From The Department Head

Spring greetings to all members of our WGSS community: core, affiliate, adjunct, and visiting faculty; graduate and undergraduate students; and the redoubtable Friends of WGSS.

As we near the end of another busy and productive academic year, it is satisfying to reflect on our lives and accomplishments since the last Genderline a year ago. I’ll offer an introduction, and the rest of the newsletter will provide more details.

We have two permanent staff in our area now, financial administrator Sandy Fist and program coordinator Wendy Lane. After literally years with little or no staff assistance, it is terrific to be able to welcome these two hard-working and efficient women!

We have missed Olga Sanmiguel-Valderrama this year, as she has been on academic leave (plus a Taft leave extension) to pursue her research on women in the Colombian cut flower industry, and more generally on women in Latin American labor movements. During Olga’s absence, new WGSS faculty member — transferred to us from Psychology in 2014 — Giao Tran stepped in as interim undergraduate director, and was assisted at midyear by Carolyn Peterson. Between them they did a great deal of creative work organizing visibility activities for WGSS. The WGSS Open House in February was an amazing success, attracting an astonishing crush of people to the Trio suite, where good food, interesting conversation, and a variety of informative displays introduced WGSS to many students, administrators, and faculty from across campus. So many folks attended that we had to open windows on a cold winter day to prevent overheating!

I know that Friends of WGSS will speak for themselves later, but I need to say what a lively imaginative bunch of Board members are serving right now. Under the leadership of President Barbara Myers and with the capable assistance of graduate student assistant Emily Merz, Friends rethought their traditional fundraising program this year. Instead of meeting for dinner and a scholarly talk at the home of a Friend, this year Friends decided to try something new. Accordingly they planned two film showings, one in October and one in February. In the fall they traveled to UC Blue Ash to show a moving and informative film titled “Six Days: Three Activists, Three Wars, One Dream” followed by a conversation led by core faculty member Anne Runyan and affiliates Jen Glaser and Evan Torner. Then in spring, sailing blithely from the sublime to the ridiculous, they showed the documentary “Derby Crazy Love” to a packed house on main campus. This film, which is about the popular sport of women’s roller derby, attracted a diverse audience, and featured a post-film panel discussion including WGSS alumna Emily Joy (whose roller derby name is Sk8 Crime) and other members of the Cincinnati Rollergirls. It is not yet clear whether these film nights will lead to greatly increased donations to the department, but there is no doubt that Friends has tapped into an area people are interested in. Stay tuned!

To me, one of the most delightful aspects of academic life is the opportunity to invite scholars to campus from around the world, and hear about the work they are doing in gender and sexuality studies. This year WGSS brought in an impressive array of outside speakers:

- Kelsy Burke, on sexuality and evangelical Christianity;
- Lourdes Martinez-Echazabal, on Afro-Cuban women;
- Wagatwe Wanjuki, on sexual assault, discrimination and social media activism;
- Z Nicolazzo, on the building and sustaining of trans* communities;
- Brittany Lewis, on her urban studies/gender research in North Minneapolis;
- Simona Sharoni and Rabab Abdulhadi, on Palestinian resistance and gender solidarity;
- Suzanna Walters, on her new and controversial book The Tolerance Trap.

In addition to these, WGSS has co-sponsored a number of other outside speakers, including Momin Rahman on Muslim sexualities, Rachel Einwohner on Jewish resistance during the Holocaust, and others.

Let me welcome new affiliate faculty to WGSS: Michal Raucher (Judaic Studies, A&S), Jeff Jacobson (Anthropology, A&S), Erika Gasser (History, A&S), Michael Brubaker (Counseling, CECH), Gergana Ivanova (Japanese, A&S), Debra Meyers (Women’s Studies, NKU), and Kate Lassiter (Religious Studies, College of Mt. St. Joe). WGSS thanks you all for your willingness to serve our students.

Finally, I need to announce that as of August 2015, I am stepping down as WGSS department head. This has been a wild seven-year ride, and now it’s time for me to move away from administration and back to the faculty. I’ll be on leave next year, but will return to teaching in 2016. The really terrific news is that Amy Lind will take over as WGSS head this summer. WGSS will be in good hands under Amy’s leadership.

Thanks to all of you for seven years of intellectual companionship and collegiality.

