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New Director Jody Lisberger Welcomes You



Welcome to the new WMS Newsletter and a new school year, which finds the WMS Program thriving with new student office managers, 37 sections of WMS classes, 600 students enrolled, and a new director.

This year WMS will feature several speakers and continue to push at the forefront of the University's commitment to interdisciplinary and technologically-integrated 21st century learning and teaching.

What does it mean to live and teach in the 21st century? Perhaps one of the gravest signs of where we're at now has to do with the smallest linguistic shift going on in the English language.

Most people probably don't even notice how the relative pronoun "who" is slowly being replaced by "that." The woman that is my friend.... The people that I live with...

We live in a world now where the linguistic tendency to treat people as if they were chairs or tables - inanimate, expendable—is the sign of the deeper mindset that allows the devastation of our earth and the people

on it.

In the 19th century, Hegel set forth his theory of the master and the slave. In our relationships of all kinds, he claimed, if we do not assert ourselves as master, we will become slave.

This adversarial notion of the "other" still drives today's imbalances of power and the presumed entitlements to objectify, dehumanize, and appropriate others.

Which is why in our teaching and learning, we must work to challenge the old boundaries and binaries that create inclusivity and so exclusivity, distracting us from creating the greatest power we have as a unified group making change for the good of all.

In the 20th century, Freud also gave the world a new picture of the unified self that in the 21st century we are still working to revise.

Thank goodness Mikhail Bakhtin, a Russian literary critic, came along in the 1940s and argued that we in fact have many voices in each of us.

This idea of many voices, which challenges the notions of one authoritative voice overruling and silencing other voices, opens the way for us in the 21st century to shape our work, teaching, and lives around notions of plurality, diversity, and fluidity.

My hope as the new director of WMS is to continue to lead by example to show the benefits of reaching across borders and boundaries with open minds.

My other hope is to continue to develop in our students the rigor connected to two very old skills—reading and writing.

According to neurophysiologists, the human brain was not originally wired to read—it was a skill we developed over time, a skill that gave and gives us remarkable and necessary pliability and adaptability.

In this day when students tend to scan the Internet a lot, it is our job as teachers and mentors to help them gain the stick-with-it-ness to read difficult material, be analytical in reading and writing, and develop the brain muscle, self-knowledge, imagination—and courage it takes—to create peace and equality in our world.

Jody Lisberger

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WMS Newsletter Staff:

Editors: Chloe Thompson and Kara Lafferty
Design and Layout: Danielle Henderson

Radha Narayanan (Chemistry) was born and raised in Savannah, Georgia. She obtained her B. S. in chemistry at Armstrong Atlantic State University in May 2000 and obtained her Ph.D. in analytical chemistry at Georgia Institute of Technology under the direction of Professor Mostafa A. El-Sayed. Her graduate and postdoctoral research involves the field of synthesis, characterization, and application of transition and noble metal nanoparticles for nanocatalysis and nanobiosensing.

Kathleen Davis (English) specializes in medieval literature, with strong interests in translation studies, postcolonial theory, and law. Her articles frequently address the relationship between these areas and issues of gender and sexuality. Like much of her teaching, her current course (titled “Fictional Promises”) attends to the role of gender relations in the function of law and society.

Jill K. Doerner (Sociology) does research focusing on the sentencing process and the effects of extralegal characteristics such as race/ethnicity and gender on the decision-making process. Her dissertation examines gender gaps in sentencing outcomes and explores the case factors and defendant characteristics that contribute to differential sentencing by gender in U.S. federal courts. She also studies the consequences of incarceration for an aging prison population, paying particular attention to inmate safety and well-being.

Cate Morrison (Communication Studies) studies language, reason, and aesthetics. Her work seeks to account for rhetoric’s ability to inspire action that embraces a positive role for the emotions, imagination, and lived experience. Morrison first became drawn to feminist scholarship as a policy debater during her undergraduate years at James Madison University, where she was one of two women on a team in an intellectual activity mostly dominated by men. Feminism thinking also enabled her to push back against some of policy debate’s more masculinist commonplaces, including its overemphasis on power politics and a technocratic discourse that excludes “the other.” Morrison is currently an instructor at URI and working to finish her Ph.D at the University of Pittsburgh.

