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A Message from the Chair
By Huma Ahmed-Ghosh

Completing a year of being Chair of the Department of Women’s Studies has come with its fair share of ups and downs, mainly challenges and negotiations. Due to hard financial times, this year was peppered with inordinate meetings and discussions on how to “create revenue.” Makes me wonder why I didn’t get an MBA degree!

That aside, the past year has been an exciting one. It started with welcoming a new faculty member, Sara Giordano. Sara arrived here via Emory University in Atlanta where she completed a post-doc in feminist science. We are thrilled to have her in our midst, as are our students who have been flooding her classes in feminist science with rave reviews. We also have welcomed graduate students – some newly arrived, and others now entering their second year. It has been my honor to encounter each one of them in the introductory graduate course Women’s Studies 601 in the Fall semester. I am glad to conclude that both groups contain very bright, enthusiastic students who keep our hallways buzzing with laughter and activity. The year also saw an increase in Women’s Studies majors and minors – always a reassuring sign in academia. continued on page 5
Faculty and Staff Bios

Assistant Professor Sara Giordano’s area of focus is feminist science studies. She is interested in models for more democratic sciences, critical science literacy and questions of scientific accountability. Through her research she critically examines scientific assumptions and claims about race, gender, sexualit, disability and other socially salient categories of difference. She is currently working on two projects. The first focuses on the DIY ethics of synthetic biology; comparing synthetic biologists’ plans for open access science with decades old calls from feminist communities for democratic, community based and community controlled practices. The second project looks at biometric technologies, such as face recognition software. The aim of this project is to ask how understandings of race and gender inform current biometric technologies and what effect could/should interdisciplinary understandings of these categories have on these technologies. One of Dr. Giordano’s long term goals is to develop a community/academic science partnership based on the concept of a feminist science shop. Sara completed her Ph.D. in Neuroscience at Emory University and previously worked as a research fellow and ethics consultant at the Centers for Disease Control, consulting on ethical issues in genomics research.

As the Administrative Coordinator and only staff person in the Department, Teddi Brock keeps the department running smoothly. Budget cuts and new technologies have increased the workload, but the many and varied projects in which the faculty are involved add to the more fun and rewarding part of Teddi’s job. These include SafeZones at SDSU, the LGBT major and minor, the Young Women’s Studies Club, our very active and thriving MA program, as well as many lectures, workshops, and other special events for which she offers invaluable support.

Nearly everyone who calls or e-mails the department or comes through the door encounters Teddi’s smiling face and warm greeting. She has now been with the Department for over 12 years and will hit the 25 year mark on campus this fall.

Teddi visits her 93-year-old (very active) dad a few times a year who now lives in Kentucky, and her daughter is entering her second year at SDSU in the Biology pre-major. She sings in a local choir that rehearses in a library and is a frequent blood donor, having recently passed the 20-gallon mark.


As campus co-chair and founding member of SafeZones@SDSU, a campus-wide initiative to make SDSU welcoming, proactive, educated, and safe for all members of the LGBTQ community and their numerous allies she has worked with colleagues to hold many Certified Ally Trainings and Continuing Education events. With the wonderful news that LGBT Studies was approved as a major, her work as Internship Coordinator for the Major places interns at twelve community-based agencies where interns earn course credit for their Gay and Lesbian major degree. She continues be serve as co-chair of the annual Lavender Graduation ceremony each spring.

Anne Donadey is currently chair of the Department of European Studies, and has a partial appointment in Women’s Studies. She continues to offer feminist theory classes at the undergraduate and graduate levels. With Irene Lara and colleagues from the College of Education, she co-organized and co-presented a workshop for the Center on Teaching and Learning on facilitating diversity discussions and negotiating tensions in the classroom last November. She is working on a study of filmic representations of the Algerian war and recently presented a portion of this research project at a conference on the legacy of the Algerian war. She continues to participate in shared governance as a member of the University Senate, the University committee on Diversity,
Equity and Outreach, and the Faculty Rights Committee of the California Faculty Association. She is the 2012 recipient of the Faculty Diversity Award at SDSU recognizing her work as a faculty member who maintains a commitment to diversity in the areas of teaching, service, and research.

**Huma Ahmed-Ghosh** is the current Chair of the Department of Women’s Studies. She also serves on the Advisory Committees of the Center for Islamic and Arabic Studies, Center for Asian and Pacific Studies, and the International Security and Conflict Resolution Program. Her recent publications include: “Juggling Afghan Motherhood in the Diaspora.” *Journal of Motherhood Initiative*. Nov. 2011. Vol.2, No. 2; “Afghan Women: At the Intersections of Local and Global Oppression,” in *Contesting Nation: Gendered Violence in South Asia*, edited by Angana Chatterji and Lubna Choudhury. New Delhi: Zubaan. July 2012; Guest Editor. Islam and Lesbianism. *Journal of Lesbian Studies*. December 2012. Her insatiable desire for travel was fulfilled through the Alternative Spring Break Abroad Program to Ghana in partnership with the Africana Studies Department. She also conducts the Winter Break trip to India. Along with Prof. Doreen Mattingly, Huma was awarded the Exceptional Faculty Award by the College of Arts and Letters Student Council. In her spare time she likes to go hiking, watch foreign films, and keep up with Bollywood gossip.

