Gender Notes Fall 2013

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A Note from the WMS Program Director

Teaching innovation, scholastic achievement, and program stability best capture Women and Gender Studies (WMS) year in review. In all ways, 2012–13 marks an extraordinary year for the WMS Program at Brockport.

After graduating nine students in spring ’13, WMS began the fall ’13 semester with several new WMS majors and over 45 students pursuing the WMS minor. Marked for summer ’14, our move into the new Liberal Arts Building (LAB) alongside our humanities colleagues in the Departments of History, Philosophy, English, and Modern Languages and Cultures is almost reality. The WMS Advisory Board, comprised of faculty, staff, and students, remains instrumental in supporting WMS Program matters and in engaging students in the WMS discipline.

WMS Program milestones include the induction of 10 new students into the WMS Honor Society, Iota, Iota, Iota (Triota), and the awarding of the spring ’13 Elaine K. Miller WMS/MLC Scholarship, Jennifer M. Lloyd WMS Essay Prize, and the Colleen Donaldson Student Leadership Award. Details about these and other WMS Program recognitions can be found on page 4. And please check out our Alumni Corner on page 7, which highlights the impressive accomplishments of our growing WMS alumni, who continue to assume important roles in work and further study.

Additional WMS Program highlights include over 20 WMS student presentations at our April ’13 Scholars Day, one student presentation at our fall ’13 Diversity Conference, and four students who will accompany me to the November ’13 NWSA Conference in Cincinnati, OH. WMS faculty Karen Logsdon received a spring ’13 American Democracy Project (ADP) grant to bring author and activist Dr. Salamishah Tillet to campus as part of the fall ’13 ADP Lecture series, and we are excited to support two student clubs, WGSO and SOUL, who hosted feminist blogger and activist Laci Green for a fall ’13 lecture. Also of note, in February 2013, WMS collaborated with the Departments of Dance, Theatre and Music Studies, English, and Art in staging a V-Day One Billion Rising event in efforts to stop gender-based violence. WMS is also thrilled to showcase volume II of its student-produced scholarly eJournal, Dissenting Voices, which grows out of coursework produced in WMS 421, Senior Seminar in Women and Gender Studies.

WMS affiliates realized a productive year as teachers and scholars with several publications; several teaching, scholarly, and service awards; and an impressive array of WMS-related papers presented at international, national, and local venues. Ann Giralic-Pearlman, instructional design specialist for the Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT), and I realized our transnational Brockport, NY/Novgorod, RU COIL course, serving as Institute Fellows under SUNY’s National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)–funded Institute for Globally Networked Learning in the Humanities. We presented on the fall 2012 COIL Brockport Novgorod teaching partnership at several national and international venues, including an invited lecture at Novgorod State University in Russia. Details about COIL can be found on page 5.

WMS ventures on the horizon include the 2014 fourth biennial Seneca Falls Dialogues (SFD), October 19–21, under the theme “Ecofeminism,” with keynote speaker Tayna Fields, feminist eco-farmer and social entrepreneur. We are launching a new scholarly journal housed in Brockport’s Digital Commons that will publish selected work growing out of the SFD. Also of note, my course WMS 271, Gender Race and Class, is participating in a freshman Global Learning Community coordinated by Dr. Eric Kaldor in the Department of Sociology, which bridges teaching and learning across the disciplines of women and gender studies, sociology, English, French culture, and political science and international studies.

Finally, I am thrilled to confirm that, after decades of uncertainty in WMS leadership, the qualified academic rank (QAR) appointment of the WMS director position, established in 2007, has moved to tenure track, a stability outcome the WMS Program has sought for well over a decade. If letters could dance, you would see my exuberance jump off the page, paying considerable tribute to my WMS colleagues and the substitutive contributions of the many WMS faculty and directors who came before me. This WMS tenure track directorship recognizes the vitality and importance of the WMS discipline now and in the years to follow. WMS teaching, learning, and scholarly productivity are certain to follow.

