



# WOMEN'S VU

The monthly newsletter of the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

March 2005, Volume XXVII, Issue 7

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Vanderbilt University and the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center presents its annual

### MARGARET CUNINGGIM LECTURE

**DR. LOUISE SILVERSTEIN**  
*Integrating Feminism and Multiculturalism: Toward a Complexity Model of Human Identity*

Thursday, March 24, 7:00pm  
in Wilson Hall, Room 103  
Reception will follow in Wilson lobby  
Lecture is FREE and open to the public

## THE MARGARET CUNINGGIM LECTURE FEATURES NOTED PSYCHOLOGIST DR. LOUISE SILVERSTEIN

### *An Introduction by Kacy Silverstein*

I remember sitting in my freshman seminar, the first of many women's studies classes that I would later take at Vanderbilt, listening to my professor drone on about some controversial article that unpacked our traditional notions of fathering. The subject sounded familiar to me, but I could not pinpoint where I had heard about it until she handed out an article for a paper we were to write entitled "Deconstructing the Essential Father" by Louise Silverstein, Ph.D. I sat staring at this paper written by my aunt wondering how I was going to respond in some objective way to this scholarly work and contemplating how much extra credit I could swing if I told my teacher (obviously a fan of the work) that I had a close personal connection to the author.

I remember the first time I flew to New York by myself to see my aunt. She took me to museums and plays that challenged my eight-year-old southern sensibilities. We looked at portraits of women's bodies and art from other cultures and I was mesmerized by this world that she created for me. She talked to me about women's rights and human rights, about religion, psychology and politics and from that moment on, I wanted to be a feminist just like her.

I write now as a self-proclaimed feminist, a graduate of Vanderbilt with a degree in anthropology and women's studies and as a student beginning her own journey in the

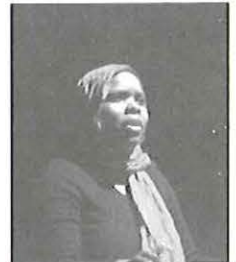
field of counseling. My aunt's impact on my life thus far has been immense, as she has taught me what it means to be a woman, a feminist, a student, and most importantly, an activist. Thus, it is with great pleasure that I invite each of you to come hear Dr. Louise Silverstein speak at the annual Margaret Cuninggim Lecture on March 24th at 7:00pm in Wilson 103.

In an effort to introduce you to my aunt prior to her visit to Vanderbilt, I asked her a few questions related to feminism, her own interests, and her work. She was gracious enough to reply with the answers below.

*continued on page 7*

There were scenes surreal, funny and heartbreakingly poignant as the all-student production of the *Vagina Monologues* played to sold-out houses both February 13 and 14. Proceeds will benefit Ujima House.

(more pictures on page 6!)



Photos by Misa Culley

## INSIDE

MCWC Seeking nominations for two annual awards.....	2
Kudos!.....	2
Women's Health Matters! Women Facing AIDS.....	3
In the Library Feminism and Fashion; Women's History selections.....	4
March Calendar.....	5
Announcements.....	8

For more information, please see our website: [www.vanderbilt.edu/WomensCenter](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/WomensCenter)

## Celebrate Women's History Month!

## Kudos!

*F. Clark Williams* gets bonus kudos for being the Women's Center A#1 Scout for good *Women in Islam* ideas. He helped us with a speaker in the fall, our speaker in the spring, as well as drawing our attention to the important movie *Moolaade*. *We appreciate F. Clark!*

Also, the Women's Center and especially Misa Culley, editor of this newsletter, and Robin Van Arman, office manager, would like to thank the *Vandy Fems* and *Peer Ed* for their tremendous help in labelling the newsletter for mailing these last few months. Your help is so greatly appreciated!

Kudos to *Mayfield 9* and the *Vandy Fems* for working together on an AMAZING response to the date rape articles in *The Hustler*. The series of buttons you created and distributed are fantastic!

