

UAH Women's Studies

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The University of Alabama in Huntsville

Fall, 2005

Journalist Amy Goodman to Speak at UAH

Amy Goodman, host of the nationally broadcast radio/TV news hour *Democracy Now!*, will speak at UAH on Friday, September 16, 7:30 p.m., at Chan Auditorium in the Administrative Science building. The event is free and open to the public. Goodman's topic will be "Media-ocracy: How the American Media Compromises Democracy," a talk about the lies of politicians and the corruption of media monopolies.



These are also the topics of her best-selling book, *The Exception to the Rulers: Exposing Oily Politicians, War Profiteers, and the Media that Love Them*. The editors of *Publishers Weekly* chose the book as one of the Top 50 Nonfiction books of 2004, and Booksense.com chose it as the top non-fiction book of the 2004 election

season. Copies of the book will be available after the talk, and Goodman will be available to sign them.

Goodman is familiar to TV viewers as a frequent commentator on MSNBC's *Hardball* and on CNN. In 1996, Goodman helped launch Pacifica Radio's *Democracy Now!* Today, this program is an award-winning, national, daily radio and TV news hour, pioneering the largest public media collaboration in North America. It is broadcast nationally on over 300 radio and TV stations in North America and online at www.democracynow.org.

Women's Studies is co-sponsoring the event with the North Alabama Peace Network, UAH Communication Arts Department, UAH Office of International Programs, Alabama A&M University Political Science Department, Calhoun Community College Language and Literature Department, and several social justice organizations and political groups in North Alabama.

Goodman's talk in Huntsville will be her first Alabama appearance. For more information, contact the Women's Studies Program, 256-824-6190, or Linda Haynes, 256-489-3884, or lahaynes@knology.net.

Women's Studies Calendar of Events 2005-2006

Friday, September 16, 7:30 p.m., Amy Goodman, Chan Auditorium.

(See details above.)

Saturday, February 25, 7:30 p.m., "Aint I A Woman," Core Ensemble, Roberts Recital Hall.

This chamber music theatre work honors four African American women: Sojourner Truth, Zora Neale Hurston, Clementine Hunter, and Fannie Lou Hamer. For information, see <http://www.core-ensemble.cc>. The event is free and is co-sponsored by Women's Studies, the UAH Humanities Center, the College of Engineering, and the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

Saturday, March or April, 7:30 p.m., Huntsville Feminist Chorus spring concert, date to be announced (Call 824-6190).

The 11th annual performance of this a cappella group features puppetry and drumming accompanying songs that empower women. Admission is free.

Friday, April 21, 2006, 7:30 p.m. Dorothy Allison, location to be announced.

Dorothy Allison is the award-winning author of the novel *Bastard Out of Carolina*, as well as other fiction and non-fiction. Though her work often deals with such serious subjects as poverty and domestic abuse, she is known for her sense of humor and reputation as a hilarious speaker. Women's Studies is partnering with the Huntsville Literary Association on this event and will be seeking additional funds to help meet the expenses of bringing this major author to Huntsville. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation for this purpose, please fill out the Friends of Women's Studies form on the back page and designate your gift for the Dorothy Allison event.

Watch for further details on upcoming events in the Spring newsletter.

Students Present at NWSA Conference in Orlando



Three Women's Studies students participated in a Roundtable about V-Day at the annual convention of the National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) in Orlando, Florida, in June. Deah Lawson (Psychology

2004), Rachael Powers (Sociology/Psychology 2005) and Stephanie Feltmeyer (Sociology 2006) made up the panel (pictured left), organized by Dr. Rose Norman (Professor of English).

At the Roundtable, the students described the UAH V-Day activities that took place in February 2004, including the production of *The Vagina Monologues*. The event raised over \$6,000 for organizations that work to prevent violence against women and children.

Stephanie described one of the highlights of the conference as meeting Amy Richards and Jennifer Baumgartner, whom she called "the gurus of our generation." Richards and Baumgartner are authors of *Manifesta: Young Women, Feminism, and the Future* (2000) and founders of the Third Wave Foundation (www.thirdwavefoundation.org).

Rachael was particularly enthusiastic about the documentary videos shown all day every day of the conference. "The videos were awesome," she said, "especially one about veiling, and a really funny one about the sexual connotations of vegetables."

Deah enjoyed the women's art show that included hand-woven fabrics and hand-made jewelry. "It was great to see such a diversity of women artists," she said.

All three students were enthusiastic about the conference's keynote speaker, Dr. Vandana Shiva, a physicist, ecologist, and activist who spoke on women and the global environment. "I found it really inspiring, which was surprising since it was a topic I never thought much about before," said Rachael Powers.

Funding to support student travel came from SGA and the Women's Studies Program's Kathryn L. Harris Education Fund. You can read more about the conference at <http://www.nwsaconference.org/>

Huntsville Woman's Club Memorial Scholarship



Each year the Huntsville Woman's Club offers a \$500 scholarship to a UAH student. This year's scholarship was awarded to Jennifer Stalnaker, who is a minor in Women's Studies. Congratulations, Jennifer.

