Dear Women and Gender Studies Community:

In the words of one of our students, “This program rocks!” Throughout this issue of the Matrix, you’ll find exciting proof of our vitality: new Women and Gender Studies minors, new affiliate faculty, a new associate director, outstanding accomplishments by our faculty and staff, and a long list of high-profile activities.

Our good work together makes the Women and Gender Studies Program an important voice in our campus culture asserting the liberating power of excellent scholarship, teaching, and co-curricular programming. For example, even though what drew crowds to the Sojourner Truth Lecture Series last year with Anita Hill was the renewed publicity around the Clarence Thomas confirmation hearings, her talk shone a spotlight on the intersections of race, class and gender and on the widening inequities in this country. The symposium with poet and activist Marjorie Agosín and her “Threads of Hope” arpilleras exhibition highlighted the importance of women’s art as resistance to a variety of human rights abuses.

As I look back on the year, I am amazed at what we were able to accomplish in the midst of multiple transitions. By summer’s end last year, we had bid farewell to Vicki Kirsch as Associate Director and had welcomed Tracy McLoone as the Interim Associate Director. We were without a program coordinator from mid-May until August, when Christine Hernandez joined us and jumped in as if she had been working here forever. During the fall semester, we began a national search for a permanent associate director and began gearing up for a full year of curricular and co-curricular programming, making amendments to bylaws, and dealing with the inevitable minutiae associated with any university unit. Tracy and Christine worked together to standardize many of the routine office procedures, created strong relationships among potential partners around the university, and made a successful proposal to University Life for a graduate assistant for the Center.

The spring semester brought more changes as our new associate director, Angela (Angie) Hattery, began working with us on projects that could be handled from a distance until her official start date on July 5. Angie made several trips to Mason during the semester, and she worked with Center staff and the graduate assistant to create the “Matrix Moment,” a two-page newsletter that went out twice in the spring. Her work with me, even at a distance, was invaluable during the spring semester, and I am incredibly excited about the team we now have in place as we move forward into a new academic year. In addition to Angie and Christine, we have talented, engaged student staffers who are profoundly committed to Women and Gender Studies.

With Christine’s help and her dedication to this concept, we built on our commitment to curricular and co-curricular integration by offering a brown bag discussion group on “Myths of Masculinities,” which tied directly to one of our new course offerings. With the help of faculty, we prepared the campus community for important events by offering preview films and panels preceding the Anita Hill and Marjorie Agosín events. I am grateful that Angie also has a strong vision for more and more of these engaged learning activities as we move forward into another academic year.

(Continued on page 2)
Please think of the Center as a resource for you and your students. I hope you will schedule meetings in the Center from time to time or simply drop by occasionally to say hello, to browse through the library, or to chat with students and staff. You will always be welcomed warmly.

Suzanne
Director, Women and Gender Studies

Welcome Letter from Angela Hattery

Dear Women and Gender Studies Community:

It was with great enthusiasm that I accepted the position of Associate Director in Women and Gender Studies! I began my association with Women and Gender Studies in the winter and arrived in my official capacity as Associate Director in early July. It’s nice to arrive when it is quiet so I have a chance to learn my way around the campus and meet so many amazing colleagues before the hustle and bustle of the academic year begins.

I am grateful for the leadership of the director, Suzanne Scott, and the work of Christine Hernandez, our program coordinator, both of whom did an outstanding job keeping the Center vibrant and moving forward; operating without an associate director for the first 6 months of the year! They are both amazing and I’m excited to join such a terrific team!

I’m also very grateful to the out-going Interim Associate Director Tracy McLoone. Her leadership during the transition of the center was invaluable. She did so much more than shepherd the center, she identified new initiatives that have allowed the center to reap many wonderful benefits, including successfully competing for a graduate assistant (GA), thus significantly expanding our ability to provide programming. Tracy has been incredibly gracious during this transition and I thank her and wish her well.

I come to the center after 16 years as a traditional academic, engaged in teaching and the production of scholarship. Having risen through the ranks and reached goals beyond my imagination, I am extremely excited about the opportunity to switch gears and join one of the only integrated Women and Gender Studies Centers in the United States! This position offers me the opportunity to continue teaching, but also to develop my administrative skills and to devote energy to developing and implementing our co-curricular programs. As a veteran and advocate of engaged learning, I see the links between the classroom and the real world as a critical component of educating the global citizens of the 21st century. I couldn’t be more excited about joining an organization—the Women and Gender Studies Program—that values integrated learning and the coordination between the academic and the co-curricular missions by identifying them as key strategic goals. I look forward to bringing my talents and experiences to the center and contributing to the development and expansion of our mission.

Best wishes!

Angie Hattery
Associate Director, Women and Gender Studies

(continued from page 1)
Fall For the Book

During this past academic year, Women and Gender Studies brought two authors for the annual Fall for the Book Festival. Allison Bechdel, cartoonist of the long-running strip “Dykes to Watch Out For” and author of the graphic memoir Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic, spoke to an audience of about 150 people on September 20, 2010. With her 2006 memoir, Bechdel sought to push the boundaries of both comics and memoirs, as well as express the complexity of her relationship with her father who died when she was 20 years old. During the 25-year run of “Dykes to Watch Out For,” she continually gave voice to real, everyday experiences of lesbian, gay, and genderqueer individuals.

Although Bechdel has been drawing from a young age, it was not until college when she realized how powerful the medium could be. Her subsequent work has likewise been organized around this theme of drawing on experience, eventually leading her to create a graphic memoir rather than a memoir based strictly on prose. Bechdel’s penchant for words and ability to bring her comic characters to life makes her a powerful and relatable, if not inspirational, voice for the queer community and its allies.

Jennifer Finney Boylan, bestselling transgender author of two memoirs, She’s Not There: A Life in Two Genders and I’m Looking Through You: Growing Up Haunted, talked about her work on September 24, 2010. Jennifer shared stories from her memoirs as well as the first installment of her new young adult fiction series Falcon Quinn and the Black Mirror, inspired by her two teenage sons.

Much like Alison Bechdel, Boylan ultimately seeks to express her experiences and encourages others to do the same. This desire to bring marginal voices into the center, coupled with intimate explorations of the mind and supernatural forces, makes Jennifer Boylan an important voice in modern literature.

Both lectures were followed by receptions in the Women and Gender Studies Center.

Women and Gender Studies is excited to bring Merri Lisa Johnson for the 2011 Fall for the Book Festival. Johnson is the Director of the Center for Women’s and Gender Studies and Assistant Professor of English and Women’s Studies at University of South Carolina, Upstate. Her most recent publication is Girl in Need of a Tourniquet: Memoir of a Borderline Personality. We hope that you will attend the lecture given by Johnson on Thursday, September 22, from 12 to 1:30. A reception with the author will follow at 1:30 pm in the Women and Gender Studies Center.
Scholar’s Lecture

On November 4, 2010, approximately 40 people from the Women and Gender Studies community came together for the 2010-2011 Scholar’s Lecture and dinner. Eden King, Assistant Professor of Psychology, delivered this year’s lecture titled, "Diversity at Work: Understanding and Improving the Experiences of Stigmatized Workers."

