

**Women's Studies
SUNY Fredonia**

April/May 2011

From the Director:

Greetings,

This has been an extraordinary semester for the Women's Studies Program. The Vagina Monologues was sold out and all three performances received laudatory reviews. Women's History Month events were no less spectacular. From weaving workshops to Luna Fest, and Women That Rock all the events of the month celebrated women's achievements and contribution to various fields and disciplines. Dr. Leonore Tiefer's keynote speech on cosmetic vaginal surgery was most certainly one of the highlights and created a continuum in our year-long discussion of the medicalization of the female body in the twenty-first century. As an internationally acclaimed scholar and a faculty member at NYU's Medical School, Dr. Tiefer talked about the nexus between scholarship and activism and generously answered questions during the Q&A. We are grateful for all the inspirational talks and workshops, and hope you will email us your feedback about Women's Studies events (vanwesens@fredonia.edu).

As the semester is coming to a close, we'd like to congratulate Ms. Mary Hilton, who is graduating with degrees in Women's Studies and Communication, and the Jeanette McVicker Scholarship recipient Ms. Amy Fisk, who will be studying in London this summer. A special thanks goes to our graduate assistant Ms. Sarah Clayton, whose contributions to the program are noteworthy. We are sad to see her and our GA line go.

And a final word on the extraordinary community of friends and supporters of the Women's Studies Program. Thanks for your generous donations, for your kind and meaningful presence in our events, and for perpetuating the spirit of activism. Have a great summer.

Until Fall 2011,
Dr. Iclal Vanwesenbeeck



Artwork by Logo Design Winner Kristen King.

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A Letter from This Year's Graduating Women's Studies Student: Mary Hilton

I will be graduating in May of 2011, with a major in TV/Digital Film Production and minors in Leadership Studies and Women's Studies.

Right now the world is my oyster. I have no definite plans after graduation in terms of employment. My goal is to move to either LA or NYC and pursue a career in film production, in the hopes to become a Producer.

My solid plans at the moment however are traveling back to Italy to work with a program called ACLE. It's a great experience where you can travel all over the country and teach the English Language to Italian children. It will be my second year going and I am thrilled to be back in such a beautiful country. Something unique about my Women Studies Minor is I believe you can absolutely find the program to be an excellent compliment to any other area of practice. The ideals taught in the Women's Studies courses can apply anywhere and the course subjects are relatable to all individuals.

So where ever I may end up I will certainly still be applying the things I have learned here at Fredonia.

Sincerely,

Mary Hilton



Call for Executive Board Members

Women's Student Union is seeking new individuals to be on their executive board next semester!
Contact Kayla Patrick @ PATR9365@fredonia.edu with a letter of interest if you would like to apply for a position.

The 2009 Jeanette McVicker Women's Studies Scholarship Winner is Amy Fisk! Congratulations!!!

This scholarship was designed to honor and support a Women's Studies student who successfully combines academic excellence with social activism that serves women.

Amy Fisk has served as secretary of Women's Student Union for the past year. She is majoring Psychology with a Women's Studies minor. She has helped Dr. Johnston-Robledo with research on female orgasm. She will be a Junior next year.



The Clothesline Project

The Clothesline Project (CLP) is a program started on Cape Cod, MA, in 1990 to address the issue of violence against women. It is a vehicle for women affected by violence to express their emotions by decorating a shirt. They then hang the shirt on a clothesline to be viewed by others as testimony to the problem of violence against women.

WSU and the Women's Studies Program co-sponsored this year's Clothesline Project on April 27th.



April: National Poetry Month: Legendary Female Poets

Imagine That
By Ani Difranco

Imagine that I am onstage
Under a watchtower of punishing light
And in the haze is your face bathed in shadow
And what's beyond you is hidden from sight
And somebody right now is yawning
And watching me like a tv
And I've been frantically piling up sandbags
Against the flood waters of the fatigue and insecurity

Then suddenly I hear my guitar singing
So I just start singing along
And somewhere in my chest all the noise
Just gets crushed by the song

Imagine that I'm at your mercy
Imagine that you are at mine
Pretend I've been standing here watching you
Watching me all this time
Now imagine that you are the weather
In the tiny snow globe of this song
And I am the Statue of Liberty
One inch long

So here I am at my most hungry
Here I am at my most full
Here I am waving a red cape
Locking eyes with a bull

Just imagine that I am onstage
Under a watchtower of punishing light
And in the haze is your face bathed in shadow
And what's beyond you is hidden from sight

Homage to My Hips
By Lucille Clifton

These hips are big hips.
They need space to
Move around in.
They don't fit into little
Petty places. These hips
Are free hips.
They don't like to be held back.
These hips have never been enslaved,
They go where they want to go
They do what they want to do.
These hips are mighty hips.
These hips are magic hips.
I have known them
To put a spell on a man and
Spin him like a top

Equinox
By Joy Harjo

I must keep from breaking into the story by force
For if I do I will find myself with a war club in my hand
And the smoke of grief staggering toward the sun,
Your nation dead beside you.

I keep walking away though it has been an eternity
And from each drop of blood
Springs up sons and daughters, trees,
A mountain of sorrows, of songs.

