

Spring 2013

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

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Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Newsletter

Spring 2013



News from the Director:

Fall 2012 was my first semester as the Director of the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program (WGSS) and I am delighted to be able to pen my first letter for our newsletter. It is very exciting times for our program. This fall began our first full academic year as part of the recently formed School of Cultural and Critical Studies. Just prior to the onset of the fall semester, Popular Culture moved to Shatzel Hall and is now co-located with us and Ethnic Studies. We hope that American Culture Studies will soon be able to co-locate in Shatzel Hall as well so that all four units of the School can be together. Having so many faculty in one place who do allied and interdisciplinary work is making for a very invigorating academic environment.

As Dr. Susana Peña noted in the last newsletter, Dr. Sarah Smith Rainey, who served as an instructor in WGSS for the past few years, was appointed as an Assistant Professor jointly appointed with the WGSS program and the School after a national search process. She began that appointment this fall. Additionally, I am delighted to announce that she has accepted the service responsibility of becoming the CCS School's Undergraduate Advisor. Given her prior experience as the Women's Studies Undergraduate Studies Coordinator, she is uniquely qualified for this new and expanded position of managing and advising all of the School's undergraduate students and spearheading our recruitment efforts. Our undergraduates are in very good hands.

The most significant event of the fall semester was the fundraising gala celebrating the contributions of Elizabeth Boyer '37 and the Women's Equity Action League (WEAL) on September 24th. The Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program partnered with the Women's Center to plan and host the events commemorating the substantial contributions WEAL made to women's welfare since its inception in 1968. We were honored to have renowned feminist activist and writer Gloria Steinem as our keynote speaker at the gala. The proceeds from the event will support a newly created Elizabeth M. Boyer Fund for Student Mothers. The Bowen-Thompson Student Union ballroom was filled for the gala and we are grateful that so many people came to support our students and to honor the women of WEAL. Ms. Steinem gave a stirring speech and over the two days she spent with us, she proved a gracious presence as she generously made time to be with students. Although the Women's Equity Action League has now disbanded, the event was a stunning tribute to the women of WEAL whose legacy endures in the many changes to the educational and employment conditions for women they helped to implement.

Plans are underway for Women's History Month and the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Research Symposium. The Symposium, which will be held on Friday March 29th, will feature a keynote address by Dr. Jessie Ramey, a historian of working families and U.S. social policy. The theme for this year's Women's History Month is The Exceptional Woman: Hail Her or Failure? Dr. Ramey's talk entitled, "Who Cares about Childcare? Orphanages and the Gendered Origins of Modern Childcare," will explore the gendered origins of our modern childcare system that grew out of orphanages and the working families who used them at the turn of the last century. She notes that "the term exceptional suggests someone out of the ordinary, a literal exception to the rules. This talk will consider those rules – specifically the 'rules' of traditional gender roles – that rest on a foundation of naturalized assumptions about child bearing and child caring." Her talk will explore why we should all care about a system that was founded on and continues to reproduce the interdependent logic of racial, gender, and class relationships. I hope as many of you as possible can join us for the events of Women's History Month and the Research Symposium. Please see the calendar in this newsletter, which will also be posted on our webpage and Facebook page.

Lesa Lockford

News from the Undergraduate Coordinator:

As many of you know by now, undergraduate advising for Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) is now centralized in the School of Cultural and Critical Studies. In other words, there is now one advisor for all four programs in the School. I applied for this position and was happy to be appointed! I enjoyed working with all of you as the Undergraduate Coordinator in WGSS, and look forward to many more years of working with you as the School Advisor.



As the School Advisor, I'm happy to meet with you regarding scheduling, curriculum planning, career advice, and existential support! Schedule an appointment or just drop by my office in 231 Shatzel Hall. I've listed my Spring 2013 contact information below. I will also be sending out electronic communications through our Canvas group (titled "Cultural and Critical Studies Group"). You will receive emails regarding upcoming WGSS events, job advertisements, and other relevant information through this group, so be sure to join the group and check your email! If you're part of a student organization and need to send an announcement to WGSS or any of the other units in the School, you can do this through the Canvas group.

