

You may like to know that...

- Distinguished Speaker Dr. Judith McFarlane will speak on violence against women on Tuesday, Sept. 25 (page 3).
- The Coffeehouse Writers Series returns on Friday, Oct. 12 (page 3).

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WOMEN'S STUDIES NEWS

Fall, 2012

Lesléa Newman to Present New Poetry on Matthew Shepard in Anti-bullying Talk

Author Lesléa Newman will speak at UAHuntsville in November, presenting her new poetry collection, October Mourning: A Song for Matthew Shepard. Her anti-bullying presentation, "He Continues to Make a Difference: The Story of Matthew Shepard," will be on Wednesday, November 28, at 7:30 p.m., in Chan Auditorium of the Business Administration Building, followed by a book signing and reception. She will give another presentation geared specifically toward students on Thursday, November 29, at 11:10 a.m., as part of the Honors Forum lecture series in Shelby Center 107.

Newman is the author of sixty books, including the groundbreak-

ing children's classic, *Heather Has Two Mommies*, and the awardwinning short story collection, A *Letter to Harvey Milk*. A gay activist for more than twenty years, she has received many social justice and literary awards and fellowships. Her new collection tells the story of Matthew Shepard, a 21year-old gay student murdered in Wyoming in 1998. Her presentations use poetry, photographs, and creative visualization to remind audiences that they can, and must, create a safe world for everyone.

Both events are free and open to the public, and are sponsored by the UAHuntsville Women's Studies Program with the Office of Student Affairs, the Office of Di-

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versity, the Honors Program, the Humanities Center, POWER (the Women's Studies student club), the Gay-Straight Alliance, and community partners including the Alabama Writers' Forum and the Interfaith Mission Service. For information, call (256) 824-6190 or email erin.reid@uah.edu.

The Perfect 36 to Dramatize How Women Won the Vote in 1920

The Perfect 36: How Southern Women Won the Vote is a one-act play by Candace Corrigan dramatizing the final days of the 72-year campaign for women's suffrage. Decatur's Bank Street Players will perform the play at UAHuntsville's Wilson Hall Theatre, directed by Carol Puckett, on **Tuesday**, **October 9, at 7:30 p.m.**, sponsored by the Women's Studies Program. Women's Studies students will offer voter registration before and after the show, and there will also be a talk-back with the actors following the show. The play shows how Tennessee became the 36th and last state necessary to ratify the 19th amendment, giving women the right to vote in the United States, becoming law on August 26, 1920, now celebrated as Women's Equality Day. The show is free to UAHuntsville students with ID, \$5 for other students with ID, and



\$10 general admission. Seating is limited. To reserve seats or for information, call (256) 824-6210. Contact the Bank Street Players at carolpucket@hotmail.com or go to www.bankstreetplayers.org.

WOMEN'S STUDIES NEWS

Message from the Women's Studies Director



Dr. Molly Johnson, Women's Studies Director

Friends of Women's Studies!

On behalf of the Women's Studies Program, I am pleased to report that we have exciting events planned for the fall semester. Our two major events are a production of the one-act play, The Perfect 36: How Southern Women Won the Vote, on October 9 and the visit of writer and gay rights activist Lesléa Newman on November 28-29. We are also co-sponsoring two lectures on domestic violence prevention with the College of Nursing in September, and we are continuing our Coffeehouse Writers Series throughout the semester. In this newsletter, you will find more information on all of these coming events.

The Women's Studies Program heads into a new academic year still energized by our activities from the previous spring semester. First and foremost was our second "Charged Up For Change! EXPO" held on campus in March 2012 and featuring 75 booths highlighting local individuals and groups seeking positive social change. We also once again hosted the Huntsville Feminist Chorus on campus for their spring concert, "All You Need Is Love."

We recognized student achievement via our annual scholarships and academic, writing, and artistic awards, and we worked with the AAUW-Huntsville branch (as well as Student Affairs and the College of Engineering) to raise funds to send three students to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). We also continued our collaboration with Student Affairs to launch the Non-Traditional Women's Network.

Women's Studies thanks all of you, as always, for your enthusiastic support. Special thanks to those of you who made contributions to Women's Studies and to the Rose Norman Scholarship in Action Award this past year. Your financial support is critical to enabling us to continue to support and honor students for their leadership and academic endeavors and to bring to the UAHuntsville campus and to the North Alabama community exciting speakers and stimulating creative productions.

In closing, please remember to check out our website at uah.edu/ womensstudies and to "like" "Women's Studies at UAHuntsville" on Facebook to keep up to date on what Women's Studies is up to before the next newsletter goes out in the spring!

