We are so pleased to welcome Gail Collins, columnist at the New York Times and author of *When Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women from 1960 to the Present*, as our speaker for March Women's History Month. Many of you have probably followed her columns at the New York Times. They are always insightful, with just the right touch of humor. She brings this same writing style to her newest book that chronicles the changes in women’s lives in the past 50 years. I have to admit I found it a very enjoyable read, especially because of the way she personalizes these social changes with stories of real women. It is also arguably the most “upbeat” book we have focused on recently. She focuses not on how much further women need to go, but how truly amazing it is that such sweeping social change has occurred in such a short period of time. Her talk on March 8 will present the highlights of her book. This will be followed by a book signing (books will be available for purchase).

If you don’t know much about Gail Collins, she joined The New York Times in 1995 as a member of the editorial board and later as an Op-Ed columnist. In 2001 she became the first woman ever appointed editor of the Times’s editorial page. At the beginning of 2007, she stepped down and began a leave in order to finish this latest book. She returned to The Times as a columnist in July 2007.

Before joining The Times, Ms. Collins was a columnist at New York Newsday and the New York Daily News, and a reporter for United Press International. Her first jobs in journalism were in Connecticut, where she founded the Connecticut State News Bureau, which provided coverage of the state capitol and Connecticut politics. When she sold it in 1977, the CSNB was the largest news service of its kind in the country, with more than 30 weekly and daily newspaper chains.

Aside from “When Everything Changed,” which was published by Little, Brown, Ms. Collins is the author of “America’s Women,” “Scorpion Tongues: Gossip, Celebrity and American Politics,” and “The Millennium Book,” which she co-authored with her husband, Dan Collins.
Nationally recognized scholar, Patricia Hill Collins, who has done pioneering work on the intersection of racism and sexism, will give a public lecture here at the University of St. Thomas on April 7 at 7 PM in the OEC Auditorium. The concept of intersectionality arose as a critique of second-wave feminism and its primary focus on the experience of white middle and upper class women. It analyzes how race, class, gender, sexuality, ethnicity and nation mutually construct one another as concepts and as social phenomena. This lecture, which is free and open to the public, is being co-sponsored by the Luann Dummer Center for Women, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Office of the President/Diversity as part of the CommUNITY series.

Dr. Patricia Hill Collins to Speak on Campus


Founders of Agape Community Coming to Campus

The Luann Dummer Center for Women is proud to be co-sponsoring a visit to our campus by Suzanne and Brayton Shanley, founders of the Agape Community. Co-founded in 1982, The Agape Community is a lay Catholic residential community, ecumenical and interfaith in outreach and practice, with a focus on daily prayer, evangelical simplicity (eco-spirituality, sustainability, organic garden, vegetable oil fueled car, straw bale house, compost toilet, solar energy, wood stoves for cooking and heat) and nonviolent witness in the world, including actions against war, peace vigils, tax resistance and civil disobedience when called, as they attempt to build a nonviolent world.

Part of their mission is education for a non-violent world. In order to further that mission, the Shanleys speak at various colleges to raise awareness of their work and build support. In addition, they host students for weekend and overnight experiences of simple living and non-violence. You can learn more about their community and about its founders at www.agapecommunity.org.

On the evening of April 14, the Shanleys will be giving a public lecture at 7 PM in the OEC Auditorium titled, “Women Peace Activists and the Founding of the Agape Community.”

“If Nonviolence is the Law of Our Being, the Future is with Women” – Mahatma Gandhi

Presented by peacemaker practitioners Suzanne Belote Shanley and Brayton Shanley, co-founders in 1983 of Agape, a lay Catholic Community in Central Massachusetts, ecumenical and interfaith in its outreach, this lecture will offer insights on nonviolence and the feminine through a Christian perspective.

The Shanleys will discuss how their years of living and teaching in an intentional, sustainable community have shaped their belief that the feminine, in balance with the masculine, provides a healing force in a world of environmental degradation and war.

This event is co-sponsored with the departments of Theology, Justice and Peace Studies and Environmental Studies.
Everything Changed

I have now reached that age when books that are supposed to be about history are actually the stories of my life. Reading Gail Collins’s book *When Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women from 1960 to the Present* was one of those experiences. Okay, I admit, I was just a toddler when the first story she recounts occurs, but within about 20 pages, I could remember almost every event she charts.

