

# The Gender Studies Project

# W h o I a m

February 20  
04

## Note From the Director

We had our first "official" Pizza and Planning Meeting for the Gender Studies Project on February 11<sup>th</sup>. We had a wonderful turnout of thirteen individuals, including faculty, staff and students. After sharing food and fellowship, Stephanie and I shared our proposed programming ideas for this spring and next fall, described our vision for an advisory board, and solicited input for future programming directions. We are excited about the level of interest and enthusiasm related to gender issues expressed at our planning meeting and look forward to forging relationships with various offices and organizations on campus, including the Men's Initiative and the International Justice Mission.

Also in February we co-sponsored an alternate chapel on "Holy Land Realities on the Ground: Water and Power in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict" by Abeer Safar, an engineer from Palestine. She shared the realities of the world and challenged our responses as faith in action. Our co-sponsors for this chapel were Dokamoi Ergatai, Water for the World, & Students for Justice in the Middle East. If you are interested in planning an alternate chapel for the spring, please contact either Stephanie Craft or myself at GenderStudies@messiah.edu. We'd be happy to work with you in planning an event.

On Wed., Feb. 25, the Gender Studies Project is sponsoring a lunch with Kathryn Edin, an associate professor of sociology at Northwestern University, who has done extensive research on multiple areas of social policy including poverty, social inequality, urban and community sociology, family and gender, and public policy. Dr. Edin is best known for her book, "Making Ends Meet," which details the economic and social circumstances of working and welfare reliant single mothers.

Last, but not least, the highlight of our spring is our first Annual Riegsecker Lecture on Tuesday, March 2, 2004 at 7pm in F110. We are privileged to have Marcia Ann Gillespie speak on "Sexism and Racism." As former Editor in Chief of *Essence*, Ms. Gillespie transformed the then-fledgling publication into one of the fastest-growing women's magazines in the United States. *Time* magazine named her "One of the Fifty Faces for America's Future." She was voted the March of Dimes' "Outstanding Woman in Publishing" for her efforts in inspiring all humankind to combat hatred and violence. She has written extensively on issues of gender and race. We look forward to hearing her speak on issues of racial and gender injustice. Our website is also very close to being able to be seen by the public. As soon as it's available we will notify you via the listserv.

Wishing you a happy and productive spring!

Debra Berke  
Associate Professor of Family Science and Women's Studies  
Director, Messiah College's Gender Studies Project

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## The Gender Studies Project

### 'Rosie the Riveter' fest honors workers

S.J. WOMAN, 81, RECALLS MAKING TANKS

by Putsata Reang  
Mercury News

Mary Newson took a walk through her role in history Tuesday morning at the former Ford Motor plant in Richmond, recalling vividly that time during World War II when she and more than 300 Bay Area women bolted hatches onto tanks as part of the war effort. They were among the first women in the industrial work force and they proved their worth.

"Ladies can hang in there and do things men do," said Newson, a spry 81-year-old San Jose resident. "They can be great, too. They can be important."

And they were. Newson was one of 11 women from across the country who gathered in Richmond for a special Veterans Day celebration commemorating the women symbolized by "Rosie the Riveter."

During World War II, Rosie became a national icon of the strong working women who swapped aprons and oven mitts for welding torches and drills to bolster America's labor force while their sons, brothers and husbands waged war.

Vickie Croston, daughter of the original Rosie the Riveter, Rose Will Monroe, was among the guests. Monroe, who died six years ago in Indiana at the age of 77, was featured in posters during the war.

"She did open some doors for women," Croston said of her mother, who went on to start her own construction company after the war and got her pilot's license. "She made it OK for women to work outside the home. Just because you're female doesn't mean you can't do it."

The Richmond plant, which produced nearly 50,000 jeeps for the military, will be converted into a national park aimed at preserving World War II history, with particular attention to the women who helped shape that history.

Congress approved the park plan three years ago. In 2001, the state Coastal Conservancy awarded a \$575,000 grant to the National Park Service and the Richmond Redevelopment Agency to plan and design a visitor's center. Ford also contributed \$50,000 for the Rosie the Riveter World War II Home Front National Historic Park, which is expected to open in about three years.

Richmond was picked for the national park because it was home to shipyards and more than 55 war-related industries that employed 100,000 people. The buildings that ring a northern edge of the San Francisco Bay include the old Ford plant, Kaiser shipyards that produced 747 ships, Kaiser Hospital, and schools and day-care facilities. During the war, Richmond's population ballooned from 35,000 to more than 100,000.

