A Letter from the Director - Dr. Nancy A. Naples

This is our first year under our new program name: Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. What’s in a name? Well, we have already seen a lot of changes. Of course, there are the obvious ones: changing stationary, business cards, web site, list servs, flyers and other publicity. Less obvious and, at times, more controversial ones involve revisions to our curriculum to reflect the change. Faculty debates included to what extent should we retain a focus on women that has been the hallmark of many of our classes: Women and Violence, Women and Poverty, Women and Film. Decision: “Yes, we must retain these courses and even add others.” For example, we added a new course on Women and Crime designed by Dr. Lynne Goodstein, Former Associate Vice Provost of the Honors Program, Professor of Sociology and Affiliate Faculty in WGSS. We also discussed the related question; namely, do we need to generate new courses such as Gender and Violence that incorporates the structural violence of poverty, militarism, capitalism, colonialism as well as gendered violence against men, especially trans and gay men. The answer: “Yes!” Of course, all our courses are intersectional and touch on the multiple factors and systems of oppression that contribute to violence, as but one topic we address in our curriculum. But there is only so much that can be done in a semester. This means that each course needs to highlight a different aspect of the complex processes relate to the broader field of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

Among the many strategies we use to enhance our research and pedagogy beyond the classroom include sponsoring lectures and workshops by distinguished experts in relevant fields. One of the highlights of this year’s featured sessions was a workshop led by former WGSS faculty member UConn Emerita Professor of Philosophy Diana Tietjens Meyers, who is currently the Ellacuría Chair in Social Ethics and Professor of Philosophy at Loyola University. Professor Meyers’s workshop focused on Sex Trafficking and Women’s Agency (see page 11 for more details).

The second major event also foregrounded human rights. This workshop, entitled “Settler Colonialism & Human Rights: Intersectional and Critical Assessments,” was co-organized by APiRs Barbara Gurr and Judy Rohrer, and Professors Françoise Dussart in collaboration with the Institutes of African American Studies; Asian American Studies; Latina/o, Caribbean, and Latin American Studies. The workshop was designed to provide critical engagements between race, gender and sexuality on the one hand and indigenous and settler colonial studies on the other. The workshop formed part of a year-long interdisciplinary focus on indigeneity that was inaugurated by the co-sponsored talk and campus visit of 1992 Nobel Peace Prize recipient Rigoberta Menchú, whose life is chronicled in I, Rigoberta Menchú (1983) and Crossing Borders (1998). Her visit was co-sponsored with the UNESCO Chair’s Office, the Human Rights Institute, and the interdisciplinary Institutes. The “Settler Colonialism & Human Rights” workshop continues the themes addressed by Menchú, including indigenous rights, gender, sexuality, and collective vs. individual human rights. In both venues, our goal is to stimulate and advance interest in indigenous studies at UConn. In this workshop, we seek to provide a forum at UConn for building intellectual links with, and contributing to the exciting new work in settler colonialism that highlights gender, race, and sexuality (see page 6 for a description of the workshop).

Interpersonal and structural violence has been a topic of intense concern as we close out this academic year. We are proud of our students who have worked diligently and passionately to counter the many ways that the culture of violence seeps into our own discourse and practices on the UConn campus. WGSS students and allies have founded new organizations, sustained the work of others, and inspired friends and classmates to follow suit. As we say goodbye to the class of 2013, we know that they have left a lasting impact on all of us whose lives they have touched.

http://wgss.uconn.edu/
UConn Students Abroad Build High School’s First Library in Nyanga, South Africa

The Cape Town Study Abroad Internship Program, run by WGSS’s Dr. Marita McComiskey, seeks to broaden students’ understanding of South Africa’s complicated history and social situation, and encourages them to think about how to practically engage with local communities through a combination of coursework and internships. Four students in the program – Anna Burbank, Allie Ball, Patrick Clarke and Liz Sarant – translated their increased awareness into action. A teacher from Nyanga township’s Sithembele Matiso High School confronted the students with the school’s lack of resources, saying that it is not surprising that many students fail to graduate or go on to college when they have few books or computers. Clarke says that while the high school has had a space set aside for a library for years, its shelves are empty.

After consulting with the school’s administrators, the four students created “Books for Nyanga,” a book donation project. The students used social media to reach out to their connections back home, and in only four weeks, they had collected enough to make a shipment. Harold Burbank, Anna’s father, helped facilitate the book donation in Connecticut. He says that Ralph Nader, a Winsted, CT native, supported the project by donating books. An employee of UPS, John Buonaiuto, convinced his company to help with the shipping, but to do that, they needed the help of the WGSS program. Our administrative assistant, Coleen Spurlock, coordinated the efforts to pack the books, arranging for fifteen students to gather on March 15th, the day before Spring Break, to sort and pack over 90 boxes of books.

The students have said that, rather than attracting attention for themselves, they want to inspire others to do what they can to contribute to communities in need. They hope to have the library ready by their departure date on April 27th, and they are planning to follow up on their project by maintaining ties with the high school and revisiting the library that they helped to build.

Remembering Women’s Voices: A Lecture Recital

On April 21, Theresa Pilz and Anna Hayrapetyan and Penny Brandt performed a concert titled “Remembering Women’s Voices” at Storrs Congregational Church, with the support of the WGSS and Music departments at UConn. This concert celebrated the music of Elsa Respighi, Germaine Tailleferre, and Amy Beach, and was well attended by students and faculty from both departments.

Up until about forty years ago, women composers did not appear in standard Musicology or Music History curriculums. With the second wave of feminism, occurring around the same time as the Civil Rights movement, came the birth of feminist musicology, a discipline that worked in part to resurrect those voices that had, for various reasons, been excluded from the Western canon of music (a problematic category in and of itself). Even so, with a few notable exceptions, such as Hildegard von Bingen and Clara Schumann, music students are very familiar with the stories of women composers being relegated to a blue box that appears sporadically throughout their music history texts under a generic heading like “Musical Women.” Why are women widely still not considered legitimate members of this canon? Susan McClary, one of the most prominent feminist musicologists, offers various explanations, the most obvious being that “the historical record has been composed almost exclusively by men, and it has tended to trace a genealogy of deeds by men.” However, perhaps her most salient argument, one to which the recital will kept returning, is that the reasons that the study of female composers has been neglected “hinge not so much on the quality of the work as on cultural biases that have excluded women from consideration.” The biases she enumerates include the privileging of the positivist study of the formal aspects of music over content and cultural situatedness, and the coding of “active and assertive” music as “masculine” and “passive and lyrical” music as “feminine” (regardless of the gender of the composer), and the exalting of the “masculine” German Romantic tradition over the more “effeminate” Italian and French forms.

