

the colgate center for  
**women's  
studies**

# News

## From the Director

by Marilyn Thie

The face of Women's Studies is different these years. Half of the Student Assistants who work in the Center for Women's Studies are racially diverse and, for the first time in recent memory, two graduating concentrators are students of color. More importantly, we work well together and enjoy each other's company, thanks in large part to Diane Williams, our Program Assistant.

Frequently, I'm occupied with trying to figure out what fortuitous factors led to this situation, for I'd like to duplicate them, again and again. My hope, of course, is that, if their own experience is positive, students will recruit others to work in the Center, and that faculty and curricular attention to racial, ethnic, class, and sexual diversity will attract to WMST students who are committed to diversity.

Attention to varieties of sexual orientations on campus is emerging as a priority, particularly this year, although implementation still has barely begun. In recent years, the WMST Advisory Board, comprised of faculty and staff, have addressed LGBTQ concerns more fully, in the curriculum, programming, and campus climate. Women's Studies students, staff, and faculty are committed to

keeping issues of sexual diversity in the forefront. One preoccupation for me and others with whom I speak is the war against Iraq. A window in our Center displays a peace flag, made by students and Program Assistants when the U.S. attacked Afghanistan. We are aware, however, that students differ about whether the U.S.-led war against Iraq is justified. In the Senior WMST Seminar, focused this year on Feminist Classics from the 1970's, we're reading Susan Brownmiller's Against Our Will: Men, Women, and Rape while the war intensifies. Inevitably, students and I wonder if and how the historical conjunction of war and rape of women will be present during or after this war as well.

### Inside!

- \* Meet Meika Loe \* Learn about LASO \*
- \* Peep at Skin Deep \* Listen to Vaginas! \*
- \* Love **your** body \* Power Princesses \*
- \* Spring Brown Bags \*

## So Much To Say!

by Diane Williams

Happy Women's History Month. It feels like the semester just started but we're knocking on April's door! A number of great student-initiated/ student-led events have already happened. Around the Center we welcome four Student Staff members this semester: two from abroad -- Heather Dockstader and Loella Medina, and two first years -- Holly Cowan and Caitlin Lundquist. We now have a staff of 16! More is going on than fits in here: students are organizing an education campaign about abortion, half of the Staff and I enthusiastically supported the Breast Cancer Awareness Coalition's fundraiser banquet and Holly even choreographed the Ballet Club's routine for the night, and we hosted a discussion on "What it feels like for a girl!" at Colgate. Our center is full of excellent outreach bulletin boards, seen each day by dozens of students, addressing: Title IX and the recent review, Black Women's History, Women and Peace, Dispelling Poverty Myths, the Commodification of Brides and love, Latina singer Mercedes Sosa, and Georgina O'Keefe's (vaginal?) flowers.

And our Brown Bags regularly attract over fifty-five students, with higher numbers for the excellent Professor Sarah Bay-Cheng's on James Bond.

In short, while it is sometimes exhausting, often stressful, and from time to time makes me question my sanity, working at the Colgate Center for Women's Studies is incredibly rewarding, exciting, and energizing. I've decided to stay another year as Program Assistant and hope to expand the positive work and energy we've built this year. This university is working towards progressive change. I look forward to being a part of that change and insuring that welcoming acceptance of women and men, regardless but respectful of gender and sexual orientation, is a given at Colgate University.

Enjoy the newsletter. Keep stopping by and enjoy our fair trade organic coffee and tasty teas from Dean's Beans ([www.deansbeans.org](http://www.deansbeans.org)). See you soon.

## Professor Profile: Meika Loe

by Mary Margaret Acoymo, '06

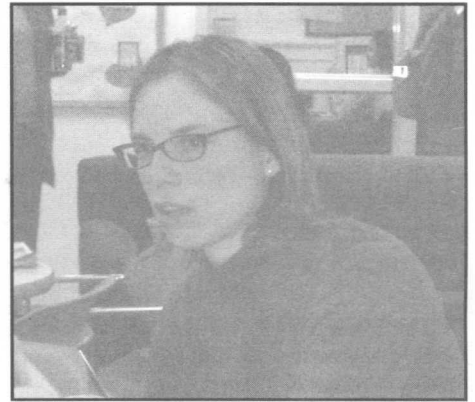
There is a fresh breeze blowing through the Center of Women's Studies these days in the form of our new Sociology & Anthropology and Women's Studies professor, Meika Loe. Professor Loe hails from Southern California; she attended the University of California-San Diego for her undergraduate degree, and the University of California-Santa Barbara for her doctorate in Sociology with an emphasis in Gender Studies. She brings with her a dedication to addressing issues of sexual diversity and promoting understanding and acceptance of all people.

