



Bearing It All Women's Studies

Volume 2, Issue 1

Fall 2007

University of
Northern
Colorado

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Women's Studies Department:

- **Coordinator:** Rita Jones
- **Faculty & Staff:** Hedy Dexter, Barbara Hawthorne, Trish Jolly, Constance Wise, Diana Kelly

Women's Studies Newsletter:

- **Editor:** Tiffany Smith
- **Volunteers:** Shaun Howard, April Miller, Nicholas Syrett, Sarah Wycaver

Greetings from the Coordinator By: Rita Jones

Hello, everyone and welcome to our second WS newsletter of 2007. Tiffany Smith has returned as our editor and layout specialist, and we appreciate her commitment to keeping past, present, and future members of the program connected.

I also wanted to take a moment to thank all of you for all that you have added to my professional career and to my understanding of sisterhood. I thought about these points a lot as I decided to become the Director of the Women's Center at Lehigh University. I will miss so many of you and hope you will keep in touch with me.

Memories of Marcia By: Shaun Howard

In 1994, I graduated UNC with a minor in Women's Studies. Working with Melanie Wilson, I was also a founding staff associate of the Women's Resource Center (this was before we had a building). Since then, I moved away from Greeley and now reside in the mountains of Colorado. My experience at UNC & my connection with Marcia Willcoxon's Women's Studies program was a life changing experience for me.

I remember my first class with Marcia. We had 8 students in the class. I formed a strong bond with my soon to be mentor & friend Melanie Wilson. Our class spent hours engaged in heated discussion about issues regarding race, sexual orientation & feminism. Keep in mind this was Greeley in the early '90s – definitely not a hotbed of liberalism at the time. After all, this era was highlighted by the passage of the homophobic Amendment 2 & a time of frequent Bush friendly campaign visits to the University by Marilyn Quayle (you know the wife of the very bright former vice-president of the elder Bush administration). I don't know what Greeley is like today, but at that time we rocked the conservative campus world by diligently opening the minds of our fellow students, faculty and administrators.

My best memories of Marcia occurred not in class, but after class while catching a smoke break in her office. In spite of her "smokeless" ashtray, I couldn't believe that a non-smoking campus would allow a professor to indulge in such an unpopular and banned habit. But Marcia was fearless! She was nothing short of inspirational to me & I frequently find myself saying her catch phrases like "you've got to watch out for these 'dress for success' feminists." I was sad to hear of her passing—it was a true privilege to have known her.

I was pleased to receive the "Women's Studies Newsletter" as well as equally pleased to see the program still going strong! This program helps develop critically thinking students capable of becoming successful in any chosen career. For example, I work as a Senior Park Ranger with a nationally recognized park system. Like it or not, this line of work can be a little patriarchal. Minorng in Women's Studies allowed me to develop the independence, confidence and tact that I needed to be successful in this field. I hope current students allow themselves to develop these same skills and use them to become successful in THEIR chosen fields as well. Kudos to such a quality program! Keep up the good work! And alumni, don't forget to contact the UNC Foundation at 970-351-2034 to donate to the scholarship fund—I plan to!

Women's Studies Coordinator Takes On New Adventure

Join Us For Rita's Going Away Party!!!

Rita Jones has been the Women's Studies coordinator at UNC for over three years. Rita has decided to take a position as the Director of the Women's Center at Lehigh University. The department, as well as of the students, are sad to see Rita go. Join us to say good-bye and wish Rita well on her new adventure!

December 14, 2007

2:00pm

Candelaria Hall Room 0140 (Women's Studies Office)

Refreshments and cake provided!!!!



Photo Courtesy of Tiffany Smith

Congratulations Graduates By: Rita Jones

The Program extends a big congratulations to the 2007 graduates with a minor in Women's Studies. You made important contributions to the Program and to your peers' faculty's lives during your time at the University of Northern Colorado, and I am certain you will make many more important contributions toward social justice in the years to come. Our hope is that you will remain in contact with us, informing us of your travels and celebratory moments. Specifically, we would like your email address so that we can continue to offer you an electronic copy of this newsletter. Perhaps you will contribute articles and information in the future. **Happy Wishes to You!**

There are currently
sixty-one Women's
Studies minors at
UNC!!!

