

Women's & Gender Studies Newsletter

Sonoma State University

Vol. 13, No. 1

Message from the Chair

Greetings! Another academic year has ended and I am looking forward, as we all are I am sure, to the emergence of summer's possibilities. But first, let me provide a glimpse ahead into the Fall Semester when we will be welcoming two new tenure track hires to Women's and Gender Studies! I am happy to announce that Dr. Don Romesburg will be joining us permanently as an Assistant Professor of WGS, alongside Dr. Lena McQuade. I am certain that the WGS students, department and alumni, as well as the SSU student body will benefit tremendously from these two teacher-scholars. Dr. Romesburg completed his Ph.D. in History from the University of California-Berkeley, with a Designated Emphasis in Gender and Sexuality. His dissertation work, "Arrested Development: Homosexuality, Gender, and American Adolescence, 1890-1930" critically examined the construction of modern 'adolescence' and its relation to youth sexuality. He has spent the last two years teaching at UC-Berkeley, as well as in the History and WGS departments at SSU.

Dr. Lena McQuade comes to us having completed her Ph.D. in American Studies at University of New Mexico. She just finished a year as a Fellow in the Feminist Studies Department at University of California, Santa Barbara. Her dissertation, "Troubling Reproduction: Sexuality, Race and Colonialism in New Mexico, 1919-1960" brings together gender studies, history of sexuality, and cultural studies. She has a wealth of teaching experience ranging from LGBTQ Studies to Gender, Race and Reproduction. Among others, she will be teaching WGS 280: Women's Bodies: Health and Image, as well as WGS 425: Feminist Research Methods.

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Queer Studies Lecture Series: From politics (Carole Migden) to performance (*Lesbians on E!*) and everything in between

Under the guidance of Professor Don Romesburg, this Spring semester brought a dynamic array of speakers to WGS' unique semester-long lecture series. Funded through the SSU Instructionally Related Activities program, the Queer Studies Lecture Series brought us innovative cutting-edge disabilities scholar Robert McRuer, legendary singer-songwriter/activist Holly Near, State Senator Carole Migden, and Transgender Law Center Deputy Director Cecilia Chung, among others. This past semester, attendees learned about queerness (and all its meanings) within the context of films, novels, politics, music, healthcare, and

Special Interest Articles:

- Alumna Megan Izen chats from New York City
- WGS major Nikole Harmon on Semester Abroad in Sweden
- WGS faculty research and scholarship

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Message from Chair, cont'd

"This year marks our 2nd largest graduating class in WGS history...."

And relatedly, much appreciation goes out to our WGS faculty and affiliated faculty whose steady presence, support, and skillful teaching allowed us to maintain our high quality of course offerings during this 2007-08 year of transition. Special thanks go to Jocelyn Arild, Mary Churchill, Ghada Masri, Don Romesburg, and Elaine Wellin for teaching the bulk of our WGS courses. And thank you to all those whose collegial support and belief in interdisciplinary classrooms was reflected in their cross-listings with WGS: Theresa Alfaro-Velcamp (HIST), Barbara Bloom (CCJ), Michael Ezra (AMCS), Heather Flynn (SOC); Patricia Kim-Rajal (CALs), Elaine Leeder (SOC), Leilani Nishime (AMCS), Susan Stewart (PSY), Cindy Stearns (SOC), and Leny Strobel (AMCS). We are fortunate that WGS majors and non-WGS majors have the opportunity to learn from each other---and that we are able to encourage this institutionally.

Turning to our students, WGS students have once again been hugely active both on and off-campus in the surrounding community through their required internships. See page 7 for more details. Our WGS alumni too are making their mark! As one graduating senior, Claire Hogue, remarked during her job search this Spring, "the WGS major is in demand! People are very interested in students with our background." She found this to be true especially in the social services arena—and as you'll read inside, Claire indeed has a job lined up post-graduation. Also inside, check out Sara Wade's (class of 2008) inspirational interview with WGS alum Megan Izen (class of 2005) who now works and resides in New York City. And finally, we always have several majors who take advantage of study abroad while here at SSU. I cannot encourage that enough, and one our majors, Nikole Harmon sends her Point of View article from overseas in Sweden, to bring that message home!