It helps, of course, that I (1) had 4 older sisters, (2) was raised in a very socially progressive household and (3) was educated by feminist nuns. These current events were dinner conversation. Every day when we came home from school, we watched “The Phil Donahue Show,” the barometer of feminism in the media. Consciousness raising was the story of my life. Even my mother, Catholic stay-at-home mom that she was, was out-spoken in her affirmation of many of the changes for women, including (and maybe especially) the Pill.

Because the Women’s Movement was so much a part of the weave and warp of my life, I forget that our students have no idea what the world was like for women even within my lifetime. When I tell them how recently it was that women could not charge their partners with rape, their eyes grow wide with disbelief. When they find out that I remember when women could not get credit cards in their own name, they stare at me as if I am an ancient relic risen from the grave. (This is even more the case when I tell them I remember going to church wearing a chapel veil and sticking out my tongue as I kneeled at the altar rail to receive the host I dared not touch.)

But it is important, essential even, that we remember how rapid these social changes have been. I admit that I am not as optimistic as Collins. I think we also have to remember how rare and tenuous this social experiment is, how quickly it can be abandoned in the face of some other social crisis. We need our young men and women to be invested in this social change, to recognize how much better their lives are as a result of these changes, and how much better they can still be.

Gail Collins’s book provides a wonderful opportunity for that exploration. Her writing style is engaging and informative, always provocative without being inflammatory. It is my hope that when she joins us on March 8 to speak about this same topic, that it will inspire others to take the time to read this “story of my life.”

But Gail Collins is not the only event with which we are involved this term. We are also co-sponsoring two other important university-wide lectures. The first is that of Patricia Hill Collins, arguably the most important African-American Feminist of our day. You cannot study the intersection of racism and sexism without reading her work. The Advisory Board has wanted to bring her in for a number of years, but this year, everything fell into place as we were able to partner with the President’s Office/Diversity and the College of Arts and Sciences in order to reach a wider audience. She will join us for a conversation about the intersections of racism and sexism.

In addition to the two Collinses, we are also co-sponsoring a lecture by Suzanne and Brayton Shanley who have founded “The Agape Community,” a residence dedicated to the intersection of peace work and dedication to sustainability. This visit is being co-sponsored with the departments of Theology, Justice and Peace Studies, and Environmental Studies. Suzanne and Brayton both identify themselves as feminist, and, like Patricia Hill Collins, help people see the interconnections between patriarchal systems of power, a culture of war, and rape of the environment. I have been so impressed with their work because of how they live out what they believe in their Agape home. For example, they consciously live below the level where they would be required to pay taxes as a way to not support the U.S. government’s war policies.

The late Mary Daly in her pioneering book *Beyond God the Father* traced the way that patriarchal privilege is most evident, not just in the perpetuation of sexism, but also in the sustaining of racism and the colonization of the environment. It has taken feminists a long time to catch up to exploring these intersectionalities. As Collins points out, we should not feel badly that it seems to have taken “so long.” In fact, it’s been a pretty amazing cultural shift. But we also need to keep at that work so that we all recognize that building a society devoid of unearned privilege actually benefits us all. With our programs this semester, I hope we all come away with a clearer sense of this more global project.

— Corrine Carvalho
Jay Phillips Center hosts women rabbis-in-residence

The Jay Phillips Center for Interfaith Learning is hosting two women as its rabbis-in-residence this semester. Rabbi Jill Jacobs, director of Ma’aseh: The Center for Jewish Social Justice Education and the author of *There Shall be No Needy: Pursuing Social Justice through Jewish Law and Tradition*, will be on campus February 7 and 8. Rabbi Stephanie Ruskay, national education director at AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps, will be here April 11 and 12. Both rabbis will give public presentations, teach in theology classes, and lead discussions at luncheons co-sponsored by the Luann Dummer Center for Women.

Rabbi Jacobs will present the lecture “Pursuing Social Justice in a Time of Economic Crisis” on Monday, February 7, and Rabbi Ruskay will present “Passover: From liberation to Freedom” on Tuesday, April 12. Both lectures begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Owens Science Center 3M Auditorium and are free and open to the public.

