



BOLDER VOICES

University of Colorado Boulder

FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Dr. Anne Costain has completed four years of dedicated service as director of the Women and Gender Studies Program. She now begins a year-long sabbatical before returning to CU-Boulder's Department of Political Science.

In the spirit of the University of Colorado, I wish you all farewell, not goodbye. I know that the students, faculty, alumnae and alumni, friends, and staff of the Women and Gender Studies Program will fare well. Throughout, this newsletter demonstrates their engagement, involvement in the community, and preparation to change the world for the better. Professor Robert Buffington, a historian of Latin American studies and gender and sexuality, will make history himself by becoming the first male director of this strong program starting July 1. The future of the program is full of promise. I leave feeling honored to have served the program during difficult financial times and grateful for the unwavering support shown by all who care so much about women and gender studies.

Love to all,

Anne

Anne Costain
Director and Professor



Anne Costain
Director and Professor

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ALUMNA PROFILE: LIZA HENSLEIGH '05

"Passionate" is the word that best describes women and gender studies alumna Liza Hensleigh. A Colorado native, Liza left her hometown of Fort Collins after high school to begin her studies at CU-Boulder. After graduating with dual bachelor's degrees in women and gender studies and international affairs, a minor in political science, and a certificate in peace and conflict studies, she decided to remain in Boulder. "I've lived here eleven years now, and every day I look at the Flatirons and think that I am very lucky!"

Liza began college with a strong interest in international affairs, but after her first study abroad trip to Nicaragua in the spring of 2003, she came back feeling that something was missing in her education. "I felt like the whole story wasn't being told," she relates. After taking her first women and gender studies course, *Global Gender Issues* with Dr. Michiko Hase, she was hooked. "I totally fell in love with the course and ended up staying at CU an entire extra year to finish the [women and gender studies] major."

Liza traveled to Uganda and Rwanda for a second study abroad in the summer of 2005, with a different perspective and new critical thinking skills gained from her women and gender studies coursework. "One of the things I've learned in WGST is the importance of doing *appropriate* work," she explains. In Uganda she saw that the preconceptions she had about their need for human rights work were amiss: "they already know how to do it better, they're already doing it; they just need the resources." She goes on to say that her time spent studying abroad was "life-changing", and "having learned those lessons in WGST, I realized human rights work abroad wasn't appropriate for me, and instead what my role should be is helping other people travel abroad to learn and be able to gain that experience."

After graduation, Liza brought her experiences to the Study Abroad Program within the Office of International Education at CU-Boulder, and she is now the program manager for programs in Latin America, Portugal, and Spain. "I think WGST prepared me to go into pretty much any career I would have wanted," notes Liza, "but the best thing it did was encourage me; instead of my trying to go off and change the world in an abstract way, it made me take the skills that I have and put them into play to make the most impact." Her work with the Study Abroad Program includes handling any number of crises that students might find themselves in, and Liza credits her past experience as a volunteer with the Moving to End Sexual Assault (MESA) hotline as great preparation for any crisis situation.

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Liza Hensleigh '05

Liza also specializes in underrepresented student outreach for students who haven't traditionally taken advantage of study abroad opportunities such as first-generation students, students of color, and men (who make up just 35% of students studying abroad). "My experience learning about race, class, gender, and other identities in WGST helps me do a better job at understanding the issues these students face." She also explains that the expense of studying abroad need not be a roadblock, since students can use their financial aid for many programs, and the cost of a semester abroad can be comparable to that of a semester on the CU campus.

Liza says she truly enjoys her role in helping other Buffs go abroad, "because I just believe in it so much; I think it's crucial to study abroad, it's life-changing academically, personally, and career-wise." She asserts that students who travel abroad develop a deeper understanding of other cultures and people, expand their worldview, and return home with a less biased perspective. In terms of her own peace activism, Liza sees the greater good in encouraging students to study abroad: "when the 18-year-old student who studies abroad becomes a congressperson in 20 years, they won't encourage war and hostility between nations."