Best wishes to everyone,

Deb Meem
Faculty Updates

Ashley Currier was promoted to associate professor with tenure in August 2014. While on an AAUW Postdoctoral Research Leave Fellowship in 2014, she conducted 80 interviews with LGBT people in Malawi about their experiences with violence for her second book manuscript, “The Politicization of Homosexuality in Malawi.” In the last year, her research has appeared in Australian Feminist Studies (2014, with Rashida Manuel), Feminist Formations (2015), and Women's Studies Quarterly (2014). She delivered invited talks at Purdue University, Tulane University, University of Virginia, and the West African Research Association and presentations at the African Studies Association, American Sociological Association, and National Women's Studies Association conferences. She is collaborating with Thérèse Migraine-George on two queer African studies projects: an essay for GLQ (2016) and a special issue of the Journal of Lesbian Studies on African lesbian sexualities (2016). During AY 2015–16, Ashley will be a Charles Phelps Taft Center Fellow.

This year Amy Lind completed a draft of her book, From Nation to Plurination: Resignifying State, Economy and Family in Ecuador (manuscript under review, co-authored with Christine Keating) and launched a new project on “Queer (Im)possibilities in Cuba,” which addresses how LGBT and women’s rights have been framed in late socialist Cuba. In Summer 2014 she conducted initial research in Havana and she will return in Summer 2015, with support of a Taft grant, to conduct additional fieldwork. She is also editing two journal special issues, one on “The Global Politics of Homophobia” for Politics & Gender, the other on “Latin American Queer Sexualities” for Feminist Studies, and is giving invited lectures on these projects at universities in the U.S., Ecuador, Brazil and Puerto Rico. She has enjoyed teaching courses on feminist theory and intersectionality this year. She looks forward to beginning her five-year term as WGSS Dept. Head in August 2015!

Deb Meem completed her edition of Sowing the Wind by Eliza Lynn Linton (with co-editor Kate Holterhoff); the book appeared in February 2015, complete with a lurid cover of a crying man! As Deb heads into her academic leave in 2015–16, she is focusing on the 3rd edition of Finding Out: An Introduction to LGBT Studies, co-authored with Michelle Gibson and Jonathan Alexander. She leaves the headship of WGSS with a tinge of sadness but no regret.

Thérèse Migraine-George has a joint appointment in RLL and WGSS, where she serves as the Graduate Director. She published a novel in French, Envol, in 2014 and has an article with Ashley Currier, “Queer Studies/African Studies: An Impossible Transaction?” forthcoming in a special issue of GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies. She is collaborating on various other projects and edited journal issues with Ashley Currier and Amy Lind. In November 2014 she was interviewed by the national Canadian TV channel CTV News about the election of the new Secretary General of Francophonie Michéaïlle Jean.

Carolyn Peterson, Educator Instructor in WGSS, has spent the last year revising the undergraduate curriculum with the undergraduate committee, teaching human sexuality, and recruiting for the department through different promotional events, such as the WGSS Open House. Outside of the department, she has been working on bringing gender inclusive housing to the University of Cincinnati through the Audre Lorde Social Justice Living-Learning Community, as well as serving on UC’s Body Image and Eating Disorder Committee, which seeks to prevent eating disorders through educating and advocacy in the UC community. She spent her spring break at the UC Kingian Nonviolence Conflict Reconciliation Training learning how to utilize nonviolent active resistance to create social change. She was also named the assistant undergraduate director for the WGSS department.

Anne Sisson Runyan has pieces coming out in such publications as Gender & Politics, International Studies Review, Critical Terrorism Studies, and the volume, Globally Networked Learning: Theories and Practices. She presented at a number of conferences, including annual meetings of the National Women’s Studies Association and International Studies Association. She hosted the Feminist Soapbox, Inc-sponsored Anita Hill Lecture by Wagatwe Wanjuki on campus sexual assault and Taft public lectures on gender and war in the Middle East by Drs. Simona Sharoni and Rabab Abdulhadi. She also taught in the Global Faculty Program at Tec de Monterrey in Queretaro, Mexico. As an associate editor of the International Feminist Journal of Politics, she oversees book reviews and is organizing its conference on “Decolonizing Feminist Knowledges in World Politics” at the University of Cincinnati in May 2016. She also serves as Chair of the Committee on Women in the Academic Professions for the national American Association of University Professors.