And finally last, but not least, this year marks our 2nd largest graduating class in WGS history---with 14 majors slated to graduate in Spring 08, and five previously in Fall 07. We will also be celebrating the graduation of a total of 14 WGS minors (including nine Women's Health Minors) in 07-08. WGS continues to hold steady at between 60-70 majors. This puts us on par with, and in most cases, much higher than, other CSU women's studies major programs/departments. We are proud of our growth over the years—in no small part due to the dedication of our faculty (past and present) and students (past and present)—who are the most effective ambassadors for our department.

Queer Studies Lecture Series cont'd

the law. We are pleased to announce that this innovative series has once again been awarded funding so that it may continue in Spring 2009. Students who are registered for the course (WGS 301) consistently rank it very highly, praising the "open atmosphere" created by Dr. Romesburg. All of our WGS 301: Gender Lecture Series are open to the public, as well as the entire SSU community. List of speakers for each semester is available online at www.sonoma.edu/current_lectures.htm

WGS Student Point Of View

The Closest I've been to Equality:
The Short Experience of a Newly Born Feminist, Living in Sweden"
By: Nikole Harmon

Sweden. First thought: Swedish sex toys. Not everyone's first thought, but it was mine when I was signing up for the first step of the International Program to Sweden. I was told before I left for Sweden for a year, that it was the land of opportunities, for every type of person on Earth. Shortly after arriving, I discovered that my sources were correct. I learned that out of all women worldwide, a woman makes the closest amount of money to a man in Sweden. The country is largely supportive of same-sex marriage (allowing civil unions nationwide) and gay rights. Abortion is legal in Sweden, as well. Also, while riding my bike (the main form of transportation in Sweden) around Uppsala, the town I live in, which is 40 minutes north of Stockholm, the capital of Sweden, I was quite astonished to see men pushing baby strollers in the middle of the afternoon, without the mother by his side. After witnessing this shocking sight, I became aggravated at my own country. In Sweden, all parents (mothers and fathers) are allowed an 18 month *paid* leave upon having a child. Meanwhile, in the U.S., the vast majority of Americans are only eligible for 6 weeks of *unpaid* leave. I kept thinking, "How are all of these opportunities and ideas occurring in this small Scandinavian country, and not in our so called 'free country' of America?" It's hard for me to know that I will be leaving this progressive country, (e.g. workplace, family leave and healthcare), and travel back into an unequal country in just a few months. How will I be able to go back home, knowing that I enjoyed more opportunities in one year in Sweden, than most women or men will ever have in a lifetime in America?

As a newly born feminist, I feel as if I have had an opportunity of a lifetime that many women and men only can dream about. I somehow feel guilty that I have been given such an extraordinary experience, since I am a new feminist and others have been waiting a much longer time for these opportunities. After being a minor in WGS, looking back on what those classes have taught me I would have chosen it as a major. Before taking any WGS courses, I was unaware of America's inequality problem. So, after being offered the chance to study in Sweden, I knew it was the right country for me. Now I am more eager than ever before to show others that we can and will approach more equality.

Studying abroad has not only brought me closer to discovering my true self, but it has also made me accept other cultures, opinions and the actions of others a great deal more than I would have before I left for this adventure. I have met some of the most unique personalities from all around the world. They have made me realize that we, as American feminists, are not the only culture struggling with the idea of inequality. Before studying abroad I felt lost because not everyone saw eye to eye with my opinions on equality and feminist ideals, but after these last ten months in Europe I have accepted and embraced other cultures and ideas. Having this experience has helped me to realize that I have to take it into my own hands and educate others on the beautiful rewards that you will receive from studying abroad.

"How are all these opportunities and ideas occurring in this small Scandinavian country, and not in...America?"

I, personally, am subject to inequalities of varying kinds every day in America. After this experience I will not be able to stand for or tolerate unjust behavior towards me or others. I was given a glimpse of what equality feels like while living in Sweden. That glimpse is one thing that I think will make my adjustment back to American society a challenge.

