

DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

# WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES NEWSLETTER

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**Living Feminisms:  
Celebrating 20 Years of  
Women's and Gender Studies**

## LIVING FEMINISMS, LIVING HISTORY AT DEPAUL FROM ANN RUSSO, DIRECTOR, WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES

Since its inception in 1985-1986, the Women's and Gender Studies Program at DePaul University continues to grow, expand, and blossom in multiple directions. Many faculty, staff, and students have made this possible. Their ideas, issues, questions, critiques, and suggestions as well as their energy and efforts have built an intellectually engaging, exciting, and expansive program that continues to be a work in progress.

It is impossible in this short space to name all who have contributed to the program. Yet, it seems imperative at this 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to honor the initiators, founders, and past directors. It was Richard Meister, then Dean of the College of LA & S, in 1983-84, who asked Susan Ramirez, then a faculty member in the History Department, to convene an interest group. In response to her call, the following faculty members made up the first committee: Judy Bootcheck (Sociology); Susan Clarke (Reference Librarian); Richard de Cordova (Communication); Carol Cyganowski (English); Mary Jeanne Larrabee (Philosophy); Rose Spalding (Political Science); Jacqueline Taylor (Communication); and Midge Wilson (Psychology). In 1985-86, with Mary Jeanne Larrabee as Chair, the committee created and launched the Minor Program in. Subsequent Directors each provided leadership and direction to this evolving and dynamic program, including Mary Jeanne Larrabee (1986-1988); Jackie Taylor (1988-1989); Carol Klimick Cyganowski (1989-mid-1994); Midge Wilson (Acting and then Director, mid-1994-1997); Beth Kelly (1997-2003).

The program has grown exponentially since its inception—we have more faculty, more students, more courses, and more programs. We began with a minor program in 1986; expanded to a major in 1992, a Graduate Certificate Program in 1993, and now, in 2006, our MA Program proposal has been approved and the first cohort of graduate students will

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*The Women's and Gender Studies newsletter is co-edited by Arnie VandeBrake and Program Director, Ann Russo. We welcome your ideas, suggestions, announcements, and contributions. Please direct them to Arnie at [kvandebr@depaul.edu](mailto:kvandebr@depaul.edu).*

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## ATTENTION MAJORS! NEW CORE COURSE SEQUENCING!

**Up until now**, WMS 391 and WMS 395 were taken in sequence during the Winter and Spring Quarters of a student's junior or senior year. In WMS 391, students were introduced to research methods in Women's and Gender Studies. In this class, students were also required to develop a proposal for a research project that they subsequently completed in WMS 395.

**The Change:** The WMS 391 (Methods and Scholarship in Women's and Gender Studies) **will no longer be connected to the WMS 395 (capstone course) and research project.** WMS 391 will introduce students to a range of feminist methods and methodologies in Women's and Gender Studies, and will NOT be tied to the capstone

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## LIVING FEMINISMS, LIVING HISTORY (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

be accepted for Fall 2007. We began with no WMS faculty lines in 1986, and now we have eight full-time tenured and tenure track faculty, one full-time visiting faculty and two part-time faculty. We began with about a dozen affiliated faculty in the 1980s and we now have over fifty faculty and staff participating. We began with six declared majors in 1992, and we now have over sixty majors and forty minors. We began with a handful of WMS courses and we now have over fifty courses taught through the Women's and Gender Studies Program and many more courses taught across many departments throughout the university.

The development of the program's curriculum reflects shifting questions and challenges in the field and in feminist movements around the world. We began in 1985-1986 as a Women's Studies Program, and in 2002 we became Women's and Gender Studies. Since the 1980s, our conceptions of "women" "men" "gender" and "feminism" have grown as well. With an ongoing commitment to recognizing the interconnectedness of systems of oppression and privilege (including those of race, gender, class, ethnicity, sexuality, citizenship, nation, ability, religion, age) in local, national, and transnational contexts, we continue to expand our ideas about the multiplicity of identities and feminisms that evolve and intersect among these complex realities.

