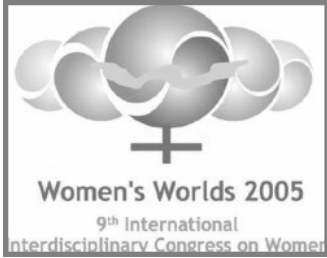


	<h1>Women's Studies News</h1>	COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES & SCIENCES
	Volume 8, Issue 1 Spring 2005	



**VCU GROUP TO ATTEND
WOMEN'S WORLDS 2005
IN SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA**

A VCU group of seventeen students and faculty members (Drs. Diana Scully and Angelina Overvold) will travel to Asia in June to attend the 9th International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women, Women's Worlds 2005, hosted by Ewha Women's University in Seoul, South Korea. According to conference organizers, "WW05 is organized around the theme 'Embracing the Earth: East-West/North-South.' This theme provides an excellent opportunity for reflection on a broad range of topics. These include changes in the traditional boundaries of East-West/North-South and how women's lives are interwoven, as well as separated, by the increasing economic disparity between North and South or the contesting values of East and West." Students, who will take the trip for Women's Studies Study Abroad credit, will choose from some

(Continued on page 6)

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Diana Scully, Director

It is my pleasure to once again write this column as Director of the VCU Women's Studies Program. Those of you who have been around since the beginning will probably find it difficult to believe that the Women's Studies Program will be celebrating its 15th anniversary next year. Look for an announcement of a celebration! The faculty has taken this milestone as an opportunity to examine past accomplishments, assess current needs and ambitions, and develop a strategic plan that will guide the program for the next several years.

In 1989, only 6 six courses in the entire university focused on women and/or gender. From those beginnings, interest in women's studies at VCU has mirrored the national picture, and some 30 courses or cross-listed courses now are offered on a regular basis. From a single joint-appointed faculty member at the start (me), Women's Studies now has a core faculty that consists of four joint-appointments and an interdisciplinary Affiliate Faculty of some 17 professors who have appointments primarily in the College of Humanities and Sciences. Student interest in Women's Studies continues to grow. Over 1,000 students take women's studies courses and upper division cross-listed courses annually, and currently, the Women's Studies Program has 41 students in its major track in the Interdisciplinary Studies Program with many more who are minors.

Despite its growth, the Women's Studies Program does lag behind other Women's Studies Programs at VCU's Peer institutions. Of VCU's 24 peer institutions, 79% (n=19) offer an independent major, and 79% (n=19) offer a graduate concentration or degree including an MA at the University of Cincinnati and the University of Arizona, and a Ph.D. at the University of Iowa. Likewise, within the Commonwealth of Virginia, the University of Virginia, Old Dominion University and College of William and Mary among others have independent majors in Women's Studies.

With these strengths and needs in mind, and particularly in consideration of VCU's "2020 Vision for Excellence," the Women's Studies Program has developed a strategic plan which includes developing new areas of specialization that we believe will guide the Program's growth over the next several years as well as to make a major contribution to the University's mission. It is too early to provide the details here but you can expect to read more about it in next year's *Women's Studies News*.

This year marks the retirement of two of Women's Studies most dedicated supporters. Dr. Marguerite Harkness and Dr. Bo Berry have served on the Women's Studies Advisory Committee almost since the beginning of the Program. Both are affiliate faculty members in Women's Studies as well as professors in the Department

(Continued on page 5)

**LONG-TIME WOMEN'S STUDIES ADVISORY
COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND AFFILIATE
FACULTY RETIRE THIS JUNE**

BY MELINDA JOHNSON

MARGUERITE HARKNESS

Dr. Marguerite Harkness knew very young about the big world. When she was just nine, she begged her mother to cut her hair short like a boy's because boys could "do more." In graduate school, she waited outside an academic office with another female student for the posting of assistantships when the program director, a man, sent them away. "He said to us, 'Why don't you two girls get married and leave the assistantships for the men?'" Any illusions she had that the world was waking up were gone. "It was astonishing to me that this man in power wasn't even embarrassed to say that in 1969."

