A Word from Our Director

The Women and Gender Studies Program is looking forward to some major changes. We welcome anthropologist, Carolyn Sargent, who will join the Program, the Department of Anthropology, and the University in August of 2008. She has served as Director of Women’s Studies at Southern Methodist University and is currently President of the Medical Anthropology Association (see p. 4).

We are moving to Old McMillan Hall in June of 2008. We will be on the second floor of McMillan, where we will have more space than in our current location. The move has symbolic importance. McMillan Hall, built in 1906, was the first physical structure the University designed explicitly to serve the housing and social needs of women students. We will join other interdisciplinary programs at McMillan: African and African American Studies, American Culture Studies, International and Area Studies. In addition, McMillan houses the Center for Programs and the Department of Anthropology.

Finally, the Women and Gender Studies Program will be changing its name, effective July, 2008, to the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program. The name change reflects the growth of sexuality studies in our program, including faculty research and courses in sexuality, sexual orientation, the body, and gender and health.

We thank Necia Chronister, Tarah Demant, Liv Hinegardner, Donna Kepley and Gail Wolfe for their work on Gender Spectrum, 2007-08.
Faculty Updates

Dr. Amy Cislo received a contract for her book, *Paracelsus’s Theory of Embodiment*, to be published in 2010 by Pickering and Chatto Publishers. Amy is teaching a new course this semester called “Transgender Studies.” She has been invited to a conference in Mainz, Germany, in September, entitled “Reconstructing the Aging Body: Western Medical Cultures and Gender 1650-2000,” where she will present her work on the aging body in Christoph von Hellwig’s medical tracts. Amy will moderate a panel titled “Public Crimes and Private Souls” at the 19th St. Louis Symposium on German Literature and Culture, “Consuming News: Newspaper and Print Culture in Early Modern Europe” in April at Washington University in St. Louis.

Dr. Beth Fisher and her husband Amit welcomed a new baby boy, Deven on Nov. 15, 2007. Their daughter Sofia is very proud to be a big sister.


Dr. Andrea Friedman has been selected as a Washington University Center for the Humanities Faculty Fellow for Spring 2009. She is looking forward to working full-time during the 2008-2009 academic year on completing her book-in-progress, tentatively titled *Democracy in (Cold War) America: Gender, Race, and the Problem of Citizenship at Mid-Century.*

Dr. Stephanie Kirk’s book, *Convent Life in Colonial Mexico*, was published in 2007 by Florida University Press. She is at work on a second book project, tentatively entitled *Jesuit Masculinities: Power and Knowledge in Colonial Mexico.* Professor Kirk is continuing her exploration of the life and work of the seventeenth century Mexican nun, Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz. Several articles on this topic are forthcoming.

Home-Based Course Offerings

**Spring 2008**

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<tr>
<th>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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<td>L77 105</td>
<td>Intro to Sexuality Studies</td>
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<td>L77 208B</td>
<td>Masculinities</td>
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<td>L77 209</td>
<td>Sex, Cyborgs and Society</td>
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<td>L77 214C</td>
<td>Intro to Women’s Texts</td>
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<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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<td>L77 312</td>
<td>Globalization and Gender</td>
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<td>L77 316</td>
<td>Contemporary Women’s Health</td>
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<td>Psychology of Women</td>
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<td>L77 335</td>
<td>Feminist Theory</td>
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<td>L77 348</td>
<td>Rethinking the 'Second Wave': The History of US Feminisms, 1960-1990</td>
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<td>L77 360</td>
<td>Transgender Studies</td>
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<td>L77 3754</td>
<td>19th/20th Century African-American Women</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 395</td>
<td>Contemporary Female Sexualities</td>
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<td>L77 395</td>
<td>Women and Social Class</td>
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<td>L77 419</td>
<td>Feminist Literary Theory</td>
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<td>L77 437</td>
<td>Global Feminisms</td>
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**Fall 2008**

