Dear Colleagues, Students and Friends of Women and Gender Studies:

When I reflect on the evolution of the current Women and Gender Studies Program, I realize what a debt of gratitude we owe to our Women’s Studies foremothers at Mason. I have heard their stories, viewed the old photographs, and read the first fliers and newsletters. Unafraid of being labeled feminists, these women poured their energy and passion into their vision for a Women’s Studies Program. And they made it happen, despite the workload they carried in their own departments and the obstacles they faced as they cobbled together the necessary resources. They created a space—a closet-sized space—where faculty, staff and students could “speak the truth about their lives” and where an intellectually vibrant community of scholars could work together on student outreach, curricula development, and gender-related research.

Now, fifteen or so years later, the truths spoken here have indeed split the world open in many ways—Women’s Studies has become Women and Gender Studies, research priorities have shifted somewhat from the singular focus on the rights of women to women’s rights as they intersect with issues of race, class, and gender identity and expression. The concept of women’s rights as human rights has provided an opening for courses and research on global issues. Although this narrative thread creates the illusion of effortless progress, we all know that the achievements have been the result of hard work during some very hard times and some very hard work in the less difficult times. We simply cannot escape the fact that vision must be integrated with attention to the pragmatics of day-to-day and year-to-year operations, that growth and transformation rarely occur without some grief, and that change usually happens in stages.

Today, the Women and Gender Studies Program stands on solid ground with a robust research community, a strong student outreach program, an expanding gender-related curriculum, and a recurring line-up of scholarly lectures. How fortuitous that the change in leadership is occurring at this particular moment in the program’s history! Nancy Hanrahan can move on, assured that she has moved the program forward and is leaving it in excellent condition. I realize that I have the luxury of moving into a well-established program with a top-notch team of co-workers. I am indeed privileged to be in a position to build on the work of my predecessors and to learn from and to collaborate with a knowledgeable team to make sure that our program remains on the leading edge of feminist and gender-related outreach, academics, and research.

My commitment to the program springs from my feminist principles and my personal interests in social justice and human rights. I hope to recruit new faculty affiliates who will form research communities similar to the Global Gender Justice Research Community, which is still going strong after emerging from the faculty development workshop in Women’s Studies in 2005 under Nancy Hanrahan’s leadership. Currently, several members of that first research community—Debra Bergoffen, Paula Gilbert, Tamara Harvey and Connie McNeeley—are finishing up an edited volume they developed from the work of scholars and activists who presented at the first Global Gender Justice Symposium in 2007. At last count, three publishers were vying for the book! What an excellent model that research community is for developing other research groups!

The work that has begun on gender research must be sustained in order to realize the larger goals of integration of scholarly and creative work with activism. We must continue the gender research methods year-long course which has produced important gender research highlighted in two Graduate Research Project Conferences. The 2009-2010 academic year is the third of a five-year project. This project is a priority, and I will continue to push for the financial and teaching resources to move this project across the finish line.

I feel extremely fortunate to be taking on the role of director at a time when the Women and Gender Studies Center is fully staffed and working under the leadership of the Associate Director, Vicki Kirsch. I look forward to working with her, Susan Miller, the Program Coordinator and the student staff, watching as they create more and more collaborations with people at Mason, in the local community and around the world! As the new Director of the program, I feel very fortunate to be in this place at this time!

Suzanne Scott

1 That phrase is borrowed from lines from a Muriel Rukeyser poem: “What would happen if one woman told the truth about her life? / The world would split open.”
Farewell Letter from Nancy Hanrahan

Dear Colleagues and Friends of Women and Gender Studies:

2008/9 was a banner year for Women and Gender Studies. Enrollment in the undergraduate minor topped 50, the largest cohort of students ever in the program. The number of graduate students also grew, to 17, and graduate admissions for the current academic year more than doubled. Our graduating class of 23 students was the largest in the program’s history.

In faculty news, Assistant Professor Saida Hodzic was one of this year’s recipients of a Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation grant. The foundation makes grants to scholars studying violence and aggression in the hope that their work will help manage aggression and eliminate violence in both personal and international relations. Dr. Hodzic was awarded the grant to complete her field research in Ghana and to finish her manuscript, Of rebels, spirits and social engineers: The problems with ending female genital cutting.

The Gender Research Project finished its second year with nearly 30 students participating in research on gender issues on the Mason campus and presenting their findings at the second annual Mason Gender Research conference. The project goes into its third cycle this fall under the direction of Dr. Amy Best, with new students in the research methods class and proposals for external funding to support data analysis and dissemination through conferences and formal reports. The Global Gender Justice research community, devoted to student and faculty research on gender and global human rights, is finishing work on an edited volume of papers from last year’s very successful symposium.

The Center’s Goat Project has been a huge success, raising funds for over 35 goats to be sent to rural women in Uganda through the Women’s Center for Job Creation. What’s more, participation in this initiative was truly campus-wide and it has contributed significantly to our outreach efforts. Other Center events, such as the staged reading of Ntozake Shange’s For Coloured Girls, the 2nd Annual Feminist Art Show, and our occasional holiday dance parties, all brought new people into the Center and fulfilled our mission to serve a wide range of constituencies on campus. Full reports on these activities are in the pages that follow.

It is with great pride in what we have collectively accomplished that I relinquish the Director position. It has been an honor to serve in this capacity and to work with such dedicated, brilliant, lively and collegial core and affiliated faculty; and with such deeply committed and engaged students and staff members. I owe a very special thanks to everyone who served on the Executive Committee during my tenure and contributed to the conversations and labor that have shaped the program and its goals. Associate Director Vicki Kirsch has been an inspiration, and Program Coordinator Susan Miller, my right hand. I couldn’t have wished for, or imagined, a stronger and more supportive staff. Finally, I am just thrilled with the selection of Prof. Suzanne Scott as the new Director, and I wish her great success in fulfilling her vision for WMST.

Thanks to all of you. My best for the new academic year.

Nancy Hanrahan
HONORS:

What a privilege to have worked with you these last three years as a member of the Executive Committee! I have learned a great deal about leadership by watching you maneuver a variety of obstacles and barriers. I am grateful that I now have some of those skills in my repertoire, and I am honored that I will move into the position of director at a time when the Women and Gender Studies Program is on such solid ground. You can be very proud of all that you have accomplished during your

Dahling
Such an amazing director
Such a fabulous woman
Such a wild ride
So Go
Be Well
And Enjoy Already
Hugs, Hugs, Hugs

Dearest Nancy, you mean more to me than I could possibly convey and you deserve the very best this world has to offer. I love you always!

