Greetings to everyone. As we lurch toward the end of the academic year, I want to convey to you all the view from the learning curve. Discovering the joys and trials of department headship has made this an interesting year for me. With Anne Runyan on an eminently well-deserved two-year leave and other volunteers lacking, I came on board as interim head at the end of last summer. Anne laid terrific groundwork for me, I must say. The department has been in good hands, with Michelle Gibson as undergraduate director, and Amy Lind (joining me on the L. Curve) as new graduate director. Administrative secretary Molly Schmidt got herself trained in time to ease the transition, and brings us much UC spirit as well as pleasant and competent work.

If you did not know before, you may have seen at the top of this newsletter that we have changed our name, and are now officially the Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS). This change has been discussed for years, but we finally undertook to push it through, and it certainly does make the department name reflect what we actually do here.

This year we have welcomed Amy Elder to our midst. Amy, formerly of the A&S English Department, moved to Old Chem last summer. She brings with her vast experience in the literatures and cultures of African, Native American, Third World, and other ethnic women. She has also taken over the organization of our WGSS Presents Speaker Series.

We also welcomed Olga Sanmiguel-Valderrama back from a year of maternity leave in her native Colombia. Olga continues her research on women in the Colombian fresh flower industry, and her little AnaPatty is growing fast.

It has been nice meeting enthusiastic new affiliate faculty as well. Eleven new affiliates have joined the ranks this year: Jan Bending (Sociology), Edie Fisher (RWC Behavioral Sciences), Jennifer Glaser (English), Jack Harrison (Law), Trish Henley (English), Sarah Jackson (Anthropology), Jim Koschoreck (CECH), Alfredo Sosa-Velasco (RLL), Patricia Valladares-Ruiz (RLL), Adrian Parr (Architecture) and Lisa Vaughn (Pediatrics). Adrian’s tenure as an affiliate will be short, because beginning in September she will move to a joint appointment as associate professor of WGSS and architecture, and will then be part of our core faculty. She is already meeting our students and serving on an MA committee, and we look forward to the new courses and ideas she will bring us. As of this writing more potential affiliate applications are pending. So it appears, as Anne Runyan says, that the sun never sets on WGSS!

The undergraduate program in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies is vibrant and growing. At this point, we have 49 majors, several of whom will graduate this spring. Two of this year’s graduates (Kayte Gilmore and Connie Underwood) will be joining our graduate class in the fall. In collaboration with Urban Studies in DAAP, Amy Lind and Michelle Gibson worked to develop an advising template to help interested students complete a double major in WGSS and urban studies. So far, we have two double majors—and this is only the first full year of the collaboration with Urban Studies.

We have added an exciting new concentration to the WGSS undergraduate major. At the end of the last academic year, the bachelor of interdisciplinary studies (BIS) program where the family studies major was housed, was restructured; at that time, we began discussions with BIS administrators to develop a concentration within our major which would incorporate the strengths of Family Studies with the strengths of our major and minor. Working with Terri Premo and Holly McEntyre, we developed the Feminist Family Studies (FFS) concentration. This concentration is similar in style to the North American Women’s Studies and Sexuality Studies concentrations in that students who choose it complete the major’s core requirements and distribution requirements, then concentrate their electives on courses that are specific to the concentration. Current WGSS majors who are interested in discussing the FFS concentration (or any of our concentrations) should contact Michelle Gibson, undergraduate director.
new affiliate faculty

James W. Koschoreck, PhD, of the Educational Leadership Program in CECH, is honored to be serving as the current president of the University Council for Educational Administration. UCEA is a consortium of major research universities around the world with doctoral programs in Educational Leadership and Policy. With a research agenda that focuses on LGBTQ issues and educational leadership, Koschoreck is the first openly gay faculty member to serve as president of UCEA.

Alfredo J. Sosa-Velasco is an assistant professor of Spanish in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures at the University of Cincinnati, holds a PhD in romance studies from Cornell University (2007), a MA in Spanish from University of Florida (2003), and a BA in history from Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (1998). Dr. Sosa-Velasco specializes in 19th- and 20th-century Modern Peninsular Spanish Literature. Besides his interests in Iberian literatures and cultures, he is interested in Catalan Studies and Transatlantic studies. His interests are ample, ranging from the relationship between literature and medicine to aesthetics, history, and memory. Currently, he is working on two research projects: one based on the role of physician writers as intellectuals (Spain Is Ill! The Politics of Illness in Twentieth-Century Spain: Physician Writers as Healers of the Nation), and another one based on the representation of the Spanish civil war in narrative and film (Remembering, Forgetting, and Memory in Spain: Representations of the Spanish Civil War in Novel and Film, 1936-2006). He has published articles on Spanish and Latin American literature and culture in specialized journals, such as Dieciocho, Romance Quarterly, Hispanic Research Journal, Latin American Theater Review, among others. His areas of research include art, narrative, cultural studies, film studies, and literary theory.

Patricia Valladares-Ruiz is an assistant professor of Romance Languages and Literatures. Prof. Valladares-Ruiz has taught in Canadian and Venezuelan universities (McGill University, Concordia University, Université de Montréal, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières, and Universidad del Zulia). Her research and teaching interests deal with issues of gender, sexuality, ethnicity, religion, nationalism, and marginality in Hispanic and Francophone Caribbean literatures and films.

