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## Women's Studies at UAH, Fall 2000

University of Alabama in Huntsville

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# UAH Women's Studies

Volume 11, Number 1

The University of Alabama in Huntsville

Fall, 2000

## Women Great of Heart Huge Success

Bette Yeager's original play *Women Great of Heart*, directed by Ron Harris, nearly filled UAH's Chan Auditorium for this year's Women's Equality Day celebration. The enthusiastic audience of almost 400 included Governor Don Siegelman and family, who came to Huntsville specifically for the play.

Women's Equality Day celebrates the anniversary of the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment to the U.S. Constitution, giving women the right to vote. Bette Yeager's one-woman show features two women who devoted much of their lives to improving voting rights for Alabamians, Birmingham suffragist

Pattie Ruffner Jacobs and Montevallo educator Hallie Farmer. Rather than lecturing on dry historical facts about the history of woman suffrage and other political reforms, the play focuses on a few significant moments in these women's lives. It emphasizes historical battles now won--Jacobs' battle to win woman suffrage and Farmer's to abolish the poll tax-- but it leaves us with matters now current, particularly Hallie Farmer's campaign to reform the 1901 constitution.

The evening began with a lecture by Alabama historian Dr. Lynne Rieff of the University of North Alabama. Then *Sisters We*, a quartet made up of singers from the Huntsville Feminist Chorus, sang a selection of authentic woman suffrage songs. Following the show, Wild Rose Café catered a reception featuring food that Pattie Ruffner Jacobs' suffragists might have served in 1915. Their sweet potato ham biscuits were especially memorable!

As part of the week's activities, Women's Studies and the Black Student Association sponsored a voter registration drive at the University Center, registering over 200 new voters, and continuing registration in the lobby on the night of the show. After the play, one seventy-five year old Alabama woman who has never voted registered to vote. Hallie Farmer would be proud!

Several local high school teachers participated in the production. Bette Yeager teaches sixth



Bette Yeager as Pattie Ruffner Jacobs

grade at Randolph School, and director Ron Harris teaches drama at Lee High School. Students from Williams Technology Middle School videotaped the dress rehearsal and the performance, directed by their teacher Bob Crump. They will be creating a promotional video for us as a class project.

Research, writing and production of the play were made possible in part by several grants (listed in the Thank You box). We were particularly gratified that Governor Siegelman wrote a personal letter to one of our grantors commending the play and urging that it be produced around the state. We have already booked performances at the Hoover Library Theatre, near Birmingham (November 10-11) and at the University of Montevallo (March 15, 2001). For further information about the performance schedule or to book performances, see our website, or phone 256/723-2432.

### Thank You to Our Women Great of Heart Grantors & Donors!

#### Grants

Alabama State Council on the Arts  
Alabama Humanities Foundation  
UAH Humanities Center  
The Honorable Sue Schmitz, Alabama  
House of Representatives

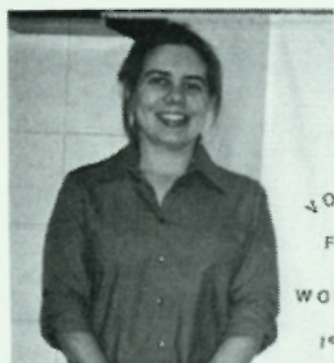
#### Donors

- Mevatec
- Uwohali
- Women's Economic Development Council
- Madison County Women's Political Caucus
- UAH Women's Studies Program
- John Hendricks Fund at UAH
- UAH Office of Governmental Relations
- Ruth Hindman Foundation
- Signature Gallery
- The Honorable Jeff Enfinger, Alabama Senate
- The Honorable Jim Haney, Alabama House of Representatives

*A special thanks to Dr. Rose Norman, who made it all happen.*



## Kathryn L. Harris Scholarship in Women's Studies Winner Rachel Sellnow



Psychology senior Rachel Sellnow was this year's recipient of the Kathryn L. Harris Scholarship in Women's Studies, an endowed fund limited to students minoring in Women's Studies. Rachel serves as Vice President of the Women's Studies Student Organization, President of Psi Chi Psychology Honorary Society, Secretary of the Sociology Club, and has been a Helpline volunteer. In spring 2000, she helped organize and raise funds so that she and five other UAH students could attend Feminist Expo 2000 in Baltimore. After graduation this December, she plans to get married and move to the Washington, DC area, where she will work with rape crisis centers and write books for young adults.

