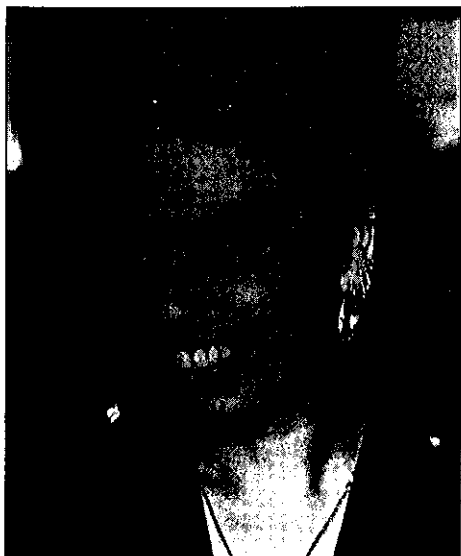


studies

news from women's studies at the university of south carolina

Angela Y. Davis Keynotes 1999 Women's Studies Conference

On February 25, at 5:30 p.m., in the USC Law School Auditorium, Angela Y. Davis will present a free public lecture entitled "Public Imprisonment and Public Violence: Reflections on the Hidden Punishment of Women," the keynote address for the 12th annual Women's Studies Conference. As shouts of "Free Angela" echoed



across the nation in the early 1970s, a California college professor, acquitted of false charges, became a national symbol of resistance to oppression. Over the years since then, Angela Y. Davis has remained active as a student, professor, writer, scholar, and passionate advocate/organizer, working against race, class, and gender oppression—particularly as it is played out through the criminal justice system.

Davis' political activism began when she was a youngster in Birmingham, Alabama, participating with her mother in civil rights demonstrations. But it was not until 1969 that she gained national attention after being removed by the Board of Regents and then Governor Ronald Reagan from her teaching position at UCLA because of her social

activism and membership in the Communist Party, USA. Active in the campaign to free the Soledad Brothers, African-American men widely viewed as political prisoners, Davis was placed on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted List in 1970 as a result of false charges that she was involved in a failed prison escape attempt by the men. During her 16-

month incarceration, a massive international "Free Angela Davis" campaign was organized, leading to her acquittal in 1972.

Today, Davis, who remains an advocate of prison abolition, has developed a powerful critique of racism, sexism, and classism in the criminal justice system. She is a member of the advisory board of the Prison Activist Resource Center and is currently working on a comparative study of women's imprisonment in the U.S., the Netherlands, and Cuba.

Davis' recent articles include "A World Unto Itself: Multiple Invisibilities of Imprisonment," "Incarcerated Women: Transformative Strategies," and

See "Davis" on page 2

Focus on Women's Health

Why do we need a course on Women's Health? An obvious reason is that women and men are different. Many introductory health and general biology courses cover a vast amount of material and tend to rely on information from studies based primarily on the male standard. And most young women do not know enough about their own physiology to understand their own health issues. Women and Their Bodies in Health and Disease (WOST 113) is an undergraduate course offered every semester in the Women's Studies Program and is geared specifically to women's health concerns.

The content and emphasis of this gender-based health course is interdisciplinary and weaves biology with social sciences and humanities. The course examines physical development and reproduction, aging, and diseases as they are manifest in women, including breast cancer, heart disease, and AIDS. Looking at the power of information and the politics of empowerment in constructing women's health, the course focuses on the role of equality and human rights as guarantors of health. To be healthy, women have to understand sexism, racism, class bias, and heterosexism in order to appreciate how much their health is shaped by societal forces.

This spring, Dr. Deborah Parra-Medina and Dr. Carolyn West will be teaching WOST 113. Each professor brings her own skills and talents to this course. Dr. Parra-Medina's training in public health and health promotion has provided her

See "Women's Health" on page 5

1999 Women's Studies Conference

This year's Women's Studies Conference, "Women's Studies on the Move: Envisioning the Future" builds on the success of the conference during the past 11 years. Continuing our expanded one-and-a-half-day format, the conference will include paper sessions, a community panel, workshops, and a musical presentation.

