Women’s History Month Speaker:
Dr. Sara Paretsky

The Luann Dummer Center for Women is happy to announce the upcoming Women’s History Month lecture by Dr. Sara Paretsky, which will be held on Tuesday, March 5th, at the OEC Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. 

Dr. Paretsky revolutionized the mystery world when she introduced her private detective, “V. I. Warshawski,” in her 1982 novel *Indemnity Only*. By creating a strong female investigator who uses her wits as well as her fists, Paretsky challenged the conventions of a genre in which women traditionally were either vamps or victims. Fourteen other “Warshawski” novels followed, all national bestsellers, including her most recent, *Breakdown*.

Paretsky, born 1947, grew up in Kansas and graduated from the University of Kansas. She went to Chicago in 1966 to work as a community organizer, and marched there with Dr. Martin Luther King. In 1968, she returned, eventually earning a Ph. D. in History from the University of Chicago, writing her dissertation on the breakdown of moral philosophy in pre-Civil War New England. The summer of 1966, one of racial unrest, raised her awareness of issues of voice and voicelessness, issues that dominate her writing, because, as she notes, they dominate her emotional life. These themes are threaded throughout her novel, *Hardball* (2009), the text she recommended to the UST community, along with *Writing in an Age of Silence* (2007), her memoir.

— continued
A descendent of a Polish Jew, Paretsky developed early a deep commitment to social justice. Her education and research have yielded her a great deal of historical and political knowledge, informing her perspectives on a myriad of issues, places, and people across spectrums of class, race, and gender. Along with the powerless, the poor and the marginalized are given voice in her novels. Having experienced repression firsthand—systematically, culturally, and personally—Paretsky veered off the path expected of her and became a feminist writer in the post-sixties second wave of feminism. She writes, “I was a person raised to serve, who came of age in a time of passion for justice. My character neatly dovetailed the times. My own sense of voicelessness also led me to see and feel the anguish of the powerless” (Writing in an Age of Silence, 41).

Paretsky writes her novels in the attic of her Chicago house, incorporating Chicago’s cultures, politics, and energy into her V. I. Warshawski series. Paretsky writes, “Every writer’s difficult journey is a movement from silence to speech. We must be intensely private and interior in order to find a voice and a vision—and we must bring our work to an outside world” (111). Paretsky has helped open doors for other women by creating a world-wide organization to support women crime writers (“Sisters in Crime”).

The first semester as Director of the Luann Dummer Center for Women led me to engage with many and wonderful facets of the job. Hosting the Chocolate reception, Feminist Fridays, book club meetings, and a poetry reading commemorating Adrienne Rich, to name a few, were privileges and very enriching experiences. The directorship also led me to serve on various committees related to the mission of the Center, including the Affirmative Action Committee, University Advocates for Women and Equity, Women’s Studies Steering Committee, Women Faculty Leadership Council, the Allies, and the ad hoc committee on the Climate Survey Work Group. Also, I was invited to speak to various groups (“Gender Matters” student groups and new faculty members, for example), which I found stimulating and rewarding. While I was engaged with all these facets of the job, I was wondering how I could sum up these experiences and engagements to myself and to the friends of the Women’s Center. While attending the 2012 NWSA (National Women’s Studies Association) conference in Oakland, California, a helpful

concept occurred to me: intersectionality. This term is credited to the feminist sociologist Patricia Hill Collins, the plenary speaker of the NWSA conference, who spoke at St. Thomas several years back and who formulated the term to highlight the relationship between gender and race and then expanded it to encompass relationships among gender, race, class, sexuality, and so on.

With a nod to the feminist imperative inherent in the term intersectionality, I might adopt it to describe the contour of my work at the Women’s Center.

Mediating and bringing together discussions, big and small, intellectual and practical, under the umbrella concept of gender, my work is oriented to bringing diverse groups of people together and deepening their engagement with each other.

The mission of the Women’s Center requires intersections among the Center’s constituents, students, staff, and the faculty.

