

## From the Director

My return for this year from retirement to directing the Women's Studies Program has been revelatory. In the years preceding my official retirement, I had been meeting other responsibilities for Colgate and less involved in the Center for Women's Studies than in its early years. Taking up residence in the Center has revealed to me the importance of this place as an example of the kind of education Colgate seeks.

An example, of course, is our "brown bag lunches." From the '70s when the few women scattered around the college literally brought their own bag lunches from home so that they could gather with other women, there has developed the standing-room-only phenomenon of 50-80 women and men each week addressing a variety of issues related to gender. These discussions between richly diverse students and faculty spark additional conversations that continue long after the "brown-bags" and classes are supposed to have ended. Often all of the available spaces in the Center hum as they are used by committees planning for Women's Studies, for Environmental Studies, for SORT, for LGBTQ programs, and for training in the Arts of Democracy. Before returning, I had no idea what a busy, vital, *central* place this has become for so many. I congratulate those who have brought about this wonderful realization of what a Center can be, especially Marilyn Thie and Diane Williams.

## What is Women's Studies, Anyway?

Women's Studies, an interdisciplinary program, emphasizes gender as a critical category of human knowledge that interacts with the complexities of social, racial, sexual, economic, ethnic, religious, and national diversity. Women's Studies has transformed knowledge in most fields by correcting centuries of neglect through deliberate research into women's lives and achievements, whether in science, philosophy, literature, art, religion, economics, or government. Numerous faculty members, using diverse methodologies, offer courses in various departments that also can count toward the concentration. The Center for Women's Studies provides classrooms, a library, lounge, and offices for the director, program assistant, and student workers. Dialogue among students, faculty, and staff at the Center and throughout the program is encouraged by discussion groups, lectures, films, symposia, service activities, and action projects.

As stated in the *Viewbook* and *Colgate Catalogue*, approved September 2003, by members of the Women's Studies faculty.

The Colgate Community is assessing the Strategic Planning document that was presented to the Board of Trustees last month. The future envisioned in that document is in several respects a present reality at the Center. Not only does that document call for interdisciplinary "Centers," it also urges the college to "identify and support activities where faculty, staff and students can work together outside the classroom through intellectual pursuits of mutual interest."

Those who took certain courses with me know how important the symbol of a "center" is in every culture. Humans symbolize their worlds of meaning as if they were circles, formed round a center. I am not claiming that The Center for Women's Studies is really such an *axis mundi* in a religious sense. But for many it does provide an educational and communal center for a Colgate education that is founded upon respect for diversity and committed to justice, "not for ourselves alone," but for every living being. Let's hope that those of us now in the Center can measure up to the responsibility of having inherited this vibrant space and the community it enables.

*Wanda Warren Berry*

Director of Women's Studies

Professor of Philosophy and Religion, *emerita*

## Inside!

- Diane reflects
- Meet our new friends
- View the tasty Brown Bag schedule
- Rebecca Chopp and Ellen Kraly prepare to climb a mountain!
- Discussing the *Rich World and Poor Women*
- Celebrate Ida B. Wells
- Spring 2004 classes
- Women's Studies Program Faculty
- Cheer for 30 years of varsity athletics!

**WOMEN**

## Diane's Reflections

Welcome to our world! This is the fall newsletter...it meant to be in your mailboxes before the first snow, but, well, it's been busy and the weather in Hamilton never cooperates!

Women's Studies is thriving at Colgate. The center, specifically, is a very vibrant and energized place, full of people who care deeply about women, about equality, about making the world a better place. We're not afraid to speak up, we talk about politics, we think out loud and learn from each other. It's pretty amazing, actually. I wish I had had such a space as an undergraduate.

Our Student Staff is a mix of people with diverse interests and ideas. They are involved in dozens of student groups, most of them in leadership positions. I'm honored to work with some of Col-

## Women's Studies Program Assistant

gate's finest students, who are dedicated to improving their worlds.

We also gained two wonderful people in the Center this year: Tina and Rob, introduced below. Their presence and work reminds us that social oppression takes many, intersecting, forms. I'd like to give special thanks to Tina, for her encouraging support and guidance to the students who organized Colgate's first ever (we think) "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning (LGBTQ) Pride Week," in October.

For those who have discovered the Center, we're glad you are here! All I ask is that you continue to push us to think about things you find important. And to the others, you are always welcome!