The first day, Thursday, February 25, begins with a concurrent paper session, followed by a community panel at 3:00 p.m. that will focus on issues of domestic violence and include: Susan Higginbottom, director, South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault; Nancy Barton, director, Sistercare, Inc.; and Beebe James, director, Prevent Child Abuse South Carolina. They will discuss ways to connect community issues with university concerns.

The keynote lecture at 5:30 p.m., sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts, features Angela Y. Davis. See the front page story for more information about Davis.

The second day of the conference, Friday, February 26, includes two paper sessions and three workshops: "Publish, Don't Perish," "What Have Men Got to Do With It?," and "Spreading the Roots of Women's Studies: The Small Campus".

During the luncheon, Dr. Rita Rhodes will present the Josephine Abney Lecture. The 1999 Josephine Abney and Carol Jones Carlisle Awards will also be presented at this time.

Musical Performance

Turning to lighter fare, Women's Studies will present a special performance of chamber music and poetry entitled "Spirals of Light," as the final program for our 25th anniversary conference. The free performance, co-sponsored with the School of Music, will take place in the Recital Hall of the Music Building (adjacent to the Koger Center), at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, February 26. The concert presents original music by Columbia composer Meira Maxine Warshauer and poetry by Amherst, Massachusetts, writer Ani Tuzman. The music and spoken poetry on themes of enlightenment weave together to create an intimate and moving experience of women's spiritual expression. The program concludes with the song cycle, "A Time to Blossom," which was originally commissioned in part by Women's Studies in 1990. Performers are Constance Lane, flute; Robert Jesselson, cello; Laury Christie, soprano; Meira Silverstein, violin; Winifred Goodwin, piano; Meira Warshauer, piano; and Ani Tuzman, speaker. A reception will follow the performance.

Conference fees are \$40 (\$20 for students), which includes lunch and receptions. Registration forms are available in the Women's Studies Program Office, 201 Flinn Hall. For more information, please call the Office at 803-777-4007.

Courses Focusing on Women's Health

Undergraduate

- HPRE 501 Family Life and Sex Education Programs
- HPRE 621 Maternal and Child Health Education
- HPRE 654 Maternal and Child Nutrition
- WOST 113 Women and Their Bodies in Health and Disease
- WOST 541/NURS 541 Issues in Women's Health
- PSYC 301 Psychology of Women
- NURS 110 Self-care Behaviors
- SOWK 305 Social Welfare Services for Women and Minorities
- ANTH 210 The Human Life Cycle in Different Cultures
- PHIL 312 Medical Ethics

Graduate

- HPRE 501 Family Life and Sex Education Programs
- HPRE 621 Maternal and Child Health Education
- HPRE 654 Maternal and Child Nutrition
- WOST 714/FPMD 714 Nutrition in Women's Health
- WOST 541/NURS 541 Issues in Women's Health
- PSYC 750/WOST 750 Psychology of Women
- SOCY 511 Human Fertility
- SOCY 524 Interpersonal Behaviors in Families
- EPID 751 Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Their Epidemiology and Control
- EPID 753 AIDS: Epidemiology and Control
- EPID 765 Reproductive Epidemiology
- EPID 754 AIDS Seminar
- HPRE 684 HIV/AIDS Education: Principles and Practices
- HPRE 726 Prevention of Teenage Pregnancy
- SOWK 765 Sexuality Issues for Social Work Practice
- SOWK 767 Feminist Perspectives for Social Work Practice
- SOWK 774 Social Welfare Issues Related to Children and Families
- SOWK 775 Social Welfare Programs and Services for Children and Families

Davis from page 1

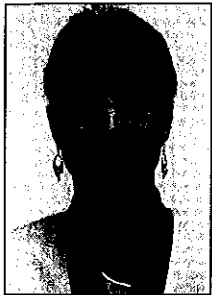
"Gender, Class, and Multiculturalism: Rethinking Race Politics." She is also the author of five books, including *Angela Davis: An Autobiography*; *Women, Race, and Class* and her most recent book, *Blues Legacies and Black Feminism: Gertrude "Ma" Rainey, Bessie Smith and Billie Holiday*.

