

Who I Am

September 2006

Note from the Director

Welcome to the Gender Studies Project! We (the GSP) are a centralized resource designed to meet the needs of students, faculty, and staff, both within the Messiah College community as well as the larger society, through a variety of educational programs, culturally-diverse events, resource opportunities, and other support services all related to gender. We have a number of thought-provoking events planned for the coming year around such themes as healthy relationships and international violence/rights. These events include alternate chapels, races/walks for different causes, and a candlelight vigil.

We are excited to announce that our Riegsecker Lecturer will be Immaculee Ilibagiza,

a survivor of the Rwandan genocide and author of the book *“Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust.”* She will be speaking on Wednesday, March 28, 2007 at 7pm in Parmer Cinema on gender and leadership. She will also be speaking in chapel the next day, March 29th, so be sure to write both dates on your calendar!

In addition, we had a wonderful program planning meeting earlier this month where a number of interesting programming ideas were generated. We encourage you to attend as many of our events as you can! Events will be publicized via our newsletter, listserv, and website as well as Community News, the Intercom, and mass emails.

Also, we welcome conversation about other ideas as well! Please call or email us at genderstudies@messiah.edu. We encourage you to become involved with the Project and there are lots of ways to do this. For example, students could organize a service project, propose a Bible study or book discussion or suggest an alternate chapel. There are also opportunities for students, faculty and staff to write for the GSP newsletter, work on a GSP initiative, or even start your own initiative. There is no shortage of ways to make the Gender Studies Project a significant part of your Messiah experience; we are looking forward to meeting and working with you!

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

McKenzie Griffin, Assistant Director, Gender Studies Project

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National Women's Studies Association 2007 Conference June 28-July 1, 2007

St. Charles, Illinois

**“Past Debates, Present Possibilities, and Future
Feminisms: A Women’s and Gender Studies Conference
Celebrating 30 Years of NWSA”**

**Related sub-themes: Girls Studies and Activism, Performing Feminisms,
Immigration and mobility**

The 2007 conference will feature:

- A talk by Sandra Cisneros, celebrated author of *The House on Mango Street* and the novel *Caramelo*
- Engaging Scholarship Sessions to promote intellectual exchange and networking
- Writing workshops for graduate students and junior faculty
- Tribute panel to honor past scholarship that has set new directions for the field:
This Bridge Called My Back
- Program Administration and Development and Women’s Centers Pre-Conferences.



Sandra Cisneros

Visit: www.nwsaconference.org

Call for Proposals

Submit proposals beginning: **September 15, 2006**
Submission deadline: **November 1, 2006**

The National Women's Studies Association is pleased to announce that the Call for Proposals can be located at www.wsaconference.org

NWSA invites submissions that examine the conference theme and sub-themes.

NWSA welcomes submissions from women's and gender studies practitioners in college and universities, women's center administrators, independent scholars, K-12 educators, artists, and community activists.

The Association also welcomes proposals that do not directly address the theme, but are relevant to women's and gender studies today.

Campus Event!

ALTERNATE CHAPEL

Domestic Violence Against Women: God's call for Justice and Reconciliation

Speaker: Dr. Beth Gerhardt

Date: Tuesday, October 3, 2006

Location: Frey 150

Time: 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Description: Violence against women should be defined in both legal and spiritual language. Dr. Gerhardt will develop this thesis as she identifies domestic violence as a significant international human rights issue. This presentation will focus on the interface of Christian theology and social ethics, particularly regarding this contemporary social problem.

Sponsored by: Criminal Justice Program and the Gender Studies Project.

Perkins Bill Passes with Improved Gender Equity Provisions

Despite early attempts by the Bush Administration to derail the reauthorization of the federal law that funds and sets standards for career and technical education, on August 12, 2006 the President signed the [Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006](#).

This Act includes important provisions designed to assist women and girls seeking to enter fields that are nontraditional for their gender. While the Act does not restore the statewide “gender equity set-asides” that were eliminated in 1998 and that for many years funded programs for single parents and displaced homemakers, and nontraditional training for women, it does make concrete improvements in current law.

