A Word From the Chair

The faculty and staff of Women’s Studies congratulate the graduating class of 2007. We celebrate your accomplishments and success. Whatever you decide to do after being awarded your degree in Women’s Studies, remember to do it with joy, passion, and optimism. These fundamentals are necessary to get to the top.

Your college degree in Women’s Studies places you in a small and privileged segment of society. Having successfully completed your Women’s Studies degree should give you the confidence, skills, and maturity to make significant contributions in the field as young professionals. Keep in mind that an important aspect of the program that you just completed provides you with foundational scholarship regarding gender, sexuality and women studies in the United States as well as in a global context. As a Women’s Studies graduate you are well-rounded, having studied a wide variety of topics rather than one narrow skill area. You are able to think critically and globally—exercise that skill.

Your life will take a new turn in pursuit of new undertakings and challenges. Should you continue into a graduate program in Women’s Studies, remember that there is an ongoing need for scholars interested in research and training that is comparative and transnationally based. Although UCR Women’s Studies currently does not offer graduate degrees, it expects to launch M.A. and Ph.D. graduate programs in the near future. Both the M.A. and Ph.D. programs will be designed to provide students with a rigorous training in theory and methodologies related to gender and sexuality, attracting those seeking advanced interdisciplinary instruction and training in Women’s Studies. Consider the graduate curriculum at UCR in your future academic goals. As for today, enjoy the fruits of your labor.
I work at the Downtown Women's Center in Los Angeles. I have a couple of different tasks set up for my nine week intern. One of the things I do is work with a group of eight women that have been chosen for a Next Step Wellness program. Each of them live with a chronic illness and what we do is meet up once a week to discuss how to live a happy and healthy life. We go over everything from how to improve their diet, how to check and control their blood pressure, to coping with terminal cancer.

I also have to do extensive research on other shelters in the LA and Riverside area. It is important to find out what other shelters are doing so that we can get ideas on how to improve our programs. As much as I want to believe that these women help for the sheer joy of giving, it's hard because I feel like there is an "us" and "them" attitude that is subvertly wrapped in their minds. I'm not sure if they do this for glory, money, or genuine care for the poor.

This is a huge issue as it is discussed in many of the women's studies and ethnicity classes I have taken here. I think that this is something that many of us need to remember when we are out in the "real world". You cannot do good deeds with the expectation of getting something in return.

I am grateful for the firsthand experiences I have received thus far and am happy to have a professor as open and knowledgeable as Dr. Waller to discuss my issues and hesitations about where to go from here.

Amber Carvaly
I was interning for Option House in San Bernardino. They are the first domestic violence center in San Bernardino. They provide shelter for women that are trying to leave a domestic violence situation, they have support groups, restraining order assistance at the courthouse, and they go to school and youth centers educating children and teens on domestic or dating violence.

As an intern at Option House I assisted them in the office with different data entry, putting the youth packets together, helping translate with the women that only spoke Spanish, and I went with my Supervisor to one of the shelters. At the shelter my Supervisor gave these women parenting classes and she was also their advocate between them and the shelter staff.

I sat in the class and sometimes participated, as well as translated some of the things that were said when I was asked to. As an intern for Option House we were required to take a 40 hours Domestic Violence class where we did not only learn about domestic violence, but also about elder abuse, disability abuse, the legal system on domestic violence, immigration, and child abuse.

Isabel Aguilar
My Thesis Experience

Let me begin by congratulating all of my fellow class of 2007 graduates. My name is Kris’ Star Street and I just wanted to share my personal experience of doing my senior thesis. Before I go into great detail about my thesis I must thank Professor Chikako Takeshita for talking the time out to help me individually with my thesis. I really appreciate you for that.

Well, to briefly summarize the aim of my thesis I must begin my noting that it took weeks to get to the actual research question. I knew that Professor Takeshita lectured and focused a lot on body images. I kept thinking of how broad that topic is. I narrowed it down to African American Women body images. In the senior seminar I had learned about methods of conducting research. The concept of conducting focus groups really stood out to me. I conducted one focus group and it brought such great detail that it confused me more than ever. The focus group discussed body images in the media, at school, as well as environmental changes. It also focused on the body itself and the whole stereotype of the African American woman body, which is the idea of having a small waist, big hips, and a big butt.

