Women's Studies at UAH, Fall 2004

University of Alabama in Huntsville

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Visiting Scholar from India

Visiting Fulbright scholar Dr. Vindhya Undurti, Professor of Psychology at Andhra University in India, will be on campus September through November. Dr. Undurti’s interests are centered around issues of gender, incorporating themes of mental health of women in India, violence against women in the family, and questions of identity and sexuality in radical political movements. Undurti will be giving public lectures, guest lectures in psychology, sociology, and women’s studies courses, and providing workshops for faculty. She has previously held visiting lectureships at Oxford University in England and at Eotvos Lorand University in Budapest. We are excited to have the opportunity to learn from and interact with this international scholar.

If you are interested in hearing Dr. Undurti, the following presentations are open to the public.

Wednesday, Nov. 10, from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Honors Forum: "Women’s Studies and Women’s Movement in India," UAH, University Center room 125

Friday, Nov. 19, from 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. RELACS: "Western Feminism and Indian Womanhood: In Search of a Middle Path," UAH, Union Grove Gallery

Perceptions of African American Women

Congratulations to Dr. Sonja Brown-Givens, Department of Communication Arts, on the recent publication of an article in *Media Psychology* addressing stereotypes of African American Women. The article, titled “Mammies, Jezebels, and Other Controlling Images: An Examination of the Influence of Mediated Stereotypes on Perceptions of an African American Woman,” was coauthored by Jennifer L. Monahan from The University of Georgia Department of Speech Communication. This study examines how mediated portrayals of African American women influence judgments of African American women in social situations.

"Amazons or Glamazons" Professor Grundy Speaks on Women and Sports

The UAH Department of History, in conjunction with the Women’s Studies Program, is pleased to announce the upcoming visit of Dr. Pamela Grundy. Grundy, an independent historian based in Charlotte, North Carolina, will give a lecture entitled “Amazons or Glamazons: Womanhood and Women’s Basketball” on Thursday, Oct. 21, at 7:00 p.m. in Roberts Recital Hall on the UAH campus. The lecture is part of the 2004 History Forum “Sports and American Culture.”


This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the History Department at 824-6310.

You can help.

The Women’s Studies Resource Room on UAH’s campus is an excellent source of information on women and is open to community members. This resource center now has a new computer to help us catalog our books and materials, but we need a new monitor for the computer. If you are interested in helping, please contact Rose Norman at 824-2373 or NormanR@uah.edu.
Woolf Study Abroad Trip Huge Success

Last summer, Dr. Rose Norman and co-leader Linda Woolf led a group of 12 on a tour of England. The trip emphasized sites important to author Virginia Woolf. Three students took the trip for credit. Julie Hawk, a graduate student majoring in English (pictured below left with Kate Howard, senior English major), was the recipient of a $1,300 grant. The award was made possible by the generous donation of a Friend of Women’s Studies.

Paula Maggio, a Kent State graduate student, has written an article about her experience for the Virginia Woolf Miscellany, writing “My appreciation for Woolf’s work and life has gone from flat to three-dimensional, from grayscale to full-color.”

The group visited parks in Bloomsbury squares, the Sussex summer homes of Woolf and her sister, painter Vanessa Bell, and the seaside resort in Cornwall where Woolf spent her childhood summers. While in Cornwall, they found Woolf’s childhood home, Talland House, and posed for pictures near the window featured in Woolf’s novel To the Lighthouse. Courageously, seven members of the group braved the seas in a rented boat that took them to the lighthouse.

“‘I have had my vision, ’” Norman says, quoting a line from the end of To the Lighthouse. “The trip was everything a study abroad program should be—educational, exciting, challenging, and a whole lot of fun.”

New Women’s Studies Director

UAH’s newest Director of Women’s Studies is Dr. Nancy Finley, associate professor of Sociology. Finley succeeds Dr. André Reeves, who is this year’s Faculty Senate President. While Finley is new to the directorship, she has been involved with Women’s Studies since its inception. She organized the first Women’s Studies Interest Group in 1991 and co-founded the Women’s Studies program as an academic minor. Finley also serves on the Women’s Studies Program Advisory Committee. She has been especially active in advising students, developing and teaching the Introduction to Women’s Studies class, and editing the Women’s Studies newsletter.

Finley has been at UAH since 1982, when she completed her Ph.D. in Sociology at Oklahoma University. She taught Gender Roles when it was one of the only Women’s Studies courses at UAH, and she developed the first Feminist Theory class. In addition to Gender Roles, she regularly teaches Marriage and Family, another core course in the Women’s Studies minor.

Finley brings significant administrative experience to the Women’s Studies program, having served as chair of the Sociology Department. She is also an active scholar, publishing in journals such as Social Forces, Sociological Quarterly, and the Journal of Marriage and Family. Women’s Studies is fortunate to have such an accomplished faculty member taking on the leadership of their academic program.