UAWE Announces New Programs this Spring

The University Advocates for Women and Equity will hold its annual spring awards ceremony on Thursday, March 17 at 3 p.m., in McNeeley 100 on the St. Paul campus. The awards ceremony and reception will feature the annual Sr. Pat Kowalski award, as well as three awards that are new this year. The new awards, which can be bestowed on students, faculty members, or staff members, are the Good Sister Award, the Pauline Lambert Advocacy Award, and the Sapientia Award for Scholarly or Creative Work focused on Women. The UAWE’s Sr. Pat Kowalski award, the premiere award honoring a UST woman for her work to benefit other women, will this year be given to a faculty member. More information about these awards will be available in the Bulletin Today in February, at which time nominations for the awards will be accepted.

Watch for more information about UAWE’s new project, WOW: Women Working at UST, an opportunity for the women at the university to come together to discuss various concerns. This spring we will have two panel discussions on women’s leadership skills, one with student panelists, and one with faculty and administrators. In April, look for a discussion on bullying in the workplace. We hope to see you there!

Yarn Tamers Always Looking for New Members

Yarn Tamers, a group for those who know how to knit, crochet or do other needle crafts, will continue to meet on Mondays during spring semester.

Yarn Tamers is an opportunity for faculty, staff, students and outside community members to spend a relaxing hour working on yarn projects, meeting new friends and colleagues, and socializing. The group encourages newcomers to stop by and join the fun.

Yarn Tamers meets from noon to 1 p.m. Mondays in the Luann Dummer Center for Women, Room 103, O’Shaughnessy Educational Center.

Each year the group works on a service project with materials funded by a small grant from the Women’s Center. During the Fall 10 semester, one of our members, Susan Anderson-Benson, knitted 11 hat and scarf sets, which were donated to Listening House, a center for the homeless in St. Paul.

If you knit, crochet, quilt, or participate in any other type of yarn or needle craft, you are welcome to join the group. Registration is not necessary; just show up during the noon hour on a Monday.

For more information e-mail Pat Alexander (pmaalexander@stthomas.edu)
Spring 2011 Calendar of Events

We welcome you to any or all of our programs and co-sponsored events. See the LDCW website for information on additional events and activities. (All events held at the Luann Dummer Center for Women, OEC 103, unless otherwise noted.)

Feb. 11 Feminist Friday, Dr. Alexis Easley, “Women Writers and Celebrity News at the Fin de Siècle” Noon - 1 p.m.

Feb. 23 LDCW book club, When Everything Changed. Noon - 1 p.m.

March 4 Book Discussion of When Everything Changed. Noon - 1 p.m.

March 8 Women’s History Month Speaker Gail Collins, “When Everything Changed,” 7 p.m. OEC Auditorium

March 11 ACTC Women’s Studies Conference, 3:30 - 8 p.m., Hamline University.

March 15 Women’s Studies Breakfast Talk, 8:15 - 9:30 a.m.

Mar. 17 UAWE Spring reception, 3 - 5 p.m., McNeely 100


April 1 Feminist Friday, Julia Risser, “Challenges and Opportunities for Fiber Artists in Asmat, Papua, Indonesia.” Noon - 1 p.m.

April 7 “A Conversation with Patricia Hill Collins,” co-sponsored with Office of the President/Diversity and the College of Arts and Sciences, 7 p.m. OEC Auditorium

April 12 WMST Breakfast Talk, 8:15 - 9:30 a.m.

April 14 Suzanne and Brayton Shanley, “Women Peace Activists and the Agape Community” 7 p.m. OEC Auditorium

April 27 LDCW book club, The 13th Tale Noon - 1 p.m.

May 11 Grant Recipients poster session and Women’s Studies Reception, 3 - 5 p.m.

May 25 LDCW book club, Lake of Sorrows Noon - 1 p.m.

