Fall 2010

Gender Notes Fall 2010

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I am thrilled to chart another extraordinary academic year for Women and Gender Studies (WMS) marked by logistical stability and curriculum innovation.

After graduating twelve of 22 WMS majors, the WMS Program is repopulated at 24 majors, and in similar form, more than 45 students are pursuing the WMS minor. In January 2010, WMS finally moved into a new suite of offices in Dailey Hall. These newly furnished “Rooms of Our Own” provide up-to-date, expanded operating space for WMS faculty and a welcoming learning environment for students. The WMS Program Board, a vibrant multidisciplinary advisory structure comprised of faculty, staff, and students, remains instrumental in supporting WMS program matters and in engaging students in the WMS discipline. You’ll find a complete list of all WMS Board members and other faculty and staff roles associated with WMS in the sidebar to the right.

WMS Program 2009-2010 highlights include 20 WMS student presentations at our April ’10 Scholars Day, four student presentations at the October ’10 Seneca Falls Dialogues in Seneca Falls, NY, and one WMS student attendee at the November ’10 NWSA Conference in Denver, CO. WMS associates/affiliates were active as both teachers and scholars, with over 25 publications including two books in print and over 20 WMS-related papers presented at international, national, and local venues. Other important WMS Program milestones include the induction of 15 new students into the WMS Honor Society, Iota, Iota, Iota (Triota), and the awarding of the spring ’10 Elaine K. Miller WMS Scholarship and Jennifer M. Lloyd WMS Essay Prize.

Several WMS ventures on the horizon include a new course on Girl Studies for Summer ’11, and a new course on History and Challenges in Chilean Society, which, in cooperation with Andrea Parada, PhD, in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures and the Office of International Education, will be offered in winter and summer ’11 at the University of Viña del Mar in Chile. Also in a transnational arena, in October, WMS, in collaboration with International Education and Linkages Rochester Sister City Women’s Partnership, hosted a visiting sociology/gender professor from Novgorod State University, Novgorod, Russia, and as an extension to this, is working on realizing a WMS Brockport/Novgorod teaching-learning exchange for spring 2012. And our WMS alumni continue to impress in life after Brockport. The Alumni Column on page 7 highlights some of these growing accomplishments.

Despite pressing SUNY and College fiscal challenges, the WMS Program continues to flourish under its new school configuration; The School of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (TAHSS) overseen by newly appointed dean, Darwin Prioleau, EdD, and associate dean Virginia Bachelor. As a representative of THASS, I am excited to showcase WMS’ many successes, and similarly, eager to steward WMS forward in our teaching, research, and service endeavors.

Peace and best wishes for a productive year ahead, and enjoy this fall ’10 edition of Gender Notes.
The second biennial Seneca Falls Dialogues (SFD), “Call and Response: Crossing Feminist Borders,” was held on October 8-10, 2010, at the newly restored Clarence Hotel in Seneca Falls, New York. Beverly Guy-Sheftall, PhD, distinguished author, activist, professor, and president of the National Women’s Studies Association (NWSA), was keynote speaker and the inaugural recipient of the SFD Women’s Institute for Leadership and Learning Award (WILLA).

The SFD celebrated the 162nd anniversary of the first Women’s Rights Convention & Declaration of Sentiments, and for its second year, served as a forum for discussing local and global gender issues. Women and Gender Studies (WMS) students Sherly Ureña, Shermeeka Mason, Emily Scrivani, and Brittani Hughes attended the SFD where they presented, “Feminist Identities: Thinking Across Person, Place, and Medium.” Lead by WMS director/faculty Barbara LeSavoy, PhD, the students presented projects completed in their spring ’10 feminist theory class, which addressed various dimensions of identity understood through different theoretical locations including GLBTQ, Black, Liberal, and Radical feminist thought. Several additional WMS students attended the conference; the campus Women’s Center sponsored their attendance.