We were very proud and excited to take advantage of the support from the WGSS program to put our scholarship and performance into practice in a program that brought women composers out of the margins of text books and into the spot light. We selected music that we enjoyed performing, both because of its musical qualities and because of the ways it demonstrated the gendered experiences of the composers we chose to study. The songs we performed covered topics of infidelity in relationships, and surviving as a single mother, among others. We hope that this performance is only the first of its kind, and look forward to performing in and attending similar programs in the future.

http://wgss.uconn.edu/
Honoring our Graduates & Award Recipients

During 2012 - 2013, Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies saw the graduation of many wonderful undergraduate students - 8 majors, and 58 minors - as well as 7 students who completed the Graduate Certificate. Students completed their coursework throughout the year, graduating in August and December 2012 and May 2013. Certificates will be presented at the Commencement celebration held on Sunday, May 12, 2013 at the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center.

In addition to our majors, minors and graduate certificate students, WGSS honored 8 students with annual awards. Please see the article on pages 19 & 20 for more details. In summary, the awards were presented to:

**Undergraduate Awards:**
- **The Kristie Ann Wood Endowment Scholarship:** Chandler Ford
- **The Chase Going Woodhouse Prize:** Nellie Stagg
- **The Gladys Tantaquidgeon Award:** Kayla Dias
- **The Jacqueline Brown-Dickstein Scholarship:** Rebecca Barton
- **The Feminist Arts Award:** Rebecca Uliasz
- **Feminist Activist Award:** Carolyn Luby

**Graduate Student Awards**
- **The Excellence in Graduate Teaching in WGSS Award:** Tara Harney-Majahan (Ph.D. candidate, English), Feminist Studies Certificate
- **The Susan Porter Benson Graduate Research Paper Award:** Kristina Reardon (Ph.D. candidate, Literatures, Cultures, and Languages, Feminist Studies Certificate)

**Honoring our Staff**

A special THANK YOU to Coleen Spurlock, Katie Kuziel, Rebecca Nelson Jacobs, Kat Mueller, Ebonique Stubbs and Abbey Willis whose dedicated commitment and hard work has been vital to work this year!

http://wgss.uconn.edu/
We say farewell to Assistant Professor-in-Residence Michael Gill who after three years at UConn has accepted a position at Grinnell College where he will teach Feminist and Queer Disability Studies and Gender, Race, and Science, among other courses. He will be sorely missed but leaves his legacy in our curriculum where he developed our new courses in Feminist Disability Studies and Masculinities.

The next academic year we will be joined by two new faculty members: Assistant Professors Laura Mauldin and Daniel Silvermint.

- Dr. Mauldin is currently teaching at Rochester Institute of Technology. She received her Ph.D. from the Graduate Center, City University of New York, and her MA from Gallaudet University. Her research in science, technology, and disabilities studies addresses ethical and political discourses and practices of biomedical technology. Her dissertation focused on medical technologies and their impact on deaf culture and families of deaf children. She will teach courses in Feminist Disabilities Studies, Gender and Science, and Bioethics.

- Dr. Silvermint is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at McGill University. His Ph.D. in Philosophy from the University of Arizona. The title of his dissertation is “Oppression and Victim Agency.” As a graduate student he received teaching awards from his department and from the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. He will work with Dr. Mauldin to design a new course in Bioethics. Together they form the faculty core of our newest concentration in Science, Health and Technology. This new focus of our unit aligns with the exciting initiatives in this interdisciplinary field that is taking place across the university.

**DAUGHTER ERASER**

By Amber West

He sweeps her rubber ashes into the wooden pencil box clasps the tiny silver lock carries her with him wherever he goes 
Sometimes to pass the time he opens the box and runs one finger through the soft pink shavings, piles her like a tiny sand mountain blows the peak softly: landslide He traces a happy face into her dust, closes and shakes the box, wonders whether to sprinkle her somewhere Where would she rather be, really? He does not know: there must be nowhere He never imagines he does not know her well He made her He erased her What more is there to know?

**Highlighting Graduate Work**

This poem comes from Amber West, a native Californian artist-scholar-educator and member of the WGSS graduate community. Her writing has appeared in journals such as Calyx and the Journal of Research on Women & Gender. She is currently a doctoral candidate in English at University of Connecticut, where her research focuses on contemporary feminist poetry, puppetry and hybrid performance. Her own plays and “puppet poems” have been performed in theaters in SF and NYC. She lives in Brooklyn, NY where she’s co-founder of the artist collective, Alphabet Arts, and curator of an annual hybrid arts festival called Puppets & Poets (alphabetarts.org). Her poem, “Daughter Eraser” received Highest Commendation in the Gregory O'Donoghue International Poetry Competition, and was originally published in Southword (Vol. 21A, March 2012). The poem will be reprinted in the anthology Women Write Resistance: Poets Resist Gender Violence, edited by Laura Madeline Wiseman and forthcoming from Pittsburgh-based feminist publishers, Hyacinth Girl Press in 2013, and is reprinted here with permission.
The Women’s Center in the News

The university published this article in its blog UConn Today about the Women’s Center’s 40th Anniversary. The article has been reprinted with the paper’s permission. The article was written by Kenneth Best, and published on December 3, 2012. It is available at: http://today.uconn.edu/blog/

Gloria Steinem Offers Students Living Lessons in History

Gloria Steinem, co-founder of Ms. Magazine and one of the most prominent leaders of the women’s movement, answered questions and provided living history lessons to a group of students actively involved with the Women’s Center, as part of the Center’s 40th anniversary program on Friday. Sitting among a circle of about 20 students in the Center’s program room, Steinem spent more than an hour discussing issues ranging from politics and the Vietnam War to economic parity and sexuality, before delivering remarks to a capacity audience in the Student Union Theatre.

Answering a question about the development of activism for women’s rights, Steinem said the women’s movement resulted from the treatment of women who were part of the civil rights and anti-war protests of the 1960s. She said male participants in the protests treated women “just the way corporations did,” often limiting their role to making copies of protest fliers and serving coffee. “That really was the birth of the understanding that there needed to be an autonomous women’s movement,” Steinem said, noting that Betty Friedan’s landmark book *The Feminine Mystique* (1963) had addressed college-educated women sitting in the suburbs realizing there must be something more to life. “More came out of the civil rights and anti-war movements.”

One student asked about her experience protesting against the Vietnam conflict, something that today’s young people read about in history books, and noted that the same kind of protests do not occur now. Steinem said today’s anti-war efforts are actually more effective, because one of the main issues in the Vietnam protests was the drafting of Americans to serve in the military as part of the war effort. “It was not as good as it is now, [when] we turned against two wars in half the time, in terms of the national feelings against Iraq and Afghanistan,” she said. “I do think we may romanticize that time in the past. It was actually all about the draft … When the draft disappeared a lot of the anti-war feeling went. It was exhilarating and it was brave, but I would say it was more limited than similar kinds of movements we see now.”