### Kathryn L. Harris Scholarship in Women's Studies

The "Kathryn L. Harris Scholarship" is available for students in the UAH Women's Studies program! These scholarship funds can be used for tuition, fees, books, or living expenses.

#### *Who is eligible?*

Any student enrolled at UAH as a Women's Studies minor and with a 2.5 out of 4.0 GPA is eligible to apply for the scholarship. Students at any class rank, any major, male or female, may apply as long as they have formally declared a minor in Women's Studies. Selection criteria may include participation in Women's Studies activities, such as volunteering in the Women's Studies Resource Center, being a member of the Women's Studies Student Organization, or participating in community activities that benefit women and girls. Financial need may also be considered, but is not a requirement.

#### *How much funding is available?*

We expect to award up to \$800 in scholarships each year. Successful applicants may re-apply for up to four years (or eight semesters for a Co-op student). Because this is an endowed scholarship, the amount available for award may increase each year, based on the stock market or on additional donations.

#### *How do I apply for the scholarship?*

Students apply through the UAH Financial Aid Office (University Center 124, 256/890-6241) and should complete the paperwork by February 15 for awards in the upcoming academic year.

#### *How do I become a Women's Studies minor?*

To declare a minor, call the Women's Studies program office at 256 824-6210 for an advisor.

### Participate in UAH Women's Studies Over the Internet

You can now receive email announcements of Women's Studies and other events of interest to women by subscribing to our "e-group" via our homepage:

[www.uah.edu/womensstudies](http://www.uah.edu/womensstudies).

We are also starting a separate, interactive discussion group over the web. For information on how to join, call Rose Norman, 256/824-2373 or email [NormanR@uah.edu](mailto:NormanR@uah.edu).

**"Nobody can make you feel inferior without your permission." - ELEANOR ROOSEVELT-**



## INTERNSHIPS FOR STUDENTS

We are attempting to develop internships and cooperative positions for our Women's Studies students. Both types of positions consist of academic and workplace components. These on-the-job experiences may prepare students to be successful in their later employment endeavors, as well as provide opportunities for them to explore their job-related strengths and weaknesses. The internships are supervised by one or more faculty members and have a considerable academic component. Internships are part-time employment positions, and may or may not be financially remunerated. Cooperative positions, however, are typically one-half or full-time positions that are fully compensated.

Our students have a variety of skills that may be useful to your companies or organizations: communication skills (both oral and written), analytical and critical analysis skills, research and data collection skills, and statistical and interpretive skills. Many of our students are innovative, having the ability to design new programs; others have excellent interpersonal skills, having the ability to facilitate or organize group-related processes. If your company or organization might be able to use the skills of one of our students, please contact Dr. Sandra Carpenter (824-2319) to discuss your needs and the opportunities that you could offer.

### Internship Opportunity

A current opportunity for an internship has been offered by Kathryn Cataldo at StrataCom Media Training, Inc., a communications company. Her company specializes in media training (e.g., public relations training for NASA employees) and providing strategies for appropriate message development sent to the public by corporations. The student intern would document and analyze the ways in which Firestone and Ford are responding to the media. For example, what is the tone of the message, who is the messenger, and when did they step up to the microphone? What is chosen to be conveyed in a 15 second soundbite, and what seems to be the ultimate goal of the message? Students with backgrounds in Communications or Social Psychology (or allied areas) may have the appropriate theoretical training to conduct the desired analysis. Interested students should contact Dr. Sandra Carpenter, 824-2319 as soon as possible.

## Women's Studies Student Organization: Let's Get Active!

The Women's Studies Student Organization (WSSO) has been instrumental in assuring the success of a variety of exciting activities and events in the last couple years:

- |  |              |
|--|--------------|
| • Crazy concert                                  | Fall, 1999   |
| • "Take Back the Night" lecture                  | Spring, 1999 |
| • Supporting student travel to the Feminist Expo | Spring, 1999 |
| • <i>Women Great of Heart</i> play               | Fall, 2000   |

We are now recruiting new student members to join us! Let's "get active" in promoting the importance of women's issues and in working to make constructive changes. If you are interested in joining WSSO, please contact the Women's Studies program at 824-6210. Dr. Sheri Shuck (History; 824-2570) and Dr. Merrill Price (English; 824-2372) are the new faculty advisors of WSSO.