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Marie Akatani (2007), WGS major, returned to Japan and as of April 2008 is attending graduate school at Ocha-Nomizu University in Tokyo. She is thrilled to be studying in their Gender and Development Studies program.

Stacy Cohen (2004), WGS major, continues to coordinate the Service Learning program at Sonoma Academy. This past Spring she led a group of teens to Nicaragua to engage in service work in a village outside Leon. Last year, she led a group to Thailand and plans to continue to lead additional service trips to locales globally. She also shares that her daughter Arianna is already in the 9th grade.

Sabrina Coyle-Johnson (2007), WGS major, has completed her first year in SSU's Counseling MA program. She also got a new job working part-time at Start Here/Family Conflict Resolution, alongside three (yes, that's right) other WGS alumna. She goes into clients' homes and works with family members who have teens on probation. She says, "it's an awesome experience! Literally matches what I went to school for!"

Ariana Curiel (2008), who was here to finish up her Women's Studies degree from Humboldt State University, has been accepted into the Masters in Library Science program at SJSU.

Lianna Hart (2007) has had an exciting year since graduation. First, she will be attending UCLA next Fall as a Ph.D. student in Sociology! Lianna was awarded the California Sociological Association's Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award in

Fall 08. She was also recently awarded the 2008 Award for Distinguished Undergraduate Paper by the Pacific Sociological Society (April 11th in Portland, Oregon). These awards were based on her research on "Therapeutic Mothering: Maternal Practices as an Autism Intervention." Many of you will recall her practice talks given in Gender and Work in S07! She spent the last year working at Easter Seals—where she completed her internship while a student in WGS. Congratulations Lianna!

Kelli Lamb (2005) continues to work for WorkRite Ergonomics in Petaluma. She was recently promoted to Lead Customer Services Representative, heading up the Western region. She writes, "it is very exciting and fulfilling to be promoted and have more responsibility...I so much enjoy interfacing with our customers and sales team. It is a perfect position for me.."

Verity Lanag (2004), WGS major, is still working as a Case Manager for homeless veterans in Las Vegas. But she is considering a switch to becoming a Certified Public Accountant. Why the switch? She shares, "my clients are getting worse and worse!...Now the Iraqi war veterans are coming back home [and they] have undergone a personality change and [often] suffer from brain damage." She further explains that their families can't handle them and they end up homeless, seeking assistance at her non-profit agency. On a more positive note, her son Dominic has just turned one year old!

Heather Hendrickson (2003) completed her MA in Australian Aboriginal Studies at the University of South Australia in Adelaide, AUS. Her research focused on the role of Aboriginal women elders in their communities and families. She returned to Australia in March to accept the degree, accompanied by one of her sons. Her elder son is currently a business student at the same university, so it was a special reunion! Heather is now President of Connections, a Santa Rosa-based nonprofit forum for women in business. The group recently raised funds for Circle of Sisters (junior high girls after-school program), as well as SSU and SRJC reentry women students. Heather is owner of Floral Designs by Heather, a business that caters to destination brides in wine country.

Claudia Gonzalez (2006) has been working at True to Life Children & Family Services (Sebastopol) since graduation. She plans to move down to Los Angeles this summer.

Jessica Hernandez (2008), WGS major and Psychology, will be a working this summer in San Francisco at Lyon-Martin Health Services—the only free-standing community clinic in California with a specific emphasis on lesbian/bisexual women/transgender health care.

Claire Hogue (2008), WGS major, will be starting a job at the Green Tree Project (Santa Rosa)—a residential boys group home. She will be working as a Residential Counselor. She wants WGS students to know that their degrees are "wanted" out in the workforce. She relates that she had to even turn down interviews. She suggests starting with Cragislist!

Megan Izen (2005), WGS major, is Executive Assistant to Rinku Sen at ARC/ColorLines in New York City. She has been working on a video project for the March issue of ColorLines about racial justice and green economies (<http://www.colorlines.com>) Post-election, ARC will be having their annual Facing Race conference at the Oakland Marriott (November 13-15, 2008). She will also be going to Mozambique for two weeks in Nov/Dec to work with a German NGO doing educational development.

