Jody Heymann M.D., Ph.D., is founder and director of the Project on Global Working Families.

Heymann is currently a professor in the Faculties of Medicine and Arts at McGill University, where she is also founding director of the Institute for Health and Social Policy. In addition, Heymann is an Adjunct Associate Professor at the Harvard School of Public Health and Harvard Medical School and founding chair of the Initiative on Work, Family, and Democracy.

For more than a decade, Heymann has been involved in research on working families and their children in North America and globally. With support from the Sloan Foundation, she is fielding a national survey on work, family, and community. With support from the Ford and Annie Casey Foundations, she is developing case studies on private companies who are economically succeeding while improving the lives of employees, their children and other family members who have lived in poverty. With support from the Ford Foundation, Heymann’s team has developed a global index examining public policies that affect children and families. She has received FIRST and Shannon Awards from the National Institutes of Health to examine the relationships among community services, parents’ work conditions and children’s health. She was principal investigator on “The Behavioral and Cognitive Development of Children Living in Poverty,” a research project funded by the William T. Grant Foundation. As a Picker Commonwealth Scholar, Heymann has been the principal investigator on a study which examines the health conditions faced by high need and resource-poor families. Heymann served as chair of the Johnson Foundation program, supported by the Packard Foundation, on Work, Family, and Democracy.

Heymann received her Ph.D. in Public Policy from Harvard University, where she was selected in a university-wide competition as a merit scholar, and her M.D. with honors from Harvard Medical School. She trained in Pediatrics at the Children’s Hospital of Boston.

She has served in an advisory capacity to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the U.S. Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources, the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, the World Health Organization, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, among other organizations.


Heymann’s work has been featured on CNN Headline News, Good Morning America, National Public Radio’s All Things Considered, Fresh Air and Marketplace, in the New York Times, Washington Post, LA Times, and USA Today among other nationally syndicated programs and press.
International Women’s Day
A series of presentations and activities in honor of 100 years of International Women’s Day

Thursday, March 6, 2008
URI Memorial Union

Sex Trafficking
9:30 a.m.
Donna Hughes, Ph.D., URI Department of Women’s Studies

“Rethinking Globalization: Gender and the Politics of Possibilities”
11:00 a.m.
Manisha Desai, Ph.D., UConn Director of Women’s Studies

Women in Music
12:00 p.m.
Carolyn Livingston, Ph.D., URI Department of Music

Discussions on the Nobel Prize in Literature: Doris Lessing
4:00 p.m.
Karen Stein, Ph.D., URI Department of Women’s Studies

Poetry Reading
4:30 p.m.
Lisa Starr, State Poet of Rhode Island

“Can I Be A Feminist and...Shave, Love My Boyfriend, Make Money, Get Married, Be Pro-Life?”

Keynote Address: Jennifer Baumgardner and Amy Richards
5:30 p.m., Memorial Union Ballroom
Sponsored by the SEC

Since the 2000 publication of their book Manifesta: Young Women, Feminism, and the Future, Baumgardner and Richards have lectured at more than 200 colleges and high schools. They are also the authors of the book Grassroots: A Field Guide for Feminist Activism, as well as numerous articles.

In addition to the lectures listed above, there will be information tables on women’s health and businesses, music, dancing, henna painting, chair massages, film showings, and an international fashion show.

Co-sponsors include A&S Dean's Office, URI Women’s Center. For more information, or a full listing of events, please call the Women's Studies Department at 874-5150. URI Memorial Union is handicap accessible.
KEYNOTE ADDRESS:
- 5:30 p.m.
- Memorial Union Ballroom

Jennifer Baumgardner
and Amy Richards
Co-authors:
- Manifesta
- Grassroots

Speaking on:
"Can I Be A Feminist And
... Shave My Legs, Have A
Boyfriend, Be A Man?"

Sponsored by the Student Entertainment Committee

(Photos from
<http://intranet.shoreline.edu/intranetnews/Archives2006/February/162006.htm>)

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS
- Women's Center
- Women's Studies Program
- ADVANCE at URI
- Department of Sociology and Anthropology
- GLBT Center
- Hillel
- LASA Latin American Student Association
- P.I.N.K. Women
- President's Commission on the Status of Women
- Promoting Awareness for Gender Equality (P.A.G.E.)
- Sociologists for Women in Society
- Textile, Fashion Merchandising and Design Dept.
- The Alumni Association
- The American Association of University Professors
- The College of Arts and Sciences
- The Counseling Center
- The Office of Student Life
- The Student Entertainment Committee

For more information on the events and the WMS Program at URI, call 874-5150

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

- MUSIC
- DANCE
- TALKS
- EXHIBITS
- FILMS

9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Thursday,
March 6, 2008

Memorial Union
UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

Free & Open to the Public
Handicap Accessible
TALKS

In Atrium I

9:30 a.m. “Sex Trafficking” URI’s Dr. Donna Hughes.

11 a.m. “Rethinking Globalization: Gender and the Politics of Possibilities” UConn Professor Manisha Desai.

1:30 p.m. “Multilingual Poetry Reading” Students in the English Language Studies Program. Professor Luz Rodriguez.

2 p.m. Fiction Readings. ENG 260.


4 p.m. “Doris Lessing: 2007 Nobel Prize Winner” URI Professor Karen Stein.

4:30 p.m. “Poetry Reading: Lisa Starr, Rhode Island Poet Laureate” English Department and WMS Program.

Ballroom

5:30 p.m. Keynote speakers Jennifer Baumgardner and Amy Richards: “Can I Be A Feminist And ... Shave My Legs, Have A Boyfriend, Be A Man?” sponsored by SEC.

In Atrium II

7 p.m. “That Ain’t No Way To Treat A Lady” Nancy Hulse multi-media event sponsored by PINK Women.

MUSIC & DANCE

12 p.m. Israeli Folk Dancing. Ballroom. URI Hillel.

12 p.m. “Women in Music” Atrium I. URI Professor Carolyn Livingston.

1 p.m. Songs of Women around the World Ballroom. Cognitive Dissidents: URI Professors De Mesquita, Miles, and Wood.


5 p.m. “Songs of Social Justice” Ballroom. Raging Grannies of Greater Westerly.

8 p.m. Learn How to Salsa Dance! Memorial Union Room 318. Latin American Students Association.

EXHIBITS AND FILMS

ONGOING in the Memorial Union Ballroom:

• Place and Dress: Women’s Clothing from Three Cultures. URI Historic Textile and Costume Collection, Department of Textiles and Fashion Merchandising and Design
• Women’s Expo – Informational tables: resources for women and vendors representing women (PCOSW)
• Spotlight on Women—Powerpoint by PAGE

ONGOING in the Gallery

• “What is Beauty?” Body Image Acceptance Committee

ONGOING in Atrium II

• 2 p.m. “Killing Us Softly” ads about women and men— WMS Program
• 3 p.m. “Daring to Resist” Documentary about three European Jewish women who survived the Holocaust. Hillel.
• 4 p.m. “Rape Is”-Documentary with a brief discussion afterwards URI Peer Advocates/Violence Prevention Program

GLBT Center 111 Adams Hall & Hillel House

• 7:30 p.m. “Keep Not Silent” Documentary chronicling the struggles of Orthodox Jewish lesbians in Jerusalem.

International Women's Day: Connecting women around the world to inspire them to achieve their full potential.
2008 Women's Studies Celebration Brunch, April 12, 2008

Welcome and Introduction of Guest Speaker:
Karen Stein, Director Women's Studies Program

Reflections on Moving On:
Lynn Pasquerella, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Graduate School

Certificate and Award Presentations: Karen Stein and Laura Beauvais

2008 National Women's Studies Honors Society, Iota Iota Iota, Inductees

Kade Lang Aris
Kristen Baxter
Kelly Beatty
Sandra Berard
Lindsey Beun
Benita Brown
Melissa Callahan
Claire Creighton
Jennifer Daley
Elizabeth Darling
Kristin D'Auria

Jenna Dickerman
Renee Ethier
Jillian Foley
Lea Goto
Jessica Kirby
Kara Lafferty
Lindsey LaScalia
Emily Macaux
Melissa Maia
Christen Makram
Amy McDermott

Lauren McGovern
Lisa McLeod
Kristin Orcutt
Jamie Rubin
Daniela Scaldaferri
Melanie Shapiro
Dominique Sirois
Stefanie Taylor
Chloe Thompson
Jillian Tomaino

2008 Scholarship and Prize Winners

President's Award for Academic Excellence: Kristen Moody
Eleanor M. Carlson Award: Colleen Hayes-Costello and Christen Makram
Dorothy F. Donnelly Scholarship: Lisa Ariosto and Chloe Thompson
Carlson Trust Scholarship: Kade Langston Aris, Kara Lafferty, and Kristina Moyet

Mother Jones Scholarship: Melanie Shapiro
Patricia Farnes Essay Contest: Jillian Tomaino

Graduating Women's Studies Majors

Kelly Beatty
Misty Cranston-Bates
Colleen Hayes-Costello
Christen Mackram
Noel Marandola (Summer 08)
Amy McDermott
Lauren McGovern

Lauren McGovern
Kristen Moody
Shannon Stad
Maggie Sullivan
Alicia Sweeney
Stefanie Taylor

Closing Remarks: Jody Lisberger
Women’s Studies Presents the Dana Shugar Colloquium:

Annemarie Vaccaro, Ph.D.

Using Critical Race Theory and Feminist Perspectives to Explore the Intersections between the Race, Gender, and Educational Engagement of Non-Traditional Age Undergraduate Women

April 21, 2008 Lippitt Hall Room 402 4:30 p.m.

Annemarie Vaccaro, Ph.D. is 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 Administration and an M.A. in Sociology with a focus on gender from the University of Denver. She also has an M.A in Student Affairs from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Her research interests focus on the intersections between college student development and gender, race, class and sexual orientation. This lecture stems from a three-year study of adult women learners at one women’s college. Some of her findings from this longitudinal study are forthcoming in the Adult Education Quarterly Journal and an edited volume entitled Women in Higher Education and Student Affairs: Research and Practice from Feminist Perspectives.

For more information, please call the Women’s Studies Department at 874-5150. Access is provided for persons with disabilities. If you require special accommodations, please call 874-5150.

Free and Open to the Public
BUT Are the People-Traffickers Winning the Battle?

Please join us on Thursday, April 23rd for a presentation by 

Lauran Bethell

A Global Consultant based in Prague, Czech Republic and former Director of the New Life Center in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Lauran has traveled the world and will talk about the world of anti-trafficking, illuminated by stories of people’s lives.

Free will offering for “Break the Chains - End Human Trafficking”. Open to the public.

Berean Baptist Church
474 Chapel Street (Rte 107)
Harrisville, RI

7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. followed by refreshments

Parking available in back of the church, driveway on left as you face the church.
2009 Women's Studies Celebration Brunch, April 25, 2009

Welcome and Introduction of Guest Speaker:
Jody Lisberger, Director Women's Studies Program

Reflections on Moving On:
Laura Beauvais, Interim Vice Provost of Faculty Affairs and Professor of Business

Certificate and Award Presentations: Jody Lisberger and Donna Hughes

2009 National Women's Studies Honors Society, Iota Iota Iota, Inductees
Omotola Ashorobi  Danielle Henderson
Jessica Biscoe   Chelsea Rodrigues
Stephanie Ceballos  Nicholas Mouradjian
Nicole Christie  Colleen Riley
Stephanie Dennen  Samantha Sherer
Marissa DiLorenzo  Amy Smith
Janice Dionne   Kinsey Tarbell
Joyce Fennell   Anna Vaccaro
Hali Garofalo  Kristen Whelan
Gail Harvey  Meghan Wolfe

2009 Graduate Certificate Awards
Jenn Brandt
Laurie Carlson
Eva Jones

2009 Prize Winners
President's Award for Academic Excellence: Melanie Shapiro
Eleanor M. Carlson Award: Chloe Thompson and Kristen Whelan

Graduating Women's Studies Majors
Kade Langston A:is (Dec. 2008)  Kristina Moyet
Lisa Ariosto  Melanie Shapiro
Jillian Foley  Jillian Tomaino
Alyse Fram  Kristen Whelan

Closing Remarks: Jody Lisberger
WMS April Events 2009

The following events are FREE and open to the public.

April 9, Thursday - Fredrika Wild Schweers Memorial Lecture on Women and Health, Dr. Nancy Fey-Yensan, "Poverty and Nutritional Health: The Gender and Age Divide," Galanti Lounge (3rd floor URI Library, Kingston campus), 7 p.m.

April 13, Monday - Screening of "Cargo: Innocence Lost," a compelling documentary film that exposes the reality of sex trafficking in the United States. The film includes interviews with victims, police officers, the FBI, Coalitions against human trafficking, and others. Lippitt 402, Kingston Campus, 4 p.m.

April 16, Thursday - Eleanor M. Carlson Lecture, Dr. Jody Heymann, "Meeting the Needs of Working Families: Getting to the Core of Global Gender Inequalities," Swan Hall, Kingston campus, 7 p.m.
April 21, Tuesday - Dana Shugar Colloquium, Dr. Annemarie Vaccaro, "Using Critical Race and Feminist Perspectives to Explore the Intersections Between the Race, Gender, and Educational Engagement of Non-Traditional Age Undergraduate Women," Lippitt 402, Kingston campus, 4:30 p.m.