LeSavoy co-chaired the steering committee coordinating the SFD which is sponsored by a college alliance comprised of: The College at Brockport, SUNY; Hobart & William Smith Colleges; Monroe Community College; Nazareth College; Rochester Institute of Technology; St. John Fisher College; University at Buffalo, SUNY; and University of Rochester, in cooperation with AAUW and the Women’s Institute for Leadership and Learning (WILL).

Additional information on the Seneca Falls Dialogues can be found at www.senecafallsdialogues.com.
Elena Lukovitskaya, PhD, professor of sociology and director of the Gender Center, Novgorod State University, Novgorod, Russia, visited The College at Brockport in October 2010 in association with Women and Gender Studies, International Education, and Linkages Rochester/Novgorod Sister City Women’s Partnership, chaired by WMS Director, Barbara LeSavoy, PhD.

Lukovitskaya led a brown-bag lunch on October 7 at the Brockport Women’s Center where she discussed “Gender Discrimination on the Novgorod Labor Market” and “Influence of Maternity Capital on Novgorod Families.” She also presented her research at the SFD conference on October 9.
International Program in Chile

History and Challenges of Chilean Society is a new international course planned for winter and summer sessions 2011 at University of Viña del Mar in Chile. The course is offered in cooperation with Andrea Parada, PhD, Foreign Languages and Literatures, International Education, Women and Gender Studies, and Universidad Viña del Mar in Chile, a university nestled in the coastal city of Viña del Mar on the Pacific Ocean. Instruction is in English and includes lectures on: Women in Chile, History of Democracy and Dictatorship, Chilean Public Health System, and Economy and Society. Visits to cultural sites such as a Mapuche village will augment classroom lectures. Course fees include room and board with a Chilean family, day trips to nearby cities/sites, and airport pick-up and transport to/from Viña del Mar. For more details, visit www.brockportabroad.com, or email Andrea Parada, PhD (FLL) aparada@brockport.edu or Barbara LeSavoy, PhD (WMS) blesavoy@brockport.edu.

Faculty Publication/Presentation Highlights

Alisia Chase, ARH

Katherine Clark, HST

Denise Copelton, SOC

Barbara LeSavoy, WMS

Anne Macpherson, HST

Anne Panning, ENG

Andrea Parada, FLL

Alison Parker, HST

Jennifer Ratcliff, PSH

Joan Spade, SOC

Honors Sex and Culture (WMS 360) and The Levin Global Workforce Project

Barbara LeSavoy, PhD, is one of several Brockport faculty participating in a Levin Global Workforce Project (GWP) grant, where she is piloting a globalization instructional module on gender in her fall WMS 360 Honors Sex and Culture course. The GWP, funded by the US Department of Education’s Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Languages Program (UISFL), is coordinated by Carl Davila, PhD, GWP grant principal and assistant professor in the Department of History, and Christopher Price, director of the Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT), both at Brockport, in collaboration with several faculty at SUNY Cortland and The Levin Institute. The GWP seeks to prepare undergraduate students to compete effectively in the global economy, through programs developed to enhance global understanding and requisite global workforce skills of the 21st century, including language study. The project will offer a Global Scholars Certificate to those students who successfully complete a foreign language requirement and a minimum of four of the courses that include the specially designed globalization modules.

In association with their WMS 360 GWP gender module course material, WMS 360 Honors student are completing poster projects on topics that include: “Female Genital Mutilation: Transposition into America;” “Rape Amidst Chaos: The Congo;” “Women’s Health Care;” “Sexual Tourism;” “Selling Sex for Visas;” “Islamic Influence on Women in Andalusia, Spain;” “Women and Girls in Education: Global Perspectives;” “Underneath the Veil;” “The Legalization of Divorce in Chile in 2005;” “Street Harassment: A Cross-Cultural View”

A WMS 360 GWP Poster session open to the campus community will be held on December 3, 9:30–10:30 am in the College Student Union. Additional information of the GWP can be found at www.levininstitute.org/globalWorkforceSkills.cfm.
WMS Senior Scholar
Benjamin Kruger (WMS/PSH ’10)

