

# UAH Women's Studies

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The University of Alabama in Huntsville

Fall, 2006

## Historian Susan Grayzel to Speak on Gender and War

The Department of History at UAH, with the support of the Women's Studies Program, is pleased to announce the upcoming visit of gender historian Dr. Susan Grayzel. Grayzel will give two public lectures on women and modern warfare. She will also discuss one of her books, *Women*



Susan Grayzel will speak at UAH on October 19 at 7 p.m. in Roberts Recital Hall.

and the First World War, with history and women's studies students enrolled in "Women in Modern European History," taught by Dr. Molly Johnson.

Grayzel's visit will help raise student and community awareness of the interrelationship between the history of the military and modern warfare and the history of women and gender. Gender studies have emerged as an important tool in reinterpreting traditional fields of historical inquiry, and Grayzel has successfully employed this approach to reinterpret military history, which has been one of the most tradition-bound fields of historical research.

Grayzel has distinguished herself as a historian of twentieth-century Europe, with a special focus on women's and gender history and the comparative history of Britain and France. She has written two books, *Women's Identities at War: Gender, Motherhood, and Politics in Britain and France during the First World War* (University of North Carolina, 1999) and *Women and the First World War* (Longman, 2002). *Women's Identities at War* won the British Council Prize of the North American Conference on British Studies for the best book in the field of nineteenth- and twentieth-century British Studies by a North American

author in 2000. Grayzel has also published numerous articles in journals including the *Journal of Modern History*, *International History Review*, *Rural History*, *Journal for Peace and Justice Studies*, and *Twentieth-Century British History*, and she has

contributed essays to five edited books.

The history of the air raid and its impact on understandings of gender, heroism, and citizenship in twentieth-century Britain is the focus of Grayzel's present research. She is completing a book-length project tentatively entitled *At Home and Under Fire: Gender and the Civilian Experience of Air Warfare in Britain, 1914-1942*.

Also supporting this year's History Forum is the Women's Studies Program and the Distinguished Speakers Series, sponsored by the Office of the Provost and the Faculty Senate, the Honors Program, and the Office of Continuing Education.

### Public Lectures

- Thursday, October 19, "How Can Gender Help Us Understand the History of Modern War?" 11:10 a.m., Wilson Hall 127 (co-sponsored by the Honors Forum).
- Thursday, October 19, "Defining the Civilian in Modern War: Women and the Invention of the Home Front in the Great War," 7 p.m., Roberts Recital Hall.

## UAH Theatre to Perform *Lysistrata*

UAH Theatre, with the support of the Women's Studies Program, will stage *Lysistrata* on November 29 and 30 at 5:30 p.m., December 1 and 2 at 7 p.m., and December 3 at 2 p.m. in UAH's Chan Auditorium. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$10 for adults.

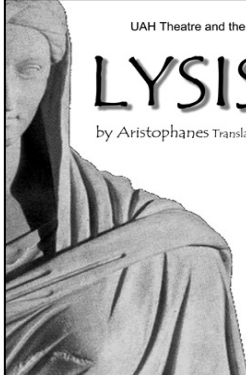
Aristophanes wrote *Lysistrata* in 411 B.C.E. as a direct (and comic) response to the Greek and Spartan war in which thousands perished. In the story, a powerful woman of Greece, Lysistrata, convinces the women of both nations to withhold sex from their husbands in order to force a truce to end the war. Behind this sexual parody, is a strong message from women of this age: "we will not continue to bear children so that they may become foddors of war."

According to David Harwell, Director of UAH's Theatre Program, this is the season of women in theatre at UAH. In February, *Crimes of the Heart* focuses on three sisters in the South who struggle through love, loss, and understanding. In April, *Mother Courage and Her Children*, by Bertolt Brecht, centers around a woman and her children and their life immersed in war. For more information, contact David Harwell at (256) 824-6909 or go to <http://theatre.uah.edu/>

UAH Theatre and the Department of Women's Studies presents

# LYSISTRATA

by Aristophanes Translated by Nicholas Rudall



"She wanted the war to end.  
Guess how she did it!"