Some work which was not planned also found its way into the office of the Women’s Center, for example when I was approached by some students and colleagues seeking support and help. Memorably, a female student, concerned about the St. Paul City Council’s plan to post
the list of student housing in the UST area, contacted me to see if the Women’s Center could assist her in addressing the safety of the students involved. Working with the Dean of Students Office, especially the Green Dot program, I was able to assure the concerned student that the list of student housing would not be available on the web. I was moved by her tenacious activism, which made a difference.

On another front, a concern was raised by some female faculty members about the cost and availability of childcare in the area, specifically in the affordability of the UST Child Development Center. Childcare has been a core area of feminist discussion for decades, if not centuries, so it sparked my interest. I learned about the financial realities of childcare from junior faculty members who would love to have access to our excellent Development Center but find it unaffordable. I realized how gender issues intersect with class, and how individual families’ attempts to balance work and life intersect with the budget priorities of the University. Along with other units of the University, we will continue to work on this issue.

This spring, we are celebrating the milestone of the Center’s 20th anniversary, which reminds us of how the past, present, and future intersect.

The front page of the newsletter announces our March Women’s History Month lecture by Sara Paretsky, which is a nod to our 1993 inaugural lecture by mystery writer Carolyn Heilbrun (aka Amanda Cross).

We will also be putting together various projects to commemorate the Center’s 20-year milestone. One big project is a video that chronicles the Center’s history and activities, and offers our outlook for the future. We hired videographer Katherine Lenaburg, who worked with UST Media Services to put together a three-part video which eloquently articulates Luann Dummer’s vision and legacy through the voices of those who founded, shaped, and witnessed the evolution of the Center. It also describes the Center’s programs, fellowships, grants, and other offerings. The video is a remarkable tribute to the Center’s history and growth.

I’d like to conclude my reflections by saluting all those who have contributed to the intersecting goals and programs of the Center and the many voices that have sustained the Center’s spirit. Also, I’d like to thank the excellent Advisory Board of the Center, those affiliated with Women’s Studies, the UAWE, and the Center’s team of staff. Happy Anniversary, LDCW!

Feminist Fridays
Talks for the Spring

Feb. 15th: Dr. Buffy Smith, Associate Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice
Title: “Creating a Multi-Identity Community for Social Justice”

Dr. Smith will address how to build a multi-identity community for addressing social justice issues. She will discuss how gender identity intersects with race, class, and other socially constructed identities and provide strategies for how to create a coalition to empower individuals to dismantle systems of oppression.

April 19th: Dr. Renee Buhr, Associate Professor of Political Science
Title: “Boys Like Guns and Girls Care About People”: Gender stereotypes versus individual interest in international relations subfields

Women working in foreign policy have drawn a great deal of attention in the past year, over whether or not “women can’t have it all.” The belief that women are scarce in foreign policy is both widespread and incorrect, as many women work throughout the foreign policy community today. Dr. Buhr’s research seeks to examine the perception of gender roles among the students in the International Relations (IR). She will discuss the thought-provoking survey results and her analysis.
Students do not need to be Women’s Studies majors or minors to present at the conference. Proposal deadline is Friday, February 22.

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 8. See http://www.stthomas.edu/ldcw/grants/scholarshipsforwomensstudiesmajors/ for scholarship requirements.

ACTC Women’s Studies Faculty Development Book Discussion
Profs. Young-ok An, Angela High-Pippert, Brenda Powell, Patti Kameya, and Anne Klejment will represent UST in the ACTC Women’s Studies Faculty Development Book Discussion at Gandhi Majal restaurant on Wednesday, April 10. We will be reading Clare Hemmings’ Why Stories Matter: The Political Grammar of Feminist Theory in preparation for an evening of discussion with our colleagues from across the ACTC. Let me know if you’d like to borrow my copy of the book!

Luann Dummer Center for Women Grant Recipient and Women’s Studies Reception
The Luann Dummer Center for Women is hosting a reception for their 2012-2013 grant recipients, along with graduating Women’s Studies majors and minors. Come celebrate the accomplishments of our students on Friday, May 3 from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. in the Center.