Dr. King presented results from laboratory and field research that documents the workplace experiences of women, ethnic minority, gay and lesbian, obese, religious minority, and pregnant employees. In addition, Dr. King described evidence-based strategies for individuals and organizations to improve the experience of diverse workers.

Her research, which has appeared in outlets such as the Journal of Applied Psychology, Human Resource Management, Perspectives of IO Psychology, and Group and Organization Management, integrates organizational and social psychological theories in conceptualizing social stigma and the work-life interface. This research addresses three primary themes: 1) current manifestations of discrimination and barriers to work-life balance in organizations, 2) consequences of such challenges for its targets and their workplaces, and 3) individual and organizational strategies for reducing discrimination and increasing support for families.

Save the Date:

Dr. Devon Hodges, Professor of English and Cultural Studies, will deliver this year’s Scholar’s Lecture on Tuesday, November 8, 2011, in Johnson Center Room D. The title of her talk is “Sharing and Owning: Gertrude Stein's Collaborative Writing.”

This talk will explore one of the many aspects of Gertrude Stein's collaborative work: her collaborative writing, including both intertextual collaboration (the influence of model memoirs by women on her best-seller, The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas) and the more intimate influence of Alice Toklas, Stein’s partner, on her compositional practices. While Stein proclaimed, "I'm always wanting to collaborate with some one" (Everybody's Autobiography), she wrote elsewhere, "I know that writing belongs to me" ("And Now"). How to explain this tension between Stein's practice of collaboration, which seems so open and democratic, and her desire to own a privileged domain: writing? Do Stein's collaborations undermine her claims to be a singular writer, a “genius”? Complex and contradictory, Stein’s work provides a rich subject for exploration. In addition, "Seeing Gertrude Stein," a wonderful exhibition now in San Francisco and opening in mid-October at the National Portrait Gallery, focuses on the visual Stein, on how she constructed her image as well as on her collaborations with painters and composers.

Women and Technology: College to Careers

From 3 to 5pm on November 11, 2010, Women in Technology, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, DoIT, University Career Services, and Women and Gender Studies co-sponsored an event designed to help students discover career paths in the kinds of technology fields that may be considered unconventional for humanities and social sciences majors. Six professional women who worked for a variety of companies in technological roles, ranging from IBM to departments at George Mason University, recounted the winding roads that led to their present careers and offered advice to help students prepare for a variety of occupational choices. The panel consisted of Maribeth Luftglass, CIO in Fairfax County Public Schools, Courtney Bromley from IBM, Julia Dabrowski from VMWARE, Joy Hughes, Vice President & CIO at George Mason University, Regina Kunkle and Ashley Woodward from NetApp, and Sharon Pitt, Executive Director, Division of Instructional Technology, George Mason University who served as the panel’s moderator. Attendees learned about how these women got where they are and what one could do to prepare for a rewarding career in these continually growing professions.
"If you have knowledge, let others light their candles in it." — Margaret Fuller

Sexual assault is one of the most under reported crimes, with 60% still being left unreported - U.S. Department of Justice. 2005 National Crime Victimization Study.

Take Back The Night

This past year on October 5, 2010, Mason held its 13th annual Take Back The Night rally. Students gathered at the Johnson Center’s north plaza for the rally. In 2010, Take Back the Night coincided with Turn off the Violence Week, a national event to end domestic and other violence as well as recognize and support victims and their friends and families. On campus, Turn Off the Violence Week is co-sponsored by Sexual Assault Services, the Office of Alcohol, Drug and Health Education, Women and Gender Studies, and the Feminist Student Organization.

As part of the Turn Off the Violence Week at Mason, the Take Back the Night rally serves as a peaceful gathering on the North Plaza of the Johnson Center promoting an end to sexual and domestic violence, and is symbolic of a safe haven for all. The Feminist Student Organization led the planning of the event and collaborated with Sexual Assault Services, Amnesty International, Love Her Fiercely, and Women and Gender Studies.

To help raise awareness, the Feminist Student Organization handed attendees posters, buttons, and glow-in-the-dark necklaces and wristbands at the beginning of the event. Take Back The Night t-shirts were also available for sale and sold quickly to eager attendees. Guest speakers at the rally included Rebecca Berlin, a social work graduate student intern at Sexual Assault Services, Candice Lopez, an education and outreach director at Doorways, an organization dedicated to ending domestic violence, and Anchal Khanna, a licensed professional counselor at the Counseling & Psychological Services office. Members of the student organization Love Her Fiercely read poetry and sang songs during the rally. Students in the audience were able to come up and share their experiences during a “Speak Out” portion. Rally participants were touched by the courage and bravery of their peers who chose to speak about their own experiences with sexual abuse.

Following the rally, students led a march around the Johnson Center chanting feminist cheers against sexual violence, such as “Hey Hey, Ho Ho, Violence has got to go!” Students were invited to attend a reception in the Women and Gender Studies center where refreshments were served.

Co-Sponsored Films

Women and Gender Studies co-sponsored two documentary screenings during the academic year. On November 8, 2010, Film and Media Studies, with the support of Women and Gender Studies, African and African American Studies, Cultural Studies, and English, screened the film Family Affair by Director Chico Colvard. The film recounts Colvard’s family experiences through abuse, forgiveness, and the structures of family and community. The film was followed by a discussion with the director. Family Affair was selected by numerous film festivals in 2009 and 2010 and was the first documentary selected for distribution by the Oprah Winfrey Network.

The second documentary, Poster Girl, premiered on April 27, 2011. Nominated for the 2011 Academic Award for Best Documentary, Short Subject, the film tells the story of Murray, an all-American high school cheerleader turned “poster girl” for women in combat. After serving in the U.S. Army in Iraq, Murray struggled with the debilitating effects of post-traumatic stress disorder. Following the screening, Director Sara Nesson and star Robynn Murray spoke to the audience and took questions.
Past, Present, and Promise of the Feminist Movement at Mason

On April 13, 2011, Women and Gender Studies hosted the panel entitled, “Past, Present, and Promise of the Feminist Movement at Mason.” The event provided a forum to discuss how the feminist movement on campus led to formation of the program and center. Students who attended the panel learned about the current feminist activism on campus and how they could best use gender related coursework and research to further their careers.

Panelists included:

Kerry Butch, the inaugural president of the student organization Women’s Coalition. The student organization has changed its name over time and is now known as the Feminist Student Organization. Kerry discussed the origins of the feminist movement on campus, the beginning of the Take Back the Night rally, and the activism charged by the Women’s Coalition.

Paula Ruth Gilbert, Ph.D., Professor of French and Women and Gender Studies. Professor Gilbert was a driving force behind the founding of what is now known as the Women and Gender Studies program. Dr. Gilbert spoke about the challenges and support associated with starting the program.