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<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 204</td>
<td>Making Sex &amp; Gender: Understanding the History of the Body</td>
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<td>L77 205</td>
<td>Intro to GLBT Studies</td>
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<td>L77 214C</td>
<td>Intro to Women's Texts</td>
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<td>L77 306</td>
<td>History of Women’s Health Care in America (Writing Intensive)</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 3461</td>
<td>Hooking Up: Healthy Exploration or Harmful Exploitation?</td>
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<tr>
<td>L77 391</td>
<td>Social Construction of Female Sexuality</td>
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<td>L77 392</td>
<td>Feminist Research Methods</td>
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<td>L77 420</td>
<td>Contemporary Feminisms</td>
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in 2008, including "Pain, Knowledge, and the Female Body in Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz" which is to appear in *Revista His-panica Moderna.*

**Dr. Mona Krook** has been awarded an appointment for the 2008-09 academic year as a Fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. Mona’s book, *Quotas for Women in Politics: Gender and Candidate Selection Reform Worldwide* is under contract with Oxford University Press.

**Dr. Rebecca Messbarger** presented two papers this past semester. She was invited to present her work “Theatrum Corporis: Bologna’s Eighteenth-Century Wax Museum of Human Anatomy” at the Historia Medica Lecture Series at Washington University Medical School in November 2007. By invitation, Professor Messbarger presented a paper entitled “The Pope’s Anatomy Museum” at the Departments of the History of Science, Medicine, and Technology and the Program in Museums and Society at Johns Hopkins University in October 2007. She is currently teaching a seminar on Italian Women Writers from the 17th Century to the Present and is finishing up a book titled *The Lady Anatomist: Anna Morandi Manzolini (1714-1774)* to be published by University of Chicago Press. Rebecca’s family adopted a daughter Audrey, age 16 months, from China this August.

**Dr. Kim Schreck** developed two new courses for spring 2008: a course for Women and Gender Studies titled: “19th-and 20th-Century African American Women’s History” and a course for History titled: “Sexuality, Courtship, and Marriage in US History.” Kim had an article published in October 2007 in the *Missouri Historical Review* entitled, “The Patriarch, His ‘Wives’, His ‘Slaves’, and His ‘Children’: A Story of Contested Wills in St. Charles County, Missouri.” Kim is enjoying immensely her first year of teaching at Washington University and is looking forward to next year.

**Dr. Karen Tokarz** is being awarded the Charles Nagel Professorship of Public Interest Law and Public Service on April 1, 2008.

**Dr. Gerhild Williams** is busy co-organizing St. Louis’s 19th Biennial International Symposium on German Literature and Culture, “Consuming News: Newspapers and Print Culture in Early Modern Europe” hosted by Washington University in St. Louis, April 2-5, 2008.

**Dr. Susan Stiritz** and student Lauren Carothers will be presenting papers at the National Women Studies Association meeting, June 25, in Cincinnati. **Michael Murphy** will be moderating their panel, entitled "Cultural Cliteracy: Sex Education for Feminists".

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**Faculty Updates**

**Global and Transnational Feminisms Lecture Series**

**Alison Jaggar**  
Professor of Philosophy and Women’s Studies  
University of Colorado at Boulder  
"Justice and the Feminization of Global Poverty"  
Thursday, September 6, 2007  4 p.m.  Wilson Hall, Room 214

**Jean Allman**  
Professor of History  
Washington University in St. Louis  
"The Disappearing of Hannah Kudjoe: Nationalism, Feminism, and the Tyrannies of History"  
Wednesday, October 24, 2007  4 p.m.  Women’s Building Formal Lounge

**Shefali Chandra**  
Assistant Professor of History and Gender and Women’s Studies  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
"Whiteness on the Margins of Native Patriarchy: Race, Sexuality, Caste and the Agenda of Transnational Studies"  
Wednesday, February 20, 2008  4 p.m.  McMillan Café

