WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH 2012

March 1

3:00-5:00 p.m., Main Campus, Business Building, BB 2.06.04

Women’s History Month Opening Program and Reception

Mary Agnes Rodriguez, The 2012 Women’s Advocate of the Year

Featuring Keynote Speaker, Dr. Linda Warner

“Seven Generations”, The preservation of indigenous knowledge systems and the evolution of tribal cultural values form the framework for various Indian nation's priorities. The role of American Indian women is addressed within their contextual role as traditional culture bearers highlighting the often quoted Cheyenne saying "A nation is not conquered until the hearts of its women are on the ground. Then it is done, no matter how brave its warriors or strong its weapons." The conversation will include a review of research and a dialogue for discovery of new avenues for inquiry.

March 2

1:00 p.m., Main Campus, Bexar Room, UC 1.102

“Whither Women’s Studies?: Institutionalization, Sexuality Studies, and the Rise of Engaged Research,” Brian Reidel, Assistant Director and Lecturer, Rice University Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality.

Feminism has proven to be a catalytic collection of ideas and debates that has transformed the activism, politics, and academic disciplines across the globe. In the United States alone, departments, centers, and institutes have been established under the aegis of feminist work at over six hundred colleges and universities, a number that continues to increase even in this strained economic climate. In both good and bad economic times, however, several questions persistently accompany the institutional growth of Women’s Studies. Whatever legitimacy the field may have gained by establishing minors, majors, masters, and doctoral degree programs, many of these graduates are asked, often with the best of intentions, “So what will you ‘do’ with your degree in Women’s Studies?” At the same time, these departments, centers and institutes often (but importantly, not always) provide a structural home for the burgeoning field of Sexuality Studies, whose practitioners face achingly similar questions. In that context, and almost in answer to these questions, several strains of transdisciplinary feminist thought have begun to coalesce around what might be called the project of Engaged Research. This talk examines several exemplars of institutionalized Women’s Studies in the United States with an eye to how these topics of institutionalization, sexuality studies, and engaged research play out in them, and sketches some of the projects and directions that are emerging from their confluence.
March 5

10:00 a.m., Main Campus, MH 2.02.10
“Legacies of Globalization: Labor, Factories, and Femicide in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico,” Georgina Guzman, University of California, Santa Barbara

Dr. Guzman will begin by examining the ASARCO Copper Smelting Plant in the El Paso-Ciudad Juarez area (built by the Rockefellers and Guggenheims in 1899). The plant has been responsible for the environmental contamination of El Paso-Ciudad Juarez and has led to reproductive cancers and children’s birth defects. She will then turn to the legacies of American capital and globalization in modern-day maquiladoras in Cd. Juarez, and will trace legacies of systemic violence and the ways that US corporations have accumulated wealth at the cost of the lives of Mexican women and children. Maquiladoras, after all, employ a majority female working force, and yet provide no protection for the safety of their workers. With the maquiladora running 24 hours a day, many women are forced to walk home alone from work in the dawn hours and never make it home alive. Dr. Guzman will discuss the maquiladoras’ treatment of the Mexican female labor force as expendable and the lack of policies in place to safeguard the safety (and preserve the lives) of women.

March 6

12:30 p.m., Main Campus, MB 1.122
“Monstrous Intimacies: Making Post-Slavery Subjects,” Christina Sharpe, English & American Studies Director, American Studies, Tufts University

Arguing that the fundamental, familiar, sexual violence of slavery and racialized subjugation have continued to shape black and white subjectivities into the present, Christina Sharpe interprets African diasporic and Black Atlantic visual and literary texts that address those “monstrous intimacies” and their repetition as constitutive of post-slavery subjectivity. Her illuminating readings juxtapose Frederick Douglass’s narrative of witnessing the brutal beating of his Aunt Hester with Essie Mae Washington-Williams’s declaration of freedom in Dear Senator: A Memoir by the Daughter of Strom Thurmond, as well as the “generational genital fantasies” depicted in Gayl Jones’s novel Corregidora with a firsthand account of such “monstrous intimacies” in the journals of an antebellum South Carolina senator, slaveholder, and vocal critic of miscegenation. Sharpe explores the South African–born writer Bessie Head’s novel Maru—about race, power, and liberation in Botswana—in light of the history of the KhoiSan woman Saartje Baartman, who was displayed in Europe as the “Hottentot Venus” in the nineteenth century. Reading Isaac Julien’s film The Attendant, Sharpe takes up issues of representation, slavery, and the sadomasochism of everyday black life. Her powerful meditation on intimacy, subjection, and subjectivity culminates in an analysis of Kara Walker’s black silhouettes, and the critiques leveled against both the silhouettes and the artist. Co-sponsors: Joycelyn Moody and Sonja Lanehart, Department of English.

