Gender Notes

Fall 2015

WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES
THE COLLEGE AT BROCKPORT

Issue 8

A Note from the WMS Program Director



Barbara LeSavoy, PhD

First. This is a familiar word to many in Women and Gender Studies (WMS) as we reflect on and consider women's progress across geographies of person and place. At Brockport, we are celebrating several firsts. Most significant, we are excited to welcome the College's first female president, Dr. Heidi Macpherson, and with this, we are proud to chart the program's progress in the discipline.

2014-2015 ushered in several firsts for the WMS Program. Leading the list, we are officially settled into the new Liberal Arts Building, where we finally have the security of a sign, a secretary, and a fixed space. We collaborated with several student clubs in organizing the April 2015 Start a Revolution Conference, part of an AAUW Student Action Grant. We inducted a record number of students (16) into the WMS Program Honor Society, Triota, underscoring the academic excellence central to our teaching mission. WMS affiliates continue to break ground as teachers and scholars with an impressive array of publications; speaking engagements; and awards for teaching, scholarship, and service. And we are excited about the inaugural Fannie Barrier Williams Scholarship and plaque that the College will unveil as part of the president's inauguration in April 2016.

You can read about these and many other exciting developments throughout this newsletter and on our website, **www.brockport.edu/wms**.

There is much more to tell as the WMS Program champions additional firsts that support our discipline and the liberal arts. Please enjoy this fall '15 edition of Gender Notes, and join me in welcoming Dr. Macpherson to The College at Brockport. We are excited for her presidency and thrilled to support her leadership efforts.

Women's Program Board

Barbara LeSavoy, Board Chair, Women and Gender Studies+
Sharon Allen, English#
Tristan Bridges, Sociology*#
Alisia Chase, Art History*+Ω
Katherine Clark, History+#
Denise Copelton, Sociology*Ω
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Amber Humphrey, Women and Gender Studies+
Maura Keefe, DanceΩ
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Karen Logsdon, Enrollment Management and Student Affairs
Anne Macpherson, History*+#
Morag Martin, History
Robert Mejia, Communication
Barbara Mitrano, Women and Gender Studies#
Megan Obourn, English*+#
Anne Panning, English
Andrea Parada, Modern Languages and Cultures
Alison Parker, History
Sara Richens, Student, Women and Gender Studies and Sociology
Meredith Roman, History*
Brandy M. Sreenilayam, Biochemistry

*WMS Curricula Subcommittee
(Chair: **Denise Copelton**)

+WMS Assessment Subcommittee
(Chair: **Barbara LeSavoy**)

ΩWMS APT Committee
(Chair: **Denise Copelton**)

#WMS Periodic Program Review Committee
(Co-chairs: **Megan Obourn, Anne Macpherson**)

WMS Associate Faculty
Megan Backer, Amber Humphrey, Sharon Jacobson, Karen Logsdon, Barbara Mitrano

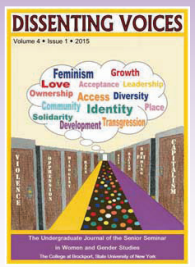


Dr. Barb LeSavoy, International Faculty, St. Petersburg

As returning faculty, Dr. LeSavoy taught a seminar, "Bodies, Laboring, and Reproduction," which enrolled advanced undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate level international students, including Brockport Honors College student Tambria Schroeder.

The institute is held at the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences of St. Petersburg State University. Participants take seminars with international scholars in a range of fields, especially those that do not fall neatly into traditional discipline areas. 2015 is the 13th year of the program.

Senior Seminar Students Publish Volume IV of *Dissenting Voices* eJournal



The Women and Gender Studies Program is proud to announce publication of the fourth volume of *Dissenting Voices*, a faculty-reviewed journal featuring the capstone projects of WMS Senior Seminar students.

The journal celebrates undergraduate creative agency realized on the cusp of feminist knowledge.

See more details on our website. Volume IV can be accessed at **http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/dissentingvoices**.

