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## Gender and Women's Studies Newsletter for September 2005

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## Women's Studies Newsletter September 2005



### The Director's Column:

Welcome back to a new school year.

Looking back:

Last spring the WMS Program celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a major at URI.

Professor Emerita Mary Ellen Reilly arranged a library exhibit for Women's History Month showcasing books by WMS faculty and guest speakers.

Our dinner celebration on April 16 brought faculty, students, alumnae and friends together for an evening of food and festivity. Alumna Jennifer Minuto sang and played the piano at an hors d'oeuvres reception at the Women's Center. We re-convened at the University Club for dinner. Professor Stephen Grubman-Black showed a video he produced featuring interviews with founders of the WMS Program.

The event raised \$10,000. for the WMS Program and a promise of a \$25,000. scholarship endowment to be donated.

This semester:

The Carlson lecture will be October 20 at 7:30 in the Galanti Lounge. Elizabeth Roberts (candidate for Lieutenant Governor) and Jennifer Lawless (candidate for US House of Representatives) will speak on "Women in Politics: Issues, Challenges and Opportunities." We will invite 3 WMS students to join us for dinner with the speakers. Please send me a statement by October 14: "Why I would like to meet Elizabeth Roberts and Jennifer Lawless" (300 words or less).

Our new student/faculty resource room in 311 Eleanor Roosevelt Hall opened officially on September 19 with a pizza party. The room has 2 computers and a small library of books and journals. Please join us at 7 PM on October 17 for the next meeting of our WMS student advisory board. Meet faculty and students, share ideas and pizza.

The room was set up by our 2005 graduate, Heather Kinlin as a place where we can form a community of WMS faculty and students.

We welcome you to our community. We invite you to attend our talks and gatherings, and to share your ideas and visions for the future.

Karen Stein, [wmsdir@etal.uri.edu](mailto:wmsdir@etal.uri.edu)

**Please visit our webpage [www.uri.edu/artsci/wms](http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms)**

Questions, comments, or concerns?

Please contact the editor of the newsletter, Bijitha Varghese at [bvarghese@mail.uri.edu](mailto:bvarghese@mail.uri.edu)

## **CALENDAR**

### **Monday, October 17, 2005:**

What: Student Advisory Board Meeting  
Who: WMS majors and minors and faculty  
When: 7:00 pm  
Where: 311 Eleanor Roosevelt Hall

### **Thursday, October 20, 2005:**

What: The Carlson Lecture on Women in Politics.  
Who: Featuring Elizabeth Roberts and Jennifer Lawless.  
When: 7:30 pm  
Where: Galanti Lounge

### **Thursday, November 10, 2005 (deadline):**

The WMS Program will award approximately \$6,000 in scholarships to WMS majors and minors. Please visit the scholarship page on our website to download and complete applications.

### **Spring 2006:**

What: Dana Shugar Colloquium  
Who: Professors Julia Johnson, Communications Studies, Kendall Moore, Journalism, and Ann Suter, Languages  
~Stay tuned for specific times and dates

What: Fredrika Wild Schweers Memorial Lecutre on Women and Health  
Who: Internationally known rice breeder Susan McCouch  
~Stay tuned for specific times and dates

## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

### **The Eleanor M. Carlson Trust Scholarship**

Criteria:

Students must be a major or minor in Women's Studies who has completed 24 undergraduate credits in any subject. Additionally, two Women's Studies courses, one of which has a WMS designation, must be completed by the time of the award. Preference will be given to candidates who meet one or more of the following criteria:

- a. high academic achievement;
- b. participation in community and/or campus service;
- c. financial need.

### **The Dana Shugar Memorial Scholarship**

The Dana Shugar Memorial Scholarship was established by Dr. Sam and Shirley Shugar in memory of their daughter, Dana R. Shugar (1961-2000), a Professor of

English and Women's Studies. Recipients are selected by the English Department in odd-numbered years (2005, 2007, etc) and by the Women's Studies Program in even-numbered years (2006, 2008, etc). (No application is necessary.)

### **Eleanor M. and Oscar M. Carlson Endowed Scholarship for Single Mothers**

Criteria:

Student must be a woman who is a single-parent head of household with one or more dependent children. Preference will be given to candidates who meet one or more of the following criteria:

- a. candidates who have followed a non-traditional educational track;
- b. candidates with financial need;
- c. candidates in good academic standing, with at least 12 credits at the college or university level;
- d. Rhode Island residents;
- e. candidates pursuing a major or minor in Women's Studies.

### **The Eleanor M. Carlson Award**

Given to an outstanding graduating student in Women's Studies whose qualifications may include: contributions to the campus or community; job or family commitment; feminist scholarship or activities; leadership or voluntary service; and academic excellence.

### **"Mother" Jones Scholarship**

Criteria:

Student must be a major or minor in Women's Studies who has completed at least two Women's Studies courses, one of which has a WMS designation, by the time of the award. Selection is based on financial need as determined by rankings from the Financial Aid Office. Among students who are equally needy, academic excellence will be the determining factor in the selection. Application deadline is November 10, 2005.

### **Patricia Farnes Essay Contest**

Criteria:

The contest is open to all URI undergraduates enrolled for the 2005-2006 academic year. Papers may be submitted by students or nominated by any faculty member. Each student may submit only one paper.

Faculty may nominate up to three papers each.

