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UAHuntsville Women's Studies News, Fall 2008

University of Alabama in Huntsville

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You may like to know that...

- "Take Yourself to Work Day" will bring 60+ professionals in 13 career areas to UAHuntsville.
- The Women's Studies Program includes 36 faculty members and 40 courses cross-listed in 14 disciplines.
- The Women's Studies Program offered a record number of scholarships and awards in 2007-2008.

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UAHuntsville

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE

WOMEN'S STUDIES NEWS

Fall, 2008

Volume 19, Number 1

Take Yourself to Work Day: Local Professionals Partner with Students for Career Fair, Panel Discussion, and Workshops

Wednesday, November 5, will find the lobby of the new Shelby Center at UAHuntsville filled with representatives from a variety of professions, companies, and organizations. "Take Yourself to Work Day" will include a luncheon panel discussion by prominent local women leaders, a career fair, and workshops on building professional skills. The event especially targets women students and professionals and was initiated by Women's Studies students who requested career guidance for students in the arts and sciences.

The **luncheon** will be held in the Shelby Center third-floor faculty lounge from 12 to 1:30 pm. It will feature a panel of successful local



Women's Studies, AAUW, WEDC, POWER, and WAFF Job-Link offer career networking for students on November 5 in the Shelby Center.

women talking about their career paths and how they achieved their career goals. Panelists are Dr. Pam Hudson, CEO of Crestwood Hospital; Monty Vest, Director of

Communications, JANSON Communications; the honorable Laura Hall, state representative for district 19; and Joanne Randolph, President, Women's Business Center of North Alabama. Moderator for the panel discussion will be Liz Hurley, WAFF 48 news anchor. Panelists will respond to questions developed by UAHuntsville students on the planning committee. UAHuntsville Student Affairs is sponsoring the luncheon.

The **career fair** will be in the Shelby Center lobby from 10 am to 3 pm. Local professionals will host tables where students may talk with them about their career paths and receive career advice.

(continued on page 4)

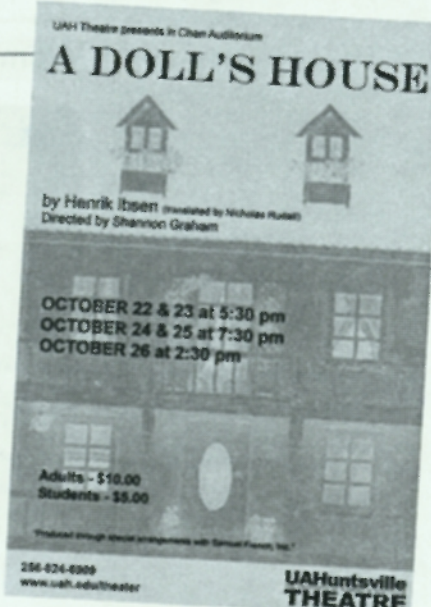
A Doll's House Opens October 22

UAHuntsville Theatre, with support from the English Department and Women's Studies Program, will present Henrik Ibsen's classic play, *A Doll's House*, October 22-26, in Chan Auditorium of the Business Administration Building.

Directed by Shannon Graham, the play explores a time of women's growing social discontent through the characters of Nora and Torvald. The earliest of Ibsen's social-

problem plays, *A Doll's House* catapulted him to international recognition. Combining technique and content in the play's realism, he employed natural dialogue and situations and pushed the plot to its logical outcome.

For more information, call the UAHuntsville Theatre Program at (256) 824-6909, or visit www.uah.edu/theatre.



WOMEN'S STUDIES NEWS

Harris Paper Contest Awards Academic and Creative Writing



Pictured left to right, Cindy Small, Kyra Gordon, Candace Grissom, and Gloria Powell at Liberal Arts Honors Day.

The Women's Studies Program will sponsor the ninth annual Kathryn L. Harris Women's Studies Paper Competition, which awards prizes for essays written for a graduate or undergraduate course at UAHuntsville that deal substantially with women or women's issues.

The competition awards in two categories: academic and creative. Each category offers a first prize of \$100 and a second prize of \$50. The winners will be honored at Liberal Arts Honors Day, April 7.

Last year's winners in the academic category were, first, Kyra Gordon, "Burden of Promise: The Impact of Soviet Political Posters on the Shaping of Female Identity" (for HY 392 Europe Since 1815, Dr. Molly Johnson); and, second, Gloria Powell, "Man: Woman's Savior or God Usurper?" (for EH 360 Shakespeare, Dr. Jeff Nelson).

