The Women's Studies Program Presents

April 2, 2010
1:30-5:00 p.m.
Chase Room
Carmichael Hall

The 25th Anniversary of Beyond the Classroom

Women As Oppressors: Conflict Within The Female Community
9:30-10:45 a.m., Alumni Lounge, Moderator: Elizabeth Almony, Women's Studies Alumni
James Jackson on Challenging Boundaries of Race and Gender
Jill Kerler on Racism and 20th Century Feminism
Marita Sweeney on First Generation Mexican Experience

Women As Oppressors: Conflict Within The Female Community
10:45-11:45 a.m., Alumni Lounge
Dr. Peggy B. Sawa, Moderator: Peg McCarthy, Tufts University Staff Association
Charlotte Daniels on Disabled Women Returning to Work
Karen Johns on Black Women and Work

Beyond the Margins: Women and Sexuality
2:05-3:05 p.m., Alumni Lounge, Moderator: Lee Edelman, English Department
Shayna de Sosa on Rage in the Work of O'Naked Witches
Karen Salarz on Women's Spirituality
Jane Late on Lesbianism and Consent Life in 17th Century Italy
Pauline Woodard on Art and Mother Love

Members of the Women's Program Advisory Board are: Mary Alice McPhail, Dean, School of Arts and Sciences; Robert Gillman, Dean, Experiment College; Elizabeth Almony, Department of English; Marilyn Glenn, Director of Political Science; Sava Drenke, Department of Sociology; Christine Ramey, Department of German; Peggy Woodard, 396, John Jackson, Graduate Student; Chris Simon, 398, Carolyn Weingart, 396.
For 25 years, Beyond the Classroom has offered the Tufts community an opportunity to engage in critical discussions about women, gender and feminism. Every year, this rich exchange of ideas has brought Tufts students and faculty together across disciplines to share their work. On this anniversary, we look back at the work of those who came before us to celebrate their contributions, commemorate their scholarship and learn from the narrative to which their work has given shape. Tracing the trends of Beyond the Classroom presentations over the years gives us an impressive glimpse at the story of feminist discourse in the last quarter century.


In the early 1990s, as Vandana Shiva and other ecofeminists insisted that our culture consider environmental issues as integral to the feminist movement, Tufts students presented papers like “Feminist Criticism of Urban Theory and Design” (Margalit Shiner, 1990) and “Ecofeminism and the Challenge of Postmodernism” (Rebecca Kaplan, 1994). Beyond the Classroom also reflects debates about queer theory and lesbian and gay studies with projects like “Gay and Lesbian Community Response to Bisexuality” (Lindsey Schell, 1997) and “(In)attention to Race in Queer Theory: Learning from U.S. Third World Feminism” (Meghan Saunders, 2006).

In the new millennium, Tufts students turned their attention to the pressing issues of war and globalization. Brigid Brannigan’s paper “Gendered Discourse: Afghan Women as Symbols in the U.S. Discourse on its Conflict with Afghanistan” (2002) challenged the cooptation of feminism by the Bush administration, while Kailah Hayden-Karp’s “Invisible Visibility: Globalization, the Bikini and the Pacific Female Body” (2009) asked us to consider the intersection of Western standards of beauty and the imperial gaze.

As we celebrate this 25th anniversary of Beyond the Classroom, we are humbled by the legacy we have inherited. As we share our scholarship at this year’s conference, we are strengthened by our commitment to interdisciplinarity. As we prepare to do the feminist work of this generation, we have much to learn from each other and from the past 25 years of Beyond the Classroom.