### Vagina Monologues Volunteers Extraordinaire:

*Steve Frooman*: V-Day Coordinator

*Kasie Luttrell*: CandyGrams

*Mary Jane Philpy*: Vagina Art

*Laine Smithheisler*: Costumes

*Patricia Conway*: Publicity

*Reagan Bush*: Programs

and also: *Erin, Sarah, Alli, Kacy, Justin, and Kat*

**Women's VU** is published monthly September through June at the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.

**Campus Address:** Franklin Building, 316 West Side Row

**Mailing address:** 2301 Vanderbilt Place, Box 351513, Station B, Nashville, TN 37235-1513

**Phone:** (615) 322-4843; **Fax:** (615) 343-0940.

**E-mail address:** [womenctr@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:womenctr@vanderbilt.edu)

**Visit our website at:**

[www.vanderbilt.edu/WomensCenter](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/WomensCenter)

**Linda Manning**, director

**Jennifer Hackett**, associate director

**Vicky Basra**, director, Project Safe

**Barbara Clarke**, librarian

**Robin Van Arman**, office manager

**Misa Culley**, editor (direct line 343-4367)

This is a copyrighted publication. Articles may be reproduced with permission of the editor. Letters to the editor are welcome. Send them to the above address or e-mail the editor at [misa.culley@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:misa.culley@vanderbilt.edu).

**Address changes:** Please contact our office manager, Robin Van Arman, at [robin.l.van.arman@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:robin.l.van.arman@vanderbilt.edu)

**Deadline for newsletter:** Submissions are due on the 1st of the month preceding publication.

## WOMEN'S CENTER SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR TWO ANNUAL AWARDS

The Women's Center is currently seeking nominations for the **Mentoring Award** given annually to recognize achievements by and in support of women on campus.

The **Mentoring Award** honors a member of the Vanderbilt University community who fosters the professional and intellectual development of Vanderbilt women. The award will be announced in April, when the honoree will be presented with a special gift and certificate.

**DEADLINE:** If you know someone who is deserving of this recognition, **please submit your nomination by Wednesday, March 30th, 2005.** Nomination forms are available at the Sarratt desk or at the Women's Center. A curriculum vitae of the nominee is also welcomed as well as up to three additional letters of support for the nominee. **Please send your nominations to the Women's Center at 316 West Side Row, Box 351513 Station B, 37235.**

Nominations may be submitted in the following ways: in person to the Women's Center in the Franklin Building at 316 West Side Row; by campus mail at Station B Box #351513; by U.S. mail at Station B Box #351513, 2301 Vanderbilt Place, Nashville TN 37235-1513; or by email at [womenctr@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:womenctr@vanderbilt.edu).

The **Mary Jane Werthan Award** is given annually by the Women's Center to honor an individual who has contributed to the advancement of women at Vanderbilt. It is named in honor of Mary Jane Werthan, the first woman member of the Vanderbilt Board of Trust. Nominations should be sent in the form of a letter addressed to Linda Manning, Director, and any supporting materials should be included.

The **deadline to submit nominations for the Mary Jane Werthan Award is March 4th.** The award will be presented during the annual Margaret Cuninggim Lecture on March 24th. Please send your nominations to the Women's Center at 316 West Side Row, 37235.

Past honorees have included Dr. Alison Piepmeier of the Women's Studies program (2004); Dr. Ronnie Steinberg of the Women's Studies program (2003); Gay Welch, University Chaplain (2001); Gary F. Jensen, Professor of Sociology (1997); Nina Gove, Professor of Slavic Languages & Literatures (1993); and William A. Jenkins, Vice Chancellor for Administration (1990).



## Women's Health Matters!

### From Miami to Mombasa: Women Facing AIDS

by Kathleen Cravero and Donna E. Shalala  
Previously published in *The Miami Herald*,  
Dec. 1, 2004.

Mercy was a teenager when she got married to an older man. Mercy knew about AIDS. But she never took drugs and was faithful to her husband, so she didn't think AIDS could affect her. Then, during her second pregnancy, her worst nightmare came true - she was told she was HIV-positive. She was terrified to tell her husband. She knew he would blame her. Only when her baby grew sick did she explain that both she and the baby had AIDS. Mercy's husband responded just as she feared, with anger and violence. She was thrown out of her house, fired from her job and ostracized from her community. Mercy's beautiful daughter is now dead and so is her husband. But she's quick to say: "This isn't just my story--it's the story of women with AIDS everywhere."