231 Shatzel Hall, sasarah@bgsu.edu, 419-372-6949

Spring Semester Office Hours:

Tues and Thurs 11:00-1:00

Wed 1:00-3:00

WEAL Event

A Celebration of WEAL (Women's Equity Action League) took place on September 24-25, 2012. Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program and Bowling Green State University's Women's Center celebrated the accomplishments and positive impact that WEAL and WEAL founder Elizabeth "Betty" Boyer ('37) had on women's lives. Boyer's BGSU affiliation closely connected the University to Title IX, the landmark legislation that WEAL helped pass which decreed educational institutions receiving federal funding may not discriminate on the basis of gender. Panel discussions during the day of September 24th focused on Athletics and Title IX. Keynote speaker for the evening of September 24th was renowned writer, activist, and feminist, Gloria Steinem. Steinem spoke of the importance of recognizing the contributions of WEAL to women, and encouraged future generations, many of whom were present, to celebrate diversity, fight for social justice, and to continue to be active members of the community. She also called on those of us present to exercise the right to vote in November.



Undergraduate Spotlight!

Kasie Durkit interviewed by JoAnna R. Murphy

Kasie is a senator for undergraduate student government, senator at large; just became part of the mock trial team; is a tour guide; and teaches group exercise at the Recreation Center. She is in the Honors Program-Honors Scholars, which is a select group in the Honors Program.



JM: You had an internship experience where you worked for a representative. Can you tell me how you got it, what your day to day activities were like, and how you became invested in this particular internship?

Kasie: Just background on who I was working with. Her name is Congresswoman Betty Sutton. She's a Democrat from district 13, so she represents Akron, Cuyahoga Falls, that kind of area. Since I grew up in Akron, I had always been politically aware of what was going on and I saw her as a woman leader that I should try to mimic; I wanted to be like her. So, I thought I would apply. I was responsible for picking up the newspaper every morning and record any mentions of the Congresswoman, anything that was being said for or against the Congresswoman, and then I had to do several other related events that she could attend. The most meaningful thing was writing letters. I wrote several letters to a grant to tax group that was trying to help under-privileged people get their taxes filed, I wrote a letter for a grant for them, I wrote a letter to students who had just completed their GED as a kind of congratulations. I wrote a letter to Boy Scouts who had just become Eagle Scouts and that was rewarding.

JM: What did you really take away from your experience?

Kasie: What I had thought it was going to be, was not necessarily what it was. I saw how difficult the life of a Representative or anyone working in a political atmosphere is. You are required not only to keep your head about yourself all the time in public, but also to be responsible for the hard work of constituents.

JM: Did any of your future ambitions that you had going into this change, or were they challenged, or were they enhanced?

Kasie: I mean to be honest it was a combination of the three. Before going in, you think of a Congresswoman as a leader but that is some the hardest work I have ever seen done, and it spread in many different directions it's similar to what we are doing now in college. We are trying to expand ourselves, do as many things we can, but her's was on a level where if you mess up it is huge business so it's a lot of stress all the time. But in the same way she and other Congresswomen and men help people every day. I think I could reach the most people by being a part of Congress and forming laws and trying to pass laws. So I still think I would love to go to law school and be involved in a political atmosphere.

JM: What would you like to be when you grow up?

Kasie: I think at first I always wanted to be scientist with a professional lab coat, and I wanted to be an astronomer but now it's kind of evolved into whatever I can do to help the most people in a way that will be lasting, so it's not just day to day help, but making laws, making bills that will help people for several year. So grad school then law school and then I want to be right in the heart of D.C. Maybe Georgetown, or any law school that I can get into, then work for Congress in some way.

Spotlight on Affiliated Faculty!



Dr. Kei Nomaguchi

Dr. Nomaguchi joined the faculty of the Sociology Department at BGSU in 2009. She became an affiliated faculty member of the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program in June of 2012. Currently, she teaches Sociology of Gender, for the WGSS Program, and also teaches Sociology of Family in the Sociology Department.

What aspects of the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program (WGSS) are you looking forward to participating in?