The program's commitment to social justice and to community service and activism is evident in our involvement in many projects and initiatives for change. Within DePaul, for instance, the program's faculty, staff, and students have been integrally involved in the establishment of the Sexual Harassment Office, the Women's Center, the LGBTQ Student Support Services Office, the LGBTQ Minor Program, the Stop Sexual Violence Taskforce, among others. Within the broader Chicago community, the program has a longstanding relationship with Women and Children First Bookstore and a number of local nonprofit organizations (including, the YWCA, Beyondmedia, Rape Victim Advocates, Chicago Legal Advocacy for Incarcerated Mothers, Young Women's Empowerment Project, and most recently the Young Women's Action Team, among others). Since 2002, the Women's and Gender Research Initiative, initiated by Beth Catlett and Irene Beck, engages students in research projects with community organizations, including Family Matters, the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and Chicago Public Schools.

Women's and Gender Studies students – majors, minors, graduate students – continue to be leaders on and off campus, responding to social and political issues and creating innovative organizational initiatives. Some of the organizations students have created and/or been involved in include SURVIVE (Students United Responsible for Violence Intervention and Victim Empowerment), VOICES, PRIDE, T Global: LGBT Students of Color and Allies, WORD (Women Open to Religious Diversity), GRRRL House (Gender Relations for Real Revolutionary Living), a chapter of Triota: National Women's and Gender Studies Honor Society, chapter of GABRIELA Network (General Assembly Binding Women for Reform, Integrity, Equality, Leadership, and Action), Spectrum: LGBTQ Students and Allies, fia! (Feminists in Action), among others.

The graduates of DePaul's program continue to live out the question of "What can you possibly do with a BA in Women's/Gender Studies?" Beyond my favorite answer—"Anything you want!"—I can say that the broad range of interests, knowledge, skills, and perspectives of the program's graduates are reflected in the various paths they have taken. Alumnae from DePaul's program can be found in nonprofit social services, public policy initiatives, social justice organizations,

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## NEW LGBTQQ DISCUSSION GROUP AT DEPAUL! NICOLE PEREZ (LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUESTIONING/GENDER QUESTIONING, QUEER)

Beginning in April, the LGBTQA Student Services office will partner with the Counseling Center to provide the DePaul community with a new LGBTQQ Discussion Group. The goals of this group are ultimately to: provide a safe space and positive environment for LGBTQQ students to discuss issues related to identity and relationships (with family, friends, partners, etc.), and to help create a space to discuss decisions to come out or not come out as well as facilitating healthy discussions about being LGBTQQ. It is important to note that this is not a drop-in group. In order to participate in this LGBTQQ Discussion Group and to protect participant confidentiality an initial intake session is required.

The LGBTQQ Discussion Group will meet bi-weekly (every other week) on Mondays in the Women's Center (Student Center, room 306) from 6-7:30pm. The next group meeting will be on Monday, 05/01. For additional information about this group and to register for an initial intake session please contact Maryan Ilahi of Counseling Services at 773-325-1393. You may also contact Nicole Perez at [nperez@depaul.edu](mailto:nperez@depaul.edu) or 773-325-7294.

## SPECTRUM WEEK—POSITIVE QUEER VISIBILITY WHEN WE NEED IT THE MOST BY CYNDI TORRES

This April will mark the third year that SPECTRUM, DePaul's organization for the inclusion, acceptance, and celebration of LGBTQA (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, and Straight Allies) culture and persons, will hold our annual Spectrum Week.

All historical and theoretical elements aside, Spectrum Week is simply a week when rainbows, pink triangles, drag queens and Ani DiFranco music take over the Lincoln Park student center. What this explosion of queer culture—as I like to call it—truly achieves is visibility and forced discussion about our large LGBTQ population here at DePaul, a Catholic institution.

Spectrum Week, started by founding members of Spectrum in 2003, serves to create visibility, education, and discussion surrounding a multiplicity of LGBTQA issues. This year, Spectrum Week will begin with our traditional opening day of visibility, hosting a meet and greet with Spectrum leaders and general members. Our Theme for Tuesday will be LGBTQA activism and history in the community. Wednesday will be our promotion of the National Day of Silence, and Thursday will be religion and spirituality and queer identity. Finally, Friday will be our Gender Expression Extravaganza—formerly known as Tea with the Queen.