Former Governor Ronald Reagan once vowed that Angela Davis would never again teach in the University of California system. Today, she is a tenured professor in the History of Consciousness Department at the University of California, Santa Cruz. From 1994 to 1997 she held the distinguished honor of an appointment to the University of California Presidential Chair in African American and Feminist Studies.

Davis' lecture is funded by the USC College of Liberal Arts.

Director's Comments

"Uncovering Hidden Violence"



"This is the safest I've ever felt in my life." Rebekah Bradley and Katie Davino have heard similar comments repeatedly from the women they are interview-

ing for their dissertation research at USC in clinical psychology and women's studies. The women who made these comments aren't on vacation—they are in prison. Prison is the safest place they've ever lived: best estimates are that between 80 percent and 95 percent of the women who end up in prison—largely poor women and women of color—have been victims of interpersonal violence in their homes and neighborhoods before going to prison. And although we may deplore the violence these women experience in their lives, we pay little attention to the ways this violence and other forms of violence are overtly connected with maintaining the dominance of powerful groups in society—and to the ways language is employed to obscure the connections.

Violence and the threat of violence are mechanisms of control employed to achieve and sustain the dominance of one group or individual over the lives and resources of another. In the dominant culture, the word "violence" is typically used to describe acts perpetrated by oppressed groups (especially men of color, poor people) against each other (such as the routine "domestic" violence and neighborhood violence experienced by these women in prison) or against the dominant group—a much rarer and yet much more visible kind of violence.

The dominant culture employs other words to describe the mass murder and destruction that is conducted by

nation states in the name of the preservation of national dominance, of the current hierarchy of privilege, of "our way of life." For this, we use terms such as "war," "conflict," "ethnic cleansing." And the weapons of destruction are described as "peacekeepers" or as seemingly neutral combinations of letters and numbers—F 16.

Other forms of violence, if performed in the name of the preservation of the current social, economic, and political system (based in race, class, gender, and sexuality oppression), are also not called "violence." The "death penalty," for example, is not called "murder" or "genocide" despite the fact that its targets are overwhelmingly poor men, especially men of color. Rather than identified as victims of violence, many rape and sexual harassment victims are put on trial themselves as a consequence of seeking justice when the system of male privilege—including control over women's bodies—is at stake.

And less severe but nonetheless inhumane forms of violence, when perpetrated in the name of the status quo, are not defined as violent. I was recently struck, for example, when reading the Associated Press story of Martin Gurule, the 29-year-old death-row inmate who escaped from Huntsville, Texas, prison. Amid the descriptions of the murders he had committed in the failed robbery attempt that landed him in jail was the following statement:

"Recently, because of good-time credits, he had been made a wing orderly, ... A fringe benefit was that in the summer, these prisoners get air-conditioning."

Maybe you have to live in Columbia, South Carolina, or in Huntsville, Texas, to be taken aback by the idea of air conditioning as a fringe benefit. But when I read that a fringe benefit was air-conditioning, I could instantly imagine the prison scene. Prisons, like the schools we have built in the last thirty years, have few if any windows—the heat and the humidity in the summer is unbearable. With poor ventilation and no air conditioning,

every minute of life for the prisoners would be physical torment.

Even though dominant culture language and control of ideological institutions (media, schools) is very effective in obscuring the violence that is perpetrated in defense of the current social system, a critical perspective on violence and social inequality cannot help but reveal the connection. It is also the case that while physical violence—direct threat to one's body—represents the most extreme mechanism of control, powerful systems of oppression rarely have to rely on such mechanisms because they control in other ways—for example, through control over the economic and the political and ideological resources of society. And people conform every day to societal norms that are fundamentally unfair—that reproduce race, class, gender, and sexuality hierarchies—in part because they fear the consequences if they challenge them.

