A Word from Our Director

The Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies faculty are contributing to the Washington University campus and local community with a variety of exciting activities and events this year. Rebecca Wanzo has been appointed to a three-and-a-half year term as Associate Director of the Center for the Humanities, whose Director is Jean Allman, Professor of History and WGSS (affiliate). Jeffrey McCune has been appointed to a two-year term as Director of the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program in the College of Arts & Sciences. The program helps support students who have aspirations to becoming scholars, completing a major research project, and eventually enrolling in graduate school. In response to the crisis in Ferguson, Missouri, Professors Wanzo and McCune also organized a panel entitled "Race, Place, and Violence: A University-Wide Dialogue about Michael Brown." The panel included community activists and local scholars and drew hundreds of people in the wake of the killing of Michael Brown. Amy Cislo has been on the planning committee for a conference being held at the University of Missouri-St. Louis this November. The conference is entitled Transgender Spectrum, and Professor Cislo will be delivering a plenary address at the conference. As a member of the seven-member faculty steering committee that proposed the project, Barbara Baumgartner has helped to organize the Washington University Prison Education Program in which University faculty teach at Missouri Eastern Correctional Center (MECC) in Pacific, Missouri. Professor Baumgartner and Jami Ake co-taught a writing workshop in another college's course at the prison this fall. Professor Baumgartner will be teaching Introduction to American Literature there in spring of 2015. She will also be teaching her Women and Prison service learning course in spring. With the students in her class she will be visiting the Women's Eastern Reception, Diagnostic and Correctional Center (WERCC) in Vandalia, Missouri, as well as the Northeast Correctional Center (for men). Her students will perform the service portion of their class work with the women inmates at the St. Louis County Jail in downtown Clayton. Linda Nicholson continues as the Danforth Campus's Ombuds for a second two-year term. Professor Nicholson and Amber Musser organized the American Intimacies Initiative through the American Culture Studies Program. The Initiative is designed to focus on the theoretical, cultural, and historical dimensions of intimate relationships. So far this year, they have brought in two speakers, Jennifer Nash and Steven Seidman, to discuss their work. And Postdoctoral Fellow Cynthia Barounis has been working closely with Professor Baumgartner to develop the Queer Theory reading group.

I was involved with Shanti Parikh (Anthropology and WGSS affiliate) and others organizing a showing and a panel on a documentary film, "Girl Rising." The event was initiated by PricewaterhouseCoopers, with cooperation from the YWCA; the Diversity Awareness Partnership; and the Office of the Provost, Women's Society, and Women's Club.
of Washington University, and held on campus. The film explores the lives of nine girls in different parts of the world, and their struggles to obtain an education and a better life for themselves and others in their communities. The event was designed to raise awareness and help spur activism and support on behalf of women and girls in the St. Louis area and around the world. WGSS clearly has an educative role to play in this community and our faculty are enthusiastically embracing efforts to generate both intellectual and social transformation. Our alumni are also working for change in a variety of locations (see pp. 12-13), carrying on the legacy of the Program's commitment to rigorous scholarship and committed engagement with our communities.

In addition to campus and local activities, WGSS continues to co-sponsor with Rutgers University and the University of Belgrade the Feminist Critical Analysis course/conference in Dubrovnik, Croatia. The 2014 focus was "Feminism's Affective Objects." Participating Washington University faculty included Adrienne Davis (Law), Mary Ann Dzuback, Amber Musser, Anca Parvulescu (English), and Rebecca Wanzo. Professors Musser and Parvulescu presented papers, as did Claire Class (WGSS Graduate Certificate and English Ph.D. candidate), and Professors Wanzo and Parvulescu led a workshop for graduate students and faculty from the Rutgers; the universities of Belgrade, Vienna, Bourdeaux, Michigan, Utrecht, Swedish Agricultural Sciences; and Central European University. The five-day conference explored multiple meanings and applications of affect theory and offered opportunities for exciting scholarly and social interaction.

