

Women's Studies News

Volume 4, Issue 1 / November 2007

Fall 2007



I N S I D E

Page 1: Welcome to the Third Wave

Page 2: Student Spotlight: Emily Mears;
Women in the Fishing Industry

Page 3: WMS Welcomes- Lisa Tiger;
Ellen Bravo; Evelyn Murphy

Page 4: Faculty News

Page 5: Spring '08 WMS Course
Highlights; Alumni News

Page 6: Alumni News;
Women's Resource Center Fall events

Page 7: Alumni News

Page 8: WMS Director's Report

Check out our new website,
WMS on the web:

[www.umassd.edu/CAS/
WMS](http://www.umassd.edu/CAS/WMS)

Launching November 20th.

Welcome to the Third Wave

by Megan Gauthier

We who were born in the late 1970's and early 1980's have caught the third wave. We are surfing the tides of a feminist revolution: we are redefining what the word "feminism" means. We are a product of the first and second waves that came before us, which are marked by activist movements.

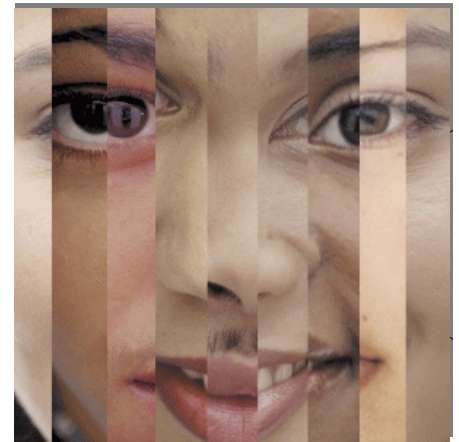
The first wave, which began in the 1830s and ended in 1920, culminated around the campaign for women's suffrage. The second wave, which began to ripple in the 1960s and ended in the early 1980s, was more concerned with the reconstruction and elimination of sex roles and the struggle for equal rights.

While these issues still affect us today, the third wave is taking a

"We are using the freedom we have gained through the first and second waves to make the personal political and the internal external."

small break from radical activism and using this time to reflect and regroup. We are using the freedom we have gained through the first and second wave to make the personal political and to make the internal external.

We want to educate people of all genders. We want to raise public



The third wave gives a new face to feminism.

consciousness. We want to cater to people of all genders, races, sexualities, classes and backgrounds. We want to eliminate the idea of "women's issues" and turn them into "human issues," by speaking up and giving all issues a voice. We want people to know that we have been oppressed in some way, shape or form, and that we're not ashamed to talk about it.

Our leaders have created grassroots movements to inform the public and give us voice. Our leaders have focused on issues of sexuality, reproductive rights, reclaiming derogatory terms, involving ourselves in global politics and examining and criticizing the way we are perceived and treated in society.

We are giving a new face to feminism. A genderless face. A colorless face. A face that expresses every discrimination we have suffered.

For more information on third wave feminism, visit: www.3rdwwwave.com, or sign up for Professor Riley's Spring '08 class WMS 306: "Third Wave Feminism."

WMS Changed My Life

By Emily Mears

When anyone asks me how I feel about the Women's Studies program at UMass Dartmouth, I always reply by saying "it changed my life." As a freshman, I took "Intro to Women's Studies" with Professor Jen Riley. Initially, I signed up for the course because I needed to take a class over winter session and a class that would also satisfy my social sciences requirement. Over the course of those three and half short weeks, I had learned more about who I was as a person than in any other instance in my life.

Before starting my college career at UMD, I had lived a very unsheltered life in a single-mothered household that was filled with domestic violence and alcohol abuse. As a way of coping with these problems, I turned to food. In the eighth grade I weighed almost 250 pounds. I have lived through experiences that many other Americans have suffered and survived.

Before signing-up for the course, I had heard through many people that it was a class that discussed all of the issues that I had endured and more. In the end, when it came to



Emily Mears

registering for the class, I figured that since I had lived most of what it entailed that most likely meant I would understand it.

My papers and class discussions became my tool to free myself from my childhood. We were assigned an essay called "The Politics of Location Statement," which was

a paper that made us construct an outline of our life from childhood to the present, based on where we had lived at each point and how it created who we were today. Basically it was a paper about our evolution as a person through our geographic location and our situational political views. Starting this paper was difficult. Since I had used all of my other papers as an outlet for my anger and rage, why was it so hard for me to do it yet again but at a more expanded level?

