A Word from Our Director

Historians are taught to search for patterns in the evidence they use, to pay attention to continuities, and to take notice of disruptions, discontinuities, and change over time. In thinking about the past twenty–five years that I have been acquainted with what is now Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Washington University, in this, its thirty-first year, here is what I can say:

We now have more core faculty than the Program had in the past. By the early 1990s, only two faculty members had appointments in the Program, one a senior lecturer and the other a tenured faculty member. The Intro course was taught largely by adjunct faculty. Most courses in the Program were cross-listings from other departments. They were few and far between and could not be counted on as regular offerings. Now we have three full-time lecturers, two tenured fully appointed faculty, and two tenured faculty with fifty percent appointments. In addition, three faculty from other programs offer regular courses in WGSS. In the early 1990s we had no affiliate faculty, now we have over thirty in Arts & Sciences, Law, Social Work, and Medicine (St. Louis University). More recently, we have added a postdoctoral appointment to the Program. We occasionally invite outside visiting faculty to participate in the Program.

In the realm of course offerings, we routinely offer eighteen to twenty home-based courses each semester; in two of those at the introductory level, we provide multiple sections. And we usually have between ten and fifteen cross-listed courses from other departments. Over the past four years, we have had so many new courses, including those in service learning, that we have had to adjust our major requirements twice. We also now offer one exclusively graduate level course for our WGSS Graduate Certificate students and any other graduate students who would like to take it (Advanced Feminist Theory), as well as a great variety of advanced courses that enroll our graduate students.

Our name has changed, from Women's Studies from the 1970s to the early 2000s, to Women and Gender Studies to 2006, to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, commensurate with our expanding curriculum and faculty expertise.

Our administrative structure has changed. In the early 1990s, we had a Program Coordinator and a part-time Administrative Assistant. We now have a Director, an Associate Director (Barbara Baumgartner), and a full-time Administrative Assistant (Donna Kepley), along with Work Study students who assist in the office.

Our facilities have drastically changed. We moved from three rooms in the cellar of Bush Hall to a suite of 5 offices between the second and third floors of Bush to the 13 rooms we now occupy on the second floor in Old McMillan.

Most importantly, our intellectual presence on campus has grown significantly. From co-sponsoring a few events a year twenty-five years ago, we now hold an annual colloquium.
series, which meets once a month throughout the academic year, providing opportunities for faculty from across the university working on gender issues to present their work. We also present two lectures in Global/Transnational Feminist and Gender Issues each academic year by invited faculty from other universities and occasionally from Washington University. We have developed a WGSS Graduate Certificate Program, which brings students from other Arts & Sciences departments into the Program for course work, academic and social interaction with other students and faculty, and opportunities for leadership and professional development. Our graduate certificate students participate in a workshop and the Colloquium Series. They help to produce our newsletter *Gender Spectrum*. And they train in, and develop their own versions and teach sections of, our Intro to WGSS and Intro to Women's Texts courses. The Joint TAship is a vital opportunity for graduate students to develop interdisciplinary teaching skills in addition to academic expertise in feminist, gender, and sexuality studies.

Along the way, we have seen disruption, growth, and change in the Program. The willingness of the Dean of A&S and the History Department in 1996 to support our first joint appointment (Andrea Friedman) in WGSS and History started the process. We subsequently added a joint appointment in Political Science and another in Anthropology. Although we lost those particular faculty members, we continued to request such appointments and gained one replacement. The Stiritz endowment was a major and welcome stimulus to change in 2000. We recruited Linda Nicholson, as the William and Susan Stiritz Endowed Chair in Women and Gender Studies and Director of the Program, and worked on building joint appointments. Eventually we gained another in Political Science and one in Psychology. These faculty left the University, but with a change in policy in Arts & Sciences, we began appointing faculty (in addition to Linda Nicholson) fully in WGSS, moving away from joint appointments. Over time, the University administration recognized the great promise of the kinds of interdisciplinary work WGSS sustains and now supports the program with additional resources. Our most recent initiative is a partnership with Rutgers and the University of Belgrade in the Croatian-government-sponsored Inter-University Center in Dubrovnik, Croatia, co-sponsoring the annual Feminist Critical Analysis conference/course. Scholars and graduate students from Washington University will participate each year, along with scholars from the U.S. and Europe. WGSS will be involved with our partner institutions in shaping the content of the conference/course.

