



Gender Notes

Fall 2018 Vol. 11

A Note from the Chair



Barbara LeSavoy, PhD

I am thrilled to introduce Volume 11 of *Gender Notes* and also thrilled to highlight a milestone year. Most significant, WMS achieved the long sought goal of becoming a Department. Related, I am no longer writing to you as program director but as department chair. If you are cheering out-loud, you should! It's been a long road. And winding. And I'd be remiss not to mention a few bumps. Permutations aside, WMS has been a major and minor at Brockport since 2001, and like other departmental majors, we have a major curriculum and claim a unique body of scholarship that informs the discipline. Invoking a bit of feminist theory, words do what they say. Now the Department of Women and Gender Studies, we officially are what we have been all along.

WMS has more to celebrate. In spring 2018 we hired a new tenure track assistant professor in WMS with SOC affiliation, Dr. Bek Orr, a 2008 Brockport alumna whom we are delighted to welcome back to Women and Gender Studies. We also are excited to welcome longtime English Department faculty member Dr. Milo Obourn, who is now splitting their appointment between Women and Gender and English. You can read more about Dr. Orr's and Dr. Obourn's teaching and scholarly expertise in this newsletter. We also are eager to announce a new Advanced Graduate Certificate in Women and Gender Studies, launching in spring 2019. These impressive WMS milestones would not be possible without the dedication and support of our WMS Advisory Board. Their diligence, hard work, and persistence in the face of challenge are the reasons we stand faculty, curriculum, and department strong today. The Advisory Board members are listed and pictured to the right; their service to WMS is remarkable.

Other WMS 2017-18 highlights include 17 students inducted into the WMS Honor Society, Iota, Iota, Iota (Triota) and over 20 WMS students presented at our April '18 Scholar's Day. WMS celebrated a new slate of winners for Senior Scholar, the Elaine K. Miller WMS/MLC Scholarship, Jennifer M. Lloyd WMS Essay Prize, Woolf Obourn Scholarship, Harriett Whitney Award, and Colleen Donaldson Student Leadership Award. Six students presented at the fall '18 Biennial Seneca Falls Dialogues and four students attended, one as a poster presenter, the November '18 National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) Conference in Atlanta, GA. WMS is thrilled to showcase volume VI of its WMS Senior Seminar scholarly eJournal, *Dissenting Voices*. And we congratulate Dr. Anne Panning and Dr. Katherine Clark Walter on their new books.

You can read about these and other success indicators throughout this newsletter and on our website at brockport.edu/wms where you'll also find details on the accomplishments of our growing WMS alumni.

Please enjoy this fall '18 edition of *Gender Notes*, and join me in welcoming our new faculty to the new Department of Women and Gender Studies.



Women's Program Board

Barbara LeSavoy, Board Chair, Women and Gender Studies

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WMS Associate Faculty

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2018 National Women's Studies Association Conference



L-R: Dr. Bek Orr, Angelica Whitehorne, Mackenzie April, Jenna Bygall, Allie Knapp and Dr. Barb LeSavoy

Four WMS students attended/presented with Dr. Barb LeSavoy, WMS Chair, at the NWSA Conference, "Just Imagine: Feminist Visions of Freedom, Dreammaking, and the Radical Politics of Futures" Nov. 8-11.

Angelica Whitehorne presented a poster, "Through the Lens of Feminist Revolution." Dr. LeSavoy, presented a paper, "Busting Out and Pushing Back: Recentering the Center of Sex and Gender Pedagogy." WMS students Mackenzie April, Jenna

Bygall, Allie Knapp, and Angelica Whitehorne presented with Dr. LeSavoy. As part of the same panel, Dr. Milo Obourn, WMS and ENG, presented "Racialized Disgender: Caring about the Body Beyond the Binary." Dr. Bek Orr, WMS and SOC, presented a paper, "Stay Sexy and Don't Get Murdered: Responding to Gendered Violence with the Creation of Digital Feminist Communities."

BSG student travel grants helped support student travel and conference attendance.

Faculty Spotlights



Dr. Bek Orr is a Brockport alum, having earned her Bachelor's degree from the College in 2008. She earned her Masters and Doctorate in Sociology and a Certificate of Advanced Studies in Women's and Gender Studies

from Syracuse University. Bek spent the last four years at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Virginia where she taught in the Department of Sociology. Bek's research interests include LGBTQIA archives and communities, transgenerational exchange, and collective memory.

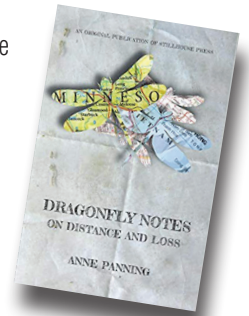


Dr. Milo Obourn is Associate Professor of English and Women and Gender Studies. They teach 20th and 21st century US literatures, critical race theory, gender and sexuality, and disability studies. Their first book is

Reconstituting Americans: Liberal Multiculturalism and Identity Difference in Post-1960s US Literature (2011). Their current project is titled: *Disabled Futures: Disability, Wounded Attachment and the Future of Identity Politics*.



