A year of departures and new arrivals. A year of drywall dust and new spaces. A last year of academic quarters before semesters. Change is in the air in the WGSS Department, most of it good.

This year, with great sadness, we bid farewell to retiring faculty, now Professors Emeriti, Amy Elder and Michelle Gibson. Though they will never be fully “replaced,” either professionally or in our hearts, we gladly welcomed new faculty member Rina Williams last fall. Rina is jointly appointed with the Political Science Department, though WGSS is her departmental home. During this year we conducted two searches, with committees ably chaired by Amy Lind and Beth Ash, and will bring two new excellent people on board this summer. Assistant Professor Ashley Currier will join us from Texas A&M. Ashley is an Africanist who studies, among other things, LGBT movements in Namibia. She will teach sexuality studies and transnational courses across our curriculum. Educator Instructor Carolyn Peterson will inhabit a transformed position. Carolyn, a WGSS MA graduate, has taught Human Sexuality for WGSS since 2010, winning the College of Arts & Sciences Adjunct Teaching Award in 2011. She will teach full-time for us beginning this summer.

Around the office, we were also sad to say goodbye to financial administrator Molly Russell and administrative assistant Delores Dunham. Now, after a shaky few months with no staff at all, new financial administrator Stephennie Lawson has moved in and begun work, and soon halftime assistant Diane Willingham will join her.

We’ve missed Amy Lind this year (when she wasn’t in a search committee meeting!), as she has been a Taft Scholar working on her next book. Anne Runyan has capably replaced Amy as Graduate Director and will continue in that position. But Amy is not off the hook! When she returns to us in August she will take over as Undergraduate Director, allowing generous volunteer Lisa Hogeland to rotate out of that position and back into the classroom. Next year Adrian Parr will be a Taft Scholar; after that she will not return to WGSS, but rather transfer her 51% appointment to the Sociology Department, where she will connect with the new Environmental Sociology specialty there. We will miss her, and wish her luck.

Several WGSS undergraduate and graduate students have received Taft grants this year as well. Senior (and future 4+1 MA student) Trisha Durham received an Undergraduate Enrichment grant to present a paper in Albuquerque, NM. Caroline Hyatt (Winter round) and Winnie Kaur (Spring round) received Graduate Travel Grants. And Lucy Breidenthal (Spring round) and Ayça Mazman (Spring round) received Graduate Enrichment Grants.

Anne Runyan is our departmental grants facilitator, and she and her associates have done exceedingly well this year. Along with Olga Sanmiguel-Valderrama, Carolyn Stoll, and Kurt Olaussen from UC and Marianne Marchand from UDLA (Puebla, Mexico), Anne has participated in a COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning) project to create online courses in the area of transnational gender studies. Anne’s and Marianne’s course Feminisms in Comparative Perspective will debut in spring 2013. In addition, some of the same people plus others are working, under Anne’s leadership, to submit a $1.5 million USAID grant titled “Capacity building of Civil Society Organizations for Human Rights Monitoring and Strategic Litigation in the South-South East of Mexico.” The group has passed the first review hurdle, and awaits a final decision sometime next year.

Surely readers of this column know of the WGSS Department’s successful MA/JD joint degree program with the College of Law. In the past few years we have also crafted other double degrees — the BA/BS in Planning, the MA/PhD in Architecture, and the MA/PhD in Philosophy. This year we added two more: the MA/PhD in English, and the MA/MSW in Social Work. Watch this space for further developments!

We have a number of new faculty affiliates this year. “Team Sociology” adds Corinne Reczek and David Maume from A&S, and Leslie Elrod from UC Blue Ash. We also welcome Janet Moore from Law, Angela Potochnik from Philosophy, and Tanja Nusser from German Studies. Some of these folks have already begun working with WGSS students, either teaching classes with a gender component, or serving on MA committees. We are lucky to have them.

