

Newsletter

Greetings from the WGS Chair

Not to be too cliché, but I can think of no better way to open this greeting than referring to the changing seasons which seem to have come upon us quite suddenly. The ginkgo trees outside our offices have already turned an astonishing yellow and have mostly dropped their leaves. And I am reminded of how much can change in a single year.

Many of you may know that WGS is in transition this year! Professor Cindy Stearns, after years dedicated toward building Women's and Gender Studies at SSU, has shifted her tenure over to the Department of Sociology. Among her numerous accomplishments, she successfully guided this once-Program into Departmental status and was responsible for the tremendous growth in the department-- hiring two additional tenure track faculty, including myself. She will continue to teach her course WGS 440: Sociology of Reproduction and as always, is a stalwart support to the WGS department and students. We have been fortunate indeed! And the second transition, Professor Nan Alamilla Boyd has taken a new position as Chair of Women's Studies at San Francisco State. The Queer Studies curriculum she developed at SSU continues to be a tremendous benefit to both current and future WGS students.

This year, WGS has a wonderful complement of faculty and instructors. Dr. Don Romesburg is a Visiting Assistant Professor and graduate of UC-Berkeley; Dr. Mary Churchill comes to us with extensive teaching experience from University of Colorado-Boulder; Jocelyn Arild is an alumna of the WGS department returning to teach at her alma mater, and Elaine Wellin is lending a hand from SSU's Sociology Department. These talented folks are all on-board this year, ensuring that our students are on-track! And relatedly, WGS is in the process of hiring two tenure track faculty and we look forward to the exciting changes to come!

And finally, in keeping with this theme of change, this Fall, WGS invited six fabulous SSU Women's Studies Founders and Alumna to speak on "Women's and Gender Studies: Past, Present and Future." This was in conjunction with Professor Michelle Jolly's (Chair, History Department)

WGS STUDENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

WGS students are contributing to both on-campus and off-campus communities while gaining valuable experience for future work. Every semester we hear back from graduates who parlayed their internship experiences into paid work!

Jonathon Amon worked for the **Community Health Awareness Council** in Mountain View, California doing programming for LGBTQ youth.

Alyssa Burnham works for the **Boys and Girls Club**, earning internship units while also being employed there.

Chelsea Cardani is an assistant teacher at **KinderCare** in Rohnert Park where she strives to be a positive influence for the young children she cares for.

Dzidzonu Djugba educates youth in Sonoma County as a Prevention Educator for **United Against Sexual Assault**.

Sophia Eckert is continuing her work with **United Against Sexual Assault** as a Prevention Educator, working with students K-12.

Jenelle Feldman spent time this summer as a Camp Counselor for **Easter Seals Camp Harmon** in Boulder Creek, California. She gained valuable experience working with campers who have developmental disabilities.

Holland Flocke joined **Circle of Sisters** where she helps generate the COS newsletter, assists with grant-writing and press releases.

Erin Garnett provides valuable support to families transitioning out of homelessness as a team member at **The Family Connection** in Santa Rosa.

Elizabeth Green is working on campus at the **Center for Culture, Gender, & Sexuality**.

Jessica Hernandez is interning for **Project Intercept**, an outpatient substance abuse treatment program.

Claire Hogue assists survivors of sexual assault as a Crisis Line Counselor at **United Against Sexual Assault** in Santa Rosa.

Amy Hudgens is a Reproductive Healthcare Specialist for **Planned Parenthood** in Concord, California. She is also working this semester as a Development Intern with Dr. Don Romesburg for the **WGS department** at SSU.

Danielle Humphreys is currently in a program through Santa Rosa Junior College that is providing her with the curriculum and experience to work as a **Certified Nurse Assistant/Home Health Aide**.

Stacie Jensen is earning units toward her internship requirement while interning at the Rohnert Park **Boys & Girls Club** as a tutor.

Jennifer Julius is with **United Against Sexual Assault** training as a Crisis Line Counselor.

Molly Kirsch is continuing her work at **Planned Parenthood** in Rohnert Park as a Clinical Volunteer.

Shelby Means works for **Health and Human Services** in Napa, coaching and supervising family visitations.

