Gender Notes Fall 2014

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A Note from the WMS Program Director

Revolutionary is the word that comes to mind as I think about the 2013–14 Women and Gender Studies (WMS) year in review. For WMS at Brockport, the feminist revolution is now.

As I pen this year's note, I do so as an occupant of the new Liberal Arts Building (LAB). I sit in a stunning new office, in a brilliant new building, where I can walk down the hall and engage with my humanities colleagues in History, Philosophy, English, and Modern Languages and Cultures. Our students and faculty reap the benefits of this new configuration as we now teach in state-of-the-art classrooms and have opportunities to reach across disciplines in our teaching, service, and scholarly work. With forward-looking roots, and in a progressive space central to the liberal arts, we have “rooms of our own.”

WMS Program milestones include the induction of 19 new students into the WMS Honor Society, Iota, Iota, Iota (Triota), and the awarding of the spring ’14 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. 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. You’ll find a complete list of all WMS Board members and other faculty, staff, and student roles associated with WMS below. And please check out our alumni column on page 7, which highlights the impressive accomplishments of our growing WMS alumni, who continue to assume important roles in work and further study.

WMS Program 2013–14 highlights include over 20 WMS student presentations at our April ’14 Scholars Day, one student presentation at the fall ’14 Diversity Conference, four student presentations at the 4th Biennial Seneca Falls Dialogues, and five students who will accompany me to the November ’14 NWSA Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico. In February 2013, WMS collaborated with the Departments of Dance and English in staging our second VDay One Billion Rising flash mob and poetry reading in an effort to stop gender-based violence. In March, WMS joined hands with the Women’s Center in its Inaugural Pannie Barrier–Williams Women of Courage Celebration. And WMS is thrilled to showcase volume III of its WMS Senior Seminar student-authored scholarly eJournal, Dissenting Voices. Details about the Seneca Falls Dialogues, One Billion Rising, the Williams Luncheon, and Dissenting Voices can be found in this issue.

WMS associates/affiliates continue to break ground as teachers and scholars with an impressive array of publications; speaking engagements; and teaching, scholarly, and service awards. In an international arena, I taught a three-week women and gender seminar at the 12th New York–St. Petersburg Institute of Linguistics, Cognition, and Culture (NYI), held in St. Petersburg, Russia. And I continue my Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) work where, this fall, I am partnering my Honors 330 Global Perspectives on Gender course with a gender/linguistics course at Novgorod State University in Russia. New to the Brockport side of instruction is a one credit-hour Russian language lab offered in collaboration with the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures. As an extension of my COIL work, I am engaged in a Russia/US Peer-to-Peer Dialogues grant focused on gender-based violence prevention education. Details about NYI, COIL, and our grant can be found on page 5.

There is so much more to tell as the WMS Program revolutionizes teaching and learning in ways that sanction our discipline and the liberal arts. Please enjoy this fall ’14 edition of Gender Notes, and join me in celebrating WMS in all its excellence. Looking out from the LAB and these lovely “rooms of our own,” for WMS at Brockport, the feminist revolution is now.
WMS Minor Studies Abroad in Ireland

Catherine O’Connor, WMS Minor: For the spring semester of my junior year, I was blessed with the opportunity to travel to Maynooth, Ireland. While at Maynooth, I took eight classes, completing two certificates: Irish Cultural Studies and Peace & Conflict. I chose these classes to augment my history major and women and gender studies minor.

I traveled to nine different countries during my semester abroad: Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, England, France, Spain, Germany, and Italy. I couldn’t have had a more incredible semester. I went to Easter Mass in Rome, led by Pope Francis. I toured the ruins of Pompeii and found history lurking in every corner of London. The glamour of Paris was invigorating, while each new view in Ireland took my breath away. I ended my study abroad with my parents and sister, who flew over to surprise me. Together, we completed a circuit of the country, getting lost on small back roads and veering away from our planned itinerary.

I met new people, encountered different world views, and challenged my own beliefs and decisions. Study abroad is a great way to learn about different cultures, realize how small you are in the big scheme of things, while also realizing how much the world has to offer you.

Katherine Clark, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of History, received the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Service. Clark has published six scholarly articles on medieval European history. She is the co-coordinator of Phi Theta Alpha, the national history student honors society. Clark has developed a collaborative learning program teaching students from both Brockport and the National University of Ireland.

Carl Davila, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of History, received the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching. Davila has demonstrated flexibility by teaching 13 courses on 10 different subjects. He works with students in and out of the classroom and has assisted over 30 students in individual studies. Davila’s commitment to diversity and inclusion can be seen through his Ancient World class that focuses on the theme of gender.