Best wishes to all,

Deb Meem
Faculty Updates

Core Faculty:

Anne Sisson Runyan (Professor, WGSS) submitted the book manuscript for *Feminist (Im)Mobilities in Fortressing North America: Rights, Citzenships, and Identities in Transnational Perspective* (Ashgate, forthcoming Fall 2012) that she co-edited with Amy Lind, Patricia McDermott, and Marianne Marchand and includes contributions by several UC WGSS graduate alumnae (Marjon Kamrani, Jill Williams, and Federica Gentile). She published “Women’s Studies and the Paradox of Feminist Leadership,” in *Women as Transformational Leaders: From Grassroots to Global Interests*, Volume 2 and “Gender and Globalization” in the *Blackwell Encyclopedia of Globalization* and has a book review essay forthcoming in *Feminist Formations*. She presented papers at the Crossbordina: Cruzando Fronteras en Norteamerica: Movilades, Gubernamentlidades, e Identidades Conference at the Universidad de las Americas Puebla in Mexico and the International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Meeting in San Diego (receiving a Taft Conference Travel grant and ISA workshop funding for the latter). She became an Associate Editor of the *International Feminist Journal of Politics* and a Fellow with the Center for Online International Learning at the SUNY Global Center while also serving as the WGSS Department Graduate Director.

Amy Lind, Mary Ellen Heintz Associate Professor, has been a Charles Phelps Taft Center Fellow during the 2011-2012 academic year. As a Taft Fellow, she has worked on her forthcoming book, *Governing Sexuality: The Transnational Politics of Intimate Life*, which addresses how sexuality is understood and addressed in the realm of global governance, including in the United Nations and the World Bank, and in postcolonial governance and nation-building in the global South. In addition, she continues to work on her ongoing research on women’s and sexual rights in Ecuador, Venezuela and Bolivia. In February 2012, she conducted follow-up research in Ecuador on the 2008 Constitution and Ecuador’s socialist-inspired Citizen Revolution as it affects the realm of women’s, LGBTQ, and indigenous rights. Results of this research are forthcoming in *Politics & Gender, Rethinking Marxism, feminisms@law*, and in an anthology, *Globalization of Homophobia* (U. Illinois Press, in press). This year she has given invited lectures at universities in the United States, Costa Rica, Mexico, Ecuador, and Spain. She continues to serve as an expert witness on asylum cases of individuals persecuted on the basis of intimate partner violence, HIV/AIDS status, and/or perceived sexual or gender identity.

Prof. Rina Williams I’m delighted to have survived and even thrived in my first year at UC and my first (and only!) year teaching in quarters. I especially enjoyed teaching the Intro WGSS class in the winter and the big switch to teaching grad students in the spring. On the research front, despite the disruptions—mental and otherwise—of moving, I’ve recovered a bit of momentum and am chugging along. I was thrilled that my paper on the role of women and gender in Hindu nationalism in late colonial India won a prize for “Best Paper on Women/Gender and Politics” from the Northeastern Political Science Association. I have a chapter in an edited volume coming out this year from Oxford; in that chapter I examine how Indian government policies on Islamic law worked to constitute Indian Muslim identity in the 1980s. I am also excited to have been asked (and accepted) to be on the editorial board of a brand new journal to be launched next year called “Politics, Groups, and Identities.” And of course I keep working on my second book: more on that in future editions!

Michelle A. Gibson, WGSS Professor Emerita, retired in February 2012. She is currently working with Deborah Meem and Jonathan Alexander on the second edition of *Finding Out: An Introduction to LGBT Studies*. She also writes a blog called ProfSpazz (http://profspazz.com) about life as a lesbian living with Multiple Sclerosis.

Deb Meem continues to teach sexuality studies for WGSS. Her most recent book is a co-produced edition (with grad student Kate Holterhoff) of Eliza Lynn Linton’s 1885 fictionalized memoir *The Autobiography of Christopher Kirkland*, published in 2011 by Victorian Secrets Press. This is an interesting work because Linton wrote her autobiography in a man’s voice. Deb, Michelle Gibson, and Jonathan Alexander are preparing the second edition of their co-authored text *Finding Out* for publication by Sage Press in 2013.

