Welcome and hello. I am looking forward to a new year of exciting educational programming aimed at expanding our individual and collective understanding of the lives of women allied in struggle with oppressed people everywhere, of gender as an operation of power, and of sexuality as a crucial node of identity and body politics. In this edition of our newsletter, you will find announcements, information about special events we have to look forward to this coming year, and a review of exciting highlights from last year.

Fall semester 2014 will mark the first semester of the program’s new status as a member of the newly formed School of Interdisciplinary Studies in the College of Liberal Arts at Purdue. Headed by Associate Dean JoAnn Miller, SIS houses 14 member programs, all of which have in common a commitment to interdisciplinary inquiry as a hallmark of its faculty’s research and teaching. We welcome becoming a part of the exciting new scholarly community SIS represents.

I am thrilled to announce the news that WGSS will host Dr. bell hooks as our 2014 Cummings Perucci Lecture Series speaker on the evening of Tuesday, October 28 (see page 3 of this newsletter). That same afternoon, Dr. hooks will also participate in WGSS’s Dream Team lecture series, which features 11 other fascinating speakers from within Purdue as well as around the country. Dream Team lecturers are asked to deliver their “dream lecture” on topics and research that lie at the heart of the study of women, gender, and sexuality. Lectures are open to the Purdue community—please take a close look at our lineup for this year (specifics about this year’s Dream Team can be found on page 2 of this newsletter). Keep in mind we have booked a large lecture hall that can hold many more students than are enrolled so consider coming to lectures that interest you, bringing colleagues and students with you if you like. We look forward to seeing you there.

There is a lot more to celebrate from last year and to look forward to this year, as the rest of this newsletter makes clear. Please check it out by reading on. If you have questions or would like to get more involved with the WGSS program at Purdue, do not hesitate to get in touch with me or our brilliant new program coordinator, Teasha McKinley (see page 14 for more about Teasha), by email or phone, check out our Facebook page, or contact one of our faculty or members of our graduate teaching staff.

Onward!
Fall Dream Team Lecture Series

TUESDAYS 1:30—2:45
FORNEY G140

August 26
Dr. Tj Boisseau
Director of WGSS
"Introduction to the course"

September 2
Adrianna Ernstberger
PhD Candidate in History/ WGSS
“Did you know the personal is political? Learning to speak WGS Studies”

September 9
Dr. Kim Gallon
Assistant Professor of History
“The Politics of Personal Difference”

September 23
Dr. Cheryl Cooky
Associate Professor of WGSS
“The Social Construction of Gender in Sport”

September 16
Dr. Sharra Vostral
Associate Professor of History
“Why Gender Matters to Technology”

September 30
Dr. Evie Blackwood
Professor of Anthropology
“Finding the Rainbow: Sexual and Gender Diversity in a Global World”

October 7
Dr. Wendy Kline
Demag Seelye Chair in the History of Medicine
“Coming Home: Medicine, Midwifery, and the Transformation of Birth in late Twentieth Century America”

October 21
Dr. Ashley Currier
Associate Professor of WGSS (University of Cincinnati)
“Colliding Interests: Organizing around Gender and Sexual Diversity in Africa”

November 4
Eileen Pollack
Professor of Creative Writing (University of Michigan)
“One and a Half Strikes and You May Be Out: Intersectionality in Science, Math, and Engineering”

November 18
Dr. Marlo David
Assistant Professor of English WGSS
“Putting the ‘I’ back in ‘Identity Politics’: How Social Location Affects Reproductive Justice Activism”

December 2
Dr. Shannon McMullen
Associate Professor of Visual and Performing Arts & American Studies
“Aesthetic Acts: The Production and Politics of Social Spaces”

December 9
Dr. Stephanie Gilmore
Independent Scholar
“Sexual Violence on College Campuses: Listening to and Learning from Student Activists”
Dr. bell hooks is a feminist author, scholar, and social activist and is aimed at producing a liberatory perspective on American culture. Her work focuses on contemporary popular culture and politics examines the multiple networks that connect gender, race, and class. She has held professorships at Yale University, Oberlin College, and the City College of New York where she held the position of Distinguished Lecturer of English Literature.

Co-sponsored by the Office of the Vice Provost for Diversity & Inclusion • The Center for Research on Diversity & Inclusion • Office of the Dean of Students • Susan Bulkeley Butler Center for Leadership Excellence • Black Cultural Center • Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs • Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program • LGBTQ Center

“feminism is for everybody” - Dr. bell hooks
WGSS Undergrad major/minor reduced credit requirements!

It is now even simpler to get a minor or major in WGSS with our reduced credit requirements.
- Major is now 24 hours vs 30: [http://www.cla.purdue.edu/academics/programs/pos/WOST201010.pdf](http://www.cla.purdue.edu/academics/programs/pos/WOST201010.pdf)
- Minor is now 12 hours vs 15: [http://www.cla.purdue.edu/academics/programs/pos/MWOST201010.pdf](http://www.cla.purdue.edu/academics/programs/pos/MWOST201010.pdf)

This goes into effect fall of 2014, and students on the old programs can change to the new program. However, the new programs have a GPA of C or higher whereas the old programs did not have a GPA requirement.

The Graduate Certificate

The interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies is designed to enhance graduate studies in any major field or discipline and offers students work experience in their prospective fields. The certificate provides students with grounding in the knowledge, theories, and methods of a variety of approaches in feminist scholarship. The program seeks to transcend traditional boundaries among disciplines and to offer students opportunities for systematic study of gender and women's experience in all fields of knowledge.

Requirements for an interdisciplinary graduate certificate in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies:
- WOST 68000 Feminist Theory
- WOST 68100 Contemporary Issues in Feminist Scholarship
- WOST 68200 Issues in Feminist Research and Methodology

Beyond the core courses, students may choose electives from courses listed by the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program, according to their research interests.

To register for a graduate certificate, send a letter of intent and a copy of your plan of study to:

Teasha McKinley, Program Coordinator
Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program
6164 BRNG

Once you've completed the requirements, submit a transcript to the same address as above. Your file will be evaluated; if all courses are in order, the graduate certificate will then be awarded.
At Purdue University, it is easy to declare a major or minor in Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies. You’re not just a number to us! You are the future of an inspiring, centuries-long, world-wide movement pursuing women’s rights and gender equality. Our faculty and staff care about students and routinely get very high marks by students evaluating their courses and teaching. The curriculum is exciting, challenging, and relevant.