In a discussion about economic disparity between men and women, Steinem said equal pay for women could be “the biggest, most effective economic stimulus this country could possibly have,” pumping $200 billion into the national economy. “Those women are going to spend the money,” she said. “They’re not going to send it to Switzerland or invest it in China. They’re going to spend it, and it’s going to create jobs.” Using the example of parking lot attendants – who are men – making more money than childcare givers – who are women, Steinem said that after equal pay, there needs to be a value placed on “all productive human work.” “Right now a third of the work that is caregiving, whether it’s raising children, taking care of relatives or invalids, [takes place in the home]” she said. “The country could not go on without it. It has no economic value. You could attribute that replacement level and economic value … and make that tax deductible. Whether it’s men or women, it’s in the national interest because usually care given in the home is better and less expensive than institutionalized care.”

Turning to politics, Steinem noted that often when she speaks on a university campus, she will be asked why some groups are against lesbians and birth control. “Those groups really believe that human sexuality is only moral and OK if it’s directed toward having children and inside patriarchal marriage, so the children are properly owned,” she said. “They object to any de-linkage of sexual expression from reproduction. That is contrary to human nature. Sexuality has always been a way we expressed caring, love, closeness, and pleasure, not only a way we have children. Women have always known how to control their own fertility and whether and when to have children.”

She said that social movements continue to be spoken of as isolated entities, “still spoken of as in silos, as if they are separate, without enough explanation of the connections.” She said this was apparent during the 2008 Presidential election, when Sens. Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama were competing in the Democratic primary and the news media portrayed the candidates as representing separate constituencies. “It had to be you were putting sex over race, or race over sex,” she said. “It was profoundly destructive.”

Gloria Steinem holds up a recently published book that examines the treatment of women in society in relation to the incidence of conflict and war, during a public lecture in the Student Union Theatre on Nov. 30. (Ariel Dowski ’14 (CLAS)/UConn Photo)
The Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies Program has a very active program of events and co-sponsorships. The Storrs based WGSS Program typically has several major events and speaker series each academic year. They include Monthly Spotlights featuring faculty in departments and interdisciplinary units working in the field of women’s, gender, and sexualities studies. For example, The Graduate Spotlight Series gives us a space to showcase the exciting work of our WGSS graduate students. See page 12 for summaries of those topics.

The Distinguished Guest Speaker Series features internationally prominent scholars from universities across the country and abroad who address agreed upon themes identified by WS faculty. Tanya Erzen, Associate Professor of Religion and Comparative Studies and affiliate faculty of Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies at the Ohio State University, gave a lecture on “Fanpire: Postfeminism and the Fantasy of Romance in the Twilight Fandom.”

WGSS sponsored two faculty workshops on “Settler Colonialism, Gender, Sexuality, and the Question of Human Rights.”

We also support the efforts of other units on campus, especially those organized by the ethnic studies institutes. This past year we also co-sponsored a number of events. Along with number of organizations, including the Office of Global Affairs and the Women’s Center, WGSS co-sponsored a lecture by Rigoberta Menchú Tum, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate. WGSS co-sponsored the Bennett lecture with Alan R. Bennett Professor, Political Science, CLAS, and the Human Rights Institute, given by Dr. Dara Kay Cohen of the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University on “Understanding Wartime Rape During Civil Wars.” With Zero Tolerance, WGSS sponsored a lecture by Loretta Ross, founder of the SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Health Collective, entitled “Free To Be: The Reproductive Justice Movement & Human Rights.”

The Stamford Center for Women’s Studies also sponsors annual events, including the following presentations: ‘Fallen Women’ and Fatherless Children: Secrets in the Early-Modern Jewish Life,” presented by Elisheva Carlebach, the Salo Wittmayer Baron Professor of Jewish History, Culture and Society at Columbia University; "Black History and Poetic Personae" by Marilyn Nelson, former Poet Laureate of Connecticut; "Jewish Women on the Elizabethan Stage," presented by Michelle Ephraim, a scholar at Worcester Polytechnic Institute.; and "Free To Be: Why the Reproductive Justice Movement Is About Human Rights," by Loretta Ross, an expert commentator on human rights and women’s issues.

Please visit our website for more information on these events as well as additional events that will be added to the WGSS schedule as the year progresses - http://wgss.uconn.edu/

On April 12 local and national scholars joined the Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program to share works in progress analyzing the intersections of sexuality, gender, and settler colonialism. UConn faculty Nancy Shoemaker, Françoise Dussart, Nancy Naples, Heather Turcotte, Kathy Libal, Michael Gill, Judy Rohrer, Sherry Zane and Barbara Gurr as well as numerous graduate students welcomed Sarah Deer, Jodi Byrd, Scott Morgensen, Amy Den Ouden, Lisa Brooks and J. Kēhaulani Kauanui to the Storrs campus for a day. Panelists generated productive discussion and debate about how settler colonial states produce gendered and sexualized violences as they work toward the elimination of natives. Works examined uncovered New England Native women's history, considered the links between queer identity and settler colonialism in Palestine, and deconstructed the roles of "history" and "indigeneity" in popular video games. We are looking forward to future collaborations in this field, and we are grateful to our cosponsors, including the Human Rights Institute, Humanities Institute, Asian American Studies Institute, African American Studies Institute, El Instituto: Institute for Latina/o, Latin American and Caribbean Studies, and the Research Foundation for their generous support in making this day happen!
UConn Triota

UConn hosts an active branch of the National Women's Studies Honors Society, Iota Iota Iota or "Triota." Triota's mission is to uphold the feminist values that motivate Women's Studies and promote awareness of issues facing all marginalized groups. To that end, the organization focuses on fostering inclusiveness and an understanding of the structures of power in society.

The UConn branch of Triota gives students a space to explore feminist issues outside of the classroom through scholarship, activism, and community service. Members should have at least six credits of Women's Studies classes, and at least a 3.0 GPA.

During the Fall 2012 semester, Triota met on Sundays at 8:00 pm at Bookworms Café. Triota also sponsored a fundraiser for the Jackson Women’s Health Clinic, Mississippi’s last abortion clinic.

New Ways to Connect with WGSS Via Social Media

To facilitate easier communication among the student and create a sense of community so that the students can learn about each other's interests, ask to borrow a book, or learn about upcoming WGSS events, we have created a Facebook page for graduate students and one for undergraduate students. We have also created a fan page to share information about events and public activities.

Find us on Facebook:
Groups:
  UConn WGSS Graduate Students
  UConn WGSS Undergrad Students
Fan page:
  UConn Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies Program

The UConn Women's Center Celebrates its 40th Anniversary

On November 30th, 2012, the UConn Women's Center celebrated its 40th Anniversary with a series of events, including an art walk led by a docent from the Benton Museum that highlighted the work of women artists from the university's public art collection, a panel discussion on "Women Engineers of the Past Half-Century" moderated by Dr. Sharon Nunes, and a public lecture by noted women's movement leader Gloria Steinem.