"Harvesting Honey: Performing the Oral Histories of Southern Black Women Who Love Women"
Presentation by E. Patrick Johnson

Scholar, artist, and activist E. Patrick Johnson, Carlos Montezuma Professor of Performance Studies and African American Studies at Northwestern University, gave a public lecture at Washington University in St. Louis on October 27, 2014 entitled "Harvesting Honey: Performing the Oral Histories of Southern Black Women Who Love Women." Johnson has performed nationally and internationally, and has published widely in the area of race, gender, sexuality, and performance. He is the author of Sweet Tea: Gay Black Men of the South (2008), a work that gives voice to the life stories of gay Black men who were born, raised, and continue to live in the Southern United States. Other publications by Johnson include Appropriating Blackness: Performance and the Politics of Authenticity (2003), Black Queer Studies: A Critical Anthology (edited with Mae G. Henderson, 2005), solo/black/women: scripts, interviews, and essays (edited with Ramon H. Rivera-Servera, 2013), and Cultural Struggles: Performance, Ethnography, Praxis (2013). Additionally, Johnson has published numerous articles in journals such as Women's Studies Quarterly, Text and Performance Quarterly, Theatre History Studies, and Journal of Homosexuality.

In his talk, Johnson introduced his work on his new book project Honey Pot: Black Southern Women Who Love Women, a companion book to Sweet Tea. The lack of studies devoted to Black same-gender-loving women of the South prompted Johnson not only to fill the void of historical accounts on the topic, but also to give Black Southern lesbian women a platform for their voices (as in Sweet Tea, Johnson considers women who were born, raised, and still live in the South).

In his research for the book, Johnson interviewed 81 Southern Black women collecting their life stories about same-gender-loving experiences from 1930 to the present in form of oral narratives. Aware of the gender difference between researcher and subjects of study, Johnson applied a methodology that is guided by a sense of ethics and that acknowledges his position of male privilege. Initially concerned that the gender difference might inhibit these women from opening up, Johnson was surprised to find out that some women agreed to talk to him because he is a man as they were not afraid to be judged for their choices and actions. Johnson noted the importance of entering each interview with vulnerability.
and humility and he revealed that in some instances he got so emotionally affected that the narrator ended up comforting him.

Throughout his talk, Johnson pointed to performance as a key method for oral history. He described oral history as an embodied practice and an act of performing one's life history. The women, he explained, revealed themselves to him and to themselves, sometimes for the first time. Johnson acknowledged the problem of documenting oral histories, namely the loss of the performative aspects that occur when transmission takes place through text. However, Johnson is more concerned with what oral histories do for the narrators, how his presence affects the narrator, how he is affected by the narrator's story, and how the narrators remember and express their memories. In this vein, Johnson wants to give these women a platform to validate their lives. He wants these narratives to bring from margin to center the stories of these women. Thus, he is not interested in analyzing the narratives for their truth, but rather in analyzing the ethnographic encounters. Ultimately, Johnson sees *Honey Pot* as an archive of oral histories that other scholars can use.

In the second part of the talk, Johnson gave incredible performances of selected narratives. His performances skillfully captured not only the oral narrative itself, but also the personality and emotionality of the narrator, as well as the atmosphere at the time of narration. The audience was not only entertained by the humor, but also emotionally moved by the gravity of Johnson’s performance. Johnson’s emotional response to the narratives he performed underlined the special connection he made with these women during his interviews.

The talk was followed by a lively discussion in which Johnson revealed that he is considering developing a staging of these narratives similar to his one-man show in which he performs the narratives from *Sweet Tea*. For this staging, however, Johnson will not be performing the narratives himself, but rather is considering inviting female performers. He is still contemplating whether he should be part of the performance, either physically or symbolically. We hope that he can return to Washington University and St. Louis to share the play as it develops.
Jennifer Nash gave a talk, entitled "The Institutional Life of Intersectionality, or Notes on Feminist Fatigue," on Washington University's campus on October 9th. The room was filled with faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates, and the general atmosphere of the room was hardly "fatigued"; on the contrary, Nash's insights sparked rich and stirring intellectual conversation.

Nash is Assistant Professor of American Studies at George Washington University. Her research draws on feminist theory; Black feminism and Black sexual politics; race and representation; and race, gender, and law. Her recent book, *The Black Body in Ecstasy: Reading Race, Reading Pornography* (2014), offers an important intervention in Black feminist theory and sexuality studies: resisting notions that racialized representations of Black women in 1970s and 1980s pornography only oppress and injure Black female subjectivities and bodies, Nash argues that these representations can in fact provide a space for pleasure and play—in short, for agency. Her recent publications include "Institutionalizing the Margins" in *Social Text*, "Black Analgy" in *GLQ*, and "Desiring Desiree" in the forthcoming *From Porno Chic to the Sex Wars*, edited by Carolyn and Whitney Strub and published by University of Massachusetts Press.