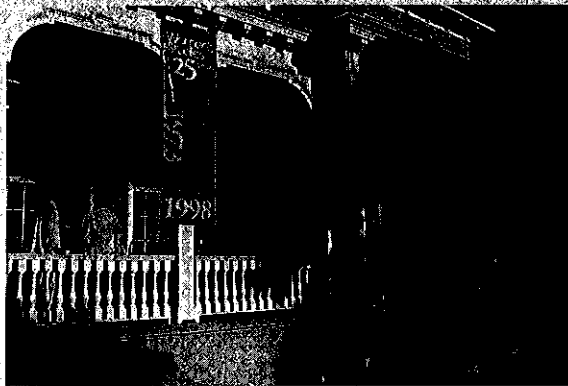
Every person of color who enters an all-white club or neighborhood does not have to be verbally or physically harassed for all people of color to know that they are in danger in all-white environments. Every striking worker does not have to lose his or her job for other workers to fear striking. Every woman does not have to be raped and treated as the criminal, not the victim, by the legal system for all women to fear speaking up when they are raped. Every homosexual does not have to be beaten, strung to a post, and left for dead—as Matthew Shepherd was—for all homosexuals to fear that if they live their lives as heterosexuals do—openly and honestly—they may be subject to similar treatment.

If we fail to address the ways that state-sanctioned violence—including the violence that takes place within families and in the neighborhoods of poor women and women of color—is a fundamental element in the reproduction of race, class, gender, and sexuality hierarchies, we will have missed the opportunity to clearly understand these systems and to work to dismantle them while seeking an inclusive and humane social order.

WOST 25th Anniversary Celebration

Women's
Studies
25 years

The College of Liberal Arts sponsored the Women's Studies Program 25th Anniversary kickoff celebration with a reception in its new home in newly renovated Flinn Hall (top photo), preceding the Adrenée Glover Freeman Lecture. Pictured in the bottom photo at the reception are Gordon Smith, interim dean, College of Liberal Arts; Adrienne Davis, guest lecturer, American University, Washington, D.C.; and Lynn Weber, director, WOST Program.



Ehrenreich Meets with WOST Faculty and Students



In addition to her public lecture in the USC Writers Festival, Barbara Ehrenreich met on Saturday afternoon, October 3 in a seminar sponsored by Women's Studies to discuss her work with women's studies faculty and students. Seventeen WOST faculty and students from nursing, biology, comparative literature, sociology, foreign languages, English, government and international studies, and social work attended and had the opportunity to discuss Ehrenreich's more than twenty-five years of scholarship on women and medicine, welfare, poverty, the middle class, war, and her current work on collective ecstasy.

Ehrenreich talked about the contours of her career as a writer who has been able to earn a living writing critical scholarship on intensely contested issues for the mass media and press. Both students and faculty who have admired her work were deeply grateful for the opportunity to meet with Ehrenreich and to learn from her experience and perspective on social life. Pictured (l-r) are Lee Davinroy (WOST/English graduate student), Lynn Weber, and Barbara Ehrenreich.

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Richter Looks at How Women Make Decisions About Their Health



Dr. Donna Richter, associate professor and chair of the Department of Health Promotion and Education in the USC School of Public Health, is currently conducting several studies of women's decision-making processes about their health. The Southern Women's Health Project, funded by the National Institute for Nursing Research, examines the pregnancy decisions of African-

American women living with HIV and the use of anti-retroviral therapy to decrease transmission of the virus from mother to baby.

Focus groups conducted in Atlanta and Columbia revealed that younger women, women without children, women who gave birth to a non-infected baby (or knew someone who did) were all more willing to become pregnant. The project also produced an educational video (including participants in the project) to provide HIV-infected women with information necessary to make informed pregnancy decisions.

The ENDOW project (Ethnicity, Needs and Decisions of Women), funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is a four-site national study to investigate how women make

decisions about hysterectomy and hormone replacement therapy (HRT). The four sites are USC, the University of Alabama at Birmingham, the University of Texas at Houston, and the University of New Mexico at Albuquerque. The racial/ethnic groups of women who are targeted include African Americans, Whites, Hispanics, Latinos, and Navajos.