Learn more about CU's Study Abroad Program: <http://studyabroad.colorado.edu/>

ALUMNAE/ALUMNI NEWS

Susy Bates (2007) is excited to report she has her dream job! After a few years of campaign work for candidates like Hillary Clinton and Margaret Anderson Kelliher for governor in Minnesota, Suzy is the new political director for an organization called **womenwinning**: Minnesota Women's Campaign Fund, which Suzy says "is a very unique and strong organization that recruits, trains, and supports women candidates at all levels of office. We continue to grow and bring in the top donors to women candidates in the state of Minnesota. It's such a great field to work in and is sorely needed to increase our representation in government!" Learn more at www.womenwinning.org

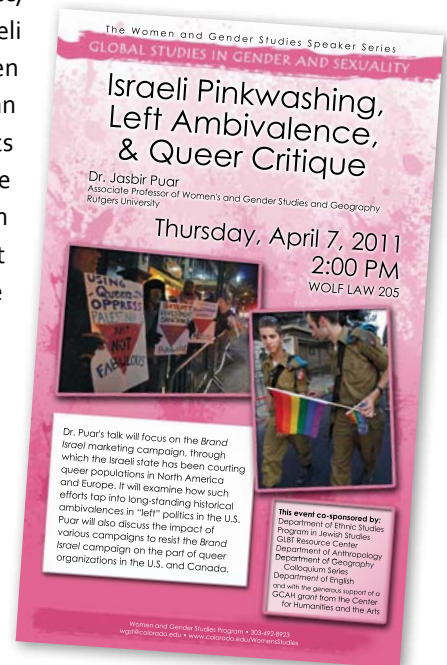
Eliza Williamson (2009) is currently living in San Miguel de Tucumán, Argentina, working on a Fulbright student research project on the politics of public maternity care.

Alyssa Willet (2010) is pursuing her master of education in college student personnel and administration at James Madison University in Virginia. She is back at CU for summer 2011 working in both Residence Life and Career Services to fulfill internship requirements for her program, and will then return to JMU to finish the last year of her master's program while working as a graduate assistant in the LGBT & Ally Education Program. Alyssa is excited to announce "I am recently engaged, and my partner and I are planning a celebration of our union for the summer of 2012."

WGST SPEAKER SERIES PRESENTS JASBIR PUAR

Dr. Jasbir Puar, associate professor of women's and gender studies and geography from Rutgers University, spoke to a full audience of over 100 students, faculty, and community members on April 7, 2011. Her talk, entitled "*Israeli Pinkwashing, Left Ambivalence, and Queer Critique*," focused on the *Brand Israel* campaign, an Israeli public relations effort to improve the country's image, which has been courting queer populations in various North American and European countries. She examined the discursive tactics by which such efforts tap into long-standing historical ambivalences in "left" politics in the U.S. as well as more recent anxieties about the Afghanistan-Pakistan region. She also discussed the impact of various movements to resist the *Brand Israel* campaign on the part of queer organizations in the U.S. and Canada. Dr. Puar took many questions from the audience, resulting in quite a lively debate.

Students in Assistant Professor Deepti Misri's graduate Feminist Theories class were honored to have Dr. Puar as a guest lecturer later that evening, furthering the discussion and allowing for more detailed examination of this complex subject. This event was held in conjunction with the departments of ethnic studies, Jewish studies, anthropology, geography, English, the GLBT Resource Center, and with the generous support of a GCAH grant from the Center for Humanities and the Arts.



Dr. Jasbir Puar presents her talk "Israeli Pinkwashing, Left Ambivalence, & Queer Critique"

IN THE CLASSROOM: AUTHOR HELEN THORPE

On Wednesday, April 27th in the Old Main Chapel, award-winning journalist Helen Thorpe spoke to Sharon Adams's Gender and Contemporary Culture class, regarding her book *Just Like Us: The True Story of Four Mexican Girls Coming of Age in America*. The class had read *Just Like Us* as part of their coursework and were excited with this opportunity to discuss the book with the author herself. The popularity of the book attracted an audience of nearly 100 students, faculty, and staff from across campus.

Just Like Us follows the lives of four girls growing up in Denver whose families have all immigrated from Mexico, and explores the difference their immigration statuses make in the opportunities they have and in their friendships. Though the book was originally conceived from a non-biased journalistic viewpoint, Thorpe became personally involved in the politics of immigration after a tragic crime perpetrated by an "illegal immigrant" led to a political firestorm involving her husband, then Denver mayor, John Hickenlooper. In this engaging book, Thorpe goes beyond the political rhetoric of the immigration issue and examines the real-life struggles that our immigration policies cause for people on all sides of the debate.