We are now at a point of even more significant change, the kind of change the Stiritz endowment initiated, but that requires even more resources. As part of the University's capital campaign, we are participating in the development of a Center for Research in Women, Gender, and Sexuality. The Center will provide the administrative infrastructure, material resources, and intellectual space for faculty from across the campus to collaborate in research informed by feminist theory, gender analysis, and sexuality studies. We envision working with faculty in medicine and public health on gender and health issues; with faculty in sciences on women in science; and with faculty in social work on public health and gender. We envision bringing to campus scholars as postdoctoral fellows performing cutting-edge research, established researchers working with our faculty in their areas of expertise, and doctoral students collaborating with our own graduate certificate students and faculty on gender- and sexually-related projects of mutual interest. Such collaborations are bound to have an enriching impact on our undergraduates as well—providing them opportunities to attend conferences, workshops, and lectures relevant to their own research and learning interests. Washington University, uniquely positioned because of its size and the quality of its faculty in the professional schools as well as in Arts & Sciences, would be the only private university in the Midwest to house such a research center. We look forward to help with its development from students, alumni, and other friends of the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Program and the University.
In Memoriam to Two Feminist Icons: Shulamith Firestone and Adrienne Rich

Shulamith Firestone, feminist author of the bestselling *Dialectic of Sex* passed away from natural causes at the end of August, 2012. She was 67 years old. *The Dialectic of Sex* was published in 1970, when Firestone was only 25 years old. The book sought, in Firestone's words, to posit "a materialist view of history based on sex itself" by combining Marxism with radical feminism. A landmark text in second-wave feminism, Firestone's provocative writing has inspired readers for decades. "The goals of feminism," she urged, "can never be achieved through evolution, but only through revolution." Born in Ottawa, Canada, Firestone was raised in Kansas City and University City, MO. She attended Washington University in St. Louis briefly before moving to Chicago, where she completed her education at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Suffering from mental illness for many years, Firestone was isolated and reclusive in the latter years of her life. She lived a quiet life, painting, reading, and writing. Her only other book *Airless Spaces*, published in 1998, provides an account of her hospitalization in the 1980s.

Adrienne Rich, a prolific feminist poet, essayist, and activist, died in Santa Cruz California on March 27, 2012, from complications of rheumatoid arthritis at the age of 82. One of the leading figures in the women's liberation movement, Rich came out as a lesbian in 1976 and in 1980 published the groundbreaking essay "Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence," in which she argued against the normalization of women's heterosexuality. Although best remembered for bringing the oppression of lesbians to the fore of American feminism, Rich's work addressed a number of issues including marriage, maternity, Jewish identity, racism, and the Vietnam War. Her last book of poetry, entitled *Tonight No Poetry Will Serve*, was published in 2010. Rich believed that art and politics could not be separated. In 1997, she refused to accept the National Medal of the Arts in protest against the House of Representatives' vote to end the National Endowment for the Arts. Art, she argued, "means nothing if it simply decorates the dinner table of the power which holds it hostage."
As Linda Nicholson, the Susan E. and William P. Stiritz Distinguished Professor in Women’s Studies and Professor in History, puts it, had she not become a professor, she would have become a therapist. Her diverse academic and interpersonal skills, and thirteen years of experience in university-wide committees, made her the right choice to become the new faculty Ombuds on the Danforth Campus to replace Susan Appleton, JD, the Lemma Barkeloo and Phoebe Couzins Professor of Law. Professor Appleton served as the Danforth campus faculty Ombuds since the office was formed in 2010.