April 23, Thursday - Jane Roberts, founder with Lois Abraham of the 34 Million Friends of United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), which works worldwide to eliminate gender-based violence, will be at URI to speak at 11 a.m. and participate in a Brown Bag lunch 12:30-1:30, Galanti Lounge, 3rd floor URI Library. At lunch, in honor of Earth Day (Apr. 22), she will talk and invite talk about Population and the Planet.
Upcoming Events: All Free & Open to the Public

“Human Trafficking Awareness”
The Rhode Island Coalition Against Human Trafficking (RICAHT) will join Women Will and Amnesty International in educating the Providence College community about human trafficking, an atrocity that happens at the global and local level.
April 15th
Moore Hall II, Providence College 5:00-7:00 p.m.

“Meeting the Needs of Working Families: Getting to the Core of Global Gender Inequalities”
Eleanor M. Carlson Lecture by Dr. Jody Heymann.
April 16th
Swan Hall Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.

“Using Critical Race Theory and Feminist Perspectives to Explore the Intersections between the Race, Gender, and Educational Engagement of Non-Traditional Age Undergraduate Women”
Dr. Annemarie Vaccaro, Assistant Professor Human Development and Family Studies.
April 21st
Lippitt Hall 402, 4:30 p.m.

Human Trafficking Legislative Rally
This rally will be in support of S0605, amendments to RI’s anti-trafficking legislation.
Speakers include Rep. Giannini, Senator Perry, and Rev. Don Anderson
April 21st
State House Rotunda, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

“Earth Day 2009: Population and the Planet Brown Bag Lunch:
Jane Roberts, co-founder of 34 Million Friends of UNFPA will be talking about her fundraising work, travels on behalf of UNFPA, and issues of population and the planet.
April 23rd
Galanti Lounge, Third Floor of the Library, 12:30 p.m.

“But Are the People-Traffickers Winning the Battle?”
Harrisville, RI
Lauran Bethell, a global consultant based in Prague will present about the world of anti-trafficking.
April 23rd
Berean Baptist Church, 474 Chapel Street in Harrisville, RI. 7:00-8:00 p.m.

For more information about events contact the Women’s Studies office at 401-874-5150
Women's Studies Presents:

Cargo: Innocence Lost

A documentary film about the injustices of sex-trafficking in the United States

Cargo: Innocence Lost is a compelling documentary film that exposes the reality of sex trafficking in the United States. The film includes interviews with victims, police officers, the FBI, Coalitions against human trafficking, and others. The presentation will include a brief discussion of trafficking in Rhode Island and information about an upcoming Legislative Rally in Providence.

Monday, April 13th 4:00 p.m.
Lippitt Hall Room 402

For more information, please call the Women's Studies Department at 874-5150. Access is provided for persons with disabilities. If you require special accommodations, please call 874-5150.

Free and Open to the Public
Empowering Women Through Literacy: Views from Experience

Edited by Mev Miller, WE LEARN and Kathleen P. King, Fordham University

A volume in Adult Education Special Topics: Theory, Research, and Practice in Lifelong Learning
Series Editor: Kathleen P. King, Fordham University

This unique volume of writings by educators in the field working with women's literacy reveals the many ways in which addressing women's empowerment through literacy continues to impact lives. Not only are teachers and learners in adult basic education (ABE), literacy and English language learning (ELL) classes affected, but also those who value and support women's learning and equity, and education for social change.

Revelations--

More than half of the 3.6 million students in adult basic/literacy education (ABE) programs across the U.S. are women (Sticht, 2001). Research outlines many barriers for women pursuing basic education and literacy, and recommends using woman-positive approaches (Sheared, 1994). However, there exists little research on how educational systems and policies, instructional materials, and pedagogical practices best support the literacy and educational achievement of women literacy learners. Writings and curriculum by individual educators outline and describe innovative activities/programs focused specifically on the needs of women learners (Cuban & Hayes, 1996; Hayes & Flannery, 2000; Miller & Alexander, 2004; Young & Padilla, 1990). In recent years, educators have been developing innovative curriculum to address such issues as trauma and violence (e.g., Take on the Challenge), work readiness (e.g., Ready for Work), or women's issues in general (Making Connection).

New Directions--

Empowering Women through Literacy: Voices from Experience is the first comprehensive collection of writing from the field by everyday educators who experience her joys and challenges, creativity and barriers to acknowledge or integrate innovative solutions to support women's learning needs in adult basic education and literacy settings.

Mirroring the power of community-based and grassroots organizations, this volume has had a remarkable history. It has emerged from five years of work by WE LEARN (Women Expanding Literacy Education Action Resource Network) to address the needs of literacy educators and students alike through the organization. The vibrant collective of the WE LEARN network provides consistent visibility for women's literacy issues, creates connections among educators and activists, supports self-efficacy among learners, encourages new research relevant to women in ABE, and develops and distributes women-focused literacy materials and curriculum resources. It continues to be the only national U.S. organization directly addressing issues of adult women's literacy and the educational needs of women in ABE.

We know you will enjoy this volume that provides an opportunity to hear from 47 contributors from around the world who reflect on their experiences with critical topics of adult literacy practices; how to empower women through literacy and current research-based practice. From Belize to Australia, Brazil to Germany, and USA to Turkey, the voices of women engaged in empowerment are awaiting you through these pages. Literacy can change lives, how can we better reach those who desire this empowerment? Join us we explore the breadth of vision and knowledge captured within this groundbreaking volume.

The Editors: Dr. Mev Miller and Dr. Kathleen P. King are co-editors of this volume within the Adult Education Series of Information Age Publishing. Mev Miller is the founder and director of WE LEARN, headquartered in Cranston, RI (www.ilitwomen.org). Kathy King is a professor of adult education at Fordham University's Graduate School of Education in New York City. They and 45 other contributors join together in this volume to celebrate the unheralded capacity of literacy's empowerment in women's lives.

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Paperback: $39.99
Hardcover: $73.99
Trim Size: 6 X 9
Subject: Adult Literacy, Women's Issues, Adult Education, Popular Education
Critical Pedagogy

Other books in this series can be found at:
Series URL: http://infoagepub.com/products/disp-contact.php?id=e0368

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THE WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM—EVENTS SPRING 2009

Women’s Studies is especially thrilled and honored to be able to feature a diverse group of interdisciplinary scholars and artists.

THE DANA SHUGAR COLLOQUIA: All talks take place in Lippitt 402 at 4:30 p.m.

- **Tuesday, Feb. 10**, Assistant Professor Rob Widell (History): “Familiar Issues, New Directions: Black Women and the Long Civil Rights Movement in Birmingham.”
- **Tuesday, February 17**, Professor Vanessa Quainoo (Chair of the African and African American Studies Program): “‘Cry Elmina’: A Reader’s Theatre.” This spoken word presentation will include excerpts from her epic poem about African slave women.
- **Tuesday, April 7**, Stephen Barber (Chair of the English Dept.): “Pacifist Between Politics and Ethics: Virginia Woolf’s Last Acts.”
- **Tuesday, April 21**, Assistant Professor Annmarie Vaccaro (Human Development and Family Studies): “Using Critical Race Theory and Feminist Perspectives to Explore the Intersections Between the Race, Gender, and Educational Engagement of Non-Traditional Age Undergraduate Women.”

Thursday, Feb. 19, 7:30 Swan Hall, “Circumference,” A play by Amy Salloway
Co-Sponsor with URI Hillel:

![Circumference Poster]

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY, March 5**

- URI will participate in a Worldwide Screening of Where the Water Meets the Sky, which tells the story of 23 women from rural Zambia who are trained in filmmaking and create a film about the plight of young African women orphaned by AIDS. Screening times TBA.
- 4 p.m. Read/Write co-sponsored with the English Dept., featuring Jane Lazarre and Jan Clausen (see info on these writers on the reverse side)

**THE ANNUAL SCHWEERS LECTURE, April 1, 4:30 p.m. Lippitt Hall 402**

Featuring Nancy L. Fey-Yensan, Associate Dean of the College of Human Science and Services, talking about nutrition and health issues for diverse female population groups.
Jane Lazarre is an award-winning writer of fiction, memoir and personal essay. Her most recent books are Beyond the Whiteness of Whiteness: A Memoir of a White Mother of Black Sons, and, Wet Earth and Dreams: A Narrative of Grief and Recovery, both published by Duke University Press. Duke has also reissued her first memoir, The Mother Knot. She has read her work and spoken about writing, race and American identities in many universities, conferences and secondary schools. She is on the faculty of Eugene Lang College, New School University, where she directed the Creative Writing Program for many years and now teaches writing and literature. She is the recipient of the prestigious University Teaching Award. She has recently completed a novel, Three White Women, and edited a collection of essays, Writers Teaching Writing. She is at work on a collection of her own essays entitled, Writing As A Beautiful Resistance.

Jan Clausen is a poet, novelist, liberal activist, book critic and reviewer. She has written eight additional books including the nonfiction Beyond Gay or Straight: Understanding Sexual Orientation, and the novels Sinking, Stealing, and The Prosperine Papers. Her short fiction, articles, poetry and book reviews appear regularly in numerous magazines including Kenyon Review, The Village Voice, Ms., The Nation, Poets & Writers, and the Women's Review of Books. She is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts fiction fellowship.

Jan was born in Oregon and attended Reed College in the late Sixties, but moved to New York in 1973 where she received Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees from the New School for Social Research. She then moved to Brooklyn and settled into a life of writing, demonstrating and activism on behalf of social justice—especially for women. After more than a decade of “marriage” to a woman with whom she was raising a daughter, she fell in love with a West Indian male lawyer she met on a fact-finding tour to Nicaragua in 1987. Her decision to move in with that man stunned the lesbian literary and political community and they forcefully and dramatically cast her out. The experience was, she writes, “like deliberately embodying on a sea cruise off the edge of a flat Earth.” Her story is told in the memoir Apples And Oranges: My Journey Through Sexual Identity. She is the director of Eugene Lang College, a division of the New School University (formerly New School for Social Research) in Manhattan, where she teaches fiction and autobiographical writing. She is currently working on a book of poems, In the Dazzlegarden a novel, The Observable Moment When Things Turn Into Their Opposites.
The Fredrika Wild Schweers Lecture on Women and Health

“Poverty and Nutritional Health: The Gender and Age Divide”

Dr. Nancy Fey-Yensan
Associate Dean, College of Human Science and Services

Thursday, April 9, 2009
Galanti Lounge (URI Library 3rd floor)
7 p.m.

Sponsored by the URI Women’s Studies Program

Free and Open to the Public

For more information, please call the Women’s Studies Program at 874-5150. Access is provided for persons with disabilities. If you require special accommodations, please call 874-5150.
The Schmidt Labor Research Center and The URI Honors Program present

Steven Greenhouse

Labor and workplace correspondent for The New York Times and author of The Big Squeeze: Tough Times for the American Worker

Tuesday, April 21, 2009
7:00 pm
Lippitt Hall Auditorium

The Big Squeeze: A fresh, probing look at the stresses and strains faced by millions of American workers as wages stagnate, health and pension benefits grow stingier, and job security has shriveled. Going behind the scenes, Steven Greenhouse tells stories of software engineers in Seattle, hotel housekeepers in Chicago, call center workers in New York, and janitors in Houston ... The book explains how economic, business, political, and social trends — among them globalization, the influx of immigrants, and the Wal-Mart effect — have fueled the squeeze.

http://www.stevengreenhouse.com

Additional support provided by:
RI Labor History Society
Providence Newspaper Guild
Department of Sociology & Anthropology
The faculty of the Schmidt Labor Research Center
The First Annual Unsung Heroine Awards

Monday, April 27, 2009
Memorial Union Ballroom
6:00 PM

Come join us as we celebrate diversity,
Community service, and Mentorship

Please RSVP by
Monday, April 13, 2009
To RSVP please contact Kelly Oliveira at
(401)919-4122
kelly_oliveira@mail.uri.edu

light appetizers and dessert will be served
Jane Roberts
Co-founder of “34 Million Friends of the
United Nations Population Fund”

Sponsored by URI’s Department of Women’s Studies
April 23, 2009

Since co-founding “34 Million Friends of the United Nations Population Fund,” Jane Roberts has spoken at more than 50 colleges and universities, is among the “Women of the Year" for Ms. Magazine, is a Purpose Prize Fellow, and in 2005 was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize sponsored by the 1000 Women for the Nobel Peace Prize Project under the patronage of UNESCO.

Millions of women worldwide lack access to reproductive health care, to family planning, and are victims of violence and gender inequality in many realms. In addition to access to reproductive health, Ms. Roberts will discuss issues of population as they relate to the environment. She will also show pictures of her visit to UNFPA clinics and schools in Senegal and Mali and touch on the International Conference on Population and Development and the Millennium Development Goals.
Jane Roberts

2008   **Purpose Prize Fellow**
Civic Ventures (encourages older Americans to have socially useful "encore" careers)

2007   **Participant**
International Conference on Maternal Health, 20th Ann. of the Safe Motherhood Initiative

2005   **Nominee**
Nobel Peace Prize by the 1000 Peace Women Project under the patronage of UNESCO

2004   **One of the 21 Leaders of the 21st Century**
Women's eNews

2003   **Woman of the Year**
*Ms.* Magazine

2003   **Special Recognition Award**
Population, Reproductive Health, and Family Planning Branch
American Public Health Association

2001   **PLANET Campaign**
Hewlett and Packard Foundation's support for international family planning
August 17, 2009

Dear Director:

I am writing to introduce you to WE LEARN (Women Expanding Literacy Education Action Resource Network) and to raise awareness and gain support for our mission. We are particularly interested in increasing support and involvement from Women's Studies programs and students.