Dr. Sandy Cheldelin, the Vernon M. and Minnie I. Lynch Professor of Conflict Resolution at the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution. Dr. Cheldelin elaborated on ways that students are able to use what they learn from gender related courses in their careers after graduation.

Mabinty Quarshie, current president of the Feminist Student Organization, spoke about her experiences with the feminist movement and with recent events such as the Take Back The Night rally, The Vagina Monologues and the Women’s History Month events.

Rose Pascarell, Associate Vice President for University Life and former Associate Director of Women’s Studies, also shared some of her experiences working with both Kerry Butch and in the program. In a touching moment Kerry Butch presented Mabinty Quarshie with four photos from the original Women’s Coalition, embodying the intention of the event to link past, present and future feminist work.

Kerry Butch also sponsored a documentary screening of Greetings from Asbury Park on the same night as the panel. The film, produced by Kerry Butch and directed by Christine Eliopoulos, is about the struggle with eminent domain in Asbury Park, NJ.
Confronting Global Gender Justice


The volume, hailed as a “groundbreaking, interdisciplinary collection of essays,” was edited by multiple George Mason University faculty members including:

- Debra Bergoffen, Emerita Professor of Philosophy and former Director of Women’s Studies at Mason
- Paula Ruth Gilbert, Professor of French and Women and Gender Studies and founder of Women & Gender Studies
- Tamara Harvey, Associate Professor of English and affiliate faculty in Women and Gender Studies
- Connie McNeely, Professor in the School of Public Policy and affiliate faculty in Women and Gender Studies.

Suzanne Scott, Director of Women and Gender Studies, said the impetus for the book began brewing in 2005. Nancy Hanrahan, former director of the program, secured funding for a faculty development day on gender and globalization. Out of those workshops emerged the Global Gender Justice Research Community, which met monthly in the Women and Gender Studies Center. In 2008, that group held a Global Gender Justice Symposium that attracted participants from around the world.

The edited volume that grew out of that conference includes expanded and enhanced versions of the presentations at that conference along with a number of original pieces solicited especially for the text. The campus bookstore participated in the book launch reception by providing copies of the book, published by Routledge, for sale.

Approximately 30 people, including Jack Censer, dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, joined the celebration.

Justice demands integrity. It’s to have a moral universe - not only know what is right or wrong but to put things in perspective, weigh things. Justice is different from violence and retribution; it requires complex accounting.

– bell hooks

Top photo: Editors and contributing authors discuss the publication process and information about select chapters.

Bottom photo from left to right: Tamara Harvey, Debra Bergoffen, Jack Censer, Paula Ruth Gilbert, Connie McNeely
Faculty Student Staff Breakfast

Women and Gender Studies kicked off Women’s History Month with a Faculty, Staff and Student Breakfast on March 1, 2011. The breakfast was an opportunity for the community to connect with and meet our new Associate Director, Angie Hattery. The breakfast was catered by Panera Bread and approximately 40 people came to visit during the event.

Sojourner Truth Lecture: “Reimagining Equality: Gender, Race and Home in America”

The annual Sojourner Truth Lecture series was launched by African and African American Studies in 2000 and the following year, in 2001, Women and Gender Studies began co-sponsoring the annual event, serving as a sparkling example of collaboration in the Mason community. In the past years, lecturers included Toby Jenkins, Cheryl Dunye, Patricia Hill Collins, and Ntozake Shange. This year Professor Anita Hill was the lecturer chosen to honor and preserve the legacy of women’s rights and anti-slavery activist Sojourner Truth.

In preparation for Anita Hill’s lecture, a preview event was held on Wednesday, February 16, 2011 at 2 p.m. in the Johnson Center Cinema where the documentary: “Anita Hill vs. Clarence Thomas: The Untold Story” was viewed. Dr. Yevette Richards Jordan, Associate Professor, Women and Gender Studies, moderated a panel discussion after the screening, giving viewers the opportunity to critically examine and discuss the documentary.

Anita Hill delivered The Sojourner Truth Lecture, “Reimagining Equality: Gender, Race and Finding Home in America” on Thursday, March 3, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. in the Center for the Arts Concert Hall. Professor Hill’s lecture took the audience on a theoretical journey that attempted to sort out the intersecting issues of race, gender, and the physical and emotional aspects of the concept of “home” in the United States. Following the lecture, the Women and Gender Studies Center hosted a reception, which provided an opportunity for students and faculty to engage in these conversations about race, gender and home with Anita Hill and each other more directly. Many people from the Mason community attended this event, making it extremely successful.
Reve(a)ling Art Show

The 4th annual Reve(a)ling Feminist Art Show was hosted during Women’s History Month in the 123 Gallery of the Johnson Center from March 9 through March 25, 2011. The show featured the artwork of 11 students who were able to submit pieces using any medium that they felt successfully demonstrated feminist art. While the exhibit was open during regular Johnson Center hours to the general public, an opening ceremony and reception was held in the late afternoon of March 9. In attendance were the friends and family of the artists, students from classes interested in the show, and the Women and Gender Studies community. Artists were able to briefly explain the significance of their pieces to the audience.

Featured Artwork:

Beth Degi - I Did Not Go Quietly
Brandy Kelly - N/A
Carmen Judy - Mob Swell
Carmen Judy - Descent into the River of Passion
Margaret Meyer - Woman Leaving the Blue Mosque in Istanbul, Turkey
Nahid Navab - Sister I Am With You
Nahid Navab - Struggle of One Million Signature Women
Suzanne DeSaix - Strata
Janice Sweeney - Skull With Scarf and Skull With Pearl
Gina Valvo - The Pioneer Women
Margaret Meyer - It’s My Damn Piece
Suzanne DeSaix - Testing Resistance
Willow Bodman - Untitled
Tamara Wilkerson - Save the Princesses
Margaret Meyer - How To Grow Old...Blue Dye, Cell Phone And A Fur Coat
Sara Haq Hussain - Modern (Medieval) Medicine
**Symposium on Gender, Arts, Rights and Latin America**


“We are honored to have Professor Agosín and her collection of arpilleras on campus,” said Ricardo Vivancos-Perez, assistant professor of Spanish and an affiliate of Women and Gender Studies. Agosín was the keynote speaker for the Women and Gender Justice Symposium in 2007.

Agosín’s collection of arpilleras, the tapestries made by Chilean women, were displayed in Aquia Module from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. from Monday, March 21, through Monday, March 28. A special preview event, including a screening of the documentary “Threads of Hope,” followed by a tour of the exhibit, were held on Thursday, March 24, in Research I, Room 163.

At the symposium, Vivancos-Perez conducted a public interview with Agosín on “Gender, Arts and Human Rights in Latin America.” Following the interview, a panel of Mason faculty members, chaired by Paula Ruth Gilbert, professor of French and women and gender studies, joined Agosín for a discussion of “Human Rights, Women, and the Role of the Arts: Global Perspectives.”