My research focuses on work and family, parenting, and well-being. Gender is central in understanding many family issues including partnership, parenting, and work-family balance. So I think that my research is really related to what WGSS does. I would like to participate in any occasions where I can exchange ideas with other faculty and students who are interested in gender. My impression is that many faculty members and students at WGSS use qualitative methods. I use quantitative methods with a large data set, but I really like hearing about qualitative research.

Do you want to tell me a little bit about yourself?

I am originally from Japan, near Tokyo. I was raised there, went to college, and worked for a few years at a major Japanese corporation in Tokyo. Here is my personal story of how I got interested in gender. Japan is a really sexist country, especially 20 years ago. But when I was in school, I didn't realize it. Which university you went to was considered a major status symbol in Japan. I went to a really good university, so I thought that I had a high status and I shouldn't be discriminated just because I was a woman. But when I started working, I realized that I was naive. At that time, for women only, there were two tracks in the workplace structure. One was a managerial track, which was almost like a "male track" as all men, even the ones who wouldn't become a manager, were initially hired on this track. The other was a clerical track where you wouldn't expect any promotions. The vast majority of women were hired on the clerical track. I was hired on the managerial track. On the new employee orientation day, I had the same orientation program as my male counterparts, which was fine, but then at the end of the day, only I had another orientation program. I was called in by the oldest female secretary in the department. She told me about another set of tasks for me as the youngest female employee there. Every morning before I started my own work, I had to wipe everyone's desk in the department where there were more than 25 people. Also, while working on assignments, I had to pick up phone calls for my bosses and coworkers. All calls came in for everyone through one telephone line, so I had to pick up the phone and transfer the call to the right person or leave a note if he or she wasn't there. Then they had a tea time twice a day and it was my responsibility to make and serve tea for everyone. I had to remember who liked coffee, who liked tea, how many sugars, how many milks, etc. I thought I shouldn't have to do the "women's job" because I was assigned to work on tasks on the managerial track. When I talked to people individually, they would say that they were very sorry that I had to serve tea and pick up phones even though I was hired on the managerial track. But nobody said I should stop doing it. In fact, it wasn't clear who was in charge of changing such unwritten "rules". And that's when I thought there was something beyond individuals that was operating. I wanted to understand what could change structural gender inequality. That's how I got interested in Sociology of Gender. Sociological research is much more advanced in the United States than in Japan, so I applied and came to University of Maryland where they had an excellent specialty area focusing on Gender, Work, and Family. While I was there, I realized that gender inequality at work is closely related to gendered expectations in the family, and switched the focus of my research interests to family. After graduation, I went to the University of Calgary for a post-doc position, taught at Northern Illinois University, and came to BGSU in 2009. I really enjoy working with my colleagues and students in the Sociology Department here.

Is there anything else you would like to share with the students or faculty?

I really enjoy my class, Sociology of Gender. Students are very interested in the topics we examine. We have good class discussions.

Do you have a balance of quantitative and qualitative in that class?

In terms of teaching I try to include both quantitative and qualitative studies. I was trained to be a quantitative researcher, but I appreciate qualitative research very much. Anyone interested in gender, work, and family, please contact me!

New Affiliated Faculty



Jeffrey A. Brown, PhD

Jeffrey A. Brown received his doctorate in Anthropology from the University of Toronto in 1997. He is currently an Associate Professor and the Graduate Coordinator with the Department of Popular Culture at BGSU and newly affiliated WGSS faculty. He has also been a curator with the Royal Ontario Museum and a guest curator for the Toledo Museum of Art and the Canadian Museum of Civilization. Dr. Brown is the author of two books, *Black Superheroes: Milestone Comics and Their Fans* and *Dangerous Curves: Gender, Fetishism and the Modern Action Heroine* (both with the University of Mississippi Press). He is also the author of over a dozen academic articles about gender, ethnicity and sexuality in contemporary media that have appeared in journals such as *Screen, Cinema Journal, The African American Review, Feminist Review, Differences, Men and Masculinities*, and *The Journal of Popular Film and Television*.