**Anh Hua’s research area focuses on Feminist Cultural Studies, Diasporic Studies, Anti-Racist, Postcolonial and Diasporic Feminisms.** She is interested in studying literature, film, visual arts, and multimedia arts by marginalized women, in particular, women of color in Euro-America. At SDSU, she teaches: “Women in Literature,” “Women’s Experience of Migration,” “Women and Violence,” “Women in Asian Societies,” and “Sex, Power and Politics.” Some of her works include: “Homing Desire, Cultural Citizenship, and Diasporic Imaginings” published in the *Journal of International Women’s Studies*; “What We Long For: Memory, Trauma and Emotional Geographies” published in the anthology *Emotion, Place and Culture; “Diaspora and Cultural Memory” published in the anthology *Diaspora, Memory and Identity*. Her article “Black Diaspora Feminism and Writing: Memories, Storytelling and the Narrative Sites of Resistance” will be published in the journal *African and Black Diaspora* early 2013. In June 2011, she had the opportunity to present her article “Women of Color and Creativity: Ethics and Aesthetics” at the conference Women and the Arts at the University of Lisbon in Lisbon, Portugal. This project was particularly enjoyable because she had a chance to showcase and integrate her own paintings, photography, poetry, personal narrative, and academic research. In her teaching, research and writing, she tries to suture academic spaces with creativity, sensuality, healing and spirituality, by integrating poetry, personal narratives, and creative narratives, along with feminist scholarly research.

**Irene Lara** is a Chicana scholar, writer, teacher, femtor, and mother to two daughters, Belén (age 8) and Xóchitl (age 4). An Associate Professor of Women’s Studies, she loves to teach and write about Women of Color in the US, Latinas in the Americas, Holistic Health and Healing, Women’s Sexuality and the Body, Spirituality and Healing, Gloria Anzaldúa’s Thought, and the Art of Feminist/Social Justice Teaching. She also enjoys co-facilitating the spiritual activist/reproductive justice workshops “Panocha Pláticas [Heart-to-Heart Vagina/Vulva Dialogues]: Healing Sex and Sexuality in Community” and co-organizing with colleague Kimala Price the annual Reproductive and Sexual Justice Workshop and Healing Circle. Her work is published in *This Bridge we call home: radical visions for transformation, Feminist Studies, Chicana/Latina Studies; The Journal of Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social, Aztlán; The Chicano Studies Journal*; and *Journal of International Women’s Studies*. Dr. Lara is currently working on several book projects: a co-edited textbook, *Women in Culture: Intersectional Approaches to Gender and Women’s Studies*, a co-edited anthology *Flesching the Spirit, Spiriting the Flesh: Chicana, Latina, and Native/Indigenous Women’s Spiritualities*, and a book titled *Decolonizing the Sacred: Chicana/Latina Spirituality and Sexuality*. She recently completed “Our Sacred Testimonios: CuranderasScholarActivists in Academia,” co-written with four “femtees” from her Faculty-Student Mentor Program seminar and her work is forthcoming in *This Bridge Called My Baby: Legacies of Radical Mothering*. In fall 2012, she celebrates her 10-year anniversary as a professor at SDSU.
Doreen Mattingly is making steady progress on her biography of Midge Costanza, feminist activist and Assistant to President Jimmy Carter. She worked on the research over the summer, and has been awarded a sabbatical in Spring 2013 to complete the writing. The first article based on her research (with former MA student Jessica Nare) has been accepted by the Journal of Women’s History. She continues to be of service to the Women’s Studies Department and SDSU more generally. Under her guidance the undergraduate program continues to flourish, and in Fall, 2011 she coordinated a Day of Action about budget cuts and their effect on women. Doreen is an active member of the California Faculty Association and a vocal member of the University Senate. Teaching is as ever, the most interesting and fulfilling part of her job. In all her classes she works to deliver a “UC education for a Cal State price.”

This has been a very productive year for Kimala Price. She published two articles: “The Quest for Purity: The Role of Policy Narratives in Determining Teen Girls’ Access to Emergency Contraception in the USA” in Sexuality Research and Social Policy and “Reflections on Intellectual Hybridity” in the Journal for Feminist Scholarship. She gave invited talks at several events, including the conference “Washington, Race and Public Higher Education” in December 2011 in Washington, DC and the 39th Anniversary Celebration of Roe v. Wade hosted by the Coalition for Reproductive Choice of San Diego in January 2012. With her women’s studies colleague Irene Lara, she co-organized and co-facilitated the second annual Reproductive and Sexual Justice Workshop and Healing Circle in February 2012, and she served on this year’s colloquium series committee. The series included a 31st anniversary celebration of the groundbreaking anthology This Bridge Called My Back, which featured AniLouise Keating as the keynote speaker. Kim continued to serve on the board of directors of Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest, which serves San Diego, Riverside and Imperial Counties.

Esther Rothblum spent this past academic year on sabbatical at the Center for Research and Education on Gender and Sexuality at San Francisco State University. Along with her research team she received a $1.2 million grant from the National Institute of Health and Child Development of NIH to conduct a four-year project on same-sex couples in legalized relationships. Esther also received a Critical Thinking Grant from the SDSU dean’s office to transcribe and analyze the qualitative portion of the classic National Lesbian Health Care Survey—a survey of over 1,900 lesbians conducted in the mid-1980s.

Esther continues to edit the Journal of Lesbian Studies. Taylor & Francis/Routledge, the publisher of that journal, invited her to edit a new journal called Fat Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Body Weight and Society, and the first volume of that journal is now out in print—check out http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/UFTS.