Please enjoy this fall ’13 edition of Gender Notes and your semesters ahead, and join me in celebrating WMS in all its excellence!
The College at Brockport a more inclusive community.

commitment to embracing diversity in its fullest sense and making

2013 Award for Diversity Engagement:

• This award recognizes students. recipients are chosen from among the faculty and staff nominated by

Barbara LeSavoy, PhD (WMS), was recognized by The College at Brockport with three awards:

• 2013 Outstanding Service to Students Award: This award recognizes individuals that consistently provide outstanding service to students outside the classroom.

• 2012–13 Outstanding Academic Advisor Award: This award recognizes faculty or staff members from whom students have received excellent academic advisement. Award recipients are chosen from among the faculty and staff nominated by students.

• 2013 Award for Diversity Engagement: This award recognizes commitment to embracing diversity in its fullest sense and making The College at Brockport a more inclusive community.

Faculty Spotlights

Tristan Bridges, PhD (SOC), serves as review editor for Men and Masculinities, the flagship journal in an interdisciplinary sub-field of gender studies dealing primarily with feminist research on men and masculinities. The journal publishes four issues annually comprising research from across the social sciences and around the world. Tristan’s role involves reviewing the variety of recent publications in the field, soliciting reviews from scholars internationally, and editing their reviews. It’s a wonderful job that combines Tristan’s passion for reading and keeping up to date in a field with continually shifting boundaries and the joys associated with working with scholars on their writing.

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Faculty Publication Highlights

Sharon Allen, PhD, ENG

Tristan Bridges, PhD, SOC
In Barbara Pini and Bob Pease (Ed.), Issues of Intimacy, Masculinity, and Ethnography (pp. 11). New York: Men, Masculinities, and Methodologies. (www.amazon.com/Masculinities-Methodologies-Genders-Sexualities-Sciences/dp/1137005726)

Alisia Chase, PhD, ARH

Barbara LeSavoy, PhD, WMS

Anne Macpherson, PhD, HST

Megan Obourn, PhD, ENG

Anne Panning, PhD, ENG

Alison Parker, PhD, HST

Jennifer Ratcliff, PhD, PSH
Harriet Paterson (R)

Harriet Paterson is a Women and Gender Studies graduate student in the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies program. Harriet spent the spring ’13 semester studying in Vietnam. She says, “Studying in Vietnam opened my eyes to a world that I never could have imagined. This wonderful country that is full of beauty, charm and culture has taught me that life should be about adventure and discovery. While living in Southeast Asia, I met women who have had a uniquely different experience to my own and were enthusiastic to teach me about the Vietnamese culture. Their ideas of family and work, in contrast with the norm in the United States, enabled me to appreciate the impacts of capitalism and globalization. After four months working with children with disabilities, feeding the poor, and volunteering at an elderly home for women, I now have a deeper understanding of women’s experience, as well as many lifelong friendships. I will never forget the amazing women I met during my studies.”

Study Abroad Program in Vietnam

Dr. Salamishah Tillet, ADP

Distinguished Speaker, feminist activist, and scholar, gave a consciousness-raising lecture, The Audacity to Heal: Our Rape Culture, on the Brockport campus October 2, 2013. Dr. Tillet spoke on the intersections of race, class, sexual orientation, and sexual violence situated in local and global contexts and characterized society’s response to and prevention of sexual assault as at a “tipping point.” Dr. Tillet’s leadership in the movement to end violence against women spans two decades. In 2003, along with her sister, Scheherazade Tillet, Dr. Tillet founded A Long Walk Home, a nonprofit that uses art therapy and the visual and performing arts to help girls and women cope with gender-based violence.

Dr. Karen Logsdon, Title IX Deputy Coordinator, received an ADP grant to realize the lecture. Dr. Tillet’s ADP lecture served as the keynote address for the second annual Select Respect Symposium as organized by the Center for Select Respect, a violence prevention center located at the College. Rape Crisis Services supported the event, with staff available to talk with anyone impacted by the topic and lecture.

Laci Green, who is known for her animated blogs about sex positivity and social activism, visited Brockport in fall 2013 to speak on rape culture. Green advocates sex-positive attitudes to break down patriarchy and expose rape culture. Still in her early twenties, Green travels across the country educating diverse young adults on sexual positivity with her focus on expanding sex education. Additional information about Green can be found on her YouTube page, www.youtube.com/user/lacigreen. BSG student clubs Sexual Orientations United for Liberation (SOUL) and the Women and Gender Studies Organization (WGSO), under club president Helem Fabre, organized and hosted the Green lecture.