Megan Obourn, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of English, received the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching. Obourn seeks to challenge and expand the ideas of her students in the classroom. Her course content places emphasis on diversity, inclusion, and critical thinking. Obourn serves as the advisor for the English Club and SOUL (Sexual Orientations United for Liberation).

Sharon Allen, PhD, ENG

Tristan Bridges, PhD, SOC

Alisia Chase, PhD, ARH

Katherine Clark, PhD, HST

Carl Davila, PhD, HST

Barbara LeSavoy, PhD, WMS

Karen Logsdon, PhD, EMSA

Morga Martin, PhD, HST

Anne Macpherson, PhD, HST

Barbara Mitrano, EdD, WMS

Megan Obourn, PhD, ENG

Anne Panning, PhD, ENG

Alison Parker, PhD, EMG
Editor and introduction co-author of Interconnections: Gender and Race in American History, University of Rochester Press (2012/ paperback 2014). This book was just reissued as a paperback after receiving excellent scholarly reviews.
Iota, Iota, Iota (Triota)

The College at Brockport Beta Lambda chapter of Iota, Iota, Iota (aka Triota), WMS honor society, was founded in spring 2009 and inducted its first members at the WMS April 2009 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 ’14 Inductees

Cherrie Watson             Daniela Bulos
Helem Fabre                Grace Azzolino
Romina Owolewa             Ben Roberts
Kaitlin Trimboli           Lucienné Nicholson
Cara Smith                 Anna Walser
Lindsay Stumpt             Emily Tanner
Charice Putnam             Sarah Richens
Kathryn O’Toole            Nicole Posluszny
Sarah Martin               Kelsey Mahoney
Ashlea Gray                Celeste Cooper

Inaugural Fannie Barrier Williams Women of Courage Celebration and Awards Ceremony

Created in honor of Fannie Barrier Williams, a Brockport native, nationally recognized suffragist and civil and women’s rights activist, and the first African-American graduate of The College at Brockport, the inaugural Fannie Barrier Williams Women of Courage celebration and awards ceremony was held on March 28, 2014. Organized by Julie Pruss and Karen Logsdon, co-chairs of The College at Brockport Women’s Center Advisory Board, the celebration raises awareness of Williams’ remarkable achievement while also serving as the background of the announcement for both the creation of an endowed scholarship in Williams’ name and the recipients of the first Fannie Barrier Williams Women of Courage Award. The 12 recipients of the inaugural award were Sharon Belle-Render, Colleen Donaldson, Barbara Kasper, Jenny Lloyd, Faith Prather, Susan Seem, Megan Shackelford, Ann Braithwaite, Deborah Donnelly, Lisa Gore, Amy Horan, and Nina McGraw, honored for founding The College at Brockport Women’s Center in 1997. Also introduced and adopted at the luncheon was Brockport’s 2014 Declaration of Sentiments: “We, The College at Brockport women’s community, in collaboration with the campus Women’s Center, declare our commitment to gender equality and gender justice so all campus citizens live amidst and pursue knowledge in a spirit of freedom and good will. We affirm our respect for and appreciation of difference and declare that we shall unite in advancing women’s rights as we remember those women’s shoulders who we stand on today and everyday forward. Women’s rights as human rights. Now and always.”

LeSavoy, International Faculty, St. Petersburg, Russia

Dr. Barb LeSavoy, Director of Women and Gender Studies, taught a three-week seminar at the 12th New York–St. Petersburg Institute of Linguistics, Cognition, and Culture (NYI), in St. Petersburg, Russia.

LeSavoy’s seminar, “Riot Grrrl to Little Women: Negotiating the Politics of Identity and Place,” enrolled graduate and post-graduate level international students. It was held at the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences of St. Petersburg State University (also known as the Smolny Institute) in St. Petersburg, Russia, July 14 – August 1, 2014.

LeSavoy also delivered a general lecture to NYI faculty and students on “One Billion Rising and Gender-Based Violence Resistance Movements.” Participants at NYI take seminars with international scholars in a range of fields, especially those that do not fall neatly into traditional discipline areas. 2014 is the 12th year of NYI. Since 2003, over 1,000 participants from 40 countries and 50 Russian Federation cities have received certificates for completing the NYI Summer Seminar Program.

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 Master 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 interest within women and gender studies. Additional information can be found at www.brockport.edu/wms/master
Women and Gender Studies (WMS) students Lucienne Nicholson, Kelsey Mahoney, Sarah Richens, and Ben Roberts presented “Clearing the Air: Social Ecologies of Identity and Place,” at the fourth Biennial Seneca Falls Dialogues, October 17–19.