The winners in the creative category were, first, Candace Grissom, short story, "The Cultivation of Violets" (for EH 510

Advanced Fiction Writing, Dr. Sena Jeter Naslund); and, second, Cindy Small, short story, "Dying in Sequins," (for EH 510 Advanced Fiction Writing, Dr. Sena Jeter Naslund).

Essays may be submitted to Erin Reid in the Department of Sociology (344 Morton Hall) by March 2. For more information, contact Dr. Angela Balla at (256) 824-2378 or Dr. Christine Sears at (256) 824-2573, or visit the contest website at http://www.uah.edu/womensstudies/essay_college.htm.

Hindman Award Honors High-School Student for Outstanding Artwork



Above: Dean Glenn Dasher presents the award to Alexa Werling. Right: "Conformity" by Alexa Werling



The 2008 UAHuntsville Ruth Hindman Women's Studies Award was presented to Alexa Werling of Catholic High School for her composition, "Conformity." The Department of Art and Art History selected the winner for artistic merit and significant insight concerning women and gender.

According to Alexa's artist's statement, the piece "presents an aesthetically pleasing rendering of the

brutality of American culture and media and its effects on the everyday woman while offering hope that it can and will be overcome."

The Hindman Award was presented on April 17 during the College of Liberal Arts Tournament Day, which fosters academic and creative excellence among area high-school students. The Ruth Hindman Foundation awarded Alexa a check for \$100.

Women's Studies Honors Outstanding Emerging Woman Artist



"Gender Politics from the Blue Woman," by Ashley Pottenger

The 2008 Women's Studies Outstanding Emerging Woman Artist Award was presented to Art major Ashley Pottenger on April 7 for her painting, "Gender Politics from the Blue Woman." The award is part of the Annual UAHuntsville Juried Student Art Exhibition sponsored by the Department of Art and Art History. The award seeks to foster women's

professional development in the visual arts.

Ashley's piece explores issues of gender ambiguity and androgyny. It was selected for the award by guest juror Brian Bishop, professor of painting at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa.

The Women's Studies Program awarded Ashley a check for \$100.

Women's Studies Awards Harris Scholarship and Outstanding Minor

The Women's Studies Program awarded the 2008 Kathryn L. Harris scholarship to Heather Harwell, Sarah Ragan, and Veronica Ferreira. Heather and Sarah are both sociology majors with minors in women's studies. Veronica is a double major in history and sociology with a minor in women's studies.

The scholarship is awarded based on a combination of academic merit, community and/or school involvement, with additional con-

sideration given to students with demonstrated financial need. Heather and Sarah are officers in POWER, the Women's Studies student organization, and the Student Sociology Association. Veronica is an officer in Phi Alpha Theta, the history honors society, and a leader in the PASS program.

Veronica was also honored at the College of Liberal Arts Honors Day, April 8, with the Women's Studies Outstanding Minor Award, for academic excellence.



Left: Veronica Ferreira pictured at Honors Day with her two daughters, Lillian and Cecilia.

Above: Sarah Ragan (left) and Heather Harwell (right) pictured with Lily Ledbetter, proponent of the 2008 Fair Pay Act for women, at the AAUW regional meeting in Florence.

UAHuntsville Distinguished Student Leader Award Goes to POWER President

The UAHuntsville Student Government Association presented its award for Distinguished Student Leader for an Academic/Honorary Club and Organization to Sarah Ragan, president of POWER, the Women's Studies student organization. Sarah's work with POWER revitalized the club, nurtured new membership, and promoted ser-

vice on campus and in the community. Under her leadership, POWER provided vital support for Women's Studies events and built ties with community organizations like Habitat for Humanity, the American Association of University Women (AAUW), and the Women's Economic Development Council (WEDC).

Huntsville Woman's Club Renews Award

The Huntsville Woman's Club renewed its \$1,000 memorial scholarship to UAHuntsville student Amanda Shamblin in May. Amanda is a double major in communication arts and foreign languages, specializing in Spanish. She received the Woman's Club Award initially last year and is a return recipient.

POWER Student Leaders Promote Service and Activism

The UAHuntsville Women's Studies student organization, POWER, is planning humanitarian events on campus and in the community.

In addition to collaborating with AAUW and AAMU on a panel discussion on race, gender, and politics in October, they are helping organize the "Take Yourself to Work" career fair in November, which was their brainchild to

serve students in career decisions. Members also volunteered for the Susan G. Komen race for the cure, a benefit for breast cancer research, in Birmingham, and are planning a rape crisis advocacy program on campus.

