Greetings friends of Women’s and Ethnic Studies!

News:

Dr. Andrea Herrera will be on sabbatical spring and fall 2012, and Dr. Abby Ferber will serve as interim Director.

WEST Academic programs:

Students: Have you heard about our three certificate programs? In addition to our Major and Minor (www.uccs.edu/~west), WEST now offers certificates in the following areas:

- Global Studies
- Latino/a Studies
- Native American & Indigenous Studies
  (Information located outside WEST Suite, Columbine 1025)

If you are a Major or Minor in WEST, please make sure to have this officially declared, so that we can keep accurate records, and keep you up to date on WEST requirements, news, etc. Already have a major, but just discovered you love WEST courses? Consider a Dual major!

The Smart-Girl Program still has space available in the Leadership Institute Training course, an intensive weekend course the last weekend in January (2 credits) and in the internship program (3 credits). The Leadership Institute Training course is available to anyone interested in working with youth, even if you do not plan to work with a SG program. In addition, Smart-Girl is currently piloting a new boys program!

These WEST classes can be registered for under LAS extended studies:

LAS Extended Studies web site at http://www.uccs.edu/~lases/smartgirl.htm

For more information about this fabulous program, visit the Smart-Girl website at: www.smart-girl.org
The 13th Annual White Privilege Conference, March 28-31, will be in Albuquerque, New Mexico and is being hosted by the New Mexico Equity and Social Justice Alliance. The WPC is a program of the UCCS Matrix Center for the Advancement of Social Equity and Inclusion. Numerous WEST faculty members serve on the conference’s national planning team, and lead conference workshops as well. In September, UCCS co-sponsored a one day version entitled White Privilege Symposium, at Colorado College. The annual conference is three days, with optional pre-conference institutes. Last year’s conference, in Minneapolis, was attended by a record number of 2,300 participants.

This year’s theme is “Intersectionality: Vision, Commitment, and Sustainable Partnerships.” Keynotes this year include Heidi Beirich, Director of Research at the Southern Poverty Law Center; Professor Kimberle Crenshaw, Professor of Law at UCLA and Columbia Law School, Jane K. Fernandes, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of North Carolina at Asheville, Mary Romero, Professor and Faculty Head of Justice Studies and Social Inquiry at Arizona State University and Charlene Teters, National Coalition on Racism in Sports and the Media, Chair, Studio Art Dept, Institute of American Indian Arts.

This year, in addition to this all-female line up, the conference will be preceded by a special dinner featuring a keynote by Angela Davis. This event is set for Wed. evening, March 28, and requires a separate registration. The event is a fundraiser for the University of New Mexico Office of Diversity and Equity.

The names Angela Davis and Kimberle Crenshaw should be familiar to all WEST students. Crenshaw, a critical race theorist, is credited with coining the term “intersectionality,” and Angela Davis is a well-known anti-racist activist and author of numerous books and articles that have been widely read and reprinted. Her books include Women, Culture & Politics, and Women, Race, & Class. Her most recent books are Abolition Democracy and Are Prisons Obsolete?

What is the White Privilege Conference? The WPC is a conference that examines challenging concepts of privilege and oppression and offers solutions and team building strategies to work toward a more equitable world. It is not a conference designed to attack, degrade or beat up on white folks. WPC is a conference designed to examine issues of privilege beyond skin color. WPC is open to everyone and invites diverse perspectives to provide a comprehensive look at issues of privilege including: race, gender, sexuality, class, disability, etc. — the ways we all experience some form of privilege, and how we’re all affected by that privilege.

Who attends the WPC? The conference is unique in its ability to bring together high school and college students, teachers, university faculty and higher education professionals, nonprofit staff, activists, social workers and counselors, healthcare workers, and members of the spiritual community and corporate arena. The WPC is committed to a philosophy of “understanding, respecting and connecting.”