I tell you this from the dusk of a small city in the north
Not far from the birthplace of cars and industry.
Geese are returning to mate and crocuses have
Broken through the frozen earth.

Soon they will come for me and I will make my stand
Before the jury of destiny. Yes, I will answer in the clatter
Of the new world, I have broken my addiction to war
And desire. Yes, I will reply, I have buried the dead

And made songs of the blood, the marrow

Local Writer Blogs for LGBT Parents

Deborah Nadolski is a freelance writer who specializes in non-fiction, humor, and poetry. With a Masters degree in Mental Health Counseling, Deborah has worked with children and teenagers in various capacities, as well as individuals with disabilities. An advocate of LGBT rights, Deborah is strongly involved in the gay community and knows several LGBT parents who are raising children. Her publishing credits include FATE Magazine and lesbian based poems.

Check out her blog at :

<http://www.examiner.com/lgbt-parenting-in-buffalo/deborah-nadolski>

Nadolski can be reached at Erica5779@aol.com



Women's History Month 2011

Recap By Sarah Clayton

Lunafest 3/4

On Friday March 4th Women's Studies and WSU hosted the 10th Annual Lunafest Film Festival. The proceeds of the event were donated to the Breast Cancer Fund.

Included in the screening were ten short films, from animated shorts to documentaries. From guerrilla knitting to young female athletes, to taking care of an elderly parent, the films were touching and inspiring. The fest concluded with a public service announcement about the risks for breast cancer found in our cleaning products, foods, and makeup.



Weaving Workshop 3/5

Fiber Artist Marie Tomlinson led a workshop on the art of tablet weaving. Many people turned out to learn how to use a belt loom and learn about the "herstory" of tablet weaving workshops in medieval times.



Photos from Weaving Workshop left to right: Kinnan Finnegan, Tyler Williams, Marie Tomlinson, Emma Garcia, (Taken by S. Clayton)

Ultimate Frisbee Match 3/8

WSU members squared off with members from the ultimate Frisbee team to raise money for the Breast Cancer Fund. A great game was played!



Women That Rock 3/9

Women That Rock took place in Diers Recital Hall on Wednesday, March 8th and was an incredible experience. I really enjoyed the acoustic arrangement of Tina Marie Williams, a local musician and 2005 Kingdom Bound Talent Search Winner, and also Tess Wiley, formerly of Sixpence None the Richer. Both of these talented musicians played a nice variety of acoustic rock and folk music. The atmosphere was laid-back and engaging, the performers creating a sense of a place outside from the busy world, a place surrounded by small jokes, quick conversations and music. Williams and Wiley proved to be appropriate choices for both the spirit of the event and Women's Student Union, as they produced an atmosphere that truly showcased women that rock. Tina Marie Williams is a native of Buffalo, NY and can frequently be seen performing throughout the western New York area. Tess Wiley is currently on tour in Europe.

By Angela Barney



A Great Success!



Opening Ceremonies with Kristen Becker 3/10

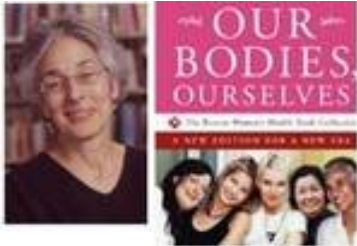
Faculty and students gathered to feast at the opening ceremonies banquet to celebrate the kickoff of Women's History Month. Comedian Kristen Becker of Buffalo, NY had everybody in stitches by the end of the evening.

Dr. Leonore Tiefer 3/21

Dr. Tiefer presented on the New View Campaign; her latest effort to expose the cosmetic vaginal surgery industry. Dr. Tiefer was featured in the Liz Canner film *Orgasm Inc.* in which she fights big pharma's medicalization of female orgasm.



Leonore Tiefer



Judy Norsigian 3/23

Co-author of the original book *Our Bodies Our Selves*, Ms. Norsigian is one of the founding members and serves as Executive Director of the Boston Women's Health Collective. She spoke about the upcoming celebration of the 40th anniversary of OBOS, which will be webcast on October 1st live from Boston. In addition, she spoke about numerous editions translated and published across the globe.

Gender Conference 3/29

Students presented research and projects related to gender studies. This years presenters were Ariana Skipp, Doreen Bumpus-Lane, Dana Tyrell, Tulin Tosun, Heidi Frame, Carly Salzburg, and Kristen King. The event concluded with historian Dr. Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz speaking via Skype from California. Her talk was titled *Whatever Happened to Women's Liberation: A Veteran's Perspective*.



I <3 Female Orgasm 3/31

What is an orgasm? What does it feel like to have an orgasm? Is having an orgasm natural, and if so, am I faulty for not having one? These are all questions most women are hesitant to ask, mostly out of shame and embarrassment. All of these questions, and many more, were answered on March 31st during STEPS's event, I Heart Female Orgasm. Sex educators Marshall Miller and Rachael Dart included a lot of humor along with a plethora of information about sex and the female orgasm that might otherwise be unknown. Although a majority of the audience was women, there were a few brave men that attended that night. Hilarious video clips and interactive activities allowed for a comfortable atmosphere in which women and men of all ages, shapes, races, and sexual orientations could come together to learn more about an important topic that will undoubtedly liberate women's (and their partners') sexual experiences.

By Amy Fisk



Women's Studies

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