March 7

7:00 p.m., Main Campus, Denman Room, UC 2.01.28
American Women’s History Bingo

The Inclusion and Community Engagement Center will host a game of Bingo with an American Women History theme that will use facts of women’s history instead of ordinary bingo numbers.
11:00 a.m., Main Campus, Art Building, ART 3.01.18A
“Archiving Eden,” Dornith Doherty, College of Visual Arts and Design, University of North Texas, will speak about her photographic project exploring the role of seed banks and their preservation efforts in the face of climate change, the extinction of natural species and decreased agricultural diversity. Traveling from the Arctic tundra of the Svalbard Archipelago to the hyper arid Sonoran desert in Arizona since 2008, Doherty has used x-ray equipment to photograph the collections of the world's botanical back-up systems. Her project, which also includes documentary images of the secure facilities of the world's most comprehensive seed banks, examines the complex philosophical, anthropological and ecological issues surrounding the role of science, technology, and human agency.

March 8

3:00 p.m., Downtown Campus
“Mujeres de su palabra: Indigenous Women and the Spoken Word,” panel presentation with Roselia Jimenez Perez, Patricia Sanchez Santiago, and Sandra Cisneros, readings from their work and a discussion of their recent Encuentro Macondo-Oaxaca workshop experience. Question and answer session to follow.

March 12-March 17, Spring Break- No event scheduled

March 19

11:00 a.m., Main Campus, MB 0.224
“A Century of Genocide: The Residential School Experience,” discussion about the boarding school era and ongoing legacy of these institutions on indigenous communities today. Rosemary Gibbons, Mimbres Apache/Chicana, University of Washington.

6:30 p.m., Main Campus, MB 1.204
SB 1070, SB 1070 is a collaborative response to the anti-immigrant profiling bill that was introduced in 2010. The piece explores the various positionalities of those tied to the immigration issue including border crossers, community organizers, and state and federal law enforcement. As activists in Arizona’s national call to action campaign, Movimiento Cihuatl offers SB 1070 as a reflection, point of healing, and act of solidarity with those who continue the struggle. Fabiola Torralba, Marisa Gonzales, Yasmina Codina, Genevieve Gonzales, Daisy Hernandez.

March 20

7:00 p.m., Main Campus, University Center Ballroom 2, UC 1.104
“Bad Subjects: Chicana/o Studies in the Wake of HB 2281,” explores Latinas and Latinos' complicated relationship to the American public school via an analysis of House Bill 2281, the prohibition on Chicana/o studies in Arizona's public schools that went into effect in January 2011. Tracing a genealogy of activism around education, discussion shows how desegregation efforts and, more recently, the DREAM Act have called for the transformation of Mexicans into Americans and the incorporation of undocumented migrants in the American polity. In contrast, Chicana/o studies strives
to produce an alternative, transborder subject. Just as queer studies challenges heteronormative regimes, like the sex-gender dyad, Chicana/o studies interrogates rigid notions of assimilation and neoliberal definitions of politics. For the creators and supporters of HB 2281, this field is a bad subject that produces bad subjects, hence the drive to expunge it from Arizona’s public schools. Catherine Ramirez, Latin American & Latino Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz.

March 21

10:00 a.m. Main Campus, John Peace Library Building, Sombrilla

Women’s Festival 2012
The celebration continues as the Women’s Studies Institute hosts the annual Women’s History Month Festival. Women’s organizations from all over San Antonio as well as UTSA will join together in their cause for the progress and advancement of all women.

2:00 p.m., Main Campus, University Center Bexar Room, UC 1.102. “Fatal Invention: How Science, Politics, and Big Business Re-create Race in the Twenty-first Century.” A decade after the Human Genome Project proved that human beings are not naturally divided by race, the emerging fields of personalized medicine, reproductive technologies, genetic genealogy, and DNA databanks are attempting to resuscitate race as a biological category written in our genes. In this provocative analysis, leading legal scholar and social critic Dorothy Roberts argues that America is once again at the brink of a virulent outbreak of classifying population by race. By searching for differences at the molecular level, a new race-based science is obscuring racism in our society and legitimizing state brutality against communities of color at a time when America claims to be post-racial. Moving from an account of the evolution of race—proving that it has always been a mutable and socially defined political division supported by mainstream science—Roberts delves deep into the current debates, interrogating the newest science and biotechnology, interviewing its researchers, and exposing the political consequences obscured by the focus on genetic difference. Dorothy Roberts, Kirkland & Ellis Professor, Northwestern University School of Law, Faculty Fellow, Institute for Policy Research. Co-sponsor: The Consortium for Social Transformation.

