A Word from Our Interim Director

Because Mary Ann Dzuback is on sabbatical leave this academic year, I have stepped in as acting director. Professor Dzuback will return as director of the program in the summer of 2012.

This position is both familiar and not familiar to me. It is familiar because I served as director of the program from 2001-2006. I know when course schedules need to be handed in. I know how budgetary issues are handled in Arts and Sciences at Washington University. However, many aspects of the job are also new to me because of how our program has changed since 2006.

For one, our numbers have grown. In 2006 there were approximately 50 majors and minors. Today we have about 75 undergraduate majors and minors. In 2006 we had about 11 graduate certificate students. Today there are 34 graduate certificate students. In 2006, about 2 graduate certificate students a year were apprenticesing to teach a section of Introduction to Women’s Studies or Introduction to Women’s Texts. This year we have six graduate certificate students apprenticing to teach these courses.

The differences are not only ones of numbers. When I left my position as director in 2006, the program was called "Women and Gender Studies." Today it is called "Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies." This change reflects the ways in which the curriculum has grown, incorporating more courses, more programming, and a greater recognition of the importance of sexuality to the study of gender. The program has developed a greater focus on issues of globalism. This emphasis is reflected in the research interests of several of our new faculty and in the lecture series the program has inaugurated on global/international issues. The program is more strongly integrated with other programs, departments and schools at the university. Our faculty team-teach and work not only with faculty in other programs and departments within Arts and Sciences but also with faculty outside of Arts and Sciences, such as in the law school and in the school of social work.

All of this growth is particularly interesting because it has come at a period of time when many have claimed that feminism is quiescent. I believe that this apparent "quiescence" is not a sign of a lack of interest in and commitment to the goals of feminism in the society at large but instead represents an important change in the movement. Over the last thirty years, feminism has become less of an "in the streets," activist movement and more of an "insidious" force, quietly making changes from within existing institutions. This year I hope to continue this trend by working to strengthen WGSS at Washington University.

Linda Nicholson
Susan E. and William P. Stiritz Distinguished Professor of Women’s Studies
Professor of History
Xavier Livermon, the first speaker in the Global Feminism Series spoke about the ways in which queerness alters traditions and practices to accommodate a variety of cultural difference. In his talk, "Usable Traditions: Creating Sexual Autonomy in Post-Apartheid South Africa," he argues that queerness is part of a multicultural defense in a post-apartheid space where African customs have been reevaluated and cultural differences championed. Still, as black bodies are connected to the culture, traditions have been redefined through mostly three practices: male circumcision, lobola (payment to the bride’s family), and iSangoma (spiritual healing). Black queers constantly navigate and renegotiate traditions for their own use, forcing a reconstitution of both the terms "tradition" and "queerness." In the end, rather than rejecting customary practices, South African queers try to assert their autonomy by revising and reconstructing how African bodies are understood.
Anthropologist Alan Swedlund visited campus September 14-15 to speak about "The Anthropometry of Barbie and Ken...Hillary and George, a History of Measuring the Student Body," and also to conduct a workshop on his book Shadows in the Valley: A Cultural History of Illness, Death, and Loss in New England, 1840-1916 (University of Massachusetts Press, 2010). Professor Swedlund is particularly interested in measures of changing health through time and how these relate to environmental, biological, and cultural processes. He has conducted research in prehistoric southwestern United States, historical New England, and contemporary Southwest and Central America, particularly the eastern Yucatan on questions of population and health.

Professor Swedlund's lecture on "The Anthropometry of Barbie and Ken...Hillary and George, a History of Measuring the Student Body," discussed the history of measuring student bodies in America at colleges such as Harvard, Yale, and other Ivy League and non Ivy League schools, so as to keep records of their relative health and physical proportions. These records included nude photos of incoming freshman. How this information was stored and used for scientific research, and who was allowed access to these records, reflect important political dynamics. Swedlund linked the interest in tracking the health of college students to a late 19th century obsession with whether civilization might decrease human fitness. He noted how in the 1940s there was a shift of emphasis in popular culture from a normal or healthy body, to an ideal one, which eventually led to such exaggerated waist to hip ratios as we find in "Barbie," the toy doll that continues to provoke discussion among feminist scholars.