Spectrum Week was created first

and foremost to celebrate the multi-layered identities within queer communities. Spectrum Week attempts to address issues of race, class, and gender within queer communities to better unify our queer community here at DePaul. Because not every LGBTQ experience is the same as the next, Spectrum Week tries to bring together as many different perspectives and people within DePaul to spark dialogue between LGBTQA students.



This year in particular, Spectrum Week has some highly important political implications. Recently, the DePaul Conservative Alliance (DCA) brought the Ultimate Warrior—an extremely hateful racist and homophobic pro wrestler-turned-conservative-commentator to our campus. This speaker verbally assaulted each and every queer-identified person in the room by using the word “queer” in an extremely hateful way. This may have been the

most clearly anti-gay event to ever have been funded by the University.

It is events such as this, along with the Affirmative Action Bake Sale and the recent hate graffiti painted on various buildings that are creating an atmosphere where students are experiencing outright hate and discrimination. These events might not have been collectively planned, but certainly they are interwoven.

It is this climate of racism, sexism, and homophobia on our campus that make it so crucial that this year Spectrum Week be even more supported and visible than it usually is. If there was ever a time to be fabulous and have queer agency on campus it is now. It is no longer our job to sit and wait for a university apology in regards to hate speech on our campus; it is our job as queer students and allies to make it clear that homophobia-and other forms of oppression-have no place on this campus. On the other hand, drag shows and queer historians—in my opinion—most certainly do.

Spectrum Week is April 24-28 in the Lincoln Park Student Center. Individual events, times and locations will be posted at a later date. For more info, email :

spectrumdpaul@gmail.com and visit our website:  
spectrumdepaul.org

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## LIVING FEMINISMS, LIVING HISTORY (CONTINUED)

law schools and then law offices, MA and PhD Programs (in fields such as Women's Studies, African American Studies, Education, Social Work, Psychology, Justice Studies), creative arts organizations, medical schools, and more. Through the recently formed Alumnae Project, we are collecting profiles of alumnae that we hope to highlight on our website by Fall of 2006.

Our accomplishments are many and our future seems open to more positive change, development, and transformation. The possibilities are endless! If you are not currently a part of our program, please join us in creating the future. For more information about the faculty, the curriculum, the various projects, please check out the website <http://www.depaul.edu/~wms> or email me ([arusso@depaul.edu](mailto:arusso@depaul.edu)). And, if you're interested in a fuller history of the program, or in contributing to the ongoing creation of this history, please contact me or Irene Beck ([ibeck@aol.com](mailto:ibeck@aol.com)).

## TAKE BACK THE NIGHT ALEJANDRO ACIERTO

On Tuesday April 18, fia! (feminists in action!) organized a daylong event of resistance and empowerment to celebrate Take Back the Night. Originating from the 70's, TBTN is a day that honors the victims of violence and celebrates its survivors around the world, and including all genders. The purpose of the event is not only to create a safe space for survivors to talk about their experiences, but also to begin a dialogue for action and continued resistance for people of all identities.

The day began with the Clothesline Project, an interactive vehicle for women affected by violence to tell their stories. The project shows testimony to the problem

of violence against women and its effects on others, while also allowing members of the community to write out their emotions on shirts and put them on display. The day continued with a large rally and a march, followed by the final "speak out" where students tell their stories. The event attracted scores of people of all backgrounds and identities who have been directly or indirectly affected by violence, ending with a candlelight vigil to calm the emotions and bring awareness to the DePaul community.

In addition to TBTN, fia! also provides a feminist perspective on the issues at DePaul and the community through education and activism. Last quarter, fia! responded to

an article written in the Depaulia that minimized the experiences of people affected by sexual assault, informing the public about how the issues of race and gender relate to sexual and domestic violence (see WGS Newsletter Vol. VI, Iss. 2). More recently, fia! has begun to compile articles, stories, poems and other forms of art to create their first 'zine, an independent publication of feminist perspectives. For more information or to become a member, contact [depaul\\_fia@yahoogroups.com](mailto:depaul_fia@yahoogroups.com). fia! meets every Tuesday night at 9pm in the Student Center, suite 306.



