NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR

I would like to welcome our new majors and minors as well as greet advanced students and friends of the program. As we begin a busy and hopefully productive fall, I am mindful that we do our work against the backdrop of international militarization and violent conflict. May we find ways both here at Oberlin and elsewhere to foster avenues for peace.

As many of you are aware, we changed the name of the program last year to reflect better the curriculum, teaching, and research in the Program. Current feminist scholarship challenges the idea of homogeneity in ideology, politics, or status among women and addresses the ways in which at various times, and often concurrently, gender is challenged and reproduced by individuals. In the Program, we examine conditions of women within frameworks that consider how categorical terms like “women” and “men,” “femininity” and “masculinity,” and “heterosexuality” and “homosexuality” structure people’s experiences. Gender and Women’s Studies is an interdisciplinary program focusing on feminist explorations of the intersecting ways in which gender, sexuality, race-ethnicity, class, and nationality inform lives and illuminate social, cultural, and political life.

The 2003-2004 academic year offers exciting new courses, new faces, and guest lectures, for the program. Professor Frances Hasso will be on leave this year but we are fortunate that Visiting Assistant Professor Kim Germain will be here for the full year. In the fall, she will teach “Global Feminisms” and two sections of “Introduction to Gender and Women’s Studies.” Along with our required courses, this fall I am teaching a new seminar, “Picturing War: American Visual Culture, Militarization, and Crises of Identity.” We also welcome several faculty members who are joining the GAWS Program Committee: Meredith Gadsby (African American Studies), Maggi Kamitsuka (Religion), and Kirk Ormand (Classics). In addition, Ann Cooper Albright (Dance) and Sonia Kruks (Politics) are back from leave. We have three new student major representatives with whom we look forward to working: Wallis Adams (junior), Anna Eisenberg (senior), and Aminetta Njie (sophomore). Welcome all!

This year, the Program will again sponsor the Feminist Research Brown Bag Series, in which we invite Oberlin College faculty doing research in areas of gender and sexuality to present their work. In November, Pablo Mitchell, Assistant Professor of History, will speak about his research on sexuality and modernity in the West. In September, we had a celebration for Joyce McClure’s recently published book, *Finite, Contingent and Free: A New Ethics of Acceptance* and Ann Cooper Albright’s anthology *Taken by Surprise* (available October, 2003). This event also provided an opportunity for faculty and students to meet Ms. Germain and other new members of the Gender and Women’s Studies program committee.

Wendy Kozol  
Associate Professor and Director  
Gender & Women’s Studies Program

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Wendy Kozol  
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Linda Pardee  
PROGRAM COMMITTEE: Wendy Kozol, Director; Ann Cooper Albright; Pamela Brooks; Meredith Gadsby; Kimberly Germain; Caroline Jackson Smith; Daphne John; Diana Grossman Kahn; Margaret Kamitsuka; Sonia Kruks; Joyce McClure; Kirk Ormand  
MAJOR REPRESENTATIVES: Wallis Adams; Anna Eisenberg; Aminetta Njie
GRADUATES

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

Julie Beicken
Alexandra D. Del Valle
Sarah Anne Gebhardt
Leslie Levine
Lauren M. Benson Mizock
Sarah R. Saunders
Yu Tong
Caroline Watkins

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

Phyllis Jones Memorial Award

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, Lili Glauber and Ry Russo-Young.

Lili Glauber

Project title: Voice and Empowerment: Creative Writing with Incarcerated Women

Project description: The criminal justice system in the United States represents a convergence of systematic injustice, where dehumanizing punishment is often placed above rehabilitation and personal empowerment. As a volunteer for Women’s Re-entry Resource Network, a mental health and social services agency which provides aid to incarcerated women and ex-offenders, Lili Glauber designed and facilitated a weekly creative writing group for women incarcerated at the county jail in Cleveland. The group emphasizes creative expression, art, and poetic agency as fundamental sources of personal power and healing in the midst of incarceration. Last May, the writers group published a compilation of their written work entitled Out of the Blues, and Lili is currently working with the writers toward their next publication.