Stories from Our Graduate Students

Jenniann Colón, WGSS graduate certificate

As I nervously await a phone call to a second interview for a Program Coordinator position; I realize the last two years in Women's Gender and Sexualities Studies made a significant impact in my academic and professional growth and made this interview possible. My participation in WGSS evolved and challenged my intellectual property and professional skills. I learned to critically analyze academic literature, as well as, mange the WGSS website, represent the WGSS Graduates, and I had the pleasure of working with amazing students interested in gender and history. Director Nancy N. Naples, Coleen Spurlock and the many amazing professors and graduate students invested in WGSS made my transition to UConn bearable when I was overwhelmed and in culture shock. Yesterday I counted the days 'til graduation with pure excitement as I thought about returning home. Today I pass the calendar and refuse to look at the days, as I am saddened by the thought of leaving my home. Thank you for believing in me, for giving me room to grow as a graduate student, a woman, and a Boricua. I now know that I don't need permission that it's my human right to question, to disagree and to assert my value and importance. I'm a proud WGSS Graduate.

http://wgss.uconn.edu/
Stories from Our Graduating Seniors

Carolyn Luby, WGSS major
As I prepare to graduate UConn I could not be more satisfied with the Majors and Minors I have chosen and the critical lense they have given me through which to view the world. WGSS gave me the strength to speak on my own experience, and to understand the diversity of experiences and identities that each woman uniquely possesses. As Adrienne Rich stated, “The connections between and among women are the most feared, the most problematic, and the most potentially transforming force on the planet.” I am forever grateful for the connections I have made with my inspirational WGSS professors, my fellow student activists, and all the critical minds I have met along the way who also seek to transform this world.

Linda Ruutu, WGSS major
I have loved my time at UConn, and being a WGSS major has been life-changing. Originally from Finland, I have learned more than I thought was possible through WGSS classes. I have also been a member of the UConn women’s soccer team for four years. I plan on continuing my studies, most likely in WGSS, after a break from school.

Zia Kanner, WGSS major
I have truly loved my time here at UConn. Originally from MA, I enjoyed coming here to earn my dual degree in two fields which I feel very passionately about. I have been an active member of Alpha Phi for the last 4 years and this semester began working at the Women’s Center and starting up a program called Greeks Against Sexual Assault. Upon graduation, I will hopefully have a job and then return for grad school after working for some time.

Michael Muehe, WGSS minor
I’ve had an amazing time at UConn over the last four years and will definitely miss it next year. I’ve gained so much from the WGSS program, and was able to apply what I learned to incoming freshmen when delivering the Violence Against Women Prevention Program presentation at Avery Point’s Fall Orientation. I was also able to apply lessons learned in an interdisciplinary manner, from gender roles in early-American whaling to sexuality in vampire literature, enhancing my understanding of WGSS as a whole. I love being by the water, so I’ll be heading to Roger Williams University School of Law in August to study ocean/coastal law and land use planning. I hope to later work with coastal communities and cities.

Chalis Marzullo, WGSS minor
My time at UConn has gone by in the blink of an eye, but I’ve had so many amazing times and memories. I discovered my passion for Women’s Studies and advocating for feminism on campus and was lucky enough to serve as President of our WS Honors Society, Triota. I have accomplished many things throughout my college career and have learned an incredible amount in my classes as well as in my personal life. While I have no definite plans for after graduation, I know that my experience at UConn as a Women’s, Gender and Sexualities Studies minor has prepared me for the “real world.” I now have a better understanding of the experiences of others and I will approach the world in a more open minded and non-judgmental attitude than when I started here four years ago.

Theresa Govert, WGSS minor
As I prepare to leave UConn I feel indebted to the Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies department for the person I am today. From studying abroad in South Africa, to my classes, my professors and fellow students have challenged, invigorated, and inspired me and for this I am forever grateful. The Dalai Lama says the most important meditation of our time is “critical thinking followed by personal action”, a lesson I was continuously taught in the WGSS program. After graduation, I will be in Botswana working as a Peace Corps volunteer and I will use the important skills I have learnt to inform my work. In solidarity.

Alexa Dankowski, WGSS minor
Though Bethel is her hometown, Alexa greatly enjoyed making memories in Storrs. Alexa hopes to break into the world of advertising or public relations post graduation. She got her first taste of PR/ journalism while writing for the news site, UConn Today. Working toward the WGSS minor has helped her learn how to communicate to all audiences. In addition to her love of writing, Alexa enjoys all things creative.

Caitlin Kelly, WGSS minor
I am leaving UConn with an education that has changed the way I see the world, and I have the WGSS program to thank for much of that. As I pursue a career in advertising and begin my life as an adult, I know that the respect I have gained for myself and others will continue to shape who I am.
Cassidy Kushner, WGSS minor
I am so happy to be leaving UConn as a much stronger person than I was when I came here. My work with the Women's Center and the WGSS program are directly responsible for this. I have learned how important it is to be an individual and to share my opinions with others. I gained a voice that I never knew I had in many of my WGSS classes. I will be going to Northwestern University in the fall to get my MS degree and I hope to bring the lessons I learned here with me.

Maeve Mackey, WGSS minor
I have had some great times at UConn, and have grown as an individual in large part due to the WGSS classes I have taken. These classes have inspired me to become more active in helping others, especially women and children. I have been involved with Love146, an organization dedicated to ending child trafficking, for the past three years, and hope to continue this involvement post-graduation.

Austin Longendyke, WGSS minor
My few years at UConn have truly been life-changing, largely because of what I have gained through WGSS classes. I have also had the privilege of being on the e-board of two amazing organizations on campus: Students United for Reproductive Justice and the National Organization for Women. Starting this fall I will be attending the UConn School of Social Work in pursuit of an MSW.

Keeley Abram, WGSS minor
As my time at UConn is coming to an end, I am so happy to have experienced and learned all that I have while being a student here. As I enter the "real world", I am moving home to Hermosa Beach, CA and hoping to find a career in education. WGSS has taught me so much and has broadened my view of society, which I hope to pass on to others.

Matthew Dempsey, WGSS minor
I am a Special Education Major and currently work in the Women’s Center as one of the co-facilitators for the new Greeks Against Sexual Assault program. I am a Brother of Beta Theta Pi and will be joining the Administrative Office of my fraternity as a Leadership Consultant in the upcoming year. I know I would not be the person who I am today or have the opportunities available to me without the WGSS Program.