Rob Widell (History) received his Ph.D. in United States History from Emory University in 2007, with a focus on African-American and Civil Rights History. His current research explores civil rights and black power-related activism in Birmingham, Ala., during the late 1960s and 1970s. His work connects to Women’s Studies through its revelation that women and their concerns were at the forefront of many activist efforts that emerged at that time out of Birmingham’s black community. He argues that by organizing around such concerns as housing, welfare rights, access to health care, and equal job opportunity, black women helped expand the agenda of the Civil Rights and Black Power Movements and shape the direction of late-twentieth century black protest.

Ling Ling Zhang (Economics) received her Ph.D. degree from McGill University in 2008. She has a B.S. degree in Biomedical Engineering from Shanghai Jiao Tong University and a M.A. degree in Finance from South-Western University of Finance and Economics. Her dissertation investigates dynamic coalition formation problems in environments with externalities. Her current interests are Game Theory, International Economics, Economic Development, and Environmental Economics. She studies coalition formation games and also applies such theory to investigate trading-bloc formation, international environmental agreement negotiation, and the cooperation of financial institutions.

Ian Reyes (Communication Studies) has a Masters in Communication from UMass Amherst, and a Ph.D. in Communication from the University of Pittsburgh. His research and teaching are in the field of media studies, focusing on history, theory, and practice, particularly in the domain of audio. In his courses, students can expect to find feminist and queer theory influencing critical approaches to mediated representations, subjectivity, labor relations, ideology, and technology. He is especially interested in sound recording studios as zones of patriarchal exception that enable the construction of a “feminine” masculinity that relies on the exclusion of women.
(continued on page 7)

Editors Note

I am very pleased to present articles on current issues like the election and sex trafficking. My priority as editor is to present a fair and balanced newsletter true to different perspectives and viewpoints of feminists here at URI and around the world. Another priority of mine is to promote local Women’s Studies events, scholarships, and individual students who are working hard and making a difference everyday. I welcome any student or faculty member who wishes to contribute to the Newsletter. I truly wish to represent the diversity feminism embraces. I am proud to showcase the diverse opinions of Professor Hughes and the President of RI NOW, Carolyn Marks. We are the fourth wave of feminism and with the pending election our actions count. We could potentially be on the verge of dramatically changing what our country stands for. We need to stay informed and exercise our Constitutional right to vote. Many feminist organizations only align themselves with the Democratic Party. This Newsletter will have a more independent and modern approach. I hope this Newsletter will spur political debates and academic discussions.

Kara Lafferty

In a time like this, with the elections right around the corner, it’s imperative for citizens – women and men alike – to be informed. The next President will decide America’s future for the next four years. And after the tumultuous eight we’ve previously had, it’s time for a change.

But the only thing that brings about change, especially at a university such as this, is always challenging the way of thinking that has dominated our lives. Break out of the traditional, and embrace the unknown. Change doesn’t always have to be so terrifying.

As my fellow editor says, we are the fourth wave. Though the issues may be different, the goal is still the same: Equality and social justice. No one has ever achieved anything simply by sitting around. We’re hoping this newsletter will serve as a catalyst for future debates among those who read it. We hope everyone who reads this will learn at least one thing she or he didn’t know before. While information about the accomplishments, new leadership, and new direction that the Women’s Studies department is important, so is thinking on a more global level. In keeping with the university’s new branding initiative, “Let’s “Think Big,” and most importantly, think outside the box.

Chloe Thompson



McCain Administration: 'Devastating Consequences'

By Chloe Thompson

The National Organization of Women (NOW) Political Action Committee officially endorsed Illinois Sen. Barack Obama Sept. 16, according to its Web site.

I spoke with the president of Rhode Island NOW, and the chair of the RI NOW Political Action Committee, Carolyn Mark, about her thoughts on the election.

Mark says the state organization, RI NOW, is prohibited from officially endorsing a candidate—that the endorsement must come from the national level. Therefore, she could only speak to me as the chair of RI NOW PAC.

The key issues NOW works with are lesbian and gay civil rights, reproductive justice, racial justice, violence against women and economic equity.

