A Note From the Director

Having spent a semester now as Director of Women’s Studies, I am still awed by the task. By that I mean, I find our possibilities “awesome.” Given the years of growth and development through the leadership of Karen Rosenblum, we’re positioned for an acceleration. We have a smoothly functioning Center and academic program and no big problems to solve. We have active and involved groups of students, faculty and affiliates. We work in cooperation with several student services offices to provide education and counseling programs on a variety of topics such as violence prevention, women’s health and safety, career exploration and leadership development. We work with faculty and departments to bring speakers and workshops to advance awareness and understanding of women’s issues, women’s history, and women’s progress. Stories about many of these programs are found elsewhere in this issue.

Building on the strong foundation of the last several years, we are now embarking on several new initiative programs I find both exciting and challenging. We’re planning a graduate degree track within the MAIS degree; we’re working with our Women’s Advisory Board to develop external funding for scholarships and leadership development programs but especially for a major new program to improve recruitment and retention of women in the sciences and technology. This effort involves what we are calling a mainstreaming project which will be an effort to see that information about women and women’s issues is included in all relevant courses within the curriculum, not just in Women’s Studies.

Finally, we have initiated a brown bag discussion series so that the faculty and affiliates in Women’s Studies may get better acquainted with each other. The list of Remaining Brown

Bag dates and topics are listed on page 4. Also be sure to notice the calendar for Women’s History Month on the back page of this issue.

It’s a great ride. Welcome aboard.

Profile of Anita Taylor
Anne Shaw

It was a new school, not hidebound by tradition,” says Anita Taylor of coming to George Mason in 1979. “It’s still not hidebound. We can do new things, try out new ideas.” In her pioneering work as a scholar, teacher, and administrator, Taylor has a history of doing just that. Last year she became the first woman ever to serve as Chair of the GMU Presidential Search Committee. This fall, she assumed the post of Director of Women’s Studies, bringing with her a wealth of experience and a long-range vision.

continued on page 2
When asked her goals for the Women’s Studies Department, she answers immediately. The first is mainstreaming: “We need to make sure that women’s issues are included wherever relevant, not just in the final chapter,” she says. That includes integrating women’s concerns throughout the curriculum, especially in fields where they have traditionally been excluded. “That means talking about women in history classes,” she says, “and economics. Probably 98% of economics pays little attention to the impact of economic policies on women, to how women’s work is evaluated and paid for.” Taylor includes her own discipline, Communication, in the list of departments that could benefit from mainstreaming. “There may be differences in public speaking,” she says. “We don’t encourage women to be public speakers. The model is male. And Sociology—what about women in an urban society?”

Taylor sees mainstreaming as a long-range goal that ultimately involves reconceptualizing the disciplines. This brings her to her other goal: to foster Women’s Studies scholarship within the university. “Women’s Studies is by definition cross-disciplinary,” she explains. “We need to bring faculty together.” Working toward this goal, Taylor has initiated brown bag lunches at which faculty can share ideas about their work. She has also been working with the External Advisory Committee to raise money in support of faculty research.

Taylor, who began as a debate coach, brings to her new post extensive experience with issues of conflict, gender, and communication. She became interested in women’s issues as a result of her personal experiences in academia. “It became clear to me early on that I was operating in a different world than my male colleagues,” she says. As a scholar, she researched women as communicators at a time when many of her colleagues were only studying communication from men’s points of view. In the last three years, her work has turned to gender as a construct. “We need to quit conceptualizing gender as fixed,” she says, stressing the need for more research within new theoretical frameworks. Taylor has edited numerous publications, including Women Communicating, Women and Conflict, and Women and Language, a journal she calls “a place for partial narratives and works in progress.”

Taylor stresses the need to get Women’s Studies scholars tenured within the university. “We need to talk about the idea, get the money, and do it,” she says of supporting faculty and research. As the new Director of Women’s Studies, she has her discerning eye clearly set on the future.
Fund Endowed in Dorothy McDiarmid’s Name
Karen Ellis

Supporting women’s activities at George Mason University is the goal of the recently established Dorothy and Hugh McDiarmid Fund. This Fund has been created to honor the memory of a woman, and her husband, who devoted many years to the advancement of higher education and George Mason University in particular. Its organizers have set a 5-year goal of a $1 million endowment. Primary emphasis will be aid for women seeking degrees in nontraditional fields such as mathematics, science and technology, and business but it also will focus on faculty development and support. The Honorary Chair is The Honorable Vivian Watts, House of Delegates representative from Annandale and former Virginia Secretary of Transportation & Corrections. Sally Merten, wife of GMU president, and Lucy Church, who began a long association with George Mason in 1978 as a returning student, will act as co-chairs and spearhead efforts to solicit donations.