Professor Swedlund's workshop on Shadows in the Valley: A Cultural History of Illness, Death, and Loss in the New England, 1840-1916, discussed how people lived with death in the 19th century, and the prominence in their lives of the cycle of death and dying. The workshop highlighted the role of economic status in shaping women's health and access to medical care in the 19th century.
We are thrilled to welcome Professor Rebecca Wanzo as a new addition to our faculty this year. Rebecca comes to us from Ohio State University, and her research interests include African American literature, history, and culture; theories of affect; popular culture (particularly the history of genre fiction and graphic storytelling in the United States); critical race theory; and feminist theory. Her arrival in the fall of 2011 marks the first instance of a faculty member having a tenured home in WGSS.

A major task in any struggle for social justice is to secure recognition for the legitimacy of grievances. What Professor Rebecca Wanzo reminds us in her first book, *The Suffering Will Not Be Televised* (State University of New York Press, 2009), is that securing legitimatization entails a battle of storytelling, with different political actors and social groups attempting to present their ideas through sentimentally appealing stories. By analyzing the stories told by and about African-American women, Wanzo reveals how institutionalized inequality depends upon the silencing of some narratives and the popularization of others.

After becoming a member of the faculty of Washington University this fall, Wanzo has continued her focus on the history of affect and sentimanlity in popular culture narratives. She is currently working on two books: an edited volume on the history of American popular culture; and *Melancholic Patriots*, a study of cultural representations of African-American attachments to the nation. Professor Wanzo’s work reflects a history of commitment to interdisciplinary studies. As an undergraduate she majored in history, English, and Black World studies, while minoring in French. And at Duke University, where she earned her Ph.D. in English, she obtained graduate certificates in women’s studies and African studies. These interests are reflected in her course offerings on sexuality and gender in popular culture, and on the intersections between identity and theory.
Last fall, **Adrienne Davis** (William M. Van Cleve Professor of Law) was named Vice Provost, focusing on faculty development and diversity. In addition, she published "Regulating Polygamy: Intimacy, Default Rules, and Bargaining for Equality" in the Columbia Law Review; "Bad Girls of Art & Law: Abjection, Power & Sexuality Exceptionalism in (Kara Walker's) Art and (Janet Halley's) Law" in the Yale Journal of Law & Feminism; and "Historic and Modern Social Movements for Reparations: The National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N’COBRA) and Its Antecedents," co-authored with Adjoa Aiyetoro in the Texas Wesleyan Law Review Symposium on Lawyers of Color; and "Masculinity & Interracial Intimacy in 'Star Trek' and 'Gran Torino'" in New Political Science. She delivered talks at the University of Chicago, Princeton, Harvard and convened her Black Sexual Economies Project at a conference in Paris on Black States of Desire: Dispossession, Circulation, Transformation. She also continues as a Distinguished Lecturer for the Organization of American Historians.

**Akiko Tsuchiya** (Romance Languages & Literatures) was promoted to Professor of Spanish and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Her most recent book, *Marginal Subjects: Gender and Deviance in Fin-de-siècle Spain*, was published by the University of Toronto Press in April, 2011. Her current research includes a project on "Spanish Women of Letters and the Anti-Slavery Movement," funded by the Spanish National Research Council, as well as a book-length study on the intersections—and tensions—between artistic and scientific images of female deviance in fin-de-siècle Spanish visual culture. She is also co-organizing an interdisciplinary symposium entitled "Empire’s End: Transnational Connections in the Hispanic World, 1808-1898," to be held at Washington University on February 24, 2012.

**Andrea Friedman** (History/WGSS) recently published an article "Ruth Reynolds and the Struggle for Puerto Rican Independence," in the fall 2010 issue of *MaComère* (The Journal of the Association of Caribbean Women Writers & Scholars).