Dr. Anne Panning, ENG, published her new memoir, *Dragonfly Notes: On Distance and Loss* (2018, Stillhouse Press). Dr. Panning is the author of the novel *Butter* and the story collections *Super America* — winner of the 2006 Flannery O'Connor prize — and *The Price of Eggs*. Her work has appeared in journals including *The Kenyon Review*, *Brevity*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Quarterly West*, and *Five Points*.



Dr. Katherine Clark Walter published a new book, *The Profession of Widowhood: Widows, Pastoral Care, and Medieval Models of Holiness* (2018, Catholic University of America Press). The book explores how the idea of "true"

widowhood was central to pre-modern ideas concerning marriage and of female identity more generally.



WMS Dr. Martins
of the Seneca Falls Dialogues

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 '18 Inductees: Joy Davidson-Davis, Ilish Glann, Allison Knapp, Jasmine Mohamed Kamal, Julia Palozzi, Zakiya Tripp, Mac-kenzie April, Kari Ashworth, Maria Grann, Kathleen Kelly, Alisyn Klock, Zoe Pennington, Katherine Scranton, Abigail Thompson, Megan Wright, Kendra Picket, Kamile Newton

Experiencing Culture & History in Central Europe: Germany and Poland



Study Abroad with Dr. Barb LeSavoy and Dr. Donna Kowal
JUNE 1-18, 2019

This intensive interdisciplinary program combines classroom study with experiential learning. We will explore the transformation of Central Europe and the politics of public memory in the aftermath of WWII and the Holocaust, the fall of Communism, democratization, and European integration. The program includes travel to four major cities

(Berlin, Warsaw, Krakow, Wroclaw) and a community service project.

For more information contact one of the faculty leaders: Dr. Donna Kowal, 219 Holmes Hall, dkowal@brockport.edu; or Dr. Barbara LeSavoy, 118 LAB, blesavoy@brockport.edu.

WMS Awards and Scholarships

WMS Senior Scholar: Kelsi Nau

Kelsi graduated Summa Cum Laude with a cumulative 3.92 GPA across two majors: WMS and SWO with a minor in CRJ. She was a member of the Alpha Chi, WMS Triota, and the National College Athletic Honor Societies. She interned at an emergency transitional housing agency and worked at the Center for Select Respect. She was a student athlete on Brockport's softball team, and is attending The University of Albany for a Masters in Social Welfare Advanced Standing Program.

Harriet Whitney Award: Melissa Szurgyi

Melissa was a SOC and WMS major with a minor in Interpersonal and Organizational Communication. She served as an Honors Peer Mentor, and was a member of the Leadership Development Program, Habitat for Humanity, and the Brockport Symphony Orchestra. She also worked on campus as an office aid for the School of Education, Health and Human Services and for the Office of Community Development. Melissa presented her work on intersectionality within domestic violence at the Diversity Conference and NWSA Conference in fall '17. Additionally, Melissa was awarded the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence. Melissa is currently serving in the Rochester Youth Year Program through AmeriCorps.

Colleen Donaldson Student Leadership Award: Bailey Morse

Bailey was a double major in PSH and WMS with a minor in African/African American Studies. She was president for two years of the Gender Equity Movement, formerly known as the American Association of University Women, and two year vice-president; co-founder of VEG Club; and recipient of the 2018 Club Officer of the Year Award.

Elaine K. Miller Scholarship & Woolf Erin Backer-Obourn Scholarship: Alise Murray

Alise is a double major in SWO and WMS. She is interested in advocating for people's rights and bringing awareness to the community around social and gender justice causes. She hopes to bring an intersectional feminist lens in her career in social work. After Brockport, she plans to pursue her MSW at University of Buffalo.

Jennifer M. Lloyd Essay Prize: Julia Palozzi

The Prize was given to Julia Palozzi for her essay entitled "Hunter vs the Hunted," written for WMS 421. Julia is a WMS and ENG double major. She hopes to go on to a masters program in ENG or WMS and help women and children through education and activism.

First Runner-Up: Melissa Szurgyi, for her essay entitled "Female Poverty: Existing Research and Policy Evaluations."

Second Runner-Up: Jenna Bygall, for her essay, "The Underrepresentation of Women in Politics: A Manifesto," which she wrote for WMS 409 and which Dr. LeSavoy nominated.

Honorable Mentions: Mel Brown and Morgan Salisbury

Mel for her essay, "The Face of Poverty" which she wrote for WMS 421 in Spring 2017 and which Dr. LeSavoy nominated. Morgan for her essay, "Zootopia: The Feminist Film," which she wrote for WMS 470 and which Professor Humphrey nominated.

There were several essay finalists: Makenzie April, Allisyn Klock, Allie Knapp, Jasmine Mohamed, Bailey Morse, Emily Nunez and Theresa Rodriguez.

