



UAHuntsville

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE

WOMEN'S STUDIES NEWS

Spring, 2009

Volume 19, Number 2

You may like to know that...

- The Women's Studies Program regularly collaborates 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.
- The Women's Studies Program is seeking scholarships to send students to a national leadership conference.

Inside this issue:

Take Yourself to Work Day a Success	2
Feminist Chorus to Give Spring Concert	3
Writer Enberg to Read New Work	3
Poet Horne to Give Public Presentation	3
Six Student Leaders to Travel for Training	4
Featured Faculty: Dr. Christine Sears	5
Fall 2009 and Spring 2010 Courses	5

CEO of HGTV to Talk on Corporate Leadership

Women's Studies has again partnered with the Women's Economic Development Council (WEDC) and the American Association of University Women (AAUW) in planning this year's "Influencing Women" luncheon, scheduled for Tuesday, March 3, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Huntsville Marriott (located at the US Space & Rocket Center). Susan Packard, CEO and co-founder of the Home & Garden Television (HGTV) cable network, will be the featured speaker. Packard will tell her personal story of growing the seed of an idea into a business empire. AAUW will host a follow-up discussion session from 1:30 to 2:15 p.m. at the Marriott.

Tickets may be purchased at <http://wedc-online.com/IW2009/>. Tickets are \$35 general admission



Susan Packard will speak at the Huntsville Marriott on March 3, 11:30 a.m. Reservations required.

and \$28 for students. Event registration closes on February 25.

Susan Packard began her cable career at HBO, then moved to NBC to help found CNBC. She brought her extensive experience to a unique idea—a cable TV network devoted entirely to home-building, remodeling, gardening

and decorating—presented in an entertaining way.

While Packard was chief operating officer, HGTV became one of the fastest growing cable networks in television history. Packard also served as president of Scripps Networks New Ventures, where she oversaw the development and launch of DIY Network and Fine Living. Prior to her current post, she was president of worldwide distribution for the Scripps cable brands. Packard helped to build Scripps Networks to a market value of over \$6 billion.

Cablevision magazine cited Packard as one of the "12 Most Powerful Women in Cable," and *CableWorld* magazine honored her among

(Continued on page 4)

"Pathways" Play to Portray Lives of Powerful African-American Women

The UAHuntsville Office of Multicultural Affairs, with support from Women's Studies, will present Brenda Porter's one-woman performance of "Pathways" in celebration of Women's History Month on Thursday, March 12, from 11:10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Chan Auditorium in the Business Administration Building.

Porter will take the audience on a theatrical journey through the lives of some of the most engaging, dynamic, and successful African-American women in our history, including Stagecoach Mary B. Wells, Harriet Tubman, Bessie Coleman, Edmonia Lewis, Wilma Rudolph, and Barbara Jordan.

(Continued on page 4)



WOMEN'S STUDIES NEWS



Take Yourself to Work Day a Big Success

UAHuntsville Women's Studies, in partnership with the American Association of University Women (AAUW), the Women's Economic Development Council (WEDC), and the UAHuntsville Women's Studies student group POWER (People Organized for Women's Equality and Rights), created a remarkably successful career fair at UAHuntsville's Shelby Center on November 5, 2008.

Business Center of North Alabama; and the Honorable Laura Hall, Alabama State Representative (D) 19th District.

Panelists responded to questions developed by the student planners. They discussed their education, professional

development, and tips for overcoming challenges. Their personal stories about their career paths were interesting and sometimes surprising. Joanne Randolph, for example, told of graduating from high school with no funds to attend college, working her way through UAH while working full-time, and having to find her own co-op sponsor. The luncheon panel was webcast and recorded in video and audio formats. Both are available for archiving.

Using the jobtalk e-list, the event planners circulated an online survey for feedback. Survey respondents were generally happy with the quality of professional participants and agreed that "the professional fields were well chosen." There was very high satisfaction with the overall event and particularly the luncheon panel discussion. Most respondents were pleased to have the opportunity for networking, and some expressed a feeling of increased confidence and inspiration. One attendee commented, "The empowerment I felt from attending Take Yourself to Work Day was the most valuable thing I got from it." Another said, "I loved having



all those talented women, and men, there talking about their careers and the passion they have for their jobs. It was the best career fair I've ever been to."