I finally narrowed my research down to the BUTT. I have been conducting focus groups that are solely focused on the butt. I am asking African American college Women how they feel about the stereotype. Concepts that have been discussed are the idea of the butt being empowering, the portrayal of the butt in the media, the obligation to have a butt, etc. This topic is a very interesting topic and I am learning a great deal about how people feel. I am really enjoying the opportunity to research something that interests me. My thesis experience is empowering and educational and I am thankful for the Women Studies Department.

Kris’ Star Street
Marlenne Felix for the Jane Block Award

The Department of Women’s Studies is delighted to honor Marlenne Felix with the Jane Block Award on Activism, 2007. She will be graduating in June with a major in Women’s Studies and a minor in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender studies (LGBT).

Marlenne has been an active member of UCR LGBT Resource Center, serving as a volunteer in many events and regular programs in organizations such as Queer Alliance (UCR student organization) and Students for the Equality of Queers. She has been instrumental in forming alliances between high school and college students interested in making the world a safer place for the LGBT communities. Currently, Marlenne is working with “at risk” queer youth at Rainbow Pride Youth Alliance (ages 13-20) in San Bernardino, California. Her commitment and motivation as an activist in the LGBT communities (at UCR and Inland Empire) makes her an outstanding activist.

Last quarter, she worked with the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance and interned for the “Vagina Monologues”. As an intern she helped to raise over $7000, which was donated to nonprofit organizations (MODEMU Hope and the Riverside Rape Crisis Center).

3 HIGHEST GPA AWARDS

Tonda Parker
Amber Dobson
Kristen Schneider
The past year has been pretty quiet. I've been reading, teaching, writing, teaching, and more teaching. In June I will have completed my second (AND FINAL!) term as a member of UCR's Graduate Student Association (GSA) Executive Board and Graduate Student Health Insurance Program (GSHIP) Committee Chairperson.

Big, nifty things:
I received a Dissertation Research Grant, so I could get access to rare texts necessary to my work. It helped to cover the costs of reproducing these texts and helped to offset the expenses of participating in the 2007 International Conference on Travel and India in Delhi last February.

Next year:
Fall 2007 - teaching HUM 329- Perspectives on Gender at CSUSB (I've been teaching comp and lit courses there this past year, but this is the first time I've been the instructor of record for a wmst course outside of UCR - very exciting).

Spring 2008 - I will be participating as a Graduate Student Resident Fellow in the workgroup "The Making and Shaping of Racialized Bodies in Performance" at the Center for Ideas and Society. The rest of the year I'll be teaching and writing my dissertation, "Writing Home: Zenana Narratives and Narrations of Self in the Long Nineteenth Century."

Abstract:
My dissertation explores nineteenth and early twentieth century narratives of the zenana, the domestic spaces in Indian homes reserved exclusively for women and girls. I argue that using the physical geographies of the zenana and its resulting narratives as a contact zone for "travelers" and "travelees" provides a way to challenge historical assumptions of a singular narrative of the zenana as a site that necessitates "rescue" as part of the British civilizing mission, my work details the ways texts resulting from moments of contact between cultures offer a new paradigm for understanding the gendered dynamics of subject formation of colonizer and colonized as a dialectic process. Although the distribution these narratives participate in the cultural work of imagining the binaries of metropole and India, I argue that there are moments of ambivalence within these narratives that, when placed within the context of key political moments of the British imperial project, participate in both imperial and counter-imperial discourses.
Majors:

ABBAS, Umber
AGUILAR, Isabel
BALEKIAN, Carole
CARVALY, Amber
CHANG, Christine
DOBSON, Amber
DURMENT, Katelyn
FELIX, Marlene
GONZALEZ, Adriana
HERRERA, Daisy
LEMUS, Karla
MADRIGAL, Rosalin
McKENZIE, Sherika
NIRE, Kidan
PARKER, Tonda
PONCE, Sandra
ROBINSON, La-Quesha
SADAKANE, George
STREET, Krisstar
TRAN, Lisa
VENTURA, Editha
Minors:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALI, Monira</td>
<td>MEACH, Soakmaly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BANUELOS, Marissa</td>
<td>OSEI-NIMOHO, Iva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BONG, Yoona</td>
<td>PERILLA, Jessenia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAIPRASERT, Joslyn</td>
<td>RDMAN, E Krystal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHANEZ, Vanessa</td>
<td>RENDLER, Jenna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEN, Eileen</td>
<td>RUIZ, Yesenia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHOE, Hana</td>
<td>SOHN, Miye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLARO, Kristina</td>
<td>SPRINGMIER, Megan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLORES, Diana</td>
<td>TOMS, Leslie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRANCO, Stephanie</td>
<td>TRAN, TracyLI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GARCIA, Magra</td>
<td>TURINGAN, Ellacalyne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAMETH, Terika</td>
<td>VILLALOBOS, Sylvia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOHNSON, Pamela</td>
<td>WELDY Janelle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KALINSKY, Eynav</td>
<td>WESCOTT, William</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LI, Angeli</td>
<td>WONG, Kimlan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Congratulations Jennifer Doyle and Alicia Arrizón!

Women’s Studies congratulates Jennifer Doyle, Associate Professor in English and affiliated faculty of Women’s Studies and Alicia Arrizón, Chair and Professor of Women’s Studies, who recently have been appointed to the Advisory Board of *Women & Performance: a journal of feminist theory*. The journal is a peer-reviewed, triannual publication featuring scholarly essays on performance, dance, film, new media, and the performance of everyday life from interdisciplinary feminist perspectives. The journal encourages dialogue between varied fields of performance scholarship (performance studies; theater, dance, and music history and criticism; ethnography; cinema and cultural studies; queer and post-colonial theory), and explore critiques of race, ethnicity, class, sexuality, technology, and nation. The journal is published by Routledge. For information about *Women & Performance* and guidelines for submission consult: [http://www.womenandperformance.org/](http://www.womenandperformance.org/)

Amalia Cabezas

Congratulations to Dr. Amalia Cabezas who has been selected as the Professor-in-Residence during the Spring Quarter 2008 for the UC Washington Academic Program. As the visiting faculty member, Dr. Cabezas will teach ANTH/WMST 164: “Gender and Development in Latin America” and the UCR Washington Seminar for all UCR students participating in the program.

Piya Chatterjee

Piya Chatterjee has been nominated to be on the Board of the Riverside Rape Crisis Center. She is particularly excited about this appointment because the RCC is entering a new phase of expansion and growth. She hopes that she can work in alliance with other RCC Board and staff to further anti-violence interventions with, and for, women of color in our communities.
University of California, Riverside has more Vietnam Studies research faculty than any other university in the United States (Australia National University, Canberra is the only other campus outside of Vietnam that has the equivalent number). Traditionally, Vietnam Studies was a field dominated by Cold War-era historians, political scientists and others focused primarily on political issues during the Vietnam War. With a new generation of Vietnamese Americans in American universities and Vietnam’s economic renaissance, Vietnam Studies has opened up a much broader area of study to researchers including, anthropologists, environmental historians, cultural critics, environmental economists, human rights researchers, and gender and sexuality specialists. UCR’s young faculty, its substantial language program in Vietnamese and other Southeast Asian languages, its focus on the arts, humanities, and social sciences (rather than military history and socialist economies) by way of SEATRIP, and a keen interest in diasporic linkages, distinguishes it not only in the UC system, but also nationally.

SEATRIP stands for Southeast Asia: Text, Rituals, and Performance. According to Lan Duong, Assistant Professor of Women Studies and Media and Cultural Studies, SEATRIP a program that looks at Southeast Asia through a cultural lens of literature, religion, and performance, which include visual art, theatre and dance. Since the Cold War, Southeast Asia has been viewed by American universities through a historical lens of the U.S. “There is a cultural component in the program that is very appealing to me,” Duong said.

Professor Duong’s research includes postwar cultural productions of the Vietnamese and Vietnamese Diaspora. She interprets films and literature through the themes of nationalism, betrayal, and collaboration against the historical background of Vietnam, France, and the U.S. She says she is especially interested in the representation of gender and sexuality within the works.

Assistant Professor of Anthropology Christine Schwenkel’s research focuses on the intersections of transnationalism, visual culture and historical memory in Vietnam. According to Professor Schwenkel, her research traces the transnational flows of images of the U.S./Vietnam War and shifts in the aesthetics of memory at Vietnamese museums, war monuments, art and photography exhibits, and tourist sites.