When Dr. Harkness joined the English department at VCU, there was no course in women's literature. She and Ann Woodlief created a course

(Continued on page 6)

BOYD BERRY

After thirty-one years as a professor at VCU, Dr. Boyd Berry is packing up his books. He built the bookcases in his office, something he taught himself to do in college. "You just need two walls to buttress the two ends," he says, "and then some boards to span between and hold the ends against the wall."

When Dr. Berry arrived at VCU from Indiana University in 1974, there were no courses in women's literature. The bookcases in his office, however, were holding more and more books by and about women. Sometime around 1985, Dr. Berry began developing a course in 16th and 17th century women writers. His interest and scholarship in

(Continued on page 3)

WOMEN IN KOREA AND JAPAN STRUGGLE FOR EQUALITY

by Melinda Johnson

Women in South Korea and Japan struggle to define the feminist movement within their own Confucian-based cultures. While the issues and barriers women face in these countries are similar to those faced by women in the United States, Japanese and Korean cultural ideologies, which value conformity and denounce confrontation, tend to constrict opportunities for change. Organizing to revise patriarchal laws often goes against Confucian teaching that man is the seed and “woman is merely the field that allows the seed to grow into a man.” Resultant gender-defined roles *sanctify* woman as mother and nurturer. These “traditional roles” have proved an impediment to working women in both countries, where husbands contribute little to running a household or caring for children. The result is that women have traditionally left the workforce during childbearing years to return later in life once children have grown, which has led to reluctance on the part of most companies to place women on the management track, thus creating a gender-based division of labor throughout both countries. Equality may exist in legislation, according to scholars, but not in practice. Despite passage of the non-punitive Equal Employment Opportunity Law in 1985, division of labor and wages along gender lines is pervasive in Japan where cultural and business practices perpetuate discrimination against women. While it has been praised for its sensitivity to Japanese business culture, the very “sensitivity” of the EEO is the primary culprit in its ineffectiveness. Because companies presumably hire an employee for life, few are willing to invest in women who cannot put in the long hours and tend to leave the labor market while raising children.

The importance of family and of woman’s perceived role as mother has been an impediment to the progression of women’s rights in much of Asia, as it has in the U.S. and around the world. Because many believe that a woman’s role is to give birth and nurture a family; those who refuse to follow the traditional path toward motherhood are criticized. Japan’s former prime minister, Yoshiro Mori, stated publicly that government pensions are a “reward” for women who have children. “It is truly strange,” Mori claimed, “that we have to use tax money to take care of women who don’t even give birth once, who grow old living their lives selfishly and singing the praises of freedom.”

What is the response from the women of Japan? More selfish behavior. In increasing numbers, Japanese women are “singing the praises of freedom,” waiting longer to get married and even longer to give birth, sometimes choosing not to assume the traditional role at all. Though only two-thirds of female college graduates in Japan and half in Korea are employed, women now

(Continued on page 3)

GENDER AND ETHNIC CONFLICT

by Dr. Deirdre Condit

Once again, VCU Women’s Studies “went wandering” in search of new insights and information about women in the global environment, when faculty and students took to the road on March 3rd, heading to the Duke University Women’s Studies Symposium on “Gender and Ethnic Conflict.” In attendance at the two-day event were twelve students and three faculty members.

As one VCU student, Joyce Parkey, commented in amazement afterward, “Never before have I gathered together with so many women (and men) to listen to (only) female scholars speak on a topic relevant to women in the world today!”

The VCU group made the over-night trek to learn about gender and global conflict issues from renowned scholars. Their areas of research included the Middle East, the African continent and Guatemala. As promised by the Symposium’s organizers, attendees heard presentations about “the disproportionate victimization of women and children,” and about “women as agents who both incite ethnic war and take a lead role in facilitating reconciliation after ethnic strife.” Symposium speakers included such noted experts as Rela Mazali, whose work examines the impact of militarization on women and children in Israel, and Hillary Rantisi, an expert on the impact of war on Palestinian women and children, from the John F. Kennedy School of government at Harvard.