Triota
Did you know that UST has our own chapter of Iota Iota Iota (Triota), the Women’s Studies Undergraduate Honor Society? Women’s Studies majors and minors are eligible to join. Benefits range from getting to know other Women’s Studies students to wearing special purple and white honor cords at graduation. Talk to me for more information.

As always, if you have questions about the Women’s Studies Program, feel free to contact me:

651-962-5725;
ahighpippe@stthomas.edu

“Thank you, Angela, for your inspiring leadership and tireless work!”

—LDCW Advisory Board
Throughout the fall, I continued to show my support of LGBT rights by contributing money to Minnesotans United, wearing my Vote No t-shirt and equality ring, and donating to and attending a NOH8 Campaign photo shoot in downtown Minneapolis. I also continued to tell family and friends why I was planning to vote no.

On voting day, I received a text from a very politically conservative friend who said he had “every intention of going to the polls and voting yes,” but our conversation prompted him to vote no because he was persuaded that he should not control who someone loves. I feel that, with sincerity, I approached people around me on the subject of equality, and I was able to persuade them on this issue. As a part of the community as a whole, we now have a state that reinforced its belief in equality. I look forward to a day when LGBT people are seen as equals to the rest of the community. I look forward to a day when Nick can marry the man he loves. I say to myself, “You are the next generation. As you get older, you will have to find what you’re passionate about and be the change you want to see.”
The Luann Dummer Center for Women is pleased to offer several grant opportunities for faculty, staff and students. Information for all grants and awards is available on our website:

- Undergraduate Fellowship for Research on Topics Related to Women
- Graduate Student Fellowship for Research on Topics Related to Women
- Curriculum Development Grant (for the faculty)
- Professional Development Award (for the faculty and staff)
- Small Grant
- Scholarships for Women’s Studies Majors

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<tr>
<td>Women’s Studies Scholarship</td>
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**Notes from 2012 Graduate Research Fellowship Recipients**

Luann Dummer Center for Women Graduate Research Fellowship has been a transformational and rewarding opportunity. The fellowship helped me develop a sense of my own identity as a Hmong-American woman and broaden my own cultural competency of the Hmong people and their experience in America. Particularly, the fellowship encouraged me to seek and explore the underrepresented area of scholarly study regarding Hmong women’s power and forms of Hmong feminisms. The funding from the fellowship allowed me to collect a variety of literature for research and tools to conduct interviews with influential Hmong-American women. It also supported my travels to present my research at out-of-state conferences. Most significantly, I have developed a strong foundation in a unique subject area that will be useful for future professional and academic endeavors. I am grateful for the opportunity and thank the Luann Dummer Center for Women for its support.

—by Nouchie Xiong, English graduate student

It is with a marvelous sense of anticipation that my Luann Dummer research project nears its completion as a Master’s Essay for the Master of Arts in English degree program. Studying the complexities of Mary Karr’s serial autobiographical writing has stretched me as a scholar and challenged my ideas to evolve, reflecting research findings and translating private curiosity into collective knowledge. The Luann Dummer grant transformed this research project from an idea into a polished paper. The funding granted me the precious resource of childcare, and thus, the precious resource of time and freedom to pursue the project to completion, resulting in a stronger, more thoroughly researched project than would have been possible without the grant. Even more importantly, the Luann Dummer grant represented, for me, a visceral connection to a long tradition of women’s intellectual excellence, which I hold with gratitude as an incredible honor.

—by Rachel MacDonald, English graduate student

Last fall, Campus Life, Residence Life, Anderson Student Center, and Student Engagement piloted “Gender Matters,” a program designed to facilitate dialogue around gender and gender inequity in our society. Fifteen students participated in this six-week series of conversations. Participants began with an exploration of gender identity and the impact of socialization. Conversations continued by exploring media influence, under-representation of women in leadership, and the gender gap at UST. The program ended with discussions about how to take action to eliminate gender inequity.

