UAHunstville Women's Studies News, Fall 2011

University of Alabama in Huntsville

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You may like to know that...

- The Coffeehouse Writers Series returns on Friday, Sept. 9 (page 3).
- We are hosting a full line-up of exciting fall events (page 3).
- The Women's Studies Program launched a new website, blog, and Facebook page (page 5).

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Visiting Eminent Scholar Dr. Judith Walzer Leavitt to Lecture on the History of Childbirth

With the support of the UAH Humanities Center Eminent Scholar Program, the Women’s Studies Program is bringing Dr. Judith Walzer Leavitt to campus this September. Leavitt hails from the University of Wisconsin at Madison, where she is Rupple Bascom and Ruth Bleier Professor Emerita of Medical History and Bioethics, History of Science, and Gender and Women's Studies.

Leavitt will visit several classes and also deliver two public lectures. Her first lecture, “Women and the Medicalization of Childbirth in American History,” will be Tuesday, September 20, at 7:30 p.m., in Chan Auditorium of the Business Administration Building. Her second lecture, “Make Room for Daddy: Men’s Roles in Childbirth in Twentieth Century America,” will be Thursday, September 22, at 11:10 a.m., in the multipurpose room of Frank Franz Hall as part of UAH’s Honors Forum.

An internationally recognized pioneer of research in medical history and women’s history, Leavitt has published numerous articles and book chapters, delivered dozens of lectures in the United States and abroad, and authored or edited eight books on public health and women’s health in social, economic, and political context. Her UAH lectures are (continued on page 3)

EXPO is Back! Mark Your Calendars Now for March 28, 2012!

In March 2010, Women's Studies launched “Charged Up For Change! EXPO” with the purpose of encouraging students and other visitors to discover the many ways they can get involved in their communities and use their own innovative talents as a platform to drive social change. The event was so successful, featuring over 75 booths and displays and drawing around 500 visitors, that we are planning EXPO 2012!

Please mark Wednesday, March 28, 2012, on your calendars! The Women’s Studies blog, website, and spring newsletter will provide more details. If you would like to be involved in planning or suggest a local group that we should invite, contact Women’s Studies Director Molly Johnson at molly.johnson@uah.edu or (256) 824-2566.

We are seeking additional funding for this event. If you would like to make a donation please fill out the form on the back page and designate your gift for "EXPO 2012."
Friends of Women's Studies!

The fall semester promises to be an exciting one for UAH Women's Studies. As you will read in this newsletter, we are bringing Dr. Judith Walzer Leavitt, a historian of medicine and women's history, to UAH in September to give several public lectures on the history of childbirth. Also in September, we co-sponsor a lecture by visiting archaeologist Dr. Bettina Arnold, and we kick off this year’s Coffeehouse Writers Series, with additional Coffeehouse events planned for October and November.

Our fall activities also include a November $tart $mart wage negotiation workshop for UAH students, in cooperation with UAH Career Education, AAUW, and the Women's Economic Development Council (WEDC).

We are also pleased to report on an active and productive semester this past spring. We welcomed the Huntsville Feminist Chorus to campus in early April to celebrate 100 years of Girl Scouts. We launched our Coffeehouse Writers Series, a collaboration between Women's Studies and the Salmon Library that featured five sets of readings by local writers. We also completed work on our new website, Facebook page, and blog, discussed in more detail in this newsletter. You can also read about some of the students the Women’s Studies Program supported in travel and honored through our annual writing, art, and scholarship awards.

Our major event for the spring 2012 semester will be the return of “Charged Up For Change! EXPO,” scheduled for Wednesday, March 28. Keep your eyes on our website and blog for more information, and please be in touch with us if you would like to be involved on the planning committee or offer financial support.

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 the Women's Studies Program and to the Rose Norman Scholarship in Action Award this past year.

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

Alumna Profile: Rebecca “Beck” Krefting, Class of 2001

Rebecca Krefting, who goes by Beck, graduated from UAH in 2001 with majors in English and Psychology and a minor in Women’s Studies. She is currently a visiting assistant professor of American Studies at Skidmore College, where she teaches courses in women’s literature and history, popular culture, contemporary American cultures, and U.S. humor and women’s comic performance.

