

Illustration by RJ Doughty

MCLA '10



Departing Words from our Graduating Seniors

Pages 1-4

School Supplies Collection

Page 5

Year in Review

Pages 6-7

Women's Center on Facebook

Page 8

Parting Words from our Graduating Seniors

Michael Brennan

Michael Brennan is a computer science major from Winthrop, Massachusetts. After graduation, he wants to start off working as a “lowly code monkey.” Over the years as his skills and knowledge increase, he would like to open his own company and bid for contracts.

The most important piece of information he received from his women's studies minor is, unfortunately, the worldwide misunderstanding about feminism. So many people don't know what the word actually means and calling yourself a feminist leads people to assume they know your entire beliefs. They assume you are part of an extreme minority. He said the broad range of knowledge he learned from women's studies will help him debunk many peoples' assumptions about what it means to be a feminist.

In the minor, he has learned a lot and that it is a silly assumption to think that it is a small topic, as many of his peers have argued. From the current movement to historical figures and social issues, there is a lot to learn concerning women and gender issues, which makes the minor great.

He recalls talking with Amy Stevens about an independent study he wanted to do on sexism in MMOs (massively multiplayer online role-playing games), such as World of Warcraft. Being an avid gamer, he is always highly aware of the objectification of women in online games. Although he will be the first to admit that WoW tends to be loaded with female characters, much of the character and armor design seems to be crafted by 13 year old boys (i.e. chain mail bikinis). Sadly, at the time he was unable to take the independent study. However, a semester later, Amy made it into a complete course. He said he felt really proud that he helped create a course for the women's studies program.



Parting Words from our Graduating Seniors

Jonathan DelSordo

Jon DelSordo is an English/communications major with a concentration in journalism from Richmond, Massachusetts. After graduation, he plans to travel the world, perhaps joining the Peace Corps. However, his dream job will always be working at The Scoop, an ice cream shop in Lenox, MA.

The most important thing that he has taken away from being a women's studies minor is the realization that people must understand that their feelings/emotions have profound influence on each other. He wants everyone to understand that if you cannot accept yourself then don't relay the negativity down the line – the world is too full of wonder for you to spend your time living in fear.

He says that the minor is not so much about women's studies as it is about cultural studies. Beyond feminist thought, the majority of courses in women's studies will open your eyes to other backgrounds and cultures that have been ignored.

One project from a women's studies class that he is particularly proud of is his paper on the significance of tattoos in Maori culture, which was for Culture and the Body. His favorite memory from a women's studies class was when Jennifer Miller came to Culture and the Body and talked one-on-one with the class. Jon suggests that the titles of courses could be more gender-neutral; for example, Women in Film could become Film and Gender.

Hayley Dunham

Hayley Dunham is an interdisciplinary studies major with concentrations in literature and social work. She is from Marshfield, Massachusetts, and plans on moving to Maine once she graduates. She would like to work with Americorps for a year so she can apply her knowledge of community service and education to help others.

Through her women's studies classes, she has learned how to be confident in her feminist ideals. She has also learned that she has a choice about how she wants to deliver her children and live her life. She is more aware of women's health issues now, and how women of all different races, ages, and body types can support each other.

Looking back on her minor in women's studies, Hayley said that it is truly interdisciplinary. Students learn about history, biology, sociology, education, and so on. They learn about how women are viewed in the world today and participate in helping the future movement towards women's equality. Her most memorable experience in a women's studies class was watching "V Day: Until the Violence Stops" in Amy Stevens' Introduction to Women's Studies course, and reading Betty Dodson's reaction to it.

Finally, she said that all of these classes have taught her a great deal of information about women and their daily struggles for equality. She has studied many topics in this field; abuse and wife battery, birth rights, black feminist thought, to say the word 'vagina' comfortably, and more. She said it has been a blessing to be able to open her eyes to a beautiful world of beautiful women and expand her knowledge of rights and privileges as a woman and as a human being.

Esther Fan Fan

Esther Fan Fan is a sociology major from Boston, Massachusetts. She plans on attending graduate school in January. Until then, she will be working and saving money. One of the most important things she will take away from her women's studies minor is her preparedness for the double standards of the world. She will also take away a sense of empowerment within herself, knowing that she has the knowledge to work to improve the injustices of our society.

To someone looking at the women's studies minor, she would tell them to forget everything they thought they knew about women and go learn the facts. Although she never had the chance to take a women's studies course with Amy Stevens, she will always remember her unique attempt to recruit more male students to her women's studies classes.