Mark, 42, said the most important things she believes will influence this election, in terms of the women's vote, are the issues most at hand in today's troubling times. "Time after time when women get polled about the issues that they're most concerned about, health care, education and the economy are the three big ones," Mark said. "You kind of have to distinguish between women generally and progressive

activist women who are more in touch with a lot of the issues that directly and dramatically impact women's lives."

Mark noted that one issue of interest to her is the "health care conversation," specifically about access to birth control. Currently, the Bush administration has set forth an act that allows health care providers, because of their beliefs, to refuse to administer birth control pills or perform an abortion. Mark said Obama has already committed to reversing this trend if elected.

"I have friends who believe that a McCain administration would be stronger on defense, who are absolutely pro-choice, but [they] don't really understand the impact that another conservative administration could have on a women's right to choose." One thing many women don't understand, Mark added, is that the President appoints Supreme Court justices, and the Court could be swayed to a largely conservative viewpoint if a conservative administration is elected.

"If we have one or two more conservatives appointed to the bench, I think it's a real likelihood that *Roe v. Wade* could be overturned," Mark said.

More recently, McCain and his running mate, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, have both said they would support the Supreme Court in overturning *Roe v. Wade*, while Obama and his running mate, Delaware Sen.

Joseph Biden, would uphold the ruling. Palin, as a hockey-mom with little foreign experience and the butt of many jokes for her interview gaffes on live television, has been a hot topic for the election, Mark refers to her selection as a "bump" in the McCain administration, and said she seems like "a fish out of water."

Mark said there is "absolutely no comparison" between former presidential candidate, New York Sen. Hillary Clinton, and Palin. She said she's not very worried about the number of Clinton supporters who might vote for McCain to retaliate for Obama's winning the Democratic nomination.

"I think that's going to be a much smaller phenomenon than anyone thinks it's going to be," Mark said.

Mark said it is essential for those who are planning to vote to stay informed of the issues. She said a McCain administration would have "devastating consequences" for women both in Rhode Island and on a national level.

"When it comes to the issues in general, I think the more educated you get, the more scary you realize it is to become uneducated," Mark said.

To keep up to date on NOW's endorsements, and for general election information, Mark encouraged young women to check out pacblogspot.com.

Professor Comments On Sex Trafficking and Other Issues Related to the Election

Women's Studies professor Donna Hughes has conducted extensive research on women's rights, specializing in human trafficking. One of many things that distinguishes her work is her bipartisan coalition work to eradicate human trafficking.

This bi-partisan work has led Hughes to believe that being aligned with only one party, the Democratic Party, hampers advancing the rights of women. "Most of the feminist women's organizations only identify with one party... they become locked in to supporting that particular party."

The problem with assuming only one party supports the rights of women, Hughes contended, can be seen if one examines the views on sex trafficking held by Sen. Barack Obama, Sen. Joe Biden, and Sen. John McCain.

Hughes talked about the views of Obama and McCain on sex trafficking and pointed to comments they have made on the topic.

Hughes quoted from Obama his conviction that eradicating sex trafficking "has to be a top priority." She also noted that Obama has commended the "bipartisan

agreement on this issue."

Unlike McCain, Hughes said, Obama talks explicitly about prostitution. At the August 2008 candidates forum hosted by Rick Warren at Warren's Saddleback Church in California, Obama said, "Often-times, young women are caught up in prostitution. So we've got to give prosecutors the tools to crack down on these human trafficking networks."

Obama continued, "Internationally, we've got to speak out and ... forge alliances with other countries to share intelligence, to roll up the financing networks that are involved in them. It is a debasement of our common humanity, whenever we see something like that taking place."

Hughes is encouraged by Obama's commitment to cracking down on human trafficking and treating prostitution as harmful to young women. Many politicians limit their comments to sex trafficking and ignore prostitution as a factor causing trafficking. Hughes was encouraged that Obama was willing to address prostitution and state that it is harmful.

But according to Hughes, Sen. Joseph Biden does not hold the same position on sex trafficking as his running mate. "Biden is blocking a major piece of legislation in the Senate," Hughes said. "Right now we put together the William Wilber-

force Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act and it passed the House of Representatives 405 to 2." When it came to the Senate, Hughes said, Biden "single-handedly blocked the Act, stripping all of the things we have for improving the prosecution of traffickers," which tremendously weakened the Act.

Hughes said that Biden is known as a hero for women, since he supported the "Violence Against Women Act," but she also said he blocked one of the most important pieces of current legislation.