Affiliate Bios

Professor Steven Bowman spent a fruitful research trip to Florence and Israel last spring where he continued work on his monograph on the Book of Yosippon. He delivered a paper in Athens Greece on the Jews in the Resistance based on his recent book now in Hebrew revised version to be published by the Ben Zvi Institute and papers at two Josephus Workshops in Oxford U.K. He has published chapters on the Greek-Jewish Resistance during WWII in two separate volumes, a chapter on the Jews in late Byzantium and a Geniza fragment in a Memorial volume to be published in Spain.
Steve Carlton-Ford is professor and head of the Department of Sociology here at the University of Cincinnati. Steve has been expanding his research to assess peacefulness using cross-national data. His recent research examines the impact of armed conflict on children's well-being, focusing mainly on the impact of war, militarization, and poor governance on children's mortality rates cross-nationally.

In 2014 Kathryn Gutzwiller served as President of the Society for Classical Studies, which changed its name during the year from the American Philological Association (founded in 1869). She published three articles, on the poetic imitations of Anacreon, the epigrams of Meleager, and the use of the concept of the middle in ancient literary theory.

Laura Dudley Jenkins (Political Science) coauthored with Rina Williams “Secularism, nationalism and transnational entanglements in India” in *Multiple Secularities Beyond the West* (de Gruyter 2015) and coauthored with Michael Romanos “The art of tourism-driven development: economic and artistic well-being of artists in three Balinese communities” (*Journal of Tourism and Cultural Change* 2014). She presented papers on Mizo Jews at the American Academy of Religion and the Conference on the Study of Religions in India; on Islamophobia at the Annual Conference on South Asia; and on mass movement conversions at Oxford University.


Carolette Norwood is happy to join Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies full time. She is transferring her line from Africana to WGSS effective Fall 2015. Newly promoted and tenured, this year Carolette is on a TAFT sponsored research leave. She is working on a number of projects. One is the first journal article from her funded study entitled *Navigating Gender, Race, Sexuality and Space in Cincinnati High HIV Prevalent Neighborhoods*. The second project is a book prospectus and chapter for her manuscript *Feminism(s) in the African Diaspora*. Third, in collaboration with Dr. C. Kim in Geography, she is doing a spatial analysis on the distribution and mobility of HIV in Cincinnati from 1990 to 2010. And finally is an NIH grant proposal that will extend her current research on HIV and African American women in Cincinnati neighborhood communities.

Gila Safran Naveh, recipient of the prestigious Dolly A. Cohen Award and the George C. Barbour Award for outstanding university teaching and student relations, and a Fellow of the Academy of Teaching and Learning, the Judaic Studies Department Head and Endowed Jewish Foundation Chair has kept busy not only running the department and partnering with the community at large; Professor Naveh has engaged in active research and published “A Sign of our Times: From ‘Reading’ to ‘Seeing’ and ‘Feeling’ the Holocaust”, in *Semiotics* 2014. She also presented an original scholarly paper, entitled "Desire and Paradox: Tainted Love of Knowledge and Power in Kafka's Parable 'Before the Law'”, at the Annual Meeting of the Semiotic Society of America, in Seattle, Washington. Professor Naveh was invited to the WGSS Seminar on Feminist Methodology.

Professor Shailaja Paik published her first book, *Dalit Women's Education in Modern India: Double Discrimination* (Routledge: London and New York, 2014). This is the first book published that focuses on the history of Dalit (Untouchable) women in India. The book centers on themes including slum life, urban middle classes, social and sexual labor, and family, marriage and children to provide a penetrating portrait of the actions and lives of Dalit women. *Dalit Women's Education in Modern India* will be invaluable to students of history, caste politics, women and gender studies, education studies, urban studies, Asian studies and the global history of modernity and emancipation.

Michal Raucher joined the faculty of Judaic Studies in August 2014 as assistant professor of Modern Israel and Jewish Thought. She comes with expertise on women in Judaism, particularly Israeli women, and Jewish ethics. In addition to the classes she taught within those subject areas, Dr. Raucher also delivered a few papers this year on reproductive ethics among Haredi women in Jerusalem, pro-life politics in Israel, and ethnography and Jewish ethics. Her work on pro-life politics in Israel was highlighted in UC Magazine.

Rina Williams has been wonderfully busy this past year! She has won two prestigious awards to finish her second book project, which examines the changing roles of women in religious politics over time. One is a Senior Short-Term Fellowship from the American Institute for Indian Studies; the other is a Taft Center Fellowship, which will give her the 2015–16 year off from teaching and service to finish writing the book. She is also looking forward to visiting Egypt for the first time in May, and Singapore in June.