\*Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.\*

### **Nurturing Women Showcases Local Women Artists**



*The community art quilt featured work by 18 women artists.*

*Nurturing Women*, a group exhibition of local women artists, was on display July 4-28 at UAH in the Union Grove and University Center galleries. The work explored ideas of mothering and fertility. Seven artists were represented: Beth Bachuss, Kristy From-Brown, Rachel Lackey, Jennifer Landis, Kim Hart, Kelly O'Toole, and Martha Whitney. The show featured a diverse body of work including watercolor and oil paintings, drawings, video, ceramics, prints, and photographs.

The highlight of the show was a community art quilt created by over 18 artists, mothers, and women skilled in the traditional craft of quilt-making. Participants ranged from 12-54 years old. They worked collaboratively for over three months piecing and quilting this rich document of the feminine.

Rose Norman from the Women's Studies Program presented prizes juried by Branden Gardner, UAH printmaking instructor. The first prize, \$100, sponsored by the Women's Studies Program, was awarded to Jennifer Landis. The second prize, Honorable Mention, and Jurors Mention were awarded to Martha Whitney, Beth Bachuss, and Rachel Lackey, respectively.

### **UAH Graduate Attends AAUW Conference in Washington D.C.**



*Lori Rounsavall, '06*

UAH graduate Lori Rounsavall ('06) attended the 2006 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, sponsored by the American Association of University Women (AAUW), held in Washington, D.C., in June. The honored guests were Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch, Eve Ensler, Beverly Daniel Tatum, Bernice Sandler, and keynote speaker Rebecca Walker.

Rounsavall, who majored in sociology with minors in women's studies and communication arts, said, "The conference was amazing. It was like I was at a love fest and I was the young, thirsty-for-knowledge woman who was drawing from the abundance of knowledge that was exuding from these amazing women." Rounsavall was especially impressed by Rebecca Walker, author of *Black, White, and Jewish: Autobiography of a Shifting Self*, and Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch, who "recognized the struggle women face daily by being in a man-centered world, yet brought it to men's attention with poise and elegance."

### **Women's Studies Honors Outstanding UAH Student**



*Erika Lane, '07*

The Women's Studies Program honored UAH student Erika Lane for outstanding undergraduate achievement at UAH's honors day on April 11. Lane is a sociology major with a minor in women's studies. While pursuing her degree, she has supported organizations that assist women and children in crisis, as well as continuing her interests in environmental and conservation education.

### **Huntsville Women's Club Awards Scholarship to UAH Student**



*Jennifer Stalnakar, '07 (right)*

The Huntsville Woman's Club presented its \$500 memorial scholarship to UAH student Jennifer Stalnakar at an awards banquet in May. Stalnakar is a political science major with a minor in women's studies. This is her second year receiving the award.

### **Women's Studies Essay Contest Awards Cash Prizes to UAH Students**

The Women's Studies Program will sponsor the seventh annual Kathryn L. Harris Women's Studies Paper Competition. The contest awards prizes for essays written for a graduate or undergraduate course at UAH that deal substantially with women or women's issues. The first prize is \$100, second prize \$50, and third prize \$25. The three winners will be honored at the Liberal Arts Honors Day celebration, April 10.

Last year's winners were, first, Kristen Ruccio, "The End of the Beginning or the Beginning of the End," second, Summer McCreless, "Gossip of Southern Slaveholding Women Prior to and during the Civil War," and third, Jennifer Deermar, "Whiney Hermione: A Poststructuralist Feminist Reading of Hermione Granger from Text to Film in the Harry Potter Series."

Essays may be submitted to Erin Reid in the Department of Sociology (344 Morton Hall) by Thursday, March 1. For more information, contact Dr. Molly Johnson at (256) 824-2566 or Dr. Angela Balla at (256) 824-2378 or visit the contest website at <http://www.uah.edu/womensstudies/events.html>.

#### **Women's Studies Program**

The University of Alabama in Huntsville  
344 Morton Hall  
Huntsville, Alabama 35899  
Phone: (256) 824-6210  
Fax: (256) 824-2387  
<http://www.uah.edu/womensstudies/>  
Dr. Nancy Finley, Director  
Erin Reid, Newsletter Editor

## Spring 2007 Events

### Kickbusch to Speak on Leadership



Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch

Retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch will offer a real world and motivational seminar on Thursday, March 1, at 11:10 a.m. in UAH's University Center Exhibit Hall and an empowerment seminar at 7 p.m. in Roberts Recital Hall. Her presentations are titled "Journey to the Future: A Roadmap for Success."