Today, in sub-Saharan Africa, 60 percent of those with HIV are women, and 75 percent of young people infected are girls. In America, AIDS is the leading cause of death among African-American women ages 25-34 and Miami has the largest per capita number of women with AIDS in the country. And the fastest growing increases of women with HIV are now found in Eastern Europe and Asia.

In many countries, women are the fabric of family and society. If there's one place in this epidemic where our efforts will yield real results, this is the place. Empowering women and girls to protect themselves and their families from AIDS is key to turning the tide.

What we call the "ABC" prevention strategy - Abstain, Be Faithful, Use Condoms - is a good start, but it's not enough. Women are getting infected not only because they lack information, but because they lack the options to keep themselves safe. We teach that abstinence until marriage can prevent AIDS, yet we

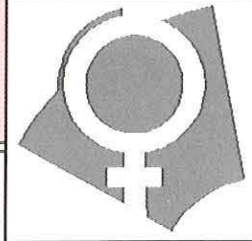
live in a world where girls are often married off as children. We tell women to be faithful, but know their partners often aren't. We tell them to use condoms, but know their partners often won't. We tell them to support their families, but know they often lack the tools and opportunities to do this, except through risky behaviors.

In a study in Zambia, only 11 percent of women believed they had the right to ask their husbands to use a condom even if they knew he was unfaithful or HIV-positive. A health survey in Rwanda revealed that nearly 50 percent of men and 67 percent of women agreed that refusing sex or voicing your opinion are acceptable reasons for domestic violence. If women had the option to choose marriage rather than have it forced on them, to decide when and with whom they have sex, to negotiate condom use, to live their lives free from violence, to earn incomes adequate to feed their families, their ability to protect themselves from HIV would be real.

The Global Coalition on Women and AIDS was recently launched by UNAIDS and a wide range of partners to advocate for AIDS strategies that work for women, something we call ABC+.

Here are some of the "pluses":

- Reducing violence against women increases their ability to access services, negotiate safer sex, and take advantage of education and employment. Reducing violence against women prevents HIV.
- Protecting the property and inheritance rights of women helps keep their children in school and food on the table without the need to engage in risky behaviors. Protecting women's property rights prevents HIV.
- Ensuring women's access to health care keeps them strong and healthy enough to care for their children, attend work and school, and keep their families intact. Ensuring women's access to health care prevents HIV.



#### U.S. WOMEN AND AIDS TOUR -

#### NASHVILLE EVENTS

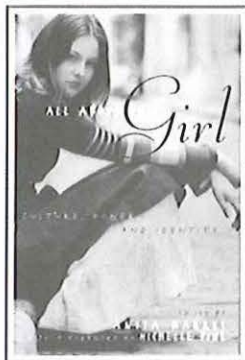
The U.S. Women and AIDS Tour is making stops in five American cities including: Chicago, Miami, Nashville, New York, and Washington, D.C. The goal of the tour is to heighten awareness about women and AIDS. For more information, including event times and locations, please see details on page 5.

- For women who aren't in a position to say no, whose partners won't be faithful or use condoms, or who are too beaten up or beaten down to ask, prevention methods that they control are essential. Making microbicides and female condoms a reality for women prevents HIV.
- Keeping girls in school as long as possible will increase their "right to abstain," their knowledge and negotiating skills, and make them safer. Keeping girls in school prevents HIV.
- And supporting women with loans to start a small business of their own will increase their economic security, and go a long way toward improving the lives of their families. Providing women with a fair shot at job opportunities prevents HIV.

For women and girls like Mercy from Miami to Mombasa, the United Nations, the United States, and all of us must join forces to help make these strategies a reality--not just on World AIDS Day, but every day. If we value women, and if we are committed to stopping AIDS, it's not just the right thing to do--it's the smart thing to do.

m

*Kathleen Cravero, deputy executive director of UNAIDS, leads the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS. Donna E. Shalala is president of the University of Miami and served as the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) for eight years in the Clinton administration.*



## Girl Culture: A Look at Power and Identity and Feminism and Fashion: What (Not) to Wear?

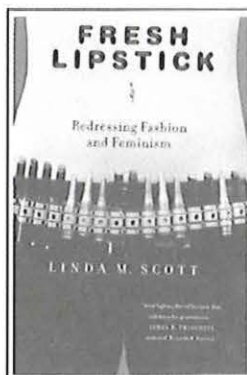
Australian sociologist Anita Harris is the editor of *All About the Girl: Culture, Power, and Identity* (Routledge, 2004), an excellent addition to the growing field of girls' studies. The 22 articles in the volume focus on girls in a number of western nations and

the contributors include academics, activists and researchers in a variety of fields.