Alexandra Collins, WGSS minor
As I reflect on my time spent at UConn and who I have grown to become throughout the past four years, I can say with certainty that it is an almost direct reflection of my time spent at the Women’s Center, in WGSS classes, and around peers who have shared the same passions and interests. My involvement in WGSS over the past two years truly made my UConn experience what it was. I was inspired by so many wonderful, positive, and passionate people who encouraged me to express myself and my ideas, helping me to gain confidence to go out into the world and make a difference. This fall I will be attending Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, BC to get my M.Sc in Health Sciences and do research in Sierra Leone. I plan to incorporate the many things I have learned into my research and more importantly, throughout my career.

Colleen McGillivray, WGSS minor
The University of Connecticut has provided me with the opportunities to explore and pursue interests in an array of disciplines. At UConn I have served as Vice President of Triota, the National Women’s Studies Honor Society, and am a founding member of Gamma Phi Beta Sorority. As I prepare for a career in the field of engineering I am confident that the ideas I have learned through my work with the WGSS Program will provide valuable insight and experience.

Michaela Rinaldo, WGSS Minor
I couldn’t have been happier making the move from another university to come to UConn my Sophomore year. I took my first Women’s Studies class during my first Spring Semester here and felt I needed to continue on as a WGSS Minor in order to strengthen not only myself as a woman but also others, both women and men, who I will encounter throughout the rest of my life. I have met many amazing and intelligent students and professors throughout my WGSS experience and have learned how to approach my life in a more peaceful and loving manner. I hope to someday find a job in my field of Art History which enables me to combine my love of art and my strong feelings towards equality for all people.

Charlie Grab, WGSS minor
After attending Architecture in Boston for 2 years, I decided to make the move back home to Connecticut. In order to complete my degree, I needed to take as many liberal arts courses as possible to finish my credit hours. I enrolled in a few Women's Studies courses and fell in love. Being a male in WGSS led to many jokes, but it was all worth it. I have learned a great deal about gender equality, and plan to carry these lessons with me through life.
2012-2013 WS Faculty and Staff

In 2012 - 2013, Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies had outstanding faculty and graduate assistant teaching our students here at UConn – Storrs, as well as a top notch staff of student workers. We’d like to extend our sincerest appreciation to these individuals who contributed so fully to the advancement of Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies.

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Core Faculty:
Alexis Boylan, Assistant Professor, Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Margaret Breen, Professor, Women’s Studies & Associate Department Head of English
Anne D’Alleva, Associate Professor, Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies & Art and Art History
Manisha Desai, Associate Professor, Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies & Sociology
François Dussart, Professor, Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies & Anthropology
Michael Gill, Assistant Professor in Residence, Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Barbara Gurr, Assistant Professor in Residence, Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Veronica Makowsky, Professor, Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies & English
Marita McComiskey, Assistant Professor in Residence, Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Nancy Naples, Professor, Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Director & Sociology
Judy Rohrer, Assistant Professor in Residence, Women’s Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Christine Sylvester, Professor, Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies & Political Science
Heather M. Turcotte, Assistant Professor, Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies & Political Science

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Affiliate Faculty
Nehama Aschkenasy, Professor in Residence, Literature, Culture, and Languages
Marysol Asencio, Associate Professor, Human Development and Family Studies, Interim Director of IPRLS
Janet Barnes-Farrell, Professor, Psychology
Mary Bernstein, Professor, Sociology
Pamela Brown, Associate Professor, English
Eleni Coundouriotis, Associate Professor, English
Elaine DalMolin, Professor, French and Francophone Studies
Ana María Díaz-Marcos, Assistant Professor, Literature, Culture and Languages
Clare Eby, Professor, English
Anita Garey, Associate Professor, Human Development and Family Studies
Davita Glasberg, Professor and Associate Dean, Sociology
Serkan Gorkemli, Assistant Professor, English
Elizabeth Holzer Assistant Professor, Sociology
Kristin Kelly, Associate Professor, Political Science
Kathryn Libal Assistant Professor, Social Work
Hallie Liberto, Assistant Professor, Philosophy
Jocelyn Linnekin, Professor, Anthropology
Thomas Long, Associate Professor in Residence, School of Nursing
Margo Machida, Associate Professor, Art & Art History, School of Nursing
Allison MacKay, Associate Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering
Vicki J. Magley, Associate Professor, Psychology
Elizabeth Mahan, Interim Executive Director of International Affairs
Samuel Martínez, Associate Professor, Anthropology
Michele P. McElya, Assistant Professor, History
Liansu Meng, Assistant Professor In Residence , Chinese
Kim Price-Glynn, Associate Professor, Sociology
Bandana Purkayastha, Professor, Sociology & Asian American Studies
Kathryn Ratcliff, Assistant Professor, Sociology
Diana Rios, Associate Professor, Communication Sciences
Frederick Roden, Associate Professor, English
Sylvia Schaefer, Associate Professor, History
Cathy Schlund-Vials, Interim Director of Asian Studies, Assistant Professor, English
Blanca Silvestrini, Professor, History
Evelyn Simien, Associate Professor, Political Science
Doreen Simons, Lecturer, Linguistics & American Sign Language
Merrill Singer, Professor, Anthropology & Public Health
Judith Thorpe, Professor, Art & Art History
Janet Watson, Professor, History
Steven Wisensale, Professor, Human Development & Family Studies
Sex Trafficking and Women's Agency: A Workshop with Distinguished Visiting Professor Diana Tietjens Meyers, Ellacuría Chair in Social Ethics and Professor of Philosophy at Loyola University

Diana Tietjens Meyers works in three main areas of philosophy: philosophy of action, feminist ethics, and human rights theory. Her major current projects are a monograph, Victims’ Stories and the Advancement of Human Rights, and an edited collection, Poverty, Agency, and Human Rights. Professor Meyers was joined by an interdisciplinary group of faculty and graduate students for this spring workshop. She presented two papers which the attendees read in advance to ensure a deeper discussion of the important topic of sex trafficking and women’s agency. The first paper, “Agency and Sex Trafficking: Rethinking Some Aspects of Autonomy and Paternalism,” took up the tension between radical feminists and liberal feminists over the normative status of prostitution and other forms of sex work has reemerged over the rights of trafficked sex workers. Professor Meyers analyzes the different conceptions of agency and shows why she views the radical feminist as a paternalistic feminist agenda. On the other hand, liberal feminists’ respect for the agency of trafficked sex workers leads to their resistance to intervention on their behalf. Professor Meyers aligns her approach “with legal experts and feminist activists who maintain that many trafficked women qualify for refugee status and ought to be granted asylum in destination countries.” She concludes that: “Asylum would provide trafficked sex workers with the protection many need to discern and act on their autonomous desires.”

