Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Newsletter Late Spring 2013

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This spring semester we have been involved in a whirlwind series of events. Included in this newsletter are details about Women’s History Month, the 2013 Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) Student Research Symposium, the First Annual School of Cultural and Critical Studies Faculty and Student Recognition Reception, the addition of newly appointed affiliated faculty, and the numerous publications, presentations, and awards achieved by our affiliated and core faculty.

Women’s History Month celebrated The Exceptional Woman: Hail Her or Fail Her? The theme notes how in today’s society women are often expected to be exceptional and yet when women might not meet those rigid and unreasonable standards, society fails them. The celebration started off with a Muslim Women’s Roundtable featuring four women from the local community discussing their experiences with the Muslim Religion. For the first Brown Bag of the month, Dr. Vikki Krane gave a talk entitled “Sport Policy Transformation: Transgender & Intersex Athletes.” Pat Shultz from The Wellness Connection showed us how to slow down our stress with a workshop featuring ways to reduce and even eliminate stress from our lives. The workshop was followed up with free massages courtesy of the Healing Arts Institute. The second brown bag for Women’s History Month featured a presentation by Kate Livingston from Ohio State University entitled, “Re-Thinking The “Third Option: Adoption, Birth Mothers, and the Politics of Choice.” The keynote performance for the month featured Slam Poet Natasha T. Miller at the Will Write Poetry 4 Change event held in the new Eva Marie Saint theatre in the Wolfe Center for the Arts.

A Professional Development Workshop was led by Dr. Kathleen Buse, of Case Western Reserve University, who presented on “Careers and Confidence.” The feature film, presented by the Graduate Women’s Caucus, was Orgasm, Inc., a film that describes the for-profit medicalization and pathologizing of women’s sexuality. The 15th annual Bring Your Favorite Professor/Mentor to Lunch was a huge success with several women from campus and the community being honored. The month ended with the WGSS Student Research Symposium featuring seven undergraduate-authored presentations and nine graduate-authored papers, the WEAL Legacy Award Essay Contest Award winner presentations, the presentation of the Symposium and WGSS Program awards, and the keynote address by Dr. Jessie Ramey who presented, “Who Cares about Childcare? Orphanages and the Gendered Origins of Modern Childcare.” The Symposium was well attended and a day that amply displayed the best in student research and achievement.

To close the semester, a reception honoring all undergraduate, graduate, faculty, and staff accomplishments within the School of Cultural and Critical Studies was held in the McFall Gallery. This celebration of the array of excellence achieved by the members of the four units in the School gave us a lovely way to acknowledge our first full year unified as the School of Cultural and Critical Studies.

Finally, there is one other exceptional event that occurred this semester that I am honored to announce. The estate of Dr. Audrey L. Rentz bequeathed the Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program a generous endowment. Dr. Rentz retired as a Professor Emeritus in the Department of Higher Education and Student Affairs here at BGSU in 1996. Her gift signals her commitment to the educational and professional advancement of women. I am committed to ensuring that our students will benefit through her generosity and that our program will be strengthened by her vision.

Within this newsletter you will find pictures from selected events, award winners, faculty and student accomplishments, and much more. I look forward to hearing about your achievements and hope you will fill in the form at the end of this newsletter and send it back so we can report in our next newsletter in the fall on what you’ve been doing. Enjoy the summer.

-Lesa Lockford
This spring semester has been a whirlwind of events such as Women’s History Month, the 2013 Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) Research Symposium, the first annual School of Cultural and Critical Studies Faculty & Student Recognition, the addition of new affiliated faculty, and numerous affiliated, and core faculty publications, presentations, and awards featured in this newsletter.

Women’s History Month celebrated The Exceptional Woman: Hail Her or Fail Her? In today’s society women are expected to be exceptional and when they fail to meet certain standards, do we fail them? The celebration started off with a Muslim Women’s Roundtable featuring four women from the local community discussing their experiences with the Muslim Religion. For the first Brown Bag of the month, Dr. Vikki Krane gave a talk titled “Sport Policy Transformation: Transgender & Intersex Athletes.” Pat Shultz from The Wellness Connection showed us how to slow down our stress with a workshop featuring ways to reduce and even eliminate stress from our lives. This workshop was followed up with free massages courtesy of the Healing Arts Institute. The second brown bag for Women’s History Month features Kate Livingston discussing “Re-Thinking The "Third O: Adoption, Birth Mothers, and the Politics of Choice.” The keynote performance for the month features Slam Poet Natasha T. Miller at the Will Write Poetry 4 Change event held in the lovely Eva Marie Saint theatre. The Professional Workshop develop was hosted by Dr. Kathleen Buse from Case Western Reserve University talking about “Careers & Confidence.” The feature film presented by the Graduate Women’s Caucus was Orgasm, Inc. which was shown at the Gish Theater. The 15th annual Bring Your Favorite Professor/Mentor to lunch was a huge success with Dr. Mary Krueger, the host, even being honored. The month ended with the WGSS Research Symposium featuring multiple papers and the keynote speaker Dr. Jessie Ramey who presented “Who Cares about Childcare? Orphanages and the Gendered Origins of Modern Childcare.”

