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Women's Studies Interest Group Spring, 1996

University of Alabama in Huntsville

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Women's Studies Interest Group

University of Alabama in Huntsville

Volume 6, No. 2

Spring, 1996



President of American Civil Liberties Union to Speak On Women's Rights

"Pornography, Women's Rights and Free Speech"

March 12, 1996 at 7:30 p.m.

University Center Exhibit Hall.

Nadine Strossen, the first woman to serve as the President of the American Civil Liberties Union, will speak at UAH during Women's History Month. A Professor of Constitutional Law at New York Law School, Strossen has given numerous lectures and speeches across the United States and around the world. She is one of America's most articulate and visible defenders of First Amendment rights. Speaking with an enthusiasm that blends candor, humor and sophistication, she provides expert insights on law, rights and responsibilities.

Strossen has written more than 100 published works and is the winner of many awards. In 1986, she became one of the first three women to receive the U.S. Jaycees' Ten Outstanding Young Americans Award. In 1991 and 1994, the National Law Journal included her in its special triennial section, *Profiles in Power: The 100 Most Influential Lawyers in America*.

Don't miss this dynamic spokesperson speaking on women's rights. Strossen's visit is sponsored by the Association for Campus Entertainment. There will be a reception and book signing following sponsored by the Women's Studies Program. Admission is free.

A Look at the World Through Women's Eyes: A Report from the Beijing Conference on Women

Administrative Science Auditorium, UAH

Friday, February, 23

12:30 p.m.

"I will never be the same - and I don't want to be the same," says Betty Peeler, who will report on the achievements of the Beijing Conference on Women and give a personal perspective of this life-changing experience. Huntsville's Betty Peeler was one of the 35,000 delegates to the Nongovernmental (NGO) Forum on Women, held last August-September near Beijing, China.

Since, 1975, the United Nations has sponsored four worldwide conferences to foster women's advancement in member nations. NGO was a parallel conference to the 15,000 governmental delegations from 181 U.N. member nations who met in Beijing. Peeler attended as part of the U.N. member nations who met in Huairou. Peeler attended as part of the Church Women United delegation, one of 2500 non-governmental organizations participating in this important international conference.

Everyone is welcome to attend this event co-sponsored by the UAH Women's Studies Program and the UAH Academy for Lifetime Learning. Admission is free.

Women's History Month Calendar of Events

(See this Newsletter for further details on all these events.)

- February 23 - Betty Peeler
- March 1 - Dinner Theater with Jane Curry
- March 9 - Huntsville Feminist Chorus
- March 12 - Nadine Strossen
- March 20 - Paule Marshall
- April 16 - Women's History Essay Awards

Introduction to Women's Studies WS200

"What course has 13 professors?" The flyer bearing that question papered the walls of Morton Hall last fall as Women's Studies inaugurated its new status as a formal academic program with the first offering of WS 200 Introduction to Women's Studies. This course takes a variety of social science and humanities approaches to central questions of this discipline, particularly how we define, formulate and resolve questions about issues affecting women.

Sixteen students from at least six different majors make for lively discussions as guest speakers from English, Communications, Biology, Sociology, Psychology, Philosophy, and History provide their discipline's perspective on many aspects of Women's Studies.

Because the course is an introduction to a discipline, with emphasis on a balance of social sciences and humanities approaches, it was recently approved to count toward students' general education requirements (GER) for graduation. WS 200 now may count as a lower-division course in either the humanities or social sciences.



Student Essay Contest

National Women's History Essay Contest "Notable Alabama Women"

Women's history in Alabama will come alive in essays written by local middle school and high school students. All students, male or female, are eligible to win awards in the 3rd annual National Women's History Essay Contest, for essays on "Notable Alabama Women." The top three essays in each age category will win cash prizes: 1st place - \$100, 2nd place - \$50, 3rd place - \$25. (Prizes are funded by the Ruth Hindman Foundation.) In addition, all suitable entries will be recognized with a specially designed certificate. Prizes will be awarded at a special ceremony and reception at UAH on **Tuesday, April 16, 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the University Center.** The contest is sponsored by UAH Women's Studies, the Hindman Foundation, H.E.R. Place, The Copy Company, and the UAH Writing Center.

Friends of Women's Studies

**by Rose Norman
Director of Women's Studies**

Women's Studies at UAH enters a new phase with the formal approval of the minor in Women's Studies. Now that we have an official academic program, WSIG becomes the community outreach arm of Women's Studies event-planning activities generally. For five years now, WSIG has been sustained by the enthusiastic volunteer activities of scores of people from UAH and the community. Through networking and co-sponsoring with the Humanities Foundation, the Honors Program, the Office of Multicultural Affairs, and other UAH organizations, as well as community organizations like the Women's Economic Development Council we have been able to stretch a few hundred dollars of operating budget into an ambitious calendar of programs each year.

Now we have about the same budget as before, but an academic program to sustain, and we need to seek community support to make the Women's Studies program grow and prosper. Already, several individuals have come forward with the promise of generous cash contributions to the program. That's why we are now taking steps to form a Friends of Women's Studies organization that will set fundraising goals and make plans for how these gift funds should be used.