Faculty Highlights



Tristan Bridges, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, authors new book: *Exploring Masculinities: Identity, Inequality, Continuity, and Change*

The text covers the wide range of scholarship being done on masculinities beyond the model of hegemonic masculinity. Bridges and C.J. Pascoe extend the boundaries of the field and provide a new framework for understanding masculinities studies.



WMS welcomes new Advisory Board Member **Brandy M. Sreenilayam**, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Two of Sreenilayam's current research projects focus on a protein named LGN and include working with undergraduate students and with Laurie Cook, PhD, Department of Biology. Sreenilayam also is the organizer of the **Brockport Women in Science Group**.

This informal discussion group meets twice a month to discuss topics involving women in science. Where applicable, Drs. Sreenilayam, Amatangelo (Environmental Science and Biology), Cook (Biology), and Wania (Computer Science and Computer Information Systems) offer advice based on their prior experiences in their respective fields. All faculty, staff, and students are welcome to participate in the meetings.

WMS welcomes new Advisory Board Member **Robert Mejia**, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Communication

Mejia's research addresses the political, economic, and cultural significance of new media technologies, institutions, publics, and practices. He has authored a variety of publications and is presently co-editing two books on the cultural and historical significance of 100 video game franchises and 100 video game characters.



Megan Obourn, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of English, receives the fall 2015 Diversity Engagement Award

Obourn seeks to challenge and expand the ideas of her students. Her course content places emphasis on diversity, inclusion, and critical thinking. She serves as the advisor for the English Club and SOUL (Sexual Orientations United for Liberation).

Faculty with new publications in 2014–15 include: Sharon Allen, Tristan Bridges, Alisia Chase, Katherine Clark, Barbara LeSavoy, Robert Mejia, Barbara Mitrano, Megan Obourn, Anne Panning, and **Alison Parker.**

Please see individual faculty webpages for details.



Barbara LeSavoy, PhD, Director, Women and Gender Studies, receives the Ronald E. Fontaine Award for Scholarly Engagement

LeSavoy was nominated by Lucienne Nicholson '14. LeSavoy, who frequently writes and presents with students and consistently promotes students' scholarly engagement, is proud of this important recognition. In November 2015, five WMS students (Rachael Fort, Natalia Manhertz, Brooke Ophardt, Maggie Rosen, and Tambria Schroeder) traveled with her to the National Women's Studies Association Conference in Milwaukee, WI.

New Seneca Falls Dialogues eJournal



Women and Gender Studies is thrilled to announce publication of *The Seneca Falls Dialogues Journal*, a new, multidisciplinary, peer reviewed, online journal collaboratively published by Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Monroe Community College, St. John Fisher College, The College at Brockport, University of Rochester, the Greater Rochester Area Branch of the American Association of University Women, and the Women's Institute for Leadership and Learning.

The publication serves to build a collaborative, open-access forum for students, faculty, and the community relating to the themes of the Biennial Seneca Falls Dialogues conference.



See more details on our website. Volume I can be accessed at **http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/sfd/vol1/iss1**.

Fannie Barrier Williams Plaque and Scholarship



Williams was a Brockport native, nationally recognized suffragist, civil and women's rights activist, and the first African American graduate of the Brockport Normal School (1870). To raise awareness about this important alumna, Dean Darwin Prioleau, EdD, initiated a process to design a memorial plaque to be affixed to Hartwell Hall. The arrival of Heidi Macpherson, PhD, as our first female president marks the perfect opportunity to create a fully endowed ($25,000) Fannie Barrier Williams Student Scholarship, to be granted annually to a female student from an underrepresented group. President Macpherson has embraced the notion that a celebration of notable Brockport women, such as Williams, is an appropriate part of her inaugural festivities this coming April. As part of those celebrations, we will formally unveil the Williams plaque, and the WMS Program and the Women's Center will host the second biennial Women of Courage Luncheon. Donations in support of the plaque and the scholarship can be sent to the Brockport Foundation or made online at **alumni.brockport.edu/give**.