A major or minor in WGSS or LGBT studies gives you a solid background in humanities, arts, and social services.

WGSS courses pay close attention to the multiplicity of women’s personal and public experiences and look at the effects of events, ideas, and social institutions for women as well as men. These courses should be taken by people of all genders, ages, ethnicities, and cultures because the topics covered within the courses reflect issues that everyone faces. As a global community, it is important to become aware of issues that may differ from our own perspectives.

A WGSS degree prepares you to address the issues facing women today. You have a background that equips you to become a policy maker at local, state, and national levels. You can work with community development agencies to create programs that address and prevent gendered violence. You can work with non-governmental agencies, addressing health, economic, and social issues that affect women’s lives around the world. You can help design and implement programs to help young girls develop the kinds of skills and self-esteem that you have developed.

If you decide upon a career in the corporate sector, a degree in WGSS prepares you for the diverse corporate environments. Informed by feminist models of leadership, you will be trained to utilize management styles that emphasize collaboration and cooperation.

In your home life, understanding the dynamics gender in partnerships and families prepares you to develop healthier relationships. WGSS gives you the skills to develop support networks and stronger and more equal families. Overall, you will be ready to relate to the rich diversity of people and families that make up our 21st-century world, and you’ll be open to new opportunities and possibilities for enhancing your own life, as well as making the larger world a better place.
This course explored LGBTQ history and culture from the eighteenth to the twenty-first centuries in three cities: New York City, Paris, France, and Amsterdam, Netherlands. Taking a comparative approach, students examined the changing meanings of same-sex sexual desire, acts, and identities. This was a six week, six credit course collaborated by Dr. Yvonne Pitts (Associate Professor, Department of History), and Mr. Lowell Kane (Director, LGBTQ Center – Division of Diversity and Inclusion).

The LHA, also known as the Lesbian Herstory Archives, don’t want you to have to wear gloves and show credentials to get in and look around. They want you to touch things, to take pictures and make photocopies, to learn and interact with the herstory in front of you. It’s not just an archive—it’s a community. Inside the Archive is a beautiful, wonderful place. The LHA were started in 1974 by a group of women who were concerned that Lesbian history would vanish completely. Especially because no one was really collecting it. (Blog post by Jynx Boyne)

Everyday, I seem to be learning more and more about not only queer history, but about the history of the wars as well. Never did I think I could absorb this much information in such a short trip. It's really nice to be able to see and touch the sites where so much history has happened. (Blog post by Derek McDowell)

Directly outside of the Anne Frank House is another national monument called the “Homomonument.”. This monument was presented to the public on September 5, 1987 to commemorate the gay men and women who lost their lives during the Second World War. (Blog post by Allan Summers)

We’ve come a long way from the days when our community had to “act” and pretend in order to express ourselves; however, despite having a much more prominent voice than in days past, there is still much work to be done. Unfortunately, sterilization is still occurring, as is discrimination against members of our community. (Blog post by My-Lan Lê)
With yet another successful summer our students had in Uganda this year, the Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program is branching out. We are working on expanding our Study Abroad in WGSS to include Cuba, India, and Iceland. More information to come this fall; come see what our students from our Study Abroad in Uganda have to say about their experience!
“International Women’s Day Fest Fosters Campus-Community Dialogue”

By Dana Bisignani

On the Friday evening of March 7th, hundreds of Purdue students, faculty and staff, and members of the Greater Lafayette community streamed into a gym at the France A. Córdova Recreational Sports Center to celebrate International Women’s Day (IWD). Observed around the world, IWD began as a Socialist political event in 1911 to acknowledge both the struggles of women and to celebrate their economic, political, and social achievements. While the holiday has since lost its political focus in some countries, in other parts of the world it retains its human rights agenda.

The International Women’s Day Fest, sponsored by Purdue’s Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program, was the culminating celebration following a week’s worth of activities and lectures around campus encouraging students to start seeing how gender organizations and impacts our everyday lives. The Fest was organized by a committee of WGSS graduate instructors, undergraduate students, and community members and was a collaborative effort to open a dialogue about gender on campus. The event was a follow-up to last year’s March at Purdue: Celebrating 100 Years of Public Action, attended by nearly 500 people from the campus and surrounding community. The interdepartmental and campus-community partnerships built as a result of last year’s efforts served as the backbone for this year’s Women’s History Month festivities.

The IWD Fest brought together a host of campus and community partners who are all working toward greater social justice. After a week of raising campus awareness about oppression based on gender, race, and sexuality, the organizers of the event sought to create a festive space where students could interact with other students, programs, and community organizations who are actively working to change that, in the hopes that they would continue to reflect on these issues and become more involved.

Community organizations like Planned Parenthood, Pride Lafayette, and MESA (Multicultural Efforts to End Sexual Assault) staffed tables next to student groups and academic departments like the newly-formed Purdue Social Justice Coalition, the Black Student Union, the Department of Political Science, the Susan Bulkeley Butler Women’s Archives, Purdue’s LGBTQ Center, and of course, the Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program. After opening remarks, two students, Jasmine Morris of the Black Cultural Center’s Haraka Writers and Lauren Howard, who goes by Reeceie, performed their work on stage, followed by a soft-spoken community member originally from India, Vinod Singh, who shared her poetry with the crowd. For two hours, a steady stream of students, faculty, non-profit community organizers, and activists chatted with one another about everything from safe sex to Purdue’s progressive early women deans (courtesy of the archives) to LGBTQ student rights.

Fest attendees enjoyed warm cider and sweets from Mary Lou’s Donuts in Lafayette as the air buzzed with the energy of hopeful networking and organizing. The Lafayette Area Peace Coalition offered an interactive board of famous women activists and political leaders throughout history, including figures like Shirley Chisolm and Rachel Carson. Students registered to vote at the local League of Women Voters table. Amidst the dialogue and pulsing music, students gathered around a central table to decorate their “gender glasses,” handed out at information tables earlier in the week. Other students and faculty displayed books by their favorite female authors from around the globe. Students from Dr. Marlo David WGSS 280 course displayed their projects and talked to those attending about what they’d learned over the last few weeks.