## ON THE CUTTING EDGE

*"On the Cutting Edge: Women's and Gender Studies Students Present their Research"*  
Thursday, May 25th 3:30-6:30pm  
Student Center, Room 314

This event is open to everyone! Come and support the amazing work of graduating students, hear original research and analysis, and get ideas for your own research projects! A reception will follow the presentations. Presenters and topics will include:

**Sarah Hendricks:** Gene Patents and the connection between science and politics

**Jessie Herbach:** How lesbians, bisexual and queer-identified women shape and perform their identities through the performance of hip hop music

**Haley Kerman:** The ways in which masturbation is talked about on American television within the last 10 years, with a focus on the ways in which it is gendered and what this says about men and women's sexuality. This paper will also be accompanied by several pieces of original artwork pertaining to the topic.

**Emily Kraus:** How do Christian feminists reconcile their religious beliefs with their feminist politics?

**Jillian McKeown:** An analysis of how tattoos are gendered on women

**Cora Mills:** Politics in the Bedroom: The problem of sexual coercion in marriage

**Claudia Rojas:** Women and Torture

**Emily Sarpa:** Constructing a Derby Identity: Class, Bodies and Sexuality in 21st Century Chicago Roller Derby

**Juliann Schwartz:** The Israeli Nationality and the occupation of Jewish/Israeli Feminist Theory

**Kristina Voss:** Intersections of sexuality and sexual violence, examining narratives from both survivors and professionals in the field

**Kalyn Zeller:** Conflicting social constructions of motherhood and addiction

## IT'S SPRING. YOU'RE GRADUATING. NOW WHAT?

### Talk to your advisor

If you don't know who your advisor is, you can find out at the Women's and Gender Studies Program office or visit the ARC website (<http://arc.depaul.edu/myadvisor.shtml>) You can also seek out a faculty member in the Women's and Gender Studies Program who you know and trust; they would be happy to give you advice and talk about your future.

### Listserv and website

Whether you are about to graduate and are looking for a job or you are just looking for an internship for the summer, the Women's and Gender Studies listserv is an excellent resource. Jobs and other opportunities show up everyday, and you'll never again wonder what you can do with a degree in Women's and Gender Studies. You can also check out the "Student Resources" section of the Women's and Gender Studies website ([www.depaul.edu/~wms](http://www.depaul.edu/~wms)). There you will find organizations that might peak your interest, as well as links to job, internship and volunteer opportunities. There are so many organizations both in and outside of Chicago who are looking for people with strong backgrounds in Women's and Gender Studies, and they are looking for people like you! The website also has many links to resources about graduate school. (For more information about the grad school application process, see Kate Kane's essay below).

### Alumni Project

Speaking of the website, soon there will be another place to inspire your visions of the future. The Alumni Project will feature profiles of Women's and Gender Studies Alumni, documenting what they are doing now, what their lives are like post-graduation, and how their Women's and Gender Studies background is or has been useful. These profiles will be on the website by Fall 2006. When you yourself graduate, you can join the Alumni Project. Add yourself to the listserv where you can connect with other Alumni, participate in discussions and even book clubs, as well as be a resource to current and future students. For more information, contact Ann Russo at [arusso@depaul.edu](mailto:arusso@depaul.edu).

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## CONSIDERING GRADUATE SCHOOL? KATE KANE

