



UAHuntsville

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE

WOMEN'S STUDIES NEWS

Spring, 2013

Volume 23, Number 2

You may like to know that...

- The Women's Studies Program includes 36 faculty members and 42 courses cross-listed in 14 disciplines.
- The Women's Studies Program regularly works together with 10+ community groups to offer student scholarships, leadership training, and public events.
- The Women's Studies Program regularly collaborates with 15+ university programs on cultural events that benefit campus and community.

Inside this issue:

Message from the Director	2
Coffeehouse Writers Series	3
Scholarship in Action Award Recipient	3
AAUW Branch News	4
Women's Poetry Performance	4
Featured Administrator: Dr. Regina Young Hyatt	5

Public Showing of *Miss Representation: Women, Media, and Power*

The documentary, *Miss Representation*, will be shown in the Wilson Hall Theatre on **Wednesday, February 20, at 7 p.m.** *Miss Representation* explores how the media's everyday depictions of girls and women function to limit women's attainment of positions of power and influence in society. This event is co-sponsored by the Women's Studies Program and POWER (People Organized for Women's Equality and Rights), the Women's Studies student club.

Miss Representation, an official selection at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival, is written, directed, and produced by filmmaker, speaker, former actress, and advocate Jennifer Siebel Newsom. According to the film's official website, "In a

society where media is the most persuasive force shaping cultural norms, the collective message... is that a woman's value and power lie in her youth, beauty, and sexuality, and not in her capacity as a leader." The documentary features extensive media footage, profiles of young women today, and interviews with public figures such as Condoleezza Rice, Nancy Pelosi, Katie Couric, Rachel Maddow, Margaret Cho, Rosario Dawson, and Gloria Steinem. The film's ultimate goal is to inspire viewers to consider how they can take action to challenge media representations and to empower girls and women.

The 90-minute screening will be followed by a reception and dis-



cussion of how campus and community groups can work together to encourage positive portrayals of women and girls and expand access to political and other leadership positions.

This event is free and open to the public. For information, call (256) 824-6210. Read about the film at www.missrepresentation.org.

Huntsville Feminist Chorus Spring Concert

The Huntsville Feminist Chorus (HFC) will offer an evening of songs that empower women and the world on **Saturday, April 6, at 7:30 p.m.**, in Chan Auditorium of the Business Administration Building. The concert's theme, "Hallelujahs," reflects the *hallelujah* in every individual's heart by sharing an eclectic array of praise songs, from the Zulu freedom song "Akanamandla" to Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah." This will be the 18th HFC spring concert at

UAHuntsville, honoring women's history. HFC was formed in 1993 and sang its first UAHuntsville concert in March 1996. As always, the concert will be free and open to the public.

Women's Studies will host a reception following. For more information, call (256) 824-6190.



WOMEN'S STUDIES NEWS

Message from the Women's Studies Director



Dr. Molly Johnson,
Women's Studies
Director

Friends of Women's Studies!

Happy New Year from the Women's Studies Program at UAHuntsville! We are excited about our spring semester schedule, which includes a public showing of the documentary, *Miss Representation*, the spring performance of the Huntsville Feminist Chorus, and several events in the Coffeehouse Writers Series. In this newsletter, you will find more information on all of these coming events. We will also begin early planning for our next "Charged Up For Change! EXPO" for spring 2014. If you are interested in participating, please contact me at molly.johnson@uah.edu.

We head into the spring semester still energized by a busy and suc-

cessful fall semester. We began by co-sponsoring two lectures by internationally-renowned domestic violence researcher Dr. Judith

McFarlane with the College of Nursing, a cooperation that allowed us to make contacts with a number of community groups focused on preventing violence against women. We then hosted Decatur's Bank Street Players for a performance of "The Perfect 36:

How Southern Women Won the Vote" by Candace Corrigan. We concluded the semester with the visit of writer and human rights activist Lesléa Newman, who gave

a keynote lecture, "He Continues to Make a Difference: The Story of Matthew Shepard," based on her new book *October Mourning: A Song for Matthew Shepard*, and also spoke to university Honors students on "The Gender Dance: Picture Books that Challenge Stereotypes." Women's Studies also continued its collaboration with the Salmon Library on the Coffeehouse Writers Series and with Student Affairs on the Non-Traditional Women's Network.