On behalf of the women who organize the annual Visual Cultures Symposium, thank you for your partnership and support! We will miss your enthusiasm and creativity.

For Nancy:
"There is no way I would have been able to make it through this program without your support and guidance. And I promise to never use the word "methodology" when the word "method" will suffice!"

Thank you Nancy for these many years of your service, leadership, and friendship. You should take much pride in the gender research project as well as the strong relationships you have built with our graduate and undergraduate students. Thank you also for the many wonderful dinners at your house and your support of my scholarship.

Thank you, Nancy. When I think of feminist teaching, scholarship, and activism that are at the heart of Women and Gender Studies, I think of you.

Nancy: I will always remember recovering with you in Rehoboth. What drama!!

I wish to just say thank you for being a wonderful chair and good luck in future endeavors.

"You are surprising and constant, encouraging and challenging.
And I could really use a pocket-size Nancy for emergency reality checks throughout my day."

Nancy, I always enjoyed all your energy directing Women and Gender Studies but last summer I also realized what an enormous heart you had. You were a crucial support as came back from leave!

"Nancy, this dance was much too brief, but I know we'll continue, as long as there is more barbeque to try down the road for these two Jewish new york girls. Thank you for everything."

Dear Nancy Thank you for your hard work, collegiality, friendship and most of all for your humanity. It is a privilege to know you, and I look forward to a continued collaboration.

When I think of Nancy, I think smiles and hugs :-) Through good times and tough times, she has always been warm and welcoming. Nancy truly cares about people and it shows. We will miss working with her.

"So I do remember all of our meetings, all of our discussions, all of our (lengthy!) phone conversations... But when I really think about these last many years, what comes to mind most vividly, are our long, long dinners together when we truly got to know one another. I remember the wine, the food, the laughter, the friendship. That's what counts for me."
Fall for the Book: Joy Harjo

Each year Women and Gender Studies sponsors at least one writer for Fall for the Book, a festival of writers and artists that takes place on campus and in the greater Fairfax area. This year, we invited Muscogee poet, musician and artist Joy Harjo to offer a workshop in Vicki Kirsch's "Women, Sex and Psyche" class and to do a performance in a Tent outside of the Johnson Center.

Harjo is the author of seven books of poetry including She Had Some Horses, In Mad Love and War, Map to the Center of the World and, most recently How We Became Human: New and Selected Poems 1975-2001. She also co-edited an important anthology of contemporary Native women's writing, Reinventing the Enemy's Language: Native Women's Writing of North America. Harjo's first music CD, Letter from the End of the 20th Century, was released in 1997, and Winding Through the Milky Way was recently released. She was also the narrator for the television series The Native Americans series and for the Emmy Award-winning show Navajo Codetalkers. She has received numerous poetry awards and premiered a reading of her one-woman show (with original music), Wings of Night Sky, Wings of Morning Light at the Public Theater in NYC in 2007. She co-wrote the signature film of the National Museum of the American Indian, A Thousand Roads. Harjo writes a column "Comings and Goings" for her tribal newspaper, the Muscogee Nation News. She lives mostly in Honolulu, Hawai'i where she is a member of the Hui Naiu Canoe Club, and in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

In the workshop, Harjo told stories of her life and of others, particularly women, within her Muscogee community. She read a mix of published and unpublished poetry highlighting the role of the trickster figure Rabbit, and the ways in which the trickster provides alternative meanings in relationships to nature, people, and one’s own story. She also spoke at length about the significance of girls and women finding their voices and sharing them into the world.

She played the traditional wooden flute and sang some of her poetry which she had previously put to music on her albums. She amused (and perhaps frightened) several of the students who came into the workshop late by telling them that in her class at the University of New Mexico late students are required to sing their way into class in order to be admitted.

The reading/performance later in the day was amazing and magical. It was a stunningly beautiful day outside in the Tent, and Harjo combined her playing of the saxophone and traditional flute with her spoken and sung words to spin a web of spiritual and emotional depth. While she focused on new pieces in her spoken words, she sung some of her more well-known poems and added musical interludes which provided a different experience for listeners. I dare to say that it was a transformational experience for those present and listening.
Fall for the Book 2009: Staceyann Chin

This September, the Women and Gender Studies Center is bringing spoken-word artist, poet, and author Staceyann Chin to Mason for Fall for the Book. Chin is perhaps most famous for co-writing and performing in the critically acclaimed Russell Simmons Def Poetry Jam. On top of that, she has traveled the world giving workshops on poetry writing from places like Denmark and London, to some of America’s finest universities. Recently, Chin published a memoir entitled The Other Side of Paradise about the hardships of growing up as a lesbian in Jamaica, and her struggle to find a home. Chin will be performing on September 22nd at 1:30 in the Tent near the Johnson Center, and will be giving a workshop at 3:00 in the Women and Gender Studies Center, room 240K.

Women in the Election Roundtable

The fall 2008 election season proved to be one that would bring a renewed focus on the role of women in politics. With Hillary Clinton’s bid for the Democratic nomination for president and Sarah Palin as the vice-presidential candidate for the Republican Party and even down to the media fervor over women’s wardrobe choices, there is no denying there was an increased focus on women during the election season. However, there was question as to whether this focus helped to call attention to feminist and gender related issues, or if it was only surface deep. To delve into this topic Women and Gender Studies faculty and students paired up with Christian Yingling from MasonVotes for a Roundtable Podcast and Panel Discussion. The panelists included, Janette Muir of NCC, Priscilla Regan of PIA, Yvette Richards-Jordan of WGST, Claire Snyder-Hall of PIA, MAIS student Brianne Russell Morris and undergraduate Sociology and WGST student Dionne Foster.

Questions addressed in both the podcast and the roundtable included: Are there women’s issues? If indeed certain topics are labeled as women’s issues does that then create a divisive and marginalized environment? The conversations also included discussions of equal pay, the right to choose, HIV/AIDS, access to birth control and the stances of now President Barack Obama and Senator John McCain.