Ry Russo-Young

Project Title: "A Middle Ground"

Project Description: In the process of literary adaptation and academic study, a 17th century oral folktale of violence, rape and cannibalism has become a bedtime story for children. Writer and actress Ry Russo-Young adapted "Little Red Riding Hood" for her mixed media show, "A Middle Ground." Performed at Oberlin College in Fisher Hall, March 2002, the hour-twenty-minute long piece reveals Ry's family history out of sequence and how that history has affected her present notions of romantic love. In the one-woman show, Ry casts people from her childhood as characters in her own documentary version of "Little Red Riding Hood." Composed primarily of monologues, audience participation, video, and live music, "A Middle Ground" documents a life history and blends it with a folktale.

Leah Freed Memorial Prize

The Leah Freed Memorial prize is awarded to support student research, creative work, performance, or other academic projects. Awards of up to $600 are available to defray costs of projects, including travel to and from a research site, interviewing, supplies, performance costs, equipment rental, etc. Competitions for the award are held every fall semester for work to be completed during that academic year. Please check our website for this year’s application deadline.

Women’s Studies Practicum

Emily Alexander: My name is Emily Alexander. I am a senior Gender and Women’s Studies Major. This semester I will extend my work on Lorain Family Planning Services that I started in the Women’s Studies Practicum last semester with Diana Grossman Kahn. I hope to look at issues of organizational identity as it relates to pro-choice politics and influences from around Lorain County in addition to issues of clinical protocol. To further examine these issues I will continue to volunteer in the Middle Avenue clinic.

http://www.oberlin.edu/gaws
DONORS

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

Leonore Davidoff ('53)
Elizabeth Edmonds ('00)
Pamella Farley ('61)
Holly Fechner ('85)
Carolynn Fischel ('64)
John and Nancy Gebhardt
(parents of Sarah Gebhardt, '03)
Paula Goldsmid ('64)
Leonore Gordon ('77)
Amy Hirsch ('73)

Sherri Levine ('85)
Sally McConnell-Ginet ('59)
Beth A. Richman ('94)
Jean C. Robinson ('73)
Anne Shaver-Crandell ('62)
Sasha Slocombe ('89)
Julie Fink Sullivan ('81)
Kimberly Tolman ('00)
Richard Zaslow
(father of Emilie Zaslow, '93)

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.

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...

Marci (Karetnick) Taub ('87): Marci Taub, a career counselor specializing in work-life balance issues, is president of CareerstylingR, L.L.C, a seminar and consulting company (www.careerstyling.com). She is the author of Interview Yourself for Working Moms: A Guided Journal (CareerstylingR, 2002). She is also the author of Job Notes: Interviws (1997) and the co-author of Job Smart: What You Need to Know to Get the Job You Want (1997) and Work Smart: 250 Smart Moves Your Boss Already Knows (1998), both published by Random House/Princeton Review Books. Marci has been sourced on career issues in several major media, including The Los Angeles Times, The Washington Post, Redbook, Shape, Cosmopolitan, Mademoiselle, Glamour, and Teen People. She also authored an article, "Five Balance Strategies to Help Working Moms," adapted from her book on the subject, published on The Wall Street Journal's Career Journal site. Her background includes career development services in private practice, higher education, and corporate human resources. Marci holds an M.A. in Counseling from Montclair State University and a Certificate in Adult Career Planning and Development from New York University. She is a member of the American Counseling Association, the National Career Development Association, and the Career Masters Institute. Marci is also a working mom. She resides in New Jersey with her husband and their two children.

“My women's studies experiences at Oberlin have been relevant to my current work in a broad sense by providing me with a strong foundation of interdisciplinary studies and critical thinking skills. Specifically, my women's studies major catalyzed my interests in women's life stories and why we need to speak the truth about our life experiences, such as our struggles to integrate our professional and personal lives.”

http://www.oberlin.edu/news
Nancy Martin (’89): “I am a Program Associate at the American Youth Policy Forum in Washington, DC, a non-profit organization that provides learning opportunities for professionals working on youth policy issues at the national, state, and local levels. I take policymakers on study tours to see schools and youth programs across the country in hopes of helping them formulate better policies to improve opportunities, services, and life prospects for youth. I am currently beginning a research project documenting what happens to dropouts after they have left school and identifying states and communities with successful policies for re-engaging out-of-school youth. In addition, I am the mother of two children, a six year-old daughter and a two year-old son. So I’m in the youth development business 24 hours a day!”