WE LEARN is a nonprofit community organization promoting women’s literacy as a tool that fosters empowerment and equity for women. WE LEARN works to raise awareness of the issues that low-literate women face, increase support for women’s basic education, promote women’s learning as a step towards empowerment and gender equality, and provide women-centered resources for literacy learners. For more information on WE LEARN, you can watch our YouTube video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=2IHp5vUALXg.

Education is typically pinpointed as a major factor in obtaining gender equity; however, literacy and basic education are often neglected in the discussions of women’s education. By informing Women’s Studies Programs (WS) about our work and resources, we hope to realize an important goal, namely, to encourage the inclusion of women’s basic literacies in the canon used by WS to address women’s access to education. We want to alert students and researchers to the issues and disadvantages encountered by low-literate women. These experiences often provide the underpinnings for broader issues related to poverty, labor, work and economics, domestic and community violence, racism, healthcare, childcare, sexuality, and the myriad of other intersecting issues and concerns affecting women’s lives.

This past year, WE LEARN had the honor of working with several university student interns from Women’s Studies and Public Policy. Marylou Salvatore’s thoughtful article forms the cornerstone of the enclosed packet. Her article serves as an introduction for women’s studies students to the basic issues encountered by low literate women. In addition to this article, we have also included the following:

- WE LEARN Brochure and a catalog of our resources
- Flyer for our newest book Empowering Women Through Literacy: Views from Experience
- Call for Proposals for our next book on the EmBODYment of Women’s Literacy
- Fact sheets on general and state specific statistics related to women’s literacy
- The Change Agent #19: Women & Literacy, which includes narratives written by literacy learners

If you could pass these materials around your department to professors who may have classes focused in areas such as education, sociology, social justice, public service or any other suitable course of study, it would be greatly appreciated. Most of these materials can also be downloaded from our website. WE LEARN is also open to working with students for internships or research projects, however, I ask that the chair or supervising professor contact me before you send students to us.

Thank you for your support and consideration,

Dr. Mev Miller
Director / Founder
13th Annual URI Diversity Week
Co-Sponsored by Lifespan
September 29–October 5, 2009

Highlights of the Week

Indian Modernity: Once Colonial, Now Global, lecture by Dr. Dipesh Chakrabarty
(Honors Colloquium/Keynote Address) 3

Frontiers in Health Care: Development of a Professional, Inclusive and Culturally Competent Work force 4

Frontiers in Medical Practice: Transfusion-Free Surgery in the United States 4

Frontiers in Food Hunger and Social Policy 4

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Final Fall Edition
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URI Multicultural Center
74 Lower College Road Kingston, RI 02881 401-874-2851 mcc1@etal.uri.edu www.uri.edu/mcc
Faculty and Students Read Together

*Out of Diversity: We Speak*
An Event Not To Miss

Thursday, October 1, 2-3:15

Stephen Barber, Chair of the English Dept.
"HIV and Academia"

Lynne Derbyshire, Chair of Communications Dept.
"What it means to be a first-generation working class college student"

Frank Forlen, Asst. Director of Talent Development Program
"History of diversity at URI over the last 40 years as I've seen and felt it"

Yvette Harpa-Logan, Prof. of Textiles, Fashion Merchandising, & Design
"The hard struggles in our lives"

Student readers:

Part of Diversity Week

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First Dana Shugar Colloquium

*Another 'Wise Latina' Looks at the U.S. Supreme Court: Why Justice Sotomayor Matters*

**Professor Rosa Maria Peguero**
URI Professor of Latin American History and Women's Studies
Thursday, 10/1/2009
5:00-6:15pm MCC 005
Diversity Week Event

Sponsored by
The Women's Studies Program
The Department of History
Latin American Student Association
Out Of Diversity: We Speak

Thursday, October 1st, 2-3:15
Hardge Forum Multicultural Center

Stephen Barber
Chair of the English Dept.
Stephen Barber received his Ph.D. at York University. Barber's work bears principally on aesthetics, political subjectivity, and ethical philosophy in the context of European fascism and war during the 1930s, 1970s, and 1980s. He seeks to formulate certain questions about the interactions between, and the interpretations of, artistic and philosophic achievements on the one hand and the politics of the twentieth century on the other.

Eva Jones
Eva Jones came to URI after serving as a secondary English teacher and Resident Director. Eva earned her M.A. from Teachers College, Columbia University, and is currently working on her Ph.D in English at the University of Rhode Island. Professionally, Eva instructs Women's Studies and Writing at the University of Rhode Island.

Lynne Derbyshire
Chair of Communications Dept.
Lynne Derbyshire received her Ph.D. from the University of Maryland. Her research interests include women and public discourse, especially 19th century women's rights discourse and women and constitutive discourse. Her teaching interests include gender and communication, contemporary rhetorical criticism, feminist theory, and diversity.

Kou Nyan
Kou Nyan is a journalism major here at URI. Kou's interests include reading, writing, and drawing.

Frank Forleo
Frank Forleo is Assistant Director of Talent Development Program, with which he's worked for thirty-five years. He is a Vietnam veteran. He was an integral part of the Black Student Leadership Group at URI from 1992 - 1994.

Brandon Brown
Brandon Brown is a double major in political science and sociology. A two-time multicultural award winner and Rainville award finalist, he was recently reappointed to the RI Board of Governor's of Higher Education for 3 years. He is currently a member of the ASAC committee and was recently appointed to the System Vision Task Force of the RIBGHE.

Yvette Harps-Logan
Yvette Harps-Logan is a Prof. of Textiles, Fashion Merchandising, & Design. She received her Ph.D. at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Her research interests include fashion merchandising and marketing and minority consumer behavior. She serves on the URI Foundation Grants Committee. Her professional organizations include the International Textile and Apparel Association and the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.

Marissa Fisher
Marissa Fisher is a Senior in the Textiles, Fashion Merchandising, and Design program. She has been on the Dean's list, received a TMD scholarship, and is a member of the of the Golden Key Honor Society. She is currently working as an assistant to a teacher in the TMD department and hopes to pursue a career in the merchandising field.
Faculty and Students Read Together

Out Of Diversity: We Speak

Thursday, October 1st, 2-3:15
Hardge Forum, Multicultural Center

Stephen Barber
Chair of the English Dept.
“HIV and Academia”

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“The hard struggles in our lives”

Student readers:

Part of Diversity Week

Sponsored by the
Women's Studies Program
The Women's Studies Program
The Department of History
Latin American Student Association
present

Professor Rosa María Pegueros
URI Professor of Latin American History and Women's Studies

Another 'Wise Latina' Looks at the U.S. Supreme Court:
Why Justice Sotomayor Matters

President Obama's first nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court, Justice Sonia Sotomayor, is a Latina. Why was her nomination so controversial? What will be her impact on the Court?

Thursday, 10/1/2009
5:00pm-6:15pm

MCC 005 (that's the lower level of the Multicultural Center)
Founder of Organization for Trafficking
Victims Accused of Misusing Funds

Donna M. Hughes
Co-founder, Citizens Against Trafficking

Last week (October 1, 2009), Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal announced a lawsuit against Ray Bechard, founder and director of Ahava Kids, for misuse of funds intended for victims of human trafficking. (See the AG’s press release below.)

According to Blumenthal, "Almost half of the $250,000 raised through Ahava Kids over recent years in the name of human trafficking and orphaned AIDS children has been misspent and squandered." He allegedly diverted as much as $100,000 for “personal or inexplicable expenses at restaurants, department stores, grocery stores and sporting goods stores.”

Bechard has been involved in Rhode Island anti-trafficking activities and organizations that assist women to escape prostitution. He attended a Rhode Island Coalition Against Human Trafficking (RICAHT) meeting last March. Melanie Shapiro, Co-founder of Citizens Against Trafficking, then co-chair of RICAHT, said he appeared at one meeting wearing an expensive-looking three piece suit. He sat in the back, but when he had the opportunity to speak, boasted about running an active shelter for victims of human trafficking.

Bechard also attended an April 1 organizational meeting at the Greenwood Community Presbyterian Church in Warwick for the anti-trafficking rally at the state capitol. The meeting was hosted by Rev. Donald Anderson, head of the Rhode Island State Council of Churches (RISCC). Bechard is Anderson’s brother-in-law. He likely used him to involve himself in activities in Rhode Island.

Bechard attended the anti-trafficking rally on April 21 at the state house. (I personally saw him there.) He also introduced himself to the women at Project RENEW that assists women to escape prostitution in Pawtucket. He attended a graduation celebration for women successfully completing the program. He gave each woman a purse with cosmetics in it. He then tried to use Project RENEW as a reference.
I first met Ray Bechard at an anti-trafficking conference at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia (March 20-21, 2009). He introduced himself and told me he was investigating sex trafficking in the strip-clubs in Rhode Island. He said he was secretly filming prostitutes and pimps in the clubs. He immediately tripped my “creep vibe” radar.

As soon as he walked away from me, a friend in the anti-trafficking movement came over and whispered in my ear that there was something fishy about Bechard and his organization, Ahava Kids.

While at the conference, I learned that he held a fund raiser in Atlanta claiming he was starting a shelter for victims of trafficking in Georgia. No one in the anti-trafficking movement in Georgia had ever heard of him. He would tell no one where the shelter was going to be located because it was going to be “mobile” or in a “secret location.”

He sent this message out during the conference:

Subject: Georgia Safe House
Fri, 20 Mar 2009 14:17:04 -0400
[131.128.1.99]; Fri, 20 Mar 2009 15:35:22
-0400 (EDT)
Good Morning,

So much is happening with Ahava Kids. Our work to rescue young people from human trafficking here in America and around the world is succeedirg like never before.

One enormous development is the opening of the Ahava Kids Georgia Safe House. This is a powerful opportunity to rescue more victims while drastically expanding our operations in the Southeastern United States.

Of course, none of this would be possible without you. Thank you so much for your interest in Ahava Kids. If you have any questions, just let me know by sending an e-mail to Ray@AhavaKids.org.

All the best,
Raymond Bechard
Founder & Director
AhavaKids.org
When I got home, started doing some research on Ray Bechard and Ahava Kids. (In the past, I have exposed other frauds or suspected criminals who infiltrated the anti-trafficking movement.) I suspected that Bechard was raising money to line his own pocket with no intention (or capacity) to open a shelter in Georgia. He was taking money from people who sincerely wanted to help victims of trafficking. In addition, the real service providers who assist victims constantly struggle to raise funds for shelters and services.

A quick look at Ahava Kids website revealed exorbitant claims that I knew were not true. Bechard claimed he had assisted in rescuing over 3,000 victims of trafficking, “conducted interventions in more than 50 cases of human trafficking in the United States,” and “assisted local, state and Federal investigators with several human trafficking investigations.”

I checked with Connecticut based and national organizations that assist victims of prostitution and trafficking and with Federal agencies. No one at the national level had ever heard of him and the Connecticut based organizations were convinced he wasn’t really helping victims.

On other Internet sites and in the media, Bechard bragged about his rescue operations and shelters. He told WTNH that proceeds from a theatre production of “A Christmas Carol” at the Park Road Playhouse in West Hartford, Connecticut, would support an Ahava Kids Safe House, a “beautiful, 16-bed facility uniquely designed for at-risk, young adult victims of trafficking.”

He told WPBF in West Palm Beach that Ahava Kids “has two safe houses in New England. A third one is set to open in South Florida in a few weeks.”

Bechard was featured in an article about local sex trafficking entitled “Innocence Lost” in Hartford Magazine (September 2008). In that interview he claimed to have rescued “3,000 young women and men—in roughly equal numbers—from child trafficking, forced labor and service as child soldiers.” He claimed to have worked closely with local and state police and the FBI to rescue “about 50 teens, mostly females, from child trafficking in Connecticut.”


On another web site, Bechard claimed to have "transported children out of dangerous areas in Mexico, Eastern Europe, India, Malaysia and Africa." He planned to establish a "permanent organization in South Africa," "a safe house for rescued children in Eastern Europe and Malaysia," and to "initiate an ongoing rescue mission for victimized young people in Middle Eastern Countries."³

At a meeting of the Soroptimist International of Farmington Valley, Connecticut, he claimed he had "traveled the world to save children: From the United States to Israel, Russia, Europe, Haiti, Latin America and beyond."⁴

He also claimed he had traveled to Iraq to investigate child trafficking, and was able to produce a picture of himself outside the gateway to Baghdad.⁵

Bechard claimed to have a worldwide rescue organization, yet there was no evidence of an office or staff on his web site. There was a Rescue Hotline number for "international and domestic victim intervention and relocation" on the Ahava Kids web site. I called it. No one answered. There was no personalized greeting, just an automated computer voice instructing me to leave my name and phone number. I hung up. About a half hour later, I received an email from Bechard saying that he knew I had called. Apparently, he used caller ID.

I gathered this information together and sent it to the anti-trafficking organizations in Georgia. They called the FBI. I forwarded the information I had to the FBI. According to Attorney General Blumethal, his office was tipped off by an Ahava Kids website volunteer.