Her recent book project, *Black Feminism Remixed* (the project out of which comes Nash’s October 9th talk) draws on archival evidence to investigate the complex, and often fraught, relationships between Black feminism and women's studies—and the university at large. Her talk historicized the institutionalization of black feminism and, from there, the institutionalization of intersectionality, a critical methodology that emerged from Black feminist thought. As she navigated through the complex political and intellectual politics that have informed Black feminism's relationship with this methodology, as well as representations of that relationship within women's studies and more generally within the humanities, she argued that black feminism has been constituted as both in the past (as conservative or defensive) and in the future (an aspiration always on the horizon), but rarely in the present—thus engendering a sense of fatigue for scholars whose work is grounded in Black feminist thought. "An origin story always has a politics," Nash said near the end of her talk. Indeed, the history of intersectionality and Black feminism she traces here has significant political implications for the ways in which scholars in women's studies and beyond might think critically about our methodologies, histories and politics.
"What Women?:
The Challenge of Transnational Feminisms"
Presentation by Jocelyn Olcott

On October 14th Jocelyn Olcott, Associate Professor of History and Women's Studies at Duke University, visited campus as part of the Global and Transnational Feminisms Lecture Series. Her thought-provoking lecture was titled: "What Woman?: The Challenge of Transnational Feminisms." Drawing from her manuscript, Olcott examined The International Woman's Year Conference, a UN-sponsored event that took place in Mexico City and is widely considered a watershed moment in women's activism. More specifically she analyzed 1) how the IWY conference, and the disparate episodes it embodied, came to be considered one single "event," 2) how the given event came to be understood as a pivotal historical moment, and 3) how it produced a novel, albeit incoherent, historical subject. While tracing the intricacies of the conference and the larger historical, political, and social issues it represented, Olcott showed how the event brought together women from diverse national, cultural, racial, and economic backgrounds, such as white American feminist Betty Freidan and Bolivian tin miner's wife Domitila Barrios de Chungara. However, such unions were far from harmonious. For example, the two aforementioned attendees broke out in a clash that is now famous. Yet Olcott contended that these explosions exemplified what anthropologist Anna Tsing famously dubbed the "friction" of global encounters, and were thus generative.

During her visit, Olcott also held an informal but highly productive workshop with faculty and graduate students on the challenges that the transnational and digital turns present to scholars interested in women and gender. While participants discussed ethical and epistemological concerns, they also considered the serious opportunities that both turns pose to feminist researchers. Professors and graduate students—such as Julian Lim and Britta Anderson, who both study the US-Mexico border—were able to share and discuss examples of challenges they have personally encountered when doing "transnational local research."
Faculty Spotlight: Denise Elif-Gill

Denise Elif Gill joined the Washington University community three years ago, and since then, her diverse contributions to the university have spanned the spectrum of intellectual, pedagogical, and musical work. She received her Ph.D. in Ethnomusicology and in Feminist Studies from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and is currently an Assistant Professor of Ethnomusicology and an Affiliate of both WGSS and the Department of Jewish, Islamic and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures. Drawing on feminist, post-colonial, critical, and affect theories, Gill's current work interrogates affect in Turkey, and is drawn from over thirty months of ethnographic and archival work. In her book, *Melancholic Modalities: Affect and Contemporary Turkish Classical Musicians*, she investigates how musicians' melancholic modalities, while individually felt, are deeply rooted in Islamic devotional practices, deployed in resistance to normative secularism in present-day Turkish public life, and ultimately function to connect individuals to one another. Her future research projects will focus on soundscapes of war, Syrian refugees in Turkey, and how music-making is a reparative practice after significant trauma.

Professor Gill is committed to critical pedagogies, and has been recognized numerous times for her excellence in teaching, such as the Outstanding Teaching Award from the Academic Senate at UCSB in 2010. She has taught classes on gender, sexuality, healing, medical humanities, Islam, Muslim media practices, and ethnomusicological theories and methodologies. She is especially excited about her upcoming upper-level undergraduate class offered in Spring 2015: "Islam, Music, and Muslim Media Practices." Students will study ritual and media, media and revolt in the context of the Arab Spring, and various media forms such as popular musics, commercials, fashion, graffiti, and even the popular show "Arab Idol."

Aside from her academic pursuits, Gill is also a professional musician. She has played and toured internationally with her *kanun*—a Middle Eastern zither with more than 100 strings—for fourteen years. During her first year at Washington University she gave a solo recital to a full house, which she points out happened to be the only "non-western" musical event on our campus that year. She is actively working to change this situation, believing that diversity in artistic practices and productions is an immediate need for the campus community. Recently she played during Rohina Malik's performance of "Unveiled" at the Edison Theater.