Thorpe concluded her talk by answering questions from the audience and very graciously stayed after to sign autographs and greet many appreciative readers. The Women and Gender Studies Program wishes to thank Helen Thorpe for donating her time and talents to further the educational experience of our students.



Sharon Adams & Helen Thorpe

WAGON IN ACTION: CHILDREN'S BOOK DRIVE



This April, student members of the Women and Gender Studies Organization (WAGON) organized a children's book drive to benefit the Safe Shelter of St. Vrain Valley in Longmont. They collected new and slightly used children's books in six locations across campus, for children aged 2-10, and encouraged donations of multicultural books. "Our collection demonstrates the importance of networking within small communities," notes WAGON member Natalie Tsantes, who procured a large donation from *Books Are Fun* after simply announcing the book drive in class.

The Safe Shelter of St. Vrain Valley provides programs and services in both English and Spanish to address the needs of victims of domestic abuse, including a 24-hour crisis line, emergency shelter, counseling, referrals, legal advocacy, and community and peer education. For more information please visit: www.safeshelterofstvrain.org

DENIM DAY MARCH & RALLY TO END SEXUAL ASSAULT

The growing Denim Day movement began following the outrage at a 1998 Italian Supreme Court decision, wherein a rape conviction was overturned because it was assumed that the victim's jeans were too tight to remove without her consent. This blatant example of victim blaming served as a mobilizing point to shift the emphasis of rape prevention from that of personal behavior to a larger societal responsibility. Since 1999, Denim Day has become an international movement to raise awareness about rape and sexual assault, and it is officially recognized by 20 U.S. states.



Photo courtesy of Danielle Fulton



Photo courtesy of Danielle Fulton

This year, a group of students from the Senior Colloquium brought this powerful event to the CU-Boulder campus.

For two days in April, Norlin Quad was swathed in denim jeans and patches, emblazoned with bold statements denouncing sexual assault and reaching out to men as allies. The Women's Resource Center volunteered their space and craft supplies, and students, staff,

and faculty across campus were encouraged to decorate their own patches, creating a head-turning display that stretched across the quad. Members of the Senior Colloquium class were on hand to explain the event to passers-by, to encourage them to wear jeans to show their support of Denim Day, and to give out buttons proclaiming "Ask me about my jeans!".

Early in the morning of April 13th, students moved the art display to the Gates Woodruff Cottage, wrapping it around the building's exterior. That afternoon, a large group of students and faculty gathered at the Cottage. Each person chose a patch to carry, and they marched silently to Farrand Field, many with red tape covering their mouths. Once there, they held a rally and an impressive poetry slam. This event also



featured speaker David Hinojosa from *Men Standing Up*, a program of *Moving to End Sexual Assault*. With such an energetic turn-out, Denim Day will hopefully become an annual event for our program.

A slideshow of the art display and rally, as well as links to the local media coverage of the event, are available on our website at: <http://www.colorado.edu/WomensStudies/denimdays.html>

ABOUT THE SENIOR COLLOQUIUM IN FEMINIST STUDIES

The Senior Colloquium in Feminist Studies, held each spring for WGST majors, requires the completion of a research project incorporating an interdisciplinary and feminist approach to the study of gender, class, race, ethnicity, and sexuality. This semester, under the guidance of Dr. Celeste Montoya, the students broke into three groups to complete their projects: the Denim Day event, a video project, and a policy analysis regarding the implementation of CU's sexual assault policy.

The students involved in the *Redefining Feminism Project* created a video compilation of interviews with students and faculty, asking why they are a feminist, why they love feminism, and what feminism looks like on the CU-Boulder campus. Participants wrote their thoughts on feminism on a small white board, and these still images were interspersed throughout the short film. The final interviews dealt with the question "what is women and gender studies?" and how it has impacted those involved.

The third group looked at ways to improve the implementation of CU's sexual assault policy. After working to assess the current policy, they brought their suggestions to representatives from the administration, Wardenburg Community Health, Office of Victim's Assistance (OVA), Counseling and Psychological Services, and the Office of Student Conduct. Their ideas included rewording emails sent out after sexual assaults that occur on or near campus to contain a stronger statement against this type of violence and to show more support towards victims. They also created a mock website to highlight the information that needs to be readily available and suggested that a link to this information be included in all CU correspondence. Student Meg Staires notes that "we will continue to work with the administration, CU communications, and CUPD, to hopefully change the wording in CU correspondence about sexual assault."