Before writing this assignment, I had never told anyone aside from my best friend about my rape that had happened almost two years prior. I felt that without talking about this incident I could not fully explain myself in the paper. I knew that the rape did not define who I was, but rather changed who I was, and in order for me to properly explain myself, I had to come forward with the full story.

However, I was so scared to write about it

that I reluctantly called my mother and told her about the incident for the first time. After talking with her and telling her all about what had happened to me, I found that it was just what I needed to jumpstart my paper.

Turning in that paper was the single most emotionally freeing experience of my life. Not only did I finally gain a connection with my mother after all our years of fighting and arguing, but I had gotten over my fear of talking about my rape.

Because of this paper, I was finally able to seek therapy and support from my family and friends. Taking this class was my window of opportunity. I'm now a survivor, speaker and plan to get into education and outreach for domestic violence and sexual assault. Women's Studies changed my life because it educated and empowered me to finally take control over my life, instead of letting my life take control over me.

Women in the Fishing Industry

The focus of the 2007 New Bedford Working Waterfront

By Kim Wilson

This September, New Bedford presented the fourth annual Working Waterfront Festival. The focus this year was on the often hidden but broad contributions of women in the commercial fishing industry. New Bedford is the top port in the country for amount of dollars earned from fishing, with \$850 million dollars coming into our community and employing over 3,500 workers from New Bedford, Fairhaven, Dartmouth and surrounding towns.

However, many do not know the role women



play in many key areas — from skippering vessels to manufacturing gear; from running settlement houses to processing fish; from advocating for

the industry to working in fisheries science; and from owning boats to running shore side business.

The UMass Dartmouth Labor Extension Program participated again this year by facilitating a panel on women in shore side industries, including women who are responsible for dividing up the proceeds of the catch and taking care to prevent tax problems for the workers.

Other women on the panel included those who splice lines and others

who create nets. Organizer Laura Orleans, a local folklorist, is the heart and soul of the festival and shows us another way women can make creative contributions to documenting the work of other women in our community and economy.

For more information on the Labor Extension Program, contact Kim Wilson, Labor Extension Coordinator at extension 8781, or e-mail her at kwilson@umassd.edu

WMS Welcomes

Lisa Tiger

Acclaimed motivational speaker and HIV/AIDS educator Lisa Tiger was brought to UMass Dartmouth's campus by the DOSA Programming Committee, Frederick Douglass Unity House, Women's Resource Center, Health Education, SAIL, Student Affairs and Campus Services to share her emotionally turbulent life. She seeks to inspire her audiences and renew a sense of hope, faith and forgiveness, though her biography is full of disease, death and



AIDS educator Lisa Tiger

heartache.

Tiger's visit included talking to various classes throughout the day on October 4 and 5, holding an open presentation in the Library Browsing Area on October 4, meeting students and faculty at a reception dinner on October 5, and acting as a keynote speaker for Sigma Phi Rho's AIDS Benefit on October 6.

Tiger, a member of the Muscogee Nation, has been involved in AIDS education since she first learned she was infected

with the virus in 1992 at the age of 25. She has earned many awards for her AIDS awareness advocacy and dedication to raising abandoned and abused children, as well as her advocacy of the rights of women and minorities.

Ellen Bravo

Ellen Bravo, a nationally acclaimed author and long-time activist for working women, visited UMass Dartmouth on October 17 to discuss pay inequity. The presentation was hosted by the Women's Resource Center, the Women's Studies Department and the Labor Education Center, and drew in over 70 audience members to listen to Ellen speak.

In promotion of her most recent publication, a book entitled *Taking on the Big Boys: Why Feminism is Good for Families, Business and the Nation*, Bravo educated listeners on the wage gap between men, women and minorities. She dropped many shocking statistics about wage disparities, noting that the "Big Boys" claim the wage gap is disappearing, but women still earn only seventy-six cents for every dollar that a man makes, and noted that "the gap is greatest for those with the best education and longest work time."

Bravo offered many

needs to be "redesigned from the floor up." Bravo advises women to collaborate with one another and to stand up for what they believe is right, which may be achieved through the five R's: reach out, research, rehearse, rejoice and regroup.



Ellen Bravo's new book *Taking on the Big Boys* explores the wage gap in America.