On Tuesday, April 11, the Women's and Gender Studies Program hosted a forum on graduate school. Two program alumni who have gone on to earn master's degrees, Jennifer Wright (class of 1996) and Liz Gawne (class of 2001) formed a panel along with Namita Goswami, DePaul philosophy professor and women's studies Ph.D., and Heather Rakes, a doctoral student at DePaul who is affiliated with the program. Panelists discussed their experiences applying to and being in graduate school. Jennifer Wright, who finished a Master's in Political Science from Loyola University, stressed the importance of talking to professors before you apply to schools. She explained how faculty members at DePaul were able to steer her toward programs that were aligned with her interests. Liz Gawne, who completed a Master's in Philanthropy and Media, explained that schools can have more leeway than people imagine. She encouraged students to not be intimidated by the materials programs ask for. She found that sometimes there was more flexibility than the written requirements indicate. Heather Rakes echoed that message and encouraged students to visit programs they were interested in attending. According to Rakes, "Being a person with a face is important." She went on to indicate that this familiarity will not only give you an edge with admission committees, who would then have a sense of you as a person, but it also is a way for you to find out more about programs. To that end, Rakes encouraged students interested in graduate programs to seek out graduate students currently enrolled in the schools and talk to them. Current graduate students can tell you what a place is *really* like.

As people turned to practical matters about the application process, the GREs came up. Professor Goswami encouraged students to consider the GREs as their first lesson in jumping through hoops. Sadly, graduate school requires a good bit of this. She told people to give themselves time to take the test twice and to study, either with a test preparation class or a book. For those shopping for a study guide, Rakes recommended *Cracking the GREs*. Professor Goswami also



## GRAD SCHOOL (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

stressed the importance a mentor makes to one's graduate school experience. For her, one or two faculty members whom you really connect with and can see yourself working closely with are the key to a positive graduate school experience. When the panel took questions, they addressed issues like what to do about trouble spots in your transcripts (address them in your personal statement and even ask one of your letter writers to speak to the issue. You do not need to let a spotty undergraduate career stop you from applying); how to write a personal statement (make sure your character comes through in your statement, but also connect to the school. Show that you have interests or a project that relates to the research interests of faculty members); and from whom do you get letters of recommendation (ask people who know you well and will be able to speak about you as a whole person. Be sure to give your letter writers some statement about yourself and your academic interests so they have something to work with). All in all, the event was a great first step in an on-going discussion about what you can do with a Women's and Gender Studies B.A. The panelists, and the organizer, Kate Kane (kkane4@depaul.edu), indicated that they would be happy to continue the conversation with any student who had concerns or questions.

## ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT: KAILA ADIA STORY, CLASS OF 2002

Greetings Everyone! My name is Kaila Story and I graduated from DePaul University in 2002 with B.A. in Women's Studies. I have since gone on to Temple University and earned a Master's in African American Studies and I am currently in the beginning stages of writing my dissertation for my doctorate in African American Studies. I am also a candidate in the Women's Studies Certificate Program.

While earning my B.A. from DePaul's Women's Studies program, I formulated a lot of my scholarly research interests that I still have today. My research interests include but are not limited to: Body Image Politics and the subsequent embodiment performances of African men and women, Gender Socialization, Sexuality, Feminisms, the Sexual and Gendered Scripting of the African Body.

My background in Women's Studies at DePaul has also helped me to create and teach a number of courses in the African American, Women's, and Africana Studies Departments at Temple and Drexel Universities.



### PROPOSED DISSERTATION TITLE

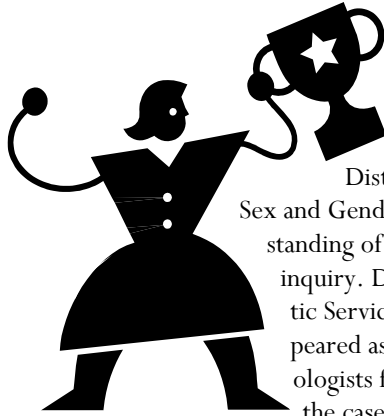
“Consuming Black Femininity: Commodity Racism and the Gendered & Sexual Scripting of the African Body”

For my dissertation I will be conducting a historical textual analysis of the public embodiment performances of Black women and men who perform Black Femininity, while situating the analysis of the Gendered and Sexual Scripting of the African Body within a historical genealogy from the “Hottentot Venus” to the current images of the “Video Vixen”, the Black drag queen, and the Black butch woman.

