



Season's Greetings! From the Women's Resource Center and Stryker Institute!

December 1, 2009

A Note from the Editors

Happy Holidays to all!! This Winter, the Women's Resource Center is preparing for an exciting time! We had a fantastic fall semester filled with old and new events that were incredibly successful. Now we are gearing up for the Spring, and planning to bring more informative and fun programming to the UNC campus. If you are interested in collaborating or volunteering with the Women's Resource Center you can email our Graduate Assistant, Fabiola Mora at fabiola.mora@unco.edu.

We are very proud to announce that our Open Mic night, held on November 4, was such a success that we have decided to post some of the performers poetry on the WRC website. We are also seeking creative works from the UNC community. We are hoping that students, staff and faculty will submit their work to be featured in the newsletter and on our website. Submissions are due by December 5, 2009. Please email Letisha or Donnae with submissions or questions. Reach us via email at Donnae.Wahl@unco.edu or Letisha.Brown@unco.edu

Thanks!

Donnae and Letisha



On behalf of the Women's Resource Center/ Stryker Institute, we would like to wish you all a safe and joyous Holiday Season!

Inside this issue

Editor's Note	1
Women's Studies	2
Past Events	3
Student Submissions.....	4-5
Calendar.....	6

important Dates

11/26-11/29 Fall Break
12/4 Stryker Potluck/ Grad Reception
12/14-1/11 Winter Break
1/ 11 Spring Semester Begins
1/15-1/17 Catalyst Social Justice Re- treat



UNC's Women's Studies Program

Chris Talbot– Women's Studies Coordinator

Greetings from the Women's Studies Program at UNC! Women's Studies is the only place on campus you can study women's experiences and gender as a category of analysis. Our interdisciplinary approach to the study of women and gender can augment a number of minors—our students' majors are as diverse as Anthropology, Biology, Philosophy, English, Psychology, Sociology, and Art Education and more. So if you're excited about approaching knowledge from women's perspective, learning about women's experiences, understanding how gender affects the possibilities for women's and men's lives, and having fun while you learn, Women's Studies is the minor for you!

This spring we're offering some exciting courses you can take whether or not you're a minor. If you've never taken a women's studies course, our introductory class, WS 101, Women in Contemporary Society, is a good place to start. (This course fulfills the requirement for LAC areas 5 and 8.) We're also offering WS 240, Women Race and Class, a course that examines the intersecting dynamics and fundamental character of gender, race, class, and sexuality. Another course, WS 300, the History of [American] Feminism gives students an in-depth study of the history of feminist political movements and intellectual traditions in the United States. WS 335, Global Perspectives on Women analyzes the effects of modernization, economic development, and globalization on global women's lives. Together, these courses and others give you a solid background in the study of women and gender that can facilitate your approach to almost any topic of study. We hope to see you in class!

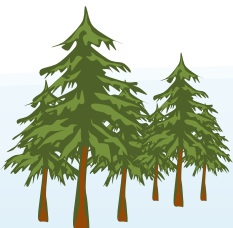
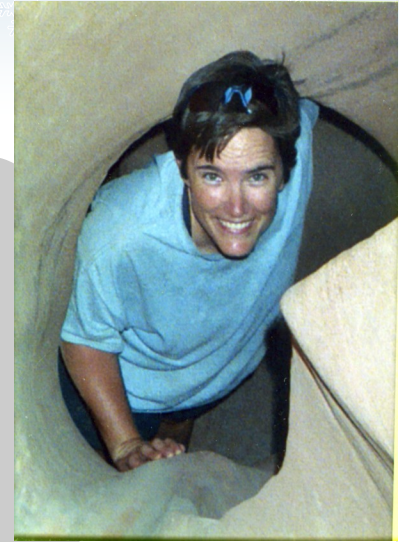
What is Feminism?