JOANNE EASLEY ARNOLD SCHOLARSHIP & AWARDS EVENT

Faculty, staff, students, and friends of the Women and Gender Studies Program met together on Sunday, April 10, 2011 to recognize this year's scholarship awards winners. Held in the historic Koenig Alumni Center, attendees enjoyed a catered reception while catching up with old friends and meeting this year's deserving scholarship winners.

Following an introduction by Director Anne Costain, the Lucile Berkeley Buchanan Scholarship was presented to Sarah McCullar by Professor Celeste Montoya. This award is given in honor of the first African-American graduate of CU, to a WGST major with a demonstrated commitment to social justice. Professor Lorraine Bayard de Volo then presented the Susannah Chase Memorial Scholarship to Christine Nakwa, for her academic achievement and interest in Women and Gender Studies. We were all moved by Professor Mimi Wesson's heartfelt tribute to Jean Dubofsky as she presented the scholarship named in her honor to Meagan Maddock, for her campus and community service, education and career goals, and academic record. Jo Arnold, who started this scholarship in Jean Dubofsky's honor, was also in attendance. The event concluded with Professor Janet Jacobs presenting faculty tenure medals to Lorraine Bayard de Volo and Robert Buffington.

Congratulations to each of this year's scholarship recipients!

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*The 2011 Jean Dubofsky Scholarship was awarded to
Meagan Maddock
double-majoring in women and gender studies and international affairs*



(L to R) Joanne Arnold, Meagan Maddock, Jean Dubofsky, and Mimi Wesson

*The 2011 Susannah Chase Memorial
Scholarship was awarded to*
Christine Nakwa
*majoring in sociology, with a minor
in women and gender studies*



Lorraine Bayard de Volo and Christine Nakwa

*The 2011 Lucile Berkeley Buchanan
Scholarship was awarded to*
Sarah McCullar
*double-majoring in women and gender studies
and political science*



Sarah McCullar and Celeste Montoya

*To read more about each of these awards, please visit:
www.colorado.edu/WomensStudies/Scholarships.html*



2011 Bachelor of Arts Recipients in Women and Gender Studies

Bachelor of Arts Recipients

Manaslu Bista is a double major in women and gender studies and communication. She plans on going to graduate school as soon as she can after graduation. She would like to thank her parents for coming all the way from Nepal to make it here for her graduations.

Brittany Burton is happy to say that she is leaving CU, not with all the answers to the world, but rather with a feminist spirit which propels her to more consciously and critically engage with the world as she continues her journey. She notes that for 22 years her parents have told her everyday how proud of her they are, and now she wants to tell them how proud she is of them and that she couldn't have made it without them.

Schermisia Chambers is proud to be graduating with her BA in both women and gender studies and ethnic studies. She is excited to see where this world takes her! She wants to thank her mom and grandma for always being the strong women in her life who helped to carry her through. She wouldn't be here without them!

Kasey Flemming is a women and gender studies major who is planning to graduate in December. She then plans to take some time to breathe before continuing with an accelerated program in nursing school and is considering options like the Peace Corps.

Danielle Fulton graduated with a degree in psychology in 2008 and spent the next two years traveling and working. She came back to CU last summer to get a degree in women and gender studies. She plans on combining these two degrees into a career in activism. Danielle thanks her mom for all her support; she couldn't have gone back to school without all her help this year.



Congratulations to our 2011 WGST Graduates!

Bachelor of Arts Recipients (continued)

Krista Hjelm is graduating with degrees in women and gender studies and English literature, as well as a certificate in secondary education. After graduation, she will student teach in the fall at Fairview High School. She plans to bring everything that feminism and women and gender studies have taught her into her future classrooms.

Savannah Jenkins is graduating with a degree in her dream major after five unforgettable years of college. She plans to travel, volunteer, and be a free spirit for a while. She wants to thank her mom, granster, and baby brothers for all of the love and encouragement they have given her while she fulfilled her dream of graduating from college.

Erin Kane is graduating with distinction with a dual degree in women and gender studies and philosophy. She has earned summa cum laude in WGST with her honors thesis entitled, "*Eroticism and Vandalism: NiqaBitch and Princess Hijab on the Burqa Ban in France*". She wants to thank Dr. Deepti Misri for the guidance she has given her in the creation of her thesis. And she wants to give an extra special thanks to her mother (Chris Kane), brother (Bruce Kane), and late grandmother (Helen Makar) for their unconditional love and support.