I was recently awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the National Council for Black Studies Graduate Student Essay Contest for my paper “Comparative Anatomy: The Sexual and Gendered Scripts of European and African Women in the early 19th Centuries,” a smaller piece of my proposed dissertation. My essay “Performing Venus: From Hottentot to Video Vixen: The Historical Legacy of Black Female Body Commodification” will be published as a chapter in the upcoming anthology *Home Girls Make Some Noise: Hip Hop & Feminism* edited by Aisha S. Durham, Elaine Richardson, Rachel Raimist and Gwendolyn Pough. I have also contributed several entries to the upcoming *The African Diaspora, A Historical Encyclopedia* edited by Carole Boyce Davies and Babacar M'Bow. During the 2004-2005 Academic Year, I served as a Graduate Associate for the Society of Fellows in Humanities, College of Liberal Arts.

### HOW A BA IN WOMEN'S STUDIES FROM DEPAUL SAVED ME...

DePaul's Women's Studies program gave me a revolutionary feminist foundation that I was able to utilize during my master's and doctoral training in a department that did not have a specialization in gender. The courage, tenacity, and academic skills I learned in Women's Studies at DePaul allowed me to carve out a place for myself in a Department that was once resistance to any discourse about gender or sexuality.

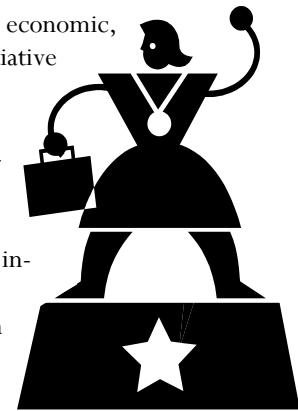


## BEST. FACULTY. EVER.

**Dr. Ada Cheng** - Sociology of Women (SOC 209), Sociology of Sexuality (SOC 309), Gender and Society (SOC 470) - was awarded the 2005 Distinguished Article Award by the American Sociological Association's Section on Sex and Gender. This award honors those who make a significant contribution to the understanding of sex and gender through an article or chapter on the cutting edge of sociological inquiry. Dr. Cheng's award-winning 2003 article, "Rethinking the Globalization of Domestic Service: Foreign Domestic Workers, State Control and the Politics of Identity in Taiwan," appeared as a leading article in *Gender & Society* Vol. 17 No. 2, the official publication of Sociologists for Women in Society (<http://newmedia.colorado.edu/~socwomen/>). Using the case of Filipina domestic workers in Taiwan, Dr. Cheng examines how nationalist politics shapes the experience of migrant women under the context of globalization. This article focuses on the question of how the intervention of the state and the development of nationhood shape the localization of domestic service, and explores the nexus between homemaking and nation-building.

**Susan Leigh**, Associate Professor in Women's and Gender Studies and Associate Vice President of ARC, along with her husband Stephen Gray have been chosen as the recipients of the Coalition for Education on Sexual Orientation's (CESO) Supporter of the Year Award. CESO, in conjunction with the Mental Health Association of Illinois, works to ensure the safety and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth in Illinois schools through education, public policy, research and student involvement (<http://www.mhai.org/programs/glb.htm>). Susan Leigh and her husband are being honored with this award at a video premiere and awards ceremony on April 25th called "Creating Safe Schools: Honoring Our Success, Celebrating Our Future" in recognition of their continuing support of their son, Camdin. The family appears in the recent video titled *Safety for All* by documentarian Mary Morton (*The Nia Project: Images of African American Lesbians*) that deals with children who struggle with gender identity issues in school at a young age.

The Women and Gender Research Initiative of DePaul University was highlighted by the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) as an Effective Practice. The IBHE highlights programs that demonstrate measurable outcomes, sustainability, and potential applicability to other institutions, and which further the conviction that higher education provides the foundation for Illinois' future by enhancing the social, economic, and civic well-being of the state and its residents. The Women and Gender Research Initiative was founded in 2002 by **Dr. Beth Catlett** and **Dr. Irene Beck**, both of the Women's and Gender Studies Program, to promote community-based programs and research that inform the prevention of and intervention in gender-related oppressions. The IBHE recognizes three major components of the Research Initiative: The Teen Girls Re-Vision East Rogers Park, Voices of a Movement: Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and Take back the Halls: Ending Violence in Relationships and Schools. The first project involved the collaboration of DePaul Faculty and students with members of a teen girls' community-based leadership program to create a life narrative project, published in both English and Spanish and adapted into an original dramatic performance. The second project involves the creation of an oral history of the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Take Back the Halls is a collaboration between DePaul faculty and students and community-based organizations to plan and implement a relationship violence prevention program with teen girls and boys in the Chicago Public Schools. To see current IBHE Effective Practices highlights, please visit (<http://www.ibhe.org/EffectivePractices/Featured/default.asp>). Also, visit the website of The Women and Gender Research Initiative of DePaul University at (<http://condor.depaul.edu/~wms/program/projects.html>).