Spring 2008 Women's Studies Courses

Required Courses:

WS101-Women in Contemporary Society (3)

MWF 2:30-3:20p R 3:30-6:30p

WS448-Women's Studies Seminar

MWF 1:25-2:15p

WS240-Women, Race and Class (3)

R 6:45-9:45p

*There are many elective courses available for the spring semester. Check out the course catalog for more details!

**To declare Women's Studies as your minor, stop by the Women's Studies office today located in Candelaria Hall 0140!!

A minor in Women's Studies complements knowledge and skills gained from several majors including English, Health, Political Science, Theatre, and Business. Because we all interact with individuals who inhabit a multitude of racial, economic, religious and sexual identities, a Women's Studies minor makes anyone a competitive job candidate and a *conscious member of society*. The program also offers informal reading groups, and University and community events.

Why I Am A Feminist: A Look at feminism

By: YOU!

This will be an ongoing series in the Women's Studies newsletter. Each issue will feature a faculty or staff member, current minor or member of our alumni discussing why they believe they are a feminist. We **STRONGLY** encourage each of you to please submit your personal reason why you are a feminist. They will be featured in upcoming issues of the newsletter. Please send them to diana.kelly@unco.edu today! Look for the first part in the multi-part series in the Spring issue coming out in January 2008!!

**We look forward to
hearing your stories!**

Paw Prints:

Leaving Your Mark

This "blank" space is reserved for your comments, suggestions and feedback. Please send your opinions to Tiffany Smith at diana.kelly@unco.edu.

We look forward to hearing from you!!

Look for your feedback here in the Spring issue!

What's This about *Female Chauvinist Pigs*? By: Rita Jones

In her successful first book, *Ariel Levy* questions whether or not young women today who "hang with the boys" are really empowered as women or if they have traded in their femininity to become one of the boys. In provocative and historically-aware context, Levy asks us to reconsider the current phenomena of straight women and lesbians seeking as many sexual experiences and partners as they want. Ultimately she wants to know if young women in contemporary American culture are empowered on their own terms or if they have become men on patriarchal terms.

Check out Ariel Levy's book *Female Chauvinist Pigs* today!!

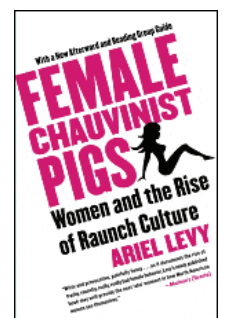


Photo courtesy of: www.bn.com

Association for Women in Communication

The Association for Women in Communications (AWC) is not only a club at the University of Northern Colorado but it is as well a nationwide renowned organization. The basis of AWC is to be understood as a professional organization that champions the advancement of women in communications by recognizing excellence, promoting leadership, and positioning its members at the forefront of the evolving communications era.

As of today the AWC chapter of University of Northern Colorado has 42 members. Our chapter is highly involved with special events, fundraisers, and attending conferences in order to benefit the individuals of AWC. So far this year we have already been a part of UNC Homecoming 2007, by making a float and being involved in the tailgating tradition before the football game. We held multiple fundraisers consisting of gift baskets, "Think Pink" t-shirts, and raffles. The "Think Pink" t-shirts were thought up by our officers in order to help support the Susan G. Koman Foundation. To go along with our fantastic start this year, we as well sent ten members to New York City for a national AWC conference. At the two day conference, members had the experience of being in a professional setting and being able to have discussions with many superior communication professionals in the real word life of business. **Weekly meetings are held every Thursday at 5:00pm** in Candelaria Hall. All are welcome; female, male, communications major or not, we as a organization want to be as diversified as possible in order to relate to the real word challenges that comes before us. For more information contact Kelly Scott at kelly.scott@unco.edu.

Lambda Theta Nu Sorority

We are a non-traditional Sorority, predominately Latina, but not exclusively. We are the first Latina based Sorority founded in Colorado. We were founded by 18 women at Chico State, California on March 11, 1986. We have a hand sign, a recognized call and distinguished colors which are burgundy, silver and white. We perform in step and stroll performances, and step with Machetes to prove our strength and culture. Our three foci are Academic Excellence, Community Service and Sisterhood. Two national community service projects we take part of are Tijeras, a fundraiser to donate to a school or library that funds Latino youth, the second, initiated by Kappa chapter at UNC is Latina Youth Leadership Conference, at this conference we host 300 8th grade girls from middle schools in Weld County. We guide them through different sessions where we focus on leadership, culture, college awareness and inner beauty.

