

# WOMEN'S STUDIES NEWSLETTER

## THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY

December 2006

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Women's Studies and  
Black Studies  
Brownbag Lunch Series  
Presents

**"Harem Fantasies and Music  
Videos:  
Contemporary Orientalist  
Representation "**

**Guest Speaker: Maya Johnson**  
(AMST Graduate Student)

Friday, December 1, 2006

12 p.m.

Morton 314

The Margaret Gove  
Women's Studies Seminar Room

All Are Welcome So Come  
and Join Us!

Bring yourself, your lunch,  
and a Friend!

Light (but delicious!)  
refreshments will be available.

**GIVE TO WMST  
through our  
website**

[WWW.WM.EDU/WOMEN  
SSTUDIES](http://WWW.WM.EDU/WOMEN<br/>SSTUDIES)

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Suggestions?

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### Update from the Director: Suzanne Raitt

Welcome to the 2006-7 academic year in Women's Studies! We have a number of exciting events planned, and we hope to see you at some or all of them.

There have been a few changes in the Women's Studies program since last semester. First, we are delighted to announce that Jennifer Putzi, who has been teaching in the program since 2002, has been appointed as Assistant Professor of English and Women's Studies. Jenny is one of our most popular teachers and advisers. She regularly coordinates and teaches sections of "Introduction to Women's Studies," and she has also taught "Women and Popular Culture." In Spring 2007, she will be offering "Feminist Research Methods" for the first time. Jenny's book, *Identifying Marks: Race, Gender, and the Marked Body in Nineteenth-Century America*, was published earlier this year.

We also have two new instructors teaching "Introduction to Women's Studies" this year: Laura Puaca, who is completing a PhD called *A New National Defense: Higher Education, American Feminism, and the Quest for "Scientific Brainpower," 1940-1965*, and Christine Mowery, Visiting Assistant Professor of Sociology. Our new graduate assistant is Tova Johnson, who is a graduate student in American Studies. She will be leading the Founding Friends book group, and adding new pages to the Women's Studies website on internship opportunities, and alumni networks. We look forward to working with all three.

The Black Studies/Women's Studies brownbag series started a month ago with Francis Tanglao-Aguas' riveting talk on dramatic representations of Filipino comfort women in World War Two, and continued with Francie Cate-Arries' presentation of lone Robinson's moving photos of refugees from the Spanish Civil War in the 1930s. Our next brownbag is our ex-graduate assistant Maya Johnson speaking on "Harem Fantasies and Music Videos: Contemporary Orientalist Representation," on December 1<sup>st</sup> at 12 noon.

We had our Welcome Back Dinner at the home of Ann Repeta, at which we devoured acres of Doraldo's lasagne. At the Annual Planning Meeting the following day, we discussed plans for the Braithwaite Event on Sexual Harassment on March 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007. Regina Barreca, Professor of English at the University of Connecticut, will give a talk called "Harass is One Word: Laughter, Feminism, and the Importance of Making Yourself Heard," and on the following day there will be a series of workshops on a range of issues such as faculty/student harassment, institutional resources, sexual harassment and the law. Mark your calendars!

We are excited to announce that we will be hiring a new instructor this year. Look for the ad in this newsletter. Please pass the announcement on to anyone who might be interested in applying.

Last but not least, Friends of Women's Studies is going strong, and the Founding Friends book group has already had two meetings. This year, the group is reading books on the theme of immigrants and immigration. See the ad in this newsletter, or on our website, if you are interested in joining.

I will be going on leave for one semester in Spring 2007 to look after my twins, and we are very lucky that Christy Burns has kindly agreed to direct the program in my absence. Thank you, Christy!

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### Friends of Women's Studies

Friends of Women's Studies is an organization which offers an opportunity for women in the local area to become more involved with Women's Studies at the College of William and Mary, to attend various events and to contribute their support to the campus community.

Friends membership for 2006-7 includes the Women's Studies and Black Studies brownbag lecture series, Fridays at noon; Women's Studies newsletters; borrowing rights at the Women's Studies library; film screenings and discussions in Introduction to Women's Studies course forums on Tuesday evenings, Spring semester 2007; and an invitation to the Braithwaite Event on Sexual Harassment in March 2007. Founding Friends are also invited to join a monthly book group with Friends, faculty and students. This year, the book group will discuss the following books: Dec. 8 - Amy Tan's *Joy Luck Club*; Jan. 26 - Sandra Cisneros' *Caramelo*; Feb. 23 - Julia Alvarez's *In the Time of the Butterflies*; Mar. 23 - Anzia Yezierska's *Bread Givers*; Apr. (TBA) - Bharati Mukherjee's *Jasmine*.