Dorothy McDiarmid served for 26 years in the Virginia General Assembly and, as Chair of the Educational Committee, became a powerful presence in the legislature. The first woman to chair the Appropriations Committee, she sponsored legislation that founded George Mason College and later established George Mason University as an independent institution. Church, her long time friend and associate, remembers a picture of McDiarmid in a hat at the groundbreaking ceremony for George Mason. “It is highly appropriate that George Mason honor her and I know that she would want Mac (her husband) included,” she remarked.

In 1989, McDiarmid was awarded the George Mason Medal in recognition of her service and contributions to the state of Virginia. A staunch advocate of civil rights when it was not a fashionable position to hold, she also worked for the passage of the ERA and was successful in getting it written into the Virginia Constitution. It seems fitting that a woman who spent most of her life championing causes should have a scholarship created in her memory.

The McDiarmid Fund is a product of the year-old Women’s Advisory Board, comprised not only of George Mason University faculty members but of women outside the university. The Board’s mission is the advancement of women at George Mason University by the development of programs that will improve women’s educational opportunities and employment opportunities.

Many of GMU’s returning students are women seeking to advance their occupational potential. Others are women who have started businesses but find it essential to return to school because they lack the necessary business skills. It is these women that the newly formed McDiarmid Fund is seeking to assist. The Fund administrators’ first step will be to solicit contributions from the friends and colleagues of the McDiarmids, as well as the business community, who wish to honor the memory of a woman whose lifetime was spent in striving to achieve a better life not only for women, but every citizen of Virginia.

All scholarship monies are administrated under the umbrella of the GMU Foundation. Any contributions should be made to the Foundation and designated for the McDiarmid Fund.
"Changing World of Work" Events Continue through Spring

This academic year, George Mason and the College of Arts and Sciences are taking a detailed and diverse look at the workplace and how it is evolving. With the theme, "The Changing World of Work," this interdisciplinary program draws on resources from across the university and features lectures, symposia, workshops, art exhibits, and plays.

The initial goal of CAS’s Changing World of Work (CWW) initiative was to bring together social science departments to create opportunities for collaboration and curriculum development, to provide a general spur to faculty research, and to offer general programming on the topic. “The idea for this project originated with the chairs of the social science departments,” says project chair Karen Rosenblum, “but reflects a widespread interest in the topic throughout CAS as well as the rest of the university.”

Collaboration between Women’s Studies and African American studies was a central part of the program planning. African American Studies incorporated the theme into its 1997 Black History Month programming; Women’s Studies also invited speakers who would be able to speak to the topic. Thus, rather than CWW adding an additional layer to the university programming, its topics were woven into existing programming. A similar process occurred with the Center for the Study of the Americas, the History Department’s Finley lecture series, and the planning of Hispanic Heritage Month.

Activities continue through April and are open to the entire university community. For up-to-date information, profiles of speakers, and newly added events, interested parties are encouraged to check the Changing World of Work website (http://www.gmu.edu/cww). For a complete calendar listing of the events scheduled to date, call University Activities at 993-8844.

Debate Over GLBT Counselor Frozen by Board

Allison Cobb, Pride Alliance Member

At its January 16th meeting, George Mason University’s Board of Visitors decided not to reconsider funding a Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender issues counselor until 1998, giving the office of Minority Student Affairs one year to demonstrate documented need for such a counselor.

In what GMU President Alan Merten has called an instance of micromanaging, the board last November voted to block a $15,000 allocation for a GLBT counselor. The proposed position represented a compromise from Merten after the board in September expressed concern over already-approved funding for a GLBT resource center with a part-time staff member.

The conflict drew national attention when Mason students protested the board’s decision, and student and faculty governments condemned the board’s actions. Students have cited incidents of harassment and gay bashing on campus as evidence that Mason needs gay support on campus.

In its recent postponement of the debate, the board did not discuss what form documented need for a gay counselor should take.
Report on Capital Area Women’s Studies Leadership Group Meeting

Kimberly K. Eby

After several years, we have rejoined the Capital Area Women’s Studies Leadership Group (CAWSLG). I am currently representing George Mason and attended my first meeting on December 6. The group meets twice a semester and represents many different colleges and universities including: American, Anne Arundel Community College, Catholic, Gallaudet, Georgetown, GMU, George Washington, Goucher College, Howard, Johns Hopkins, Loyola College, Marymount, Montgomery College, Mount Vernon College, Towson State, Trinity College, Union Institute, U. of Baltimore, U. of the District of Columbia, U. of Maryland College Park, and U. of Maryland Baltimore County. Several important issues were discussed at the meeting. Before I share them with you, I would like to stress that this is a dynamic group of women interested in collaborating and sharing resources whenever possible. They are very enthusiastic that GMU has decided to become more involved. I believe that we will benefit from our participation in the group as well.

