Student Collaborative

This event was a student led conference about being queer in the Middle East. They had various speakers such as Angel Ayala who discussed the archaeological encounters of the Third Kind and Megan Awwad who discussed family vs. individualism. Issues of homonationalism and pink-washing were central to the papers and discussions.
Love and Hip-Hop? Does Hip Hop love Women/Beyond 16 Bars

Presented by Precious Odum and sponsored by the Women’s Resource Center and Associated Students Program Board (ASPB)

The Love and Hip Hop panel discussed various topics of hip hop from questioning whether hip-hop is misogynistic to the similarities in video models and representations of enslaved Black women. This discussion drew such a large crowd and got read feedback, that ASPB decided to have a follow up event where Precious was invited again to be the moderator. She had the privilege of moderating a panel of people that featured two rappers: MURS and Curtiss King. This panel discussed the various themes of hip-hop such as misogyny; video models are empowering or disempowering women, and violence, which opened a discussion on hip-hop that is usually not discussed in society.

Teaching Islam in the Post-9/11 University

Organized by Professor Tammy Ho, Winter Quarter 2013

The event was sponsored by UCR’s Department of Women’s Studies, the UCR Institute for the Study of Immigrant Religions and by Mellon funds through the Center for Ideas and Society, the “Viral Ports, Virtual Contents” Andrew W. Mellon Workshop in the Humanities, SEATRIP, and the UCR departments of Religious Studies and Ethnic Studies.

This event was a roundtable discussion among Scholar-Teachers of Islamic Studies featuring Zayn Kassam, Ph.D., Aysha Hidayatulla, Ph.D., Martin Nguyen, Ph.D., Sherine Hafez, Ph.D., and Muhammad Ali, Ph.D. The roundtable discussion explored issues of teaching Islam, religion and race in U.S colleges since September 11, 2001. The papers discussed how critical education can play an important role in raising awareness about world issues and cultural relativity. The speakers engaged with practical and theoretical strategies for teaching about Islam in the era of Islamophobia.

Symposium on Post Colonial Cinema Studies

Organized by Professor Margie Waller during Winter Quarter 2013

The Department of Women’s Studies, Comparative Literature and Foreign Languages sponsored the symposium, and Media and Cultural Studies sponsored the symposium. The symposium brought together a group of scholars from UCR, the University of Southern California, UC Santa Barbara, Loyola Marymount University and Ohio University. Panel topics included “Trajectories of African Cinema: From Origins to Nollywood” (Nigerian film-making), “Postsocialist Media,” “Postcolonial Aesthetics,” “Neorealism and Neoliberalism,” “New Trends in Southeast Asian and Korean Cinema,” and “From Postcolonial to Decolonial Studies.”
4,000 Years for Choice
On February 25th, UCR hosted 4,000 Years for Choice. An artist talked about reproductive empowerment, wisdom, and self-care that dates back a millennium. In this presentation, visiting artist, Heather Ault, MFA, discussed the history of abortion and contraception, the visual culture and political messaging strategies of the pro-choice and pro-life movements, the graphic influences of President Obama’s campaign, and the spaces where we tell our stories, all in a gallery setting filled with her artwork. Through her project, Ault develops visual narratives about the practices of contraception and abortion from around the world for the past 4000 years. The project hopes to celebrate, inspire, and empower women and men in their reproductive lives through positive imagery for the pro-choice movement to utilize. In bringing this event to UCR, Professor Takeshita saw this as a great opportunity to open up discussion about women’s reproductive rights using art, to reach younger people to get involved in the movement, allow for more collaborations for feminist goals, and provide an opportunity for dialogue between both sides of the abortion debate, using the university as arena for grouping of young people towards positive feminist activism.

“Medical Examinations: Art, Story, Theory”
Co-organized by Professor Takeshita during Spring Quarter 2013
Conference sponsors are the UC Riverside Center for Ideas and Society and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Co-sponsors include the Rupert Costo Chair at UCR and the UCR Departments of Women’s Studies and Anthropology. This event was a two-day conference that hosted scholars from UCR’s departments of anthropology, art, writing, psychology, and history. This conference explored the role of medicine and healing and how UCR faculty is involved conducting research in health issues. The two-day conference also included a collection of narratives from cancer patients who collaborated with artists to illustrate their stories through art.

For those who were able to fit in the overflowing theater hosting José Esteban Muñoz May 13th 2013, you were surely in for a treat in the form of exploration through what was referred to as the Brown Commons. Co-sponsored by Queer Lab, the Department of Ethnic Studies, and the English Department, UCR welcomed Muñoz, an American academic in the fields of Performance Studies, visual culture, queer theory, cultural studies, and critical theory, author, and Professor of Performance Studies at Tisch School of the Arts, NYU. In this discussion, Muñoz explored contemporary “brownness” as a way of encountering and relating to the world through a discussion of “Wildness,” a film by L.A. artist Wu Tsang that documents radical queer performance at East L.A.’s Silver Platter (a longstanding Latino gay bar that caters to resident and immigrant communities). In this discussion, the Brown commons refers to commons of Brown people, places, feelings, and other objects; The Brown commons is about a moving beyond the singular and individualized subjectivities to an understanding of what collectively makes up Brownness. In bringing Muñoz to UCR, Jennifer Doyle, Professor of English at UC Riverside, Co-Chair of the Minor in LGBT Studies, and Director of Queer Lab, hoped to expand discussion of queerness and queer performance by exploring the different intersectionalities that compose one’s identity, moving beyond just sexuality to explore race, culture, and other aspects that affect an individual’s relationship to their surrounding world, primarily concerning queer people of color, who are too often invisible. In addition, Queer Lab has also brought names such as Augie Robles, Wu Tsang, Raquel Gutiérrez, Alex Segade, and others, all highlighting queer lab’s efforts to expand notions of queer performance.
Self-Defense

