Gender Notes

FALL 2009 ISSUE #2

A Note from the WMS Program Director

I am thrilled to begin my third year serving as Women and Gender Studies (WMS) Director and excited to chart the program’s progress. After graduating seven of 19 WMS majors, WMS is again at 19 majors, and impressively, over 40 students are pursuing the WMS minor, almost double the number just one year ago. The WMS Program Board, a vibrant multidisciplinary advisory structure comprised of faculty, staff, and students, has been instrumental in advancing WMS Program matters and in generating student interest in the WMS discipline. You’ll find a complete list of all WMS Board members and other faculty and staff roles associated with WMS in the sidebar to the right.

WMS Program 2008-2009 highlights include 15 WMS student presentations at Scholar’s Day in April ’09, and one WMS student poster session and three WMS student attendees at the NWSA Conference in Atlanta, Georgia in November ’09. WMS associates/affiliates were active as both teachers and scholars with over 25 publications including four books forthcoming or in print and over 15 WMS related papers presented at international, national, and local venues. And our WMS alumni continue to grow and prosper in the graduate arena. The Alumni Column on page four highlights some of these impressive accomplishments.

New WMS Program ventures include a WMS marketing internship established under the charge of the WMS curriculum subcommittee chaired by Dr. Alisia Chase, associate professor in art history. Two WMS seniors will be stepping into this internship in spring ’10 where they will be making a series of presentations about the WMS discipline to area high school and community college student audiences. Another exciting 2008-2009 WMS Program milestone was charting of a WMS Honor’s Society, Iota, Iota, Iota (Triota), which inducted its first members from the spring ’09 graduating class. Details about this event and other WMS program recognitions can be found on page three.

Much to the credit of a thriving WMS community, the WMS Program continues to flourish. As I reflect back over the last few years it is with awe in all that we have accomplished; as I look to the future, it is with enthusiasm and a solid vision in furthering WMS teaching, research, and service initiatives. On the horizon for spring ’10 is the WMS Program’s long awaited move to its new suite of offices in Dailey Hall. Please watch for the spring ’10 WMS Dailey Hall Rooms of Our Own reception.

Peace and best wishes for a productive year ahead and enjoy this fall ’09 second edition of Gender Notes.

WMS Program Board

Barbara LeSavoy, board chair, women and gender studies
Sharon Allen, English
Alisian Chase, art history
Katherine Clark, history
Denise Copelton, sociology
Mary Corey, education and human development
Carl Davila, history
Colleen Donaldson, academic affairs
Amber Humphrey, women and gender studies
Kathy Halstead, member-at-large
Donna Kowal, communication
Jenny Lloyd, emeriti, history
Anne Macpherson, history
Megan Obourn, English
Barbara Mitrano, women and gender studies/student support services
Anne Panning, English
Alison Parker, history
Andrea Parada, foreign language and literatures
Meredith Roman, history
Patricia Sharkey, nursing
Ayana Weekley, women and gender studies
Jennifer Ratcliff, psychology
Barbara Thompson, history, McNair/CSStep
Susan Stites Doe, business administration and economics
Joan Spade, sociology
Benjamin Kruger and Chelsey Franz, WMS student representatives

WMS Curricula Subcommittee
Alisia Chase, art history, chair
Megan Obourn, English
Denise Copelton, sociology
Anne Macpherson, history
Ayana Weekley, women and gender studies
Meredith Roman, history

WMS Associate Faculty
Amber Humphrey
Barbara Mitrano
Mary Buggie-Hunt
Sharon Jacobson

WMS Presidential Fellow Faculty
Ayana Weekley
Andrea Parada

WMS Office Assistants
Mary Thomas and Kate Carter, English/women and gender studies

Dr. Jennifer M Lloyd Tribute

At the WMS ’09 End of Year Award Ceremony, the Program bid farewell to esteemed HST/WMS colleague and prominent WMS leader, Dr. Jenny Lloyd, who retired in Spring ’09. Jenny’s tireless dedication to WMS and its cause is largely why we stand here today—a thriving discipline serving students as a major and minor since 2001. In Jenny’s honor, Amber Humphrey, WMS associate faculty, established the WMS Jennifer M. Lloyd Essay Prize, which was awarded for the first time in spring ’09 and will be awarded annually thereafter. Details on this award can be found on page 2. Also in Jenny’s honor, WMS installed Jenny in the Book of Lives of Legacies at the Women’s Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, NY. In a farewell celebration, WMS presented this tribute to Jenny, honoring her many extraordinary years of service to WMS and the college. WMS is grateful for Jenny’s remarkable contributions and the very discernible WMS path she has forged.
WMS Senior Scholar

The award recognizes a WMS graduating senior with the highest GPA and who has contributed measurably to WMS related interests on campus and within the community. Rosa Luciano, WMS ’09, now a graduate student in the counselor education program at The College at Brockport, was the 2009 senior scholar. Rosa juggled parenting, living costs, day care, and transportation to and from Rochester while she excelled in her studies, and remained active in student life. Some of Rosa’s accomplishments included VOX (Voices for Planned Parenthood) Treasurer, WSO Member, Seneca Falls celebrate ’08 Student Reporter, Student Support Services Program Counselor Intern, Adult Student Award nominee, Scholars Day presenter, and McNair Scholar.