5:30 p.m., Main Campus, Business Building, University Room, BB 2.06.04 “The Dark Side of the Sacred: Pomba Gira in Brazil,” The spirit entity Pomba Gira holds a controversial place in Afro-Brazilian spirituality. Said to be the disembodied spirit of a prostitute or femme fatale, some see her as possessing great knowledge of and power over human affairs, while others see her as a demonic figure capable of great evil. Despite her ambivalent reputation, Pomba Gira is very popular in Brazil, particularly among the poor and working classes. Drawing on a decade of fieldwork, Kelly Hayes, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, Indiana University, College of Liberal Arts, discusses her work with Pomba Gira’s devotees in Rio de Janeiro.
March 22

9:30 a.m., Main Campus, MH 3.03.18
“Changing the Game: Black Feminist Educators from Slavery to Hip Hop.” Discussion of Black women pioneers throughout history whose experiences and struggles have “changed the game” in American society and education. Providing brief narratives of many lesser known figures in historical and contemporary contexts, the talk will highlight the ways in which black feminist consciousness has evolved over time and manifested into activism in k-12 and higher education contexts. In particular, this presentation will discuss African American education from slavery to the development of hip hop pedagogy. Paula Groves Price, Associate Professor, Cultural Studies and Social Thought, College of Education, Washington State University. Co-sponsored by The Consortium for Social Transformation, College of Education and Human Development.

11:30 a.m., Downtown Campus, DB 3.208
“Changing the Game: Black Feminist Educators from Slavery to Hip Hop.” Discussion of Black women pioneers throughout history whose experiences and struggles have “changed the game” in American society and education. Providing brief narratives of many lesser known figures in historical and contemporary contexts, the talk will highlight the ways in which black feminist consciousness has evolved over time and manifested into activism in k-12 and higher education contexts. In particular, this presentation will discuss African American education from slavery to the development of hip hop pedagogy. Paula Groves Price, Associate Professor, Cultural Studies and Social Thought, College of Education, Washington State University. Co-sponsored by The Consortium for Social Transformation, College of Education and Human Development.

6:00 p.m., Main Campus, University Center Ballroom 1, UC 1.106
“The Little Black Dress Fashion Show”
Amanda Graybill, founder of the little black dress society that speaks out against awareness of domestic violence against women.

March 23

3:00 p.m., Main Campus, University Center Bexar Room, UC 1.102
“Jenda is What You Learn as You Go Through Life”: Teaching Gender in an AIDS Awareness Workshop in Papua New Guinea. Discussion will focus on recent multi-sited collaborative research on gender and HIV Risk in Papua New Guinea, Holly Wardlow, Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto. Co-sponsored by Department of Anthropology.

6:30 p.m., Downtown Campus, Buena Vista Theater
“Golondrinas,” a reading of a new play by Irma Mayorga, adapted from Bárbara Renaud Gonzalez’s novel, “Golondrina, Why Did You Leave Me?”
March 26

12:00 p.m., Main Campus, MH 2.02.20
“Domestic Violence on the Reservation,” Discussion on some of the causes and effects of domestic violence on women of color, and the work that is being done to educate women of color of the different forms of domestic violence and how to step out of the victim role. An historical overview of the domestic violence on the reservation, as well as the traditional response to the violence and discussion of the methods incorporating traditional as well as non-traditional methods to combat domestic violence, **Misty Thomas**, 2011 Recipient of the Presidential Champions of Change Ward, and Director of Social Services at Santee Sioux nation of Nebraska.

1:00 p.m., Main Campus, University Center Harris Room, UC 2.212
“Warming the Climate for Women in Science: New Research,” **Dr. Angela Ginorio** will present an overview of the issues that fall under the term "chilly climate." She will also address concerns that are specific to women in science, including the demographic description of scientists and research on factors that facilitate and/or hinder participation of women in science at all levels. She will also discuss preliminary results of a pilot study on women scientists who have left science and interventions that have been used to encourage retention of women in science. Angela B. Ginorio is associate professor in Women Studies and adjunct associate professor in the Departments of Psychology and American Ethnic Studies at the University of Washington. Her research focuses on factors affecting access to and experiences in science and engineering of under-represented groups (students and faculty of color, women, students from rural backgrounds), with particular attention to impact of socially defined identities, parental involvement, and "mentoring." Co-sponsored by the Honors College.

2:00 p.m., Main Campus, MH 3.02.30
“Domestic Violence on the Reservation,” Discussion on some of the causes and effects of domestic violence on women of color, and the work that is being done to educate women of color of the different forms of domestic violence and how to step out of the victim role. An historical overview of the domestic violence on the reservation, as well as the traditional response to the violence and discussion of the methods incorporating traditional as well as non-traditional methods to combat domestic violence, **Misty Thomas**, 2011 Recipient of the Presidential Champions of Change Ward, and Director of Social Services at Santee Sioux nation of Nebraska.

