



UAHuntsville

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE

WOMEN'S STUDIES NEWS

Fall, 2010

Volume 21, Number 1

You may like to know that...

- The Women's Studies Program has a new director! Dr. Molly Johnson (see p. 2).
- You can contribute to a new award in honor of Dr. Rose Norman's scholarship in action.
- Charged Up For Change! EXPO will be back in 2012.

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The Yellow Dress to Be Performed at UAHuntsville

Women's Studies and AAUW Huntsville are bringing Deana's Educational Theater (DET) to perform *The Yellow Dress* on **Tuesday, November 9, at 7:30 p.m.**, in Chan Auditorium of the Business Administration Building at UAHuntsville. This powerful and dramatic one-woman show is designed to help students and others understand and deal with the problems surrounding dating violence and sexual assault.

The Yellow Dress tells the story of a young woman involved in a relationship that begins as young love, full of passion and promise, and ends in tragedy. The play helps viewers identify the warning signs of abusive behaviors and understand the unique aspects of dating



the
yellow
dress

violence and sexual assault and how to help friends and family members who may be in an abusive relationship. The play was written by Deborah Lake Fortson and originally produced by Sydney Patten, who wrote the music. *The Yellow Dress* gives college students accurate information and tools for intervention, while reinforcing the concept that verbal, emotional, and physical violence

are never acceptable. The performance runs 30 minutes, followed by a 30-minute Q&A session led by the actor.

DET, a non-profit organization based in Wakefield, Mass., uses theater as a way of educating audiences of all ages about dating violence, bullying, and promoting healthy relationships. The organization was established in 1994

(continued on page 3)

Rose Norman Scholarship in Action Award Established

Rose Norman officially retired from UAHuntsville in August. She was a valuable scholar, teacher, and admired member of our faculty. We are sorry to see her go.

The Women's Studies Program was particularly affected by her retirement, since she has been an instrumental part of the program since its inception. One of the founders of the Women's Studies Interest Group in 1991, she was fundamental in developing that interest into an official academic

program in 1995. She served as the first director of Women's Studies, taught courses in the program, and contributed to many of our most successful events. It is our good fortune that she has agreed to continue to serve on our advisory committee as a Professor Emeritus and that she will continue to chair the Women's Studies Events Committee.

Rose's outstanding contributions to the campus and community extend well beyond her teaching,



research, and academic service. One notable way is her consistent willingness to stand on the side of justice and fairness. She has built coalitions between organizations,

(continued on page 3)

WOMEN'S STUDIES NEWS

Message from the New Women's Studies Director: Dr. Molly Johnson



Dr. Molly Johnson is the new Women's Studies Director.

Greetings, Friends of Women Studies!

After many excellent years of service, Dr. Nancy Finley has stepped down as Women's Studies director, and I have been appointed the new UAHuntsville Women's Studies director for the next four years.

I am humbled to have been entrusted with this opportunity, and I am eagerly learning the ropes, discussing programming ideas, and interacting with our Women's Studies students. I look forward to meeting our many community supporters at upcoming events, too. I am very grateful that Dr. Finley is mentoring me as I make the transition to Director, and I look forward to working with Women's Studies Staff Assistant Erin Reid, Events Coordinator Dr. Rose Norman, as well as the hard-working and wise members of the

Women's Studies Program Advisory Committee.

I have been involved in Women's Studies since I arrived at UAH in 2003, both as a member of the Program Advisory Committee and through my regular guest lecture in WS 200, Introduction to Women's Studies, on women's experiences under Nazism.

I have also taught one core Women's Studies course, Women in Modern European History, as well as one elective course, Nazi Germany and the Holocaust, and I regularly include analysis of women and gender in all of my coursework in my specialty fields of Modern European and German history. My first book, *Training Socialist Citizens: Sports and the State in East Germany*, examined state-society relations in communist East Germany through the

lens of the government's sports programs. My new research examines protest culture and "green" politics in West Germany from the 1960s to the 1990s.