Alyssa Messer is gaining experience with **United Against Sexual Assault** in Santa Rosa as a Crisis Counselor.

Rosa Njoroge works with **The Family Connection** in Santa Rosa as a member of a mentor team dedicated to helping families transition out of homelessness.

Heather Pankiw is employed at **KidsPark** in Folsom, California as a Center Director. She is working on developing an effective team of teachers to meet the diverse needs of the community.

Tiffany Perry is gaining experience as an Administrative/Editorial Assistant for **Women's Voices**, a local community publication.

Angela Robinson is continuing as an after-school program volunteer for **Circle of Sisters**.

WGS STUDENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

WGS Students in the Community (cont. from p. 2)

Megan Rifenbark works on campus as an Advising Peer Mentor in the **Advising, Career, and EOP Center**.

Erin Stewart assists survivors of sexual assault as a Victim Advocate for **United Against Sexual Assault**. She is also working this semester as a Teaching Assistant for the Sociology of Reproduction for **WGS/Sociology**.

Justine Wiley earned internship units in **Ecuador** working on indigenous and Ecuadorian medical practices.

Veronica Woods is an Editorial/Administrative Assistant for the newspaper, **Women's Voices**.

Joy Young is gaining experience as a Development Intern for the **WGS department** and as a T.A. for WGS 285: Men and Masculinity. Both are overseen by Dr. Don Romesburg.

INTERESTED IN WRITING FOR THE WGS NEWSLETTER?

Contact the Editor at tung@sonoma.edu to gain editorial experience and/or writing credit. Develop or hone editorial and writing skills for post-graduate life!

REACHING OUT TO SOUTH BAY LGBTQ YOUTH

As some of you may know, in the WGS major one must intern and acquire four units in order to graduate. This past summer, I did just that with Community Health Awareness Center (CHAC) in the Outlet Program located in Mountain View, California.

The Outlet Program is a non-profit organization that began in Palo Alto at a YWCA and then moved to Mountain View in 2003. Outlet “supports and empowers lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning youth ages 13-20 living in the Peninsula and South Bay.” Offering a range of support services, leadership training, community education, and advocacy, “Outlet successfully increases youth confidence, builds personal assets and creates healthier communities” (www.projectoutlet.org). I have been part of the Outlet Program since 2000, when I came out as gay during my freshman year of high school.

As the Outlet Program’s first intern, I started off doing a lot of office work, but my favorite part was when I could actually get involved with the community hands-on. I chaperoned GLBT dances, where I handed out information about safe-sex practices and Outlet services, marched in the San Jose Gay Pride Parade, and helped station a booth at the San Jose Gay Pride Festival to inform GLBT youth about Outlet’s services and the other organizations out there where they can go for support.

Internships are such a great way to get involved with organizations and causes that you are passionate about. I had an amazing time this past summer interning with the Outlet Program because they are an organization that is really committed to helping the youth in that community. I am thankful that the Outlet Program existed for me--providing people to talk to and a safe place to discuss issues of sexuality. The WGS internship requirement allowed me the opportunity to give something back to an organization that has given so much to me.

Jonathan Amon, WGS Senior

ALUMNI NEWS

Marie Akatani (2007), shares from her home in Japan, that she is volunteering with the inauguration of the Japan Association of Queer Studies(JAQS). She is also thinking about the impact of the establishment of JAQS for sexual minorities in Japan in terms of queer globalization and identity politics---and considering entering a master's program for Gender Studies in Tokyo.

Stacy Cohen (2004) works at Sonoma Academy high school as advisor and coordinates the student community service projects. She is also pursuing a Master's in Counseling at SSU. She writes, "I am excited about graduate school and my unfolding career with high school students."

Sabrina Coyle-Johnson (2007) is working at a drug rehabilitation facility for adolescents. She has started the Master's in Counseling program at Sonoma State on the Marriage and Family Therapist track and is, in addition, taking Spanish classes as well. And by the way, her third child turned one in November 2007!

Alli Deering (2006), WGS major and Minor in English, returned to campus in Fall to serve as a presenter at the WGS Founders and Alumni Panel on Sept. 20, 2007. She has also recently gotten engaged to her partner, Sam.