Contemporary Women's Memoirs (ENG 379) professor **Michele Morano's** essay, "Grammar Lessons: The Subjunctive Mood" has been selected for inclusion in BEST AMERICAN ESSAYS 2006, guest edited by Lauren Slater and due for publication in the fall. Originally published in THE CRAB ORCHARD REVIEW, this essay is part of Michele's forthcoming collection, GRAMMAR LESSONS.



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## NEW CORE SEQUENCING (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

research project. WMS 391 should be taken the year before you plan to take WMS 395.

WMS 395 will focus on the development and completion of a research project. It will be taught over the course of two quarters (Winter and Spring); students will earn 2 credit hours each quarter. The class will meet less regularly each quarter given that the four credits are spread out over two quarters. Students will receive a grade of "R" for the Winter Quarter, and a final grade will be assigned at the end of Spring Quarter when the final project has been completed. The final grade will apply to both quarters' credit hours.

**What does this mean for students planning to do the sequence in 2006-07 or 2007-08? And when will these courses be taught?**

**Next year, the WMS 391 will be taught in the Fall Quarter (2006). So, all students planning to take WMS 395 in 06-07 or 07-08 must take WMS 391 in the Fall of 2006 – that is, this coming fall. The course will be offered on Thursday evenings, 5:45-9:00 pm, and will be taught by Dr. Natalie Bennett.**

In terms of core course sequencing, then, **if you plan to take WMS 395 in Spring 2007 you must take BOTH WMS 391 and WMS 300 in the Fall 2006.** If you plan to take WMS 395 in 2008, you should plan to take WMS 300 in the Fall of 2007.

Beginning in 2007-2008 Academic Year, WMS 391 will be offered every Spring Quarter.

If you have questions, please see your advisor in Women's and Gender Studies or contact me ([arusso@depaul.edu](mailto:arusso@depaul.edu)). If you do not know who your assigned advisor is you should contact Karyn Haney ([khaney@depaul.edu](mailto:khaney@depaul.edu)), the Women's and Gender Studies Administrative Assistant.

## MA PROGRAM IN WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES WILL BE LAUNCHED FALL 2007!

The University Faculty Council approved our proposal for a Master of Arts (MA) Program in Women's and Gender Studies on April 5, 2006. The proposal was very strong and comprehensive. By the time we reached the university committee on curriculum and the faculty council, there were few questions and even fewer obstacles.

Many thanks go to members of the MA Proposal Committee who persisted in this process and made possible its success! The Committee included Dr. Beth Kelly, who served as Chair of the Committee, and Dr. Melissa Bradshaw, Dr. Beth Catlett, Dr. Joanna Gardner-Huggett, Dr. Sandra Jackson, and Dr. Ann Russo. And many thanks as well go to Charles Suchar, Dean of LA & S. Without his support and willingness to send the proposal forward to the University Committees, we would not be able to launch the program in 2007.

The MA Program in Women's and Gender Studies will offer a comprehensive and structured interdisciplinary curriculum with a strong emphasis on multicultural, transnational, and global theories, research, and analyses. New courses are in the process of being developed, including one on globalization and transnational feminisms and another on social justice and change movements. Students will be able to tailor the program to fit their particular needs, paths, and directions depending on their goals of further graduate education and/or nonprofit social justice/service work and/or other areas of interest. The program will encourage students to build theoretical and practical connections with local and global efforts in the areas of education, service, advocacy, arts, and/or activism. Stay tuned -- more information will be forthcoming!