One of the most amazing things represented in these discussions was the multiple dimensions of feminism. Although there were many topics that the panel agreed on, throughout the podcast and the roundtable the discussants diverged on several issues raised, especially concerning whether or not the images of women in the media would be beneficial to younger generations of women. To hear the discussants talk about this and a range of other issues, visit the podcast online at http://masonvotes.gmu.edu/blog/?p=680

Roundtable Discussion: Women & the Election

Thursday, October 23, 2008
3PM-4:30PM
Johnson Center Gold Room

Moderated by Christian Yingling, MasonVotes

Professor Staceyann Chin, Def Poetry Jam

Professor Janette Muir, NCC

Professor Priscilla Regan, PIA

Professor Yvette Richards-Jordan, WGST

Professor Claire Snyder-Hall, PIA

Brianne Russell Morris, MAIS

Dionne Foster, WGST
Turning Point Plaza Project

Our first intern in the newly organized Turning Point Plaza Memorial Project, Monica Johnson, was the most excited about her opportunities to work with primary materials in the Sewall-Belmont Museum. Together with Archivist Jennifer Krafiik, Collections Manager, The Sewall-Belmont House and Museum, Monica looked through many boxes of photos, letters, and scrapbooks - combing the archives for meaningful themes, quotes, and photos for the development of the the Turning Point Plaza Memorial Site and what came to known as the Silent Sentinel Award, an annual award given each year by the organization to honor a woman active in voting rights. The internship culminated with the Turning Point Plaza Awards event on May 1, 2009 when the Silent Sentinel Award was presented to Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton.

Women and Gender Studies is one of the collaborators in this project headed by Jane Barker, League of Women Voters, Fairfax, VA and John Houser, Occoquan Regional Park Manager. In 1917, some 123 women suffragists were imprisoned in the Occoquan Workhouse, then part of the Lorton Prison complex, in retaliation for picketing for the right to vote in front of the Woodrow Wilson White House.

Vagina Monologues

The month of February is not all about boxes of chocolate, flowers, and valentines. It is also an important time in which violence against women is brought into the spotlight, much thanks to Eve Ensler. This feminist wrote the first draft of The Vagina Monologues in 1996 subsequent to 200 interviews she conducted with women, inquiring their views on sex, relationships, and violence against women.

The Women and Gender Studies staff celebrated vaginas together this year by attending the Vagina Monologues as a group. There were three performances, held on February 6th and 7th in Harris Theatre. The Women and Gender Studies Center helped sponsor this event, alongside the Office of Alcohol, Drug and Health Education, Sexual Assault Services, and University Life. All proceeds from the show benefited the George Mason University Victims of Violence Fund and Women for Women International.

The George Mason University Victims of Violence Fund benefits students who are victims of sexual and domestic violence. It is administered by Mason Sexual Assault Services and provides funding for transportation, counseling, medical assistance, telephone services, emergency supplies, food and safety services. Women for Women International is a Washington D.C. based organization founded by GMU alumna Zainab Salbi. This association assists women who are victims of war, aiding them in becoming self-sufficient, beginning with financial and emotional support. This affects not simply one woman - it influences entire families and communities as well. The organization has made great progress in the DR Congo, although there is still much work to be done. The goal is to create a world where no one is abused, poor, illiterate, or marginalized.
Faculty Staff Breakfast

Wednesday, February 11, 2009 marked the day of the Annual Women and Gender Studies Faculty and Staff Breakfast. Hosted in the Admissions Lounge, the breakfast offers an opportunity for Women and Gender Studies faculty and staff to meet or reconnect. Ideas, concerns, and accomplishments were shared over pastries and coffee catered by Panera Bread.

Gender Masquerade Ball/ Mardi Gras Dance

“If I could tell you what it meant, there would be no point in dancing it.”
Isadora Duncan
Reve(a)ling Feminist Art

The 123 Gallery was packed on March 4, 2009, including eager students, staff, family, and friends who awaited the opening of "Reve(a)ling Feminist Art." This annual juried exhibition is sponsored by Women and Gender Studies and Art and Visual Technology in honor of Women’s History Month. This year, there was a magnificent turnout! There was a total of 21 pieces of artwork submitted into the feminist art show this year, which included fourteen artists’ work displayed in the 123 Gallery. Additional artwork was exhibited in the Women and Gender Studies Center. Professor Ellen Todd joined as the Mistress of Ceremonies, introducing the event at the opening reception. The artwork was juried by Maria Karametou, Assistant Professor of Art and Visual Technology, Suzanne Scott, Associate Professor of New Century College, and Dr. Vicki Kirsch, Associate Director of Women and Gender Studies.

The artwork ranged from sculptures to paintings, all tackling different topics in the feminist realm. The goal of the exhibition was to depict that feminist art is art with significance and meaning, rather than purely art created by women. Feminist art embraces issues dealing with gender and human experience, which includes, but is certainly not limited to, human body, race, class, sexuality, capitalism, globalization, politics, power and domination, and beauty.

The winning artist was Gwynneth VanLaven, who was recognized for her three pieces in the art show. Her work included “Of Two Minds,” “How Do You Feel Today,” and “Rim Notes Recovery,” all of which were well-received by those who came in and out of the gallery throughout the month of March. Gwynneth’s work was acknowledged as being exceptionally original, addressing feminist issues in an inventive and inspirational manner. Deborah Rose Guberbock and Brandy Kelly received second and third places. The exhibit was a huge success and we look forward to doing it again next year.

This year’s artists:

Susan Armstrong - Reproduction of Ladies Stockings
Karolin Bina - Atlas
Joanna Bosik & Brittany Carter - Smile at Your Woman Parts
Suzanne De Saix - Coffee Break, Postcards from Angkor, Being and Somethingsness
Deborah Rose Guberbock - Identity Thief
Lauren Heath - Facing Your Fears
Brandy Kelley - Prom Queen
Deborah Lash - Rahab Series Part 1: Bring Out the Men Who Have Entered Your House, Rahab Series Part 2: Rahab the Harlot Had Taken the Two Men and Hidden Them in the Inner Room
Marissa Mack - Gender in (Fixed) Motion, Sex in Gender’s Clothing
Carita D. Marrow - 3 Worlds Collide, Laughing
Aaron Miller - Bruised Banana
Nada Salih - Nurturance and Sexuality
Gwynneth VanLaven - Of Two Minds, How Do You Feel Today, Rim Notes Recovery
Leah Webb - Violence

“Feminist art is not some tiny creek running off the great river of real art. It is not some crack in an otherwise flawless stone. It is, quite spectacularly I think, art which is not based on the subjugation of one half of the species. It is art which will take the great human themes -- love, death, heroism, suffering, history itself -- and render them fully human. It may also, though perhaps our imaginations are so mutilated now that we are incapable even of the ambition, introduce a new theme, one as great and as rich as those others -- should we call it joy?"  
Andrea Dworkin