Megan Izen (2005) continues to work as a managing editor at the New York offices of Oakland-based ColorLines: The National Newmagazine on Race and Politics. She was back in the area this Fall assisting with the organization's 25th Anniversary gala. She has been published online at <http://www.racewire.org>. Check out her opinion pieces!

Yuka Kamiishi (2001) has been working in the Stand-By-Me Mentoring Program in Sonoma, mentoring middle school girls. She is continuing her work as a domestic violence survivor advocate for the YWCA of Sonoma County and the Sheriff's department. She was also a featured guest at the WGS' Founders and Alumni Panel Sept. 20, 2007.

Erica Klescewski (2007) is working as a Mental Health Assistant in San Leandro at Seneca Center, a day treatment facility that provides therapeutic services to emotionally disturbed youth and their families. She says, "The job is intense and requires a lot physically, mentally, and emotionally, but so far I'm enjoying the challenge! It's something completely different than what I saw myself doing after graduation, which is what I've come to love about it."

Verity Lanag (2004) gave birth to her son, Dominic on August 16th, 2007. She and her husband live in Las Vegas, Nevada where she continues working as a social worker—doing case management with homeless veterans.

Lena McQuade (1999) double major in WGS and Hutchins, is currently a completing her dissertation on the history of reproductive public health in New Mexico at University of New Mexico's PhD program in History. This year 2007-2008, she is on a Dissertation Fellowship in Women's Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Danielle Moreno (2007) is working as a Community Advocate at Social Advocates for Youth in Sonoma County. She is currently coordinating the

prevention projects to reduce underage drinking both in Sonoma Valley and Healdsburg.

Jenny Mourgos (2007), minor in WGS, is currently a homecare worker for an older adult. She has also served as a doula twice since graduating this past Spring and is still considering applying for an MFT program in the future.

Courtney Pope (2001) is continuing as a Case Manager for traumatically brain injured adults in San Diego, CA but is looking to transfer into Hospice Case Management within the next year. She writes, "The WGS major provided me with the tools needed to work in social services serving diverse populations and advocating for changes in my community."

Lana Tyer (2005) has resumed working for Orinda Union School District in the Special Education department. She has also been volunteering for Women's Choice Clinic in downtown Oakland. There she counsels, performs ultrasounds, and otherwise assists the physicians. Lana comments, "This clinic is really amazing because they train volunteers to do so much! From this experience I have found my love for community-based health care."

Stacey Wood (2004) kayaked 15.5 miles around the island of Alameda as part of 2008 Support Strokes on May 19th. She paddled on behalf of the Charlotte Maxwell Clinic (CMC) where she has volunteered (starting as a WGS intern) for three and a half years. CMC offers free alternative healing (acupuncture, homeopathy, massage, etc.) to low income women with cancer. Stacey continues to direct programs for Girls, Inc. in Oakland.

Fall 2007 News

WGS Panel Unites Generations

On September 20, 2007, Professor Charlene Tung, Chair of WGS, organized and hosted the panel “Women’s Studies: Past, Present, and Future,” a panel remembering our department’s founding, where it stands, and its possibilities for growth. Many high-spirited individuals filled the 100 seat room to capacity, including alumni, community members, and students.

Prof. Cindy Stearns moderated a panel of five passionate women (professors Ann Neel and Kay Trimberger, and alumna Carol Bloom, Alli Deering and Yuka Kamiishi). Retired Professor Ann Neel served as the first Women’s Studies Coordinator from 1973 to 1975 before moving on to University of the Pacific as a faculty member. Retired SSU Professor Kay Trimberger served as the Women’s Studies Coordinator from 1981 to 2000. Carol Bloom (WS 1974), alongside faculty such as J.J. Wilson and Ruth Mahaney helped establish the first Women’s Studies courses. More recent alumna Yuka Kamishi (WGS 2001) works as a YWCA domestic violence advocate locally and Alli Deering (WGS 2006) currently works at Start Here Family Coaching in Santa Rosa, helping at-risk teens. Each asserted how challenging, yet vitally important it is to, as Bloom said, “stay awake and make connections” between feminist studies and engagement in “real world” issues. These women’s efforts have helped to build this program from founding to its current strength as a dynamic department.