**Leela Fernandes**  
Associate Professor of Political Science  
Rutgers University  
"Politics, Ethics and Transnational Feminist Knowledge"  
Thursday, March 20, 2008  4 p.m.  McMillan Café
An Interview with Carolyn Sargent

Professor Carolyn Sargent will be joining our faculty in the fall as Professor of Anthropology and of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Professor Sargent is at the forefront of Medical Anthropology, having published such key texts in the field as *Gender and Health: An International Perspective* (with Caroline Brettell, 1995), *Childbirth and Authoritative Knowledge: Cross-Cultural Perspectives* (with Robbie Davis-Floyd, 1997), and *Small Wars: The Cultural Politics of Childhood* (with Nancy Scheper-Hughes, 1999). Professor Sargent’s current work investigates changing gender roles, reproductive health, and the influence of Islam on Malian migrants from West Africa who are currently living in Paris, France. She will be teaching two courses in the fall, one in Anthropology and one in Women Gender, and Sexuality Studies: “Health, Healing, and Ethics: Comparative Perspectives on Sickness and Society” and “Global Gender Issues.” Gender Spectrum chatted with Carolyn Sargent via e-mail for this interview.

GS: Where are you from originally and what was your early career trajectory?

CS: I am from Michigan, but also lived in Southeast Asia (Vietnam) and Japan for five years as a child. My father was a political scientist specializing in Asian Studies and I date my interest in anthropology to spending time with him as he explained “cultural difference.” I also spent a year studying at the Sorbonne in Paris as a high school senior. As a college student I initially majored in French and Japanese but switched to anthropology my senior year. I then was fortunate to be offered a Marshall Scholarship to study social anthropology at the University of Manchester, England, where I received my M.A.

GS: How did you originally become interested in Medical Anthropology and its intersections with Women and Gender Studies?

CS: I joined the Peace Corps and spent three years in the Republic of Benin, West Africa. This experience (which was truly memorable) shaped the rest of my career. Although I was assigned to an animal traction project linked to the U.N., I also worked in a maternity clinic and participated in prenatal and well baby health education. This led to my doctoral dissertation on reproductive decision making among women in northern Benin, and to my choice of field site (my Peace Corps village). In the course of writing my dissertation, my focus on medical choice expanded to include gender issues as I sought to understand women’s reproductive health issues, hence the intersection between Medical Anthropology and Women and Gender Studies, which I have further developed in my research since that time.

GS: You worked for six years in West Africa and have now been working with West African immigrants in France for ten years. What inspired your shift of focus? Or how is that shift an extension of your original work?

CS: Having lived in West Africa for six years, I decided to try some comparative research in Jamaica, on parental strategies for child health. This was actually more related to my Africa work than it sounds! I explored preferential treatment of children by sex among very low-income residents of a Kingston shantytown. I found that women preferred daughters by far, considering sons to be prospective criminals and "incorrigible." At the time, there was a much discussed issue with child abandonment. While investigating this growing phenomenon, I learned that most of the abandoned children were boys. These findings were, of course, dramatically different from what I was familiar with in West Africa, where son preference was notably present. I also found that Jamaican boys were thinner and shorter relative to norms for boys than girls were (relative to norms for girls). I then worked to interpret the connections between parental ideals and child health.

Following an interlude during which I edited several books, I became interested in research with the West African diaspora. After a preliminary study in France, I received funding to investigate issues surrounding gender relations, Islam, and reproduction among women and men, from the Senegal River Valley region in West Africa, living in Paris. That is what I have been doing since 1998.

GS: What is life like for the women you work with? Have conditions changed for them over the time you’ve been working with them?