For example, the Act requires that:

- Local recipients of Perkins dollars use funds for activities that prepare special populations – including single parents and displaced homemakers who are enrolled in career and technical education programs – for high skill, high wage or high demand occupations that will lead to self sufficiency;
- State and local recipients of Perkins funds evaluate and report on student performance, disaggregated in various ways, that can help advocates and members of school communities improve their evaluation of the progress of their students. State and local recipients must also identify and quantify disparities in performance between certain subgroups of students and their peers.

Strong gender equity provisions in Perkins are critical to closing the huge gaps that remain between male and female participation in career and technical education programs that train students for traditionally male careers. **To learn more** about the gender inequities in career and technical education programs, as well as about programs that can or have taken steps to prepare students for nontraditional careers, **see National Women’s Law Center’s at www.nwlc.org**

Skinniest models are banned from catwalk

By: Fran Yeoman, Carolyn Asume and
Graham Keeley, in Barcelona

The Times Online September 9th, 2006

REAL women will rejoice at the news: waif-like models are being pushed off the catwalk.

The organizers of Madrid Fashion Week have announced that they are banning skinny women to develop a more healthy image for the event this month. If any very skinny models do turn up, they will be classed as unhealthy and in need of medical help.

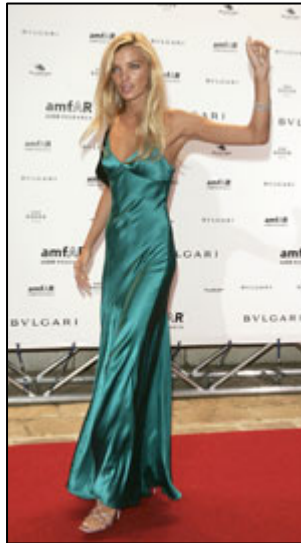
The move has been heralded as good news for younger and lesser-known models, who often force themselves to become thin in the battle to secure a place among the top flight. But pear-shaped females should not celebrate too heartily, for the leading names of world fashion are showing no sign of following in the

Spaniards' footsteps. The Pasarela Cibeles trade fair in Madrid is a minnow compared with the big fish of Milan, Paris, New York and London fashion weeks.

Madrid city council, which sponsors the fashion week, has ordered that every model on show must have a body mass index (BMI) of at least 18. Models who are 5ft 9in (1.75m) tall must weigh a minimum of 8st 11oz (56 kg).

Esther Cañadas, Spain's best-known model, does not qualify under the new rules as she is said to have a BMI of only 14. Almost a third of the women lined up appear to have been barred. The council promised that a nutritional expert would be on hand to check every model taking part in the shows, and that any woman found to have a BMI of below 16 would receive medical treatment.

The ban comes amid a row in Spain about the trend for extreme thinness on the catwalks and in high street shop windows. Cuca Solana, the organizer of the Pasarela Cibeles, was hauled before the country's parliamentary commission for youth in April to defend the event against criticism that it pressures young women into losing weight.



Waif goodbye: Esther Cañadas, said to have a BMI of only 14 (Pascal Le Segretain / GETTY)

According to the World Health Organization, a woman is underweight if her BMI is less than 18.5, but Jesús del Pozo, vice-president of the Spanish Association of Fashion Designers, said that up to 40 per cent of the models who took part in last year's event would have fallen foul of the new rules.

The organizers of London Fashion Week, which begins on September 18, said that they would not be introducing a similar rule. According to the leading agency Models 1, the models with the biggest

pulling power are likely to be those with the smallest waistlines. "We have changed a lot in that there have been many more requests for bigger models, but on the catwalk long dresses do look lovely on tall, thin girls," the agency said. "Girls who model at 15 or 16 tend to be thin girls, whose mums are thin, it's part of their genetics, and obviously they look great in clothes."