Take the UCCS WPC course for credit! We need your help spreading the word: WPC participants may register for undergraduate or graduate level University credit from UCCS! Look for the special topics course “Intersections of Privilege” in the WEST and Sociology schedules, or contact Dr. Abby Ferber for more information: aferber@uccs.edu. This is a great opportunity to take a full course in a very short, intensive period of time, and to learn from the nation’s leading experts on privilege.

Other Events:
Save the Date: Join us Friday, Jan. 27, 11:00-1:00, Upper Lodge, for a workshop examining the Educational Achievement Gap, with Beverly Bennett-Roberts. Look for flyers with further details.
Beverly Bennett-Roberts

Bennett-Roberts is a former classroom teacher and middle school administrator, with four certifications in Special Education and a secondary principal’s license. She has trained students, teachers, principals, parents, and other educational leaders and worked with numerous corporations, organizations and higher education institutions. Currently, Bennett-Roberts is a Freelance Consultant providing consultation and insight on a wide-range of social justice topics, including race and ethnicity, LGBTI students, and bullying. As a social justice advocate, she truly believes: "It is not enough to be compassionate, you must ACT!"
Jealousy Gacela
By Janice Gould, Assistant Professor, WEST

It blows open your door with a gust of icy wind
and deposits snow on the carpet, piles it up
along baseboards. Suddenly the mud walls of your house crack, the vigas creak, and scorpions fall
from the latías. Windowpanes succumb
and shatter to earth, but the wind persists,
straight off the plains or down from the mountains,
howling and harrowing while the freezing
air spirals into your lungs, your heart,
comes to rest at the base of your sternum.

You paste a smile on your face and hope
this ruse cannot be detected.

You speak in measured tones,
but your voice feels jagged and hoarse.

You pretend to be unaffected,
but inwardly you are staggering
like a wounded elk, creeping
like a starved dog, wary and bony,
not even alive. You labor with half
your mind, see with half your sight,
and everything you touch burns
with a lemon-colored flame.

Jealousy is your bitterest friend,
your fondest enemy. It brings water
you cannot swallow, dried-up tears
you cannot shed. How futile to refuse
to warm your hands at its fire of cold rage.

Photograph taken by Dr. Janice Gould
Bragging Rights

Church, Minette C., Jason Yaeger, and Jennifer L. Doman. 2011. The San Pedro Maya and the British Colonial Enterprise in British Honduras: “We may have a perfectly harmless and well affected inhabitant turned into a designing and troublesome neighbor”. In Enduring conquests: rethinking the archaeology of resistance to Spanish colonialism in the Americas., edited by M. Liebmann, Melissa S. Santa Fe, NM: School for Advanced Research Press.


The School for Advanced Research is pleased to announce Concow Maidu poet Janice Gould as the 2012 SAR Writer-in-Residence. This fellowship is generously supported by the Lannan Foundation.

Nengudi-Fitz, Senga. Her work has just been added to the permanent collections of The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York., The Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, New York and the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles. In addition, her works (including performances) will be featured in several other museums in New York and Los Angeles in 2012.

Herrera, Andrea. Selected as a recipient of the 2012 system-wide Thomas Jefferson Award. The Thomas Jefferson Awards are bestowed each spring to a faculty member, a staff member, and a student who advance the ideals of Thomas Jefferson, which include broad interests in literature, arts and sciences, and public affairs; a strong concern for the advancement of higher education; a deeply seated sense of individual civic responsibility; and a profound commitment to the welfare and rights of the individual. The special significance of the award is its integration of excellence in performance of regular responsibilities with outstanding service to the broader community.

The deadline for the 2011 Rosa Parks and Cesar Chavez Scholarship Awards submissions is Thursday, February 2, 2012. Please bring submissions to Columbine Hall, #1025 by 5:00pm.