Esther and her partner Penny took care of a close friend who had knee replacement surgery this past fall. Esther dealt with her squeamishness of all things medical by carefully interviewing a dozen friends who had this procedure ahead of time in order to learn all the gory details. Esther also acted as translator when Penny had nine German lesbians in town for several weeks doing the martial art of Aikido. Finally, Esther was talked into buying an iPhone 4S, nearly pulled her hair out (see photo) trying to get used to it, and after three weeks traded it in for a regular cell phone.
A Message from the Chair
continued from page 1

We had a busy 2011-2012 organizing events to bring in speakers, hosting workshops and protests, and raising awareness of the impact of budget crisis on campus. Women’s Studies took the lead on campus to bring about awareness of student fee hikes, faculty overload and the effects of budget cuts on women. The colloquium series for last year was titled Women, Social Justice and the University. We kicked off the 2011/12 academic year by organizing a Day of Action. Prof. Doreen Mattingly [also our extremely efficient undergraduate advisor] organized this impressive event in October by bringing to campus policy experts, lobbyists, and activists from Sacramento and local politicians, including Lori Saldaña, to speak to SDSU students. Another interesting speaker from Washington D.C. was Benjamin Ginsberg who recently published The Fall of the Faculty: The Rise of the All-Administrative University and Why it Matters. This event would not have been a success without the support of the California Faculty Association and numerous departments on campus. The second Reproductive and Sexual Justice Healing Circle and Training is now an annual event with all the credit going to Profs. Kimala Price and Irene Lara who spend endless hours putting together this very popular event. The Cross-Cultural Center on campus has been instrumental in providing substantial funding for this and other events. International Women’s Day was celebrated with the screening of Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai followed by a discussion. The department also hosted workshops to expose Women’s Studies students to local and global NGOs and to help them learn what Women’s Studies internships can offer. The colloquium series ended with our annual scholarship event which brought in AnaLouise Keating from Texas. Her presence was also part of the celebration of over 31 years of the publication of This Bridge Called My Back.

The 2012/13 academic year brings a new colloquium series to campus. Our fall events are listed in this newsletter, and our theme for the year will be Gender, Conflict and Environment: Visionary Futures and Transnational Communities. Please continue to check our website and Facebook page [http://www.facebook.com/WomensStudies.SDSU] for updates on speakers and events throughout the year, as we expect it to be an exciting year highlighting the latest research in this area.

The Scholarship event held every Spring semester is a milestone event for which we are very grateful to our donors. Our undergraduate and graduate students benefit greatly from the donations that contribute to many scholarships. On behalf of the Department, I would like to thank the family of Betty Nesvold, the donors, especially Prof. Emerita Kathleen Jones for the Andrea O’Donnell Memorial Scholarship, Laura Hall for the Phyllis Hall Graduate Student Scholarship, the memory of Joanne Davis who endowed a Scholarship, the Burnham Foundation for the Sue Russell Memorial Scholarship, as well as Profs. Emeritus Oliva Espin, Bonnie Zimmerman, Bonnie Scott, and Barbara Watson for their generous donations.

The Department of Women’s Studies is also one of the few departments that has taken the lead in Travel Study Abroad Programs. In 2011/12 we added an Alternative Spring Break Abroad Program to Ghana in partnership with the Department of Africana Studies. The Department has also approved an internship or Travel Abroad requirement for all Women’s Studies majors.

The Department of Women’s Studies continues to be dedicated to teaching, mentoring, and publishing. This was reflected in the recent awards that the department garnered. The Department (along with Geography) received the Outstanding Department Award from the College of Arts and Letters Student Council. The same organization recognized Profs. Doreen Mattingly and me as two of the three Exceptional Faculty from the College of Arts and Letters and Anne Donadey was awarded SDSU’s 2012 Faculty Diversity Award. In addition, Prof. Esther Rothblum continues to encourage publishing with our graduate students who have authored and co-authored a lengthy list of book reviews, encyclopedia entries, and other publications with her.

I would also like to acknowledge our lecturers. Without their contributions to teaching, this department would not survive. Jacki Leak, Janet Roberts, Sue Gonda, Sophia Arredondo among others helped maintain a robust course offering for our majors and minors. See the box on page 3 for a complete list of our lecturers.

We are sad that we have had to bid farewell to a number of our faculty. We wish them all a productive retirement and exciting future ventures. Bonnie Scott retired after ten years of teaching and service to the department. Bonnie served as graduate advisor and Chair in the department with efficiency and vision. Barbara Shaver retired after over 30 years of teaching at both the main and the Imperial Valley campuses of SDSU. Barbara was the force behind the course (among others) on Women and Violence while she successfully ran a domestic violence shelter and also was instrumental in bringing the Healthy Border Women project to campus. Mary Kelly retired after 23 years of teaching in Women’s Studies and Religious Studies. She will be around this year directing the SafeZones program. We wish Betsy Colwill all the best as she moves to the University of Hawaii. Betsy, besides being the graduate advisor, has been a teacher and mentor whose absence will definitely affect our future students. All of you will be sorely missed.

This department cannot function and survive without the untiring efforts and most sociable presence of Teddi Brock. In her capacity as the office administrator, she not only works for the Department but also assists the LGBT major and minor program, the Young Women’s Studies Club and SafeZones, as well as keeps our MA program organized. Her talent in creating fliers, posters and brochures definitely shows in our programs, commencements, and other events for which she also offers much administrative support. She is thrilled by the return of our very able office assistant Kathryn Cleary who is in her second year with the department.

In conclusion, I would like to make a special plea for donations to the Department of Women’s Studies. This year, our graduate funding was halved and existing funds are fast dwindling. Any support would be highly appreciated.
The program now operates under the auspices of the Women’s Studies Department. Students who are interested in LGBT topics, those seeking graduate study in LGBT scholarship, and/or those seeking future employment in LGBT organizations had to rely on the grapevine to discover which courses included LGBT content.

As of fall 2009, SDSU has had an LGBT Studies minor that aggregates these courses so that interested students can follow a cohesive curriculum (see the LGBT Studies website http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/~lgbt). SDSU regularly offers 16 courses that constitute required LGBT courses and electives, in addition to 13 internships with community and campus-based agencies and groups. Over 20 core faculty in 13 departments across three colleges, as well as additional faculty and lecturers who teach courses constituting LGBT content, are affiliated with the LGBT Studies minor.