In addition, the semester came to a close with a celebration of all undergraduate, graduate, faculty, and staff accomplishments within the School of Cultural and Critical Studies. Multiple members of the community were celebrated for their accomplishments, presentations, papers, and publications for the 2012-2013 school year.
Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Research Symposium

Keynote speaker Dr. Jessie B. Ramey, and Dr. Lesa Lockford

“GROW,” Performance Presentation by Michiko Saiki

Dr. Sarah Rainey, with co-Presidents Carly Toepfer, and Kelsey Klein, and the 2013 TRIOTA Inductees

Symposium Keynote Audience

What issues should feminism focus on?

Left to right back row: Dr. Jamie Stuart, Dr. Ellen Berry, Dr. Lesa Lockford, Dr. Sarah Rainey, Dr. Mary Krueger, Alexandra Lahey, Kelsey Klein, Ruth Babel-Smith
Left to right front row: Laura Booher, Dr. Jessie Ramey, Jean Marie Greene, Dr. Martha Birnbaum

A special thank you to Laura Booher and Jean Marie Greene for all their help during Women’s History Month and especially during the Student Research Symposium.
2013 Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Research Symposium Award Winners!

First Place in the WEAL Legacy Award Essay Contest-Undergraduate
Raghd Abu Helal for “The Difficulties and Effects of Reporting Sexual Harassment”

Second Place in the WEAL Legacy Award Essay Contest-Graduate
Ruth Babel-Smith for “Women and Change in Law Enforcement”

First Place in the WEAL Legacy Award Essay Contest-Graduate
Ellen Lassiter Collier for “Children on Campus: Gendered Nature of Women as Mothers and Scholars, Employees, and Students”

Feminist Falcon Awards
WGSS Scholarship: Alexandra Lahey
Women Mentoring Women: Caitlin Camp
Best Introduction to WS 2000 student: Christine Whorton
Supportive Parent Feminist Falcon Award: Carol Bailey (Allison Bailey's mother)

Carole Bailey receives the Supportive Parent Feminist Falcon Award
What are your research interests?
JB: My research interests include gender, both masculine and feminine sexualities particularly as they’re perpetuated in really mainstream low-brow popular culture. I examine action movies, comic books, trashy television, and everyday use of gender representation.

What are you doing currently with your research (ongoing)?
JB: The publisher asked for a follow up on my last book on women in action movies. I am publishing a couple more articles about that, and will add another five or six chapters that I have outlined. That book is the main gender project that I am doing right now. It is more of an update because there have been things like The Hunger Games that have happened because Hollywood all of a sudden seems to like action heroines again. I am working with other films such as The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo on torture and the rape of men and women, mothers as action heroines, and also little girls as action heroines.

How do you see your work intersecting with the WGSS Program?
JB: My work is about gender. I think the more people from Popular Culture that are involved in the WGSS program the better. Gender is something the undergraduates are interested in because they want to see how it affects them in real life, and we want them to do more than just learn about feminist theory, and then go to the clubs and not think about it. If the Girls Gone Wild bus is outside of Ziggy Zoomba’s filming people I want them to remember the things they have learned, see them in their own world, and see what they can do to try to not get caught up in the traps of it all. I think these issues intersect well with what is going on with other courses and degrees by offering a different slant on them.

What courses are you developing?
JB: Right now I am teaching an undergraduate course called The Female Body and Feminist Film Theory. As the course progresses we end up talking about masculinity and I often have to get the class back onto the female body. So I am thinking about developing a step 1 step 2, Female Body in Film Theory and then Male Body in Film Theory course. When I try to put them both in the same term it is way too much for a single class. I’m also thinking about developing a Romance course. Loosely defined, Romance, Gender, and Sexuality. So romantic comedies, gay and lesbian romance, interracial romances; what does our Popular culture say is romance and how does sex work into that too? A lot of the female students will admit they enjoy the romantic plot, but the men are more resistant to admit it, but the romantic plot is always there.