“My interest in education as a site of the creation and recreation of social inequality stems from transformative WOST classes with Chandra Mohanty in the 80’s. The lenses I put on when a Women’s Studies student at Oberlin haven’t come off. They "color" my view of the world all the time. Although my professional work is not focused exclusively on women or girls, it is very much informed by an understanding of social inequalities based on gender, race, class, and sexuality. Although we read and talked a lot about the politics of mothering, nothing in my WOST coursework prepared me for the amazing juggling act that is being a parent who also works (outside the home). Wow! My partner (Ben Rosenthal, OC ’90) and I are loving it, but we’re pretty tired.”

Debra Grabelle (’94): “Currently, I am working on the Living Wage/Living Health Ordinance in the City and County of San Francisco. The Ordinances require contractors who receive money from the City to pay their workers $10.00 and provide health insurance. I am also a mom of a beautiful 4 year old. My education at Oberlin College taught me about the importance of putting into action all of the theory that I learned at College. That you can have a great discussion about how messed up the world is, but what are your actions around changing that, especially around class issues. Also, Oberlin taught me to be a more loving person. To support my daughter and my friends, to try and resolve problems as soon as they come up, to love your allies and enemies…because we’re all just trying to figure this whole thing out.”

Correne Spero (’98): “I am a musician, currently a rapper and producer in my NYC-based hip hop band Northern State (www.northernstate.net). We have had a great year - we recorded and self-released a new CD called DYING IN STEREO - In addition we have played shows all around the North East and have received GREAT coverage in Rolling Stone, Spin, MTV, New York Times, Village Voice, New York Magazine, and more!! I cannot imagine better preparation for what I do now than my experience studying WOST at Oberlin - my band has an OVERTLY feminist and political agenda - We offer a real alternative to so many of the misogynist images of women dominant in the media in general and hip hop music specifically – we are so thrilled to infiltrate MTV and Rolling Stone with our feminist platform and we receive such positive feedback from women AND men around the world that it truly makes me feel that I am bridging that gap between theory and practice that we studied so much at Oberlin. I feel like I have found my own bizarre way to continue my unique feminist activism outside of Oberlin.”

“I truly believe that the support and knowledge passed on to me from excellent WOST professors (particularly Wendy Kozol who was my advisor and professor and who reassured me repeatedly at the end of my senior year that I WOULD do something great even though I had NO IDEA at the time what it would be) were instrumental in encouraging me to find my feminist voice post-Oberlin.”

Faculty News

Wendy Kozol, Associate Professor of Gender & Women’s Studies, Program Director. Wendy Kozol is in her fourth year as Director of Gender and Women’s Studies. She is co-editing with Wendy Hesford (The Ohio State University) a collection of essays, Just Advocacy? Women’s Human Rights, Transnational Feminism, and the Politics of Representation forthcoming with Rutgers University Press. She is also working on a new book project, Visible Wars and American Nationalism: Militarization and
Photography, 1970s–present. This book will examine the photographic record of American military actions from the end of the Vietnam War to the present. Detailed analyses of pivotal events and work by specific photographers will provide theoretical and historical perspectives on how photographs influence Americans’ understanding of nationalism and militarization in this period.

Ann Cooper Albright, Associate Professor of Theater & Dance is coming back to Oberlin after a year on research leave. She is currently working on a book on Loie Fuller and making dances. She traveled and taught in India and France and performed at the American Dance Festival in July 2003. Her most recent book Taken by Surprise will be available October 2003.

This collection of classic and new writings on dance improvisation brings together 21 essays by prominent dancers, scholars and historians. Taken by Surprise reflects the development of improvisation as a compositional and performance mode in a wide variety of dance contexts, including dance traditions from around the globe, and will serve as an indispensable companion to studio work in improvisation, and a much-needed supplement to 20th century dance histories.