Lena McQuade (1999), WGS major, completed her Ph.D. in American Studies at the University of New Mexico! And most exciting for us, she will be joining the Women's and Gender Studies Department at Sonoma State University in Fall 2008 as an Assistant Professor.

Hilary Moore (2007), WGS major, currently works with autistic children at the Behavioral Intervention Association (Oakland, CA), an organization that focuses on early intervention with autistic children. She will be enrolling in Prescott College (Arizona) MA program in Environmental Studies beginning Fall 2008.

Jenny Mourgos (2007), WGS minor, is currently working at Women's Health Specialists in Santa Rosa (<http://www.womenshealthspecialists.org>). She assists women in their reproductive choices, from birth control to childbirth—"in a setting that does not medicalize women's bodies" She continues "It is so much fun getting to work for a feminist organization. I am also still doing doula work."

Tori Newburn (2006), WGS major, is currently serving in Americorp (the domestic version of the Peace Corps) on an 11-month assignment throughout 2008. He is working with the Columbia Gorge Ecology Institute of Hood River, Oregon, teaching 5th graders and teens about forest ecosystems and related environmental issues, all the while continuing to be a strong and vocal advocate for transgender and queer communities. Some may recall Tori's passion for bringing together his interests in WGS with outdoor recreation and education—and it looks like he's found his niche!

Jenny Thigpen (1994), completed her Ph.D. in History from UC-Irvine in 2007. She also just landed a tenure track position as an Assistant Professor of History at Washington State University (Pullman, WA). Her dissertation on 19th Century women and gender, was a finalist for the American Historical Association's Lerner-Scott dissertation prize!

Stacey (Fields) Thompson (2005), WGS minor, continues to work for Summer Search—a national mentoring program that works with at-risk youth to see them through college. She has moved from New York to Portland, Oregon. She works in the National Office, traveling and training mentors and working on staff development.

Lana Tyer (2005), WGS major, has been working full time for Women's Choice Clinic in Oakland, Ca (<http://www.womenschoiceclinic.net>). She was accepted in the Masters in Nursing (MSN) program at Seattle University in

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the Advanced Practice Nursing program for those holding undergraduate degrees in other fields. She will move to Seattle this summer.

Jessica (Prosch) Vibberts (2000) is Executive Director of Summer Search's North San Francisco Bay offices. Their offices serve the expanding, yet underserved Latino communities in Napa, Sonoma, Northern Marin and Solano counties.

Stacey Wood (2004), has been working for Girls, Inc as a Site Coordinator for Alameda County. She was accepted in the Masters in Education: Social Justice and Equity program at San Francisco State University.

Veronica Woods (2008), WGS and English major, will be attending Emerson College in Boston, MA for a Masters in Fine Arts (Creative Writing) program beginning in Fall 2008. Congratulations!

We love to hear from you (as do all your fellow Alumna and Alumni). Please contact the WGS Newsletter Editor at tung@sonoma.edu with your updates! Even if you're still looking for that dream job/situation, drop us a line (others like to know they're not alone!)

The 5th Annual Power of Know Conference

The Women's and Gender Studies Department, in conjunction with the Circle of Sisters (COS) community organization once again hosted a half-day conference on the SSU campus for the middle-school girls from around Sonoma County. The girls were participants in the COS after-school program.



WGS and Middle School girls learn from each other

The eighteen students in Professor Charlene Tung's WGS 311 class organized and devised all the workshops for the entire conference, with the able guidance of Americorp fellow Jamie Peterson. Through Americorp, Jamie was placed with COS and was the liaison to WGS 311.

The students designed four workshops this year: "The Three P's: Puberty, Periods and Pregnancy"; Healthy Relationships; Media Literacy; and Sexuality. The topics were decided upon after visiting the various sites, handing out surveys, and listening to what the girls (ages 10-14) had to say about what was up in their lives.