The Women's Studies Program 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 fall!

All the best,

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



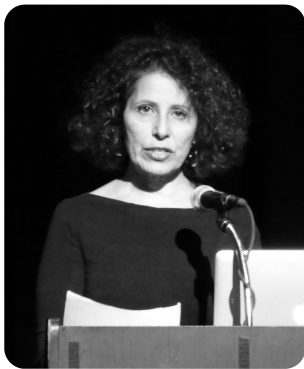
HOW CAN YOU HONOR POSITIVE COMMUNITY CHANGE?

Would you like to honor **Rose Norman** and help ensure that Women's Studies can continue to honor individuals who help **empower women** and bring **positive social change** to our community?

If so, please make a contribution to the Scholarship in Action Award fund!

Simply fill out the giving form on the back page of the newsletter and check the box indicating that you wish your contribution to go to the **Rose Norman Women's Studies Award for Scholarship in Action**.

Thank you!



Top: Guest author Lesléa Newman; Middle: POWER student leaders Jonathan Barnes and Morgan Justice; Bottom: Clinical Associate Professor of Nursing Ann Bianchi and domestic violence researcher Dr. Judith McFarlane.

Coffeehouse Writers Spring Series Features Local Poets and Dramatist

Women's Studies and the Salmon Library are continuing the popular Coffeehouse Writers Series with programs featuring local writers reading their work. All programs last about an hour and are held at the Salmon Library art gallery near the ChargerBrew coffee shop.

Friday, February 22, 6:30 p.m.
"Haiku: More Than 5-7-5." Haiku poets Terri L. French, Carla Sheppard Sims, and Peggy Bilbro share

their approach to this very, VERY short Japanese form.

Friday, March 8, 6:30 p.m. (International Women's Day).
The Coweeta Poets return with staged readings of their quirky, sometimes dramatic, often collaborative poetry. Poets are Debbie West, Erin Reid, Evelyn Hurley, Margaret Vann, Monita Soni, Rose Norman, Rosemary McMahan, Susan Guthrie, and Susan Luther.

Friday, April 12, 6:30 p.m.
Dorothy Weems performs excerpts from her one-woman show, "Miss Wolfe's Tangier Stories,"™ based on her mother's daring experiences in WWII Tangier.

Admission is free and open to the public. For information, contact Marylyn Coffey at (256) 824-6114 or email coffeymt@uah.edu.



Marylyn Coffey Receives Rose Norman Scholarship in Action Award

Women's Studies is delighted to announce **Marylyn Coffey** as the recipient of the 2012 Rose Norman Women's Studies Award for Scholarship in Action. The award was created in 2010 in honor of the retirement of Dr. Rose Norman, Professor of English and co-creator of the UAHuntsville Women's Studies Program. It is awarded annually to a student, faculty or staff member, organization, alumnus, or community affiliate involved in notable action enhancing women's rights, empowering the disenfranchised, or bringing positive social change.

Marylyn has taken a leading role in cultivating creativity and advancing art as a vehicle for positive social change on campus and in the local community. She embodies the spirit of "scholarship in action" to its fullest.

Marylyn earned her MA in English from UAHuntsville in 2007 while working full time as Staff Assistant in the Department of Art and Art History, a position she still holds. Her thesis, "A Jane for All Sea-

sons: The Persistence of Iconic Meaning Through One-Hundred-Thirty Years of Calamity Jane Facts, Fictions, and Films," delved into representations of women and gender. She often teaches introductory classes for the English Department, and she continues to take classes as well. She is a member of several writing groups, including the BWFFs.

Marylyn is co-creator of the Coffeehouse Writers Series at UAHuntsville, which offers local writers a forum to share their works with each other, the campus, and the community. Now in its third year, the series has become integral to the local creative writing community and to Women's Studies public outreach.