Adrian Parr (Associate Professor in the Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies) has completed the writing and editing of her book *The Wrath of Capital: Neoliberalism and Climate Change Politics*. It will be published as part of the New Directions in Critical Theory Series at Columbia University Press at the end of this year. In addition she has completed a chapter titled, ‘Politics + Deleuze + Architecture’ for the forthcoming anthology *Deleuze and Architecture* that will be published by Edinburgh University Press. This year Adrian Parr was nominated by President Williams and Vice Provost Escoe to be appointed as a UNESCO Co-Chair of Water Justice and Sustainability, the outcome of this nomination and her joint proposal with Dr Dion Dionysiou is currently pending with the UNESCO Chairs Programme Committee. She has a joint appointment with the School of Architecture and Interior Design, where she has been serving as the Acting Director of the Master of Science Architecture and overseeing the inauguration of the new Ph.D in Architecture program. Next year she will be a Taft Center Fellow.

Lisa Hogeland (WGSS / English) will step down as Interim Undergraduate Director in the fall. This year, she taught Introduction to Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and the Teaching Practicum, her two-quarter undergraduate American Women Writers sequence, and an English graduate class on American women’s novels. Next year, she’ll teach Feminist Critical Reading and the two-semester version of the American Women Writers sequence (which will continue to fulfill the Feminist Culture Studies requirement for majors and minors). Next spring, she’ll offer a 4000/7000 course on Second Wave Feminisms, an interdisciplinary exploration of U.S. feminisms from 1963 to 1982, with materials including fiction, poetry, manifestos, theory, history and historiography, and film. In addition to her research on 19th and 20th century women’s novels, Lisa is currently working on a memoir, *Patriarchy is Why We Can't Have Nice Things*. 

Lino Linnéa hijo de Gabriel Linnéa and his family lived in Sweden, where they resided for many years. His family was of Swedish descent and he was born there in 1947. Lino Linnéa was a prominent figure in the Swedish feminist movement and was known for his work in promoting gender equality and women’s rights. He was a member of the Swedish Women’s Movement and served as its president from 1982 to 1985. In addition to his work with the movement, Lino Linnéa was a writer and published several books on gender and women’s rights. He was a strong advocate for gender equality and was known for his outspoken and passionate support of women’s rights. He passed away in 1995 at the age of 48.
Affiliate Faculty:

**Danielle Bessett** (Sociology) studies the sociology of reproduction, focusing on sexual and reproductive health issues and inequality. She is currently working on a book manuscript titled, *Pregnant with Possibility*, which focuses on inequality and the construction of normalcy in pregnancy. Her current research also includes projects on women’s experiences of health care reform and reproductive health care funding policies and the ways in which women’s reproductive careers affect subsequent pregnancies. She will teach Social Psychology and a graduate course in Medical Sociology in the Fall 2012. WGSS students are welcome in both courses.

**Michèle E. Vialet** (RLL, affiliate WGSS) in collaboration with Carla Calargé (Florida Atlantic U) has co-edited a special issue of the *Cincinnati Romance Review* (vol 31, 2011) on Assia Djebar (1936 - ). The volume examines Djebar’s perilous journey as an Algerian Muslim woman, writer, filmmaker, and critic who uses the French language to give voice to Algerian voiceless constituencies, especially women, and question the cultural policies of her motherland. In her contribution, Michèle analyzes the legacy of defeats that frames Djebar’s emancipation and her consternation when Algeria burst into civil war in the 90s. She also published “Inheriting Exile: Leïla Sebbar’s Literary Representation of Immigrants’ Children” (*Dimensions of International Migrations*, 2011) and presented papers. In June 2011, she received the RLL Graduate Student Award to Outstanding Faculty. She is currently continuing her study of the mixed cultural legacies contemporary Algerian women writers have inherited.