“These wonderful arpilleras not only highlight the importance of a global perspective on human rights violations, they demonstrate the power of artistic expression in moving toward solutions and healing,” said Suzanne Scott, director of Women and Gender Studies.
Throughout the month of March, Women and Gender Studies hosted an exhibit honoring women who made an impact on the lives of students, faculty and staff at Mason. The exhibit, Our History Is Our Strength, featured the names, photos, brief biographies, and a statement of the qualities these women possessed that led to their nomination.

The submission process was promoted across campus and a number of nominations were submitted. Nominations were open to any woman who someone felt was important—historical, political, artistic, scholar, teacher, family or friend.

“Our History Is Our Strength Exhibit

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Gender and Higher Education Dialogues

Women and Gender Studies hosted two brown bag discussions, facilitated by Christine Hernandez and Beth Degi, during the spring semester. The first discussion coincided with Women’s History Month in March and focused on women in higher education.

Instructor and doctoral student Mike Goebel co-facilitated the second installment of the brownbag discussions in April. The topic continued and expanded upon some of the discussions that took place during Mike’s “Myths of Masculinities” course in the spring semester. The intimate discussions provided a professional development opportunity for faculty and staff as they were invited to participate in professional development and in-depth conversations about the constructions of gender on college campuses.

Women’s History Month Events Around Campus

Campus offices and student organizations were encouraged to participate in Women’s History Month. The Muslim Student Association, along with Women and Gender Studies and the Feminist Student Organization hosted an event on March 8. The two-hour event focused on body image and the meaning of Islam. The Panhellenic Council, Multicultural Greek Council and Order of Omega hosted an information kiosk for International Badge Day on March 7. Also on March 7, Delta Sigma Theta, Love Her Fiercely, Amnesty International and the Feminist Student Organization hosted the event, “Not For Sale,” which highlighted the historical and current exploration of women and girls. On March 8 (International Women’s Day), the Feminist Student Organization hosted a feminist bake sale.

Next year, Women and Gender Studies plans to sponsor an educational campaign to highlight the accomplishments and contributions of often overlooked and undervalued women, as well as note key milestones in women’s history.
Pride Week

This year’s LGBTQ Pride Week 2011 was a week filled to the brim with exciting programming. Women and Gender Studies co-sponsored a handful of events this year and two staffers, Maryam Sodeifi and A-Jay Sorrell, served as members of the planning committee. On Monday, April 4, WGST co-sponsored the “Queering Body Image” event. Led by Karen Wolf, attendees had an in-depth discussion about body image in the queer community, fat acceptance, heteronormativity, and the queer body. That night, students, staff, and community members attended the event “Completing the Picture: Mental Health in the LGBTQ Community.” One of the organizers, Maryam Sodeifi, shared her motivations for including mental health this year:

This past year we’ve seen an upswing in media attention surrounding recent LGBTQ suicides, which has sparked a response from within the community, most visibly Dan Savage’s “It Gets Better Campaign.” In this year’s Pride Week, I wanted to have a space to talk about the ways that mental health, depression, and bullying affect our community. The “It Gets Better Campaign” is doing great things for a lot of people, but I fear that it makes a promise that is very hard to keep. I wanted to be in communication with others about how we can make it better for our community as we face these struggles, and figure out ways to meet our needs and take care of ourselves.

On Tuesday, April 5, WGST co-sponsored “Homo-Normative Politics of LGBTQ: Why the T & Q Need to be First,” presented by Rebecca Walter from the Multicultural Research and Resource Center. Immediately following the discussion, many attended a film screening of “Boy I Am” with co-director Sam Feder. The documentary examines trans issues through the experience of three young transitioning female to male transgender individuals (FTMs) in New York City. Both the film and the discussion with Mr. Feder prompted questions and explorations about the connections and complexities of feminist and queer movements and communities.

Women and Gender Studies’ last co-sponsored event of the week on Thursday, April 7, was a discussion on class consciousness, “Intersections of Class and LGBTQ Identity,” where participants discussed issues of invisibility of both LGBTQ identity and class in many cultural contexts.

Queering Body Image

Monday, April 4, 2-3:30pm
LGBTQ Resources Office
SUB 1, Room 2200

“All young people, regardless of sexual orientation or identity, deserve a safe and supportive environment in which to achieve their full potential.”

-Harvey Milk
Gender Research Conference

On May 9, 2011, the Women and Gender Studies Program hosted its 4th annual Gender Research Conference. Each year the event provides a forum for undergraduate and graduate students to present their research and participate in a scholarly dialogue on gender. This conference began as the culminating feature of the Gender Research Project. Following a two-semester course designed to teach undergraduate and graduate students about the fundamental tools of social science research, the Gender Research Conference began as and continues to provide a forum for these students to present their research to the Mason community.

The conference expanded this year to include presentations from students who were doing gender research outside of the Gender Research Project. Twelve students were selected to present alongside three students from the Gender Research Project course. The goal of the conference’s expansion was to reach student researchers from other disciplines and programs.

The goal for next year is to expand the call beyond the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and Mason. The call for abstracts will be distributed in the fall to help students plan in advance for the next conference, slated May 2012. Additionally, students from regional universities will be invited to submit papers next year.

Presentations from the Gender Research Project Course:

Frances Rutherford, Success in Professional Teaching Careers: A Case Study of Women Professors at George Mason University

Jennifer Maloney, Cultural Fusion: Bridging Diversity on a University Campus

LuLu Géza, A Place to Call Home: Community & Identity on George Mason Women’s Club Rugby Team

Additional Student Presentations:

Julie Anderson, Warriors in the Academy: Veterans Transition from Military to Mason

Sara Hussaini, Alternative Approaches to Human Trafficking in Pakistan

Andrea Rutan, Female Aherence to Islam & Veiling in Germany: An Individualistic Practice of Ethics

Sarah Faragalla, Muslim Women and the Veil

Christine Cartwright, Madness in Lessing’s, The Golden Notebook & The Grass is Singing

Mabinty Quarshie, Black Feminist Statement Revised

Justin Roykovich, The Redux as Redefinition

Nicole McCoy, The Brazilian Mulata: Race, Identity, and the Body

Sarah Wright, Family Narratives and the Body

Sara Mitcho, Different Bodies, Different Lives, & The Universal Vulnerability: The Importance of Ontology in the Field of Feminist Ethics
Graduation

In May 2011, Women and Gender Studies hosted its annual graduation reception, honoring fifteen graduates from winter 2010 and spring 2011. Held in the Women and Gender Studies Center at 2:00 pm on May 20, 2011, graduates were presented with tokens of appreciation, including a Women and Gender Studies mug and alumni license frames. For the first time, purple and white minor graduate cords were available for sale in the bookstore.

Several of our graduates received special awards that have been given annually. Logan Greenwood was also the recipient of the first annual Tracy McLoone Feminist Leadership Award. This newly created award was inspired by our very own Tracy McLoone, Ph.D., to honor the contributions she has made over the years to WGST. A favorite among students and colleagues, Dr. McLoone taught many WGST classes and advised WGST minors as advisor and interim associate director of the program. She has inspired so many of her students with her fearless leadership and passion for women’s and gender justice. She has left an indelible mark on the program and as she leaves Mason we wish her the best in her future endeavors.

