Women’s Studies had another great year at K-State! We continue to grow in numbers of both majors and minors, and we are very excited to have added a new faculty member this year: Tushabe brings us expertise in African feminist and queer theory as well as US Women of Color feminisms. Her expertise will be showcased in a course this coming spring on African Feminisms.

We continue, as a program, to develop collaborations and conduct research that connects K-State and Manhattan with the broader world. This year was one of travel and return for our program. Both Angela Hubler and Shireen Roshanravan were on leave, and we are delighted to have them back in residence and teaching this semester. Valerie Carroll and I travelled to India to continue forming a collaboration with Osmania University and Navdanya Farm Collective. Gabriela Díaz de Sabatés has been part of an international search team that received a major grant from the nation of Spain to study the feminization of migration and human rights.

In addition to these international activities, we are also involved in community work within the US. Torry Dickinson continues her educational reform project with her colleague Rainelle Burton in Detroit, where they are proposing a pilot program for an alternative community education center. Shireen Roshanravan continues her popular education work supporting the rural New Mexico community of Valdez. Gabriela Díaz de Sabatés and I have received a grant from the Kansas Humanities Council as part of the Kansas Sesquecentennial celebrations to chronicle and showcase the multicultural histories of Kansas and the volunteer and family historians who preserve them.

These activities enrich our lives as scholars, connect our program to communities beyond the academy, and deepen the courses we offer our students. We welcome you to come back to visit, attend a class, join us for a lecture, or just drop by for a chat!

--Michele Janette
Valerie Carroll wins NEH

Dr. Valerie Carroll spent her summer as a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute Scholar in Flagstaff, Arizona. Carroll was among only 25 scholars chosen from universities across the United States to participate in investigating the important role the humanities play in helping us understand sustainability, a topic that is all too often framed in technical terms only. Scholars in the Institute, “Rethinking the Land Ethic,” explored the conceptual background and contemporary thinking about sustainability by focusing on its historical development, literary and cultural contributions, religious dimensions, and philosophical and ethical aspects.

Carroll is applying her Institute experience to development of her class, “Gender, Environment, and Justice” (WOMST 480), which she will teach again in Spring 2012. This course offers students the chance to explore the interconnections between human sustainability and environmental sustainability.

Michele Janette and Gabriela Díaz de Sabatés win Kansas Humanities Council Grant

In collaboration with Dr. Sue Zschoche and Dr. MJ Morgan of the History Department, Dr. Michele Janette and Ms. Gabriela Díaz de Sabatés are making a film about multicultural Kansas history.

The film, entitled She Told Me Stories, showcases the diverse experiences of migrating to or within Kansas, finding work, facing discrimination, maintaining language and cultural traditions, and preserving the stories of all these experiences through writings, artwork, curatorial work, and the passing on of family stories. With the involvement of many KSU students, the project staff has interviewed women in a variety of Kansas locations, including Garden City, Topeka, Alma, Nicodemus, Manhattan, and the Kickapoo Nation.

The goal of the film is twofold: first to share the experiences of living in Kansas among our various communities; the second to honor the work of unofficial historians – historical society volunteers, cultural center organizers, community elders, family chroniclers, self-published historians – most of whom tend to be women. This documentary film project won a substantial grant to underwrite its creation from The Kansas Humanities Council. This council supports projects that connect the work of university Humanities scholars with the general public. This project acknowledges that everyone is a historian, by publicizing and sharing the historical preservation work of those usually outside the academy.

The film will be shown in various Kansas towns in Spring 2012. Watch our website for details of date and location!
“Staying Home While Studying Abroad: Anti-Imperial Praxis for Globalizing Feminist Visions” which is currently under review and “Feminism and Decolonization: A Plurilogue with Mohanty, Alexander and Lugones” which I will present at the upcoming Annual Caribbean Philosophical Association at Rutgers University at the end of September. I also co-edited, with Vijayasree Chaganti of Osmania University, a Comparative Perspectives Symposium for the feminist journal, Signs, which focuses on methodological questions of cross-cultural feminist scholarship from the perspectives of those situated intellectually and geopolitically outside the Euro-America and Western Europe. The symposium, slated for publication in the Spring of 2013, will feature feminist scholar-activists from a range of cultural, ethnic, and geopolitical backgrounds, including Russia, Malaysia, Uganda, Mexico, and Brazil. Finally, I was able to advance my book project, Traitors of Tradition: Colonial Mimicry and