Evelyn Murphy

On Thursday, October 25, the second annual Women's Leadership Breakfast took place in the Woodland Commons at UMass Dartmouth, and was co-sponsored by the University, the Women's Fund and the New Bedford YWCA (young women's Christian association). The breakfast, which drew over eighty community and campus community patrons, revolved around the topic "women as wage earners" and posed the question "How much are you worth?"

The breakfast honored keynote speaker Evelyn Murphy, author of *Getting Even: Why Women Don't Get Paid Like Men – and What to do about it*, and founder of the Wage Project, which UMass Dartmouth will be participating in. The

Wage Project is a series of workshops held on twelve campuses, which aim to educate women who are preparing to head out into the workforce about how much they are worth and how to demand their value.

The Wage Project workshops will be held at UMass Dartmouth on November 6 and November 19 and are currently at their maximum capacity.

After Murphy finished explaining the Wage Project, the breakfast was turned over to a panel of five strong, business-minded women: Sarah L.D. Garrett, J.D., Dean of Academic Affairs at Bristol Community College; Elizabeth Houlihan, Chair, MA Commission on the Status of Women; Jean Kim, Vice Chancellor at UMass Dartmouth; Mary Lynn Lenz, President and CEO of Slade's Bank; and Maureen Sylvia Armstrong, President of The Sylvia Group of Insurance Agencies.

Each member of the panel took turns telling stories about wage inequities and discrimination that they have faced throughout their careers. Afterwards, audience members were given the chance to ask questions of both Dr. Murphy and the panelists.



Evelyn Murphy discusses wage inequity in the workforce.

WMS Faculty and Affiliate News

Michael Baum, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science, published an article in *Portugal at the Polls in 2002* (Lanham, MD) along with **Ana Espiritio Santo** entitled "Exploring the Gender Gap in Portugal: Women's Political Participation," in Freire, Andre and Marina Costa in 2007.

Professors Memory Holloway and Lisa Maya Knauer, presented papers at the fourth Biennial Association for the Study of the Worldwide Africa Diaspora, held October 9-12 in Barbados. Their session, "Consuming Slavery: The African Atlantic Diaspora and Tourism," examined the ways in which objects, festivals and museums 'sell' the idea of slavery. Dr. Knauer's paper was on Cuban festivals and items made for the tourist trade; Dr. Holloway read a paper on "Slave with Iron Muzzle," that analyzed control and veneration of the slave Anastacia.

Catherine Houser, Professor and Chair of the English Department, wrote a creative nonfiction essay entitled "Enduring Images," which will be published in the 2008 anthology of *My Life at the Gym: Feminist Perspective on Community Through the Body* (SUNY Press), edited by Jo Malin.

Anna Kloubucka, Associate Professor of the Portuguese Department, published a Portuguese translation of her book *The Portuguese Nun: Formation of a National Myth* (Bucknell UP) in 2006 in Lisbon. In 2007, she helped produce two more books: *Ponto de Encontro: Portuguese as a World Language*, a beginning language textbook from Prentice Hall (as lead author); and *Embodying Pessoa: Corporeality, Gender, Sexuality*, a collection of critical essays on the poet Fernando Pessoa, published by the University of Toronto Press (as contributing co-editor). She also

read a paper at the conference of the American Portuguese Studies Association in Minneapolis, entitled "The Lopes" and another one at the annual convention of the Modern Language Association in Philadelphia.

Lisa Maya Knauer, Assistant Professor Sociology/Anthropology, contributed a chapter on "Audiovisual Remittances and Transnational Subjectivities" to an edited volume, *Cuban Culture of the Special Period*, forthcoming from Palgrave Press (2008). Her article "Afrocuban Religion, Museums and the Cuban Nation" will appear in a volume she co-edited entitled *Race, Nation and Empire in Public Space* (Duke University Press). She also has an article on "The Politics of Afrocuban Cultural Expression in New York City" that will appear in a forthcoming issue of the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*.

Susan T. Krumholz, Associate Professor and Director of the Criminal Justice program, published an article in the 2006 SNESL law review along with **Dennis Roderick**, entitled "Much Ado about Nothing? A Critical Examination of Therapeutic Jurisprudence" (L.J).

