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Newsletters

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

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1-1-2011

## UAHuntsville Women's Studies News, Spring 2011

University of Alabama in Huntsville

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### You may like to know that...

- Charged Up For Change! EXPO will be back March 28, 2012! **SAVE THE DATE!**
- Calling all Women's Studies Alumni! Would you like to be profiled in our newsletter or on our new website? If so, please contact Women's Studies Director Molly Johnson.

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# UAHuntsville

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE

## WOMEN'S STUDIES NEWS

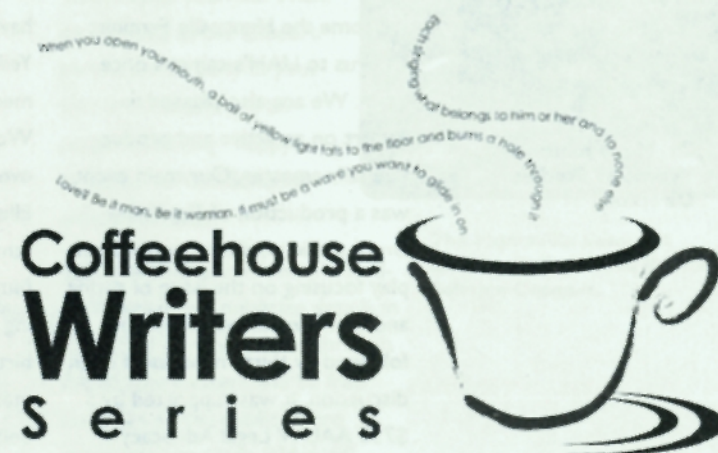
Spring, 2011

Volume 21, Number 2

### Coffeehouse Writers Series Begins February 11

Women's Studies and the Salmon Library are partnering in a series of programs featuring local writers reading their work at the library's art gallery. The series will eventually draw in a diversity of writing groups from Huntsville and North Alabama and is starting with a focus on women writers.

The series begins **Friday, February 11, at 4 pm** with the Coweeta Poets: Susan Luther, Rosemary McMahan, Margaret Vann, Erin Reid, Debbie West, Rose Norman, and Evelyn Hurley. This group started in the 1990s at a retreat led by Susan Luther at McClure Mill, near Franklin, NC, on the porch over Coweeta Creek. The poets have been meeting quarterly in each other's



homes ever since. They will be reading from their new chapbook, *Something More Solid Than Earth*.

The series continues on **Tuesday, February 22, at 6 pm**, with a program called "She Speaks," featuring poetry by Ruth Braswell, Katina Walton, Symonia Montgomery, Shawana Ariel,

La'Shea Monique Johnson, and Caneeka Miller. Johnson has a new book, *Paradigm: Poetry Through Life Lessons*. Miller, whose work will be featured, also has a new book of poems, *Smeared Eyeliner & Faded Lipstick*.

(continued on page 3)

### Myths and Facts about Dating Violence

The UAH Panhellenic Council presents "Myths and Facts About Dating Violence" on **Tuesday, February 8, at 7:30 pm** in Shelby Center room 107. Speaker Ann Bianchi, Clinical Assistant Professor of Nursing, will disseminate information about dating violence, decrease the barriers to reporting, and shed a light on the devastating negative consequences for some college students. Bianchi's research specialty includes issues associated with intimate partner violence.

Many students begin their academic career, hoping to explore new interests, engage in new activities, and, yes, develop romantic relationships. For some, campus life may become frightening and unsafe when a dating relationship becomes violent. Recent literature reveals that one in five college students report some form of violence or abuse in dating relationships. Dating violence is a crime and can creep into a relationship at any time.



This event is free and open to the public. Parking is available on the south side of the Shelby Center (next to Madison Hall) and in the parking garage. For more information, contact Kimberly Dunson at [kdd0004@uah.edu](mailto:kdd0004@uah.edu).