In addition, for the past three years SDSU was voted one of the top colleges by CampusPride.org, which ranks colleges on a “five-star continuum of progress for LGBT-friendly policies, programs, and practices.” One of the major criteria for this ranking is academic life, including LGBT studies programs, LGBT courses, and new faculty/staff trainings on sexual orientation and gender identity issues. Other criteria include student life, college policies and practices, campus safety, housing and residence life, counseling and health services, and recruitment and retention efforts.

Individual courses in LGBT Studies have been offered at SDSU since the late 1970s, but they were never consolidated into a coherent major for students. The program now operates under the auspices of the Women’s Studies Department. Students who are interested in LGBT topics, those seeking graduate study in LGBT scholarship, and/or those seeking future employment in LGBT organizations had to rely on the grapevine to discover which courses included LGBT content.

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The interdisciplinary major in LGBT Studies advances knowledge in sexual and gender identity, and increases understanding of the diverse cultural, historical, ethnic/racial, and contemporary experiences of people across sexualities. The focus is on the changing nature of same-sex desire, sexual behavior, and same-sex relationships from antiquity to the present. Courses focus on emerging LGBT subcultures and identities from a global perspective. From there, courses address scientific and psychological explanations of LGBT identities, LGBT literature, the institutions of law and government, education and the workplace, family, and healthcare. We will finish by looking at local and international LGBT movements, popular culture, and news media in the current day. Throughout the program of study, we will carefully consider the full range of genders, sexualities, races, ethnicities, classes, physical abilities, religions, and political persuasions that characterize current LGBT movements and communities.

A degree in LGBT Studies prepares students for a large variety of careers, and those with LGBT BAs may go on to obtain graduate degrees, and can double-major to enhance their career opportunities.
The Young Women’s Studies Club: A Feminist Mentoring Program
By Lindsay Bond, Graduate Student Coordinator, Women’s Studies Graduate Student

The Young Women’s Studies Club at Hoover High School: A Feminist Mentoring Program (YWSC) is a multi-layered, collaborative effort bridging the academy and community. This program seeks to empower young women and men eager to create a more just and feminist world through educational programs, cultural events, discussions, creative activities, and self-exploration. This program has been implemented by Susan Cayleff for many years and is sustained thanks to very generous support from Bill Hawkins. At the center of this program and its activities are issues of gender equity; honoring racial, ethnic, and geographical diversity amongst all social classes; acceptance of diverse sexualities; and promoting girls’ and women’s self-esteem, healthy choices, and future goals.

The collaborative YWSC project involves the Hoover club members; the SDSU undergraduate mentors performing community-based service learning (CBSL) as part of their course credit in the year-long “Women in American History” class; the graduate student coordinator; the Hoover High School teacher/advisors (currently two); the Hoover High School administration; the SDSU faculty liaison/mentor; and the Department of Women’s Studies. Members participating in YWSC range from 14-19 years of age and are comprised primarily of female youth, though some young men also attend. Weekly attendance varies from 50-70 students. Hoover High, an inner-city public school in San Diego, represents a broad range of nationalities and ethnicities, clearly demonstrated by Club members. Almost every YWSC member sees her/his GPA increase by at least one point while a member of the club. From end-of-semester evaluations from both the high school and college students involved, we know that self-esteem, career paths, empowerment (as girls and women), a stronger sense of hope for the future, greater respect for the women in their lives, and strategies for responding to harassment and limitations placed upon them are all exponentially improved.

The YWSC meets weekly during the high school students’ lunch hour. Each semester we provide transportation and fees for field trips, offering Club members the chance to tour SDSU, attend a Lady Aztecs sports game, or visit the Women’s History Museum. Weekly activities consist of analyzing gender in the media and music, poetry and writing sessions, creating quilt squares based on their identities, workshops centered on applying to college, and role-playing for job interviews. Guest speakers and panels offer enhanced awareness around LGBTQ issues, breast cancer, sex education, and healthy relationships.

Internship with Planned Parenthood
By Amy Dunford and Jennifer Kulka, Women’s Studies Undergraduate Students

Amy Dunford and Jennifer Kulka started their university careers with the intent to discover their true selves. One coming from a conservative religious background another from a conservative military background, they found themselves silenced by patriarchy. In their junior year at San Diego State University, they discovered a pilot internship program with Planned Parenthood through the Women’s Studies Department that would enable them to expand their leadership and advocacy skills, and give them a place to create social change.

Amy and Jennifer became members of the inaugural Youth Leadership Academy for Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest, along with seven others. The Youth Leadership Academy (YLA) was divided into two groups: Healthy Neighborhoods Outreach (HNO) and Teen Capitol Day (TCD). Amy and Jennifer were part of the HNO project, which entailed travelling to neighborhoods in El Cajon to raise awareness and benefits about the services that Planned Parenthood provides. El Cajon was chosen specifically because of high teen pregnancy, unplanned pregnancies rates, and Sexually Transmitted Infection rates.

HNO was very successful, yielding the most volunteers and reaching out to 4,000 households in El Cajon. Along with their HNO project and duties, the YLA interns attended five monthly trainings to increase their leadership abilities. At Teen Capitol Day members were able to use what they had learned and lobby for two healthcare bills in Sacramento. Amy was able to facilitate a meeting with an elected official, encouraging him to vote for the bill the TCD participants were lobbying for.