Sixth Biennial Seneca Falls Dialogues: Race and Intersecting Feminist Futures

WMS students, Mackenzie April, Kelsie Kupiec, Jasmine Kamal Mohamed, Kendra Pickett, Zakiya Tripp, Angelica Whitehorne, and Megan Wright presented at the 6th Biennial Seneca Falls Dialogues on October 19-21, 2018.

WMS Chair and Associate Professor, Dr. Barb LeSavoy, facilitated the session where students presented feminist manifestos as part of the roundtable, "Doing the *: Performing the Radical in Antiracist, Antisexist Work." Megan Wright presented a poster, "Queering the Brown in Hector Silvo's Art." Dr. Bek Orr, Assistant Professor, WMS and SOC, Dr. Ismael Souto, Assistant Professor and Dr. Andrea Parada, Chair and Professor, MLC, Dr. Morag Martin, Associate Professor, HST, and Haley Johnson, Resident Director, also attended the SFD. Brockport student Brandon Nitti and WMS alumna Amber Wilk also attended the SFD weekend.

The 2018 SFD Keynote and Women's Institute for Leadership and Learning (WILL) recipient was author, speaker, and rad activist KaeLyn Rich; adjunct faculty in WMS, and Assistant Advocacy Director for Chapters of the New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU) and the New York affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). KaeLyn is featured in Sarah Rutherford's "Her Voice Carries" art installation and also is the author of the recently published book, *Girls Resist*.

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 that grows out of the Biennial Seneca Falls Dialogues. SFD and SFD Journal inquiries can be directed to blesavoy@brockport.edu.

WMS Students Publish Volume VII of *Dissenting Voices eJournal*

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

Dissenting Voices volume seven introduces nine authors who write across a diverse range of topics salient to Women and Gender Studies. The cover of DV7 features a distinctive hand print of each author, capturing the sense of feminist community that was present in the classroom and now spills into and gels the pages of the essays in the journal.

Volume VII can be accessed at digitalcommons.brockport.edu/dissentingvoices.

Teresa Rodriguez (HST '18) was the copy editor for this volume, contributing over 50 hours to ensure each article met APA format. Managing Editor Pat Maxwell guided implementation and publication. Editorial Board members are Tristan S. Bridges, Barbara Mitrano, and Milo Obourn.



2018 Fannie Barrier Williams "Courage" Award



The Fannie Barrier Williams "Courage" Award recognizes exceptional faculty, staff, students, alumni, and emeriti who have demonstrated a commitment to social justice with a special focus on the intersectionality of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, ability, religion, and age.

This year Kimberley Adams, WMS '08 was awarded the Fannie Barrier Williams Alumni Courage Award and Dr. Milo Obourn, WMS and ENG, was awarded the Fannie Barrier Williams Faculty Courage Award.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ONE BILLION RISING: SOLIDARITY AGAINST THE EXPLOITATION OF WOMEN



2018-19 International Speaker Series

February 18, 2019 – Empowering Women in the Middle East: Education, Employment and Politics

Dr. Manar Sabry, Senior Assistant Director of Strategic Analysis, Department of Career Consultants and Professionals, SUNY Binghamton.

Co-sponsored by the Women and Gender Studies & Modern Languages and Cultures Departments and funded through an Investment Funds for the Future (IFF) Grant.


The series is designed to enhance connections across cultural differences and disciplines and to engage students, faculty, staff, and community members in a dialogue about important global and transnational issues. Speaker topics include trauma and collective memory; Latin migration and social rights; intersections of migration and rural development; gender justice movements across geographies; global feminisms; and pop culture as reassessment of histories of trauma in Asia.

March 7, 2019 – #LipstickRebellion and Feminist Consciousness in Contemporary Indian Hatke Cinema

Dr. Gohar Siddiqi, Assistant Professor of Screen Studies, Department of Visual and Performing Arts, Clark University.

Clothesline Project • April 18-19, 2019 • Student Union Ballroom

WMS POWER OF GIVING



In addition to supporting the Fannie Barrier Williams Scholarship, please consider additional WMS initiatives in your giving plans. The Elaine K. Miller Scholarship, the Jennifer M. Lloyd Essay Prize, and the Woolf Obourn Scholarship endowed 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 at Brockport 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.

WMS at the Graduate Level

Advanced Graduate Certificate in Women and Gender Studies

The 12-credit Advanced Graduate Certificate in Women and Gender Studies serves as a strategic credential that can enhance a variety of graduate degree programs. It can also stand alone as a complement to any undergraduate degree. The interdisciplinary and intersectional nature of Women and Gender Studies makes the Certificate an ideal program addition for students interested in careers in higher education, law, social justice, industry, government, criminal justice, business, and the nonprofit work sector. The certificate also offers students knowledge and research skills

well suited for further masters or doctoral pursuits across a variety of fields. Learn more about the certificate at: brockport.edu/graduate/programs.

MALS

Students also 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 brockport.edu/wms/master.html.



Alumni, let us know what you're up to!

Email Dr. LeSavoy at blesavoy@brockport.edu with your latest news and accomplishments.



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

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