Hello! and Welcome to another new and exciting year in the Gender and Women’s Studies Program. We begin the school year with a new director (Ann Cooper Albright, Associate Professor of Dance), a new member of the GAWS committee (Meredith Raimondo, Assistant Professor in the Comparative American Studies Program, and former member of the Women’s Studies faculty 1999-2000), and two new student representatives (Caitlin Cordell, and Elizabeth Ehrenhalt). So far, the fall has given us incredibly beautiful weather, which helps to energize the campus. Many of our students and staff are involved in the “Get Out the Vote” initiatives, as well as in supporting the OCOPE contract negotiations with the college administration, which we hope will be settled in a timely and generous manner.

The Gender and Women’s Studies Program (GAWS) has been around in its various incarnations since 1972, but its roots lie in the original mission of Oberlin College to support a broad vision of learning in the world. Fortunately, we are no longer the only interdisciplinary program at the college. In fact, the inauguration last academic year of a new interdisciplinary program in Comparative American Studies (CAS) connects us with a program with a very similar vision to ours. Both programs focus on the exploration of the ways in which ideologies of gender, sexuality, class, race, ethnicity, nationality, and (increasingly) religion affect how we think about ourselves and the world. This year, with the very welcome addition of Meredith Raimondo as a member of both GAWS and CAS committees, we have begun a series of conversations between both faculty and students to co-ordinate our course offerings and various possible curricular exchanges. This is extremely important as the two programs share students and faculty resources.

This year Wendy Kozol (Associate Professor in GAWS and former director of the program) is on leave. We congratulate her on having been awarded research status and wish her the best of luck with her book project. We welcome Frances Hasso back from leave. Frances is teaching Gender, Social Change, and Social Movement (GAWS 233), and Feminist Research Methodologies (GAWS 300). We are also privileged to have Kim Germain with us a second year. Kim is teaching two sections of Introduction to Gender and Women’s Studies (GAWS 100).

Another new initiative this year is the start-up of an after-school program at Langston Middle School called Girls in Motion. This program is funded by the Oberlin Schools Endowment and the Nord Foundation. It is directed by Ann Cooper Albright, with assistance from Langston Physical Education teacher Ivra Jackson. This program, whose motto is “Move Smart/Talk Smart/Be Smart” will work on issues of body image and physical empowerment, connecting adolescent girls with women student mentors. Girls in Motion represents one way to connect our feminist intellectual community at the college with the lives of girls and women in the larger Oberlin community. The program is a field site for both the CAS methodologies course as well as for the GAWS practicum. Our very creative administrative assistant, Linda Pardee, designed the logo:

![Girls in Motion Logo]

We are already taking orders for the T-shirts which are fast becoming a hot item on campus this fall!

As always, GAWS is planning a full year of activities. We are sponsoring a lecture series organized by Frances Hasso which includes...
lectures by Anthony Shadid, the Islamic Affairs Correspondent for the Washington Post (9/9/04) and Ella Shohat, Professor of Art and Public Policy and Middle Eastern Studies (10/26/04) as well as Sinan Anton, an Iraqi poet and filmmaker (12/2/04). In addition to co-sponsoring (as always) an assortment of lectures and campus-wide activities (including “Get Out the Vote” initiatives), we are joining the English department this spring to bring in alumna Peggy Orenstein (’83), a journalist and author of School Girls: Young Women, Self-Esteem and the Confidence Gap.

Finally, the program is really interested this year in engaging new and recent faculty in a conversation about how the GAWS program can best support their work as well as feminist issues throughout the campus, and to the end, we are planning a full-faculty get together – something along the lines of “GAWS reinvents Sherry Hour”. See you there!

Ann Cooper Albright
Director, Gender & Women’s Studies Program
Associate Professor, Theater & Dance Program

G R A D U A T E S

Congratulations to the students that graduated last year with a major in Gender and Women’s Studies.

Wallis E. Adams
Emily P. Alexander
Andrew R. Campbell
Jessie Carr
Brianna M. Cayo-Cotter
Rebecca K. DeCola
Anna M. Eisenberg
Sophia L. Joslin-Roher
Haley M. Pollack
Lauren D. Schiff

We wish you the best of luck in all of your future endeavors.

P h y l l i s  J o n e s  M e m o r i a l  A w a r d

The Phyllis Jones Memorial Award was established through gifts from students, colleagues, and friends of Phyllis Jones (1945-1982). This annual award recognizes and honors student work in areas related to Phyllis Jones’s interests: women writers, minority women, women in the community, and the integration of personal and professional goals for women. This past year the award was given to two deserving students, Nava Etshalom and Rachel Gardiner.

