

WOMEN'S STUDIES CONNECTIONS

A PUBLICATION OF THE WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE • FALL 2005

MARIAN PALLEY LEAVES WOMEN'S STUDIES WITH A BROADER, STRONGER PROFILE

MARIAN LIEF PALLEY has directed Women's Studies at the University of Delaware for the past six years, the maximum permitted under our bylaws. During her tenure as Director, Women's Studies experienced tremendous growth by any measure. Six years ago Women's Studies had two part-time faculty lines. Today we have three assistant professors (two full time and one three-quarters time) and one chaired professor. The number of students majoring and minoring in Women's Studies continues to increase. Enrollments in our classes are at an all-time high. Several courses were added to our curriculum including African American Women's History and Domestic Violence Services. Three years ago we moved out of our former offices, some of which had originally been storage closets, and into a spacious wing of Ewing Hall. Our outreach to the community has continued to grow through increased programming, including the newly created annual Carter Lecture named in honor of Mae Carter, one of our founding mothers. We reorganized the governance of the program from an advisory committee to a more academic/departmental structure with 28 current secondary faculty appointments. The administration continues to support our efforts through generous resource allocation.

As Dr. Palley prepares to leave the directorship I asked her to reflect on her perception of Women's Studies and



Marian Lief Palley

where it stands today. She observed that: "during the past six years Women's Studies went from being a small but significant program on campus to one with expanded reach and scope." One notable aspect of our expanded scope is a focus on internationalizing our curriculum, the benefit of a director with an interest in international women's issues.

Dr. Palley states: "I responded to the university's goal to internationalize because I think it's important for our students to understand United States' relations with other countries and the cultures of other countries in order to get along in the world. Because we are a settler society, with people coming from all over, I think it's important to know something other than variations in food."

Dr. Palley's academic interests helped guide us as we developed several important initiatives including bringing visiting faculty from Ukraine and Israel to teach courses and co-sponsoring, with the American Political Science Association, a visit by a group of Japanese women scholars. She also encouraged our faculty to offer courses abroad during winter sessions, launching several new programs in Australia/New Zealand, Argentina, China, and India. The curriculum now includes a concentration in Women in Global Perspective and we offer a yearly film course on international films about and by women.

"I've enjoyed being director of Women's Studies," notes Dr. Palley. "It has been a wonderful experience. We've done a remarkable amount of work to build something important. It is really a team effort. A lot of people were involved in making this program a success. I've felt very successful as direc-

INCOMING ACTING DIRECTOR MONIKA SHAFI ANTICIPATES OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

"I feel honored to serve as Acting Director of the Women's Studies Program and I look forward to working with one of the most dedicated groups on campus. The Women's Studies Program is an active and thriving com-



Monika Shafi

munity that plays a key role for the University of Delaware, and I thus enter this new commitment with great excitement and joy. Over the past years, the Women's Studies Program has experienced tremendous growth in terms of student enrollment, and one of the important tasks would be to implement the kind of structural changes that can sustain and strengthen this development. In its thirty year history, the Women's Studies Program has now reached a critical juncture which promises new opportunities and challenges."

tor, but I know I could not have done it without the assistance of Jessica, Emily [Hayworth, Women's Studies Office Coordinator], and members of the core faculty who are very devoted to the program and its growth and development."

Before Dr. Palley returns to teaching full time in Political Science in spring 2006, she has several exciting projects that will occupy her time. During a fall 2005 sabbatical she will work on two books that she has contracted, tentatively titled *Women of the World*, with long-time collaborator, Joyce Gelb, of City College of New York. Before she tackles that project she is going to experience some of that world first hand. Over the summer Dr. Palley headed to Korea to "Women's World 2005," an international conference on research on women, where she present-

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“TO THE WOMEN’S STUDIES MAJORS AND MINORS, CLASS OF 2005”

Address given by Dr. Margaret D. Stetz, Mae and Robert Carter Professor of Women’s Studies and Professor of Humanities, to the graduating class of Women’s Studies at Commencement, May 28, 2005

Now that you’re leaving us, what is it that you’re going to take with you, besides that degree? If you ask any of the Women’s Studies faculty what we hope you’ll take with you, you’ll get a long list. Some of us might mention rigorous critical thinking, intellectual curiosity, improved writing skills, ability to argue eloquently and forcefully, a moral conscience, dedication to public service, concern for lives different from your own, a passion for activism, knowledge of history, awareness of international issues, commitment to feminist principles, and on and on.

But when I’ve asked some of you, who are graduating, what you got from your classes, a number of you have said something different: “role models.” What did you mean?