Keynote Speaker, Cynthia Enloe, thrilled many members of the VCU contingent with her presentation on the masculinizing effects of the growing, global small-arms trade. Her smooth, easy speaking style underscored her disturbing thesis that the United States is seriously implicated in efforts to foster rather than curtail the sale of a variety of small arms around the world. A noted political scientist and renowned expert on global militarization and gender, Enloe argued that U.S. domestic politics, dancing to the lobbying tune of the National Right to Life Association, has had a powerful, negative impact on international efforts to slow gun sales globally. Enloe further thrilled VCU students by meeting with them privately during the reception that followed her address.♀

VCU Women’s Studies Program
1000 West Franklin St.
Box 843060
Richmond, VA 23284

Dr. Diana Scully,
Professor and Director
804-828-4041
dhscully@vcu.edu

Dr. Deirdre Condit
Associate Professor
804-827-8592
dcondit@vcu.edu

Dr. Janet Winston
Assistant Professor
804-828-1331
jmwinsto@vcu.edu

Ms. Rose Landrum Lee
Instructor
804-828-1384
rmlandrumlee@vcu.edu

Ms. Melinda Johnson
Program Assistant
804-828-6710
johnsonml2@vcu.edu



Krissi Vandenberg admires a baby present at a shower given by her Sociology of Women Graduate Seminar last fall. Baby Arrow Holden Vandenbergheimer was born December 7, 2004. CONGRATULATIONS, KRISSI!

DEBBIE MOORE JOINS WOMEN'S STUDIES FACULTY

By Melinda Johnson

In August 2001, Debbie Moore returned to college after more than a twenty-year hiatus. Two years later, she was a recipient of the "Black History in the Making Award for Women's Studies" and, in the spring of 2003, became the first African-American graduate of the Women's Studies major. Currently enrolled in the masters program of VCU's School of Social Work, Debbie signed on this semester as graduate teaching assistant for Dr. Deirdre Condit. This coming fall, after her August graduation from the masters program, she will make the transition to adjunct faculty member in Women's Studies. "I actually took my first women's studies course because of a mistake," Debbie says, smiling as



"I've learned so much about myself as a woman."

she tells of her first semester back in school, when she sat through the first day of Deirdre Condit's feminist theory course believing she was in a French class. "I was in the wrong room." Wrong room, but right place. She enrolled in the course after the first lecture and hasn't looked back. Women's studies, Debbie says, has changed her life. "I've learned so much about myself as a woman." It is a gift she wishes to repay. For that reason, she is



DEBBIE MOORE

excited about teaching for the program in which she was once a student "There is still so much work to be done. So many don't recognize that there are still barriers based on gender as well as race. The struggle isn't over. In social work, I have the opportunity to effect change in people's lives on an individual, personal basis; teaching I can reach so many more." She hopes to open the eyes of those blind to the need for change, especially

women, too many of whom, Debbie says, still believe they need a man in order to be fulfilled. "I was one of those people," she says. "But you don't need another person to complete you. Not emotionally, not spiritually, not physically. You can't imagine the things you can do once you realize an MSW is worth far more than an MRS." Debbie Moore never imagined, her first day of school, waiting for Dr. Condit to start speaking French, that she would one day be standing in front of a class. "The last four years have been a fantastic voyage, and now as I transform from student to instructor, one

journey ends and another begins." Not only will 2005 be the year in which Debbie finishes her Master of Social Work, but she also turns fifty. "Fifty isn't fatal," she says. "In fact, fifty is now the 'new 40.' So if life begins at forty then, as Oprah says, 'Fifty is when you finally become the person you were always meant to be.' If that is true then finally I am free to be me!" ♀

WOMEN IN KOREA AND JAPAN

(Continued from page 2)

make up nearly half the workforce, with greater opportunities for promotion in the service industries. Recent polls indicate that most Korean women see childcare as the biggest obstacle to employment. Both Korea and Japan have seen a rise in the number of financially independent women in recent years as women are putting education, career and other fulfillment before family life, no longer defining themselves in terms of their children. According to scholars and public officials, this is leading to a possible population crisis for Japan where the birth rate is on the decline. Some have even described the low birth rate in each country (1.17 in Korea and 1.32 in Japan compared to the U.S. - 2.01) as a "birth strike."