MA/JD

Christina Harrison received her BA in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies from Miami University of Ohio. She is a first year MA/JD student who will begin her courses at the University of Cincinnati School of Law this coming August. Her research interests are sexism, cissexism, and misogyny within the drag community, with a primary focus on cisgender females who perform femininity on stage in clubs and pageants.

India Scarver is a 2L in the MA/JD program in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at the University of Cincinnati College of Law. Her Master’s project looks at the rhetoric of colorblindness in the United States Supreme Court’s jurisprudence. She questions
how colorblindness is informed by specific mechanisms and how these mechanisms play a simultaneous role in the neutralization of women's social status in the context of reproductive health.

2nd Year Bios

Mattie Ruth Griffin was raised in Athens, a small Northeast Texas town, and received her BA in Psychology from Texas A&M. Before moving to Cincinnati for graduate school, Mattie most recently lived in Austin, Texas where she worked as a massage therapist. Her MA project, *Mind, Body, and Meaning: Women's Experiences and Conceptualizations of Healing in Alcoholics Anonymous* is a qualitative study, which explores theories of collective trauma, holistic healing, embodiment, spirituality, narrative, and creative agency. Mattie hopes to eventually work with women who have experienced trauma and addiction using methods of integrative care, gender-specific treatment plans, and holistic healing modalities.

Courtney Harchaoui has recently completed her MA project, *Constructing Masculinities in Campus Gender Violence Prevention Programming*. The project focuses on men's engagement in creating more comprehensive gender violence prevention efforts on college campuses. For the past two years, Courtney has worked as a Graduate Assistant for the Charles Phelps Taft Research Center on campus. After graduation, Courtney hopes to apply her research and knowledge by working in gender violence prevention efforts. Also after graduation, Courtney hopes to sleep, enjoy the summer weather and get back into creative writing, and maybe write a great feminist novel one day.

Alyssa Kahle is finishing her MA Project entitled, *Polyamory Guidebooks: Facilitating Collective Identity Growth and Reducing Stigmatization*. Her content analysis of six polyamory guidebooks analyzes how these texts help to foster a sense of collective identity and reduce the stigma associated with the practice of polyamory. She presented a paper on family crisis and coping in Haiti at the NWSA 2014 conference. While at UC she obtained a graduate assistantship at the Institute for Policy Research. There she worked as part of a data analysis team focusing on telephone survey response data. She is currently pursuing job openings in market research.

Mia Lawrie is a second year master’s student, earning degrees in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and Health Promotion and Education, and is a graduate teaching assistant in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Her research interests include media representations of race, gender, sexual and reproductive health, and social justice education. Her MA project is an analysis of the roles of Black women in the science fiction series *Doctor Who, Battlestar Galactica, and Firefly*. Mia has also worked with UC’s Racial Awareness Program, and is an intern for Planned Parenthood Southwest Ohio.

Emily Merz’s thesis, *Not Backing Down: Feminist Activist Sisters in the Roman Catholic Church* investigates how Sisters navigate and negotiate within the patriarchal script of the Roman Catholic Church to maximize their agency. Specifically, this project investigates if the tools and methods offered by feminist theology impacts Sisters activism and willingness to stay within a patriarchal structure. Emily interviewed ten local activist Sisters for her project. Her findings suggest that Sisters utilize certain tactics to maximize their agency. Many Sisters argued that their work and ideology is feminist and that they are impacted by feminist theology. After graduating, Emily hopes to work toward a degree in counseling.

Tanya Montgomery is a graduating MA student in the WGSS department at UC. Her thesis is *Worse than Low Comedy: Queering the Duke and Dauphin in Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Her focus area of study is around queer theory in 19th and 20th century American literature — particularly in Mark Twain texts. When she graduates, she hopes to find a teaching job at a local community college to encompass her love for both literature and gender studies — passing that love onto others.

Katie Ratajczak is a second year in the master’s program. After defending her MA project, which examines how professionals in the criminal justice system shape rape narratives, she will graduate in May. Katie has spent the last two years teaching the introduction to women's studies course at UC, and also works part time at Krohn Conservatory. This past year she received a summer fellowship from TAFT and presented at the National Women's Studies Association conference in Puerto Rico. Katie still has some choices to make about life after UC, and is currently looking at PhD programs and jobs at local universities.