However, Lisa Armstrong, the *Times* fashion editor, asked: "Why do casting agents persist in using 15 and 16-year-olds to sell clothes to women in their thirties and upwards?" She added that the Madrid rules might have positive consequences for young British unknowns: "Madrid is a small fashion week and so this move will make very little difference to the bigger names, but younger and more inexperienced British models are sometimes sent to the smaller shows, effectively to practice."

Sarah Doukas, Kate Moss's agent, said that her agency, Storm, did not employ unhealthily thin women. "It's useless to talk about body mass indexes. Who knows what that means apart from your doctor? It depends on different body types. Some people have different muscle density. I believe that girls should just eat healthily, exercise and just be normal. We just wouldn't use someone who was really underweight or too thin."

UNDERWEIGHT, NORMAL OR OBESE?

The Body Mass Index (BMI) indicates whether or not you are overweight for your height

To calculate your BMI:

1. Measure your height in meters and multiply the figure by itself, giving your height squared

2. Measure your weight in kilograms

3. Divide the weight by the height squared

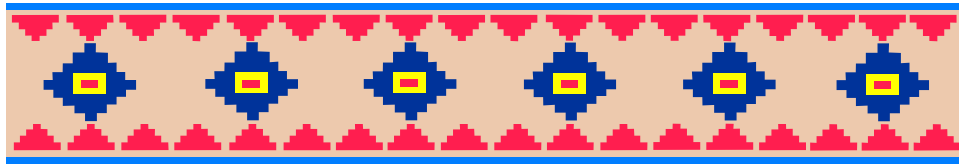
For a woman measuring 1.6m (5ft 3in) and weighing 65kg (10st), the calculation would then be: $1.6 \times 1.6 = 2.56$. BMI would be 65 divided by 2.56 = 25.39

According to the World Health Organization if your BMI is between 18.5 and 24.9 you are an ideal weight

BMI's can be inaccurate for people over the age of 60

www.timesonline.co.uk

We would love to hear from you! If you have ideas or submissions for *Who I Am* please contact McKenzie Griffin, Box 5540, email GenderStudies@messiah.edu, or stop by the Gender Studies Project office in Hoffman 315 Phone ext. 7214



Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month

September 15th - October 15th

National Hispanic Heritage Month provides the nation an opportunity to express appreciation to Hispanic Americans for their countless contributions to our society and to pay tribute again to America's distinctive diversity.

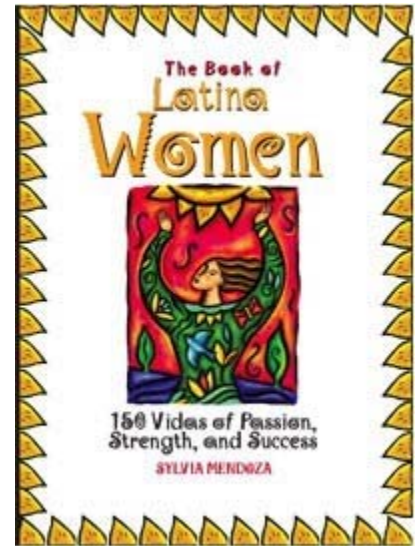
First proclaimed as a week of celebration by Congress in 1968 and then established by public law as a month of celebration in 1988, Hispanic Heritage Month begins on September 15th each year. This date marks the anniversary of independence for five Hispanic countries - Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico achieved independence on September 16, and Chile on September 18.

✚WAYS TO CELEBRATE✚

- ✚Celebrate with the music of Latin America with a focus on women.
- ✚ DeColores CD: The music of Latin America with a special focus on women. 12 songs from a variety of Latin cultures. Celebrate the corrido of Dolores Huerta,

listen with great empathy to story of La Malinche, and sing along with the upbeat DeColores anthem.

✚ The Book of Latina Women: 150 Vidas of Passion, Strength, and Success Highlights the contributions of 150 fabulous women whose accomplishments in history, science, politics, art, and entertainment-past and present-have impacted the world. From political leaders like Eva Perón-who ruled Argentina with flamboyance and an iron fist-to pioneers like France Anne Cordova-the youngest person to ever hold the Chief Scientist position at NASA-The Book of Latina Women provides a unique perspective on Latina women from all periods in history and all walks of life. From fiery superstars who have blazed new trails in pop culture to little-known heroes whose brave actions changed history, The Book of Latina Women is an important addition to any library. Recommended for Middle school to Adult.