If the refusal to fulfill their societally-determined role is a form of "silent protest" by women, plenty of noise is being made at women's universities and by grassroots women's organizations in both countries.

Though corporate Japan is less hospitable to working mothers than the U.S., child-care services exist, and the downward population trend has forced the creation of a government council considering mother-friendly flextime systems and child-care services as a remedy. Women's groups have urged more women to seek public office, fought against sexual harassment in the workplace, and helped to initiate the EEO, despite its downfalls.

Japanese feminists have been critical of their place of privilege in regards to South Korean women, especially the marginalized

(Continued on page 7)

WOMEN'S STUDIES NEWS

DR. BOYD BERRY

(Continued from page 1)

female authors of the Renaissance has led to several grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, among others, and to service in the "Colloquium on Women in the Renaissance" at the Folger Shakespeare Library and the Renaissance Women Online, where he served on a committee to choose 100 woman-authored texts to appear in an online collection.

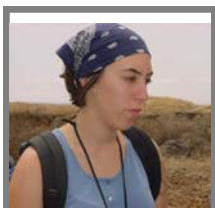
Female authors, he says, "are having more impact theoretically." He adds, "Discussions by women are often more accessible to general readers." That isn't to say women's writing is less complex, but like the bookcase in Dr. Berry's office, the construction is streamlined. The shelves hold just as many books (ideas), but the processes of displaying and retrieving them are less complicated and unencumbered of the need for specialized tools. "The thing about a Women's Studies course," he says, leaning back in his office chair, "is that it gets some people thinking, whether they like it or not."

Getting people thinking is something Dr. Berry will never stop doing, not even in retirement. "I'm looking for one good course to teach," he says, when asked about his plans after the semester's end. "And I'd like to spend some time getting to know Richmond." A thing he says he hasn't done enough of in his thirty years here. Judging by the stacks of books left in Dr. Berry's office, he'll need to build another bookcase or two when he takes them all home at the end of the semester. ♀



Dr. Berry

WOMEN'S STUDIES ALUMNA IN UGANDA



Kelly Showker
in Africa, 2002

Kelly Showker was one of a VCU group of twenty-four that attended Women's Worlds 2002 at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. It is not an exaggeration to say that Kelly fell in love with Uganda and, after meeting Margaret, head of the Mothers' Union in Kampala, Kelly vowed to return to Uganda where she would work with a number of agencies involved in providing services for women and children. In July, 2004, after graduating with a major in Women's Studies, Kelly made good on her promise and returned to Uganda. About her time there Kelly states, "*My experience in Uganda has surpassed my wildest dreams and taught me lessons I never expected to learn, about myself, life in general, and about Ugandans and Ugandan culture.*" The Women's Studies Program is very proud of Kelly Showker and has kept up with her work through her BLOG which is excerpted below.—*Diana Scully*

27th August, 2004. 2:55 pm. Finally

Alright I made it safe and sound!!!! . . . I saw a lake so full of pink flamingos that at first from a distance I thought it was a field full of flowers. I also saw Zebras and Thompson gazelle along the way, crossed over the Nile River and stopped at the same market I went to before near Jinja near the entrance to the monkey rain forest. Kampala is nuts, even more crazy/busy/super-crowded than I remember . . .

6th September, 2004. 3:57 pm. introduction ceremonies

So we have started working in the mother's care center in Masajja. We mostly help the students with reading but also with math skills and help them put together puzzles and such, play games etc. . . . This weekend was very very special because we were privileged enough to be able to attend Margaret's niece's introduction ceremony. This is a huge ceremony with many parts that comes before a wedding in which the bride's family and the groom's family meet each other, and the groom's family pays the bride price in a LAVISH exchange. By the end, the bride's family had received essentially an entire grocery store, carried in on the heads of all the women on the groom's side, new traditional dresses, or gomases for all the women in the family (over 30), a live cow, a live goat, and a chicken . . .