CS: Over this time period, I have developed a circle of friends in the migrant population. Life has become much more difficult for everyone over the past several years, but especially so for undocumented workers and their families. Those in polygynous marriages are even more stressed and at risk. I have found it especially informative and interesting to talk with migrant men living in worker hostels about chang-
An Interview with Carolyn Sargent

ing gender expectations. The prevailing sentiment is perhaps best encapsulated in one elderly migrant’s statement, "Bring a woman to Europe and she Catches Ideas."

GS: What has your experience been with Women and Gender Studies programs? Were you involved with WGS departments before being part of and then becoming the Director of the Women Studies program at Southern Methodist University?

CS: I became a member of the Women’s Studies Council at SMU shortly after joining the faculty (which was immediately after finishing my dissertation). The members of the WS Council offered a warm and supportive community in a sometimes difficult social and academic environment. I moved on to serve on the executive committee and in 1990, to directing the program. Parenthetically, we have often discussed changing the name of our program to add "gender" (and/or sexuality) but to date, have decided that the disadvantages outweigh the advantages.

GS: Why do you think it’s important to have a Women and Gender Studies program, both in terms of research and graduate and undergraduate education?

CS: Briefly, I think that students benefit tremendously from women/gender studies courses—not only because of the content, but because these courses tend to encourage critical thinking and analytic skills that are invaluable in any scholarly endeavor, for undergraduates and graduate students alike.

Women and Gender Studies
Spring 2008 Colloquia

“Anatomy and the Marketing of the Female Body in Early Modern Germany”

Friday, February 1st, 3:30-5, Cohen Lounge, Busch 113
Lecturer, Amy Cislo (Women and Gender Studies)
Commentator: Barbara Baumgartner

“Are There Feminist Research Methods?”

Friday, February 29th, 3:30-5, Hurst Lounge, Duncker 201
Assistant Professor, Mona Lena Krook (Political Science and Women and Gender Studies)
Commentator: Gail Wolfe

“Wearing the Veil: Race and Gender Doubling in Edith Wharton”

Friday, March 28th, 3:30-5, Cohen Lounge, Busch 113
Graduate Certificate Student, Tarah Demant (English)
Commentator: Erica Delsandro

“Managing American Bodies: Gender and Obesity in the United States 1840-1910”

Friday, April 25th, 3:30-5, Hurst Lounge, Duncker 201
Andrew W. Mello Postdoctoral Fellow, Deborah Levine (English)
Commentator: Corinna Treitel
**Gender Spectrum** would like to introduce our readers to Women and Gender Studies major **Shaina Goodman**. Shaina Goodman is a senior from Dallas, Texas, and did not initially plan to pursue a major in Women and Gender Studies when she came to Washington University. However, Shaina’s interest was piqued by an Introduction to Women and Gender Studies course that she took during the second semester of her freshman year. Shaina found the themes and concepts that she encountered in this course not only to be relevant to her own experiences, but also to hold promise for thinking critically about the world and for effecting social change. After taking additional Women and Gender Studies courses and becoming acquainted with the faculty, Shaina decided that the WGS major was the right fit for her. In addition to her WGS major, Shaina has minors in both Legal Studies and Dance. She notes that her major and minor fields have complemented each other nicely, enhancing her understanding of and appreciation for topics across the three fields.

When asked about the role that the Women and Gender Studies Program has played in her undergraduate experience at Washington University, Shaina replied that her WGS major has “meant more to [her] than [she] can probably articulate.” Shaina credits the WGS faculty with creating supportive and rigorous learning environments in which students and faculty exchange and explore ideas. In addition, Shaina’s WGS coursework has challenged her to reflect on herself and her surroundings, with a focus on seeking out ways to make a positive difference in the lives of others and in her community. In this way, Shaina’s WGS major has constituted a catalyst for both personal and intellectual growth. Shaina extends a special thanks to faculty members Jami Ake and Barbara Baumgartner for getting to know her and her interests and for encouraging her to pursue her goals.