Laci Green (L) and Helem Fabre (R)

Laci Green (R)

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Study Abroad Program in Vietnam

Dr. Salamishah Tillet (middle) with Dr. Karen Logsdon (L) and Daniella Burgos (R)

Harriet Paterson (L) and Helem Fabre (R)

Dr. Barbara LeSavoy, director of Women and Gender Studies, attended the Higher Education Resource Services (HERS) Women’s Leadership Institute, Bryn Mawr Class of 2013, held on the Bryn Mawr campus June 22 – July 9, 2013. HERS was created in 1972 with a goal of advancing women’s leadership and promoting equity and excellence for all women involved in higher education. Since 1976, the HERS Bryn Mawr Summer Institute for Women in Higher Education Administration has provided a residential program with an intensive leadership and management curriculum for approximately 70 women faculty and administrators on the campus of Bryn Mawr College. All HERS graduates can be expected to facilitate positive change on their home campuses and join a global network of esteemed female academic leaders.

Dr. LeSavoy joins several prior Brockport HERS alumni and is pleased to become part of this group. For more information about HERS or the HERS Summer Institutes, please visit www.hersnet.org/institutes.asp.

Iota, Iota, Iota (Triota)

The College at Brockport Beta Lambda chapter of WMS honor society Iota, Iota, Iota (aka Triota) was founded in spring 2009 and inducted its first members at the WMS April ’09 End of Year Award Ceremonies. Iota, Iota, Iota — named after three goddesses: Inanna, Ishtar, and Isis — strives to maintain feminist values central to women and gender studies: egalitarianism, inclusiveness, and diversity.

Spring ’13 Inductees

Ashlea Thomas
Cassie Negley
Damiene Denner
Kelsey Mulherin
Lucienne Nicholson
Deborah Buono
Jenny Siplo
Alyssa Bree
Johnny Bree
Ashley McKay

HERS Institute

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Ashley McKay
WMS Senior Scholar

The WMS Program named Mel Kelsey its Senior Scholar for her outstanding academic performance and impressive activist work. Mel's 3.85 GPA and her induction into Iota, Iota, Iota underscores her competencies. A Jennifer M. Lloyd Women and Gender Studies Essay Prize and consecutive dean's list standing top off Mel's already distinguished academic record. Mel was active with the student-run Women and Gender Studies Organization (WGSO), Sexual Orientations United for Liberation (SOUL), and Voices for Planned Parenthood (VOX). She also served as a student intern in the campus Women's Center. Paralleling Mel's academic success, she is a proud mom to Eli (3 years) and Juniper (2 months).

The Colleen Donaldson Student Leadership Award

The WMS Program established this award in spring '09, granted by nomination, to recognize extraordinary student leadership in support of the WMS Program and related initiatives. WMS named the award the Colleen Donaldson Student Leadership Award in spring '12 to recognize Colleen Donaldson's extraordinary leadership and tireless civic work in support of gender equality at The College at Brockport and in the community. Colleen serves as director of grants development at the College. This year's winner, Jeri Coleman, is a double major in health science and a very active leader and engaged campus citizen. While at Brockport, Jeri served as Women and Gender Studies Organization (WGSO) president and secretary, vice president of Sexual Orientations United for Liberation (SOUL), and treasurer for Voices for Choice (VOX). Jeri worked in the campus Women's Center and interned with Planned Parenthood of the Rochester Syracuse Region.

Jennifer M. Lloyd Essay Prize

This prize, established in spring '09 in honor of esteemed faculty member of the Department of History and prior director of WMS Dr. Jenny Lloyd, recognizes outstanding undergraduate writing on or about women and/or gender issues. Kathryn O'Toole was this year's winner for her essay, "Disability Disrupted," written for WMS 348: Sex, Gender and Literary Theory with Dr. Megan Obourn. Kathryn is an English literature major and a women and gender studies minor. Her areas of interest are medieval literature, women and gender issues, and Tolkien scholarship. Kathryn hopes to pursue graduate studies in order to study these fields in more depth.