In some cases, I think you meant us. That’s very flattering. You said that your Women’s Studies professors really seemed to care about what they were doing, not merely to be going through the motions. And you’re right. None of us who teach in Women’s Studies had to be in Women’s Studies. We all trained in some other discipline, some other department. We got our PhDs in History, Sociology, Education, Political Science, English, Foreign Languages and Literature — lots of different fields. That means we chose to devote ourselves to the field of Women’s Studies and, frankly, we chose to devote ourselves to you and to educating you about women. So we’re very pleased to hear that we succeeded in showing you the excitement we feel about our chosen work.

We can’t take all the credit, however, because when you say that what you’ll take from your time here are “role models,” you don’t mean us alone. You also mean the role models you encountered through your reading, and through lectures that you heard, and in the films you watched. These role models are women of many different nations, historical eras, races, sexual orientations, political allegiances, religions, and ethnicities. You have your own long list of role models, and you’ll remember it after you’ve forgotten the names of the courses you took.

Perhaps the day will come when women and feminist men won’t need role models — when every opportunity and every choice is open to us without a fight; when streets, homes, and workplaces feel like safe spaces, rather than potentially dangerous and sometimes violent ones; when the unpaid labor that we do on behalf of our families and communities is valued just as much as the paid labor we do for employers; when we can pass a mirror without feeling ugly; when we can speak out in a room full of strangers and not worry about how others might see us; when we can turn on the TV and not be demeaned by the images of women there; when our words carry authority and our presence commands respect, and when this is true for women everywhere in the world.

Won’t it be nice when that day comes? But it’s not here yet, not for any women, and not even for us. Meanwhile, we all still need those role models, to show us how to cope, how to struggle, how to help, how to create, and how to dream.

Lately, I’ve been seeing a lot on the subject of women as role models in the newspapers. And for that, I have to thank one man in particular, from the school where I got my Ph.D: Lawrence Summers, the president of Harvard University. You probably heard what happened this past winter. Lawrence Summers said that women were underrepresented as professionals in mathematics and the sciences through no fault of his, but through their own fault. Not enough women, he suggested, had the right stuff. They were disadvantaged genetically, and they compounded the problem by making poor choices, putting family life above demanding career paths.

I, for one, am enormously grateful to President Summers for speaking his mind in public, because so many wonderful things have come out of the backlash against these notions. Thanks to all the bad publicity his remarks garnered, Harvard will now be making a very determined (and very expensive) effort to hire more women in math and

science, to change the policies that have kept women from rising in the ranks, to improve the climate on campus for women in general, and to create a position with clout for someone to oversee this drive. I couldn’t have asked for a better result.

Meanwhile, I just read the following in the May 27, 2005 issue of the *Chronicle of Higher Education*:

“Two U. S. senators have accepted a petition that asks Congress to do something about the limited involvement of women in the sciences, mathematics, and engineering. The document, signed by 6,000 scientists, engineers, and educators, was addressed to Sen. Ron Wyden, a Democrat of Oregon, and Sen. George Allen, a Republican of Virginia. They led hearings on the issue in 2002. The petition asks Congress to examine why women are not entering the fields in numbers similar to those of men, and to make efforts to reverse that trend.”

I’m not calling your attention to that because I think those of you graduating with degrees in Women’s Studies should have majored in engineering instead. No, this is the part I find most interesting: One of the organizers of the petition, a vice president of the National Women’s Law Center, said that enforcing federal law is “essential to break down barriers that women face, including a lack of mentors and role models, lower salaries than their male peers, and unequal access to resources.” In other words, the first thing on her list of obstacles to women’s success — even before discrimination in salaries and in resources — the first thing that holds women back is the absence of mentors and role models.

It’s true that we learn by doing. But from the time that we begin our educations, we also learn by seeing things done, especially by those with whom we identify. I am very glad, and also very proud, that you believe your Women’s Studies degree here gave you role models. Even if those role models didn’t teach you about math or science, I hope they taught you to think *radically*, a word that comes from *radix*, meaning root. Radical thinking is what

helps you to go straight to the root of things, where change, growth, and new birth begin.

You will need your role models, your examples of achievement, your voices of wisdom, and your sources of inspiration — many of them drawn from the courses you took here — no matter what you plan to do and how you wish to live. Using your role models has already gotten you very far, all the way to this happy occasion.

But when you leave, something entirely new will happen, something a little frightening: You will have to graduate into being role models yourselves. Your younger sisters, brothers, and cousins, your friends from home, and maybe even your older relatives who didn't have the chance to get their diplomas, will see in you a person of accomplishment. And because you have a degree in Women's Studies, you will be expected to be a very special kind of role model — a feminist role model, who puts critical thinking about gender and the desire for social justice into practice.

