This is how I remember Jessica: her cheeks are rosy this morning from the frosty walk from the parking lot into Trotter’s Cafe, a few flakes of snow highlight the delicious curls pulled back from her face. She orders tea, and I get a large Aztec coffee with cayenne pepper in it. Her scarf today is long and sparkly, and I want to touch the quiet optimism that always seems to wrap around her.

My life’s journey crossed with Jessica’s a number of years ago when she began her work here at Augsburg. We served together on the women’s studies committee of the Associated Colleges of the Twin Cities that met each month with the other women’s studies chairs from St. Catherine and St. Thomas. As chair of that committee, I can testify that Jess was a tireless advocate for her students. She always had time to organize one more program or activity for them, put our budget to use, or find even more ways to support what her students wanted to do. Sometimes her energy and enthusiasm exhausted us, but most of the time we were grateful for it.

Because that’s what she did. And I’m glad. This is how I will remember her.

Our unique work situations and parallel interests meant that we quickly moved from colleagues to friends. We stayed late after meetings to strategize about campus politics, or do some thinking about a feminist theory textbook we hoped to co-author. Sometimes we stood in the parking lot talking for another hour, or we went around the corner to get an Izzy scoop. Sometimes we got together without the benefit of a committee meeting, just to talk about “stuff.”

You see, we needed the safe space of each other. That’s what Jessica was - safe space. Not just for me, but for so many others. She had a special talent for creating a metaphysical reality where her relationship with you meant that everything was possible - that it was possible to have an honest conversation, to be in this world as you truly are and be accepted by her. With Jess it was possible to achieve your secret heart’s desire, and she would help you name it, see it, - grab it and make it real.

But those of us who do this type of work know that it can be exhausting work. Jess needed her safe space, too, and I’m glad I was there to provide it for her. We were in our own way “sisters under the skin” - a sisterhood borne of the shock of diagnosis, of scars left by scalpels, and of the steady infusion of poisons meant to heal. Our sisterhood of safe space meant we could have honest conversations about things we couldn’t say out loud to other people, people who didn’t understand the kinds of things we’d been through or the reasons for the choices we’d made.
IN HONOR OF JESSICA

Jessica Nathanson, assistant professor and director of the women’s studies program and Women’s Resource Center at Augsburg College, died April 5 due to complications caused by breast cancer. Nathanson earned a BA from Wesleyan University and an MA and PhD from the State University of New York at Buffalo. She co-edited the book Mother Knows Best: Talking Back to the “Experts” and had a wide following as a feminist blogger. Not only did Jessica serve as passionate leader for social justice and gender issues on the Augsburg College campus, she was also a dear friend and inspiration to many of her students.

The following piece is dedicated in honor of Jessica’s work, love and inspiration in my life:

There are so much things to say right now
There are so much things to say right now
There are so much things to say

I haven’t slept a full 8 hours since you left and there are so many things yet to say
Left hanging and I am choking on the afterbirth of regret
So, right now I’d like to take back all the things I never said

Instead JESSICA, know that… you are a graceful scholar

We helped each other, and I’m glad. I’m glad I told her that I loved her after our many phone conversations.
Bell Hooks reminds us, “There is light in darkness, you just have to find it.” So we shouldn’t dwell on the grief we feel this morning. Instead, I think Jessica would want us to allow ourselves to feel it, but not be so engrossed in it that we miss the possibilities of life that lie beyond our grief - possibilities we have not yet noticed. For in our life’s valleys, it’s easy to miss the vast horizons of the heavens.

But with each ascending step out of the valley, we attain a broader outlook. Each day brings the possibility of a new vista, and every moment of life is full of the promise of more life. And that’s how Jessica lived her life. As we progress on our paths that lead upward, we will at every turn perceive more of beauty and worth, and real unity. And this will be our true tribute to Jessica.

Other than Jess now, none of us here have reached the top of that mountain where the view includes the whole. But because of her, we’ve been given a glimpse of that most promising outlook, and we are all on the way up.

And for that, I’m glad. Jessica was taken from us too soon. But as she looks down on us this morning from her new home above the sky, I know how vexed she would be to know we’re celebrating her in this way. I know if she could, she would call me on the phone and say to me “You’re celebrating me just because I died, lots of people die, and that doesn’t make me special.” And I would respond, yes, we are celebrating you. Because you are special, and we love you. We’re celebrating how you made our lives better, and how thankful we are that we got the chance to know you - if only for a little bit.