25th September, 2004. 6:57 pm. Finally

I have been staying busy. The kids at the resource center love us - two even wrote us thank you letters in envelopes filled with pineapple candy. Now I am still doing computer training with people. I even traveled to a woman's home deep off the main road with the portable computer to train her while she sat with her young twin boys. . . I also got to attend the launching of a bill on women's rights to parliament in Kampala called the domestic relations bill. It was sponsored by Uganda Women's Network . . .

9th November, 2004. 4:09 am. Service

I decided it was time to post some more service oriented news. I have finished doing the Mother's Union brochure, which is going to print in the coming week. Also some brochures I designed for Horizon College Masajja, the school Margaret's son is starting, which are in print this week. College here means middle school back home. The school is a very good thing because the area is devoid of secondary schools; the closest one is too far and too small, so the majority of kids in the area at that age aren't in school even if they could afford it. School fees here are only about \$40 per semester for secondary school, but that is a tremendous amount of money for most families.

20th November, 2004. 9:44 am. Rwanda-Ghost country

Yes, I am in Rwanda! I have wanted to come to this unfortunate little country of hills and terraced farms ever since I read "We regret to inform you that tomorrow you will be killed with your families." . . .

. . . I am being a morbid geek, hanging out in the capital and going around to the major massacre sights around town and to the genocide memorial. Today I am going to the church where hundreds of Tutsis were killed and the bodies never removed, but left as a reminder. I feel very strange being here, but I really wanted to come. The people now are lovely, very friendly. I love having my broken French conversations with them, so many smiles . . .

29th November, 2004. 12:06 pm. lovin' it all

Ok so one of my lessons got cancelled today due to illness. So I have a little bit of time to kill. I thought I would give you all some more information about what I am doing and the different women's community groups who I am giving computer training to. I meet with each group twice a week, but four times with the Office of Disabled Women and Development (DIWODE) because I have more students. In addition, I give training to the Creative Women's Development Association, the Christian Women's Concern- Muyenga orphan project (CWC), The Mother's Union, the Women and Children's Crisis Center (WCC) and the Bukoto Women's Group. . . The computer training is as much about learning a practical skill as it is about empowerment. The women I work with are gaining so much confidence as they watch themselves progress.

13th December, 2004. 3:55 pm. Africa's First Women's Radio

Today it was my great pleasure to pay a visit to Africa's first women's radio station! Mama FM! This is Kampala's self described feminist radio station and actually quite a popular station. They broadcast shows talking about women's rights, FGM, domestic violence, AIDS/HIV, bills going to congress pertaining to women, talk shows on sexuality, contraception and reproductive health issues, rural issues and stories and interviews with women refugees, victims of sexual assault and war, etc. They also play some music and have days where anyone in the community is invited to come speak and debate on a topic.

17th February, 2005. 5:45 pm. I'm angry right this second

This afternoon hit me like a bus. I went and video taped more of the projects of DIWODE's members, this time in arguably the worst slum area in Kampala, Kisenyi. We also visited members who all had polio, many with polio and HIV, who had been given a certain area by the KCC (Kampala City Council) to set up stalls and stands to sell things like cigarettes, watches, batteries, toothpaste, towels, congas, crafts etc.. Ivan, who was able to come, was very moved by the conditions that these women and men were living and working in, as well as their personal stories. I was as well, especially upon hearing how common it was for the women who can't walk because of the polio to be raped as they are crawling home on their hands and knees to get back to Kisenyi from the new park. Thus the high HIV/AIDS rate and the high number of dependants, many of whom are the result of rape and have no known fathers. I'm sorry to be so graphic but I guess I'm pissed off today.



VOICES FOR PLANNED PARENTHOOD

Voices for Planned Parenthood (VOX), the only pro-choice organization on campus, meets every other Wednesday from 7:30-8:30pm in the Commons, upstairs with all the couches and chairs (where space is not an issue).