Prof. Parr brings to WGSS deep expertise in cultural studies, philosophy, and art. In 2009–10 she is slated to teach three courses for us: undergrad Feminist Theory in the fall, graduate Feminist Theory: Contemporary Issues in the winter, and a new course on Sustainability in the spring. We are lucky to have her, and looking forward to her presence in the department.

faculty updates

Grace Auyang (Behavioral Sciences, RWC) was nominated by two graduates as their favorite teacher at the December UC commencement and was nominated for the 2009 Who’s Who in the World book by Marquis publishing company.


Michelle Gibson (WGSS, A&S) is the director of undergraduate studies. This has been a busy and exciting year for her. As Chair of Arts & Sciences’ Undergraduate Council, she has been working on the committee that will propose a new set of distribution requirements for the college that will be implemented at semester conversion in 2012. She is also serving on the committee that has developed the general education requirements that will be implemented at semester conversion. This has been a great year in terms of her scholarship. The introductory sexuality studies textbook that she authored with Deborah Meem and Jonathan Alexander, Finding Out: An Introduction to LGBT Studies, was published by SAGE and copies of it are now in circulation. She has also begun work on her next book, Speaking for Innocents: Public Discourse, Sexual Abuse, and the Protection of Women and Children, which she hopes to complete next year during her sabbatical, which will be for the academic year 2009-2010.

Elise Goodman (Art History, RWC) is a professor of art history and has published the book The Cultivated Woman: Portraiture in Seventeenth-Century France in the series Biblio 17, Gunter Narr Verlag, Tübingen, Germany, 2008. The volume has been reviewed in the Parisian Revue de l’art, number 162, 4, 2008. Goodman also presented “Le Goût de l’Ecriture: Portraits of Women Authors in Seventeenth-Century France” at Lafayette College, April 2008, and has been appointed to the Editorial Board of Cahiers du dix-septième: An Interdisciplinary Journal.

Kathryn Gutzwiller (Classics, A&S) has received four fellowships and grants to continue her work on a critical edition and commentary of the epigrams of Meleager for Oxford University Press: American Council of Learned Societies; Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton; Loeb Classical Library Foundation; Visiting Fellowship, All Souls College, Oxford. As a result, she is on leave until January of 2010.

Lisa Maria Hogeland (English and WGSS, A&S) has a new book coming out in May from Aunt Lute Books in San Francisco. She edited and wrote the introduction to The Judy Grahn Reader, a collection of poetry, fiction, drama, and nonfiction by Judy Grahn.

new core faculty

Adrian Parr will join WGSS as associate professor in September 2009. She will be at “home” with us, also holding a joint appointment with the School of Architecture and Interior Design in DAAP. She has been at UC since 2006 in a visiting position; before that she taught at Savannah College of Art and Design. Australian by birth, Prof. Parr completed her PhD in cultural studies at Monash University in Melbourne in 2002. Her academic specialties are Philosophy of the Environment and Cultural Anthropology. Her newest book, Hijacking Sustainability, will appear this year from MIT Press. She has also written extensively on the French 20th-century philosopher Gilles Deleuze.

Theresa Leininger-Miller (Art History, DAPP) is an associate professor of art history and has published two articles in the last year: "The Transatlantic Connection: New Negro Artists in Paris, 1922-1934" and "A'Lelia Walker" and "Madam C.J. Walker." In winter, 2009, Leininger-Miller won a Provost's Committee on Diversity Award, to host a visiting scholar of color at UC, and a Faculty Development Council Award. She was just elected co-chair of the Association of Historians of American Art, a group of over 600 international scholars of American art. In the fall of 2008 she gave talks at the "Daguerreian Society annual symposium and the Midwest Popular Culture Assn./Midwest American Culture Assn. conference.

Amy Lind (WGSS, A&S) is editing a volume, Development, Sexual Rights and Global Governance (Routledge, in press) that will be out later this year! During the past year she has attended conferences and seminars and delivered invited lectures in England, Ecuador, Mexico, and the United States. Last spring, she had the opportunity to participate in a global workshop, "Sexuality in the Global Development Industry," at the Institute for Development Studies, University of Sussex, Brighton, England. Her paper was later published in a special issue on sexuality and development: "Governing Intimacy, Struggling for Sexual Rights: Challenging Heteronormativity in the Global Development Industry." Development vol. 52, no. 1 (2009). In summer 2008, she traveled to Venezuela to conduct research on sexual rights and the "new Left" in Venezuela, with the support of a UC university research grant and a Friends of Women's Studies mini-research grant. This research comprises her third case study in her manuscript-in-progress on sexual rights and the governance of intimacy in post-neoliberal Latin America (Ecuador, Bolivia, Venezuela), which she plans to present at upcoming events in Bogota, Amsterdam, Santiago de Chile, Rio de Janeiro, Montreal, and Toronto. She also published an article based on interviews conducted last year in Quito, Ecuador: "Interrogating 'Queerness' in Theory and Politics: Reflections from Ecuador," LASA Forum, vol. 29, no. 4 (Fall 2008): 30-34. And she is co-editing a special volume of Iconos, a leading social science journal in Latin America, on the topic of sexuality and citizenship, which she hopes to eventually publish in English as well. Currently she is co-chairing the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Gender and Feminist Studies Section during the 2007-2009 term, which involves planning an exciting one-day conference on Latin American feminisms, to be held in conjunction with LASAs upcoming conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 2009. She continues to serve as an expert witness on political asylum cases pertaining to gender identity, sexual identity, and HIV/AIDS status in the United States and the UK. And all of this is in addition to her new and challenging position as director of graduate studies.