Sarah Lavorgna has spent the last four years challenging conventional perceptions and claims (both her own as well as those of others), getting into way too many arguments, and realizing that knowledge and being exposed to new ideas is a liberating and wonderful thing. She thanks women and gender studies for opening her mind to new ideas and ways of thinking. She thanks her mom and dad for raising her to question dominant views and encouraging her to express them even, as her father would say, "when she is behind enemy lines". No matter where her future leads her, she will bring these fundamental life-skills.

Sara Luer is a double major in women and gender studies and anthropology with an emphasis on Latin American studies. Sara plans on traveling through South America and the Pacific Northwest before heading to graduate school. Sara would like to thank her family and professors for her wonderful time at CU.

Maren Miller began college at age 16 and has been complicating her life with feminist theory ever since. She plans to discover a way to be active in combating oppression while maintaining health and happiness.

Claire Mulholland started at this university in journalism, “realized it was soulless”, and found herself in women and gender studies, where she feels fulfilled and passionate about her work. During her last semester, she interned with the Circles Campaign through Boulder County, working with people in poverty, where she found love, compassion, empathy, and passion. This is her future. She would like to thank her mom, dad, Angela, Grace, Sam, Annemarie, Elizabeth, Prentiss, Grampa, and Kara for being her support.

Daniella Rocha is a double major in psychology and women and gender studies, with a passion for human services. Growing up she was always shy and introverted, but she gives thanks to CU and the Women and Gender Studies Program for helping her grow and become the person she is today: to be able to take on challenges with a critical mindset. She gives thanks to her family as well for all the support along the way.

Chelsea Sommer is graduating with degrees in cultural anthropology and women and gender studies. Throughout her collegiate career, she was fortunate enough to have had the opportunity to put her feminist education into action many times over with her experiences establishing the Environmental Voice on the Auraria campus, being co-chair of Partnership for Animal Welfare, and through her primary research on sex work in India. She plans to enjoy the simpler things in life for a while, before tramping off to South Korea to do more learning by action. She would like to thank her dearest family and friends for listening to her endless rants about the injustices in the world, for encouraging her dreams, and for always inspiring her to be a better person.

Natalie Tsantes is continuing on to enact change from the inside out as a manager in the corporate world. She would like to give a special thank you to her family for all the love and support they’ve given her over the last four years. She couldn’t have survived without you.

Evy Valencia shares a quote from Maya Angelou: “You can only become truly accomplished at something you love. Don’t make money your goal. Instead pursue the things you love doing and then do them so well that people can’t take their eyes off of you.” Evy plans on pursuing a career in policy so that she can continue to advocate and organize around issues that affect her community. She wishes to say “Ruben and Abel, you’re next! Mom and Dad, WE DID IT!”

Rebecca Willemse would like to take this time to thank the following people, because without them she most definitely would not be graduating: thank you to her sister for lighting her feminist fire in the first place; to her mom and Torrey for feeding her and keeping her alive; to her dad for the 24 hour phone and emergency counseling; for her Grami Marietta for imparting her words of wisdom, including “it is always better to play the field”; and for her roommate Haley for her unending reserves of support, love, advice, and laughter.

The commencement address was given by **Barbara Kulton**, former director of the Women’s Resource Center.

Schermisia Chambers was the student commencement speaker.

Manaslu Bista delighted all with her performance of a traditional Nepali dance.

Graduate Certificate Recipients

The following students completed the graduate certificate in women and gender studies as a complement to their disciplinary degree:

Megan Ashley Adovasio (MA, Education) has graduated with a master's in educational foundations, policy, and practice, and is planning a career in higher education and student affairs.

Sarah Jane Blithe (PhD candidate, Communication) is completing her dissertation, which focuses on a feminist discursive analysis that studies the way men draw on gendered discourses when making work-life balance "choices", such as taking parental leave.

Cherie Hill (MA, Dance) completed her thesis "*Shifting Tides: A Multi-Disciplinary Creative Process Fusing Dance, Somatics and Black Feminist Theory*", which explored creating dance, self-awareness and transformation through utilizing a circular performance space that moved in and out of the audience, inspirational text written by poet Ntozake Shange, visual art that dancers created throughout the process, and resources from dancing in nature. The piece was performed in the Irey Theatre to a sold-out audience, and the written portion is available online at: <http://shiftingtides.wikispaces.com>

Nicole Ann McManus (PhD candidate, English) is currently writing her dissertation on sympathy and knowledge in Victorian fiction and gynaecology.