POWER (People Organized for Women's Equality and Rights) is committed to working for equality and rights concerning sex, race,

age, religion, sexual orientation, physical ability, and class through service, student activities, scholarship, and activism. POWER's leadership includes president Sarah Ragan, vice-president Heather Harwell, treasurer Rebecca Purcell, secretary Jennifer Harris, and faculty sponsor Dr. Angela Balla.

For more information, contact Sarah Ragan at ragans@uah.edu.

Women's Studies Program

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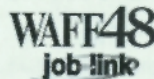
Erin Reid
Newsletter Editor

WOMEN'S STUDIES NEWS

"Take Yourself to Work" (cont. from page 1)



Left to right: Melody Tholstrup, Erin Reid, Joyce Maples, Rose Norman, Rachel Lackey, Jennifer Martinez, Sarah Ragan, Heather Harwell, Maureen Chemsak.



Representatives will participate from the following areas: Art, Graphic Design, Interior Design; Banking, Insurance, Finance, Real Estate; Communications; Entrepreneurship; Government; Hospitality; Information Technology and Science; Law, Law Enforcement; Manufacturing, Industrial; Medical, Dental, Public Health, Veterinary; Non-Profit;

Retail, Sales; Scientific, Industrial.

Here is a sample of participants: Helen Vaughn is a highly successful visual artist. Dr. Sheri Fastenrath is a veterinarian. Jenny Stalnaker (UAH Sociology graduate) is a fraud investigator for Redstone Federal Credit Union. Laura Arce is a marketing technical writer for Intergraph. Karol Kapustka is a retired nurse who now sells Arbonne products. Dr. Susan Herring is a reference librarian at Athens State University. Rebecca

Ellingwood is an FBI special agent. Elizabeth Abel (UAH English graduate) is a lawyer. Kyle Jessop is a Peace Corps recruiter. Melissa Musgrove is the co-owner of Foliage Design and the Yoga Center. Lisa Mavrotheris is a program manager for a Miltec/NASA contract. Tish Hall (UAH mathematics graduate) is an Oracle database manager for Missile Simulation at Teledyne Brown Engineering.

A complete list of participants and the times they will be available will be online at www.uah.edu/womensstudies/tytwd.

Workshops throughout the day will cover interviewing techniques, networking, and goal-setting strategies for career planning. Experienced human resource professionals will be available to critique resumes, and some company recruiters will be present.

Women's Studies is partnering for this event with the American Association of University Women

(AAUW), the Women's Economic Development Council (WEDC), the Women's Studies student organization POWER, and WAFF 48 Job-Link. Members of the planning committee are Melody Tholstrup (WEDC), Erin Reid (UAH, AAUW), Joyce Maples (UAH University Relations), Rose Norman (UAH, AAUW), Rachel Lackey (POWER), Jennifer Martinez (WAFF Channel 48 Job-Link), Sarah Ragan (POWER), Heather Harwell (POWER), and Maureen Chemsak (AAUW).

The career fair is free and open to the public. The luncheon and workshops are free and open to UAHuntsville students for priority reservations by October 22. Students from other campuses are welcome and invited to register as space is available. Students may make reservations by contacting the Women's Studies Program via email at erin.reid@uah.edu or by phone at (256) 824-6210. No new reservations after October 31.

Women Student Leaders Attend National Conference



Pictured left to right, Heather Harwell, Rachel Lackey, Sarah Ragan, and Candice Rigsby Bressler, stand on the Georgetown University campus where the conference was held.

The 2008 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)—"Leadership For Today and Tomorrow"—welcomed a diverse crowd of more than 500. UAHuntsville students Heather Harwell, Rachel Lackey, and Sarah Ragan, and alumnus Candice Rigsby Bressler attended the Washington D.C. event with support from UAHuntsville and AAUW.

Participants enhanced their leadership skills, explored diverse per-

spectives, and networked with their peers. The conference featured more than 40 workshops, in addition to pre- and post-conference sessions, such as Washington D.C. tours, election 2008 sessions, and opportunities to participate in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure.

A highlight of the conference was the Women of Distinction Awards Ceremony, which featured five award winners, including journalist Kimberly Dozier, who was injured

by a car bombing while reporting in Iraq, and Brigadier General Evelyn "Pat" Foote, who was the first female Army officer to command an Army brigade in Europe.

POWER President, Sarah Ragan, found the conference to be valuable: "NCCWSL provided an opportunity for me to critically analyze my personal leadership skills and address new forms of engagement with peers and fellow leaders across the nation concerning leadership and women's issues."