Tell me about your most recent publication(s)?
JB: The most recent one to come out was an article on maternity and paternity in super hero comics and female characters when they get pregnant. Pregnancy messes with that perfect female body in comics and maternity is portrayed very negatively whether they are bad mothers because they are putting their kid in harm’s way, or they give up the kid for adoption so they can keep having adventures. Maternity is really seen as villainous where symbolically maternity is seen as a good thing in comics. You have Batman and Superman with their teen sidekicks, and they get to be father figures. For women it never ever goes well. They don’t want to draw a pregnant body because it undoes that female fantasy. I've got an article that is coming out on African American women stereotypes in comics as well. That is an upcoming anthology that Angela Nelson from the Popular Culture Program will be in too.

Is there anything else you would like the readers of this newsletter to know?
I’m glad that BGSU has the WGSS program and that it is interdisciplinary.
New Affiliated Faculty

Stephanie M. Langin-Hooper Assistant Professor of Art since 2011, joined our affiliated faculty this spring. She teaches courses in ancient art history, including Greek, Roman, Egyptian, and Ancient Near Eastern art and archaeology. Her research uses post-colonial and feminist perspectives to analyze evidence for cross-cultural interactions in the terracotta figurines of Hellenistic Babylonia. Her publications include peer-reviewed articles in the Oxford Journal of Archaeology, Near Eastern Archaeology, Archaeological Review from Cambridge, and Journal of the American Oriental Society.

Graduate Women’s Caucus
A report from member Kate Schaab

What is the mission statement of the GWC?
The purpose and mission of GWC is to sustain a community of graduate students committed to women’s issues and provide opportunities for them to channel their energy and resources into promoting the awareness of women’s issues including but not limited to: academic equality and opportunities, anti-discrimination and equality for all people, reproductive freedom, affirmative action, non-violence, environmentalism, sexual health, domestic violence, third world issues, and fair trade and labor practices.

What has the GWC been involved with, or sponsored this spring?
GWC was directly involved with the 2013 Feminist Film Series screening The Invisible War, and Orgasm, Inc. GWC also helped to organize the $tart $mart Salary Negotiation Workshop, a Self Defense Workshop, and on April 18th of 2013 will participate in the Glass City Marathon to benefit the Cocoon Shelter.

When does GWC meet, and where?
This semester we’ve been meeting in the Women’s Center on the third Wednesday of each month at 1:15. The meeting day/time for fall 2013 has not yet been set, but we’ll likely to continue to meet on Wednesdays at the Women’s Center following the brown bag lunches!

If someone is interested in knowing more, whom should they contact?
Mallory Jagodzinski is serving as the president next year. Her email is mjagodz@bgsu.edu. Those on Facebook can join the BGSU Graduate Women’s Caucus page. We also have a group page on orgsync.com.
Dr. Christine Woodworth is a cross-appointed faculty member in Theatre and Women’s and Gender Studies at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro. She holds a Ph.D. in Theatre and graduate certificate in Women’s Studies from Bowling Green State University, and her M.A. in Theatre and Drama from Indiana University-Bloomington. She currently teaches Theatre History, Feminist Theatre, and Introduction to Graduate Studies at UNCG. She actively works as a director and dramaturg. Beginning Fall 2013, Christine joins the faculty of Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, NY.

When you attended BGSU, what were your research interests? What did you write your dissertation on?
As a doctoral student at BGSU I was primarily interested in the shifting paradigms of feminism within the third wave and how they intersected with contemporary performance. My dissertation was on the British playwright Sarah Kane, whose work was very controversial in the 1990s. Critics responded overwhelmingly negatively to her work which featured a great deal of violence coupled with experimental dramaturgies. Her suicide prompted many to reassess her work. My dissertation examined the constellation of female authorship, death and critical reception, and third wave feminisms.

When did you graduate from BGSU?
2005

Tell us about your career trajectory since leaving BGSU? (i.e., What notable events have happened? Where have you taught? Where are you teaching now?)
In the year that I graduated from BGSU, I accepted a position at Lock Haven University of PA, where I taught for three years. That position was instrumental in shaping me as a teacher and an artist. I taught a wide array of courses ranging from Acting and Directing to Theatre History and Gender & Performance. I also directed every year. From there I took a position at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. I’ve been here for five years. My teaching is much more specialized, my research trajectory has been clarified, and I’ve had some amazing directing opportunities. I just accepted a new position at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, where I will begin teaching in the fall.