Much of the event's success came from an unprecedented collaboration of multiple organizations and campus departments. Next year, event planners hope to involve even more collaborating entities, add a professional development component, and seek external funding. The event was possible only because of the additional generous support of UAHuntsville Student Affairs, POWER, Tina's Cantina, and private contributions.

Maureen Chemsak, one of the key AAUW planners, has offered to write a grant and suggested Women's Studies might be able to get significant funding to expand this event in the future. Women's Studies is eager for suggestions that will enable the event to build on the considerable momentum already generated.

For more information on this event or to become involved, contact Women's Studies at (256) 824-6210 or by email at rose.norman@uah.edu.



Right: Professionals represented over 30 career paths at the lobby career fair. **Top-Left:** Student Rachel Lackey receives assistance on her resume. **Center:** Professionals enjoyed the opportunity to network. **Bottom:** Tish Hall, Joyce Maples, and Carole Albyn helped staff the event.

"Take Yourself to Work Day" featured more than 55 professionals representing over 30 career paths, plus three workshops, all-day resume critiquing, and a high-powered luncheon panel discussion. Nearly 100 attendees signed up for a networking database that was used to create an e-list called jobtalk@uah.edu for follow-up conversation and events.

More than 50 students and community participants attended the luncheon, where they were able to network with a stellar group of local professional women, from City Council member Sandra Moon to lawyer Elizabeth Abel to Peace Corps recruiter Kyle Jessop. WAFF-48 TV anchor Liz Hurley was our moderator, and panelists were Dr. Pam Hudson, CEO of Crestwood Medical Center; Monty Vest, Director of Communications for JANSON Communications; Joanne Randolph, President of Women's

Huntsville Feminist Chorus to Present “Bread and Roses” Spring Concert

In celebration of Women's History Month, the Huntsville Feminist Chorus will give its annual Spring Concert on Saturday, March 14, at 7:30 p.m., in UA-Huntsville's Roberts Recital Hall.

The concert's theme is taken from the popular American working song, “Bread and Roses,” which calls for nourishment of bodies as well as hearts. The lyrics are adapted from the poem by James

Oppenheim (1911). The slogan, “bread and roses,” is associated with the Lawrence, Mass., textile workers strike of 1912, in which workers sought both fair wages and dignified working conditions. The concert gathers a variety of songs of social justice and spiritual hope.

The Huntsville Feminist Chorus is a popular *a cappella* group known regionally for performing songs

that uplift and empower women. Drumming and movement are prominent features of their powerful performances.

Admission to the concert is free. The concert is sponsored by the UA-Huntsville Women's Studies Program. For more information, call (256) 824-6210.



Fiction Writer Susan Engberg to Read and Discuss Newest Book



Susan Engberg will give a public reading on April 6 at 11:30 a.m. in the Union Grove Gallery.

Fiction writer Susan Engberg will present readings and discuss her work on Monday, April 6, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Union Grove Gallery and Meeting Hall on the UAHuntsville campus.

Engberg's newest book is a collection of short stories, *Above the Houses* (2008). Members of the University Women's Club will provide a light lunch. Student attendance is encouraged. This event is free and open to the public. Engberg will also do a

reading at the Huntsville Literary Association (HLA) Sunday Salon on the afternoon of April 5 for HLA members and their guests.

For more information about the UAHuntsville event, call Rose Norman in the Department of English at (256) 824-2373. For the HLA reading, call Evie Spearman at (256) 534-9964 or Debbie West at (256) 534-3331. Website: http://www.uah.edu/womensstudies/engberg_houses.htm

Alabama Poet Jennifer Horne to Give Public Presentation



Jennifer Horne will speak on April 13 at 5:30 p.m. in the Union Grove Gallery.

Poet Jennifer Horne will be giving a presentation on Monday, April 13, at 5:30 p.m. in UAHuntsville's Union Grove Gallery. Horne is a noted Alabama poet. She edited *Working the Dirt: An Anthology of Southern Poets* and co-edited *All Out of Faith: Southern Women and Spirituality*. Her book *Miss Betty's School of Dance* was published by bluestocking press.