**Rebecca Copeland** (East Asian Languages and Cultures) has completed a translation of *Natsuo Kirino’s Joshinki (The Goddess Chronicles)*. This fascinating novel, published in Japan in 2008, is a feminist retelling of the Japanese creation myth. The English translation will be published by Canongate (UK) in Fall 2012 and by Grove Press (USA) in Winter 2013. For the past 2 years Rebecca and her colleagues in Japanese Studies have conducted the Mellon-Sawyer Seminar, "Japan Embodied: New Directions in Japanese Studies," which has looked at the history of the body and experiences of embodiment in Japanese arts and culture. In addition to this work, Rebecca runs the Arts and Sciences Summer School and enjoys interacting with WGSS graduate students and faculty who offer summer courses.

**Linda Nicholson** (Susan E. and William P. Stiritz Distinguished Professor of Women's Studies) is the interim Director for WGSS while **Mary Ann Dzuback** (Education/WGSS) is on sabbatical. **Amy Cislo** (WGSS) is the acting Associate Director for WGSS stepping in for **Barbara Baumgartner** (WGSS). Barbara Baumgartner is a visiting professor at St. Mary’s College in Maryland for the 2011-2012 academic year. The WGSS program wishes both Mary Ann and Barbara a great year and looks forward to their return in the fall of 2012!

**Barbara Baumgartner, Amy Cislo, Jami Ake** (Interdisciplinary Projects in the Humanities), and **Susan Stiritz** attended the NWSA conference November 10-13 in Atlanta, Georgia. The conference, titled "Feminist Transformations," featured a panel by the WGSS faculty. The panel, "Women’s Studies without Walls: Extending the Classroom: Community-Based WGSS Education" reported on the program’s efforts to expand service-learning and the challenges and successes that service-learning brings to both instructor and student.
Miki’s interest in WGSS stems from her liberal upbringing and environment in Oak Park, IL, a suburb of Chicago. When she arrived at Washington University as a pre-med student she was determined to continue to nurture her values and high level of social awareness. In her second semester at the university she enrolled in Introduction to Women and Gender Studies. Miki discovered that everything she believed in was mirrored in the course content. It should come as no surprise, then, that she switched majors and became a double major in WGSS and Film and Media Studies, (FMS).

After three years of coursework in WGSS, Miki states Women and the Law has been one of her favorite classes. This course, which is taught by several law students, showed her how feminist concepts and beliefs can be applied in the legal world. While studying abroad at the University of Cape Town in spring 2011 she was able to continue cultivating her interest in WGSS. She attended a course at the African Gender Institute titled Gender and Politics in Africa, which allowed her to explore feminism outside of the western context.

In addition to WGSS, Miki also has a focus for entertainment. This semester she is able to combine these pursuits by taking a WGSS and FMS cross-listed course on sexual politics and film noir. When asked about her future, Miki says she wants to attend law school in either Los Angeles or New York with an emphasis on entertainment law. As her world view is informed by feminist politics, she looks forward to implementing these beliefs in a legal career.
# Home-Based WGSS Course Offerings

## Fall 2011

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>L77 100B</td>
<td>Intro to Women and Gender Studies</td>
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<td>L77 105</td>
<td>Intro to Sexuality Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>L77 308</td>
<td>Masculinities</td>
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<tr>
<td>L77 3131</td>
<td>Service Learning: Contemporary Female Sexualities: Designing Sex Education</td>
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<td>L77 343</td>
<td>Understanding the Evidence: Provocative Topics of Contemporary Women's Health &amp; Reproduction</td>
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<td>L77 348</td>
<td>Rethinking the Second Wave: Race, Sexuality and Class in the Feminist Movement 1960-1990</td>
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<td>L77 3561</td>
<td>Women and the Law</td>
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<td>L77 380</td>
<td>Biomedicalization: Life under Medical Authority</td>
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<td>L77 383</td>
<td>Topics in Women and Gender Studies: From Mammy to the Welfare Queen: African American Women Theorize Identity</td>
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<td>L77 392</td>
<td>Feminist Research Methods</td>
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<td>L77 402</td>
<td>Transnational Reproductive Health</td>
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<td>L77 501</td>
<td>Advanced Feminist Theory</td>
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## Spring 2012

