



Gender Notes

Fall 2016

WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES
THE COLLEGE AT BROCKPORT

Issue 9

A Note from the WMS Program Director



Barbara LeSavoy, PhD

I am thrilled to introduce volume 9 of *Gender Notes*. This year's note marks almost a decade that I sit in the director chair steering WMS forward at Brockport. Our student growth and faculty contributions continue to transform the College and discipline.

Looking back over 2015-16, WMS inducted 23 students into the WMS Program Honor Society, Triota, a record number that underscores steady increases in majors and minors and the academic excellence central to our teaching mission. We awarded the first Fannie Barrier Williams Women of Courage Scholarship in tribute Fannie Barrier Williams, the first African-American graduate of the Brockport Normal School (1870), and unveiled a plaque on the entrance to Hartwell Hall that bears Fannie's name.

Student work continues to flourish: more than 20 WMS students presented at the College's April 2016 Scholars Day, five at the fall 2016 Diversity Conference, six at the 5th Biennial Seneca Falls Dialogues in October, and five at the National Women's Studies Association Conference in Montreal, Canada, in November. In addition, we are thrilled to showcase volume V of *Dissenting Voices*, an eJournal authored by WMS Senior Seminar students. And eight students accompanied me to Russia, where I taught a three-week women and gender seminar at the 14th New York-St. Petersburg Institute of Linguistics, Cognition, and Culture, held in St. Petersburg, Russia.

You can read about these and many other program milestones throughout this newsletter and on our website at www.brockport.edu/academics/women_gender, where you'll also find details on the accomplishments of our growing WMS alumni.

Please enjoy this fall '16 edition of *Gender Notes*, and join me in celebrating WMS in all its excellence.

Fannie Barrier Williams Women of Courage Plaque and Scholarship

This plaque honors Brockport native Fannie Barrier Williams, nationally recognized suffragist, civil and women's rights activist, and the first African-American graduate of the Brockport Normal School (1870). As part of the celebrations surrounding Dr. Macpherson's inauguration as our 7th and first female president, the WMS Program and the Women's Center hosted the second biennial Women of Courage Luncheon in early April. Dr. Wanda Hendricks, author of *Fannie Barrier Williams: Crossing the Borders of Region and Race*, spoke at the luncheon.

Tambria Schroeder '17 (WMS, PLS, INT) won the Fannie Barrier Williams Women of Courage Scholarship, Dr. Barbara LeSavoy received the Fannie Barrier Williams Women of Courage Faculty Award, and Lucienne Nicholson '15 (WMS) received the Fannie Barrier Williams Women of Courage Alumni Award.



President Heidi Macpherson (left) and former Interim Assistant Provost for Diversity Faith Prather (right)

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+
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- Carl Davila**, History
- Robert Dobmeier**, Counselor Education*
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- Anne Macpherson**, History*+
- Morag Martin**, History*
- Barbara Mitrano**, Women and Gender Studies
- Megan Obourn**, English+
- Anne Panning**, English Ω
- Andrea Parada**, Modern Languages and Cultures
- Alison Parker**, History
- 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 Associate Faculty
Megan Backer, Lindsey Cain, Linda Edwards, Amber Humphrey, Sharon Jacobson, Karen Logsdon, Barbara Mitrano, KaeLyn Rich

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

The Women and Gender Studies Program is pleased to announce publication of the fifth volume of *Dissenting Voices*, a faculty-reviewed eJournal featuring the capstone projects of the WMS Senior Seminar students. The journal celebrates undergraduate creative agency realized on the cusp of feminist knowledge.

Volume V can be accessed at <http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/dissentingvoices>.



Students Present at Seneca Falls Dialogues

At the Fifth Biennial Seneca Falls Dialogues, October 21–23, 2016, WMS students Tambria Schroeder, Audrey Lai, Brooke Love, Maggie Rosen, Mel Brown, and Brooke Ophardt presented “Disrupting the Lean: Performing a 2016 Declaration of Sentiments.”

Led by Dr. Barbara LeSavoy, the students read from manifestos completed in their Senior Seminar and/or Feminist Theory class, which used Radical, Marxist, Queer, and Post Structural analysis of identity and place to argue for agency and voice as laborers, thinkers, artists, and activists.

Conference participants are invited to submit essay versions of their dialogues for inclusion in the Seneca Falls Dialogues Journal, a multidisciplinary, peer reviewed, online journal. Submission Deadline: January 9, 2017, at <http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/sfd/policies.html>.

The SFD is sponsored by Women and Gender Studies affiliates at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Monroe Community College, The College at Brockport, St. John Fisher College, University of Rochester, Greater Rochester Area Branch of American Association of University Women, and The Women’s Institute for Leadership and Learning.