Why did such a dynamic woman and professor choose Colgate? In her own words she feels that "Colgate is unique," referring to her hiring in a joint professorship position. She prides herself, and rightly so, as being not only a teacher but also maintaining a role as a student of her students and of the world. Her classes this semester include Women in Health and Medicine, Introduction to Sociology, and Women's Lives: an Introduction to Women's Studies.

Recently, Professor Loe conducted

a brown bag lunch in the Center for Women's Studies entitled, "Over-stimulated: A Critical Analysis of the Viagra Phenomenon." The Center was filled with students and professors and her talk was well-received. She presented a portion of her research on the culture surrounding Viagra, and of the societal implications, and complications, of this pop culture drug. In fact, her research and analysis has reached past American borders: during my interview, the Canadian media CBC phoned and asked her a few questions.

In her short time here, Professor Loe is striving to make a difference. She, with a few other professors, have organized a coalition of over 140 other Colgate staff and professors interested in lending public support to students and teachers in the bisexual, queer, transgender, transsexual, and questioning (LGBTQ) community. This group has run an ad with their mission and listing of all the member's names in the *Colgate Maroon-News*, and has provided an information and sensitivity training for interested



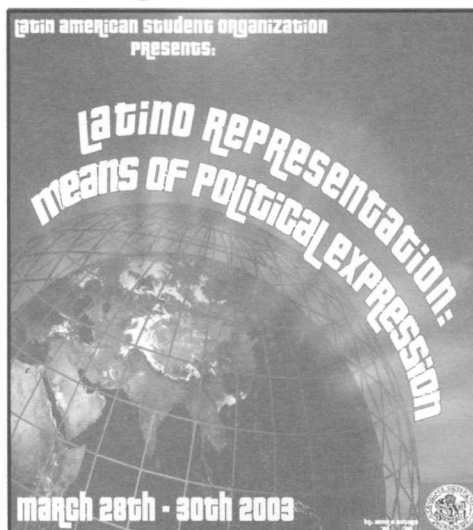
Professor Meika Loe, WMST/SOAN

members. They hope to increase awareness and support by active participation in events dealing with such LGBTQ issues, their encouragement of lectures on these topics, and their incorporation of sexual diversity awareness into their classes and workspaces.

After leaving her office, I left with not only a deeper appreciation for often overlooked gender issues, but also an appreciation for a professor whose passion for awareness and for the betterment of the world is wonderfully contagious. Welcome to Colgate Professor Loe! We are fortunate to have you with us.

## LASO Conference at Colgate

What fuels our communities? What empowers a group of people to make a difference? These are all questions the Latin American Student Organization was asking one another last semester. We specifically wanted to explore how it was that our community of Latino's overcame struggles as well as celebrated successes. We all came to the conclusion that one deciding factor was our history and how the triumphs of the past fuel our present and future. Out of this dialogue came the creation of our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebra-



by Tamara Serrano, '03

tion. March 28<sup>th</sup> we will be collaborating with the Pan-Hellenic Council, SORT, and Women's Studies on the theater group *Yo Soy Latina (I am Latina)*. March 29<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> conference, banquet, and after party, with the attendance of Latino/LASO alumni, professors, Colgate students and the neighboring communities. All are strongly invited to attend!

For more information contact:  
Tamara Serrano  
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## Going Beyond "Skin Deep"

*Skin Deep is a weekend retreat for students, sponsored by the Dean of the College and the Office of Multicultural Affairs.*

Skin Deep turned out to be an experience unlike what I had expected. I went into it with the idea that it was a place where Colgate students and faculty were gathered for the purpose of discussing issues such as diversity and race, but I found over the course of the weekend that much more would be brought into these sessions. We were asked to participate in activities and discussions

that were sometimes, admittedly, rather uncomfortable. The thirty of us were removed from our accustomed circles at school and put into a basically isolated setting that forced us to interact with people who we otherwise may never have gotten to know. Stories were told and experiences shared that opened my eyes to things I had avoided thinking about in the past. In some cases, these stories were very personal and moving, compelling us to relate individually to our own experiences at Colgate. After such a weekend, it's

by Caren King, '06



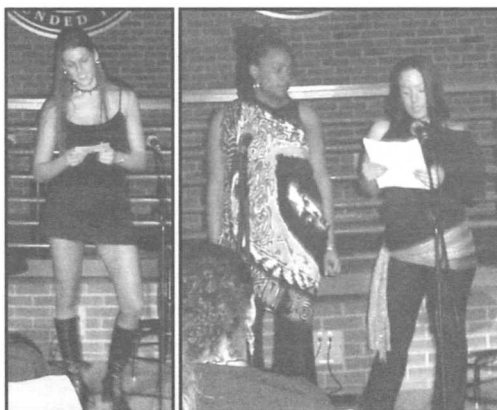
hard to say whether or not things will really change on campus—many of us would like to think so, but only time can tell.