In my non-UAHuntsville life, I am the proud mother to a one-year-old child, Thomas Henry, and to a five-year-old labradoodle dog, Remy, both of whom I am raising together with my husband David.

Thank you all for your long-standing and continued interest in and support of UAHuntsville's Women's Studies Program. I look forward to meeting you at coming events, and I encourage you to contact me with any thoughts, questions, or concerns.

Best wishes,

Molly Wilkinson Johnson

Associate Professor of History

Director of Women's Studies

Alumna Profile: Veronica Ferreira, Class of 2010



Veronica Ferreira, class of 2010, is a Ph.D. student at the University of Iowa.

The Women's Studies Program is fortunate to serve many talented, hard-working, and accomplished students through the Women's Studies minor. One of these students, Veronica Ferreira, is now continuing her study of women and gender as a first-year student in the Sociology Ph.D. program at the University of Iowa. Veronica is also serving as a Teaching Assistant for an introductory "Sociology of Sexuality" course.

Veronica completed a Women's Studies minor at UAHuntsville in 2010, with double majors in History and in Sociology. She also received the Women's Studies

Outstanding Student Award in 2008 and 2009 and was the recipient of the Kathryn L. Harris Women's Studies Scholarship in 2009.

When asked how her Women's Studies minor influenced her intellectual development at UAH, Veronica responded that the interdisciplinary nature of the Women's Studies Program made the biggest impact: "Women's Studies exposed me to disciplines outside of my major in a way that general education classes do not. Rather than only taking 'intro' classes, through Women's Studies I took upper-level classes in phi-

losophy and English, for example, that gave me an insight into how other disciplines approached the same social phenomena." In fact, a required Women's Studies class in sociology ultimately resulted in Veronica completing a Sociology major alongside her original History major.

Veronica stated, "The willingness to venture outside of the comfort of my discipline will serve me well as a graduate student and beyond." Her ultimate goal is to teach sociology at the university level, focusing on family, gender, and stratification.

A Woman's Nation Changes Everything: AAUW to Discuss Shriver Report

AAUW Huntsville will host a cluster meeting of north Alabama branches to discuss the 2009 Shriver Report on **Saturday, November 6, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.**, at Grace Presbyterian Fellowship Hall on Wall Triana in Madison.

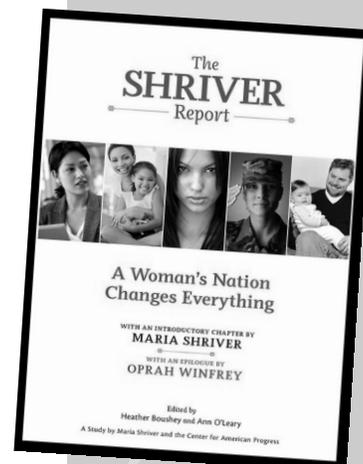
In 2009, for the first time in American history, women were half of our workforce, and mothers were the primary breadwinners in four out of ten families. Journalist Maria Shriver took that new statistic as the impetus to spend most of 2009 interviewing women and men all over the

country about what she calls "this new American revolution."

Shriver concluded from her research and from a *Time* magazine/Rockefeller Foundation survey that "the Battle Between the Sexes is over. It was a draw. Now we're engaged in Negotiation Between the Sexes." By and large, women and men agree on many work and family issues and believe that government and business need to catch up with this massive social change. Shriver's findings were first published as *A Woman's Nation Changes Everything*.

The Shriver Report clearly advances AAUW's mission to promote equity for women and girls. Alabama AAUW President Jo Ann Cummings will address key policy issues, and a second speaker will address pay equity issues facing Alabama women, as well as strategies for closing the pay gap.

This meeting is open to the public and requires reservations. For the most current details, see www.uah.edu/aauw or email rose.norman@gmail.com.



The 2009 Shriver Report is available online at www.shriverreport.com/awn.

"Rose Norman Award" (cont.)

found scholarships for students, and brought speakers, writers, scholars and entertainers to our community. She has enriched our lives.