Contact information: Jane Muller 719.255.4553 or jmuller@uccs.edu

RAD classes Spring 2012 semester.
The dates are as follows:
February 17, 18, and 19 from 6pm-10pm on the 17th, and 1pm-5pm on the 18th and 19th.
April 20, 21, and 22 from 6pm-10pm on the 20th, and 1pm-5pm on the 21st and 22nd.
Location: Public Safety Training Room

We’re on the web!
http://www.uccs.edu/~west
http://www.uccs.edu/~matrix
How to be a Traitor to Inequality, Privilege and Oppression: WEST Students Offer Advice

“I am only one, But still I am one.
I cannot do everything, But Still I can do something;
And Because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something I can do.”
-Edward Everett Hale

We often believe that social change can only be accomplished by devoting our lives to a social movement, or choosing a career where we can make "real change." When we think about social change in the past, we tend to focus on the "heroes/sheroes," like Reverend Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks, and Susan B. Anthony. Unfortunately, there is a wide range of ways that you can be "traitorous" in your own daily life, while engaged in the activities of work, family, school, leisure, and much more. These actions, ranging from purposefully discriminatory to accidental insults, can cause harm to those around us and make social change more difficult. The “traitorous” behavior can be hard to identify and may even appear harmless on the surface, but by seeking out information and paying attention to how what we say and how we act, we too can foster social change. Here are some suggestions from the students of WEST 3150, Fall 2011:

• Be a positive, strong, independent role model to the younger people in your life so you can inspire change. Expose children to and encourage them to interact with all kinds of people from non-dominant social groups.
• Attempt to decrease the use of harmful language and stereotypical phrases that target oppressed groups, such as "slut," “nigga,” “that’s gay,” “no homo,” “that’s retarded,” "Oh, he Jew’d me,” etc. Explain why it’s harmful.
• Challenge “beauty” norms and recognize the beauty in every woman.
• Act as an ally for the oppressed rather than perpetuating silence.
• Treat all people with respect no matter what their race, class, religion, gender, sexuality, age, or abilities/disabilities are.
• Start “uncomfortable” conversations about privilege, race, oppression, and notions of masculinity with friends and family. Start these conversations with the people sitting next to on the bus/airplane/train.
• Remember that social change is a slow process; do not become discouraged when you do not immediately see results.
• Support interracial relationships and stand up for love, not race, when others begin criticizing them.
• Support organizations that work against oppression and inequality, serve the homeless, address poverty, etc. You can support them with time or money.
Useful resources and sources of support, also compiled by the students of WEST 3150, Fall 2011

http://www.tolerance.org/publication/speak/speak
Speak Up! A downloadable guide from Teaching Tolerance. “Your brother routinely makes anti-Semitic comments. Your neighbor uses the N-word in casual conversation. Your co-worker ribs you about your Italian surname, asking if you’re in the mafia. Your classmate insults something by saying, "That’s so gay." And you stand there, in silence, thinking, "What can I say in response to that?" Or you laugh along, uncomfortably. Or, frustrated or angry, you walk away without saying anything, thinking later, "I should have said something." This guide provides thoughtful responses.

http://microaggressions.com/
This website provides insight into individuals’ daily experiences of "microagression"—those small insults and slights that don’t seem like much, but add up over time. They are often described like paper cuts: getting one may not hurt, but as they accumulate, by the end of the day you are bloodied and in pain.

http://www.partnersagainsthate.org/
Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund. Their homepage provides statistical data about hate crimes within the youth of our country which is a good way of engaging the audience to make them read further. This website informs people of hate crimes from business leaders to educators to parents and police officers. It gives ideas to deal with hate crimes and provides them with resources if they are faced with a situation involving hate crimes.

www.noacentral.org
National Organizers Alliance. NOA’s mission is to advance progressive organizing for social, economic and environmental justice and to sustain, support and nurture the people of all ages who do it.

http://www.thinkb4youspeak.com/
"Think Before you Speak." It is a site that is funded by the GLSN, which is short for the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network. The main purpose of this site is to create an awareness of the issues that surround verbal bullying. Saying things like "that’s gay" or "that's retarded" are hurtful comments that may not seem like bullying, but actually are.