Rhonda Pettit (English, RWC) was awarded a writing fellowship to Hopscotch House by the Kentucky Foundation for Women. While there, she converted a manuscript of poems concerning sex slavery, The Global Lovers, to a poetic drama later selected by the Cincinnati Playwright's Initiative for a staged reading at the Fifth Third Bank Theater at the Aronoff Center. Two poems were published in Inscape, and she gave a poetry reading at the Midwest Poetry Festival at Michigan State. She was invited to submit an article on Dorothy Parker, subsequently accepted, by Wiley Blackwell Publishers for their Encyclopedia of Twentieth-Century Fiction, Vol. II. She co-authored an article (with Ruth Benander, Stephena Harmony, and Claudia Skutar) titled "Learning Outside Our Discipline: How Being Students of Music Makes Us Better Teachers" to be published in the Journal of Faculty Development. With Michelle Gibson, she co-chaired the creative writing section of the 2008 NWSA convention, and served as a moderator for two other sessions. She conceived and conducted the plenary panel discussion, “Liberal Arts Education at the Regional Campus: An Open Dialogue Among the Disciplines” for the 2008 conference of the Association of University Regional Campuses of Ohio (AURCO) and edited the transcript for publication in the AURCO Journal. She also coordinated RWC’s annual celebration of National Poetry Month.

Anne Sisson Runyan (WGSS, A&S) is having a productive sabbatical. Global Gender Issues in the New Millennium (Westview) will be out in July 2009 and the manuscript for Beyond Gender and Global Restructuring (Routledge) will go into production at the same time. Among her invited lectures this year, she gave the keynote for the annual memorial tribute to feminist political theorist Iris Marion Young at the University of Pittsburgh.

Barbara Wenner (English, A&S) has spent fall and winter, 2008-2009, working on a book-length study tentatively titled Parts Beyond the Sea: Foreign Landscapes as Perceived by Early British Women Travelers. She is under contract by Valancourt Books to complete a scholarly edition of Mary Ann Hanway’s A Journey to the Highlands of Scotland. With Occasional Remarks on Dr. Johnson's Tour (1776). The syllabus for her Honors course, "The Printed Text: Victorian to Virtual" with Jane Carlin, has been accepted for publication by National Collegiate Honors Council. She presented “Let's Pretend:Children’s Travel Books around 1800” for the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Department Speaker series and for the American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies in Richmond, Virginia, in March 2009, and “Late 18th-Century Feminine Picturesque in Africa: Anna Maria Falconbridge and Miss Tully,” at the Conference on Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century British Women Writers, in Iowa City in April 2009.

travel & research grants

Friends Faculty and Student Travel Grants
Alfredo J. Sosa-Velasco (Romance Languages & Literatures) $500: American Comparative Literature Association presenter, "Bette Davis in All About My Mother: Aesthetic, Camp, and Melodrama."

Deb Meem (Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies) $500: British Women Writers Conference presenter, "What 'one woman could be to another': Linton and Johnstone setting the terms in the 1880s and 90s."

Kate Livingston (MA) $200: American Adoption Congress presenter, “Reconsidering the Third Option: Exploring the Impact of Reproductive Rights Discourses on Adoption Politics in Ohio.”


Jessica Morgan (MA) $175: United Nations Practicum in Advocacy sponsored by the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom participant.


Friends Mini-Research Grants

Theresa Leininger-Miller (School of Art) $300 – To interview Murcie Poplar Lavender, the last living student of sculptor, Augusta Savage to provide information for her second book, Sculpting the New Negro: The Life and Work of Augusta Savage.

Wonda Baugh (MA) $350 – To use primary resources, Indian School Journal and other documents to trace potential links between the boarding schools and relocation programs and the effects on the Native American family.

new graduate students

first-year MA students

Back to front: Jackie Arcy, Wonda Baugh, Kate Livingston, Jess Price, Whitney Miller, Pratima Upadhya

2008 MA Students

Jacquelyn Arcy is a first-year MA student. Her research interests include exploring the intersection of race, class, sexuality, and nationality in constructions of masculinity in popular culture. She obtained her BA from the College of Wooster where she wrote her undergraduate thesis on the constructions of Black masculinity in hip-hop.

Wonda Baugh hails from the San Francisco Bay Area and was lucky enough to have a supportive family who indulged her love of camping and living history museums. A non-traditional student, she went back to college in her 30s, which was the natural progression of her activism and her fascination with American history. She graduated from Arizona State University with a bachelor of interdisciplinary studies with concentrations in women & gender studies and history. Wonda has had the good fortune to travel through 30 of the 50 states and is looking forward to more travel this summer with her weenie dog, Nick.