**Rhonda Pettit** published three poems in *The Single Hound*; one of them, “1963,” was nominated for a Pushcart Prize and named Editor’s Selection for Best Socially Conscious Poem. A fourth poem appeared in *Pine Mountain Sand & Gravel*. She served on a panel of poets included in the human rights anthology *I Go to the Ruined Place* at the Split This Rock Poetry Festival in Washington, D. C., and gave a reading at the Cincinnati-Hamilton County Library (downtown) as part of their April poetry reading series. Two poetry programs for UCTV, one on Dana Wildsmith and the other on P. Andrew Miller, were co-produced and co-edited this year. Her interview with the editors of I Go to the Ruined Place will appear in the August issue of Human Rights Quarterly. She also gave the Presidential Address at the 39th Annual Kentucky Philological Association Conference.

**Erna Olafson, PhD, PsyD**, is Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatry and Pediatrics at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC) and the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. Dr. Olafson is a Project Director of Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Trauma Treatment Training Center, a regional center of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN), funded by SAMHSA. She trains and does ongoing consultation and supervision in TF CBT, child forensic interviewing, and other evidence-based practices for community agencies, hospitals, CACs, and university departments in Ohio, nationally, and internationally, and has trained well over 2,000 treatment providers and forensic interviewers. The paper I wrote was, *Child Sexual Abuse: Demography, Impact, and Interventions in the Journal of Child & Adolescent Trauma*, 4:8-21, 2011. "There were others, but not so linked to WS work.

**Furaha D. Norton** is currently a WGSS affiliate and will be an Assistant Professor in the Department of English and Comparative Literature beginning in the fall of 2012. Dr. Norton specializes in contemporary African American literature and culture, and she is excited about teaching both an undergraduate and a graduate course on Black Women Writers in the Fall Semester 2012. Dr. Norton is currently at work on an essay which examines the role of shame in Toni Morrison’s Paradise, and also beginning work on a book project on Toni Morrison, George Eliot, questions of value, and the uses of the didactic novel.

**Graduate Program Notes**

This year, the WGSS Graduate Program inaugurated its 4+1 (or BA/MA) program, which enables WGSS majors at UC to complete the WGSS MA in one year, and two four to five-year MA/PhD double degree programs with the Departments of Philosophy and English. Tasha Vaught is our first 4+1 student, Ayca Mazman and Vanessa Bentley are now pursuing the WGSS MA along with their PhDs in Philosophy, and Winnie Kaur has become the first student to pursue the MA/PhD with English. A three-year MA/MSW double degree option is also now available. Three new 4+1’s will be joining us in the MA next year along with four new two-year MA and one new MA/JD students. These graduate students will be the first to enter our graduate program under the new semester system at UC in which students complete a 30 semester-credit two-year MA, a 20 semester-credit 1-year MA under the 4+1, and a 14 semester-credit Graduate Certificate.

— Anne Sisson Runyan, Graduate Program Director

**2012 Grad Student Grants**

**Public Interest Internship Grant:** Lee Serbin (MA/JD), who will intern with the Ohio Justice and Policy Center in Cincinnati in summer 2012.

**Returning Woman Student Grant:** Niki Dorsett (WGSS major and declared 4+1 (BA/MA) student)

**Taft Graduate Student Travel Grants:** Caroline Hyatt (MA/JD) for presenting “Women Creating Desire for Themselves: Slash Fanfiction, BL Manga, and Expanding the Possibilities of Pornography” on the panel entitled “Race, Gender, and New Media” at the National Women’s Studies Association Annual Conference in November 2011; Winnie Kaur (MA/PhD) for presenting papers on digital media and sexuality at Harvard University and in Sri Lanka in Spring and Summer 2012.

**Taft Enrichment Grant:** Lucy Breidenthal, who will be traveling to Paris, France and Heidelberg, Germany during summer 2012 for research purposes.