Finally, two projects, both funded by the CDC, focus on improving the capacity of community-based organizations to address community health problems. One focuses on teen pregnancy prevention and a second on HIV prevention programs. As a part of the latter project, Dr. Richter is planning a national training institute for HIV prevention to begin in January 2000 as a joint project of CDC and the Association of Schools of Public Health.

S. C. Hispanic Outreach Helps Victims of Domestic Violence

In 1995, Hispanic Outreach (Acercamiento Hispano) was established as a non-profit, community-based organization. Its mission is to promote the well being of the Hispanic/Latino community in the state of South Carolina through education, social services, health promotion, and referrals for employment and legal assistance. De Mujer a Mujer (Woman to Woman), is a program designed to raise awareness about domestic violence and sexual assault and serves as a cultural link between hard-to-reach individuals in the Hispanic/Latino community and existing social and legal services. The social isolation and limited language proficiency of Hispanic/Latinos keeps many from seeking help.

Hispanic Outreach has seven bilingual/bicultural regional advocates who conduct educational seminars on domestic violence at churches, community-based organizations, and health departments throughout South Carolina. These educational seminars are designed to raise awareness of domestic violence, and to emphasize what to do and what resources are available for victims. The regional advocates play a key role as liaisons to social services. An advocate is assigned to each case of domestic violence involving a Latina and serves as a translator and assists with such pragmatic matters as filling out forms. The advocates help victims find safe houses and aid in navigating the social service agencies.

This program attempts to address the issues of domestic violence in a holistic way, by developing and supporting the Hispanic/Latino family unit in all its forms. If you would like more information about Hispanic Outreach, its programs, and services, please call: 803-714-0085.



Coker Studies Intimate Partner Violence



Dr. Ann Coker, associate professor in the USC School of Public Health and affiliate faculty member in Women's Studies, is conducting a study of the frequency, correlates, consequences, and costs of intimate partner violence in a population of women receiving primary care in a managed-care setting. In this study, intimate partner violence refers to physical, sexual, or emotional abuse by men against women in an intimate (sexual) relationship.

The goal of this study is to estimate the prevalence of intimate partner violence (IPV) and to assess correlates and health consequences of IPV by the type of violence (physical, sexual, and emotional). This study is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Drs. Lesa Bethea, Robert McKeown, Leiyu Shi, and Paige Hall Smither are collaborators.

In over 1,300 women surveyed to date, 20.2 percent experienced IPV in a current or recent relationship (11.1 percent experienced physical or sexual violence and 9.1 percent experienced psychological

battering), and 56.5 percent experienced IPV in their lifetime (40 percent experienced physical or sexual abuse). These figures are consistent with national estimates of intimate partner violence recently reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Women experiencing IPV in any past intimate relationship were almost twice as likely to be in a current relationship that is violent. Women whose partners had a drug or alcohol problem were 15 times more likely to experience IPV. Women whose fathers had abused their mothers were three times more likely to experience IPV.

A range of adverse health outcomes are associated with IPV. Women experiencing IPV were more likely than non-victims to rate their mental health and physical health as fair or poor. IPV was associated with the following health behaviors or outcomes: substance use; depression or anxiety; suicide; kidney, bladder, and sexually transmitted infections; a range of gastric disorders; and general disabilities.

The high number of women in a managed-care family practice setting who have experienced IPV reinforces the importance of screening for this violence. Coker suggests that physicians routinely screen for IPV just as they screen for cancer, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease. She identified important physical and mental health consequences of IPV, which may be prevented with early interventions.

Women's Health

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with wide experience in working on the health issues of underserved and minority populations in the U.S. Dr. West's background in biology brings important expertise in female biology and physiology. In addition, Dr. West offers her course through distance education, making the course available to a wider audience.