With the guidance and support of Jami Ake, Shaina is writing a senior honors thesis on domestic violence in the American Jewish community. Shaina’s interest in this topic grew out of a sermon on domestic abuse delivered by her rabbi. Shaina felt that her rabbi’s treatment of domestic violence within the Jewish community was inadequate. Upon conducting some preliminary research, Shaina discovered that the Jewish community has been largely silent on the topic of domestic abuse and that the resources available to Jewish victims of domestic abuse are limited. In her thesis, Shaina elaborates a theoretical framework designed to explain why Jewish victims experience domestic violence differently. Shaina’s thesis also explores the practical implications of this experiential difference for education and for the provision of services to Jewish victims of domestic abuse. On her relationship with her thesis advisor, Shaina remarks that she is “incredibly grateful to have had the opportunity to work with someone who is as knowledgeable and passionate about domestic violence work as [Jami Ake] is.”

After graduation, Shaina plans to go to law school. Her undergraduate work in Women and Gender Studies has been instrumental in her decision to pursue a law degree.

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**Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Winifred Poster**

Last fall, I presented at a conference in Paris in the Luxembourg Palace organized by Prometea, a women’s empowerment council of the European Commission. The conference was called “International Conference on Women in Engineering and Technological Research,” with the objective of gathering specialists from around the world to exchange experiences on gender issues and bring new perspectives on engineering and technology research. The conference involved participants from over 30 countries, including the Ukraine, Ecuador, Iraq, Israel, Sweden, Morocco, and others. My presentation was titled “Global Circuits of Gender: Women and High-Tech Work in India and the U.S.” The Women & Gender Studies Program, and the International & Area Studies Program here at Wash U helped to make this happen for me through the generosity of travel grants. In the summer, I’ll present another paper on this topic at the meetings of the “Women in Engineering Programs and Advocates Network” in downtown St. Louis. This is all part of ongoing research from a book manuscript I’m working on for the University of Chicago Press.

**Summer Trip: Women’s Empowerment in the Barren and Beautiful Mountains of Kashmir**

Last summer, I took a trip to the newly-opened state of Kashmir in northern India. Twenty thousand feet up at some points, this state had been closed to non-residents for almost three decades, due to fighting with Pakistan from the other side. At night we heard the gunfire of Indian military training camps,
Shaina sees the law and legal advocacy as vehicles for combating domestic abuse and other forms of violence against women. She is confident that her Women and Gender Studies major has helped her to cultivate the kinds of critical thinking, analytical reasoning, and writing skills that she will need in law school and in her legal career.

We wish Shaina continued success as she completes her senior honors thesis and undergraduate degree at Washington University and in her future endeavors in law school and beyond!

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Winifred Poster

from the other side. At night we heard the gunfire of Indian military training camps, by day we waited on the side of the road as 100-truck convoys hogged the roads for their shift rotations. It was the closest I’d ever been to rifles.

But in the midst of this, we found a quite remarkable event: education and job training for low-income women sponsored and run by the military! A Women’s Empowerment Center appeared on the roadside, equipped with satellite dishes, computers, and training classrooms. Women were learning skills in computers, weaving, sewing, etc., so that they could start their own small businesses. The organization provided meals and transport. Chatting with the commander who ran the place, my sister-in-law and I found out that the federal state had originally set up the school, but that local government officials were too corrupt to maintain it. Ironically the military, which provides much infrastructure for the larger region, was equally committed to uplifting women. Quite an inspiring vision of alternative masculinities for the new millennium!
Graduate Certificate Program Student Updates

There are currently twenty students in the Women and Gender Studies Graduate Certificate Program. This section of the newsletter is devoted to the activities and achievements of our graduate certificate students. In this section, the reader will find updates from our graduate certificate students, an article featuring Paola Ehrmantraut, and a list of current WGS graduate teaching assistants.

Necia Chronister will be presenting a paper at the University of Texas German department graduate conference "Beyond Berlin" in March. Her paper is entitled "Heimat Lost and Found." Necia received a fellowship from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) to do research abroad in Muenster, Germany during the 08-09 academic year.

