



# INTERSECTIONS update

Newsletter of the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Department at Macalester College

Spring 2009

## Professor Karen J. Warren, WGSS Co-Founder, Retires

Macalester College Professor of Philosophy Karen J. Warren will retire at the end of the current academic year, having served the college since 1985. Warren was instrumental in the development of a Women's Studies concentration at the college in the 1980s and early 90s. In 1995, the success of the Women's Studies Program culminated in a 2-year faculty search process that led to the advent of a Full-Time, Tenure-Track Position in Women's Studies, which is still occupied by Professor Sonita Sarker.



Professor Karen J. Warren

Women's Studies is now Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and is served by two full-time faculty members, as well as several part-time faculty, and a large and faithful complement of crosslisted courses. Professor Warren has been an affiliated faculty member in the WGSS department since its inception, teaching several crosslisted courses including Feminist Philosophies, Ecofeminism, Environmental Ethics, and The History of Women Philosophers. She has written extensively in the fields of environmental philosophy, feminist philosophies, and critical thinking. Her pioneering work in ecofeminist philosophy helped launch several generations of scholarship in that area.

Her signature work on ecofeminism is *Ecofeminist Philosophy: a Western Perspective on What It Is and Why It Matters* (2000). Warren has just completed her seventh book—an unprecedented anthology that includes women philosophers alongside their historical male contemporaries in the history of Western Philosophy—*An Unconventional History of Western Philosophy: Conversations between Men and Women Philosophers* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2009).

Warren's philosophical autobiography is included in *Singing in the Fire: Stories of Twelve Women Philosophers* (2003)—the first anthology of autobiographies of contemporary women philosophers—and her biography is included in *Feminists Who Changed America, 1963-1975* (2006) and *Contemporary Authors* (digital form, 2007).

Warren also has a reputation as an excellent teacher. She is the recipient of three teaching and educator awards: Macalester College's "Excellence in Teaching Award," its "General Education Award," and the first-place "Gold Hugo Award in General Education" from the International Video and Film Society for her teaching of 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders critical thinking. She established the second high school philosophy program in the United States in 1972. A public philosopher, Warren has taught philosophy to a diverse audience outside academia: students in grades 1-12 (and their teachers and school administrators); prison inmates; businesses and non-profit organizations (such as General Mills, Northern States Power (MN), The U. S. Wilderness Society, The Leopold Land Education Project, The Minnesota Science Museum, and Pheasants Forever).

Two of Warren's most frequently cited essays are her ground-breaking article, "The Power and the Promise of Ecofeminism" (1990), which has been translated into French, Japanese, Persian, Mandarin, Portuguese and Spanish, and her essay "Re-Writing the Malestream Curriculum," which was named one of the best 10 essays in the first 10 years of the journal *Feminist Teacher*. Her anthology *Ecofeminism: Women, Culture, Nature* (1997) won the American Education Studies Association Critic's Choice Award in 1997.

We in WGSS have been very fortunate to benefit from the scholarship and vision of Professor Warren, and would like to thank her for her incredible contributions to the department.