In the fall 1998 semester, WOST 113 was taught by Melva Thompson, Dr. PH. During the first part of the semester, students learned about the health status of women and how it varies over women's lifespans. Students were encouraged to look at their current health behaviors and envision how their decisions and activities will affect their future health status. Students were encouraged to compare themselves to women who are different from them in age, culture, race, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status. Students enjoyed this opportunity to discuss, compare, and contrast the health issues of women.

During the second part of the semester, the class explored in more depth the major health problems, issues, and concerns of women: pregnancy and reproduction, contraception, cancer, cardiovascular disease, HIV/AIDS, eating disorders, violence, and substance abuse. These problems were chosen because of their significant impact on women and their families. Guest lecturers presented material related to these topics. Students took an active role in learning through discussions of and group presentations on related community and Internet resources.

Retreat Renews Connections

During the weekend of November 6-7, twenty-seven women's studies enthusiasts, most of whom are core and affiliate faculty, gathered for our second annual retreat at the White Oak Conference Center. This year faculty from Columbia and three regional campuses were joined by five graduate students whose contributions to the program's teaching and research make an important difference. The goals of the retreat were to find out more about our colleagues' and students' teaching and research activities and to brainstorm about the program's future. We know from our experience last year that ideas generated from the retreat's creative synergy will inform and inspire the work we do to develop the program all year long.

The retreat started off on Friday evening with a round of brief introductions and

then an informal event that allowed us to become better acquainted with each other. On Saturday we started both morning and afternoon sessions with participants taking turns to talk about the major foci of their research and teaching. On the basis of those interests, thematically centered breakout groups were formed throughout the day. During the morning, five groups were organized around women's health, women and ecology, gender and violence, images and representations, and political action and public policy. The early afternoon groups focused on teaching-related issues: interdisciplinary courses, introductory sections, feminist pedagogy, and the BA curriculum. Later in the afternoon new groups were formed to address student involvement, the program's strategic plan, and the coming women's studies conference.

The reports from the groups raised many important issues: the importance of linking our teaching and research to community activists' projects, the centrality of collaborative teaching and participatory learning to feminist pedagogy, the need to involve more male students in women's studies, and the usefulness of an ecological framework for constructing webs of connections between the local and global.

Our second annual retreat was an enjoyable and productive way of celebrating our 25th anniversary. Through the relationships developed there, we will move further toward our goal of building a critical learning community committed to teaching and producing knowledge for social justice.

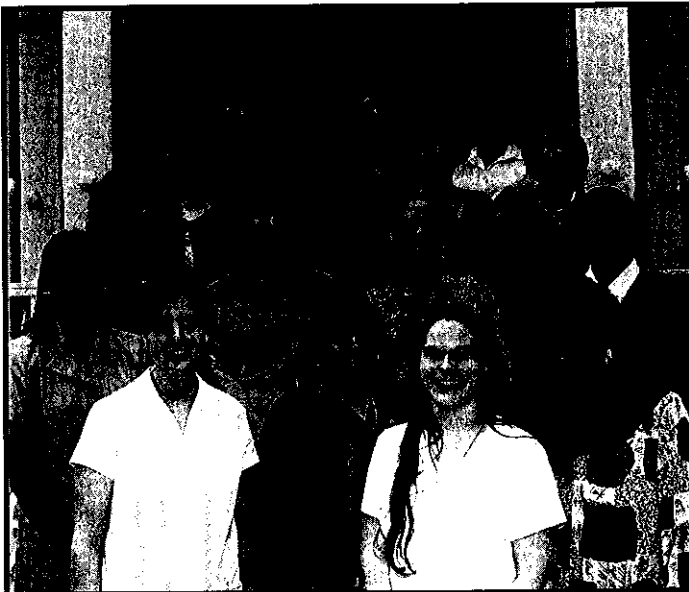
Faucette Award Recipients

Women's Studies is strongly committed to its certificate students' professional development as teachers and researchers. Each fall we award Harriott Hampton Faucette Awards to deserving students whose research seeks to reconceptualize established knowledge as well as to create new knowledge through the lens of gender and the prism of diversity. Last year the awards permitted two students, Jennifer Willand and Siobhan Groitl, to present their work at feminist conferences around the country. This year we have two recipients

whose awards will subsidize conference travel and thesis or dissertation research.