For more information on how to join, contact: Jasmin Corral at jasmincorral03@hotmail.com

United Sisters

United Sisters is a supportive group of women who meet weekly for the purposes of social, educational, and service enrichment. It also helps to facilitate leadership among women on campus. United Sisters forms the main group of volunteers for Women's Resource Center events such as **Take Back the Night and Eating Disorder Awareness Week**. United Sister's also participates in Fall and Spring semester retreats. This Fall the WRC will be featuring speaker, Diane Sieg, as part of the retreat.

The Women's Resource Center welcomes all UNC women to join United Sisters, as well as becoming involved in WRC sponsored events. United Sisters meet on **Mondays at 4:00 pm** at the Women's Resource Center, located in Scott-Willcoxon Hall. For more information, please contact Yvette Lucero at 970-351-2941 or yvette.lucero@unco.edu.

Iota Iota Iota Women's Studies Honor Society

Iota Iota Iota is an academic honor society for the field of Women's Studies.

Interested in joining a Women's Studies Honor Society?

Join us for an informational meeting on

November 6, 2007 at 12:30p

in the Women's Studies Office

Located in Candelaria Hall Room 0140!



Luisa Futoransky Visits UNC Sponsored by Pi Zeta Honorary Society

Famed Argentine writer **Luisa Futoransky** will appear on Friday, **November 16**, in Candelaria Hall room 1065 at 12:20pm to discuss her most recent works. Her presentation, in Spanish, is sponsored by UNC's award winning Pi Zeta chapter of Sigma Delta Pi, National Spanish Honorary Society. Futoransky, one of Argentina's most well-known women writers, addresses contemporary issues of alienation, life as a political exile and immigration and globalization, and their impact on women. UNC professor Ester Gonzalez likens Futoransky to a "one-woman symphony" since her multiple artistic genres include novel, essay, poetry, and even opera. **The event is free of charge and open to the public.**

Chic(k) Lit Reading Group

Chic(k) Lit Reading Group, is an informal group designed to inspire thoughts and discussion about books related to sex and gender topics. The meetings are held on one Tuesday each month from 6:30-8:00p in the Women's Studies office located in Candelaria Hall 0140. To join or for more information contact diana.kelly@unco.edu or at 970-351-2629. **All are welcome!**

Fall Schedule:

November 13th *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* By: Lisa See

December 11th *Female Chauvinist Pigs: Women and the Rise of Raunch Culture* By: Ariel Levy

****Students are needed! Please stop by and check us out!**

**February
5, 2008
Ariel
Levy on
Campus!**

Women's Resource Center Hosts Katie Hnida's Visit

The Women's Resource Center will be hosting speaker and author **Katie Hnida** on **November 6th** at 7pm in the UC Panorama Room. Katie was the first woman ever to score points in a NCAA Division I football game. She attended University of Colorado, where she became the first woman to dress for a national bowl game vs. Boston College. While at CU she endured verbal abuse and graphic comments which continued to escalate and lead to her departure from CU to attend the University of New Mexico. While attending the University of New Mexico she made history when she kicked two extra points vs. Texas State .

Katie has toured the nation speaking about the importance of ending violence against women as well as empowering women to pursue their goals despite obstacles that come their way. Her book, *Still Kicking: My Journey as the First Woman to Play Division I College Football*, will be available for sale at the lecture. There will be door prizes as well as a book signing at the end of her presentation. Admission is free, but tickets are required. You can pick up tickets at the UNC Ticket Outlet at Barnes & Noble or at the door. **For more information please contact Women's Resource Center at 1-1492 or 970-351-4TIX.**



Photo Courtesy of WRC

Women's Resource Center

The Women's Resource Center offers services to students where all members of the University community are welcomed and encouraged to interact on a formal and informal basis. Through quality programming, the WRC is dedicated to fostering a safe environment for all UNC students in order to promote awareness about gender initiatives and for the advancement of women's development. WRC sponsors events such as **Take Back the Night March, Eating Disorders Awareness Week, Women's Herstory Month, and the Women's Recognition Reception.** WRC has also sponsored speakers such as Katie Hnida, Diane Sieg, Delores Huerta, Joni Overton-Jung, and Amy Tan. The Women's Resource Center contributes directly to the educational mission of the University of Northern Colorado by providing support and empowerment for women students to achieve academically, grow personally and develop their leadership talents.