2006-7 annual membership dues for Friends of Women's Studies are \$35 for Friends level, and \$75 for Founding Members. If you are an employee of the College, Friends membership is free and Founding Friend Membership costs \$20. If you would like to join, please download the registration form from the Women's Studies website, [www.wm.edu/womensstudies](http://www.wm.edu/womensstudies), or contact Ann Repeta on 221-2457, [darepe@wm.edu](mailto:darepe@wm.edu).

### 2006 DEAN'S PRIZE

#### Winners

We are proud to announce the winners of last year's Dean's Prize.

The Undergraduate Prize is shared between:

Beth Block, "Ancilla, Virga, Matrona, and Augusta on Screen: The Depiction of Roman Women in Hollywood Cinema"

Mary Teeter, "Re-humanizing Rochester: Masculinity Studies and Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre*"

Graduate Prize:

Elizabeth Neidenbach, "The Power of a Legend: Negotiations and Representations of Marie Laveau in Francine Prose's *Marie Laveau*, Ishmael Reed's *The Last Days of Louisiana Red*, and Jewell Parker Rhodes' *Voodoo Dreams*"



And, of course, Ann still has her M&M's on her desk. So please drop by to say hi and eat a few M&M's.

#### **Professor Gul Ozyegin (Sociology and Women's Studies) wins Netherlands Fellowship!**

In 2006-07, Gul Ozyegin is a Fellow-in-Residence at the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIAS). She is completing a book with the tentative title, "New Selves in a Changing Nation: Sex and Gender Among Young Turks." Professor Ozyegin's book examines the gender and sexual identities of young Turks born amid the social changes of the 1980s.

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### Braithwaite Event Date Set! Mark Your Calendar!

This year the Braithwaite Event on Sexual Harassment will take place on March 21st and 22nd in the University Center. The Braithwaite lecturer will be Regina Barreca, Professor of English at the University of Connecticut, and her talk will be called "Harass is One Word: Laughter, Feminism, and the Importance of Making Yourself Heard". The talk is Thursday March 21st at 7 pm. Check out her website at <http://www.ginabarreca.com/>. Professor Barreca's talk will be followed on Friday March 22nd by a series of workshops on the following topics:

- Student/student harassment (Trish Hunsaker, Sexual Assault Educator, Office of Student Affairs)
- Campus resources/responses to sexual harassment (Susan Grover, Director, Office of Equal Opportunity)
- Sexual harassment and the law (Susan Grover, Director, Office of Equal Opportunity)
- Race and sexual harassment (Richael Faithful, Red Flag Campaign Task Force)
- Professor/student sexual harassment (Scott Nelson, Graduate Ombudsperson)
- Internet sexual harassment (Juliana Mills, School of Education and Counseling)

### WOMEN'S STUDIES IS HIRING!

The Women's Studies Program is seeking to appoint an instructor to a non-tenure-eligible, one-year restricted position with possible annual renewal for a further four years. The preferred candidate will have a PhD or equivalent, and research and teaching experience in topics central to Women's Studies. A social science specialization is preferred. Teaching responsibilities will include teaching in and co-coordinating an Introduction to Women's Studies course with a strong cross-cultural component, and elective courses in the instructor's own area of specialization. The teaching load is five courses per year. The annual salary is \$35,000 with benefits.

The College of William and Mary, chartered in 1693, is the nation's second oldest academic institution. It is a highly selective, medium-sized state university committed to excellence in the liberal arts and in graduate and professional education. The Women's Studies Program is part of the School of Arts and Sciences. It is a dynamic interdisciplinary program, offering both a major and a minor. We currently have three faculty members who are jointly appointed in Women's Studies, and around fifty affiliated faculty members. Please send a letter, CV and three letters of recommendation to Professor Christy Burns, Acting Director, Women's Studies Program, College of William and Mary, PO Box 8795, Williamsburg, VA 23187-8795.

Review of applications will begin on January 15 and continue until the position is filled.

The College is an EO/AA employer. Members of underrepresented groups are strongly encouraged to apply.

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### Faculty Focus: Christy Burns

**Christy Burns** came to William & Mary in 1992, the year between Anita Hill and Lorena Bobbitt, when terms like "sexual harassment" and "marital rape" were just beginning to enter the field of national consciousness. Hired by the English Department to teach modern British literature, specializing in fiction, Burns soon began teaching in the Women's Studies program as well. There, she says, she found a supportive environment where women's issues and analyses of gender and sexuality were beginning to thrive.