Tuesday's ceremony kicked off a nationwide campaign to find

Rosies around the world for an oral-history project and collect photographs and memorabilia from the era for exhibits.

"It's a fitting memorial to the women who changed the social fabric of our society," said Jan Valentic, a Ford official. "They were the first working mothers. The change in social stigma -- that was one boundary these women tore down."

For now, the production plant is a cold and empty shell hugging the Richmond shore off Harbour Way. In Newson's time, the 500,000-square-foot building echoed with a cacophony of heavy machines and assembly lines.

"It was very noisy," Newson said, stopping where she once worked on the assembly line drilling floorboards into cars.

Newson did not plan on working long. A job she envisioned as temporary turned into 32 years of work "I just wanted to make some money," she said. "I never thought I'd make history."

Source: Mercury News

### Gender Studies Listserv!

Subscribe at [listserv.messiah.edu](mailto:listserv.messiah.edu) to the GenderStudies listserv.

Email us at:

[GenderStudies@messiah.edu](mailto:GenderStudies@messiah.edu) if you have problems.

Please post any events related to gender issues

that you are aware of on the listserv as well as

requests for information,

The Gender Studies Project  
etc.

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### **International News: The Standard Days Method of Family Planning: A Response to Cairo**

A viewpoint piece by James Gribble of the POLICY Project,

<http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/journals/2918803.html>

argues that the Standard Days Method, in which couples learn to identify their fertile period and avoid unprotected intercourse during it, is both an effective contraceptive method and a means of achieving a range of policy goals. "The Standard Days Method contributes to reproductive health programs in a number of critical ways. By addressing concerns of policymakers, program managers and service providers, and by meeting the public's needs, the Standard Days Method responds in a unique way to the ICPD and to evolving global reproductive health concerns." The method makes it easy for men to become involved in contraception, is affordable and accessible, and offers a contraceptive option without side effects. *Source: The Alan Guttmacher Institute*

needs on campus. Although the answers to this situation are not easy, we trust that with Doug's knowledge and enthusiasm improvement in this area is in the near future.

### **People of Note**

Doug Wood

The gender ratio on Messiah campus (60 women: 40 men) is probably its most well known statistic and impacts the community in many ways. Doug Wood is most aware of these effects through his role for the past 4 years as Director of Community Development. Doug studied Community Student Development. During his studies Doug explored the gender related side of community development specifically the issue of why there are less men at Christian colleges than women. He came to many conclusions but one was the way Christian colleges were created; smaller and discussion oriented, which appeals much more to women than men. In 1997, Doug became the Assistant Director of Residence Education at Messiah and Director of Community Development in 1999. This year Doug was asked to head the Men's Initiative Committee on campus, an informal men's organization to study male behavior on campus. "The question has been raised what is happening to our men on campus?" The Men's Initiative Committee was created as a response to the negative male behavior on campus (75% of all student disciplinary infractions involve men) and consists of 15 men, 6 of which are students. The initiative used the fall semester to define masculinity and are currently involved in research with the goal to assess and address male

## Quote of the month

**"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."  
– Margaret Mead – anthropologist**

## Poetry

### Plate War

By Ryann Allred  
Messiah Student

You hurt because you hunger  
For you starve because  
You will.  
You're sick.  
It's what you want but  
Do not have because  
Having grows to  
Thighs and stomachs.  
You're hurting.  
And craving more to  
Satisfy that which is  
Needed to survive  
But survival is only second  
To image.  
You're dying.  
But knowing your created battle  
Is not enough to fight?  
Against it  
Against it is against self  
And self is war undone.  
You're losing.  
And watching now from  
Inside out, I contemplate  
My place upon your  
Naked plate of  
Life.  
Despite the actuality of your  
Destructive choice  
YOU ARE...  
At least for now.

## Humor

Unfortunately we're not kidding with this excerpt from "The Proper Care and Feeding of Husbands" by Dr. Laura Schlessinger.

"Let me relate the specific call that prompted me to write this book. Annette is thirty-five, her husband is thirty-nine, and they have a one-year-old son. She is a stay-at-home mom who just doesn't enjoy cooking and doesn't feel it's useful to spend a lot of time doing it. She called wondering if that was detrimental or not to her child. Right away I was alerted to her lack of concern about the needs or desires of her husband -- you know, the guy who slays dragons for her and their child every day. In order to really get a feel for this caller, you'll have to imagine the completely hostile and disdainful manner in which she spoke.

Dr. Laura: What do you do for food?

Annette: We eat peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwiches.