Events like the IWD Fest and last year’s March are vital for many reasons. Most importantly, they give students an opportunity to see just how many people and organizations are working to create change. After weeks of learning about inequality and oppression, it’s crucial to help students realize that they have the power to act and that they don’t have to do so alone. Such events also create a rare space for students and community members working on the same issues to engage in intergenerational networking. Lastly, they inject hope and enthusiasm into our ongoing work and carve out an important space to celebrate the achievements we make as the struggle continues.

Planning for next year’s Women’s History Month events will begin in December. If you’d like to become involved, contact Teasha McKinley, our Program Coordinator for the Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program, at (765) 494-6295 or teasha@purdue.edu.
Another portion of our Women’s History Month was dedicated to a roundtable focused on women’s education in India. Sr. Ananda Amritmahal, Ph.D., President of Sophia College, a small women’s college located in southern Mumbai, India, spoke about her college’s mission to educate middle class Indian women and outreach to sex workers in Mumbai. We are currently working with Sr. Amritmahal and Sophia College on an upcoming study abroad program in India, possibly as early as fall of 2015.

Dr. Alok Chaturvedi, Professor in Purdue University’s Krannert Graduate School of Management and the Department of Computer Sciences and the Founder, Chairman, and the CEO of Simulex Inc., a modeling and simulation company located in Purdue Technology Park, was also a guest speaker for this roundtable. Professor Chaturvedi regaled audiences with a description of his innovative new technology aimed at providing non-literate women of northern India with entrepreneurial skills and networking capacities.
Meet The Director

Dr. Boisseau is Director and Associate Professor of WGSS, which is now a member program in the School of Interdisciplinary Studies established in the College of Liberal Arts this year. She received her Ph.D. in U.S. Women’s History from Binghamton University (SUNY-Binghamton), an M.A. in U.S. History from Georgetown University, and a B.A. in History and Women’s Studies from Suffolk University in Boston. She has been a Fulbright Scholar (to University of Bayreuth in Germany) and has performed research at archives in Zanzibar, Tanzania, Turkey, Belgium, and Great Britain as well as the United States. Her research has seen publication in a monograph, *White Queen* (Indiana University Press, 2004), two edited collections of essays, and numerous journal articles. Dr. Boisseau teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in U.S. women’s history and American popular culture. She is currently engaged with several research projects including a nascent book project that will utilize the archival resources of Purdue University to reflect upon Amelia Earhart’s public career and representation as a feminist media icon. Other research projects build on an ongoing interest in women and gender at world’s fairs, women and travel narratives, feminist legal history, black feminist autobiography, and the gendered reception of Hollywood film abroad. Dr. Boisseau makes her home on the coast of Maine where she spends summers along a salt sea cove with her four-year-old daughter, Octavia Aurora, and her life partner, Kirk Arden Hoppe. She sees her work as a feminist scholar, teacher, and administrator of the WGSS program at Purdue as central to the contribution she makes as a public intellectual and activist.

Dr. TJ Boisseau

Meet the Assistant Director

Laurie Graham has been Assistant Director of Women’s Studies and Associate Professor of WGSS at Purdue University since coming to Purdue in 2004. Dr. Graham regularly teaches courses such as “Women and Work,” “Feminist Theory,” and “Introduction to WGSS.”


Before coming to Purdue in 2004 Dr. Graham was Associate Professor of Labor Studies at Indiana University. She received her PhD in Sociology from Purdue in 1990. With more than 30 years experience in the labor movement and labor education, she is considered an expert on labor management issues in the auto industry.

Dr. Laurie Graham

Dr. Jennifer Freeman Marshall

Dr. Jennifer Freeman Marshall is Assistant Professor of English and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Her research specializations include Black feminist thought, feminist theory and methods, and 20th century African American literary and cultural productions, and feminist ethnography. A recipient of the 2011 Women’s Studies Outstanding Faculty Teaching Award, she most recently received the Teaching for Tomorrow Award at Purdue (2013-2014). She has developed courses on Contemporary Black Feminist Literature, Zora Neale Hurston, and other courses on gender, culture, and literary studies. Her book-in-progress, *Zora Neale Hurston: Icon, Token, and Canons*, explores the popular and scholarly receptions of the iconic writer and anthropologist. Her most recent publication is entitled “In Search of Heidi Durrow within a Black Woman’s Literary Tradition” in the *Forum for World Literature Studies*. She will be delivering a paper entitled “Black Feminist Literary Production and Social Justice” at the 2014 NWSA conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico.
Dr. Cheryl Cooky

Dr. Cheryl Cooky has not one to slow down, continues to maintain her high level of discovery and engagement activity in her first year post-tenure. Her research on Caster Semenya was published in Tracking Silence: Black Maternal Figures and the Camera: An International Film Journal. She also co-authored two articles in The Journal of Sex Research and the Journal of Communication & Sport. The news media coverage of sports. Most recently, the Women’s Sports Foundation (WSF) organized a panel on the topic of researchers as advocates at the International Working Group on Women in Sport Conference, held in Helsinki, Finland in June 2014. The WSF invited Cooky to participate on the panel, to share her research on gender and sports participation in Montenegro to an international audience of scholars, advocates, NGOs, GOs, and Olympic sports delegates. Cooky received a Purdue Research Fund International Travel Grant to support this trip.

This past spring, Cooky was elected by members of the North American Society for the Sociology of Sport to serve a 3-year term as President beginning Nov. 2014. She was also invited by the Senior Editor to serve her second term on the Editorial Board for the Sociology of Sport Journal. The Feminist Wire (TFW) recognized Cooky among the “Feminists We Love” for her research and engagement on feminist social justice in sport. She is a guest writer for TFW (working with current TFW editor and former WGSS graduate student, Heidi Lewis) publishing an article on Michael Sam (first openly gay professional football player) and one on gender inequality in the media coverage of the NCAA’s March Madness basketball tournament. Cooky was quoted in mainstream online and print media including the Huffington Post, Runner’s World, Forbes, Chicago Tribune, Columbia Journalism Review, Orange County Register among others. She also appeared as an expert in the Twin Cities Public Television/University of Minnesota Tucker Center for Research on Girls and Women in Sport’s documentary, Media Coverage and Female Athletes.