In addition to set intern duties Jennifer and Amy decided to take on the task of reinstating Vox or Voices for Planned
Ago, Ame: Alternative Spring Break 2012 in Ghana

By Kristin White, Women’s Studies Graduate Student

In the Spring 2012 semester, professors from the Department of Africana Studies, College of Education, and Department of Women’s Studies organized a study abroad trip to Ghana. Prior to departing on the trip, students met to discuss readings and course topics relevant to the trip such as Queen Mothers, the Atlantic Slave Trade, and Ghanaian customs. From May 23 – April 3, students and professors learned and worked together to understand Pan-Africanism, contemporary gender issues, and social activism in Ghana. During our time in Ghana, we visited cultural sites such as the W. E. B. DuBois Centre for Pan-Africanism, the slave forts of Elmina and Cape Coast, and Kakum National Park as well as several schools. Dr. Huma Ahmed-Ghosh and several students also visited the Ministry of Women and Children’s Affairs to learn more about current issues women and children in Ghana face regarding reproductive rights, domestic violence, and gender equity. Each night, we met as a group to process the day’s events and experiences and share our reflections.

The Alternative Spring Break programs are a valuable resource for both undergraduate and graduate students for first-hand experience with international travel, broadening our cultural awareness, and enhancing our feminist educations. A pertinent example would be our time in the slave forts of Elmina and Cape Coast. Learning about the slave trade while physically standing in a fort where so many Africans died and implicating ourselves in that history is an educational experience viscerally different from reading a textbook. Being able to process that experience with other students and professors further contributed to a deeper understanding of the violence, racism, and imperialism that legitimated the slave trade.

I would strongly encourage any student considering the Alternative Spring Break trips to participate in these programs. Traveling internationally with other scholars committed to social justice is a rare opportunity and one that complements a feminist education in the Department of Women’s Studies.

Day of Action

By EL Glasheen, Women’s Studies Undergraduate Student

On October 5, 2011, students and faculty at SDSU rallied together as part of a nation-wide Day of Action in Defense of Public Education. I’ve heard attendance estimates that range anywhere from 200 to 500; regardless, the hill and patio outside of Scripps Cottage were entirely covered during the height of the event. A battery of speakers discussed the current state of public education on a local and national level, followed by a student speak-out, and finally capped off by a march to continued on next page
administrative offices in Manchester Hall. The success of the October 5th action would not have been possible without the support of and participation by the students and faculty of the SDSU Department of Women’s Studies. Women’s Studies as a field is notable both for its historical and ongoing commitments to activism, and students taking the classes at SDSU are encouraged to take on community service learning projects in order to ground their academic efforts. It’s unsurprising, then, that Women’s Studies served as both the literal and figurative staging grounds for student and faculty preparations for October 5th.

So why did we do this?

CSU tuition and fees have more than doubled over the past decade. Course selection and academic services have simultaneously undergone numerous cuts. Students are effectively paying more for less. Administrative spending increases have significantly outstripped spending increases towards students and faculty over the past half-century even while national and state politicians of both major parties have undercut and defunded public education at every turn. Rather than attempt to realistically grapple with the consequences of right-wing neoliberal economics, they have elected to indiscriminately slash and burn, condemning our generation in the process.

Aggregate US student debt has recently surpassed one trillion dollars and will effectively bar our generation from employment in certain fields, from getting small business and home loans, from making investments, and more. Financially crippling this nation’s youth will have long-term consequences upon the economic security of the nation, and a potentially devastating “debt bomb” looms on the horizon.

In short, public education is in a state of crisis. It is vital not only that this generation of students is aware of the challenges that face us, but also that we stand together to demand that our futures not be shortchanged further.

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**Women’s Studies 2012-2013 Colloquia Events**

**Feminist Research Colloquia - Fall 2012/Spring 2013**

“Gender, Conflict and the Environment: Visionary Futures and Transnational Communities”

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**When:** September 19, 2012 noon to 2pm  
**Where:** Arts and Letters 105, SDSU

Rubina Feroze Bhatti, born into a Christian family in the majority Muslim country of Pakistan, protects the rights of women who are targets of honor killings, acid attacks and other forms of violence. She is a founding member and general secretary of Taangh Wasaib Organization (TWO), a rights-based development group working for communal harmony and equality through its many programs addressing issues of violence against women, religious intolerance and sectarianism and discriminatory laws and policies against women and minorities. Bhatti trains women’s groups to report on violence against women, supports victims with counseling and legal aid and works with media to bring attention to these issues.

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**Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice 2012 Women PeaceMakers panel.** Selected members of the 2012 Women PeaceMakers will share their work.

**When:** October 24, 2012 6 to 8pm  
**Where:** Hardy Tower 140, SDSU

The Women PeaceMakers Program ([http://www.sandiego.edu/peacestudies/ipj/programs/women_peace_makers/](http://www.sandiego.edu/peacestudies/ipj/programs/women_peace_makers/)) documents the stories and best practices of international women leaders who are involved in human rights and peacemaking efforts in their home countries. Women on the frontlines of efforts to end violence and secure a just peace seldom record their experiences, activities and insights as generally there is no time, or, perhaps, no formal education that would help women record their work. The Women PeaceMakers Program offers an opportunity for women leaders who want to document, share and build upon their unique peacemaking stories.