But when you leave, something entirely new will happen, something a little frightening: You will have to graduate into being role models yourselves.

You thought we just wanted to teach you how to write better essays? No, we're sneaky; this is really what we had in mind. We want you to grow into the kind of figures you have studied and admired, who not only work with others, but work on behalf of others. What was the phrase that the nineteenth-century campaigners for women's rights used? "Not for ourselves alone...." So, not for yourselves alone should you, must you, be role models, but for the sake of others.

You've spent four years writing papers. Again and again, we saw you using the same set of words to describe the feminist figures you looked up to in the books and essays you were reading: "strong"; "independent"; "not afraid to stand up for their beliefs." Well, time's up; class is over. Put down your pens, stop writing the papers, and start becoming those figures yourselves. We know that you will. And when you do, please give yourselves an "A."

FACULTY NOTES

Margaret Andersen, Professor of Sociology and Women's Studies, published the 4th edition of *Sociology: Understanding a Diverse Society; Race and Ethnicity in the United States: The Changing Landscape* (with Elizabeth Higginbotham); and the 7th edition of *Thinking about Women: Sociological Perspectives on Sex and Gender*. She was the keynote speaker at the annual undergraduate "No Limits" conference sponsored by Women's Studies students at the University of Nebraska, and an invited speaker at Milwaukee Area Technical and Community College.

Robin Andreasen, Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Women's Studies, published *Feminist Theory: A Philosophical Introduction* (with Ann Cudd).

Sally Bould, Professor of Sociology and Women's Studies (retired), has been awarded a Fulbright Research Award for spring 2006 to study women, poverty and aging in Luxembourg at the CEPS/INSTEAD Institute.

Anne Boylan, Professor of History and Women's Studies received the Certificate of Commendation for the American Association for State and Local History for her recent book, *The Origins of Women's Activism*. She gave the keynote address on "Visible Women: American Women and Public Space, 1865-1910" at the Nineteenth-Century American Writers' Research conference in London, England in June 2005.

Peter Feng, Associate Professor of English and Women's Studies, presented "Ready for Action! Asian Americans on TV" as an invited lecture for Asian Pacific American History Month at George Mason University. He is on the editorial board of Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies and is chairperson of the K.S. Kovacs Book Award Committee of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies.

Barbara Gates, Alumni Distinguished Professor of English and Women's Studies (retired), is on the editorial or advisory boards of *Nineteenth Century Studies*, *Australasian Victorian Studies Annual*, and *Nineteenth Century*. She presented the keynote addresses on "Hidden Others" at the Australasian Victorian Studies Association conference in Auckland, New Zealand in February 2005 and on "Victorian Collaborations: The Sisters Shore" at the

Northeast Victorian Studies Association conference in Washington, DC in April 2005.

Marian Palley, Director of Women's Studies and Professor of Political Science and International Relations, received the Erica Fairchild Award from the Southern Political Science Association. She presented invited lectures to the Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition; to the City College of New York; to the Institute of European and American Studies, Academia Sinica in Taipei, Taiwan; and to the Taiwanese Association of Family Caregivers. She was appointed to the editorial boards of the *Journal of Women, Politics and Policy* and the *International Area Review*.

Alvina Quintana, Associate Professor of English and Women's Studies, published a new paperback edition of her edited collection, *Reading U.S. Latina Writers: Remapping American Literature*. She presented the keynote address on "The Future(s) of U.S. Latina Writers" at the Tomas Rivera Conference at the University of California, Riverside. She was elected to serve as the University of Delaware's Art and Sciences Chair for the Committee on Committees; is a member of the Modern Languages Association's Ethnic Studies Committee; and was appointed chair of the Program Committee for the 2006 American Studies Association's convention.

Margaret Stetz, Mae and Robert Carter Professor of Women's Studies and Humanities, gave invited lectures at Princeton, the University of Kentucky, and the Eighteen-Nineties Society in London, England. She chaired a panel at the Modern Languages Association convention.

Julie Wilgen, Assistant Professor of Individual and Family Studies and Women's Studies, was elected Treasurer of The Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality, Eastern Region.



2004 Becky Bledsoe competed for the Miss Delaware title on a platform to eliminate domestic violence. She was named Miss Central Delaware in 2005 and as State Ambassador for Verizon Wireless Hopeline she helped raise money to support the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence. She is a pensions administrator for Benefit Services Unlimited.

Julissa Gutierrez is enrolled in the master's degree program at the University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration.