Many aspects of popular culture celebrate girls while feminism has provided them with broader opportunities, choices and expectations. Harris feels that "These changes in possibilities for young women are reflected everywhere, from the sassy icons of the culture industries to the proliferation of government-funded girl power programs. At the same time, rising rates of arrest, incarceration, un- and under-employment among young women are a troubling counterpoint to images of over-achieving, consumer-oriented girlpower." Not all girls have benefitted equally from the economic and social opportunities and in some countries the gap between the haves and the less-fortunate appears to be widening. Harris aims to show the variety of ways girls are coping or flourishing in their changing surroundings.

The articles, which are organized into six broad categories, cover topics as diverse as mean girls; feminism and young women in Great Britain; girls' websites; sexuality and Samoan girls in New Zealand; abstinence-only sex education; high school proms; girls as consumers; feminism and femininity; urban girls of color and stereotypes; compulsory heterosexuality; and music and African-Caribbean girls in Great Britain.

Linda M. Scott, who describes herself as a feminist, believes that women can be both feminine and feminist and that feminism should not take such a dim view of beauty. In *Fresh Lipstick: Redressing Fashion and Feminism* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2005) she declares that feminists over the past 150 years have insisted that fashion and women's attention to beauty and appearance are harmful as they make a woman "a dupe of fashion, the plaything of men, and thus a collaborator in her own oppression."



She feels that feminists themselves are really the oppressors and that many women reject feminism because they associate it with certain stern attitudes about appearance and beauty.

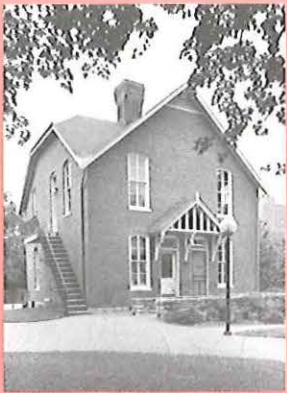
Scott, an associate professor of art and design, communications, and women's studies at the University of Illinois, states that "My objective in this book is to demonstrate that established feminist theorists and leaders, not the ranks of the Third Wave nor the ladies at the corner beauty parlor, need to experience a change in consciousness with regard to the politics of personal appearance." She traces the beginnings of feminism's disapproval of women's concern with appearance to the Puritan or Quaker upper- and middle-class origins of the early feminists who are best-known today. Among these are Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony. The writer points out that many of the lesser-known early feminists came from different backgrounds and did not share the same opinions about women, fashion and beauty. One example is Sarah Josepha Hale, the editor of *Godey's Lady's Book*.

Most ordinary women have been interested in fashion, cosmetics, beauty and popular culture to varying degrees. As people of both sexes in most areas of the world have usually decorated their bodies Scott feels that this should be considered the norm. She illustrates how women have played major roles in the beauty industry for generations and how many historians have told the stories only of those women whose beliefs or activities fitted their particular theories. She discusses many women who were influential or important in their time but who are not well-known today because their ideas or opinions about issues like sexuality or fashion appear to be at odds with feminism. Many other writers chose to ignore topics like women's clothing, hairstyles, beauty, cosmetics or sexuality.

This volume is aimed particularly at younger women and the writer hopes that they will be encouraged to feel free to follow their own feelings about beauty and clothing, for fashion can be liberating. Scott has an interesting website at [www.freshlipstick.com](http://www.freshlipstick.com).

**March is Women's History Month** and our library has many interesting books on women's history. Among those published in the past five years are: *The Road to Seneca Falls: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the First Women's Rights Convention* by Judith Wellman; *No Small Courage: A History of Women in the United States* edited by Nancy F. Catt; *Restoring Women's History through Historic Preservation* edited by Gail Lee Dubrow and Jennifer B. Goodman; and *Tidal Wave: How Women Changed America at Century's End* by Sara M. Evans.