Professor Gill hopes eventually to give another *kanun* solo recital. This time, she would like to perform pieces only by Ottoman women composers from the 17th through the 20th centuries, whom, she explains, were greater in number and much more prolific than Western European women composers during the same eras.
Anca Parvulescu, Professor of English and the Interdisciplinary Project in the Humanities and WGSS (Affiliate), published her book, *The Traffic in Women's Work: East European Migration and the Making of Europe*, with University of Chicago Press. It argues that the critical project of pluralizing Europe needs to account for the Europe brought together through the traffic in East European women. Reading recent cinematic texts that critically frame the traffic in women, the book shows that, in today's Europe, East European migrant women are "exchanged" so they can engage in labor traditionally performed by wives within the institution of marriage. East European migrant women, with women from the global South, become responsible for the biopolitical labor of reproduction, whether they work as domestics, nannies, nurses, sex workers, or wives.

Elizabeth Childs, Etta and Mark Steinberg Professor and Chair of the Department of Art History and Archaeology (A & S) and WGSS (Affiliate) delivered a paper on "Daumier and Impressionism" at an international symposium on Impressionist France, held at the Saint Louis Art Museum in March. In October, she presented, "Of Self and Other: Gauguin's Portraits" at the Kimbell Art Museum in Fort Worth, Texas. This December, she will be giving two talks in conjunction with the current exhibition at the Saint Louis Art Museum, "Atua: Sacred Gods from Polynesia." Her lecture, "In the World of Atua: Gauguin's Encounters with Polynesia" will be open to the public, and is scheduled for Dec. 19th at 7 p.m. in Farrell Auditorium at the Saint Louis Art Museum.

Amy Cislo, lecturer in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, was invited to participate in a workshop at Cambridge University on the History of Reproduction this summer. In November she will be a plenary speaker for the Transgender Spectrum Conference at UMSL (http://transgenderspectrum.com/). She will also present at the History of Science Society on how alchemical ideas about sexual dimorphism influenced early psychological theories of normative sex. This semester she is teaching two sections of our newly revised Intro Course: Introduction to Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies. She is also teaching Trans* studies. In her free time she leads a group of Girl Scouts who are working toward their Bronze Award for community service. This is her fifth year leading the troop.

Amber Musser, Assistant Professor of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, attended conferences on queer theory at Ohio State and material history at Bard College, and the Feminist Critical Analysis: Feminism's Affective Objects program with WGSS colleagues in Dubrovnik. Her book, *Sensational Flesh: Race, Power, and Masochism*, was published by NYU Press in September and she has given talks related to it at USC and Princeton.

Home-Based WGSS Course Offerings

Fall 2014

L77 100B  Intro to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
L77 206  Sexuality and the State: Introduction to Sexuality Studies
L77 214C  Intro to Women's Texts: Queer Modernisms
L77 316  Contemporary Women's Health
L77 3172  Queer Histories
L77 3255  Black Masculinities
L77 343  Understanding the Evidence: Provocative Topics of Contemporary Women's Health
L77 3561  Women and the Law
L77 360  Trans* Studies
L77 416  The Politics of Pleasure
L77 417  Feminist Research Methods
L77 421  From Mammy to the Welfare Queen: African American Women Theorize Identity
L77 499  Honors Thesis
L77 501  Advanced Feminist Theory

Spring 2015

L77 100B  Intro to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
L77 206  Sexuality and the State: Introduction to Sexuality Studies
L77 214C  Intro to Women's Texts: Shame, Humiliation, Violence, and Justice: Women Writing Back
L77 3013  On Love and Intimacy: Theorizing Kinships in the Multiple
L77 3171  Service Learning: Women in Prison
L77 3203  Bodies Out of Bounds: Feminist and Queer Disability Studies
L77 335  Feminist Theory
L77 3401  Performing Gender
L77 3561  Women and the Law
L77 383  Spectacular Blackness: Race, Gender and Visual Culture
L7 393  Violence Against Women
L77 3942  Service Learning: Projects in Domestic Violence
L77 419  Feminist Literary and Cultural Theory
L77 475  Intellectual History of Feminism
L77 499  Honors Thesis
Mackenzie Findlay, a senior in the WGSS program, has had quite an amazing year. Over the summer, she took a course through Washington University that allowed her to travel to Madagascar. There she was able to conduct interviews with women and key community leaders for her honors thesis on the cultural, spiritual and physical barriers for women accessing prenatal care in the rural community of Mahabo. Mackenzie and her classmates also worked on a number of development projects in collaboration with the Missouri Botanical Garden staff in Mahabo, including building a rice winnowing device, planting a garden near the hospital, and putting on skits about reproductive health with local youth.