Kate Livingston received her BA from Smith College in government and is currently a teaching GA for the WGSS Department. A birthmother in an open adoption since 2001, she is interested in the intersections of feminist theory and adoption policy and practice, particularly in the context of Ohio adoption politics. Kate comes to UC from her hometown of Columbus, OH where she worked as the studio manager for contemporary visual artist Ann Hamilton.

Whitney Miller is a graduate of Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia where she received her BA in women’s studies. After taking two years off to live and learn outside of academia, she decided to return to school last fall to get her MA in women’s studies. Moving to the midwest has been a big change for her, but she is enjoying the change in atmosphere and the people that she has met along the way. While her studies remain relatively unfocused, she is increasingly interested in the ecological movement and plans to pursue the interconnections between women’s studies and ecological studies.
Jessica Price is originally from Pickerington, OH and received her BA in women's studies with a focus on sexuality studies from the University of Cincinnati. She is currently working on her MA in women's, gender, and sexuality studies at UC while working as the LGBTQ coordinator out of the Women's Center.

Pratima Upadhyay is an MA candidate for women's, gender and sexuality studies. She also works as a graduate assistant for the department's graduate program. She is Nepali/Philippino by origin and Nepali/Swiss by nationality. She earned her bachelor's degree in political science from St. Olaf College in Minnesota and has worked in NGOs in Washington, DC and Geneva, Switzerland prior to her arrival to Cincinnati. Her research interests include, but are not limited to, connecting theory and activism especially within the realm of south and east Asian politics. She aims to work for a feminist transnational activist organization in the future.

graduate certificate students

Jennifer Dye, PhD student (law & political science)
Karen Floecker, PhD student (romance language & literature)
Irene Ivantcheva, PhD student (romance language & literature)
Ashley Kanotz, PhD student (political science)
Ayca Mazman, PhD student (philosophy)
Kristi Maxwell, PhD student (english & comparative literature)
Danielle Owens, post-baccalaureate certificate student
Deborah Sanchez, PhD student (education)
Priyanka Srivastava, PhD student (history)

continuing MA students

Peggy Shannon-Baker, at the end of 2008, returned from a two and a half week trip to Reh, Cameroon, Africa, where she worked on a water development project. This trip was the culmination of a year's worth of fundraising and awareness building about the dire need for a clean water supply there. In March she was elected as the 2009-2010 vice-president of the Graduate Student Governance Association (GSGA). Then in April she presented a paper at the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association National Conference on a woodblock print-series of five Japanese women from the 1920s. She looks forward to attending "Feminist Conversations" in May, and will be passing on the Friends of Women's Studies graduate assistantship and her position as co-chair for the Women's Studies Graduate Student Organization at the end of this academic year. This summer and fall quarter she will be helping to organize the Midwest Conference for the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students here at the University of Cincinnati. She will also be staying at UC for a third year to finish her thesis work, continue to study Japanese, and continue her work with the GSGA.

Shan Ye is an MA student with an administrative GA in the department. She is originally from Beijing, China and received her undergraduate degree in political science from Beijing International Studies University. Her project is on the commodification of queerness, heteronormativity and Neoliberal capitalism in China. She is also interested in queer theory, critical race theory, and postcolonial theory. She is also a travel lover. Her experiences of traveling in Italy and Greece invoked her interests in homonormativity. She lives with Celia, a street cat she just adopted and enjoys taking care of her.

second-year MA students

Back row, left to right: Randi Moore, Peggy Shannon-Baker, Jess Morgan. Front Row, left to right: Jenny Grubbs and Silenny Ramirez (Not pictured: Kimberly Campanello, Unkyong Ho, Bridget Leising, Jane Meek, J. Derek Mize, Sarvani Prasad, Lisa Nicolosi, and Rachel Strasinger)

graduating MA students

Kimberly Campanello (MA) Project: "Eroticism at the Intersection: Bisexuality's Queer and Multiple Futurity"

Jenny Grubbs (MA) Project: "The Intersectionality of Oppression: The Inclusion of Speciesism"

Unkyong Ho (MA/JD) Project: "And On the Sixth Day the WTO Created Monsanto: Market Fundamentalism, Intellectual Property and the Construction of Corporate 'Reproductive' Rights"

Bridget Leising (MA) Project: "Teacher, May I Play With Gender? Toward a Queer Transfeminist Pedagogy"

Jane Meek (MA) Project: "Lucky to Be Queer: Investigating Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, & Queer (LGBTQ) Identities and Student Groups"

J. Derek Mize (MA/JD) Project: "Towards a Queer Youth Jurisprudence on Student to Student Harassment in Schools"


Jessica Morgan (MA) Project: "Pawns in a Chess Game: The Trading Away of Reproductive Health in the Millennium Development Goals"

Lisa Nicolosi (MA/JD) Project: "Lethal Abjection: Capital Punishment and Interpellation of the Lesbian Killer"

Sarvani Prasad (MA/JD) Project: "The Essential Obstacle: Black Homophobia, Homosexual Racism and Proposition 8"

Silenny Ramirez (MA) project: "Women resisting globalization: The Costa Rican Women's Response Against the US-Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA)"

Rachel Strasinger (MA) project: "Beyond Protest: Radical Imagination and the Global Justice Movement"
graduating undergraduates

**majors**

Maika Arnold (Spanish minor) will be graduating as an inducted member of Triota, the WGSS Honor Society. She has also been an active member with the RAPP community on campus. She will be traveling to Spain after graduation to teach English in a public school.