In the near future, everyone on the WSIG mailing list should be receiving an invitation to join Friends of Women's Studies. You'll be offered various levels of contribution, both cash donations and volunteer work in staffing the Women's Resource Center. Successful fundraising will enable us to expand the Women's Resource Center, offer tuition scholarships for Women's Studies minors, and continue sponsoring lectures and performances. We hope that the only Women's Studies program in North Alabama can continue to grow and offer something for each of you.



Don't Miss "Strange Attractors"

images emerging from a system that was thought to be chaotic

**Puppet theatre premiere by A. S. Courtney
Sunday, March 17th, 3 p.m. Huntsville Museum
of Art**

Huntsville Feminist Chorus To Celebrate Women's History Month

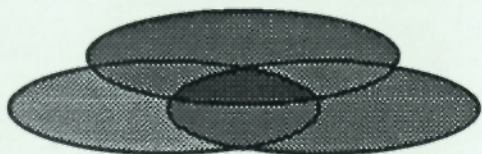
**March 9, 7:30 p.m.
Roberts Recital Hall**

This year during Women's History Month, the Huntsville community is invited to enjoy a night of a cappella music, drumming, puppetry, and dance with the Huntsville Feminist Chorus. This group is made up of women of all ages and interests who share common a love of joining their voices in songs of peace, power and praise. The UAH concert will also include performances by two well-known local artists, dancer Sycamore and puppeteer A.S. Courtney.

The chorus repertoire consists of songs, chants and poems written by women. The music is often lively, accompanied by drums and dance; but they also relish quiet, meditative pieces with haunting melodies and beautiful harmonies. They sing music which is empowering to women, and which acknowledges the beauty and wonder of life on Earth.

The Huntsville Feminist Chorus is in its third season, and has performed an average of 4 concerts a year for groups including the Unitarian Church of Huntsville, "Woman Spirit Rising" retreat at Sacred Heart Convent in Cullman, Panoply of the Arts, and Girls, Inc.

There is no admission charge, and a reception follows.



Acclaimed Writer, Paule Marshall To Visit UAH



**March 20, Wednesday
7:30 p.m.,
Administrative Science Auditorium.**

Paule Marshall, internationally known novelist and recipient of the prestigious MacArthur "genius" award, will read from her latest work in a presentation titled "Sister-Friend in *Daughters*." Ms. Marshall's writing career spans several decades, having begun in 1959 with the novel *Brown Girl, Brownstones*. Her perceptive work explores cultural continuity and connection in the experiences of Black American and Caribbean populations. Her presentation, free and open to the public, will be in the Administrative Science Auditorium, March 20, 1996, at 7:30 p.m. A booksigning and reception will follow the reading. Her visit is sponsored by the Honors Program, Office of Multicultural Affairs, the Humanities Foundation, and the Women's Studies Interest Group. Contact Joyce Pettis, Honors Program Director, at 895-6450, for additional information.

"Samantha 'Rastles' the Woman Question" Dinner Theatre with Jane Curry

The Women's Economic Development Council of North Alabama (WEDC) and the UAH Women's Studies Program, in observance of Women's History Month, invite you to "Samantha 'Rastles' the Woman Question," a one-woman production written and performed by Jane Curry. The production will be held **March 1, Friday, 6:30 p.m., at the Marriott, 5 Tranquility Base (near the Space Museum).**

Jane Curry humorously portrays Samantha Smith Allen, a 19th century woman, who "rastles" with questions concerning history's treatment of women, rights denied by the church, women's powerlessness before the law, social status, role assumptions and more.

Call 533-6565 or 536-5602 for the reservation form, or send your check for \$20 each to WEDC, P.O. Box 4671, Huntsville, AL 35815. You may charge your tickets at Earth Friendly, 2357 Whitesburg Dr. Suite D (536-5602; add \$1 each for charges).

Courses in Women's Studies - Fall 1996

EH 418	Women Writers	MW 7:00-8:20	Norman
NUR 325/500-03	Human Sexuality	M 5:30-8:20	Lethbridge
PHL 202	Introduction to Ethics	MWF 1:25-2:20	Hanks
PHL 303	Contemporary Philosophy	MWF 10:10-11:05	Stegemoeller
PSC 438	Contemporary Political Thought	TT 5:30-6:50	Pottenger
SOC 106	Marriage and Family	TT 1:00-2:20	Finley
SOC 306	Gender Roles	T 5:30-8:20	Finley

For further information on these courses, or the Women's Studies Program in general, contact Dr. Rose Norman, Director of Women's Studies, UAH, 895-6320. Contributions to this newsletter should be sent to Dr. Nancy Finley, Dept. of Sociology, UAH, Huntsville, AL 35899.

Conferences

Richmond, VA April 12-14, 1996

Southeastern Women's Studies Association
 "Global Feminisms: Beijing and Beyond"
 Virginia Commonwealth University
 Contact: Diana Scully, Director, Women's Studies
 Virginia Commonwealth University, P.O. Box 843060,
 Richmond, VA 23284-3060
 (There are currently plans to take a car from UAH to this
 conference. Nancy Finley, 895-6190, if you are interested.)

Saratoga Springs, NY June 12-16, 1996

National Women's Studies Association
 17th Annual Conference
 Skidmore College
 "Borders/Crossings/Passages: Women Reinterpreting Development"
 Contact: NWSA '96
 Skidmore College,
 Saratoga Springs, NY 12866-1632.
 e-mail PRUBIO@SKIDMORE.EDU

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March is
Women's History Month