Bottom two pictures provided by Nicolas Tan.
A Day with Ntozake Shange and the Staged Reading of for colored girls who considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf

The Workshop: On Thursday, March 19 we were lucky to have the opportunity to spend the day with critically acclaimed author and poet, Ntozake Shange for this year’s Sojourner Truth lecture. Shange arrived on campus in the morning, just in time to give a workshop to the students in Vicki Kirsch’s The Erotic and the Sacred course who had read her play for colored girls who considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf part of their course materials. Ms. Shange spoke with the students about the origins of the play – much to everyone’s surprise she stated that the body of the work appeared full-form from her unconscious self and was quite beyond her conscious critic or control. She also discussed the integration of the erotic and the sacred in the play, in life, and in her later works. After the workshop, Shange headed over to the Women and Gender Studies center to have lunch with students, faculty, and staff of the Mason community. During this time, Shange got to meet some of the cast members from Mason’s production of her play, for colored girls who’ve considered suicide when the rainbow is enuf. This was an amazing opportunity for them to talk about some of the issues that her work brings up, like the difference between being a feminist and a womanist and how that relates to young women today.

Sojourner Truth Lecture: After lunch, we headed over to SUB 2 for the lecture, which was cosponsored by African and African American Studies. The room was packed with students from many different departments who came to listen to her speak. As soon as Shange got behind the podium she became very energetic. For the first half of the lecture she read some of her unpublished poetry. In between poems she would make jokes at the audience, and set up the story for the next piece she would read. After reading her poetry she opened up for questions from the audience. One student from Thomas Stanley’s hip-hop culture class asked about the representation of women in hip-hop, to which Shange replied that women are often portrayed without agency. She claimed that it was one of the biggest tragedies of today. Another topic that was brought up was her reputation for being a man-hater. She claimed that she loves men, and that her reputation in fact was a conspiracy probably created by her ex boyfriends. Overall, the lecture was a combination of poetry, personal narrative, humor and lecture with a high degree of audience interaction. It was an amazing opportunity to get to spend the day with such an accomplished artist, and I can’t think of a better way to have commemorated Sojourner Truth and Women’s History Month.

The Staged Reading: The student reading took place in the Johnson Center Bistro, where we were joined by a full house. Although for colored girls was originally written in the 70’s to address the issues facing women of color living in the United States, its message, as Ntozake herself told us, has become increasingly universal. The play addresses issues of relationship abuse, love, neglect, first times and numerous other obstacles and redeeming moments on the path to finding and loving the Goddess in ourselves. The performers Kennita Ballard, Nana Boateng, Maggie Ledbetter, Elizabeth McDougall, Ijeoma Nwatu, Mabel Obinim, Khadjja Rahim, Ayana Reed, and Karima D. Scott delivered a breathtaking show including several beautiful moments of impromptu singing.

We were fortunate enough to have our powerful cast directed by Ozzie Jones, an award winning director out of Philadelphia. Ozzie was with us from the very beginning, including the casting call up to the three days prior to the performance when he and the women had intense and intensive rehearsals. We were told by the cast that Ozzie frequently pushed them to “go there” and to reach into themselves and search for personal emotions which they could convey on stage. It was this process that helped the women not only put on such a powerful performance but to begin personal journeys of their own. The bond these women developed working on for colored girls has carried over into a group they formed post production called Loving Her Fiercely. Through this group the women will continue to perform and do readings in the community as well as volunteer locally with at risk youth. After the performance Ozzie, Ntozake, and the cast took questions from the audience and all shared a celebratory cake. It was a truly successful night indeed, for the audience, cast and community alike. Thank you to New Century College and University Life for helping us make this dream a reality!
Scholarly Lecture 2009: ‘I felt moved interiorly to leave them’: Modesty, evidence, and the archive of feminism.” An Evening with Tamara Harvey.

Scholars of women’s literature in earlier periods have long wrestled with gaps and distortions in the archive that become even more pronounced when we seek feminist thought and action in periods preceding the social movements of the 19th century. In this year’s Women and Gender Studies Scholarly Lecture held on March 25th, Tamara Harvey explored how women across the Americas during the seventeenth century themselves addressed issues of evidence and knowledge. The title of her talk, “I felt moved interiorly to leave them: Modesty, evidence, and the archive of feminism,” refers to Marie de l’Incarnation’s decision to let her personal papers, including an autobiography written for her son, burn in a fire that destroyed the first Ursuline convent in Quebec even as she saved other convent records. Her son’s consternation at her decision is doubtless matched by generations of scholars who bemoan the gaps and losses that shape “the women’s archive,” but at what cost do we attempt to snatch these narratives from historical oblivion without regard for the “interior movements” guiding Marie and others?

Marie’s decision was shaped by both her attention to matters of the spirit (what she called “the grace of such great destitution”) and her keen awareness that her papers might “fall into the hands of just anyone.” Drawing on material from her recently published Figuring Modesty in Feminist Discourse Across the Americas, 1633-1700 (Ashgate Press, Women and Gender in the Early Modern World series, 2008) and her new project on women in the Atlantic world during the colonial period, Harvey treats women from New France, New Spain, and New England who developed complex approaches to both large questions of human knowledge in a fallen world and pragmatic concerns about human manipulation of evidence—their words in the world. In addition to the writings of Marie de l’Incarnation, Harvey discussed poetry by Anne Bradstreet and Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz in they joined theology and empirical sciences in ways that challenged misogynistic assumptions about women’s limitations. Like other writers of the period, Bradstreet and Sor Juana emphasized their modesty while insisting that theirs was the modesty of fallible humans and not the modesty of shameful women. In doing so, they developed intellectual positions that went far beyond the modest apologies and ironic subversion most readily apparent to modern eyes.

Harvey concluded by briefly addressing the ways in which this attention to evidence and uses of knowledge becomes more vexed and these “modest” endeavors more disingenuous when we consider how women in the early modern period themselves participated in the circulation of knowledge that contributed to empire building. There was a lively discussion during and after Tamara’s talk – Thank you Tamara for an intriguing talk and a delightful evening.
Looking Both Ways: Bisexual Politics

On Monday, March 30th, author and third wave feminist Jennifer Baumgardner helped us kick off Pride Week 2009! The co-author of Manifesta: Young Women, Feminism and the Future, and author of Look Both Ways: Bisexual Politics, presented to a packed audience in Dewberry Hall, focusing on her latest book. She shared touching and pivotal stories of her experience growing up in North Dakota, the role that education played in forming her identity, her experience working for feminist organizations, and how she has experienced a bisexual identity throughout her life. She called out how gay and lesbian political movements have dealt with bisexuality in similar yet different ways. With a refreshing sense of humor, she brought to light the struggle to hold the privilege of being coded as a straight woman (the phenomenon clearly visible at this event, as Baumgardner was quite pregnant) while feeling valid in her relationships with women. She ended her talk with an empowering and hopeful take on privilege: That having "privileged" identity seem so shameful and violent can only get us so far, as all of us have privilege in one way or another. Privilege in and of itself doesn't have to be a bad thing. What's important is that we own our privilege and work with it to create positive change where we can.