At one point, the panelists asked the audience the provocative question: “Who identifies as a feminist?” Approximately half the room raised their hands. The earlier alum and faculty were surprised, while the current students seemed unfazed. After some prodding and encouragement, students in the audience acknowledged social pressures that positioned being a ‘feminist’ as not cool. Others suggested strategic and structural reasons. WGS major Isaac Dolido, paraphrasing feminist writer and scholar bell hooks, stated, “I’ve learned not to say ‘I am a feminist’, but ‘I advocate feminism,’ because it opens up discussion.” Student Jesse Funes added, “A lot of women-

working-class, immigrants in Los Angeles, for example-are still doing wonderful work, but the language is fluid. That doesn’t mean the movement has died...If anything, all the work you have done goes alongside the work of other women-or other men-who never may be identified [as feminist] but that’s the work they’re doing.” For this and more, check out the panel streaming online at : <http://streaming.sonoma.edu/archives/001151.html>.

Amy Hudgens, WGS Development Intern

New Faces in WGS

Don Romesburg earned his Ph.D. from UC-Berkeley in U.S. History with an emphasis in Women, Gender, and Sexuality. He has taught in the WGS department since Fall 2006. He finds that “students in WGS are receptive and eager to push the envelope.” When he’s not teaching, Dr. Romesburg is a community activist. He founded “And Castro For All”, an anti-racism campaign for the LGBT community. The self-proclaimed “pop-culture junky” also enjoys observing issues of gender and sexuality on television shows such as *Mad Men* and *Desperate Housewives*.

Mary Churchill came to SSU by way of University of Colorado-Boulder. She has taught a wide range of Women’s Studies classes throughout her career, from “Gender, Race, and Class” to “Religion and Feminist Thought.” She received her Ph.D. in Religious Studies from the University of California, Santa Barbara and enjoys this opportunity to bring her knowledge and expertise on American Indian culture and religious traditions to the SSU student body. Dr. Churchill also loves to travel and has lived all over the U.S.

Jocelyn Arild is a WGS alumna of SSU (2000) with an M.A. in English in 2005. She also received her M.S. in Counseling Psychology from Dominican University of California in 2005. Jocelyn currently teaches WGS 280: Women’s Bodies: Health and Image, but has a special interest in 3rd Wave Feminism. She hopes to teach a course on feminist activism or leadership activism in the future.

Jessaca Machado, WGS senior

NEWS FROM SCHULZ LIBRARY

Looking for a good film? Try the Library!

When you're thinking about what you'd like to do this weekend, don't forget the wonderful collection of feature films available from the library. Students, faculty, staff, and members of the SSU Alumni Association can check them out for FREE!

Watch Dame Judy Dench face off with Cate Blanchett in *Notes on a Scandal*. Get a strong dose of popular culture with hits, such as *Knocked Up*, *Borat*, *Babel*, *Quinceañera*, *Volver* or *Zodiac*. Be absorbed by *The Lives of Others*, *The Best of Youth*, *L'Auberge Espagnole*, *Paris is Burning*, or be mesmerized by a spin through Russian history and *L'Hermitage* in the Russian ark.

Cheer on *The Girl in the Café* as she takes on the G-8 Summit, or watch Björk spin out of control in *Dancer in the Dark*. How about *Kebab Connection*, about a young Turkish hip-hopper who dreams of making the first German kung-fu film?

Be inspired to take action by *When the Levees Broke* (about New Orleans and Katrina), *Freedom on My Mind* (civil rights freedom marchers in the 60s), *View from a Grain of Sand* (about women in refugee camps in Paki-

stan and Kabul) or the powerful anime film about Hiroshima & Nagasaki, *Hotaru no haka* (Grave of the fireflies).

Revisit classic films such as *Three faces of Eve*, *Jules et Jim*, *Wild Strawberries*, or delve into our Criterion Collection for titles such as *Breathless*, *The Double Life of Veronique*, *Yi Yi*, *Raise the Red Lantern*, *When a Woman Ascends the Stairs*, or the films of Agnes Varda, Louis Malle, or Fellini.

And if you just want to get silly, there's *Robinson Crusoe on Mars*.