In honor of that work, the Women's Studies Program will establish an award in her honor called the "Rose Norman Women's Studies Award for Scholarship in Action." It will be awarded annually to a student, faculty member, staff member, or organization involved in notable action enhancing women's rights, empowering the disenfranchised, or bringing positive social change. We hope that this award will stimulate others to do the kind of work Rose has done over the years.

The award will be made each spring to awardees selected by the Women's Studies Program Advisory Committee in consultation with Dr. Norman. Applications

may be submitted by the applicant or by another person nominating the person for the award. A cash prize of at least \$100 will accompany the award. Application forms will be available on the Women's Studies website (www.uah.edu/womensstudies). They should be submitted to the Women's Studies Program, 344 Morton Hall, The University of Alabama in Huntsville, Huntsville, AL 35899 by the date on the application form.

If you would like to contribute to the fund for this award, please indicate your contribution on the form on the back page of this newsletter and mail to the address indicated, marked "Attention: Rose Norman Women's Studies Award for Scholarship in Action."

For more information, contact the Women's Studies Program at (256) 824-6190 or email nancy.finley@uah.edu.

"Dress" (cont.)

after the death of Deana Brisbois, a young woman who was a victim of dating violence. DET produces other shows on social topics such as sexual coercion, respect, harassment, and constructive bystander behaviors.

This production of *The Yellow Dress* is sponsored by Women's Studies and AAUW Huntsville, and is funded in part by a programming grant from AAUW national, whose mission is to promote equity for women and girls through research, education, advocacy, and philanthropy.

Admission is free to UAHuntsville students with ID, \$5 for other students, and \$10 for the general public. All proceeds beyond production costs will benefit Crisis Services of North Alabama. For information, contact Dr. Rose Norman at (256) 539-0723 or rose.norman@gmail.com.

Women's Studies Program

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WOMEN'S STUDIES NEWS



Students Report on National Leadership Conference

Two UAHuntsville students and one Oakwood University student spoke at the September AAUW Huntsville branch meeting about their experiences at the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), which they attended near Washington, D.C., this past June.

UAHuntsville seniors **Kate Blake** and **Tamara Wright** shared

with the branch the presentation they gave at the conference about their AAUW Campus Action Project (CAP),

“Strengthening the Chain: Encouraging Women in Engineering at UAHuntsville.” UAHuntsville was one of 12 colleges and

universities that won AAUW CAP grants for programs encouraging women’s participation in science, technology, engineering, and math.

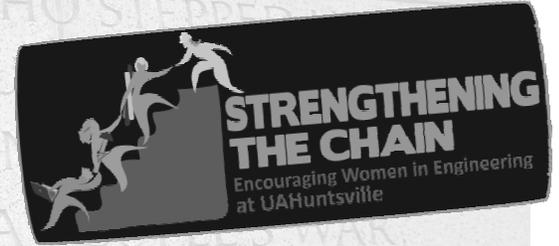
Tamara is a senior Civil and Environmental Engineering major, and was one of several engineering students who led us to focus on issues affecting “non-traditional” women students in Engineering, a large category of students for whom few support services are available. Tamara returned to college as an older student and used her own experiences with getting financial and other aid to help planners develop topics and speakers for the series of luncheons that “Strengthening the Change” presented. Tamara said that her favorite part of NCCWSL was the Women of Distinction Award ceremony, but added that “the energy and topics for the whole conference were all power-

ful and sometimes from a fascinating viewpoint.” She enjoyed the many activities intended to help student attendees get to know each other, such as interviewing each other at breakfast on the last morning.

Kate, a senior English and Art History major, designed the CAP website (www.uah.edu/cap) and worked on all the luncheons. NCCWSL was her first trip to a large city, and her first impression was that “riding the Metro was a scary/fabulous experience.” Like Tamara, her favorite part about NCCWSL was the Women of Distinction Award ceremony. Kate said, “The women who spoke made me realize how privileged I am to live in America—not just that, but to be a middle-class white woman. I have never had to fight for my rights—never had to fight for my right simply to be a human being. I am grateful to the speakers for making me realize that what I take for granted should not be taken for granted at all.