## "We Were Worried About Vaginas"

by Jamie Warsavage, 03

On Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Center for Women's Studies sponsored its 4<sup>th</sup> annual performance of Eve Ensler's *Vagina Monologues* in Colgate's Edge Café. Forty-three students, professors, and staff members performed in front of a captivated audience of one hundred and fifty raising nearly \$450 for a local charity, Liberty Resources Victims of Violence in Oneida, NY. International charity performances of this play each February are part of a global movement started by

left: Heather Dockstader, reading "My Short Skirt"



right: Princess Dunn and Tamara Serrano, reading "My Crooked Braid"

Ensler to stop violence against women and girls and aptly named V-DAY. The "V" stands for Violence, Victory, Valentine, and, of course, Vagina.

Audience favorites included the orgasmic moaning from "The Woman Who Loved to Make Vaginas Happy," performed by Music Professor Bonnie Miksch and the performance of "My Angry Vagina," by first year Alexis Gilbard. Bravo and thank you to all involved!

## Cross Cultural Body Image Panel

by Diane Williams



On February 19th, ten Colgate women met to discuss their thoughts on body image and cultural influences in front of a crowd of over thirty. Coming from all over the globe to Colgate, these wonderful women shared personal stories and reflections. This event was part of the "Love Your Body" Series which seeks to promote healthy body perceptions

through educational events on campus. It was moderated and organized by Kristen Dams-O'Connor and Susan Roberts, presidents of Body Image Network (BIN) and Dr. Andrea Bross, staff psychologist and advisor to BIN. The panelists were: (L to R) Cassie Quirindongo, Anne Workman, Mary Acoymo, Sam Soukup, Princess Dunn, Jaia Thomas, Dora Georgieva, Marian Tes, Anjuli Fernandez, and Wandalay Torres. Thanks for an informative and liberating night!

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**This newsletter was  
edited by Anne  
Workman, '03 and  
Diane Williams.  
Stay tuned for our  
Spring Edition!  
Please send all  
feedback/ideas to  
Diane. Thanks.**

*Feminist Fairy Tales*

Children's Event at the Bookstore  
February 8th, 2003



We read fairy tales! We made Powerful, Practical Princess Paperdolls!  
We had snack.

Thanks to Heather Hawn, Events Coordinator at the Bookstore

Brown Bag Lunch Series

CENTER FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES

February

**Does That Sound Like  
Sexual Harassment to You?**  
Ulla Grapard, *Economics*  
with members of the Sexual Harassment Panel

**Hoping With Our Feet: Forty Years of  
Women at Colgate and Beyond**  
Wanda Warren Berry, *Philosophy and Religion*

**Over Stimulated:  
A Critical Analysis of Viagra**  
Meika Loe,  
*Sociology & Anthropology and WMST*

**Women and the Negotiations of  
Peace and Reconstruction in  
Liberia and Mozambique**  
Anne Pitcher, *Political Science*  
Mary Moran, *Sociology and Anthropology*

Brown Bag Lunches held in the Lounge of  
the Center for Women's Studies from  
11:30 am - 12:45 pm.  
\*All are welcome \*lunch provided\*

SPRING 2003

March

**Kiss Kiss Bang Bang:  
Sex, Guns, and James Bond**  
Sarah Bay-Cheng, *English and Theater*

**\*location: Longyear Museum, Alumni  
Hall\***

**Images of Men and Women  
in Traditional African Art**  
Carol Ann Lorenz, *Art/Art History*

**Burning Crosses with Good Intentions?  
Madonna, Whiteness, and 'Like a  
Prayer'**  
Diane Williams, *WMST Program Assistant*

lunches catered by Curtain Call

April

**From Gertrude Stein to Jessica  
Stein: The Bookish Woman in the Jew-  
ish Imagination**  
Lesleigh Cushing, *Philosophy & Religion and  
Jewish Studies*

**Feminist Standpoint Epistemology: In-  
tellectual and Political Controversies**  
Sandra Harding, *Professor of Social Sciences  
and Comparative Education; Director,  
UCLA Center for the Study of Women*

**How Do Markets Matter?  
Neoliberalism and the Feminization of  
Poverty in Contemporary Russia**  
Jessica Allina-Pisano, *Political Science*

**Beyond Black and White**  
Jennifer Colon '03 and Tamara Serrano '03,  
*Psychology and Women's Studies*

**Marilyn's Thoughts**  
Marilyn Thie, *Philosophy and Religion*

Marilyn Thie, Director  
Diane Williams, Program Assistant  
Questions? 228.7156