# March 2005 Calendar

PLEASE SAVE  
AND POST

Unless otherwise indicated, all groups are open to all people and are held at the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center at 316 West Side Row on Vanderbilt University's Campus.

For directions, please consult the map at <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/WomensCenter/contact.html>. For more information, please call 322-4843.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 2005

**International Women's Day event: U.S. Women and AIDS Tour**

**Metropolitan Community Church 7-9 a.m.**

**Breakfast and Interfaith Forum:** Religious leaders from around the Nashville area will discuss ways the religious community can enhance its support for programs and projects that help women and girls protect themselves from HIV.

**Vanderbilt Children's Theater, 11:30am-12:30pm**

**Public Health Forum:** This panel discussion will address the health risks faced by women and explore ways to build support among the public health establishment for an approach to prevention.

**What:** UNAIDS has launched the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS. This broad-based coalition is designed to bring together decision makers, policy advocates, program implementers, community leaders, celebrities, activists and concerned citizens from all walks of life to advocate for AIDS strategies that reflect the realities and challenges of women's lives.

**Who:** Guests from UNAIDS and the U.S. Women and AIDS Tour include: Dr. Kathleen Cravero, Deputy Executive Director, UNAIDS; Local guests include: Rev. Becca Stevens, Chaplain, St. Augustine's Chapel; Shiela Ladson, Thistle Farms; Rabbi Ken Kanter, Congregation Micah; Rev. Ken Swanson, Christ Cathedral; Dr. Colleen Conway-Welch, Dean, Vanderbilt School of Nursing; and Dr. Stephen Raffanti of the Comprehensive Care Center

The programs are free and open to the public. For more information, please contact [agay@mpf.com](mailto:agay@mpf.com)

## EVENTS

### Tuesday, March 8, 2005

**International Women's Day Event: Amnesty International Global Write-a-thon**

**What:** A write-a-thon is a special event where participants commit themselves to writing 10 letters to elected officials and signing up sponsors for their letter writing. This year's focus is violence against women around the world.

**Who:** All people are welcome to participate. This event is co-sponsored with the Amnesty International USA 149 Nashville Chapter and the Race Relations Institute at Fisk University. (Located at the Corner of 16th Avenue North and Jackson Street)

**When:** 6:00-9:00pm at the Fisk Race Relations Institute. For more information, please contact Randy Tatel at 473-2950

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16

**Rethinking Anorexia Nervosa: A Historian's Perspective**

**What:** *Joan Jacobs Brumberg* is a professor at Cornell University where she has been teaching history, human development and gender studies

since 1979. She is best known for her books on the history of girls and is noted for her work on *The Body Project*. Sponsored with Women's Studies. This Program is free and open to the public.

**When and Where:** 4:30pm in Furman 114  
For more info, contact [womens-studies@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:womens-studies@vanderbilt.edu)

### THURSDAY, MARCH 24

**The Annual Margaret Cuninggim Lecture Presents: *Integrating Feminism and Multiculturalism: Toward a Complexity Model of Human Identity* with Dr. Louise Silverstein**

**What:** Louise Silverstein, Ph.D., Associate Professor at the Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology at Yeshiva University, Bronx, NY, is co-founder of the Yeshiva University Fatherhood Project. *What would an integration of feminism and multiculturalism look like in today's society? Who would have to give up power and privilege to achieve this?*

**When and Where:** 7:00pm in Wilson 103, reception to follow. This lecture is FREE and open to the public. For more information, call 322-4843. Parking is available at the Terrace Place Garage, across 21st Avenue South from Wilson Hall.

### TUESDAY, MARCH 29

**The ABCs of Car Maintenance Goes Hands On!**

**What:** This very popular annual program is allowing you to bring your own car to the class! The class is free and open to only the first 12 people who sign up. Learn the basics of car maintenance and repair, while looking under your own hood!

**When and Where:** 5:30pm-7:15pm in the Terrace Place Garage

**Who:** The program is free and open to everyone. **RSVP is a must!** This class has limited spaces, and it ALWAYS fills up, so reserve now! RSVP to [jennifer.hackett@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:jennifer.hackett@vanderbilt.edu)

### THURSDAY, MARCH 31

**Race in Academe**

**What:** What are the experiences of women of color in academe? What are the challenges they face in this profession? How do women of color interact with their white women colleagues? What do they need from their colleagues, and what do their colleagues need from them?