Women's Studies Featured Faculty: Dr. Lillian Joyce

If people ask me where I went to school, and I say Vassar, they immediately think of it as a women's college. It was, in fact, the first of the Seven Sisters schools to go co-ed. However, it continues to retain a strong tradition of educating and empowering women. It was there that I first discovered my love for ancient culture, and particularly the study of women's experience.

The study of antiquity is incredibly interdisciplinary. Evidence comes from many sources including the archaeological record and a diverse literature. One has to master ancient and modern languages. One gets to travel. My research has always been a labor of love, and it has taken me to amazing

places: Italy, Greece, Egypt, Tunisia, Guatemala, and Peru.

One way I have been able to bring the world of ancient culture to Huntsville was by organizing a local society of the Archaeological Institute of America. Our lecture series has brought in eminent scholars, including the director of excavations at Easter Island and the phenomenal palace at Knossos on Crete. We have also brought in numerous scholars who deal with women's experience in the ancient world. Recently, one debunked many of the myths about "cave women." Another examined the lives of women of all classes in a Roman villa in Portugal. Another looked at women's roles in Etruscan culture.

This semester I am teaching a course on Women in Antiquity that covers the ancient Near East, Egypt, Greece, and Rome. With the co-sponsorship of Women's Studies we have been able to bring in two Egyptologists to talk to the class, and then do a public lecture.

The class has been really exciting for me, as we engage in discussions of the position of feminist theory within an often highly conservative field. The students are also in the process of developing their research topics. One of my main goals in putting together this course is to explore how relevant the study of the ancient world is to understanding many of today's social conventions, including ones many women now reject.



Dr. Lillian Joyce points to the natural life inhabiting the Ara Pacis (the Augustan Altar of Peace) in Rome.

Dr. Kathleen Leonard Receives WEDC Foundation Education Award

Dr. Kathleen Leonard, UAHuntsville professor of civil and environmental engineering, was presented with the "Women Honoring Women" award in education from the Women's Economic Development Council Foundation on September 18. Dr. Leonard was among six women recognized for excelling in their fields of expertise and in their efforts to help others improve their quality of life.

Dr. Leonard is extremely active in local, national, and international professional engineering activities. She is a charter member of the North Alabama section of Society of Women Engineers (SWE) and, as advisor for the UAHuntsville chapter, she is a role model for female students and young faculty. An advocate for underrepresented groups, she spearheaded the creation of two endowed scholarships

for women in engineering. She serves on the Women's Studies Program Advisory Committee, and she is the first female at UAHuntsville to become a full professor in the College of Engineering. She has received numerous teaching, service, and technical awards. In the community, she serves with the Flint River Conservation Association and other organizations of environmental benefit.



Dr. Kathleen Leonard

Women's Studies Course Offerings Spring 2009

ARH 103 01	Non-Western Traditions	TR	12:45-2:05	Joyce	PHL 202 03	Introduction to Ethics	TR	11:10-12:30	Rochowiak
ARH 309 01	Contemporary Art & Issues	MW	3:55-5:15	Stewart	PHL 202 04	Introduction to Ethics	TR	12:45-2:05	Jones
ARH 309 02	Contemporary Art & Issues	TR	9:35-10:55	Stewart	PHL 202 05	Introduction to Ethics	TR	2:20-3:40	Heikes
CM 333 01	Interpersonal Communication	MW	2:20-3:40	Gilchrist	PY 437 01	Psychobiology of Stress/Illness	MW	3:55-5:15	Torres
EH 438 01	African American Literature	TR	3:55-5:15	Flint	SOC 106 01	Marriage and Family	TR	2:20-3:40	Finley
EH 493 01	The Victorian Novel	TR	2:20-3:40	Early	SOC 200 01	Intro. to Anthropology	TR	12:45-2:05	Sitaraman
HY 485 01	Nazi Germany/the Holocaust	MW	2:20-3:40	Johnson	SOC 306 01	Sociology of Gender	W	5:30-8:20	Finley
PHL 202 02	Introduction to Ethics	MW	12:45-2:05	Wilkerson	SOC 315 01	Cultural Change	M	3:55-6:50	Sitaraman

Become a Friend of Women's Studies!

Friends of Women's Studies (FWS) is an organization of people who support the **UAHuntsville 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 Contribution (October 1 – September 30)

- ☐ \$10-24 Individual ☐ \$25-49 Family ☐ \$50-99 Matron ☐ \$100-249 Sponsor
☐ \$250-\$499 Sustaining ☐ \$500 Lifetime Contributor ☐ \$1000 Benefactor
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