Sponsored by the Women’s Resource Center

With all the unfortunate events regarding crime around UCR this past year, there is a need to explore the different programs available on campus to ensure our safety. Since January there’s been an alarming 17 robbery and robbery attempts, and 4 sexual assaults. The increased presence of UCPD around UCR’s perimeters has been noticed but what if no one is around or for whom help comes too late? For this we’d like to bring awareness to the safety assets provided by the Women’s Resource Center. The Campus Safety Escort Service is run through the WRC and provides secure escorts to your car or campus destination. It operates Sunday through Thursday, dusk to midnight, and you can request an escort by calling (951) 827-3772, or use a CSES telephone located in most campus buildings. To request an escort after midnight, you can contact UCPD at (951) 827-5222. In addition, the WRC offers self-defense classes to make sure you are prepared. These classes not only help students learn how to defend themselves against muggings, car-jacking and rape by practicing how to effectively fight back, but also how to identify dangerous situations and prevent assaults. Classes focus on self-defense by locating points of vulnerability on the body and how to attack those points. In addition, instructors go over important points like when it is best to not fight back as well as the legality surrounding self-defense. Classes are free, fun, and open to everyone, and we could all use techniques like this to make us feel safer in our campus community!

Momma Highlanders

Presented by Dannielle Uribe and sponsored by the Women’s Resource Center
Spring Quarter 2013

Momma Highlanders are a group of mothers who are working collaboratively with allies to gain recognition on campus in order to request more mommy-friendly services to mothers who are students. This group is raising awareness by working on ideas on how to better serve the population of students who are also full-time mothers.

Voices Unheard

Presented by Susie Youssef, Sponsored by Women’s Resource Center, Middle Eastern Student Collaborative, and Diversity Initiatives

This event brought to light some of the stereotypes that are encompassed with Middle Eastern Women. There was an art show that portrayed various Middle Eastern women holding signs that went against the stereotypes attached to the Middle East. An enlightening panel discussion took place with Middle Eastern UCR students discussing their lives as Middle Eastern women and answering questions by intrigued students.
Riverside Community Health Foundation
with John Costello and Monica Uppal

Questions:

Men’s Health: What do Riverside area men feel their health needs are? What types of programs would they attend? Where do they get their health information?

Senior Health: Where do Riverside seniors access health care and information? What services would they like to see and where would they like to see them?

Methods: Students are studying health needs and outreach programs for men, seniors, and teens. They plan to conduct a survey with the organization to determine if the findings from their literature reviews are reflected in RCHF’s Riverside clients.

Stage: This project began this quarter and is in the very beginning stages. Students have completed literature reviews on barriers to men’s health.

Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest
with Aisha Khan and Tyler Davis

Questions: What are the laws regarding high school sexual education curricula? Are Riverside area high schools fulfilling these requirements?

Methods: Students plan to contact local schools, with their community partner, to determine their sexual education curricula and compare them to the state requirements.

Stage: They have collected information on the relevant laws and will be working with the organization to contact districts and schools to determine their current practices.

Campus Perception of Consent Project
Riverside Rape Crisis Center with Aaren Casimiro

Question: What are UCR student perceptions of consent?

Methods: The students plan to conduct and analyze a survey.

Stage: This project is in the very beginning stages. They have completed a literature review.

Inland Empire Perinatal Mental Health
Collaborative with Vanessa Ortiz and Holly Wood

Question: What is the prevalence of perinatal mental health issues in the Inland Empire region?

Methods: Students plan to work with the organization to encourage local mental health facilities to add “Have you given birth in the last year?” and “Are you currently breastfeeding?” to their intake surveys and to analyze the results.

Stage: This project began this quarter and is in the very beginning stages. Students have completed a literature review on the prevalence of perinatal mental health issues, their causes, and various responses.

Through the course WMST 191b, Feminist Research Methods, students were given the opportunity to conduct research outside of UCR through the university’s Undergraduate Research in the Community (UGRC) program. In addition to learning how to conduct research through both of these courses, students were able to conduct important research related to women’s studies in the following areas:
Congratulations again Class of 2013! And a special thank you for your contribution to this newsletter!

Social Networking/Media/Credits

Some of our WMST students have taken their love for women’s studies to the media/social network.

Check out their blogs:

http://middleeasternwomenofucr.tumblr.com

Students interested in the major/minor should contact Cassee Barba 3rd Floor INTS
Multidisciplinary Phone: 951-827-1802
email: cassee.barba@ucr.edu

Special Thanks to the photographer of the newsletter, Susie Youssef. Also special thanks for your contribution to the newsletter: Becca Spence Dobias, Ynez Canela and Jordan Rhode.

This newsletter is brought to you by a team of WMST students: Precious Odum (Team Leader), Jovita Hernandez and Holly Wood. The newsletter team worked with Professor Sherine Hafez.

Don’t know what to do with your WMST major? No problem, here are the Top Jobs for WMST majors:

1. Women’s Rights Activist
2. Lawyer
3. Journalist
4. Business
5. Hospital Administrator
6. Psychologist
7. Social Worker
8. Financial Planner
9. Professor
10. Biographer

The Background images are from Obey Inc. Additional images from Google images, Facebook, University of California Riverside websites, and/or our own personal cameras.

*Information about top Jobs for WMST majors came from:

http://careerservices.rutgers.edu/womenstudies.shtml