

Women's & Gender Studies Newsletter

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Greetings from the Department Chair

Greetings! Just prior to writing this note for our newsletter, I completed the WGS Department's Annual Assessment (you can find this report on our website). Our assessment report reveals that while there are improvements in the works, the major is growing – we now have over sixty majors – and WGS students are very satisfied with their education. In the process of writing our assessment, I re-read our students' Intellectual Biographies, the final paper assigned in WGS 485: Senior Seminar (2006), and I was struck by how articulately and passionately students described the major. I was also struck by how enthusiastic they seemed at the end of their academic career – a time when students are more likely to be burnt out and eager to move on. So, instead of summarizing the report, I thought I'd let our students tell you about what they're learning, what they've experienced, and how they'll apply their education in the "real world".

Nan Alamilla Boyd, Chair, Women's and Gender Studies

What is WGS???

"Women's and Gender Studies is an interdisciplinary field that seeks to understand and delineate women's experiences within a societal framework, as well as to understand how all people experience gender in our society."

"Women's and Gender Studies... covers a vast array of subject matter, all of which forces us to analyze our individual thoughts and feelings and to question: What is authentic? What is the truth? Is there only one truth? Who decides what the truth is and what gives them the power to be in that position?"

"Unlike my initial assumptions, Women's and Gender Studies is not only about feminism or learning more about women, but it is rather a provocative academic discipline that is aimed towards the liberation of *everyone*."

"WGS examines and questions any kind of human belief system, which includes feminism, from a gender perspective... WGS is a discipline that questions and challenges many power dynamics in order to deconstruct the modern models of social oppressive systems."

"The Women's and Gender Studies department combines many different disciplines into one...As I was explaining to a potential employer during an interview, my major encompasses sociology, history, current event, and politics to bring understanding to issues facing everybody in the 'real world'."

(cont'd on p. 8)



WGS STUDENT COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND INTERNSHIPS



As always, WGS students are making a difference in both on-campus and off-campus communities while gaining valuable experience for the future. Check out the diverse sites and get some ideas for your own internships!

Marie Akatani has an archival internship with the GLBT Historical Society of San Francisco.

Megan Arrighi, Kate Kellett and Laura Martinez are earning their internship units as Crisis Line Counselors for United Against Sexual Assault (UASA).

Kelly Cambell and Sophie Jelen are both working for United Against Sexual Assault (UASA) as Prevention Educators. Sophie is also earning her internship units at Planned Parenthood in Rohnert Park.

Jamie Escat and Heather Ferrero are working with children at Kinder Care Learning Center.

Erica Klesewski is interning at the Sonoma County Department of Human Services Information and Referral, involved in client assessment and referrals. She also volunteers at Friends Outside at the Sonoma County jail providing services for inmates and their families. And finally, Erika is a Crisis Line Coordinator at United Against Sexual Assault.

Lianna Hart is interning with Easter Seals this semester. She is also continuing her research study, begun in WGS 425 last semester, on children with autism.

Crystal Llopis is interning this semester with the Hannah Boys Treatment Center, working with boys aged 14-18.

Jessaca Machada, Hilary Moore and Laura Nichols are all interning this semester with Circle of Sisters (COS), a community organization serving girls aged 10-14 in Sonoma County. Hilary is also completing her internship units as an intern with the California Safe Schools Coalition. Laura also has a second internship with the Living Room, a daytime drop-in program working with homeless and at-risk women and children in Santa Rosa.

Shelby Means, Nicole Vaticano and Joy Young are working as interns with Family Connection, an organization that assists homeless families in transition. Shelby is also interning at Planned Parenthood, where she works as a Health Educator.

Danielle Moreno is interning this semester with the Sonoma County Public Health Department as the Teen Health Advocate Intern. She is also earning internship units as the WGS Newsletter Editorial Assistant.

Diana Thomas is interning with Women's Health Specialists in Santa Rosa.

Heather Pankiw is working with teens this semester at VOICES Emancipation Center. She, along with Danielle Moreno, is a Teaching Assistant for the Women's Health Lecture Series this semester.

Announcements

Interested in the Women's Union?

This student organization started up again this past Fall. Among their activities, they focused on spreading the word about Proposition 85 for the November elections! Consider joining! Contact club president, Shana Nashelsky at nashelsk@sonoma.edu

Seeking ONE UNIT or INTERNSHIP CREDIT FOR NEXT SPRING?