What are you teaching at UNC-Greensboro?
At UNCG I teach an array of Theatre History Survey courses, plus Introduction to Graduate Studies, and a seminar I developed in Feminist Theatre. I also oversee a number of Independent Studies and “Practicum” courses in Dramaturgy.
Tell us about your current research and/or teaching interests?
My research has shifted a great deal since I was a student at BGSU. While there I grew increasingly interested in the intersections of reproductive politics and performance. My capstone project for my certificate in Women’s Studies was actually directing a play— *Jane: Abortion and the Underground*. It was a documentary theatre piece that charted the evolution of the underground abortion provider service. I credit that work with inspiring my current research program. I’ve been exploring the ways that abortion and birth control are represented onstage. I am currently at work on a long-term project on actress and radical activist Kitty Marion, who was very involved in British and American Suffrage campaigns as well as birth control reform in NYC. She worked very closely with Margaret Sanger.

Are you currently doing any acting or directing? If so, please tell us about your recent work.
I’ve been doing a lot of directing in recent years. This past fall I directed Naomi Iizuka’s *Polaroid Stories*. I’ve also directed *In the Blood* by Suzan-Lori Parks. Both of those productions were for UNCG Theatre. A couple summers ago I directed *If You Give a Mouse A Cookie* as part of THTR 232—a summer theatre festival sponsored by UNCG Theatre and Triad Stage, a professional regional theatre. I have also been working actively as a dramaturg—at UNCG, Triad Stage, and Paper Lantern Theatre. I don’t get to act much anymore but I was in a short film last spring that was written and directed by a former student. That was a wonderful experience!

Please tell us about the publications, awards, and/or presentations of which you are most proud?
I think I am most proud of an article on Kitty Marion that appeared in *Theatre History Studies* this past fall. This piece has enabled me to clarify the future trajectory of my project on Marion, which is moving towards a book-length manuscript. This piece was also a reflection of my involvement in the Mid-America Theatre Conference. It began as a conference paper and was revised and expanded for submission to the journal, which is an outgrowth of MATC. This conference has been instrumental in shaping me as a scholar, beginning with my years at BGSU. It’s also an organization I’ve had the privilege of giving back to. I served as co-chair of the MATC Theatre History Symposium for two years, having just passed the baton to the next co-chair at the end of this year’s conference.

In what ways do you believe the WS graduate certificate helped you to develop the academic profile that you have?
In every position that I’ve held thus far, I’ve bridged my work in Theatre with my work in Women’s (and Gender) Studies. There are connections forged in the classes I teach, the scholarship I generate, and the artistic work on which I collaborate. My service to my respective universities has also been within Theatre and Women’s and Gender Studies. I can’t imagine what my career would have been like if those connections and networks had not been present. The Women’s Studies certificate was instrumental in shaping my work in the classroom and rehearsal hall. And I still reference notes I took in Jeannie Ludlow’s Feminist Theory class!

- (Forthcoming). Sex, Romance and the Teenage Superheroine. In Imagetext: Interdisciplinary Comics Studies, special issue proceedings of the 10th Annual Conference on Comics and Graphic Novels


Faculty and Student Accomplishments

Awards & Grant Submissions:

 Jeff Brown was the keynote speaker at the 10th Annual University of Florida Conference on Comics and Graphic Novels: “A Comic of Her Own: Women Writing, Reading and Embodying through Comics,” March 2013. The Keynote Lecture was titled “Sex, Romance and the Teenage Superheroine.”

 Sherona Garrett-Ruffin won the Student Group Excellence Award from the Office of Service Learning for her Juvenile Residential Center Teen Mentors course/project. The project involves college students using art therapy inspired activities to promote pro-social behaviors among male juvenile offenders between the ages of 12-17 at the Northwest Juvenile Residential Center. This award recognizes a group of students that has gone above and beyond the requirements of their service-learning course, internship, or civic engagement project.

 Ellen Gorsevski, Schuck, R.I. and Lin, C. won the B. Aubrey Fisher Award from the Western States Communication Association for the best article of 2012 in the Western Journal of Communication for “The Rhetorical Plasticity of the Dead in Museum Displays: A Biocritique of Missing Intercultural Awareness.”