Our first discussion was informal, focusing on computer technology. Several of the women are very knowledgeable about creating and maintaining websites. As many of you know, departmental websites are becoming increasingly important as more and more students use the web to obtain information about universities, their programs, and their faculty. I learned about two interesting listserves. The CAWSLG listserv is a simple way to hear about the upcoming events and plans for the group. To subscribe, send a message (SUBSCRIBE CAWSLG) to MAJORDOMO@LISTS.UMBC.EDU. This listserv provides useful information but will not flood your in-box. The second listserv is the national listserv for women’s studies. If you want suggestions for mini-projects, films, or particular readings for a class, you can post that request on the listserv. It is a fantastic resource for both teaching and research. The only drawback is that it is a very active listserv, which means you can expect to sort through a number of messages each day. To subscribe, just send a message (SUBSCRIBE WMST-L FIRST LASTNAME) to LISTSERV@UMDD.UMD.EDU.

I also learned about several new websites at the CAWSLG. The first is a compilation of more than two hundred women- and gender-related e-mail discussion forums (or “lists”). There are a main listing, arranged alphabetically, and a dozen subsections, arranged by topic to make it easier to find women-related lists in specific areas such as Arts & Humanities, Health, Science & Technology, and Sexuality & Sexual Orientation. The address is: http://www.umbc.edu/wmst/forums.html. The second is a collection of information-rich websites that focus on women’s studies/women’s issues. The address is: http://www.umbc.edu/wmst/links.html. Finally, there is a listing of almost 200 women’s studies programs, departments, and research centers in the US and abroad. They are arranged alphabetically, with US and non-US sites grouped separately. The address is: http://www.umbc.edu/wmst/programs.html. I hope these are helpful!

The second major issue discussed at the meeting was Women’s History month. We agreed to share dates for campus events as soon as possible, and post information on the CAWSLG listserv. To keep track of the events, one member will create a merged calendar for participating campuses and post it on the listserv by the end of February.

The final issue discussed was the upcoming oneday NWSA Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference, to be held in the Fall of 1997 at Ann Arundel Community College (near Annapolis). The theme is “Hidden Realities, Secret Visions.” It was born out of the idea that the realities of marginalized women have been hidden in traditional Women’s Studies. African American scholars and non-scholars, as well as other marginalized groups, have found it difficult to integrate their work into mainstream feminism. The visions of these women could transform the field, and yet this transformation is not happening. A description of the theme will be posted on the CAWSLG listserv, along with a call for proposals and papers. The group is very interested in student involvement, so if you have students who have produced quality work, please encourage them to submit. If you have ideas for keynote speakers or are interested in helping review proposals, please let me know.

As you can see, this is a very active group of women’s studies scholars and it is exciting to be part of this group. If you have questions or would like more information about the group, please don’t hesitate to contact me. I hope everyone’s semester is progressing smoothly. ☐
Conversation with Sally Merten

Rose Pascarell

Sally Merten is the newest member of the GMU Women’s Advisory Board. She has had a career in nursing, been active in arts and education efforts, and currently serves on the Board of the Virginia Opera. She is the partner of GMU President Alan Merten. I recently had the opportunity to learn more about her.

What do you think is important for people to know about you?

I want to come across as a caring person, and as someone who has many interests. I think there’s already been a lot of talk that I have been a supporter of the arts and especially education and the arts, but I’m also very interested in women’s issues. I guess I consider myself a feminist, although I tend to work more quietly behind the scenes. I have a daughter who’s quite confident and assertive about her talents and I take partial credit for that. We taught her that she could do anything that she wanted and that she was not disadvantaged by her gender. She certainly has not been. We have also stressed her abilities. Alan supports women’s issues as strongly as I.

Tell me about your career and educational background.

I went to a small women’s college in Kansas City, Missouri for nursing. One way for women to travel at that time with security was to join the military. I joined the Air Force and was sent to Andrews Air Force Base and then to Travis Air Force Base in California. I worked in one of the first Medivac units set up to bring injured Vietnam soldiers back to the US. It was an interesting and scary experience. I would not trade that experience for anything. It really helped me mature as a professional. After Alan and I were married, I taught nursing at St. Mary’s Hospital, Madison, Wisconsin.

Your university experience has taken you to Michigan, Florida State, Cornell, and now GMU. What do you enjoy about being the partner of a university/community leader and what has been difficult?