Want to make a difference?

In Spring 2007, WGS and the Circle of Sisters program (community organization working with girls aged 10-14) are planning a half day of workshops (e.g. media literacy, body image, peer relationships). Take a 1 unit course on Mondays at noon, and gain background and skills in working with youth! Interested? Contact Professor Tung tung@sonoma.edu. Or simply REGISTER for WGS 311: Circle of Sisters for Spring 2007.



WGS Student Point Of View

POV cont'd

Feminist Poststructuralist Theory in Action

by Lianna Hart

I have been working within the community on issues of disability for several years through classes, research, and internships. I try to apply what I have been learning in WGS classes to my work in order to better understand concepts and to make my work more meaningful. In this essay, I am going to attempt to connect my WGS internship to poststructuralist concepts recently discussed in WGS 475: Feminist Theory. While poststructuralism is too complex to detail in this short article, two major aspects of the theory include the importance of language in shaping subjectivity and the questioning of categories (e.g. gender, race, sexuality, disability, etc.). Feminist poststructuralism can help us see the connection between how we talk about something (discourse) and how we understand the world. I've begun to look for everyday examples of feminist poststructuralism in action and I believe I found an example in my internship work at Easter Seals.

Easter Seals is an organization assisting individuals with disabilities. Updating their resource library has given me a historical view of the changes in the discourse on disability since the 1970s. In the past, disability has primarily been discussed in ways that emphasize the disability over the individual. Although it is still common to hear individuals described by their disability as *disabled* or *autistic*, many within the disability community insist on "people-first" language. Accordingly, rather than *disabled* or *autistic*, people are described as *individuals with disabilities* or *children with autism*. This attempt to change perceptions of disability through changing the structure of language is an example of poststructuralist theory at work.

My internship experiences have provided me an opportunity to apply feminist poststructuralist theory to everyday life, helping me to make the connection between theory and practice. Through working with issues of

between theory and practice. Through working with issues of disability with Easter Seals and elsewhere, I have noticed how language shapes my views. I have chosen to use people-first language when I talk about individuals with disabilities; I believe this discourse is more favorable for individuals with disabilities since it emphasizes their personhood, a characteristic they have historically been denied. People with disabilities are much more than their disability and it seems that reshaping the discourses on disability has the potential to re-conceptualize differences and fuel social change. In poststructuralist terms, since ideology is embedded within language, changing language changes how people think about disability, which, in turn, changes how people with disabilities are treated in society.

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Guidelines for Submission to Point of View (POV)

The WGS Newsletter welcomes future POV articles sharing the experiences and opinions of WGS students. See WGS department website for more information or contact the Editor, tung@sonoma.edu to submit.

Editorial Statement

POV articles are the opinion and expressed views of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor(s), Women's and Gender Studies Department or School of Social Sciences.



2006 Winter Graduates

Congratulations to our
December Class of 2006
WGS Majors and Minors!



WGS Majors

Kelly Campbell
Jamie Escat
Crystal Llopis
Tori Newborn

WGS Minors

Beth Fingerman
Jessica Fulks
Monica McKenzie
Davina Montelongo
Emanuel Rasolofomasoandro
Diana Thomas (Women's Health Minor)



ALUMNI NEWS

Tami Alteri (1998) is currently working in Marin County as a Senior Risk Underwriter for a mortgage company.

Jonathon "Brady" (2004) has begun a PhD program in East-West Psychology at California Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco. He graduated with his MA from University of San Francisco this summer. He currently works part-time at Haight Ashbury Psychological Services as well as Baker Places as an MFT intern.

Lauren Castro (2005) returned from a year of study abroad in China and is currently employed as a nanny in Tiburon.

Stacey Cohen (2004) is currently enrolled in her MA Counseling Program at SSU. She has also been busy planning her daughter's Bat-Mitzvah and working at Sonoma Academy High School as an advisor and coordinating student community service programs.

Serene Cooper (2005), former Americorp Promise Fellow with Circle of Sisters (COS), is now employed by COS as a facilitator. She also is enrolled in the MA in Organization Development program at SSU.

Alli Deering (2006) volunteers for Mamas & Papas, a GLBT family organization in San Francisco.

