

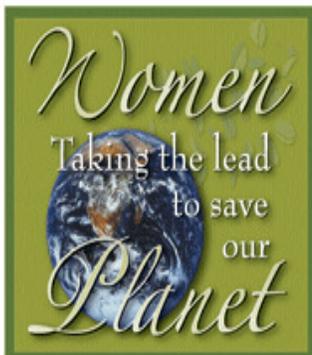
WOMEN'S STUDIES

THE HISTORY OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



March is Women's History Month, and this year's theme is Women: Taking The Lead To Save the Planet. This is perfect for me, a longtime environmentalist and equal rights advocate. I also think learning about the role women have played in history and are currently playing is inspiring. From Rachel Carson to Wangari Maathai, women around the globe have worked to protect our environment; see our activism section for ways you can as well. This is also advising time, so check out the WNS classes lined up for Fall. I hope to see you at some of the wonderful events planned to celebrate this month!

Susan Logsdon-Conradson,
Director of the WNS Program



In 1987, the U.S. Congress passed a resolution proclaiming March as National Women's History Month. According to the resolution, such a designation was necessary because women's roles in the economic, cultural, and social progress of the United States had been consistently "overlooked and undervalued" in the writing of American history. By establishing a specific month to promote the recognition of women's past achievements the government highlighted women's significant contributions to the nation's development.

The call to devote more attention to the place of women in history did not begin in the 1980s. As early as 1933, historian Mary R. Beard published, *America through Women's Eyes*, which argued that an accurate understanding of the past required that women's experiences be studied alongside men's experiences. Prior to Beard's book, most scholars believed that they could examine the relation of men – typically great men – to events like the American Revolution, indus-

trialization, and the Great Depression, and then generalize that their experiences applied to the rest of society. This understanding, according to Beard, distorted the view of the past because it did not account for the possibility that men and women experience events differently because of their gender.

Despite Beard's push for a new type of historical writing, it was not until the feminist movement of the late 1960s that scholars began to study women's history in graduate school and publish books on the topic. This new research encouraged the Education Task Force of Sonoma County, California to establish a local "Women's History Week" in 1978.

The Sonoma County program inspired similar movements across the country. In 1981, Senator Orrin Hatch and Representative Barbara Mikulski co-sponsored a Congressional Resolution establishing a "National Women's History Week." Six years later, the week was expanded into a month-long celebration of women's part in U.S. history.

Since 1987, various women's, educational, and historical organizations have hosted thousands of programs promoting awareness of women's contributions in the past. These events have increased public knowledge of women's history, as well as encouraged the adoption of new educational standards that require the teaching of women's history in many school classrooms.

In the twenty-two years since the founding of National Women's History Month women's lives have changed dramatically. As of 2005, 10.5% more women attained bachelor's degrees than did so in 1985, almost two million more women participate in high school athletics than were involved in 1974, and in the last decade women owned businesses increased by 20%. National Women's History Month continues to be an important recognition of women's accomplishments and a source of inspiration for future generations.

-Dr. Christy Snider

EVENTS CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

- March 6— This Is What A Feminist Looks Like Day** Wear a shirt or a button and show Berry what feminists really look like. Stop by the table in Krannert to see the photo collage of campus feminists.
- March 11— Film Screening: Silent Spring, 6:00, Evans Auditorium** This production offers a presentation of marine biologist/zoologist Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring" which decried the use of DDT and became the keystone of the ecological and environmental movements. CE Credit.
- March 25— Film Screening: A Sense of Wonder, 5:00, Krannert Underground.** This documentary style film depicts Rachel Carson in the final year of her life. Fair Trade coffee and organic cookies will be served. Co-sponsored by EMPOWER. CE Credit.
- March 26— Film Screening: Born Into Brothels, 6:00, Evans Auditorium** This academy award winning film is about the children of prostitutes in Sonagachi, Calcutta's red light district. Co-sponsored by Sociology/Anthropology. CE Credit Pending.
- March 27, 28— Vagina Monologues, 8:00, Krannert Underground**
Co-sponsored by EMPOWER. CE Credit.
- March 30— Film Screening: Women's Power, 5:00, Evans Auditorium**
These are the bold and creative women you always knew existed, who were kept out of the history books and off the TV screens. Co-sponsored by EMPOWER. CE Credit.