## Meet the Staff

At the first staff meeting I asked everyone why they work at the Center for Women's Studies. Here are a few responses:

*I wanted to work in women's studies because it is a comfortable environment for different women to come together and make change. The change can be substantial, but most of the times through conversation, and the exchange of ideas and experience, I feel a change within myself in my views about, above all other things, women's studies.* - Natalia Linares, '05

*I heard about working in Women's Studies from a friend who told me that it was a fun way to get involved at Colgate, meet a bunch of cool interesting people, and learn more about feminism and the Women's Studies department at Colgate. She has been totally right so far and I've been having a great time getting to know the Center.* -Caitlin Lundquist, '06

*Having become acquainted with the center previous to my employment I knew that the Center for Women's Studies was a place where community is paramount. It is not only a center dedicated to the unity of women but to the cohesion of the entire Colgate community.* -Renita Moore, '04

*I wanted to work at the Center for Women's Studies because the people around here are smart and fun!* -Jennie Skelton, '05

*It helps me round out my liberal arts education. It's a great space to be exposed to and enlightened about issues still relevant today, and also gives me an outlet to do something about these issues. Plus, everyone is so much fun!* -Mary Acoymo, '06

## New Faces Around the Center

**Tina Marciano** is the Program Assistant for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning and Queer (LGBTQ) Initiatives, a new position this year. Tina received her MA in Student Personnel Administration from New York University, where she was the Graduate Assistant in the Office of LGBT Student Services. In the *Princeton Review's* 2004 Best College Rankings, NYU is listed as #1 in the "Gay Community Accepted" category, due in part to Tina's efforts! Additionally, Tina has presented her research on fluid sexual identities (bi-, pan-, omni-, and queer sexual orientations) at the American College Personnel Association Conference.



**Rob Figueroa** is an Assistant Professor of University Studies, as well as the Program Coordinator for two interdisciplinary programs: Environmental Studies and Latin American Studies. Rob runs the ENST Office of Program Coordinators in the Center for WMST. Come by and meet this semester's student assistant coordinators: Lindsay Mackenzie '05, Ellen Frank '05, and Alejandro Delgado '04. Rob is an interdisciplinary philosopher whose breadth of interests include environmental justice and ethics, social justice, race theory, science and technologies studies, and a strong scholarly commitment to feminist methodology and ideals.



## Brown Bag Lunch Series, Fall 2003

- 9/9 *What's In a Woman's Name? Birthnames vs. Hyphens, Ms. vs. Miss/Mrs: The Ironies of Naming Ourselves* Wanda Warren Berry, Director of Women's Studies, Philosophy & Religion
- 9/16 *Women and Community Building* Maureen Fox, Community Action Program of Madison County and Melissa Saulsgiver, Marnie Terhune, COVE
- 9/23 *It's Not "P.C." – It's Called Respect: Understanding the New Harassment Policy* Raj Bellani, Kira Stevens, Co-Chair of Harassment Panel and Lyn Rugg, Associate Dean for Affirmative Action and Employment Initiatives
- 9/30 *Metaphors of Femininity: The Hothouse Flower* Margaret Darby, Writing
- 10/7 *Prostitution and the Sex Trade Industry* Mark Edwards, Dean of Multicultural Affairs, Sociology
- 10/16 *What Is Feminism, Anyway?* A community discussion facilitated by Diane Williams, Women's Studies Program Assistant
- 10/21 *Personal Reflections on Breast Cancer – a panel discussion with survivors, family/friends, and caregivers* Co-sponsored by the Breast Cancer Awareness Coalition, coordinated by Dr. Merrill Miller, Physician/Director of Health Services
- 10/28 *Sex and the City: Gertrude Stein and Urban Queerness* Amy Feinstein, English
- 11/4 *Dancehall Feminisms: Jamaican Female Deejays and the Politics of "the big ninja bike"* Kezia Page, English
- 11/11 *Helping Low-Income Families: The Earned Income Credit and Madison County VITA Program* Jill Tiefenthaler, Associate Dean of the Faculty, Economics
- 11/13 *How to Help a Friend with an Eating Disorder* Shelly Lear, Associate Director of Counseling and Psychological Services
- 11/18 *Feminist Eye for the Cartesian Guy: Remaking Rene Descartes* Marianne Janack '86, Philosophy, Hamilton College
- 12/2 *What's Love Got To Do With It?: The Dynamics of Sex, Race, and Murder in the Slave South* Carolyn Powell, Africana and Latin American Studies
- 12/9 *Alive and Kicking: Feminists and Activists after 2001—A View from the Streets and Classrooms* Chris Cuomo '86, Philosophy and Ethics, Director of Women's Studies Undergraduate Program, University of Cincinnati



## Denim Day

October 17th was Denim Day this year. Denim Day is a national fundraiser for Breast Cancer research sponsored by the Komen Foundation and Lee Jeans. The idea is to have everyone at your place of work donate \$5 and wear jeans on one Friday. We here at Colgate make it our own event by adding a pink shirt to the dress code. We collected...

\$1060

The funds went in three directions:

- *Denim Day National Fundraiser*
- Colgate Breast Cancer Awareness Coalition's efforts at the *Utica Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk* (10/19)
- *Climb to Fight Breast Cancer* (6/25-6/27/04)

Thanks to the Colgate Breast Cancer Awareness Coalition (BCAC) for all their hard work on this event, and to the Colgate Community for their enthusiastic support!