Yoon Soo Lee, Associate Professor of Art and Design, was featured in the exhibit "Two Person Show," at the MPG Contemporary Gallery in Boston, in 2006. The same year, she was accepted to the Worcester Artist Group Show, curated by MassMoCa's Nato Thompson, who awarded her with the second place Juror's Prize. In 2007, Lee was featured in "Access: A Feminist Perspective, National Juried Exhibition" at the Rhonda Schaller Studio in New York City.

Robin Robinson, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, has been granted tenure and promotion

to Associate Professor. Her paper, "Fighting to Survive: Understanding Girls' Violence through Attachment and Object Relations Theories," was presented in Italy at the International Congress of "What Works with Female Offenders," as well as another paper, "Rest for the Weary: Compassionate Care for Workers in Domestic Violence Shelters," at the Annual Conference of the Justice Studies Association in Newport.

Bridget A. Teboh, Assistant Professor of History, published her essay "Dialoguing Women: Challenges of Being African and Conducting Research on African Women and Gender" in 2006 in the book "Africa After Gender: An Interdisciplinary Reader" (Indiana University Press). She presented "Power, Wellness and the Politics of Health Care: Personal Process of Entering Sites of Pain and Joy" at the African Heritage Studies Association's 39th Annual International Conference at the University of South Florida in 2006. She also presented "Patience, Resilience and the Re-Awakening of a Giant(e): Re-Thinking Gendered Political Spaces in Cameroon" at the African Studies Association's 49th Annual meeting in California in 2006.

Catherine Gardner, Associate Professor in Philosophy and Women's Studies, and Jeannette E. Riley, Associate Professor in English and Women's Studies, co-authored "Breaking Boundaries: Ecofeminism in the Classroom," which was published in *Radical Teacher* in June 2007. In addition, Riley's "The 'words are maps': Locating Citizenship in the Poetry of Adrienne Rich" appeared in *'Catch if you can your country's moment': Recovery and Regeneration in the Poetry of Adrienne Rich* (Cambridge Scholars Press, 2007).

Alumni News

Wendy Andre graduated in 2004 and has since enrolled at Roger Williams University School of Law. She is currently finishing her third and final year of law school with an anticipated graduation date of May 16, 2008, which she is very excited about.

Along with law school, she has been working to raise three children, who are 15, 7 and 4. She has also continued her commitment to public service work and temporarily volunteered as a rape crisis/ domestic violence advocate at a local women's shelter. Since starting law school, she has been involved in immigrant rights through agencies such as the International Institute of Rhode Island and Catholic Social Services of Fall River. She credits the WMS program for having had a great impact on her life, influencing her to commit her time and energy to serving those in our community who are often voiceless and powerless.

After law school, she plans on opening a private law firm, dedicating a portion of her practice to immigration law and family law and also plans to continue pro bono activities.

Odessa Carbonell graduated in 2003, and immediately went to the Southern Connecticut State University to achieve her masters, where she worked full time in the Women's Center. Since graduating in 2006, Carbonell has been very involved in reproductive rights and voting. She married last Halloween and currently works as a counselor at CPAS- a community prevention and addiction service in Putnam, CT. She counsels pregnant and post-partum women with substance and alcohol abuse

problems and treats clients who have a history of sexual trauma and domestic abuse.

Jamie Dale graduated with a major in Sociology and a minor in Women's Studies. She has been working for Blue Cross Blue Shield since October 2006 and deals with the public every day.

She is a member of the "Blue Crew," which contributes to a number of different causes, including participating in the Walk for Breast Cancer. She has not yet begun her graduate degree, but plans to in the near future. She asserts that being part of the Women's Studies Program at UMass Dartmouth taught her many skills and tools that she uses in the "real world." She loves her job, and notes that within the company, women are really given equal opportunity and also showcases how much women contribute to the profession and how they make the BCBS such a successful company.

Nicole DiFabio graduated with a degree in Women's Studies/ Anthropology in May 2006. After graduation, she actively searched for jobs that would compliment her education, unwilling to settle somewhere that did not require the use of both of her concentrations.

In August 2006, she began to work at the Commission on Professionals in Science and Technology and Research as a research assistant and found herself to be a good fit for the position. CPST's mission is to collect, analyze and disseminate human resources data in science and technology fields with a focus on diversifying these disciplines to be more inclusive of women

and other marginalized groups. She is extremely content with her job and goes to work every day knowing that each task put before her is a challenge and that each challenge is essentially another step further for women's equality.