I’ll miss you Jess, and I’ll continue to think of you often. But I know in the right time, I will meet you again. And on that day, I’ll be glad to see you and hug you again.

IN HONOR OF JESSICA

by Lucreshia Grant, Augsburg College Alumna
Lifted me when my two feet could longer stand beneath me

I remember the day I told you I was leaving and you held me the way an ocean holds a continent, secure and balanced.

Wiped my tears like a mother would

Pulled out a pad and paper, titled ACTION we started with number one

Said there are always things to be done, there are always things to do when we feel like running with the speed a thoroughbred.

Friends, let me tell you

If we had the time to recall every moment where in which this woman made me feel like I could levitate,

I swear it’d take all day...

This is a piece about praise today because,

if there was bad between us I just can’t remember it

I never knew I could float with pride this way.

I came in here rusty and naïve, too big for my own britches

You saw a light in me and followed it

My writing then, was sloppy, holey and dishonest

There are times when writing for an audience is just plain perjury

And every time I lifted my pen from this paper in disbelief

Turned my palms up in discouragement

You calmly, proclaimed that “that must be the oppression talking”

That day I thought my heart would beat right through my ribcage

I never imagined that someone might get it

Get me, get this

I love you, for the tears you allowed me to cry, often and

The beauty you believed me to write

And I can’t help believing that we were meant to be

in a space like SVERDRUP 207

warm and complicated in the differences between us

age, race, class, time, distance

there is love in that and we confronted it daily learning that oppression sometimes smells like privilege and power doesn’t always have to be dominance

you are my best memory about this place and

I know we’re not done

Cuz you African dance through my dreams

Reminding me of the freedom I already keep, on my tongue

You’re in my windpipe

Part of the cadence and confidence in my voice

You’re the social justice in my strut

I won’t lower my head in fear again

Eyes forward ready to stand completely still with another

You gave me grace, honored me with respect

Not just a Black woman on a stage to you...clap me around of “thanks and that was beautiful”

But she knew the truth.

Knew I was a Queen, believed my words and told me.

There are so much things to say

I have say so much to say, but I can say nothing fully at all.

Thanks for all the books and

Reminding me that I can do this

Thanks for believing in feminism enough to teach it.

Thanks for loving us as much as you did

Thanks for loving me

It’s not over, we’re not done

You’ll see

Because

This place became a home for me because you were in it

It is better because you graced it

Because you believed it I am better

Jessica, thank you!

There are so much things to say right now

There are so much things to sayyyyy

There are so much things to say right now

There are so much things to sayyyyy

There are so much things to say right now

There are so much things to sayyyyy (fade out)

For Dr. Jessica Nathanson
Throughout the academic year, the Abigail Quigley McCarthy Center for Women hosts the Women’s Studies (WOST) and Critical Studies of Race and Ethnicity (CRST) bag lunch discussion series. The series brings together faculty, students, staff, and community members to discuss current research and creative endeavors. This semester’s series began with sculpture and global economics:

*How I Became an Iron Maiden*
On September 16 Tamsie Ringler, Assistant Professor of Art/Art History, introduced the Iron Maidens exhibit in the Catherine G. Murphy Gallery and discussed how iron casting transformed her sculpture. The exhibit, featuring American, Welsh and English women artists who work with iron as their primary medium, continues through October 30.

*Making Sense of the Global Economic Crisis*
On Tuesday, October 18, Professors Amata Miller, IHM and Deep Shikha examined the shifting landscape of global economic crisis and the interdependence of seemingly individual experiences. Participants gained tools to build analyses of U.S. economic problems and their impact on the world economy. Sister Amata is Professor of Economics and Director of the Myser Initiative on Catholic Identity. Deep Shikha is Professor of Economics and Women’s Studies.