This award recognizes a WMS graduating senior with the highest GPA and who has contributed measurably to WMS-related interests on campus and within the community. Ben Kruger, the 2010 recipient, graduated with a 3.75 GPA. He served as VP of the student-run Women’s Studies Organization (WSO), a Women’s Center employee, a club officer for Voices for Choice (VOX), a member of the Honors Program, a double presenter at Scholar’s Day, spring ’10, and a finalist for the School of Arts Humanities and Social Science Award. Ben also was instrumental in bringing well-known feminist author and activist Jessica Valenti to Brockport in spring ’10.

WMS Student Leadership Award
Lauren Burdett (WMS)

The WMS Program established this award in spring ’09, granted by nomination, to recognize extraordinary student leadership in support of the WMS Program and WMS Program-related initiatives. Lauren Burdett, the 2010 award recipient, was recognized for her outstanding WMS leadership contributions and activism. Lauren’s accomplishments include raising awareness about accessibility as an intern in the Office of Health Promotions, participating in the annual Diversity Conference at Brockport, and working at the campus Women’s Center. Additionally, Lauren is the co-founder of the SUNY Feminist Coalition, which seeks to bring awareness about sexual violence as well as guarantee a Women’s Center and LGBTQ center for every SUNY campus.

Harriett Whitney Award
Brandy More (WMS)

The Harriett Whitney Women’s Studies Award was founded in 1974 to commemorate the retirement of Harriett Whitney. The award is by nomination and recognizes students for personal commitment to Women and Gender Studies and sensitivity to women’s lives as an aspect of the human condition. Brandy More (WMS ’10), the spring ’10 Whitney Award recipient, is a graduate student at Nazareth College, pursuing teacher education.

WMS Awards and Scholarships

Jennifer M. Lloyd WMS Essay Prize
Melissa Kelsey (WMS/HLS)

This prize, established in spring ’09 in honor of esteemed faculty member of the Department of History and prior Director of WMS, Jenny Lloyd, PhD recognizes outstanding undergraduate writing on/about women and/or gender issues. Barbara LeSavoy, PhD (WMS) nominated the essay winner, “Reproductive Freedoms,” written by Melissa Kelsey for her fall ’10 WMS 360 Sex and Culture class. Two additional submissions: Mary Thomas (ENG/WMS), “Reforming Welfare: Avoiding Myths and Gathering Perspectives about African-American Mothers on Welfare,” self-nominated, and Marieke Jarabeck (ENG), “Challenging Patriarchal Expectations through Black Female Sexuality” nominated by Megan Obourn, PhD (ENG), earned honorable mention.

Elaine K. Miller WMS Scholarship
Jessica Muller (BIO/WMS)

The Elaine K. Miller Scholarship, established in 2007 by Elaine K. Miller, PhD, associate professor emerita in the Department of Foreign Language and Literatures and former interim director of WMS, is by application and seeks to recognize an outstanding, engaged, rising WMS student. Jessica Muller, the spring ’10 scholarship recipient, serves as president of Brockport’s student chapter of Voices for Choice (VOX), is a member of WSO, and was a spring ’10 Scholars Day presenter. Jessica balances her full-time course load and academic excellence with parenting three small children.

These WMS honors are awarded annually and the winners recognized during the WMS End of Year Ceremonies held at the Alumni House in April. Please watch for details on nomination/application procedures for these spring ’11 WMS recognitions and details on the spring ’11 WMS End of Year Ceremony.
In collaboration with WMS, Greater Rochester American Association of University Women (AAUW) is seeking undergraduate or graduate students from area colleges to serve in newly developed internship positions focusing on issues of educational equity, workplace advocacy, and college and university relations. Positions are part time. Compensation is college credit for hours served. The primary focus of the internship is to reach out to area colleges at the student and faculty/staff levels to increase AAUW visibility, membership, and utilization of branch and national services. The internship will also serve as an AAUW platform for interns to research and report on topics related to women’s education and equity, to plan programs/events pertinent to women’s advancement, and to propose/develop new initiatives aimed at advocating AAUW causes. Primary work location is in the beautiful AAUW Perkins Mansion located at 494 East Avenue in Rochester, NY. The positions are open to matriculated students from all disciplines. Interested applicants should contact Dr. Barbara LeSavoy, WMS Director, 201 Dailey Hall, The College at Brockport, bleavoy@brockport.edu.