Kathleen Gearty graduated in 2007 with a major in English and a minor in Women's Studies. She currently works as the executive assistant for the Hyatt Regency in Boston and enjoys the hospitality industry.

She recently participated in The Jumpstart Campaign, and went to the Project HOPE Children's Center in Dorchester to read to underprivileged children.

She was married in August, and she and her husband are donating a large basket of toiletries and bags of women's clothes to a women's organization. They also support "Autism Speaks," and hope to continue to support worthwhile organizations.

Katy Howe graduated in 2004 with a degree in English and a minor in Women's Studies. After graduating, she immediately began to complete her Masters in English literature at Rhode Island College, where she produced her thesis "Isolation and Community in Short Story Collections by Z.Z. Packer, Jhumpa Lahiri and Mary Gaitskill."

She acknowledges her interest and involvement with the newly evolving WMS program and claims that the WMS classes she took nurtured her desire to study gender issues, which is reflected in both her thesis and three other publications which focus on different issues pertaining to female literary characters.

Alumni News Continued

Amanda LeBlanc graduated in 2005 with a minor in Women's Studies. During her time at UMD, she served as a student representative on the Women's Studies Executive committee and worked at the Women's Resource Center. She is currently working toward a Master's degree in Women's Studies at the University of South Florida. She plans to eventually get her Ph.D. in the communications field and become a feminist scholar. She would like to thank the faculty and staff of the WMS Department for inspiring her and being such an important part of her education.

Katey Lincoln-Besse currently works as a Branch Administrator for Nestle Waters N.A., and plans to go back to school to receive a masters in education.

Since graduating from UMass Dartmouth, she has married and resides with her family in Pembroke Pines, Florida. She asserts that the WMS program changed her life, admitting that before becoming involved in the program, she was unaware of the pedestal that men are placed on in our society merely because of their gender. She now constantly challenges the patriarchy in her every day life, and hopes to pass on her feminist values and education to her daughters.

Melissa Plunkett graduated in 2004 with a major in Psychology and a Women's Studies minor. She is currently attending Simmons College and working towards a master's degree in behavioral education. When she graduates,

she will be able to sit for the Board Certified Behavior Analyst Exam.

She currently works with pre-school children who have autism. She admits that she has not been very involved in activism since leaving UMD, but still keeps up to date with her readings, having recently gotten into BUST Magazine. Even though she has not been very active, she still finds ways to relate her field to women's studies. This semester she is starting her thesis, which focuses on eating disorders.

Her involvement in UMD's WMS program was very valuable to her, particularly during her time as an employee for the Women's Resource Center and as an intern at the Greater New Bedford Women's Center. She would like to thank the staff of the WMS department for teaching her so much, and is excited to say that she has been able to take what she has learned in the program and apply it to both her life experiences and her work.

Brooke Syvertson has been doing lots of traveling since graduating in 2006. In the last year she has traveled to England, France and Italy. She loves to travel and experience other cultures, and since returning from her travels, she has been focusing on opening her own ceramics business and getting out of debt.

She believes that she would not be where she is today without the Women's Studies Program, which enabled her to become a critical thinker and analyze her position in society, the community and the world, as well as allowing her to become a more confident individual.

While she is not currently working in a WMS - focused occupation, she has been actively searching for a position in that field. She also attends meetings and films on the areas of activism and feminism at the Lucy Parsons Center in Boston.

She loves Women's Studies and all that it encompasses, and strongly believes that the personal is political, which she incorporates into her art and her speech. When her business takes off, she hopes to organize events that involve the arts and feminism that raise social awareness.

Anna Lisa Vust graduated in 2007 with a major in psychology and a minor in Women's Studies. She moved to Minnesota in June to live with her aunt and uncle and look for a job. She decided to go to a temp agency, and was hired for a position as a support associate for Capella University in downtown Minneapolis, which she hopes will become a full time job.

She would like to thank Women's Studies for changing her life. It was such a great experience being a WMS minor and taking the really worthwhile classes. A lot of her thinking when it comes to certain social, political or cultural issues stem from her feminist view, and she cares about women's issues very much. She loves learning more about women's causes, and currently holds Breast Cancer and Violence Against Women as two of her biggest concerns. She hopes to volunteer for a women's organization while in Minnesota. Ultimately, however, she plans to get her Master's in psychology.