Dr. Laura: That's not healthy three times a day.

Annette: No, he's [the child] not eating it three times a day.

Dr. Laura: What do you eat for dinner?

Annette: Well, he's still breast-feeding at one year old.

Dr. Laura: What do the adults in your house eat for dinner?

Annette: My husband might eat beef enchiladas from the freezer, and I might eat cereal or cottage cheese. My husband doesn't much like what I cook.

Dr. Laura: That's not really a balanced, healthy diet. Are you intentionally making awful things that he won't eat or is he some kind of ogre?

Annette: (Sarcasically) No, I'm just not a good cook. [What you can't read is her disdainful, hostile tone.]

Dr. Laura: Okay, Annette, being a better cook is easy to come by. All you do is take a class or get a book of recipes. I wonder if you're intentionally undermining his enjoyment of a home-cooked meal so that you simply don't have to do it. Let me tell you what is detrimental to your child.

Dinnertime turns out to be one of the most important functions of a family in terms of a child bonding with parents, their ability to communicate and feel close to their parents -- all of which supports their self-esteem.... There are a lot of things we all don't enjoy doing, but they are part of the rigor of life and they are a part of our obligations in our various roles. To be people of integrity, we have to follow through whether or not we enjoy something. So, if you are at home, I think it is important for you to make the effort to prepare pleasant dinners because I think that's part of the joy and comfort for your family. Put in the effort. If your husband can eat frozen, prepackaged Mexican food, with all those spices, it means he has a pretty open-minded stomach -- so you must be going far out of your way to mess with him."

## Events Calendar

**March 2:** Riegsecker Lecture  
7:00pm Frey 110

Mary Ann Gillespie will  
speak on Sexism and Racism

**March 10:** Jean Kilbourne  
8pm Hostetter Chapel pick  
up free tickets at the  
ticket office. Speaking on  
the Cultural Manipulation  
of Community and Belonging:  
Advertising and Addiction

**March 18:** Lecture and Book  
Signing at Shippensburg  
University 8:00pm Naomi  
Wolf will be speaking for  
women's history month.

**March 19 and 20:** Picturing  
Women at Bryn Mawr College  
exploring women through  
historical works

**March 22-23:** 1 In 4  
Relating sexual harassment  
and abuse to/for men

**March 23:** Alternate Chapel:  
Katie Koestner will speak  
on date rape

**March 24:** Panel on Criminal  
Justice relating to Women  
7pm Frey 110

**April 3:** Gender and  
Sustainability Conference  
in Lancaster at Franklin  
and Marshall with guest  
speaker Carol Gilligan

**April 14:** Panel on Criminal  
Justice relating to Men  
7pm, Kline 120

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**April 20: Land Twice  
Promised 8pm in Hostetter  
Chapel**

**April 25: "Justice for  
Children Benefit Concert"  
Ten Shekel Shirt 8pm  
Hostetter Chapel  
50% of proceeds benefit  
the International Justice**

**Mission, the rest to other  
like groups.**

**Ticket price TBA**

**June 3-5: National  
Conference for College  
Women Student Leaders**

## Female Engineers

Last November, Dr. David Vader, chair of the Engineering department here at Messiah College, told Erika Peterson and myself that Michelle Lockwood, a female engineer with experience in industry, who taught at Messiah, was back in the United States on a furlough from her missionary duties in Africa. Since we rarely have the opportunity to speak with an accomplished female engineer, he asked us if we would be interested in meeting with her. We were both interested and decided to invite all Messiah's female engineers to also join in the event. Dr. Vader asked Erika and I if we would be willing to organize it, which meant reserving a room and ordering dessert and coffee from Messiah's catering service. We began to start planning right away.

On November 4, 2003 nine of our twelve female engineers from Messiah met on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Boyer with Michelle Lockwood and spent more than an hour discussing what it is like to be a female engineer while enjoying some delicious cake and coffee from Dining Services. We all had the opportunity to share our experiences and talk about our frustrations, stresses and joys

from being a female in an extremely male dominated career. We discussed what it was that brought us to Messiah, what made us choose engineering and furthermore, what we thought of it now that we were here. After the meeting was over, we all exchanged phone numbers and e-mail addresses in an attempt to keep in contact with each other and have some kind of a support base for those days where we were just frustrated with life.

Because the first meeting was so successful, we all decided that we wanted to continue meeting in the future. Even though there wouldn't be a speaker, such as Michelle, for every meeting, we decided to meet informally, once or twice a month, in one of our apartments on campus. In fact, our next meeting was only three weeks after the first one; right before Thanksgiving break. A bunch of us gathered in Erika's apartment and ate brownies and ice cream while discussing everything from our plans for Thanksgiving break to what was going on in our engineering classes.