Tarah Demant passed her Major field exam and has attained ABD status in the English Department. Tarah presented a paper entitled "Gender, Market, and the Anxiety of Achievement in Popular American Women's Fiction" at the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association Convention in October 2007. She is scheduled to present a chapter of her dissertation at the Women and Gender Studies Colloquium at Washington University on March 28, 2008. Tarah will present "Writing American's Race History in The Age of Innocence" at the Edith Wharton Society Conference in Atlanta. Tarah was the recipient of the Dean's Award for Teaching Excellence (2006-07) and the Amnesty International USA Inaugural Spirit of Human Rights Award (2007).

Lee Friederich is at home in Wisconsin this year, writing her dissertation on postwar and contemporary Japanese women's poetry. Lee presented a paper entitled "Strangling the House: Semiotic Displacement and the Animation of Abjection in Isaka Yoko’s Poetry" at the Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs, held at Washington University in October 2007. This spring, Lee will present a paper entitled "Through Beastly Tears: Devouring the Dead in the Poetry of Ishigaki Rin" at the Association of Japanese Teachers seminar in Atlanta. Lee will spend the 2008-09 academic year in Japan on a Fulbright Fellowship, where she plans to continue her dissertation research and writing.

David Holloway presented a paper entitled “The Body Imprisoned in Contemporary Japanese Fiction” at the Graduate Student Conference on East Asia at Columbia University in February. David is currently pursuing research in several areas, including Kabuki and tattoos, women and illness in classical Japanese texts, and depictions of contemporary Japanese women.

Hyeon Jung Lee will present a paper entitled "The Role of Gender in Suicide and Suicide Prevention Programs in Rural China" at the 2008 Society for Medical Anthropology/Society for Applied Anthropology annual conference in Memphis on March 25-27, 2008.

Nancy Twilley completed her coursework in the fall semester. She is now preparing for her first comprehensive exam on late-nineteenth-century German writer Gabriele Reuter and her portrayal of marriage as a failed institution for the new German woman after unification. Nancy will be presenting a paper on Robert Musil at a graduate student conference at Cornell in March. Nancy’s paper examines the transgender “moment” in Musil’s book Die Verwirrungen des Zöglings Toerless and how it represents his view of the end of the century.

Graduate Student Teaching Assistants in Women and Gender Studies, Spring 2008

Name: Nancy Twilley
Home Department: German
Teaching: Introduction to Women and Gender Studies
"After having taught several language courses for the German department, I’m looking forward to a very different experience teaching a large, lecture and discussion-based class this semester. And of course it will be nice to teach in English for once."

Name: Erica Delsandro
Home Department: English
Teaching: Introduction to Women’s Texts
"I am very excited about the opportunity to teach in WGS. I know it will be both a satisfaction and a challenge. Also, I am so looking forward to merging two aspects of this profession that I am committed to and passionate about: the power of literature and writing to learn. Hopefully my students will share my enthusiasm by the end of the term!"
Name: Mary Le Gierse  
Home Department: German  
Teaching: Introduction to Women’s Texts  
"I’m really excited about teaching in Women and Gender Studies this semester. I have been trained as a language teacher and this is my first time teaching literature and teaching in English. I have a wonderful group of students and I look forward to going to class every day. I am very thankful for the opportunity to teach this course."

Name: Hyeon Jung Lee  
Home Department: Anthropology  
Teaching: Introduction to Women and Gender Studies  
"In my teaching experience, I am expecting to better understand American culture and gender by interacting with diverse students."

Name: Tarah Demant  
Home Department: English  
Teaching: Introduction to Women and Gender Studies  
"Teaching in Women and Gender Studies offers me the chance to teach in a field integral to all areas of study and opens up for me new avenues of critical inquiry that will impact my own academic work both inside and outside the classroom. Teaching for Women and Gender Studies has been an incredible asset to my growth as an instructor and an academic!"