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**Carolyn Allard, “Military Sexual Trauma: Prevalence, Impact, and Treatment”**

**When:** November 14, 2012 noon to 2pm  
**Where:** Arts and Letters 105, SDSU

Carolyn Allard, Ph.D., received her B.A. (Hons.) from Queen’s University in Kingston, Canada, and her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Oregon. She completed her pre-doctoral internship and a postdoctoral fellowship at the UCSD/VA San Diego. Dr. Allard is the Program Director of Military Sexual Trauma Clinic at the VA San Diego Healthcare System. She serves as clinical supervisor for the UCSD/VA clinical psychology interns and the UCSD/SDSU joint doctoral program practicum students, and as research mentor to UCSD and SDSU undergraduate and graduate students.
International NGOs in our Community
By Maria A Stacey, Women’s Studies Undergraduate Student

The Women Studies Department at San Diego State University, and the United Nations Young Professionals for International Cooperation at the United Nations Association San Diego, partnered to present the topic of International NGOs working locally and internationally. Three very important organizations were invited to share their mission and to invite the Women’s Studies community to participate in their volunteer programs.

The first program, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) is a well-recognized organization globally for helping refugees move forward with their lives and bring them to safer places. The IRC in San Diego has served thousands of refugees since their beginning. They are committed to help provide services such as resettlement process, education, social services, employment, immigration services, restorative justice, youth, and food justice.

The second organization, Women’s Empowerment International (WEI) is a micro credit organization for women in countries such as Ghana, Mexico, Guatemala and locally, in the San Diego Area. This organization provides self-starter business education as well as loans for women who are interested in starting their own businesses. Winifred Cox, co-founder of this organization, shared in her presentation that WEI has been promoting and supporting women in need while recruiting the San Diego community to join their mission. WEI would like to continue to provide their resources for women in countries such as Mexico and Guatemala and encourage community members to find out how they can become involved.

Marjon Barrigan from the United Nations Association San Diego (UNASD) also spoke about her experience as the former vice-president of the organization. UNASD is in consultation with the United Nations Association of the United States of America. UNASD works locally and globally in different areas of human interest. They base their goals on the “Millennium Development Goals” which are: end poverty and hunger, universal education, child health, maternal health, combat aids, environmental sustainability and global partnership. The San Diego chapter has been working closely on issues including human trafficking, refugee issues, and environmental sustainability.

On May 8, 2012, the Women’s Studies Department co-sponsored the third annual Lavender Graduation at the Parma Payne Goodall Alumni Center. We celebrated the accomplishments of twenty-four LGBT and ally graduates, which included seven Women’s Studies majors, minors, and Master’s degree graduates.

This ceremony was also an opportunity to acknowledge community members who have dedicated their lives to LGBT activism and scholarship. Linda Holler, Associate Dean of the SDSU College of Arts and Letters, Dr. Oliva Espin, Emerita Professor of Women’s Studies, and Larry Baza, LGBT activist and artist received special awards to honor their courage and dedication to bettering the lives of LGBT people. Additionally, Ruth Christine Downey was recognized with the Outstanding Graduate award and Dr. Susan Cayleff was recognized with the Most Influential Faculty award.

Lavender Graduation 2012
Since graduating from the Women’s Studies MA program in 2010, I have been thrilled to find opportunities to apply feminist studies to the real world. The dreaded question facing graduates, “what can you do with a Women’s Studies degree?” was equally dreaded by me. When I finally received my MA in 2010, the question could be avoided no longer. At first, my best and only answer was to work at Fashion Valley Mall selling jeans. Ironically enough, I worked part-time, with no benefits, while teaching WMNST 385: “Women’s Work.” I was the perfect case study for job insecurity and under-employment. Around the holidays, just when I thought I could fold jeans no longer, my hundreds of job applications paid off when I received my first feminist job offer. The opportunities and training provided by the graduate program were instrumental in developing my professional career.

In January of 2011, I began working at Jewish Family Service of San Diego to design a brand new program, Girls Give Back, for high school Jewish girls. Program participants learn about issues in the community that are important to them, develop practical leadership skills, and then plan service projects that positively give back to the community. Supervising this program requires a range of responsibilities including: marketing, development, evaluation, writing for a popular audience, creating community partnerships, recruitment and finally working with both teens and parents.

Not surprisingly, the Girls Give Back teens gravitated towards feminist issues such as body image, teen dating violence, and food insecurity for girls and women in San Diego. After being inspired by the film Miss Representation, the teens created a postcard campaign to raise awareness around women in the media and developed a community presentation that they delivered to youth groups across the county. Girls Give Back participants also spent the year advocating on behalf of a federal bill, the Healthy Media for Youth Act, which culminated in a legislative meeting with Senator Feinstein’s staff. Spending an afternoon discussing public policy with an elected official was a powerful affirmation to the teens.

In addition to working at JFS, the invaluable teaching experience I gained in the graduate program opened other professional doors for me. After graduation, I quickly picked up part-time teaching jobs in the Global Studies and Sociology departments at National University. Through NU, I have been able to teach both online and onsite courses. The NU student population is non-traditional and there is a very high veteran population. Working at NU has tremendously influenced my pedagogy and helped me to translate theory into contemporary empirical examples.

So in the end, “what does one do with a Women’s Studies degree?” The answer is... everything! Women’s Studies prepares its graduates to think critically, be open to new experiences, and feel comfortable working with diverse populations. In a spin on Audre Lorde, my favorite Ryan Gosling Meme reads, “We can’t smash the patriarchy without the right tools.” Using the feminist tools from this department, you can build a career that achieves social justice in a myriad of diverse and creative ways.

Smash away!

**The Chronicles of a Women’s Studies Post-Grad**

By Jessica L. Nare, Women’s Studies Post-Graduate Student

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**Fulbright**

By Dr. Pat Huckle, SDSU Fulbright Adviser

Dr. Pat Huckle, Prof. Emerita, continues to serve as SDSU’s Fulbright Adviser. Last fall, SDSU was identified by the Chronicle of Higher Education as a top producing school for Fulbright grants. There were nine grants, the same as UCLA. Huckle states, “all women’s studies students should have transnational interests, and a Fulbright grant is a wonderful way for you to get to know another culture.” See [www.us.fulbrightonline.org](http://www.us.fulbrightonline.org), or contact huckle@mail.sdsu.edu
Congratulations to the Women’s Studies Master of Arts Class of 2012!