Also in May 2011, at the 3rd annual Lavender Graduation ceremony, WGST minor and center staff member Maryam Sodeifi was invited to give the commemorative address. Held at 8pm on May 17, 2011 in Dewberry Hall, the ceremony celebrated the accomplishments of graduating LGBTQ and Ally students. Each graduate was given a certificate and a rainbow tassel to commemorate their accomplishments.

We are so proud of all our graduates! We encourage them to apply the valuable knowledge they have received from their studies and experiences in Women and Gender Studies and LGBTQ studies and wish them the best in their future endeavors. We encourage all graduates to remain involved with the program as alumni!

Award Recipients

Khulan Nyamsurem, Outstanding Achievement in Women and Gender Studies
Marja Kudej, Outstanding Achievement in Women and Gender Studies
LuLu Géza, Academic Excellence Award
Logan Greenwood, Academic Excellence Award & The Tracy McLoone Feminist Leadership Award

January 2011 Minor Graduates
Yenifer Hernandez
Eric Jackson
Sharon Moran

January 2011 Minor Graduates with the LGBTQ focus
LuLu Géza
Marja Kudej

Spring 2011 Graduate Certificate
Laina Saul

Spring 2011 Minor Graduates
Nathan Grant
Logan Greenwood
Amanda Hendricks
Yume Kim
Katrina Kinsolving
Khulan Nyamsuren
Dinora Reyes
Jessica Wade
Southeastern Women's Studies Association (SEWSA) 2012

Women and Gender Studies is hosting the 2012 Southeastern Women's Studies Association Conference. The conference theme is, “Politics of Justice: New Visions of Culture and Society.” SEWSA 2012 will bring together scholars, policy makers, artists, and activists to wrestle with ideas and strategies to move forward toward a just world in theory and practice.

The conference will be held from Thursday, March 29, through Saturday, March 31, 2012. Conference program proposals, including individual papers, panels, workshops, roundtables, or performances, will be accepted until November 1. While the papers accepted for presentation will not be known until later in the 2011-2012 academic year, the keynote speakers have been announced.

Keynote Speakers:

Jasbir Puar. Ph.D., is a core faculty member in the department of Women's and Gender Studies at Rutgers University. Her research interests include gender, sexuality, globalization; postcolonial and diaspora studies; South Asian cultural studies; and theories of assemblage and affect.

She is the author of *Terrorist Assemblages: Homonationalism in Queer Times* (Duke University Press 2007), which won the 2007 Cultural Studies Book Award from the Association for Asian American Studies. She has also authored numerous articles that appear in *Gender, Place, and Culture; Social Text; Radical History Review; Antipode: A Radical Journal of Geography;* and *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society.* Her edited volumes include a special issue of GLQ entitled "Queer Tourism: Geographies of Globalization," and she co-edited a volume of *Society and Space* entitled "Sexuality and Space." Dr. Puar is currently working on a new book project focused on queer disability studies and theories of affect and assemblage.

Layli Maparyan, Ph.D., editor of *The Womanist Reader* (Routledge, 2006) and author of *The Womanist Idea* (Routledge), is a womanist in every sense of the word. She integrates scholarship, community work, and spiritual practice in ways that impact the well-being of everyday people. She applies womanist principles to quotidian, institutional, and ecological settings to create social change.

Early in her career, she was a developmental psychologist with a research emphasis on the ways that multiple marginalized identities – such as race, gender, sexuality, and spirituality – intersect and interact. More recently, Dr. Maparyan has shifted her focus to womanist spirituality and metaphysics, to applied womanism, and to spiritual activism as emerging forms of thought and praxis for social change. Dr. Maparyan, is also professor of Women’s Studies and associated faculty of African American Studies at Georgia State University. Since 2009, she has also worked closely with the University of Liberia to assist with the development of its inaugural Gender Studies Program, serving as a Fulbright Specialist in Liberia during Summer 2010. She is known in Atlanta as the host of AIB-TV’s "women, spirituality, and world affairs" talk show, *The Circle.*

For more information about the conference, please visit: wgst.gmu.edu/sewsa2012
In 2010-2011, the Feminist Student Organization, along with Sexual Assault Services, the Office of Housing and Residence Life, and Women and Gender Studies collaborated on The Vagina Monologues. The Feminist Student Organization sold vagina shaped chocolate lollipops in order to raise money for George Mason University Victims of Violence Fund and the Tahirih Justice Center.

In March, 2011, during Women’s History Month, FSO partnered with Delta Sigma Theta, Love Her Fiercely, and Amnesty International to put on a play titled, Not For Sale. This event sought to impart a basic understanding of the historical and current sexual exploitation of women and girls. The event raised awareness of the severity of the sex trafficking of women and girls in the United States, with a particular focus on the DC-Maryland-Virginia area which was identified by the FBI as one of the 14 major sex trafficking centers in the U.S. It also educated attendees about the 24-hour multi-lingual crisis hotline and how to identify victims of sex trafficking.

Also during Women’s History Month, FSO co-sponsored an event with the Muslim Student Organization entitled, “Body Image and the True Meaning of Beauty in Islam.” The event included a panel discussion with members of the Muslim faith and counseling communities. FSO also did a feminist bake sale on International Women’s Day on March 8. People were given slips of paper, along with their baked goods, describing the gender wage gap in America. Members of the Feminist Student Organization were invited by the Feminist Majority Foundation to tour the White House. This was the result of President Obama’s issued statement on the 100th anniversary of International Women’s Day. Our final event for the year was a table at the LGBTQ resource fair during Pride Week.

“Domestic violence is America’s hidden war. And the battleground is in all our homes.”
Michelle Bussolotti
**Membership Committee Update**

During the 2010-2011 academic year, the program welcomed 6 new affiliates to our membership roles: Kristina Olso (Modern and Classical Languages), Maria Dakake (Religious Studies), Earle Reybold (College of Education and Human Development), Lisa Eckenwiller (Philosophy), and Lisa Lindley (Global and Community Health). The membership committee worked hard to update our affiliate records. Many thanks to Lauren Cattaneo, who continued her role as committee chair, and to committee members Eden King and Paul Gorski who worked hard last year to streamline the membership process and to update the records. Women and Gender Studies sends a special thank-you to Lily Bolourian, the student staff member who managed the letter-mailing process and maintained accurate membership records.

**The Director’s Student Advisory Committee**

The Director’s Student Advisor Committee (D-SAC) includes undergraduate and graduate students in Women and Gender Studies who meet with the program director once each semester. The informal meetings are designed to provide insight from a student perspective on programs, activism, and academics. Continuing members of the D-SAC, who committed to two-year terms, are Caroline Pendry (WGST certificate program), Marisa Allison (WGST certificate program), Khulan Nyamsaren (WGST minor), and Maryam Sodeifi (WGST minor; LGBTQ focus). New members of the committee this past year included Frances Rutherford (WGST MAIS), Lily Bolourian (WGST minor), Yeme Mehari (WGST minor), and Mabinty Quarshie (WGST minor).