"To me, feminism is coming to the realization of the power you have as a woman and not letting society compromise your confidence to utilize it. Gaining a conscious awareness of all that's working against you and being down to stand up in contradiction everyday to prove mainstream notions wrong." —Andrea Renteria

"Feminism is an avenue that empowers women to express and view what they want to accomplish individually and for the masses, as well as an opportunity to establish equality." — Christina Romero

"Basically it's holding men and women to interchangeable, equal standards, without placing men as *the* standard." — Tom Wallingford

"Feminism allows all of us, men *and* women, to view how patriarchal culture has been harmful to our concepts of masculinity and femininity. Feminism means that I can be and do whatever I want, as long as I am not harming another. Feminism means viewing my femaleness with love and respect, without devaluing other women or men for their individual talents." -Donnae Wahl



Past Events

Beyond Beats and Rhymes

On November 3rd, 2009 the Women's Resource Center along with the Women's Studies Program, the Department of Health and Environment and Human Services, Nu Alpha Kappa Fraternity Inc., Sigma Lambda Beta International Fraternity, Colorado Men Against Domestic Violence, and BAM (The Be a Man Fatherhood Program), screened the hip-hop documentary *Beyond Beats and Rhymes*. The purpose of this event was to challenge the student population into taking a closer look into hip-hop culture, what it was and what it has become. It was an opportunity for students to voice their opinions and here the opinions of others during the panel discussion which occurred at the end of the film. There were seven members on the panel, including five UNC students, a professor of Women's Studies, and a hip hop artist. There were approximately 85 students in attendance. This event brought out issues such as violence, the treatment of women in music videos, as well as issues with homosexuality and hip hop culture. The sponsors of this event offered a safe environment for these issues to be discussed. The panel discussion was a lively forum with diverse ideas.

Open Mic Night

Following the hip hop documentary *Beyond Beats and Rhymes*, on November 4th, 2009 the Women's Resource Center hosted its first Open Mic Night of the year. This was an opportunity for students, community members, and anyone with a passion for art to come out and share their talent. While listening to others we enjoyed snacks and a warm environment. Several UNC students performed poetry, spoken word, and other forms of artistic expression, some of which will be showcased on the following pages of this newsletter. It is the hope that Open Mic Nights will continue here at the Women's Resource Center and give room for everyone who is willing to showcase their abilities!

Women of the World Potluck

On November 12th, 2009 The Women's Resource Center and the Center for International Education hosted a Women of the World Potluck. The purpose of this event was to unite the women of UNC as well as experience international cuisine and educational perspectives on diverse topics. This event was attended by 50 UNC faculty, staff and students as well as community members. Members of Black Women of Today, Janelle Lewis, Chez'ra Sankey and Cherie Jacobs, as well as teachers from the CASS Program gave presentations.

New Faces Of America

On November 10th, 2009 Will and Company graced the UNC Ballrooms with seven different portrayals of race in America under the heading "New Faces of America". This theatrical presentation touched on issues from a host of different problems such as suicide rates on Native American reservations, GLBTA issues and Christianity, as well as issues of race and ethnicity. Over 445 UNC students, faculty, staff and community members were in attendance and had the opportunity to experience this unique portrait of life in America.

Juana Bordas

On November 19th 2009, the President's Leadership Program brought speaker Juana Bordas to the UNC Campus. Juana Bordas is an author and activist who has dedicated her career to preparing Latino leaders in public, private, and non-profit sectors. She founded Mestiza Leadership International in 1995, which specializes in training and developing a work environment that encourages diversity and effective leadership.



Beyond Beats and Rhymes Panel from left to right: Tyler Osterhaus, Rigo Rangel, Azhia Long, Tom Wallingford, Chris Talbot, Cory Wilson, and Letisha Brown.

Student Submissions

Passing Fancy

by Dalton Bragg

From the young boy beat-boxing under the shallow
breath
To the young girl shuffling her feet noisily across side-
walks
From the young boy whistling a whimsical walk
To the young girl hanging her head, hating him for it
From the young boy wondering if she was wondering
about him
To the young girl hoping against hope that he was
hoping for her
From the muscle that throbbed within his chest
screaming for life
To the rush of blood in her cheeks making her so self-
conscious
From the perspiration of his fingertips and his pride
alike
To the emotional conflict of another caller that called
upon her
From the recitation of what would surely win her
To the undeniable truth that it amounted to crashing
words, ringing in ears
From the first shy, awkward crack of his uneasy voice
that was a tottering vase
To the shattering rejection that was the unforgiving
floor
From the regaining of composure and reconciliation, so
artificial
To the equally false acceptance of the occurrence of
events
From denial,
To curiosity
To denial
From his unmistakably faltering façade
To her Oscar-worthy display of callousness
From the vandalization that was the graffiti of her un-
known affections
To the eventual realization that her opportunity had
dissolved
From his lonely walk home
To her more lonely walk home