In Fall 2013, Cooky was awarded a $10,000 IMPACT grant to contribute to the WGSS Program’s continuing efforts to engage innovative and exciting ways to teach the Introduction to WGSS course (WGSS 280).

Beginning in fall 2014, Cooky’s appointment will officially move 100% in the Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program in the newly formed School of Interdisciplinary Studies. She looks forward to the opportunities this new appointment will provide for discovery, learning, and engagement.

Prof. David received the 2014 Excellence in Research Award from the Purdue Center for Research on Diversity & Inclusion for her essay “I Got Self, Pencil and Notebook: Literacy and Maternal Desire in Sapphire’s PUSH.” The essay will be published in the Spring 2016 issue of *Tulsa Studies in Women’s Literature*.

In February 2014, Prof. David also participated in “Crowning Glory: Kinky, Curly, Puffy Wavy,” a roundtable discussion with Prof. Nadia Brown from the Purdue Political Science Department and African-American Studies Program and Prof. Tanisha Ford from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department. The event was sponsored by the Purdue Black Cultural Center as part of a semester-long program on hair, beauty, and adornment practices among black women.

During the Spring 2014 semester, Prof. David was invited to become a mentor for a new African-American Girls Group at Tecumseh Junior High School in Lafayette, IN. Led by Dr. Zenequh E. Evans, Director of Multicultural Science Programs and Associate Director of Diversity in Purdue’s College of Science, the group meets with young women throughout the school year to discuss topics related to self-esteem, academic achievement, character development and cultural awareness. Several Purdue graduate students and area community leaders are part of the program. Prof. David will join Nadia Brown (Purdue), Tanisha Ford (University of Massachusetts-Amherst), and Treva Lindsey (Ohio State) for a roundtable discussion entitled “Electric Ladies: Black Women, (Hyper)Visibility and Transgressive Body Politics” at the National Women’s Studies Association Annual Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico in November. Their roundtable will explore black women’s transgressive body politics from interdisciplinary and transnational perspectives. Engaging with topics such as skin color, hair, fashion, beauty, athleticism, and performance, participants will provide analyses of contemporary black women and the politics of representation using black feminist theoretical frames.

Next summer, Prof. David will co-teach a summer seminar at Indiana University entitled “Growing Up While Black: Coming of Age in African-American Literature, Music, and Film.” Prof. David developed the course with Prof. LaMonda Horton-Stallings, an associate professor of Gender Studies at IU. The unique course is designed to stimulate interest in interdisciplinary humanities research for a group of highly motivated high school sophomores from around the world. For six weeks, the students and professors will engage in reading, research, and other activities related to coming-of-age texts that explore themes such as gender and sexual identity, racial difference, friendships, love, work, family, activism, violence, spirituality, and self-esteem.
Farewell to....Professor Alicia Decker

Dt. Alicia Decker, formerly Assistant Professor of History and WGSS at Purdue begins her new position in Fall 2014 as Associate Professor of African Studies and Women’s Studies at Penn State University.

Farewell soon to....Assistant Director Laurie Graham

Dr. Laurie Graham announces her retirement from the WGSS Program at Purdue University beginning in 2015

When did you join the WGSS program as assistant director? What have been your primary roles and responsibilities?

This will be my sixth year as full-time assistant director. Before that I was a joint faculty member. My primary responsibilities include teaching, chairing the WGSS curriculum committee, chairing the LGBT committee, program assessment, advising our WGSS student organization, directing WGSS community engagement classes, and standing in for the director.

What WGSS experiences stand out to you as particularly meaningful or important?

My entire experience with WGSS has been very meaningful. I came when Women’s Studies was just beginning a period of dynamic growth and change. Beginning with the directorship of Val Moghadam and the crucial help of joint faculty member Alicia Decker, WGSS has become an international program when our first study abroad course was launched in Uganda. Our current director, TJ Boisseau, has stimulated lots of changes. First, our move to internationalize has shifted into full gear. We are currently working on developing additional study abroad courses in Iceland, Cuba and India. Second, our name has changed from Women’s Studies to Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. After the name change, the college LGBTQ committee, spearheaded by Evie Blackwood from Anthropology,

Dr. Laurie Graham
Assistant Director of WGSS
And Continuing Lecturer in WGSS

agreed to locate the LGBT Minor in WGSS. We now have a Women’s Studies Major and Minor and an LGBT Minor. Under the LGBT Minor there is also an additional study abroad class with travel to New York, Paris and Amsterdam. Since adding our new minor, undergraduate enrollments have grown exponentially. Overall, it’s been a very exciting and meaningful period.

What are you most looking forward to in your retirement?

Moving to Oregon and starting a new chapter in my life.

Q: One of your roles has been mentoring students. What advice do you leave for WGSS majors and grad students?

A: My advice is to never give up the fight. We still have tremendous challenges locally, nationally and internationally.
Hi there! I’m Teasha McKinley, the new Program Coordinator for Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies… and I’m very happy to be here. My background is in retail management and customer service. I spent many years working as a Department and Assistant Manager at Home Depot before taking on a position as the Store Manager of the local Staples office supply store. I was there for a few years before I accepted the position here at Purdue as the Program Coordinator of Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies.

Working here at Purdue has opened so many opportunities for me and my family. I have a wonderful husband, Chris, and two beautiful boys. Chayse is my oldest son who will be turning 7 this October. Mitchell (nickname “batman,” because his middle name is Keaton, and my brother thought I said his name was Michael Keaton) is going to be 5 in October as well. Funny fact, both boys had the same exact due date, however Chayse has always been the stubborn one and decided to show a few weeks late.

When I’m not working, I’m either playing with my boys or reading. My husband and I are huge sports fans, and often go to Chicago for Cubs, Blackhawks, and the occasional Bulls games. We would love to see our favorite football team more often but Denver is quite the commute just to see the Broncos play, so we settle with watching them when they come to Indy.