Pamela Brooks, Assistant Professor of African American Studies began the academic year of 2002-2003 as a third-year tenure-track instructor in African American Studies up for reappointment. She attained reappointment in the spring of 2003 while having taught her regular complement of five courses. She attended several conferences this past year, one of which was an interdisciplinary conference marking the progress of women's equality within US law held at UTexas, Austin Law School. At UTexas she read a version of the paper she presented last spring for GAWS entitled, "Crossing Borders, Subverting Paradigms: Montgomery and Johannesburg Women Acting in Feminist Movement." She also published an article for Safundi, Issue #10 (April 2003), an on-line journal specializing in the comparative history of the US and South Africa. Professor Brooks states that chairing the organizing committee for the African American Studies Department's Black History Month was insane at times but really rewarding, especially when her former professor, John Bracey made his appearance as the keynote speaker. She is at present working on her book manuscript during her semester's leave of absence this fall.

Meredith Gadsby, Assistant Professor of African American Studies has been working on articles intended for African American Review and Callaloo. She attended the annual meeting of the African American Literature Association in Alexandria, Egypt in March 2003. She is currently serving as Secretary of the Association of Caribbean Women Writers and Scholars, and is guest editor of the upcoming journal of the Association, MaComere.

Kimberly Germain, Visiting Assistant Professor of Gender & Women’s Studies joins the staff at Oberlin from the University of Chicago, where she has taught College core courses in such varied topics as gender studies, feminist theory, political economy, equality, and political liberalism and its critics; her most recent position was in a one-year interdisciplinary M.A. program in the social sciences (MAPSS), where she taught a wide range of social theory and methodology, and also advised students on their theses. Kim is currently completing a dissertation in the Political Science Department at 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. At Oberlin, Kim will be teaching Introduction to Gender and Women’s Studies and Global Feminisms in the fall, and two as-yet-untitled courses in the spring, one on gender in South Asia and the other on the family, class, and gender.

Frances Hasso, Assistant Professor of Gender & Women’s Studies/Sociology. In 2002-2003, she taught a new 200-level course titled "Gender & Sexuality in the Middle East and North Africa," in addition to Feminist Research Methods, Introduction to Gender & Women's Studies, and Gender & the State in the Middle East and North Africa (junior/senior seminar). She was active on the President's Taskforce on Multiculturalism and Diversity as well as the Iraq War Education Taskforce. She completed and presented the paper, "Arab Discursive and Political Deployments of the 2002 Palestinian Women Suicide Bombers/Martyrs" as a keynote for the Women, War & Militarization in Global Context Public Lecture Series at San Francisco State University in March 2003. She also presented this paper at Oberlin College and the University of Chicago Middle East History and Theory Conference in May 2003. This paper is forthcoming as a publication. On April 17, 2003, an editorial she was invited to write was published in New York Newsday, "Who Covered the War Best? Try Al-Jazeera" (http://www.commondreams.org/views03/0417-01.htm). She also had three book reviews published in various venues. She is on leave from Oberlin College in 2003-2004. She was awarded a Spring 2004 Residency Site Fellowship at UC Riverside (funded by Rockefeller Foundation) and an Oberlin College Powers Travel Grant for a new research project entitled: "Emergent Economies of Desire: Exploring New Relationship Forms in the Middle East and North Africa".

Caroline Jackson Smith, Associate Professor Theater & Dance and African American Studies has done a number of invited talks and panel presentations over the last year including lecturing in a UPenn graduate seminar on African American playwrights and Music; a symposium in the Wexner Center at OSU on playwright Adrienne Kennedy; and two panels at this summer’s Association for Theater in Higher Education Conference (for which she also served as Black Theater Association conference planner) -- one on Black Dance focusing on the Urban Bush Women and one on August Wilson. Last spring, she directed The Wiz here at OC. The show played to 2,400 people in just one weekend, including 500 Oberlin school children. During the summer, she directed a reading of a new play by OC alum Amy Evans for the Immigrant Theater at the Tenement Museum in NY and featuring OC alum Corey Stoll. Currently, she is directing Blade to the Heat by Oliver Mayer for OC Little Theater October 1-5.