The second paper, "Rethinking Coercion for a World of Poverty and Sexual Exploitation," challenges the current law enforcement approach to sex trafficking that defines most trafficked sex workers as “smuggled” persons and subsequently deports them. Drawing on the criterion set in the UN Millennium Development Goals that defines severe poverty in an economy with “a large deficit of decent work” Professor Meyers argues that who have been sex trafficked should be understood as coerced and undocumented transnational sex workers deserve more humane treatment than is currently the rule. The remainder of this paper rebuts the claim that affirming the coerciveness of poverty disrespects or denies the agency of migrant sex workers. She concludes with the “hope that I have at least succeeded in disrupting the willful ignorance that conceals the injustice of the suffering inflicted on migrant sex workers by legal systems as well as traffickers and that indefinitely postpones the day when they’ll receive the respect they deserve as bearers of human rights.”
The Graduate Student Spotlight Series gives our students the chance share their research and builds a sense of community.

“Teaching Transgender Feminism: Dr. Barb Gurr and Ute Bettray”
This presentation described the class entitled “Transgender Feminism: Key Terms, Debates, and Cultural Products” that Ute designed and taught. The class and its goals can be summarized as follows: On the verge of the second decade of the 21st century the most cutting edge theories on the feminist stage arguably come from the new field of transgnder studies and transgender feminism because of the new insights on embodiment they invoke. Susan Stryker defines “transgender…” broadly as anything that disrupts or denaturalizes normative gender, and which calls our attention to the processes through which normativity is produced and atypicality achieves visibility.” Moreover she delineates “transgender feminism” as a feminism that focuses on marginalized gender expressions as well as normative ones.” This class examines this strand of one of the new feminisms and explores the following questions: What genders and sexualities does transgender as an umbrella term cover? How, for example, does trans-sexuality and transvestitism relate to transgender? What is the history of the term? In other words: How do older gender conceptions such as the invert relate to transgender? Moreover, we will pick up one of the key questions in the field of transgender feminism: Should transgendered and transsexual embodiment be made intelligible? Why or why not?

Barb Gurr is a visiting assistant professor in residence in the Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies program. Her current research relies on a variety of theoretical approaches such as queer theory, deviance and stigma management, and ecological systems theory to examine family identity tasks for parents of pre-adolescent affirmed transgender children. Her multi-method approach in this project centralizes deep participant observation as well as elements of auto-ethnography. She is an active ally both on and off campus.

“Graduate Spotlight: Julie Shoults”
Germany has a long history of socialist thought, and Julie will discuss how female writers have employed literature as a form of socialist activism during the 20th century in the German context. These authors often used the form of the Bildungsroman, or novel of development, to articulate socialist role models for women, intending to inspire readers and spark social change. Even though these women wrote during different time periods, they drew on similar narrative strategies and techniques in order to connect with audiences. This body of socialist women’s literature also reflects common concerns related to gender and class inequalities and demonstrates a continued struggle to define women’s roles within the socialist movement. Rather than periodizing socialist and women’s movements, Julie’s work allows us to see that engagement for social change was a continuous process throughout the 20th century.

Julie Shoults is a PhD candidate in the German section of the Department of Literatures, Cultures, & Languages, where she also earned her M.A. in German Studies (2009) and her Graduate Certificate in Women’s Studies (2011). She is currently working on her dissertation, "Narrating Socialist Role Models: The Bildungsroman as Socialist Activism in Women’s 20th-Century German-Language Literature," in which she applies narrative theory to demonstrate how Lily Braun (1865-1916), Hermynia zur Mühlen (1883-1951) and Brigitte Reimann (1933-1973) employed the Bildungsroman as a means of articulating socialist role models for women in their individual contexts in German history, contributing to a tradition of socialist literature and a shared "feminist consciousness."

“Graduate Spotlight: Shaznene Hussain”
Shaz spoke about her use of feminist political methodologies in critical analysis of international corporate social responsibility (CSR) discourses. Her discussion focused on how these methods help to examine marginalization and identify narratives that are embedded but not explicit in the above mentioned discourses, allowing her to make visible the ways in which alternate pathways to economic justice are made invisible by hegemonic neoliberal narratives; ones that frame multinational corporations as the preeminent, if not only, means of ensuring the economic well-being of communities that are often depicted as helpless and in need of rescue. Shaz’s project draws on methods developed and deployed in the work of scholars such as Jo Doezema, Anna Agathangelou, Wahnema Lubiano, Martin McQuillan, and Geeta Chowdhry among others.

Shaznene Hussain is a PhD candidate in the Political Science Department with a focus on International Relations and Political Economy. She is also enrolled in the Human Rights and Feminist Studies Graduate Certificate Programs. Her dissertation focuses on discourses of corporate social responsibility.
2012 – 2013 Women's Studies Faculty and Graduate Student Accomplishments

In 2012 – 2013, the Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies faculty and graduate students proved, again, how much talent and brilliance we have in our program. Although we cannot list everything this incredible collection of individuals have done, we would like to share some of their highlights and accomplishments from this year.

WGSS FACULTY

Alexis Boylan

Academic/Professional milestones

- Appointed Assistant Professor, Joint Appointment in the Art and Art History Department and WGSS Program

Book Chapters


Grants/Fellowships

- Large Faculty Grant, University of Connecticut, 2012-2013

Papers (presented, published)

- Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA, “Man on the Street: Rethinking the Ashcan Circle, Gender, and Modernity,” April 22, 2013

Margaret Breen

Academic/Professional milestones

- Appointed Interim Head of English for 2012-2013

Books (authored, edited, etc)


Book Chapters


Book Reviews


Anne D’Alleva

Academic/Professional milestones

- Appointed Interim Head of Art and Art History for 2012-2013


Feminist Responses to Violence Against Women: The Sometimes Intersecting Geographies of the UN and NGOs at the CSW. SWS organized Parallel Event at the Commission on Status of Women’s 57th session, New York, March 15, 2013.


The “Place” of Subaltern Women in Knowledge Production in Protest Movements in Gujarat, India. Presented at Social Movements, Alternative Publics and Political Dissent The 8tAnnual Stockholm Anthropological Roundtable, University of Stockholm, Sweden, September 28-29 2012.


Francoise Dussart

Papers (presented, published)

- Dussart, F and S. Poirier (Guest Editors) A Deluge Of Ontologies: Vestiges, Traces And Entanglement. Anthropologica, Special Invited Issue, 2015. (forthcoming)
(2012 – 2013 WGSS Faculty and Graduate Student Accomplishments continued)

- Dussart, F and S. Poirier (Guest Editors) “Anthropology of Ontologies, New Directions?” In F.Dussart and S. Poirier (Guest Editors) A Deluge Of Ontologies: Vestiges, Traces And Entanglement. In Anthropologica, Special Invited Issue, 2015. (forthcoming)

Michael Gill

Books (authored, edited, etc.)
- Accessing Sex and Intellectual Disability: Power, Pleasure, Agency (Under contract with The University of Minnesota Press)
- Edited collection tentatively titled Disability, Human Rights, and the Limits of Humanitarianism (Coedited with Cathy Schlund-Vials, under contract with Ashgate).