Cinnamon Bear Enos (2003) graduated in June 2005 with her MA in Education from University of Oregon. She teaches 6th grade at Chief Leschi Elementary School, a Bureau of Indian Affairs school near Seattle, WA. She is also married and has a 7 month old son.

Dorothy Law Garrison (1996) is an Events Manager at Stanford University's Office of Development. She and husband David have two children and live in San Jose.

Corey Hale is in her 3rd year at Pacifica Graduate Institute working toward a PhD in Depth Psychology (emphasis in Ecopsychology). She works at Start Here Family Coaching with youth and their families referred from Juvenile Probation Department.

Ellen Heimann (2006) is working part-time with a non-profit, Start Here Family (see Corey Hale above). She married in July 2006, and is living in Rohnert Park. She is also a nanny to an 8 month old baby.

Megan Izen (2005), after interning at ColorLines Magazine in Oakland, was hired on as an Editorial Assistant and this past Fall, was promoted to work in their New York offices.

Kelli Lamb (2005) works for WorkRite Ergonomics in Petaluma as a Customer Service Representative for the Western Region. She resides in Cotati.

Verity Lanag (2004) has begun a Masters in Social Work program at University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She continues to work as a case manager helping homeless veterans get into transitional housing.

Yissel Lopez (2004), completed her MSW at Sacramento State this past Spring. She works at ALDEA Counseling Services in Napa as a Clinical Social Worker working primarily with the Latina/o community and with groups in local high schools. She is also in the process of buying her first home in Sacramento.

Julie Mayeda (2005) is currently working as an assistant to an insurance agent. This is her second year as a co-coach for Girls for a Change (based in the Bay Area and extending to Arizona). Girls for a Change teaches middle school girls how to be agents of social change.

Debbie McCallum (2000) graduated in Fall 2005 with an MA in Counseling from SSU. She interns with SOS program, providing counseling at Monroe School (Santa Rosa), as well as a therapist intern for the YWCA safe house shelter. She is expecting her first child in April.

Kathryn Rankin (2006), is currently working with SSU Professor Michelle Jolly on the California Arts and Humanities Oral History grant on Sonoma County Women's History.

Stacey Wood (2004) was promoted to a new position with Girls, Inc. (Oakland, CA). She is now Site Coordinator for the new GIRLstart (literacy program) in Fruitvale District of Oakland. She oversees two small public schools (K-1) providing bi-lingual intensive literacy, academic, and self-esteem support. In addition, she and **Lana Tyer** (2005) married in Summer 2006.

**Alumni, we'd love to hear from you!
E-mail directly or check out www.sonoma.edu/womenstudies**



WGS Fall 2006 Events & News

Women's Health Lecture Series

This fall, the Women's Health Lecture Series presented a wide range of eye-opening lectures focusing on topics in the area of women's health. This semester's lecture series was put together by Instructor Jocelyn Hall Arild, and her two teaching assistants, WGS majors Danielle Moreno and Heather Pankiw. The first lecture of the semester was given by Jeanette Koshar, RN, NP, Ph.D. of the SSU Nursing Department. Professor Koshar opened up the series by speaking about women's health care over the past fifty years in the United States. Following her lecture, Professor Barbara Bloom of the Criminology and Criminal Justice Department gave a lecture on the mental and physical health of incarcerated women. Other lecture topics early in the semester included abortion, women and stroke, intuitive eating, ethical dilemmas surrounding the care of dying newborns, and choices in childbirth. Mid-semester, the lecture series welcomed author and personal historian Linda Blachman. Ms. Blachman wrote the book *Another Morning*, which documents the experiences of mothers living with cancer and their struggle to parent their children through illness.

Toward the end of the semester, topics included sexually transmitted diseases, women and aging, human trafficking, doulas and teens, depression, and the benefits of massage. Teaching assistant Danielle Moreno gave a lecture on the benefits of doula support on teenage mothers. Dr. Amanda Noble came from the State Attorney General's office to speak on human trafficking and how women and children are affected. Erin Beeman, CMT from the SSU Massage Center, will wrap up the semester with her presentation on women and the health benefits of massage.