Masculinities Studies and Feminist Politics Roundtable

The Masculinities and Feminist Politics roundtable was organized by WGST student staffer Jeffrey Johnson. The Johnson Center meeting room on April 7, 2009 overflowed with students, faculty, and staff to hear what the panelists had to say about masculinities and feminism. The roundtable panelists included Tristan Bridges, a doctoral student at the University of Virginia in Sociology, Nicole Barreto McCoy a graduate of the MAIS Women and Gender Studies program and current doctoral student in GMU's Sociology department, and John Robinson and Jeffrey Johnson, both MA students with Sociology. Vicki Watts, a Cultural Studies doctoral student and instructor with Women and Gender Studies served as moderator. This event was not only special in its collaboration with graduate students from other universities, but it also brought to the surface an important area of interest within women and gender studies: feminist connections with masculinities and men. This is especially important now that Women's Studies has changed to Women and Gender Studies in order to broaden its focus, course topics, and attract a more diverse body of students and their academic interests.
Goat Project

Beginning in October 2008, the Women and Gender Studies Center took on a project to empower low-income women in Uganda. The Goat Project, as we have named it, helps raise money for the Women’s Center for Job Creation (WCFJC). The money raised goes towards the purchase and upkeep of goats for Ugandan women and their families. Initially, this project was intended to be just for the holiday season, but due to its overwhelming success, we continued the project throughout the entire school year. By the end of the school year, we had raised enough money to purchase 38 goats.

WCFJC’s Bulondo Goat Project helps expand the income of Ugandan women by purchasing and providing maintenance cost for the goats. This helps these women expand and sustain their local businesses. Not only does WCFJC present recipients with goats, but they also provide them with spraying tools and drugs against disease. In order for a woman to receive a goat from WCFJC, she must create two gardens – one for her kitchen and one for the goat. She must also build a shelter and pen for the goat, and complete a course on goat husbandry. Within 18 months of receiving the goat, she must give a goat baby back to the organization.

We raised money in a variety of ways throughout this school year, including selling baked goods at kiosks. These tasty snacks were quite the treat for people passing through the Johnson Center. There was also a party held in the Center where everyone had their chance to play “Pin the Tail on the Goat” in exchange for a small donation towards our fundraising project. Prizes of goat cheese donated by the Centreville Trader Joe’s were received by the winners.

In February, George Mason students, faculty, and staff were given the opportunity to purchase a goat for Valentine’s Day! What could be a better way to show someone you care than naming a goat after them? Women and Gender Studies accepted donations until February 14th, when the donation was mailed to WCFJC.

WGST brought live goats to George Mason on April 22nd to celebrate Earth Day! These goats were the highlight of the North Plaza, much thanks to Melanie Thatcher, Dave Keller, and their daughter Marjorie. This kind family brought four of their goats from Nokesville and set up a small pen on campus. The Mason community gathered around all afternoon to pet the goats and donated money towards our goat project. Amnesty International partnered with WMST for this event to raise awareness about violence and its aftermath in Uganda, along with giving us an opportunity to educate the Mason community about how they can help. It was also an excellent opportunity to make the local-global connection in a very concrete way by highlighting this Virginia family who also utilizes their goats for sustainability. After five hours of excitement outside, we managed to raise $198 in just one day with the help of Mocha, Peanut, and our other goat friends.

Our goat project is a huge success! We will be continuing this year – and on October 20th Dorothy Tuma, our collaborator in Uganda, will be coming to campus – see Fall schedule of events.
Gender Research Conference

On May 7th The Women and Gender Studies Program hosted the second annual Women and Gender Studies Gender Research Conference. The conference was an all day event where George Mason undergraduate and graduate students had the opportunity to share with the Mason community their original research projects. Program director Dr. Nancy Hanrahan kicked off the event with a brief introduction on the history and purpose of the project. Inspired by feminist research conducted at Duke University, The Gender Research Project is a five year study that investigates gender issues on George Mason’s campus. The participants in the project are students enrolled in Dr. Amy Best’s two-semester long Gender Research Project course. Throughout the course, students learn what the qualities of feminist research are, and then put feminist methodology into practice by conducting their own research projects on campus.

The topics from this year’s research varied from issues of identity, dating, hooking-up, and social boundaries, to gender, diversity and issues of space. This event was an amazing success; the audience was packed with women and gender studies minors, faculty, graduate students, as well as many individuals from the broader Mason community including President Alan Merten. Halfway through the conference the participants and audience members had the chance to mingle during lunch. This was a great opportunity for the audience to approach the presenters to ask more specific questions on their topics. Overall, the event was extraordinarily educational and a great opportunity to learn about the work of our colleagues here at Mason. The project papers presented at the conference can be found on file in the Women and Gender Studies Center for future reference.

This year’s participants:

Leah Donnelly: “You Gotta Liberate Yourself: An Examination of Gender and Feminist Consciousness at Mason”

Susanne Kamaileh: “Defining an Artistic Identity: Investing How Art Students at George Mason University Enter the Field of Cultural Production and the Significance of Gender”

Perry A. Threifall: “The Light at the End of the Tunnel: An Examination of the Experiences of Single Mother Students at George Mason”

Sarah Sierratta: “Hispanic Students at George Mason University: How Gender and Culture matter to Educational Trajectories and Student Involvement in Campus Life”

Caroline Shawmaker: “Defining the Indefinable: The Search for the Modern Equivalent of the Traditional Dating Paradigm (Or Lack There Of)”

Lara Zain Pierce: “Transformations in Dating: How Hook Ups, Casual Dating and Serious Relationships Intermingle on the George Mason Campus”

Brian Picoone: “Juicy Campus and the Sorority Girl: The Gendered Impact of a Gossip Website on Mason’s Undergraduate Students”

John Robinson: “Home Court Advantage: Strategies of Symbolic Attainment in Pickup Basketball”