1st Year Bios

Izzat Alamous is from Beër Sheva, Israel and a 2010 graduate of Ben Gurion University where he received a BA in Linguistics and Foreign Literatures. He received his teaching certificate in Arabic, Hebrew, and English to non-native speakers, and worked in high schools in Israel through the ORT Network and the US Department in Tel Aviv for the past 5 years. His graduate work focuses on queer educators and how they navigate the professional and the sexual identities in the educational setting.

Sam Barrons is from Dekalb, Illinois and a 2013 graduate of Northern Illinois University. While at NIU he earned a Bachelor of Science in Family and Individual Development with a minor in Japanese and a certificate of LGBT Studies. While at NIU he advocated for safe spaces and inclusion of trans* people; having a hand in annual TDOR activities, Transitions (a trans* only social group), and student mentoring. He is now the graduate assistant for the WGSS MA Program at the University of Cincinnati.

Sophonie Bazile earned her BA in International Studies at Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach, FL. She is currently a graduate student in the Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies master's program at UC. Her research interests include the Haitian diaspora, identity formation, transnational feminism, and queer, immigrant communities.

Morgan Clapp is from Eaton, OH and received a BS in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati in 2013. After completing her bachelors, she then went on to receive a MS in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati. Morgan is a current masters student within the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies department here at UC. Her research interests concern how women are portrayed within popular culture, with a current focus on violent women in contemporary television.

Adam Denney is from Monticello, Kentucky and a 2013 graduate of Eastern Kentucky University where he received a BA in French Language and Literature, as well as a minor in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and a certificate in Africana Studies. He is
currently an MA student in the Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program at UC. His graduate work is focused on queer and feminist environmental justice concerns, coalition building, and spirituality.

**Maria Merrill** is from Youngstown, Ohio and a 2014 graduate of The Ohio State University, where she received a BA in Psychology and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, as well as a minor in Sexuality Studies. She is currently a first year MA student in the Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program at UC. Maria is working as the Graduate Assistant at the LGBTQ Center and her graduate work is focused on Queer Disability Studies.

**Kyle Shupe** is a 2014 graduate of Bowling Green State University where he received his BA in Sociology with minors in Sexuality Studies and Political Science. Currently, Kyle is an MA student in the WGSS department at the University of Cincinnati. His research interests are in the influences of social institutions on erotic and romantic desires and the methods queer men use to market themselves and seek out sexual/romantic partners on social apps.

**Jo Teut** comes to us from Sioux City, IA where she served as an AmeriCorps member after completing her BA at Morningside College. Ze loves to read and write poetry, and zeir current academic project focuses on asexual representation in the university setting through courses, social programing, and inclusive consent models.

**Lisa Wnek** is originally from New Bedford, Massachusetts but has lived all over the world to include Japan, Korea, Thailand, and Kuwait. She has two undergraduate degrees in Biology and Business Management from UMass Boston and Virginia Tech. Her graduate work is focused on the gendered problems of accountability and the growth of the private military and security companies (PMSCs) industry.

**Cyrena Zbib** is a radical Arab feminist who is currently attending UC to pursue a master’s degree in Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies. She obtained undergraduate degrees in English and WGSS from Otterbein University (2014). Her area of focus is Islamic feminism and activism in the Middle East. Her interests include ferrets, guinea pigs, graphic/comic narratives, feminism, Isabelle Allende and ethically sourced light brew coffee.

**Undergraduate Bios**

**Dorothy Kehl** is in her fourth year at UC as a double major in Psychology and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. She’s fallen in love with these two disciplines as she has found herself exploring the more undefined spaces of human experience. One of her academic objectives is to apply a feminist perspective to the way we discuss and treat various identities in the developing field of psychology. Her ambition is go into counseling and change the way we discuss and treat various identities in the developing field of psychology. Her ambition is go into counseling and change the way we discuss and treat various identities in the developing field of psychology. Her ambition is go into counseling and change the way we discuss and treat various identities in the developing field of psychology. Her ambition is go into counseling and change the way we discuss and treat various identities in the developing field of psychology. Her ambition is go into counseling and change

**Jordan (Bucey) Rebholz** was one of this year’s outstanding WGSS minors. Jordan graduated Magna Cum Laude this past December with a Bachelor’s degree in Liberal Arts. While she was a student, Jordan served as a Teaching Assistant for the Judaic Studies Department, worked in the Arts & Sciences Office of Undergraduate Affairs, and was nominated for the Eleanor Hicks Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Female Senior. On March 28th, Jordan married Bobby Rebholz, a drawing instructor at DAAP. This fall, they will be moving to New Haven, Connecticut where Jordan will be enrolled in the Master of Divinity program at Yale Divinity School.