All the best,

Molly Wilkinson Johnson Associate Professor of History Director of Women's Studies

UAHuntsville Non-Traditional Women's Network Continues to Grow



Mentors Deanna Nicholas (with her son Mikey), Loran Farrow, Rebecca Warner, and Kacey Tyra, with two new transfer students, at a summer network session. Last January, the Women's Studies Program and the Office of Student Affairs created a "Charger Adult Women Students Network" and held a mixer during the Week of

Welcome to bring non-traditional women students together and to help us learn how we can best meet their unique needs.

Over the course of the semester, we held two additional mixers in

order to draw in more students and learn about their concerns. In the process, the students decided to rename themselves the "UAHuntsville Non-Traditional Women's Network."

The "Non-Traditional Women's Network" now has a Facebook presence at www.facebook.com/ UAHuntsvilleNonTraditional-WomensNetwork. Dean of Students Regina Hyatt has appointed five student mentors who are available to help new nontraditional students gain guidance and support. Based on the input of many of our network members, Women's Studies and Student Affairs have also collaborated to develop an online Non-Traditional Students Supplemental Orientation Module, which will be completed and available to students sometime this fall. We are also hosting additional mixers, including one on August 20 as part of the Week of Welcome that kicked off the new academic year.

For more information, contact molly.johnson@uah.edu.

Coffeehouse Writers Series Returns This Fall

Women's Studies and the Salmon Library are continuing the popular Coffeehouse Writers Series with programs featuring local writers reading their work.

The fall series begins **Friday**, **October 12, at 6:30 p.m.,** with "Freedom to Imagine," poetry by Melonie McClendon-King, Alex King, Carey Link, and LaVerne Roxby, all UAHuntsville alumni. On **Friday, November 16, at 6:30 p.m.,** Best Writing Friends Forever (BWFFs) return with poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction. BWFFs include Betty Clemens, Erin Reid, Heather Kilgore, Kathie Butler, LaWanda Siniard, Marylyn Coffey, Val Lotz, Rose Norman, Sandra Shattuck, Susan Gorrell, Susan Phelan, Sue Barbara, and Vikki Glynn.

On **Tuesday, December 11, 6:30 p.m.,** high school students who will compete at UAHuntsville in November to represent north Alabama at the Poetry Out Loud state competition will perform original poetry and poetry by famous writers. (See poetryoutloud.org)



Readings last about an hour and are held at the Salmon Library Art Gallery on the ground floor. Admission is free, and Charger Brew will be open before the Tuesday night reading. For information or to suggest a program, contact marylyn.coffey@uah.edu or (256) 824-6114.

Distinguished Speaker Dr. Judith McFarlane to Lecture on Global and Local Efforts to Address Violence Against Women

Dr. Judith McFarlane will offer two public lectures at UAHuntsville in September as part of the Distin-

guished Speaker Series. McFarlane currently serves as Professor and Perry Chair in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention at Texas Woman's University in Houston. She also holds

an appointment as visiting Professor and Research Scholar at Aga Khan University School of Nursing in Karachi, Pakistan.

McFarlane's keynote presentation, "Violence Against Women: Addressing Global Health Issues and Evidence-Based Practice for Policy Development," will be on **Tuesday, September 25, at 7 p.m.,** in Chan Auditorium of the Business Administration Building. Drawing from her extensive international experience, she will focus on violence against women from a

> global perspective, with a particular focus on developing policies to help women. The lecture will be followed by a reception.

McFarlane will give a second lecture, "Partner Violence: Evidence-

Based Interventions to Promote Safety and Well Being for Women in Your Community," on

Wednesday, September 26, at 9:30 a.m., in Wilson Hall room 001 (Wilson Hall Theatre). She will share her experiences working with communities in Texas to improve the health and well-being of women and provide evidence for interventions that have proven to benefit women who are victims of partner violence. Coffee and pastries will be served at 9 a.m. in the lobby outside the lecture hall.

McFarlane has completed nineteen major research projects with funding from prestigious national organizations and published over 162 articles in peer-reviewed medical and nursing journals.

Both lectures are free and open to the public, sponsored by the UAHuntsville College of Nursing, in cooperation with the Women's Studies Program, the Distinguished Speaker Series (sponsored by the Office of the Provost and the Faculty Senate), and with additional support from the Global Studies Program, the Beta Phi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society in Nursing, and POWER.

For information, contact the College of Nursing at (256) 824-6345.

Women's Studies Events Calendar

Fall 2012

September 25, 7 p.m. Lecture, "Violence Against Women: Addressing Global Health Issues and Evidence-Based Practice for Policy Development," Dr. Judith McFarlane, Texas Woman's University. Chan Auditorium, Business Administration Building (BAB).

