

GENDER STUDIES NEWSLETTER

Fall 2009 and Spring 2010

This double issue highlights student excellence in gender scholarship, Monmouth University's First Denim Day, the Vagina Monologues, and visiting scholars and artists.

New Jersey Women's And Gender Studies Consortium Sixth Annual Undergraduate Research Colloquium

Monmouth University is proud to have three students selected to present at the New Jersey Women's And Gender Studies Consortium's Sixth Annual Undergraduate Research Colloquium. Their scholarship came out of Dr. Nancy Mezey's Sociology of Family class and she accompanied them to the colloquium, which was held at The College of New Jersey.

Morganne Firmstone, "Sibling Relations: A Look at Proximity, Gender, and Remarriage"

Felicia Norott (Class of 2010), "Intimate Partner Violence"

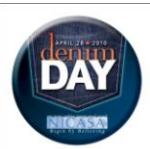
Natalie Rambone (Class of 2010), "Domestic Violence and the Impact on Families"

Mid-Atlantic Women's Studies Association Meeting

Janice Stapley and two recent graduates, Jenn Noonan and Barbara Fulmer, presented papers at the 2010 Mid-Atlantic Women's Studies Association Meeting annual meeting in Silver Springs, Maryland.

Janice C. Stapley and Jennifer Noonan (Class of 2010), "Breakup songs: A window into Socialization of Agency among Female Emerging Adults"

Janice C. Stapley and Barbara Fulmer (Class of 2010), "Adolescent girls' perceptions of their parents' support and communication: What do girls want?"



Denim Day in New Jersey



Submitted by Franca Mancini, Director of Counseling and Psychological Services

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month on College Campuses, and this year New Jersey approved a resolution to recognize, for the first time, April 28th as Denim Day in New Jersey. To commemorate this important event, MU held a week-long Denim Day Campaign from April 26-28th that was focused on bringing awareness to the issue of interpersonal violence, sexual assault and bystander intervention, by collecting both gently used jeans, monetary donations, and selling denim ribbons to support survivors of interpersonal violence. It was the culmination of a number of programs that took place on campus throughout the year, including the 180 Survivor Shoe Exhibit, the “White Ribbon Campaign,” “Walk a Mile” against interpersonal violence, and You the Man in the fall, and the Vagina Monologues and Take Back the Night in the spring.

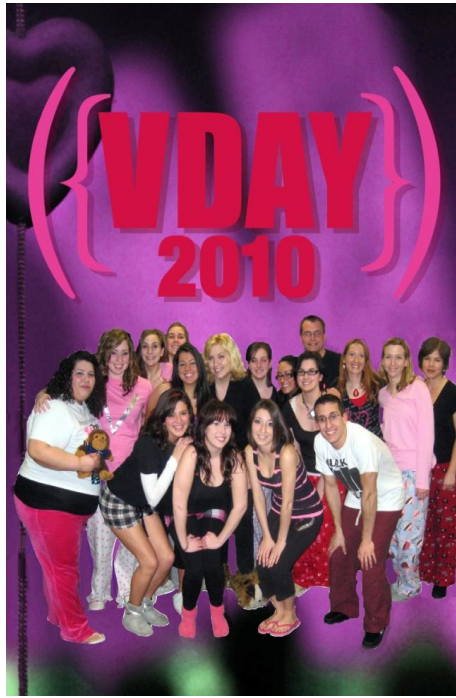
Denim Day began in Rome, Italy, in 1997 when a 17-year old girl, out for driving lessons with her instructor, was raped and abandoned by him in an alley. The case was prosecuted and the instructor was convicted of rape and sentenced to jail. On appeal months later, the case made its way to the Italian Supreme Court, where it was overturned. The Head Judge argued that “Because the victim wore very very tight jeans, she had to help him remove them...and by removing the jeans...it was no longer rape, but consensual sex.” Women in the Italian Parliament were outraged and protested by wearing jeans on the steps of the Parliament House. This call to action has since motivated numerous countries in Europe to do the same, and the movement made its way to the United States and to New Jersey this year. New Jersey now recognizes April 28th as Denim Day in the State.

The idea of having a campus campaign at MU was the result of a combined effort. Numerous academic and administrative departments and student groups came together to discuss the need to acknowledge the day at Monmouth. Drop boxes were placed at strategic locations in campus buildings, and community members were invited to donate jeans that would be forwarded on to survivors. On Wednesday, April 28th, informational tables were available on both north and south campus where denim ribbons were sold. Through these efforts, and the efforts of the Human Resources Office, who spear-headed a campaign for employees who paid \$5.00 to wear denim on the 28th, when all was said and done we collected 200 pairs of jeans and \$655.00. The jeans were donated to Redeem Her and the St. Vincent DePaul Society, while the monetary donations went to the New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault.

Monmouth University made a statement on Denim Day that MU does not tolerate interpersonal violence, supports survivors, and that our community wants to be part of a broader solution. Shifting views regarding this disturbing phenomenon involves a change in the cultural paradigm that impacts every member of the community. Each one of us can stand up and speak out in some way, and it is only by doing so that we will be able to make a difference.

The Vagina Monologues

Submitted by Heather Kelly, Asst. Director of Student Activities for Multicultural and Diversity Initiatives



For the past six years Monmouth University has been participating in the worldwide V-Day movement by hosting its own production of the Vagina Monologues. This year Monmouth raised \$2,700. Ten percent of the proceeds went to the V-Day Spotlight: Women and Girls of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Ninety percent went to the local organization, 180: Turning Lives Around.

The Monologues celebrate women and their bodies and help reduce the shame that is often associated with the word vagina. But they also bring light to issues of violence and abuse that women face. Each year Monmouth University awards local women and men who are working to end violence against women and girls and who volunteer their time to enhance the lives of women and girls. The Vagina Warrior award recipients this year were Brad Bennett, Chris McKittrick, Lynn Lehrkinder, Eileen Allen (pictured), and Morgan Keller. Congratulations!



Even though this was MU's 6th production, it was unlike anything Monmouth has seen before. The three student producers Vincent Crapello, Lastny Rodriguez, and Lauren Boyle put together a brand new vision, doused in purple and pajamas. The concept was women sitting around on couches strewn with pillows and blankets, just talking to each other and the audience. From having a much more theatrical flair, to having more male involvement behind the scenes to get this production up and running, to actually making the audience moan in unison...this year's Vagina Monologues was something new and exciting that we hope you didn't miss!





Dr. Kathy Peiss,

Professor of American History at the University of Pennsylvania, presented “Zoot Suit: The Strange Career of an Extreme Style” on September 28, 2009. This well-received and well-attended talk was part of the 2009-2010 School of Humanities and Social Sciences Distinguished Speaker Series.



Ferris Olin, Co-Director of the Institute for Women and Art at Rutgers University gave a talk on Women in on October 6, 2009. Co-sponsored by the Art Department, this lecture and reception were well attended by students from a variety of departments.



Larry Kirkwood brought a visual display of full body masks and gave a lecture on October 15, 2009.