Jennifer M. Lloyd WMS Essay Prize

This prize was established in 2009 to honor Jenny M. Lloyd, PhD, esteemed faculty member of the Department of History and prior Director of WMS, and to recognize outstanding undergraduate writing on/about women and/or gender issues. The 2009 inaugural award recipient, nominated by Megan Obourn, PhD, English, was Sarah Evans ’09, women and gender studies/English, who is now pursuing a master’s in English at SUNY Binghamton.

Elaine K. Miller WMS Scholarship

The Elaine K. Miller scholarship was established by Elaine K. Miller, PhD, associate professor emerita in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures and former interim director of WMS. Lindsay Hansen ’10, PLS/English/women and gender studies, was the 2009 Miller Scholarship recipient. In addition to her academic merit, Lindsay serves in a number of student leadership roles on campus including president of the BSG run Women’s Studies Organization.

WMS Student Leadership Award

This WMS Program award, granted by nomination, was established in 2009 to recognize extraordinary student leadership in support of the WMS Program and WMS Program related initiatives. Hilarie Dahl ’09, women and gender studies, now a graduate student in the Department of Communication at The College at Brockport, was the inaugural award recipient, recognized for her outstanding WMS leadership contributions.

Harriett Whitney Award

The Harriett Whitney Women’s Studies Award was founded in 1974 to commemorate the retirement of Harriett Whitney. The award is by nomination and recognizes students for personal commitment to women and gender studies and sensitivity to women’s lives as an aspect of the human condition. Sarah Evans ’09, women and gender studies/English and Hilarie Dahl ’09, women and gender studies, were the 2009 Whitney Award recipients.

AAUW Internship

The College at Brockport chapter of Iota, Iota, Iota (aka Triota), WMS honor society, was founded in spring 2009 and inducted its first members at the WMS April ’09 End of Year Award Ceremonies. Iota, Iota, Iota, named after three goddesses, Inanna, Ishtar, and Isis, strives to maintain feminist values central to women and gender studies: egalitarianism, inclusiveness, and diversity. Membership is open to WMS majors and minors who have achieved third semester standing with at least three hours of WMS courses and with a minimum GPA of 3.0

2009 Triota inductees: Lindsay Cain, Hilarie Dahl, Catherine Dean, Sarah Evans, Benjamin Kruger, Rosa Luciano, Caitlin Simonese, Carol Smith, Jennifer Thomas Moore, Tina Carson, Jamie Mule, Lindsay Hansen, Devon Davidson, Shante Brown, Charnay Paris, Jordynn Bree, Amanda Sovern, Anne Robinson, Jamie Bergeron ’08, Rebekah Orr ’08

The WMS Power of Giving

Please consider WMS in your giving plans. The Elaine K. Miller Scholarship and the Jennifer M. Lloyd Essay Prize, named in tribute to their respective benefactors, carry a monetary award to student recipients. In these changeable times, 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 either of these funds. Even small contributions can secure these extraordinary WMS recognition opportunities and the remarkable WMS students they laud.

Visit www.brockport.edu/giving or contact the Office of Alumni Relations and Development at (585) 395-2451.
Students in WMS 411, Feminist Research Methods, under the instruction of Dr. Barbara Mitrano, are exploring an array of feminist-based research questions. Research topics include: Female and Male Perceptions of Female Sexuality (Chelsey Franz); Bisexual Perceptions of GLBT Issues (Angela Buchiere); Feminist Disability Theory (Lauren Burdett); Homophobic Attitudes among African Americans (Felicia Cordero); Male Perceptions of Dating (Monica Hall); Male Perceptions of Rape Culture (Benjamin Kruger); Teacher Awareness of Gender Roles in K-12 Classrooms (Brandy More); and Feminist Views of Catholicism (Danielle Reff). At the conclusion of the fall semester, WMS 411 students will produce a research proposal that they will present at Scholars Day in April 2010.

