



May 1, 2008

## Letter from the Director

Janet Cramer



Greetings to all of you on this gorgeous Spring day! The Women Studies faculty, TAs, and staff have been quite busy this Spring semester working on several initiatives in our program, in the College of Arts and Sciences, and in the University as a whole. The new university president, David Schmidly, and the new dean of Arts and Sciences, Brenda Claiborne, have enlisted all departments and programs in two major initiatives: 1) learning outcomes assessment for our students and 2) alignment with the president's strategic framework of mission, vision, and priorities. Both of these initiatives have the promise of improving how departments and programs operate and of contributing to the overall success of the University of New Mexico. Here in Women Studies, we are committed to having both of these processes be faculty and TA driven, meaning that we have worked (and will continue to work) together as a group to articulate the mis-

sion, vision, and goals for our students, our program, and our community partners. We are also working closely with our Executive Board, which is comprised of faculty from across the university as well as the directors of the Feminist Research Institute and the Women's Resource Center. We've taken a look at where we are and where we want to go. We've placed these goals within an overall assessment plan and connected them to the president's strategic framework. We'll monitor the results over the coming years and make adjustments as necessary to ensure our goals are met. Overall, we're excited about the direction of Women Studies and serving our students as best we can. The learning outcome goals of our program – that is, the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values that we expect in our graduates – are as follows:

1. Engagement with interdisciplinary study of the relationships among identity, power, and knowledge.
2. Understanding of gender as a social category and identity and how this intersects with and is articulated through race, sexuality, class, and nation.
3. Knowledge of and familiarity with feminist studies, queer theory and sexuality studies, transgender studies,

critical race theory, and post-colonial/transnational feminist studies.

4. Recognition and responsibility for one's position within social systems and respect for divergent positions and perspectives.
5. Creation of community, social change, and empowerment with local, national, and/or transnational organizations and communities.

We will implement specific tools to assess a set of measurable outcomes related to each of these goals. This assessment process will begin next Fall and will continue each year. In addition to assessing and evaluating our program in terms of student learning outcomes, the Women Studies program will adopt a set of goals that align our program with the president's strategic framework and that will position our program for growth and development in the years to come. I'll share more about all of this with you in future newsletters. For now, I wanted to share our excitement about the direction of our program and our commitment to our students, faculty, graduate TAs, staff, university partners, and community partners. I invite you to share with me any time your thoughts, suggestions, and feedback about how we can grow and

Logo Design by Whitney Potter—Women Studies undergrad who now works for an women's issues NGO in Washington, DC

### Special points of interest:

- Graduates should plan to see Kathryn before April 30, 2008
- Send an email to [elvjr@unm.edu](mailto:elvjr@unm.edu) to be added to the Student, Graduate Student, or Faculty List Serve
- Check out Summer and Fall Classes on the Web [www.unm.edu/~womenst](http://www.unm.edu/~womenst)

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strengthen our community. I recognize that there are a variety of ways that each of you supports and contributes to Women Studies, and I thank you for all of them. Enjoy the summer!

## Why Women's Health?: A New Class

"It's obvious why only men develop prostate cancer and why only women get ovarian cancer. But it is not obvious why women are more likely to recover language after a stroke than men or why women are more apt to develop autoimmune diseases such as lupus," indicates the Institute of Medicine, *Exploring the Biological Contribution to Human Health*. "Understanding basic biochemical differences in the cells of males and females and health variability between the sexes from conception throughout life...will be important to health policy makers, basic, applied, and clinical researchers, educators, providers, and journalists."

### Lecture

Distinguished Professor Dr. Linda Hall  
Thursday, May 8, 2008  
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.  
Acoma Room, Student Union Building  
UNM Main Campus

"Images of Women and Power:" This presentation will discuss iconic visual images of three powerful women: The Virgin of the Apocalypse, as painted by eighteenth-century Mexican artist Manuel Cabrera; Marlene Dietrich; and Dolores del Río. In Cabrera's work, the Virgin Mary is depicted with wings, actively protecting her child and her people with great energy - almost the opposite of better-known images of the Virgin of Guadalupe. Artfully controlling her own image, Dietrich used her fame and appearance to combat the Nazis and aid the Allies in World War II. Del Río used her image and extraordinary beauty to change the way U.S. audiences perceived Latina and indigenous women, with Catholic filmmaker John Ford even choosing to portray her as the Virgin Mary. These images made, and still make, a difference.