N A V A  E T S H A L O M

Project title: "Places to Put Your Body"
Project description: Places to Put Your Body is a collection of poems written by Nava EtShalom over the past three years in pursuit of an Independent Major in Creative Writing for Social Change. This manuscript is concerned with embodied experience of place, of violence, of war, and with a persistently complicated solidarity. In this work, language is explored as a mechanism that connects "private" experience to structures of resistance and power: for example, US military aid to Israel is related to the access women in Palestine have to medical care, which affects and reflects language used in the United States about gender, access to health care, family structures, sexuality, race, religion and terror. Poetry can intervene in, can expand and reimagine, these vocabularies. Inspiration for this work of pushing the boundaries of poetic language and public life comes from Audre Lorde, June Jordan, Grace Paley, Mahmoud Darwish, Aharon Shabtai, Gloria Anzaldua, and a hope-giving host of others.

R A C H E L  G A R D I N E R

Project Title: "What is a Woman? Examining Femininity, Body Image and Self-Identity in Breast Cancer Survivors"
Project Description: The research examined breast cancer survivors who had undergone the surgical mastectomy or lumpectomy procedure as an entry point to explore issues surrounding women’s femininity, body image, and self-identity within Jamaican culture. Breast cancer was used as the specific site of investigation to theorize the connection between the physical disfigurement of the breast and the societal and cultural control historically placed on women’s bodies in Jamaica.

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**Leah Freed Memorial Prize**
The Leah Freed Memorial prize is awarded to support student research, creative work, performance, or other academic projects. Awards are granted to help defray costs of deserving student projects. Competitions for the award are held every fall semester for work to be completed during that academic year. The Fall 2003 recipients were **Samantha Pownall, Lauren Schiff,** and **Melissa Threadgill.**

**Samantha Pownall**
*Project Title:* Memory and Community Spaces in the Filipino Diaspora
*Project Description:* Transmitting memory from one generation to the next, and how this physically manifests itself within the Filipino American community has largely been the work of women. Examining how 'memory from the homeland' shapes Filipino communities in the United States reveals the social and economic processes involved in defining Filipino identity along gender and class lines. Filipino Americans have maintained their ties to the homeland through sharing stories with their families and children, and creating organizations that address their specific needs, such as the Filipino Nurses Association of Ohio, or the Philippine American Society of Ohio -- both founded in Parma. This study addresses the ways in which expected gender roles change or do not change during the "immigrant experience," and questions the Spanish and American colonial influences that constructed such expectations. I argue that due to these experiences, Filipino American Studies needs to be released from the umbrella of Asian American Studies and be a field of study in its own right. My goal is to raise awareness about the specific issues Filipino migrants and Filipino American communities face as a result of the respective Spanish and American notions of patriarchy that have affected the collective memories of Filipinos, thereby shaping the migrant experience in both Spain and the United States.

**Lauren Schiff**
*Project Title:* "DSM-V"? An Analysis of the Efficacy of the DSM-IV in Diagnosing Anorexia Nervosa

**Project Description:** This research project examines the effectiveness of the DSM-IV in diagnosing anorexia nervosa in the United States and in the Netherlands by questioning the DSM-IV's assessment of the core psychopathology of anorexia nervosa and other associated eating disorders. Through interviews with clinicians, patient organizations members, and women who have or have had anorexia nervosa, this research attempts a feminist analysis of the medicalization of eating disorders. Based on the comparison of primary and secondary data collected from both the United States and the Netherlands, this research hypothesizes that a revision of the DSM-IV to include obsessive and delusional thinking patterns may be needed to more accurately reflect the core psychopathology of anorexia nervosa in the Western context.

**Melissa Threadgill**
*Project Title:* What Makes States Care about Caring (and How Can We Make Them Care More?): The Politics of the California Child Care Compensation Movement
*Project Description:* In the past decade, advocates in the movement for higher quality child care have generally reached consensus on what is needed to improve the quality of child care in America: greater pay, more training, and better working conditions for caretakers. Over the past twenty years, grassroots campaigns to create state programs to deal with these problems have been mounted across the country, with varying amounts of success. By studying one such movement "the effort to put the 'CARES' child care compensation initiative into law in California" I hope to begin to explain makes a state more likely to implement such a policy and, more broadly, what makes a state more likely to make any policy change. In particular, I will be focusing on interest group action: what can interest groups do to get the problem of child care quality and caretaker compensation on the agenda of policy-makers, and how can they best influence those policy-makers to create and pass legislation to address these problems? This award will allow me to travel to California to interview the key players of this movement, including its sponsor in the State Assembly and the leaders of the primary interest groups involved.