This semester, on April 5th, we hosted our first ever “**Sextravaganza!**” where fellow students played games to learn about safe-sex and reproductive rights issues and ate great food as they mingled. We gave away various door prizes such as a \$25 gift card for Ukrop’s, a gift card each from Taboo and Priscilla’s, a VOX t-shirt and a movie, both donated by Planned Parenthood.

Other activities this semester included tabling on Valentine’s Day where we gave out 100 bags of “Condoms and Candy.” We also tabled on March 8th for “International Women’s Day” and March 22nd for “Back up Your Birth Control Day,” giving away even more condoms along with information about emergency contraception. We will be tabling on April 20 in coordination with SAVES, which will have events going on throughout the day, including the Clothes Line Project.

We have great plans for the fall semester including a Vox Rox concert and family planning panel where various speakers will be discussing the importance of positive family planning for all women. This will be taking the umbrella of choice and expanding it to include a larger range of issues.

Our next formal meeting will be April 27 in Commonwealth Ballroom B from 7:30-8:30. Please come if you can! If you are interested in joining and/or helping us out in the coming months, send an email: vcuvox@yahoo.com. We’ll be glad to have you! ♀

(Continued from page 1)

ment of English. Over the years, Dr. Harkness has introduced hundreds of students to the intellectually satisfying challenge of critical and analytical reading of the novel through her courses on Women in Literature and Women Writers. On the Advisory Committee, Dr. Harkness was always the voice of reason and knew better than any of us how universities work. I will always be grateful for her insight, judgment and friendship. Dr. Berry’s love of Renaissance literature led to teaching about Women in the Renaissance, a course that did what he loved to do, make students think. Dr. Berry was not only a member of the Women’s Studies Advisory, but he also served as the Women’s Studies representative to the College Undergraduate Academic Committee for many years, a very time-consuming committee assignment. In particular, I will miss his careful editing of my reports! I wish Marguerite and Bo much happiness as they begin a new phase.

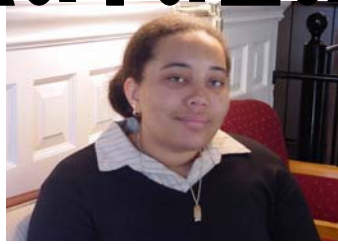
I am delighted to announce that Debbie Moore will join the Women’s Studies faculty in the fall, teaching Introduction to Women’s Studies. Debbie graduated with a Women’s Studies major in 2003 and she will complete a Masters Degree in Social Work this Spring. It is so rewarding to have one of our own students return as an instructor.

As June draws near, excitement mounts for the seventeen of us traveling to Women’s Worlds 2005 and South Korea and Japan this summer. I know we will have a fantastic experience. But first, we have to learn proper chopstick etiquette!

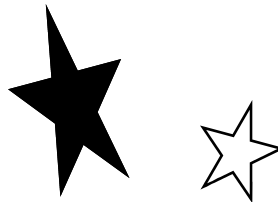
Finally, I want to thank Melinda Johnson, the new Women’s Studies Office Assistant, for all of her work on this newsletter. Her creativity and intelligent writing and reporting are evident throughout. ♀

CONGRATULATIONS!

Black History in the Making Women’s Studies Award Winner



NATALIE WALKER



EVRIM M DOGU

College of Humanities and Sciences Outstanding Women’s Studies Student Award Recipients



SYLVIA DEVAK-SEBASTIAN

**VCU’S FEMINIST ACTION NETWORK
FAN**

meets Monday nights in the Commons and is in the process of planning events for later this spring.

FAN encourages folks to come to meetings to discuss issues concerning feminism/gender/politics/etc. or to get involved with FAN activities.



