



Becky Johns



Women's Studies Reading Group...

will be meeting to discuss "Map of Love" by Ahdaf Soueif at the Wisebird Bookery at 3:00 pm on July 26th.

Please join us to share your thoughts, even if you don't finish reading the book! If you have questions or comments, let us know (626-7632.)

Coordinator's Corner

Carol Merrill (Director, Services for Women's Students) and I met recently I talked about how we might better meet the needs of all females on campus. One way, we both agreed would be to give a more public voice to the needs, concerns and conditions of all WSU women. Accordingly, beginning Fall 2007, Carol and I would like to jointly host a regularly occurring gathering on campus to provide a safe, comfortable place to discuss issues of concern to female WSU employees of all rank and file, including faculty, staff and students. Our goals for these meetings include:

LISTEN- and support those in our midst who feel disenfranchised, powerless and or voiceless in other public places at WSU.

SHARE- ideas, discuss ways we might address systemic issues at WSU which do not serve the best interests of its female employees or students

ACT- Form through general consensus sub-groups which will draft statements, form study groups, investigate, speak, lobby draft new policies and speak out where appropriate

Both Carol and I recognize the possible enormity of bringing together so many people to discuss such difficult issues. We want to try. If we merge our voices, even small voices added together, will make a chorus difficult to ignore.

What kinds of issues will this group address?

Extension of spousal rights to partners, including insurance and benefits

Wage inequities of males /females across all departments, divisions, and classifications

Low wage system for classified and perhaps other categories of staff.

Issues of safety for students & faculty from a large number of threats, including sexual harassment.

We hope the issues you are interested in will come forward because you will be there to speak your voice; help us find a way. No one will be excluded from these meetings; however, we are not operating under the aspects of any formal part of WSU, we consider this a grass-roots effort with no authority requested from WSU administration and certainly none expected.

We are not interested in "gripe" sessions but we are interested in providing a safe, non-judgmental space in which to express our experiences as females at WSU and to address some legitimate concerns. We want to form this group To ACT on issues of social injustice.

Some may see this as unnecessary or overly aggressive. We believe there will be many who need and/or want such an effort. Let each choose for herself. I am excited to be co-planning with Carol Merrill our opening meeting of VOICE- an organization for and about the issues and goals of WSU women - for fall semester, 2007. More on this will be upcoming.

Please also be planning for a Women's Studies Retreat in May of 2008. We hope many of you will plan to come. Details soon. Thanks to all of you, faculty, staff, community supporters, administrators, librarians, and WSU students, especially our WS minors for a great 2006-2007 year! We look forward to another great school year coming up very shortly. Please do not hesitate to contact me bjohns@weber.edu.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL & FACULTY SPOTLIGHTS

Kay Rawson Swan, our community representative, ran for the Utah House of Representatives in the 2006 election.

Kathryn MacKay was honored with the Distinguished Scholar award from Utah Humanities Council and the John A. Lindquist award from Weber State University.

María Parrilla de Kokal taught several Women's Studies co-listed courses i.e., Psychology of Women and Psychology of Diversity which are now web-enhanced. She has co-designed Child and Adolescent courses for webct. She also continues to serve on the Friends of the Stewart Library, Women's Studies Executive Council, OWCAP, Weber Human Services, WSU Diversity Committee, Annual WSU Diversity Conference, and various department committees. Additionally, she advises WSU's FUN and MEChA student committees.

Sandra Powell served as Chair of the Annual WSU Diversity Conference. She also participated on the University Curriculum Committee. She is an advisor to many student groups, including Beta Gamma Sigma, the Business Honor Society, and SHRM, the Society for Human Resource Management. She also continues to teach the Senior Seminar for Women's Studies.



Find out more about Women's Studies, take a Women's Studies course this Fall:

CORE:

Intro to WS
WS 1500 CRN22697 (Ogden)
WS 1500 CRN23344 (Davis)

Feminist Theories
WS3050 CRN22698

Research Methodology
WS 4050 CRN22699

Topics in WS
WS 4900 CRN22701

CROSS-LISTED:

Ethnicity & Older Women
CERT 3320 CRN21819

Women's Health Issues
HLTH 4220 CRN23816

Honors Colloquium
HNRS 3900 CRN20053

Lit of Cultures & Places
Asian & Asian American
Writers
ENGL 3730 CRN22010

Topics in American Politics &
Thought
POLS 4940 CRN23049 & 23050

Psych of Women & Gender
PSY 2370 CRN21384

See Class Schedule for full
course details.

WOMEN'S STUDIES ANNUAL REPORT

Women's Studies participated in MajorFest and Scholarship Day, helping to spread the word about our minor program and draw student interest in our courses as well as our program.

The fall social was held on October 26, 2006 and was very well attended by students, faculty and council members, approximately 25 in all. This was a new format for the traditional Women's Studies Fall social and it was very effective in making students aware of our program which will ultimately draw more interest to the program and help to grow the program. In the past we held a picnic and unfortunately had very low attendance. This year, we had a social at the end of an Intro to Women's Studies class and provided lunch. This proved to be a more attractive format and we feel it drew much more interest than our past efforts.

The Women's Studies Executive Council worked collectively on Love Your Body Day and Women's History Month. For Love Your Body Day, Women's Studies showed two films on the media and women's bodies. We had approximately 15 students and faculty at each showing of the films. Kim Hyatt led the evening discussion and Gloria Wurst and Maria Parrilla de Kokal lead the afternoon discussion.

A number of activities were held during Women's History Month. Women's Studies collaborated with Services for Women's Studies and held a combined "Open House" for Women's History Month. This was very effective as Services for Women Students has a central location and we were able to split the cost of food which helped both departments. There were approximately 30-40 students, faculty and staff who stopped by for the Open House. Women's Studies again joined the WSU School of Business to support speakers for their Nye Lecture Series as well as support and advertisement of other activities across campus. Three events were sponsored by Women's Studies (1) Dr. Brad Carroll of Physics lectured on Five Remarkable Women Astronomers which was held at and supported by the Institute of Religion, (2) Drs. Garza & Hutchins of Psychology lectured on the biological and cultural differences in men and women, and (3) Olene Walker, former governor of Utah, lectured in the Student Union Building and spoke on her experiences in the political arena and was recognized for her work with children and the community. Ms. Walker was presented a beautiful plaque from Women's Studies and we were grateful that WSU President Dr. Ann Millner was on hand to present the plaque. We were pleased that there were approximately 20 students, faculty and staff in attendance at each of our sessions during Women's History Month.

Judith Pratt, from the Nursing Program, organized a Women's Health Fair on the Ogden and Davis Campuses and both events were well attended and were very informative and included booths on such issues as alcoholism and breast cancer awareness.

For the first time, WS1500 was offered at the Davis campus and paid for by the Davis campus.

Introduction to Women's Studies, which also serves as a diversity course is now being offered at the Davis Campus taught by Adrienne Gillespie, a classified employee of Weber State University who holds a Masters degree in Women's Studies and Political Science.

Suggestions/Comments Are Welcome

We value your input!

If you have any suggestions for activities you would like to see sponsored by Women's Studies, including films, panel discussions, etc., and/or to offer comments and/or suggestions regarding the newsletter, please contact the Women's Studies office (626-7632.)



We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.weber.edu/womenstudies

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Affiliations:

National Women's Studies Association (NWSA)
The Southwest Institute for Research on Women (SIROW)