Advisory Board Lecture Series and Scholarship

The Women’s Studies Advisory Board hosted two dinners followed by lectures as part of the Women’s Studies Advisory Board Lecture Series. In November of 2010, Faye Davis talked about her career journey in “A Woman’s Professional Journey in a Man’s Realm.” Davis recently accepted a new position at Bank of America as Senior Vice President Property; Executive Global Work Place and Security. Davis persuasively illustrated the barriers that continue to confront women in business, and encouraged women to mentor one another in the work environment. K-State alumna Kristy Parker visited in October and talked about her law career in “Kristy Parker, for the United States”: Behind the Scenes at the US Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division. Parker’s narration of cases in which she’s defended the civil rights guaranteed in the US Constitution, especially for those who are often denied those rights by virtue of their race, class, and sex, was inspiring.

In spring 2011, thanks to a successful fundraising campaign led by the Advisory Board, we awarded our first Women’s Studies Advisory Board Endowed Scholarship for Academic Excellence in Women’s Studies to Chrischelle Borhani, the outstanding junior women’s studies major. Borhani, who is double majoring in modern languages, is from Manhattan. She is an excellent student, and has been invited to join Phi Beta Kappa, the national honorary society. Her reaction to receiving the Women’s Studies scholarship can only be called ecstatic. In thanking those who were able to attend our fall event at which Kristy Parker spoke, Chrischelle remarked that knowing that over fifty people contributed to establish this scholarship meant a great deal to her as it indicates that people outside the department support the project of Women’s Studies. And, of course, she was extremely grateful for the money itself! Chrischelle’s scholarship, which is now helping to fund her senior year, was for five hundred dollars. The Advisory Board is continuing their fundraising effort in order to enhance the value of this scholarship in years to come. We invite you to make a gift to the Endowed Scholarship Fund in order to make this possible.
New Faculty Profile: Dr Tushabe

We are delighted to welcome to KSU our newest Women’s Studies faculty member: Dr. Tushabe.

Tushabe comes to KSU from the University of California, Riverside where she taught courses in Critical Queer Politics, Feminism in Postcolonial Africa, Identity Formation in Modern Africa, Gender Performance, and Violence against Women in a Global Perspective. She holds a doctorate in Philosophy, Interpretation, and Culture with a graduate certificate in Feminist Theory from the State University of New York, Binghamton, an MA in Women’s Studies (Texas Woman’s University), and a BA in Philosophy (Saint Mary’s College), as well as diplomas from Ndeeba Social and Pastoral Institute (Uganda) and from the Philosophy Center in Jinja (Uganda) in African Philosophy and Traditional Religions.

Tushabe is currently at work on a book manuscript tentatively titled *Identified Out of Existence: Negotiating the Self in Post‐colonial Paradox and the Parameters of Global Sexual Identities*. The book draws on feminist theories of gender, sex, and self to analyze how postcolonial and queer theories silence the indigenous knowledge of colonized peoples of Africa. In particular, her work appreciates and analyzes the complexities of everyday contradictions produced by colonial and communal practices of forgetting and remembering.


Dr. Tushabe has received many awards and fellowships, including the Audre Lorde Scholarship which recognizes scholars making significant contributions in relation to LGBT justice and community work as well as the Mellon-funded Future of Minority Studies fellowship at Syracuse University and Cornell University where she studied with leading race and sexuality scholars M. Jacqui Alexander and Minnie Bruce Pratt.

CONGRATULATIONS 2010-2011 WOMEN’S STUDIES GRADUATES!

**MAJOR**
- William Carmen
- Mark Grady
- Dominic Krekowski
- Mariana Mancera
- Andrea Parrish
- Melissa Posey
- Meg Rosen
- Adrienne Struble
- Heather Woods

**MINOR**
- Lizbeth Alcantara
- Lindsay Beardall
- Jessica Blasi
- Kari Buehler
- Andrea Conrad
- Janell Friesen
- Ashley Garren
- Chandra Griffith
- Lidia Jaquez
- Dutch McSpadden
- Mindy Peek
- Zack Pistora
- Erica Ring
- Dahnika Sachs
- Cynthia Sanders
- Michele Schaller
- Autumn Scoggan
- Abigail Shanahan
- Brittany Smith

**GRADUATE CERTIFICATE**
- Andrea Button
- Sofia Pablo-Hoshino
- Christy Pottroff
- Nicholas Sessions
- Mariya Vaughan
Alumni News

Saylor Burgess recently moved back to KS where she teaches Dance and works as a bookkeeper for a construction company. She is studying for the GRE so she can get her Masters’ in Women’s Studies and Dance one day soon!!