In addition to collecting money for projects that don't exist, Bechard appears to be a fabulist, someone who makes up stories. He starts with basic facts or the bare outline of an event and writes himself into the story. For example, on his blog he describes going on a ride along with the police in Hunts Point in the Bronx. While he rides in the backseat, he spots a likely victim of trafficking that the police miss. He instructs the police to turn around. And when they can't spot the girl, he tells them where she can be found. The police intervene and find a teen girl in a truck. For some unexplained reason, the police don't assist the girl and Bechard writes that he will keep looking for her. A member of another anti-trafficking organization told me he checked

³ [http://74.125.95.132/search?q=cache:4_z0oGbz5WoI:www.guidestar.org/ptqShowGsR]

Citizens Against Trafficking | http://www.citizensagainsttrafficking.org
Bechard’s story. The police verified that Bechard went on a ride along with them, but no victim of trafficking was spotted that night.

On the Ahava Kids website, Bechard advertises a book, *Unspeakable: The Hidden Truth about the World Fastest Growing Crime*, he wrote about child trafficking. There is a link to download the book, but whatever was there has been deleted.

Bechard heavily used social and professional networking sites on the Internet. He used them and all his speaking engagements to raise money. He was tuned-in to new activities in the anti-trafficking movement, which is one of the ways he was able to present himself as so knowledgeable. He knew and used the basic facts of how and where trafficking occurs. For example, within days of an announcement about a conference on trafficking and the Internet, he had purchased two Web domains names on that topic.

Citizens Against Trafficking hopes that Attorney General Blumenthal will recover some of the funds that Bechard collected. Assisting victims of trafficking is expensive and there’s not nearly enough money available publicly or privately to create the services that are needed.

Many people and organizations gave Bechard money in good faith that he was helping to rescue victims. Some people still believe Bechard is authentic. After I sent out a list of questions for people to ask Bechard if they were thinking of hosting him or giving him money, I received a lot of inquiries, including from people who continue to support him, although they often admit he lied about a few things. For example, a University of Connecticut professor set up a service learning project for students with Ahava Kids. Bechard complained to him that I was making “allegations” about him. The professor told me that “there are some aspects of his website that may be ambiguous or misleading” and Bechard had erroneously listed him as a member of the Board of Directors, but he still wanted to meet with me to advocate for Bechard.

As a fabulist Bechard was good at convincing people that his fictitious world was real. He was able to embellish and write himself into the story.

Maybe Bechard ever believed his fantasy world would turn into reality. There are reports that he did have a location for a shelter in Connecticut and his lawyer claims that three victims were given shelter at one time. Attorney General Blumenthal said, “We believe that about $150,000 was used on purposes that seemed to be legal, insofar as they served the purposes of the charity. Some of those records leave questions, but we believe that ... the monies were used on Web sites, on the safehouse, on personnel services and certain type of equipment that served either women
prostitutes seeking to escape the streets or orphans suffering from AIDS. Maybe he spent
enough money on legitimate things that he can’t be charged with criminal fraud.

Word is spreading throughout the anti-trafficking movement that Bechard has been caught.
Citizens Against Trafficking thanks everyone who was willing to share information and take
action to stop Bechard from victimizing the anti-trafficking movement.

Citizens Against Trafficking wants to make it clear that no individual or group mentioned in this
bulletin who gave Bechard money or invited him to give a presentation or hosted a fundraiser is
implicated in his misuse of funds. Nurez Madhany of Sutra Lounge in Atlanta where Bechard
held a fund-raiser last March wrote immediately after questions were raised: “Due to some
concerns that have been raised about Ahava Kids, myself and as an extension, Sutra Lounge,
will no longer have any affiliation with Ahava Kids.”

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6 "Lawsuit: Head of Children’s Charity Mismanaged Funds," The Day, October 4, 2009,
Attorney General Alleges Charity Operator Diverted Money Intended For Victims Of Human Trafficking And Orphaned AIDS Victims

October 1, 2009

Attorney General Richard Blumenthal today announced a lawsuit against a man who allegedly misused thousands of dollars raised through Ahava Kids, Inc. -- a charity that claims to serve victims of human trafficking and orphaned children with AIDS.

Defendant Raymond Bechard -- the sole operator of Ahava Kids and several LLCs -- allegedly diverted as much as $100,000 in charitable and corporate funds for personal or inexplicable expenses at restaurants, department stores, grocery stores and sporting goods stores.

Blumenthal's investigation also revealed questionable expenses on gasoline, unexplained ATM cash withdrawals and money transferred from Ahava Kids to four Old Saybrook companies solely owned by Bechard.

The lawsuit was filed in coordination with Department of Consumer Protection Commissioner Jerry Farrell, Jr.

"We seek repayment and penalties for this alleged deceitful diversion that deprived the most vulnerable victims of vital help -- including victims of human trafficking, and children born with AIDS," Blumenthal said. "Almost half of the $250,000 raised through Ahava Kids over recent years in the name of human trafficking and orphaned AIDS children has been misspent and squandered.

"Claiming to help human trafficking victims and orphaned AIDS children, Raymond Bechard allegedly did more to help himself. Through Ahava Kids, he promises protection from human trafficking victims, opportunities for prostitutes seeking escape, and relief for orphans.

"Exploiting profoundly important causes, Ahava Kids received grants and donations -- much of it misspent at department and sports stores, and through untraceable cash transactions. My office will fight for restitution and penalties, as well as a court order prohibiting this alleged pilfering in the future."

Bechard's companies -- Disciple Makers Workshop, Son Celebration, Gift Catalog Online and Compel Communications -- are also named as defendants in the lawsuit, which Blumenthal filed in coordination with Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) Commissioner Jerry Farrell, Jr.

Blumenthal alleged that the companies merely functioned as instrumentalities of Bechard for his financial gain -- and that personal and corporate funds were intermingled.

Ahava Kids claims to help victims of human trafficking by operating hotline and safe houses (one in Connecticut and one in Georgia), and by reportedly working in the streets to reach
out to prostitutes. Bechard also claims that donations to Ahava Kids have been used to distribute AIDS medication to orphaned children in third-world countries.

Through an investigation, Blumenthal's office concluded that a legitimate safe house does exist, though it is rarely used.
Women's Studies, Economics, and African and African-American Studies Present

Dr. Bola Akanji

"Gender Inequality and Human Development: A Comparative Global Perspective"

Monday, Nov. 9, 2009
4:00 - 5:30 p.m.
Lippitt Hall Room 402

Dr. Akanji is a visiting scholar from the Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research. Her specialization is in gender, macroeconomics, and sustainable development.
Women's Studies Dana Shugar Colloquium

"Out of Duty: Virginia Woolf's Aesthetics of Existence"

Prof. Stephen Barber,
Chair of the English Department

Thursday, Feb. 18, 2010, 5-6:30 p.m.
Lippitt 402
English Department Chair speaks about new book

By Noelle Myers
News Editor

As part of the University of Rhode Island's "Dana Shugar Colloquium," English professor and Department Chair, Stephen Barber presented his thoughts on the British Modernist author Virginia Woolf last night in Lippitt Hall.

Barber was first inspired by Woolf's outlook when he read her material as an undergraduate student at Trent University. He called the experience "life-changing."

"The way that she writes presents new and surprising ways for conceiving reality," Barber said.

During last night's lecture, he discussed topics based on a book he has been working on for the past six years, "Departures: Late Woolf." Barber spent two summers studying Woolf's manuscripts in New York and England in preparation for his writings.

The book, which he plans to publish this spring, focuses on the last decade of Woolf's life, in the 1930s. Barber said this was a time period when fascism spread and Hitler became a political force.

Barber's work also incorporates Woolf's philosophical views. He uses and analyzes contemporary French philosopher Michel Foucault's work as well, and the idea of reinforcing a notion of ethics, something Barber called, "a forgotten form of ethics."

In his book he discusses the relationship of art to ethics and politics he said. During the lecture, Barber broke up a portion of Woolf's life into what he calls the two phases. The first phase, from 1932 to 1934, was the period Woolf questioned how to define freedom and the second, from 1934-1938, was when she questioned how to practice freedom, he said.

Barber explained the difficulty and problems she faced, such as not knowing how to introduce ethics to political analysis especially when confronted by the reality of politics. She believed she was an outsider; he said.

"Woolf found the political response to fascism disaying," Barber said. "She developed her own theory of fascist and ethics of living against it."

He also discussed Woolf's sense of duty to the world, the purification of the soul, and the spiritual conversion in which she provoked.

As the lecture came to a close, Barber had a brief question and answer session and also commented on the criticism he experienced from studying Woolf.

"The judgments were miserable [but] it's worth fighting these fights," he said.

Barber said he hopes the lecture inspired people to read Woolf and Foucault's work.

"I think he's fantastic," junior Danielle Henderson said. "I was very excited to hear his thoughts."

Barber, who has taught at URI since 1997, has dedicated a course to Woolf's views, which he is teaching this semester for the last time.
Professor helps pass sex trafficking bills

BY NOELLE MYERS
News Editor

University of Rhode Island women’s studies Professor Donna Hughes has researched and documented the trafficking of women and children internationally for the past 25 years.

Hughes discovered her passion for the topic while studying for her graduate degree from Pennsylvania State University.

“I think it’s important to be an advocate for women’s rights [and] to generate knowledge that can be used to further freedom in the world,” Hughes said. “I try to convey that in my teaching.”

Hughes said people typically start at the “grassroots” of the issue and work their way up to the state, national and international levels. She, however, started working immediately on the subject on an international level.

Post graduation, she worked with The Coalition Against Trafficking and Women, an organization that focuses on creating change internationally by means of conducting and supporting anti-trafficking projects.

“Sex-trafficking is nothing but serial rape,” Hughes said.

Her focus was on Southeast Asian women, and she worked with the organization for 10 years.

She also conducted research projects about women in Ukraine, Russia and Korea, where she worked with other academic researchers.

“My goal was to document the problem,” she said.

Hughes set up interviews with women from these countries, which helped her learn more about the issue.

She was given grants to continue this research and her work was eventually sent to U.S. Department of Justice.

Hughes also documented two reports for the Council of Europe (Eastern and Western), where she found places on the Internet, which women were be advertised and recruited.

From her work on educating people about sex trafficking through the Internet, she was invited to Hillary Clinton’s speech about the topic just last week.

Hughes has written documents on trafficking women in the U.S. as well as a book and is also an advisor on the topic.

Although much of her work has been focused on
Professor fed up with Sakai, says courseware has kinks

BY ELEXA BRODER
News Editor

Since it was launched in the fall, Sakai, the University of Rhode Island’s online courseware, has been an ease to some professors, but has introduced frustration to others. Professor Donna Hughes of the women’s studies department said she in particular, has had her fair share of battles with the system.

Hughes has experienced many problems with the courseware that have hindered her teaching methods. One particular problem she faced was the inability to access her discussion forum. When she would upload material, it would disappear.

Hughes said the courseware was not adequately prepared or tested before the faculty had to use it.

She wrote in a letter to Provost Donald DeHayes that a significant number of her students dropped her class during the summer because they could not get some of the features to work. She added that she was unable to give her students accurate instructions because there was no user’s guide.

DeHayes believes a lot of the problems have been communication problems between administration and faculty.

“I think we could’ve done a better job communicating with faculty and students about what aspects of the courseware were working fine and which aspects still had bugs in them,” he said. “Our goal is not to frustrate our faculty and our students, [but] to facilitate their teaching and learning.”

DeHayes said the license on the university’s previous online courseware, WebCT, was about to expire and the university needed to upgrade to something new. Hughes said often some of Sakai’s features that were similar to WebCT’s didn’t work, or the courseware was not working by the beginning
From page 1

of the semester.

"You were never quite sure whether you were going to have time to get everything up in time for classes to start," Hughes said.

She said for each type of courseware, there are advantages and disadvantages.

"The problem is that the administration has not taken teaching online seriously enough to put the resources to make sure we have functional courseware," Hughes said. She added that in addition to online classes, she teaches some hybrid classes, which are taught half online and half face-to-face.

DeHayes said the provost sees online courses and hybrid courses as an increasingly important component of the future of the university. He said administration is willing to make the kind of investments that are necessary to ensure that online software is functional for faculty teaching and student learning.

Hughes, however, still needs convincing.

"[Administration] is always saying they're going to do something, the problem is that every semester there is a crisis and we are trying to teach students on [courseware] that doesn't work," she said. "It's very embarrassing for faculty. I feel like I've tried to make a good impression and get the students excited about a new students have assignments but the courseware isn't working properly and therefore students cannot do the assignment.

In a letter to DeHayes, Hughes wrote, "There is no point in 'thinking big' when we don't have functional courseware to offer courses."

She said the faculty cannot do anything but try their best and get frustrated when things don't work.

"The people that are able to make the decision and put the resources into making [Sakai] better is the administration," she said.

DeHayes said administration is not taking the issues lightly, nor is it trying to take the cheapest way out.

"We really want to do this right," he said.

He also said it's important to consider the portion of faculty that have had successful experiences with Sakai.

Hughes wrote in her letter, "I am tired of spending more time fighting with software than teaching students. I am tired of being frustrated and angry at the beginning of every semester because there is a new courseware problem."

DeHayes said it will take time to get the malfunctions out of the system. The most important thing to do, he said, is inform faculty of which aspects are working well and which aspects are still being developed.
International Women's Day Celebration

Film Screening:
Pray the Devil Back to Hell

See the story of the Liberian women's peace movement, where Christian and Muslim women banded together to end their country's civil war.