**President Rebecca Chopp**

**Professor Ellen Kraly, Geography**

## Climb to Fight Breast Cancer

**June 25-27, 2004**

President Chopp and Professor Kraly will be participating in an annual hike up Mt. Baker to raise money for breast cancer research, sponsored by the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center.

At 10,781 feet, Mt. Baker is the highest point of the North Cascades and a heavily glaciated dormant volcano.

**Before they climb they must raise \$3000 each!**

**Want to help? Send donations to**

**"Climb for the Cure"**

**Controller's Office, Colgate University**

**13 Oak Drive, Hamilton, NY 13346**

**Please make checks out to "Colgate University"**

**MOYERS:** Welcome to *NOW*. In this hour, we want you to meet some women who rarely turn up in the news, but have a lot to tell us about how the world works, especially the phenomenon known as globalization. Globalization has come to mean different things to different people, but stripped to the bare bones it's about capital — money — roaming the world looking for the best deal... We begin in Asia...in Thailand. And as we do, take a look at the sneakers you're wearing, or the shirt you have on. Your own connection to these women may be closer than you think.  
(transcript from the show, online at [http://www.pbs.org/now/transcript/transcript233\\_full.html](http://www.pbs.org/now/transcript/transcript233_full.html))

## Rich World, Poor Women

For some of us, the world got a little bit smaller on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2003. A joint effort between the ALANA Cultural Center and the Women's Studies Program, we screened *Rich World, Poor Women*, a *NOW* with Bill Moyers episode that originally aired earlier in the month. The hour-long documentary highlighted the plight of women in the global economy. We heard from Thai workers who got to work one day only to find the factory closed. One in four women in Thailand work in such a factory, where goods are made to be sold abroad. We saw them protest to their government and be ignored. "The part that I remember most," Natalia Linares '06, shared, "was the images of women in Senegal, grinding couscous with their babies on their backs. I, for one, enjoy couscous and this image bothered me and stayed with me the next time I ate it, reminding me of the struggles women still have to endure."

Through a number of examples from around the world, we all saw how our quality of life rests on the backs of women. Women who



by Diane Williams



Professor Blumenfeld, leading a simulation of the division of wealth.

will never know the luxuries we "desire," who will never live the life that the "civilized" world expects.

For me, the best part of the event was the discussion that followed. We have assembled an informal panel that included Jessica Allina-Pisano (Political Science), Eric Allina-Pisano (History), Warren Blumenfeld (Educational Studies), Rob Figueroa (University Studies), and Wanda Warren Berry (Philosophy and Religion). What struck me about the discussion was how the diversity in disciplines of the faculty present, matched with the different interests and perspectives of the students and staff, made for a really interesting, complex discussion of social responsibility, history, and our role in the world. At one point, Professor Blumenfeld had ten volunteers physically simulate the division of wealth, where one person ended up "owning" most of two sofas, while nine people shared part of one cushion.

It proved to be a night of education that both raised awareness, provoked conversation, and hopefully, moved people to reflect on their role in the world. In my mind, that is an ideal program.

Thanks to Jamie Nolan, Director of the ALANA Cultural Center, for working with me to see this event happen.

## Constant Star Shines

Heather Dockstader, '04



Constant Star

On Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 25 students, faculty, and staff journeyed together to see *Constant Star*, a new musical based on the life of Ida B. Wells, performed at Syracuse Stage. I knew nothing of her life when I agreed to see the play, having only heard her name as a footnote in history class. As the play progressed, I sat there angry at my grade-school system that had slighted this phenomenal woman.

Ida B. Wells-Barnett was a newspaper editor and publisher, race woman, political candidate, co-founder of the NAACP, wife, mother, and the leader of the anti-lynching campaign. A cast of five women, symbolizing the five-pointed star of her father's hand, presented a moving portrayal of Wells-Barnett's life, work, and passion. Some of us in the audience were brought to tears during highly emotional moments of the story, and there was a charged connection between the actors, the audience, and the

**As the play progressed, I sat there angry at my grade-school system that had slighted this phenomenal woman.**

story. For the first time during a professional production, I believed that the actors were truly dedicated to their performance and to its message.

I enjoyed the play because I felt that message. Through the range of the women's amazing voices, the songs penetrated to the core of my being, and the resonance they caused reminded me of why we fight for things in which we believe, of why we struggle for equality and the right to life. I thank Ida B. Wells-Barnett for not compromising and settling for less than what she believed to be right.

The closing moments of the play eclipsed the whole experience. The audience was on their feet clapping in beat to the singing of the actors who had transitioned from their characters to their persons. I was deeply touched by the play and would see it again in a heartbeat.