As always, all lectures series each semester are open to the public! Feel free to drop in! Next semester will be the Queer Lecture Series organized by Professor Nan Alamilla Boyd. For a complete listing of the speakers for any WGS lecture series, **see the WGS website at www.sonoma.edu/womenstudies.**

WGS Welcomes Bonnie Sugiyama

This summer, the Women's Resource Center and the Intercultural Center joined forces as they merged to become the new Center for Culture, Gender, and Sexuality (CCGS). With the creation of this new facility also came a new face to campus. Bonnie Sugiyama, has been hired as the interim CCGS Coordinator. She arrived in July and has taken on the enormous task of opening up and running the new center. She comes to us from Sacramento State University where she worked for their Women's Center and also where she earned both her undergraduate and graduate degrees. The WGS Department looks forward to a positive working relationship with Bonnie and the CCGS, including programming for the upcoming Women's History Month in March 2007.

The CCGS offers a variety of services for students on campus and is the meeting place for many organizations on campus including the Women's Student Union, Black Student Union (BSU), Filipino American Association of Sonoma State University (FAASU), Asian Pacific Islander Organization (APIO) and the Bisexual, Intersex, Gay, Lesbian Association of Sonoma State, Queer Transgender and Straight Supporters (BI-GLASS QTS) to name a few. Stop by and check it out! Also check out the center's website at www.sonoma.edu/ccgs as well as www.myspace.com/ssuccgs. And of course, do drop in at the Center (1st floor of the Student Center), welcome Bonnie, and see what's going on!



WGS Year-End Potluck Celebration!!!

Join our graduates, faculty and students as we celebrate the end of the semester and graduation!

Monday December 11

2-3:30

RCH 20

FROM THE SCHULZ LIBRARY



Getting Up Close and Personal with History

Ever been curious to read how women talked about slavery or suffrage or settlement houses in letters to their friends? How did newspapers first report the Stonewall Riots or Roe v. Wade? How did the pamphlets produced by the Guerilla Girls describe their efforts to gain recognition for women artists in the 1970s? How did Ida B. Wells-Barnett or Frances Watkins Harper draw crowds with their speeches during the anti-lynching movement of the early 20th century?

How did the language used in newspapers at the time of the Japanese American internment or the Holocaust influence how readers felt about the people involved? What insights can be drawn about Chicsaw culture from the writings of and interviews with Linda Hogan? How have the founders of the disability rights movement described the importance of community? Who are the Chicana feminists who might not have much written about them? How did women describe their first encounters with the giant redwoods in California in the 1850s?

These questions, and many more, can be answered through the use of primary sources available at the University Library. Primary sources (e.g. letters, diaries, interviews, plays, newspapers, photographs, speeches, and pamphlets) are first-hand accounts that can help history come alive! They allow you an up-close and personal account of the topic of study.

The library has a wonderful collection of primary source materials--much of which is available online! Current students, faculty, and staff can access these resources online using their Library PIN and barcode; others can come to the library to access the resources.

Stop by the Reference Desk on the second floor if you have questions about how to find or use these primary source materials. Or, give me a call: Paula Hammett, (707) 664-3912 or paula.hammett@sonoma.edu.

Paula Hammett, Librarian

Primary Sources in the Library

Primary Sources research guide

<http://library.sonoma.edu/research/subject/primary.html>

Includes links to collections of freely available online collections.

North Bay Regional and Special Collections

<http://library.sonoma.edu/regional/default.html>

Includes Gaye LeBaron Digital Collection, historic 1906 earthquake photos, guides to numerous archive collections (available by appointment only).

Primary source databases available from the Library

<http://library.sonoma.edu/research/alphadb.html>

WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES SPRING 2007 CLASS SCHEDULE