**Alumni Bios**

**Tapati Bharadwaj** has published multiple books since her departure from our program. One book, *Towards a Diasporic Imagination of the Present: An Eternal Sense of Homelessness*, was coauthored this past year with affiliate faculty member Rina Williams. Along with her numerous publications, Tapati is also the creator of the feminist organization called “H2Open Windows”. Tapati is a 2000 graduate of the WGSS MA program.

**Rebecca Bromwich** recently received her PhD from Carleton University in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Rebecca went before the Examination Board on March 26, 2015, in defense of her PhD thesis entitled, *Re-Reading Ashley: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Figures of Ashley Smith as Girl*. The panel was pleased with the thesis defense, noting the importance of Rebecca’s dissertation in helping others to understand the relationship of female agency to current structures of power. Rebecca earned her graduate certificate in WGSS at UC in 2008.

Managing Editor/Design/Layout for *Northsider* Monthly, **Jeni Jenkins** is an artist/graphic designer as well as an educator, writer, director, actor and community advocate. She loves being part of the village of Northside and contributing to its uniqueness. Jeni is an active member of the Northside Community Council and owns and operates Uncaged Bird Print and Design Studio, a Northside graphic design studio. Jeni is a 2008 graduate of the WGSS MA program.

**Department Awards**

**Undergraduate Student:** **Dorothy Kehl** and **Jordan (Bucey) Rebholz**

**Graduate Student:** **Mia Lawrie** and **Talia Tuesta**

**Notable Student Achievement:** **Mia Lawrie** has received offers from three highly competitive graduate programs, each with full funding and two with awards without teaching commitment. After full consideration of both her career goals and life quality Mia decided to accept the enthusiastic offer from University of Washington’s Communication PhD Program that includes a very supportive mentor and Mia’s requested deferment to start her PhD Program in Fall 2016 instead of Fall 2015.
Graduate Program Notes

WGSS MA students have been very active and successful this year. Some of them received Taft grants to attend conferences or conduct research, and several second-year students presented papers at the 2014 National Women’s Studies Association Conference, which took place in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Nine second-year students (Mattie Griffin, Courtney Harchaoui, Alyssa Kahle, Mia Lawrie, Emily Merz, Tanya Montgomery, Lauren Novelli, Katie Ratajczak, and Talia Tuesta) and one MA/JD student (India Scarver) are poised to graduate this year from our MA program. Some of the graduating students have been accepted into top PhD programs and others have exciting professional prospects ahead of them. Congratulations to all!

Thérèse Migraine-George,
Graduate Program Director

Undergraduate Program Notes

The past year has been an eventful one for the undergraduate program—we welcomed a new interim director, Dr. Giao Tran, completely revised the undergraduate curriculum, and began a concentrated promotional campaign across the university to recruit and retain undergraduate WGSS majors and minors. We also added a new Assistant Director, Carolyn Peterson.

Dr. Tran joined the WGSS department as a full transfer from psychology. Her expertise and experience in women’s addiction recovery perfectly complements the department’s new interest in health and body studies. Dr. Tran graciously accepted the position as interim director while Dr. Olga Sanmiguel-Valderrama completes her sabbatical. Giao hit the ground running as director, building upon the work of Dr. Sanmiguel-Valderrama. She has led the undergraduate team to conclude the curriculum revision, recruit and advise many WGSS students, spearheaded new promotional activities and built rewarding relationships between WGSS and the university. We thank her for her tireless efforts and creative ideas to develop fruitful opportunities and bring the WGSS department into a favorable position within the College of Arts and Sciences and the University of Cincinnati at large.

The main objectives of the curriculum revision were to increase majors, minors, class enrollments, and flexibility in scheduling; support student’s career aspirations and activist goals, and encourage engagement with the community; and align the curriculum with the latest academic developments in the growing field of women’s, gender, and sexuality studies, as well as the university’s emphasis on diversity, experiential learning, and interdisciplinary. We are excited about our new direction and look forward to the next academic year!