Julia Davenport is the president of Triota. After graduating she will be continuing to work at the Public Library of Cincinnati, and her tentative capstone is focused on knowledge production and the publishing industry.

Kathryn Gilmore is graduating from UC’s undergraduate program in women’s, gender and sexuality studies and will be returning to the program next year to get her MA. Her undergraduate capstone project examines the identities and experiences of cissexual partners of trans identified people.

Ilycia Kahn is excitedly graduating with a bachelor’s degree from the department of women’s gender and sexuality studies, as well as a sociology minor and a certificate for focusing her undergraduate studies within sexuality. She currently works for the YWCA’s House of Peace, the domestic violence women’s shelter for Clermont, Adams, and Brown Counties and once she graduates in June she plans to move to the beach, Los Angeles, California. She plans to pursue her studies after taking some time off (how much is the question) and return to school for a master’s in family and marriage therapy, hopefully being able to gain a sexology specialty by attending the Sexuality Institute in Amsterdam in the summer of 2010. She looks forward to many more years of supporting Sex Positive Feminist thinking through her love for sex (doing it and talking about it), polymorphous sexual identities and porn.

Sarah Szekeresh is wrapping up her final year as a women’s, gender, and sexuality studies major with a last push for politicizing campus life. As Campus Anti-War Network’s conference planning committee delegate and housing coordinator for the Midwest Conference, hosted this year by the University of Cincinnati, she is hoping to facilitate student activism and revitalize the local peace movement. In this same vein, her capstone project explores the way popular media within the United States perpetuates the notion of US “exceptionalism” on the internation stage, therefore allowing for an exaggerated sovereignty of amorphous bodies of governance within the Department of Defense and the perpetuation of indefinite/infinite campaigns of warfare against the peoples of Southwest Asia.

**minors**

Stephanie Talbot is pursuing her MA in communication after completing her BA in communication (University of Cincinnati, June 2009) and AA in communication (Cincinnati State Technical and Community College, November 2006). She has also earned a women's studies certificate. She considers herself to be an advocate for women and children. Her main research interests are in the areas of global women’s rights and the reduction of violence against women and children. In addition to her work with various women’s organizations in the Cincinnati area, Stephanie tutors English as a Second Language (ESL) students in the Cincinnati Public Schools. Currently, she is working as a graduate assistant in the communication department at the University of Cincinnati.

**new majors and minors**

**majors**

Samantha Bays
Rachel A. Berman
Lindsey Caroline Brizzolara
Katie Marie Dreyer

**minors**

Amber Danielle Larkin (political science major)

triota

Triota (Iota Iota Iota) is a service and activist oriented chapter of the National Women’s Studies Honor Society whose purpose is to encourage and support the scholarship and excellence of its students. Triota strives to maintain the feminist values central to women’s studies, to encourage diversity and egalitarianism, and to create a supportive academic environment for all students. Triota is named for the ancient goddesses Inanna, Ishtar, and Isis. Projects for the 08/09 school year have included participating in the PB&J Marathon that helped raise awareness about poverty during WorldFest on campus in collaboration with Serve Beyond Cincinnati and other service based groups. Triota is also volunteering with the First Step Home, a local long-term residential drug and alcohol treatment program for women and their children. Additionally, they will be participating in Sexual Assault Awareness Week on campus and in the Take Back the Night March. The following are officers and new inductees in the UC chapter of Triota:

**officers**

President: Julia Davenport
Vice President/Secretary: Hannah Bare
Treasurer: Maika Arnold

**new inductees**

Megan Morris
Connie Underwood
Kat Perez

**alumnae updates**

Jennifer Baugher (MA 2003) Jennifer Baugher (MA 2005) is currently the manager of corps professional development for the Teach For America - Houston region. This summer she will transition into a new role as manager of corps culture.

Rebecca Bromwich (Grad Cert 2008) graduated from the department in 2008 with a graduate certificate and has continued her involvement with the department as a Friends Board member for the 2008-2009 year. In July, she will be returning to Canada and to her career as a lawyer with her partner Matt and their four children (two of whom were born in Cincinnati). Come August, she will begin her newly appointed position of chair/president of the Young Lawyers’ Conference of the Canadian Bar Association (YL-CBA). Then, in September, she will commence her studies towards an LLD (Doctorate of Laws) at the University of Ottawa, Faculty of Law, a program that has offered her admission and a full scholarship. Her dissertation topic concerns gender issues and juvenile justice and she intends to apply the feminist theoretical concepts that she learned at UC to her research.
Damaris Del Valle (MA 2008) is graduating from UC College of Law in May with her JD and is planning on moving back to Florida. She will be working at the Miami-Dade County Public Defender's Office where she will be providing registration to indigent clients.