DR. MARGUERITE HARKNESS

WOMEN'S WORLDS 2005

(Continued from page 1)

focusing on the varieties of conventions about female characters. "It was good for undergraduates to think against the grain of popular texts." Using a text titled, *Who am I This Time?*, the professors pushed their students to replace their passive consumption with critical and analytical thinking about the representations within the text. "You see it go on, that little light in a student's eyes when she holds up a text and says, 'Oh, so I'm either the virgin or the whore,' and she sees that the expectations are impossible." Without the ability to analyze the irrational demands of their culture, women are most often living to please others. "It's what we're taught to do – be quiet and unassuming and defer to others.

"Part of becoming educated is being aware of the ways in which you are manipulated by culture." Dr. Harkness recalls many heated arguments about feminism and feminist consciousness as well as countless young women who fear the popular image of feminists. "Objecting to power structures that exclude or oppress you doesn't mean you're a Feminazi." According to Dr. Harkness, every undergraduate needs to take at least a course in women's studies, especially women "because they have no clue as to the peculiarities of the system in which they live.

"There should be a place in every university where women can find a way to understand how to grow." That, she says, is the importance of the women's studies program at VCU. Her involvement in the establishment and continued growth of the program prove her commitment to that ideal. As far as retirement plans, Dr. Harkness says, "I'm going to garden, quilt, travel, read books not assigned for classes I'm teaching. More concerts. Friday afternoon teas and cocktail parties."

We wish her only the best! ♀

"Objecting to power structures that exclude or oppress you doesn't mean you're a Feminazi."

(Continued from page 1)

twenty conference sub-themes for their focus area and research project topics.

At the conclusion of the conference, the group will fly to Japan and visit a number of sites. In Kyoto, sightseeing will include the Geisha district and a number of impressive shrines, castles, gardens and Buddhist temples including To-daiji Temple, home of the Great Buddha, Diahatsu. Also on the itinerary is Hiroshima and the Atomic Bomb Dome and the Peace Memorial Museum and Park. On Miyajima Island, known as one of the three most scenic spots in Japan, the group will visit Itsukushima Shrine with its Grand Torii and spend the night in a Ryokan, a traditional Japanese Inn. After a visit to Hakone National Park and Mt. Fuji, the group will end their tour in Tokyo.

This Study Abroad is part of the Women's Studies Program's continuing effort to provide students with opportunities for international travel and is patterned after our highly successful trip to Women's Worlds 2002 in Kampala, Uganda with travel in Kenya.♀

AMENDMENT

Amendment, a feminist anthology, is accepting submissions for our 2005 issue.

We are looking for poems, short stories, critical essays, personal essays, and visual art.

For details, email anthologyfeminist@hotmail.com

(Continued from page 4)

2nd March, 2005. 12:00 pm. I was supposed to be on a plane today

I have decided that since Jeremy has brought me the last lap top, and I have all the donated money toward that lap top left, I am going to use that money to outfit all the groups getting a computer with printers . . . it is an awesome thing; it will allow the groups to get so much more use out of the computers, and they will probably use it to generate income as well. I am so going to cry at the ceremony. . .

9th March, 2005. 2:40 pm. felt like a fabulous movie star all weekend, beautiful jet setters, islands, sunset cruises

Wow, what a weekend . . . met so many new interesting people. Awesome party . . . full out DJ and bar on the crappy, wooden motorized boat crammed with like 50 people or something, which we all piled onto and danced our butts off on as the sun set over the world's second largest lake. . . The island was gorgeous, stayed up all night dancing and drinking, found a tent but didn't sleep in it, hung out at the resort the next day, swam, ate good food, drank free champagne all afternoon with a crazy chick I met from Gulu, missed the party boat with about 6 other people I knew, ended up taking a speed boat back to Entebbe with some crazy South African dudes who were driving super fast into the sunset . . . Yesterday was International Woman's Day, which was a huge deal here. Many people did not work and offices were closed, the entire newspaper was devoted to tasty feminist articles, radio shows talked about women's empowerment, and even Coke put up posters celebrating the day. I went to the worst area in Kampala and delivered free condoms and sanitary pads to members of DIWODE. It was amazing, they were so thankful. It was a really excellent thing and one of the women played and sang for us on a little keyboard inside the new park, which I thought was really great.