## WOMEN'S STUDIES NEWS

### Message from the Women's Studies Director



**Dr. Molly Johnson,**  
Women's Studies  
Director

*Happy New Year!*

Women's Studies is excited about all that we have in store for spring 2011. Women's Studies is launching a new Coffeehouse Writers Series in cooperation with the UAH Salmon Library, and we will welcome the Huntsville Feminist Chorus to UAH's campus once again. We are also pleased to report on an active and productive fall semester. Our main event was a production of *The Yellow Dress*, a thirty-minute, one-woman play focusing on the issue of dating and intimate partner violence, followed by thirty minutes of open discussion. It was supported by a \$750 AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund Campus Outreach Grant from the American Association of University Women. More than 100 UAH and Alabama A&M stu-

dents attended the event. We cooperated with Crisis Services of North Alabama in planning the event, and CSNA made several counselors available at the production.

Some exciting new collaborations have emerged as a result of *The Yellow Dress*. Two new faculty members have joined forces with Women's Studies to focus on events planning, Ann Bianchi and Ellise Adams, both Clinical Assistant Professors in the College of Nursing who do research on dating violence as well as on childbirth. They both share a commitment to empowering women and believe promoting informed childbirth and preventing intimate partner violence are critical to this cause. We are particularly pleased to report that Ann Bianchi will

give a presentation on dating violence to the UAH sororities and fraternities in early February. This presentation is at the invitation of UAH's Panhellenic Council and is a direct result of the attention to dating violence that *The Yellow Dress* generated on campus.

The Women's Studies Events Committee is working to bring in a speaker in academic year 2011-2012 to talk in more detail about her research on domestic violence. We also hope to bring one or two speakers to campus who do research on the history of childbirth in the U.S. and on childbirth from an anthropological and comparative perspective.

Women's Studies is also busy revising and updating our website,

(continued next page)



**Susanna Leberman and  
Michael Kusmierz,**  
Women's Studies  
Alumni

### Alumni Profile: Susanna Leberman and Michael Kusmierz

For the Spring 2011 edition of the newsletter, we are continuing our new "Alumni Profiles" feature, first introduced in Fall 2010. This time, we are profiling two alumni who met at UAH, shared several Women's Studies classes, and are now married to each other!

Susanna Leberman received her BA in history, with a minor in Women's Studies, in 2000, and later earned an MA degree in History from UAHuntsville in 2007. After graduating in 2007, she was hired by the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library as an archivist, and in fall of 2007 she also began to teach history as an adjunct professor at Calhoun. In

September 2010, the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library hired her as a full-time employee, and she now focuses on public history and preservation. She has published several articles and a book called *Wooing You by Mail: Letters to Mabel, A Joe Bradley Schoolmarm*. In May 2010 she represented the library at the University of Iowa, delivering a presentation on the importance of digitizing oral history and making it available to the public. She enjoys giving public presentations that feature the library's historic photographs in their Living Life Series.

According to Susanna, "My time in the Women's Studies Program—

which helped me see the world with a sociological perspective and gain a deep personal understanding of the oppression of women—has filtered into every aspect of my life as I mature as an adult and seek to make a difference in the world around me."

Michael Kusmierz graduated in 2000 with a BA in sociology and a minor in Women's Studies. He was the first man at UAH to complete the Women's Studies minor. He works as an orthodontic technician and has been with Oral Arts Dental Laboratory for ten years.

According to Mike, "I entered UAH a white male ex-junkie with

(continued on page 5)





GIRL SCOUTS

## Huntsville Feminist Chorus: Calling All Girl Scouts

Calling all Girl Scouts—current and former—troops, families, friends, and all those who celebrate the contributions of Girl Scouting to our communities!

This year marks the beginning of the 100<sup>th</sup> year of Girl Scouting, founded by Juliette Low in Savannah, Georgia, on March 12, 1912. In its 16<sup>th</sup> spring concert, the Huntsville Feminist Chorus will honor the beginning of the second century of the influence of Girl Scouting on the courage, confidence, and character of today's girls and women.