After being tenured in 1998, Burns began teaching in the College's Film Studies program as well. She has taught a course on the impact of visual culture on how race, sexuality, and gender are perceived in U.S. culture since the 1950s, and she is currently developing a new course on Globalization and Irish film (1950s to present). Both courses are linked to book projects and a series of articles in print or forthcoming. Her first media studies publication was on postmodern paranoia in *The X-Files* (Camera Obscura), and she followed this with an analysis of race in the film *Suture* (Discourse). She currently has an article on Irish film and another on nostalgia in the films of Andrei Tarkovsky under consideration.

While much of her current work focuses on film and the media, Burns' research has more generally addressed the political valences of representation in literature and film. While working on her Ph.D. at the Johns Hopkins University's Humanities Center, she specialized in modern literature, continental philosophy, and critical theory. She has taught courses, growing out of these interests, in literary theory, queer theory, modern British fiction, postmodernism, James Joyce, and Virginia Woolf.

In her first book, *Gestural Politics: Stereotypes and Parody in Joyce* (2000), Professor Burns addresses the treatment of gender, sexuality, and nationalism in James Joyce's fiction. She develops a method of interpreting stereotypes in dialogue with humor and contra-realist fictional form, drawing on Jacques Lacan's theories of aggressivity and paranoia and Derrida's deconstructive approach to referentiality. Coupling this approach to political reading with contextual work on the influence of eurhythmics and modern dance, she finds that Joyce employs, as he parodies, stark, aggressive textual gestures where stereotypes emerge. He also, however, shifts to playful babble and non-confrontational forms of address, drawing away from static types and quick interpretability. Burns therefore locates an alternation between parody and paranoia, and she assesses textual gestures in terms of their ability to dislocate the polarities that give rise to the aggressivity that produces stereotypes.

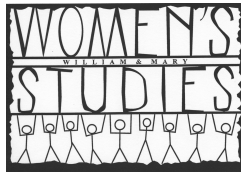
Professor Burns's current book project, "Beyond Reason: Sensate Meaning in Modern to Twenty-First Century Fiction," examines the twentieth-century avant-garde's critique of the rationalist conception of meaning, as writers turned toward sensate meanings located in the materiality of words and bodies, and in the unconscious. Mapping the influence of phenomenology, psychology, and racialized and gendered narratives in anthropology, this project explores the impact of modernism's sensory emphasis as it is passed on to postmodern and contemporary writers, focusing on the nexus of relations between aesthetic pleasure, primitivism, nostalgia, and sexuality. Professor Burns has also published articles on paranoia in Nabokov, Joyce, and Pynchon; and on feminist aesthetics in the works of Jeanette Winterson, Eavan Boland, and Virginia Woolf. This spring, she will be teaching an author course on James Joyce in the English Department.

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### 2007 Dean's Prize information



#### The Women's Studies Program

#### Dean's Prize for Student Scholarship on Women

In the Spring of 2007, two prizes will be awarded to current William and Mary students whose work (completed during the 2006-2007 academic year) is evaluated by a selection committee as most successful in advancing our knowledge of women. Students may submit term papers or other class assignments, independent study projects, honors or thesis research. The Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences will award two prizes of \$100 each. This competition is open to all undergraduate and graduate arts and science students.

Projects and papers of up to 35 pages in length will be considered. Three copies of each entry must be submitted. In addition, your full name, social security number, local phone number, e-mail address, and the name of the instructor and class to which the work was originally submitted should appear on the paper but on a separate cover sheet. While papers may be submitted at any time, the final deadline is 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 23, 2007. Materials for consideration should be submitted to Christy Burns, Acting Director of Women's Studies, 321 Morton Hall (x12453).

### 2007 Carol Woody Internship information

Looking for some real-world



experience?

#### Internship awards are available.

Carol Woody Internship awards are available for female students seeking real world experience to complement their studies. The awards are available for students interested in doing an internship over Spring Break. Applicants are asked to submit a one-page description of where they will spend their internship, why they chose this particular internship, and what they hope to gain from this experience. Please include an estimate of expenses. Applications are due in the Women's Studies office (322 Morton Hall) by Monday, February 5, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. For more details, call 221-2457.