Name: Gail Wolfe  
Home Department: Education  
Teaching: Assisting in Gender and Education  
"Serving as an assistant for this course provides me with an excellent opportunity to interact with students as they explore the role that schools play in the construction and enforcement of gender identities. In addition, I look forward to expanding my knowledge of scholarship at the intersection of educational research and women and gender studies."

**WGS PRESENTS: PAOLA EHRMANTRAUT**

*Gender Spectrum* is pleased to feature graduate certificate student, **Paola Ehrmantraut**. Paola is a fifth-year doctoral student in Hispanic Language and Literatures. Paola is currently writing her dissertation on the impact of the Falklands/Malvinas War of 1982 on contemporary narrative. Paola’s dissertation focuses, in particular, on the gender constructions that played out during both the war and the dictatorship that preceded it in Argentina. Thus far, Paola has written dissertation chapters that examine images of the masculine body at war and of veterans in the Argentine context. Paola’s research interests also include human rights and feminism in the global context and the intersection of politics, gender, and violence.

Paola has had the opportunity to present her research in numerous forums. She delivered a paper entitled “Fuckland: Traces of Nationalism, Gender and Violence in Democratic Argentina” at the American Men’s Studies Association annual conference in Kansas City, Missouri, in the spring of 2007. Paola received the AMSA Loren Frankel Scholarship to attend this conference. Paola also shared her research with the Washington University community in the fall of 2007 through the WGS colloquium series. In addition, Paola has presented her work in several international settings, including the University of Córdoba in Argentina and the Latin American Studies Association conference in Montreal. When presenting her work at conferences, Paola strives to balance the specificities of her field with the broader framework of gender studies.

Paola’s participation in the WGS graduate certificate program has been fundamental to her academic experience at Washington University. Paola credits the WGS graduate certificate program with motivating her to see beyond the constraints of departmental divisions and integrate interdisciplinary collaboration and exploration into her research. In addition, Paola’s involvement in the Women and Gender Studies Program helped her to define her dissertation topic. Paola adds that WGS faculty members have provided her with numerous models of academic performance and excellence. Finally, Paola notes that the graduate certificate in Women and Gender Studies has enriched her teaching. For example, Paola incorporated both theoretical and practical tools for addressing gender issues into the survey course on twentieth-century Spanish American literature that she taught at Washington University in the fall of 2007.

We wish Paola continued success in all of her endeavors at Washington University and beyond!
Women and Gender Studies Acquires a Work of Art

Alexis Adler, a longtime donor to Washington University, has given the Women and Gender Studies Program a three-dimensional painting, "Frigid Air", by Kristin Leachman. Ms. Adler has a deep commitment to supporting and promoting women in the arts and humanities. Her company, Alexis Deutsch Fine Art, is located in Malibu and specializes in sales to corporations and cruise ships. A California native, Ms. Adler is married to Robert Adler, Washington University alumnus (LA 72; DE 76), in whose family are numerous Washington University alumni. A "My Turn" essay Ms. Adler wrote appeared in Newsweek (November 21, 2005); it focused on her father-in-law’s (Mort Adler) book collection. She notes that she’s passionate about books and how they can help shape our character. As she says in the essay, "we can deepen our understanding of each other by the books that have been left behind." Ms. Adler started the One Book One City program in Malibu. She is on the board for Phoenix House, which works with troubled teens. And she supports A Better Life Centre, a national organization that trains physicians and builds medical clinics around the world. She and her husband are committed to giving back to their various communities, and we are grateful that Lexie is interested in the Women and Gender Studies Program.

About the artist:
Kristin Leachman’s work has explored such subject matter as domestic activities and objects, as well as nature and memory. "Frigid Air" is oil on plywood. It is a large work, 107x77x14 inches, and was completed in 1995. It depicts a variety of aspects of womanhood from a critical feminist stance and has a collage-like quality. We are anxious to see it installed.

