

# Women's Studies News and Events

## Winter 2010

### A Message From the Director

Greetings from a returned Oregonian! I am delighted to be here as the new director of Women's Studies. Stepping into new situations and striving to meet the challenges of the work we do in WS is part of the excitement and fulfillment I find in this interdisciplinary arena. As the PSU Women's Studies community starts on a new phase of growth, development, and expansion in terms of our relations with the larger university community, our interactions as teachers with students, the demands of our scholarly endeavors, and attention to community outreach I am struck by the timeliness of the recent National Women's Studies Association conference theme: *Difficult Dialogues*. I do not make this allusion offhandedly or from a negative perspective, but rather in the spirit of acknowledgement—recognizing that any time we come together to engage in feminist and queer conversations, we encounter a multiplicity of experiences, knowledges, and possibilities for change informed by our own gender, race, class, culture and sexuality (to name only a few of the elements that shape our locations and identities). Inevitably, our perspectives will not always seamlessly mesh. Yet our feminist and queer commitments will become manifest by our determination to value and learn from one another because of, not in spite of,

our differences. Difficult dialogues need not provoke fear and anxiety; indeed they can be the very substance upon which we can grow in new and productive ways.

This year our PSU Women's Studies community will undertake an exploration of key administrative, curricular, and community-based projects. The new "school" initiative asks us to reflect on our position within the larger university community, the non-PSU feminist community, and our Women's Studies student body. Ever mindful of our commitment to students' intellectual and personal development as feminist/queer scholars/activists/people, we are designing new courses, creating avenues to enrich practicum experiences, and building career networks. Drawing upon a program rich in resources—faculty expertise, community connections, student energy, and feminist history—I envision the next year as one where our program moves to the forefront in producing knowledge that not only serves the people of Portland but contributes to the nation-wide dialogue about women, gender, and sexuality studies. I invite all of you to join me in this exciting collaborative journey.

In solidarity,  
Sally McWilliams

### Advising

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Thinking about becoming a Women's Studies major or minor or a Sexualities, Gender, and Queer Studies minor? Need help navigating the program requirements? Schedule a one-on-one appointment with one of our advisors by contacting the Women's Studies office at (503) 725-3516. Appointments last 30 minutes and provide detailed answers to your questions. For help with quick questions, you can also stop by our advisors' drop-in hours during the following times:

**Priya Kandaswamy:** Mondays 11-12 or Wednesdays 12:30-1:30 in NH 451E

**Sally McWilliams, WS Program Director:** Wednesdays 3-5 or Fridays 10-12 in NH 470

**Ann Mussey:** Thursdays 2-3 in NH 451X

# Scholarships

Women's Studies is currently accepting scholarship applications for the 2010-2011 academic year:

**Linda C. Hummer Scholarship:** For Women's Studies majors who have demonstrated academic excellence, performed outstanding service to Women's Studies and the community, or overcome barriers to pursue their educational goals. One-time award amount: \$300. Application deadline: May 3, 2010.

**Lancy C. Jen Scholarship:** Awarded to majors in Women's Studies who plan to pursue study or career paths related to math or the natural/physical sciences. Eligible students must also demonstrate financial need and potential for academic success. Annual award amount: \$4,000. Application deadline: May 1, 2010.

**Frances Lenore Jones Scholarship:** For majors whose education has been interrupted by, or is organized around, family responsibilities. Eligible students must also demonstrate financial need and maintain at least a 3.0 GPA. Annual award amount: \$4,000. Application deadline: May 1, 2010.

**Meg Eileenchild O'Hara Scholarship:** For Women's Studies majors or certificate students who have had a significant interruption in their education and who demonstrate financial need. Eligible students must also have a high school diploma or GED and maintain at least a 2.5 GPA. Annual award amount: \$350. Application deadline: April 8, 2010.

Applications are available on the Women's Studies website at [www.ws.pdx.edu](http://www.ws.pdx.edu), or from the Women's Studies office in NH 469.

## Save The Date

### **Premier and discussion of *Switch: A Community in Transition* with filmmaker Brooks Nelson**

Friday, February 19, 6:00 pm, Smith 296-8

Free and open to the public. Light refreshments provided.

### **1st Annual Feminist Pedagogy, Diversity, and Social Justice Education Symposium**

Friday, April 16, 9:00am to 5:00pm, with keynote speaker Melissa Kesler-Gilbert 7:00-9:00 pm, Smith 338

Workshops for instructors at PSU and other local institutions to explore feminist and critical teaching practices in higher education.

### **"Transfeminist Insights on Trauma and Community" lecture by Diana Courvant**

April (date, time, and location TBD)

### **Women's Studies Undergraduate Colloquium**

Friday, June 4, 9:00-4:00pm (location TBD)

3<sup>rd</sup> annual showcase of Women's Studies student work and research

### **Women's Studies Spring Celebration**

Saturday, June 5, Evening (time and location TBD)

Reception honoring Women's Studies graduates and scholarship recipients

## We're Hiring!

The Department of Women's Studies is seeking an office assistant to support our busy staff, students, and campus community. Daily responsibilities include answering phones, filing, data entry, copying, running errands, and providing light office housekeeping as needed. Ongoing responsibilities include various projects as assigned, such as maintaining contact information for community partners, or compiling lists of internship and volunteer opportunities for students.

Candidates with office skills will be preferred, including basic computer proficiency, rudimentary knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel, and the ability to prioritize and conduct oneself in a professional manner.

The Department of Women's Studies values building community among students, faculty and staff, and views our office as a center of collaboration and camaraderie. Candidates must be comfortable serving a diverse public in an open and welcoming manner. Preference will be given to candidates majoring or minoring in women's studies or sexuality, gender and queer studies.

Please note: you **MUST** have a work-study award to be considered for this position. Please be prepared in the event of an interview to present your Certificate of Eligibility for federal work-study (available from the Student Financial Aid window in Neuberger Hall).

To apply, please email your resume and cover letter to Kari Smit at [smitk@pdx.edu](mailto:smitk@pdx.edu) by February 10, 2009. Selected candidates will be invited to interview later that week.

Pay: \$9.00 per hour.

### **Department of Women's Studies**

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University

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**We're on the Web!**

Visit us at:

**[www.ws.pdx.edu](http://www.ws.pdx.edu)**