Two additional submissions earned honorable mention:

Ashley McKay, WMS major and English minor, for her essay entitled "Disabling the Cult of Autonomy: Politicizing Productions of Queer Disabled Feminist Rationality in Cherie Moraga's Heroes and Saints," written for Dr. Megan Obourn's ENG 348 class. This is Ashley's second Honorable Mention as a candidate for the Jennifer M. Lloyd Essay Prize.

Johnny Sparrow, WMS and psychology major, for his essay written in WMS 411 with Dr. Barbara Mitrano entitled "Walk like a Man." Johnny is pursuing an MSW Program at University of Buffalo. His artistic talents shine as the artist who painted the cover of the WMS Program's first issue of Dissenting Voices.

Johnny and Ashley were presenters at the October '12 Seneca Falls Dialogues and also traveled to the National Women's Studies Association conference and assisted Dr. LeSavoy's paper presentation on International Women's Day.

Elaine K. Miller Scholarship

The Elaine K. Miller Scholarship, established in 2007 by Elaine K. Miller, PhD, associate professor emerita in the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures (MLC) and former interim director of WMS, is by application and seeks to recognize an outstanding, engaged, rising WMS or MLC student. Jessica George, the spring '13 scholarship recipient, is a double major in health science and Spanish. Jessica participated in Brockport's Costa Rica program and interned at the National Children's Hospital in San José, Costa Rica. Jessica's academic excellence and commitment to teaching have been rewarded with four merit scholarships, and her dedication to social justice and bilingual education made the decision of the Elaine K. Miller award selection committee an easy one. Jessica is also the recipient of the Jorge Martí Spanish Award and the Environmental Health Award.

Harriet Whitney Award

The Harriet Whitney Women's Studies Award was founded in 1974 to commemorate the retirement of Harriet Whitney. The award is by nomination and recognizes students for personal commitment to the field of women and gender studies and sensitivity to women's lives as an aspect of the human condition. Laura Clark and Ashley McKay are the spring '13 Whitney Award recipients.

Laura Clark, a WMS and Spanish major with a minor in French, is a member of the Honors College and served as a Resident Assistant. Laura traveled to Costa Rica, Spain, China, Puerto Rico, Greece, Italy, and Chile, where she completed an internship for WMS in a women's therapeutic community. Laura spent part of summer '12 in Guatemala, where she tutored English. She accompanied Dr. LeSavoy, WMS director, and three other students to the fall '12 National Women's Studies Association conference in Oakland, CA. Laura also presented at the fall '12 Seneca Falls Dialogues. Among Laura's many accolades, she is one of five Brockport students awarded the 2013 Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence, and she is currently a Fulbright Scholar in Spain.

Ashley McKay is a WMS major with a minor in English. Ashley is a brilliant thinker.

(Cont. on page 5)
Harriet Whitney Award (Cont.)

and writer, a compassionate listener, and a champion for the larger good. Ashley also traveled to the fall ’12 National Women’s Studies Association conference held in Oakland, CA. She served as an intern with the Rochester chapter of the American Association for University Women where she helped spearhead a new eJournal for the biennial Seneca Falls Dialogues. Ashley was an October ’12 Seneca Falls Dialogues presenter, and she earned consecutive Honorable Mentions for writing submitted to the Jennifer M. Lloyd Essay Prize.

Service to the WMS Discipline
Molly Stanton, a double major in WMS and sociology, worked as an intern in the campus Women’s Center and served as a student representative on the WMS Program Advisory Board. Molly was active in several campus clubs including the Women and Gender Studies Organization (WGSO), Sexual Orientations United for Liberation (SOUL), and Voices for Choice (VOX), and she also worked in the Tower Fine Arts Center Box Office. Molly traveled to the National Women’s Association conference in fall ’12 and was a spring ’13 presenter at the TAHSS Admission Open House, where she shared her Brockport and WMS experiences with prospective students and their families.

Nellie Dennis, a WMS major, worked as an intern in the campus Women’s Center. Nellie currently attends Niagara University, where she is studying counselor education to pursue a career as a Clinical Mental Health Counselor. Nellie was involved in Sexual Assault Prevention Education (SAPE), Women’s Center Advisory Board (WCAB), and the Select Respect Task Force, and she also served as a volunteer for Autism Speaks, the Women and Gender Studies Organization (WGSO), and Rape Crisis Services in Orleans County. Nellie was employed by the Office of Academic Advisement and also presented at the TAHSS Admission Open House, where she shared her Brockport and WMS experiences with prospective students and their families.