Kickbusch is the highest ranking Hispanic woman in the U.S. Army Combat Support Field. She is a renowned charismatic, passionate and influential speaker who carries her powerful message of what it takes to be an effective leader in today's global marketplace to hundreds of schools, colleges/universities, corporations, and government institutions, both in the U.S. and abroad. For the last ten years Kickbusch has dedicated her life to empowering a new generation of Hispanic leaders and has worked with over one million children and their parents across the United States through Educational Achievement Services, Inc. (EAS), a company she founded in 1994.

This UAH event is sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs in conjunction with the Honors Program, Minority Graduate Student Association, Office of Student Affairs, and the Women's Studies Program. Admission is free. For more information, contact the Office of Multicultural Affairs (256) 824-6822.

### Vicinus to Speak on Nineteenth Century "Free Woman"



Martha Vicinus

The English Department is arranging details for the visit of feminist scholar, Martha Vicinus, Eliza M. Mosher Distinguished Professor of English, Women's Studies, and History at the University of Michigan. Vicinus will be on campus the week of February 26-March 2. Her public lecture will be on the topic "The Late Nineteenth-Century Free Woman: Defining Sexual and Economic Freedom." She will be visiting classes and giving a public lecture.

Vicinus' scholarship over the years has focused on groups and subjects that were, at that time, somewhat "hidden from history": in the early 1970s, British working-class literature and history; in the 1970s, 80s, (and on), Victorian women; and more recently, sexualities. In each of these areas, she produced pioneering anthologies of critical work, and wrote critically acclaimed monographs. Her most recent book is *Intimate Friends: Women who Loved Women, 1778-1928*, and she is beginning a project on American women into the twentieth century who "migrated" to Britain. For more information, contact Dr. Julie Early at (256) 824-2375 or earlyj@uah.edu.

### Baumgardner and Richards to Speak on Feminism's Third Wave

Dr. Julie Ferris and members of the Women's Studies student group, POWER, are working to bring authors Amy Richards and Jennifer Baumgardner to campus for a conference on Third Wave Feminism in the spring. Known for their bestseller, *Manifesta: Young Women, Feminism, and the Future* and their latest book, *Grassroots: A Field Guide for Activism*, the two women are also widely versed in the world of mass media, magazine, and freelance writing and feminist politics. The conference, tentatively set for the fourth week in March, will spotlight the authors as well as feminist activism within the Huntsville community and student work. Watch for further details in the Spring 2007 newsletter or call (256) 824-6210.

### Huntsville Feminist Chorus to Perform Spring Concert

The Huntsville Feminist Chorus will perform its 12<sup>th</sup> annual Spring Concert during Women's History Month on Saturday, March 10, at 7:30 p.m., in UAH's Roberts Recital Hall. This a cappella group features drumming accompanying songs that empower women. The concert is sponsored by the UAH Women's Studies Program. Admission is free. For more information, call (256) 824-6210.

## Community News

### UAH Salmon Library to House AAUW Branch Archives

The UAH Salmon Library Archives will soon add to its collection a wealth of material tracing the history of the Huntsville Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW). Huntsville has one of the country's oldest and most active branches of AAUW, an organization whose primary purpose is "to promote equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change." Dr. Frances Roberts (Professor Emeritus), a respected historian and one of the people instrumental in founding UAH, was also active in forming Huntsville's AAUW branch in 1949. Given that connection, it is fitting that UAH should house these archives and make them available to scholars.

The oldest organization of its kind, AAUW has been around 125 years, and the Alabama branch is celebrating its 80th year. Huntsville currently has the largest branch in the state and will host the state convention in April 2007. The branch was recently recognized for raising funds for AAUW's scholarship fund, called the Educational Foundation (EF), and its Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF), which supports women in lawsuits involving sexual discrimination. Huntsville was first in the state and third in the nation in fundraising for EF.

The branch is currently seeking a student intern to assist in organizing these archives and creating finders aids for scholars. AAUW interns are college students who propose and execute a project that is in line with AAUW's mission. The intern will become a student affiliate member of the Huntsville branch, with state and local dues waived. For more information, contact Dr. Rose Norman at 824-2373 or normanr@uah.edu.

