Feminist Teacher on Location: a Mini-Conference
University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire Campus
April 14-16, 2011

Five members of the Editorial Collective for Feminist Teacher: A Journal of the Practices, Theories, and Scholarship of Feminist Teaching (U of Illinois P) will be on the UW-Eau Claire campus April 14th-16th 2011. Current issues of FT are available at http://www.press.uillinois.edu/journals/ft.html or through the university’s subscription to JSTOR and Project Muse (http://www.uwec.edu/Library/index.htm).

This conference provides UWEC faculty and students, as well as those at nearby campuses, an opportunity to meet with the editors of this important journal. For more than 25 years, FT has provided an ongoing forum for discussions of a range of issues in education within a feminist context. The Editorial Collective includes Monica Barron (Truman State U, English); Gail E. Cohee (Brown U, Sarah Doyle Women’s Center); Wendy Gunther-Canada (U of Alabama, Birmingham, Government/Political Science); and Heather Laine Talley (Western Carolina U, Anthropology and Sociology). For more information on the editors, see the bios at the end of the program.

There is no charge for the mini-conference, which is funded by a UW-System OPID Conference Development grant, a UW-Eau Claire ORSP Professional Development grant, the UWEC Women and Gender Equity Center (WAGE), the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Education and Human Sciences, English, History, Political Science, Sociology, and Women’s Studies.

For more information or to register (so we know where to send program details, and determine how many hand-outs and refreshments to order), please contact:

Theresa Kemp at UW-Eau Claire at tkemp@uwec.edu or 715-836-5717

See next page for Schedule Details

While the conference organizers are unfortunately unable to provide childcare during the conference events, participants who think their children will entertain themselves (e.g., by coloring or reading on their own) may bring them. Alternatively, participant parents who are interested in connecting with other parents to arrange shared-childcare may contact Theresa Kemp at tkemp@uwec.edu, and she will put you all in contact with one another.
Scheduled Events:

Pre-conference session, Thursday April 14th, 2pm in Hibbard 212: The Editorial Collective will meet with the class, WMNS 431: “Editing FT Practicum”; all faculty and students interested in feminist collaborative work in editing and/or working as a feminist collective are also invited to attend this meeting. If you’d like to attend, please contact Theresa Kemp at tkemp@uwec.edu.

Friday afternoon, April 15th, 4-5:30 pm

Feminist Teacher on Location: A Plenary Discussion to Enhance Feminist Pedagogy
Drawing upon the located-ness of their various experiences as teacher/scholars working in and from a range of locations (personal histories, disciplines, departments and centers, as well as regions of the country and types of institutions) and, of course, working from their experience editing the journal Feminist Teacher over time, each of the five editors will talk briefly about their role in the journal and its history, and then the group will open up the discussion to the participants to share ideas about collaboration and coalition building in multiple contexts. This opening keynote panel will set the central questions to be explored in the Saturday workshops. (CS 108)

Friday April 15th, 6pm (following the Plenary Panel): Participants who wish may sign up to have dinner with the Collective (everyone pays their own way; location to be announced).

Saturday April 16th, 9am-12pm: Concurrent Working Group Sessions
Participants will gather for 1 ½ to 2 hours in smaller groups, and then reconvene at 11am as a whole group to share insights and ideas. Break-out sessions will include the following three topics:

Session A—Sustainable Revolution through Radical Self-Care: “Caring for myself is not self-indulgence,” writes Audre Lorde, “it is self-preservation, and that is an act of political warfare.” If systems of patriarchy are designed to kill us, how do we avoid burnout? Our task in this session will be to assess our individual levels of self-care, and compile a resource list of forms of self-care that can contribute to the sustainability of our political work. (SSS 217)

Session B—Feminism and Political Science: This session focuses on feminist scholarship within the field of Political Science. How do political scientists study the subject of women and politics? How does feminist scholarship done by political scientists help address vital questions of equity, diversity, and inclusiveness in relation to matters of government and public policy? What kinds of scholarship do we find in feminist political science journals, on the one hand, and in mainstream political science journals, on the other? (SSS 223)

Session C—Greening Adrienne Rich’s “Politics of Location”: 25 years ago Adrienne Rich published "Notes Toward a Politics of Location." Deliberately entitled "Notes," the piece revealed "the marks of a struggle to keep moving," a desire to not let established categories (like "essay") calicify her thinking. My revision honors that struggle as well as Rich’s notion of the body as "the geography closest in", but expands the notion of body to include the non-human body. Rich consistently excludes particular biospheric locations as relevant to a complex conception of location; it’s time to revise that thinking by incorporating a locally situated ecofeminism into our politics of location. (SSS 224)

Lunch Following the Working Group Sessions: Participants who wish to continue the conversation may organize to have lunch (everyone pays their own way; location to be determined).
Bios for the Editorial Members:

**Monica Barron** is presently the Book Review editor for *Feminist Teacher* as well as a General Editor for the journal. For Truman State University she teaches writing, American Literature, Women's and Gender Studies, and Environmental Studies. She has published poems in, among other places, *ArtWord Quarterly, Briar Cliff Review*, and *Times of Sorrow, Times of Grace*, a Backwaters Press anthology. Her prose has appeared in *Exposures*, an anthology of Missouri women writers.

**Gail Cohee** is the Director of the Sarah Doyle Women's Center at Brown University, where she also teaches courses through the Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women and coordinates the university’s Sexual Assault Advocates. Previous to joining Brown, she was a faculty member in English at Emporia State University (Kansas). She also has taught courses in British literature, literature by women, and women's studies at Siena College, the College of Saint Rose, and Skidmore College in New York, as well as more recently women’s studies and feminist theory at the Rhode Island School of Design and the University of Rhode Island. She is a former member of the Governing Council of the National Women's Studies Association.

**Wendy Gunther-Canada** is Professor of Government at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She teaches courses in political philosophy, feminist theory, and women and politics and is a recipient of the President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching. Gunther-Canada is the author of essays and books on gender politics including *Rebel Writer: Mary Wollstonecraft and Enlightenment Politics* and co-author of *Women, Politics, and American Society* Third, Fourth, and Fifth editions. She is co-principle investigator of the National Science Foundation-sponsored UAB ADVANCE Institutional Transformation Award, which aims to improve visibility and recruitment of women in the schools of Natural Science and Mathematics, Social and Behavioral Sciences, and Engineering (see [http://main.uab.edu/Sites/ADVANCE/](http://main.uab.edu/Sites/ADVANCE/)), co-chair of UAB's Commission on the Status of Women, and president of the American Political Science Association's National Caucus for Women in Political Science.

**Heather Laine Talley** is an assistant professor of sociology at Western Carolina University. She teaches courses related to medicine, gender and sexuality, and the body. Her forthcoming book *Sociology of a Face* (New York University Press) explores the cultural, ethical, and scientific significance of worked aimed at repairing human faces defined as "disfigured" through an analysis of cutting edge technology face transplantation, facial feminization surgery aimed at transwomen, philanthropic organization Operation Smile, and reality television show *Extreme Makeover*. She is the recipient of the Outstanding Teaching Award by a Graduate Teaching Assistant and the Sociology Graduate Teaching Award at Vanderbilt University and a finalist for the Last Lecture Award at Western Carolina University.