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DONORS

The Gender and Women’s Studies Program is extremely grateful for the generous contributions made by the following individuals this past year.

Elizabeth M. Edmonds ('00)  Marilyn N. Rife ('76)
Deborah A. Eisenbach-Budne ('86)  Jean C. Robinson ('73)
   Holly B. Fechner ('85)  Joel M. Steiker ('77)
   Carolynn N. Fischel ('64)  Caroline J. Stern ('87)
   Lori D. Ginzberg ('78)  Judith H. Stiehm ('57)
   Julie E. Landau ('83)  Marjorie N. Weinstein ('96)
   Sherri B. Levine ('85)  Zaslow, Richard and Lucy
   Kevin P. Mills ('83)  (on behalf of Emilie Zaslow, '93)
   Dr. Sara D. Palmer ('82)

Thank you for your support. Your generous contributions enable us to schedule and sponsor events both on and off campus, benefiting the Gender and Women’s Studies majors as well as the entire student body at Oberlin College. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

WOMEN’S STUDIES PRACTICUM

GAWS 301 Practicum students continue to enlighten each other with reports about their placements. The centrally popular placements continue to be Family Planning of Lorain, which is happy in its larger quarters near Midway Mall, and Pre-Term, the nonprofit abortion clinic in Shaker Heights, which continues to sustain the feminist philosophy and spirit with which it was created 30 years ago with the passage of Roe v. Wade. This is the nearest Abortion Clinic to Oberlin, since Lorain County is one of the 90+% of counties in the USA in which no abortions are performed. Students assist in the clinic, and also can serve as escorts outside to protect the incoming women from picketers and protesters. WREN, Women’s Reentry Network in Cleveland, which supports education and life needs of women released from prison, continues to welcome Oberlin students to assist in these functions at their central office.

There has long been a relationship between Nord Rape Crisis and GAWS practicum students. Unfortunately for practicum placements there is a problem that the Nord training program takes almost an entire semester; therefore if a student were to undergo this training for their practicum, they could not function as a useful volunteer until the following semester. Therefore students are advised to start training in the Fall before the practicum, so that they can be volunteers in the Spring during the practicum. Since many GAWS students have already joined with Nord prior to the practicum term, they can continue their service for the practicum.

ALUMNI NEWS

It’s always a pleasure to know what our alumni have been up to since their days at Oberlin College. If you would like to be included in following newsletters we would love to hear from you. You may contact us via e-mail at linda.pardee@oberlin.edu or via snail mail at 10 North Professor Street, Rice 116, Oberlin, OH 44074. Recently we asked a few of our alumni the following questions, “What are you doing or working on right now,” and “In what ways have you found your women’s studies experiences useful or relevant to what you do today?” Here is what a few of them had to say...

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Eva Schlesinger ('87): Eva Schlesinger is an artist, writer, performer, and socializes dogs for adoption.

“I do not directly use my degree, and at the same time, it feeds into everything I do. I appreciate having learned to think from a different perspective, a perspective which has changed even more radically than what I learned then.”

Jennifer Taub ('91): Jennifer Taub has a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology, with a focus on children and families. She is currently a Research Assistant Professor at University of Massachusetts Medical School, in the Center for Mental Health Services Research. She is working on evaluations of Medicaid-funded programs for kids, such as in-home family-based services, and a project interviewing physicians regarding the prescribing of psychotropic medications to kids.

“My Women’s Studies courses were instrumental in helping me think globally about the interactions between economics, politics and oppression. I apply the concepts I learned in my work, my understanding of world events, and my personal life. I know that sounds broad and intangible, but it’s true. On a more practical level, I have pursued some research in bisexuality, and beauty/appearance issues in psychology. Hard to say if that stems more from my women’s studies experiences, psychology, or just my general interests.”

Dara Greenwald ('93): Dara has been working at The Video Data Bank, a video art and alternative media distributor since 1998. Many of the titles are feminist or by feminist artists and many speak from the margins or critique power. She was also a core organizer for Ladyfest Midwest Chicago. Currently she is part of a feminist street dance troupe, The Pink Bloque.

“The most relevant thing I gained from Women’s Studies was an analysis of power and of truth telling. I was also exposed to much of the work and theories of the artists who I work with today.”

