

NORTH SHORE VISIONS

VOLUME 21, ISSUE 8 NOVEMBER 2008

FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD

Here we are already more than half way into the fall semester. It is been busy around the office and all is well in Women's Studies.

Just a few weeks ago the department convened a second meeting with representatives from sixteen organizations that work on behalf of women and children in the Twin Ports. We met over lunch at the beautiful new Unitarian building right next to the UMD campus. The representatives were all in agreement that this networking event is one we want to keep going: we must stay connected. In the normal scheme of things it is rare that we get to see each other, entrenched as we all are in our respective jobs. When we do run into each other there never seems to be enough time for dialogue. The recurring questions at each of the two meetings we had have been:

What can we do for each other? What can WS do for all? It was agreed upon that WS will run a women's community calendar on its website with links to all the organizations involved. Our wonderfully competent work study student, Krista Allgor, who has been with us for over two years now, has taken on this important task. The work is not yet completed but check out www.d.umn.edu/ws Your feedback will be much appreciated.

In September WS had its first planning meeting for the year at Chester Creek House. There the seeds were planted for many of the activities including the Open House in the WS conference room for our majors and minors held over pizzas in October. It was an enjoyable mingling event where students, faculty and staff got to know each other better informally.

Another item on our ambitious agenda was a two day retreat with faculty, staff and students for purposes of assessment held in early November.

Throughout the year many events have been planned in collaboration with the Women's Resource and Action Center (WRAC), where two of our WS majors are working hard as paid interns. See elsewhere in this newsletter and their website (www.d.umn.edu/mlrc/wrac) for their fabulous events. A 2009 Women's History Month Committee has been formed with representation from WRAC and the Women's Studies Advisory Board. More about that, and more, in our next newsletter. Stay tuned!

Tineke Ritmeester
Department Head

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400 YARDS OF CLOTHESLINE

BY STEVEN WICK

Four hundred yards of clothesline. Over 150 community members supporting it along the Lakewalk. On this clothesline, waving in the lake breeze, were memorials to the women and children who have died in Minnesota from domestic violence. The clothesline project, put together in our state by the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women some 20 years ago, found its way to the Duluth Lakewalk this October as part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The showing, put together by Duluth's Domestic Abuse Intervention Project (DAIP) in conjunction with other organization and businesses, was a tremendous emotional undertaking for all who volunteered and witnessed it. Members of the community including organizers, students, concerned citizens, and even city administrators, were present to memorialize the victims of domestic violence.

For myself, as a student I was there to join the Duluth community as part of that event. As a feminist I was there to join everyone who worked to make our world safer for the women in our lives. As a man, I was there to show that some men do understand that this problem exists, and that we, as men, need to stand up and say, "Enough!" We need to stand up and tell our brothers, friends, and fathers that aggression and violence are not tools of love and respect. That violence and abuse have no place in our households, our communities, our nation, or our world.

As we finished displaying the clothesline, and folded back in on ourselves, every volunteer was allowed the chance to see the memorials on the line. It was sobering and heartbreaking to see children only weeks old, young adults in their prime, and grandmothers all represented. Domestic violence does not just affect one subset of our population. You could see the reverberations from each death in the words and images written on each article of clothing. Domestic violence affects everyone who loves, and especially those who love or are loved by someone who knows its effects personally.



It is a great thing to know that in our community there are amazing people and great organizations working everyday to end these cycles of pain. In our uniqueness, we can, if we band together, overcome this great challenge that rears its ugly head. As women and men, we can work together to teach and hold, to care for and rebuke those around us. And someday, we can ensure that no more lengths of clothesline need be added to what is already 400 yards too long.

I SAID CHANGE

BY ARIELLE SCHNUR

I said change He called it arrogance
 I said not a choice He told me I misunderstood
 I said oppression He laughed
 He said you are equal
 I asked how so
 He said there's nothing wrong
 I asked what he meant
 He said marriage is a privilege, not a right
 I asked him why that was
 He said tradition is what matters
 And I asked according to whom
 He said our discussion was going no where
 I disagreed
 He said I was there only to attack him He said that wasn't fair
 I said I didn't think so either

LOCAL NEWS

WOMEN OF DISTINCTION

The fifth annual YWCA Women of Distinction Awards recognize and honor women who have made significant contributions to our community. The event promotes the YWCA's mission with emphasis on leadership, personal growth, and empowerment for all women.

In 2008, the YWCA Women of Distinction Awards luncheon recognized and celebrated three women: Lyn Clark Pegg, Melanie Ford, and LeAnn Littlewolf.

This year they also announced a new award for an Emerging Leader (under 30): Sterling Harris.