Papers (presented, published)

Barbara Gurr, Sociology

Book Chapters

Grants
- University of Connecticut Human Rights Institute and Humanities Research Institute: “Settler Colonialism, Gender and Sexuality, and the Question of Human Rights” scholarly workshop
- University of Connecticut Humanities Institute: “Queer and Transgender Theory in Research and Teaching” Faculty-graduate student study group

Papers (presented, published)
- “Raising Eric.a” submitted to the 75th Annual Meeting of the National Council on Family Relations San Antonio, TX, 2013;
- “Being Queer: Transgender Children and Family Identity” accepted to the 63rd meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems New York, NY

Veronica Makowsky, English

Books (authored, edited, etc.)
- Valarie Martin: The Figure in the Carpet. Book manuscript completed and under review at a university press

Papers (presented, published)
(2012 – 2013 WGSS Faculty and Graduate Student Accomplishments continued)

Nancy Naples

Book Chapters


Grants/Fellowships

- “Sex Trafficking and Women’s Agency,” 2013 Workshop by Professor Diana Tietjens Meyers, Ellacuría Chair in Social Ethics and Professor of Philosophy at Loyola University, CLAS Dean’s Fund for Interdisciplinary Programming, $2,000.
- “Settler Colonialism, Gender, Sexuality, and the Question of Human Rights,” 2013 workshop co-organized with Barbara Gurr, Judy Rohrer, and Françoise Dussarte, UConn Human Rights Institute, $8,000; UConn Research Foundation, $2,000; Humanities Institute, $4,000.

Papers (presented, published)

- “Sex, Gender and Human Rights” (co-authored with Barbara Gurr), Section on Human Rights, American Sociological Society, Denver, Colorado, August 18, 2012.

Judy Rohrer

Papers (presented, published)

- “Going to the Ocean: Unstaking Settler Colonialism in Hawai`i,” Center for the Americas, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT, 2013
- “California’s Prop 8 and the Production of Proper Families,” Feminist Studies department, Southwestern University, Georgetown, TX, 2013
- “Staking Claim: Race and Indigeneity in Hawai`i” (45 min presentation); Shared Histories?: Asian American, Native American, and Indigenous Studies seminar series, Native American & Indigenous Studies and Asian American Studies departments, University of Texas, Austin, TX, 2013
- Prop 8 and the ‘Importance of Being Ordinary’: Governmentality and Biopower in Gay Marriage Politics, Law and Society Association conference, Boston, 2013
- Settler, Native, Other: Settler Colonialism in Hawai`i, American Studies Association conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 2012
- Settler, Native, Other: Settler Colonialism in Hawai`i, Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) conference, Uncasville CT

Ingrid Semaan

Papers (presented, published)


http://wgss.uconn.edu/

**Christine Sylvester**

**Books**

**Book Chapters**

**Papers (presented, published)**

**GRADUATE STUDENTS**

**Ute Bettray, MCL – German**

**Book Chapters**

**Papers (presented, published)**
- "Ingeborg Bachmann Writing the US: Delineating A Gendered Line of Continuity Between Der gute Gott von Manhattan (1957) and Drei Wege zum See (1968).” Sophie Journal. 22 typescript pages. (forthcoming)
- "Bertolt Brecht as the Ideal Reader of Ingeborg Bachmann’s Die gestundete Zeit (1953)” Brecht Yearbook 37 (2012): 228-250.
- “German-Speaking Women and the Paradoxes of the Philosophical Foundations of Human Rights,” panel with Imke Brust, German Studies Association Conference, Milwaukee, WI, October 2012.

**Penny Brandt, Music**

**Papers (presented, published)**

**Performances**
- “Remembering Women's Voices,” Feminist Lecture Recital, University of Connecticut, 2013
- “Now Let Me Fly,” Black History Month Concert, Historical Presentation, and Benefit for Connectikids, Hartford, CT, 2013
- Music Director, Parks & Rec Summer Musical Program, Cheshire, CT, Summer 2013
- Collaborative Pianist, Hartford Opera Theater’s, “New in November,” Fall 2012

**Tara Harney-Mahajan, English**

**Papers (presented, published):**
(2012 – 2013 WGSS Faculty and Graduate Student Accomplishments continued)

- Co-curating an exhibit for the Irish author Mary Lavin in conjunction with this year’s Gerson/Irish Studies event. The topic is "Mother and Daughter: The Gerson Irish Reading 2013 in Honor of Caroline Walsh and Mary Lavin."

Anna Hayrapetyan, Music

Performances
- Lilly, Styria (Sarah Hutchings), Hartford Opera Theater, 2012.
- Adrianna, One Little Wish (P. Bartsch), Speer Head Theatricals, 2012.
- Olga, La Grande Duchesse de Gérolstein (Offenbach), UConn Opera Theater, 2012.
- Collaborative Recital, Remembering Women’s Voices, UConn WGSS Program, 2013.
- Invited Performer, The Alice B. Norian Lecture 2012, UConn School of Social Work

Jamie Huff, Political Science

Book Reviews

Grants/Fellowships
- University of Connecticut Humanities Institute Summer Research Fellowship, 2012
- Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Summer Research Fellowship, 2012
- George C. Cole Dissertation Fellowship (Political Science Department), 2012
- University of Connecticut Extraordinary Expense Award (Graduate School), 2012
- University of Connecticut Dissertation Fellowship (Graduate School), 2012

Papers (presented, published)

Barret Katuna, Sociology

Grants
- Pre-doctoral Fellowship, Department of Sociology, University of Connecticut. 2013
- Pre-doctoral Fellowship, Department of Sociology, University of Connecticut, 2012

Papers (presented, published):
- Katuna, Barrett and Elizabeth Holzer: “Unobtrusively Stretching Law: SMOS and the Feminist Triumph Over Title IX.” Roundtable Participant at the February 2013 Sociologists for Women in Society Winter Meeting

Caryl Nuñez

Grants/Fellowships
- Pre-Doctoral Fund Award, University of Connecticut, 2013
- Tinker Field Research Grant for Latin America and the Caribbean, University of Connecticut, 2012


"African Ways of Knowing", invited online lecture, Research and Service Abroad to Malawi, University of Dayton, 2013.

"Culture, Context, and (dis)Comfort", invited lecture, UCONN Empowers team to Cameroon, University of Connecticut, 2013


"Empowerment as the Logic for 'Saving' Women's Bodies: A Capitalist and Imperial Project", International Studies Association Annual Convention, 2013


Forum Participant. COMPACT for Faculty Diversity, The Institute on Teaching and Mentoring, Alliance for Graduate Education and Professoriate (AGEP) Scholar, 2012.