Led by WMS Director/faculty Barbara LeSavoy, the students presented projects completed in their spring ’14 Senior Seminar and/or Feminist Theory class, which addressed questions of diversely identified feminists finding voice and agency as a mode of resistance to oppressions written on person and or place using theoretical locations of Queer, Marxist, Black, Liberal, and Radical feminist thought.

Keynotes at the SFD included Tanya Fields, Ecowarrior and Founder/ Executive Director, The BLK ProjeK, with a talk entitled, “Lettuce Liberate”; and Jill Tietjen, President of the National Women’s Hall of Fame, speaking on “Women Taking the Lead to Save Our Planet.” A faculty and student delegation from Novgorod, Russia, who are visiting the region as part of government sponsored US/Russia Peer-to-Peer Dialogue grant studying domestic violence as a significant social problem in both of our countries, also attended the SFD.

Both the Brockport WMS and Russian groups took full advantage of the wide variety of presentations available during the five conference sessions. Topics ranged from the presentation of and link between gender and nature in Japanese animated feature films to the opportunities that nontraditional living arrangements, such as organized urban squatting and polyamorous or otherwise nontraditional families, provide us for reducing our impact on the environment.

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 Rochester, SUNY Geneseo, Greater Rochester Area Branch of American Institute for University Women, and The Women’s Institute for Leadership and Learning. LeSavoy also served as conference co-chair with Angela Clark-Taylor, Brockport WMS faculty and program manager for the University of Rochester Susan B. Anthony Institute for Gender and Women’s Studies.

WMS Senior Scholar: Ben Roberts

The WMS Program named Ben Roberts as Senior Scholar for his outstanding academic performance and impressive commitment to women and gender concerns. After two enlistments with the Marine Corps and a BA from UNC–Chapel Hill, Ben came to Brockport as a 2nd Baccalaureate Degree transfer student in fall 2011. He is pursuing a BA in WMS as well as business administration with a focus in management. Ben attended classes full time while working a full-time overnight shift as a security guard at Thompson Hospital in Canandaigua, maintaining a 3.84 GPA. Ben recently presented as part of a roundtable at the 4th Biennial Seneca Falls Dialogues, presented at Scholars Day in 2013 and 2014, and will be presenting a poster at the 2014 National Women Studies Association Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

WMS Awards and Scholarships

Colleen Donaldson Student Leadership Award: Helem Fabre

Granted by nomination, this award recognizes extraordinary student leadership in support of the WMS Program and related initiatives. Helem Fabre is a double major in arts for children and dance with a minor in WMS. She served as a Women’s Center assistant, gained a green certificate from the Leadership Development Program, and served as president for the BSG Women and Gender Studies Organization (WGSO) and Sexual Orientations United for Liberation (SOUL). She was named the 2013–14 student organization officer of the year and is listed in Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

Jennifer M. Lloyd Essay Prize: Jane Ives

This prize recognizes outstanding undergraduate writing on/about women and/or gender issues. Jane Ives was named the winner for her essay entitled, “Blobs and Boxes,” written for Dr. Barbara LeSavoy’s Honors WMS 360 in fall ’13. Jane is an Honors College student and a theatre major. She is a remarkable performer who played Mrs. Thistletwat and Nicky’s Right Hand in Avenue Q and Jean in Dead Man’s Cell Phone. Jane is a group exercise instructor and SERC manager.

Two additional submissions earned honorable mention:

Hannah Harrop, anthropology major, WMS minor, earned an honorable mention for her essay entitled, “Hijras and the Gender Hierarchy of Modern India,” nominated by Dr. Pilapa Esara as written for her ANT 305 class. Hannah plans to pursue a career in international business in order to advocate for culturally conscious and human-oriented business practices.