Megan Challender and Sakinda (Walker) Skinner are in law school at the UDC David A. Clarke School of Law. Both served as teaching assistance for Contracts. Megan interned last year with Survivors and Advocates for Empowerment (SAFE), an organization which operated the Domestic Violence Intake Center at DC Superior Court. This fall, Megan is an intern with the legal team at Break the Cycle, an organization that works exclusively with survivors of intimate partner violence between the ages of 12-24. Last summer Sakinda worked with the Public Defenders’ office of Maryland-Annapolis.

Vicki Choitz is Senior Policy Analyst at the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) in Washington, DC. Her current activities: advocating to ensure that low-income nontraditional students, especially lower-skilled adults, have access to student aid and supports to earn postsecondary credentials so they can gain family-sustaining jobs.

Amanda Finder and Emily Mattingly presented papers at the 2010 National Women’s Studies Association Conference.

Erin Downey Howerton finished her MA at KSU in 2003; then went into the library field. She completed her MLIS from Florida State in 2007. Recently, she chaired the 2011 Printz Award committee through ALA/YALSA. In summer 2011, she moved to Chicago & became a program manager at the Urban Libraries Council where she is working on the Learning Labs in Libraries & Museums grant funded by IMLS & the MacArthur Foundation.

Caroline Jones graduated in May 2011 with a Master’s degree in Anthropology and International Human Rights and Diversity from the University of Nebraska Lincoln. She is currently living and working in Lincoln but keeping her options open by looking to further her career with a great organization.

Joelle (Mausolf) Keller married an Army Officer in 2001, and in April 2010 joined the Army herself and went through basic training. After completing Officer Candidate School at Ft. Benning GA, she will be headed to Garmisch, Germany in April.

Sandra “Sam” Robinson completed her Women’s Studies graduate certificate in 2006 while completing her M.S. in Mass Communication. She is currently a PhD student at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, beginning her third year in the Mass Communication and Media Arts college. Her research addresses critical discourse in rural media in regards to agriculture, and the roles of women and minorities in rural media.

Shannon Toll has finished her first year working towards her doctorate the University of Oklahoma, studying Native American Literature. She recently organized a conference entitled “Savagism and Civilization.”

Send us your news!

Email: womst@ksu.edu

Online:
www.ksu.edu/womst/alumni/update.html

Summer Lewis is down under! She is Rotary Peace Fellow working on her master’s in International Studies, Peace and Conflict Resolution at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia, which she will complete in June 2012. This past winter break (summer in Kansas) she traveled around Oz and got to experience Uluru (the big red rock), the Great Barrier Reef, the Sydney Opera House, and Melbourne’s “4 seasons in one day.” Keep up with Summer on her blog: A Kansan in Oz:
http://akansandownunder.blogspot.com/

Rachel Olsen received her graduate certificate in Women’s Studies in the spring of 2008 (she earned an MA in English & Cultural Studies). After graduation, she taught in K-State’s English Language Program until July 2010. She then took a position supervising the Communications Lab and World Languages and Cultures Center (WLCC) at Oklahoma City Community College. The Communications lab functions as the college’s writing center, and they conduct about 3,000 tutoring sessions per semester. The WLCC
Alumni News, continued:

Rachel Olsen, continued: offers foreign language resources and tutoring. She currently supervises 17 lab assistants, tutors, and work study employees, and oversees program development for both labs. She married fellow feminist and 2009 English Department MA Jarrod McCartney in March.

Ciara Warden completed her Master of Social Work program at the University of Kansas this May. She has now moved back to the Omaha, Nebraska area working at Jennie Edmundson Hospital as a medical social worker on their psychiatric unit and as a Remedial Skills Worker at Choices Counseling.

Heather Woods began graduate work in rhetoric at Baylor University in fall 2011, teaching public speaking as a graduate teaching assistant. She is also a coach for the Glenn R. Capp Debate Forum at Baylor University. In addition to her studies and teaching, she will travel around the country assisting students in affirming and negating a resolution based on increasing democracy assistance to the Middle East and North Africa.