Horne's talk is co-sponsored by the Department of English and the Humanities Center. The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, call Rose Norman in the Department of English at (256) 824-2373.

Women's Studies Program

The University of Alabama in Huntsville
344 Morton Hall
Huntsville, Alabama 35899
Phone: (256) 824-6210
Fax: (256) 824-2387
www.uah.edu/womensstudies

Dr. Nancy Finley
Director

Dr. Rose Norman
Events Coordinator
Online Newsletter Editor

Erin Reid
Newsletter Editor

WOMEN'S STUDIES NEWS

Six Student Leaders to Convene in Montgomery and Washington, DC



Left to right: Wyndi Turner, Brenda Taylor-Moody, Melissa Cavins, Sara Jo Taylor, Veronica Ferreira, Sara Martin.

Six UAHuntsville students will be serving on the state Student Advisory Council (SAC) of the American Association of University Women (AAUW).

They will attend the AAUW state convention in Montgomery in April to participate in student leadership training.

Funding for their participation is made possible by

UAHuntsville President David Williams' Power of Ten Foundation and the Women's Studies Kathryn L. Harris Education fund.

The SAC students will also attend the AAUW-sponsored National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) in Washington, DC, in June.

Funding for the Washington trip is made possible by the local AAUW branch Education Foundation and member contributions. The students plan to raise additional funds through campus fundraisers and matching funds from the Student Government Association. The six students will lead a student leadership training session when they return to campus.

The SAC members are: Melissa Cavins, Psychology major, Theatre Cognate minor, senior; Veronica Ferreira, History/Sociology major, Women's Studies minor, senior; Sara Martin, Psychology major, Sociology minor, senior; Sara Jo Taylor, Chemical Engineering major, junior; Brenda Taylor-Moody, Psychology major, Studio Art minor, junior; Wyndi Turner, Sociology major, Women's Studies minor, junior.

To offer travel funds to student leaders, please contact Women's Studies at (256) 824-6210.



Women's Economic Development Council



AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
WOMEN



"Susan Packard" (cont. from page 1)

"The Most Influential Women in Cable." Most recently, she was the recipient of the 2007 YWCA Tribute to Women Award in the business and government category.

Packard serves on the executive committee of the Denver-based Cable Center board of directors; is the immediate past chair of the

East Tennessee YMCA board of directors; serves on the board of an independent collegiate day school; lectures at universities; and is an advisor on children's healthcare issues and job training programs for the homeless.

Packard lives in Knoxville, Tenn., with her husband and son.

For more information, contact the Women's Studies Program at (256) 824-6210.



"Brenda Porter" (cont. from page 1)



Brenda Porter is a recognized actress, director, and teacher.

They are sometimes funny, always daring, and offer inspiration to young women and men of today.

"Pathways" shares the experiences of women who have often been overlooked or marginalized by history textbooks—women who overcame difficulties and pushed beyond the boundaries of "ordinary" lives to break new grounds in the areas of sex, class, politics, culture, and economics.

Audience members have the opportunity to identify with the women presented and to vicariously live through some of their experiences, becoming energized and stimulated to find and follow their own paths of achievement.

Porter works with Pathways Productions, which offers educational workshops. She is also a recognized actor and director. Her acting credits include *Nickel and*

Dimed, Wit, for colored girls..., *The Art of Dining*, and many more. She has performed for audiences from New England to Florida, from Oregon to New York.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Kimberly Crutcher-Williams in the UAHuntsville Office of Multicultural Affairs at (256) 824-6822 or by email at oma@uah.edu.

Women's Studies Featured Faculty: Dr. Christine Sears

When she joined the UAHuntsville faculty in 2007, Christine Sears returned to her southern roots. Born in Texas into an Air Force family, she has lived in the Midwest and, most recently, in the northeast. She embraced the opportunity to re-introduce "fixin'" into her vocabulary, though the opportunity to join top-notch History and University colleagues and to work with UAHuntsville students were also key factors in her decision to move here.