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<td>L77 205</td>
<td>Intro to LGBTQ Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>L77 214C</td>
<td>Intro to Women's Texts</td>
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<td>L77 308</td>
<td>Masculinities</td>
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<td>L77 3132</td>
<td>Service Learning: Girls' Studies</td>
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<td>L77 3206</td>
<td>Global Gender Issues</td>
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<td>L77 335</td>
<td>Feminist Theory</td>
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<td>L77 3401</td>
<td>Performing Gender</td>
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<td>L77 3561</td>
<td>Women and the Law</td>
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<td>L77 357B</td>
<td>Gender &amp; Politics in Global Perspective</td>
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<td>L77 370</td>
<td>Service Learning: Sex, Lies, &amp; Myths of the Mother</td>
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<td>L77 384</td>
<td>Gender &amp; Consumer Culture in U.S. Fiction of the Late 19th &amp; Early 20th Century</td>
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<td>L77 380</td>
<td>Biomedicalization: Life under Medical Authority</td>
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<td>L77 393</td>
<td>Violence Against Women: Current Issues and Responses</td>
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<td>L77 3942</td>
<td>Service Learning: Projects in Domestic Violence</td>
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<td>L77 404</td>
<td>Regulating Sex: Historical and Cultural Encounters</td>
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<td>L77 419</td>
<td>Feminist Literary and Cultural Theory</td>
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<td>L77 437</td>
<td>Global Feminisms</td>
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**Graduate Certificate Program**

**Andia Augustin** spent her summer in Dakar, Senegal thanks to a predissertation grant award earlier this year. Andia is interested in examining same-sex relations in colonial and post-colonial francophone West African and Caribbean literature. She presented a paper entitled, "Pimping the Self: Negotiating Freedom through the Mulatto Woman's Body in Duvalier’s Haiti" at the 36th Annual Caribbean Studies Association Conference in Willemstad, Curacao. Andia is preparing for her comprehensive exams in the spring and looking forward to teaching Intro to Women’s Studies in the fall.

**Patrick Brugh** is finishing his dissertation while on a dissertation fellowship from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. He spent the summer in Germany finishing research for his dissertation project at the Herzog August Bibliothek in Wolfenbüttel, Germany. While abroad, he held a lecture at the Center for Medieval Studies at the Otto Friedrich University in Bamberg on the aesthetic and gendered implications of gunpowder weapons in early modern Germany. He presented a paper at the Sixteenth Century Society Conference this past October titled "A Loaded Peace: Gunpowder and Morality in Early Modern German War Treatises." Patrick will be a fellow in the Washington University Center for the Humanities spring semester.

**Benjamin Davis** is currently writing his comprehensive exams in preparation for a larger dissertation project. This summer he attended the international summer course at the Herzog August Bibliothek in Wolfenbüttel, Germany. The topic of the course was Communication and the Culture of the Body in Early Modern Europe. He has two upcoming presentations on the works of the 17th-century German playwright Daniel Caspar von Lohenstein. These presentations, at the M/MLA and MLA conferences, address how representations of gender in Lohenstein’s plays are informed by imaginative geographies. Ben will be teaching Introduction to Women’s Texts in Spring 2012.

**Alejandra Aguilar Dornelles** earned her M.A. in Spanish at Washington University in 2008. She has completed the coursework for the Graduate Certificate in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. For the past two years she has been focusing on racial representations and the cultural contribution of Afro-Latin American subjects and communities to the development of several different nationalisms on the continent. Her article "La poesía erótica de Mercedes Matamoros en la genealogía del modernismo latinoamericano," is forthcoming in Latin American Literary Review.