LeSavoy and Giralico-Pearlman Speak in Russia

Dr. Barb LeSavoy, WMS director, and Ann Giralico-Pearlman, instructional design specialist for CELT, traveled to Novgorod, Russia, in March 2013, where LeSavoy spoke on US feminisms and women’s rights in the context of International Women’s Day. LeSavoy and Giralico-Pearlman presented on their fall 2012 COIL Gender Across Cultures Brockport, NY/Novgorod, Russia teaching partnership at the Pedagogical and Linguistics Institutes at Novgorod State University.

As part of their COIL work in collaboration with Dr. Elena Lukovitskaya, Novgorod sociology/gender professor, Giralico-Pearlman conducted several interviews with Russian students included in the fall 2012 COIL project. Also, both LeSavoy and Giralico-Pearlman met with students, faculty, and international education administrators to study logistics and resources necessary to best facilitate and expand upon their fall 2012 COIL efforts and to explore emerging and future international collaboration possibilities.

In addition to studying and seeing their COIL research forward, through LeSavoy’s civic work as chair of the Women’s Partnership for Linkages Rochester Novgorod Sister City Program, the team were invited guests at several Novgorod city meetings and functions in celebration of International Women’s Day, March 8. LeSavoy discussed American women’s healthcare during Novgorod’s Women in Red tribute, and LeSavoy and Pearlman, accompanied by Lukovitskaya, were guests at a Novgorod Kremlin tribute to Novgorod women’s civic and professional accomplishments.

LeSavoy and Giralico-Pearlman with Lukovitskaya presented their COIL work at the 5th COIL Conference at the SUNY Global Center April 3–4, 2013.

One Billion Rising

To commemorate the fifteenth anniversary of V-Day, a global movement to stop violence against women and girls, Brockport students and faculty joined in the One Billion Rising campaign of women and men from over 200 countries that culminated in a single day of mass action. On February 14, 2013, flash mobs were organized to rise together in dance as a call to end violence against women. The flash mobs occurred in Drake Memorial Library, Seymour College Union, and the Tower Fine Arts Center. In addition to the spontaneous dancing, other One Billion Rising events included an open-mic poetry reading and visual art display held at Jitterbugs café in the Seymour College Union.

Brockport’s participation in One Billion Rising was a collaboration of the Women and Gender Studies Program, the Brockport Women’s Center, and the Departments of Dance, English, and Theatre and Music Studies.
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.

**WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES MISSION STATEMENT**

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.

**WMS POWER OF GIVING**

Please consider WMS in your giving plans. The Elaine K. Miller Scholarship and the Jennifer M. Lloyd Essay Prize, endowed by and named in tribute to their respective benefactors, carry monetary awards 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.
President and Mrs. Halstead with Dublin interns and Professor Arthur Smith’s class at Dublin Castle.
The 4th Biennial Seneca Falls Dialogues: October 17–19, 2014

EcoFeminism: Cultivating Place and Identity

Featuring BLK ProjeK Founder and Eco-Warrior Tanya Fields as keynote speaker. The biennial Dialogues are a collaborative effort to reinvigorate Seneca Falls as a site of feminist activism and intellectual exchange. We invite students, activists, and teachers to participate in a weekend of dialogue on the following themes: Gender and the Environment, Activism, Food and Nourishment, Politics of Space, Sustainability, Identities and Bodies.

Proposals should include session title, 2–3 sentence summary of session focus/relevance to one or more of the conference themes, and 250–500 word description of the session’s focus and organization. Dialogue participants will be invited to submit essay versions of their dialogues for inclusion in the inaugural online Seneca Falls Dialogues Journal.

Proposal deadline: March 28, 2014. Send proposals and inquiries to sbai@rochester.edu.

The SFD is sponsored by women and gender studies affiliates at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Monroe Community College, The College at Brockport, St. John Fisher College, University of Buffalo, SUNY Geneseo, University of Rochester, Greater Rochester Area branch of American Association of University Women, and The Women’s Institute for Leadership and Learning.