✚ Take the Hispanic American Women's History Quiz!

1. Who is the internationally renowned musical composer and conductor who brings the influence of her Chinese, Nigerian, French, and Spanish ethnic background to her compositions?
2. Who worked her way up from picking cotton in the hot Texas sun to become the Executive Vice-President of the AFL-CIO?
3. How many Latinas are currently serving in the United States Congress?
4. Who is the Mexican-American female muralist who defines herself as a public artist and with her students created a mural that is 13 by 220 feet.
5. Who is the first Hispanic woman to become a NASA astronaut and travel to space?
6. Who played "Maria" on Sesame Street providing an influential and positive role bilingual model for children for decades?
7. Who co-founded the United Farm Workers Union with Cesar Chavez?
8. Who the Grammy-award winning Latin singer who is working to educate women about the importance of early detection.
9. Who is the first woman and the first Hispanic to become Surgeon General of the United States?
10. Which Hispanic recording artist has had 32 Top Ten hits in the combined categories of Latin, Dance, Adult Contemporary, and Pop?"

Bonus Question:

What is the name of the animated cartoon nominated for Outstanding Achievement in Children's Programming award with a 7-year old Latina heroine who conquers new adventures every day in English and Spanish.

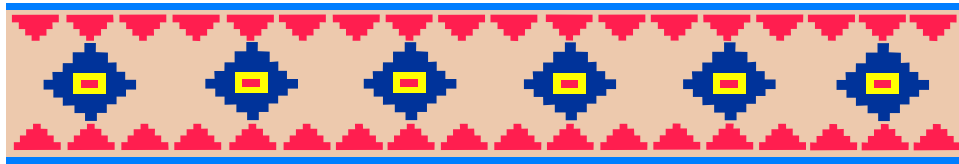
ANSWERS ON THE NEXT PAGE



Resources for Hispanic Heritage Month provided by the National Women's project
www.nwhp.org

Quiz Answers:

1. Tania Leon
2. Linda Chavez Thompson
3. Six
4. Judith Baca
5. Ellen Ochoa
6. Sonia Manzano
7. Dolores Huerta
8. Sorava
9. Antonia Novello
10. Gloria Estefan
11. Dora the Explorer, the animated cartoon where 7-year-old Dora, a Latina heroine, conquers new adventures every day in English and Spanish, is now in its fourth season. It's running neck-and-neck in popularity with Blue's Clues, which has been on the air twice as long.



NEW ART EXHIBIT

SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 27

Art Exhibit: "Old Maid, In Name"
New photographs by Laurie Lundin

For all those studying/intrigued by the portrayals of single women in our society.

Where: Pittsburgh, PA
709 Penn Gallery
Downtown Pittsburgh

Gallery hours: Tue - Sat, 12 - 8 pm

Gallery crawl: Friday, September 29
Artist's reception: Wednesday, October 4

A project of the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust

Email to be put in touch with the artist (amclanahan@po-box.esu.edu).

ViVa Women's History: Introduction

Viva is a current bibliography of women's and gender history in historical and women's studies journals. Articles in English, French, German, Dutch, and Scandinavian languages are selected from 180 European, American, Canadian, Asian, Australian and New Zealand journals. All bibliographic descriptions are stored in the ViVa database. It now contains more than 10,000 records describing articles from 1975 onwards. It is online and freely accessible. You can search the database, and, for titles from 1995 on it is possible to browse by year of publication.



What's New

The layout of ViVa has been changed and some new search options have been added to make it easier to use. Database searches now immediately call up a list of full citations. You can change the sort order, and search either by full words or parts of words. A basic search now also includes journal titles.