September 26, 9:30 a.m. Lecture, "Partner Violence: Evidence-Based Interventions to Promote Safety and Well Being for Women in Your Community," Dr. Judith McFarlane. Wilson Hall Theatre (001).

October 9, 7:30 p.m. One-act play, *The Perfect 36*. Wilson Hall Theatre. Reservations: (256) 824-6210.

October 12, 6:30 p.m. Coffeehouse Writers Series, "Freedom to Imagine," poetry by Melonie McClendon-King, Alex King, Carey Link, and LaVerne Roxby. Salmon Library Art Gallery.

November 16, 6:30 p.m. Coffeehouse Writers Series, poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction by Best Writing Friends Forever (BWFFs). Salmon Library Art Gallery.

November 28, 7:30 p.m. Presentation, "He Continues to Make a Difference: The Story of Matthew Shepard," Lesléa Newman. Chan Auditorium, BAB.

November 29, 11:10 a.m. Reading and presentation for Honors lecture series, Lesléa Newman. Shelby Center 107.

December 11, 6:30 p.m. Coffeehouse Writers Series, poetry performance by Poetry Out Loud high school students. Salmon Library Art Gallery.

More information at: www.uah.edu/womensstudies





Breaking through Barriers

AAUW • NASPA



From the top: Alyson Thompson; Joy Agee (on left) with pay equity leader Lilly Ledbetter; Morgan Justice; Jessica Hyscher.

Students Attend National Leadership Conference

Each year, Women's Studies and AAUW assist women students in attending an AAUW-sponsored national leadership conference in Washington, DC. This year, four UAHuntsville students attended, along with five others from AAMU and Oakwood University. This was the 28th annual National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), attended by almost 600 students. NCCWSL is the only conference that brings college women together to address important and contemporary leadership issues. It provides a transformative experience for attendees, who return home ready to improve their campuses and their communities.

Joy Agee, a doctoral student in Biotechnology, Science, and Engineering at UAHuntsville and HudsonAlpha researcher, attended as a member of the AAUW National Student Advisory Council. She said that she was most impressed by "the energy and excitement the young women had about becoming more empowered to break barriers for women." As a SAC member, Joy participated in conference calls that involved selecting Women of Distinction honorees and workshop presenters. She also had an opportunity to assist with program facilitation during the conference.

Three UAHuntsville undergraduates attended. Jessica Hyscher and Alyson Thompson won registration scholarships at the national level, covering about half of their expenses. Jessica, a sophomore in Aeronautical Engineering, received financial assistance from the College of Engineering. Alyson, a junior in Sociology, received financial support from Student Affairs and Women's Studies. The Huntsville AAUW branch paid all expenses for Sociology major **Morgan Justice**, who has been active in reinstating the Women's Studies student club. Morgan was awarded the Kathryn L. Harris scholarship in Women's Studies and is also the Women's Studies student assistant this year. Morgan said, "At NCCWSL I was able to build a network of friends from across the country and also learn about the passions of the many different women that were there representing their institutions."

Next year's NCCWSL will be held May 30-June I, 2013, and Women's Studies will again assist AAUW in selecting students for financial assistance to attend. Faculty are encouraged to recommend students who would benefit from the conference. Contact leslie.kaiura@uah.edu or regina.hyatt@uah.edu.

AAUW-Huntsville Fall Activities and UAHuntsville Partnership

AAUW-Huntsville welcomes Dean of Students Regina Hyatt and Assistant Professor of Spanish Dr. Leslie Kaiura as the new UAHuntsville representatives. Hyatt has also been appointed to the national AAUW Committee on College and University Relations. UAHuntsville's membership as an AAUW University Partner means that all students may join as e-members for free.

AAUW's mission to promote equity for women and girls through research, education, advocacy, and philanthropy makes it a natural partner for the Women's Studies Program. The Huntsville Branch welcomes students to attend monthly branch meetings, generally held in the fellowship hall of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 301 Drake Ave.

Tuesday, September 4, 5:30 p.m. National Student Leadership Reports. Students who attended NCCWSL will report on their experiences.

Tuesday, October 9, 5:30 p.m. Women & Voting. Dinner in Wilson Hall Gallery followed by *The Perfect 36* in the Theatre.

Saturday, November 3, 10 a.m. The Politics of Women's Health. Alabama women's health care experts discuss reproductive rights, the Affordable Care Act, and Alabama women's access to midwifery.