Kristina Reardon, Literatures, Cultures & Languages

Grants/Fellowships

Tinker Foundation Pre-Dissertation Grant, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, June 2012

Papers (presented, published):


Malaena Jo Taylor, Sociology

Awards

Ron Taylor Award for Best Graduate Student Paper, University of Connecticut Department of Sociology, 2012

Grants/Fellowships

Malaena Taylor and Todd Vachon; “Social Movements of the Left and Right.” Roper Center Public Opinion Archives; Warren J. Mitofsky Summer Fellowship for Graduate Students, Summer 2012 ($2600)

Department of Sociology Pre-Doctoral Fellowship: Spring, Fall, 2013

Department of Sociology Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, Spring, Summer, 2012

Papers (presented, published)


Amber West, English

Grants/Fellowships

Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, University of Connecticut Graduate School, 2012-13
Poetry Publications


Reviews


Presentations (Academic & Artistic)

- Dramaturge, Poet/Playwright, Producer. Found Object Adventures, Alphabet Arts, NYC, June 2012-Present.
- Puppet-Playwright, Dramaturge, Producer. Puppets Got Talent, Alphabet Arts, NYC, August 2010-Present.

Abbey S. Willis, Sociology

Books


Book Chapters


Papers (presented, published)

- Invited Speaker at All Power to the Imagination Conference (March 2013).

### 2012 Undergraduate & Graduate Student Awards & Recipients

**Undergraduate Awards:**

**The Chase Going Woodhouse Prize** is named in honor of former Congresswoman and Director of the Women’s Service Bureau, Chase Going Woodhouse. An activist and leader among the first generation of post-suffrage women in Connecticut, Chase Going Woodhouse provided an example of commitment to women’s interests and to realizing feminist goals in practical politics. The prize is awarded to an undergraduate for an academic project that focuses on feminist concerns. This year, **Nellie Stagg** received the prize for her honors thesis in Sociology, *Fecal Matters: An Exploration of Female Defecation Anxiety*, which argues that women experience significant anxiety when defecating in public restrooms and investigates the causes for this anxiety, its typical manifestations, and its potential health and societal implications.

**The Gladys Tantaquidgeon Award** is named in honor of the Mohegan Indian medicine woman, anthropologist and community educator, Gladys Tantaquidgeon, who featured original scholarship on Eastern Native American culture through the Tantaquidgeon Indian Museum. In her leadership role and scholarly research she has highlighted the significance of Native American women’s culture. The award is presented to an undergraduate student who’s academic and/or community work reflects a dedication to the understanding and advancement of women of color in the U.S. This year, **Kayla Dias** was given the award for her internship with the Women’s Center, in which she educated campus community members on Native women’s experiences.

**The Jacqueline Brown-Dickstein Scholarship** was endowed by George Dickstein in memory of his wife, Jacqueline Brown-Dickstein. This scholarship is awarded to a Women’s Studies major or minor who demonstrate academic achievement and financial need. This year, the scholarship was given to **Rebecca Barton**, WGSS major.

http://wgss.uconn.edu/
The Kristie Ann Wood Scholarship Award was established to honor Kristie Ann Wood, the first UConn student to major in Women's Studies (as an Individualized Major). The scholarship fund was set up by her good friend Patti Parlette, Administrative Coordinator in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages. Ms. Wood's parents have pledged $10,000 a year for 5 years.

- This year's recipient was Chandler Ford, Physiology and Neurobiology major, double minor in Women's Studies and Spanish.

The Feminist Art Award was established to recognize feminist visual, music, poetry, fiction, or film created by an undergraduate. This award was established to honor the wonderful outburst of feminist arts activity at UConn.

- This year, the award goes to Rebecca Uliasz, Fine Arts major, for her work Female Boundaries, selected works from her larger thesis project.

The Feminist Activist Award, given for the first time in 2013, recognizes a WGSS student who has made notable contributions to feminist activism while at the University of Connecticut.

- The recipient, WGSS major Carolyn Luby, is honored for anti-violence activism.

Graduate Student Awards

The Excellence in Graduate Teaching in Women's Studies Award recognizes excellence in teaching by graduate students in the Women's Studies Program. It is awarded annually to a graduate student who exemplifies feminist pedagogy in the classroom and brings a passion and commitment to women's issues to teaching.

- This year's recipient, Tara Harney-Majahan, Ph.D. candidate (English, Feminist Studies Certificate) has taught in Women's Studies for several years. Nikki has excelled in the classroom, and her teaching evaluations are among the highest in the program.

The Susan Porter Benson Graduate Research Paper Award is named for former director of Women's Studies and long time faculty member, Susan Porter Benson. This award recognizes cutting edge research in the field of feminist studies that takes an interdisciplinary and intersectional approach and provides an innovative articulation of theory and practice.

- This year's recipient was Kristina Reardon, Ph.D. candidate (Literatures, Cultures, and Languages, Feminist Studies Certificate), for her paper entitled Empathy in the Context of the Absurd in Bosnian Cultural Literary Production.

Why Should You Consider Making a Donation To the Women's Studies Program?

The Women's, Gender & Sexuality Program has several ways in which we use the funds generously donated by our supporters. Most importantly are our annual awards. All graduate and undergraduate WGSS students are eligible to be nominated for these prizes. The nominations are reviewed by the Awards committee which offers recommendations to the Core Faculty, who select the best nominee(s) for the prizes. The awards are presented to students at the Graduation Celebration in May. The undergraduate awards carry with them financial prizes; the graduate awards, instituted in 2009, do not yet have financial prizes associated with them, although we do hope to add some in the future.

The WGSS Annual Awards are supported by funds in accounts at the University of Connecticut Foundation. These accounts are privately funded by donations from alumni, faculty and other friends of the WGSS Program. Additionally, we can use the donated funding for other things, such as paying for students to attend regional or national conferences, purchase equipment or videos for the program, and even pay for publications like this newsletter.

If you would like to donate, please do so on-line (http://www.foundation.uconn.edu/) or complete the form on the next page and return it to the University of Connecticut Foundation at the address provided. The University of Connecticut Foundation, Inc. is a tax-exempt corporation dedicated exclusively to benefit the University.

To donate in support of the Chase Going Woodhouse Prize, the Gladys Tantaquidgeon Award and the Feminist Art Award, the Women's Studies Prize Fund, #21592, is the account to direct your donation to. This is also the account from which we would draw graduate student prizes in the future. Donations to the newly established Kristie Ann Wood Scholarship in Women's Studies should be directed to account #31237. WGSS also has a general account, the Women's Studies Fund, #20446, from which WGSS can draw funding to carry out non-awards activities such as funding students to attend national conferences. The Jacqueline Brown-Dickstein Scholarship is funded by a generous endowment from the Brown-Dickstein family to which other donations are not possible.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the WGSS Program in 2012 - 2013!
We'd like to say a special thank you to Dr. Lisa D. Brush, a former student who is always so generous to the WGSS Program. Lisa's long-time, monthly contributions are greatly appreciated.

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