The nicest thing about Alan’s foray into university administration has been the opportunity to meet very interesting people. I have always been very involved in volunteerism but when Alan became a dean I took on a different role. In Florida, I became involved in the arts community. I served on several boards and my volunteerism gave us an entry to a whole different set of people in the community. That provided an interesting balance. The difficult adjustment I’ve had to make has been related to the scheduling of our life. I think we have minimal control over about 75% of our time.

Have you had involvement with other Women’s Centers or Women’s Studies programs?

When we were at Michigan, they opened a Women’s Center. Michigan’s major role was to provide services for women returning to school. In the early 70s, nobody was really talking about the problems of being a woman on a college campus. With the increased awareness around date rape and sexual harassment, I think Women’s Centers became more visible and more important. I found out about the GMU Women’s Center before I arrived here--people were talking about it.

What do you think are some of the needs for women students in the late 90s?

Women need to continue to learn more about other women’s accomplishments. We’ve tended to look at (as my daughter refers to them) the “old white guys.” We don’t talk as much about what African Americans or Hispanic Americans or other minorities have contributed to this nation. Women’s contributions have also been forgotten. It’s important to look at how women’s issues are present across the curriculum, not just Women’s Studies. I bought a book for my daughter called “Girls Can Do Anything” and it’s important to reinforce that women can do and be anything. Young women today have so many more choices and options for their lives.

Tell us about coanchoring the funding initiative just announced by the Women’s Advisory Board.

I support women in achieving their goals; many times money is a necessity for that to happen. If we can enlist people to provide scholarship support for women who want to return to school, it’s good for the individual, the university, and society. It’s important to give professors the opportunity to learn more so they can teach successfully. If my position as the wife of the president of the university is going to help that initiative, then I’m willing to act in that role. In the past seven years, Alan and I have endowed two scholarships for women, one at Cornell and one at my alma mater. I hope to continue to help women through my participation on the Women’s Advisory Board.
WMST Bylaws Change

Last year the WMST Membership Committee reviewed the policies outlined in the bylaws on faculty appointments and voting rights. The Committee proposed changing the existing bylaws which stated that only tenure and tenure-line faculty could hold faculty status. This proposed change followed a discussion of the concerns of some faculty and faculty affiliates that the existing faculty affiliate status did not adequately represent the contributions of many faculty affiliates.

At a December WMST meeting, faculty voted on and approved the proposal to incorporate two categories of faculty appointments with each category having voting rights as outlined in the University Faculty Handbook. The faculty affiliate category remains essentially the same.

Current faculty affiliates who wish to change to faculty status will need to apply; the Membership Committee is in the process of spelling out application procedures. The revised bylaws are as follows:

Women's Studies faculty will have 5-year, renewable appointments in one of two categories: 1) tenured and tenure-track faculty with a specialization relevant to Women's Studies scholarship; 2) restricted, adjunct, and administrative faculty with a specialization relevant to Women's Studies scholarship. Both categories of faculty must submit a CV and letter of interest for consideration which are reviewed by the Women's Studies Membership Committee with final approval requiring a majority positive vote in a regularly scheduled meeting set aside for that purpose.

Women's Studies faculty members in Category 1 are eligible to vote on personnel issues as specified in the University Faculty Handbook. Both categories of faculty are eligible to vote on the curriculum, policies, and procedures of the Women's Studies Program and on the selection of the Program Director as well as members of the Executive Committee and other standing committees.

Other staff and faculty members with an expressed interest in Women's Studies can be appointed as Women's Studies affiliates by submission to the Women's Studies Membership Committee of a CV and a letter of interest describing their current and anticipated participation in fields relevant to Women's Studies. Women's Studies affiliates will be eligible to vote on the curriculum, policies, and procedures of the Women's Studies Program, and on the selection of the Program Director and Executive Committee.

The Women's Studies Program will be governed by the Women's Studies Executive Committee, which will be composed of five Women's Studies faculty or affiliates and one student member elected by the Women's Studies faculty and affiliates. The election may be held in a regularly scheduled meeting for which notice of time and agenda have been given at least one week in advance, or a mail ballot may be approved by the Executive Committee.

Members of the Executive Committee will serve staggered two-year terms. The Director of Women's Studies will chair the Committee. The primary responsibilities of the Committee will be to advise the Director, set program policies, approve course offerings and instructors, serve as student advisors, and generally oversee student progress. Women's Studies faculty and affiliates will be asked to serve on individual task forces and subcommittees as that becomes necessary.

Representatives elected to the Executive Committee are Debra Bergoffen, Sheila ffollitt, Cindy Fuchs, Linda Seligmann, and Toni Travis. Committee members by virtue of office are Rose Pascarell and Anita Taylor.