Fears of getting their periods, pregnancy, body image and appearances, experimentation sexually, and internet safety and use were all at the top of their lists. Some of these were a surprise to the college students, but they were up for the challenge. Approximately 45 girls from around Sonoma County arrived at SSU on the afternoon of April 24th. After tours of the campus and a snack, the girls split into their workshops. The weather was perfect and a good (and educational) time was had by both the students and the girls from Circle of Sisters. WGS is thrilled to continue to be part of this wonderful program which provides a much needed service to the surrounding community.

WGS Club off and running

The WGS Club got off the ground in grand fashion in 2008-2009. This Spring Semester they co-sponsored and co-hosted a number of events ranging from an art exhibit by Christine Cobaugh (199x), to a Tributes Event fundraiser for the community organization Circle of Sisters.

During April, **Sexual Assault Awareness Month**, the WGS Club kept busy assisting Student Advocates for Education (SAFE) with numerous event, including the annual powerful and moving Take Back the Night, These Hands Won't Hurt clothesline project, and finally, a first for the

SSU campus, a speaker from United Against Sexual Assault (UASA), a local community organization, held a workshop specifically on violence within LGBTQ communities.

The WGS club, along with support from the Center for Culture, Gender and Sexualities on-campus, sponsored a wonderful unique fundraising event for the community organization, **Circle of Sisters, Tributes fundraiser**.

Organized by Americorps volunteer Alexandra Walters (at COS), this event, held on Friday May 9th, brought approximately 100 community members, faculty

and student for an evening of tributes to women in their lives. Not only did attendees have the satisfaction of knowing they were contributing to a worthy community organization, they also had opportunity to submit a written tribute to any woman who has inspired them. A Tributes booklet was then produced for all attendees. Video-tributes were also screened that evening as well as inspirational speeches by Professor of English Kim Hester-Williams, and Andrea Johnston, co-founder of Girls Speak Out! Junior high school girls who are members of Circle of Sisters after-school programs were in attendance with their families and a good time was had by all!

Student News Spring 2008: Internships and Graduation

WGS students are required to complete 120 to 145 hours of community involvement or internships for graduation. Each semester brings a wide array of organizations into contact with our students and a valuable reciprocal relationship is built between WGS/SSU and the wider community. Check out the various placements below through which our students logged in over 2700 hours just this past Spring!

Jonathon Amon.
Community Health Awareness Council (Mountain View, CA)

Mo Burch, Erin Garnett
Family Connection (Santa Rosa, CA)

Ashley Carrion, Chelsea Cardani, Alyssa Messer, Grace Powers, Emma Smales,
United Against Sexual Assault (Santa Rosa, CA)

Chelsa Cardani, Ann Collins, Laura Eglehoff, Holland Flocke, Megan Johnson, Bianca May, Veronica Woods.
Circle of Sisters girls after-school program (Santa Rosa, CA)

Ariana Curiel
Mendocino Community College Library (Mendocino, CA)

Laura Eglehoff, Veronica Woods,
Women's Voices Magazine (Santa Rosa, CA)

Elizabeth Green, Kristin Johnson, Suzane Vargas
Center for Cultures, Genders and Sexualities (SSU)

Jessica Hernandez
Project Intercept Caseworker (Santa Rosa, Ca)

Megan Johnson, Sara Wade, Joy Young
Alumni Relations/Web Development (WGS Department)

Megan Rifembark
Peer Advising (WGS Department)

Dani Verbus
Community Support Network

Justine Wiley
Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital & Memorial Hospice of Santa Rosa



Spring 2008 WGS Graduates

WGS Majors
Jonathan Amon
Chelsea Cardani (minors Women's Health, Sociology)
Ariana Curiel
Jessica Hernandez (dbl major Psychology)
Claire Hogue (minor Psychology)
Molly Kirsch (dbl. major Human Development)
Skye Nashelsky (dbl. major Hutchins)
Tiffany Perry (dbl. major English)

WGS Majors cont'd

Grace Powers
Megan Rifembark (dbl. major Sociology)
Erin Stewart (dbl major Sociology, minor Women's Health)
Sara Wade
Justine Wiley (minor, Women's Health)
Veronica Woods (dbl. major English)
Joy Young (dbl. major Hutchins)