Many women have had to struggle for me to have the opportunities I have today, and I should be joining the worldwide struggle for my sisters in countries where women are not yet allowed to live as full human beings.”

Oakwood junior **Ginelle Nedd** quoted Nomfundo Walaza, one of



NCCWSL’s Women of Distinction speakers: “Teach a boy, and you teach an individual; teach a girl, and you teach a community.” She was stimulated by the opportunity for sharing views on topics, such as whether America is ready for a woman president. She remarked that “the level of respect that everyone had for one another, even if someone didn’t agree, was amazing.”

As a Mechanical Engineering major, she was particularly impressed with what she learned about a program that Florida State University has created to get girls from as early as third grade interested in science, technology, engineering, and math. She concluded, “the conference was a complete blessing” and thanked the branch for giving her the opportunity to attend.

This was the 25th year that AAUW has sponsored this conference, and Huntsville’s AAUW branch

has sponsored student attendees since 2006. Women’s Studies has assisted AAUW in identifying deserving students every year, and Alabama A&M University students have attended in previous years. This was the first year that an Oakwood University student attended.



Left-top: (left to right) Kate Blake and Tamara Wright, UAHuntsville students and CAP leaders, on the Washington DC Metro; Left-bottom: Ginelle Nedd, Oakwood University student and NCCWSL attendee; Right: (left to right) Sara Jo Taylor and Bisola Olaniyi, UAHuntsville engineering majors and participants in “Strengthening the Chain”



Charged Up For Change! EXPO Is Huge Success

Wednesday, March 31, 2010, was an exciting day on UAHuntsville's campus. By all accounts, the "Charged Up For Change! EXPO" hosted by Women's Studies turned out to be a wonderfully successful event. The purpose of EXPO was to encourage students and others who visited to see how they might get involved in community activities, or how they might use their own innovative talents as a platform to drive social change.

There were over seventy-five booths and displays, and it is estimated that over 500 people attended. Exhibitors and visitors networked and exchanged ideas.

Local musicians, actors, and performance artists contributed to the carnival-like atmosphere, as did refreshments, door prizes, and other creative surprises. There were even plenty of dogs and cats.

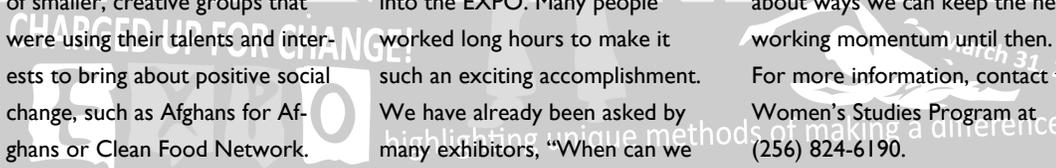
The event brought together local individuals and groups who engage in creative activities, hobbies, or social entrepreneurial projects that promote social service and address social problems. Some of these groups were well-established groups such as Invisible Children United and UAH Engineers Without Borders, while other booths displayed the work of smaller, creative groups that were using their talents and interests to bring about positive social change, such as Afghans for Afghans or Clean Food Network.

People from the community joined with students in viewing the variety of inspiring displays. Many signed up to be involved with the work of the organizations. The exhibitors themselves made connections with each other and reported that they were able to form networks of groups that were working on similar issues. Most of all, we all had a great deal of fun and left inspired by all the ways people are making the world a better place.

This was our first attempt at an event like this, and UAHuntsville Women's Studies appreciates all the efforts and work that went into the EXPO. Many people worked long hours to make it such an exciting accomplishment. We have already been asked by many exhibitors, "When can we

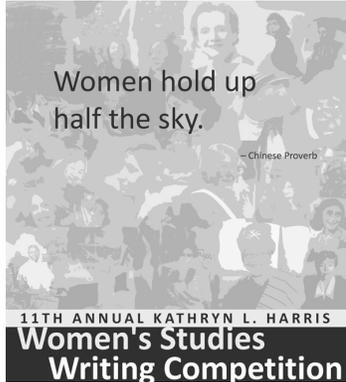


do it again?" The current plan is to offer EXPO again in 2012 and hopefully continue it on alternating years. We also will be thinking about ways we can keep the networking momentum until then. For more information, contact the Women's Studies Program at (256) 824-6190.