Because Beck already had double majors in English and psychology while at UAH, she did not need a minor in order to graduate. Nonetheless, she remembers that she enjoyed her Women’s Studies classes so much that she decided to complete the Women’s Studies minor anyway, a decision that ultimately influenced her to obtain an M.A. in Women’s Studies at The Ohio State University. She then earned a Ph.D. in American Studies at the University of Maryland, College Park, in 2010.

Reflecting on the benefits of her UAH Women’s Studies minor, Beck emphasizes that the Women’s Studies Program helped her develop research and analytical skills that are critical to her work as a scholar and a teacher. At present, she is revising her dissertation for a book titled More than Just a Joke: American Humor and Its Discontents. She has also published work in disability education, theater, and feminist pedagogy. Her most recent work is a co-authored chapter on feminist architectural education entitled “Placing Space: Architecture, Action, Dimension—Pedagogy and Practice,” soon to be published in Feminist Practices: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Women in Architecture.

Beck concludes that, “I use what I learned in the Women’s Studies Program and from its affiliate faculty every day; it’s a little impossible not to when what you now know changes the way you make sense of the world. Women’s Studies and feminist theories inform my worldviews, my teaching and my scholarship.”
Coffeehouse Writers Series Returns September 9

Women’s Studies and the Salmon Library are continuing the popular Coffeehouse Writers Series launched last spring with programs featuring local writers reading their work.

The fall series begins Friday, September 9, at 4 p.m., with “Express-Men,” a program featuring writing by local columnist Ricky Thompson and original songs by singer-songwriter Tom McClellan.

The series continues on Tuesday, October 18, at 6 p.m., with “Your Story: No Exit” featuring Kay Campbell, Harry Moore, Jimmy Robinson, Patricia Sammon, and Monita Soni.

The final program of the season will be Friday, November 4, at 4 p.m., with the poetry group ArtNSoul, including Marc Lacy, Rea Harris, and Joneia Brown.

All readings last about an hour and are held at the Salmon Library Art Gallery on the ground floor just past the reference desk. Admission is free, and Charger Brew Café will be open before the readings.

For information about the programs, to propose a program for the series, or to become a sponsor for the series, call Marylyn Coffey at (256) 824-6114 or email coffeymc@uah.edu.

Archaeologist to Lecture on Women and Men in the European Iron Age

Women’s Studies is supporting the North Alabama Society of the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) in bringing Dr. Bettina Arnold to UAH. Arnold will lecture on “Belted Ladies and Dagger Men: Technology Brings European Iron Age Back to Life,” Thursday, September 22, at 7:30 p.m., in Chan Auditorium of the Business Administration Building.

Arnold, who holds a Ph.D. from Harvard University, teaches at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, where she specializes in European prehistory, particularly the pre-Roman Iron Age. Her lecture will discuss new technology that helps scholars reconstruct dress and ornament of Iron Age Celtic populations in Central Europe. As she notes, the human body in many prehistoric societies was a kind of walking billboard. One could tell whether someone was male, female, a child, was married, occupied a certain role in society, and much more from what that person was wearing. Arnold will discuss her work as part of the “Landscape of Ancestors” excavation project, through which she and her team removed leather belts too fragile to be excavated from burial mounds in southwest Germany, encased them in plaster, and subjected them to CT-scans, resulting in some of the first images ever seen of astonishingly complex decorations.

For more information, contact Dr. Lillian Joyce, President of the North Alabama Society of AIA, at lillian.joyce@uah.edu.

Women’s Studies Events Calendar

Fall 2011

September 9, 4 p.m. Coffeehouse Writers Series, “Express-Men,” local columnist Ricky Thompson and singer-songwriter Tom McClellan, Salmon Library Art Gallery.

September 20, 7:30 p.m. Lecture, “Women and the Medicalization of Childbirth in American History,” Dr. Judith Walzer Leavitt, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Chan Auditorium, Business Administration Building (BAB).