Jennifer Johnson (MA 2008) has been working and living in Lexington, KY since she left UC. She is currently employed at Planned Parenthood of Kentucky as an educator and community advocate, work that she finds both rewarding and infinitely frustrating. She particularly enjoys her ability to continue working with college students, a passion she discovered as a TA in Women's Studies. She bought a house in September where she now lives with her 3 year old lab, Lola, who made the trek to Cincinnati and back with her from Kentucky, as well as her three month old Golden Retriever Luna. She spends her free time hanging out with her family, both furry and human and taking in the natural beauty of KY to distract her from the stress and frustration of doing progressive work in a red state. It's always a trade-off!

Anne Lucas (MA/JD 2002) moved back to Cincinnati from Connecticut in January 2007. She works as a staff attorney at the Legal Aid Society of Southwest Ohio, LLC. She practices immigration law, with a focus on rights of immigrant victims of crime. She also represents children victims of abuse and neglect in the juvenile court system. Anne also serves on the Friends of Women's Studies Board. She and her husband Eric Palmer have two children, Ella, almost 4 years old, and Owen, almost 4 months old.

Holly L. McEntyre (MA 2008) is graduating with a JD from the UC College of Law in May 2009. Meanwhile, she is working as a research assistant for Dr. Anne Sisson Runyan, teaching an ASAP course on Women and the Law at UC's Raymond Walters College, and working part-time at the Institute for Policy Research at UC, while seeking a full-time job in poverty law, women's or LGBTQ rights, or education, as well as studying for the Bar Exam and considering the Foreign Service Exam. She recently attended her 20-year reunion at Earlham College and was reassured to find Quaker-oriented education and activism are alive and well in the Midwest and across the nation.

Melissa McKenna (MA/JD 2002) is an attorney with the Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati, where she has practiced since completing law school in 2003. She supervises students participating in the UC Law Domestic Violence Clinic during its first year, and currently practices Family Law with a focus on serving children and victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. Melissa also advocates on behalf of children with disabilities and discipline problems to keep them in school and to obtain appropriate services. She is a member of the board at the Jewish Early Learning Co-operative, and lives in Cincinnati with her husband, Pete Akins, and their two sons, Isaac and Elijah.

Survi Parvatiyar (MA/JD 2003) is currently residing in New York, NY and working as an immigration attorney. Survi practices employment-based and family-based immigration law, with experience in handling Violence Against Women Act immigrant petitions as well as Asylum petitions. Survi also provides pro bono services to the indigent in filing for US Citizenship applications and serves on various committees of the American Immigration Lawyer’s Association. Survi is a proud new mother to Asha Tallula Jeanne Kammermann and a happy partner/spouse of Noel Kammermann. Survi is an immigrant herself and is happy to give back to her community!

Diane Pisacreta (MA 1996) is currently teaching women's studies at the St. Louis Community College and is happy to be putting her degree to good use. While reflecting on her years at UC, she spoke very highly of the program. She went on to discuss the positive experience that she had working with the faculty here, in particular, Dr. Deb Meem and Dr. Pat Hill Collins.

Hisae Sasaki (MA 1998) is continuing her work as an English teacher at a high school in Japan. In addition, she instructs Koto, Japanese traditional zither (a musical instrument), to her students now.

Kris Weller (MA/JD 2001) is a PhD candidate in the History of Consciousness department at UCSC. She is living in Maryland, currently teaching Women & Law at UMBC as a part-time instructor. She will be participating in a writing fellowship program in residence at Duke University this summer sponsored by the Animals & Society Institute. She hopes to complete her dissertation, tentatively titled, Minding Minds: Species, Sanity, and Law, in time for a 2010 graduation.

women's studies awards

Faculty Award
Sally Moffitt, Associate Librarian

Graduate Student Award
Silenny Ramirez Kimberly Campanello

Undergraduate Student Award
Julia Davenport

Friends Award
Debbie Lydon Dorothy Battle
Judith Harmony Gloria Sigman

Alumnae Award
Mary Turgi (MA 1994)

Staff Award
Peggy Shannon-Baker Jeanette Mautner

Special Recognition Award

naws update

Emily Schwegpepe and students

For five years the federally-funded North American Women's Studies (NAWS) program has connected six partner universities in Mexico, Canada, and the United States, in an exchange of students, faculty, and research ideas about feminist thought in...
North American contexts. In 2008, Caroline Hodes (PhD, women’s studies) from York University in Toronto came to study at UC’s law school, taking classes in Critical Race Theory and Feminist Jurisprudence. From our department Emily Schweppe (major, WGSS) traveled to Puebla, Mexico at the Universidad de las Americas (UDLA) and also taught at a private school. Emily said her experience “really opened my eyes to so many new aspects regarding my culture, academia, and other cultures as well, and I would recommend anyone trying to broaden their horizons to study outside of the United States.”

Also, Jessica Morgan (MA, WGSS) spent her fall term studying at York University, where she said, “My exchange experience stretched my academics, my politics, and my personal relationships into new directions that I didn’t know were possible. I am very lucky to have met the people I did, and to have been exposed to ideas that will shape the paths I intend to follow once this degree is completed.”