Joanna Bosik: “Diversity at a Distance: Race and Ethnic Divisions on a Diverse College Campus”

Shannon Jacobsen: “Violations of Space: Constructions of Violence, Gender and Implications for Students’ Daily Behavior”

Jennifer Coratola: “Where Do I Fit in? How Students Define and Group Themselves on a Diverse College Campus”

Tracy McLoone: “You Have No Idea What You’ve Become: Real Girls, TV Worlds & Authentic Performance”

Letter from Vicki Kirsch, Associate Director

Dear Members of the Women and Gender Studies Community,

When I sit and collect all of the visual, emotional, intellectual and spiritual snapshots of this past year in my mind, I am filled with feelings of accomplishment, community, transformation and gratitude to all of the individuals and collaborative groups who made it possible. The Student-Staff was an exceptional group this year, bringing a combination of skills, visions, passion, humor and willingness that was unique and vital. Thank you to Megan Cippperly, Dionne Foster, Lauren Heath, Jeffrey Johnson and Maryam Sodeifi. I must also thank Susan Miller for sharing the challenges and joys every day. In these pages readers will gain glimpses of our events and accomplishments from this past year, but the steadfastness and enthusiasm, fortitude and abilities to trust the process move and held all of us from the beginning to the end.

Being Associate Director for nearly two years has stretched me in ways I could not have predicted. (I think it also stretched Mason in unexpected ways – this April’s Earth Day was the first time farm animals were every on campus with the visit by the Nokesville Goats who raised enormous funds for our Goat Project. I want to thank Nancy Hanrahan publicly here for her great trust, honesty, guidance and encouragement every day. The mutuality in our work process and beyond continues to be extremely meaningful and outstanding even as Nancy leaves her Directorship post, and I wish her well.

Welcome to our new Director, Suzanne Scott – I look forward to working together as we continue to develop the Women and Gender Studies Program and Center. This Fall brings the advent of our new LGBTQ Focus and many exciting events including Staceyann Chin for “Fall for the Book” on September 22nd and the visit of Dorothy Tuma (collaborator with the Bulondo Goats Project) leading into discussions of “Women Entrepreneurs as Peacemakers” on October 20th. I look forward to seeing you!

Vicki Kirsch

LGBTQ Focus

Women and Gender Studies minors now have an additional option for their academic studies. The program offers a new focus in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) Studies. The development of this emphasis grew out of students’ interests and requests following Queer Studies and Queer Theory courses offered through Women and Gender Studies.

Students can take a general minor in Women and Gender Studies or one organized with an LGBTQ focus. Both the general Women and Gender Studies Minor and the LGBTQ focus are interdisciplinary and require an introductory course and a theory course. The general emphasis is particularly useful to students whose major interests are in feminist and gender issues. The LGBTQ focus includes courses that incorporate more specifically LGBTQ perspectives into academic study. The minor is a particularly useful complement to a major in any of the humanities, social sciences, health and human services or natural sciences for the student with an interest in gender, sexuality, and/or feminist perspectives. During the 2008-2009 academic year, the Executive Committee established a committee of representatives from several disciplines and programs to discuss the feasibility of an LGBTQ focus and to establish the academic criteria. A smaller sub-committee, which included Vicki Kirsch, Women and Gender Studies; Ric Chollar, LGBTQ Services; Jon Mohr, Psychology; Tracy McLoone, Cultural Studies; and Suzanne Scott, New Century College, finalized the requirements and presented a proposal to the Executive Committee. That proposal was unanimously accepted, and it has been reviewed by the Dean’s office in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS).
Working Moms Support Group

The Support Group for Working Mothers at Mason kicks off their sixth year with a special event that partners with the Mason Military Outreach Support Group, the Office of Sustainability, New Century College, and Human Resources. We are hosting a children's clothing/equipment swap September 28 – 30, in the Johnson Center, Room 116. Participants have to bring something in order to take something away, so there will be no exchange of money ... just a good old fashioned swap meet! Please think of us when you are cleaning out closets in preparation for new fall school clothes, and tell your friends and neighbors to do the same. Watch Mason e-Files and other campus announcements for additional details and information soon.

If you are interested in joining the Support Group for Working Mothers at Mason, we meet twice a month on Wednesdays from 12:00 – 1:00 pm in the Women and Gender Studies Resource Center. Our meetings are very casual and friendly. We participate in this group to help each other work through a wide variety of challenges that we face as working parents, and new participants are always welcome.

For more information about the group, please contact Heather Aleknavage, Office of Sponsored Programs, at (703) 993-2295 or haleknave@gmu.edu, and please visit our webpage for an updated meeting schedule:

http://wmst.gmu.edu/center/working_moms.html

Feminism 9.0

During Spring, 2009, the staff at WGST set out to start an annual zine with student submissions. What resulted from this year’s efforts was: Feminism 9.0: feminist struggles against oppression in 2009.

This years submissions were:

Supergirl by Lindsay Hawks
Inhaling Toxins: Narrative of a Feminist
Smoker by Megan Cipperly
Concubine Series (diptych) by Deborah Lash
Big Girl Rant by Anonymous
Routines by Mary Houlihan
Daughter of Jephthah by Deborah Lash
Endopendence by Kennita Ballard
Self Destruction by Brian Picone

All of these submissions can be found in the e-zine version here:
http://feminism9point0.wordpress.com, and will be printed in full this fall.

"I was born into the body of an artist, a body of adversity. My body fights against itself and I fight against the world."  
Karyn Crisis

Hold your keys between your fingers."
I clasped my fist around the key ring, placing each piece of metal between my fingers.
With this I have a weapon, my only refuge from those dark-of-night attacks.
"Always look behind you."
Awareness may very well be all that's keeping me from going missing.
No one else is there to warn me, nor would they intervene.
"Check the backseat before getting in."
Who knows who has been watching me walk back and forth...
Day in, day out. Who knows my routine?
"Hold those keys tight in a fist."
Aim for the eyes when, not if, they should come near.
I learned and practiced these from the ripe age of five.
The words of my mother rang in my ear when he pushed me against that car.
"Hold your keys between your fingers, and aim for the eyes."
Instead of security and community watches, I have my makeshift weapon.
And the hope that my mother's lessons will keep me from those dark-of-night attacks.