## Women's Studies Resource Center: Moving and Shaking!

The Women's Studies Resource Center (WSRC) has moved to Morton Hall 254. In our new space, we have over 1000 catalogued books, dozens of videotapes, and a variety of magazines, newsletters, and posters. We also have information about graduate programs, available internships, and local and national conferences and workshops. The WSRC is open fall semester during the following hours:

**Mondays and Wednesdays**

8:30 – 10:00, 11:30 – 2:00

**Tuesdays**

8:30 – 12:30, 1:30 – 6:00

**Thursdays**

8:30 – 10:00, 1:30 – 6:00

**Fridays**

8:30 – 10:00, 11:30 – 12:30

We would like to extend these hours, but need volunteers to be on-site to keep the center open. So, if you have even a couple hours a week that you could "donate," they would be greatly appreciated. Contact us if you can help (824-6210).

We would also like to expand the resources and mission of our WSRC. If you are a student, let us know how we might help you achieve your academic goals. If you are a faculty or community member, let us know about resources or services you would like us to provide **and** about resources or services you can help us to provide.

New faculty members, Dr. Sheri Shuck (History; 824-2570) and Dr. Merrill Price (English; 824-2372), are coordinating the efforts of the WSRC. Please direct your questions or suggestions to either of them.



## UAH Women's Studies Courses, Spring 2001

We hope to see you in some of the courses for Spring, 2001. Two **Required courses** – Introduction to Women's Studies (WS 200) and Feminist Philosophy (PHL 335) will be offered. A **Core course** for the minor that is offered only once every two years, Psychology of Women, will also be offered this Spring. Another **Core course**, Women Writers (EH 418) is being offered by Dr. Jill Onega, a new member of the English Department. The focus of the course will be on seduction during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

ARH 309-01	Contemporary Art/Issues	TR 11:10-12:30	Dr. David Stewart
BYS 318-01	Vertebrate Reproduction	MWF 11:30-12:25	Dr. Bill Garstka
CM 250-01	Interpersonal Communication	TR 11:10-12:30	Dr. Sherri Smith
EH 391-01	Women Writers	MW 2:20-3:40	Dr. Jill Onega
EH 500-01	Literary Criticism	TR 3:55-5:15	Dr. David Neff
FH 409-01	Gender and Representation	MW 12:45-2:05	Dr. Kwaku Gyasi
PHL 202 -01	Introduction to Ethics	MWF 11:30-12:25	Dr. Brian Martine
PHL 202-03	Introduction to Ethics	TR 2:20-3:40	Dr. Bill Wilkerson
PHL 335-01	Feminist Philosophy	MW 12:45-2:05	Dr. Bill Wilkerson
PY 420-01	Psychology of Women	MW 2:20-3:40	Dr. Sandra Carpenter
SOC106 -01	Marriage and Family	TR 3:55-5:15	Dr. Nancy Finley
SOC 200-01	Anthropology	MW 12:45-2:05	Dr. Bhavani Sitaraman
WS 200-01	Intro. to Women's Studies	TR 12:45-2:05	Dr. Rose Norman
WS 499-01	Independent Study	TBA	TBA (special permission)

*Early registration is November 6-10, 2000. Call (256)824-6210 for further information.*

### Check out what these UAH Students say about WS200 Introduction to Women's Studies!

"WS 200 provided a wonderful lens which allowed me to discover how naïve I had been prior to this class."

"I am constantly using the knowledge that I gained in Women's Studies classes in other classes such as Psychology, Communications, History, Political Science, and many others."

"I would recommend WS 200 to every woman and man I know! We NEED this knowledge to succeed in life."

"I thought there might be just one way to look at these things, but I was amazed. There are many different points of view in this class."

"I attended one of my sister's WS 200 classes when I was in high school. It was then and there that I really became excited about college because of the open and honest academic discourse in the classroom."