Inspired by such NAWS exchanges, Professor Amy Lind created an on-line course entitled Feminisms in North America that will introduce students to the interdisciplinary field of transnational feminist thought and analyze regional political economies and identity politics in “North America” through a feminist lens. This course is open to all students from any of the six partner institutions and thus continues the exchange of feminist learning across borders.

UC’s Department of Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies also hosted Professor Marianne Marchand of UDLA-Puebla, an expert in gender, international political economy, and migration, who worked with Professor Anne Sisson Runyan on co-editing the second (and wholly new) edition of Gender and Global Restructuring: Sightings, Sites and Resistances. Professor Pat McDermott (women’s studies) of York University also visited briefly to discuss the anthology on North American feminisms which is planned to arise from this project.

Though the federal grant for the NAWS program which provided living expenses for students has expired, we maintain agreements with our partner programs for future one-to-one exchanges for qualified students and faculty in which students pay their regular home tuition and faculty are funded by their home institution. Like other study abroad programs, internal funds can be sought for student exchange expenses through UC International. For more information on these programs, please contact nrthaws@uc.edu or see the department Web site.

friends president’s report -

by patricia timm, EdD, president, friends board

Each year the Friends of Women’s Studies hosts a Fall Reception where students, faculty and Friends gather to celebrate our partnership, learn about the current programs and activities, and recommit to supporting the growth and development of the Department. Last October the reception was held at the beautiful home of Melody Sawyer Richardson at River High. Spirits were high as new and old Friends enjoyed Melody’s generous hospitality. The reception is an opportunity at the beginning of our annual campaign to come face-to-face and be reminded of the financial support needed for the department to continue to grow.

This year we have initiated a new program in order to engage community leaders and feminist scholars in conversation about critical issues. The first “Feminist Conversations: A Girl’s Right to be Safe from Victimization” featured Dr. Frank Putnam, professor, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, and Director of the Mayerson Center for Safe and Healthy Children. An expert panel of advocates and care providers was moderated by Tracy Cook, Executive Director of Pro-Kids. Friends plans to convene future Feminists Conversations in order to encourage academic and community leaders to address issues collaboratively. The May program initiating Feminist Conversations was organized by board members Dorothy Battle, Gloria Sigman, Judith Harmony and chaired by Vice President Deborah Lydon.

The funds raised by Friends provide scholarship assistance to graduate students and travel expenses for faculty and students presenting papers at professional conferences. One of the benefits of being a Friend is the opportunity to attend programs in the department’s lecture series. The program in April featured Dr. Sumi Cho, professor of Law at DePaul University. Professor Cho discussed post-racialism as an ideology and how it impacts issues like school desegregation. Friend Joan Cochran Rieveschl provided the funds that enabled the department to bring this distinguished scholar to the University of Cincinnati.

UC President Nancy Zimpher (left) at the 2008 Friends Fall Reception at River High hosted by Melody Sawyer Richardson (right).
Friends would like to continue to grow in our capacity to financially support the department and to engage with Women’s Studies scholars in our leadership in the Cincinnati community. If you would like to be a more active Friend please let us know by calling the department: 513-556-6653.

friends profiles - by rebecca bromwich

Each year, the Friends of Women's Studies provides a “Friends Award” to a community woman for her work. Last year, in 2008, especially in light of the presentations being made about the Friends organization, its role and history, the award was given jointly to four of the organization’s foremothers. In reflection of the continuing collaborative nature of the organization, this year, the Friends award is again being given jointly to four Friends. This year’s Friends award recipients are each involved in distinct ways in the current working of the Friends organization and so too of the department. They have played an integral part in building on the legacy of Cincinnati’s Friends of Women’s Studies organization and continuing to move forward with unique and pioneering initiatives.

The winners for 2009 of the Friends Award are, in alphabetical order, current Friends board members Dorothy Battle, Judy Harmony, Debbie Lydon, and Gloria Sigman. All four of these award recipients have balanced impressive career achievements with feminist community activism while actively engaging in work with the Friends organization.

Dorothy Battle has a PhD in educational leadership from Miami University. She is interim co-director of the Center for Access and Transition at the University of Cincinnati and has been an associate with the Kettering Foundation since 2005. Dorothy studies community-level politics and seeks to develop organic political engagement on the part of community members. She has also participated in ongoing community conversations on race and co-chaired a steering committee dealing with community responses to issues of race.

Judy Harmony is a retired research biochemist who also served as director of the physician scientist training program at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. In this work, she contributed significantly to knowledge about heart disease and obesity. After retiring in 2000, Judy founded girls! CAN in 2003. The group is an after school program for girls in grades one through eight. She is now developing a program called Harmony Garden, a center for girls age 6–12 and their families that seeks to address health disparities among at-risk populations.

Debbie Lydon is an attorney. She is a partner in the litigation department of the firm of Dinsmore & Shohl LLP. One of few female trial lawyers in the Cincinnati Bar, Debbie has extensive litigation experience at many levels of court and relating to a wide range of civil issues. She has also taught health law courses at the University of Cincinnati College of Law, of which school she is an alumna. Debbie worked in health care management before becoming an attorney. She is also actively involved in work to fight human trafficking and sex slavery.