Sing along with the old songs and be reminded of the shared language of Girl Scouting: "When

e'er you make a promise," "Make new friends," "Peace, I ask of thee, oh, river..." Plus, hear new songs that celebrate the spirit and experience of Girl Scouting: the tight weave of worldwide sisterhood, the call to service, the inner and outer laughter and joy in friends and self, the walks in sacred places, the sanctity of nature, the becoming a woman, even an ode to the key ingredient of that favorite campfire snack—s'mores.

After the concert, top off the evening as guests of the UAHuntsville Women's Studies Program with a feast of Girl Scout cookies.

Because the date and location of the concert are still being ar-

ranged, you have time to polish your Girl Scout and/or Brownie pins, locate your badge sash and sew on those badges you've been meaning to, and dust off those beloved songs that have shaped your life. Then, on the date of the concert, plan to arrive early in your Girl Scout finery and be prepared to sing "happy birthday" to Girl Scouting with the chorus!

The UAHuntsville Women's Studies Program will publicize details in the online newsletter and through e-mail. The concert will be free and open to the public. More information at (256) 824-6190.



The Huntsville Feminist Chorus at their 2010 Winter Solstice Concert.

## "Message from the Director" (cont.)

with the help of students enrolled in Roxie Veasey's senior web design class. Rose Norman has done a marvelous job over many years creating and maintaining the Women's Studies website, one of UAH's first websites. Thank you, Rose! To gain feedback for our new website, Rose prepared and sent out a survey to those of you who subscribe to our online newsletter to solicit your feedback. We are grateful to all of you who responded and gave careful, thoughtful input. We hope to have our new website online by May 2011.

Women's Studies' collaboration with the Huntsville Chapter of AAUW has continued as well. In Fall 2010, we held several meetings to discuss joint programming ideas, and our primary focus is

currently planning the next "Charged Up For Change! EXPO." Yes, that is right: EXPO will be back! Please save the date for March 28, 2012, and look for more news in future newsletters and on the Women's Studies website.

Thank you all, as always, for your enthusiastic support of Women's Studies at UAH! Special thanks to those of you who made contributions to Women's Studies and to the "Rose Norman Women's Studies Award for Scholarship in Action" this fall.

*All the best,*  
Molly Wilkinson Johnson  
Associate Professor of History  
Director of Women's Studies

## "Writers" (cont.)

On **March 8, at 7 pm**, the series will celebrate the centenary International Women's Day with readings by the local writing group BWFFs: Susan Gorrell, Erin Reid, Susan Phelan, Kathie Butler, Marylyn Coffey, Heather Kilgore, Betty Clemens, Sandra Shattuck, and Bee Barbara.

All readings are at the Salmon Library art gallery on the ground floor near Jazzman's Café. Admission is free, and Jazzman's Café will be open before the Tuesday night readings. Coffee-house Writers programs are scheduled to continue through the end of April. For more information, to propose a program, or to become a sponsor, call Marylyn Coffey at (256) 824-6114 or email [coffeymt@uah.edu](mailto:coffeymt@uah.edu).

## Women's Studies Program

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Director

**Dr. Rose Norman**  
Events Coordinator  
Online Newsletter Editor

**Erin Reid**  
Newsletter Editor



## WOMEN'S STUDIES NEWS

### AAUW Huntsville Branch News: Spring 2011

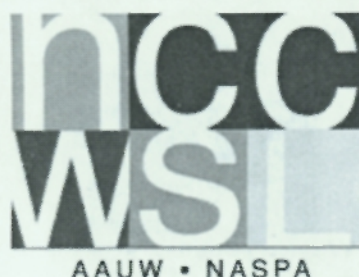
By Rose Norman



**Breaking through Barriers**

AAUW, the American Association of University Women, is a national organization of which UAHuntsville is a member. The AAUW Huntsville branch has worked closely with UAH Women's Studies for many years, sponsoring leadership opportunities for students, and most recently in co-sponsoring a performance of *The Yellow Dress* this past October, funded by a grant from the national organization. In the upcoming year, they will be working with Women's Studies and other local organizations on EXPO 2012.