A Short Note on a Woman's Strength

By Mexell

God took the fibers of her biceps and wove them into eve's shoulder blades
Strong enough to hold a woman's oppression
Standing tall so that atlas dropped to his knees in shame
Strong enough to balance the weight of the world on her neck and proceed to
Bear the burden of child birth
God took the feathers of angel wings and composed the woman's voice
So heavenly a sound men spend lifetimes trying to decipher the subliminal
Notes because we are convinced the woman's voice box holds inside of it the
Very meaning of life
The secret to creation that only she and god have ever possessed
Speaking with her is like meeting knowledge herself
Conversations better than sex
Conversations full of mental orgasms that send a chill down my spine at the
Thought of her thoughts and leave my mind a mess
Her lips are what carried a woman's strength on
She could bench press words heavier than a mother's heart when she has to sell
Her body for a little bit of
Money so her children don't starve
And because I pour my life out on the mic I have already died
But my story will live on because she has written my life on her heart
Etched with lasers because of its diamond like consistency
There's nothing stronger
Blood pressure pumping blood like lightning strikes through her veins
Giving her that heavenly glow that every woman possesses
And this is not a short note on a woman's strength
This is the introduction of volume one of an infinite volume encyclopedia set
Entitled "A Woman's Herstory"
And there's nothing more important than that document
You can inhale the word mother and your lungs would suffer thousands of
Pounds
Of pressure per square inch that would rival the creation of precious diamonds
So
That you spit gemstones for weeks the same color as her tears
The beauty is insurmountable
The pain in her face is unbeknownst to us
Exhale and experience the oxygenated blood that is woman- the very life giving
Force of this plant
Exhale and experience the strength of woman



Relativity of Vision

By Letisha Brown

In art, relativity of vision
Demonstrates how our sight can play tricks on us
Such as making a motionless picture
Appear animated even in stillness
In life,
Relativity of vision can be used to demonstrate
How under the cover of darkness
The seemingly harmless room of a six year old
Transforms into the boogie mans playground
Where only the glow of a princess night light
Manages to keep the monsters at bay
Furthermore, relativity of vision
Is the same phenomenon
That causes a six year old girls mirrored image
To reflect ugliness, because her skin and her nose
Her barely there thighs and non-name brand clothes
Don not match the images of beauty
Forced down her throat via media madness
This same relativity of vision
Convinces her that the porcelain bowl in the bathroom
Is not a toilet but a god
And the sacrifice that he demands
Is her essence
Dredged up from the contents of her stomach
And laid upon the water him
So she kneels at the foot of her god
And sends down her Sacrifice
The way of dead goldfish
And discarded baby alligators
And, she wipes her mouth on her sleeve
Not sure whether the emotion she feels
Will manifest with laughter or tears
Laughter, because she had discovered the secret
That will change her from ugly and fat
Into the beautiful girls and women
Flashed across movie television screen, and magazines
And yet, she feels the urge to cry
At the subtle realization that her childhood too
Vanished the same way as the mac & cheese
She had eaten for dinner
In a murky colored sacrifice
Offered up to the porcelain god.

Old

by Susan Rae
she is old.
not ancient old,
just age old
and wise and comfortable
and everything creaks, but
not young painful.
she is old, easy and smooth,
and the wilderness is far
behind the ray of light she follows.
She is old wild,
wild like a spirit free and ready
and she is wrinkled and used
and beautiful old
in a young sort of way.

The Stryker Institute for Leadership Development would like to congratulate December 2009 Graduates:

Mary Ann Lucero

Adriana Ramirez

Shaileen Snider

Maria Hernandez


Congratulations ladies and best of luck in all you do! We're very proud of you and we can't wait to see where your talents take you!

The Stryker Institute and WRC staff.

November 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6 Stryker Curriculum Workshop	7
8	9	10	11	12 WOW Potluck, 5pm WRC	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 Juana Bordas, 3:30-5pm @UC Panorama	20 Stryker Curriculum Workshop	21
22	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving, Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28
29	30					

December 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Open Mic @ 6:30 pm, WRC	4 Stryker Potluck/ Grad Reception	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 Office Closed	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



If you are interested in contributing to the newsletter, or volunteering with the Women's Resource Center feel free to contact us at 970.351.1492, and check out our website www.unco.edu/wrc!

Have a Happy and Safe Holiday Season! From the Women's Resource Center/Stryker Institute!