Marylyn is involved in the Huntsville arts community as a regular participant at Monkeyspeak at the Flying Monkey Arts Center, and she is responsible for bringing the Black Maria Film and Video Festi-

val to Huntsville. She also recently performed in the UAHuntsville Theatre production of "The Tempest."

Marylyn goes above and beyond her staff work to contribute to interdisciplinary endeavors. She often supports Women's Studies

events, recently helping with preparations for the play, "The Perfect 36: How Southern Women Won the Vote." She devoted significant time to the "Dora and the V-2: Slave Labor and the Space Age" 2010 public art and photography exhibition, a collaboration between the departments of History and Art and Art History. She also supports the North Alabama Society of the Archaeological Institute of America lecture series.

Marylyn is also extraordinarily supportive of students, empowering them to succeed not only academically, but also in life. She is truly a gift to UAHuntsville and to the North Alabama community.



Women's Studies faculty and staff honor Marylyn Coffey for Scholarship in Action.

Women's Studies Program

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WOMEN'S STUDIES NEWS

AAUW Huntsville Branch News: Spring 2013

By Rose Norman

As the spring semester begins, AAUW Huntsville is gearing up to send women students to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) held at the University of Maryland, College Park, May 30-June 1 (nccwsl.org). For many years, the local branch has been sending students from local colleges and universities to this AAUW-sponsored event, and UAH Women's Studies has assisted students in finding additional funding. The main AAUW fundraiser for NCCWSL travel scholarships is the Breaking Through Barriers luncheon set for March 1, featuring Dr. Deborah Barnhart, CEO and Executive Director of the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. Luncheon tickets are \$35, or you can donate directly to the NCCWSL travel fund, either through UAHuntsville Women's Studies (to fund a UAHuntsville student) or to the local AAUW fund that assists students from several local schools.

The branch provides speakers and information about public policy, and encourages women to run for public office, often the subject of AAUW-sponsored informal gather-

ings called Cocktails and Convos. The topic for the next Cocktails and Convos is Project 2014, a statewide, nonpartisan campaign to increase the number of women in the United States Congress and Alabama Legislative Districts and Executive Branch (www.The2014ProjectAL.org). That is Thursday, **February 21, 5-7 p.m.**, at Surin of Thailand on Airport Road. For information contact aauwmember@gmail.com.

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, held in the fellowship hall of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 301 Drake Ave. SE (except March).

Tuesday, February 5, 5:30-8 p.m.: Body Work for Good Health and Posture. Massage therapists Ashley Cain and Melissa Johnson will discuss healthy lifestyle habits, pain management, and how muscles affect our posture.

Friday, March 1, 11:30-1 p.m.: Breaking Through Barriers Luncheon. Dr. Deborah Barnhart,

CEO and Executive Director of the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, presents "Building a STEM Generation." Valley Hill Country Club (off Willowbrook in SE Huntsville near Grissom High School). Tickets are \$35. Contact Ellie Lienau at elienau@yahoo.com or (256) 852-4802 or Amanda Jarrett at apjarrett@gmail.com or (919) 610-6581.

Tuesday, April 2, 5:30-8 p.m.: Do You Need a Living Will? Branch member attorney Anna Blair will explain the importance of having advanced directives, which will include all aspects of living wills and durable powers of attorney, both of which we need in Alabama, in addition to a regular will.

Tuesday, May 7, 5:30-8 p.m.: Topic to be decided.

All programs require reservations 3-4 days before the meeting date. Contact Lois Guendel at lois.guendel@knology.net or (256) 880-8643. Members are glad to donate the cost of student dinners at these programs.

For more information on AAUW activities, contact Rose Norman at rose.norman@uah.edu.

UAH Multicultural Affairs Presents Women Performance Poets

In honor of Women's History Month, the UAHuntsville Office of Multicultural Affairs, with support from the Women's Studies Program, will feature the women's performance poetry group Shadowboxers Anonymous. They will offer a duo poetry slam as well as

a writing workshop. Session one, **Thursday, March 14, at 11:10 a.m.**, will include a performance and writing workshop only. Session two, **at 7:30 p.m.**, will also include 30-40 minutes of audience spoken word participation. Students are invited to par-

ticipate as poets. Both sessions will be held in the University Center Exhibit Hall. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Kimberly Crutcher-Williams at (256) 824-6822 or crutchk@uah.edu.