Standing subcommittee members are the Membership Committee, consisting of Sheila ffollitt, Cindy Fuchs, Karen Oates, Kristin Samuelian, and Terry Zawacki, and the Curriculum Committee, consisting of Debra Bergoffen (Chair) Lorraine Brown, Brenda Burchette, and Ellen Todd.

Farewell to Cheryl Secrist-Alvarez

Cheryl Secrist-Alvarez, Administrative Assistant at the Women's Center for the past two years, recently resigned to take a position as Recruitment Coordinator at a Human Resources consulting firm in Alexandria. Cheryl contributed greatly to the Women's Center and was instrumental in organizing programming, assisting students, and creating an inviting and safe atmosphere in the Center. We wish her well in her new position.
Spotlight on WMST Students . . .

Women’s Studies Alum Zainab Salbi Seeks Sponsors and Volunteers for Women for Women in Bosnia
Anne Shaw

Three years ago, when media reports began publicizing rape camps in Bosnia, Zainab Salbi felt compelled to get involved. “Girls as young as four and six, and women as old as eighty and ninety were being held in the rape camps,” she says. “I felt I had a responsibility to help. My husband, too—we view it as a human issue and a women’s issue, because the rape camps were really against all women throughout the world.”

Sponsorship Program

The result was Women for Women in Bosnia, a program to find American sponsors for Bosnian refugee women. It was one month between idea and organization, and within another three months the group was making its first deliveries. Response was overwhelming. “Many people approached us,” Salbi says. “We had day and night calls—it was amazing. A lot of people were in our boat. They wanted to do something simple, to help a few women at least.”

Salbi, then a 23 year-old Women’s Studies minor at GMU, felt from the beginning that the organization should work on the community level, with preexisting women’s groups. “Representatives from the groups would go to the refugee camps or women would come to them, then recommend their names to our local representative.” That representative, an American nurse who had worked at the front lines and decided to stay in Croatia, would check on the women and forward their names to sponsors. “The group started because of the rape camps,” Salbi says, “but we decided not to ask about it or concentrate on it.” Since all the refugee women were survivors of war, “we never ask any woman what she has been through.” The group serves women of all ages and distributes aid to any woman in need regardless of religious or ethnic affiliation.

In the past three years, many professional women have returned to their practices or relocated to other countries, but numerous others have remained. “These are women whose homes were destroyed and are heading single family households,” Salbi says. “Whatever source of income they had was destroyed.”

Micro-Credit Lending Program

In response to the changing situation in Bosnia, Salbi has designed a new program, Micro-Credit Lending. Like the sponsorship program, the lending program works with women in their communities. Salbi says the program decided to focus on rural areas because women in these areas were least likely to have educations and or receive aid from other development agencies. “These people have no collateral, and commercial banks won’t talk to people with nothing,” Salbi says. “In our program, the poorer you are, the more eligible you are.”

To secure loans, the program uses what Salbi calls “social collateral.” Through the program, women who want to take out loans have to join together in groups of five, so “there is collective responsibility.” When the first woman has paid off her loan, the next becomes eligible. So, says Salbi, “the women are responsible for each other’s success.”

The program encourages women of different ethnic groups to work together at revitalizing the local economy. Women initially take out loans to finance business ventures such as farming and cheese production. By selling her products on the local market, the woman obtains a source of income and, when she has paid off her first loan, becomes eligible for a larger one. After two years of loans, she is eligible for a home loan. The program thus benefits both individuals and their communities. “We want to promote leadership among women,” says Salbi. “There must be a focus on rebuilding.”

Salbi herself has had experience with rebuilding under difficult circumstances. A native Iraqi, Salbi was vacationing in the U.S. in 1990 when the Gulf War broke out. Soon, Salbi found it was impossible for her to return home. “I was in my fourth year of college in Iraq,” she says. “For months, I wanted to go back and finish.” Although Salbi has not been home to see her family for the past seven years, she has adapted to life in the U.S. “Eventually,” she says, “I decided to stay and make a life.”

She began attending GMU, which “gave me the opportunity to improve my focus. I knew I wanted to help women, and I knew I wanted to do some-
thing international, but I didn’t know exactly how
or what to do.” Rather than allowing her studies
to conflict with her political work, Salbi used one
to advance the other. “When I was starting the
project, my teachers were supportive,” she says.
“If I had research to do and I was too busy to do it,
I would do research for school that contributed to
work. I’d do it at school as a school project. GMU
contributed enormously to my ability to present
on this information.” George Mason students also
provided a great deal of support, says Salbi. Stu-
dents who wanted to help formed sponsorship
groups, writing individual and collective letters.