I'm A Feminist Because

... "I strongly believe that the word feminism has

a new definition and does not call women to be angry at men. We are working for equality for *all*, and I hope that men and women can accept the word and work together to create a more accepting world for us to live in."

-Claire Zimmerman

Senior, Art Education



Wangari Maathai
Founder of the
Green Belt Movement



"S.T.O.P. Sex Trafficking: A Call To End 21st Century Slavery"

Attend the GA conference on 3/20 with nationally acclaimed scholars, leaders in the faith community, service providers, and survivors.

www.mercer.edu/stop/main.htm

OP ED: THE FORGOTTEN GENDER

"I can't think of any women in history that stand out." This and many other such statements were made the other day at my table in D-hall. I wanted to see if anyone had a favorite woman in history that had inspired them. Doing a little research on some women who have shaped our country (and others) I realized how much had been left out of our history books. Why don't we hear about women in history? The fallacy that comes to mind is that maybe women didn't do anything special. Haven't women made up nearly or more than half the human population in all of history? Where are the mothers, the wives, the sisters and the friends? I think this should make us squirm when we think about it. I even think this is something that holds back women even today

I enjoy history and apart from the more typical idyllic women like Mother Teresa, Eleanor Roo-

sevelt, Queen Elizabeth, Sojourner Truth, or Harriet Tubman it is hard to pick out names from my own research in history. What about Clara Barton and the other nurses of the battlefields or the women who bravely stood up against slavery? How about the women that worked in the factories when the men were away at war only to have the jobs taken away once the war was over? How much do we really care to know about these women? How about the women that raised the men that became presidents, or the first ladies? Or has it truly been men alone that have made our country? Where are the Founding Mothers?

As I was doing this research quite a few women stood out. Hedy Lemarr who contributed to the co-patented concept that led to the use of cell phones and the satellite. Frances Kelsey whose work led to the elimination of

thalidomide which produced birth defects. Have we even heard of Gertrude Elion who won the Noble Prize around the time many of us were born for creating a leukemia fighting drug?

More than white men alone created our world. I want the perception of our history to change. Women have made contributions all along, now is the time for some recognition. Next time you do a research project I encourage you to do a little scrounging around and find some information on a woman that people do not know much about. Someday I hope my friends can quickly think about the strong women that have gone before them and have left a beautiful legacy. There is enough room in our history for two genders; let's include "herstory".

Kellie Kent

SOCIAL JUSTICE: EXPERIENCE IT FIRSTHAND

Locally

Coosa River Basin Initiative (CRBI) Volunteer to protect local water sources. There are lots of ways to help at www.coosa.org/get-involved

Chili's Hospitality House Night

With each flyer presented on Monday March 2 from 4-11 PM, Chili's will donate 10% of all sales to the Hospitality House. Flyers on the WNS table in Evans & posted around campus.

Regionally

Save Our Environment .Org

Join the most influential environmental advocacy organizations use the power of the internet to increase public awareness and activism on important environmental issues.

Women's Environment & Development Organization (WEDO)

works to empower women as decision makers to achieve economic, social and gender justice.

Globally

Roots and Shoots.org

Become a global citizen and bring about positive change for communities, animals, and the environment.

Green Belt Movement .org

Join the grassroots worldwide movement, including the billion tree campaign, & get communities to plant trees as a symbol of their commitment.

WNS CLASSES FOR FALL 2009

ART 413 WI: Women & Art

TH 2-3:15; Dr. Troy

ENG 432: Studies in Southern Literature

MWF 11:00; Dr. Watkins

HIS 375 WI: U.S. Women's History

MWF 10:00; Dr. Snider

PSY 303 WI: Health Psych in Sociocultural Context

MWF 12:00; Dr. Conradsen

PSY 385: Psychology of Women

MWF 11:00; Dr. Conradsen

Rel 331: Christian Faith & Feminist Critique

TTh 12:30; Dr. McKenzie

SOC 335: Social Inequality, Race, Class, & Gender

TH 2:00; Dr. Allred

WNS 210: Intro to Women's Studies

MWF 9:00; Dr. Conradsen

TH 12:30; Dr. Baker

WNS 344/SOC 450: Sex, Gender, & Sexuality in Society

M 3:30- 6; Dr. Baker

WNS/SOC/GOV 387: Gender, Law, & Society

TH 9:30; Dr. Baker