Background

ViVa stands for "Vrouwengeschiedenis in het Vaktijdschrift," which is Dutch for "Women's History in Professional Journals." The bibliography was started in 1990 by Els Kloek as a special project at the History Department of the University of Utrecht, in the Netherlands. By selecting and indexing articles on women's history from 50 West European and American scholarly journals,

Kloek and her assistants intended to create a reference tool for locating publications in this field and to provide an overview of the development of women's history writing. The

bibliography was published in three printed volumes covering 1975-1994 (Els Kloek et al., *Vrouwengeschiedenis in het vaktijdschrift: een bibliografie van artikelen*, Amsterdam: Historisch Seminarium van de Universiteit van Amsterdam, 1991-1995, 3 vols. *Amsterdamse historische reeks* 18, 26, 29).

Since 1995 the project has been continued by the International Institute of Social History. The bibliography, now named ViVa, was made available on the web in 1997. Since then an additional 130

journals have been indexed retroactively, and new titles are being added to the online version on an ongoing basis. The complete bibliography, containing titles from 1975 to 2006, is now available as a Web database. The address is:
www2.iisg.nl/viva/.

Selection of Articles

The compilation consists of articles on women and gender from historical journals and history from women's studies journals. All substantial articles and review essays about women and gender in history are listed in the bibliography. Related topics such as prostitution, witchcraft, housework, sexuality, birth control, infanticide, the family, gynaecology, and masculinity are also included. Apart from these criteria, our choice of journals has been pragmatic: publications that regularly cover women's history are indexed. These are mainly English and American titles, but we would be pleased to include more German and French titles. Please send us your suggestions.

African Titles

ViVa includes citations on women in African history from AfricaBib, the largest Africana database on women in the world on the Internet. The AfricaBib citations in ViVa refer to articles from 1995 on. They are fully integrated in the ViVa database and can be searched by author, title, year of publication, and journal title. AfricaBib

titles cannot be searched by time period, but can be found by selecting "African History (All Periods)" from the "Period" box. AfricaBib titles are displayed separately in the African-History section on the Browse page.

Compilers and Contributors

ViVa is compiled by Jenneke Quast, staff member of the International Institute of Social History (IISH) Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and Agnes van Diepen (also of the IISH). Davis Bullwinkle, the compiler of AfricaBib, and director of the Institute for Economic Advancement Research Library at the Institute for Economic Advancement on the campus of the University of Arkansas-Little Rock, Little Rock, AR (USA), contributes titles on women in African history. Margaret Tennant, of Massey University (New Zealand), contributes titles from the *New Zealand Journal of History*. Diane Hawkins, of SUNY Upstate Medical University, Syracuse, NY (USA), contributed titles from the *Bulletin of the History of Medicine, Medical History* and the *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*.

For more information please visit:

The International Institute of Social History
www.iisg.nl/index.php

Campus News!

Wellness Week September 25-29

All members of the Messiah College community are welcome at Wellness Week events. Come enjoy planned activities which focus on physical, emotional, social, intellectual, spiritual, and occupational wellness.

Monday 25th

“Road Trip to Occupational Wellness”

10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Eisenhower Commons

A Showcase of Career Center Resources for first-year through senior students

Tuesday 26th

Common Chapel: “The Journey from Image to Likeness”

9:30 a.m.

Brubaker Auditorium

Eldon Fry, College Pastor

“Who’s Zoomin’Who?”: “A Faith that Enhances the Body and Mind”

8:30 p.m.

Issachar’s Loft

Richard T. Hughes, Senior Boyer Fellow

Wednesday 27th

Health Fair

10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Larsen Student Union

On- and off- campus representatives will provide a variety of health information and screenings for the entire Messiah Community

“Real Women Have Curves”

7-9 p.m.

Parmer Cinema

Movie followed by discussion, Sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Programs and LaAlianza Latina

Thursday 28th

Common Chapel: “To Know as We Are Known”

9:30 a.m.

Brubaker Auditorium

Brian Smith, Teaching Pastor

Friday 29th

SAB Concert

9 p.m.

Larsen Student Union

Trachtenburg Family Slideshow Players

SAB Midnight Rollerskating

11:30 p.m.