Hughes explained that McCain also condemns human trafficking. Hughes cited an entire anti-trafficking speech he gave on May 7, 2008, in Rochester, Michigan, where he said, "We must also do more to ensure governments that tolerate human trafficking crack down on this modern form of slavery. We can support efforts to change the economic incentives and do more to aid the victims. But we must view this evil form of twenty-first century slavery every bit as important as drug trafficking."

Unlike Obama, McCain spoke about how the criminal networks of sex trafficking are related to other criminal networks - of drug

(continued on page 7)

by Jillian Foley

With the presidential election upon us, it is important for all of us to be informed about the candidates in order to make a wise decision. This election is being called the most important election in many of our lifetimes. It is of vital importance that we understand where the candidates stand so that we are sure we are making the best decision, however, with all of the rumors flowing through the various media outlets, it can be difficult to know what is true.

Therefore, I am providing a guide of where the two major candidates stand on various issues. I have chosen to omit many important issues, like the Iraq war, education, the economy, etc. because they are the hot topics in the media and the debates. Instead I am providing an overview of some important issues often not discussed by the mainstream media, but of vital importance to feminists.

Abortion:

McCain: John McCain is against abortion choice. According to his campaign website, “John McCain believes Roe v. Wade is a flawed decision that must be overturned, and as President he will nominate judges who understand that courts

should not be in the business of legislating from the bench.”¹

Obama: Barack Obama is pro-choice and believes abortion choice is an important freedom for women. According to his campaign website, “he has been a consistent champion of reproductive choice and will make preserving women's rights under Roe v. Wade a priority as President. He opposes any constitutional amendment to overturn the Supreme Court's decision in that

Sex Education:

Obama: He is an advocate of combining abstinence education and comprehensive sex education to help prevent unplanned pregnancies. He helped sponsor the Prevention First Act, which will increase funding for both abstinence and comprehensive sex education programs. It will also decrease insurance discrimination in regard to contraception and help improve awareness of emergency contraception.²

McCain: He is opposed to teaching comprehensive sex education. According to Planned Parenthood, McCain has voted against legislation that would provide funding for sex education programs designed to reduce the number of teen pregnancies and abortions. He also voted no on

legislation that would require abstinence only programs to be medically accurate.³

Same Sex Marriage:

McCain: He is against gay marriage, and believes marriage should only be between one man and one woman. He also believes that the decision should be left to the states, not the federal government.¹

Obama: According to the last presidential and vice presidential debates, he is against gay marriage. He believes that marriage is between one man and one woman. However, he says that he recognizes the need for rights of same sex partners in regard to ending discrimination in health insurance, home ownership, child custody, etc.

Violence Against Women:

McCain: According to the vice-presidential debate and Planned Parenthood he voted against the Violence Against Women Act in 1994. He has since said that he supports the bill and praised it for the awareness it gave us on the threat of domestic violence. In 2005, he added a companion bill to help

Obama: Obama helped create and pass the Violence Against Women Act and has worked to provide funding to combat domestic violence. “Senator Obama co-sponsored and helped reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act. Signed into law in January 2006, the bill funds and helps communities, nonprofit organizations, and police combat domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.”² He has also worked to end gender violence abroad, specifically in Darfur where genocide is currently affecting countless women. He supported the “Darfur Peace and Accountability Act” and worked to “secure \$20 million for the African Union peacekeeping mission.”²

Work and Family Life:

Obama: Obama says he will provide high quality, affordable childcare for working families. He says he will work to expand the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), so that more families are eligible to receive paid leave. He also says, “The Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit provides too little relief to families that struggle to afford child-care expenses. Barack Obama and Joe Biden will reform the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit by making it refundable and allowing low-income families to receive up to a 50 percent credit for their child-care expenses.”² He also says he will work to encourage employers to expand flextime at work and create family friendly arrangements.