By: Mary Houlihan
Take Back the Night

Every year, the Feminist Ninjas host Mason's version of the national Take Back the Night rally on October 14th. The event took place during Turn off the Violence Week coordinated in conjunction with George Mason's Sexual Assault Services and Women and Gender Studies. The slogan of this year's event was suitably "unite, express, inform." The "unite" aspect was apparent when well over a hundred students gathered at the clock tower with rape whistles and candles in hand to show their support. The express component was apparent during the rally when the ninjas handed over the microphone to the audience so that survivors of sexual assault in the crowd could come up and tell the audience about their own experiences. It was devastating to see how many Mason students had suffered from sexual abuse. On the other hand, it was really amazing to see people speak out, some of them for the first time, about what they had faced. This year's "speak out" was the longest in Mason's history. Finally, the inform component played a critical aspect in this year's Take Back the Night. Christina Sanders from George Mason's own Counseling and Psychological Services and Sexual Assault Services opened up the night. She was followed by Patricia Lopez from The Alexandria Sexual Assault Response and Awareness Program. To close off the night, over a hundred students, staff members and faculty participated in a candlelight march around Patriot Circle. Overall, the event served as a successful way to raise awareness to the Mason community and to show our support for survivors of sexual assault.

Empowering and Educating Women on Domestic Violence

On March 17, 2009 for our third event for Women's History Month, the Feminist Ninjas collaborated with the Organization of Women Looking for Sisterhood in Chi Upsilon Sigma for a great discussion/event on Empowering and Education Women on Domestic Violence. Rachel Lindsey from Mason's Sexual Assault Services came as our guest speaker to bring a lot of information on statistics of Domestic Violence and all it entails, plus resources within the area to help women get out and help from such situations. We even talked about why women stay in such relationships and try to get out but actually never do until it is too late. A few people who came to the event chimed in with personal experiences, which helped many others understand the importance of knowing what the signs are in an abusive relationships and how to stop them. To follow up with the film we watched in the Fall Semester "My Girlfriend Hit Me," we again talked about domestic violence within same sex couples and how it is more prevalent and on the rise to a drastic degree. Overall the even went well and a lot of people were able to learn a little more about domestic violence to empower them to the point where they hopefully will never have to be in such a situation, because they will know the signs and have resources to get help.

Promoting Education in Santa Elena, Costa Rica

Promoting Education in Santa Elena, Costa Rica was a project that the Feminist Ninjas continued for the second year in a row. This school year we branched out to include more Fraternities, Sororities, Student Organizations and Departments around campus. We were able to send 6 boxes of t-shirts that the University donated to our project, plus George Mason Bags and boxes and boxes of school supplies. We not only sent supplies to Santa Elena but where able to branch out to other countries in need such as an Orphanage in Thailand and Haitian Refugees Sites in the Dominican Republic. We also had bake sales and were able to really get the campus involved. It was a great year for the project and we thank everyone who helped out.

Watch for events from the Feminist Student Organization this year!
POW: A Self Defense Class

Friday, March 20, 2009 from 8pm to 10pm The Feminist Ninjas and The Elite Hermanos (Brothers) of La Unidad Latina, Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity, Inc. (LUL) combined forces to bring to the Mason community POW: A Self Defense Class. LUL and the Feminist Ninjas recognizes that Violence occurs a lot in the world may it be a war with another country, gang violence in the cities, or an altercation between two people or at colleges over assault and other related incidents. We realize that violence is not the answer, but when it is imposed upon us one should be able to defend themselves from such occurrences. In order to address this we have brought Yahya Yasini master instructor and 4th Degree Black Belt from the Black Belt Academy to teach members of the Mason community how to defend oneself in tense situations.

We started with two of the Brothers of the Alpha Delta Chapter of LUL, Hugo Quisbert and Ramon Roque, who embraced the audience as they prepared for the opening greeting for the event. The turnout was unexpected as the event received a nice warm welcome from the Mason residents and LUL presented a list of statistics showing how violence affects individuals from around the nation to college campuses. As time went on, punches, throws, and kicks were flying everywhere as everyone enjoyed and had fun, while learning how to defend themselves. Master Yahya Yasini had a great way of providing the audience with different scenarios with his own life experiences and others. Before anyone knew it, it was time to close the event as Master Yahya Yasini ended with his closed remarks to the participating audience that truly had a great time.

Up ‘til Dawn

On March 21, 2009 the Women’s Coalition/Feminist Ninjas and the Interfraternity Council co-sponsored an event called Up ‘til Dawn which comprised of a letter writing campaign to raise money for underprivileged children fighting cancer, and St. Jude’s Hospital. Up ‘til Dawn was first brought to George Mason University by the Kappa Alpha Psi MUW Chapter Fraternity and this particular event was brought to the Women’s Coalition/Feminist Ninjas and the Interfraternity Council by Mellissa Krauth, the President of the Women’s Coalition/Feminist Ninjas, and Peter Danjczek, the Vice President of the Women’s Coalition and Vice President of Public Relations for the Interfraternity Council.

The event comprised of members of the Women’s Coalition/Feminist Ninjas and representatives of nearly every IFC member fraternity on campus. Over $3,000 was raised, and the overall letters sent provided for 80 chemo wigs and 25 physical therapy sessions for underprivileged children undergoing chemo treatment. This event was covered by Mason Cable Network and Connect2Mason, and both the Women’s Coalition/Feminist Ninjas and the Interfraternity Council hope to continue Up ‘til Dawn as an annual event.
Breast Cast Art Expo

Due to the great popularity of Breast Casting during Breastival and Women's History Month for the past few years, the Office of Alcohol, Drug and Health Education and The Feminist Ninjas decided to exhibit all the casts to promote awareness about Breast Casting and women's health. We painted and decorated each cast and put them on a week-long display as the Breast Cast Art Expo in the Mason Hall. Many people came by to view the exhibit including President Merton who appreciated the creativity of Mason students. The exhibit was a hit!

Lambs to a Lion: Love, Life and Redemption Play

"When Carolyn Bowers learns that she is the recipient of a prestigious lifetime achievement award, she is anxiously prepares an acceptance speech that will "Wow" the crowd. Love, Life, & Redemption drips with 15 passionate, thrilling, & truly unforgettable stories based on a lifetime of one woman’s poetry. Love, Life, & Redemption creatively address social, cultural, political, and romantic issues on unbelievable, exciting way.‘ (Clip from Website) www.lamtoalion.com

The Feminist Ninjas, Women and Gender Studies, and The African and African American Studies Department all collaborated to bring this amazing play to Mason last November. The play was performed in Dewberry North in the JC. We were able to put together an amazing play for all to come and see for free. It was amazing and brought tears to many. Every actor in the play was from a different ethnicity, social economic status, race, sexual orientation, and performed their part to the T. The lights, music and actors really took this play to heart and gave their all with blood, tears, and sweat. The actors were awesome and we had a good turnout. The Q and A afterwards was very informative and many hope the play will come back in the future. As a gift for the actors we gave Feminist Ninjas shirts and coffee mugs from the Women and Gender Studies Center, which they all loved. This was a very successful and enjoyable event!
Congratulations Graduates!