**Kristi Abrecht:** “Illustrating Identity: Feminist Resistance in Webcomics” (Spring 2012)


**Kaitlyn Elliott:** “In a Bird, But Refusing to be Bound: A Feminist Analysis of Margaret ’Midge’ Costanza’s Personal Narratives” (Spring 2012)

**Ashley Boyd:** “All This Has Happened Before, and All of This Will Happen Again”: Reproduction, Race, and Violence in Battlestar Galactica” (Spring 2012)

**Cristina Dominguez:** “Poetry is not a luxury’: Queer poetry as a grassroots activist medium in South Africa” (Spring 2012)

**Kristin White:** “Public Performances and Institutional Priorities: The Department of State and Gender Under Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton” (Spring 2012)

**Emily Mollering:** Comprehensive Exam: “African American Women Negotiating Beauty: Moving From Binaries to Syncretic Difference;” “An Introduction to Feminist Pedagogy: A Presentation to the Faculty of AOLP;” “Exploring the Application of Feminist Theories to the High School Speech Classroom.” (Spring 2012)

**Alicia Chavez-Arteaga:** “Las Mujeres de Teatro Izcalli: Transformative Stories of Healing and Resistance” (Spring 2012)
Femtoring Our Students: CuranderaScholarActivism at SDSU

By Dr. Irene Lara, Associate Professor of Women’s Studies

Since 2009, Professor Irene Lara has drawn on her research and teaching expertise to serve as a faculty mentor for the Faculty-Student Mentor Program (FSMP). Sponsored by San Diego State University’s Division of Undergraduate Studies, she designed her “CuranderaScholarActivist (CSA)” seminar and “femtoring” program to focus on interdisciplinary Chicana/Latina/Indigenous Studies approaches to epistemology, research, and creative and activist work. Throughout the years, about twenty students have worked to fulfill the program’s goals: achieve research training, engage in a historically, culturally, and politically grounded holistic femtornship model, and foster femtor/femtee relationships that encourage individual and collective intellectual growth and bodymindspirit wellness in service to social justice in and out of the university. Our Curandera (healer) praxis, which interweaves with the Scholar-Activist model widely recognized within Women’s, LGBTQ, and Ethnic Studies, emerges from research that attests to the value of engaging culturally relevant and holistic approaches to health, healing, and spirituality for students and professors.

Focused on reaching low-income and first generation college students, the FSMP’s mission “is to support student engagement and development through undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative initiatives” with the knowledge that students who are engaged in their education through such programs that help build close mentoring relationships with their professors are not only more likely to learn and graduate, but are also more likely to feel fulfilled by their educational experiences. With only seven out of 100 Chicana/o elementary school students projected to achieve their undergraduate degrees, the significance of such culturally relevant student engagement and enrichment programs goes without saying.

Planned Parenthood activists

continued from page 7

Parenthood, an on-campus resource that connects Planned Parenthood and its values to universities and colleges across the country. Jennifer and Amy reached out to the Women’s Studies Department, The Women’s Resource Area, Women’s Outreach Association, and other like-minded campus groups to form coalitions.

The Youth Leadership Academy has opened many personal and professional doors for Jennifer and Amy. They recently planned the Youth Organizing and Policy Institute, which was held in September 7th-9th and trained leaders to fight for social justice across the nation.

Women’s Studies needs your support!

The Graduate Program and other worthy projects discussed in this newsletter can be sustained only by the support of generous donors. Please send contributions in any amount to:

The Department of Women’s Studies
San Diego State University
Attn: Teddi Brock
5500 Campanile Drive
San Diego, CA 92182-6030

Please make checks payable to The Campanile Foundation – Women’s Studies. If you are supporting a specific project, please specify on the memo or a separate note.

Thanks!
Reproductive and Sexual Justice Healing Circle and Training

By Professors Irene Lara, Kimala Price, Sara Giordano, Women’s Studies Department

The Women’s Studies Department was pleased to present the second annual Reproductive and Sexual Justice Healing Circle and Training on February 24, 2012. Drawing a culturally and sexually diverse audience of local community members, SDSU faculty, and about 65 students, we focused on learning holistic, social justice approaches to reproductive and sexual wellbeing. The event was lead by Gabriela Valle of California Latinas for Reproductive Justice, B. Cole of the Brown Boi Project, and Luz Alvarez Martinez, former director of National Latina Health Organization, and Women’s Studies Department students and faculty.

Engaging the knowledge, theories and practices developed by feminist women of color, this special one-day event explored reproductive and sexual health issues, such as abortion, contraception, HIV/STDs and access to health care, within the context of other intersecting social justice issues, including economic justice, immigrant rights, LGBTQ rights, and violence. The morning sessions focused on the history and foundations of the Reproductive and Sexual Justice movements and stories about reproductive and sexual justice. Lead by B. Cole of the Brown Boi Project, the afternoon sessions focused on gender justice.

Blending pedagogical critical thinking and feeling tools to access the multiple ways we know and learn, we used holistic, co-counseling techniques (such as attentive listening, truthful storytelling, and respectful dialogue) to discuss personal experiences in the service of furthering our mental and spiritual wellbeing, help build community, and inspire activism. Aware of the need to take care of our bodies throughout the day, we also participated in several stretching and movement exercises, including a chair yoga session led by Professor Ghada Osman. At our closing circle, participants shared information about the many ways they are already using or plan on using the knowledge learned. Together we are building a local community of reproductive and sexual justice activists and scholars.