September 22, 11:10 a.m. Lecture, “Make Room for Daddy: Men’s Roles in Childbirth in Twentieth Century America,” Dr. Judith Walzer Leavitt, Frank Franz Hall.

October 18, 6 p.m. Coffeehouse Writers Series, “Your Story: No Exit!” Kay Campbell, Harry Moore, Jimmy Robinson, Patricia Sammon, and Monita Soni, Salmon Library Art Gallery.

November 4, 1-4 p.m. Workshop, co-sponsored by UAH Career Education, AAUW, and WEDC, Advance registration required.

November 4, 4 p.m. Coffeehouse Writers Series, ArtNSoul, Marc Lacy, Rea Harris, and Joneia Brown, Salmon Library Art Gallery.

More information at: www.uah.edu/womensstudies/news_events.html
WOMEN'S STUDIES NEWS

Students Attend National Leadership Conference

Three UAH students and two Oakwood University students attended a national leadership conference at the University of Maryland this past June, funded by UAH Women's Studies, the local branch of AAUW, and by two national AAUW scholarships. The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), now in its 26th year, brings together students from all over the country for three days of seminars, workshops, networking and mentoring. It's also a forum for students to present results of the ten campus action projects that AAUW funds each year, such as the Women in Engineering project that UAH won last year.

Katy Kolasinski, a UAH sophomore in Mechanical Engineering, and Sierra Baker, a junior Sociology major with a Women's Studies minor, won national scholarships to attend. Katy was impressed by the Women of Distinction Awards, where she talked to TV anchor Connie Chung and football coach Natalie Randolph. Sierra reported her experiences in a blog (http://sierrakbaker.wordpress.com/2011/06) where she says that "through the pure synergy of the conference I realized that I do not just go to school for me but also for every little girl in foster care who has ever been abused, bullied, mistreated, misused, and or told that she will never amount to anything."

The third UAH student attending was Jillian Knight, a senior in Political Science, who said, "NCCWSL was a completely unexpected experience. It challenged my thoughts and stance at every turn. I truly enjoyed meeting girls from every walk of life! Thank you for the opportunity." This was Oakwood junior Ginelle Nedd's second time at the conference, and this time she invited a friend, Brittany Farrington-Beasley.

Huntsville's AAUW branch has been sponsoring students to attend NCCWSL since 2006. Women's Studies has assisted AAUW in identifying deserving students every year, and Alabama A&M University students have attended in previous years. This was the second year that an Oakwood University student attended.

$Start Smart Wage Negotiation Workshop Set for November 4

Women's Studies will partner with UAH Career Education, AAUW, and the Women's Economic Development Council (WEDC) to sponsor $Start Smart, a wage negotiation workshop on Friday, November 4, 1-4 p.m., on campus.

$Start Smart is a joint project of the WAGE Project (wageproject.org) and AAUW (aauw.org), initiated because of the finding that women, on average, leave a million dollars on the table in lifetime earnings, because they don't know how to negotiate starting salaries. The workshop has been offered on 120 college campuses since 2007 and will be led by a Wage Project staff member, Annie Houle. UAH students (women and men) will have priority registration for this free workshop via Angel. If seats are available two weeks in advance, registration will open to the public.

The workshop is funded in part by a campus outreach grant from AAUW, and by the sponsoring organizations. We will also offer training for $Start Smart facilitators, both concurrent with the afternoon workshop and in a 90-minute follow-up that evening. Annie Houle will also speak at the AAUW monthly meeting on Saturday, November 5, at 10 a.m., at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 301 Drake, Huntsville. This is an open brunch meeting but requires reservations to Lois Guendel by November 2 at herb.guendel@knology.net.

For more information on AAUW activities, contact Rose Norman at rose.norman@uah.edu.
Women’s Studies Expands Web Presence

Women’s Studies has launched our new website! Check us out at www.uah.edu/womensstudies. Our website offers information on academic programs, scholarship, leadership, extracurricular opportunities for students, and diverse campus and community events.