**Graduate Student Biographies**

During her time in the Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS), **Sonnet Gabbard** has worked diligently to combine theory and praxis — pushing the boundaries of words written in pages, on journals, in books, out into the streets. Emerging from her work first as an activist committed
to economic, social, and political justice, her current area of research focuses on how global hegemonic structures, namely neoliberalism craft, export, and maintain heteronormative practices and policies and promote homophobia through the exportation and implementation of heteronormative governmental, economic, and social policies. She recently completed her final project entitled, "Heteronationalisms, Transitional Serbia, and the European Union," which investigates Serbia’s uptick in homophobic violence and LGBT activists’ responses as the country experiences a major governmental transition from a post-conflict, post-socialist society towards becoming an EU member state. She plans on continuing her focus on transitional governance, neoliberalism, and heteronormativity at Ohio State University in the fall, where she will begin her career as a PhD student in the Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. She would like to thank the WGSS faculty for all of their support and guidance, and in particular her Committee Chair, Amy Lind, for her mentorship. During her time at UC, Sonnet has been awarded a number of opportunities and acknowledgements for her research including a Taft Graduate Enrichment Fellowship, the Friends of Women’s Studies Public Interest Internship Grant, WGSS Outstanding Graduate Student, and the LGBT Center Outstanding Graduate Research Award. When Sonnet is not in WGSS-world, she is working in her community of Over-the-Rhine, doing activism focusing on economic, racial, gender, and sexuality justice issues, or walking her two corgis, Angus and Gracie.

Jennifer Dye is a 6th year JD/PhD, Political Science student, who has just completed a Certificate in WGSS. Her areas of specialization are comparative politics and international relations, specifically security, and her research interests include food security and conflict. In October 2011, Jennifer presented at the ISSS/ISAC Annual Conference. Her paper was entitled “Security Reexamined: The Question of Food Security.” After graduation, Jennifer hopes to find a position in either academia or with a non-profit organization.

Lee Serbin attended Ohio State University where she studied Sociology and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. She is currently studying law at the University of Cincinnati as part of the Joint JD and Master’s degree from the Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Lee is interested in further exploring issues presented by the intersections of race, class, and gender in the criminal justice system and the law more broadly. She lives, works, and watches TV marathons in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Ashlie Sandoval is a first year Master’s student, Yates scholar, and a Teaching Assistant in the Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies Department. Her research interests include Queer Theory in praxis, queer resistances to neoliberalism, theorizing queer desire, sexual subcultures; religion and sexuality, and “Queer Culture Jamming.” She looks forward to presenting her paper entitled “Femslash’s Queer Relations: Rereading Homosocial Intimacies” at the 2012 NWSA Conference in the fall. In addition to her studies, Ashlie has founded an LGBTQueer Theology Group at an Episcopal Church in Cincinnati. She plans to pursue her Ph.D. after graduation.

John Fremti is a second year MA student in WGSS whose research and interests have focused on the experiences of those who live on the margins in both the Catholic Church and the global women’s movement. Specifically, his final project consisted of an in-depth examination of the Catholic activist group Roman Catholic Womenpriests, including the struggles of its members to maintain both a Catholic and a feminist identity. After graduation, he plans to return to his hometown of Springfield, Illinois, where he can take a brief respite from academia, and then later apply to several Ph.D. programs in religion that also have a strong focus on women and gender. He also looks forward to the extra time he’ll have after graduation to chase after his three dogs and two cats.

Stef Murawsky is a first-year WGSS Master’s student with a focus on transgender access to healthcare, queer theory, and combating discrimination against gender non-conforming folks. Stef is also co-founder of PoMoCo: A Feminist Art Imaginary. When not in school, Stef enjoys spending time with her girlfriend, being outdoors, and all things DIY.