WGS Minors

Kimberly Ciardella
Jennifer Huss
Erica Peck
Maria Trumbo
Jenelle Feldman (Women's Health)
Natalie Gerace (Women's Health)
Elizabeth Green (Women's Health)
Rachel Hall (Women's Health)
Cara Schwartz (Women's Health)

Fall 2007 WGS Graduates

WGS Majors
Alissa Burnham
Kate Kellett
Jessaca Machado
Heather Pankiw
Angela Robinson

WGS Minors

Jillian Mathias
Ginelle Nelson
Emily Wilson

Spotlight: WGS Alum Megan Izen on life post-WGS in NYC

Interview by Sara Wade, '08

As a graduating senior, I find myself wondering what is going to come next. This question of what to do with one's life lurks in the minds of most students getting ready to walk across the field in late May to the sound of Pomp and Circumstance. I found these fears further compounded when I attended a recent career fair. When asked what my major was, I replied proudly, "Women's and Gender Studies." I was then confronted with looks of uncertainty. Most of the people proceeded to ask what I wanted to do with my degree. It seems to me that most people at these types of career fairs are looking for people with "practical" degrees in business or maybe one of the sciences.

Despite this uncertainty I love my major and am proud to be graduating from the WGS department. However, it is important to remember that a career is the goal upon graduation and despite my love of my major; I still wondered what I would do. When I was given this article to write, I was referred to a former WGS student, Megan Izen who is currently living and working in New York and using her WGS degree. I wanted to take this opportunity to show you all that a degree is WGS really can provide you with great opportunities both professionally and personally. At the same time, you can find yourself on a career path to making big changes in the world.

As a former WGS student, what kind of jobs have you held?

Since graduating I have worked in several capacities for the Applied Research Center. ARC is a public policy institute advancing racial justice through research advocacy and journalism. I came to ARC through ColorLines Magazine, based in Oakland. Managing editor Daisy Hernandez and co-editor of Colonize This! had come to speak to my Feminist Theory course. She sent Charlene a call for interns soon after I graduated and I applied, interviewed and signed onto a Summer internship with the magazine. In the Fall, I was offered a fellowship with ColorLines and spent the next year as the editorial assistant researching, fact-checking, writing stories and working on various marketing projects.

After my year with ColorLines, I moved to our New York office to become the executive assistant to Rinku Sen, our newly appointed executive director. It seems fitting that I would come to work for someone who also graduated from a Women's Studies program. Rinku graduated from one of the first Women's Studies cohorts at Brown University in 1987 and has been continuously busy running organizations, writing books and being a leading voice for racial justice. Since my arrival in New York, I have worked on a variety of special projects including the piloting of our Racial Justice Assessment Tool for Philanthropists, Facing Race, our annual national conference, and Rinku's forthcoming book, *The Accidental American: Immigration and Citizenship in the Age of Globalization* (Berrett-Koehler).

Many people assume that with a degree in WGS, a person doesn't have a lot of career opportunities. What is your response to that and how did you end up working in your current occupation?

A friend recently came through New York on tour and took me out with her friends after the show. When she introduced me to people and told them what I did, she'd always say, "she's the only person I know who actually uses her degree." I was flattered by her enthusiasm for my work and it got me thinking of all the people who heard Women's and Gender Studies and said, "what are you going to do with that?"

I believe that the interdisciplinary approach to studying the institutional and structural roots of the intersections of gender, race, class, sex, sexuality, can be translated into any career path. Whether you become a social worker, activist or even corporate executive (a socially responsible one, of course), the knowledge you gain in your WGS coursework will prove tremendously useful. The moral of the story: ignore the nay-sayers!

How would you suggest current students go about making the connections needed to get a job they really want?

My best pieces of advice are to utilize your networks and dabble in a little of this and a little that as long as you can until you find what's right for you. Try not to get too anxious if you don't

know what's next or can't find the perfect job. I spent months while interning at ColorLines applying for entry level positions in the Bay Area and couldn't get a call back for the life of me. It takes a lot of diligence and patience to find the right thing.