News of Gifts to Women and Gender Studies

The Women and Gender Studies Program has received a number of contributions for which we are very grateful from friends of the program. These gifts are not assigned to specific programs and, therefore, help us in our daily operations. The following Friends of Women and Gender Studies have contributed in this way to the Program since June 2007:

Dr. Winifred Bryan Horner
Donna Kepley
Aly Abrams
Patrick Kelly
Melinda B. Wolfe
Helen Kornblum
Erika Sabbath
Mala Ahuja Harker
Barrie Gail Suskin

Stairway leading to our new offices in McMillan Hall
The Women and Gender Studies Program has received two gifts to support WGS majors and minors to pursue summer internships and study abroad. Both internships are designed to make available such opportunities for students who may not otherwise be able to afford them.

The **Maurita Stueck Summer Internship Award for Women and Gender Studies Students** has been created with funds from Maurita Stueck, a native of St. Louis, who currently resides in Kirkwood, Missouri. She received her B.A. from Washington University in 1943. As a full-time volunteer for most of her life, she has assisted many area organizations, including the Missouri Botanical Garden and the Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri. Ms. Stueck was instrumental in establishing the volunteer development program at Epworth Children and Family Services in Webster Groves, Missouri. She remains active in her church, Webster Hills United Methodist Church, and enjoys attending University events. As a pioneer in the women’s movement, Ms. Stueck knows the importance of supporting students studying women and gender issues.

The **Melinda Wolfe Internship in Global/Transnational Issues and Problems** enables students to focus their internships on such issues in the US or abroad, however, preference is given to proposals that involve internships outside of the United States. Melinda Wolfe, a graduate of Washington University with an MPA from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, has been a leader in increasing diversity within the corporate world. Currently, she is Senior Vice President Executive Talent and Chief Diversity Officer at American Express, where she leads executive talent acquisition, development, and integration with the company’s diversity strategy. Prior to this position, she headed the Office of Global Leadership and Diversity at Goldman Sachs and directed the Office of Global Recruitment and Training at Credit Suisse First Boston. Earlier in her career, she spent fifteen years at Merrill Lynch, first as managing director of the Fixed Income Division and then heading the Office of Diversity Strategy and Programs, reporting to Merrill Lynch’s Executive Management Committee and leading the effort to promote and value cultural diversity at all levels of the firm. Ms. Wolfe is chair of the National Council of Research for Women Corporate Circle, a member of the Hidden Brain Task Force (see Silvia Ann Hewlett’s *Off-Ramps and On-Ramps: Keeping Talented Women on the Road to Success*), a board member of Planned Parenthood in New York City, and an adjunct faculty member at Columbia University’s School for International and Public Affairs. She lives in New York with her husband Ken Inadomi and daughter Molly.

Marion Pope has been chosen for the summer 2008 **Maurita Stueck Summer Internship Award**. Marion, a WGS major (class of ’09), plans to pursue a project sponsored by Viva Nicaragua! She will be working with IXCHEN, a holistic women’s health organization, which is currently conducting an educational campaign to improve women’s health. In her work with IXCHEN, she will be giving health education workshops and creating information bulletins in the clinics. She also will be traveling to rural clinics to help the staff and educate women about the importance of pap smears to prevent cervical cancer and about sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

The **Melinda Wolfe Internship** is awarded to Jamison Liang. Jamison, WGS minor (class of ’09), plans to spend part of the summer of 2008 in Indonesia with Gaya Nusantara, an organization in Surabaya, Java, that sponsors HIV/AIDS research, advocacy, and education among gay men.
Women and Gender Studies
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"The ground on which equality is claimed for all men is of equal force for all women; for women share the common nature of humanity, and are possessed of all those noble faculties which constitute man a responsible being."
Marion Kirkland Reid, 1843

Tarah Demant,
WGS Graduate Certificate student