I am working closely with Dr. TJ Boisseau, WGSS Director, as well as Dr. Laurie Graham, WGSS Assistant Director, to learn the ropes and help orchestrate the myriad of educational activities here in WGSS. The most astounding thing about being a part of this program is feeling like it is my home after only a brief months of working here. I have a lot of respect for the work and research our Faculty and Grad Staff put into this amazing program. It is so rewarding working with these dynamic scholars whose work in WGSS at Purdue combine academic rigor and excellence with engaged work in the community, spearheading University projects and providing leadership as public intellectuals. I have already developed great relationships with many people across campus, and I am looking forward to a busy and productive year!

- Teasha McKinley
Adryan Glasgow is a PhD candidate in English Literature and Film. Her dissertation project argues that zombie narratives have always functioned as a pedagogy of US imperial white masculinity. Beginning in 1932, she examines the ways that black men and white women have been recruited into supporting this white masculine development in popular zombie films and literature.

adryan@purdue.edu

Dorothy Snyder is a fourth-year doctoral candidate at the Brian Lamb School of Communication in Organizational Rhetoric with a graduate certificate in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies. She earned her Master of Arts and Bachelor of Arts in Communication from Purdue University, Calumet. Her research interests include the use of new media technologies to facilitate a more democratic political participation amongst marginalized communities, the public’s perception of women as leaders particularly in the sphere of politics, alternative organizational rhetoric as used in peacebuilding, and incorporating community-building in the classroom as an instructor. Her research has been presented at the annual conferences of the National Communication Association and the Central States Communication

dmsnyder@purdue.edu

Jaime celebrated several milestones in the 2013-2014 year including completing coursework, earning her WGSS certificate and getting an honorable mention for the Berenice A. Carroll Award. She shared the classroom with some wonderful students, one of which won the undergraduate BCA! As exciting as this past year was the upcoming year looks to be even better. Jaime is excited to defend her preliminary exams and her prospectus, see Dr. bell hooks on campus and serve as president of the American Studies Graduate Student Association. Most of all she is looking forward to teaching an independent section of Intro to WGSS for the first time. Inspired by the Ms. In the Classroom Workshop which she attended in May with the generous support of the WGSS program she is developing a hybrid syllabus based on experiential learning and incorporating the Ms. In the Classroom archive.

houghj@purdue.edu

Teht Ashmani is happily working on achieving PhD candidacy in their home department of English this year, and is enjoying delving through severe but visionary poetry, in combination with similar cultural theory, to cobble the two together as vibrantly as possible. They are thrilled to have the opportunity to assist in the instruction of ”Intro to LGBT Studies” this year and to be joining the WGSS department as an instructor as well as student.

tashmani@purdue.edu
Ekeama Goddard-Scovel is a PhD Candidate in the Department of English. Currently, she is working on her dissertation titled *The Economic Use of the Caribbean Woman: Women in Soca in St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago*, which questions the accepted trend of using women’s bodies to market Caribbean music to the Caribbean Diaspora and the wider global community. Her other interests include: postcolonial literatures, African American Women's literatures, feminisms, Caribbean music/music videos, neoliberalism and globalization.

In fall she accepted a TAship in WGSS and presented the paper "Caribbean Women to the World: The Role of Music Videos in Shaping the Caribbean Diaspora," at South Atlantic Modern Language Association 85 (SAMLA 85) in Atlanta, Georgia. In spring she co-chaired the IWD Fest Committee with Dana Bisignani, received a WGSS Graduate Certificate and was awarded a Summer PRF. After this eventful academic year, she is eager to see what this one brings.

egoddard@purdue.edu

Dana Bisignani is a Ph.D. candidate in literature who also works as the Writing Consultant in the National and International Scholarships Office in the Honors College at Purdue. Her research examines intersections of gender, art-making, and war-making in the critical reception of anti-war poet Denise Levertov’s writing and activism of the Vietnam era. This year, she presented her work at both the National Women’s Studies Association Conference and the Reception Studies Society Bi-Annual Symposium. In addition, her article on feminist service-learning, “Transgressing Intellectual Boundaries Begins with Transgressing Physical Ones: Feminist Community Engagement as Activist-Apprentice Pedagogy,” appears in Feminist Community Engagement, due out this year from Palgrave-MacMillan. Her poetry has appeared in Slipstream, Cimarron Review, Prairie Schooner and other journals, and she authors a blog on feminism and activism, The Gender Press. She received the Berenice A. Carroll Award for Feminism, Peace, and Social Justice in 2013.

dbisigna@purdue.edu

Farewells

Dharmini Patel will be teaching English at Clinton Central Jr/Sr High School in Michigantown, IN. Suzanne Thompson Clemenz received a Woodrow Wilson Dissertation Fellowship in Women’s Studies and a Purdue PRF and is taking the year to focus on her research. When asked about her time in WGSS, Suzanne replied: "I will miss the comradery of the WGSS community, and I am grateful for the immense support I continue to receive from the faculty, staff, and my graduate peers. The education offered by the WGSS certificate program set me on my scholarly path and has given me an excellent foundation for the dissertation and beyond." Adrianna Ernstberger is moving to Grand Rapids, MI because her husband accepted a new position as a Project Manager for Amway Corporate. She will be writing her dissertation in absentia. Stephanie Allen will also be leaving us this year as she will assume the position of Associate Director of Multicultural and Equity Services at Mansfield University in Pennsylvania. We wish them all the best as they begin new chapters in their life!

“There is a saying in Asia, 'If your plan is for one year, plant crops; for ten years, grow trees; but if your plan is for 100 years, educate the people.'“

Yohei Sasakawa
Eric David

What was your “aha” moment in WGSS/LGBT?

I encountered a drastic change in my life in between my sophomore and junior year at Purdue when I decided that I would no longer live as a closeted gay man within the Southern Baptist church. I had come out to a few close friends and family members in my first two years at Purdue and tried everything the church had to offer to “fix” me of my orientation. My “aha” moment was the first few weeks of Intro to LGBT Studies. It was eye-opening to meet such a kind, loving, intelligent group of people that deeply affirmed me as I was: a gay man. Since then, the “aha” moments have not stopped. The history of LGBTQ people is eternally deep and path to complete human sexual dignity is far from over.