Tuesday, December 4, 5:30 p.m.: Women and STEM Education. AAUW Director of Research speaks on women and girls in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

For reservations, contact lois.guendel@knology.net or (256) 880-8643. Members are glad to donate the cost of student dinners. For more information on AAUW activities, contact rose.norman@uah.edu.

EXPO 2012 Makes Campus and Community Connections

The Women's Studies Program is delighted to report on another inspiring "Charged Up For Change! EXPO." Building on our successful event in 2010, we brought back EXPO in 2012, with

more than 75 exhibitors working to bring positive social change and more than 500 visitors



from the campus and community gathering in the University Center on March 28. The purpose of EXPO was to help students and others see the creative ways they can use their interests and talents to make the world better.

Returning from the first EXPO were groups such as Makers Local 256, the Community Free Clinic, the Guide Dog Foundation, Mended Little Hearts, Sapient Reader's Guild, and Alabama Citizens for Constitutional Reform. We also brought many new groups on board, such as The Village Home-



less Outreach, the Trade Fair Marketplace, the Alabama Sustainable Agriculture Network, the North Alabama Spay-Neuter Clinic, the Rolling Arsenal of Derby, Kairos Prison Ministry, and Moth-

> ering Herbs. UAHuntsville student groups such as the Gay-Straight Alliance, the Green Campus Network, and the Public History Program also participated.

EXPO participants interacted and networked with each other. Women's Studies Director Molly Johnson was excited when she visited EXPO-exhibitor Lowe Mill Arts and Entertainment center and discovered The Greene Street Market at Nativity ordering custommade t-shirts from Green Pea Press; the two groups had found each other at EXPO!

EXPO featured a carnival-like atmosphere, with indoor and outdoor entertainers coordinated by Anna Sue Courtney of the Flying Monkey Arts Center. EXPO also featured the youth members of the Huntsville Drumline, who performed outside and then led a procession of art students in animal masks crafted for professor Marin Abell's sculpture class. EXPO also offered ample free refreshments including popcorn, lemonade, and healthy snacks distributed by volunteers pushing a food cart, and FredBread. Special thanks to the many vendors who contributed door prizes ranging

from jewelry to food gift certificates to karate lessons, and a Nook Color as the grand prize. Members of a local Girl

Scout troop helped distribute door prizes.

Fabulous collaboration went into planning EXPO. Our steering committee included close to 20 faculty, staff, and students from UAHuntsville, as well as representation from AAUW-Huntsville and the Girl Scouts of North Central Alabama. Funding from the Women's Studies Program, the Office of Student Affairs, the Office of Diversity, and the Global Studies Program, and from the Women's Economic Development Council helped make this event possible. We were thrilled with our second EXPO and we look forward to planning yet another EXPO in coming years! For information on getting involved in EXPO, contact (256) 824-6190 or womensstudies@uah.edu.

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Dr. Molly Johnson Director

Dr. Rose Norman Events Coordinator Online Newsletter Editor

Erin Reid Newsletter Editor

Harris Paper Contest Awards Academic and Creative Writing

Women's Studies will sponsor the 13th annual Kathryn L. Harris

> Women's Studies Writing 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 aca-

demic, lower-division academic, and creative. Prizes in each category are First Place \$100 and Second Place \$50. The winners are honored at the College of Liberal Arts Honors Day.

Last year's winners in the lowerdivision academic category were, first, **Hannah Christine Ross**, "Independence, an Economic Exchange? Women in 18th Century Colonial Trade" (United States to 1877, Dr. Christine Sears); and second, **Katie Hale**, "Imagery and Illusions in Virginia Woolf's A *Room of One's Own*" (British Literature II, Dr. Julie Early). The winner in the upper-division academic category was **Erin Gowdy**, "Trans Identity and Ethical World Building" (Philosophy of Gender, Dr. William Wilkerson). The winner in the creative category was **Gerri Minisee** for her story, "Unexpectedly Expecting."

Entries for this year's contest are due by February 15, 2013, to Erin Reid, Women's Studies Program, 344 Morton Hall, reide@uah.edu. For contest information, visit www.uah.edu/womensstudies.





From the top: Harris Competition winners (left to right) Erin Gowdy, Gerri Minisee, and Katie Hale; Outstanding Undergraduate Deanna Nicholas; Huntsville Woman's Club Scholarship recipient, Laura Webster (on right) with Billie Perkins, Huntsville Woman's Club scholarship coordinator.

Women's Studies Students Receive Honors and Awards

The Women's Studies Program awarded the 2012 Outstanding Undergraduate Achievement Award to **Deanna Nicholas**, a Psychology major and Women's Studies and Communication Arts minor. Deanna has been instrumental in leading the new Non-Traditional Women's Network.