You can also link to our new News and Events Blog (womensstudiesuah.wordpress.com) to read information about events, student and faculty activities, and news throughout the year. We also have a new presence on Facebook. Please look us up at “Women’s Studies at UAHuntsville.”

Our expanded web presence is the result of collaboration among many parties. First and foremost, we would like to thank Dr. Rose Norman, who created the first Women’s Studies website, one of UAH’s very first websites. Rose also advised on and provided content for the new website and created an online survey to get suggestions from as many community members and UAH faculty, staff, and students as possible. Thanks to all of you who completed this survey!

Special thanks are also due to Erin Reid, Women’s Studies staff assistant, who helped prepare content, organize the site map, and who maintains the website on a day-to-day basis, as well as faculty members Dr. Molly Johnson, Dr. Nancy Finley, and Dr. Sandra Shattuck for providing content, conceptual feedback, and proofreading work.

One of the most exciting aspects of the work behind our new website was our collaboration with UAH students, chiefly our student worker, Kate Blake, who served as project manager, and three students in lecturer Roxie Veasey’s web design class, Lauren Snitko Fowler, Cindy Jorgensen, and Justina Sinnoway, who used our ideas and content to design and then program our new website. We are thrilled with the final result and hope you will be too!

First-Ever Recipients of the Rose Norman Scholarship in Action Award

Women’s Studies is pleased to announce the first-ever recipients of the Rose Norman Women’s Studies Award for Scholarship in Action. The award is given to a UAH student, faculty or staff member, organization, alumna, or community affiliate involved in notable action enhancing women’s rights, empowering the disenfranchised, or bringing positive social change.

Cynthia Brasher and Lyndsey Torok, staff assistants in the Department of English, were selected to receive the first award because of their extraordinary record of collaborating with Women’s Studies to offer campus and community programming.

Most notably, they were integral members of the team that developed and hosted the 2010 "Charged Up For Change! EXPO.” Cindi and Lyndsey networked with campus departments and community organizations, coordinated crucial pieces of event planning and execution, and did so with efficiency, enthusiasm, and a heart for making a positive impact at UAH and in North Alabama.

We are proud to offer them cash awards as tokens of our high estimation of their community-mindedness, positive energy, and generous service. For award information, visit www.uah.edu/womensstudies/awards.html.

Lyndsey Torok and Cindi Brasher
Harris Paper Contest Awards Academic and Creative Writing

Women's Studies will sponsor the 12th annual Kathryn L. Harris Women's Studies Writing Competition, which awards cash prizes for undergraduate or graduate written work that deals substantially with women or women's issues. The contest accepts submissions in three categories: upper-division academic, lower-division academic, and creative.

Last year's winners in the lower-division academic category were, first, Rachel Leach, "The Influence of Roman Women" (World History to 1500, Dr. Molly Johnson); and second, Melissa Berry, "Judith's Power: Derived from Weakness" (British Literature I, Dr. Angela Balla).

Winners in the upper-division academic category were, first, Jo Beth Gleason, "Exposing the Cycle of Violence: VAWA and the Perseverance of Public Will" (The Public Policy Process, Dr. Andrée Reeves); and second, Erin Gowdy, "'Human Beings Are Really Plastic': The Argument Against Essentialism in Nalo Hopkinson's Midnight Robber" (Caribbean Literature, Dr. Eric Smith). The winner in the creative category was Kate Blake for her story, "In That Tribe You and I Are Noble."

Entries for this year's contest are due by February 15, 2012, to Erin Reid, Women's Studies Program, 344 Morton Hall, reide@uah.edu. For contest information, visit www.uah.edu/womensstudies/contests.html

Women's Studies Students Receive Honors and Awards

The Women's Studies Program awarded the 2011 Outstanding Undergraduate Achievement Award to Lauren Berck, a Psychology major and Women's Studies minor.

The 2011 Women's Studies Outstanding Emerging Woman Artist Award, presented at the UAH Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition, went to Art major Tabatha L. Jarmulowicz for her piece, "Practical Girls Guide to..." The annual award of $100 recognizes and supports emerging women artists who show exceptional work.