Jolie Sheffer, PhD

Jolie A. Sheffer is an Assistant Professor in the Department of English at BGSU, and an affiliated faculty member in American Culture Studies, as well as newly affiliated in the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program. She teaches courses in post-Civil War American literature and popular culture, multiethnic literature, gender and sexuality, and critical theory and cultural studies. In addition Dr. Sheffer taught at the University of Virginia teaching Race theory and critical studies, writing, and English. Recent publications include her essay in the *Journal of Asian American studies* entitled " 'Citizen Sure Thing' or 'Jus' Foreigner'?: Half-Caste Citizenship and the Family Romance in Onoto Watanna's Orientalist Fiction". In addition, Dr. Sheffer has published a book entitled, *The Romance of Race: Incest, Miscegenation, and Multiculturalism in the United States, 1880-1930*.

Undergraduate & Graduate Happenings!

Choice USA Reproductive Justice Leadership Institute:

During the weekend of November 9th-11th, BGSU undergraduate students, Alexandra Lahey, Rayia Gaddy, Emily Little, and Linda Tomajko were sponsored to attend a Choice USA Reproductive Justice Leadership Institute in Lawrence, Kansas. At the conference, the students learned about the differences between reproductive justice compared to rights and the importance of intersectionality when it comes to access to birth control, abortion, and sex education. There were panels and workshops about religion and reproductive justice, lobbying and organizing on campus. The students enjoyed their time with Choice USA and look forward to applying all they learned on campus at BGSU!

Speak on Sexuality Studies:

My name is Lauren Schulman, I'm a political science major and a women's studies minor. I spent the Fall 2012 semester interning in Washington, DC. I worked for a Maryland state Delegate named Heather Mizeur. She is a very prominent openly gay woman in Maryland, and through her office, as well as Marylanders for Marriage Equality and the Human Rights Campaign, I helped campaign for marriage equality in Maryland (which passed on election night!). She is also considering a run for Governor next year which would make her the first ever openly LGBT governor, so she is definitely someone to keep an eye on.

Nancy Bressler is excited to announce the publication of her first book chapter. The book, entitled *Home Sweet Home*, is an edited collection that examines to what extent media representations of housework reflect or critique modern gender relationships. Nancy's chapter, created in Dr. Sarah Rainey's class, focuses on how the socioeconomic status of television sitcom families influence the sexual division of labor in their households. In it, Bressler further examines how current sitcoms contribute to the discourse of what constitutes household labor and anticipates to further conceptualize how media images influence the overall ideas of gender roles in the American family.

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Faculty Reception Fall 2012



Dr. Susana Pena, Director, School of Cultural & Critical Studies; Dr. Mary Ellen Mazey, President of BGSU; and Dr. Sarah Bushong, Dean of University Libraries

The WGSS Faculty Reception was held in the Dorothy Uber Gallery. A number of new and returning faculty members attended. Dr. Lesa Lockford gave a wonderful introductory speech about the status and growing number of women in higher education and Dr. Mary Kruger also spoke about the events for women students and faculty, and the support the Women's Center provides for BGSU faculty and students. The President of the University, Dr. Mary Ellen Mazey spoke about the advancement of women in academic and administrative professions.



Graduate students Melinda Lewis, Abby Van Vlerah, and Diana DePasquale

There were forty-one new women faculty members to join BGSU this academic year. Four women were promoted to Lecturer, sixteen were tenured with promotion to Associate Professor, and ten promoted to Full Professor.



Dr. Mary Ellen Mazey; Dr. Lesa Lockford, Director of WGSS; Dr. Mary Krueger, Director of the Women's Center; Dr. Simon Morgan-Russell, Dean of Arts and Sciences; and Ghanda Gad, new faculty in Construction Management



Laura Booher, graduate student and Anne Mitchell, Instructor

Fall 2012 Brown Bag Lunches at the Women's Center!



Dr. Sarah Smith Rainey speaking in recognition of Disabilities Awareness Month.



Arpan Yagnik shares his findings from his analysis of Indian television commercials. — with Ellen Lassiter Collier, Wonda Baugh and Jean Marie Greene.



**Gender inequality in comedy today. — with Melinda Lewis
and Katie Barak.**

Fall 2012 Professional Development at the Women's Center!