McCain: He supported the Family and Medical Leave Act in 1993. He says he will work to expand flexible work arrangements. He “co-sponsored the Family Friendly Workplace Act, which sought to allow employers to provide flexible work schedules to help employees balance the demands and needs of work and family...” McCain is calling for a commission to address issues that are important to supporting “Workplace Flexibility and Choice.”¹

1 <http://www.johnmccain.com/Informing/Issues/>

2 <http://www.barackobama.com/issues/>

3 http://www.ppaction.org/ppvotes/pr-03052008_mccain.html

URI VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND ADVOCACY SERVICES PRESENTS MOVIES

The Domestic Awareness Month Movie Series

Monday October 27th – BLACK AND BLUE

7:00 pm Women's Center Library

Free Snacks and a Short Discussion Prior to Film

URI Students Make a Difference: Taking Action Against Human Trafficking

by Melanie Shapiro

This past summer, I worked as the co-chair of the Rhode Island Coalition Against Human Trafficking (RICAHT), continuing to foster my commitment to becoming a lawyer. I worked with the Police Department, the mayor's office, and the Department of Health to study ways to shut down the establishments of Providence sex trafficking. Many students might not realize how much, even as students, their work and deliberate planning can influence change.

My experience shows me how one opportunity often leads to another. Since my initial involvement in January of 2008, I have worked with other members of RICAHT to support the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2007. I've established regular contact and met with public state officials to discuss the legislation, lobbied representatives, secured statements, and prepared media campaigns. I was especially inspired when, at the close of the Senate session, we were able to persuade Senator Whitehouse, a member of the United States Senate Judiciary Committee and Human Rights and Law Subcommittee, to call to postpone voting on the original bill in order to learn more about the distinctive revisions later introduced by Senators Biden and Brownback that weakened our bill.

Moving step-by-step has taught me and my RICAHT co-workers to spend time researching human trafficking in RI, preparing information to present to public officials, and networking with other organizations. I also organized the first Take Back the Night against human trafficking in RI. At our press conference, sex trafficking experts, including URI professor Dr. Donna Hughes, victim's services providers, and public officials will spoke.

Following the press conference, I initiated negotiations with public officials regarding prostitution, sex tourism, and trafficking legislation. All this work confirms my sense of the importance of working “inside the system” to promote widespread, legislative changes in order to overcome many social justice issues. On Saturday, October 25th, I also led a Stop Traffic March and Rally in Providence to raise awareness and gain support for new legislation to combat human trafficking. Speakers included Felicia Delgado from Project Renew and Dr. Donna Hughes.

Some of my inspiration stems from the perseverance exhibited by civil rights groups demonstrating the significance of an individual and the strengthened ability of a group of such dedicated individuals to bring about change. This mantra propels my work in light (continued on page 7)

VPAS to Present at National Conference

by Keith LaBelle

The University of Rhode Island's award-winning Violence Prevention and Advocacy Services (VPAS) Program has again been invited to participate and present at the National Sexual Assault in our Schools Conference in Orlando, Florida later this month. Program director Jenn Longa Moio and coordinator Keith LaBelle will present two workshops at the conference: "Cops, Jock, & Frat Boys: Training Stereotypically Difficult Audiences" and "Creating A Successful Peer Advocacy Program."

Longa and LaBelle, who supervise the URI Peer Advocates, have participated in the conference for the past four years and raise money each year so that they and members of their staff can travel to the conference to present and learn what other schools are doing to prevent sexual assault on their campus. This year, Peer Advocates Marcin Ferenc, Becca Jackson, Jen McGlaufflin, and Adam Yavner will represent URI at the national conference.

URI's Violence Prevention Program has come a long way in the seven years since its inception. Originally funded by a Department of Justice Grant, the program has grown exponentially since 2001 to include two full-time staff members, approximately 30 undergraduate students called Peer Advocates, and has not only been institutionalized at URI, but has also garnered themselves and their University national recognition in their efforts to combat violent crimes against women on campus. The URI Peer Advocates won the 2008 Martin Luther King, Jr. Peacemaker Award, the 2006 A. Robert Rainville Team Leadership Award, and were named recipients of the 2006 National Violence Goes To College Award for outstanding student programming on campus violence prevention.

The mission of the Violence Prevention and Advocacy Services Program is to provide education and awareness to the campus community regarding sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking as well as to provide advocacy to victims of these crimes. Each semester, VPAS

staff presents at Orientation and in all 130 sections of URI 101, speaks at Ram Skills Orientation Day for first-year student-athletes, hosts events for sexual assault and domestic violence awareness months, runs a Hoops & Pizza program in conjunction with athletics, puts on three performances of The Vagina Monologues, and speaks with RI Attorney General Patrick Lynch at the South Kingstown High School Senior Assembly. Twelve of the 28 Peer Advocates are men and 16 are NCAA student-athletes, including four members of the URI Football team and three Men's Basketball players.