*Fostering Women's Self Awareness and Self Esteem Through Creative Expression*
This discussion is Friday, November 4, noon-1:30 p.m. English Professor Geri Chavis, an affiliated member of the women’s studies faculty, will discuss themes from her new book, *Poetry and Story Therapy: the Healing Power of Creative Expression*. Chavis, who has taught literature at St. Catherine since 1977, uses poems, stories, and other creative work to foster growth and healing. She is a certified poetry therapist and former vice president of the National Association for Poetry Therapy (NAPT). Chavis completed an M.A. in counseling psychology to complement her Ph.D. in English literature and language. She serves as an editorial board member of the Journal for Poetry Therapy.

*Women and the Arts Open House*
Tuesday, November 8, between 2 and 6 PM, an event introducing a new Women* and the Arts minor will take place in the Abigail Quigley McCarthy Center for Women. Featuring visual art, music, video, fashion, and live performance, the Open House will offer information about the minor and will showcase dynamic faculty, talented students, and exciting campus resources.

Activities at the event will be organized to accommodate 15-30 minute class visits (at the start, in the middle or at the end of a class). The organizers promise that **this will not be your typical info session.** If you would like to bring a class to the event, please contact Professor Gabrielle Civil, gfcivil@stkate.edu. The event also will be open to individuals.

Women are people with diverse backgrounds of gender, class, race, sexuality, nation, age, and ability. This notion of women is central to the St. Catherine Women’s Studies vision.
National Spoken Word Artists Bring Their Feminist Message to Hamline

There is an angry woman in my apartment. It's not what you think. She's pacing and shouting into a cell phone, carrying a glass of water. Not far away, her partner is lifting a cooler full of fruit up three flights of stairs. I'm trying to do the dishes before we have to find something to eat, and we're already running a little late.

The woman is nationally known spoken word poet Rachel McKibbens; her partner is Mindy Nettifee, of similar repute; and we're only a few hours from their feature performance at Hamline on October 7. A few days before this, McKibbens ordered a box of three-or-so dozen books to be delivered overnight to my apartment, and two hours to stage space might be fitting, to quote their press release, they were going to be bringing "a literary bitch slap with white gloves and black-eyed poetry."

Haphazard funding and lost books aside -- they'd been sent to McKibbens' New York address by mistake -- once we reached the venue the evening was flawless. These two "lady veterans of the performance poetry renaissance" made it clear what they were doing as soon as they took to their microphones.

Nettifee began the evening with a poem in the form of a letter to women unwilling to call themselves feminists, subtitled "Please Don't Say Stupid Shit Like That in Front of Me." The poets then chose their "Victorian man servant" for the evening, a tradition of the tour, and told him to hold signs introducing the next part of the show and present them to the audience on their cue.

"We're basically cock-blocking all the male performance tours," McKibbens said with a grin, sipping tea from a cup on which she'd written the word "sloth" -- "greed" and "lust" were also in attendance.

The evening was not all gags and laughter, though. Nettifee occasionally lent somber piano tunes to back some of McKibbens' more heartfelt pieces, and Nettifee herself looked tearful during poems like "What Comes After," about a narrator trying to get over a breakup. The final piece of the night, McKibbens' "Last Love," drew tears from more than one eye in the audience as she delivered lines like, "Let this wild depression throw me beneath its hooves if it brings me to you." These ladies were on campus to prove that being a feminist can be entertaining, fun, and empowering, but they seemed to know that they had to bring their bad days to the stage, too.

The Hamline appearance was followed by a shorter set at Macalester College the next evening, a feature performance at the Green Mill's poetry slam in Chicago on Sunday, and more dates throughout the month.
**In Her Own Words: St. Thomas Women’s Studies Minor Attends National Conference for College Women Student Leaders**

My name is Lisa Johnson and I will be graduating from the University of St. Thomas in May 2012. I am majoring in Political Science and Spanish, with a minor in Women’s Studies, and I hope to attend law school in the fall. Thanks to generous funding from the ACTC Women’s Studies Program, I was able to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), sponsored by the American Association of University Women (AAUW), in June 2011. The Conference was held at the University of Maryland, Baltimore and this gave me an opportunity to visit Washington, D.C. for the very first time. As a political science major, this was something I especially enjoyed. My excitement about the trip was augmented by the fact that I took WMST 205: Foundations of Women’s Studies with one of my favorite professors the spring before the conference. This class fostered a greater understanding and appreciation for this field of study and for my own potential as a woman.