During discussions about taking action, participants came up with pages of brilliant ideas. Here are a few:

- Give my time and money to organizations that empower women and support equality.
- Speak out, respectfully but firmly, against discrimination and ignorance.
- Make a documentary that follows powerful, every day women around the world and show it and theaters in schools.
Danielle Tschida, the president of the Allies, reports on the events the student group held in fall, 2012.

Besides holding the educational “Know Your Vote” forum, Allies volunteered with the Aliveness Project and the Quatrefoil Library. We also held a very successful National Coming Out Day event and gave away t-shirts that said, “Know Yourself.”

Since we had the Presidential election during the semester, and Minnesotans cast votes on the Marriage Amendment, a lot of our energy was devoted to educating the UST community about what it meant to the LGBT community. UST Allies held an education forum a week before elections regarding the amendment. We had four different speakers to discuss the topic: a student, a theology professor, a psychology professor, and a man from Minnesota United for All Families.

The student, Elissandra De Brito, discussed how the issue would affect her and the people close to her. She discussed how her grandmother taught her the importance of accepting everyone for who they are because that is what Jesus did. He loved the people who were discriminated against, and Elissandra discussed how this is important to consider when voting on the marriage amendment.

Dr. Corrine Carvalho, of Theology, discussed the ambiguity of the Bible stories that are most often used as arguments against same-sex relationships. We also had Dr. Britain Scott, of Psychology, summarize the results of research done on children raised in same-sex couple households. People often argue against marriage between same-sex couples based on a concern about the impact of social bias against children of same-sex parents. Dr. Scott informed us that there is no conclusive evidence of this. She also pointed out that the American Psychology Association noted that children raised by same-sex couples benefit from loving parents as much as children of the intact heterosexual couples.

Finally, we had Jerry, from Minnesota United for all Families, the largest grass roots campaign in Minnesota against the marriage amendment. Jerry, as a gay man, also discussed what this amendment meant personally.

At the very end of the forum, we displayed a short film, made by students in the UST Allies group, that pointed out that marriage provides certain rights and responsibilities that are denied to same-sex couples. Over 1000 federal and over 500 state laws deny rights to committed same-sex couples. Overall, the educational forum went really well.

This Spring semester, Allies is teaming up with other groups around St. Thomas campus to address bigoted language and to create a more inclusive, loving community. We have plans to get Gurantee, a two time national poetry slam winner and local hip-hop artist, to come to St. Thomas along with other poetry slam artists to talk about offensive language and its power. Allies will also be holding a Day of Silence event in April.

Allies meetings are Thursdays from 12-1pm during convo hour in ASC 238.

— Danielle Tschida
At UST, we are gearing up for the Climate Survey in the spring of 2013.

Excellent

Very Good

Good

Average

This year, in honor of our March 2013 Women’s History Month speaker Dr. Sara Paretsky, we will focus on women mystery writers. We have included in our list some classic titles and some less well-known. We are focusing on novels with female detectives.

January 30, 2013
Sara Paretsky, *Hardball*

When V. I. Warshawski is asked to find a man who's been missing for four decades, a search that she figured would be futile becomes lethal. Old skeletons from the city's racially charged history, as well as haunting family secrets—her own and those of the elderly sisters who hired her—rise up to brush her back from the plate with a vengeance. A young cousin whom she's never met arrives from Kansas City to work on a political campaign; and a nun who marched with Martin Luther King Jr. dies without revealing crucial evidence. Afraid to learn that her adored father might have been a bent cop, V. I. still takes the investigation all the way to its frightening end.

February 27, 2013
Sara Paretsky, *Body Work*

To protect her cousin Petra, V. I. has been visiting Club Gouge, Chicago’s edgiest night spot, where a woman known as the Body Artist turns her body into a canvas. When a painter is shot, the cops figure it’s an easy collar—PTSD vet goes off the rails. But the vet’s family hires V. I. to clear his name, and the detective uncovers a chain of ugly truths that stretch all the way from Iraq to Chicago’s south side.