Personal Counseling to Offer Expanded Services for Those Struggling with Body Image

Beginning Spring Semester, Counseling and Psychological Services will offer an eight-week “Creating Positive Body Image” group for women students. Through talking, sharing, and creative expression you can learn to love, honor, and accept your body. Our goal is for women to stop trying to sculpt their bodies into perfection and, instead, learn to love, honor, accept, and commit to caring for your body (and you!). We believe you can develop a positive and realistic body image by striving for body acceptance instead of body perfection, and that a little bit of change each day leads to significant change over time. The group will meet on Thursdays from 11:30 to 1:00 pm in Murray-Herrick, Room 356. Interested students should contact either Deb Broderick (djbroderick@stthomas.edu) or Jocelyn Lebow (lebo5881@stthomas.edu) or call Counseling and Psychological Services at 651-952-6780 to schedule a brief intake appointment.
“Women Writers and Celebrity News at the Fin de Siècle” presented by Dr. Alexis Easley, English, February 11.

How did women writers negotiate the demands of the celebrity news media that emerged at the end of the nineteenth century? In what ways did the publication of time-sensitive celebrity news in newspapers and periodicals affect the sorts of domestic arrangements, sexual identities, and professional opportunities women could pursue? Professor Easley will address these questions by examining a selection of celebrity features published in British newspapers and periodicals at the end of the nineteenth century. Within the expanding discourse on celebrity in the newspaper and periodical press, women writers were increasingly the subject of feature articles and profiles. Featured as “news,” the woman author seized the public limelight in ways that would have been unimaginable earlier in the century. The depiction of her domestic life and writing habits, revealed to the public through photographs and personal interviews, promised to demystify the life of the woman author and illustrate the compatibility of work and domestic responsibilities. However, at the same time, representations of the woman author mystified and sensationalized her private life by referencing unmentionable “secrets” that could be addressed only through innuendo. The celebrity female body, increasingly represented in visual terms in illustrated periodicals, became the focus of heightened, if ephemeral, consumer interest.

“Challenges and Opportunities for Fiber Artists in Asmat, Papua, Indonesia” presented by Dr. Julia Risser, director of the American Museum of Asmat Art at the University of St. Thomas, April 1.

Although Asmat men have been recognized for their wood carving for more than a century, only during the past decade have women and the fiber art they produce started to appear in anthropological and art historical studies. This coverage helps individual fiber artists gain deserved attention as well as receive competitive prices for their works. In 2009, fiber artists achieved significant recognition at the annual Asmat Cultural Festival when the mats, bags, skirts, and headdresses they produced were included in the festival auction for the first time in the events’ 29 year history. There were differences in terms of the way women’s fiber art was treated in comparison to men’s sculpture. The fiber objects and the artists who produced them were only identified by a number and the name of the artist was not provided in the auction catalog. Perhaps as significant was the manner in which fiber objects were evaluated during the selection process. While innovation is something that helps carvers, fiber objects that fell into established categories such as bags, skirts, and mats were the ones chosen by Erik Sarkol, the local museum director. Josita Kayoa had no luck getting her woven shield included (in Asmat shields are carved out of wood by men). This work is now part of the American Museum of Asmat Art at the University of St. Thomas.

While these differences are important to recognize, the fact that fiber art was included in the auction reflects a growing interest in art produced by women. As this interest increases more women are able to generate revenue through their work. In villages such as Sawa and Atsj women have established weaving centers where they make and sell objects to visitors as well as government officials. It will be interesting to see how far women can take their art over the next few years. The talent and organization necessary to launch a successful fiber art enterprise, one that could function on an international level, appears to be in place. However, the remote location of Asmat culture as well as limited access to communication tools, shipping resources, and venues for showing their works offer significant challenges. This talk explores some of the success stories as well as some of the hurdles for Asmat fiber artists.

Feminist Fridays Scheduled for Spring

The Women’s Center is proud to announce this term’s Feminist Fridays. These take place in the Women’s Center from 12-1. In addition to these two programs, we also celebrate the work of our grant recipients on May 11.
The book club at the Luann Dummer Center for Women is pleased to announce its Spring line-up. We hope there is a little something to please everyone.

We start on February 23 with the book penned by our March speaker, Gail Collins, columnist at the New York Times. Her book, When Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women from 1960 to the Present, presents an accessible and engaging overview of American Women’s history in the past 50 years. Not only does she demonstrate that we really have “come a long way, baby,” she shows how much better everyone’s life is because of these sweeping social changes. In addition to the discussion during our regular book club time, we will also have a discussion of the book on March 4. Watch for Bulletin announcements to get your free copy.