**Sara Potter** is currently in Mexico City for the academic year on a Fulbright Scholarship doing research for her dissertation, which is (tentatively) titled "Disturbing Muses: Gender, Technology and Resistance in Mexican Avant-Garde Cultures." She is also collaborating with the "Taller Diana Morán," a long-running workshop that focuses on gender studies, theory, and literary criticism.

**Amanda Lee** will begin writing her dissertation on the intersection between the worlds of ballet and poetry in 19th century France next semester. She will focus on the work of poets such as Gautier and Mallarmé. These poets also ballet critics and found themselves inspired by the figure of the female ballerina and elevated the language of dance to that of poetry or the written word. Amanda is very excited to teach Intro to Women's Studies for WGSS spring semester 2012.

**Nancy Twilley** is currently wrapping up the final pages of her dissertation in preparation for a December graduation. She just submitted an article to the new publication Crossing Germania titled "Tomboys Growing Up in Late-Nineteenth-Century German Boarding School Novels" and is presenting a paper to the German Women Writers panel of the Midwestern MLA in November on Gabriele Reuter's books for children.

**Gail Wolfe** was a finalist for the 2011-12 Spencer Foundation Dissertation Fellowship. She will be presenting a paper titled "Adolescent Pregnancy and Public Education: Separating Students from Non-Students in post-WWII Washington, D. C. at the History of Education Society annual meeting in Chicago in November. Her first single-authored publication, a chapter titled "Urban America in Distress: A Case Study Analysis of Gary, Indiana," is slated to be published in 2012 in the edited volume Research on Schools, Neighborhoods, and Communities. This spring, she will be teaching a gender-focused course for freshmen at Chatham University in Pittsburgh.

Congratulations to **Necia Chronister** who graduated spring semester with her Ph.D. in German with a WGSS Graduate Certificate. Necia is an Assistant Professor in the German Department at Kansas State University. We wish Necia the best.
Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Fall 2011
Colloquium Series

Thursday, September 15, 4:00-5:30 pm
Alan Swedlund, Professor Emeritus, Department of Anthropology
University of Massachusetts-Amherst
a discussion with Alan Swedlund based on his book,
Shadows in the Valley: A Cultural History of Illness, Death, and Loss in New England, 1840-1916
Commentator: Amy Cislo, Lecturer, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program
Location: Mallinckrodt Multipurpose Room (lower level of Mallinckrodt)

Friday, September 30, 2:00-3:30 pm
Joan Maki-Motapanyane, Assistant Professor, Women’s Studies
St. Louis University
"Intersectionality and the Politics of Feminism in South African History: Lessons from 1970-1990"
Commentator: Ruth Iyob, Associate Professor, Political Science
and Research Fellow in the Center for International Studies
University of Missouri-St. Louis
Location: McMillan Hall, Room 219

Friday, November 11, 2-3:30 pm
Gaylyn Studlar, David May Distinguished Professor in the Humanities
Program Director, Film and Media Studies Program
Washington University in St. Louis
"G.I. Blues in Black and White: Reconsidering Masculinity in Film Noir"
Commentator: Jennifer Kapczynski, Associate Professor,
Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures
Washington University in St. Louis
Location: Hurst Lounge, Duncker 201

Friday, December 2, 2-3:30 pm
Sarah Westphal-Wihl, Associate Professor
Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures
Washington University in St. Louis
"She Dropped a Fork: Kunigunde of Hapsburg (1465-1520)
and Early Female Biography"
Commentator: Julie Singer, Assistant Professor of French
Department of Romance Languages and Literatures
Washington University in St. Louis
Location: Busch Hall, Room 18
Congratulations to WGSS Graduates of 2011!