Also of note, Chelsey Franz (WMS ’10) presented a poster session at NWSA in November ’09 entitled, Access Denied US Restrictions on Transnational Family Planning, which mapped political and economic structures that have obscured reproductive freedoms among women in a national and transnational context. McNair scholars, Angela Buchiere (WMS ’10) and Felicia Cordero (WMS ’10) also attended the NWSA conference.


Joan Spade, sociology, Fulbright Award, Lectureship at Centre for Intercultural Psychology and Education at ELTE University, Budapest Hungary January to June, 2009; The Kaleidoscope of Gender: Prisms, Patterns, and Possibilities, 3rd edition (with Catherine G. Valentine); Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, to be published Spring, 2010

Ayana Weekley, women and gender studies, presented a paper, Queering Theories of Black Female Heterosexuality, at the NWSA Conference, November 2009.

Faculty Highlights

Sharon Allen, ENL, Fulbright Scholar Fellowship from the Council for International Education and Fulbright Commission to teach comparative literature and theory at the University of Lisbon, Portugal, in the fall of 2009.


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WMS 2008-2009 Faculty Honors and Awards

Alisia Chase, art history, Chancellors Award for Excellence in Teaching

Denise Copleton, sociology, Academic Advising Award

Student Research

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WMS welcomes Presidential Fellow, Anne Kustritz, PhD, who joined the program in fall ’09 and will be with WMS for the next two years. Anne did her undergraduate work at the University of Minnesota and her graduate work at the University of Michigan. Her academic interests include: Internet cultures, female communities, active audiences, and women’s sexuality. This fall Anne is teaching Introduction to Women and Gender Studies and Gay and Lesbian Culture and in the spring she will be teaching Queer Film and TV as well as Introduction to Queer Theory. In her upcoming work, Anne will be looking at reproductive futurity in science fiction and fantasy. WMS is thrilled to have Anne here and we look forward to her program and College contributions in the semesters ahead.

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

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Brockport, NY 14420
Phone: (585) 359-5700
E-mail: blesavoy@brockport.edu
www.brockport.edu/wms/

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)? Using the liberal studies seminars and graduate-level WMS courses, students can design a plan of study that concentrates on their areas of interests within women and gender studies. Additional information can be found at www.brockport.edu/wms/master.html.

WMS Alumni……. We’d love to hear from you! Please update us on where you are and what you’re doing. You can e-mail your latest news to blesavoy@brockport.edu.

May ’08 Graduates

Jamie Bergeron, women and gender studies, MEd in Student Affairs, University of Buffalo, expected degree, May ’10 a graduate assistant for Wellness Education/Health Promotions working as an Ally Development Coordinator for LGBT, where she teaches/facilitates programs on campus climate. She also is teaching a section of a freshman orientation course, and serving as a teaching assistant for a course on health and wellness

Rebekah Orr, women and gender studies/sociology, MA candidate in sociology at Syracuse University, expected degree, May ’10. Engaged in research on transnational feminist perspective as applied to US/domestic-based marginalized communities. She also is serving as a teaching assistant for Introduction to Sociology, as a graduate student representative on the Undergraduate Curriculum Coordinating Committee in Sociology, and is advising/starting an undergraduate sociology club.

Kimberly Adams, women and gender studies, second-year law student at Wayne State University; spring ’10 Equal Justice America Fellowship recipient and The Freda and Earnest Goodman endowed civil rights scholarship recipient.

Alumni Corner

Men and Gender Studies Mission Statement

The Women and Gender Studies Program is committed to exploring gender and women’s issues from a multidisciplinary perspective: across different populations; and within a local, national and transnational context. The program seeks to provide students with the occasion to investigate the intersectionality of sex, gender, race, ethnicity, class, age, sexuality and other dimensions of social identity. The program offers both a major and a minor with course work dedicated to heightening the awareness of the political, socioeconomic, and cultural ideologies related to gender theory. The women and gender studies curriculum seeks to support pedagogy rooted in social justice and equality and to situate the classroom as a collaborative space where both instructor and students mediate knowledge production. The Women and Gender Studies Program works to make the diversity of women’s and gendered perspectives visible and to position student success within an academic, professional, and personal context.

Faculty Spotlight

Anne Kustritz

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Anne Kustritz, PhD, who joined the program in fall ’09 and will be with WMS for the next two years. Anne did her undergraduate work at the University of Minnesota and her graduate work at the University of Michigan. Her academic interests include: Internet cultures, female communities, active audiences, and women’s sexuality. This fall Anne is teaching Introduction to Women and Gender Studies and Gay and Lesbian Culture and in the spring she will be teaching Queer Film and TV as well as Introduction to Queer Theory. In her upcoming work, Anne will be looking at reproductive futurity in science fiction and fantasy. WMS is thrilled to have Anne here and we look forward to her program and College contributions in the semesters ahead.

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