To address this and similar issues, Giovanna Rossi, the Governor's Women's Health Advisory Council executive director, is teaching a Women's Health Policy Class this semester. The course is cross-listed with five departments and covers three major concepts in women's health: Sex and gender differences in health across the lifespan, particularly the physiologic, behavioral, and societal factors that influence health outcomes among culturally and socio-economically diverse populations of women; women's interactions with the health care system including multiple

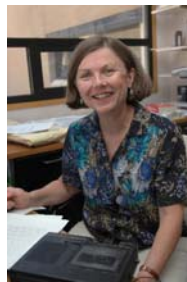
social roles and life cycle events, access to care, women's forms of communications and decision making; and, the social determinants of health of women across the lifespan and in the historical and contemporary context of culture, particularly with respect to gender roles and social status. Scheduled lectures, readings, speakers, and videos guide the class discussion in these three areas.

The course will be offered in the fall 2008 semester.

### Congratulations to the UNM Community Engaged Campus Charette Team!

The Charrette will convene teams from 20 universities across the nation to work collaborative to "design innovative models of Community Engaged Scholarship (CES) faculty development". The UNM team was one of the 20 chosen to participate in "Community-Campus Partnerships for Health" at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. The Charrette will convene teams from 20 universities across the nation to work collaborative to "design innovative models of Community Engaged Scholarship (CES) faculty development". Each team will be expected to bring back a plan of action for faculty development in CES on our campus. This important project draws people from across the university: Claudia Isaac (Women Studies Executive Board and Architecture & Planning), Nina Wallerstein (Public Health), Tassy Parker (Nursing & Family & Community Medicine), Marylin Davis (University College), and Matt Borrego (Pharmacy).

### Spotlight: Deborah McFarlane: Faculty Joint



**Deborah R. McFarlane** is Professor of Political Science and Women Studies at the University of New Mexico. She is the author (with K.J. Meier) of *The Politics of Fertility Control: Family Planning and Abortion Politics in the American States* (Congressional Quarterly Press 2001) and many articles in reproductive health policy. Trained in public health (University of Michigan and University of Texas Health Science Center) and public policy (Harvard University), her research focuses

on U.S. domestic reproductive health politics and the politics of international population and reproductive health. She has recently completed the Population Pioneers Project, funded by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. This project has collected papers and oral histories from reproductive health leaders throughout the world, which will be archived at the Sophia Smith Collection for women's history at Smith College, home to Margaret Sanger's papers. McFarlane has worked as an administrator and a consultant in reproductive health in the U.S. and internationally for more than three decades.

## Announcements

### Graduation

Anyone planning to graduate this semester needs to see Kathryn by April 30, 2008.

### Triota

Iota Iota Iota is the academic honor society for the field of Women Studies, organized to encourage and support scholarship and excellence. Named for the ancient goddesses Inanna, Ishtar and Isis, Triota strives to maintain feminist values of egalitarianism, inclusiveness and celebration of diversity of experience central to Women Studies. If you are at least a second semester sophomore with a GPA of 3.0 or above and have taken at least six credit hours in Women Studies, you are invited to join [Iota Iota Iota](#). For more info email Dr. Kathryn Wichelns [wichelns@unm.edu](mailto:wichelns@unm.edu)

## Graduation!

Women Studies will host student graduation on May 16, 2008 from 2:00-4:00 in the afternoon in Ortega 335. We invite you to come celebrate our graduates as they successfully complete the Women Studies Major, Second Major, or Minor.

"It's good to have an end to journey toward, but it is the journey that matters in the end."  
**—Ursula K. Le Guin**



## Women's Resource Center Lists Community Resources

Women's Community Assoc. (Shelter)	247-4219
Rape Crisis Center	266-7711
Domestic Violence Legal Hotline	(800)773-3645
Domestic Assault Response Team	761-8800
Nat'l Coalition Against Domestic Violence	(800)333-7233
Barrett House (Shelter, Women & Children)	243-4887
Women's Housing Coalition	884-8856
Human Services (Child Abuse)	841-7960
Child Abuse Report	761-4060

More information is available on the WRC website, [www.unm.edu/~women](http://www.unm.edu/~women) including a video library, list of support groups, and special events. Also look for more phone numbers and community resources.