Additionally, the WRC serves as a meeting place for study groups, seminars, workshops, training sessions, committee meetings, dissertation defenses and individual study space. We offer a private conference room, spacious lounge area, kitchen facility and a library that contains over 1,100 books covering a range of women's topics.

If you would like the opportunity to meet and work with incredible people while contributing to the campus community, volunteering at the Women's Resource Center is perfect for you! **For more information about how you can get involved, please contact the Women's Resource Center at 970-351-1492** or stop by the Women's Resource Center located in Scott-Willcoxon Hall.

Women's Roles in Film By: April Miller

One need only scan the names behind the latest Hollywood releases to realize that a substantial glass ceiling continues to impede women's attempts to pursue careers in film production. What most people fail to realize, however, is that in the early days of cinema, women often played lead roles in the industry, working as scenario writers, editors, set designers, producers, exhibitors, publicists, and directors. As one 1920s film critic explained, "in no line of endeavor has woman made so emphatic an impression than in the amazing film industry. The fair sex is represented as in no other calling to which women have harkened in the early years of the twentieth century."

In the 1990s, film scholars began to realize the need to examine women's pivotal role in the early film industry. As a result, collaborative efforts emerged, like the Women Film Pioneers Project based at Duke University—a project that supports research into the accomplishments and history of women filmmakers during the early years of cinema. Such research endeavors have begun to uncover a wide range of cultural documents and films that testify to women's prominent position in early film production. Their work soon showed that even prolific directors like Alice Guy-Blaché have suffered from an indefensible erasure from film history. We now know that Blaché's 1896 fantasy film, *La Fée aux Choux* was quite likely the first narrative-based film and Blaché is now rightfully credited with introducing American audiences to the feature film.

Similarly, we now recognize that Lois Weber, who directed over fifty films, signed a contract in 1920 that made her, for a short time, the industry's highest paid director. Although it would be many years before film historians would fulfill his prediction, a critic for *Motion Picture Magazine* explained that the history of the motion picture must acknowledge Weber's influence: "She has been instrumental in the industry's growth, has been responsible for some of the most interesting and notable productions we have had, and she writes her own stories and continuities, plans to the minutest detail all the scenic effects and finally titles, cuts, and assembles the film. Few men have assumed such responsibilities." Actress Betty Compson lavished similar praise on Julia Crawford Ivers after working on Ivers's *White Flower*, a film that involved difficult on-location shooting at the foot of a Hawaiian volcano: "Mrs. Ivers has proven time and time again that she yields the palm to no mere man megaphone manipulator. She took chances. She smiled. The cast and camera crew followed her lead without a murmur" as they "worked in rain and wind, thunder and lightning, storm and stress." Obviously, such proclamations show that the nascent film industry presented substantial career opportunities for women.

Part of my responsibility as a film historian and professor of film studies at the University of Northern Colorado is to advance the goal of recognizing women's influential work in early film production. In designing courses like the one I currently offer on Film History, I introduce my students to figures like Guy-Blaché and Weber, thus ensuring their works receive critical attention from young film scholars. Not only are students surprised to hear about women's influential positions and eager to learn about how women managed to infiltrate what is often viewed as a very male-dominated field, they also remark on the continued relevance of their films. With their commentary on social issues like birth control and abortion, their exploration of domestic tensions, and their critique of consumer culture, these films stand up to the test of time. As more films are restored and made available for research and pedagogical purposes, I hope that their will be more wide-spread recognition of women directors' essential role in launching one of today's most popular art forms.