When Mackenzie returned to the States, she headed straight to Washington D.C. to begin an internship working for U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA). While there, she helped write Cantwell's statement for the International Violence Against Women Act and attended multiple committee hearings. "Interning in DC has opened up so many doors and provided me with opportunities I never thought I would have," Mackenzie told us. "It was especially wonderful to work for Senator Maria Cantwell and to learn from such a smart, passionate woman." In September, Mackenzie was invited to volunteer at the Clinton Global Initiative Annual Meeting, where she spent five days in New York City working very closely with the United States Secret Service (USSS). As a liaison between the USSS and her team, she was able to sit in on every plenary session and hear both Hillary Clinton and President Obama speak.

Mackenzie says that her experiences this summer have played a large role in shaping her future career plans. The time she spent working with Maria Cantwell encouraged her to consider returning to Capitol Hill after graduation to do campaign work. She has also applied to be a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in Indonesia and a Luce Fellowship Scholar. Mackenzie is thrilled about the opportunities that being a WGSS major at Washington University has afforded her, and says she is looking forward to seeing what the future holds.
Benjamin Davis (German and WGSS)

Benjamin Davis (Ph.D. 2014) successfully defended his dissertation, "Masculinity and Politics in the Dramatic Works of Daniel Casper von Lohenstein," in May 2014. Following the completion of his dissertation he accepted a position as Lecturer in German at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He is currently working on an article length project, based on a chapter of his dissertation, which discusses the relationship between female masculinity and systems of power in Lohenstein's dramas.

Patrick Brugh (German and WGSS)

Patrick Brugh (Ph.D. 2012) has been working on his book manuscript entitled "Black Powder Plots." Currently, he is an Affiliate Professor in the Sociology Department and Liberal Studies Graduate Program at Loyola University Maryland, teaching gender and sexuality studies courses. He is also advising a LUMD graduate student on her thesis "Female Slave Narratives and Garrisonian Politics." Additionally, he is the Assistant Director of Admissions at Loyola Blakefield, a prep school in Baltimore Maryland.

David Holloway
(Comparative Literature and WGSS)

David Holloway (Ph.D. 2014) completed his dissertation, "Look at Me: Japanese Women Writers at the Millennial Turn," in 2014. After graduation he received a postdoctoral fellowship in the department of East Asian Languages and Cultures at Washington University in St. Louis. He is teaching classes on Japanese Civilization and Japanese Textual Analysis. In addition, he published a book review, has a longer article under review, and will be presenting at the annual Association for Asian Studies conference early next year.

Liv Hinegartner Stone (Anthropology and WGSS)

Liv Hinegartner Stone (Ph.D. 2013) is Assistant Professor of Cultural Anthropology in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Illinois State University. At last report, she is thriving there and working on her book prospectus.

Norma Suvak (German and WGSS)

Norma Suvak (Ph.D. 2013) was a Visiting Lecturer in Germanic Languages and Literatures in 2013-14, and just began her joint appointment as Assistant Professor of German and Women's Studies at Western Illinois University.

Gail Wolfe (Education and WGSS)

Gail Wolfe (Ph.D. 2013) has been teaching at Chatham University and the University of Pittsburgh, as well as California University of Pennsylvania, all in women, gender, and sexuality studies programs. At Chatham, she coordinated Gender and Contemporary Social Issues, a multi-section required seminar for first-year undergraduate students, and assisted instructors in developing their syllabi. She also created assessment materials and planned course-related campus events. Her dissertation, "Teaching Pregnant Students in Public Schools: A Historical Analysis," has just been awarded the 2014 Eggertsen Dissertation Prize from the History of Education Society. As the prize committee notes, the study "carefully examined the multiple ways that gender, race, and class compound inequality." Her work "has elevated previously understudied considerations of socioeconomic status alongside issues of race in the growing body of historical scholarship on access and public education."
Britta Anderson, (PhD candidate in Spanish Literature), will present a paper at the National Women's Studies Association conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico in November. Her paper, "Criminality and Spirituality in the US-Mexico Borderlands," examines visual art and poetry by incarcerated women in Mexico and California. She continues to work on her dissertation, "Criminals and Rituals in the Borderlands: New Discourses of Mobility," about recycled spiritual imagery in literary works and public murals that challenge the criminalization of women on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border.