5:30 p.m., Main Campus, MB 1.204

March 27

5:30 p.m., Main Campus, MH 2.01.04
“Writing Women Back Into Herstory,” This session will explore why the contributions that women have made in all aspects of society for hundreds of years have been un-or under-reported and documented. This lecture will also illustrate how, through multicultural education, these contributions (as well as those of other groups on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, and so forth) can be written back into the curriculum in PK-12 schools, higher educational institutions, and even in workplace settings, and the
benefit of doing so for all (i.e., not just for women), Christine Clark, Professor and Senior Scholar in Multicultural Education, Department of Teaching & Learning, University of Nevada-Las Vegas. Co-sponsored by The Consortium for Social Transformation, College of Education and Human Development.

March 28

11:00 a.m., Main Campus, BB 3.04.08
“Psychological Influences on Women, Sexuality, and Identity,” discussion will provide key insights into topics related to gender and sexual identity, and psychoanalytic object relations theory, Carla Golden, Department of Psychology, Ithaca College.

7:00 p.m., Main Campus, University Center Bexar Room, UC 1.102
Film: The Education of Shelby Knox
Winner of the Sundance Best Cinematography Award and the SXSW Audience Award, WMM is pleased to be finally releasing this fascinating and powerful documentary. Lubbock, Texas has an abstinence-only sex education policy in its schools and some of the highest teen pregnancy and STD infection rates in the nation. Shelby Knox is a devout Baptist teenager who has pledged abstinence until marriage. When her interest in politics leads her to get involved in a campaign for comprehensive sex education in her town’s public schools, and then to a fight for a gay-straight alliance, she must make a choice: Stand by and let others be hurt, or go against her parents, her pastor, and her peers to do what she knows is right. Co-sponsored by The Inclusion and Community Engagement Center.

March 29

10:00 a.m., Downtown Campus, DB 3.206
“Almost 20,000 Copies Sold!: 4 Transnational Latinas, 3 Towns, 2 Countries, and 1 Story”
This panel of 3 young women (and 1 former graduate student) will discuss the success of their bilingual children’s book, Recuerda mis raices y vivo mis tradiciones/Remembering my roots and living my traditions, published by Scholastic, Inc., in 2004, the book has sold nearly 20,000 copies nationwide and was written when the young women were teens. The co-authors and co-illustrators will discuss their journey(s) as researchers, writers, and transnational subjects, Tomasa Dueñas, California State Legislature, Tomasa Dueñas, California State University, East Bay, and Montserrat Becerra.

12:30 p.m., Main Campus, MS 3.02.08
“Does Microfinance Empower Women? Women in Debt in Bangladesh,” In 2006 the Grameen Bank of Bangladesh won the Nobel Peace Prize for its innovative microfinancing operations. This path-breaking study of gender, grassroots globalization, and neoliberalism in Bangladesh looks critically at the Grameen Bank and three of the leading NGOs in the country. Amid euphoria over the benefits of microfinance, Lamia Karim offers a timely and sobering perspective on the practical, and possibly detrimental, realities for poor women inducted into microfinance operations. In a series of ethnographic cases, Karim shows how NGOs use social codes of honor and shame to shape the conduct of women and to further an agenda of capitalist expansion. These unwritten policies subordinate poor women to multiple levels of debt that often lead to increased violence at the household and community levels, thereby weakening women’s ability to resist the onslaught of market forces. A compelling critique of the relationship between powerful NGOs and the financially strapped women beholden to them for capital, this book cautions us to be vigilant about the social realities within which
women and loans circulate—realities that often have adverse effects on the lives of the very women these operations are meant to help. Lamia Karim, Associate Director, Center for the Study of Women in Society, and Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Oregon. Co-sponsor: Anne Hardgrove, Department of History.

2:00 p.m., Main Campus, Business Building University Room, BB 2.06.04
UTSA Department of English Creative Writing Program Women Faculty Reading
Wendy Barker, Bonnie Lyons, Norma Cantu, and Catherine Kasper read from their recent work in celebration of Women’s History Month.

4:00 p.m., Main Campus, University Center Bexar Room, UC 1.102
“Fandangeando con Mujeres: Redefining Gender Roles in Son Jarocho Folk Tradition”
A group of three jaraneras (female musicians within the son jarocho folk tradition) from the U.S. and México will lead a roundtable discussion sharing their testimonies as mujeres who are actively transforming the male-dominated sphere of son jarocho music. Spanning over 500 years, son jarocho is a musical tradition with roots in the southern part of Veracruz, México, influenced by the interchange of indigenous, African, Spanish, and Arabic cultures. Historically, women were confined to gender-specific roles such as dancing and singing. Today, women are challenging and redefining rigid gender binary roles within the son jarocho tradition. Following their roundtable discussion, they will share son jarocho music with the audience.