**Library Update**

During the summer of 2010, the Center’s student staff were hard at work re-organizing the library according to the Library of Congress numbering system. The hard work was noticed and we saw an increase in the number of students utilizing our library for course research projects. You may have seen the Broadside article this past spring that featured the center’s library as a resource for students on campus. The article highlighted the re-organization of the books and rich resources available to all students in the center.

**Graduate Assistants**

If you’ve spent any time in the center during the spring, you may have met our graduate assistant, Beth Degi. When an opportunity for graduate assistant funding became available through University Life, Suzanne Scott, Tracy McLoone, and Christine Hernandez quickly began working on a proposal. Through the generous funding by University Life, the program was able to hire a part-time graduate assistant for the spring semester. Beth came into her position with a wealth of experience in the nonprofit sector, a passion for women’s issues, and a focused research agenda.

She began working as soon as she was hired in January. In her first week of work, Beth was diligent in her role assisting with the planning for the Sojourner Truth Lecture Preview event. During her time as a graduate assistant, Beth helped our office strengthen new and continuing campus partnerships, develop new gender programming, and review programs already in existence. As a M.A. Sociology candidate, Beth’s scholarship focused on gender-based violence, particularly rape as a tool of war and how public policy responses to gender-based violence are formed in post-genocide contexts. She was recently appointed a Dean’s Fellow in the School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution Doctoral Program.

Women and Gender Studies was able to successfully propose funding for a graduate assistant through this 2011-2012 academic year. Please welcome Caroline Pendry, our newest graduate assistant. Caroline is currently working on a M.A. in Sociology and a graduate certificate in Women and Gender Studies. Caroline graduated with a B.A. in Sociology from Western Carolina University and worked as a program assistant for the women’s center. Recently, she worked at the LGBTQ Resource Office as a graduate assistant.
Professor Paula Ruth Gilbert has been awarded the Visiting Research Fellow, International Gender Studies Centre, Oxford University

The International Gender Studies Centre (IGS) was formally established at Queen Elizabeth House in 1983 (as the Centre for Cross-Cultural Research on Women) to advance research on gender, culture and development. The Centre’s members form a multi-disciplinary research unit with backgrounds in social anthropology, human geography, history, literature, law, sociology and politics. Members have carried out research throughout the developing world— in Africa, the Middle East, South and Southeast Asia, China, Latin America and Europe. The Centre convenes weekly research seminars during the academic year, usually with a specific theme for each term. Each year the Centre organizes several major workshops on current issues in gender and development, drawing speakers and participants from around the world. The Centre has a long established publications program with over fifty volumes written or edited by members. Twenty-five books have been published in its current series with Berg Publishers. Highly qualified scholars of many nationalities come to the Centre with diverse research projects on gender and development. The Centre facilitates their research, and they have access to libraries, lectures, seminars and other resources of the University of Oxford. Members teach for the Oxford degrees of Human Sciences and of Archaeology and Anthropology and coordinate the gender option at the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology. The patron of IGS is Aung San Suu Kyi, the Nobel Peace Prize recipient from Burma.

Professor Gilbert was awarded this prestigious fellowship in order to conduct research on her book, Narrating Female Lives: Human Rights Violations against Women and Girls. The book will address the puzzle: how to insert the representation of the female body and discussions of narrative texts into universal human rights discourse. In Paula’s words, here are a few key issues that the book will address:

- I believe that “truth claims” can be made when a story is told in the form of a novel, poem, memoir, or film. There may even be an advantage to reading about the “poetic” memories of outrages of human rights violations as opposed to historical accounts in news and police reports, oral accounts, and human rights documents.
- We all need stories to understand the world better and to deepen our understanding of what is morally and globally wrong: women and girls told of their experiences and/or witnessed human cruelty, thereby shocking and reorienting our thinking and providing new ways of interpreting human complexity and questions of culture and power. Narratives push women into a new awareness, knowledge, and sharing, so that they can challenge and act.
- Ultimately, women’s experiences connect the commonalities of women’s status and global subordination, imploring us to commitment and to action. The real issue here is what a gendered approach toward the representation of human rights violations can teach us, and how it can help us better understand the intersections among human rights, narrative discourse, and gender development.
- Violence against women is a contradiction to human development, and human rights have a central relationship both to violence and development. Narratives have the ability to challenge cultures and existing gender roles and relations, and transform gender power relations through awareness and knowledge so that development policies and practices can be effected and transformed for the benefit of all women and girls.

“Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing.”

-Arundhati Roy
“Never limit yourself because of others' limited imagination; never limit others because of your own limited imagination.”
-Mae Jemison

PROGRAM UPDATES

Homecoming
In January, 2011, the Center participated in the homecoming office decoration contest. This year’s theme was “There's No Place Like Mason”- a take on the Wizard of Oz, The Wiz and Wicked. Judging took place on January 31. The staff committed to making decorations that were not only homecoming themed, but gender related as well. We won an honorable mention for our efforts this year and look forward to taking the title of “Best Team Effort” in 2012.

WGST Faculty Achievements

Sandra Cheldelin was one of seven nominees for the State Council for Higher Education in Virginia (SCHEV) Outstanding Faculty Award. Sandra gave a number of presentations abroad including the University of Liberia, International Conference on Peace building in Changzhou City, Jiangsu Province, China. A co-authored journal article entitled, “Likeability v. Competence: The Impossible Choice Faced by Female Politicians” was published in the Duke Journal of Law & Policy. Sandra also has a co-edited book coming out in September, 2011, entitled, Women Waging War and Peace: International Perspectives of Women’s Roles in Conflict and Post-Conflict Reconstruction.

Rose Cherubin authored and co-authored several book chapters recently in books such as Why They Die: Civilian Devastation in Violent Conflict; Philosophic Values and World Citizenship: Locke to Obama and Beyond; Set Theory, Arithmetic and Foundations of Mathematics: Theorems, Philosophies. Rose also presented a paper titled “Parmenides and Difference: Negation, Mortality, Gender, and Alētheia” at the Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy Conference.

Marion Deshmukh received the David King Teaching Excellence Award this spring. Marion recently published a co-edited volume entitled, Max Liebermann and International Modernism: An Artist’s Career from Empire to Third Reich. The volume grew out of a conference she organized.

Paula Ruth Gilbert was one of seven nominees for the State Council for Higher Education in Virginia (SCHEV) Outstanding Faculty Award. You can read two of her recently published co-edited books, Transatlantic Passages: Literary and Cultural Relations between Quebec and Francophone Europe and Confronting Global Gender Justice: Women’s Lives, Human Rights, now. Paula also wrote the forward to Representations of Murderous Women in Literature, Theatre, Film and Television: Examining the Patriarchal Presuppositions Behind the Treatment of Murderesses in Fiction and Reality. In November, 2010, Paula gave a presentation at the American Council for Québec Studies entitled, “Travesties et Kamikazes: The Violated, Resistant Female Bodies of Josée Yvon.”