Throughout their tenure, faculty members face a variety of trying situations. Nicholson wants the Ombuds Office to be "a first stop place for faculty to talk through these situations and gain some ideas about how to deal with them." According to Nicholson, "the academic world is a social world. People have conflicts. Some people behave badly. However, a bad work environment is not good for the institution. It is to the good of the university if people enjoy being on campus working with each other. People being angry, resentful or scared is not." The Ombuds Office – which is grounded in confidentiality, independence, impartiality and informality – creates a space where problems can be resolved without necessarily moving through formal channels.

The job, though, is not without its constraints. Each school has its own structures and rules. Nicholson, however, welcomes the challenge: "I've been a researcher, a scholar, a teacher. This is a little bit new. I have served on a million committees. There's something exciting about this new job!" We have no doubt that Linda Nicholson will serve her term as Ombuds well, and we wish her the best.
WGSS Faculty News

Amy Cislo's "Us & Them: Teaching Students to Critically Analyze Gender in a Global Context" is forthcoming in Elizabeth Ribarsky & Michael J. Murphy's Activities for Teaching Gender and Sexuality in the University Classroom. She presented "Partnering with Girl Scouts USA for a Women's Studies Course: An Outcomes Report" at the NWSA conference in November.

Barbara Baumgartner presented "Anatomy Lessons: Reading the Body in Emily Dickinson's Poetry" at the Missouri History Museum in St. Louis in August as part of the Perspectives on Science and History Lecture Series. In October, she presented a paper called "Concealing to Reveal: The Veiled Woman in The Hidden Hand" and chaired a panel on "Memoirs and Life Writing," at the Society for the Study of American Women Writers in Denver.

Susan Stiritz and Jon Branfman's article entitled "Teaching Anal Pleasure: Challenging Gender with Prostate Education" is forthcoming in The American Journal of Sexuality Education in December. Professor Stiritz presented "Hooking Up As Neoliberal Practice" at the International Conference of Law and Society in Honolulu in June and led a two-hour workshop at the National Conference of the American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors, and Therapists: "Transforming Fraternities' Sexual Cultures with Student-Centered, Pleasure-Focused, Gender-Inclusive Sexuality Education," in Austin, TX in June.

Elizabeth Childs was named the Etta and Mark Steinberg Professor of Art History in the Department of Art History and Archaeology. In June, she served as an invited speaker at the Study Day for the major exhibition "Gauguin, Cézanne, Matisse: Visions of Arcadia" at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. In November, she delivered "Sensation in Tahiti: Women, Water, and the Anti-modernisms of Gauguin" in the symposium "Renoir, Gauguin, Cézanne - Modernism and Anti-Modernism" at the new Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia.

Tonya Edmond presented "Types of Childhood Abuse and Risk for Interpersonal Violence Among Adolescent Females" at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting in October. She published "Mexican Immigrant Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence: Determinations and Descriptions of Abuse" (Violence and Victims) and "Evaluation of a Spiritually Focused Intervention with Older Trauma Survivors" (Social Work). She has two forthcoming articles: "Use of Mental Health Services by Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence" in Social Work in Mental Health and "Negative Religious Coping as a Mediator of Trauma Symptoms in Older Survivors" in the Journal of Religion, Spirituality & Aging.


Rebecca Messbarger was promoted to Professor of Italian and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. She organized and co-chaired the international conference "The Enlightenment Pope: Benedict XIV (1675-1758)" held April 30-May 2 at Washington University, Saint Louis University and the Missouri History Museum. Her article "The Re-Birth of Venus in Florence's Royal Museum of Physics and Natural History" was published in The Oxford Journal of the History of Collections.
Craig Monson published *Divas in the Convent: Nuns, Music, and Defiance in 17th-Century Italy* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press) and presented "Le pene sofferte per te son glorie, vittorie d'un'Alma ch'ha fe': Bodily Mortification in Convent Choir Lofts" at the Society for Sixteenth Century Studies Conference in October.