As you reflect on the courses you’ve taken, how has your thinking about gender roles and expectations changed?

In short, completely. My static thinking used to value the traditional roles for men and women in a traditional, nuclear family system. Anything queer or feminist simply had no place and, even more, needed to be fought against. My experience as a gay person has allowed me to develop a higher level of thinking that values all people and values their diverse sexualities and gender expressions. The LGBT/WGSS courses I took really developed and sharpened my worldview. They taught me scholarly open-mindedness that is persistently curious and unassuming. I feel that I ultimately want to love the people that I know, and in order to love them, I must know them, and in order to know them I must learn about them. Also, DOWN WITH THE PATRIARCHY!

What are your plans now that you have graduated?

I will be attending IUPUI in the fall to start working on my Masters in Social Work. This is a 2 year program and I hope that towards the end of it I will have a better idea of a specific career path that I would like to take. For now, I am confident that I am in the right place and I am happy to continue to learn about myself and others, in order to better serve my community. Also, my social work career may be put on hold in the event that my band gets big and we go on a world tour :-)!

Brittany Hemphill

What was your “aha” moment in WGSS?

I took my first WGSS class, Intro to LGBT Studies, the second semester of my sophomore year. The class was at the end of my Tuesday and Thursday schedule and every single day I looked forward to spending that power hour discussing all of these ideas that challenged everything I had been taught growing up. It was during one of those difficult discussions where I realized that I had a lot of relearning and undoing to do and I wanted to do it for the rest of my life. Intro to LGBT Studies gave me a brief glimpse into how deep and complicated the world can be, and every single WGSS class I have taken since then has reinforced that and allowed me to grow as a person and individual in society.

Why would you recommend a major/minor in WGSS?

I would encourage everyone to give WGSS a chance. All too often we are afraid or uncomfortable with the idea of challenging what we’ve grown up believing or have always done - and WGSS classes ask one to question the “norms.” But by questioning and challenging what has always been done, a better tomorrow can be possible. WGSS also gives insight into every facet of life and allows one to appreciate the complexity of life.

As you reflect on the courses you’ve taken, how has your thinking about gender roles and expectations changed?

Once you understand gender roles and the gendered expectations of society, everything changes. It’s like you have new glasses that you can’t take off.

Why did you become a WGSS student?

I became a WGSS student because WGSS is constantly evolving and I evolve and grow with it. There is always something new to learn and explored. I have been a part of a countless number of “light bulb” and “aha” moments, and if I can continue to identify the issues in the world and work to make the world a better place, then I’m happy.
Upon graduation, I plan to use my WGSS experience to help end sexism and ethnocentrism within anthropology. Modern, Western gender expectations should never be incorporated into the studies of other time periods or cultures. For instance, some anthropologists insist on labeling prehistoric hunter/gatherer societies with the notion of man as the hunter or provider. The invention of tools to hunt meat is prioritized over anything prehistoric women were capable of. Other anthropologists insist on censoring historically accurate depictions of women, because they find the notion of bare breasts vulgar. Altering human history to suit modern political needs is absolutely unacceptable. Women played key roles in the formation of human society, whether people are willing to admit it or not, and hate speech is never scientific.

What was your favorite WGSS class and why?

My favorite course in the WGSS curriculum so far has been ANTH 230, Gender Across Cultures, which was taught by the amazing Franco Lai. While gender is not a biologically defined concept, as many people are led to believe, it still has a significant place in culture and society. I feel that it’s absolutely necessary to view our society’s expectations of gender by comparing them to those of other cultures. Doing so gives everyone a new perspective on what we define gender, sexuality, and oneness to be.

Haley Wheeler

Majored in English Literature, Minored in WGSS

I think that the social issues that I was most engaged with during my time in the women's studies program were reproductive rights and, I believe, accessibility of education. In regards to reproductive rights, it is both fascinating and frustrating to me that there is so much debate around what women should and should not be able to control in terms of their bodily functions, especially in America. As for education accessibility, I reaffirm my belief almost every day that, whatever form it comes in, education is the most important tool a person can utilize. Education offers priceless opportunities when they are welcomed, and no one should be denied these because of location or circumstance.

My "aha" moment in Women's Studies was when I realized that Women's Studies is not something that is limited to women, or even just a group of self-professed feminist women. I realized that Women's Studies is actually more like People's Studies. I realized that Women's Studies is a whole, wonderful, intersection of anthropology and sociology and psychology and, even though I don't like to admit that sometimes I can get worked up about politics, political science. To me, Women's Studies is an incredibly conglomerated study.

As I reflect on the courses that I've taken, I realize that what my ideas of gender roles and expectations were have actually become pretty fluid. I used to not be all that bothered by them. I figured that I'm fairly smart. I have realized through many, many hours of classroom discussion, though, that I should be bothered sometimes. I have also realized that it can go both ways. Women are not the only ones faced with these roles and expectations, and I think that it's important to remember that in the classroom - especially as the transition to WGSS is fully embraced.

My favorite WGSS class had to have been Dr. Decker's Global Feminisms class. I loved that there was a small discussion atmosphere to the class, and I loved that there was a focus on current issues that I might not have researched on my own. I realized over the course of that class that I knew very little about the feminist and other issues throughout the rest of the world, and I feel that I learned a great deal from the group of students and Professor Decker that I would not have learned otherwise. It was, for me, an enlightening and inspiring course.

Holly Fitzpatrick

Why would you recommend a major or minor in WGSS?

I recommend for people to study WGSS because learning about the systematic oppression of any group of people is an eye-opening experience. You will learn that sexism is everywhere, and you will learn (and continue to learn) to stop yourself from being hurtful to your peers. To stop hurting one another, we need to let everyone know that we won’t stand for hurtful activities, despite society’s insistence on categorizing and pressuring all of us. You will meet amazing people with different life experiences from you, and WGSS will broaden your knowledge of the world. I thoroughly believe that WGSS is something that will stick with you for the rest of your life, because you will work every day to improve this world and yourself.

What are your plans upon graduation, how do you plan to use your WGSS major in the future?