Dr. Julie Hought teaching us how to negotiate student resistance, teacher authority, and power in the classroom.



Debbie McRae encourages us to organize and declutter.



Learning how to become an empowered car owner and taking notes.

Student and Faculty Accomplishments

Faculty Publications

- ♻ Brown, Jeffrey A. (2013) "Panthers & Vixens: Black Superheroines, Sexuality and Stereotypes in Contemporary Comic Books," in *Black Comic Strips: Past and Present*, Continuum Press, Sheena Howard and Ronald Jackson eds.
- Brown, Jeffrey A. (2011) "Supermoms?: Maternity and the Monstrous-Feminine in Superhero Comics," *Journal of Graphic Novels and Comics*, Vol. 2, No. 1, June, pp. 75-87.
- ♻ Krane, Vikki. (July, 2012). "Sport Policy Transformation: Considerations for Inclusion of Transgender and Intersex Athletes."
- ♻ Lockford, Lesa. (2012). "Hearing the Call" *International Review of Qualitative Research* 5, pp. 311-14.
- Lockford, Lesa. (2012). "Naming Survival," *Rain and Thunder: A Radical Feminist Journal of Discussion and Activism* 54: 20-23.
- Lockford, Lesa. (2012). "Placing Words" *Qualitative Inquiry* 18.3, pp. 235-236.
- Lockford, Lesa. (2013). "Writing Qualitative Inquiry and Other Impossible Journeys," *Qualitative Inquiry* 19.3, in press.
- ♻ Sheffer, Jolie. (2012). *The Romance of Race: Incest, Miscegenation, and Multiculturalism in the United States, 1880-1930*. Rutgers University Press.

Additional Works & Awards:

- ✂ Vikki Krane is also working with a group of graduate students who are teaming up to write submissions for the new LGBT Issues in Sport: Theory to Practice Blog (<http://stream.goodwin.drexel.edu/lgbtsportresearchnet/>). It was launched on national coming out day, Oct. 11 2012.
- ✂ *Dangerous Curves: Action Heroines, Gender, Fetishism, and Popular Culture* by Jeffrey A. Brown has been named an Outstanding Academic Title list by CHOICE. Books chosen to this list have been selected for their excellence in scholarship and presentation, the significance of their contribution to the field, and their value as important--often the first--treatment of their subject. Choice Outstanding Academic Titles are truly the "best of the best".

Faculty Presentations and Performances:

- ✂ Susana Pena and Sarah Rainey attended the National Women's Studies Association on November 8th, 2012 and gave a presentation entitled "Service Learning and Collaboration with Units Beyond Women's Studies."
- ✂ Lesa Lockford presented *Lost Lines*, Writer, Performer and Ethnographer; full-length solo performance based on archival and ethnographic research on familial personal and professional history, performed as Visiting Artist at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, April 2012, as the Plenary Performance at the 8th International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, University of Illinois, May 2012, as part of the Elsewhere Performance season, BGSU, November 9th and 10th 2012, and at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association, Orlando, November 17th, 2012.
- ✂ Katie Barak traveled with Vikki Krane and presented "The World is Watching: Creating Socially Responsible Images of Elite Women Athletes." in July of 2012. The presentation was held at the International Convention on Science, Education and Medicine in Sport, Glasgow, Scotland.
- ✂ Katie Barak, Vikki Krane, and S.R. Ross presented "Out of Focus: Sport Media, Women Athletes, And Media Literacy." in July of 2012 at the Psychology of Women Section of the British Psychological Society conference in Windsor, England.
- ✂ Vikki Krane presented "The heteronormative landscape of elite women's sport." in July of 2012. She was the Keynote speaker at the Psychology of Women Section of the British Psychological Society conference, Windsor, England.
- ✂ Vikki Krane, D. Sabo, and C. Koca were invited to present *Gender Identity and Ethics* at the International Convention on Science, Education and Medicine in Sport conference, Glasgow, Scotland.