Megan Elizabeth Morrissey (PhD candidate, Communication) is presently working on her dissertation and hopes to have it completed by May 2012. Her project explores the nuanced ways that national belonging and cultural exclusion are discursively constructed within our contemporary historical moment.

Recipients of the Minor

Minors attending WGST Commencement



T. Trent, J. Rios, K. Christman, H. Hudson

The following students completed the minor in women and gender studies in addition to the degree in their listed home department(s):

Katherine Grace Christman (*Sociology*)

Danielle Megan Ferretti (*Linguistics*)

Hayley-Marie Colvin Hudson (*History*)

Stacey Marie Lundgren (*Sociology*)

Kennady Eileen Nickell (*Psychology*)

Jessica Rios Valencia (*Ethnic Studies*)

Tiya Ashantia Trent (*Ethnic Studies and Theater*)

Alison Margaret Wilber (*Film Studies*)

Lorraine Bayard de Volo's recent work "Revolution in the Binary?: Gender and the Oxymoron of Revolutionary War in Nicaragua and Cuba" has been accepted for publication in *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*.

Rob Buffington delivered the keynote speech "Cómo narrar la historia en tiempos difíciles" at the Coloquio Internacional: Historia, Marginalidad Y Delito en América Latina on May 17th at the University of Guadalajara. His work with Eithne Luibheid, "Gender, Sexuality, and Mexican Migration" will be published in June as a chapter in *Beyond la Frontera: The History of Mexico-U.S. Migration* by Mark Overmyer-Velazquez. Dr. Buffington was recently awarded a grant by the ASSETT Development Award Committee to purchase two new computers for students to use in our library.

Anne Costain was honored by the faculty and students during this year's commencement ceremony, for her four years of service as director of the Women and Gender Studies Program. Professor of Distinction Alison Jaggar delivered an elegant tribute and presented Dr. Costain with an engraved plaque in appreciation for all the work she has done for our program. Professor Costain starts a year-long sabbatical this summer, with research and travel support from the Maryland Historical Society and an IMPART grant provided by the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Community Engagement at CU for her work on woman suffrage and abolitionist movements.

Deepti Misri's latest manuscript "'Are you a Man?': Performing Naked Protest in India" appears in the spring 2011 issue of *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, and is available online at: http://www.colorado.edu/WomensStudies/Documents/Misri_Signs.pdf

Celeste Montoya co-authored the article "Tracking the Latino Gender Gap: Gender Attitudes across Sex, Borders, and Generations" with Christina Bejarano and Sylvia Manzano, which has been accepted to appear in an upcoming issue of the journal *Politics and Gender*. She was invited to present her talk "Feminism and Identity: How you develop a feminist identity today" to the Women's Resource Center's *Rumor Has It* series on March 29, 2011.

WAGON NEWSLETTER

The latest issue of the Women and Gender Studies Organization (WAGON) newsletter can be read online here: www.colorado.edu/WomensStudies/Documents/WAGONApril2011.pdf



FALL 2011 COURSE OFFERINGS

WMST 2000 Introduction to Feminist Studies
WMST 2020 Femininities, Masculinities, Alternatives
WMST 2200 Women, Literature, and the Arts
WMST 2600 Gender, Race, and Class in a Global Context
WMST 3100 Feminist Theories
WMST 3500 Global Gender Issues
WMST 3700 Gender and War
WMST 4500 Gender Politics and Global Activism (*new course*)
WMST 6090 Feminist Theories
WMST 6290 Grad Topics: Gender and Global Human Rights

These courses are sponsored by the Women and Gender Studies Program. Additional courses that may cover topics of interest are offered by other departments and are cross-listed under the course heading WMST.

*We'd love to hear from you!
To share your updates in the next issue,
please send them to wgst@colorado.edu.*

Bolder Voices

Women and Gender Studies Program Newsletter

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Anne Costain

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Lorraine Bayard de Volo, Robert Buffington,
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University of Colorado
Boulder

Silence never won rights. They are not handed down from above; they are forced by pressures from below.
-Roger Baldwin



Students decorated the Gates Woodruff Cottage for Denim Day, April 13, 2011. (see p.6)

Please support the Women and Gender Studies Program!

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