The winner of the 2011 Ruth Hindman Women's Studies Art Award was Alexia Roberts from New Hope High School. She received $100 for her piece "Deathly Dedication" in honor of Marie Curie. The Hindman Award is offered annually to high school students' art work that honors a contemporary or historical woman, or that deals with the experiences of girls or women.

For information on honors and awards, contact Dr. Molly Johnson at molly.johnson@uah.edu or (256) 824-2566.

Scholarships Available to Women Students

The Kathryn L. Harris Scholarship in Women's Studies is awarded annually to a Women's Studies minor with demonstrated academic performance. Other considerations include participation in Women's Studies activities and clubs or in community activities that benefit women and girls.

The 2011 Harris Scholarship went to Kiara Lawson, a Psychology major and Women's Studies minor. The award is approximately $700 each year. Deadline for priority consideration for the upcoming year is December 1, 2011.

The Huntsville Woman's Club offers a $1,000 scholarship to a UAH student from the College of Liberal Arts or the College of Nursing. Preference is given to a returning student in need of financial aid. The scholarship is renewable, and applications are accepted only when a current recipient graduates.

The 2011 scholarship was awarded to Laura Webster, a nursing major. The application deadline for the upcoming year is March 1, 2012.

For scholarship details and application information, visit www.uah.edu/womensstudies or contact Dr. Molly Johnson at molly.johnson@uah.edu or (256) 824-2566.
Women's Studies Featured Faculty: Dr. Chad Thomas

Dr. Chad Thomas, who will teach WS 440/540: Studies in Drama, Gender, and Sexuality in the spring semester, comes to the English Department at UAH from the University of Michigan, where he completed his dissertation, “Performing Queer Shakespeare,” in English in 2009. Previously, Chad earned a B.F.A. in Theatre in 2002. While at Michigan, he had the opportunity to study with scholars, including Valerie Traub, David Halperin, Martha Vicinus, and Holly Hughes.

Postig a connection between subjectivity, sexuality, and spectatorship, his research attempts to theorize the manifold responses cross-gender casting elicits from audiences, actors, and critics, especially regarding performance’s ability to open the modern stage to a historical consciousness. His scholarship has been published in 1650-1850: Ideas, Aesthetics, and Inquiries and Theatre Topics, and he has presented his research in several academic venues, including the Shakespeare Association of America, the American Culture Association, and Queer Studies Now.

Chad’s interest in connecting theatrical performance to issues of gender and sexuality began as an undergraduate with a Ridiculous Theatre-version of Shakespeare’s bloodiest tragedy, Titus Andronicus. In that production, all actors (including Chad) performed in multiple roles, frequently swapping gender and character, playing the tragedy for laughs. Subsequently, he acted professionally with Shakespeare in Santa Fe and co-founded a theatre company (Impulse Productions) in Denton, Texas. Chad looks forward to his Huntsville directorial debut (a collaboration with David Harwell) with The Comedy of Errors, the UAH Theatre Department’s fall production (November 16-20, 2011, in Chan Auditorium of the Business Administration Building).

Though the focus of “Studies in Drama, Gender, and Sexuality” will change from term to term, the spring 2012 course will interrogate how gender and sexual identities have been presented in British comedy from the 1590s to the 1990s. The class focuses on identifying what counts as “normal” in the study of dramatic literature, as well as what it means to mark moments where characters, texts, authors, or performers challenge ideas about normativity and deviate from prescriptive and proscriptive generic conventions.

The spring 2012 reading list includes Gallathea (1591), As You Like It (1599) Epicene (1609), The Rearing Girl (1611), The Man of Mode (1676), The Rover (1677), The Way of the World (1700), The Beaus’ Stratagem (1707), The Rivals (1775), The Importance of Being Earnest (1895), Pygmalion (1912), What the Butler Saw (1969), and Beautiful Thing (1993).

Course offering schedules are not final. For changes, see the official UAHuntsville schedule of classes at 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)

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

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

I would like to contribute to "Charged Up For Change! EXPO 2012." $

Your Name ___________________________ Phone ___________________________
Mailing Address ___________________________ Email ___________________________

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