COURSE	GE	TITLE	UNITS	DAYS	TIMES	INSTRUCTOR
280.1	E	Women's Bodies: Health & Image	3.0	Th	9 - 11:40	Cindy Stearns
280.2	E	Women's Bodies: Health & Image	3.0	T	1 - 3:40	Cindy Stearns
301.1		Queer Lecture Series	1.0	T	12 - 12:50	Nan Alamilla Boyd
311.1		Circle of Sisters	1.0	M	12 - 12:50	Charlene Tung
311.2		Masculinity & Film	3.0	T	4 - 6:40	Bozada-Deas
311.3		3rd Wave Feminism	3.0	W	1 - 3:40	Jocelyn Arild
311.4		Radical Women Writers	3.0	T/Th	10:45 - 12	Conoley
311.5		Multiracial & Multiethnic Identities	4.0	T/Th	9:20 - 10:25	LeiLani Nishime
311.6		Sociology of Sexualities	4.0	T/TH	1 - 2:50	James Dean
311.7		Philosophy of Desire	3.0	W	4 - 6:40	Ada Jaarsma
311.8		Sociology of Gender	4.0	M	6 - 9:40	Flynn
350.1	E	Gender, Sexuality & Family	3.0	T	9 - 11:40	Nan Alamilla Boyd
350.2	E	Gender, Sexuality & Family	3.0	M	1 - 3:40	Nan Alamilla Boyd
375.1	D1 Ethnic Studies	Gender, Race & Class	3.0	M	9 - 11:40	Charlene Tung
375.2	D1 Ethnic Studies	Gender, Race & Class	3.0	W	9 - 11:40	Don Romesberg
390		Gender, Work & Organization	4.0	F	9 - 12:40	Cindy Stearns
475		Contemporary Feminist Theory	4.0	MW	4 - 5:50	Don Romesberg
485		Senior Seminar	4.0	Th	1 - 4:40	Charlene Tung
492		Syllabus Design 1.0				Cindy Stearns
493		Teaching Supervision	1.0			Nan Alamilla Boyd

Register Online for Spring 2007!

Reg 1 November 27 - December 1 (by appt.)

Reg 2 January 16 - January 19 (by appt.)

Open Reg January 25 - January 26

Majors/Minors **must contact their advisors** each semester. Check out the WGS Website for Faculty Advising Hours as well as answers to MANY advising questions!

<http://www.sonoma.edu/womenstudies>

Click on ADVISING

(cont'd from p.1)

What is it like being a WGS major??

"I don't think I can put into words how much I have loved and appreciated my Women's and Gender Studies education...I have found myself through WGS and have seen myself grow in my other disciplines because of it. I have found my calling and my muse."

"WGS is an excellent field because the variety of understudied issues that it offers are more valuable than the degree earned. It is a tool for the rest of my educational life."

"Women's and Gender Studies gives people a chance to expand their mind, to challenge what they think they might know, and to give a sense of compassion for others."

WGS majors are inspired to change the world!!!

"As a whole, Women's and Gender Studies has made it possible for me to think on my own, to think for myself and make my own conclusions...all this has helped me to see the world through a wider lens. I feel empowered; I feel educated; I feel inspired; I am ready to take educated action."

"One day I know that this experience will help me to become a great educator on the issues of sex and gender and hopefully I will be able to make a difference, even if it is just a small one, by sharing what I have learned as a Women's and Gender Studies major."

WGS Newsletter

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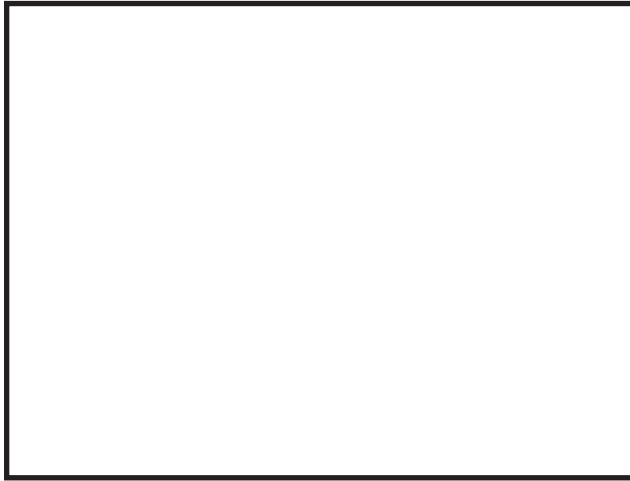
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Nan Alamilla Boyd

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Oh Alumni....Where are you?



“ In order to work together as the human race we must first recognize what separates us, knowing that each of us will have different viewpoints and experiences depending on one’s gender, race, class, sexuality, religion, and ability, yet embracing our differences will allow us to make strides towards justice and equality together.”

Greetings our esteemed Alumni! WGS misses you and our two most recent graduating classes, we sent out a you did not receive it, or have not filled it out yet, please much appreciated. And secondly, to ALL our alumni, we WGS department website. Please take a minute to take You can also sign up for the Alumni Listserv there as well <http://www.sonoma.edu/womenstudies/alumni-info>

You are also invited to e-mail any of us faculty directly (mail/what you’re up to). We love to hear from you.