Graduate Student Publications:

WS graduate certificate students Marne Austin, Suzanne Berg, Abigail Lea Van Vlerah, and Wonda Baugh have chapters in an upcoming textbook, edited by WGSS affiliated faculty member, Dr. Sandra Faulkner. The book is called *Inside Relationships: A Creative Casebook in Relational Communication*. Published by Left Coast Press, the release date is May 31, 2013.

Women's History Month Events, 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Spring Break					
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
		Muslim Women Roundtable	Brown Bag Lunch Series: InterSex Athletes with Vikki Krane		Slowing Down Stress followed by chair massages	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
			Brown Bag Lunch Series: Birthright with Kate Livingston	T.Miller, slam poet, Keynote Performer	Kathleen Buse, Women, Careers, and Confidence	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	Orgasm Inc. GISH Theatre		Bring Favorite Professor or Mentor to Lunch		Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Research Symposium with Dr. Jessie Ramey, keynote speaker	

March 12th - Muslim Women Roundtable, BTSU, 5:30pm.

March 13th - Presentation entitled "Sport Policy Transformation: Inclusion of Transgender and Intersex Athletes." Brown Bag, 12 Noon: Women's Center, Professor Vikki Krane will highlight her research on Olympic policy regarding gender and athletes, focusing on, among others, the case of South African sprinter, Caster Semenya.

March 15th - Professional development workshop entitled "Slowing Down Your Stress." Women's Center, 1:00 to 2:00
Rose Fantelli from BGSU's Employee Assistance Program, will demonstrate techniques to shift stress, facilitate relaxation and foster creativity.

March 15th - BTSU, room TBA – Chair massages by students from The Healing Arts Institute

March 15th - BTSU, room 314 – Yoga As You Are, 1:15pm-1:45pm

March 20th - Presentation entitled, "Re-thinking the 'Third' Option: Adoption, Birthmothers and the Politics of Choice." Brown Bag, 12 Noon, Women's Center, Kate Livingston, Ohio State University Women's Studies program, will deconstruct tropes regarding birth mothers who place their children for adoption, as well as notions of who is "worthy" to be a mother.

March 21st - Keynote performance by award-winning slam poet T. Miller., 7 pm, Eva Marie Saint Theatre, Wolfe Center for the Arts. Ms. Miller is a 27 year-old Detroit, MI native. Writer, performance poet, author, publisher dedicated activist, producer, actress and an aspiring motivational speaker. After one year on the performance circuit, in 2007, she was crowned Detroit Poetry Slam team's Grand Slam Champion, and has been a member of four National Poetry Slam teams. She has also been a Women of The World Poetry Slam top five finalist three out of the last four years once ranking as high as the third female slam poet in the World.

March 22nd - Scholarly presentation entitled "Careers and Confidence." Professional Development Series, Women's Center, 1:30 to 3:30
Dr. Kathleen Buse, management consultant and adjunct professor at Case Western Reserve University will discuss practical applications of her research on self-esteem, self-confidence and self-efficacy on women's career choices.

March 22nd. BTSU, room 314 – Yoga As You Are, 1:15pm-1:45pm

March 25th - Screening of the documentary, *Orgasm, Inc.* Gish Film Theater, 7 – 9 pm. The film by Liz Canner focuses on the medicalization of women's sexuality by the pharmaceutical industry, in their attempt to manufacture a market for "female Viagra." It will be screened as part of the Graduate Women's Caucus' Feminist Film Series.

March 27th – Bring Your Favorite Mentor to Lunch (invitation only)

March 29th - Women's, Gender and Sexuality Research Symposium, Keynote presentation by Dr. Jessie B. Ramey entitled, "Who Cares about Childcare? Orphanages and the Gendered Origins of Modern Childcare." BTSU 308, 12 noon – 4:00 pm. Dr. Ramey is a historian of working families and U.S. social policy. She is an ACLS New Faculty Fellow in Women's Studies and History at the University of Pittsburgh and writes about public education research and policy at *Yinzercation*. Her new book, *Child Care in Black and White: Working Parents and the History of Orphanages*, won the Lerner-Scott Prize in Women's History from the Organization of American Historians, the Herbert G. Gutman Prize of the Labor and Working Class History Association, and the John Heinz Award of the National Academy of Social Insurance. She is regularly published in the national media and was recognized twice last year with invitations to meet with President Obama's senior policy advisors.