WMS Awards and Scholarships

WMS Senior Scholar: Sarah Richens
Double major in WMS and sociology; McNair Scholar; WMS tutor for the Student Learning Center; presenter at 2014 Seneca Falls Dialogues, 2015 Undergraduate Research Conference, and 2015 Diversity Conference.

Colleen Donaldson Student Leadership Award: Lynn Carson
Double major in health science and Spanish; WMS minor; president of Women and Gender Studies Organization and Voices for Choice; service council rep for Sexual Orientations United for Liberation; Spanish tutor for the Student Learning Center; research assistant for Modern Languages and Cultures; student blogger for the Office of Marketing Communications; currently attending San Diego State University to pursue a Master's in Public Health.

Elaine K. Miller Scholarship: Tambria Schroeder
Double major in WMS and political science and international studies; Honors College president and peer mentor; studied abroad in Russia in summer 2015; 4.0 GPA.

Service to the WMS Discipline: Daniela Bulos and Courtney Gazda
Courtney was a double major in WMS and interdisciplinary arts for children, with a minor in psychology. She served as an RA, participated in the Leadership Development Program, and was a two-time Scholars Day presenter for both of her majors.

Daniela was a psychology major with a minor in WMS. Her involvement on campus spanned over several different organizations, including serving as an RA and in the Leadership Development Program. She is currently pursuing graduate studies in higher education student affairs at University of Maryland College Park.

Harriet Whitney Award: Anna Walser
Double major in WMS and dance; Women's Center intern; leader of 2015 One Billion Rising flash mob event; member of Sankofa African Dance and Drum Ensemble. Anna hopes to seek out a way to use dance and movement practices to promote women's health and wellbeing.

Jennifer M. Lloyd Essay Prize: Amy Lauricella
For her essay, "Feminism and Fighting: Women and the UFC," written for WMS 470: Women's Popular Culture with Professor Amber Humphrey. Amy is a senior and an English major with a concentration in literature. She's returning to Brockport in December to pursue a master's degree in English literature and wants to teach college English.

First Runner-Up: Courtney Gazda, for her essay, "Don Jon: Learning About Women," written for WMS 470: Women's Popular Culture with Professor Amber Humphrey.

Second Runner-Up: Patrick Monahan, for his essay, "Freidoune Sahebjam's The Stoning of Soraya M. and Violence of Religious Patriarchy," written for WMS 367: Women in World Literature with Dr. Sevinç Turkkan.

Honorable Mention: Tambria Schroeder, for her essay, "Breaking the Binary: A Cross-Cultural Study of Transgender Discrimination in America and Russia," written for WMS 330: Global Perspectives on Women and Gender with Dr. Barbara LeSavoy.

Additional Program News

Sarah Richens Presents at 2015 Diversity Conference
Sarah presented her research project, "Adiposity and Anarchism: Exposing and Examining Fat Oppression in a Capitalist Society."

Daniela Bulos Helps "Start a Revolution"
Daniela, recipient of an AAUW Grant, was part of a team that organized Start a Revolution, a one-day conference designed to educate the College community about the stereotypes and labels that too often hold women back from becoming leaders in their field.

New Online Course in Collaboration with MCC
For spring 2016, students enrolled either at Brockport or at Monroe Community College can take WMS 101: Introduction to Women and Gender Studies online, taught by Dr. Megan Backer.

Triota
WMS national honor society Iota, Iota, Iota (aka Triota) — named after three goddesses: Inanna, Ishtar and Isis — strives to maintain feminist values central to women and gender studies: egalitarianism, inclusiveness, and diversity.

Spring 2015 inductees are: Courtney Gazda, Nicolas Greene, Margaret Huntoon, Hawa Ibrahim, Jane Ives, Nick Kirsop, Heather Leary, Brooke Love, Chanel Martin, Maureen North, Catherine O'Connor, Taylor Schaffer, Tambria Schroeder, Jessica Tesoiero, Robyn Wohlers, and Natalie Yera.