Parting Words from our Graduating Seniors

Katherine Leja

Katie Leja is a sociology major from Williamstown, Massachusetts. Upon graduation, she plans on continuing her medical billing career and enjoying being a newlywed. She was married April 30th, 2011. She would also like to volunteer at the Elizabeth Freeman Center and gain a master's degree in women's studies next year.

From her women's studies classes she has learned the importance of perseverance. She has learned so much about women's history and the struggles that still exist today. She said she will walk away from this knowing the significance of her part in this ongoing struggle.

She insists women's studies is more than just a minor. She said the minor is more like an experience and is something that one can take with them for life. All of the courses have involved fundamental subjects that affect daily life and everyone should have that knowledge to take with them into adulthood.

She is most proud of her first major project in Introduction to Women's Studies. It focused on eating disorders, and she provided the class with pictures of herself at a critical point during her eating disorder. It was a milestone in her life as a survivor because it was the first time she openly discussed this with a class. Since then, she has become much more open about it and does what she can to help others who have issues with their body image.

Her favorite moment in women's studies was being asked to play a Vamp in "Bitches, Bimbos, and Ballbreakers". She said she will never forget walking on stage and seeing the crowd's reaction of laughter and surprise.

She wants to personally thank Amy Stevens for being a huge inspiration to her. She would not have minored in women's studies or loved it as much as she does if it weren't for Amy's enthusiasm and encouragement.

Shataya Pride

Shataya Pride is an English/communications major from Brooklyn, New York. She plans to go to graduate school and attain a master's degree in mental health counseling. She also plans to continue to grow as a person, to strive and to work harder than she ever has before.

The most important thing she has learned from her women's studies minor is just how powerful her voice can be, especially as a means to speak for people who might not have a voice. She has also gained the wisdom to recognize that there is so much that she still doesn't know, and that there are so many other people who need to learn a few things as well.

She says that you don't have to acknowledge yourself as a feminist to have a women's studies minor, because many are fearful of the word at one point or another. However, if you have a strong desire to fight for equality, the heart of a lion, and hope for the future, then Shataya believes that you have what it takes to have a minor in women's studies.

Introduction to Women's Studies, which she took with Amy Stevens, has forever changed her life, and the movie *Very Young Girls* had a particularly powerful impact. She wants to be able to positively influence the lives of people who might not realize the potential that they have. Shataya cannot pick out a most memorable moment because almost every moment spent in women's studies courses has been a memorable moment for her. Shataya cites Amy Stevens as an amazing professor, a motivational force, and an inspiration.

Shataya also notes that the Women's Studies minor has been more than that for her. It has been a lifestyle change. It has been an inspiration. "It has been... me," she says.



Parting Words from our Graduating Seniors

Elizabeth Purce

Elizabeth Purce is from Yonkers, New York, and her major is sociology. After graduating, she is going to graduate school to earn her degree in social work.

She says her women's studies classes changed her life. She was never motivated by grades in those classes, but rather by learning. Gender portrayals in the media have impacted her the most, and she constantly finds herself analyzing commercials and magazine ads. She is unafraid to speak out against violence against women. Her women's studies classes have made her proud to call herself a feminist in a society where that is a dirty word.

To those considering a minor in women's studies, she says they will learn a lot and it will change their lives. They will learn to really love themselves, and to stand for something. She is particularly proud of her project about how women's bodies are portrayed in advertisements, and also of a paper she wrote about the implications of vaginal beauty work. Her favorite memory from a women's studies class was Michele Ethier saying, "Vaginas are like snowflakes—no two are the same." She adds that every professor she has had in her sociology, social work, anthropology, and women's studies classes has been amazing. She will always look back on her college career with memories of these professors. Thank you.

Kathleen Weglarczyk

Kathy Weglarczyk is from Brockton, Massachusetts. She is an English/communications major with a concentration in creative writing. She will be working as a nanny over the summer while she figures out a solid life plan, which she anticipates may take five years or so. She reports looking forward to bouncing around and finding out what it is she's meant to do in this world and feeling increasingly confident about applying to graduate school to further her education in women and gender studies. She has been offered, but is still considering accepting, a volunteer position at a battered women's shelter in Waltham.