AAUW-Huntsville hosts monthly meetings (September through May) featuring topics that support its mission of promoting equity for women and girls through education, research, advocacy, and philanthropy. Meetings are open to the public and require reservations for the dinner option.



**Melissa Musgrove,**  
Breaking Through  
Barriers speaker,  
March 4.

#### **Breaking Through Barriers Luncheon, Friday, March 4.**

This annual fundraiser, held at Carrabba's Italian Grill in Huntsville's Parkway Place Shopping Center, raises funds for women students to attend AAUW's national leadership conference. "Breaking Through Barriers" is the theme of the luncheon and the motto of AAUW National, which has supported equity for women and girls for over a hundred years.

**Melissa Musgrove**, a long-time Friend of Women's Studies, will be this year's Breaking Through Barriers speaker. She is co-owner of both Foliage Design Systems and The Yoga Center, and she serves on the board of the Huntsville High PTSA and HEMSI, Inc.

The title of her talk is "Embracing Our Greatness."

Funds raised at the luncheon will assist women students from area universities in attending AAUW-NASPA's **National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)**, a three-day leadership conference held at the University of Maryland, College Park, near Washington, DC. The conference offers leadership training and networking opportunities to students and features presentations by internationally recognized women leaders. Each year, the Huntsville branch of AAUW covers registration and travel expenses up to about \$800 per student, and tries to sponsor at least one student from each of the three Huntsville universities, Alabama A&M University, Oakwood University, and UAHuntsville. UAH Women's Studies assists in identifying UAH students and in funding additional UAH students. In our fall newsletter we reported on the three students (two UAH, one Oakwood) who attended last year's conference. Students selected to attend NCCWSL also serve on the Alabama Student Advisory Council and report to the Huntsville branch at the September meeting.

Tickets to the luncheon are \$25 each, and all but \$8 goes toward sending students to the leadership conference. Tickets are available from AAUW Huntsville branch members or from Cindi Branham, [cindi@netfocusmarketing.com](mailto:cindi@netfocusmarketing.com). If you are unable to attend the luncheon, you may buy tickets to be donated to students, or you

may simply make a contribution to AAUW (checks payable to the AAUW Education Fund). If you would like to make a donation specifically for a UAH student to attend the leadership conference, make your check payable to UAH Women's Studies and mail it to UAH Women's Studies at the return address on this newsletter.

**Diversity Meeting, Tuesday, April 5, 5:30-8 pm.** The April dinner meeting at St. Mark's Lutheran Church will feature speaker **Dana Gillis**, a Huntsville FBI agent who specializes in Program Management, Compliance Evaluation, Leadership Development, Crisis Management, Risk Mitigation, Training Coordination, Media Relations, and Community Outreach. Gillis is a graduate of Class 24 at Leadership Huntsville/Madison County and holds a master's degree from the University of Cambridge.

#### **"A Procrastinator's Guide to Action," May 3, 5:30-8 pm.**

The May dinner meeting, also at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, will feature speaker **Melody Wade**, formerly a NASA engineer and successful small business owner, now a financial adviser who has been teaching courses and workshops in maximizing human potential for over nine years.

For more information on AAUW-Huntsville meetings and other activities, please visit [www.uah.edu/aauw](http://www.uah.edu/aauw). To join, contact Peggy East at [eastp@aol.com](mailto:eastp@aol.com) or (256) 489-7089. Information on AAUW National is available at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org).



## Women's Studies Featured Faculty: Dr. Sandra Mendiola

Dr. Sandra Mendiola was born and raised in Puebla, Mexico, where she received her B.A. from the Universidad de las Américas. She earned her M.A. from the University of Toronto and completed her Ph.D. in Latin American History with a minor field in Women's and Gender History at Rutgers University.

Sandra teaches upper-division courses on Colonial and Modern Latin American History and also World History surveys. In the Spring of 2010, Sandra taught a new history course—included as a "core" course in the Women's Studies Minor—entitled "Women

and Gender in Latin America." Students read works by historians, anthropologists, and Latin American activists as they examined the history of women and of gender relations in Latin America from the colonial period to the present. Sandra enjoyed the opportunity to teach Women's Studies students, alongside history and Spanish majors, and she looks forward to teaching the class again in the Spring of 2012.