WOMEN'S STUDIES NEWS

Harris Paper Contest Awards Academic and Creative Writing



The Women's Studies Program will sponsor the 11th annual Kathryn L. Harris Women's Studies Paper Competition, which awards cash prizes for undergraduate or graduate written work that deals substantially with women or women's issues. The contest accepts submissions in three categories: upper-division academic, lower-division academic, and creative (both divisions).

Last year's winner in the lower-division academic category was **Whitney Reid**, "The Fight Against the Female Suffrage"

(Historical Methods, Dr. Christine Sears).

Winners in the upper division academic category were, first, **Kerri Satterfield**, "Changing Definitions of Women's Autonomy in *Mrs. Warren's Profession*" (Literature of the Transition, Dr. Julie Early); and second, **Suzanne Crow Haggerty**, "M. Paul Emanuel's Attempted Construction of Lucy Snowe: Identity Development and Role Resistance in Charlotte Brontë's *Villette*" (Representative Texts by Women Writers, Dr. Julie Early).

Winners in the creative category were, first, **Kate Blake**, "Rescue"; and, second, **Sarah Fisher**, "A Very Fictional Conversation Between Three Women—One Brilliant, One Radical, and One Undergraduate" (Philosophy of Gender, Dr. William Wilkerson).

Entries for this year's contest should be submitted by March 1, 2011, to Erin Reid, Women's Studies Program, 344 Morton Hall. For more information, visit www.uah.edu/womensstudies/essay_college.htm.

Women's Studies Students Receive Honors and Awards

The Women's Studies Program awarded the Outstanding Undergraduate Achievement Award to **Heather Harwell**, a Sociology major and Women's Studies minor, for outstanding academic performance and service.

Lauren Berck, a Psychology major and Women's Studies mi-

nor, received the 2010 Kathryn L. Harris scholarship. This scholarship of approximately \$700 is awarded annually to a Women's Studies minor.

The 2010 Women's Studies Outstanding Emerging Woman Artist Award, associated with the UA-Huntsville Annual Juried Student

Art Exhibition, went to Art major **Melanie Bradas**. This annual award of \$100 recognizes and supports emerging women artists who show exceptional work.

For more information on honors and awards, contact Dr. Molly Johnson at (256) 824-2566 or molly.johnson@uah.edu.

Scholarships Available to Women Students

The Kathryn L. Harris Scholarship in Women's Studies is awarded annually to a Women's Studies minor with demonstrated academic performance. Other considerations include participation in Women's Studies activities and clubs or in community activities that benefit women and girls. The award is approximately \$700 each year. Deadline for priority consideration for the upcoming year is December 1, 2010.

The Huntsville Woman's Club offers a \$1,000 scholarship to a

UAH student from the College of Liberal Arts or the College of Nursing. Preference is given to a returning student in need of financial aid. The scholarship is renewable, and applications are accepted only when a current recipient graduates. The application deadline for the upcoming year is March 1, 2011.

For scholarship details and application information, visit www.uah.edu/womensstudies or contact Dr. Molly Johnson at (256) 824-2566.

Women's Studies is also promoting **AAUW's Career Development Grants**, which support women who hold a bachelor's degree and are preparing to advance their careers, change careers, or re-enter the work force. Special consideration is given to women of color and women pursuing their first advanced degree or credentials in nontraditional fields. For more information, visit http://www.aauw.org/learn/fellowships_grants/career_development.cfm

Women's Studies Featured Faculty: Dr. Sandra Shattuck

Sandra Shattuck, who will teach WS 200, Introduction to Women's Studies, at UAHuntsville in spring 2010, started calling herself a feminist at age 19 (37 years ago) when she studied at an experimental undergraduate college in southern California. She focused on gender in most of her courses and learned about some of the inconsistencies of culture: as leaders of salons in pre-Revolutionary France, women shaped intellectual movements at the same time that fashion could kill them—whalebone corsets cut off breath and the mercury in their makeup (*le rouge et le blanc*) created toxic masks.