October will be an especially busy month for VPAS and the Peer Advocates since it is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The Peer Advocates will be hosting a number of awareness events on campus, including The Silent Witness March, These Hands Don't Hurt, two showings of *Iron Jawed Angels*, and the Domestic Violence Awareness Month Movie Series. Please contact the URI Peer Advocates at 874-9293 for more information on any of these events.

Domestic Violence Legislation: There is Still Work to be Done

Bills That Passed

Domestic Violence Bill S2501/H7176

- Expanded protection for elder victims of abuse
- Speedy trial
- Protection from financial exploitation

Criminal Justice Bill S2021/H7224

- Definition of cyber stalking updated
- Protection against batterers who use many forms of electronic devices to harass current or former partners

Bills NOT Passed

Domestic Violence Bill S2705/H7307

- Enhanced penalties for domestic violence

S2025

- All cadets to receive training on connection between

domestic violence and other forms of abuse

S2507/H7177

- Mandatory \$250 assessment of those convicted of domestic violence crime in physical or audible presence of child

S2242/H7290

- Permit District or Family court to include provisions for control of pets in a restraining order

S2318/H7645

- Transfer domestic violence training from court budget to police officers' commission
- Shift domestic abuse court advocacy project to RI Justice Commission

S2817/H8180

- Protect address confidentiality in reference to voter registry; not only for the

abused but also to those living with the victim of domestic abuse

S2168

- Would have encouraged victims to own guns, but may have jeopardized victim

Criminal Justice Bill S2306

- Require reports before sentencing a defendant such as a victim's statement, any injuries, victim's current condition
- Would have institutionalized victim's voice in sentencing

H7131

- Currently RI felony assault law only applies to assaults causing serious bodily injury
- Bill proposed any assault or battery that causes significant bodily injury a felony

Source: RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence
www.ricadv.org

On September 25, 2008, Women's Studies Director Jody Lisberger hosted an unprecedented new event at URI where faculty and students read together. This was a shared reading of creative work that presented several different personal renderings of how diverse backgrounds, ethnicities, and ways of being have influenced intellectual, spiritual, emotional, physical, and occupational choices and experiences.



Mary Cappello

Mary Cappello, excerpt from "Called Back: A Breast Cancer Anti-Chronicle"

...On chemotherapy, I want to translate everything that is written to me into a language other than English, and in this way, transform the most banal utterance into a declaration of love so that I can pine, long for, and imagine being wanted. It's the privilege of being at loggerheads that I miss on chemotherapy; it's the enchantment of being *en rapport*.

Kara Lafferty, excerpt from "In the Balance"

Eventually I left Manfredo's gym. I walked away. Not because I couldn't handle the pain—I liked the pain—but because the more I boxed, the more I got noticed. I became a show, the center of male gossip. I liked it at first, but then I began to feel stupid, helpless, and dirty. I came to see they didn't notice me for my skill, but because I invaded their subculture without compromising. Because I was a girl who insisted on being a girl but not being a girl.



Kara Lafferty



Lia Ottaviano

Lia Ottaviano, excerpt from "Phone/Home"

The unmatched individuality of biovular twins is intrinsically imbued with duality, giving way to a perpetual double, and individuality is duality divided from within. *Seams of our bond are here stitched tightly, there, spacious, gaping, wide open. We are strongest where we are sewn together.*

Rosie Pegueros, "Smokey the Bear: Where Are the Latino/a Professors?"

... When I see my students—of any color—stroll across the stage at graduation, my heart swells with pride and happiness. But when I see a Latino/a cross the stage, inside, I weep with joy... as any historian will tell you, one can't undo the past. I hope that my mere presence here will change my students' view of the world, and that what I teach them will give them the tools to be critical and constructive citizens and voters, to love their country with clear eyes, and perhaps to enter that pipeline to expand our numbers in academe.



