A WORD FROM THE CHAIR
I am thrilled to introduce myself as the new Chair of the Department of Women and Gender Studies. Women and Gender Studies is in an exciting time as we enter our second year as a department with three full time faculty members and some excellent new part time teaching faculty, some of whom are highlighted here. This also marks the second year of our Graduate Certificate in Women and Gender studies and the first year of the new Minor in Disability Studies.

This fall our faculty have participated in several local, national, and international talks and events. Dr. Bek Orr presented on the Lesbian Herstory Archives for the Rochester Institute of Technology’s Stonewall 50 Celebration series. Dr. Barbara LeSavoy served as a diplomat and Chair of the Women’s Partnership for Rochester Novgorod Sister City Initiative in Moscow, Russia. Dr. Milo Obourn served as a writing workshop facilitator for the Susan B. Anthony Institute’s 2019 National Writing Collective. Dr. Orr and Dr. LeSavoy also presented with Dr. Ismael Souto-Rumbo from the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures, and Senior Megan Wright (triple major in Spanish, Sociology, and Women & Gender Studies) a panel entitled, "Doing the #: Performing the Radical in Antiracist Antisexist Work," at the 2019 National Women’s Studies Association’s Annual Conference, November 14 – 17 2019 in San Francisco. The department in collaboration with colleagues and students also hosted events for National Coming Out Day, Trans Day of Remembrance, Indigenous People’s Day, and International Violence Against Women Day.

I am so excited to be working with fabulous colleagues and students as we continue to grow and expand our community and our impact. For more information on any of our programs see our webpage at https://www.brockport.edu/academics/women_gender/ or contact me at mobourn@brockport.edu

WGS HIGHLIGHTS

WGS NEWS AND EVENTS
- Take Back the Night
- Harriet Tubman Stamping Event
- Uplifting Identities Luncheon
- Launched NEW Disabilities Studies Minor
- Diversity Conference
- NWSA Conference
- 2020 Biennial Seneca Falls Dialogues
- International Speaker Series
- Rainbow Dialogues
- Transawareness Tie Dye
- Indigenous People’s Day
- Kisses Karaoke
- Gender Equity Night
- Women’s March

SUNY Brockport Students at the Buffalo Women’s March 2019!

STUDENTS
Courtney Earle (she/her/hers) is a senior graduating in May 2020 with degrees in Women and Gender Studies and Public Health. She chose to major in WGS because of the amazing faculty, interesting courses, and countless career opportunities. Her research focuses on menstruation, with special interest in the homeless population and how menstruation is, or is not, talked about. She served as the department intern in Fall 2019. After graduation she hopes to serve as a woman’s health educator and facilitator in the Peace Corps.

Tambria Schroeder graduated from Brockport in 2017 with degrees in Women and Gender Studies, Political Science, and International Relations. While at Brockport she had the opportunity to present at the NWSA conference 2 times and had her work published. She studied abroad in St. Petersburg, Russia at the New York - St. Petersburg Institute of Linguistic, Cognition, and Culture. She is currently a program specialist in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor’s Office of Global Program at the US Department of State in Washington, DC.
We share a safe place where we can discuss anything from personal successes to Queer & Trans classes. And they are a member of LEGION, a local grassroots activist group focused on transgender rights and empowerment.

Dr. Barb LeSavoy (she/her/hers) Associate Professor and former Chair of the Department of Women and Gender Studies, spoke on October 11 as part of a plenary, "Culture, Education, and Mutual Understanding in the 21st Century," at a Russia/US Municipal Forum held in Moscow, Russia. Dr. LeSavoy attended and spoke at the meeting on behalf of Linkages of Rochester, a non-for-profit, NYS corporation, which has sponsored the sister city relationship between Rochester and Velikiy Novgorod Russia since 1990. Dr. LeSavoy is on sabbatical in spring 2020 where she will be studying and writing about her ongoing Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) teaching partnership with The College at Brockport and Velikiy Novgorod State University in Russia.

Dr. Bek Orr (they/them/their or she/her/hers) teaches a variety of courses in the department: Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies, Feminist Research Methods, LGBTQ Cultures, and Digital Sociology and Online Communities. Their research is at the intersections of queer archives and memory, digital culture, and community, and they are passionate about working with students across a variety of research and activist projects. Dr. Orr delivered the keynote address at the 2019 Anthony Mascioli Rainbow Dialogue: "(Re)telling the Past and (Re)shaping the Future: Community Building at the Lesbian Herstory Archives in a Post-Stonewall Era". Also in 2019, Dr. Orr was an invited speaker at the Rochester Public Library’s Lesbian Visibility Day Celebration, and at Rochester Institute of Technology’s Stonewall @ 50 Speaker Series.

Dr. Sam Waters (he/him/his) teaches WGS 271: Gender, Class, and Race. His primary interests are exploring the intersections of oppression, how they function in daily life, and how they appear in online contexts. He spends much of his free time working as a member of the leadership team for the local chapter of Showing Up For Racial Justice (SURJ ROC). SURJ ROC works to undo the negative messaging around race, and to educate and organize white people on matters of racial justice. Sam is also active in local politics, and the local LGBTQ+ community.

The club Gender Equity Movement works in the Brockport community to advocate for the equity of all identities regardless of gender. G.E.M. works to bring awareness on the "importance of deliberative dialogue, leadership and community in solving issues of social justice" according to mybrockport.edu. G.E.M. has events such as Transawareness TieDye, Indigenous People’s Day, Kisses Karaoke and an Activism Brunch. Clubs such as The MOVEMENT, PRIDE club and SSWO collab with G.E.M. for multiple events throughout the semster such as Gender Equity Night and Transawareness TieDye. G.E.M. is welcome to everyone and we love seeing new faces! We share a safe place where we can discuss anything from personal successes to national news.