Aura Kanegis ('95): Aura serves as Director of Operations and Programs for the National Congress of American Indians.

Her women’s studies experiences were “useful in understanding the dynamics of gender (and race/class) issues in [her] work as a manager and in [her] work on Capitol Hill.”

Erica Fletcher (96): Erica is currently pursuing a Masters degree at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Though the school discontinued the Gender Studies program last winter she is still managing to focus her studies on girls' development and issues of gender equity in education. She is particularly interested in identity development in adolescent girls, and in teaching strategies for healthy resistance. She will most likely follow these pursuits in the youth development/after school realm.

Before going back to school she worked for 5 years in gender-focused youth development at a national organization for girls called Girls Incorporated in New York. She developed, wrote and field tested components of programs in sports, pregnancy prevention, science/math/technology, and economic literacy. Her biggest project was the creation of a media literacy program for girls ages 6-18 that focused on analyzing media messages from a feminist perspective.

“As you can see, Women’s Studies at Oberlin absolutely provided the foundation for my professional work. I used to joke with my friends that I was the only person I knew who was using their undergraduate major in the "real world" - and having had women's studies dumped on as "not a real discipline", this felt like quite an accomplishment! In the extracurricular realm, since I graduated from Oberlin I've been living in Brooklyn, NY. In my spare time I've been playing in a band (www.nurseandsoldier.com) with my husband, Rob Thacher '95, and several other Oberlin folks.”

Debs Gardner ('99): Debs Gardner is working and living in Seattle where she coordinates a youth volunteer program called Youth Volunteer Corps and also co-directs/co-founded a summer camp for LGBTQ youth and children of LGBTQ families, called Camp Ten Trees. In her spare time she dances lindy hop and is in a performance troupe called Emerald City Swing.
“Women’s Studies still affects what I do in quite a lot of ways – I gained an approach from WOST that helped me look at how gender/race/class/sexuality/identity interact with everything else, and I know I still look at that in my work with youth, and even in my dance community.”

Miranda Balkin (‘01): Miranda is working full-time as a rape crisis counselor in a public hospital in New York City. Her cases include acute situations (recent sexual assaults) as well as past experiences (past assaults, and childhood molestation).

“In two ways – firstly, it gives me a theoretical context for the stories I hear every day so that I don’t get (too) depressed by the sheer violence and hatred of it all. Secondly, it allows me to provide my clients with a framework to understand, in a general way, why gendered violence is so common.”

**Faculty News**

**Ann Cooper Albright.** Associate Professor of Theater & Dance, Program Director. In addition to directing the Gender and Women’s Studies Program at Oberlin College and the Girls in Motion Program at Langston Middle School, Ann Cooper Albright was recently named Chair of the Editorial Board of Society of Dance History Scholars, where she is responsible for the publication series “Studies in Dance History,” as well as other related SDHS publications. Last spring she was awarded an Ohio Arts Council Individual Artist Grant in Dance Criticism (at the highest level of funding) which allowed her to do three weeks of research for her book on Loie Fuller in Paris last summer. Her article, “Matters of Tact: Writing History from the Inside Out” was recently published in Dance Research Journal, and she is scheduled to do residencies at the Graduate Dance Program at York University in Toronto and in Finland this fall.

**Pam Brooks,** Assistant Professor of African American Studies, is in her fifth year teaching at Oberlin, and her third semester as a member of the GAWS Program Committee. She continues to teach two courses in African American Studies that are affiliated with GAWS: African American Women's History and Black Feminist Thought. Along with Ms. Kahn and Ms. Perez, one of her objectives this year is to encourage her students to become more engaged with the Women's Reentry Network in Cleveland. Ms. Brooks continues to work toward the publication of her book manuscript, and hopes to present a paper in January at a women's conference in Cape Town, South Africa.

**Kimberly Germain.** Visiting Assistant Professor of Gender & Women’s Studies. In her first year at Oberlin in 2003-04, Kim taught Introduction to Gender and Women’s Studies, Global Feminisms, The Politics of Gender in South Asia, and a senior seminar entitled The Politics of Sentiment: Family, Class, and Gender. In the 2004-05 academic year, Kim will be teaching Introduction to Gender and Women’s Studies this fall, and, in the spring, Feminist Political Theory, Global Feminisms, and an as-yet-untitled colloquium about the politics of gender pervading our current presidential election campaign.