http://www.swirlinc.org
According to the website, “Swirl is a national multi-ethnic organization that challenges society’s notions of race through community building, education, and action.” Online, one can participate in a range of discussion topics that offer questions concerning race, ethnicity, sexuality, etc. One can start a local chapter in order to facilitate real-life interactions within the community.

www.resetdoc.org
The foundation began in cooperation with the Italian magazine Reset. The organization hopes to become a reference point for those who want to see a civilization coming together and accept those from different cultural backgrounds.

www.allaboutcounseling.com
This site is about providing helpful information on counseling and social issues, and having a place for people to express themselves in those areas. They provide education on women’s issues such as, rape, catcalls, The site has information about treatment programs on alcohol and drugs, mental health, self-help programs, and crisis counseling. They also offer forums and discussions, and links to those who want to pursue a career in psychology and counseling.

www.pluralism.org
Created by Harvard University to help Americans engage with the realities of religious diversity through research, outreach, and the active dissemination of resources. The focus is on religious diversity and opening up the boundaries of religion and expanding people’s understanding of different religions.

www.equalitynow.org
Its purpose is to end violence and discrimination against women and girls around the world. The website describes how to get involved, and has a list of “100 steps to equality.”

*Note: Dr. Ferber has not personally examined all of these websites; they are suggestions coming from other WEST students.

**Data compiled by Heather Belveal
This fall saw the start of a global protest movement against persistent inequality known in the U.S. as the Occupy Wall Street Movement. While it is too early to say whether or not the movement will achieve its more ambitious goals, it has already changed the way mainstream media and politicians discuss issues of inequality. More importantly, when I went down to Acacia Park I was amazed to see smart, young people engaged in deliberative democracy and earnestly discussing today’s most important issues. The one thing that nagged at me was the general lack of awareness of the movement and its concerns amongst UCCS students in my classes.

So I put the word out about organizing a teach-in on the Occupy Movement to raise awareness and share information. A group of dedicated graduate and undergraduate students stepped forward to make the teach-in happen. On November 8th, we held an incredibly successful teach-in that featured Occupy organizers, Joel Aigner and Hossein Forouzandeh, and UCCS students, Joe Langston and Kent Henderson. The tech-in also received great coverage in the UCCS Communique and Scribe.

After the teach-in, the student organizing committee felt that a series of topic specific forums would continue the goal of educating and raising awareness. The first forum, held on December 7th, featured philosophy professors Jeff Scholes and Raphael Sassower who addressed some of the political and economic issues that drive the movement. The room was packed to near capacity with UCCS faculty, students and community members. It generated such a lively discussion that when our scheduled time ended, no one wanted to leave and so we stayed for at least another half hour.

We are very excited to announce our plan for the spring semester, as of now:

**Education Beyond the Classroom:**
A Forum Series on the Occupy Wall Street Movement

**Historical Perspectives on Social Justice Movements in the US**
Thursday Feb 2 from 12:15 to 1:30 PM
Featuring Peter Brumlik, Paul Harvey and Christina Jimenez (History)

**Latinas/os and the Occupy Wall Street Movement**
Mid-February
Featuring Edgar Cota (Languages) and Edwardo Portillos (Sociology)

**Homelessness & Persistent Economic Inequality**
March
Featuring Hilary Smith (Sociology) and Steve Bass (Occupy Colorado Springs)

**The Sustainability of Economic Development**
Wednesday April 25 at 4 PM
Featuring Daphne Greenwood (Economics) and Kevin Gilford (Campus Sustainability)

Lastly I want to give a shout out to the students who have made all of this happen: Kayley Blood, Kent Henderson, Heather McMillin, Rachel Newsome, and Theo Holtwick. Without students willing to apply what they learn in our classes outside of the classroom, our democracy will continue to suffer. In addition to the forums, we also plan on screening documentaries to compliment the forums and generate lively discussions on these issues. **The group is open to anyone and everyone who wants to get involved in organizing educational events.** If you are interested please contact either OccupyUCCS@gmail.com or me directly at jmontezd@uccs.edu