Upon graduation, I plan to use my WGSS experience to help end sexism and ethnocentrism within anthropology. Modern, Western gender expectations should never be incorporated into the studies of other time periods or cultures. For instance, some anthropologists insist on labeling prehistoric huntergatherer societies with the notion of man as the hunter or provider. The invention of tools to hunt meat is prioritized over anything prehistoric women were capable of. Other anthropologists insist on censoring historically accurate depictions of women, because they find the notion of bare breasts vulgar. Altering human history to suit modern political needs is absolutely unacceptable. Women played key roles in the formation of human society, whether people are willing to admit it or not, and hate speech is never scientific.

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In November of 2013 I was able to participate in the U.S. Women’s Delegation to Cuba. I needed to visit the University of Havana to conduct research for my dissertation; however, due to travel restrictions from the 1962 U.S. Embargo against Cuba, travel to Cuba is highly restricted. Thus, by participating the Delegation, I was able to conduct my research, and take part in a program built around feminist activism.

- Adrianna Ernstberger
Ph.D candidate in History
Purdue Feminist Action Coalition for Today

What is Feminist Action Coalition for Today?

Feminist Action Coalition For Today is Purdue's fully-inclusive feminist organization, welcoming people of any gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, nationality, race, and religion who are interested in promoting equality and fighting gender oppression on their campus and in their community. The organization was founded in September 2009 by students in Women Studies who shared the same passion for feminism.

Feminist (n.):
Someone who advocates social, political, legal, and economic rights for all regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, class, or sexual orientation.

President: Elizabeth Lee
I have been a member of FACT for 4 semesters now. Last year as Vice President and this Fall begins my year as President. I joined FACT during the semester I was enrolled in Introduction to Women’s Studies. I was enthralled in the course material and I wanted to pursue other opportunities to continue discussing the topics we covered in class. FACT was my way of doing this and little did I know I would be running the club a year and a half later.

I constantly hear from friends, acquaintances, and family, “Why are you a feminist, we (as women) are equal and don’t need to fight for things anymore.” Without talking for hours on the importance of feminism here is a shorter, more simplistic response. As middle class privileged college students in America yes, we have a lot of opportunity. I do feel rather equal to men (aside from salary gaps) but not everyone is as fortunate as people like us. I want to help change individuals way of thinking to create an equal world for all people in every social class. During my time at Purdue if I can help change just 100 college students’ viewpoints on feminism I would feel successful; of course I am aiming higher then that though. By helping students realize the importance of feminism they can go out in the world, put their equality mentality into practice, and help change even more people’s minds. Maybe, one by one we can all begin to create a better world for everyone.

Vice President: Sydney Tomasko
I’m a sophomore majoring in Biology and you might see me in Intro to Women’s Studies this fall, so feel free to say hi! I joined FACT this past year when I was looking for clubs and organizations that I am passionate about and have been involved ever since. FACT is important to me because it gives me a forum to talk and raise awareness about important issues that are not always given the spotlight for discussion that they deserve in our society. I was a board member in a similar club in high school and hope to use my experience to bring many new ideas for events this coming year!

Treasurer: Tarra Hensle
I joined FACT in Spring 2012, but wasn’t actively involved until I became the Treasurer in Fall 2013. For me personally, I’ve met and developed relationships with other people focused on feminist/humanist issues through FACT. Being involved has meant that I take time out of my usual, Purdue-centered routine, and focus on the larger picture. In essence, FACT is a vehicle for educating myself on social and political injustice, both here in the United States and around the world. I’m excited to be working with Elizabeth and Sydney this year on bringing a more positive light to feminism on campus and supporting other student organizations involved in WGSS.
WGSS Affiliate & Associate Achievements

Books:
Protestantism, Politics and Women in Britain, 1660-1714 (Palgrave, 2013).

Book chapters:
“A Latitudinarian Queen: Mary II and her Churchmen,” in Women and Religion in Early Modern England (Ashgate, 2014)

Honor:
University Faculty Scholar, 2013-18

Book:
http://www.press.uillinois.edu/books/catalog/96pwt2qm9780252037818.html

Article:

Presentations:
“Finding Routes: Comparing the Pathways of Women Directors Across Cultures.” International Federation of Theatre Research (IFTR), Barcelona, Spain, August 2013.


Book: Sisters in the Statehouse

Awards:
Marguerite Ross Barnett Research Grant, American Political Science Association (2014)
Alternate, Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship (2014)
Fellow, American Political Science Association, Centennial Center for Political Science and Public Affairs (Fall 2014)
Fellow, Butler Faculty Scholar, Butler Center for Leadership Excellent, Purdue University (Spring 2014)
Recipient, Midwest Women’s Caucus for Political Science Early Career Award (2013)

Venetria Patton presented papers at the conferences of the Modernist Studies Association, the National Council for Black Studies and the College Language Association. Her new book, The Grasp That Reaches Beyond the Grave: the Ancestral Call in Black Women’s Texts (SUNY, 2013), was published last July and will be out in paperback this summer.

Director of African American Studies
Dr. Venetria Patton

Award: 2014 Distinguished Women Scholar Award from the Purdue Butler Center for Leadership Excellence

Assistant Professor of Political Science & African American Studies
Dr. Nadia Brown

Elizabeth was recently awarded a “Scholarship Development Grant” from the Midwest Sociological Society for her research project “We Stand Before the Law” World War I and the Condemnation and Support of United States Congressman Victor Berger.

Associate Professor of Sociology
Dr. Elizabeth A. Hoffmann
2014 Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Spring Awards Conferral Ceremony

Berenice Carroll Award
Graduate

First Place: Aiden Powell, “Advocating for Transgender-Inclusive Health Insurance at Purdue”
Honorable Mention: Jaime Hough, “Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Studies Class Fair”
Honorable Mention: Kera Lovell, “Girls are equal too: High School Activism and the 2nd wave feminist movement”

Undergraduate

First Place: Brittany Hemphill, “Boilers OUT Loud! Performance in October 2013”
Honorable Mention: Tiffany Gavros, “Reconciling work and family: Policy initiatives for the United States”

The Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Outstanding Senior Award
Tiffany Gavros

The Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Undergraduate Award
Stephanie Scott

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Outstanding Faculty Teaching Award
Alicia Decker

CETA Award – Celebration of Graduate Student Teaching
Stephanie Allen
Where are they Now???