COMMUNITY MEETING OF WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

The Women's Studies Department in conjunction with the Office of the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts hosted the second gathering of representatives of women's organizations on October 10. This group met to discuss how we might best collaborate with each other to accomplish shared goals and support each other's work. As a result of this meeting, the Women's Studies office collaborated with PAVSA and the Building for Women to organize a meeting with representative-elect Roger Reinert. In the planning stage are an online coordinated calendar of events for the Twin Ports, a blog to discuss the concerns and share the knowledge of women's organizations, and future meetings of this group. We were also able to increase networking between the WS faculty and community organizations, resulting in a greater attendance of WS students at recent community events, and community organization staff visits to classrooms to teach students and recruit volunteers.

LIBRARY NEWS

Some New Books for-

Fall 2008

All Bound up Together: The Woman Question in African American Public Culture, 1830-1900. Jones, Martha S. E185.86 .J663 2007

Between Women and Generation: Legacies of Dignity. Cornell, Drucilla. JZ6405.W66 G45 2005

Champions for Peace: Women Winners of the Nobel Peace Prize Stiehm, Judith. JZ5540.S74 2006

Control of Childbirth: Women Versus Medicine Through the Ages. Brodsky, Phyllis. RG51 .B76 2008

Feminist Interventions in Ethics and Politics: Feminist Ethics and Social Theory. Andrew, Barbara. BJ1395.F4495 2005

Gender Conflict and Peacekeeping. Mazurana, Dyan. JZ6405.W66 G45 2005

Gender, Generation and Poverty: Exploring the 'Feminisation of Poverty' in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Chant, Sylvia H. HQ1240.5.D44 C533 2007

Globalization and Militarism: Feminists Make the Link. Enloe, Cynthia. JZ1318 .E65 2007

DVDs

Beyond the Politics of Life and Choice: A New Conversation about Abortion. 2007. DVD 1626.

Silent Choices. 2007. DVD 1569

ALUMNAE NEWS

From Jen Chamberlain: I'm in my second year of AmeriCorps at an agency called Project for Pride in Living. It assists lower income families and individuals achieve self-sufficiency in employment, finances, housing, and education. I'm the Community Organizer for North and South Minneapolis, essentially working within our affordable housing and supporting the residents to create their own community or what they envision it to be. It is so empowering, both for the residents and myself. It's truly amazing; so many people say you forget what you learn in college, but I found that I've gotten to incorporate nearly everything of what I learned in my Women's Studies and Sociology classes into the work that I'm doing. AND I've gotten so many requests to have women's groups, after doing one! It's really inspirational!

WS DEPARTMENT NEWS

NEW DEPARTMENT HEAD

The Women's Studies Department says *thank you* to Njoki Kamau for her service as department head during the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 academic years! Njoki is on sabbatical for the entire academic year 2008-2009. Tineke Ritmeester now begins a three-year period as head of Women's Studies. She has been chair of the department several years in the past and brings her experience plus a renewed enthusiasm for supporting and leading the ongoing work of the department.

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2008

"Women & Water: Clean Water Issues-A Regional and Global Perspective"

Presentation by Sara Lipinski-Romagnoli, Master of Advocacy and Political Leadership (MAPL) student, on behalf of the Sierra Club.

Wednesday Nov 19, 2008 6pm

UMD Life Science 185

Women's Resource and Action Center

Sponsored by the Women's Studies Department, MPIRG and the UMD Center for Freshwater Research and Policy.

DECEMBER 2008

Brown Bag: Women's Resource and Action Center Holiday Party!

Wednesday Dec 3, 2008 Noon

UMD Kirby Student Center 266 and 268

Come visit the office and chat, eat food, and have a great time.

Sponsored by the Women's Resource and Action Center

League of Women Voters Roundtable Discussion with State Legislators

Sunday Dec 14, 2008 1:00pm

Munger Inn

7408 Grand Ave Duluth, MN

Northcountry Women's Coffeehouse Annual Talent Show, Potluck and Craft Bazaar

Saturday, December 19, 2008, 5:30 pm potluck, 7:30 pm talent show

Unitarian Universalist Church, 835 W. College Street

Suggested donation \$8 members, \$10 non-members

JANUARY 2009

League of Women Voters Martin Luther King Breakfast

Monday January 19, 2009, 7:00 am

Holy Family Catholic Church

2430 W. Third St. Duluth, MN

Women's History Month Planning for March

This planning will be on-going. If you have an event you would like included on our Women's History Month posters, or if you would like to help plan and host Women's History Month at UMD, please let us know! Email WS@d.umn.edu or call 218-726-7953.

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