Paul Gorski was awarded the 2011 Faculty Vision Award by the Office of Diversity Programs and Services and a $5000 faculty research and development grant from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. Paul hosted two presentations each at the American Educational Research Association conference and the American College Personnel Association conference. Additionally, Paul traveled to Mdina, Malta, this past September to present “Unlearning Deficit Ideology and the Scornful Gaze: Thoughts on Authenticating the Class Discourse in Education” at the INTER Network International Conference on Intercultural Education as a Project for Social Transformation. You can read some of Paul’s recent publications in the Journal of Critical Animal Studies and the International Journal of Multicultural Education.
Christine Hernandez presented on feminist student staff management practices at the American College Personnel Association conference. She also presented at the annual Ethnography in Education and at the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators conference. In June, 2011, Christine presented a session at the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders entitled, “Do You Fear the F Word?: Feminism Explained.”

Toby Jenkins was the recipient of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators’s Innovative Leadership Course Bronze Award in the “International, Multi-cultural, Cultural, Gender, LGBTQ, Spirituality, Disability and related” category. A book chapter by Toby entitled, “Culture Centers in Higher Education: Perspectives on Identity, Theory, and Practice” is included in the recently published book, Framing University Cultural Practice Through a Lens of Intentionality.

Maria Karametou was awarded the Fulbright Senior Research Scholar Award on the topic, “A Visual Investigation of Anatolian Textile Designs in the Search for Creative Expression.” Her creative works have been exhibited abroad in Istanbul, Turkey, and domestically in Baltimore, Washington, DC, and in the state of Montana. Maria gave an artist’s lecture and sat on panels at Mimar Sinan University of the Fine Arts, Kadir Has University, and Marmara University of the Fine Arts, Kadikoy, in Istanbul, Turkey.

Vicki Kirsch was an invited speaker at the National Association of Social Work- Virginia Chapter annual conference. She presented, “When Therapy is Toxic.” Vicki is collaborating with George Young at the National Counseling Group to create the NCG Dialectical Behavior Therapy Program which combines individual therapy, a DBT Skills Group, and support for caregivers. This initiative is part of the Mason Social Work Faculty Practice program.

Among other research presentations, David Kravitz recently co-presented a session titled, “Why are affirmative action targets stigmatized by others and the self? A theoretical extension and meta-analytical test” at the International Association for Conflict Management annual conference in Istanbul, Turkey. David published a co-authored book chapter titled “Emerging Evidence on Diversity Training Programs” with fellow WGST faculty affiliate Eden King and Luther Gulick. The chapter can be found in the Handbook on Understanding and Preventing Workplace Discrimination published in 2011 by Praeger.

The newly formed student organization, standOUT, named an undergraduate scholarship in honor of affiliate faculty member Jon May and Dr. Donna Fox, Director of the Advanced Biomedical Sciences program. The Fox-May Scholarship for Social Equality honors individuals who promote social justice, support equality for the LGBTQ community, and celebrate diversity in all its forms. John also received Mason’s Distinguished Quill Award for New Student Organization Advisor of the Year.

In 2010, Erin Peters Burton was named University Science Educator of the Year by the Virginia Association of Science Teachers and was a George Mason University Teaching Excellence finalist. Since the summer 2010, Erin’s research appeared six times in various refereed articles including Educational Media International, Advancing Women in Leadership Journal, and the Journal of Science Teacher Education. Erin was also busy presenting several different pieces at the American Educational Research Association and at the National Association for Research in Science Teaching. Erin was successfully awarded nearly one million dollars in grant funding for three separate projects.

You can read one of Shannon Portillo’s recent journal articles entitled, “How Race, Sex and Age Frame the Use of Authority by Local Government Officials” in Law & Social Inquiry. Other works were published this year in Administration & Society, the Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory, and the Oxford Handbook of American Bureaucracy. Shannon was awarded over $63,000 in grant funds for two projects. One project focuses on enhancing access and retention in quality HIV care for women of color. Shannon presented at several national conferences including the Annual Law and Society Meeting, the American Society of Criminology annual conference, and the American Probation and Parole Association annual meeting.
Earle Reybold co-presented at a number of national and international sessions at various conferences such as the American Educational Research Association annual conference, the American Association of Adult and Continuing Education annual conference, and the American Association of University Professors annual conference. Earle co-authored an article titled, “In service to the academy: Faculty identity and the ‘lesser role’ in the Journal of the Professoriate.” She also serves on the Executive Council of the American Association of University Professors, Virginia chapter and is the chair of the AAUP Committee on Women in the Profession, Virginia chapter. Earle was elected to be a Virginia delegate to the 2011 AAUP Association of State Conferences. She was also recently awarded more than 30,000 dollars by the Center for Consciousness and Transformation for a project titled “The Integrity Question: Claiming Responsibility for Ethics in Higher Education.”

Ingrid Sandole-Staroste has a chapter in the Handbook of Conflict Analysis and Resolution edited by Dennis J.D. Sandole, Sean Byrne, Ingrid Sandole-Staroste and Jessica Senehi. Ingrid’s chapter is entitled "Gender Mainstreaming: A Valuable Tool in Building Sustainable Peace."

Suzanne Scott presented, “Creating a Democratic Dialogue: fostering an equitable and balanced conversation about politics, art and education” at the National Art Education Association conference and “So You Think You Know Me: assumptions as a barrier to understanding” at the Southeastern Women’s Studies Association Annual Conference. Suzanne was also an invited panelist at a symposium on sexual orientation and gender identity programs and policies at Virginia colleges and universities. The session, “Creating a Curriculum in LGBTQ Studies, ‘And Justice for All’” took place on Virginia Commonwealth University’s campus.

Bethany Usher co-presented a session entitled, “Where have all the women come from? Discrepancies in the number of male and female lineages in Mifflin County Anabaptist Cemeteries,” at the American Association of Physical Anthropologists Annual Meeting.

Terry Zawacki has been active with her work on writing across the curriculum. Terry gave keynote talks on Writing Across the Curriculum theory and programmatic practices for Lehigh University and Athens State University. She also gave an invited talk on WAC and second language writers at the Centre for Academic and Professional Literacies, Institute of Education, University of London. This was also the topic of a talk delivered at the 2011 College Composition and Communication convention. Terry co-authored with Paul Rogers “Writing Across the Curriculum: A Critical Sourcebook” and “Writing in the Disciplines” supplement to A Writer’s Reference. She was also the recipient of a University Excellence in Teaching Award.

WGST Current Student Achievements

Zayna N. Bizri, a doctoral candidate in George Mason University’s History program and WGST graduate certificate student, presented an academic paper on the only successful internment lawsuit against the US government during WWII at the Society for Military History. She focused her research on the historical memory of the plaintiff, Mistuye Endo, the only woman to sue.

Lily Bolourian, WGST minor, was asked to speak on a panel at two Feminist Majority sponsored events: the National Young Feminist Leadership Conference and at the Women, Money Power Summit. Lily was the recipient of the Social Justice Award through the Office of Diversity Programs and Services.