Student Internships Available

In addition to sponsors, “we are always looking
for volunteers and interns,” says Salbi, when asked
how people can get involved. GMU students can
tailor internships to their interests and receive
academic credit. Interns do research, send letters to
translators, or embark on fund raising and media
projects. “We see what the person is interested in
and wants to improve their skills in,” she explains.

With the help of its sponsors, volunteers, and inter-
terns, Women for Women has aided more than
1,000 people over the past three years. Salbi has
been honored by President Clinton for her work,
and the program has been profiled in The Phila-
delphia Inquirer, The Miami Herald, The Indian-
apolis Star, and Family Circle Magazine. Re-
cently, Ms. selected two Bosnian women as its
Women of the Year—one of them sponsored by
Salbi’s organization The two lawyers, both sur-
vors of rape camps, have been influential in get-
ting the International Criminal Tribunal to pro-
secute rape as crime against humanity. On a recent
trip to D.C., the woman was finally able to meet
her sponsor. “I think she is still being sponsored,”
Salbi says, illustrating at once both the difference
the organization has made and the level of need
that persists.

While Salbi sees no immediate threat that war will
return to Bosnia, she says that the end of the con-
fusion brought on more hardship. Since last year’s
peace accords, the United Nations humanitarian
section has closed and other aid organizations have
dried up. “When I was there in September, people
were telling me they had more food during the war
than now, and people didn’t have much food dur-
ing the war. The average Bosnian lost twenty
pounds a year. Now that they aren’t getting aid,
they have to buy food, but there is not much money
to buy food with. Aid organizations should not
abandon them.”

Certainly, Salbi has no intention of doing that. “The
war posed questions about humanity to all of us,”
she says. With her energy and innovation, she is
autely aware that while the war may be over, the
battle for humanity is still being fought.

How to Help: Women for Women in Bosnia is in
need of sponsors, volunteers, and student interns.
They can be reached by phone at (202) 822-1391
or at 1725 K Street NW, Suite 611, Washington
DC, 20006. More information is available on their
homepage at www.embassy.org/wwbosnia/
wwbosnia.html.

Broad’s Side Revisited

Any Davison

You could say that keeping the feminist message alive with students can be, well, pretty challenging. At
a Women’s Coalition meeting last year, we decided that the best way to get students involved was to keep
them updated with our events and mission. The best option, we decided, was to restart a newsletter that
began in a Women’s Coalition meeting years ago. When choosing a name, we, like the previous mem-
bers, couldn’t pass up a good pun and decided to stick with the Broad’s Side. Besides, the definition of
“broad” fits our message nicely: it means expansive, sweeping, ample, and comprehensive—words that
perfectly describe the message of feminism.

After four issues of the newsletter, we have recognized numerous benefits. First, it allows us to get our
message out there, informing readers of feminist events on local, national, and campus levels. It also
provides a forum for student poetry and artwork. Each issue profiles an extraordinary woman of history
as a reminder of how damaging the suppression of one gender’s contributions can be for the whole of
society. Finally, the newsletter is a reflection of each and every person involved in its production.

The Broad’s Side is always, always seeking submissions. Drop off poetry, stories, articles, and artwork
pertaining to feminism in the Women’s Center, JC 240K.
Faculty and Staff News

Vicky Balenger has started a part-time private counseling practice in Bethesda, Maryland. She also provides consultation and outreach for various community organizations.

Debra B. Bergoffen will give the keynote address April 4 at the annual meeting of the Society of Women Philosophers; on April 24 she will comment on a paper at the American Philosophical Society (APS) meeting dealing with the issue of violence and the ways it inscribes itself on women’s bodies.

Wendy Brinig read a paper on the limitations of applying economics to family law November 12 at the Columbia Feminist Legal Theory Workshop. On November 24, she (with coauthor F.H. Buckley) presented “No-Fault Laws and At Fault People” to the Southern Economics Association. Their papers were accepted by Public Choice and the Supreme Court Review, respectively. She will give the keynote address on joint custody laws in April at the Law and Society Conference at the University of Indiana Law School.

Brenda H. Burchett spent January 3-19 in Guatemala with GMU students studying International/Intercultural Communication. In April she will participate in a panel “The Burke Conference Revisited” at both the Southern States Communication Association in Savannah and the Eastern Communication Association in Baltimore. She is Vice-President Elect of the Interpersonal Communication Division of the Southern States Communication Association.