The LDCW Book club

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It is time for our next Climate Survey! In case you missed the Newsroom articles in the fall, or the presentation at the all-staff forum, allow me to share a brief update on the climate survey. The last campus climate survey was completed in 2007-2008. Results from that survey as well as the ones conducted in 2000 and 1995 are available online at: http://www.st-thomas.edu/ie/climatesurvey/.

This year, our Office of Institutional Effectiveness (IE) has taken the lead in planning the next survey. They organized a Climate Study Advisory Group (CSAG) with about 25 representatives from across campus, including students, faculty, and staff. The group met four times in the fall to provide feedback and advise the IE team. The IE team and volunteers from CSAG hosted over a dozen facilitated work groups to solicit feedback from the UST community. These included general workgroups announced through the Newsroom as well as specific workgroups targeting specific populations (e.g., women faculty, members of Ally Trainers and Allies, students of color). UST community members also had the chance to submit feedback via an online form.

Since gathering all of this feedback, the IE team has been finalizing the methodology and the instrument to be used this spring. The planned survey launch date is February 27, 2013. Assuming all goes well, initial data analysis will be completed by the end of the spring semester and shared with the broader community throughout 2013. I am hopeful we will have a high response rate to the survey and that we will have many opportunities over the next year to discuss the results. Most of all, I am excited to see how this might become a living document—one that we continue to engage as a community throughout the years between the close of this survey and the opening of the next.

—Tori Svoboda, Associate Dean of Students and Director of Student Diversity and Inclusion Services
March 20, 2013
Michelle Alexander,
*The New Jim Crow*

The New Jim Crow exposes a newly emerging caste-like system in the United States, one that has resulted in millions of African Americans locked behind bars and then relegated to a permanent second-class status. They are denied the very rights supposedly won in the Civil Rights Movement. Since its publication in 2010, the book has been dubbed the “secular bible of a new social movement” by numerous commentators, and has led to consciousness-raising efforts in universities, churches, community centers, re-entry center’s and prisons nationwide.

April 24, 2013
Julie Kramer, *Shunning Sarah*
(The author will be attending the discussion.)

A young boy’s freak accident leads TV reporter Riley Spartz to investigate a homicide in the closed religious society of the Amish. When the dead body is finally recognized as Sarah Yoder, a young Amish woman, the police have difficulty investigating the case because the Amish believe in forgiveness rather than prosecution, and no one in the community is talking. But when Riley finds a clue the cops miss, she uncovers a dark web of fraud and deception in the community.

May 29, 2013
Sue Grafton, “J” is for Judgment

“J” is for Jaffe: Wendell Jaffe, dead these past five years. Or so it seemed until his former insurance agent spotted him in the bar of a dusty little resort halfway between Cabo San Lucas and La Paz. As Kinsey pushes deeper into the mystery surrounding Wendell Jaffe’s pseudocide, she explores her own past, discovering that in family matters as in crime, sometimes it’s better to reserve judgment.

June 26, 2013
Erin Hart, *The Book of Killowen*
(The author will be attending the discussion.)

After a year away from working in the field, archaeologist Cormac Maguire and pathologist Nora Gavin are back in the bogs of Ireland, investigating a ninth-century body found buried in the trunk of a car. They discover that the ancient corpse is not alone—pinned beneath it is the body of Benedict Kavanagh, a philosopher missing for months. Both men were murdered, but centuries apart—so how did they end up buried together in the bog? Set in modern-day Ireland, The Book of Killowen delves deep into the mysteries of the past, revealing a new twist on the power of language—and on the eternal mysteries of good and evil.

July 31, 2013
Dorothy Gilman, *The Amazing Mrs. Pollifax*

On her job as a CIA courier, Emily Pollifax is swept out and off to Turkey to meet a Turkish woman to hand over a passport and money to come to the United States. Pollifax soon finds herself having her passport taken by the Turkish police and detained until the mysterious woman is turned in. Then she has a body dumped in her lap. Soon she has to avoid the Turkish police, international spies, assassins, and anyone who is threatening the escape of the woman Mrs. Pollifax is supposed to rescue.