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### **Feminism, Sexuality and the Return of Religion Conference**

My name is Sarah Klotz, I am a Women's Studies Major and I wanted to tell you about an amazing conference in April. The conference is called Feminism, Sexuality, and the Return of Religion. Speakers such as bell hooks, Helene Cixous, and Judith Butler will be there. Since these are about the best theorists ever, I really want to organize a contingent to travel up to Syracuse University together.

The conference begins Thursday April 26th and lasts until the evening of Saturday the 28th. Please email me if you are interested ([seklot@wm.edu](mailto:seklot@wm.edu)).

### **Founding Friends Book Group**

Listed below are the dates for the founding friends book club.

Nov. 10 - Lan Cao's *Monkey Bridge*

Dec. 8 - Amy Tan's *Joy Luck Club*

Jan. 26 - Sandra Cisneros' *Caramelo*

Feb. 23 - Julia Alvarez's *In the Time of the Butterflies*

Mar. 23 - Anzia Yeziarska's *Bread Givers*

Apr. (TBA) - Bharati Mukherjee's *Jasmine*

### Women's Studies & Black Studies Brownbag Schedule

#### Fall Semester

Oct. 6: Francs Tanglao-Aguas: "Selections from THE SARIMANOK TRAVELS: Documenting Oral Narratives Of the World War II Comfort Women in the Philippines"

Nov. 3: Francie Cate-Arries: "lone Robinson and the photographs of the Spanish Civil War Refugees; France, 1939"

Dec. 1: Maya Johnson: "Harem Fantasies and Music Videos: Contemporary Orientalist Representation"

#### Spring Semester

Feb. 2: Sharla Blank: "Women's Desires and Male Inadequacies: Gender Antagonism in Dominica, West Indies"

Mar. 2: Deborah Morse: "Some Girls Who Come From the Tropics": Imperial Minds and Colonized Bodies in Trollope's *He Knew He Was Right*

Mar. 30: Christy Burns: "Postmodern Sex: Representations from the writings Of Pynchon, Acker, and Ballard"

Apr. 20: Kathleen Slevin: "Women and Aging: Negotiating the Aging Body"

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### Women's Studies and Black Studies Graduate Assistant

I am honored to be serving as this year's graduate assistant for the Office of Women's and Black Studies. A second-year MA/PhD student in American Studies, I am interested in cultural representations of Black female sexuality. My masters thesis project focuses on such representations in hip hop magazines. I am excited to be working in an environment so aligned with my own research interests and goals.

One of my main duties as the Women's Studies graduate assistant is to organize and run the Friends of Women's Studies book group meetings. This year's group is off to a great start. At our last meeting we had a stimulating and spirited discussion with Professor Lan Cao about her book *Monkey Bridge*. I encourage everyone to join us at our upcoming meetings as we discuss other books dealing with this year's theme of immigrants and immigration. Thank you!

**Tova Johnson**

### National Organization for Women Internship

In the summer of 2006, I had the opportunity to intern for the National Organization for Women in Washington, D.C. As a field intern specifically working on NOW's lesbian rights and equal marriage campaigns, I developed educational materials for state and local NOW Chapters. Over the summer, I frequently lobbied on Capitol Hill. For example, I organized a student lobby day to encourage legislators to vote in opposition to the Federal Marriage Amendment. Additionally, I compiled state ballot initiatives for the November election that would restrict abortion rights and same-sex marriage. The Women's Studies Department helped me through the internship application process and allowed me to acquire academic credit from the internship. Interning at the National Organization for Women gave me first-hand insight into the non-profit world. I thoroughly enjoyed and learned from this internship.

**Carolyn Barbadoro**

### Catching up with one of our Alums: Jenna Capeci

In November 2006, Jenna wrote: I'm still in grad school at Columbia, studying for my Master's degree, International Affairs in Human Rights. I can't believe I graduate this May! Last year flew by and now I'm basking in a great full scholarship which makes life a whole lot more enjoyable in general. :) Classes are going really well -- it feels good to have my core requirements finished after the first year and to have the opportunity to take more focused classes. Still, though, it's helped me to appreciate the high caliber of teaching at William and Mary. Here at Columbia we have a lot of "big names" but I have yet to have professors as gifted in teaching as there were at William and Mary.

Work has also been going well. This past summer I did an internship in Rwanda with the United Nations -- it was a great experience on many levels although the work environment really just confirmed my assumptions about UN bureaucracy. I was working with the UN Development Program; it seemed to me that there still remains a great disconnect between the UN / national government and the poverty and daily concerns that local people are facing in rural areas.