## Dorothy Allison Enchants Audience with Southern Storytelling



The Women's Studies Program would like to thank all who supported the visit of novelist Dorothy Allison. It was a treat for all involved. Allison delivered a lecture and stayed over an extra day to attend a local performance based on



Allison gave a lecture (top) and signed books following (bottom).

her memoir *Two or Three Things I Know for Sure*. Her lecture on the tradition of Southern storytelling was spellbinding. "All Southern storytellers begin with Mama," she said, and they also tend to tell the same story over and over, and to "make hope on the page."

Maybe it's the hopefulness that makes Dorothy Allison's work so compelling, for she mostly tells a story of poverty and abuse, stories about hard

lives. Here's how she described her inspiration: "When I was a girl, I wanted to sing... I wanted to sing a gospel song about my mother, a song that could make you feel the way she felt all the time—hurt and scared and stubborn." And what she wanted her stories to do was show women like her mother, hurt, scared, and stubborn, who manage to take care of themselves and their kids anyway. "If the world has told you over and over again, 'You ain't much,'" she said, "then you have two choices: not to put much on the page, or else put it so large on the page that they have to know you're something."

In much of her talk, Allison spoke of other contemporary Southern writers whose work she admires. Many who attended the lecture have asked for a list of the novelists she praised.

- Larry Brown, particularly *Fay* (Touchstone, 2001) and *On Fire* (Warner, 1995). "He'll take you right down to the bone and core, show you something about what you're afraid of."
- Jim Grimsley, particularly *Winter Birds* (Touchstone, 1997), an autobiographical novel written in the voice of his mother.
- Reynolds Price, particularly *Kate Vaiden* (Scribner, 1986), about a girl orphaned at age 11 when her father shoots her mother and himself.
- Ron Rash, particularly his new novel *The World Made Straight* (Henry Holt, April 2006), about a teenage boy, hamstrung by drug-dealers whose marijuana crop he has stolen, who is taken in by a disgraced teacher. These are characters we should despise, Allison remarked, but "slowly, slowly, slowly [the writer] makes me love them, makes me hope better for them."
- Daniel Woodrell, *Winter's Bone* (Little Brown, August 2006), about a poor Southern girl who desperately wants to get into the U.S. Army, where it's clean and orderly, but who is responsible for her young brothers, whom her father has deserted.

What these have in common is that they are about the same world of violence and poverty in the South that Allison herself writes about so well. They also have a quality she greatly admires, which is authenticity: "you know these stories, and you go into them, and you come out the other side believing in story. That's the Southern tradition. And believing in story becomes a way of believing in the community, believing in your family, believing in hope."

For Dorothy Allison, story is crucially important because "for some of us stories are how we have saved our lives. Books were where we went when the whole world around us was mean and dangerous and scary. When we had no other safe place to go, a book took us in...and took us to a place where we could imagine purpose, meaning, hope."

In these books, "Sometimes good people fail, and sometimes broken people achieve greatness." And what she says they do is something she strives to do in her own work: "to put against lies, truth; to put against contempt, whole-hearted appreciation."

For Southern writers, "what we put on the page is always a little sideways view of what we know...the people we love most in the world at their worst moment."

What she looks for in a story: "I want you to show me something I haven't seen before...give me one clear thread, and at the end of that thread, I want my heart to beat so strongly that even if you kill people on the page, I'll take a deep breath and say, 'Yes, that's how it is in life.'"

