

Department of
Women's Studies
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

The Long Beach Offering

NEW DIGS!

We've moved! If you haven't visited us lately, try the 8th floor of the McIntosh Building next time you are on campus. Although we were not initially thrilled with the idea of being relocated, we soon were won over by our new surroundings and amazing views.

To sweeten the move, the Dean gave us all new furniture (no more Goodwill cast-offs), and painted the entire floor, including the offices and restroom, with the colors we chose. And, yes, there is quite a variety of colors up there now.

We also have original art on the walls and 7, count 'em, 7 bulletin boards to keep everyone posted on what is going on.

Come by and say hello!

CITY COUNCIL AWARD

The Long Beach City Council presented the Department of Women's Studies with an award for the work we do.

"Women's Studies has done an amazing job in recognizing the diversity of women and the issues they face," said City Councilmember Tonia Reyes Uranga. "They have created not only a consciousness of women's issues, but they have delivered

this program successfully to one of the largest schools in the Cal State system."

At the proclamation presentation pictured below were (l-r) Long Beach Mayor Bob Foster, Women's Studies Chair Wendy Griffin, Long Beach City Councilmember Tonia Reyes Uranga, CSULB President F. King Alexander and Long Beach City Councilmember Gary Delong.

For the full story, see <http://www.csulb.edu/misc/inside/archives/v60n7/stories/6.htm>



Please check out our new website at

<http://www.csulb.edu/wst>

Let us know how you are using your WST degree and we'll add your information to Alumni News

FEMINIST BROWN BAGS

The Department initiated a once a month feminist brown bag series where faculty presented their research and engaged in lively discussions.

Dr. Jennifer Reed started off the series with “The Queer Feminism of Lily Tomlin.” Next was Dr. Liz Philipose talking about “The (R)evolutionary Promise of a Spiritualized Feminism,” followed by Dr. Griffin and “Borders & Badlands: The Goddess Temple Orange County.” “Penetrating Deliberate Obfuscations in Audre Lorde’s Poetry” was presented by Dr. Angela Bowen at the end of the semester.

Spring semester began with Dr. Clorinda Donato on “Translating Transgender in the 18th Century: Life Story, Medical Case, or Titillating ‘Moral’ Tale in The True History and Adventures of Catharine Vizani?” Jennifer Musto discussed her doctoral work on “Improvising Protection: Moral Voyeurism and the Politics of Trafficking Victim Protection in the United States.” Dr. Shira Tarrant explored “Men and Feminism: New Directions” from her forthcoming book, and Dr. Mary Caputi ended the semester with her presentation on “Derrida and Feminism: Tracing the Conundrum of Binary Opposition.”

The series was open to the campus community and held in the Multicultural Center. Presenters have already signed up for 2008-2009 to make the coming “season” every bit as interesting. Check our website for dates and topics at <http://www.csulb.edu/wst>

ONE-WOMAN SHOWS

We continued our practice of bringing exciting and provocative women to campus. In October, Inga Muscio, author of the book *Cunt*, spoke before a packed crowd in the Multicultural Center on “Feminism, Racism and the Death of Democracy.”

December brought us “Rebel Shamans: Indigenous Women Confront Empire,” a marvelous slide show and lecture by Max Dashu.

Kristina Wong joined us in February and used laughter to tackle the topics of depression and mental illness in her show “Wong Flew over the Cuckoo’s Nest.”



Inga Muscio

JUST DESSERTS!

We repeated our Fall Reception for feminist faculty, serving an array of desserts, including a tempting chocolate fountain to which almost everyone succumbed.



Professors Philipose, Reed, and Ladd succumbing

MONEY FOR STUDY

We created 3 undergraduate scholarships that we hope to be able to give once a year. They are for WST majors who are 1) a single, custodial parent, 2) a returning student, or 3) the first person in the family to go to a 4 year university.

This year's winners were senior Rowana Johnson, who took on the parenting responsibilities for her younger siblings when they were left orphans; junior Julie Donnelly, who returned to school after a ten year absence; and freshman Rebecca Loble, who is the first person in her family to go to college and is working two jobs in order to pay for her education herself.

Our intention is to build our scholarship account up to the point where this can be an annual event. If you would like to help, please go to our website at www.csulb.edu/wst.

[edu/wst](http://www.csulb.edu/wst). Click on *scholarships* and then click on the scholarship of your choice. All donations are fully tax-deductable.

LILLIAN ROBLES AWARDS

For the second year, we held our Spring Awards Reception. Named after the beloved community activist Lillian Robles, the award honors select women and organizations in the local community who show outstanding leadership.

Whether working on environmental issues, organizing for action or providing community services, the women and organizations we celebrate in this fashion are role models of feminist activism for our students.