On March 30 we will discuss the widely popular book, The Help, a first novel by southern writer, Kathryn Stockett. The book explores race relations in Jackson, Mississippi in the early 1960’s through the stories of 3 different women. One is a white woman returning from college while two are African-American maids. The book has generated much discussion both positive and negative. We expect a similar range of reactions at our discussion.

On April 27 we read The Thirteenth Tale: A Novel by Diane Setterfield. This modern-day “gothic” novel pits the skills of a young biographer against her uncooperative subject, a storyteller who has told many different versions of her own life story. In the novel, the biographer tries to separate fact from fiction. As the review by Amazon.com states, “The transformative power of truth informs the lives of both women by story’s end.”

On May 25 we return to our favorite author from last year, Erin Hart. Lake of Sorrows is a sequel to Haunted Ground. The book again follows pathologist Dr. Nora Gavin, as she tries to solve another murder in County Offaly, Ireland. We are particularly thrilled about this discussion because the author, who hails from Minnesota will be joining us IN PERSON for our discussion. Don’t miss this unique opportunity!

We have a lively, intelligent core group of book club members, who welcome new members to any discussion. Bring your lunch and join the crowd. Oh, and remember: you don’t have to have finished (or even started) the book in order to join us.

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The Top Five Reasons continued from back page

5. Women’s Studies Breakfast Talks

Women’s Studies Breakfast Talks are back! After a few years of having afternoon discussions at Coffee Bene, we are mixing up the format by moving back to the morning and to the Luann Dummer Center for Women. The time and location may have changed, but the goal of building community within our program remains the same. Our two dates for this spring are Tuesday, March 15 and Tuesday, April 12 from 8:15 – 9:15 a.m.

A Women’s Studies faculty member will start us off by talking about her/his own specific teaching or research within Women’s Studies, and then we’ll open up the discussion. The more we know about each other and our courses, the better we can spread the word about all of the great opportunities for students within our program. Any faculty member or student who is interested in learning about Women’s Studies is welcome to attend.
1. Women in the Developing World: Limited Access, Marginalized Roles, and Gender Disparity

The University of St. Thomas Women’s Studies Program and Foreign Affairs Club will co-host a panel that examines women’s roles in the developing world on Tuesday, February 8 from 6 – 8 p.m. in Murray-Herrick 304.

Panelists include Dr. Maria Tzintzarova (St. Catherine University) and Dr. Ragui Assaad (University of Minnesota), both of whom have had fascinating careers and experiences observing gender disparity and the limited access that women have to impact change in the developing world. The role that women can play in advancing development as well as human security will be broadly discussed. Development issues are moving to the forefront of the public debate concerning human rights, the role of the state, and advancing living standards.

I am so proud of Women’s Studies minor Madeline Jack for organizing this panel discussion, completely on her own initiative. We hope you can join us for this thoughtful and engaging discussion. Refreshments will be served.

2. I’m Telling: A Cabaret with Darcey Engen, Maria Asp, Nanci Olesen

The ACTC Women’s Studies Program is sponsoring I’m Telling on Wednesday, February 9 at 7 p.m. in OEC auditorium. Faculty and students from all of the ACTC Women’s Studies Program campuses are invited to attend, so it’s a great opportunity for us to reconnect with each other.

The stories that make up I’m Telling use motherhood as a launching pad for what are really universal human stories – about relationships, identity, family, grief, artistry, and career. The show is designed to encourage deep reflection and meaningful conversation about the personal and political importance of parenting in our culture. It contains humor, sadness, music, theatricality, physical storytelling, and thought-provoking points of view that are rarely told. There will be discussion with the performers after the show.

3. Women’s Studies Scholarship

Women’s Studies Majors and Minors: The Luann Dummer Center for Women is pleased to provide an annual scholarship in the amount of $2,000 to a qualified Women’s Studies major or minor. Deadline for applications is Friday, March 4. See www.stthomas.edu/womensstudies/scholarship/default.html for scholarship requirements.

4. ACTC Women’s Studies Student Conference

The ACTC Women’s Studies Student Conference will be held on the afternoon of Friday, March 11 at Hamline University. Come support Women’s Studies students as they showcase their research and activism. With a free dinner and no registration costs, why wouldn’t you attend? Students: If you’d like to participate in the continued on page 7