August 28, 2013
Wendy Webb, *The Tale of Halcyon Crane*

When a mysterious letter lands in Hallie James’s mailbox, her life is upended. Hallie was raised by her loving father and has been told her mother died in a fire decades earlier. But it turns out that her mother was alive until very recently. Why would Hallie’s father have taken her away from her mother? What really happened to her family thirty years ago? In The Tale of Halcyon Crane, Webb has created a haunting story full of delicious thrills, vibrant characters, and family secrets.
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. Newcomers are encouraged to stop by and join in the fun.

Each year, the group works on a service project with materials funded by a small grant from the Luann Dummer Center for Women. The 2012 service project continued the work started last year. A UST community member donated 3 hand-made afghan blankets and a prayer shawl that were donated to Sarah’s...An Oasis for Women in St. Paul. Members of the group knitted or crocheted squares for one large adult-sized afghan blanket and they were sewn together by member Dede Hering and donated to Alexandra House in Blaine. Member Susan Anderson-Benson created a child-sized afghan blanket for Alexandra House as well as donated hat, scarf, and mitten sets to children participating in the “Shop With a Cop” program in her local community. A big “thanks” to everyone who helped with the service project! If you continue to make squares, please drop them off at the Center and we will use them for next year’s service project.

Everyone is welcome to Yarn Tamers! If you knit, crochet, quilt, or participate in any other type of yarn or needle craft, you are welcome to join this group. If you do not work on any yarn craft, you can still come for the social time or to get some pointers from other crafters. There is no formal registration; those who are interested can just show up at a meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Beth Bergfield (womenscntr@stthomas.edu). Yarn Tamers meets on Mondays from noon-1:00 pm in OEC 103, LDCW.
Spring 2013 Calendar of Events

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

Feb. 14 ▶ Work-Family Brown Bag, Noon – 1 p.m. (Co-sponsored with Faculty Development)

Feb. 15 ▶ Feminist Friday, Dr. Buffy Smith, Noon – 1 p.m.

Feb. 22 ▶ Chocolate Reception on Minneapolis Campus, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Feb. 27 ▶ LDCW Book Club: Sara Paretsky, Body Work, Noon – 1 p.m. Discussion of Paretsky’s Hardball, 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Feb. 28 ▶ Discussion of Paretsky’s Hardball, Noon – 1 p.m.

March 5 ▶ March Women’s History Month lecture, Sara Paretsky “Women, Speech, and Silence” OEC Auditorium, 7:30 p.m. (followed by book signing)

March 8 ▶ International Women’s Day The ACTC Women’s Studies Student Conference, ASC at UST

Work-Family Brown Bag, Noon - 1 p.m. Minneapolis, SCH 322

March 20 ▶ LDCW Book Club: Michelle Alexander, The New Jim Crow. Noon – 1 p.m.

April 5 ▶ LDCW 20th Anniversary Gala at the Woulfe Hall, 5 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

April 8 ▶ Michelle Alexander lecture, 7:00 p.m., Woulfe Hall, ASC. Co-sponsored with Student Diversity and Inclusion Services

April 10 ▶ ACTC Women’s Studies Faculty Development Book Discussion (Off-campus)

Film showing: Justice for My Sister, 7:00 p.m. OEC Auditorium (Co-sponsored with Dept. of History)

April 11 ▶ Work Family Brown Bag, Noon – 1 p.m.

April 19 ▶ Feminist Friday, Dr. Renee Buhr, Noon – 1 p.m.

April 24 ▶ LDCW Book Club: Julie Kramer, Shunning Sarah, Noon – 1 p.m

May 3 ▶ LDCW Grant Recipient and Women’s Studies Reception, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

May 8 ▶ Work-Family Brown Bag, Noon-1:00, Minneapolis, SCH 322

May 29 ▶ LDCW Book Club: Sue Grafton, J is for Judgment, Noon – 1 p.m.
2115 Summit Avenue · Mail 4075
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55105 · USA

▶ Contact:
Telephone: (651) 962-6119
From this number you can access hours and leave a message.

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Administrative Assistant

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Bailey Fischer
Lauren Crawford