 Christina Guenther submitted a grant for the Max Kade Foundation for $12,000 for Max Kade Writer in Residence at BGSU of Julia Schoch from Berlin, Germany for spring 2013.

 Dr. Sarah Rainey (WGSS/CCS) and Dr. Kristen Rudisill (POPC) submitted a $185,664 grant to National Endowment for the Humanities for a Summer Institute for School Teachers on Popular Culture, Difference and Diversity. Awards will be announced in September 2013.

Presentations and Performances:

 Kara Attrep, Sidra Lawrence, and Mary Natvig presented a panel called "The Performance of Global Feminist Politics: Women's Musical Lives as Adaptive Strategy" at the conference: Global Discourses in Women's and Gender Studies: Middle Tennessee State University, April 4-6.
  - Kara Attrep presented: "Yoko Ono and the Gendered Global Voice."
  - Sidra Lawrence presented: "The Dance of Liberation: Gender Equality as Masquerade,"
  - Mary Natvig presented "Globalization, Modernization, and Authenticity: The Genesis of Women's Gamelan in Bali."

Kara and Mary are faculty members in the CMA at BGSU and Sidra is currently a Post-Doc at the University of Chicago but will re-join the BGSU faculty this fall. Sidra has also been an instructor at BGSU, affiliated faculty for WGSS, and received her master’s degree from BG.

 Kristy Ganoe was the Invited Workshop Facilitator for Afternoon Surprise. Facilitated activity at the Mini-GLACIER Contact Improvisation Regional Jam, Ann Arbor, Michigan, February 2013. She also referred a presentation titled The body/mind placed&time of actively embodied consciousness as a decolonial intervention at the North American Society for the Sociology of Sport annual conference, New Orleans, Louisiana, in November 2012, and refereed an interactive performance titled Contact improvisation at the Figment Interactive Art Festival, Detroit, Michigan, June 2012.


2013 Women’s Studies Certificate Graduates

- Kimberly Rewinkel is also receiving an MA in History
- Katherine Reynolds is also receiving an MA in Popular Culture
- Luca Zullo Valentino is also receiving an MA in English

School of Cultural and Critical Studies held a Celebration Reception for all undergraduate, and graduate students, as well as faculty accomplishments. Members of the American Studies Program; Department of Ethnic Studies; Department of Popular Culture; and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, all the programs and departments of the School of Cultural and Critical Studies, were honored.
WS 6200: Contemporary Feminist Theory
First six-week session, online*
Dr. Sarah Rainey
Section #42045

This course examines recent feminist theory and its applications in the fields of language, literature, film, religion, philosophy, history, psychoanalysis, developmental psychology, health, and politics. Students will pay close attention to the ways in which feminist thinkers have critiqued and changed traditional academic disciplines, as well as the new bodies of thought (e.g., queer theory, feminist disability studies, etc.) that have emerged from these critiques. The focus will be on feminist thought since the 1990s, with a particular emphasis on work in the last decade. Required books include: Rethinking Women’s and Gender Studies (2012), Just Methods (2007), and Terrorist Assemblages: Homonationalism in Queer Times (2007).

*Select distance learning from campus options when searching for this course

WS 6940/ETHN 6820: Critical Pedagogy for Feminist & Anti-Racist Leadership
Second six-week session, July 8-July 19, MTWRF 8:00am-5:00pm
Dr. Sarah Rainey & Dr. Anne Mitchell
Section #42048

This summer workshop is designed to expose participants to critical practices that seek to empower students, eliminate sexism and racism, and cultivate student leadership skills. Participants will experiment with non-traditional classroom techniques such as power-sharing, contract grading, collaborative learning contracts, parallel teaching breakout sessions, and team teaching. This is a service-learning course, and participants will be working with area youth.
Let us know your news! Provide feedback for program suggestions, scholarship ideas, fundraising ideas, speakers that you would like to see brought to the University, or any other ideas that you would like to share with us.

Fill out the form below and mail to:
Dr. Lesa Lockford
228 Shatzel Hall
Bowling Green State University
Bowling Green, OH 43403

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Please contact JoAnna R. Murphy at jmurphy@bgsu.edu, or call 419.372.7577 to place your order.
Has the Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program meant something to you?

Here’s a way to say “Thanks!”

Please consider making a donation to the WGSS Program today. Your support helps fund undergraduate and graduate scholarships and awards, public lectures, conference and symposiums and other innovative educational programming about and for women.

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Please write “Women’s Studies Program” on memo line of your check.

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