Members of the WGSS Class of 2011

WGSS Honors Thesis Graduate Wes Sebring

WGSS Graduates

WGSS Honors Thesis Graduate Ayla Karamustafa

WGSS Graduates

WGSS Honors Thesis Graduate Dan Woznica and Professor Barbara Baumgartner
Looking at WGSS through the Lens of
Recent WGSS Majors

Trish Yeh

Having grown up in a cultural environment where sons were preferred to daughters, Trish nevertheless received a tremendous amount of support from her family to pursue her aspirations to the fullest. As a result, she acquired a heightened awareness of how gender impacts individuals' experiences and lives. In the spring semester of her freshman year, Professor Jami Ake's course Violence Against Women provided her with the tools to address the cage of gender oppression that she had long observed but could not put into words. Prof. Ake also inspired her to become involved in domestic violence organizations in the St. Louis community, such as the Women's Safe House and RAVEN. The WGSS major has helped Trish consolidate her passion in ending violence against women and in becoming a stronger, more self-aware woman. She appreciates the close relationships among professors, staff members, and students within the WGSS department. Professors Susan Stiritz and Jami Akie have become Trish's mentors and friends and have taken an irreplaceable role in her personal and intellectual growth.

Trish is also enjoying the opportunity to take Professor Susan Stiritz's service learning course, Contemporary Female Sexualities: Designing Sexuality Education, this semester. In the process of learning about sexuality education, Trish has come to learn different viewpoints on sexuality and acquired the skills and knowledge to become a better sexuality educator for the community. Along with her classmates, she volunteers at Planned Parenthood and the Spot, and works within the Washington University community by facilitating weekly discussion groups with Phi Delta Theta fraternity partners. Trish finds the wide range of literature and community involvement that Professor Stiritz has introduced to the class incredibly informative and essential to creating a more egalitarian, respectful, and healthier sexual environment in our community.

Andrew Smith

Andrew decided to embark upon a second major in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies: "because of the new lens I was given to look at the world which my introductory courses gave me." Looking at society through a feminist/queer lens has allowed Andrew to see and live in a place where the morals he was raised with, most of which he disagrees with, do not have to exist. Andrew is not implying that WGSS has allowed him to live a moral free life, but it has given him a set of standards by which everything around him is run. It has allowed him to see and experience a more colorful world that was once not open, and now his ideas and horizons have broadened considerably.

This semester Andrew is taking a course called Transgender Studies with Dr. Amy Cislo. "Although the course often requires intensive reading, what I have learned thus far has more than outweighed this minor negative. I love reading about the ways trans individuals "queer" the world." Because of this course, the three categories of sex, gender, and sexuality, the categories that a WGSS major focuses on, have become even more complex. Andrew highly recommends that majors, minors, and those interested in the queer aspects of WGSS take this course. "It will alter the way you see and study sex, gender, and sexuality in an incredibly beneficial manner."
As the trees shed their leaves and fall begins to arrive we are continually reminded that students come and go each year and new students greet our doors becoming majors, minors, and graduate certificate students. Although we hate to say goodbye to our outstanding students, we truly hope that they have gained knowledge, friendships, and memories from their studies here in WGSS.

Such is true for our postdoctoral fellow, Alexis Matza. Alexis has been with the WGSS faculty for 3 years and has brought to this program a wealth of knowledge, expertise, humor and most importantly, friendship. Alexis will be saying farewell to WGSS in spring 2012.

Alexis came to our program from the University of Iowa where she obtained her PhD in Anthropology. Her dissertation was on "The Boston ‘T’ Party: Masculinity, Testosterone Therapy and Embodiment Among Aging Men and Transgender Men," exploring the relationship between testosterone and culturally changing conceptions of masculinity.

As a postdoctoral fellow in WGSS, Alexis has contributed to our program vastly by presenting at our graduate certificate colloquium, attending meetings with the WGSS faculty and through her teaching. Alexis taught Masculinities and Queer Theory along with developing two courses for WGSS. The first course, Biomedicalization: Life Under Medical Authority investigates the ways in which medical authority is able to legitimate or de-legitimate physical, mental, and social states as medical issues. Her other newly developed course, Queering Theory uses theory to destabilize the concepts of race, sexuality, gender, disability, and academic methodology.

As Alexis departs, we wish her the best in all her future endeavors.