A winding path led Christine to history and to UAHuntsville. After earning an undergraduate degree in Secondary English Education, she taught junior and senior high-school students, and then shifted to working as a museum

educator at Winterthur Museum in Delaware. At Winterthur, she fell in love with history and eventually decided to apply for graduate school.

At the University of Delaware, Christine focused on comparative slavery, gender, and Ottoman history. Her master's thesis, "Submit Like a Man," explored masculinity in the early American republic, while her dissertation focused on comparing the enslavement of Americans captured by Barbary pirates to North American slavery.

Currently, her research centers on sailors and privateers and their respective roles in early American republic politics and trade.

She cannot wait to teach "When Men were Men and Women Women: The Historical Construction and Meaning of Gender," an honors seminar that will be cross-listed with Women's Studies and History, in Spring 2010. The course will explore how people, particularly Americans, constructed gender, how perceptions of gender changed over time, and how gender construction intersected with ideas about race, class, and ethnicity.



Dr. Christine Sears joined the UAHuntsville Department of History in 2007.

Women's Studies Course Offerings Fall 2009

CM 330 01	Nonverbal Communication	TR	9:35-10:55	Givens
EH 333 01	American Lit WWII to Present	TR	2:20-3:40	Flint
EH 403 01	Literary Criticism	TR	3:55-5:15	Neff
HY 365 01	U.S. Labor History	MW	2:20-3:40	Waring
MGT 462 01	Employment Law for Managers	TBA	TBA	Gramm
PHL 202 01	Introduction to Ethics	MWF	11:30-12:25	Martine
PHL 202 02	Introduction to Ethics	MW	12:45-2:05	Jones
PHL 202 03	Introduction to Ethics	TR	11:10-12:30	Heikes

PHL 202 04	Introduction to Ethics	TR	12:45-2:05	Wilkerson
PHL 202 05	Introduction to Ethics	TR	2:20-3:40	Heikes
PHL 303 01	Contemporary Philosophy	TR	12:45-2:05	Cling
PHL 335 01	Feminist Philosophy	MWF	11:30-12:25	Wilkerson
PY 330 01	Nonverbal Communication	TR	9:35-10:55	Givens
SOC 106 01	Marriage and Family	MWF	11:30-12:25	Terrell
SOC 306 01	Sociology of Gender	W	5:30-8:20	Finley

Women's Studies Course Offerings Spring 2010

ARH 103 01	Non-Western Traditions	TR	12:45-2:05	Joyce
ARH 309 01	Contemporary Art & Issues	TR	9:35-10:55	Stewart
EH 331 01	American Lit Civ War to WWI	MWF	11:30-12:25	Bollinger
EH 418 01	Women Writers	TR	3:55-5:15	Early
HY 399 01	Hist Constr/Meaning Gender	TBA	TBA	Sears
HY 498 01	Women/Gender in Latin Amer	TR	3:55-5:15	Mendiola
PHL 202 01	Introduction to Ethics	MWF	9:10-10:05	Martine
PHL 202 03	Introduction to Ethics	TR	11:10-12:30	Rochowiak

PHL 202 04	Introduction to Ethics	TR	12:45-2:05	Staff
PHL 202 05	Introduction to Ethics	TR	2:20-3:40	Heikes
PY 375 01	Social Psychology	MW	2:20-3:40	Carpenter
SOC 200 01	Intro. to Anthropology	MW	3:55-5:15	Sitaraman
SOC 315 01	Cultural Change	T	3:55-6:50	Sitaraman
SOC 375 01	Social Psychology	MW	2:20-3:40	Carpenter
WS 200 01	Intro to Women's Studies	TR	12:45-2:05	Finley

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 Travel Scholarship Fund \$

Your Name Phone
Mailing Address
 Email

Gifts are entirely tax-deductible. Make your check payable to UAH Women's Studies.
Mail to: Women's Studies, 344 Morton Hall, The University of Alabama in Huntsville, Huntsville, AL 35899



Women's Studies Program

344 Morton Hall

Huntsville, AL 35899

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Huntsville, AL
35899
Permit No. 283