Iota, Iota, Iota (Triota)

The College at Brockport chapter of Iota, Iota, Iota (Triota), WMS Honor Society, founded in spring ’09, inducted its second round of members at the April ’10 WMS End of Year Award Ceremonies. Iota, Iota, Iota, (Triota), named after three goddesses, Inanna, Ishtar, and Isis, strives to maintain feminist values central to Women and Gender Studies: egalitarianism, inclusiveness, and diversity. Membership is open to WMS majors and minors who have achieved third semester standing with at least three hours of WMS courses and with a minimum GPA of 3.0.

Spring 2010 Triota Inductees
Lauren Burdett
Joseph Coleman
Margaret M. Deegan
Dena DeFazio
Jaime Glantz
Monica Hall
Melissa Kelsey
Christina F. LoTempio
Shermeeka Mason
Meg McKillip
Brandy More
Jessica Muller
Sarah Rolls
Laura Schmitt
Julia Southcott

WMS at the Graduate Level

Did you know that at The College at Brockport, students can pursue graduate work in Women and Gender Studies through the Masters of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) degree? Using the Liberal Studies seminars and graduate-level WMS courses, students can design a plan of study that concentrates on their areas of interests within Women and Gender Studies. Additional information can be found at www.brockport.edu/wms/master.html.

The WMS Power of Giving

Please consider WMS in your giving plans. The Elaine K. Miller Scholarship and the Jennifer M. Lloyd Essay Prize, named in tribute to their respective benefactors, carry a monetary award to student recipients. In these changeable times, your generous support can help sustain and further the monetary share to these awards. Contributions to The College at Brockport annual giving campaign can be designated to either of these funds. Even small contributions can secure these extraordinary WMS recognition opportunities and the remarkable WMS students they laud.
The Women and Gender Studies Program is committed to exploring gender and women's issues from a multidisciplinary perspective: across different populations; and within a local, national and transnational context. The program seeks to provide students with the occasion to investigate the intersectionality of sex, gender, race, ethnicity, class, age, sexuality and other dimensions of social identity. The program offers both a major and a minor with course work dedicated to heightening the awareness of the political, socioeconomic, and cultural ideologies related to gender theory. The women and gender studies curriculum seeks to support pedagogy rooted in social justice and equality and to situate the classroom as a collaborative space where both instructor and students mediate knowledge production. The Women and Gender Studies Program works to make the diversity of women's and gendered perspectives visible and to position student success within an academic, professional, and personal context.

ATTENTION WMS ALUMNI:
We would love to hear from you!
Please update us on where you are and what you’re doing. You can e-mail your latest news to blesavoy@brockport.edu.

WMS '10
Monica Hall, vocal performer for Carnival Cruise Lines.
Brandy More, graduate student at Nazareth College, Rochester, NY, pursuing teacher certification.
Catherine Dean, committee organizer, Penfield, NY, Democratic Committee.
Mary Shanz, kindergarten teacher at St. Francis School in Lumberton, NM, through Americorps.

WMS '09
Emily Lynch, community health educator, Highland Family Planning, Rochester, NY.
Rosa Luciano, second-year graduate student, Counselor Education, The College at Brockport.