Claire Class, (PhD candidate in English and American Literature), is continuing to work on her dissertation tentatively entitled "Typewriting: Literature, Gender, and Modernist Sociology in America, 1890-1930." In May, she presented a paper, "Sociological Fictions: Gender and Methodology in Charlotte Perkins Gilman's Herland," at the Feminist Critical Analysis conference in Dubrovnik, Croatia co-sponsored by WGSS. She will be studying abroad this spring.

Elisabeth Windle, (PhD candidate in English and American literature), presented her paper, "It never really was the same: Queer Nostalgia, the Down Low, and the Gay Harlem Renaissance" at the Queer Places, Practice, and Lives II conference at the Ohio State University in May.

Adrienne Strong, (PhD candidate in Sociocultural Anthropology), is in the field currently working on her dissertation project "Bureaucracy, Life, and Death on the Maternity Ward of a Tanzanian Hospital," and she'll be there in Sumbawanga, Tanzania until August 2015. She has also recently had two chapters accepted for publication in a forthcoming book entitled, " Maternal Mortality Risk Factors, Anthropological Perspectives, Prevalence in Developing Countries and Preventative Strategies for Pregnancy-Related Death." Her chapters are entitled "The Convergence of Social and Institutional Dynamics Resulting in Maternal Death in Rukwa, Tanzania" of which she is the single author, and the second chapter with co-author, Samwel Marwa, is entitled "Three Case Studies and Experiences with Maternal Death at a Regional Hospital in Rukwa, Tanzania." The edited volume will be coming out sometime in 2015. She has also just received a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad grant to fund her remaining fieldwork from October 2014-August 2015.

Matt Miller (PhD candidate in Comparative Literature) has become a Roshan Institute Fellow at the University of Maryland. He organized a seminar for the 2015 American Comparative Literature Association conference, entitled "Permutations of Desire in Persian Literature," in which he will present the following paper: "Queering the Qalandariyyā: The Poetics and Cultural Politics Desire in the Poetry and Biographical Tradition of the Qalandari Poets."
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Thursday, September 18th, 2:30-4:00 pm  
Claire McKinney  
Post-Doctoral Fellow in American Culture Studies  
"The Long History of Abortion Politics and Medicalized Citizenship"  
Commentator: Cynthia Barounis, Post-Doctoral Fellow  
Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program  
Location: McMillan Hall, Room 221

Friday, September 26th, 2-3:30 pm  
"Storytelling Unveiled: Performance and the Politics of Muslim Visibility"  
A Panel Discussion with  
Rohina Malik  
Edison Theatre Ovations Artist, critically acclaimed playwright and actress  
Denise Elif Gill  
Assistant Professor, Department of Music, Jewish Islamic and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, and Affiliate faculty in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program  
Jeffrey McCune  
Associate Professor, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program and Performing Arts Department  
Location: Busch Hall, Room 18

Tuesday, November 18, 4:00-5:30 pm  
"Embodied Invisible Labor and Sexual Carework: Women’s Roles in Sexualized Social Reproduction within Intimate Relationships"  
Alyson K. Spurgas  
Assistant Professor of Sociology  
Department of Sociology & Criminal Justice Studies  
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville  
Commentator: Amber Musser, Assistant Professor Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program  
Location: McMillan Hall, Room 219

Thursday, December 4th, 4:00-5:30 pm  
"Proximity Blues"  
Jeffrey Q. McCune, Jr.  
Associate Professor, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program and Performing Arts Department  
Location: McMillan Hall, Room 221  
Commentator: TBA
WGSS Graduation 2014

WGSS Honors Thesis Students: Danielle Greene, Wolf Smith, Annie Houghton-Larsen, Elizabeth Handschy, Ariel Frankel, Louisa Kornblatt, Moira Moynihan, Ryan Sasse, and Vinita Chaudhry