Were there any internships you did while you were a student that you would suggest current students look into doing?

I was an archival intern at the GLBT Historical Society of San Francisco which was amazing. While still an undergrad, I would suggest doing several internships in a variety of fields, even if you think you already know what's next for you. Don't be afraid to call up or email that organization you think is great and offer to do work for them. What's the worst that can happen?

In what ways has your major assisted you in your work?

As I said before, I think your WGS education is relevant to whatever work you do. For me specifically, I came to ARC with a good foundation of understanding the intersectionality of race, gender, class, sex, sexuality, nation, etc. I've been able to build on that here whether writing an article for the magazine, blogging about today's news and with any of my other projects. It helps inform the way I interact with and understand the world.

In what ways do you think that your major has affected your life or your outlook on life?

WGS transformed my life. My political and social beliefs coalesced while I was in the program. I became adept at being able to articulate my theories and beliefs about the injustices I was seeing every day. Rather than just telling someone it's wrong for a corporation to exploit people across the globe, I was able to talk about globalization and its institutional roots in US economic policies, its disproportionate effect on women of color and the need for fair trade rather than free trade.

For many, graduation is a scary time that brings a lot of changes and uncertainty, how did you deal with those challenges and what advice do you have for students getting ready to graduate?

Be prepared not to have immediate answers. Again, diligence and patience are crucial. You might work at a few jobs that aren't ideal before you find the right career path. After graduation I remember writing Charlene a desperate email asking her if my idealism was clouding my vision. She wrote back right away and said, "your idealism isn't clouding your vision, it IS your vision." I wrote that on the inside cover of my notebook to remind myself to keep going after what I really wanted.

Now we'd like to know a little about the life of a former WGS student. What kind of things do you do for fun?

Right now I'm training for my first half marathon so running home across the Brooklyn Bridge is at the top of my fun list. Wandering through my neighborhood (Park Slope) and Manhattan finding new restaurants and shops is always exhilarating. And there's the free evenings at MOMA, Whitney and the Guggenheim that make for an inexpensive way to enjoy the benefits of living in New York.

Do you have a favorite book and what is it?

I have to pick one? There are too many. If I had to pick, it would actually be *Colonize This!* since it played such an integral role in getting me where I am today.

Do you have a favorite movie and what is it?

I'm a documentary junkie and the same one has been at the top of my list since I first saw it screened in 2006: *Jonestown: The Life and Death of People's Temple*. If you ask me, it was robbed for the Academy Award by *An Inconvenient Truth* (it made the short list for best documentary that year).

Now that you have graduated and have a career, what future endeavors do you hope to pursue for yourself?

Continuing to work for a multiracial, multi-issue organization that supports my political and professional growth is at the top of my list. I'm always looking for ways to incorporate my passion for food and nutrition into my work. Racial justice and food go hand-in-hand when it comes to health disparities in communities of color, so I don't have to look too far.

WGS Welcomes your Support

WGS Newsletter

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We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.sonoma.edu/womenstudies

Alumni and Community members often ask us how they can stay involved or support WGS. There are numerous ways! Please see below! The WGS Foundation was set-up specifically to assist the department in providing quality curriculum enhancements and activities for students of WGS. Possibilities for use include travel grants, research opportunities, and technological innovations.

I am interested in:

- Sitting on a WGS Alumni Panel
- Contributing to the WGS Foundation*
 - \$5-\$50 Friend
 - \$50-\$75 Supporter
 - \$75 & above Advocate
- WGS Alumni Book Club
- WGS Alumni Facebook/MySpace or other online community

*Checks payable to: WGS Foundation.

*Mail form/e-mail interest to tung@sonoma.edu. Dept. address below.

CONTACT US

The WGS Department would love to hear from you! Alumni, let us know how you are. Students, consider writing for us! Community folks, let us know how we can be of assistance.

Contact the Chair of the Department at tung@sonoma.edu or Jo-Ann Smith at 707-664-2840.

**WGS NEWSLETTER
WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES DEPARTMENT
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