**Who:** This program is for women graduate students or those considering becoming one.  
**When and Where:** 4:10-5:30pm at the Schulman Center for

*continued on page 6*

## March Calendar

continued from page 5

Jewish Life, Upstairs. For more information, or to register, please go to [www.vanderbilt.edu/cfi/gradstudents/f2p2](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/cfi/gradstudents/f2p2)

### REGULAR GROUPS AND MEETINGS

#### TUESDAY, MARCH 1

#### T-BLAST (Transgendered women, Bi-women, Lesbians, and Straight women Together)

**What:** Children In Our Lives.

Single moms, same-sex couple moms, birth moms, transgender moms, surrogate moms for same-sex couple dads, adoptive moms, honorary moms. Each mother, lesbian, bi, transgender or straight, has her own story about the children in her life. Come share yours or your mother's!

**When and Where:** 6:15pm-7:30pm at the GLBT house. For more info, please contact [melinda.brown@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:melinda.brown@vanderbilt.edu), [patricia.k.gardner@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:patricia.k.gardner@vanderbilt.edu), or [jennifer.hackett@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:jennifer.hackett@vanderbilt.edu) For the location to the GLBT house, go to [www.vanderbilt.edu/glbt](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/glbt)

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 3

#### Sistahs Reading Sistahs

**What:** A book group for everyone interested in reading African-American women authors. This month the group will be reading Bebe Moore Campbell's *Your Blues Ain't Like Mine*.

**Who:** This group is free and open to everyone!

**When:** 12:30pm-1:30pm (Meets the 1st Thursday)

For more info, please contact [nicole.l.mcdonald@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:nicole.l.mcdonald@vanderbilt.edu)

#### TUESDAYS, MARCH 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

#### Creative Life Planning Group

**What:** A group for all dedicated to living life intentionally and creatively. Open to everyone in the community and is usually attended by women between 40 and 90 years of age.

**Who:** This group is free and open to everyone.

**When:** 11:30am-1:00pm (Meets every Tuesday) For more information, call 322-4843.

#### TUESDAY, MARCH 8

#### Creative Writing Group

**What:** The Creative Writing Group is open to new members! We look forward to hearing your piece. No writing experience necessary. You can bring a piece or create one at the group.

**Who:** This group is free and open to everyone. It is led by Anna Sir who will be doing some writing instruction as well as facilitation of the group.

**When:** 5:30-7:00pm (Meets the 2nd Tuesday) For more information, or to RSVP to the group, contact [annasir@bellsouth.net](mailto:annasir@bellsouth.net)

#### THURSDAYS, MARCH 10 AND 24

#### Vandy Moms

**What:** On March 10th, Vandy Moms will welcome Kaye Schneider from Metro Public Schools who will discuss magnet school options in Davidson County, Nashville.

**Who:** Open to all mothers, partnered or single. This is a

support network that provides advocacy for moms in the Vanderbilt and larger communities. It also provides programming to inform, empower and enrich.

**When:** 11:30-12:30pm (Meets the second and fourth Thursdays) To RSVP, contact [misa.culley@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:misa.culley@vanderbilt.edu) or call 343-4367.

#### WEDNESDAYS, MARCH 2, 16, 23, 30

#### Vanderbilt Feminists (Vandy Fems)

**What:** An undergraduate student group concerned about women's issues on campus, and promoting equality between genders.

**Who:** Specifically for undergraduates (women and men), but open to all.

**When:** 5:00-6:00pm (meets every Wednesday.) Contact [emily.c.baunach@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:emily.c.baunach@vanderbilt.edu) or [katharyn.i.christian@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:katharyn.i.christian@vanderbilt.edu) Or just come to a meeting!

#### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16

#### Dissertation Writers Group

**What/Who:** This support group meets every three weeks to provide female Ph.D. candidates with objective reactions and fresh perspectives, as well as a place to unwind during the dissertation writing process.