"Vagina Monologues" Auditions

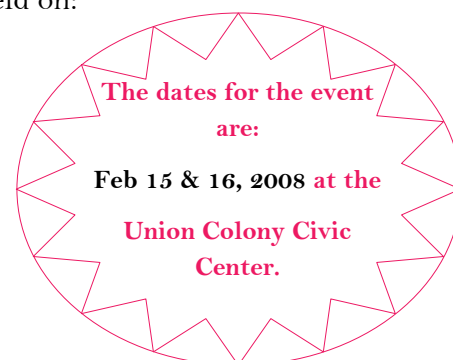
Auditions for the annual "Vagina Monologues" production will be held on:

<i>November 9th</i>	5:30 - 8 pm
<i>November 10th</i>	10 am - 12 pm
<i>November 16th</i>	5:30 - 8 pm
<i>November 17th</i>	10 am - 12 pm

Auditions will be held at:

The Evans Community Building, 3700 Golden Street, Evans

For more information on the "Vagina Monologues" contact Nancy Schuessler at ns0131@gmail.com



In Our Community

Bringing the Weld County Community and the UNC Students Together

This is the first part in a series of advertisements that will include ways that the Weld County community and the University of Northern Colorado students can come together to help each other.

Pregnancy Resource Center of Northern Colorado

The Pregnancy Resource Center is a non-profit agency providing free pregnancy tests and ultrasound exams for students who are deliberating the choices of an unplanned pregnancy. The center is located two blocks north of *The Book Stop* at 1403 10th Avenue and meets the needs of many UNC students annually.

The PRC has been advising UNC students for over 25 years and also provides food, medical, and housing referrals. Post abortion advisement and parenting education are also available at no charge to support women in their decisions.

The PRC is a great place to volunteer as well. Receptionists and advisors are always needed and training is provided. Students with nursing, family studies or psychology backgrounds seem to enjoy volunteering at the PRC, although students of all majors have served at the center at one time or another. The PRC is also open to internship assignments. **For more information about volunteering call 970-353-2673.**



Photo Courtesy of: Pregnancy Resource Center

A Woman's Place Domestic Violence Survivors in Weld County

A Woman's Place, Inc. is the only agency in Weld County that provides safe shelter and services to victims and survivors of domestic violence, and ultimately assists them in achieving self-sufficiency. Our services include screenings, intakes and crisis intervention 24 hours per day, 365 days per year; crisis and domestic violence advocacy, individual/group education and support; legal advocacy and outreach services. All of our services are free of charge, and available in English and Spanish. We also employ the services of a confidential interpretation service that provides interpretation in over 150 languages.

The Mission of A Woman's Place, Inc. is to shelter and help empower victims/survivors of domestic abuse to become safe, secure and self-reliant; and through education and collaboration, to mobilize our community to help prevent domestic violence. We have found that the need for our safe house and services continues to increase. This was illustrated in August of this year when we were forced to turn away 29 women and children, as every bed in our facility was full. We continue to expand our services to meet the needs of our clients, their family and friends, and this would not be possible without the support of our community.

There are many ways to support A Woman's Place. Please call to receive information about volunteering with our shelter, or applying for one of our internship availabilities. October is Domestic Violence Awareness month, please call to request our most up to date shelter needs list at 970-351-0476, or to receive more information about other ways to help.

If you or someone you know is in need of our services, please call our 24 hour crisis line at 970-356-4226 or 1-866-356-4226. Please visit our website at <http://www.awpdv.org> to learn more about domestic violence and A Woman's Place services.

Hillary Clinton: Our Girl? By: Nicholas L. Syrett

Hillary Rodham Clinton is not the first woman to run for president of the United States. Nor is she my favorite. That would be newspaper editor, women's rights and free love advocate Victoria Woodhull, the first woman to publicly seek the office, who ran against Ulysses S. Grant and Horace Greeley (namesake of our town) in 1872 as a candidate for the Equal Rights Party. She publicly compared marriage to slavery and advocated payments to women who bore children. Unlike Clinton, she didn't stand a chance. By contrast, as Republicans battle it out to decide upon their nominee (a decision that could well divide them), and as Hillary Clinton continues to be the most popular and well funded amongst Democrats (or Republicans, for that matter), she may well become our next president.