Marion F. Deshmukh gave a presentation at the National Gallery of Art on December 14 at the public symposium Adolph Menzel: Between Romanticism and Impressionism exhibit, titled “The Enigma of German Art in America.” She has been elected Chair Elect of the European Section of the Southern Historical Association and will present a paper at the annual meeting of the College Art Association in February in New York City on “Surveying the Arts Scene in Occupied Germany, the William Constable OMGUS Report.” Two articles she published in 1996 are “Politics is an Art: The Cultural Politics of Max Liebermann in Wilhelmine Germany,” for the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., and “The German War Art Collection,” for the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C.

Sheila Follott is currently Vice-President for the Society for the Study of Early Modern Women and is President-Elect for 1997-1998. She recently presented “The Ideal Queerly Patron of the Renaissance: Catherine de Medici Defining Herself or Defined by Others?” in Women and Art in Early Modern Europe: Patrons, Collectors, and Connoisseurs. Two papers she presented in 1996 were “Women in the Garden of Allegory” at the Group for Early Modern Studies and “Changing Identities: Looking at Representational Systems for Royal Women in 16th Century France” at the Berkshire Conference on The History of Women. She will present “Muted Poetry: Leonardo’s Ginevra de’ Benci and Raphael’s Galatea,” as keynote speaker at the Philadelphia Symposium, Philadelphia Museum of Art in February and in March at Mary Washington College as part of Women’s History Month Special Lecture series.

Cynthia J. Fuchs presented the following papers in the fall of 1996: “Losers: post-punks, consumption, and resistance,” for MLA in Washington DC: “I came to such you down: girl-fronted bands and post-alternative politics,” at the International Association for the Study of Popular Music (Canadian Division), McGill University, Montreal; and “White boys, black styles,” at the International Association for the Study of Popular Music (US Division), University of Colorado, Denver. Her recent publications include “‘Beat me outta me’: Alternative masculinities,” in Boys: Masculinities in Contemporary Culture and “I wanna be your fantasy’: Sex, death, and the Artist Formerly Known as Prince,” in Women and Performance: Special Issue: Queer Acts. She reviews films for the Philadelphia Citypaper and the Washington Blade. Her monthly film reviews for Addicted to Noise (an on-line newspaper) can be found at http://www.addict.com/atn.

Connie J. Kirkland was awarded two 1997 federal Violence Against Women Act grants entitled “Reestablishing Virginia Campus Sexual
Assault Training” and “Comprehensive Outreach for Campus Sexual Assault Victims.” In November, she presented “Rohypnol and GHb: the Date-Rape Drugs” at the Virginia Network for Victims and Witnesses of Crime, Inc. Fourteenth Annual Conference in Virginia Beach. Her poem “The Art of Shedding” was published in Frost at Midnight, the 1996 edition of The National Library of Poetry. She also serves on the Editorial Board of the forthcoming publication Campus Safety and Security Administration: Forms, Checklists, and Guideline Manual.

Sondra Patrick (and James J. Fletcher) gave the following presentations: “Coping with Changing Dimensions of Faculty Work: George Mason University Faculty Experiences,” at the 1997 AAHE Conference on Faculty Roles and Rewards, San Diego, January 1997; “Qualitative Research as a Means to Achieving Equitable Participation in the Educational Decision Making Process,” at the 1997 International Qualitative Research in Education Conference, University of Georgia in January 1997; “Peer Review and the Scholarship of Teaching,” at the 1996 Lilly Conference on Teaching at Miami University, Ohio; and “What Students Learn from New Teaching Technologies (Multimedia Classrooms, etc.) Compared to what They Learn in More Traditional Classroom Settings: Searching for Evidence of Student Learning,” at the Technology and Learning Roundtable, 19th Annual Conference on Student Assessment in Virginia, November, 1996

Lisa Marie Rabin has been busy mothering Elizabeth Rachel, born on July 13, 1996. She has an article forthcoming in the next Hispanic issue of MLN entitled “Speaking to Silent Ladies: Images of Beauty and Politics in Poetic Portraits of Women from Petrarch to Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz.” She is beginning a new comparative project on women’s poetry of Latin America.

Janine Ricouart translated Mireille Best’s short story “Le livre de Stephanie” into English and a part of it will be published in 1997 in an anthology of international lesbian fiction, entitled “World’s Apart.” She also wrote a book review for Lambda Book Report of Michele Zackheim’s Violette’s Embrace, a novel published in 1996.

Karen Rosenblum has just completed a paper (with Beth Omanski Gordon) titled “Ignoring Disability: An Impaired Sociology?” The paper will be presented in the 1997 Social Science and History Association meetings. She has also completed a paper (with David W. Haines) entitled “Global Conversations in a Parochial Context: Depictions of Refugees in the Capital of the Confederacy.”