Monday, March 8
FREE
Chafee 271 (2 showings) 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.
CORTLAND, NY (02/25/2010)(readMedia)-- Fiction writer and feminist scholar Jody Lisberger will discuss how feminism plays a role in her writing when she speaks on Thursday, March 4, at SUNY Cortland.

Lisberger, the director of Women’s Studies at the University of Rhode Island (URI), will present "Writing Down the Body: Making the Invisible Visible, the Silent Spoken" from noon to 1 p.m. in Brockway Hall Jacobus Lounge. The talk is free and open to the public and one of several Women’s History Month events planned on campus during March. This presentation is sponsored by the Women’s Studies Program and the Center for Gender and Intercultural Studies.

Lisberger will discuss the ways that feminist theory - in ways most writers and scholars would never guess - artically and concretely ideas for helping fiction and nonfiction writers improve their craft.

Lisberger’s presentation will explore five particular lessons relevant to writing craft and life: refusing to be silenced; the power of the margins and the unseen; rethinking the dynamics of desire; defying linearity and narrative order; and inhabiting the space between the literal and the metaphorical.

In speaking about Lisberger’s fiction, critics and book reviewers have called her stories an “artful, compromising, and moving exploration of human desire,” “graceful and seductive, spare in their telling yet unstintingly powerful in their impact,” a “first-rate collection... that starts out strong and keeps on accelerating” (The Boston Globe), “ten perfect tales” (The Louisville Courier), and “building with ratcheting tension, carefully nurtured thought the accretion of small details (Women’s Review of Books).”

Lisberger is the author of a prize-winning collection of stories, Remember Love, published by Fleur de Lis Press in 2008, and the writer of several articles. She serves on the fiction faculty of the Brief Residency MFA in Writing Program at Spalding University in Louisville, Ky. Lisberger has a Ph.D. in English and an M.F.A. and has worked as a journalist, editor and grant writer. She has taught fiction, creative nonfiction, literature and feminist theory for more than 25 years at the University of Rhode Island, Brown, Harvard, Tufts, Holy Cross and Boston University.

At URI, she teaches courses that include Postcolonial Literature, Women Writers, and Narrative Theory. Lisberger participates in the summer Ocean State Writer’s Conference.

For more information, contact Women's Studies Coordinator Caroline Kaltefleiter at (607) 753-4203 or caroline.kaltefleiter@cortland.edu.

-30-
If You Believe in Diversity and Equality
Don't miss these March Events!

Monday, March 1, International Women's Day Celebration
(A week early)
Fawzia Afzal-Khan, Pakistani-American
writer, scholar, performance artist-playwright
Reading from her newly published memoir:
Lahore with Love: Growing Up With Girlfriends,
Pakistani-Style (2010)
Lippit 402, 4 p.m.

Monday, March 8, International Women's Day Celebration II
Film Screening: Pray the Devil Back to Hell
"This celebrated documentary tells the dramatic success story of the
women's peace movement of Liberia, where Christian and Muslim women
banded together to end their country's civil war."
Chafee 271 (2 showings) 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Tuesday, March 18
"Gender-Specific Aspects of Heart Disease:
What All Women Need to Know"
Dr. Barbara Roberts, Director of the Women's Cardiac Center,
Miriam Hospital
Swan Auditorium, 7 p.m.
If You Believe in Diversity and Equality
Join us at this Historic Event!

Film Screening:
Pray the Devil Back to Hell

“This celebrated documentary tells the dramatic success story of the women’s peace movement of Liberia, where Christian and Muslim women banded together to end their country’s civil war. Leymah Gbowee, the central figure in the film, and the Women of Liberia arc recipients of the 2009 JFK Profile in Courage Award”

Monday, March 8
International Women's Day Celebration

Chafee 271 (2 showings) 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.
FREE
Professor of Women's Studies Donna Hughes added that as long as Americans are fighting wars on foreign territory, humanity is setting women of the host region up for sexual violations. Hughes described a soldier's "rest and relaxation" time as a period—where local women are prostituted for the benefit of the soldier.

Lisberger added that another example of women's inequality in the United States that the film brings to light is outsourcing. By moving enterprises overseas, companies are exploiting female labor and are causing women to be subjected to poor working conditions and long hours.

Paralleling the action the women took in the film to combat inequalities, Hughes said that there must be a joint national and international effort among women to improve conditions in the United States.

"Many women in the United States could work with women in international women's organizations to lobby the U.S. government," she said. "This will improve the treatment of women through U.S. policy."

Lisberger added that women's inequality could also be combated through education—a key factor that the women in the film lacked.

"Education is the key ingredient in creating equality and democracy, and is the foremost indicator for universal human rights," she said.

Lisberger said that if women are given the possibility to express themselves, to work, and express autono-
Professors correct reporter’s errors

To the Cigar,

Usually we are willing to let the Cigar’s inaccuracies in reporting go, but the misquoting and misattribution in the March 9 article “URI professors talk women’s global issues” is too egregious to let go uncorrected.

First, for the record, as was clearly stated to the reporter, Donna Hughes’ talk on “Sex-Trafficking” is scheduled for April 15 not March 18. It will be 2-3:15 p.m. in the Multicultural Center’s Hardge Forum.

As for the rest of the reporting, to claim that the main insight Lisberger or the movie provided is that there’s a “lack of peace in the world” attests only to the writer’s blindness about something that’s so obvious it goes without saying.

Also, Lisberger did not focus on sex trafficking as the only problem plaguing women in the world or in this country. Lisberger talked about lack of access, resources, representation and equal pay.

What Lisberger wishes she’d made clear to the reporter is that wars decimate infrastructures, creating situations where decimated countries need money they don’t have to rebuild. Their lack of money to rebuild ends up creating loan situations where they need to take money away from, among other things, social and health services, education, food production and security, all of which disproportionately impacts and impoverishes women.

Also, for the record, Hughes, an expert on human and sex trafficking, offered the insights about trafficking statistics, including the figure that 15,000 people are trafficked into the US each year, 80 percent of which are women and children trafficked for sex.

Hughes did not say, “as long as Americans are fighting wars, on foreign territory, humanity is setting women of the host region up for sexual violations,” Hughes described a soldier’s “rest and relaxation” time as a period where local women are prostituted for the benefit of the soldier.”

In fact, she specifically said that was not happening in Iraq and Afghanistan. She did not criticize the wars in Iraq or Afghanistan. As a result of anti-sex trafficking work she has been involved in, the U.S. military has profoundly changed its policy.

There is now a “zero tolerance” policy for sex trafficking and prostitution. Any member of the military caught engaging in prostitution can be punished with one year in jail and a dishonorable discharge. The old days of U.S. military-supported sex industries around bases is gone.

In addition, for the record, Lisberger was the one who claimed that when you have wealth and power in the hands of men who use that wealth and power to deprive women of their rights and freedoms, you create conditions that are hurtful to women.

Finally, Lisberger never said the movie had anything to do with outsourcing. Anyone who watched the film, as the reporter did, would know this would be a preposterous claim. The movie is not about outsourcing, though it is about the consequences of the desire to amass wealth in the hands of the few.

The movie most importantly shows what happened when Christian and Muslim women came together in Liberia and refused to give up their call for peace. They unified and persisted in the face of terrible violations by the governments of Charles Taylor and warlords of Liberia.

The movie inspires each of us to think about creating coalitions across boundaries to insist on peace, human rights and well-being.

There is one thing the reporter got right: Hughes’ exhortation that “to put an end to women’s inequality and to foster peace, humanity must work together to create universal human rights and democracy.”

Sincerely yours,

Jody Lisberger, Director of Women’s Studies, Donna Hughes, Eleanor M. and Oscar M. Carlson Endowed Chair of the Women’s Studies Program
RI’s first female cardiologist to lecture on heart health next week

BY JESSICA BOISCLAIR
News Reporter

Rhode Island’s first female cardiologist, Barbara Roberts, will be giving a speech at the University of Rhode Island to inform women about the risk of cardiovascular disease Thursday.

According to the American Heart Association, many women believe that cardiovascular disease is not a big problem.

Cardiovascular disease is becoming a new high-risk disease among women and more than 40 percent of women will die from this disease.

It stated that more than 8 million women die each year from heart disease or stroke, which is almost 18 times the number who will die from breast cancer.

In order to inform women about this disease, Roberts has written and published two books titled, “How to Keep from Breaking Your Heart: What Every Woman Needs to Know about Cardiovascular Disease.” They inform and instruct women about what their hearts do, what the symptoms and abnormalities are, and what they can do to prevent heart disease.

Roberts’ talk, “Gender-Specific Aspects of Heart Disease: What All Women Need to Know,” will be aimed toward college-aged women and older in order to discuss the signs and symptoms of heart disease, how its symptoms vary among men and women and how women have been diagnosed and treated differently from men.

“I speak on this subject all over the country and internationally,” Roberts said. “I am very honored to give this lecture at the university as well as to be able to work with two students that graduated from the University of Rhode Island with their masters in this career field.”

These students have gone on to start their careers alongside Roberts.

Roberts, who has made her career to help improve women’s hearts, got her bachelor’s degree from Barnard College of Columbia University, which is located in New York. She then received her master’s degree from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

Roberts is the first woman accepted into the Gorlin cardiology fellowship at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, which is a Harvard University Medical School Teaching Hospital. She began her private practice in Providence, R.I. in 1977 and continued until 2000.

In 2002, she began working as the director of the Women’s Cardiac Center at The Miriam Hospital as an associate clinical professor of medicine at the Warren Alpert Medical School at Brown University, where she still works today.

She said she handles female patients, who are at risk for heart disease and helps them find ways to lower their risk.

The speech, held by the URI College of Studies annual Eschewers lecture on women’s health, is co-sponsored by the URI College of Nursing and the dean of URI’s College of Arts and Sciences. It is scheduled to take place in Swan Hall, located on Upper College Road, at 7 p.m.

Continued on page 2

Roberts

From page 1
Schweers Lecture on Women and Health
Sponsored by Women’s Studies, URI College of Nursing and the
Dean of Arts & Sciences

Dr. Barbara Roberts:
"Gender-Specific Aspects of Heart Disease: What All Women
Need to Know"

March 18, 7 p.m. Swan Auditorium

Dr. Barbara Roberts is the Director of the Women's Cardiac
Center, Miriam Hospital; Associate Clinical Professor of
Medicine, Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University
Gang-rape threat isn't 'free speech'

EDWARD ACHORN

The Internet has undeniably helped spread information of great use to a free society and, in many cases, permitted more robust debate on issues than was once possible. But powerful tools can be used for evil purposes as well as good. As everyone knows, the Internet has also opened up the sewers and permitted cowards, bullies, liars, child molesters and character assassins to crawl out.

Behavior that once would have merited a swift response from society — perhaps jail time, perhaps a salutary punch in the nose — is now indulged in without fear of retribution.

Language that was once unimaginable in public discourse is the common currency of the Web, and our culture gets progressively coarser and cruder as this becomes accepted.

Just ask the brave women who led the fight to make prostitution illegal in Rhode Island, showing compassion for children coerced into the sex trade and for young Asian women brought here as virtual slaves and cruelly compelled to suffer.

Donna Hughes, a women's-studies professor at the University of Rhode Island, and Melanie Shapiro, a law student at Roger Williams University Law School, are finding themselves libeled, verbally attacked with sexual smears and threatened with rape by low-life "johns" in retaliation for their efforts.

Can nothing be done about this?

Are there any decent people left in society who will stand up and protect women against such abuse? You have to wonder.

I have seen the Internet attacks on these women and they are sickening.

I would fiercely defend the right of anyone — including these characters — to discuss the merits of the state's joining the rest of America in making prostitution illegal. But nobody should smear, libel and threaten.

As Ms. Hughes says, "They are entitled to their view of the change in the law. The comments ... cross a line, though, in my opinion."

"I think it is unfortunate that they have resorted to such low-level comments, but I am really concerned about the women in the brothels who have to encounter men like these. It shows you what kind of men they have to face," Ms. Shapiro said.

On one prostitution forum, some low-life has chosen the screen name of "Donna Hughes" and pretends to be the professor. I quote these (with the permission of the real Ms. Hughes and Ms. Shapiro) only to help Rhode Islanders understand what is going on.

"It is my sincere hope that tens and tens of women will be caught, sentenced to prison and converted to lesbianism," the phony "Donna Hughes" states in one post.

"I will not rest until all the Asian women learn heterosexual sex is wrong!" the fake "professor" states in another.

The phony also takes aim at state Rep. JoAnne Giannini (D-Providence), who led the fight in the General Assembly to close Rhode Island's prostitution loophole.

"I try to turn out JoAnne Giannini but she wants to stay with her cop husband."

Some of the members of this forum, not the brightest lights, seem to believe that these messages are really coming from Professor Hughes.

"Heterosexual sex is wrong? Where would 'Donna' be if her parents felt that way?" asks one.

"If you believe that heterosexual sex is wrong then you must be a lesbian... Get real go [engage in a sex act] and realize what you are missing."

Another poster writes: "I bet that Shapiro 'female dog' can [engage in a sexual act] like a champ!"

And those are some of the less vicious ones. Much of the banter cannot get within a mile of being printed in a newspaper.

"One coward wrote this of Professor Hughes: "What this chic needs is for all of us to line her up against the wall and show her what we think of her rhetoric at a time."