Vivian Pollak gave a talk for the English Department Faculty Colloquium in April, 2012, on "Helen Hunt Jackson and Emily Dickinson's Personal Publics." In October, she presented "Muriel Rukeyser, Emily Dickinson, and Citizenship" at The Society for the Study of American Women Writers. She organized two sessions for the Emily Dickinson International Society: one on "Dickinson's Endings" and the other (which she chaired) on "Dickinson's Development."


Gaylyn Studlar's, *Precocious Charms: Stars Performing Girlhood in Classical Hollywood Cinema* will be out in January 2013 (University of California Press). She presented, "Making the Dandy Mythical" in *Have Guns Will Travel* at the Film & History Conference in October.


**WGSS Visiting Professor: Cricket Keating**

Dr. Christine Keating is Associate Professor of Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies at Ohio State University and is visiting professor at Washington University in St. Louis this semester, teaching "Gender and Politics in Global Perspective." She has greatly enjoyed her time teaching at Washington University, and is impressed by students’ hard work and attentiveness to course material both inside and outside of the classroom. She enjoys analyzing and trying on different theories of democracy, politics and gender in class.

An avid world traveler, she will be conducting research in Sri Lanka in the spring of 2013. Dr. Keating works in the areas of feminist political theory, global and transnational feminisms, democratic theory, and postcolonial and critical race theory. She is particularly interested in the relationship of gender and racial justice to questions of democratic participation and solidarity. In July of 2011, her book *Decolonizing Democracy: Transforming the Social Contract in India*, was published by Penn State Press. This fascinating work explores the formation of Indian democracy as a "postcolonial social contract."

Known affectionately in WGSS as "Cricket," Dr. Keating has contributed her work to various colloquia and conferences on campus. On October 31, 2012, she presented her article "Resignification, Decolonization, and Sexual Politics in Ecuador," at the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program Fall 2012 Colloquium Series, with Dr. Yuko Miki, Assistant Professor of History at Washington University as commentator.
## Home-Based WGSS Course Offerings

### Fall 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>L77 100B</td>
<td>Intro to Women and Gender Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>L77 105</td>
<td>Intro to Sexuality Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>L77 214C</td>
<td>Intro to Women's Texts: You Write Like a Girl!</td>
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<tr>
<td>L77 3031</td>
<td>Queer Theory</td>
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<td>L77 304</td>
<td>Sex, Gender, and Popular Culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>L77 3131</td>
<td>Service Learning: Contemporary Sex Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>L77 316</td>
<td>Contemporary Women's Health</td>
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<td>L77 343</td>
<td>Understanding the Evidence: Provocative Topics of Contemporary Women's Health and Reproduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>L77 3561</td>
<td>Women and the Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>L77 357B</td>
<td>Gender and Politics in Global Perspective</td>
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<td>L77 370:</td>
<td>Service Learning: Sex, Lies and Myths of the Mother</td>
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<tr>
<td>L77 392</td>
<td>Feminist Research Methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>L77 414</td>
<td>Gender, Religion, Medicine and Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>L77 420</td>
<td>Contemporary Feminisms</td>
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### Spring 2013

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<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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<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: Writing Love in Times of War: Latin American Women Writing Modernity</td>
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<td>L77 308</td>
<td>Service Learning: Girls' Studies</td>
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<td>L77 3132</td>
<td>Service Learning: Women and Prison</td>
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<tr>
<td>L77 3171</td>
<td>Service Learning: Women and Prison</td>
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<td>L77 3401</td>
<td>Performing Gender</td>
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<tr>
<td>L77 3561</td>
<td>Women and the Law</td>
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<td>L77 360</td>
<td>Transgender Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>L77 391</td>
<td>Social Construction of Female Sexuality</td>
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<td>L77 393</td>
<td>Violence Against Women: Current Issues and Responses</td>
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<tr>
<td>L77 3942</td>
<td>Service Learning: Projects in Domestic Violence</td>
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<tr>
<td>L77 3943</td>
<td>Violence Against Women Court Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>L77 396</td>
<td>Women and Social Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>L77 4071</td>
<td>Topics in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies: Identity, Intimacy, and the Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>L77 419</td>
<td>Feminist Literary and Cultural Theory</td>
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<td>L77 420</td>
<td>Contemporary Feminisms</td>
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<tr>
<td>L77 475</td>
<td>Intellectual History of Feminisms</td>
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Undergraduate Spotlight Shines on Jeremy Scheiner