## Women's History Month – 2001

### The Huntsville Feminist Chorus

will present their fifth annual concert to celebrate women on Saturday, March 10, 2001 at Robert's Recital Hall at UAH. The concert is free and will begin at 7:30 p.m. Mark your calendar and plan to join us for an evening of song, poetry, puppetry, drumming, and dancing! If you can't wait that long to hear the chorus, another free concert to celebrate Winter Solstice will be held at the Playhouse at the VBCC on Thursday, December 21, 2000 at 7:30 p.m.

## Upcoming Events in the Area

The "Writers' Harvest for the Food Bank of North Alabama" will be held in the Dawson Auditorium on the Alabama A & M campus Thursday, November 9 at 7 p. m. Writers from all over the Tennessee Valley will be reading from their works that night, plus they hope to have many door prizes as well as refreshments. Writers from all over the United States each fall participate in Writers' Harvests all across the country, raising thousands of dollars to help feed the hungry. These readings are sponsored by Share Our Strength out of Washington, D. C., the world's largest hunger fighting organization. All the money and food donations raised will go to the Food Bank of North Alabama. If any members of the WOMEN'S STUDIES group would like to join them as readers or as performers for providing musical interludes, they would really love to hear from you. They also would like to encourage people to just come and join them for a wonderful evening that will nourish both body and soul. For additional information, please call Ginny Gilbert at 256/464-9130.

The American Association of University Women is a Proud Co-sponsor of  
*Women Great of Heart.*

### Who or What is AAUW?

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is a national organization that promotes education and equity for all women and girls. The Association is a 150, 000 member organization with more than 1500 branches, of which Huntsville is a member. In 1949, Dr. Frances Roberts was a founding member and the first president of the Huntsville branch. We currently have 134 members in the local branch, which meets monthly. The AAUW Educational Foundation funds pioneering research on girls and education, community action projects, and fellowships and grants for outstanding women around the globe. The newest research publication is *Tech-Savvy: Educating Girls in the New Computer Age* (2000). Other illuminating projects produced *Hostile Hallways*, *Growing Smart*, and *Shortchanging Girls*.

The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund, which provides funds and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination in higher education. LAF has provided more than \$600,000 in financial support in more than 58 lawsuits.

AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. Membership is open to all women (and men). There are no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class. If you are interested in joining, you can join online: [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) or [info@aauw.org](mailto:info@aauw.org). The local contact for membership is Joann Flanigan, 881-8171 at [FlaniganSDG@aol.com](mailto:FlaniganSDG@aol.com).

The next meeting, which will feature local political candidates, is November 4 at 10: 00 a.m. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church on Franklin and Longwood. Brunch will be served from Bubba's. Guests are welcome. Call 256/881-8171 for reservations.

### "A Woman's Pathway to Peace, Power and Prosperity"

Terry Williams will be conducting a workshop on "A Woman's Pathway to Peace, Power and Prosperity." Participants in this life-changing workshop will become more aware of their inherent spiritual power, ways they may be giving away that power, and ways to reclaim and use their power in order to create peace, abundance and prosperity.

**Saturday, November 4, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.**

**The Dream Maker, 11220 South Memorial Pkwy Suite O, Hunnington Center, Huntsville, AL 35803-2184**

**For more information, call 256/883-8446 or e-mail Terry Williams at [SisWillms@aol.com](mailto:SisWillms@aol.com)**

**Pre-register by November 1 - \$25.00 (non-refundable)**



## Become a Friend of Women's Studies!

Friends of Women's Studies (FWS) is an organization of people who support the UAH Women's Studies program. The goals of FWS include:

- supporting community involvement in Women's Studies events
- sponsoring cultural activities and events that honor and empower women
- supporting women scholars, artists, and performers
- fostering discussion of issues affecting women's lives

Annual Membership Dues (Membership year is October 1 – September 30)

<input type="checkbox"/> \$10-24 Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25-49 Family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50-99 Patron
<input type="checkbox"/> \$100-249 Sponsor	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250-\$499 Sustaining	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Lifetime Membership
		<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 Benefactor

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Memberships are entirely tax-deductible. Make your check payable to UAH Women's Studies.

Mail to: UAH Women's Studies, 344 Morton Hall, University of Alabama in Huntsville Huntsville, AL 35899

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