Is an undisguised threat of gang rape really protected speech? Is stealing someone's name to libel her? Not in my book.

Such language is not an attempt to debate an issue but to intimidate, punish and humiliate people — and dehumanize women by treating them as rape objects — for practicing their rights as good citizens, entering the political arena in Rhode Island and peacefully seeking change.

Are there no law officers willing to investigate this? Are there no lawyers willing to belly up to the bar and take on a libel and intimidation lawsuit on a contingency-fee basis?

If such treatment of women is deemed perfectly legal, fine and dandy, is there another way to make it clear to the perpetrators that society frowns on their conduct? When I was growing up, boys were taught that real men stand up for women and insist that they be treated with respect.

That sounds old-fashioned, I admit. But most Rhode Islanders accept that, in the age of Internet aleaze, women should expect to be attacked this way in a public forum if they are unwilling to shut up and go away.

This Rhode Islander, for one, will never accept that.

Edward Achorn is The Journal's deputy editorial-pages editor (eachorn@projo.com).
In Honor of the Inauguration of President David Dooley

URI Distinguished International Scholar

Dr. Bola Akanji

Presents:

“Gender Equity in Higher Education: Perspectives from the Global South”

Wednesday, April 7,
12:00-1:15p.m.
Center for Biological and Life Sciences 100
In Honor of the Inauguration of President David Dooley
Directors of the URI Violence Prevention and Advocacy Services
Keith Labelle and Jenn Longa Moio
Present:
“URI’s National Success Engaging Men in Violence Prevention”

Dana Shugar Colloquium Lecture
Wednesday, April 7,
4 p.m., Swan Auditorium
In Honor of the Inauguration of President David Dooley
Directors of the URI Violence Prevention and Advocacy Services
Keith Labelle & Jenn Longa Moio
Wednesday, April 7
4 pm, Swan Auditorium

URI’s National Success
Engaging Men in Violence Prevention

Join us!
Dana Shugar Colloquium Lecture
Women's Studies Scholarships
Applications Due May 5, 2010 by NOON to Roosevelt 315
Recipients will be notified in June
Open to WMS majors and minors
See http://www.uni.edu/artsci/wms/scholarships.html for details

Eleanor M. and Oscar M. Carlson Scholarship for Single Mothers
Award based on financial need, good academic standing, RI residency

Eleanor M. Carlson Trust Scholarship
Award based on academic achievement, service, financial need

Dorothy F. Donnelly Scholarship
Award based on academic excellence, community, campus service and financial need.

Mother Jones Scholarship
Award based on financial need as determined by rankings from the Financial Aid Office and then academic excellence
Welcome
Jody Lisberger, Director Women's Studies Program

Reflections on Women in the World
Donna Hughes, Eleanor M. and Oscar M. Carlson Endowed Chair for Women's Studies

Certificate and Award Presentations: Jody Lisberger and Jenn Brandt

2010 National Women's Studies Honors Society, Iota Iota Iota, Inductees
Kimberly Anderson
Stacy A. Aston
Jenna Berube
Gregory Borrelli
Julie Bressette
Melanie A. Carrazzo
Jessica Curto
Erica L. Dominkowitz
Carlene Fonti
Lauren Gallagher
Annathena Grigedevich
Cheryl Heroux
Kristyn Hill
Cori-lyn Keane
Stephanie Lavallee
Katie Leahy
Courtney Needham
Melissa Nelle
Ellen Reardon
Kara Schultz
Laura Tetreault
Elise Titelius
April L. Wade

2010 Graduate Certificate Award
Nicole Myers

University Academic Excellence Award
Kara Lafferty

Graduating Women's Studies Majors
Anna Burnham
Claire Creighton
Marissa DiLorenzo
Kara Lafferty
Katiuska Reyes
Samantha Sherer

Graduating Triota Members
Omotola Ashorobi
Hali Garofalo

Closing Remarks: Jody Lisberger
Women's studies majors to earn credit through Office of Internships

BY ELI MOGER
Cigar Columnist

The women’s studies program at the University of Rhode Island has made a big move to benefit its students. Although the women’s studies major has had an experiential requirement for some time, WMS students participating in internships will now have the option of earning credit through the Office of Internships and Experiential Education.

Beginning in the fall 2010 semester, the women’s studies program will shift almost all of its internship component to the OIEE. All students looking to receive internship credit will be able to do so in local, national and global venues.

In combination with this change, two programs under the women’s studies major will remain in-house with supervision from department faculty. These programs include student teaching assistants for the large WMS 150 class in the fall semester, and Peer Advocates.

Jody Lisberger, Director of Women’s Studies, is excited for this change and all the benefits that come along with it. She said that the move to the OIEE will formalize and professionalize internships for her students and will also benefit placements and potential employers.

Lisberger said that, in the past, she and other faculty members have overseen interns, but that this move will free her to have more time to teach upper level classes. She recognizes the strength of the program that the OIEE offers, and said that it will really benefit WMS students to receive the guidance and professional development support from the office staff.

Lisberger also said that this partnership will allow her to forward contacts that she has to the OIEE to create more formal opportunities for students and to enable agencies to find URI students that will be an asset to them. She mentioned that the department already has a link with the Rhode Island State House, Rhode Island Now and local domestic violence centers, making it easier to create connections for students with help from the OIEE.

A big benefit that Lisberger touched upon was the inclusion of a contract and understanding between the student, the internship office, and the placement, which allows for both sides to be held accountable. She suggests that this component of the internship creates a mutually beneficial experience and prevents anyone from being exploited.

The Office of Internships and Experiential Education is excited for this partnership and is eager to include more women’s studies interns in the near future. If you want more information on the opportunities available through the women’s studies program or the Office of Internships, stop by Roosevelt Hall or go online to http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/ or www.uri.edu/internships.
Mission Statement: Women’s Studies seeks to identify, understand, and challenge ideologies and institutions that knowingly or unknowingly oppress and exploit others, or deny human rights. Women’s Studies envisions a world in which all persons can develop their fullest potential.

Faculty: 2 full-time faculty within Women’s Studies, 17 affiliated Professors, 12 affiliated Associate Professors, and 12 adjunct faculty all from diverse disciplines: African American Studies, Anthropology, Art History, Business, Communication Studies, Community Service, Comparative Literature, English, Film Studies, History, Human Development & Family Studies, Kinesiology, Languages, Mathematics, Music, Nursing, Philosophy, Politica Science, Psychology, Russian, Sociology, Textiles, Fashion Merchandising, and Design, Theater, and Writing.

Courses in Women’s Studies (includes online sections)

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<td>WMS 350 Post-Feminisms, Pop Culture, and Contemporary Gender Studies</td>
<td>WMS 350 Female Cyborg in Disability Studies &amp; Feminist SciFi online</td>
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<td>WMS 350 Women and the Natural Sciences</td>
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<td>WMS 351 Violence and Nonviolence in Theory and Fiction: Feminist Alternatives</td>
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<td>WMS 400 Critical Issues in Feminist Scholarship</td>
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WMS 430 Women and Human Rights Policy
WMS 402/502 Campaigns and Services For Victims of Trafficking and Slavery
WMS 490 The Divine
WMS 490 Women Writing Their Lives

WMS 490 Women & the Environment
WMS 490 Latin American Women’s Lives
WMS 490 Gender, Economics, & Africa’s Sustainable Development
WMS 500 Colloquium in Women’s Studies

Women’s Studies Courses Taught in Affiliated Departments:

**Summer 2010 Courses**

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<td>ENG 385</td>
<td>Women Writers</td>
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<td>ENG 387</td>
<td>Foundational Texts in Modern Gay and Lesbian Culture</td>
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<td>HIS 145</td>
<td>Women in the North American Colonies and the US, 1500-1890</td>
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<td>TMD 224</td>
<td>Culture, Dress, and Appearance</td>
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**Other Courses Offered**

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<td>African-American Women: Service, Community, and Self</td>
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<td>ARH 385</td>
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<td>HIS 146</td>
<td>Women in the US, 1890-Present</td>
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<td>HIS 308</td>
<td>Between Eve and Mary: Women in the Middle Ages</td>
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<td>HIS 351</td>
<td>History of Women in Medicine</td>
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<td>HDF/SOC 437</td>
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<td>HDF 505</td>
<td>Human Sexuality and Counseling</td>
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<td>HDF 559</td>
<td>Gender Issues in Therapy</td>
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<td>KIN 375</td>
<td>Women in Sport: Contemporary Perspectives</td>
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<td>KIN 555</td>
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<td>NURS 459</td>
<td>Perspectives on Male and Female Sexuality Philosophy</td>
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<td>PHL 210</td>
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<td>Women and Politics</td>
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<td>WRT 645</td>
<td>Rhetoric and Reproduction</td>
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**Requirements for Major**

WMS 150, WMS 300 or 320, WMS 310, WMS 315, WMS 400, plus five WMS or WMS affiliated courses

**Requirement for Minor**

WMS 150, 315, plus four WMS or WMS affiliated courses

**Students Enrolled in Women’s Studies Courses**

1,400 in 2008-2009
25 Majors; 50 Minors; 35 students initiated (Spring 2009) into the National Women’s Studies Honor Society, Triota
Graduate Certificate Program: 9 students

**Scholarships and Prizes**

Eleanor M. and Oscar M. Carlson Endowed Scholarship for Single Mothers; The Eleanor M. Carlson Trust Scholarship; The Eleanor M. Carlson Award; “Mother” Jones Scholarship; The Dana Shugar Memorial Scholarship; Patricia Farnes Essay Contest
**Women’s Studies**

at The University of Rhode Island

Director: Jody Lisberger, Ph.D., M.F.A.
315 Eleanor Roosevelt Hall University of Rhode Island Kingston, RI 02881 wmsdir@etal.uri.edu (401) 874-5150, (401) 874-4620 Fax: (401) 874-4527

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**Courses in Women’s Studies**  * also available online  ** only available online  (P) Providence

### Fall 2010 Courses

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<td>WMS 300</td>
<td>Field Experience in Women’s Studies</td>
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<td>WMS 301**</td>
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<td>Native American Women</td>
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<tr>
<td>WMS 350**</td>
<td>Female Cyborg, Disability Studies, and Feminist Sci Fi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMS 351</td>
<td>Violence Prevention Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMS 360**</td>
<td>Men and Masculinities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMS 365**</td>
<td>Sexual Victimization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMS 401*</td>
<td>Human Trafficking and Contemporary Slavery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMS 450</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMS 490</td>
<td>Advanced Topics in Women’s Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMS 501**</td>
<td>Human Trafficking and Contemporary Slavery</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Spring 2011 Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WMS 150*</td>
<td>Introduction to Women’s Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMS 220</td>
<td>Women and Natural Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMS 300</td>
<td>Field Experience Women’s Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMS 301**</td>
<td>Women’s Professional Development and Leadership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMS 310</td>
<td>Race, Class, and Sexuality in Women’s Lives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMS 315</td>
<td>Introduction to Feminist Theories and Methodologies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMS 317/ENG 317</td>
<td>Contemporary Women Novelists of the Americas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMS 320**</td>
<td>Feminist Thought into Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMS 325*</td>
<td>International Women’s Issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMS 350</td>
<td>Women and Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMS 350</td>
<td>Women and Mental Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMS 350</td>
<td>Women Poets: Modern and Contemporary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMS 350</td>
<td>Women in Sci Fi: Mary Shelley to Sigourney Weaver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMS 351**</td>
<td>Women and Judaism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMS 351</td>
<td>Women and Documentary (P)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMS 360**</td>
<td>Men and Masculinities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMS 370**</td>
<td>Sex Trafficking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMS 386/ECN 386</td>
<td>Economics of Race, Class &amp; Gender (P)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMS 387/HIS 387</td>
<td>Latin America at the Movies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMS 400</td>
<td>Critical Issues and Feminist Scholarship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMS 402**</td>
<td>Campaigns and Services for Victims of Trafficking and Slavery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMS 450</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMS 490/MUS 470</td>
<td>Women in Music: Multicultural Musicianship &amp; Pedagogy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMS 490</td>
<td>Gender, Africa, &amp; Sustainable Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMS 490H</td>
<td>Women Writing Their Lives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMS 500</td>
<td>Colloquium in Women’s Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMS 502**</td>
<td>Campaigns and Services for Victims of Trafficking and Slavery</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Other Courses Offered

- WMS 306 Practicum in Women’s Studies
- WMS 361 Women’s Lives in New England
- WMS 370 Sex Trafficking
- WMS 410 Portfolio in Women’s Studies
- WMS 430 Women and Human Rights Policy