Barbara Baumgartner and David Farhat

Members of the WGSS Class of 2014 with Jami Ake

Barbara Baumgartner, Annie Houghton-Larsen, Rebecca Wanzo, and Mary Ann Dzuback

Recipients of the Helen Power Award for Scholarship and Service for 2014: Vinita Chaudhry and Louisa Kornblatt
Cari Sekendur (Class of 2011) is currently doing freelance graphic design. She is also in a three month internship at a new creative firm in Berlin called The Adventures Of. It just opened 3 months ago, and employs the two founders, an art director, and two interns, including Cari. All of the employees are from different countries. They work with a number of clients, including some bigger and smaller brands including Nike. The firm also has a gallery space and an artist-in-residence program. It is owned by two women, who’ve both been working at ad agencies for 10 years. The owners are very aware of the "boys' club" that is pervasive among big design and advertising agencies. Cari says that they have had a number of gender related discussions. Prior to interning at The Adventures Of and then going into freelance design, Cari was working in marketing and account management for a few different startups, most recently Fab.com, which moved her to Berlin two years ago to help build the European branch of the company. There she managed a team of people who handled relationships with their European design partners. Cari notes that: "The most important way in which the WGSS major continues to influence my daily life is that it gave me the critical framework to be aware of gender dynamics in the workplace. Having a feminist perspective definitely helps to navigate the sometimes treacherous waters of the 'boys' club' that rules most industries."

Her web page is at: carisekendur.com

Omni Cassady (Class of 2010) came into WGSS through the Women in Science FOCUS program. She wanted to work in a health related field, so she double-majored in WGSS and Psychology. Upon graduation, she got a job as a research assistant at the NIH where she coordinated a study testing the effectiveness of a psychotherapy program to prevent excessive weight gain in high-risk teenage girls. She was asked to help start another study to adapt the psychotherapy program to be more effective with minority populations. She became very interested in health disparities that lead to obesity, especially in minority communities, and decided to apply to graduate school for a doctorate in medical psychology so she can continue with her research in health disparities and eating disorders/obesity. She is now completing her Master's degree at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland, where she continues to work with her NIH mentor. Her research includes studies of teenage girls at risk for obesity, and health disparities and eating disorders among African-American and White youth. About WGSS she says "my WGSS background has given me knowledge regarding the issues facing girls and women", and how great are the impacts on their "psychological well-being". These important, women/girl-specific experiences, often play a big part in understanding the underlying causes of eating disorders and obesity in my line of work. All in all, my experiences were invaluable and have greatly shaped the way I view the world!"
Rachel Citron (Class of 2006) completed a Master's in Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Texas, Austin, on a fellowship. In December 2009 she worked as the office manager for Powerhouse Animation Studios, Inc. She quickly progressed from receptionist/office manager to project manager and finally to Producer. Currently the Senior Producer for the company, she's creating a variety of traditional 2d animation work for television & film, advertising, education, video games, music videos, corporate videos, and pitching original content to major networks. As Producer, Rachel is responsible for new business development and client management. She spends a majority of her time communicating with potential new clients and negotiating the details (scope, budget, schedule, etc.) for new projects. She is also involved in some creative development, and manages marketing and social media. She has produced animated content for clients including ESPN's Grantland Network, Saatchi & Saatchi in NY, and The Pains of Being Pure at Heart. Rachel notes that "WGS experience has helped me, both personally and professionally, in a variety of ways. While I don't have a career in activism or have many opportunities to use feminist theory in my day-to-day work, the basic principles I learned during my undergraduate studies are extremely relevant in navigating interactions with coworkers and clients, as well as with other friends and acquaintances. Women's Studies helped me become aware of the myriad of ways that gender, race, class, and sexuality constantly affect our behaviors, assumptions, thoughts, and feelings." On her work in the animation industry, she says: "I sometimes consider myself to be in the business of image production. While I primarily work on the business side of the company, being able to have a say in what images we create and what messages those images cannot be undervalued. So many of our cultural beliefs about gender come from the media we consume, and having a role (albeit a very small one) in managing what those messages are has been extremely rewarding for me."

Alexis Wolfer (Class of 2006) has founded her own business and published her first book. After graduating summa cum laude, Alexis worked in Tanzania at a women's empowerment group before enrolling at Columbia University where she received her Master's degree in Human Rights with a focus on women's rights. It was through a combination of her academic studies and personal interests (and struggles) that she wrote her master's thesis on women's magazines and their influence on body image and eating disorders, what would eventually become the model for TheBeautyBean.com, the online women's magazine she launched in 2009 to bring women their lifestyle content in an empowering, body-positive, and glamorous way. Since then, Forbes Magazine named TheBeautyBean.com one of the Top 10 Women's Lifestyle Websites and Alexis has become a beauty- and lifestyle expert, as seen on the Today Show, E!, The Doctors, NBC, CBS, ABC and FOX as well as in print outlets from WWD to AOL, CNN.com to Oprah.com, Teen Vogue and Seventeen. Her unique, effective, and empowering food-based beauty secrets led Access Hollywood to dub her the 'Female Beauty MacGyver' and People Stylewatch to call her 'The DIY Beauty Queen,' which led to her first book, Recipe For Radiance: Discover Beauty's Best Kept Secrets In Your Kitchen (Running Press, April 2014). She notes, "It is only because I stumbled into a WGSS class at Washington University that I even realized my passion for women's studies and..."
understood the power I had to change the way women experience their own bodies and the bodies of other women, and the power in all of that. The WGSS program provides students with an entirely new lens through which to see the world and it is because of that lens that I was able to see a world in which media empowered women to lead healthier and happier lives, without the body shaming still prevalent today.”