As students of women's studies we know enough not to expect that, should Clinton win the office, she will be a better president simply by virtue of being a woman or that this will necessarily influence her policy decisions in ways that will benefit more women. We learned this lesson when the nineteenth amendment passed in 1920 and women were granted the right to vote; politics, while they clearly became more just, did not change overnight because half the voting body was female. And indeed, if Clinton has critics on the right, she also has many feminist critics of the left who feel she is not nearly progressive enough on issues that affect women, poor people, queers, and people of color. As feminists, then, it makes the most sense to use our politics to help us evaluate Clinton's campaign promises, not her persona, just as we do those of her competitors.

That does not, however, preclude us from talking about what it *means* for our country that a white woman stands a decent chance of becoming the president. Or, for that matter, a black man, a Latino, a Mormon, or an Italian American. These would all be rather monumental firsts. But none more so than the possibility of Clinton, Barack Obama, or Bill Richardson in office. It would signal a coming of age for the United States that a majority of its citizens were, quite simply, *willing* to have a white woman, a black man, or a Latino serve as leader of this nation. And it would be a powerful symbol either to children of color or young girls of any color that, at least in some respects, they very publicly counted in this country just as much as everyone else.

If politics in this nation have changed in the wake of the Lewinsky scandal such that all politicians' personal lives matter in ways inconceivable in the past, women are still evaluated in ways that men simply are not. Clinton's marriage, her wardrobe, her hairstyle, her parenting: all of these count for her in ways that they don't for the other candidates. In perhaps the most memorable moment of the acknowledgement of her status as the only woman in the campaign, Clinton claimed at an AFL-CIO-sponsored debate on August 7th of this year: "If you want a winner who knows how to take them on, I'm your girl!" In a move that was met with wild applause and that she has repeated since (including at a forum on gay and lesbian issues for Democratic candidates), Clinton both reduced herself to the status of a gendered child but also made herself accessible, youthful, and likable. And you can bet this was not off the cuff. In the era of YouTube much of what politicians say in these debates—those memorable lines particularly—has been scripted and debated for days, if not weeks, in advance.

Clinton is clearly willing to claim and affirm her status as a woman presidential candidate. What remains to be seen is whether the United States will do the same.

PLEN: Public Leadership Education Network By: Sarah Wycaver

On January 1, 2007 American's experienced a significant moment in history, Nancy Pelosi became the first woman Speaker of the House of Representatives. Shortly there after, on January 20, Hillary Clinton opened the 2008 presidential bid stating, "I'm in and I'm in it to win." That's right "good ol' boys" women don't just have "the vote" we are getting "the votes" and rest assured, organizations like PLEN are making sure that happens.

PLEN is the Public Leadership Education Network, and is a non-profit organization based in Washington D.C. whose membership includes 17 colleges and Universities. Its specific goal is to educate young women, through internships and seminars, about public leadership claiming on their website to prepare young women to "make a difference in the world...empowering young women to make their voices heard." PLEN was established twenty-five years ago at Wells College by its president Frances Tarlton (Sissy) Farenthold. Though its programs are specifically designed for women undergraduates, the programs are available to anyone, including female graduate students.

This program is ideal for young women who want to enter the political arena. It provides the unique opportunity to learn intricate political delicacies from other women in politics. Thus, PLEN participants have the opportunity to provide representation for the female constituency at national, state or local level.

If you or anyone you know might be interested in PLEN here are a few of the exciting programs coming up in 2008: Women and Public Policy Seminar on January 2-7; Women & Science/Technology Seminar January 7-11; Women & Public Policy Internship Semester Spring 2008. Additional information can be found at www.plen.org.

Contact Us

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Website www.unco.edu/womensstudies

The Women's Studies newsletter is for everyone; not only the students of UNC, but the faculty and staff as well as members of our community and our precious alumni members. We strongly encourage your feedback, comments and suggestions. If there is a topic you would like to see featured in an upcoming issue or you would like to be involved in the newsletter, please contact us. If you would like to advertise your upcoming event in our newsletter, please contact us as soon as possible! **We would love to hear from you!**



Save The Date!

Women's Studies in collaboration with the *Women's Resource Center*, *School of Communication* and the *Neal Cross Lecture Series* invites **Ariel Levy** author of

Female Chauvinist Pigs

to UNC!

February 5, 2008

7:30pm in the UC Ballroom

Event is free! Open to public!

Ariel will be signing copies of her book during the event!