AAUW

Breaking through Barriers

www.aauw.org



AAUW • NASPA

www.nccwsl.org



Top: Dr. Deborah Barnhart; Bottom: AAUW national and local leaders at the December meeting.

Women's Studies Featured Administrator: Dr. Regina Young Hyatt

Regina Young Hyatt is the Dean of Students and Associate Vice President for Student Affairs at UAHuntsville. Regina joined the Charger family in January 2011 and has enjoyed working with the students and faculty/staff at UAH tremendously!

Regina's interactions with the Women's Studies Program began when she was approached by Dr. Molly Johnson to co-sponsor a program in spring 2011. That conversation led to a great partnership between Student Affairs and Women's Studies. Under Regina's leadership, Student Affairs co-sponsored the "Charged Up For Change!" EXPO in spring 2012, as well as the visit of Lesléa Newman in fall 2012 (as part of the Student Affairs "Safe Zone" program). In addition, Molly and Regina co-advise the NTWN (Non-Traditional Women's Network) student organization. NTWN provides networking, mentoring, and social activities for our non-traditional women students on campus. Women's Studies has also lent its support to Student Affairs efforts related to sexual violence prevention and was supportive of the Clothesline Project which was hosted in spring 2012 (and will be on display again in spring 2013).

Another point of connection between Regina and Women's Studies is her involvement with AAUW (American Association of University Women). Via an introduction to AAUW from Molly and Dr. Rose Norman, Regina became involved in the Huntsville Branch of AAUW and currently serves as

the College/University Liaison on the Board. Regina also serves on the AAUW National College/University Relations Committee as a general member. At the recommendation of Rose and Molly, Regina applied for and was given a LAF (Legal Action Fund) grant from AAUW to help support the "Let's Talk About IT" lecture on campus. Over 200 students attended the lecture which focused on sexual violence prevention, and specifically dating violence.

Regina has worked in higher education for her entire career. Her interest in working with college students began during her undergraduate experience at Western Illinois University. She was a very involved student leader and was elected as President of the Student Government in her junior year. Her advisor suggested that she consider a career in College Student Personnel and attend graduate school. She took his advice and began graduate school at WIU while also working as a graduate assistant in Student Activities. Regina has worked at several colleges and universities during her career including Palmer College, the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, the University of South Florida St. Petersburg, and the University of South Florida.

Regina completed her doctoral work at the University of South Florida in 2011. Her dissertation research was titled, "The influence of time spent by students engaged in co-curricular involvement, online social networking and stud-

ying and doing coursework on their academic achievement." The experience students have on campus outside of the classroom has always been of particular interest to Regina given her own experiences as an undergraduate.

Regina's professional endeavors have led her to service within several of the professional associations affiliated with Student Affairs. She served as Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Campus Activities (NACA) in 2008-2009 after having served on the Board for four years. She is still involved with NACA as a member of the Education Advisory Group. Regina is currently serving as the Communications Director for the Alabama NASPA and regularly presents at conferences on topics related to student life and engagement.

Regina and her husband, Chad, are proudly owned by two hound dogs, Buddy and Aly. The Hyatts enjoy traveling and look forward to a trip planned in February to New Orleans. Regina is an avid reader as well so in her spare time, you can likely find her curled up with one of the pups with a book (or iPad) in hand.



**Dr. Regina Young Hyatt,
Dean of Students and
Associate Vice President
for Student Affairs at
UAHuntsville**



Women's Studies Program

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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
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- I would like to contribute to the "Rose Norman Women's Studies Award for Scholarship in Action." \$
 I would like to contribute to NCCWSL travel. \$

Your Name Phone

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Gifts are entirely tax-deductible. Make your check payable to UAHuntsville Women's Studies.

Mail to: Women's Studies, 344 Morton Hall, The University of Alabama in Huntsville, Huntsville, AL 35899