Christine Nye is enrolled in the Master's Program in Student Affairs at Western Kentucky University.

2003 Teresa Garrity is employed by *Business Wire* where she is a news wire service editor. She volunteers for Cure Autism Now.

2000 Brenda Mayrack is enrolled in a joint law/public affairs degree program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Law.

Marissa Tisch is now a social worker at Hahnemann University Hospital in Philadelphia, PA. She received her Master's of Social Work from New York University.

1999 Gwen Dittmar has been working for AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals in Santa Monica, CA. She continues to develop her interest in women's health and women's issues and hopes to work toward creating her own business — meshing her knowledge in Western medicine with her passion for holistic, homeopathic, and alternative medicine.



HELP US STAY CONNECTED

LET US HEAR FROM YOU! The program is very interested in knowing about personal and career achievements of our alumni. Please fill out the section below and return it to Women's Studies, 109 Ewing Hall, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716 or e-mail Jesss@udel.edu.

Name _____

Name if different while attending UD _____

Address _____

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Major or minor in Women Studies at UD

Year of graduation _____

Tell us what you have been up to recently _____

Awards and Achievements _____

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*Dr. Margaret D. Stetz,
Mae and Robert Carter
Professor of Women’s Studies
and Professor of Humanities,
University of Delaware
Convocation Address 2005*

2004-2005 GRADUATING CLASS IN WOMEN’S STUDIES

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Rachel Lillian Kassman*
Kristen Elizabeth Kemmet
Carolyn Marie Kindelan*
Latoya Marquita Kosh
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Tyesha Janelle Williams
Maureen Zieber

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Michelle Alison Turner
Alicia Vandenberg
Geneva Barr Wirth*
Melanie Joy Zahn
Lori Paulin Zaspel

*Recipients of the Women’s Studies Award of Special Merit

**Recipient of the Nellie Thompson Rudd Award for scholarship, leadership, and service in Women’s Studies

GEIS CONFERENCE GROWS

The 2005 Geis Student Research on Women Conference boasted the largest numbers of papers accepted and the highest attendance in its history. Thirty-six undergraduate and graduate papers from member institutions of the Greater Philadelphia Women's Studies Consortium were presented on Saturday, April 9 in Alfred Lerner Hall.

Assistant Vice President for Affirmative Action and Multicultural Programs, Judith Gibson, opened the conference with a warm welcome to participants and the audience. Concurrent sessions enabled attendees to choose among the papers of greatest interest to them. Mary Schmelzer, Chairperson of the Greater Philadelphia Women's Studies Consortium and member of the faculty of the English Department at Saint Joseph's University, provided thoughtful closing remarks and announced award winners.

A panel of faculty members and deans from the University of Delaware read the papers in advance and selected two graduate papers and three under-

graduate papers for awards. **Terry Lilly**, University of Delaware, received the first place undergraduate award for his paper on "Policing the Intersection of Gender, Race, and Class: Disparities in Arrest Rates of Prostitution Versus Solicitation." **Hillary Murtha**, University of Delaware, received the first place award for a graduate paper for " 'Sweet Bells Jangled Out of Tune': Sound and Silence, Visibility and Presence in the American Domestic Setting, 1800-1870." Second place awards were presented to **Grace Patterson**, undergraduate division, University of Delaware, for "The Effects of Midwife Licensing in the South," which tied with **Alexandra Reid Hill** of Temple University for her paper, "Engendering Conservatism: Antifeminist Unity, Discursive Masculinization and Rhetorical Propaganda in the Proliferation of New Right Politics." The graduate second place award winner was **Laura Thompson Brady**, University of Delaware, for "Stories of Survival: Making Visible the Strengths and Strategies of Battered Mothers."

PERMANENT COURSE APPROVED

Women's Studies is pleased to announce that "Women in Global Perspective Through Film," which has been taught for several years under an experimental number, has been granted permanent status by the faculty senate. The new course title is "**Gender in International Films**," reflecting a new emphasis, and the course number is WOMS290.010. The course will continue to be taught during fall semesters and all films are open to public viewing. Please check our website for titles, dates and times for this year's films.

MARIAN PALLEY *continued from page 1*

ed a paper on caregiving to the elderly. In the fall she is visiting Zaporozhye State University in Ukraine to lecture and then to Moscow to visit one of her doctoral students and to St. Petersburg to see the Hermitage.

Dr. Palley leaves the directorship of Women's Studies with the assurance that we are in good shape to face the challenges ahead. Her work here has solidified our foundation and broadened our scope. The faculty, staff, and students of Women's Studies are grateful.

— Jessica Schiffman, Editor



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