Kathy says she appreciates what she's learned about women's issues and the potential career paths that are available so that she can actually go out into the world, get involved, and make a difference. Her confidence and sense of purpose have grown tremendously. Women's studies opened her eyes to a whole sea of truth regarding women's and children's issues. She has been introduced to a lot of literature she doesn't think she would have discovered if she was educating herself on a lot of issues.

Kachina Yuryan

Kachina Yuryan is a sociology major from Ashfield, MA. After she graduates, she plans to take a break from school for a while before heading on to graduate school. In the interim, she hopes to find work that builds off of her life experiences as well as her experiences here at MCLA.

The aspect of her women's studies minor that she has most enjoyed has been meeting some really great professors. She appreciates their skill in teaching and creating a classroom setting that encourages students to share their thoughts while also encouraging them to dig deeper.

If someone told her they were considering adding the women's studies minor, she would tell them that they've probably already taken a women's studies class and didn't know it. She believes that taking women's studies classes or adding the women's studies minor can be a positive choice for both women and men. She emphasizes how much these classes will inspire you!

Kachina has fond memories of all the classes she has taken with Michele Ethier, Susan Birns, and Sumi Colligan. These women are great at what they do, and she will miss them a lot.



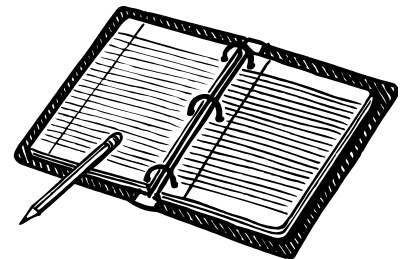
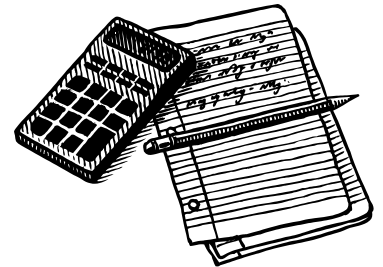


WAIT!

Don't trash your school supplies!

Donate them to someone in need!

The Susan B. Anthony Women's Center is accepting slightly used and new supplies to donate to the Helen Berube Teen Parent Program. We're seeking notebooks, folders, pens, pencils, loose-leaf paper, binders, etc.



There will be collection boxes at the front desk of each resident area, or you can bring donations right to the Women's Center, Room 322 on the third floor of the Campus Center up until Commencement!

Questions? Contact us at womenscenter@mcla.edu or x5497.

Susan B. Anthony Women's Center

Year in Review 2010 - 2011



Clothesline Project
in the Fall Foliage Parade

Eighth Annual Gender
Equity Bake Sale

Field Trip to see "The Dinner
Party" at Brooklyn Museum

Stereotalk III:(S)exploitation of Women in Music Videos

Transgender Training for Faculty/ Staff/Community

Movie Night: *Kamikaze Girls*

bell hooks: Cultural Criticism and Transfor-
mation (Movie and Discussion)

Women's Studies Faculty Lunch

National Young Feminist
Leadership Conference
in Washington D.C.



"Unhirable"

CLPP Reproductive Rights
Conference at Hampshire College

Ninth Annual Women's
Studies Dinner
Celebrating 17 Years of the Women's
Center and 22 Years of
Women's Studies at MCLA



Susan B. Anthony Women's Center

Year in Review 2010 - 2011

School Supply Collection for
Teen Parent Program

Take Back the Night Planning
Continues

**Seven Total Newsletters/
Five Special Topics:**

“Violence Against Women in the Media,” “(S)exploitation of Women in the Media,” “Women and Girls in Children’s Media,” “Middle Eastern Women: Images in the Media,” and “Reports from the Feminist Leadership Conference.”



CO-SPONSORED EVENTS:

Speaking Out Against Domestic
Violence Open Mic (STAGE)

That Takes Ovaries (STAGE)

Jennifer Miller of Circus Amok
(Sociology Department)

National Girls and Women in Sports
Day (Athletics Department)

Women’s Black History Month
Speaker: Dr. Julianne Malvaux
(Academic Affairs)

Love Your Body Day (STAGE)
Body Positive Picnic



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The Susan B. Anthony Women's Center is on Facebook!



Susan B Anthony Women's Center

Wall Info Photos Discussions Notes +

Add our page to stay up to date on events, newsletters, volunteer opportunities; check our hours with ease; check out our favorite links and pictures; and more!

**Have a marvelous summer!
 Take Back the Night October 1, 2011**