WMS '08
Jamie Bergeron, EdM in higher education Student Affairs, University at Buffalo, May '10. Employed as the GLBTQ coordinator at Colgate University, Hamilton, NY.
Deborah Blonsky, Transitional Studies faculty, Monroe Community College

Sarah Evans, master’s program, English and Women and Gender Studies SUNY Binghamton (May ’11); teaching freshman composition as a graduate assistant; pursuing second masters in Public Administration beginning Fall ’11.
Hilary Dahl, second-year graduate student, Communication Studies, The College at Brockport.
Jennie Thomas Moore, interpreter for Gallaudet University.
Lindsey Cain, boys group home supervisor, Catholic Charities, Syracuse, NY.
Caitlin Simonse, master’s program in Library Science, University of Buffalo.

WMS '07

Rebekah Orr, MS in Sociology, Syracuse University (SU), May ’10. Currently working towards her PhD in sociology with a certificate of advanced studies in Women’s and Gender Studies at SU, and as teaching associate at SU, is teaching “Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies” and “Introduction to Transnational Feminisms.” In an activist arena, Rebekah works on a Queer Syracuse Archiving Project, co-facilitates a Sex Positive discussion group, and serves on the board of the Women’s Information Center.

Kimberly Adams, Juris Doctor Candidate (2012), Wayne State University Law School; Wayne State University Law School Public Interest Law Fellow, 2009; University of Michigan Law School Bergstrom Child Welfare Law Fellow, 2009; Vice Chair, OUTlaws, Wayne State University Law School 2009-2010; Member, Law School Congress, National LGBT Bar Association.

WMS '04
Melissa Davies, (WMS) (HST), Communications Specialist, US Department of Veteran Affairs, Kansas City, MO.

Sarah Evans, master’s program, English and Women and Gender Studies SUNY Binghamton (May ’11); teaching freshman composition as a graduate assistant; pursuing second masters in Public Administration beginning Fall ’11.
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WMS '04
Melissa Davies, (WMS) (HST), Communications Specialist, US Department of Veteran Affairs, Kansas City, MO.
Brockport Spring 2011 Writer’s Forum Events

Unless otherwise noted, all events are held in the New York Room, Cooper Hall, and are free and open to the public. For further Writer’s Forum information, and to see the complete spring 2011 author line-up, visit www.brockport.edu/wforum/ or contact Anne Panning, PhD, Writer’s Forum Co-director, apanning@brockport.edu.

March 2
Jessica Abel, graphic novelist, author of *La Perdida* and *Artbabe*, writes about the art world and travel from a feminist perspective. Visit www.jessicaabel.com for more information.

March 23
Jennifer Perrine, poet, author of *The Body is No Machine*. Asian-American feminist writer with a focus on the body in her poetry. Visit www.jenniferperrine.org/.

May 4
Ruth Reichl, memoirist and food writer, author and recipient of The Art of Fact Award, will be presented at the Memorial Art Gallery in Rochester, 7:30 pm. Visit www.ruthreichl.com/ for more information.

Spring ’11 WMS Events

February 23
Queering the Screen: Remixing Sex and Gender, film screening presented by Presidential Fellow Anne Kustritz, PhD, 7-9:30 pm.

March 7-11
Women’s Week, celebrating Women’s History Month.

March 8
International Women’s Day, 100th Anniversary Event, 7-9 pm, American Association of University Women (AAUW), Rochester, NY.

April 4-5
Clothesline Project, sponsored by the Department of Social Work and the Women’s Center.

American Democracy Project
Spring ’11 Speaker Series

March 24, 7 pm
Farida Jalalzai, PhD, Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Missouri-St. Louis. “Women, Presidents and Prime Ministers: A Global Perspective and Implications for Democracy.”

March 30, 6 pm
Randall Shea, Brockport alum, Program Coordinator, Santa Maria Tzeja Middle School in Guatemala. “Lived Realities of Mayan Culture: Leveraging Gender Equality and Social Change through Education.”

For additional information about the lecture series, please visit www.brockport.edu/adp/pdss.html or contact Barbara LeSavoy, PhD, ADP Speaker Series Chair at (x5799).