Pictured L–R: Brooke Ophardt, Brooke Love, Audrey Lai, Dr. Barb LeSavoy, Maggie Rosen, Tambria Schroeder, Mel Brown

Faculty Highlights

WMS welcomes new Advisory Board Member **Robert Dobmeier**, PhD, associate professor in the Department of Counselor Education. His work covers spirituality in counseling, mental health on college campuses, reentry into the community for individuals who have been incarcerated, and provision of counseling services to LGBTQ individuals. Bob has spent his career working with marginalized people with mental illness and drug addiction.

Megan L. Obourn, PhD, a professor in WMS as well as English, is serving as Interim Assistant Provost for Diversity. Dr. Obourn is invested in increasing equity and inclusion on campus through community building, speaking across differences, and expanding awareness of and cultural competencies around issues of diversity and inclusion. See www.brockport.edu/about/diversity for additional details on Dr. Obourn’s

impressive diversity programming contributions since assuming this position in fall 2016.

Dr. Anne Macpherson, History, and **Dr. Barb LeSavoy**, WMS, co-presented “Translation and Community-building for Transnational Learning in Cuba and Russia,” at the 2016 Diversity Conference. Dr. Macpherson spoke on the Association of Caribbean Historians’ annual conference held in Cuba in 2016 and ways the conference integrated Caribbean historical practice across linguistic lines. Dr. LeSavoy spoke on a “Sex and Sexualities” seminar she taught at the NY Institute of Linguistics, Cognition, and Culture at St. Petersburg University in Russia and ways to navigate teaching controversial gender politics with international students. Presenting with Dr. LeSavoy and Dr. Macpherson were several WMS students who participated in the Russia program: Brooke Love, Ryan Daniel, Mel Brown, Maggie Rosen, and Taylor Bates.

WMS Co-Hosts Diverse Lectures



On November 15, WMS and Modern Languages and Cultures co-hosted a lecture in association with International Elimination of Violence Against Women. Mayan community leader and educator Juana Perez and her husband Randall Shea, a Brockport alumnus, led the talk, “Embracing Diversity, Inclusion and Educational Excellence in a Guatemalan Village.”

Pictured: Juana Perez, center



THE WRITERS FORUM

50TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

Brockport’s prestigious author series, the Writers Forum, is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. A highlight of the fall season was a reading and talk from Margaret Atwood on September 28, to a crowd of over 1,200 people. Brockport President Heidi Macpherson is an Atwood scholar and was instrumental in bringing Atwood to campus. This was Atwood’s second appearance at the Writers Forum — the first being in 1979.

The Writers Forum has become a staple of the Brockport and Rochester communities and has a history of bringing in prominent, award-winning authors. The series has played host to two Pulitzer Prize winners for fiction, four Pulitzer Prize winners for drama, 34 Pulitzer Prize winners for poetry, two National Book Award winners for fiction, 24 National Book Award winners for poetry, and five Nobel Laureates.

This spring’s Art of Fact Award recipient is novelist and memoirist Dani Shapiro, who will accept the award and give a reading on May 3, 2017, in Rochester.



L–R: Barb LeSavoy, visiting author Margaret Atwood, and Writers Forum Co-Director Anne Panning



WMS Awards and Scholarships

WMS Senior Scholar: Christina Mahagan

A WMS major with a minor in sociology, Christina worked as a marketing intern for the WMS Program, overseeing our webpage and Facebook account. Christina researched girls and cyberbullying for her WMS senior seminar, which she published in *Dissenting Voices* and presented at Scholars Day.

Jennifer M. Lloyd Essay Prize: Tambria Schroeder

For her essay, "Transgender Employment Rights Discrimination and Litigation: Expanding Understanding and Opening Doors," written for WMS 335: Legal Rights for the Disadvantaged.

Tambria also won the **Douglas Feldman LGBT Essay Contest** for this same paper. Tambria was the student speaker at Academic Convocation in fall 2016 (pictured here at that



event with President Macpherson). Tambria is an Honors student majoring in WMS, political science, and international studies. She serves as president and peer mentor in the Honors College, and she studied in Russia in summer 2015. Her 4.0 GPA is a stunning marker that underscores her many academic competencies.

First Runner-Up: Rachael Becker, for her essay, "Gender and Sexuality in Vladimir Putin's Foreign and Domestic Policy," nominated by Dr. LeSavoy, written for WMS 330: Global Perspectives on Women and Gender.

Second Runner-Up: Jimmy Luckman, for an essay he submitted from WMS 470: Gender and Popular Culture with Professor Amber Humphrey.

Third Runner-Up: Brooke Love, for her essay "Representations of Lesbians in the Media" which Brooke self-submitted, written for WMS 470: Gender and Popular Culture with Professor Amber Humphrey.