Jeremy Scheiner has been involved in the WGSS department as both a major and a TA for Dr. Cislo's Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies course, and says that the department has completely shaped his world view. He says, "People often ask me why I am majoring in WGSS and I always say 'because it teaches me about life. After taking so many wonderful courses with amazing professors, I now have a better understanding of myself and others around me.'" One of his most meaningful experiences in WGSS was taking Lynnea Brumbaugh's, Service Learning: Sex, Lies, and Myths of the Mother course. He spoke enthusiastically about the class: "I had never stopped to think about what my mother had to give up to take care of me or the full extent of a mother's work. Not to mention, I got a chance to go and hang out at Dr. Cislo's house and talk to her about her experiences as a mother!"

In addition to WGSS, Jeremy is also an Education Studies major. When he is not in class, he loves engaging with students of all levels. He currently works with elementary school students at Kids' Place, with middle school students as the Coordinator for the Each One Teach One: KIPP program, and with high school students with Each One Teach One: College Bound. When he is not mentoring younger students, he spends time as a Sophomore Resident Advisor.

After he graduates, he still hopes to be involved in social justice related to sex, gender, and sexuality. He is not sure exactly what he will end up doing, but is certain that his experiences in the WGSS department will shape his future: "I don't know if I will end up with a job at an advocacy group, but I will continue to be an advocate for the rights of women, LGBTQIA, and other minority groups. As I mentioned before, WGSS has completely changed my worldview. Becoming a major has been one of the best decisions I have ever made in college."

Sanibonani from South Africa!

Sanibonani (Greetings) from South Africa! I've been volunteering as an HIV outreach worker with the Peace Corps since January 2012. My first two months I lived and did training in a small rural village. There I stayed with a host family and learned to speak basic isiZulu.

Now I live in the province of KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), home of President Jacob Zuma, Lady Smith Black Mambazo and King Shaka. I volunteer with a local government and work on a team to facilitate AIDS-coordinating structures. Day-to-day my position involves co-planning and co-facilitating events and workshops, including HIV behavior change campaigns.

South Africa has 5.6 million people living with HIV. A promising intervention is the wide-scale implementation of medical male circumcision (MMC), which can reduce HIV transmission from women to men by up to 60%. HIV is not in recession.

Hamba kahle!
Dan Woznica, WGSS Alumni, Class of 2011
Anupama Rao, the first speaker in this year's Global Feminism Lecture Series discussed the exploration of caste and gender subalternity through the experience of colonial urbanity. In her talk, "Violence, Value, and the Sex of Labor: Notes from the Social Life of Dalit Bombay," she addressed caste and gender as discrete, yet related body histories which were shaped by perceptual logics of twentieth-century Bombay. The Dalits, a highly stigmatized caste also known as the “untouchables” accounted for 10 to 20 percent of labor in Bombay. Rao focused on how they were represented in the public and in popular culture of the period. The Dalits found inspiration in Marxist theory and the Black Panther movement in the United States. Women’s voices were not generally heard in the highly masculine Dalit caste politics. Few male writers treated female sexuality.
Professor Susan Stratiz admiring the WGSS Class of 2012 T-Shirts

Professor Barbara Baumgartner speaking with a graduate

Congratulations and Best Wishes to the Class of 2012

WGSS Honors Thesis Graduate Ashley Brosius and Professor Linda Nicholson

WGSS Faculty and Graduates
This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program at Washington University. WGSS had a very special celebration in store for our graduates. Gloria Steinem, writer, lecturer, editor, and feminist activist spent some personal time with WGSS students in an informal question and answer session in the Women's Building Formal Lounge on May 17th. Steinem, co-founder of Ms Magazine, which also celebrates its 40th year in publication, shared advice and her own life experiences with graduates.