Katherine Delorme, interdisciplinary arts for children major, earned an honorable mention for her essay entitled, “The Ballerina Portrayed,” nominated by Dr. Maura Keefe as written for DNS 206. Katherine is interested in teaching dance and working with individuals who suffer from eating disorders.
Elaine K. Miller Scholarship: Sarah Mae Richens

This scholarship is awarded by application and seeks to recognize an outstanding, engaged, rising WMS and/or Modern Languages and Cultures student. Sarah Richens is a double major in WMS and sociology. Sarah is a McNair Scholar and part of the summer ‘14 McNair research symposium. Sarah recently presented as part of a roundtable at the 4th Biennial Seneca Falls Dialogues and will be attending the 2014 National Women Studies Association Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Harriet Whitney Award: Lucienne Nicholson

This award is by nomination and recognizes students for personal commitment to the field and sensitivity to women’s lives as an aspect of the human condition. Lucienne Nicholson is a WMS major and McNair Scholar who participated in the summer ‘14 McNair research symposium. She is active at both the local and state level of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and was appointed as AAUW’s NY State Educational Opportunity Fund director. She is currently promoting gender pay equity through her campaign to bring “Start Smart” to the College in collaboration with the Office of Career Services. She is a member of the Women’s Center Advisory Board and was the featured student speaker for the grand opening of the new Liberal Arts Building. She recently presented as part of a roundtable at the 4th Biennial Seneca Falls Dialogues, presented at Scholars Day in 2014, and will be presenting a poster at the 2014 National Women Studies Association Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Service to the WMS Discipline: Cara Smith

Cara Smith earned her bachelor's degree in May 2014 as a Delta College student and international studies major with minors in anthropology and WMS. Cara served as a WMS Program office assistant through Work-Study from 2011–14. She organized much of the WMS Program files and book resources and was solely responsible for updating and maintaining the WMS Program website. She is currently serving as an intern for the Washington Program and is toying with the idea of pursuing a degree in law.

Barbara LeSavoy is a collaborator of a government-sponsored Russian Peer-to-Peer Dialogue grant recently awarded through Linkages Rochester/Novgorod sister city partnership. The grant supports professionals and students in Veliky Novgorod and Rochester to engage in a year-long dialogue on domestic violence as a significant social problem in both of our countries. The project included a visit by a Russian delegation to Rochester, October 11–20, in collaboration with LeSavoy’s fall ‘14 WMS 330 Honors COIL course that is partnered with Novgorod State University in Russia. The Russian delegation attended the 4th Biennial Seneca Falls Dialogues (SFD), October 17–19, and also gathered as a group for a pizza party at LeSavoy’s home.

The College at Brockport unveiled its first new academic building in 40 years. The College’s new three-story, 61,000-square-foot Liberal Arts Building formally opened during a ribbon-cutting ceremony in the midst of Brockport’s Homecoming and Family Weekend. It’s no coincidence that the new building houses the liberal arts. “The liberal arts are the bedrock of a Brockport education, and virtually every student that enters this institution as a freshman will walk through these doors,” said Brockport President John R. Halstead, PhD. “What they will be taught will prepare them for whatever career path they continue on, using skills from critical thinking and communication to creative problem-solving and collaboration. These are the skills that employers say they need. This is what a liberal arts education provides.”

The $29.3 million facility serves as the new home of Brockport’s Departments of English, History, Modern Languages and Cultures, Philosophy, and Women and Gender Studies. Located on the south side of campus, to the east of Drake Memorial Library, the building features a tiered 200-seat auditorium, two 70-seat divisible classrooms, three 35-seat classrooms, and two 25-seat seminar rooms. It also features a gallery that houses the E.E. Cummings collection, artist-made benches that feature ashwood cleared from the building site, original artwork by regional artists, and exterior balconies.

WMS Proud to Be Part of Brockport’s New Liberal Arts Building

Lucienne Nicholson, WMS ’14, LAB Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony
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.

WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES MISSION STATEMENT

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One Billion Rising

RISE. RELEASE. DANCE.

February 14, 2014, brought the second One Billion Rising movement to The College at Brockport. Women and men everywhere were called upon to harness their power and imagination to rise for justice! Imagine, one billion women, sharing their stories, dancing, and speaking out in the places where they need justice, where they need an end to violence against women and girls.

Students, staff, and faculty rose together in two separate flash mobs here on campus. Drake Memorial Library and the Seymour College Union were the stages for the choreographed dance, and students held a Brockport Rises for Justice poetry reading in the Fireside Lounge.

Senior Seminar Students Author and Publish Volume III of Dissenting Voices eJournal

Her Senior Seminar undergraduates continue to be inspired by that vision, collaborating to improve the journal’s layout and design in addition to their individual scholarly and creative contributions. The eJournal’s cover is by WMS major and Volume 3 contributor Lucienne Nicholson, in collaboration with her son, Oliver Haynes. Managing Editor Pat Maxwell worked with the seminar students in guiding the eJournal design and implementation. Editorial Board members are Tristan S. Bridges, Amber Humphrey, Barbara Mitrano, and Megan Obourn. Digital Commons @Brockport is an online collection of scholarly and creative works produced by the faculty, staff and students of The College at Brockport. This digital repository is a service of Drake Memorial Library and Library, Information, & Technology Services.