See what our alumni have done with their WGSS degrees!

Sara Wooten, 2008 Women's Studies Graduate

After graduating, I worked for a domestic and sexual violence non-profit in rural Missouri as a victim advocate and volunteer coordinator. I got that job specifically because of my B.A. in Women's Studies, which was awesome. I received a dual M.A. in Sociology and Women's and Gender Studies from Brandeis University in 2011 and a second M.A. in Educational Studies from Tufts University in 2012. I am presently a doctoral candidate in Educational Leadership at Louisiana State University. For the past two years, I have served as the Graduate Assistant for the Women's and Gender Studies program, another position that I was told I received in part due to my B.A. in Women's Studies, which I've found is a rare commodity. My dissertation is on LGBTQ student experiences of sexual violence in higher education and how sexual assault prevention and response resources reflect a heterosexist discourse of what sexual violence is and who can experience it (and perpetrate it). I also currently work for a statewide nonprofit called Louisiana Progress, where I am the Director of Research and Policy.

I married my college sweetheart in 2009, who just graduated from Tulane Law, and we are hoping to move to Chicago in the next couple of years when I graduate.

Kelly George, 2007 Women’s Studies Graduate

I currently work as a psychotherapist at Live Oak, which is an outpatient counseling center on the north side of Chicago. I specialize in working with clients who identify as trans, part of the trans community, non binary, or are experiencing gender dysphoria. I also focus on sexual minorities/LGB issues as well. I do trainings across the Chicago-land area on working with gender and sexual minority clients. Obviously, my WGS degree was extremely helpful to me in doing this kind of work - in fact, I likely would not have pursued this particular focus had it not been for some of my classes taken as part of my WGS degree.

I graduated from Purdue in '09 with a double major in Sociology and Women's Studies (minors: English and Global Studies). I am currently a Ph.D. Candidate in Sociology at Indiana University, where my major interests are gender, family, social psychology, and the life course. My dissertation, for which I am currently collecting data, explores the experiences of trans people's children. Other projects explore (1) whether heterosexual couple relationships become more traditional with tenure, (2) how portrayals of children have changed from 1925-2006, and (3) the construction of a 'community by need' among music festival vendors.

Jaclyn Tabor, 2009 Women’s Studies Graduate

ATTENTION ALUMNI!!

If you are alumni, please keep in touch with us. Check out events on the Web site calendar. We would love to hear about your accomplishments and journeys, especially how your Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies courses have prepared you for work and/or life. We welcome your visits and would like to publish what you have to share with us.
Shout-Outs

WGSS would like to warmly acknowledge our Affiliated Faculty and our Associates

**Affiliated Faculty**

Emily Allen, English  
Janet Alsup, English  
Dorsey Armstrong, English  
Jennifer Bay, English  
Elena Benedicto, English  
Jennifer Bay, English  
Linda Bergmann, English  
Evelyn Blackwood, Anthropology  
Samantha Blackmon, English  
Pat Boling, Political Science  
Kristina Bross, English  
Helen Brown, Visual and Performing Arts  
Nadia Brown, Political Science  
Patrice Buzzanell, Communications  
Brenda Capobianco, Education  
Robin Clair, Communications  
Rosalee Clawson, Political Science  
Dorothy Deering, English  
Catherine Dossin, School of Languages and Cultures  
Raymond Dumett, History  
Anne Flotsos, Visual and Performing Arts  
Geraldine Friedman, English  
Nancy Gabin, History  
Kim Gallon, History  
Ellen Gruenbaum, Anthropology  
Sally Hastings, History  
Elizabeth Hoffmann, Sociology  
Tara Star Johnson, English Education  
Janice Kelly, Psychology  
Lorraine Kisselburgh, Communications  
Anne Meis Knupfer, Education  
Paula Leverage, School of Languages and Cultures  
Maren Linett, English  
Roseanne Lyle, Health and Kinesiology  
Dawn Marsh, History  
William McBride, Philosophy  
Shannon McMullen, Visual and Performing Arts  
Fatma Mili, Technology  
JoAnn Miller, Sociology  
Sylvia Mitchell, History  
Abdelfattah Nour, Basic Medical Sciences  
Venetria Patton, African American Studies and Research Center  
Alice Pawley, English Education  
Nancy Peterson, English  
Caroline Perrucci, Sociology  
Aparajita Sagar, English  
Charlene Haddock Seigfried, Philosophy  
Marcia Stephenson, School of Languages and Cultures  
Dawn F. Stinchcomb, School of Languages and Cultures  
Patricia Sullivan, English  
Mangala Subramaniam, Sociology  
Jill Suitor, Sociology  
Antonia Syson, School of Languages and Cultures  
Eric Waltenburg, Political Science  
Whitney Walton, History  
Laurel Weldon, Political Science  
Jennifer William, School of Languages and Cultures  
Melinda Zook, History

**Associates**

Berenece Carroll, Political Science, Emerita  
Lowell Kane, Director of the LGBTQ Center  
Debra Bradford, Advisor  
Carolyn Johnson, African American Studies and Research Center  
Katie Pope, Butler Center  
Joan Marshall, College of Liberal Arts  
Margaret Moan Rowe, English, Emerita  
Dena Targ, Human Development and Family Studies, Emerita

If you are a Purdue University faculty member with research or teaching interests in women's, gender, and/or sexuality studies, or if you are a Purdue University administrator or staff member who would like to support and ally with the WGSS program, simply email Director TJ Boisseau (tboisseau@purdue.edu) your request.
Here’s a way to say “Thanks!”

Please consider making a donation to the Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program today. Your gift of any amount makes it possible to: Publish this newsletter every semester, provide funds for awards for both undergraduate and graduate students, organization of on-campus Women’s Studies events, support of events organized by other university programs, support graduate students ability to travel to attend and present at conferences.

You may make your gift check payable to Purdue University with “For Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies program” on the memo line sent to 6164 Beering Hall, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907-2098.

Newsletter created by Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program Coordinator Teasha McKinley

Contact us at 765-494-6295 www.cla.purdue.edu/womens-studies/