Drs. Simona Sharoni and Rabab Abdulwadi
Anne Runyan, Wagatwe Wanjuki, and Amy Howton
Courtney Harchaoui, Jo Teut, and Katie Ratajczak
Presenting on Inclusive Ideas of Consent


**LGBTQ Center**

The LGBTQ Center supports the mission of the University of Cincinnati through a commitment to diversity, equity, leadership development, and intellectual inquiry with particular respect to sexual orientation and gender identity. Our office consists of a full-time Director and Program Coordinator, as well as a part-time Graduate Assistant and Student Worker. We are an inclusive campus community that welcomes people of all sexual orientations and gender identities, and provides support, resources, and advocacy regarding LGBTQ issues to students, staff, and faculty on campus. We also promote, support, and collaborate with two UC LGBTQ student groups: GenderBloc and UC Alliance.

The support from UC students, staff, and faculty continue to help the LGBTQ Center grow. Some of our programming and services this year include Safe Zone Training 101 and 201, Trans* 101 and 201 training, Queer Spirituality, the Rainbow Celebration, and QueerCat Pride Week. We collaborate with a wide range of university departments and student groups to present additional programming such as student panel discussions. In addition, we offer all of our trainings and other educational workshops to the Greater Cincinnati community.

**UC Women’s Center**

This year brought change, innovation, and growth for the UC Women’s Center. Following the celebration of our historic 35-year anniversary and departure of our long-time director, Barb Rinto, we launched an external program review to reimagine our efforts to create gender equity and inclusion. The public release of the review findings and recommendations marked the end of Women’s History Month and evidenced the unique contributions the Center makes to the university community. In particular, the review highlighted the impact of our feminist community building and academic partnerships. Our long-time partnership with the Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies stood out as exemplar and we look forward to deepening this partnership through the newly revised WGSS curriculum and creation of an applied track. This track effectively bridges theory to practice and rightly positions experiential learning and civic engagement as central to feminist scholarship and teaching. We are confidently poised for the Center’s new leadership and look forward to our promising future. In the words of our former Director, Barb Rinto, “Onward!”

**Friends of WGSS President’s Report**

Thank you to all of our Friends for your support throughout the years. This last year has been a pivotal one for Friends. The Board has been working hard to reinvigorate the organization, and to renew our commitment to disseminating knowledge about women’s achievements, needs, and aspirations to the broader community.

As we usually do, we began the year with a Welcome Dinner for Friends, faculty and grad students of WGSS. This is always a gathering filled with enthusiasm. After that, however, we made a significant change in our activities. Based on a survey we conducted with our members, we made the decision to eliminate the annual Friends Fall Reception and Fundraiser. Instead, we planned two film screenings for the year, one in the Fall and one in the Spring.

Our first film screening was “Six Days: Three Activists, Three Wars, One Dream”. The film by Nikolina Giligren is an inspiring documentary, which follows three human rights defenders in Liberia, Abkhazia, Georgia and Iraq over six days, and gives insight into the everyday struggle to improve the situation of women worldwide. The screening was followed by a panel discussion, and was a great success.

Our second screening was in February, 2015. "Derby Crazy Love" is a film by Maya Gallus and Justine Pimlott. It accompanies Montreal’s top team, New Skids on the Block, on its exhilarating journey to regional championships. The screening was followed by a Q&A session with current and former members of the Cincinnati Rollergirls. We will continue to provide opportunities like this to our Members.

We continued our monthly Friends email newsletter with notices and descriptions of campus lectures, community events, and alumnae and departmental news. Our current recipient of the annual Friends graduate assistantship, Emily Merz, has been a wonderful addition to our Board meetings. As we move forward, we are committed to searching out new ways to increase involvement in the Cincinnati community, to expand our Board, and to develop stronger relationships with our donors. If you have any suggestions for the Board, we would love hearing from you.

With thanks,
Barbara Myers,
Friends Board Chair
Become a Friend!
Support research and scholarship about women, activities, and programs of the WGSS Department.
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Michelle Gibson, WGSS Emerita
Lisa Hogeland, English, WGSS
Amy Lind, Endowed Chair, WGSS, Incoming WGSS Head
Deb Meem, Outgoing Department Head, WGSS
Thérèse Migraine-George, RLL, WGSS Grad Director
Carolette Norwood, Incoming WGSS Faculty
Carolyn Peterson, WGSS, Incoming Undergraduate Director
Anne Runyan, WGSS
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