Kim is currently doing final revisions on her dissertation in the Political Science Department at the University of Chicago; it is entitled From Household to Empire: Gender and Power in Victorian Britain and Colonial India. The dissertation is an exploration both of the relationship between Victorian feminism and imperialism at the discursive level and also of the role of Englishwomen in South Asia as they attempted to help their “downtrodden sisters.” This project brings together Kim’s eclectic interests in power, imperialism, post-colonialism, inequality, social movements, discourse analysis, feminism and gender, race and ethnicity, history, and interpretive/qualitative methods. She plans to present a piece of her work at a GAWS brown bag later this semester.

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Frances Hasso, Assistant Professor of Gender & Women’s Studies and Sociology, was on leave during the 2003-2004 academic year. In Fall 2003, she learned that she received additional fellowship support for a new research project, “Emerging Economies of Desire: Exploring New Relationship Forms in the Middle East and North Africa,” from the Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline of the American Sociological Association (co-funded by the National Science Foundation). She began conducting fieldwork on this project in November, traveling to the United Arab Emirates and Egypt. She gathered legal and other state documents, and conducted individual and group interviews with leaders of feminist and women’s organizations, religious and other scholars, and men and women university students on issues related to sexuality, marriage, divorce, and the rise of customary and other non-traditional marital contracts among Sunni Muslims. In Winter and Spring 2004, she was a Rockefeller Fellow in residence at the Center of Ideas and Society, at the University of California, Riverside, allowing her to focus on translation and analysis of the new material. She gave a number of presentations on this and other research while in California. In February, she visited Oberlin to be part of an Edward Said memorial panel with Oberlin faculty Daryl Maeda, Pablo Mitchell, Anuradha Needham, and Khalid Medani. She also returned in May for commencement to bid a sad-happy farewell to her first cohort of GAWS students (those who entered Oberlin College when she did in ’02). This summer, she presented a talk at Case Western Reserve University titled “Ambiguity, Contradiction, and Politics in Azar Nafisi’s Reading Lolita in Tehran,” and another at the University of California, Berkeley, titled “Reflections on Sexuality, Gender, Race, Orientalism and Empire: The Tortures of Iraqis in Abu Ghraib and Elsewhere.” She has a number of new or forthcoming publications, including “Problematics and Promise in Middle East/North Africa Gender Research” (forthcoming in Feminist Studies) and “Discursive & Political Deployments by/of the 2002 Palestinian Women Suicide Bombers/Martyrs” (for Feminist Review). In addition, her book titled Divergent Visions: Gender and Nation in the Protest Politics of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, is forthcoming with Syracuse University Press. She is currently teaching “Gender, Social Change, Social Movements,” as well as “Feminist Research Methodologies.”


Wendy Kozol, Associate Professor of Gender and Women’s Studies. In June, Professor Kozol published an article in Meridians titled “Domesticating NATO’s War in Kosovo: (In)Visible Bodies and the Dilemma of Photojournalism.” This essay is part of her new book project on photographic representations of U.S. militarism after Vietnam. In Fall 2003 she taught a related seminar called “American Visual Culture, Militarization, and Crises of Identity.” Funded by a Mellon summer stipend, this summer she worked with graduating senior GAWS major Rebecca DeCola on one part of this study. They have co-authored an article examining media depictions of the war on terrorism, which is currently under review. Professor Kozol is on research leave for 2004-2005.
Sonia Kruks, Danforth Professor of Politics, continues to work on the political thought of Simone de Beauvoir. In June 2004 she went to the conference of the International Association of Women Philosophers, held in Gottenburg, Sweden where she presented a paper titled "Simone de Beauvoir and the Politics of Privilege". The paper will be published in 2005 in the feminist philosophy journal, *Hypatia*. Professor Kruks also organized a panel of Simone de Beauvoir at the annual meetings of the American Political Science Association, held in Chicago in September 2004.

Meredith Raimondo, Assistant Professor of Comparative American Studies, is pleased to join the Gender and Women’s Studies Program Committee this fall. She teaches courses in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Studies with a particular interest in media, space, and social justice. Meredith is pleased to once again rejoin the conversation in Gender and Women’s Studies at Oberlin College, where she was a Visiting Assistant Professor in Women’s Studies in 1999 – 2000. In addition to her work in the new Comparative American Studies Program, Meredith is working on a book project about media representations of the AIDS epidemic in the United States. This summer, she was an invited guest at the International Symposium on American National Consciousness in Tokyo, Japan, where she presented a paper on media representations of President Bush’s 2003 trip to Africa.