Who I Am

### Date Rape

Messiah College is having a special speaker, Katie Koestner, come to the college to talk to the student body about rape. Katie was raped in college

was over. Each time, we continued to get to know each other better and to provide support to each other. We discussed possibly starting a chapter of Society of Women Engineers (SWE) and there are potential plans for a chapter to exist in the future. We also discussed what we would like to see in the engineering department, as far as resources, to help us feel more connected

### Looking for Resources?

Fall 2003 \*Human Rights Dialogue\*:  
"Violence Against Women"  
Essays by prominent authors  
<http://www.carnegiecouncil.org/viewMedia.php/prmID/1061>

"We Were Arrested of Course!" 28 min. documentary on Alice Paul at Ephprod@cs.com

"Lucretia Mott" 58 min. historical drama on Lucretia Mott at Ephprod@cs.com

Daily publications from the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) by the European North American Women Action Coalitions (ENAWA) <http://www.enawa.org>

Her Own Words: 31 videotapes telling the stories of many women throughout history in different

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to engineering. We all agreed we would like to have at least one female faculty member and we would also like to continue to meet on a regular basis.

I can personally say that this amazing group of girls has provided each other with a remarkable sense of support and unity among female engineers. The males in the department are great; however there are times where you realize that they don't totally understand what it is like to be one of 10.6% of all engineers who are female. This group has allowed girls in this field to connect with each other and share frustrations, convictions, joys, hopes and dreams, while in the meantime feeling more empowered to become the person God has intended them to be.

by Jessica Felter  
Messiah College Student

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### *Can women cross the street alone?*

by *Sabrina Harster*

In the eyes of some, big city life is extremely dangerous, particularly for women. Only recently I learned that many women here in Washington D.C. are not able to cross the street by themselves. They need a man to lead them across. Within the past fourteen days I have observed twelve incidents where a man took hold of his partner's arm upon stepping into an intersection. Neither the green light nor his partner's watchful eyes made the situation safer. It was the firm grip of the arm that guaranteed a safe crossing. People of all ages, even my friends, were among those who found it necessary to protect women, including myself, from the dangers of the city traffic: "Sabrina, look here...watch there...be careful!"

To me, these incidents beautifully exemplify how members of both sexes think of women as in constant need of protection. And indeed there are many women who need protection—but not for biological reasons. Women who have relied on strong men to provide them with a sense of security often fail to become street smart, aggressive, and decisive in their interactions with the world. Instead, it is easier to rely on a strong arm around their side, or a guiding hand on their shoulder. How good then, you may think, that they often choose partners who can provide this needed sense of security. Maybe.

I personally prefer a partner who assumes I know how to protect myself. In the presence of protective men, I slip back into my self-doubting and indecisive puerile role; I become lazy and dependent. While relying on someone else to watch out for me as I cross the street is a seemingly small way in which insecurity and/or laziness manifest themselves, such tendencies often extend much further. Decision making, intellectual growth, developing original ideas and perspectives on life, risking failure in order to grow, to name a few, can be handed over from one partner to the other. While such behavior may be functional, it is not healthy.

For the insecure or lazy partner — of which I believe that insecurity is behind the majority of the described cases—learning that she is strong and smart enough to protect herself is very important. I firmly believe that there are many women, and some men, who have come to believe that their partner can take better emotional and physical care of them than they can of themselves. This is simply untrue. It may take some practice, but every woman is capable of learning to protect herself, make decisions and find happiness independent of a strong partner. Of course, no one should solely attempt to fend for themselves without the help of others. Learning about your weaknesses and finding a way to handle them is an important process. Ask for help when help is needed, but also learn about your strengths and begin to trust in them. Take charge of your own life and learn how to maneuver in its streets.

The Gender Studies Project wants to see **Who I Am** used by the faculty, staff, and students to communicate the multiple gender-related events, discussions, resources, research and issues in our school, our nation, and the world. If you have something you would like to submit including poetry, personal experiences or opinion, suggestions and humor, please send it to Stephanie Craft, Box 5247 or email [GenderStudies@messiah.edu](mailto:GenderStudies@messiah.edu).

**Come Visit Us! We are in Hoffman 315 or call...(717) 796-7214 Ext: 7214**

**Hours: M F 2:00 to 5:00pm W 4:00-6:00pm Other hours are available, please call**