List of Scholarships

UNDERGRAD

Andrea O’Donnell Memorial Scholarship – Kristen Paruginog, recipient
Given in the memory of an activist student at SDSU, this $1,000 scholarship was designed to aid in the education of SDSU undergraduate students who demonstrate commitment to community activism and leadership in developing, promoting, or supporting activities which empower women, and who demonstrate commitment to academic achievement as well.

Betty Nesvold Scholarship – Hannah Sharp, recipient
Given in memory of one of the founders of the department, this $1,500 scholarship is for undergraduate Women’s Studies majors or minors who plan to enroll for the following academic year on the basis of outstanding academic achievement.

Joanne Davis Women’s Studies Scholarship – Daniela Rabe, recipient
In memory of Joanne Davis, this $1,000 scholarship is given in support of a student whose parents did not attend a four-year college or university.

The Sue Russell Scholarship – Laura Ortiz, Diana Trinidad, Alyssa Wakefield, Julia Lewis and Andre Miller, recipients
Given in memory of a SDSU graduate who earned her degree later in life, this $1,000 scholarship was created to aid Women’s Studies majors or minors who demonstrate academic success while facing challenges toward attaining their degree.

GRADUATE

Oliva Espin – Danielle Bauer and Jerrica Escoto, recipients
Given by Professor Emerita Oliva Espin, this scholarship is awarded to students in the SDSU Women’s Studies M.A. Program who are entering their second year of study or beyond and who have a thesis advisor. Their research should focus upon lesbian women and/or women of color. The award is $500.

Phyllis Hall Graduate Student Scholarship – Jerrica Escoto, recipient
Given by Professor Laura J. Hall in honor of her mother, this scholarship is available to students in the SDSU Women’s Studies M.A. Program who are entering their second year of study and links the relevance of these topics to post-graduation goals. This $500 scholarship recognizes the contribution of Phyllis Hall to Women’s Studies during her years in publishing.
Save The Date!
Spring 2013 will focus on Feminism and the Environment. Following are the currently planned dates for colloquia and other events:

**February 20, 2013** - noon to 2pm, speaker tba

**March 8, 2013** - International Women’s Day - event in the afternoon, details tba

**March 14, 2013** - 10:30 am, USD Shiley Auditorium - Gayatri Spivak, Indian postcolonial theorist, philosopher and University Professor at Columbia University will speak as a Kyoto Symposium honoree

**April 10, 2013** - noon to 2pm speaker tba

**April 25, 2013** - 7pm Scholarship Lecture and Awards Ceremony. Speaker and other details tba

Faculty and students at San Diego State University decided it is never too late to celebrate the publication of the path blazing *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color* (1981) edited by Cherrie L. Moraga and Gloria E. Anzaldúa. On April 25, 2012, the Women’s Studies Department, in collaboration with the Women’s Research Area of the Intercultural Relations/Cross Cultural Center, and several departments: Africana Studies, Chicana and Chicano Studies, American Indian Studies, and English, celebrated its 31st year anniversary. Professors Irene Lara and Kimala Price, a long with two Women’s Studies student activists, Diana Trinidad and Doveina Serrano, organized the afternoon roundtable as part of our year long Feminist Research Colloquia.

Our esteemed panelists were: Dr. AnaLouise Keating, Anzaldúan scholar and Women’s Studies professor at Texas Woman’s University; Dr. Gail Pérez, Ethnic Studies Department co-founder at the University of San Diego; Dr. Daphne Taylor-Garcia, Ethnic Studies professor at the University of California, San Diego; and Jerrica Escoto, Women’s Studies Master’s student and internationally recognized spoken word artist. We purposefully invited mostly local scholar-activists to participate in the roundtable in order to help build bridges among us in San Diego. Indeed, we had no fewer than 80 attendees, a mix of students, faculty, and community activists.

We concluded the roundtable discussion with several student activists inviting participants to become involved in local activism and sharing information about their organizations, including a new Queer Women of Color Support Group on campus. Again, thank you to everyone who helped make the event a reality through their time, energy, ideas, publicity, and economic resources!

The Andrea O’Donnell Womyn’s Outreach Association, commonly called WOA, is a growing student organization. After designing a logo, establishing bylaws, and collaborating with Student Life and Leadership, WOA is officially up and running. The organization grows each semester, and is becoming well known among other organizations with similar missions. WOA is about equality, not just for womyn, but for everyone, regardless of race, gender, sexuality, ability, etc. While “empowering and liberating the female population since 1977” is an unofficial mantra for WOA, the organization is concerned with everyone’s social, economic, and political rights. Currently, general meetings are held Tuesdays 4-5 pm in Aztec Mesa room 104 (subject to change).

WOA holds one event per semester, and participates in a number of collaborative efforts with other student organizations. Fall semester marks our annual Love Your Body Day (LYBD), a positive, high-energy event focused on boosting self esteem and celebrating bodies of all shapes, sizes, and colors. LYBD will be held on November 1st this fall semester. For their spring event, WOA organizes Take Back The Night, an intimate awareness event about domestic and sexual violence and the risks womyn take when out at night, which includes an open mic for stories and confessions pertaining to assault. Each event is engaging and a wonderful opportunity to better yourself, your friends, and the society around you.

We welcome every kind of person to join us at our events, and our meetings. For more information, email WOA at aodwoa@gmail.com. We also have a Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, and will be putting our website up this semester!
Enjoyed learning more about the projects discussed in this newsletter?

Women’s Studies needs your support! The Graduate Program and other worthy projects can be sustained only by the support of generous donors. Please send contributions in any amount today. THANK YOU!

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