Volume three can be accessed at http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/dissentingvoices/vol3/iss1

To learn more about the Women and Gender Studies Program at The College at Brockport, contact:

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www.facebook.com/brockportwms

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

CLASS OF 2014
Michel Haddad: Residential Family Counselor, Alternatives for Battered Women
Andrea Moore: Nanny, Brockport, NY

CLASS OF 2013
Laura Clark: 2013–14 Fulbright Scholar, Spain, Pursuing MS in Social Justice, SUNY Binghamton
Johnny Sparrow: Pursuing MSW, University at Buffalo
Nellie Dennis: Pursuing Master in Counseling, Niagara University
Harriet Paterson: MALS (WMS), Study Abroad Advisor, Office of International Education, The College at Brockport

CLASS OF 2012
JC Acosta: MA in History, The College at Brockport, May 2013
Jessica Sullivan: RN, University of Rochester, May 2013
Jessica Cutcliffe: MALS (WMS), Educational Assistant/MSC, Heritage Christian Services
Jessica Velez: Pursuing MSW at the University at Albany; ERC Counselor at St. Catherine's Center for Children in Albany

CLASS OF 2011
Dena Defazio: MSW, University of Buffalo, Clinical Visitation Worker, the Salvation Army
Kelly Gaskin: Trillium Health, Care Manager. Prior, Youth care professional, Hillside Family of Agencies. Pursuing MSW Brockport/Nazareth; applying to PhD, Global Gender Studies, University at Buffalo
Chelsey Franz: Case Work Aide, Department of Social Services, Monroe County. Human Service Worker of the Year Award Honoree, Bertina Forde Rising Star Recipient, 2014

CLASS OF 2010
Lauren Burdett: Master's in Social Administration and Bioethics, May 2013, Case Western Reserve University
Angela Buchiere: Pursuing a Master's in Peace and Justice, Portland State University, Portland, Oregon
Monica Hall: Vocal performer for Carnival Cruise Lines
Mary Schantz: Trainer, Insurance Agency Enrollments, Paychex
Ben Kruger has spent the past few years touring and recording with his hardcore band Like Wolves. His new hip hop project is getting good reviews from WMS classmates.
Felicia Cordero: Paralegal, Rochester, NY

CLASS OF 2009
Emily Lynch: Community Health Educator, Highland Family Planning, Rochester, NY
Rosa Luciano: Master's in Counselor Education (May '13), The College at Brockport. Assistant administrator for the Arc of Monroe County, overseeing seven group homes for individuals with developmental disabilities.

CLASS OF 2008
Kimberly Adams: Juris Doctor, May 2013, Child Welfare, Juvenile and Education Law, Wayne State University Law School, Detroit, MI. Received 2013 Equal Justice Works Post Graduate Fellowship, Boots on the Ground Project. Currently working with Akron Community Legal Aid Services in Ohio, sponsored by the Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation.
Jamie Bergeron: Master's in Education, Higher Education Student Affairs, University at Buffalo, May 2010. Working as the diversity coordinator at Northeastern University, Boston MA.
Deborah Blonsky: Master of Arts in Liberal Studies, Nazareth College. Transitional Studies faculty, Monroe Community College
Rebekah Orr: MA in Sociology, Syracuse University, May 2010. ABD for PhD in Sociology with a Certificate of Advanced Studies in Women's and Gender Studies at Syracuse University; Dissertation Title: Imagining Queer: LGBTQ Archives and the Construction of Queer Communities. Serves as teaching associate in the LGBT Studies Program at Syracuse University, teaching Queer Histories, Politics and Communities, and as adjunct faculty in the Department of Sociology at Brockport, teaching Sociology of the Life Course.

CLASS OF 2007
Melinda Cater Wallington: MA in History at Brockport, Library Assistant for Rare Books & Special Collections at University of Rochester. Blogs at mindymusings22.blogspot.com.

CLASS OF 2004
UPCOMING WMS EVENTS

We are planning an interactive ONE BILLION RISING art event February 10–13, 2015, with a flash mob planned for February 13.

More details to come.

SPRING WRITERS FORUM SCHEDULE

Feb. 11: Tony Leuzzi, poet
Feb. 25: Jacinda Townsend, novelist
(Featured event for Black History Month)
March 11: Brian Turner, memoirist and poet
April 1: Suzanne Parker, poet (Co-sponsored by the Women and Gender Studies Program)
May 6: Calvin Trillin, essayist, 2015 Art of Fact Award recipient