A Note from the Chair

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 prizes, Woolf Obourn Scholarship, Harriett Whitney Award, and Colleen Donaldson Student Leadership Award.

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
Sharon Allen, English
Alisia Chase, Art History
Katherine Clark Walter, History
Denise Copelton, Sociology
Carl Davila, History
Robert Dobmeier, Counselor Education
Patti Follansbee, Healthcare Studies
Karen Logsdon, Enrollment Management and Student Affairs
Anne Macpherson, History
Morag Martin, History
Milo Obourn, English/Women and Gender Studies
Bek Orr, Women and Gender Studies and Sociology
Anne Panning, English
Andrea Parada, Modern Languages and Cultures
Alison Parker, History
Ismail Rumbo-Souto, Modern Languages and Cultures

WMS Curricula Subcommittee
Robert Dobmeier (Chair), Denise Copelton, Morag Martin, Anne Macpherson, Katherine Clark Walter, Milo Obourn, Bek Orr

WMS Assessment Subcommittee
Barbara LeSavoy (Chair), Alisia Chase, Katherine Clark Walter, Anne Macpherson, Milo Obourn

WMS APT Committee
Milo Obourn (Chair), Denise Copelton, Alisia Chase, Anne Panning, Alison Parker

WMS Associate Faculty
Amy Braksmajor, Amber Humphrey, Karen Logsdon, Sharon Jacobson, Kaellyn Rich, Rachael Mulvihill

2018 National Women’s Studies Association Conference

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 Mackenize 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. 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.


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, MacKenzie 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.

#### 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 Professor Humphrey 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 Humphrey nominated.

- Jennifer Morgan
- Melissa Szurgyi
- Alise Murray
- Kelsi Nau
- Bethany Kempke

Honorable Mentions: Mel Brown and Morgan Salisbury

*Note: The above text is extracted from a larger document and may lack context for complete understanding.*

### 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 7 introduces nine authors who write across a diverse range of topics salient to Women and Gender Studies. The cover of DV7 features a distinctive handmade 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.

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.

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

### 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 Silva’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 (NVCLU) 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.

### 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**

### 2018-19 International Speaker Series

**ONE BILLION RISING:** Solidarity Against the Exploitation of Women

#### 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.

**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.

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.

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

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**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](https://alumni.brockport.edu/give) to make online contributions.

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**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](http://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](http://brockport.edu/wms/master.html).

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**Alumni, let us know what you’re up to!**

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

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

Barbara LeSavoy, PhD
118 Liberal Arts Building
The College at Brockport
State University of New York
Brockport, NY 14420
Phone: (585) 395-5700
Fax: (585) 395-2448
Email: blesavoy@brockport.edu

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