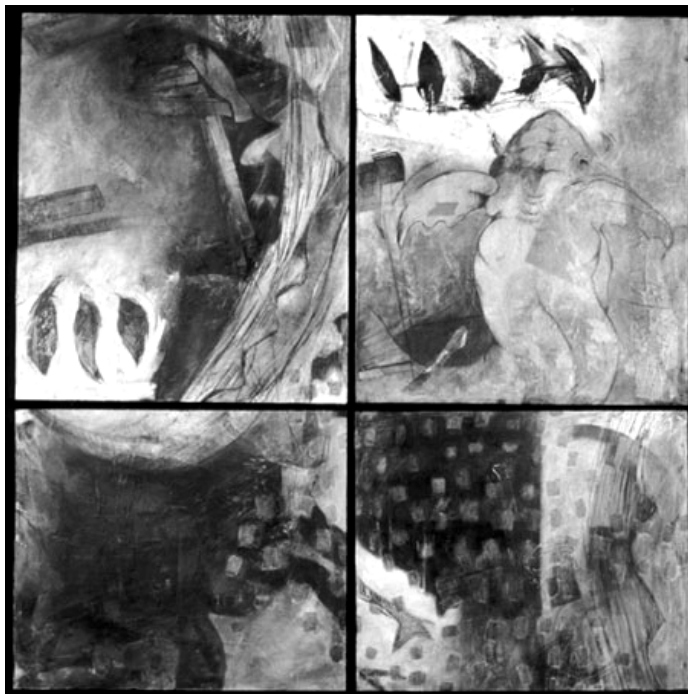
Allison's visit was funded by the UAH Women's Studies Program, the UAH Humanities Center, the Huntsville Literary Association, the English honor society Sigma Tau Delta, and the Women's Studies student organization POWER.



Above: Allison led a discussion with students about writing and survival. Left: Allison took time to play after the show.

## Meet the Faculty

### Roxie Veasey Teaches Introductory Drawing and Web Design



*Mixed media on oil panels by Roxie Veasey, 2005*



*Roxie Veasey*

Roxie Veasey was born and raised in south central Florida. She received her BA in fine arts from the University of South Florida and spent a number of years managing a Haitian Art Gallery in Key West. During this time she exhibited her work at Lucky Street Gallery,

Wooden Head Gallery, and Burning Bread Gallery.

In 2000, she decided to go to graduate school and completed her Master of Fine Arts at the University of Georgia. Veasey's feminism is rooted in family experience. She recalls her mother quitting her job as a bookkeeper in a local store after being told that a new male employee there deserved higher pay because "he has a family to support." Her mother became an entrepreneur, opening a successful children's clothing store.

Veasey's artwork reflects an inner landscape, both emotional and intellectual, expressed through her creative use of materials. Her mixed media paintings and drawings may include beeswax, plaster, coffee, collage, as well as ink, graphite, and paint. Her pleasure of looking and making is evident in every image, mark, and scratch. She currently has an exhibition at the University of Montevallo Art Gallery. Veasey teaches classes in introductory drawing and web design.

## Women's Studies Course Offerings

### Spring 2007

CM 250	Interpersonal Communication	MW	2:20-3:40	Noggle
EH 435	SS: African American	MW	3:55-5:15	Flint
EH 440	SS: Sex, Violence, and the Law in Lit.	MWF	11:30-12:25	Kennedy
EH 493	The Victorian Novel	TR	2:20-3:40	Early
PHL 202-01	Introduction to Ethics	MWF	9:10-10:05	Rochowiak
PHL 202-02	Introduction to Ethics	MWF	11:30-12:25	Wilkerson
PHL 202-03	Introduction to Ethics	MW	3:55-5:15	Bednar
PHL 202-04	Honors: Introduction to Ethics	TR	9:35-10:55	Martine
PHL 202-05	Introduction to Ethics	TR	2:20-3:40	Wilkerson
SOC 200-01	Introduction to Anthropology	TR	11:10-12:30	Sitaraman
PY/SOC 375	Social Psychology	MWF	10:20-11:15	Carpenter
WS 200	Introduction to Women's Studies	MWF	9:10-10:05	Ferris

**For more information, visit the Women's Studies Web Page**

<http://www.uah.edu/womensstudies>

For possible course time changes, see the official UAH schedule of classes: <http://www.uah.edu/cgi-bin/schedule.pl>

# Become a Friend of Women's Studies!

Friends of Women's Studies (FWS) is an organization of people who support the UAH Women's Studies program.

## The goals of FWS include

- supporting community involvement in Women's Studies events
- sponsoring cultural activities and events that honor and empower women
- supporting women scholars, artists, and performers
- fostering discussion of issues affecting women's lives

## Annual Contribution (October 1 – September 30)

\$10-24 Individual       \$25-49 Family       \$50-99 Matron       \$100-249 Sponsor  
 \$250-\$499 Sustaining       \$500 Lifetime Contributor       \$1000 Benefactor

I would like to contribute to the Travel Scholarship Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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