OUR NEW UNDERGRADUATE ALUMNI

The Class of 2014!

WGSS MAJORS
Marissa Cantu
Vinita Chaudhry
Leigha Empson
Sara Foresi
Ariel Frankel
Aliza Goldberg
Danielle Green
Elizabeth Handschy
Deje Holmes
Christine Horan
Annie Houghton-Larsen
Louisa Kornblatt
Rebecca Kriegman
Megan Lane
Alison Merrill
Moira Monihan
Wendy Oswald
Emma Puls
Jenna Sackman
Ashley Schlaepfer
Ryan Sasse
Wolf Smith
Josh Soller
Katherine Spahr
Jasmine Williams
Tabia Yapp
Emma Trachman

WGSS MINORS
Anna Adams
Marissa Bohrer
Kate Breslin
Nina Brownell
Davida Fehat
Brendan Gates
Christina Giusti
Georgia McCandlish
Lucy Montgomery
Marissa Pomerance
Emily Schwab
Alaina Smith
Upcoming Events!

Elizabeth Freeman
Professor of English
University of California at Davis

"Being Together in Time: The Poetics and Politics of Synchrony"

Tuesday, December 2, 2014
4-5:30 pm
Danforth University Center, Room 276

Joshua Takano Chambers-Letson
Assistant Professor of Performance Studies
Northwestern University

"Materialist Mourning Danh Võ and the Object's Extension of Life"

Tuesday, December 2, 2014
4-5:30 pm
Danforth University Center, Room 276

Jennifer Cole
Professor of Anthropology
Department of Comparative Human Development
University of Chicago

Jennifer Cole will be speaking on Malagasy migration and transnational family formation in France

February 19, 2015
4:00 p.m.
Location: TBD

She will conduct a workshop with the Anthropology Culture Club and WGSS graduate students
Friday, February 20, 2015
The 1998 Susan E. and William P. Stiritz endowment for Women and Gender Studies continues to contribute to WGSS activities. The endowment supports the Stiritz Chair in Women and Gender Studies, currently held by Linda Nicholson. In addition, earned interest from the endowment and the matching grant engendered by the endowment support a number of activities, including a scholarship, an award, an internship, and library acquisition.

In the past year, we have received significant gifts from new donors and we are very grateful for them. We are continuing to raise new funds to support activities in two developing areas in the Program: sexuality studies and international and transnational studies of gender and sexuality.

Funding for our undergraduate study abroad summer internships, which combine academic study with research and service experience, is nearly gone. We would like to be able to expand these opportunities, perhaps by endowing the study abroad research internships. In addition, we are raising funds to support a new Center for Research in Women, Gender, and Sexuality. We envision the Center as a resource for faculty scholars, who are already doing research in gender-related topics, but who be isolated in their own departments and schools across the University, to interact with scholars in WGSS. We also see the Center as providing a site and resources for scholars who may not be trained in gender and sexuality research, but who are working on gender and sexuality issues and problems, to collaborate with scholars who have expertise in feminist and gender theory and analysis. In addition to bringing feminist and gender scholars together, the Center will focus on projects that would be greatly enriched with better understanding of gender and culture, feminist research methods, and feminist and gender theory. We envision the Center as a place for faculty working on gender issues to develop their, projects, to present their work to students and faculty, and to interact with visiting faculty, lecturers, postdoctoral fellows, and young scholars completing Ph.D.'s, M.D.'s, and M. Ph.H.'s focusing intensively on gender both locally and transnationally. By providing a home for such cross-school scholarly collaboration, the Center will also be a resource for undergraduates across the University. We see the Center as a site where both undergraduate and graduate students might develop the collaborative and leadership skills necessary to advance opportunities for women and underrepresented minorities.

To donate to the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program Annual Fund, please note that they are designated for WGSS and send your contributions to:

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