See Vietnam Studies on page 11
Mariam Lam, Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature/Vietnamese, specializes in Southeast Asian literature and visual cultures, postcolonial criticism, diasporic expressive forms, gender and sexuality, ethnic studies, translation, tourism, and community politics. One of her on-going projects includes an analysis of the development of Southeast Asian and Southeast Asian American studies in the U.S. academy, and of the politics of transnational scholarship.

David Biggs, Assistant Professor of History, is currently doing his research on the Mekong Delta, located in the southern-most region of Vietnam from, where half the rice in the country is produced. His research focuses on the relativity of the region’s environmental past, including studies of the Vietnam War’s impact on the environment and development since the war’s end in 1975. He will also be heading a trip with UCR Summer Sessions to the ancient imperial capital in Hue, where he will be teaching a course on the Vietnam War (History 184) that will be visiting many key historical sites. According to Professor Duong, students will have the opportunity to “immerse themselves within the language, culture and history of Vietnam”, as well as getting hands-on experience within and outside of the classroom. “Besides learning a new language, which I find is always important since we live in a globalized world; there is the added benefit of being in another culture that you can learn from,” said Professor Duong.

Center for Women In Coalition

Piya has also spent the year trying to re-activate the Center for Women In Coalition, the research, activist and policy wing of the Department. Watch for our new website! She is particularly grateful to Professor Emory Elliott (Director, Center for Ideas and Society) and Laura Lozon (Assistant Director, CIS) for loaning CWIC a room at Highlander Hall. We have an office! It is Room 241, Highlander Hall. Greg Givens, partner of Advisory Board member, Sheila Givens (graduate student, Sociology) helped immeasurably in setting up this terrific space. She would like to thank the CHASS Dean, Steve Cullenberg, for the funding which helped with this re-activation.

Many thanks also to the following colleagues who served on the Advisory Board for CWIC in 2006-2007: Alicia Arrizón, (Chair, WMST); Lan Duong (FVC/WMST); Tracy Fisher (WMST); Sheila Givens (GS, Sociology); Priya Srinivasan (Dance); and Chikako Takeshita (WMST).

Plans for 2007-2008 include a “Women of Color Organizers Lecture Series” which Piya is co-organizing with Alfredo Figueroa, Assistant Dean of Students. We will be working with Student Program offices, and other departments, in bringing to campus community organizers, and grassroots activists, to talk about their struggles and accomplishments as activists. If you would like to be involved in planning this year-long program, please send a note to solidaritywork@yahoo.com.

If you would like to learn more about CWIC and also use our office, please contact Piya at piyachatterjee@yahoo.com. Many thanks to the following student interns and project holders who kept the space active in 2006-2007: Thao Le; Jessica Yamane; Isabel Aguilar; Janeth Pineda and Paullette Flores! Your hard work and enthusiasm re-energized the CWIC space with hope—and fun. Anik Dhonobad!
CALL FOR PAPERS FOR NEW ANTHOLOGY PROJECT.
BASTA! Enough!
Young Women of Color Talk Education, Violence and War.
A Proposed Anthology to be collaboratively produced by the Center for Women In Coalition, UC-Riverside

In this anthology, we seek to bring together edgy and provocative writing by young women of color in the United States and young women in other parts of the global South/Third World to explore their experience in the classroom, around social violence, and within the context of war.

We are also looking for progressive young women to be on our editorial collective. If you would like to be part of creating this anthology, contact Piya Chatterjee at piyachatterjee@yahoo.com.

What are young girls/grrrls and women/womyn thinking about the state of the world?

How do YOU experience and struggle with issues of misogyny, sexism, poverty and racism in YOUR own immediate lives? How do these experiences mark YOUR journeys through public, formal education? If the United States is your country of residence or citizenship, do you feel “at home” here? If the United States is NOT your “home”, how do you feel about other young girls and women who are there? Are your lives connected? How do YOU feel, and think about the war? Do you experience violence in your life? How do you understand violence? Has your education made you feel more powerful as a young girl or woman of color?

If you would like to contribute stories, poems, prose-poems, photographs, plays, or essays for this anthology, please send your pitch and contributions to: Piya Chatterjee, The Center for Women In Coalition, Dept of Women’s Studies, Watkins Hall, University of California at Riverside, Riverside, CA. 92521