Women's Resource Center: Upcoming Fall Events

November 8: movie*- *Erin Brockovich*

November 6 and 19: workshops- Wage Project with Dr. Evelyn Murphy

November 19: movie- *Norma Rae*

December 6: movie- *9 to 5*

*** All movies are free and open to the public. Movies will start at 5 p.m. and will be held at the Women's Resource Center, located in Pine Dale residence hall.**

Spring '08 WMS Course Highlights

Men and Masculinities SOC/ANT/WMS 359

Prof. Penn Reeve

In this course, we will examine the social construction of male identity and male culture in U.S. society. What behaviors and attitudes do most men share? What are the variations in male behavior and attitudes defined by race, class and sexual orientation? How do these attitudes and behaviors affect women and other men? Topics include growing up male, sexualities, relationships, male bonding, sports, male violence, warfare, men's health, work and changing male culture.

Women's Studies Internship WMS 399

Prof. Heidi Berggren

Women's studies' students put feminist theory into practice. Over the course of one semester, students earn academic credit by working in area public, private or non-profit organizations that provide services for women. Students work under supervision of a women's studies faculty member and a sponsor at the selected organization. Requires students to keep a journal of daily experiences and to write a final reflection paper. Students must work a total of 140 hours in their internship. For more information, contact hberggren@umassd.edu

Third Wave Feminism WMS 306

Prof. Jeannette Riley

This course examines the First and Second Waves of the women's movement in the United States. Then, our attention turns to the Third Wave, the term given to feminist movement from 1990 forward.

Through readings, research, and a community service learning project, we will analyze the contributions and future of women's rights and issues in the United States, with a particular focus on women of color in the Third Wave, a group often excluded from the First and Second Waves of the women's movement.

Sex Roles and Politics PSC/WMS 332

Prof. Heidi Berggren

In this class, we will examine how and how much gender matters in politics, how it should matter, and other debates primarily by applying Lynne Ford's concept of the "paradox of gender equality" to the various facets of women's and men's involvement in politics, including participation at the movement and mass levels, political leadership and public policy. The primary methods of instruction consist of lectures and structured discussions of the required readings. There will be films and group research projects and presentations.

Submit to **Siren**

In Celebration of Women

Deadline: December 15

Poetry, photography, prose, essays, paintings, drawings, sculpture, cartoons. All submissions welcome!

Send submissions to: Siren@umassd.edu

Women's Studies Program
UMass Dartmouth
285 Old Westport Road
North Dartmouth, MA 0747-2300

Non-profit Org.
US Postage Paid
New Bedford, MA
Permit # 149

Phone: 508-910-4586
Fax: 508-999-9235

**Questions? Comments?
Suggestions?**

Design/Editor

Megan Gauthier

U_M1Gauthier@umassd.edu

WMS Director's Report

Greetings from the Women's Studies Program! I'm happy to report that the WMS Program continues to grow at UMass Dartmouth as we enter our 30th year. Not only do we continue to have an active group of WMS minors, I am also very pleased to announce that on October 19th, the Board of Higher Education unanimously approved the Women's Studies Major. This major is now available for any student seeking to major in WMS or to add a double major to their current degree program. The approval of the WMS major involved a two year process, and my thanks go out to the WMS faculty and affiliates who contributed their time, energy and ideas.

In other news, as you see here, our newsletter has been redesigned by this year's WMS

intern, senior WMS minor Megan Gauthier. In addition, a newly designed WMS website will be unveiled in late November 2007 that includes information about the new major, as well as a section for alumni to send in information about their work and experiences after graduation.

Finally, here's the most exciting news...on February 7, 2008, the Women's Studies Program and Women's Resource Center is thrilled to announce that Gloria Steinem will spend the day at UMass Dartmouth in celebration of the new WMS major. After visiting with students and joining in on a few WMS classes, Ms. Steinem will deliver a talk at a fundraising dinner that will establish a WMS scholarship endowment fund. Please save the date. I hope you will attend

the event and contribute to the endowment fund as we work to establish a resource for current and future WMS students.

Best,
Jen Riley,
Director, Women's Studies



Acclaimed author/
women's rights
activist
Gloria
Steinem to
visit UMass
Dartmouth
on February
7, 2008 for
the WMS
scholarship
endowment
fundraising
dinner.

University of
Massachusetts
Dartmouth

women's
STUDIES program