Graduation 2009 was a huge celebration with 14 WMST Minors, two Certificate in WMST Students and four MAIS in WMST graduates. Graduates, friends, family, faculty and students gathered in the Center to honor the graduates' achievements, to celebrate our community and the successful completion of the school year. Graduates received certificates and WMST mugs filled with WMST chocolates, memories, and pewter acorns signifying their ongoing connection to the Mason Women and Gender Studies community and their innate possibilities for creating their own successful futures.

**Minor in WMST**

Laiquah Al-Habsy  
Jessica Bolton  
Monica Castro  
Natalia Claure  
Whitney Gecker  
Kasey Greene  
Stacy Gursky  
Allison Howard  
Taylor Hutchings  
Monica Johnson  
Amy Kurth  
Holly Nunn  
Brian Picone  
Hope Savolainen  
Jenni Showalter  
Sara Wilson  
Laura Yeh

**MAIS in WMST**

Sarah Fox  
Susan Miller  
Brianne Russell-Morris  
Stephanie Tioseco

**Graduate Certificate in WMST**

Joanne Clarke Dillman  
Lucas Witman
Achievements and Accomplishments


Maria Karanetou, Art and Visual Technologies: Received Fulbright Senior Research Scholar AwardInternational Council for Exchange of Scholars, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC. My creative work is currently on exhibit at the Baltimore Washington International Airport. This exhibition is sponsored by the Maryland State Aviation Administration and the Maryland Institute College of Art. I participated in the national exhibition "Speaking Volumes" at the Holter Museum, Helena, Montana. After the closing of the exhibition, I was selected to continue on with the show's Montana State tour and the upcoming National tour. As part of the Montana state tour, my work has been exhibited at the University of Montana, the Paris Gibson Art Center, the Copper Village Museum, the Custer County Arts and Heritage Center, among several other venues. I was one of the jurors for the Arlington Arts Center (Arlington, VA) solo exhibitions reviewing approximately 200 artist applications from the mid Atlantic region and awarding 12 solo shows.

Vicki Kirsch, Women and Gender Studies: Dr. Kirsch was an invited speaker at the annual NOVA CSA Consortium in March 2009 at Northern Virginia Community College where she spoke about "Treating Childhood Trauma: An Integrated Approach." CSA is a national organization for health professionals who work with at-risk youth. She also gave an invited workshop at The Arbor Center in Fairfax, VA on "Dialectical Behavior Therapy for Trauma Survivors." Lastly, she presented a workshop on "Mindfulness in Riding" to the "Urbanna Women’s Pony Club."
Shizrae Mallick, Minor in WMST: Ms. Mallick continues to be co-chair of Pride Alliance which won Student Organization of the Year from Student Activities and the University Life award for 2008-09.

Laura Mann, Concert/Opera Artist: This past year Warner Brothers purchased several of Dr. Mann's recorded classical songs to use in their film/media projects; she is very excited about this! She also continue to tour the State of Virginia as an 11th season Touring Artist for the Virginia Commission for the Arts, combining these appearances with concerts booked across the USA. For example, she just presented my one-woman show " Stellar highlights from Musical Theater" for the Reston Festival on July 12th.


Susan Miller, Women and Gender Studies: Ms. Miller successfully completed her M.A.I.S. in Women and Gender Studies in Summer 2009. Her thesis is titled "Beauty, Dance, and the Aesthetic Ideal".


Mandy Shaver, Minor in WMST: Ms. Shaver received a scholarship for the September 11th-13th Women + Power: Connecting Across the Generations conference at the Omega Institute in Rhinebeck, New York through the Omega Women's Institute. Esteemed faculty will feature more than 34 notable speakers including Sarah Jones, Helen Thomas, and Gloria Steinem in a holistic research environment.


Karen Wolf, MAIS Student in Women and Gender Studies: Ms. Wolf presented a paper titled "Our Bodies, Our (Virtual) Selves" (which is also my working thesis title) at the Midwest Popular Culture Association/ American Culture Association in Cincinnati, OH in October of 2008.
Save the Date!

- Welcome Week Reception
  Tuesday, September 8, 2009, 3:00pm-5:00pm, Women and Gender Studies Center, JC 240K

- LGBTQ Focus Info Session
  Thursday September 10, 2009, 3:00pm-4:00pm, Women and Gender Studies Center, JC 240K

- Fall for the Book - Spoken Word Artist Stacyann Chinn, Internationally acclaimed performance artist Chin explores her impoverished youth in Jamaica, her abandonment by her mother, and her search for her own identity in her new memoir, The Other Side of Paradise. Sponsored by Mason’s Women and Gender Studies Program.
  Tuesday September 22, 2009, 1:30pm-3:00pm, M&T Bank Tent, Outside the Johnson Center

- Workshop with Stacyann Chin, Memoirist and spoken word artist Chin follows up her 1:30 reading with a workshop on writing and speaking from life experiences. Open to the public!
  Tuesday September 22, 2009, 3:00pm-4:00pm, Women and Gender Studies Center, JC 240K

- Take Back the Night Hosted by the Feminist Student Organization (formerly the Feminist Ninjas)
  Tuesday October 6, 2009, 7:00pm-9:00pm, JC Plaza Clock Tower

- Brownbag Lunch with Dorothy Tuma, the Women's Center for Job Creation (WCFJC), an NGO based in Minnesota and Uganda, to empower low-income women in Uganda.
  Tuesday October 20, 2009, 12:00pm, Women and Gender Studies Center, JC 240K

- Women Entrepreneurs as Peacemakers Roundtable Discussion with Dorothy Tuma, President of the Women's Center for Job Creation, Minnesota and Uganda, Marga C. Fripp, Art Marketing Coach and President, Empowered Women International, VA, Barbara Moller, President, Voices for Social Change, founder of Paper to Pearls, VA., Marketplace: Artists/Artisans selling their work from above organizations.
  Tuesday October 20, 2009 3:40pm, JC Meeting Room F

- Scholarly Lecture with Dr. Amy Best
  Wednesday November 4, 2009 6:00pm—Dinner, 7:00pm—Lecture, Location TBD