### Women’s Studies Courses Taught in Affiliated Department

#### Fall 2010 Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APG 310</td>
<td>Gender and Culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSV 303</td>
<td>Community Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENG 260</td>
<td>Women’s and Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENG 385</td>
<td>Women Writers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDF 230</td>
<td>Marriage and Family Relationships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDF 430</td>
<td>Family Interaction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDF 432</td>
<td>Perspectives on Parenting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDF 433</td>
<td>Family Life Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIS 145</td>
<td>Women in the North American Colonies and the US, 1500-1890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUR 150</td>
<td>Human Sexuality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 430</td>
<td>Intimate Relationships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 480</td>
<td>Psychology of Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 212</td>
<td>Families in Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 242</td>
<td>Sex and Gender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 413</td>
<td>Gender Inequality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 420</td>
<td>Family Violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 430</td>
<td>Intimate Relationships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TMD 224</td>
<td>Culture, Dress and Appearance</td>
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#### Spring 2011 Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENG 260</td>
<td>Women and Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENG 385</td>
<td>Women Writers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDF 230</td>
<td>Marriage and Family Relationships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDF 430</td>
<td>Family Interaction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDF 432</td>
<td>Perspectives on Parenting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDF 433</td>
<td>Family Life Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDF 505</td>
<td>Human Sexuality and Counseling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIS 146</td>
<td>Women in the US, 1890-Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIS 351H</td>
<td>Historical Perspectives on Women and Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIS 391</td>
<td>Directed Study or Research (when topic is women)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KIN 475</td>
<td>Gender Issues in Sport and Physical Culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUR 150*</td>
<td>Human Sexuality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 430</td>
<td>Intimate Relationships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 466</td>
<td>Child Sexual Abuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 480*</td>
<td>Psychology of Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 430</td>
<td>Intimate Relationships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TMD 224</td>
<td>Culture, Dress and Appearance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Other Courses Offered

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AAF 290</td>
<td>African-American Women: Service, Community, and Self</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARH 385</td>
<td>Women in Art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUS 346</td>
<td>Women in Business and Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COM 345</td>
<td>Gender and Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDF 298</td>
<td>Contemporary Issues in Student Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDF 437</td>
<td>Law and Families in the US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDF 559</td>
<td>Gender Issues in Therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIS 118</td>
<td>Women in European History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIS 308</td>
<td>Between Eve and Mary: Women in the Middle Ages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIS 351</td>
<td>Historical Perspectives on Women and Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIS 352</td>
<td>Topics in the History of Women and Gender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIS 355</td>
<td>Black Women in the US: Colonial Times to the Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIS 376</td>
<td>Women in Muslim Societies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KIN 555</td>
<td>Women in Sport: Issues and Controverses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUR 459</td>
<td>Perspectives on Male and Female Sexuality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHL 210</td>
<td>Women and Moral Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 441</td>
<td>Women and Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 403</td>
<td>Gender, Crime, and Justice</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Requirements for Major

WMS 150, WMS 300 or 320 or ITR 301/302, WMS 310 or 325, WMS 315, WMS 400, plus five WMS or WMS affiliated courses

### Requirement for Minor

WMS 150, 315, plus four WMS or WMS affiliated courses

### Students Enrolled in Women’s Studies Courses

- 1,400 in 2009-2010
- 35 Majors; 50 Minors; 25 students initiated (Spring 2010) into the National Women’s Studies Honor Society, Triota Graduate Certificate Program: 9 students

### Scholarships and Prizes

- Eleanor M. and Oscar M. Carlson Endowed Scholarship for Single Mothers; The Eleanor M. Carlson Trust Scholarship; The Eleanor M. Carlson Award; “Mother” Jones Scholarship; The Dana Shugar Memorial Scholarship; The Dorothy Donnelly Scholarship, The Patricia Farnes Essay Contest
Out of Diversity: WE SPEAK

Come hear faculty and students share their stories about Diversity!

When? Thursday, October 7, 2:00-3:15 PM
Where? Hardge Forum MCC
Israel Through a Novelist’s Eyes
How far are we willing to go in the name of a cause?

From the winner of the PEN/New England Book Award, The Wallant Award, and finalist for the National Jewish Book Award, a gripping novel of contemporary Israel.

Reviews of WHEREVER YOU GO by Joan Leegant

“Pitch-perfect renderings of individuals torn between earthly and heavenly Jerusalems... Wherever You Go is a lively, full novel by an elegant, ironic writer who handles the topics of terror and messianic violence as agilely as she does love and redemption.” --The Miami Herald

“Finally, a novel about Israel by an American Jew that’s written well and without sentimentality... There have been many important novels in English about Israel; Leegant’s is certainly among them.” -- The Forward

“Leegant has taken this phenomenon of religious and political fanaticism...tempered it with more balanced perspectives and turned it all into a finely wrought story that raises issues while it keeps a reader turning the pages.” -- The Chicago Jewish Star

“A clear-eyed but evenhanded consideration of the multifaceted relationship between the American Jewish community and Israel...A sensitively observed work.” -- The Jerusalem Post

“Leegant is a talented writer...She succeeds in building suspense...to prolong the tension almost to the very end.” -- Moment Magazine

“Chekhov famously advised that it is not the job of the novelist to solve problems, only to present them correctly. Joan Leegant’s remarkable and affecting novel, at once lucid and lyrical, deftly illuminates the darker confusions of contemporary Jewish life in Israel with a warm heart and a cold eye. Who says the novel has lost its relevance? This one should be required reading.” -- Jonathan Wilson, author of ”A Palestine Affair”

For more about Joan Leegant and her work, visit www.joanleegant.com
URI pioneer in women’s studies dies

01:00 AM EST on Wednesday, November 24, 2010

By Tatiana Pina

Journal Staff Writer

Stephen Grubman-Black and his wife, Sheila Black Grubman, share a laugh at URI in 2003.

The Providence Journal / KATHY BORCHERS

When she thinks of her friend Stephen Grubman-Black, Winnie Brownell, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Rhode Island, imagines herself years ago. She’s a college freshman, entering her Introduction to Women’s Studies class — and finding Grubman-Black as the teacher.

He was a man, but he was also a feminist. And he knew his field quite well.

Grubman-Black, who died at age 65 on Monday after a battle with cancer, served in many roles during his 35 years at URI, among them as a professor and director of the women’s studies program.

He was raised by his mother, so he learned at an early age about some of the challenges women — particularly women who are single parents — face, Brownell said.

She met him in graduate school in the 1960s at the State University of New York at Buffalo. “He was a
feminist before I knew what a feminist was," Brownell said Tuesday. "He was one of the first men I met who really truly understood the challenges women faces around the world — lack of equity, lack of justice, unequal pay."

He was the first one to step up and serve as director of the women's studies program, in 1972, Brownell said. "It was impressive to see the goodwill, support and connections made thanks to his leadership." Faculty and students, she said, presented him with an award for his outstanding leadership.

Grubman-Black taught Men and Masculinity, an important course for the women's studies program, Brownell said. The class looked at issues of gender that were important at the time, she said, and remain hot topics today.

A special highlight of his career, Brownell said, was the 1992 publication of his book, "Broken Boys, Mending Men," which took him across the country to lecture.

"He always seemed to be ahead of his time," she said.

Among the positions Grubmen-Black held at URI were director of the Speech and Hearing Center and the graduate program in communicative disorders, and associate dean of the Graduate School. He served on nonprofit boards, including the National Alliance on Mental Illness of RI, the RI Rape Crisis Center and the Wiley Center.

He was a lover of the arts, and that seemed to be the way he fed his spirit, Brownell said. Karen Stein, professor of English and women's studies at URI, said Grubman-Black made quilts — not blankets, but wall hangings in glorious colors. He liked to play with color, she said.

Born Stephen Grubman, the URI professor who married Sheila Black in 1966 took on a hyphenated name to celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary. Sheila, whose maiden name is now her middle name, stayed Sheila Black Grubman.

Grubman-Black said in a 1969 interview that he made the change "because I was much closer to her family and was very close to my father-in-law. After my father-in-law died, it struck me that I wished there had been a way to perpetuate his name, to honor his memory."

The reaction the couple got from friends, family, colleagues and students was mixed, he said; his mother refused to address him by his new name.

Brownell said she admired the way Grubman-Black and Black Grubman got along and worked together to champion causes. It was impressive, she said, the way they loved and took care of each other.

"What gave him hope was looking at the next generation, seeing his students, his grandchildren," she said. He was the kind of person, she said, who thought all people could make a difference.

tpina@projo.com
Stephen David Grubman-Black, In Memoriam

Dr. Stephen David Grubman-Black, URI Professor Emeritus of Women's Studies and Communication Studies was the beloved husband of Sheila Black Grubman. They were married for 44 years.

Born on May 15, 1945 in Philadelphia, he was the son of the late Fannie Grubman. Steve received his B.S. and M.A. from Temple University and his Ph.D. from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Steve served as a professor at URI for 35 years before retiring. He began his career in the Department of Speech Communication in the College of Arts and Sciences where he served as Director of Graduate Programs. He then moved to the College of Human Science and Services when his program became the Department of Communicative Disorders. From 1978 to 1984, he served as Associate Dean of the Graduate School, and then as Coordinator of the Bachelor of General Studies Program at the College of Continuing Education from 1993-1999. Steve held a joint appointment for most of his career with the Program in Women's Studies, teaching Introduction to Women's Studies, Feminist Methods, Sexual Victimization, and Men and Masculinity and serving for several years as the Director of Women's Studies. He also held a joint appointment with the Department of Communication Studies where he taught Interpersonal Communication.

Steve was a talented teacher, groundbreaking scholar, dedicated mentor, and engaged citizen. Among his many publications is his acclaimed book BROKEN BOYS/MENDING MEN (that lead to speaking engagements throughout the country). Steve also published numerous scholarly articles and poetry. Known as a caring and compassionate colleague, Steve served as a volunteer and on many boards of nonprofit organizations including Temple Sinai, National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, the RI Rape Crisis Center, Brother to Brother, the Wiley Center, Washington County Mental Health, the Women's Resource Center, and more. He appreciated and supported the visual and performing arts and devoted his life and career to improving the quality of life for others.

Steve is survived by his loving daughter Davi Kaldakis and his beautiful grandchildren Angelina and Elijah, all of North Kingstown, RI, and many cherished colleagues and friends.

The funeral will be Wednesday, November 24 at 2 PM at Temple Sinai at 30 Hagen Ave, Cranston, RI. The family will be observing Shiva at their home at 140 Briarbrook Drive, North Kingstown, from Wednesday after the funeral until 5 p.m., on Thursday, November 25 from 10 until 4, and from 10 until 3:30 p.m. on Friday, November 26. In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made to the URI Program in Women's Studies via the URI Foundation or to Temple Sinai.
Negotiating starting salaries for women: Get paid what you’re worth!

Thursday, Feb. 24, 4:30-6pm
Swan Auditorium,
Kingston Campus, URI
FREE

This talk is to help women improve their strategies for negotiating starting salaries. Men are also welcome.

Talk presented by Aimée Phelps Lee, MBA

Phelps Lee, a full-time URI Instructor in Entrepreneurial Management, has been teaching Human Resources, Organizational Behavior, and Strategy at the university level since 1999. She also consults, specializing in Human Resource Management and Training & Development. She received her MBA from Cornell University, her BA in Sociology from Miami University, and has completed her coursework toward a PhD in Management.

THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

Crossing Borders: Women Writing Their Lives
March 8, 15, 29, and April 12, The University of Rhode Island
Lippitt Hall, Rm 402, Kingston Campus, 4:45-6 PM
Visit http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/events for excerpts

March 8: Jill Ker Conway is a prolific, world-renown historian and writer, born in Australia, educated at University of Sidney and Harvard. She was the first woman president of Smith College, has taught in many places, and has received thirty-eight honorary degrees and awards from North American and Australian colleges, universities and women’s organizations.

March 15: Elaine Neil Orr is a Nigerian, raised by a medical missionary family during the Biafran War. Her memoir explores issues of bicultural identity, growing up white and African, being connected to place, the innocence and blindness of childhood and adolescence in the face of history and war, and issues of life and death that a person faces waiting for a kidney transplant. She is a professor at N. Carolina State U. and at the brief residency MFA in Writing Program, Spalding U., Louisville, Kentucky.

March 29: Nancy McCabe has published two books of creative nonfiction, has a forthcoming memoir, Crossing the Blue Willow Bridge: A Journey to my Daughter’s Birthplace in China, and has won several prizes and notable mention in Best American Essays. She is a professor at and directs the writing program at U. of Pittsburgh/Bradford and is on the faculty of the brief residency MFA in Writing Program, Spalding U.

April 12: Beth Taylor’s memoir is about a Quaker family in 1960s Pennsylvania, an idyllic childhood in rural Bucks County, an inexplicable suicide by a teenage brother, and the effects of the Vietnam War on three generations of Beth’s family and her own lifetime of searching, love, loss, and faith. Beth co-directs the Nonfiction Writing Program in the Department of English at Brown U.
CROSSING BORDERS: WOMEN WRITING THEIR LIVES

Jill Ker Conway

"This beautifully written narrative of Conway's journey from a girlhood on an isolated sheep-farm in the grasslands of Australia to her departure for America (and eventually the presidency of Smith College) is both new and universal. If few of us have known an eight-year drought in New South Wales, many of us have felt the despair of an ambitious young woman facing a constrained female destiny. This book, an extraordinarily gripping and inspiring work, will take its place as one of the few heroic stories of girlhood." ~ Carolyn Heilbrun

March 8, 2011

THINK BIG. WE DO.

THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

Kingston Campus, Lippitt Hall, Rm 402
Reading & Conversation, 4:45 - 6:00 pm
FREE ADMISSION
uri.edu/artsci/wms/events
CROSSING BORDERS: WOMEN WRITING THEIR LIVES

Nancy McCabe

Even before Nancy McCabe and her daughter Sophie left for China, it was clear that, as the mother of an adopted child from China, she would be seeing the country as a tourist while her daughter, who was seeing the place for the first time in her memory, was 'going home'. Part travelogue, part memoir, Crossing the Blue Willow Bridge immerses readers in an absorbing and intimate exploration of place and its influence on the meaning of family.