**When:** 3:45pm-5:00pm (meets every three weeks)

Mark your calendar for the Spring dates of 3/16, 4/6, 4/27. For more information, contact [rory.dicker@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:rory.dicker@vanderbilt.edu)

#### MONDAY, MARCH 14

#### Book Group

**What/Who:** The book group is open to new members at all times and is for anyone who loves to read.

The March book is *America's Women: 400 Years of Dolls, Drudges, Helpmates and Heroines* by Gail Collins.

**When:** 5:15pm-6:15pm (meets the second Monday)

For more information, contact Jane Du Bose at [jdubose@bellsouth.net](mailto:jdubose@bellsouth.net) or Carmen Gherman at [cggherman@yahoo.com](mailto:cggherman@yahoo.com).

Vagina Monologues, 2005



Among those being honored as this year's *Vagina Warriors*, Kacy Silverstein, and Marisa Richmond, joined above by *Vagina Monologues* director, Emily Banauach (center). Among the other honorees are Justin Montenegro and Char Creson.

## Margaret Cuningham Women's Center Lecture Dr. Louise Silverstein

*continued from page 1*

**KS: How did you become a feminist?**

**LS:** I became a feminist after the birth of my first child. I realized that children pressure even the most progressive marriage to become more traditional. Because of gender ideology and the "myth of motherhood," and because I made so much less money than my husband, I was the one who felt obliged to limit my involvement in my career to take care of the baby. As I was living the consequences of this decision, I became radicalized as a feminist.

**KS: How do you define feminism?**

**LS:** I define feminism as working toward equal opportunity for men and women, which means dismantling ideological and institutionalized sexism and misogyny--witness Dr. Summers's remarks at Harvard only last week.

**KS: How did you become interested in feminist psychology?**

**LS:** I realized that my experience as a new mother trying to balance work and family life was influenced by the mother-blaming that was endemic in psychology. So I became determined to try to make the world safe from maternal attachment theory. Have not had much success --yet.

**KS: Tell us a little bit about the Yeshiva University Fatherhood Project?**

**LS:** It is a multicultural, qualitative research project studying the subjective experiences of many different kinds of fathers--over 500 fathers have participated in focus groups and interviews so far. It is an attempt to elevate the study of the father-child bond as an antidote to psychology's obsession with the mother-child bond.

**KS: Could you talk some about the controversy surrounding this work?**

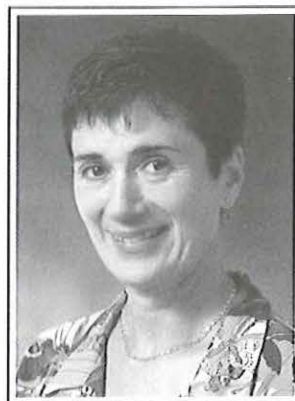
**LS:** Our data have shown that dads can be as nurturing and caring as mothers, thereby discrediting the idea of a "maternal instinct," of "natural," i.e., biological sensitivity in mothers toward infants. We have also shown that gay dads can be loving fathers, and have argued that their family structure in which parenting is, by definition "degendered" because both parents are of the same gender - has a lot to teach all of us. Finally, we have argued that it is not the sex of the parent that matters, but rather that they make a long-term commitment to loving and caretaking their kids. All of these positions have offended religious fundamentalists and the political Right who prefer to believe (in the absence of data!) that the "one right way" to raise children is in a heterosexual, two-parent, married family.

**KS: Who are your favorite authors?**

**LS:** At the moment, Octavia Butler and Laurell K. Hamilton. Earlier, Marge Piercy and Margaret Atwood. All of these are feminist science fiction writers who brilliantly illustrate how

male dominance limits opportunities for both men and women, and who point the way to a better future.

*Dr. Silverstein's lecture will examine the possibilities of integrating feminism and multiculturalism in the field of psychology. Given the changing demographics of U.S. society, multicultural competence is essential for professional psychologists. Mainstream psychology has officially endorsed multiculturalism, while feminism has become virtually invisible. Yet both continue to be marginalized in psychological theory and practice. What would an integration of feminism and multiculturalism look like? Who would have to give up power and privilege to achieve this? Can this goal become scientific fact, or will it remain science fiction?*