The 2012 Women's Studies Outstanding Emerging Woman Artist Award, presented at the UAHuntsville Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition, went to Art major **Naomi Traynor** for her assemblage, "Incarnation." The award of \$100 recognizes and supports emerging women artists who show exceptional work.

For more information contact molly.johnson@uah.edu or (256) 824-2566.



Naomi Traynor's awardwinning assemblage, "Incarnation."

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 2012 Harris Scholarship went to **Deanna Nicholas,** a Psychology major and Women's Studies and Communication Arts minor, and to **Morgan Justice**, a Sociology major and Women's Studies minor. The award is approximately \$700 each year. Application deadline for consideration for the upcoming year is December 1, 2012.

The Huntsville Woman's Club offers a \$1,000 scholarship to a UAHuntsville 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. The 2012 scholarship was awarded to **Laura Webster,** a nursing major. The application deadline for the upcoming year is March 1, 2013.

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

Women's Studies Featured Faculty: Ann Bianchi

Ann Bianchi is a Clinical Associate Professor in the College of Nursing. She has been a nurse for over thirty years. Ann graduated from George Mason University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). She received her Masters of Science in Nursing (MSN) from UAHuntsville and is a full-time doctoral student at Texas Woman's University, Houston.

Ann is a member of the Women's Studies Program Advisory Committee, and she has been a guest lecturer in Introduction to Women's Studies. Her lecture is entitled "Violence Against Women, A Health Issue, A Human Rights Issue." This lecture stems from her passionate belief that all women deserve to be treated with respect and dignity and her recognition that intimate partner violence cannot only destroy a woman's self-worth but have long lasting effects on her health and place her in severe danger.

Ann has blended her love of nursing with her love of education. She believes the art and science of nursing and education go hand-inhand and has been able to combine her love for both. As a labor and delivery nurse, Ann became interested in community education and began teaching childbirth classes, which she continued for over 25 years in a variety of communities.

Her first experience was teaching childbirth classes to military communities in Germany where she connected with the Red Cross and became a childbirth educator trainer. Arriving back to Huntsville, she continued to teach classes with the Red Cross on Redstone Arsenal and then conducted classes with an independent group of childbirth educators in the Huntsville community.

Ann began teaching nursing students at Calhoun Community College where she taught for eleven years. She arrived at UAHuntsville College of Nursing in the Fall of 2007 and began teaching Pathophysiology and conducting clinicals in the Pediatric course. The move to UAHuntsville has been exciting as she has had wonderful experiences assisting with Let's Pretend Hospital, working with Sigma Theta Tau (the nursing honor society), and serving on several College of Nursing committees.

Ann states one of her most rewarding experiences is being involved in a professional nursing organization, Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN). She has presented at 6 AW-HONN National Conventions on issues related to labor support and in 2011 and 2012 presented on issues relating to intimate partner violence. She has also coauthored two peer-reviewed journal articles for AWHONN, one article in Journal of Obstetric, Gynecological, and Neonatal Nursing, and one in Nursing for Women's Health.

Ann's doctoral work has focused on the impact of intimate partner violence and its effects on the childbirth experience and motherinfant bonding. In April 2010 Ann was invited to join a research team as a co-investigator for a

seven-year prospective research study entitled "Mother Child Study to Inform Practice and Policy." The research design is a naturalistic longitudinal prospective follow-up comparative design. This study is being conducted in Houston, Texas and includes 150 abused women who accessed the justice system for protective orders and 150 abused women who accessed community shelters; each woman selected one child to follow and examine the effects of abuse on child functioning. Ann brings the maternal-newborn focus to this study as she will collect and analyze data on 300 women who have experienced intimate partner violence in order to gain a better understanding of the effects of partner violence on their childbirth experience and bonding with their newborns. The principal investigator is Dr. Judith McFarlane, Dr.PH, FAAN from Texas Woman's University in Houston. Ann has succeeded in applying for and receiving funds to bring McFarlane to UAHuntsville this fall as part of the Distinguished Speaker Series and has orchestrated most details of her coming visit.

Ann and her husband have raised two strong daughters. Neither has chosen to be a nurse but both have a love of babies. As a new grandmother she enjoys spending time with her now six month old grandson, Eli, and watching her daughter take on the new role of motherhood.

Ann Bianchi is a new member of the Women's Studies Program Advisory

Committee.



Friends of Women's St the UAHuntsville Won Supporting co Sponsorir Support	riend of Women sudies (FWS) is an organization nen's Studies Program. The g ommunity involvement in Women's Stu- ng cultural activities and events that ho orting women scholars, artists, and per	n of people who suppo oals of FWS include: idies events nor and empower women formers	ort	
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