Students Attend AAUW Conference in Washington, DC



Three UAH students attended the 2005 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, sponsored by the American Association of University Women (AAUW), held in

Washington, DC. Attending were Emily Espenan (junior, History/Education), Candice Rigsby (German/Psychology 2004) and Nicole Swann (senior, Philosophy) (pictured above). The conference featured three plenary speakers and 30 workshops and focused on the political equity and social justice issues that AAUW supports, as well as topics in leadership and career development.

Emily attended a pre-conference institute on Service Learning that involved volunteering with a DC aid society. She described this experience as "an inspiration to me that we can make a difference in others' lives."

Nicole found the conference "awe-inspiring because of meeting so many goal oriented, confident, and accomplished women." She noted that the informal conversations at lunch were sometimes as powerful as the formal sessions, raising important questions of gender equity yet to be answered.

Candice attended as a member of the AAUW National Student Advisory Council. She was the facilitator for two sessions on career options and took part in an awards ceremony honoring several important women leaders. Candice has also been instrumental in forming an Alabama Student Advisory Council for AAUW, the first state-wide AAUW council of this kind.

Travel funds were provided through AAUW, which hopes to establish an on-campus group for UAH students. For information on AAUW and conference details, see www.aauw.org.

Essay Contests offer Cash Prizes

Women's Studies offers cash prizes for winners of two annual essay contests, one for UAH students and one for secondary school students. For both, first prize is \$100, second prize \$50, and third prize \$25. Local middle and high school students compete in separate categories, for a total of six winners in that contest. Held since 1995, this has recently been named the Ruth Hindman Women's Studies competition, and is funded through the Ruth Hindman Foundation. The Kathryn L. Harris Women's Studies Paper Competition is funded through the same endowment that awards a Women's Studies scholarship. Harris contest winners in 2005 were Heather Evans, Amanda Colvin, and Susan Kusterle. For details on both essay contests see <http://www.uah.edu/womensstudies/events.html>.

Meet the Faculty

Historian Molly Johnson Teaches Women in Europe



Women's history has always been a cornerstone of Women's Studies, and UAH has for many years offered a course on women in U.S. History. Thanks to UAH's newest historian, we now also offer a course on women in European history, taught by Dr. Molly Wilkinson Johnson. Johnson joined the History

Department faculty in fall 2003 and taught HY 390 Women in European History in fall 2004. The course covers the relationship between gender and class, women and citizenship, and women, reproduction, and the state. Students read selections from a nineteenth-century domestic management manual, working-class autobiographies, a biography of the leader of the British suffrage movement, and a memoir of a Jewish woman who survived the Holocaust. The course is tentatively scheduled for fall 2006.

One of Johnson's teaching specialties is modern German history, a period of intense government effort to control gender roles. She guest lectures in Introduction to Women's Studies (WS 200) on "Gender, Race, and the Politics of Fertility in Nazi Germany," describing how the Nazis idealized and rewarded motherhood, encouraged large families, and banned abortion and birth control.

Johnson also incorporates women's history into her other courses, which include upper-level courses on nineteenth- and twentieth-century European history, as well as survey courses in Western Civilization and World History. She gave a Women's History month talk

in March 2005, entitled "The 'New Woman' and the Suffrage Movement, 1890s-1920s," at Northrop Grumman in Huntsville. Johnson's current research explores the political, social, and cultural role of sports in communist East Germany with a specific focus on the 1950s. Her broad research goal is to understand state-society relations in the GDR through the lens of sports. She explores how the communist East German government used sports not only to gain respect for East Germany as a state in the international arena, but also to mold ordinary women and men into "new socialist citizens." The state hoped that sports would foster certain qualities in its citizens, including work productivity and paramilitary skill. The state also used sports as a form of social control to structure the leisure time of its citizens. In order to give voice to the ordinary citizens who were the targets of the state's mass sports programs, she traveled to Germany in 2004 and 2005 to interview former citizens of East Germany.

Women's history themes also inform Johnson's research. She demonstrates that, although the state, in keeping with socialist ideology, professed gender equality, the opportunities it gave women and men to participate in sports differed greatly. Furthermore, the state emphasized athletic activity for different reasons for women and men. Women were encouraged to play sports to enhance their physical attractiveness and reproductive health, whereas men were to develop strength and endurance.

Johnson earned B.A. degrees in history and German from Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio, and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in history from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Women's Studies Course Offerings

Spring 2006

ARH 309	Contemporary Art Issues	MW	12:45-2:05	Stewart
PHL 202-01	Intro to Ethics	MWF	10:20-11:15	Heikes
PHL 202-02	Intro to Ethics	MW	2:20-3:40	Mackintosh
PHL 202-03	Intro to Ethics	TR	11:10-12:30	Martine
PHL 202-04	HONORS: Intro to Ethics	TR	11:10-12:30	Wilkerson
PHL 202-05	Intro to Ethics	TR	3:55-5:15	Mackintosh
PY/SOC 375	Social Psychology	MWF	10:20-11:15	Carpenter
SOC106	Marriage and Family	TR	11:10-12:30	Finley
SOC200	Intro to Anthropology	TR	12:45-2:05	Sitaraman
WS 200	Intro to Women's Studies	TR	2:30-3:40	Finley

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

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

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 \$ _____

I would like to contribute to the Dorothy Allison Event Fund for 2006 \$ _____

Your Name _____ Phone _____

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

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