SPRING EVENTS:

Susan Bordo, “The Creation of Anne Boleyn”
March 8, 5:30 pm, Alumni Center
As part of Women’s History Month, Prof. Bordo will examine the way that Anne Boleyn has been understood and represented during the centuries since her lifetime. (rescheduled from Spring 2010)

Minh Nguyen, “Youth Leadership and Community Activism: Lessons from Katrina”
Feb 9, 4:00, Leadership Studies Building
Minh Nguyen is a first generation Vietnamese American, and a member of the Vietnamese refugee community that formed on the outskirts of New Orleans after the Vietnam War. Not only was this community devastated by Katrina, but in the aftermath of the hurricane, New Orleans officials approved a fast track set-up of a landfill to dump all the ruined household goods and building materials in his neighborhood – despite the fact that the landfill would be immediately next to a wetlands reserve and to canals that the community farmed as a major foodsource. The community organized, fought back, and won, in a story that united generations, races, and classes. Minh was one of the youth leaders of the campaign to stop the landfill, and has since founded a permanent Youth Leadership Association to address the needs of his community. He will visit KSU to talk both about how to mobilize in response to an emergency, and also about how to sustain local activism and grassroots commitment.

Torry Dickinson receives Distinguished Professor Award

In May 2011, the undergraduate student Ambassadors for Women’s Studies inaugurated a new award, to be given each year to a faculty member chosen by the Ambassadors. This award recognizes the outstanding mentoring, teaching, and dedication of that faculty member.

The first recipient of this honor was Prof. Torry Dickinson, pictured above receiving the award from Ambassador (and first-ever scholarship winner) Chrischelle Borhani.
We are saddened to convey the news of the death of Melissa Divine, former women's studies faculty member, passionate feminist, and inspiring teacher. Melissa died of complications related to her chronic illness on February 20, 2011 at age 42.

Melissa received her BA in Psychology from Kansas State University, and after graduation worked at the Crisis Center in Manhattan. She returned to K-State to earn an MA in English Literature and the first graduate certificate in Women’s Studies awarded by the university. She began teaching for the Women’s Studies Program as a graduate teaching assistant, and went on to teach as an instructor for more than ten years in Women's Studies. During this time she developed and taught courses on Women and Health, Women and Violence, and Women and Popular Culture, as well as Introduction to Women’s Studies.

Melissa was a gifted public speaker and teacher. Many of her students credit her with profoundly influencing them. The enthusiasm that she ignited in her students led them to form a feminist student organization, Ordinary Women, with Melissa’s support as faculty advisor. While a faculty member, Melissa also provided critical support to students and others who were victims of sexual and domestic violence. After leaving K-State, Melissa continued to work to prevent violence against women and children as a contract specialist at Ft. Riley Army Base.

Melissa is survived by two sons: Ethan Divine, of Liberty, MO and Connor Divine, of Manhattan, KS; life partner: Michael T.T. Leonard; and life long friends: Clint Strutt and Max Divine; and two sisters: Becky Goss and Angie Crowell, both of McPherson, KS.

In honor of Melissa’s love of popular culture and feminism, Women’s Studies faculty members recommend the following books, blogs, shows and films:

- **TV: Parks & Rec.** Hopefully, they’ll continue the thread where Andy takes Intro to Women’s Studies!
- **Blog: Casaubon’s Book:** [www.scienceblogs.com/casaubonsbook](http://www.scienceblogs.com/casaubonsbook) by Sharon Astyk. Astyk is a writer, farmer, and feminist who blogs about climate change, energy issues, sustainable living, and economic and environmental justice.
- **Film: Margin Call.** Focuses on the recent shenanigans on Wall Street
- **Film: Frozen River.** Another powerful movie that takes as its theme the recent economic crisis, but here, representing the impact on working class women.

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**WOMEN OF COLOR FILM SERIES**

*Monsoon Wedding*

Dir. Maira Nair

Date: March 13

Time: 4:30 pm

Location: Leasure 13
This year, Women’s Studies offered our first annual scholarship award for Academic Excellence in the field of Women’s Studies. This award goes to an outstanding undergraduate student with Junior standing, to support study in the final year of college. Our first recipient was Chrischelle Borhani.

We were delighted to be able to offer one $500 scholarship this year. We would LOVE to be able to increase that scholarship, and hope to be able to offer more than one scholarship in the future. Given rising costs of education, this would be a wonderful time to consider supporting this scholarship, either by contacting our development officer, Tracy Robinson, tracyr@found.ksu.edu, 785 532-7568, or contributing directly online at www.found.ksu.edu/womstscholars.

Valued Alumni
Manhattan and Elsewhere