Rachel Bruns, WGST minor, was recently selected as a student representative for the Board of Visitors at George Mason University.

Lauren Lauzon, WGST minor, made the Dean’s List for both the Fall 2010 and Spring 2011 semesters. She also held an internship with the Smithsonian’s Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage during the Spring 2011 semester.

Diandra Linder, WGST minor, participated in her 3rd Alternative Break trip, doing HIV/AIDS activist work with three different organizations in New York City.
WGST Current Student Achievements (Continued)

Maryam Sodeifi, WGST minor, served as President of the GMU Swing Dance Club and on the Pride Week Planning Committee. Maryam was the selected student speaker at Lavender Graduation. Maryam was also a Social Justice Award recipient through the Office of Diversity Programs and Services. Maryam interned in the summer of 2011 at the nonprofit organization A Wider Circle.

A-Jay Sorrell, WGST minor, received a Leadership Award from the Office of Diversity Programs and Services.

Mabinty Quarshie, WGST minor, received the College of Humanities and Social Science Freshman Academic Achievement award for her incredible academic success. Mabinty was also the recipient of a scholarship from African and African American Studies.

WGST Alumni Achievements and Updates

Kerry Butch, past and founding president of the Women’s Coalition at Mason, produced the documentary “Greetings from Asbury Park.”

Dr. Laura A. Logie, past WGST minor, is Faculty Research Assistant, an Affiliate Faculty of the Department of Women’s Studies and Assistant Director for the Consortium on Race, Gender, and Ethnicity at the University of Maryland, College Park. She received her B.S.Ed degree in Health Education and Promotion and a minor in Women’s Studies from George Mason University, and an MA and PhD from the University of Maryland in Women’s Studies. Her previous work addressed efforts to eliminate the social inequalities that drive persistent disparities in health by gender, race, ethnicity, immigration status and socioeconomic position; through her dissertation project: An Intersectional Gaze at Latinidad, Nation, Gender and Self-Perceived Health Status; which provided opportunities to foster critical dialogues in feminist scholarship, and inform social science theorizing and empirical research, bridging the gaps between theory and practice. Currently, her research interests focus on intersectional analysis of persistent social inequalities, feminist perspectives on health and social justice, occupational stress, and the health of low-income racial/ethnic women.

Ana Kay Yaghoubian, past WGST minor, works at the American Association of University Women in Washington D.C. as the Program Associate for the National Girls Collaborative Project (NGCP). Over the last 5 years AAUW has been a partner in this program as its members and branches have worked with other organizations across the country to build a national network of professionals, nonprofits and educators providing opportunities for girls in Science, Technology, Education and Math (STEM). The project facilitates collaboration among community members and organizations, allowing them to receive small grants toward programming at the local level. Ana Kay communicates national level STEM issues to AAUW branches and documents and promotes their efforts around STEM. The NGCP has served over 5 million girls in the last 5 years and AAUW programs alone have served 18,000 girls.

Ana Kay uses the educational foundation she received at George Mason to understand the challenges of building the STEM pipeline. Ana Kay says that the concepts and critical thinking she learned at Mason gave her a key understanding of why STEM education is so critical for girls and how the success of this effort is positive for society as a whole. She says that she not only received an education while at George Mason, but also found her passion for working toward equity for girls and women, a passion that she has turned into a career.
REVE(A)LING ART
An Annual Juried Exhibition opening Reception Wednesday March 9 @ 3PM
Gallery 123, Johnson Center

Fall Harvest Pot Luck
Monday, Nov 22
11:30-12:00 Noon
Johnson Center Room 249K
Sponsored by Women and Gender Studies
To RSVP contact Chistine Hernandez at christine.hernandez@gmu.edu

RE-IMAGINING EQUALITY: GENDER, RACE, AND HOME IN AMERICA with Anita Hill
March 9, 2011
Concert Hall, Center for the Arts
1:30 p.m.

2011 Sojourner Truth Lecture

The 4th Annual Gender Research Conference
Hosted by Women and Gender Studies
At George Mason University

Masculinities on Campus: A Gender in Higher Education Brown Bag Discussion
Facilitated by Christine Hernandez, Program Coordinator
Beth Boggs, Graduate Assistant
Nina Stiel, Instructor
April 26 from 12-1
Robeson Room, Johnson Center

IMPAKT
SWIPE FOR A CHANGE
If you have lost over money on your meal plans, how do you deal with it? Well, you don't have to because there are ways you can donate money to a great cause. The Women's & Gender Studies Center will be collecting books that will be donated to MPS helping individual students. MPS is a local non-profit that is helping the students of Montgomery County since 1995, by providing them with food, clothing, and educational and recreation programs that includes holidays, financial aid, scholarships, etc.

WE NEED ITEMS including, but not limited to:
- Books
- Maps
- School supplies (notebooks, books, pencils, etc.)
- Clothing and shoes
- Personal care items
- nonprofit organizations

For more info, call 703-993-8181

Beyond the Classroom: Women’s Grad School Survival Hour

University Life, Women and Gender Studies, Feminist Student Organization, and ICAR Gender Working Group present:
The Past, Present and Promise of the Feminist Movement at Mason
April 13, 2011
2:30PM-4:00PM
Johnson Center, Meeting Room A
Opening remarks by Rose Pascarelli, Associate Vice President, University Life
Panel Presentation moderated by Suzanne Scott, Director, Women and Gender Studies

Panel Moderators: Suzanne Scott, Director of Women and Gender Studies and Associate Professor of Integrative Studies in New Century College.
Panelists include:
- Kerr Burt, the first ever chair of the Women’s Coalition, now known as the Feminist Student Organization.
- Dr. Paula Ruth Gilbert, a Professor of French, Canadian, and Women Studies, was a driving force behind the creation of the Women and Gender Studies Center and program at Mason.
- Dr. Brenda Chislett, as the Veteran M. and Phaye L. Lynch Professor of Conflict Resolution at the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution.

Mabinty Quraishi, president, Feminist Student Organization 2010-2011.

Documentary Screening and Q&A with Director and Producer

Greetings from Asbury Park
April 13, 2011
8:00PM-10:00PM
SUB II New Room 5 (Old Room 7)
Followed by QA discussion with the film director, Christine Eliopoulos, and film producer and George Mason University alum Kerr Burt.

Women and Gender Studies
www.wmst.gmu.edu/events
Looking Forward to 2011-2012

August 30 4-6pm Welcome Week Party

September 22 12/1:30pm Fall for the Book-Merri Lisa Johnson (reading and reception)

October 4 7:30 pm Take Back the Night

November 8 6/7:30pm Scholar’s Dinner and Lecture by Dr. Devon Hodges, English and Cultural Studies

November 21 11:30 am Fall Harvest Gathering

March 29-31 SEWSA Conference 2012

May Gender Research Conference

Women and Gender Studies
4400 University Drive
Johnson Center Room 240K
MSN 5B6
Fairfax, VA 22030

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