Honorable Mention: Ben Falter, for his essay: "Sex and Honor: Men's Honor as Coded in Women's Sexuality," nominated by Dr. LeSavoy, written for WMS 330: Global Perspectives on Women and Gender.

Colleen Donaldson Student Leadership Award: Nicole Posluszny

A double major in WMS and international studies, Nicole worked in the Center for Women and Gender and the Center for Select Respect as a Peer Educator, and now, as a Brockport alum, is employed at RESTORE as a sexual assault victim advocate.

Elaine K. Miller Scholarship, Harriet Whitney Award, and inaugural Woolf Erin Backer-Obourn Scholarship: Brooke Love

Triple-winner Brooke is a double major in WMS and psychology and interned in the campus Women's Center in spring 2016. She studied abroad in Russia in summer 2016 at St. Petersburg University, where she also completed an internship with an NGO that supports LGBTQ youth.



Dr. Barb LeSavoy, International Faculty, St. Petersburg, Russia

Led by WMS Director Dr. Barbara LeSavoy, eight Brockport students enrolled in The NY-St. Petersburg Institute of Linguistics, Cognition and Culture (NYI), held at the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences of St. Petersburg State University in Russia. In addition to leading the students in their study abroad, Dr. LeSavoy taught the seminar "She, He, They: Threshold Concepts in Women and Gender Studies."



Students studied across a range of NYI courses, including "Punk Music and Pop Culture"; "Women, Islam, and the West"; "Graffiti and Street Art"; "Politics of Humor"; and "Decolonial Thinking," and also completed internships in St. Petersburg. Brooke Love, Sara Connor, Maggie Rosen, Ryan Daniels, and Melissa Brown worked at a GLTBQ Center in St. Petersburg; Taylor Bates, Molly Norris, and Rachael Becker tutored English and worked in creative arts with Russian children and adults. The students' work here was courageous and path-breaking. Several in the group presented with Dr. LeSavoy in a roundtable at the 2016 National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) Conference in Montreal, Canada. 2016 is the 14th year of NYI. Since 2003, over 1,000 participants from 40 countries and 50 Russian Federation cities have received certificates for completing the NYI Explore St. Petersburg Summer Seminar Program.

Triota Inductees

The College at Brockport Beta Lambda chapter of Iota, Iota, Iota (aka Triota), WMS honor society, was founded in spring 2009. Named after three goddesses: Inanna, Ishtar and Isis, Triota strives to maintain feminist values central to women and gender studies: egalitarianism, inclusiveness and diversity.

Spring 2016 inductees are: Erica Atkin, Rachael Becker, Chelsea Bentley, Katherine Booan, Casey Cappelletti, Toby Comstock, Sara Connor, Bethany Frei, Audrey Lai, James Luckman, Marissa Macturk, Christina Mahagan, Abby Moriarty, Kathryn Nye, Brooke Ophardt, Katie Pummell, Mariel Rivera, Amanda Roberts, Maggie Rosen, Tiffani Ruffle, Alise Tallents, Lauren Tracey, and Kelsey Wright.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ONE BILLION RISING: SOLIDARITY AGAINST THE EXPLOITATION OF WOMEN

February 14, 2017



ADP SPEAKER SERIES

FEBRUARY 9-10

Rosemarie Garland-Thomson, professor and author, whose focus is on disability studies.

MARCH 23

Saru Jayaraman, Co-Founder and Co-Director of the Restaurant Opportunities Centers United (ROC United)

Women's History Month Film Series: "Honoring Trailblazing Women"

Screenings every Sunday, March 2017,
Little Theatre, Rochester, NY

*Special screening: *CITY OF JOY*, 6 pm on
March 8, International Women's Day

Tickets \$5: free to all students with ID
Check www.thelittle.org for more details. The series is sponsored by the New York Council on the Humanities and co-presented by The Susan B. Anthony Institute for Gender and Women's Studies at the University of Rochester.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. MEMORIAL LECTURE SERIES

February 21, 2017

Angela Davis

THE WRITERS FORUM

SPRING 2017

February 15: Stan Rubin and Bill Heyen
March 1: Mary Gaitskill
March 29: Rigoberto Gonzalez
April 19: Noelle deJesus Chua
May 3: Dani Shapiro (Art of Fact Award)

THE CLOTHESLINE PROJECT

APRIL 18-19, 2017

THE POWER OF GIVING

Please consider WMS in your giving plans.

The Fannie Barrier Williams Women of Courage Scholarship, 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 the monetary share to 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 WMS recognition opportunities and the remarkable WMS students they laud. Visit alumni.brockport.edu/give to make online contributions.

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/academics/women_gender/master.



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

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