The awardees this year were:

- Flossie Horgan – Executive Director of the Bolsa Chica Land Trust
- TuLynn Smylie – Executive Director of WomenShelter of Long Beach
- Mary Vasquez – Volunteer Coordinator- Sexual Assault Crisis Agency and a former WST student

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Blessing the WST awards ceremony

- WINTER: Women in Non-Traditional Employment Roles, an organization that focuses on training women for high paying jobs.

The Robles family and friends began the awards ceremony with a blessing and ended it with flowers and herbs from Lillian's garden.

Naturally, there was food and drink to spare during the event. What students didn't take home with them was donated to Harbor Area Halfway House for women.

FACULTY DOINGS

Ellyse Blankley will be teaching in London this fall as part of CSULB's semester abroad program. She recently co-organized the enormously successful 9th Annual Conference of the Modernist Studies Association, attended by more than 600 academics from around the world. In March of 2008, she traveled to Tunisia and hopes to return in the Fall to reconnect with feminists at the University of Tunis.

Angela Bowen is working on a chapter for an anthology from NYU Press that examines Poet Audre Lorde's contribution to three liberation movements: Black Arts, Feminism and the LGBT movements. In addition, she is editing an anthology about black lesbians to be titled *Willing Subjects: Africana Lesbians 'Out' in Academia*. She is organizing a session at the Old Lesbians Organizing for Change conference in Los Angeles this summer.

Wendy Griffin was recently interviewed on BBC radio's "Thinking Allowed." The program is available as a podcast. After her London interview, Griffin was flown

to Norway along with nine colleagues from across Europe and Canada by the University of Oslo to work on a major grant project focusing on ritualizing and emergent religions. In the fall, she was reelected to a 3 year term as co-chair of the Contemporary Pagan Studies Group in the American Academy of Religion.

Elizabeth Philipose gave a paper at the Women's Worlds 2008 10th International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women, in Madrid Spain. Her publications in the past year include "On Euro Colonial Sovereignty: Decolonizing the Racial Grammar of International Law," in Chandra Talpade Mohanty, Minnie Bruce Pratt and Robin Riley (eds.), *Feminism and War*, "Feminism, International Law and the Spectacular Violence of the 'Other': Decolonizing the Laws of War," in Renée Heberle and Victoria Grace (eds.), *Theorizing Sexual Violence*, "Slippery Speech Acts: Gender Race Islam and the 'War on Terror,'" in *Topia: Canadian Journal of Cultural Studies*, and "The Politics of Pain and the Uses of Torture," in *Feminist Perspectives on War and Terror*, by eds. Karen Alexander and Mary Hawkesworth.

Jennifer Reed has joined the editorial board of *Thirdspace: a journal of feminist theory and culture* (online), and is working on an article on the influence of public lesbian identity on normative femininity.

Maythee Rojas was elected conference chair to the National Association of Ethnic Studies (NAES) 37th annual conference in San Diego, CA, which will take place in 2009. She also has two forthcoming book reviews, both on the topic of immigration, in *Colorlines Magazine* and *Southern California Quarterly*. In addition, she is currently completing a text on women of

color and feminism for Seal Press.

Shira Tarrant published her second book, an anthology titled *Men Speak Out: Views on Gender, Sex and Power* (Routledge). Her article on modesty and sexuality (“The Great Cover-Up: Can High Necklines Cure Low Morals?”) appeared in *Bitch* (Winter 2008). In March she was the Keynote Speaker at Cal State Fullerton’s Scholarship on Gender Conference, presenting a talk titled “Trash TV: It’s Not Just a Waste of Time.” She is currently finishing her book, *Men and Feminism*, which will appear on the shelves next Spring.

NEW ASC

Maggie Muñoz joined us in WST this year as our new Academic Service Coordinator (a.k.a. Office Goddess). She replaced Rachel Klimke, who received her Master’s in education and is now teaching in a Venice high school. The first person in her family to go to college, Maggie received her BA from UCSD in Ethnic Studies and works as a union organizer in her spare time.



Our graduating majors from 2008

WSSA

This past Spring semester, the Women’s Studies Student Association (WSSA) organized two feminist film screenings on campus.

Members also carried their activism



Officers of WSSA

off campus and conducted a workshop at the L.A. Social Forum this summer called *It Takes A Village to Rape a Woman*. This workshop discussed the concept of “Rape Culture” and reframed violence against women as a men’s issue. WSSA also supported events put on by allied groups such as F.O.R.C.E.’s Take Back the Night.

This coming year, the group plans several film events, including an action against “Cherry Bust,” a yearly event thrown by the Long Beach Chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity

FRIENDS?

Are you a Friend of Women’s Studies? This organization of CSULB alumni and community feminists is in the process of being revitalized. If you are interested in being involved, please contact Lana Haddad, at lottsoflove@sbcglobal.net.