As a graduate student in the Comparative Literature Program at the University of Texas at Austin, Sandra focused on feminist literary criticism, and although no courses were yet offered in the new field, she was fortunate to be able to study with feminist scholars such as Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak and Jane Marcus.

Her dissertation used the feminist tenet that the personal is political

to study the work of memory in two novels by women who wrote about slavery and fascism.

At the University of Southern Mississippi, Sandra worked on establishing a Women's Studies program, and when she moved to Tucson, she worked at the Southwest Institute for Research on Women as associate project director for Global Processes, Local Lives: Comparative Approaches in Women's and Area Studies. At the University of Arizona, Sandra also taught Introduction to Women's Studies and co-authored an article on the outrageous act, a project developed by several Women's Studies instructors.

Sandra became associate director of the Center for Women and Information Technology at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, where she worked with Joan Korenmen, founder of the Center and of WMST-L, the women's studies listserv. She is most proud of a program that partnered social service organizations with CWIT to provide unemployed and underemployed

women the training to become A+ certified, which allowed them to find jobs as computer technicians. As adjunct faculty in Women's Studies, she developed the course, *Cybergrrls and Wired Women: Gender and Information Technology*, which was profiled in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

In 2002, Sandra moved from Baltimore to Huntsville, where she worked at Alabama A&M University and received the Teacher of the Year award in 2003-2004. She became a full-time lecturer in the English Department at UAHuntsville in 2008.

She also continued as a single parent to her son, Josh, who is responsible for her interest in video games. She needs help on *Metroid: The Other M*—still stuck in Sector 1, Part 2. Sandra's current research interests in Arab American women writers stems from her heritage as a Palestinian American; her paternal grandmother immigrated from Haifa, Palestine to the U.S. in the early 20th century.



Dr. Sandra Shattuck will teach Introduction to Women's Studies this spring.

Women's Studies Course Offerings Spring 2011

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|-------------------------------|----|------------|-----------|------------|--------------------------------|----|-------------|-----------|
| ARH 103 01 | Non-Western Traditions | TR | 12:45-2:05 | Joyce | PHL 202 02 | Introduction to Ethics | TR | 11:10-12:30 | Rochowiak |
| ARH 309 01 | Contemporary Art & Issues | MW | 3:55-5:15 | Stewart | PHL 202 03 | Honors: Introduction to Ethics | TR | 9:35-10:55 | Martine |
| ARH 309 02 | Contemporary Art & Issues | TR | 9:35-10:55 | Stewart | PHL 202 04 | Introduction to Ethics | TR | 2:20-3:40 | Heikes |
| CM 416 01 | Women Orators | MW | 3:55-5:15 | Rountree | PHL 202 06 | Introduction to Ethics | TR | 3:55-5:15 | Jones |
| ED 430 01 | Applied Multiculturalism | TR | 9:35-10:55 | Staff | PY 375 01 | Social Psychology | TR | 9:35-10:55 | Carpenter |
| EH 435 01 | SS: Native Women's Literature | MW | 3:55-5:15 | Frost | SOC 200 01 | Intro. to Anthropology | MW | 12:45-2:05 | Sitaraman |
| EH 438 01 | African American Literature | TR | 3:55-5:15 | Flint | SOC 200 02 | Intro. to Anthropology | MW | 3:55-5:15 | Sitaraman |
| EH 493 01 | The Victorian Novel | TR | 3:55-5:15 | Early | SOC 375 01 | Social Psychology | TR | 9:35-10:55 | Carpenter |
| PHL 202 01 | Introduction to Ethics | MW | 12:45-2:05 | Wilkerson | WS 200 01 | Intro. to Women's Studies | MW | 2:20-3:40 | Shattuck |

Course offering schedules are not final. For changes, see the official UAHuntsville schedule of classes at 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 UAHuntsville 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 "Rose Norman Women's Studies Award for Scholarship in Action." \$

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