NCCWSL offers a huge selection of workshops and speakers for attendees and I was able to benefit greatly from the experience. The workshops addressed everything from how to present yourself in an interview to preventative and support programs that deal with sexual violence on college campuses. Another great component to NCCWSL is the Women of Distinction Award which showcases women with inspirational stories who encourage attendees to see past the expectations put on us by society and to fight for our dreams. The women awarded included Swanee Hunt, a renowned peacemaker and philanthropist; Natalie Rudolph, first female head coach of the Calvin Coolidge Senior High School Football Team; Marsha A. Guenzler-Stevens, Director, Adele H. Stamp Student Union, University of Maryland; Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and Connie Chung, Emmy-winning broadcast journalist. Although these women imparted a significant amount of their inspiration, wisdom and experience, I found the other conference attendees to be equally inspirational. The conference made an effort to have us share our experiences with each other during these workshops and meetings and I learned as much from my peers as from the women who received this award.

I am very grateful for having had this opportunity and it has definitely had an impact on my life. I still keep in touch with a few of the girls I met at the conference and I hope to contribute to the American Association of University Women in the future.

**Hamline Faculty Profile: Professor Kathy Burleson, Biology & Women’s Studies**

“Students like to learn about their own bodies,” says Professor Kathy Burleson, as she explains why the Hamline course Biology of Women seems to be so popular with students. Due to two students’ late schedule changes “this year is the first year there have been open spaces in the class,” she says. The Biology of Women class has been so popular and interesting to students that Burleson is developing a new class that will tentatively be called Sex and Science. A professor at Hamline since 2008, she has been increasingly contributing to departments, such as this new class.

Burleson originally intended to go into the medical field while getting her bachelor’s degree at The College of St. Scholastica; however, she decided to go into teaching. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. The medical background that brought her to biology, paired with her involvement in the women’s group The American Association of University Women (AAUW) emulates her focus of incorporating the study of biology with women’s studies: AAUW’s mission is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

Burleson’s new class, Sex and Science, will be a biology and women’s studies course that explores how women have been treated in the science world. The discussion-based class will explore how women can help science and how they’ve been portrayed in science materials, such as textbooks. There will be no labs, and the class will help generate

...Burleson, continued on p. 8
### J-Term/Spring Women's Studies Courses at Augsburg

**J-Term**


**Spring**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WST 201</td>
<td>Foundations in Women’s Studies (Day/WEC)</td>
<td>T, Th</td>
<td>6:00-9:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WST 315</td>
<td>Margins as Center: Feminist Theory (Day/WEC)</td>
<td>Th</td>
<td>6:00-9:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENL 365</td>
<td>Contemporary Post Colonial Fiction</td>
<td>M,W,F</td>
<td>1:20-2:20 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HPE 316</td>
<td>Human Sexuality</td>
<td>T,Th</td>
<td>11:50 am -1:20 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIS 282</td>
<td>History of Women since 1848</td>
<td>M,W,F</td>
<td>11:00 am – 12:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 265</td>
<td>Race, Class and Gender</td>
<td>T, Th</td>
<td>9:40-11:10 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 266</td>
<td>Sociology of Sexualities</td>
<td>M,W,F</td>
<td>2:30-3:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIS 320</td>
<td>American Indian Women (Day/WEC)</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>6:00-9:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>WST 335</td>
<td>Contemporary Latin American Women: Texts &amp;Voices</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>WST 341</td>
<td>Globalization, Social Struggles and the Environment</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>WST 355</td>
<td>Conflict &amp; Change in Latin America</td>
<td>Central America</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>WST 357</td>
<td>Mexican History, Culture &amp; Cosmovision</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
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</tbody>
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### J-Term/Spring Women's Studies Courses at Hamline

**J-Term**

ARTH 1980  Topics: Women and Art
COMM 3670  Gender, Communication, and Knowledge
PHIL 3250  Feminist Philosophy
SOC 1330  Women, Men, and Society