Meet New Faculty

Kathryn Jill Johnson joined the faculty of the UAH Art Department in fall 2003. She earned her BA from the University of South Florida, and her MFA from the University of Georgia. Her mixed-media paintings combine drawing, including both recognizable images and abstract marks, with an attention to surface, both found and created, by using distressed panels of bare wood as supports for the graphic elements. Medical and scientific illustrations are source images for the work because they suggest the way imperfect forces, thwarted desires, and damage are critical to the development of identity.

She is strongly influenced by the work of contemporary artists, such as Robert Gober, Kiki Smith and Louise Bourgeois, who deal with issues of embodiment, identity and trauma. She is also intrigued with the conflict in feminist theory between the discussions of identity, particularly gender identity, being rooted in physical experience (Irigaray) versus Judith Butler’s notion of sex itself as a social construct.

Before becoming a full-time artist and joining academia she worked as a counselor in a women’s health center, case manager at an HIV clinic, and as an information analyst in a longitudinal study of nurse home visitation for low-income mothers.
**NWSA Annual Conference to Focus on Women and the Environment**

The National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) annual conference is one of the best conferences there is for hearing feminist speakers, learning about women's studies research, and generally getting in touch with what's happening in women's studies. Women's Studies professors Nancy Finley and Rose Norman have attended most of the conferences over the last 10 years and are enthusiastic about next year's conference in Orlando.

This year's theme, "Women and the Environment: Globalizing and Mobilizing," brings together scholars and activists from around the world. Keynote speaker Dr. Vandana Shiva is a particle physicist who has turned her talents to global activism especially in support of third world women. Other speakers include Winona LaDuke (Green Party vice presidential candidate in 2000) and geologist Jill Schneiderman, author of *The Earth Around Us: Maintaining a Livable Planet* (2000, 2003), and playwright Ntozake Shange, who will perform parts of a new play. Participants will also have the option of touring Zora Neale Hurston's hometown, Eatonville, the oldest incorporated African American municipality in the country.

Because Orlando is within driving distance, we hope to take several students to the conference. To help students with conference expenses, a fundraising drive has been planned. Student registration is less than half of regular registration ($55 before April 15), and we estimate that, with food and lodging, $300 would be enough to cover one student's expenses. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please contact Dr. Rose Norman (824-2373 or NormanR@uah.edu), or you may earmark your regular Friends of Women's Studies donation for this purpose.

"Women and the Environment: Globalizing and Mobilizing”
National Women’s Studies Annual Conference
June 9-12, 2005, Orlando, Florida,
http://www.nwsaconference.org/

**UAH Student Essay Contest**

Next spring the Women's Studies program at UAH will be sponsoring the Fourth Annual Women's Studies Essay Contest for essays that have been written for a graduate or undergraduate course at UAH and that deal substantially with women or women's issues. The first prize will be $100, with second and third prizes of $50 and $25, respectively. Further information will be presented in the spring newsletter, but instructors and students should be thinking of projects that might result in a potential entry.

**Submission rules:**
- All essays must be written for a UAH course in 2004 or 2005.
- Any field of study is eligible, as long as women's issues are substantially addressed.
- Essays must be no more than 15 pages, typed or word-processed.
- All references must be cited appropriately.
- Essays must include a cover page listing the title of the paper, the author's name, and the name of the course and professor assigning the work.

For more information, please contact Dr. Sheri M. Shuck-Hall at shucks@uah.edu, or 824-2570.

**Women’s Studies Course Offerings**

**Spring 2005**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Schedule</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARH 309</td>
<td>Contemporary Art Issues</td>
<td>MW 12:45-2:05</td>
<td>Stewart</td>
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<tr>
<td>EH 500</td>
<td>Literary Criticism and Theory</td>
<td>TR 5:30-6:50</td>
<td>Neff</td>
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<td>PHL 202 1</td>
<td>Intro to Ethics</td>
<td>MWF 9:10-10:05</td>
<td>Martine</td>
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<td>PHL 202 2</td>
<td>Intro to Ethics</td>
<td>MWF 10:20-11:15</td>
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<td>PHL 202 3</td>
<td>Intro to Ethics</td>
<td>MWF 12:40-1:35</td>
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<td>PHL 202 4</td>
<td>Intro to Ethics</td>
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<td>PHL 202 5</td>
<td>Intro to Ethics</td>
<td>TR 3:55-5:15</td>
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<td>PY 375</td>
<td>Social Psychology</td>
<td>MWF 10:20-11:15</td>
<td>Carpenter</td>
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<td>SOC 106</td>
<td>Marriage and Family</td>
<td>TR 2:20-3:40</td>
<td>Finley</td>
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<td>SOC 200</td>
<td>Intro to Anthropology</td>
<td>TR 12:45-2:05</td>
<td>Sitaraman</td>
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<td>WS 200</td>
<td>Intro to Women's Studies</td>
<td>TR 11:10-12:30</td>
<td>Finley</td>
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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)

- $10-24 Individual
- $25-49 Family
- $50-99 Matron
- $100-249 Sponsor
- $250-$499 Sustaining
- $500 Lifetime Membership

- $1000 Benefactor

I would like to contribute to the Travel Scholarship Fund $_______

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, The University of Alabama in Huntsville, Huntsville, AL 35899

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