Not bad for a free night of entertainment—all brought to you by the Library! To see what films we have, go to the Library's home page <http://library.sonoma.edu/>, click on Movies and More. From there you can search for individual titles, or browse our feature films, foreign/subtitled films, or Criterion Collection titles.

Don't forget, the Librarians are here to help you find the information you need—for research or for fun. Stop by the Reference Desk on the second floor, or contact me at hammett@sonoma.edu, 707-664-3912, or AOL or Meebo IM at repch.

Paula Hammett, Librarian

Fall 2007 Graduates

Join us in congratulating the following mid-year Fall 2007 graduates!! These folks were honored at our annual End of the Semester Fall party in December 2007. And a special congratulations to Isaac Dolido and Jessaca Machado who were given the WGS Department's "Graduates with Distinction" award.

WGS Majors

Alyssa Burnham
Isaac Dolido
Kate Kellett
Jessaca Machado
Heather Pankiw
Angela Robinson

WGS Minor

Jillian Mathias

Women's Health Minor

Ginelle Nelson
Emily Wilson

Greetings from the Chair

(cont'd from p. 1)

Schulz Library Gallery exhibit “A Fine and Long Tradition: Stories from the Contemporary Women’s Movement in Sonoma County.” Check out the article on page 5, but let me just say that it was fascinating (and humbling) to hear the struggles and triumphs from the “founders” (students and faculty at that time) of women’s studies. As Cindy Stearns noted in her introductory remarks, it was not so long ago that there was no body of research and scholarly work called “women’s studies”. It was indeed through the blood, sweat and tears of all the (mostly) women before me, that WGS is the thriving and exciting department and field it is today. I am deeply honored to follow in the footsteps of such profoundly dedicated and talented women—the students and faculty who founded this department: including J.J. Wilson, Ann Neel, Ruth Mahaney, Kay Trimberger, and my colleague and mentor, Cindy Stearns.

I am well aware of the legacy that is Women’s and Gender Studies at SSU and look forward to continuing to grow this department and evolving with the ever-changing dynamic field of Women’s and Gender Studies.

Charlene Tung, Associate Professor and Chair

Fall 2007 News

(cont'd from p.5)

Shout-outs!

Congratulations to three of our WGS majors-- **Sophie Eckert, Rosa Njoroge and Dzidzinou Djugba**--who were all recipients of the Delphine Newman Internship Scholarship Award this semester. This is a new competitive award given through the Dean of the School of Social Sciences. It provides a grant to those whose internship experiences engage with women and children (in various capacities). Many of our WGS interns work in such organizations---so be sure to apply for this Scholarship each year!

Senior WGS major **Megan Rifenbark** was promoted to Lead Peer Mentor within the Peer Advising program run out of the SSU Advising Office. Megan is dedicated and committed to assisting all student make sense of requirements, and especially turning students onto WGS!

A shout-out goes to all the WGS students who took time out of their busy schedules to assist the WGS Hiring Committee with the tenure track searches this past semester. The Committee appreciates the feedback provided by students through candidate meetings and teaching demonstrations! Special thanks to **Jessaca Machado** for organizing the student meetings and **Jessica Hernandez** for guiding candidates to/from meetings. Thanks also go out to: **Annie Breuer, Mo Burch, Isaac Dolido, Amy Hudgeons, Liz Mackey, Katie Menzies, Alyssa Messer, Megan Rifenbark, Joy Young and Veronica Woods** for their participation.

The NEW WGS Club

The new WGS Club, under the leadership of Alyssa Messer has been gaining footing this past semester! They co-sponsored the WGS Alumni Panel and hosted several study break/movie nights (all with gendered themes of course). Check out their MySpace account or contact Alyssa at messeral@sonoma.edu for more information. Always looking for new ideas and projects! Bring yourselves and your ideas! Women's History Month (March) is up next, so if you have suggestions for speakers, consider getting involved.

Helpful Hints to our Majors and Minors

- Consider starting work at your internship site over the summer when you may have more time and schedule flexibility. Remember to check with your Advisor before you start however. You can register for the units in the following Fall Semester.
- Be sure to check-in with your assigned academic advisor EVERY semester.
- Become familiar with the WGS website. <http://www.sonoma.edu/womenstudies>. Find your faculty office hours, internship syllabi, FAQs, and much more!

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