We bid the Class of 2012 a fond adieu and wish for them the best as they embark upon their journey beyond Washington University. We hope they keep us informed about their new adventures!

Graduate Certificate Student Updates

Mary Stewart Atwell recently published a novel called Wild Girls (Scribner and Doubleday, Canada).

Alejandra Aguilar Dornelles is currently working on her dissertation entitled "Freedom’s Heirs: Racial Criminalization and Exclusion in Colombia, Brazil, and Cuba (1830-1912)." In Spring 2013, Maria will teach Introduction to Women’s Texts: Writing Love in Times of War: Latin American Women Writing Modernity, providing students the opportunity to discuss issues raised by Latin American women writers and artists from the 19th century to the present.

Livia Hinegardner Stone is now a visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Latin American Studies at Colby College in Waterville, Maine.

Amanda Lee just returned from a summer research trip to Paris, where she worked in the archives of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France investigating nineteenth-century periodicals, stage sets, costumes, and correspondences between ballerinas and poets, as part of her dissertation "The Poetics of Dance: Representations of Ballet in French Literature."

Matthew Miller will be presenting a paper at the Middle Eastern Studies Association entitled "Aesthetic Homonormativity in Medieval Persian Sufism: A Cultural Poetics of Sufi Homoeroticism in the Biographical Traditions of Fakhr al-Din ‘Erāqī."

Sara Potter returned to St. Louis after a year in Mexico City on a Fulbright García Robles scholarship. She has an article "¿Había ...una vez?: Los cuentos de hadas y la construcción del mito de la historia mexicana en 'Los recuerdos del porvenir.'" ("Once Upon...Just One Time?: Fairy Tales and the Construction of the Myth of Mexican History in 'Recollections of Things to Come") forthcoming in Hispanófila,

Norma Suvak spent 2011 and 2012 at the Freie Universität Berlin researching her dissertation "Reading Women: Continuities and Discontinuities in Didactic Literature for Young Women from 1850-1930."

WGSS Celebrates 40 Years at Washington University

Gloria Steinem displays graduation t-shirt
WOMEN, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES PROGRAM
FALL 2012 COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Thursday September 20, 4:00-5:30 pm
Adrienne Davis, Vice Provost and William M. Van Cleve Professor of Law
Washington University in St. Louis
"Regulating Sex Work"
Commentator: Anca Parvulescu, Associate Professor of English
Washington University in St. Louis
Location: Duncker Hall, Hurst Lounge

Thursday, October 11, 4:00-5:30 pm
Amy Cislo, Lecturer in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Washington University in St. Louis
"But We're Just Girl Scouts: The Curious Relationship Between American Feminism and Girl Scouts USA 1912-2012"
Commentator: Mary Ann Dzuback, Director & Associate Professor in the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program and Associate Professor of Education and History
Washington University in St. Louis
Location: McMillan Hall, Room 211

Wednesday, October 31, 4:40-6:00 pm
Christine Keating, Visiting Professor in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Washington University in St. Louis
Associate Professor of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Ohio State University
"Resignification, Decolonization and Sexual Politics in Ecuador"
Commentator: Yuko Miki, Assistant Professor of History
Washington University in St. Louis
Location: McMillan Hall, Room 211

Thursday, November 29, 3:30-5:00 pm
Zhao Ma, Assistant Professor of Modern Chinese History and Culture
East Asian Languages and Cultures
Washington University in St. Louis
"Wayward Daughters: Sex, Family, and Law in Early Twentieth-Century Beijing"
Commentator: Susan Brownell, Professor of Anthropology
University of Missouri-St. Louis
Location: McMillan Hall, Room 219