Gloria Sigman is an attorney. Her work in this regard is predominantly as an assistant prosecuting attorney for the City of Cincinnati. Among other feminist work, Gloria is actively involved in a “motherless daughter mentoring program” which seeks to match women who have experienced the loss of their mother with a mentor for support.

This year’s Friends award indeed commemorates women to whom the department and Cincinnati’s community owe significant thanks.

friends special recognition

Dr. Karla Goldman, a former board member of Friends of Women’s Studies, was installed as the Sol Drachler Professor of Social Work at the University of Michigan on Wednesday, April 1, 2009.

Professor Karla Goldman’s research focuses on the history of American Jewish experience with special attention to history of American Jewish communities, inter-group relations, and the evolving roles and contributions of American Jewish women.

Her first book, Beyond the Synagogue Gallery; Finding a Place for Women in American Judaism (Harvard University Press, 2000), explores the role of women in the development of 18th and 19th century American Judaism. She is currently completing a history of the Jews of Cincinnati. Her work places American Jews within their broader social contexts, tracing the construction of American Jewish identities as a function of the choices around class, religion, gender, race and politics afforded to Jews as a result of their complicated place as both outsiders and insiders in American society.

The University of Michigan's Jewish Communal leadership Program offers a distinctive educational opportunity for individuals who are invested in Jewish community and committed to addressing social challenges from within Jewish contexts. Taking full advantage of the university’s interdisciplinary resources, the Jewish Communal Leadership Program integrates Judaic studies courses and the School of Social Work’s strengths in community organizing, inter-group dialogue and relations, and theories of social change. The program also offers supervised fieldwork in a range of change making Jewish agencies.

While Karla lived in Cincinnati, she was a very active member of Friends and presented a number of talks on her work.

All of us who were on the Board of Friends with Karla remember her with deep affection and are thrilled about her new position at the University of Michigan.

WGSS presents

WGSS Presents is the department’s annual lecture series which features presentations by faculty and students whose scholarship and activism has been supported by the Friends Grants and department endowments. This year, faculty members presented feminist analyses of such topics as retelling history through African women; art by African-American artists; gender and development; Sexual Politics and the New Left in Latin America; Women, Peace and Security; and Children’s Travel Books in the late 18th century. Students share their conference, public internship, study abroad experiences, and MA projects. In addition, the series included public lecture by guest speakers such as Dr. Lisa Vaughn on Women, Trauma and Empowerment in Post-Transitional Societies and Dr. Sumi Cho from Depaul University in IL on critical race theory. Thanks to Dr. Amy Elder, graduate assistant Shan Ye and administrative secretary Molly Schmidt for preparing and organizing these events.
honor roll of donors

The following Friends have made financial contributions in support of the Friends of Women’s Studies and the Department of WGSS from July 1, 2008 through March 13, 2009. We are deeply grateful to all of our Friends for their continued or new support that creates and sustains grants, scholarships, and programming.

$1,000-1,999
Robert Theodore Howe (memoriam for Helen Cooper Howe)
Deborah Meern and Michelle Gibson
Francie G. and John E. Pepper
Anne Sisson and Margery Sisson Runyan

$500-999
Barbara B. and Richard H. Allen
Dorothy Anne Blatt
Harmony Project c/o Judy Harmony
Vivian B. Kline
Megan Richards
Louise M. Roselle
Emily M. Hodges and Andrew L. Wolf

$200-499
Cecelia S. Chewning
Shirley S. Chewning
Evelyn V. Hess
Grace K. Lemasters
Amy Lind
Deborah R. Lydon
Patricia O’Reilly
Barbara N. Ramussack
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$100-199
Jane S. Anderson
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Dana Vannoy
Mary J. and Robert L. Wells
Patricia S. Woods
Maxine Hoyles Yates
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Ying Zhang
freedom center journal

The Freedom Center Journal is a new progressive and interdisciplinary publication at UC devoted for the exploration of race, gender, sexuality, class and religious issues. A joint project of the UC College of Law and the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in downtown Cincinnati, the journal was inspired by the MA/JD WGSS and Law program and brought to fruition by WGSS affiliate faculty in the law school. The inaugural issue was published in summer 2008 under the editorial leadership of MA/JD students Damaris Del Valle and Katie Weber, who will be graduating this year. Next year, joint degree student Lisa Nicolosi will be taking over as co-editor-in-chief. Scholarly submissions are always welcome from across the disciplines. Visit www.law.uc.edu/academics/freedomjournal.shtml for more information. If you would like to financially support the Freedom Center Journal, please contact Meredith Singleton, assistant director of development and alumni affairs, at Meredith.singleton@uc.edu or 513-556-0938.

save the date!

The Spring 2010 Awards & Recognition Ceremony will be held in 615 Old Chem, UC West Campus on May 7, 2010, from 5-7 p.m.

friends of women’s studies

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All annual donations make the donor a member of Friends of Women’s Studies, and donations of $1000 or more additionally make the donor a member of the McMicken Society for the year in which the donation was made.
Genderline is published annually by the University of Cincinnati Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. The deadline to submit notices, make inquiries, or be placed on the mailing list for the next issue is February 15.

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