Daphne John, Associate Professor of Sociology has been working with Kathy Yeager and Sung-Mun Choi, two McNair students, on gender related research. She has also been busy developing a Winter Term course on survey research which will be taught during Winter Term 2004. She will be teaching her first year seminar course, "She works hard for the money: Women, Work, and the Persistence of Inequality" in the spring of 2004. Professor John continues to work on her research with Beth Anne Shelton, University of Texas: Arlington, on their project examining work overload among married couples.

Diana Grossman Kahn, Visiting Assistant Professor of Gender & Women’s Studies is a Psychologist who currently teaches the Practicum in Women’s Studies, in which students assess their experiences in feminist and social service organizations in relation to feminist theory. She has taught the Psychology of Women, and Women and Mental Health at the Illinois School of Professional Psychology. She has offered workshops and supervision to mental health workers on the treatment of sex abuse and other traumatic experiences. She has published research about mothers and daughters, and is working on a longitudinal study of women’s family and career choices.

http://www.oberlin.edu/news
Margaret Kamitsuka, Assistant Professor of Religion teaches courses in Gender and Religion, which is a new area of concentration in the Religion Department at Oberlin. She has an article forthcoming in the *Journal for Feminist Studies in Religion* entitled: “Reading the Raced and Sexed Body in The Color Purple: Repatterning White Feminist and Womanist Theological Hermeneutics.”

Sonia Kruks, Danforth Professor of Politics was on research leave last year working on a project on Simone de Beauvoir as a political thinker. In the fall of 2002 she was a Visiting Scholar in the Gender Institute at the London School of Economics in London, England, and in the spring of 2003 she was an Affiliate Scholar in Gender and Women’s Studies at Bucknell University. Professor Kruks gave talks on Simone de Beauvoir, as well as other topics, in England at the London School of Economics, Manchester University, and Oxford University; in Sweden at the Gothenborg University; in Canada at the York University; and here at home at Bucknell University, Villanova University, and George Washington University.

Patricia Mathews, Associate Professor of Art History. *(on leave 2003-2004)*

Joyce McClure, Assistant Professor of Religion, taught Feminist Ethical Issues for the Program last year. She served on many committees as well as a panel with Wendy Kozol on consent for the Sexual Education and Ethics Task Force. Prof. McClure also published a book last year titled *Finite, Contingent and Free: A New Ethics of Acceptance*.

What is it that makes us human, yet makes each of us different? Joyce Kloc McClure offers three defining features--we are all finite (limited), contingent (dependent), and free. McClure explains that finitude and contingency are common to all humans, but are also the two characteristics that create differences among us. We make ethical decisions based on our own distinct natures. Finite, Contingent, and Free is a Roman Catholic perspective on ethics written for everyone, not just Roman Catholics. McClure develops an ethical framework for the finite, contingent, and free human being. We begin with self-acceptance--understanding that our reactions to finitude and contingency contribute heavily to who we are. McClure says we then extend that same acceptance to others, making acceptance the proper response to the conditions of human existence, and the foundation for ethics.

Kirk Ormand, Assistant Professor of Classics recently published an article in the *Theatre Journal* titled “Oedipus the Queen: Cross-gendering without Drag.” Also accepted for publication by the *American Journal of Philology* was “Marriage, Identity, and the Story of Mestra in the Hesiodic Catalogue of Women,” forthcoming some time next year. Professor Ormand gave a talk at last year’s Feminist Research Lecture Series called "Impossible Lesbians in Ovid's Metamorphoses." He was invited to give a talk for the Association of Literary Scholars and Critics in Washington D.C. on October 19th, 2002, “Identity, Oedipus, Zizek.” Professor Ormand will be teaching Classics 219, Sexuality in Ancient Greece and Rome, for the first time this fall.

Ann Sherif, Associate Professor of Japanese. *(on leave 2003-2004)* In 2002-2003 AY, Sherif team taught Living with the Bomb with Wendy Kozol, along with Japanese language and literature classes. She will be on Research Status leave during the 2003-2004 academic year. She hopes to complete a book about literature and politics in 1950s Japan, and also do some translation of Japanese fiction.