March 29th - BTSU, room 318 – Yoga As You Are, 1:15pm-1:45pm

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program Word Magnets!

They make a great Valentine's gift!!!

Create funny quips, quotes, and inspirational messages to post on your fridge, car, or filing cabinet. Say how you feel on Valentine's Day to loved ones, friends, partners, co-workers, and anyone else.

110 words thematically related to
Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

All Proceeds Support Student Awards and Scholarships
Suggested Donation of \$7.00

Please contact Lesa Lockford at lockflo@bgsu.edu, or call 419.372.9381 or JoAnna R. Murphy at jmurphy@bgsu.edu, or call 419.372.7577 to place your order

*Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program
228 Shatzel Hall
Bowling Green State University*



*Our major fundraiser for the 2012-2013 year was holiday
poinsettias. It was a great success.*

*Thank you to everyone who supported this effort. It directly
supports student scholarships and awards.*

Please keep us in mind for the 2013 holiday season.

Tobias Spears talks to JoAnna Murphy about the LGBT Resource Center for LGBT and non-LGBT students alike!

Tobias Spears is the Assistant Director of the LGBT Resource Center and a first year ACS Doctoral student.

JM: What is the LGBT Resource Center?

Tobias: The LGBT Resource Center, which is part of the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA), is a space on campus where LGBT students, as well as their allies, can come to find a safe relaxed environment. Here we have LGBT themed literature, information pamphlets, and health info. Students can also find research material, books, and even articles that faculty have donated. Faculty have also contributed their own scholarly work. All the materials in the center ensure that students have resources to help them advance in their academics, or just help them be more inclusive of people who don't identify the way they do.

JM: Where is it located?

Tobias: We are located in the Math Science Building, room 318B. It's small but it's cozy. It is a community space. We hold several groups here: INTERSECTIONS, which meets every Thursday at 5:30pm; and two new groups called Frozen Fridays on Friday 1-3 and Hangout Tuesdays, which is all day on Tuesday. A major campus-wide program that we do is Safe Zone. The Safe Zone workshop has grown tremendously. We do about three to four general workshops and about 15-20 requested trainings for various college groups, all in one semester. This year we've revamped the Safe Zone to include more interaction, more statistical data, and also more activities where the participants engage in dialogue with each other. Creating safe zones or spaces doesn't mean that students/people won't be anxious or sometimes do things that others will deem insensitive. The purpose of Safe Zone is to have a place to come and work through things, engage with people who are different than you, a place where you can learn about being a better ally. Safe Zone for us means that we are creating spaces where dialogues can happen. This is an institution of higher learning so I don't want to create a space where students feel they have to be a certain way. I critique people for doing that to LGBT folks, so I do not want to reproduce those types of spaces.

JM: What is your role?

Tobias: My role is to oversee the functions of the LGBT Resource Center. I coordinate Safe Zone and train new trainers, I work to make sure we offer innovative and thriving programs, I also make sure to connect LGBT and ally students to great resources across campus and across the country. I also serve as a go-to for faculty and staff if they have questions regarding gender and sexual minorities. I'm continuously thinking about programming, assisting student groups, and also talking to faculty and teaching staff about what is going on in the classroom - what are some ways we can be more sensitive in terms of gender, gender neutral accommodations, and my role is to basically represent the underrepresented LGBT students--which is a big charge since LGBT has no color, LGBT has no size, LGBT has no necessary origin.

JM: With regards to if a student wanted to come and talk one on one with somebody would you be the person to contact?

Tobias: I'd tell them to contact me, but anyone in OMA can talk to a student about sensitive issues and concerns.

JM: Are the hours the same as the building hours?

Tobias: Yes, except on Thurs. It's 8-5 M, R, W, F, and then on Thursday it is 8-7.



Tobias Spears, Assistant Director of LGBT Resource Center

**Remember to like our Facebook at BGSU's LGBT Resource Center.
Email: tobiass@bgsu.edu**



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and Sexuality Studies
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