Kristin F. Samuelian read two papers recently entitled “Thoroughly Modernizing Elmo: Twentieth-Century Interventions and the Case for Implicit Feminism,” at the East Central American Society for 18th Century Studies Conference in Georgetown; and “‘Home Duties’ Negotiating Influence in 1854,” at the South Atlantic Modern Language Association Conference in Savannah. In August she hosted a conference on Jane Austen at GMU, sponsored by the Intellectual Life of Schools Project.

Linda J. Seligmann has completed two articles entitled, “Survival Politics and the Movements of Market Women in Peru in the Age of Neoliberalism,” to be published in The Costs of Modernization in Latin America (Jaguar Books), and “A Woman of Steel: The Life Story of a Peruvian Market Woman,” to be published in Women in the Informal Sector: Case Studies and Theoretical Approaches” (SUNY Press). She is also publishing an edited volume entitled Mediating Identities, Marketing Wares: Gender, Class and Ethnicity among Market Women with Stanford University Press. She currently serves as a counselor of the Society for Latin American Anthropology and is a contributing editor for that section to the American Anthropology Newsletter.

Margaret R. Yocom, folklorist, gave a presentation to folklorists and composition specialists at the University of Pennsylvania on “Storytelling and the Teaching of Ethnographic Writing” in February 1997.

Terry Zawacki chaired and presented panel discussions with colleagues across the disciplines at the Mid-Atlantic Conference on Computers and Writing at Virginia Tech and at the Writing Across the Curriculum Conference in Charleston, SC. Both panels addressed learning community initiatives in the Linked Courses Program.
March 1997
Women's History Month Schedule

March 1
Women’s Solidarity Against Fundamentalism
SUB II, 4 pm
co-sponsored with Assoc. of Iranian Women

March 1
First Regional Conference of Latina Women:
Latinas: Voz y Presencia
Open Planning Session & Discussion
JC, Multipurpose Room 9 am-12 pm

March 3-April 4
Deanna Leamon
The Hamlet, North Carolina Series
An exhibition of figure drawings based on the 1991 factory fire at the Imperial Food Products chicken processing plant in Hamlet, North Carolina.
JC, The Center Gallery and Fine Arts Building Gallery

March 5
Professor Ellen Todd, Art History and Women’s Studies, GMU
Drawing Disaster:
Deanna Leamon’s Hamlet, NC Series:
An In-progress Conversation
co-sponsored with Art History
JC, The Center Gallery
11:30 am-12:20 pm and 1:30 pm-2:20 pm

March 6
Professor Rhonda Williams
Scholar-in-Residence, African American Studies
Reversing Discrimination:
Affirmative Action Undone 1975-1985
JC, Room 239A, 10:30 am-12 noon
co-sponsored with African American Studies

March 19
Professor Elizabeth Clark Lewis
Associate Professor of History, Howard U.
Women’s History Month Annual History Lecture
JC, Multipurpose Room, 1:30 pm
co-sponsored with History

March 21
Professor Susan Hanson
Graduate School of Geography, Clark U.
Gender, Work, and Space
SUB II, 12:30 pm
co-sponsored with Virginia Social Science Association and Changing World of Work

March 21
Katha Pollitt
JC, Multipurpose Room, 2:30 pm
co-sponsored with Changing World of Work

Katha Pollitt’s writings appear regularly in The New Yorker, The Nation, and The New York Times, and she is a commentator for National Public Radio. She is the author of Reasonable Creatures: Essays on Women and Feminism. She has been described as writing “the liveliest, smartest, general essays on women’s issues today.” Pollitt received her BA from Harvard and her MFA from Columbia.

March 22
Seventh Annual Women’s Leadership Conference:
Feminisms, Activism, Womanism
JC, Multipurpose Room, 8 am-5 pm
Keynote Address: Katha Pollitt, 9 am

The conference provides a forum for discussion of issues and concepts concerning the development, enhancement, and effectiveness of women student leadership. Participants meet other students, professionals, and community leaders and explore ideas through a variety of thought-provoking presentations, workshop sessions, and panel discussions. The conference encourages a learning environment that values the experience and ideas of all women. This year’s theme, Feminisms, Activism, Womanism, emerges directly from the comments and requests from last year’s participants to highlight and focus on the connections between leadership, activism, and feminism. Registration Required. Call Women’s Center for Information.

March 25
Claudia Stevens
An Evening with Madame F
Performance portraying the life of a young pianist imprisoned in Nazi concentration camps.
Harris Theater, 8 pm

March 26
Conversation III:
A Celebration of International Women’s Day:
Women and Global Issues
JC, Room 240K, noon

For more information on any of WHM97 events, call the Women’s Center 993-2896