Miriam Chitiga, a doctoral candidate in Educational Leadership and Policies, will be the first researcher to investigate the constraints and opportunities that black women administrators must negotiate in Zimbabwe's institutions of higher education. She plans to bring women's voices into her analysis of the complex gender, race, and class dynamics of educational leadership in Zimbabwe's postcolonial development.

Geoffrey Hughes, a master's student in anthropology, is returning to Winston-Salem, N.C. where he is doing historical archaeological and archival research on the multiple axes of difference and power within the antebellum and postbellum Moravian settlement of Salem. In his study of Moravian funerary practice and graveyards, he uses a feminist perspective on race, class, gender, and sexuality as interrelated arenas of accepted and contested identities.



WOST Staff

The Women's Studies Program core staff has grown tremendously in the past couple of years: 3 full-time faculty, 2 staff, 5 student workers, and 10 graduate assistants. Shown from left to right (top row): Lynn Weber, WOST director; Rebecca Riggs, undergraduate-international studies; Tammy Hallinquest, undergraduate-nursing; Lee Davinroy, graduate-English; Monica Bowman, undergraduate-biology/pre-med; Julie Yoder, graduate-linguistics; Melva Thompson, graduate-public health; EnaShea Kohler, recipient-WOST program certificate; Staci Stone, graduate-English; Faye Harrison, WOST graduate director; Miriam Chitiga, graduate-education; Jacqueline McClary, WOST administrative assistant; Shannon Hunnicutt, graduate-social work; Deborah Parra-Medina, assistant professor, WOST & public health; Brandi Martin, undergraduate-journalism/political science; and Rosa Thorn, WOST program coordinator. Not pictured: Rebekah Bradley, graduate-psychology; Rosilyn Robinson, graduate-criminal justice; Melissa Johnson, graduate-English; and Rachell Paranal, recipient-WOST program certificate.

Mark Your Calendars

Spring 1999 Pedagogy Brownbag Teaching Series: Flinn Hall

Wednesday, February 3, 1999, noon, room 101

Thursday, February 18, 1999, 12:30 p.m., room 102

Wednesday, March 17, 1999, noon, room 101

Tuesday, April 13, 1999, 12:30 p.m., room 102

Spring 1999 Research Series: Gambrell Hall

Wednesday, January 27, 1999, 3:30 p.m., room 250

Wednesday, March 24, 1999, 3:30 p.m., room 250

Thursday, April 22, 1999, 3:30 p.m., room 250

Award Application Deadlines (Applications available in WOST office)

Thompson Award (\$250) February 22, 1999

Childs Award (\$250) February 24, 1999

Mission Statement

University of South Carolina
Women's Studies Program

Women's Studies at the University of South Carolina promotes understanding of the diverse array of women's experiences through a complete program of teaching, research, and service to the university, the local community, the state, and the nation. Through its research mission, Women's Studies reconceptualizes knowledge, creates new knowledge, and reinterprets existing knowledge through the lens of gender and the prism of diversity. Through its teaching mission, Women Studies shares this knowledge with students so that they learn to think critically, to communicate effectively, to solve problems, and to interpret human experience. Emerging from an activist tradition, Women's Studies serves university, local, state, and national communities by acting as a resource and guide for issues related to women and gender. Our research, teaching, and service missions interweave as we create, share, and apply the knowledge, skills, and values that promote the full participation of women in society.

Friends of Women's Studies

The following individuals and organizations have supported the Women's Studies Program Endowment through contributions from January 1996 to November 1998.

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We Want To Hear From You!

Please share with us your accomplishments, interests, and ideas for future programming. We'd like to establish a place for our friends to brag about the good things they're doing so we can report their accomplishments in future newsletters. We'd also like your input on speakers and topics of interest to you.

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Accomplishments: _____

Ideas/Topics of Interest: _____

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women's

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