March 29, 2011

THINK BIG WE DO™

THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

Kingston Campus, Lippitt Hall, Rm 402
Reading & Conversation, 4:45 - 6:00 pm
FREE ADMISSION
uri.edu/artsci/wms/events
CROSSING BORDERS: WOMEN WRITING THEIR LIVES

GODS of NOONDAY
A White Girl's African Life

Elaine Orr

"Orr's acute memory and reflective contemplations about life in her beloved Africa in those formative years gives readers an intricate picture of an unusual upbringing blended with an adult's take on the cultural changes in the world beyond the missionary compounds where her family was posted." - Publishers Weekly

March 15, 2011

Think Big We Do

The University of Rhode Island

Kingston Campus, Lippitt Hall, Rm 402
Reading & Conversation, 4:45 - 6:00 pm
FREE ADMISSION
uri.edu/artsci/wms/events
The Frederika Wild Schweers Lecture on Women and Health

with

Dr. Carolyn Howard

Own Your Reproductive Health
What you should know &
the questions you need to ask
when visiting the gynecologist

Thursday, April 7, at 7PM
Swan Auditorium

THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
Gynecologist addresses STDs, female sex health awareness

BY FARAH CASALINI
News Reporter

The University of Rhode Island’s Health Services gynecologist told students yesterday all they need to know about a normal trip to the gynecologist, sexually transmitted diseases, and contraceptives in her lecture “Questions You Need to Ask When Visiting the Gynecologist” last night.

Dr. Carolyn Howard, a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine has been URI’s gynecologist for the past six years, and was invited to deliver the annual Fredrika Wild Schweers lecture on women and health because of her extensive involvement with the university’s female population, women studies professor Jenn Brandt said.

Howard discussed all the procedures of a routine gynecological exam and the types of questions a woman might be asked by her gynecologist, including whether or not she has significant health or mental problems and whether or not she is sexually active.

“We want to know everything,” Howard said.

She also showed diagrams of women’s reproductive organs and explained their location and function. Howard stressed that it is extremely important for a woman to know her body.

“We need to know what goes where and we need to know what does what,” she said.

Howard also gave students some statistics and background information regarding sexually transmitted diseases. She said that Chlamydia is the “most common and most communicable” disease among women.

Continued on page 2

Women

From page 1

and added that two-thirds of women have it but don’t know it because it is asymptomatic, meaning the patient could exhibit no symptoms.

The second most common sexually transmitted disease, she said, is gonorrhea, also because of its asymptomatic nature.

While these diseases are fairly common among women, especially between the ages of 20 and 24, if they are left untreated, the woman can face “profound” reproductive consequences. Because of this, Howard suggests that women get tested for sexually transmitted diseases whenever they have a new sexual partner and when they go for their annual gynecologist appointment.

Howard also discussed the human papillomavirus (HPV) and said that 6.2 million new infections occur annually in the United States. She said that the only way of knowing if someone is infected with HPV is if they develop genital warts, but it’s best for the patient to talk to their doctor about receiving a vaccination before they realize they are infected.

She said that it’s imperative for women to be aware of their reproductive health and that she values the opportunity to help.

“It’s all about empowering women,” she said. “That’s the whole goal.”

Brandt said that considering the Wiz Khalifa concert was on the same night as the lecture, she was happy with the turnout that consisted of about 30 people, most of which were students and there were some faculty.

Jessie Conover, a graduate student at URI, said that while she was aware of a lot of the information discussed at the lecture, she found it to be “very informative.”

“It amazed me how prevalent HPV is in young people,” she said.

The Fredrika Wild Schweers Lecture on Women and Health, which began in 1984, is an annual lecture on some aspect of women’s health and was established by an unnamed “colleague and benefactor” who donated funds to support the lecture, according to the URI women studies program’s website.
CROSSING BORDERS: WOMEN WRITING THEIR LIVES

The Plain Language of Love and Loss

Beth Taylor

"Beth Taylor's memoir is one of the most tender and moving books I've read in a long time. Written with poise and grace, never falling into self-pity, The Plain Language of Love and Loss will surely touch the heart of anyone who has found the means to salvage a kind of meaning of our great tragedy. This is a book I will not forget." ~ Tim O'Brien

April 12, 2011

The University of Rhode Island

Kingston Campus, Lippitt Hall, Rm 402
Reading & Conversation, 4:45 - 6:00 pm
FREE ADMISSION
uri.edu/artsci/wms/events
Welcome
Jody Lisberger, Director Women’s Studies Program

Reflections on Women in the World
Dr. Bola Akanji, visiting scholar from the Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research

Graduating Women’s Studies Majors
Jenna Berube Anne Hoagland
Alexandria Bio  Courtney Needham
Erika Brondsky  Danielle Oliva
Melanie Carrazzo  Nelli Ruotsalainen
Kristen Chamberlain  Kinsey Tarbell
Ashley Coviello  Jessica Williams
Erin Gargurevich-Gorman  Heather Wright
Danielle Henderson

Certificate and Award Presentations: Jody Lisberger and Jenn Brandt

2011 National Women’s Studies Honors Society, Iota Iota Iota, Inductees
Jacqueline Atkins  Angela Kalondis
Elise Bailey  Lydia Lanphear
Alexandria Bio  Anastasia O’Keefe
Cara Brown  Gregg Reed
Jessica Caterino  Rebecca Roque
Shannon Curren  Brittany Schneiderman
Brielle Fewer  Kaylen Shimoda
Erin Gargurevich-Gorman  Whitney Smith

University Academic Excellence Award: Danielle Henderson

Eleanor M. Carlson Award: Nelli Ruotsalainen

Closing Remarks: Jody Lisberger
Plans After Graduation:

Annie Hoagland (Plymouth, MA): After graduation she hopes to work for an NGO that focuses on human/ women’s rights promotion. She would also like to join the Peace Corps for two years.

Courtney Needham (Cranston, RI): After graduation she will be pursuing a master’s degree in speech pathology.

Danielle Oliva (South Kingstown, RI): She will be sticking around Rhode Island this summer working for the Talent Development program and then plans to go to England because she never had a chance to study abroad. She hopes to one day work on helping students with women’s studies issues.

Nelli Ruotsalainen (Finland): The summer she will be completing an internship with the labor union of health and social care workers of Finland and doing research on equal pay and immigrant labor in Europe. She hopes to pursue a master’s degree within the next five years at the University of Helsinki.

Kinsey Tarbell (Standish, ME): Kinsey will spend this summer working at Narragansett Beach in Rhode Island. She plans to go to UNH in the fall to get her Masters in Social Work. She will also have a fall internship at a New Hampshire homeless shelter for pregnant women and mothers who have been in abusive relationships.

Jessica Williams (North Providence, RI): Jessica hopes to work in a research lab at a hospital for women and children. She plans to focus on women’s health issues.

Heather Wright (Pawcatuck, CT): Heather is now looking to either find a teaching job that will allow me to use my interest in gender studies or possibly work for a local organization that specifically deals with LGBT youth.

Jenna Berube (Mapicville, RI): She hopes to work in a fast-paced environment, making a difference in people’s lives and above all love what she is doing.

Alexandria Bio (West Warwick, RI): She hopes to get an MPA in Public Administration from URI and eventually work for a police department.

Erika Brondsky (Cirleville, NY): After she graduates she will be moving back to New York to look for a job as a mental health worker or working alongside a therapist to gain more experience. She will then be attending grad school in NYC and hopes to one day become a sex therapist.

Melanie Carrazzo (Warwick, RI): In the next five years she hopes to head to grad school and begin working for an organization of company (not CVS) and at the very least she hopes to do something that makes her happy.

Kristen Chamberlain (Coventry, RI): After Graduation she plans to use her three degrees in Nursing, Psychology, and Women’s Studies to be the best nurse she can be.

Ashley Coviello (North Attleboro, MA): In a few years she hopes to be going back to grad school to get her master’s degree in a nursing related field.

Erin Gargurevich-German (Wakefield, RI): After graduation he plans to stay in Rhode Island and find a job that encompasses her passions for the advancement and advocacy of marginalized communities.

Danielle Henderson (Wakefield, RI): After graduation she will be attending the University of Wisconsin- Madison for a master’s degree in Gender and Women’s Studies on a full Teaching Assistantship. She hopes to continue on to her Ph.D. in the same area and work in the private sector as a policy maker.
DO YOU WANT TO CHANGE THE WORLD? A CHARGE TO GRADUATING URI WMS CLASS OF (MAY) 2011

I feel quite honored today to be speaking to this American College graduating class. It is my first opportunity to do so and I am so glad it's a class of students that have been conscientized into my track of intellectual practice - to change the world to be better and fairer for the world's women. Not to re-invent the wheel of progress in the accepted fields of study, but to contribute to raising a critical mass of women and men, who are ready to further the discipline and practice of Women, Gender and Development.

The development context of this discipline, incidentally, is an intellectual field of only the last 35 years — spurred by the seminal work of Esther Boserup in 1979 — The Role of Women in National Development. Before then, women were simply studied as objects of development in such areas as the Arts, History and Creative Writing. This paradigm has been referred to as Women in Development (WID). It has been rejected by scholars. Women do not want to be put in a glass case! A shift in orientation started when the United Nations declared a Decade for Women from 1975 to 1985. A paradigm shift, Women and Development (WAD) emerged which saw women as subjects for development action. In other words, “change women’s status and we’re done” or “Add women and stir”. Not good enough!! Women do not need the token action or the pity party. By the end of the Decade for Women, the paradigm had shifted to Gender and Development (GAD), in better understanding of the fact that, the challenge is not about changing women, but about changing the power relations between genders (women and men) and changing the nature of development institutions that perpetrate the oppression of the world’s women. Women are now seen, more than ever, as key agents of development and better still, as partners in the development process, with men. Also, out of the Decade came two important Development Compacts for Gender Equality — The Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and The Beijing Platform for Action (commonly called the 3PA). With the CEDAW and the BPA, which has 12 strategic Platforms for action, greater strides have been made to improve the development space and achieve greater progress for the world’s women, but there is still a very, very long way to go.

That is why your role, as you step out into the real world, is very critical, perhaps more critical than for those in largely accepted disciplines. You will strive, much more than others, to have your subject matter accepted into the mainstream of politics, policies and practices; you will work harder than most to make the voice of women to be heard and for equity in rewards; You will be joining the battle to challenge the ‘glass ceiling’ in almost every occupation — but happily, you will be doing these from a more informed position than other agents of change. I am also speaking from experience when I say that you will experience much higher sense of achievement for every stride you take — because you will not simply be working to pay your bills or save up for a luxurious retirement, you will be working to change the world, in little and big ways. The good news is that you will not be alone. Many women and men of conscience and zeal have paved the way and there is so much to build on — so much legislation to use as tools of advocacy, so much mobilization has taken place and so many practicing teams are out there to join your ranks with.

In Africa and the developing world in general, the field for change is even larger and more fertile. There is so much that African women are doing to hold an unfair world together, for themselves and for their children, and for daughters yet unborn. African feminism is a matter of life and death. It is about everyday survival, it is about not being swept completely under by constantly changing winds of (under)development.

So, do you want to change the world? If yes, I invite you to come along for a better understanding of Africa and the African gender space. Africa is currently the world’s busiest arena for change. As you celebrate your graduation today, I will like to share with you a simple gift — one of the most treasured gifts of Africa — Proverbs or Sayings of the Wise. African proverbs are so philosophical and so deep, yet simple in their expression. Each one tells a story of a necessary journey of life. I hope that as you take one home with you, it will remind you that — your college degree of today is not an end, but the beginning of an exciting journey, especially for those who want to change the world, to be a better and fairer place for the women folk.

I want to thank the Director of the Women's Studies Program, Dr. Lisberger, for inviting me to chat with you and to share the joy of your accomplishment with you and your parents today. Congratulations

Professor Bola Akanji, African Visiting Professor, Women Studies Program, Spring 2011
Crossing Borders: Women Writing Their Lives

March 8, 15, 29, and April 12 at Lippitt Hall, Rm 402
Visit http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/events for excerpts

March 8: Jill Ker Conway is a prolific, world-renown historian and writer, born in Australia, educated at University of Sidney and Harvard. She was the first woman president of Smith College, has taught in many places, and has received thirty-eight honorary degrees and awards from North American and Australian colleges, universities and women’s organizations.

March 15: Elaine Orr is a Nigerian, raised by a medical missionary family during the Biafran War. Her memoir explores issues of race, class, religion, war, what it means to see (or not see) war through the eyes of a child, and how a kidney transplant affects one’s life. She is a professor at N. Carolina State U. and at the brief residency MFA in Writing Program, Spalding U., Louisville, Kentucky.

March 29: Nancy McCabe has published two books of creative nonfiction, has a forthcoming memoir, Crossing the Blue Willow Bridge: A Journey to my Daughter’s Birthplace in China, and has won several prizes and notable mention in Best American Essays. She is a professor at and directs the writing program at U. of Pittsburgh/Bradford and is on the faculty of the brief residency MFA in Writing Program, Spalding U.

April 12: Beth Taylor’s memoir is about a Quaker family in 1960s Pennsylvania, an idyllic childhood in rural Bucks County, an inexplicable suicide by a teenage brother, and the effects of the Vietnam War on three generations of Beth’s family and her own lifetime of searching, love, loss, and faith. Beth co-directs the Nonfiction Writing Program in the Department of English at Brown U.