Essays will be judged on strength of argument, clarity of writing, quality of writing, and attention to mechanics.

Submissions should be 1,200 to 3,000 words long, Shorter or longer papers will be disqualified automatically.

For more information and specific criteria, as well as deadlines for each scholarship, please visit:  
<http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/scholarships.php>

### **Activist in the Flesh by Colleen Hayes – Costello**

Until recently I never really considered the way I live my life to be activism. I just always assumed that I followed good morals and beliefs, not that it had anything to do with activism. My upbringing of course had a large effect on the way I view things now. My mother is a feminist, and she raised me the only way she felt was proper, with feminist ideals and concepts. Don't get me wrong, when I was younger she certainly allowed me to play with Barbie dolls and do the dress up thing. She never discouraged that; and of course when I was about 8 and wanted my long, red hair chopped off, she didn't object, she just drove me to the salon. She was and still is very supportive of my choices, the good choices that is. She has always been there for me and always will be. I am very grateful she raised me the way she did, because I know that had it been in any different way I wouldn't be the feminist I am today. The exposure I was able to encounter at a young age molded my feminist beliefs and actions.

My first encounter with the word 'activist' was in high school. 'Activist' was used to describe a picture of Elizabeth Cady Stanton on one of my history books; sadly enough my teacher didn't even touch on the Women's Movement, so the reading and knowledge that I gained was on my own. I just assumed that activists were heroines like Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and that to be an activist you had to be a part of something huge, something that changes America. As happens in most cases, high school ended and college started.

The first couple of weeks of school went by really chaotic and stressful, like it does for most first year students. One of those days I just so happened to be walking by the benches lining the Quad and saw a flier for a group called PAGE, Promoting Awareness for Gender Equality. So I went to the first meeting, and my life changed. Since that meeting, which feels like so long ago, I have gained the courage to speak out when something is wrong. I now possess the ability to speak even when I know my voice is shaking. Becoming involved had taught me what activism really is...bringing fulltime awareness to a problem that needs to be addressed and fixed. For myself I now see that I cannot be a feminist and not an activist. Feminism and activism go hand in hand. Getting involved with PAGE changed my life. The sooner you decide to take action, the larger the fight for equality will be, and the sooner equality will be won.

WMS students, interested in contributing? Contact the newsletter's editor.

### **PAGE Promoting Awareness for Gender Equality**

Getting sick of being treated unequally? Looking to make a change? PAGE is a great outlet for feminists looking to make a difference on campus and in the community. PAGE is the only outwardly feminist group here at URI. We are committed to bringing awareness towards feminist issues at URI and beyond. We welcome new members and new ideas! Working together is the only way equality will ever be a reality and no longer a dream. Please join us and make a difference for everyone. We meet at 5pm every Tuesday in room 311 of Roosevelt Hall. If you have any questions about PAGE please contact the President, Colleen Hayes-Costello at [irishrose\\_colleen@yahoo.com](mailto:irishrose_colleen@yahoo.com)

### **Editor's Column**

Since this is the first newsletter of the year, I thought that I would start off by celebrating women who have been "firsts" in this country. I think this is important to do because too often we focus on what we still have left to do (and we still have A LOT left to do), that we forget how much we have already accomplished. Below is a list of women who have improved the lives of women in this country, by being a "first".

- ~ Marry Katherine Goddard: First woman postmaster (1775)
- ~ Hannah Adams: First woman to be a professional writer (1784)
- ~ Lucy Brewer: First woman Marine (1812)
- ~ Elizabeth Blackwell: First woman to earn a medical degree (1849)
- ~ Amelia Jenkins Bloomer: Editor of first women's rights newspaper (1849)
- ~ Arabella Mansfield Babb: First woman to be admitted to the bar (1869)
- ~ Francis Elizabeth Willard: First woman to be a college president (1871)
- ~ Helen Magill: First woman to earn her PhD (1877)
- ~ Susanna Medora Salter: First woman to be elected mayor (1887)
- ~ Blanche Scott: First woman to fly an airplane (1910)
- ~ Jeanette Rankin: First woman in Congress (1917)
- ~ Jane Addams: First woman to win a Noble Peace Prize (1931)
- ~ Ruth Bran Owen: First woman to be a foreign diplomat (1933)
- ~ Lettie Pate Whitehead: First woman to be the director of a major corporation (1934)
- ~ Muriel Sibert: First woman to own a seat on the New York Stock Exchange (1967)
- ~ Sarah Caldwell: First woman to conduct an opera at New York's Metropolitan Opera House (1976)
- ~ Sandra Day O'Conner: First woman justice of the Supreme Court (1981)

- ~ Penny Harrington: First woman to be police chief of a major city (1985)
- ~ Madeline K. Albright: First woman to be Secretary of State (1997)
- ~Lt. Col. Eileen Collins: First woman to command a space shuttle mission (1999)
- ~ Hillary Rodham Clinton: First, First Lady to ever be elected to the US Senate (2000)
- ~ Condoleezza Rice: First African American woman to be appointed Secretary of State (2005)

This of course is only a small sampling of the amazing women who were the first to do what they did. Every woman in this country should thank these women for breaking down barriers so that we too may either follow in their footsteps, or be “firsts” of our own.

Bijitha Varghese at [bvarghese@mail.uri.edu](mailto:bvarghese@mail.uri.edu)