This event was sponsored by the Beyond Colgate initiative. Four Women's Studies classes were invited to attend the play.

## Women's Studies Courses - Spring 2004

WMST 202	Women's Lives: Introduction to Women's Studies, <i>Warren Berry</i>
POSC 217	Identity Politics, <i>Allina-Pisano</i>
ECON/WMST 234	Gender in the Economy, <i>Grapard</i>
PEAC/WMST 260	Women and Peace: War, Resistance, and Justice, <i>Wehrer</i>
PSYC 300	Topics in Psychology: Psychology of Gender, <i>Reid</i>
GEOG/WMST 304	Women and Environment, <i>Hays-Mitchell</i>
RELG/WMST 310	The Many Faces of Paul: Politics, Culture and Gender in Ancient and Contemporary Interpretations, <i>Martin</i>
SOAN/WSMT 315	Gender and Culture, <i>Peletz</i>
RELG 317	The Literary Life and Afterlife of the Hebrew Bible: The Women of the Davidic Dynasty, <i>Cushing</i>
RELG/WSMT 334	Women and Religious Thought: Transforming Spiritualities, <i>Chopp and Warren Berry</i>
ARTS/WMST 351	Women and Art, <i>Gourianova</i>
POSC 359	Russia and Its World, <i>Allina-Pisano</i>
SOAN/WSMT 369	Women, Health and Medicine, <i>Loe</i>
EDUC 420	Evolution and Operation of Nongovernmental Organizations: The Role of Non-State Actors in International Development, <i>Kissane</i>
ENGL 433	West Indian Literature: Caribbean Women Writers, <i>Page</i>
WMST 490	Metaphors of Femininity, <i>Darby</i>
<i>Study Group Courses</i>	
WMST/ENGL 305	The Female Protagonist, <i>Knuth</i> (London)

## Women's Studies Program Faculty

### Africana and Latin American Studies

Carolyn Powell

### Art & Art History

Mary Ann Calo

Padma Kaimal

Judy Oliver

Lynn Schwarzer

Linn Underhill

### Classics

Rebecca Ammerman

### East Asian Languages & Literatures

Gloria Bien

Jing Wang

### Economics

Ulla Grapard

Jill Tiefenthaler

### Educational Studies

Carolyn Kissane

Jo Anne Pagano

### English

Constance Harsh

Linck Johnson

Deborah Knuth

Kezia Page

Jane Pinchin

Lynn Staley

Sarah Wider

### Geography

Maureen Hays-Mitchell

Ellen Kraly

### History

Antonio Barrera

Faye Dudden

Jill Harsin

Kira Stevens

Camilla Townsend

### Interdisciplinary Writing

Margaret Darby

Vicky McMillan

### Jewish Studies

Lesleigh Cushing

### Mathematics

Ken Valente

### Peace Studies

Margaret Wehrer

### Philosophy & Religion

Maudemarie Clark

Rebecca Chopp

Lesleigh Cushing

Georgia Frank

Clarice Martin

Marilyn Thie

Wanda Warren Berry

Jim Wetzel

### Political Science

Jessica Allina-Pisano

Tim Byrnes

Anne Pitcher

### Psychology

Landon Reid

### Romance Languages & Literatures

Hélène Julien

Lourdes Rojas

Lyn Rugg

### Russian

Nina Gourianova

### Sociology & Anthropology

Meika Loe

Mary Moran

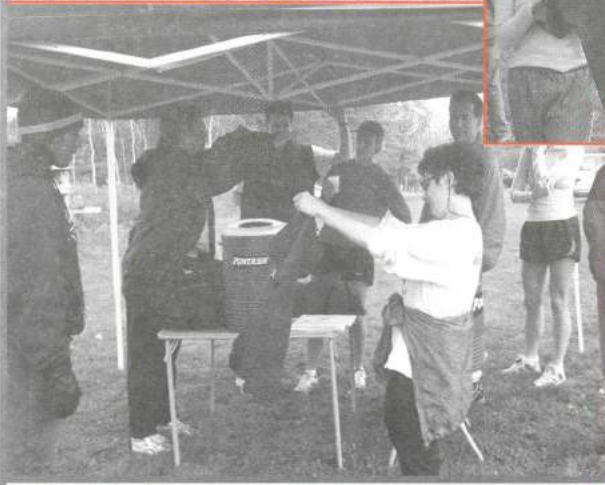
Michael Peletz

Nancy Ries

### Women's Studies

Meika Loe

# Run/Walk Celebrates 30 Years of Women's Varsity Athletics Homecoming 2003



the colgate center for  
**women's  
studies**

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Wanda Warren Berry, Director  
Mary Keys, Administrative Assistant  
Diane Williams, Program Assistant

We're working on our website...come see!  
[http://departments.colgate.edu/womens\\_studies/](http://departments.colgate.edu/womens_studies/)



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