Rosie Pegueros



Rae Ferguson

Rae Ferguson, "Overcoming Fear"

The mouse and I spent a couple of long minutes looking at each other (both of us sitting upright) - the prelude to what would be another opportunity to refine my relationship to fear.

Kalyana Champlain

Don't ever be afraid to rethink who you are. Growth is a process, not a destination.

Kim Salerno, "Color Coded: Musings on Color, Gender and Diversity"

I am an artist... Each semester I teach a segment on color in my two-dimensional design class... I ask students to look carefully at hue and to learn the vocabulary for color description. Gender differences inevitably emerge at this point in the class. I get the "I don't do color" response from some of the young men. "That's chick stuff"... You see, color is the purview of women, so when men understand color, they are not emasculated. Rather, they are seen to have special powers.



Kim Salerno



Kalyana Champlain

Bios continued from page 2

Annemarie Vaccaro, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at the University of Rhode Island. She earned her Ph.D. in Higher Education, an M.A. in Sociology with a focus on gender from the University of Denver and an M.A. in Student Affairs from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She was a member of the women’s studies faculty, a faculty representative to a university coalition for women, a supporter of the undergraduate women’s group, and the advisor to the Queer student group. Her research focuses on the intersections among college student development and gender, race, class and sexual orientation. Two of her most recent pieces of scholarship are about feminist identity and adult women learners experiences with racism.

Professor continued from page 3

trafficking and terrorism—that “evade national boundaries [and are] also a matter of our national security.”

But Hughes doesn’t believe there is much of a difference between the two Presidential candidates’ views on sex trafficking.

Hughes noted from the same speech McCain’s belief in the need “to encourage and coax other cultures into abandoning practices that afflict the happiness and health of women and children, whether they be practices that mutilate their bodies or impose on them marriage before their maturity and without their informed consent.” McCain said he “would insist that our diplomacy actively raise and discourage in our relationships with other countries customs that so degrade and physically threaten people, and explain that the full benefits of friendship with the United States are predicted on a shared respect for the basic right of women and children not to suffer atrocities to their physical and emotional health to protect traditions that should have been ended long ago.”

On the subject of abortion, Hughes declined to say very much.

“It is not that I do not have my own beliefs, but one of the things that has been a detriment to feminist organizations is that they are only defined by abortion, as if abortion were the only important issue.”

As for Gov. Sarah Palin and the Democrat tendency to dismiss her, Hughes feels it is another “example of partisanship” working to the detriment of feminists and women.

“Palin has taken on a reform role,” Hughes said. “She has taken on the old boys of Alaska, and she has stood firmly against corruption of the oil industry and she won. I think if she had been a Democrat, she would be hailed as a heroine because she took on the very definition of corporate greed and she won. But because she is a Republican and is outside the elite of Democratic feminist women, she is called ‘a fish out of water.’”

To Hughes, “these are mistakes that feminists make when they become locked into partisanship. They are criticizing her because she is a Republican and not giving her a fair evaluation of what she has achieved in Alaska.”

Aside from Palin, Hughes believes there are other important issues involving women for the election. Instead of just focusing on the United States, Hughes feels it is vital to look at the rest of the world. Many women, Hughes contends, are unaware and uninformed about international affairs. Hughes believes the “two biggest threats to women around the world are sex trafficking and Islamic Fundamentalism. The policies of the new President do matter when you see the growing impact of the Islamist movement on women’s rights.”

Hughes left with this short but strong line of advice: “Read widely and you can learn the most from reading opposing views and your critics.”

Juelia Simon, Kara Lafferty and Jody Lisberger contributed to this article.

Trafficking continued from page 4

of a seemingly insurmountable issue. My determination also comes through URI’s Women’s Studies Program and the mentorship of Professor Donna Hughes.