Twice as Thirsty: Women, Children & Water

By: Church World Service

Water is an integral part of our ecosystem, preserving life, maintaining the natural forests, and nurturing flora and fauna. Yet its course is also a saga of degradation, deterioration, and diminishing resources, striking at the very roots of human existence. In the struggle for life, women and children play a silent role in making water available to their families and loved ones. In both rural and urban areas of much of the world, collecting water is a woman's task.

According to a report of the United Nations' Development Program (UNDP), women and female children spend more than 10 million "person years" carrying water from remote sources each year. With growing water scarcity, women and girls must travel longer distances to obtain water, a chore that often occupies several hours of the day. In some cases, women and children leave at dawn traveling miles to the nearest well, sometimes returning at midnight laden with containers of water. A woman might have to spend an entire night waiting at distant water pumps for her turn to fill her water container. When urban water reservoirs dry up in the summer, children and women sit up the whole night waiting for supplementary water



supply. Colorful plastic pots in parrot green, fluorescent pink, brick red and purple line each street, two pots for each family. Many wars are waged at the water pump, ranging from the simple 'I-came-before-you' assertions, to language fanaticism and communal disputes, creating disharmony and tension.

Many school-age girls spend more time each day carrying water for their families instead of pursuing an education. This early handicap prevents them from taking part, as

adults, in more socially valued income generating areas of the local economy. "Of the 120 million school-age children not in school, the majority are girls and this lack of education early in life consigns them to poverty or dependence later in life," according to UNICEF. Increased vulnerability to sexual assault

and abduction is another serious consequence faced by young girls and women living without access to a safe water point. Little wonder that much folklore and film centers on the courting of lovely young girls and women on their way to the river or the distant water source, and their abuse and abduction by the villain. The water fetched against all these odds is not always safe for human consumption and rarely enough for personal hygiene, washing clothes and cooking food. According to UNICEF's State of the World's Children 2005, "21 percent of children in developing countries are severely water

deprived, living without a safe water source within a 15 minute walk of their homes. In addition, a staggering 2.6 billion people do not have access to basic sanitation. These deprivations cost many their lives and account for 1.6 out of 11 million preventable child deaths every year.”

The impact of unsafe drinking water, poor sanitation and inadequate hygiene on child health goes far beyond the 4,000 children dying daily from water-borne diseases like diarrhea and typhoid. Many millions more are pushed



to the brink of survival by repeated bouts of illness. Roughly 60 percent of infant deaths worldwide is linked to water related infectious and parasitic diseases including the most common ailments like diarrhea, intestinal worms, trachoma, schistosomiasis and cholera. Water-related diseases kill more than five million people each year—10 times the number of people killed in armed conflict.

Everywhere, meager availability of safe drinking water goes hand in hand with high child mortality rates. It is the responsibility of governments and of world bodies to adhere to guidelines adopted in The Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Millennium Development Goals to provide safe water and basic sanitation to homes, families and schools.

According to the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, States should take appropriate measures “to combat disease and malnutrition, including within the framework of primary health care, through, *inter alia*, the application of readily available technology and through the provision of adequate nutritious foods and clean drinking water, taking into consideration the dangers and risks of environmental pollution.” We owe it to our children to act now. As Khalil Gibran said, “We do not own this earth; we have only borrowed it from our children.”

Church World Service is a cooperative ministry of 36 Protestant, Orthodox, and Anglican denominations providing sustainable self-help and development, disaster relief, and refugee assistance in some 80 countries.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- **LEARN MORE** at the Church World Service website www.worldchurchservice.org
- **CONSIDER** and **CELEBRATE** the importance of water using CWS educational and worship resources on water:
- **CONSERVE** water by repairing all leaky fixtures and by turning off the water in sinks, baths and showers when you are not using them.
 - **CAMPAIGN** with others to advocate for the implementation of the United Nations’ Millennium Development Goals that include reducing by half the number of people without clean water and adequate sanitation by the year 2015: www.millenniumcampaign.org