### **Louise Bordeaux Silverstein, Ph.D.**

- Associate Professor at the Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology at Yeshiva University, Bronx, NY where she has taught courses in family therapy and the social construction of gender since 1992
- Past president of the American Psychological Association's Division of Family Psychology. She currently is a member of the National Committee on Women in Psychology of the American Psychological Association.
- Co-founder, with Dr. Carl Auerbach, of the Yeshiva University Fatherhood Project, a qualitative research study of fathering from a multicultural perspective. In 2000, the Association of Women in Psychology awarded Dr. Silverstein and Dr. Auerbach the *Distinguished Publication Award*. In 2001, Drs. Silverstein and Auerbach received the *Distinguished Research Award* for this project from Division 51, the Society for the Study of Men and Masculinity, of the American Psychological Association
- Family therapist in private practice in Brooklyn, NY.

Dr. Silverstein's publications focus on fathering, family therapy, and feminist theory. She is the author of *Feminist Family Therapy: Empowerment and Social Location* (2003), co-edited with Thelma Jean Goodrich; and *An Introduction to Coding and Analyzing Data in Qualitative Research* (2003) co-authored with Carl F. Auerbach.

For more information, call 322-4843. Parking is available at the Terrace Place Garage, across 21st Avenue South from Wilson Hall. For directions, please visit the Vanderbilt University campus map at <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/map/entry.html>.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## MARCH 3-5, 2005

Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) will host **Women and Power: 2005**, an Interdisciplinary Conference in Women's Studies, March 3-5. The conference will address several topics, including defining, defending, or deconstructing global feminism; identifying women's personal/political power in diverse national contexts; women and terrorism; women's health issues from an international perspective. For more information or to register for this conference, please contact the Women's Studies department at MTSU at (615) 898-5910.

## TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2005

### International Women's Day

Enjoy live music and theater when First Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashville hosts **Global Fund for Women Nite**, an event celebrating women and the vision of a just and democratic world where men and women participate equally. Held simultaneously with parties in every state of the Union, the event will help raise funds for the Global Fund for Women, a nonprofit grantmaking foundation that empowers women's groups throughout the world to work to gain freedom from poverty, violence and discrimination. The evening will also feature a silent auction.

**When and Where:** First Unitarian Universalist Church of

Nashville, 1808 Woodmont Blvd., 6:30-8:30pm. Childcare will be provided. The suggested entrance donation is \$15; for more information or to make a donation, please contact Vivian Slade at 227-2836 or 415-8874. To learn more about Global Fund for Women, visit [www.globalfundforwomen.org](http://www.globalfundforwomen.org)

## MARCH 28, 2005

**Nashville NOW** (National Organization for Women) will meet **Monday, March 28** at the Nashville Peace and Justice Center at 7:00pm. For more info, please contact [CynthiaNashNOW@aol.com](mailto:CynthiaNashNOW@aol.com).

Reminder to all Vanderbilt University and Medical Center faculty and staff: **Flu season is not over yet, and Occupational Health still has flu shots available.** To get your vaccine, bring your ID badge with you to the Occupational Health Clinic, 640 Medical Arts Building, weekdays 8am-5pm. Remember to protect yourself, your family and others from flu by using good hand hygiene, and cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze. For more information on flu and the influenza vaccine, visit the Occupational Health Clinic's website at [www.vanderbilt.edu/HRS/wellness/occhealth.htm](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/HRS/wellness/occhealth.htm)>



Printed on recycled paper

Vanderbilt University is committed to principles of equal opportunity and affirmative action

### Women's VU mailing list

*Women's VU* is sent free, on request, to all Vanderbilt students and to faculty and staff at a campus address. Subscriptions are available to off-campus readers for a suggested donation of \$10 per year. Please include your check, payable to Vanderbilt University, with your subscription.

- Please send my free subscription to a campus address. (Student subscriptions are free to *any* address.)
- Please send my subscription to an off-campus address. Donation is enclosed.
- Please correct my name on your mailing list.
- Please remove my name from your mailing list.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Student (specify school & year) \_\_\_\_\_

Staff  Faculty  Administrator  Other

Mail to the Women's Center, Vanderbilt University, Box 351513 Station B, Nashville, TN

### Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center

Vanderbilt University  
2301 Vanderbilt Place  
Box 351513, Station B  
Nashville, TN 37235

**Return Service Requested**