See more details about these and other news stories on our website at **www.brockport.edu/wms/departmentnews**.

My Studies Abroad in Russia

By Tambria Schroeder (WMS, PLS, Honors College)



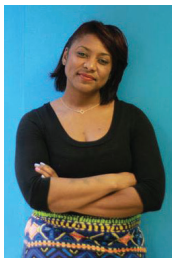
For as long as I can remember, Russia was portrayed to me as being a bad country filled with all sorts of bad people. I was always skeptical of this portrayal, but it wasn't until taking WMS 330: Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Women & Gender, taught collaboratively with Novgorod State University in Russia, that I began to comprehend just how false it was. Throughout the semester, we had weekly dialogues about sensitive subjects that exposed our common humanity. I was inspired by the conversations, so I knew that I had to seize the opportunity to travel to Russia when it arose. My summer was spent exploring the streets of St. Petersburg into the wee hours of the White Nights, watching the sun glisten on the Neva River, and eating blini like my life depended on it. Oh, and I also went to school AT A PALACE! I was enrolled in cultural studies courses at the New York-St. Petersburg Institute of Linguistics, Cognition and Culture, which brings together students from around the world and of varying degree levels into one classroom. There are no words to describe the value of the intellectual, cross-cultural conversations I engaged in. It was amazing to watch barriers come crashing down through communication and learn about the similarities and differences of our experiences as women in today's world.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ONE BILLION RISING: REVOLUTION
February 2016

#CAMPUS RISING

ALICIA GARZA
Founder, Black Lives Matter Movement
February 24, 2016



ADP LECTURE SERIES

American Democracy Project

Dr. Paul Offit
Bad Faith: When Religious Belief Undermines Modern Medicine **March 24, 2016**

Dr. Christina Simko
The Politics of Consolation: Memory and the Meaning of September 11th **March 31, 2016**

THE CLOTHESLINE PROJECT
BREAK THE SILENCE
APRIL 2016

Fifth Biennial Seneca Falls Dialogues

October 21–23, 2016

"Lean Out: Gender, Economics, and Enterprise"

Featuring award-winning documentarian and photographer **Brenda Ann Kenneally**



Call for Dialogues: The Biennial Dialogues are a collaborative effort to reinvigorate Seneca Falls as a site of feminist activism and intellectual exchange. We invite students, activists, and teachers to participate in a weekend of dialogue on the following themes:

- Divisions of Labor
- Teaching Economic Justice
- Gender and Entrepreneurship
- Gender, Activism, and Social Justice
- Class, Gender and Sexuality
- Representations of Work
- Global Economies
- Women in Business

Proposal Deadline: March 28, 2016. Watch our website for details.

Conference participants will be invited to submit essay versions of their dialogues for inclusion in the online *Seneca Falls Dialogues Journal.*

WMS POWER OF GIVING

Please consider WMS in your giving plans.

The Elaine K. Miller Scholarship, the Jennifer M. Lloyd Essay Prize, and the Woolf Obourn Scholarship, endowed by and named in tribute to their respective benefactors, carry monetary awards to student recipients. Your generous support can help sustain and further these awards. Contributions to the College's annual giving campaign can be designated to any of these funds. Even small contributions can secure these extraordinary recognition opportunities and the remarkable WMS students they laud.



Alumni, let us know what you're up to!
Email Dr. LeSavoy at
blesavoy@brockport.edu
with your latest news and accomplishments.

WMS at the Graduate Level

Did you know that at The College at Brockport, students can pursue graduate work in women and gender studies through the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) degree? Using the liberal studies seminars and graduate-level WMS courses, students can design a plan of study that concentrates on their areas of interest within women and gender studies.

Additional information can be found at
www.brockport.edu/wms/master.



To learn more about the Women and Gender Studies Program at The College at Brockport, contact:

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