17th March, 2005. 6:16 pm.

I saw something beautiful and disgusting and strange yesterday. It was just coming to dusk, so the light was changing. By the time I walked from my flat to the market, it went from daylight to night. All along the way I noticed these mounds of dirt, which I think are ant hills, were shooting these white winged bugs/moths about the size of my thumb up into the sky in huge quantities like volcanoes. Of course I thought OH NO more strange bugs around to bite me. But as I reached closer to the market, little kids started to leave their pick up soccer games all around me to gather around the mounds. I thought at first that they were just picking the moths off the mounds and out of the air and killing them. Then I realized they were picking them off and eating them. It was beautiful looking in a strange way and I wished I had my camera . . . all these skinny silhouettes of children plucking white moths out of thick patches of insects shooting up into the sunset and popping them in their mouths, dancing and laughing. Only in the flats!

March, 2005. 5:41 pm. its very hot today

Why do I feel like I never want to permanently leave Uganda? Why do I feel like I just want to build a house here and stay... Then again the prospect of ordering something at a restaurant and not having the order come back wrong is enticing.♀

(Continued from page 3)

■ population of Korean immigrants living in Japan. Because of
 ■ former Japanese colonization of Korea, the two countries are in-
 ■ extricably linked by the past. One issue of concern for South
 ■ Korean and Japanese feminists alike is that of the "Comfort
 ■ Women." During WWII, women from Japan's colonized coun-
 ■ tries were forced into sexual slavery at frontline brothels, oper-
 ■ ated by the Japanese military. Although Japan's government has
 ■ refused official apology, Japanese feminists have joined the
 ■ women of South Korea in their struggle for former "Comfort
 ■ Women," as well as the successful fight to end "sex tours" by
 ■ Japanese businessmen to Seoul in the 1980s.

■ Throughout years of political and social upheaval in Korea,
 ■ violence against women was used by police and other public
 ■ forces to suppress activists and political dissidents, but because



gender was secondary in importance to class and nationalism, such instances were viewed more as a means of social control than as an area of concern for

■ women. In the early 90's, however, after the end of a military
 ■ regime, discussions of violence against women took a new direc-
 ■ tion, partly in response to two high-profile murder cases involv-
 ■ ing abused women. Korea's feminist movement emerged from
 ■ the anti-sexual violence movement. Once this type of violence
 ■ was identified as a means of oppression based on gender, discus-
 ■ sions of other forms of oppression by men arose.

■ In just the last decade in Korea, feminist struggles have led to
 ■ more female-friendly legislation, revision of labor standards and
 ■ family law, the establishment of the Korean Women's Hotline,
 ■ and to the creation of much-needed shelters for battered women,
 ■ as well as the establishment of the Korean Women's Develop-
 ■ ment Institute and other national agencies concerned with the
 ■ rights of women. There are initiatives in both nations to rewrite
 ■ textbooks to include more women's issues.

■ The continued growth of women's universities and women's
 ■ studies programs has helped initiate and perpetuate discussion by
 ■ and about women and the societies in which they live. The most
 ■ impressive work, however, is being done by the women of Korea
 ■ and Japan who, despite cultural emphasis on conformity and non-
 ■ confrontation, are finding ways to confront and urge change from
 ■ a patriarchal system.♀

ALUMNA NEWS

We would love to hear from you.
 Send us your news about yourself for
 Women's Studies News!



SPRING 2005

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 1

Women's Studies Program
Virginia Commonwealth University
Box 843060
Richmond, VA 23284

MAILING
ADDRESS



An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity University



BECOME A FRIEND OF WOMEN'S STUDIES



Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

I would like to make a contribution of \$ _____
to the Women's Studies Program

Please make checks payable to: VCU
Indicate *Women's Studies* in the memo section

Send to: Diana Scully
Women's Studies Program
VCU, Box 843060
Richmond, VA 23284-3060

Your contribution will help fund:
Student Scholarships
Student Awards
Speaker Honoraria
Symposiums
Conferences

Thank you!