Unwanted Pregnancy Survey WMS 150 October 2008

Best possible choice (out of 80)	Worst choice (out of 63)
Abortion 47	Abortion 18
Adoption 12	Adoption 20
Have baby raise with father’s help 9	Have baby raise with father’s help 10
Have baby stay single 9	Have baby stay single 15
Have baby and marry 8	Have baby and marry 0

Students Respond to In-Class Survey

- “I am very surprised that the number of people in the entire WMS class who chose abortion as the best option was so high in comparison to adoption. It is such a difficult question and I thought the numbers would be more distributed among the choices than greatly skewed towards abortion.”
- “It is surprising to me where adoption ended up on both lists.”
- “I think that it is crazy that adoption, overall, is the worst choice.”
- “Seeing these statistics makes me a little more comfortable with my choice to abort. When doing this activity, choosing abortion made me feel a little guilty, as it is still such a taboo subject in society. The staggering number of classmates who made the same choice makes me realize what this means if we lose our right to choose.”
- “I’m not surprised by the number of people who feel abortion is the best choice. Given the fact we are all students at a university, we all have visions for our future. Therefore, many of us are in no position to have children, and will do whatever is necessary in order not to have them. Abortion is the only choice that gets rid of the issue completely.”
- “It’s interesting that there is still such a stigma attached to getting an abortion when it seems a very large proportion of girls would choose that as their best option. It was also interesting that adoption was one of the least chosen for best options.”

Write for the WMS newsletter!

Contact Chloe or Kara at
wmsnewsletter1@gmail.com

WMS 150 Introduction to Women's Studies
WMS 220 Women and the Natural Sciences
WMS 301 Women's Professional Development and Leadership
WMS 300 Field Experience in Women's Studies
WMS 305 Current Issues in Women's Studies
WMS 310 Race, Class, and Sexuality in Women's Lives
WMS 315 Feminist Theory and Methodology
WMS 317/ ENG 317 Contemporary Women Novelists of the Americas
WMS 320 Feminist Thought Into Action
WMS 325 International Women's Issues
WMS 350 Women and Health
WMS 350 Women and Mental Health
WMS 350 Women in Film
WMS 350 Women and the Law
WMS 350 The Narrative of the Witch
WMS 350 Native American Women
WMS 350 Women and Aging
WMS 350 Women and Trauma
WMS 350 Ecofeminism
WMS 351 Violence and Nonviolence in Theory and Fiction: Feminist Alternatives
WMS 360 Men and Masculinities
WMS 365 Sexual Victimization
WMS 370 Sex Trafficking
WMS 400 Critical Issues in Feminist Scholarship
WMS 430 Women and Human Rights

Policy
WMS 401/501 Human Trafficking & Contemporary Slavery
WMS 402/502 Campaigns and Services For Victims of Trafficking and Slavery
WMS 490 The Diva
WMS 350 Violence Prevention Training
WMS 350 Women in Music
WMS 490 Women Writing Their Lives
WMS 500 Colloquium in Women's Studies

Women's Studies Courses Taught in Affiliated Departments:

AAF 290 African-American Women: Service, Community, and Self
APG 328 Gender and Culture
ARG 385 Women in Art Management
COM 322 Gender and Communication
CSV 303 Community Service
ENG 260 Women and Literature
ENG 385 Women Writers
ENG 387 Foundational Texts in Modern Gay and Lesbian Culture
HIS 118 Women in European History
HIS 145 Women in the North American Colonies and the US, 1500-1890
HIS 146 Women in the US, 1890-Present
HIS 308 Between Eve and Mary: Women in the Middle Ages
HIS 351 History of Women in Medicine
HIS 352 Topics in the History of Women and Gender

HIS 355 Black Women in the US: Colonial Times to the Present
HIS 376 Women in Muslim Societies
HDF230 Marriage and Family Relationships
HDF 430 Family Interaction
HDF 432 Perspectives on Parenting
HDF 298 Contemporary Issues in Student Development
HDF 433 Family Life Education
HDF 434 Children and Families in Poverty
HDF/ SOC 437 Law and Families in the US
HDF 505 Human Sexuality and Counseling
HDF 559 Gender Issues in Therapy
KIN 375 Women in Sport: Contemporary Perspectives
KIN 555 Women in Sport: Issues and Controversies
NUR 150 Human Sexuality
NURS 459 Perspectives on Male and Female Sexuality Philosophy
PHL 210 Women and Moral Rights
PSC 441 Women and Politics
SOC/ PSY 430 Intimate Relationships
PSY 466 Child Sexual Abuse
PSY 480 Psychology of Women
SOC 212 Families in Society
SOC 242 Sex and Gender
SOC 413 Gender Inequality
SOC 420 Family Violence
TMD 224 Culture, Dress, and Appearance
WRT 645 Rhetoric and Reproduction

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