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40 Years of Women and Gender Studies [website]

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40 YEARS OF WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES

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EVENT CALENDAR

- MAY 6** Commencement
- MAY 6** UNI ROTC Commissioning Ceremony
- MAY 8** Begin May Session
- MAY 21** UNI Suzuki Spring Concert
- MAY 29** Memorial Day
- JUN 7** Webinar: Cracking the New Job Market

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insideUNI NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

UNI prepares for spring Commencement

UNI will host three spring Commencement ceremonies this year on Saturday, May 6, in the McLeod Center. The ceremony for undergraduate and graduate students receiving degrees from the Colleges of Business Administration and Social and Behavioral Sciences will be at 9 a.m. The ceremony for undergraduate and graduate students receiving degrees from the College of Education, and the Division of Continuing Education and Special Programs will be at 12 p.m. The ceremony for undergraduate and graduate students receiving degrees from the College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences will be at 6 p.m.

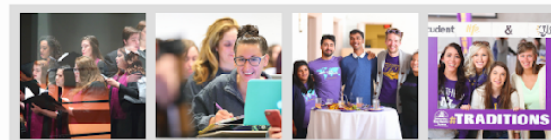
Friends of the UNI Museum introduces a new lecture series

The Friends of the UNI Museum will present a new lecture series with its inaugural season, the **Rural Schoolhouse Speakers Series**. The lectures will take place at the Marshall Center School at 2301 Indiana St. on the UNI campus. The season will begin on May 13, 2017, and conclude on April 28, 2018.

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UNI AT A GLANCE

250+
clubs & student organizations

17:1 student to faculty ratio

99% of classes are taught by faculty, not graduate students

17 division I intercollegiate sports teams

More than **160** Areas of Study

40 years of Women and Gender Studies

Monday, April 24, 2017

Karlene Izer, student, Office of University Relations

The UNI Women's and Gender Studies (WGS) program celebrated 40 years at UNI back in the month of March. On Friday, March 3, the Center for Multicultural Education hosted a celebration event commemorating 40 years of establishment featuring former director, Phyllis Baker.

The Center for Multicultural Education hosted a celebration event in March to commemorate 40 years of the Women and Gender Studies program at UNI.

The program -- which has seen its minor renamed Studies in Sexuality, Women and Gender, or SWAG -- first began in 1977, during the second-wave of the U.S. Women's Movement. It was a time of debate and protest for equal rights for women. It was a time that broadened the scope of what was discussed regarding sexuality, family, the workplace, reproductive rights, domestic violence, rape issues and changes in custody and divorce law. It was a time of change.

Glenda Riley and Grace Ann Hovet wanted change too, right here on Panther soil. They were professors of history and English at the time, and they were determined to be a part of the Women's Movement. They sought this change by gathering 300 signatures from students and 25 from faculty, which led to a successful instituted minor in what was then called Women's Studies.

This new program was sustained and expanded with the creation of a Women's Center, which was located in Baker Hall. People were encouraged to go and read the books there that were relevant to women's studies, and discussions on topics ranging from women's health to androgyny were presented. A master's program in Women's Studies was implemented, and Current Research on Women (CROW) Forum and other related programs were established.

What does the program look like now? WGS offers a master's degree, certification and minor, in addition to a full schedule of special events such as workshops, presentations, social activities and lectures that are available to students, faculty, staff and the UNI community.

"This program is important because interdisciplinary education is becoming more and more the innovative way to approach content and to thinking about how to solve problems," said Catherine MacGillivray, program director for the Women's and Gender Studies program. "WGS is a discipline that has a social justice commitment and I think in this day and age a focus on social justice is crucial so that we don't regress politically in this country. Also, in our increasingly diverse and global world, employers want employees who are culturally competent, and a minor in our discipline assures this for students. This makes our students more competitive and more able to make a positive difference in the world around us."

Students in the program have visited Beijing and Washington D.C. and participated in an interactive national satellite conference to determine the direction of the struggle for women's rights and other minority and vulnerable populations. In 2000, the program received a \$500,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to fund a 20-month project establishing proactive programs to reduce violence against women on college campuses. There are also student organizations related to the program, including Iota Iota Iota Honor Society, Feminist Action League, UNI Proud, Students Against a Violent Environment (SAVE) Forum Actors and UNI Students Together for the Advancement of Reproductive Rights (STARR).