This spring semester Sandra will be a guest lecturer for the first time in WS 200, Introduction to Women's Studies. She will give a presentation on the multiple tasks

that women performed while vending on the streets of Mexico and on how female vendors were active in forming a union that best represented their interests as vendors and as mothers. This presentation is part of her larger research on street vendors and politics in modern Mexico.

Outside the classroom, Sandra enjoys spending time with her husband Chad and her daughter Lucía. In Mexico, they enjoy visiting the port of Veracruz and watching masked Mexican wrestlers in action in her native Puebla.



**Dr. Sandra Mendiola,**  
Assistant Professor of  
History

### "Alumni Profile" (cont.)

90 days' sobriety. Dr. Nancy Finley helped me understand patriarchy and how I benefited from a patriarchal system. While learning how to live sober, I also was able to unlearn some of my racism and

power over women. Being the first man in the Women's Studies Program was truly enlightening."

Mike and Susanna have been together for thirteen years and are

now married. Says Mike, "I am absolutely certain that the Women's Studies Program is solely responsible for our happiness."

## Women's Studies Course Offerings Summer and Fall 2011

### FIRST SUMMER MINI-SESSION

ED 430 01	Applied Multiculturalism	TR	12:30-4:45	Kovacs
PHL 202 01	Introduction to Ethics	MTWR	10:15-12:15	Jones

### SUMMER FULL SESSION

WS 200 01	Introduction to Women's Studies	MW	10:15-12:15	Shattuck
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### FALL SEMESTER

BYS 318 01	Vertebrate Reproduction	MWF	9:10-10:05	Stallsmith
CM/PY 330 01	Nonverbal Communication	TR	11:10-12:30	Brown-Givens
EH 333 01	American Lit: WWII to Present	TR	11:10-12:30	Flint
EH 403 01	Literary Criticism & Theory	TR	3:55-5:15	Neff
EH 440 01	SS: The Brontës	TR	5:30-6:50	Early
HY 365 01	American Labor History	MW	12:45-2:05	Pearson
HY 482 01	Comparative Slavery & Abolition	MW	3:55-5:15	Sears
MGT 462 01	Employment Law for Managers	TR	3:55-5:15	Gramm
PHL 202 01	Introduction to Ethics	MW	12:45-2:05	Jones
PHL 202 02	Introduction to Ethics	MW	2:20-3:40	Wilkerson

### SECOND SUMMER MINI-SESSION

PHL 202 02	Introduction to Ethics	MTWR	10:15-12:15	STAFF
PHL 202 03	Introduction to Ethics	MTWR	2:45-4:45	STAFF

PHL 202 03	Introduction to Ethics	TR	9:35-10:55	Martine
PHL 202 04	Introduction to Ethics	TR	2:20-3:40	Heikes
PHL 303 01	Contemporary Philosophy	MW	2:20-3:40	Heikes
PHL 335 01	Philosophy of Gender	TR	11:10-12:30	Wilkerson
SOC 105 01	Intro. to Cultural Anthropology	MW	12:45-2:05	Sitaraman
SOC 105 02	Intro. to Cultural Anthropology	MW	3:55-5:15	Sitaraman
SOC 206 01	Marriage and Family	TR	9:35-10:55	Terrell
SOC 306 01	Sociology of Gender	W	5:30-8:20	Finley
SOC 415 01	Sociology of Globalization	R	3:55-6:50	Sitaraman
SOC 435 01	Sociology of Social Movements	TR	9:35-10:55	Berbrier

Course offering schedules are not final. For changes, see the official UAHuntsville schedule of classes at [www.uah.edu/cgi-bin/schedule.pl](http://www.uah.edu/cgi-bin/schedule.pl)



## 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)

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

☐ I would like to contribute to the "Rose Norman Women's Studies Award for Scholarship in Action." \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

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