**Spring**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WSTD 1500</td>
<td>Topics: Women and Popular Culture</td>
<td>T,Th</td>
<td>2:30-4:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGST 3420</td>
<td>Topics: Law in the Lives of Women</td>
<td>Th</td>
<td>9:40-11:10 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 3330</td>
<td>Sociology of Gender</td>
<td>M,W,F</td>
<td>10:20-11:20 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 1330</td>
<td>Women, Men, and Society</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>12:50-3:50 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGST 3540</td>
<td>Family and Gender Issues in Law</td>
<td>M,W</td>
<td>6:00-7:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 3430</td>
<td>Feminist and Womanist Theologies</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>6:30-9:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 3800</td>
<td>Topics: Homosexuality in Victorian Britain</td>
<td>T,Th</td>
<td>9:40-11:10 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENG 3570</td>
<td>Women and Literature</td>
<td>T,Th</td>
<td>12:50- 2:20 pm</td>
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### Spring Women's Studies Courses at St. Catherine

**Spring**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 3630</td>
<td>Women in Art</td>
<td>T,Th</td>
<td>9:55-11:35 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 1120</td>
<td>Biology of Women with Lab</td>
<td>T,Th</td>
<td>9:55-11:35 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 1120</td>
<td>Biology of Women Lab 1</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>1:30-3:15 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 1120</td>
<td>Biology of Women Lab 2</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>3:30-5:15 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 3100</td>
<td>Communicating Across Cultures, Identities, and Differences</td>
<td>M,W,F</td>
<td>10:55 am – 12:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 1120</td>
<td>Economics of Social Issues</td>
<td>M,W</td>
<td>2:55-4:35 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 3400</td>
<td>Language as Power</td>
<td>T,Th</td>
<td>3:25-5:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 3560</td>
<td>Women in America to 1920</td>
<td>T,Th</td>
<td>9:55-11:35 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 3650</td>
<td>U.S. Women Since 1920</td>
<td>T,Th</td>
<td>1:30-3:10 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 3790</td>
<td>Women in Europe Since 1600</td>
<td>T,Th</td>
<td>8:00-9:40 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 2700</td>
<td>Social Movements – Social Change</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>6-9:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 3250</td>
<td>Cultural Anthropology</td>
<td>M,W</td>
<td>2:55-4:35 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEO 2994</td>
<td>Topics: Women, Earth, Creator, Spirit</td>
<td>Th</td>
<td>6:00-9:15 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEO 3380</td>
<td>Women and the Bible</td>
<td>M,W</td>
<td>2:55-4:35 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WOST 3640</td>
<td>Feminist Theory</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>6:00-9:15 pm</td>
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### J-TERM/SPRING WOMEN’S STUDIES COURSES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS

**J-Term**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Times</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BLAW 352</td>
<td>Gender Issues and the Law</td>
<td>M,T,W,Th</td>
<td>9:00 am – 12:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEO 431</td>
<td>Women in the Early Church</td>
<td>M,T,W,Th</td>
<td>9:00 am – 12:00 pm</td>
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**Spring**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Times</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WMST 205</td>
<td>Foundations in Women’s Studies</td>
<td>M,W,F</td>
<td>10:55 am – 12:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COJO 328</td>
<td>Communication of Race, Class, and Gender</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>6:00 – 9:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 218</td>
<td>Literature by Women: Critical History</td>
<td>M,W,F</td>
<td>1:35 – 2:40 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 368</td>
<td>Women in the United States</td>
<td>M,W</td>
<td>2:55 – 4:35 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 205</td>
<td>Psychology of Women</td>
<td>M,W</td>
<td>2:55 – 4:35 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 321</td>
<td>Marriages and Families</td>
<td>T,Th</td>
<td>1:30 – 3:10 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 354</td>
<td>Sex in Society</td>
<td>T,Th</td>
<td>9:55 – 11:35 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEO 431</td>
<td>Women in the Early Church</td>
<td>T,Th</td>
<td>8:00 – 9:40 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEO 431</td>
<td>Women in the Early Church</td>
<td>T,Th</td>
<td>9:55 – 11:35 am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Burleson’s current course, *Biology of Women*, has resulted in some interesting research. Results of the *Microbes and Mascara* lab from the past four years were compiled into a scholarly paper to be published in the Science Educator’s journal *Microbiology and Bio Educating*. This lab, conducted each year in *Biology of Women*, studies how cosmetics and personal products develop bacteria. She says it’s very interesting for students to see how their own individual products could affect them.