## Spotlight: Pam Gravage



Pam Gravage has taught the Introduction to Feminist Theory class for Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 as a Teaching Assistant in the Women Studies Program. She received her BA and MA in Spanish as Syracuse University. She also earned an MA in American Studies at UNM.

Of her current research project, she says: "I'm working on re-envisioning old age in a biopolitical postdisciplinary society." In her spare time Pam enjoys backpacking, cross-country skiing, and playing and teaching the piano.

Women Studies has greatly appreciated having Pam as a TA. Thanks!

## Graduate Student List Serve

The graduate student list serve is up and running! Please send Janet an email if you would like to be added to the list [jcramer@unm.edu](mailto:jcramer@unm.edu).

The list serve sends along information on:

- Grants
- Job Opportunities
- Calls for Papers

## Graduate Certificate in Women Studies at UNM

The University of New Mexico Women Studies Program now offers a transcribed graduate certificate in Women Studies approved by the New Mexico Department of Education in December 2006. Graduate students already enrolled in a graduate level program at UNM may apply for admission to the WS graduate certificate program on a rolling enrollment basis. Thus students may submit their materials any time. The Graduate Certificate in Women Studies is designed as an area of specialization for

students pursuing a master's degree or a doctorate in disciplines in the humanities, social sciences, fine arts, or the professional schools at the University of New Mexico. The Graduate Certificate provides graduate students the opportunity to complete an educational program that addresses the history and culture of women, the social structures of gender, and feminist perspectives on scholarship. Courses in Women Studies will also be available to graduate students not pursuing the Women Studies certificate, with permission of the instructor.

## Our Mission:

The Women Studies program is committed to educating students about the relationships among identity, power and knowledge toward the ends of social justice and empowerment. We are an interdisciplinary program that focuses on how gender intersects with race, sexuality, class, and nation. We support the development and application of new theories of feminist studies throughout the university and the application of feminist methods in order to evaluate critically scholarship and research in the disciplines. In addition, the program seeks to educate students in ways that enable them to respond to issues that affect the lives of women locally, regionally, and globally.

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### Women Studies Faculty and TAs Spring 2008



### Summer Class Information:

Dr. Rinita Mazumdar will be teaching Feminine Sexuality this summer. Students will study Freud, Lacan, Irigaray and other theorists as they see where psychoanalysis and feminism meet.  
June term: MTWRF 10:20-12:20

Also available:  
WMST 379 Curandero-Mexican Folk Healing  
2 weeks: MTWRF 8:10-12:40

## Fall Class Information

- WMST 200 Women Social and Historical Perspectives  
MW 11:30-12:45 OR  
TR 9:30-10:45
- WMST 224 Intro to Feminist Theory TR 12:30-1:45
- WMST 231 Psychology of Human Sexuality TR 2:00-3:15
- WMST 279 Feminist Theory and Methodology in Action M 4-6:30
- WMST 313 Women and the Law T 6-8:30
- WMST 325 Race Class and Feminism 10-11:15
- WMST 326 Gender and Communication TR 9:30-10:45
- WMST 331 Third World Women R 5-7:30
- WMST 332 Intro to Chicana Studies TR 2-3:15
- WMST 335 Lesbian Culture and Politics TR 11-12:15
- WMST 353 Women and Creativity Special times
- WMST 375 Psychology of Women W 5:30-8:00
- WMST 377 Population Policy and Politics TR 8-9:15
- WMST 379 Feminist Economics MW 1-2:15
- WMST 379 Women and Oral Tradition MW 2:30-3:45
- WMST 379 Interdisciplinary Approaches to Literature TR 2-3:15
- WMST 379 Peace and Conflict TR 2-3:15
- WMST 410 Intro to Feminist Theory R 4-6:30
- WMST 424 Advanced Feminist Theory TR 2-3:15
- WMST 479 Women's Health Policy W 6-8:30
- WMST 492 Senior Seminar W 4-6:30

## Giving the Gift

Our program is only as strong as it is because of generous donations from our friends. Please consider providing a gift.

Enclosed is my gift for:  
 \$25       \$50       \$100  
 \$500       Other amount

Thank you! Did you know you can make donations on-line, through payroll deduction, or with a check?  
[www.unm.edu/~womenst/Giving/index.htm](http://www.unm.edu/~womenst/Giving/index.htm)