Vinamarta “Winnie” Kaur is a first year MA/PhD student and Graduate Assistant in Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies and English & Comparative Literature at UC. Her primary research is in South Asian Cyber-Sexualities, Feminisms in Media and Popular Culture, and Digital Diasporic Theories. She currently serves as a teaching assistant for the WGSS department, where she has worked with both the Intro to WGSS course and the Intro to Human Sexuality Course. In addition to her work in the classroom, Winnie serves as the Graduate Student Representative for Arts and Sciences Graduate Council at UC, and has presented at a number of conferences across the country, including: the University of Cincinnati’s Graduate Research Poster Forum, University of Toledo Midwest’s Graduate Research Symposium, Harvard University’s International Journal of Arts & Sciences Conference, The English and Foreign Languages University in India, the International Conference on Asian Studies 2012, Negombo, Sri Lanka, and the NWSA Conference in Oakland, CA. Winnie has also received a number of honors this year, including the Taft Student Graduate Student Conference Travel Award, GSGA Conference Presenter Award, University Graduate Scholarship, and a Graduate Teaching Assistantship. Most recently, Winnie was accepted into the fully-funded doctoral program in English & Comparative Literature at UC. After receiving her PhD, she plans to either apply for a post-doctoral fellowship or begin teaching at a college. When not engaged in intellectual chit-chats and academics, she is usually debugging error codes, watching television, or talking over the speaker phone with Doyle and Beethoven, her lovely pups back in India.

Lydia Weiss is a first year MA student in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and a Graduate Assistant for the Office of the University Ombuds. Her research interests include the ways in which homophobia and transphobia contribute to the social regulation of transgender and gender non-conforming bodies and lives. She is also interested in the ways queer theory and queer understandings can contribute to a broader feminist pedagogy and praxis. After graduation in 2013, she hopes to be working for a Women’s Resource Center or LGBTQ Center, in order to utilize her WGSS training to connect theory and practice and continue
the fight against oppression. She will also be presenting at the National Women's Studies Association conference in November 2012.

**Rachel Nickens** is a 2nd year MA student. Rachel is currently finishing up her thesis “Strength Beyond the Track: Empowerment in Women’s Roller Derby” and teaching Current Issues in Women’s Studies: Gender and Sport. She presented at the National Women's Studies Conference this year on performativity in roller derby as well as taught Human Sexuality in fall and winter quarter. Rachel will be beginning her PhD work in Sociology at UC Davis in the fall with a Provost’s Fellowship in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. When she isn’t reading, writing, or working, Rachel is obsessively embroidering anything embroilerable that she finds in the house.

**Courtney Reynolds** is currently working on her MA thesis entitled, “Researching the Effects and Realities of Environmental Sustainability Programs in a Neo-Colonial Framework: Finding a New Paradigm of Tourism and Women’s Empowerment in the Territory of the USVI: St. Croix.”

**Caroline Hyatt** attended the University of Cincinnati as an undergraduate where she majored in International Affairs and earned certificates in Asian Studies and in International Human Rights. She is currently continuing her education at the University of Cincinnati in the MA/JD joint degree program, where she studies both in the Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies department and the law school. Her academic interests primarily focus on better understanding the interactions between gender and race in the areas of education and employment law. This summer she will be in Washington D.C. working with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, before returning to Cincinnati to work with the Community Learning Center Institute. Upon graduation, she plans to use this knowledge and experience to better inform work in civil rights litigation. She lives in College Hill.

**Vanessa Plumly** is a 2nd year Doctoral Student in German Studies who has recently completed a Graduate Certificate in WGSS. Vanessa’s research interests include: postcolonial and critical race theory, turn of the century literature and culture, and film studies. Her dissertation focuses on Afro-German cultural productions responding to racism after the fall of the Berlin Wall. Recently, she has presented the following papers, “Be Funky not Fascist: Playing with Stereotypes in Armin Voelckers’ Leroy” at the Howard International Conference at Howard University in Washington D.C. on September 14, 2011, and “Beyond the ‘Norm’: The Portrayal of Lesbians and Lesbian Relationships in Aimee Duc’s Sind es Frauen? and Marlene Stenten’s Puppe Else” at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference on April 19, 2012. Vanessa will publish an interview on “The Current Status and Projected Future of Gender Studies in Germany” in the upcoming volume of the graduate student journal Focus on German Studies that she is currently co-editing. Upon completion of her PhD, Vanessa plans to pursue a career in the field of German Studies, while maintaining her research interests in transnational feminism and gender studies.

**Anna “Petal” Geimeier** spends much of her life on two wheels, riding bicycles and motorcycles. Anna loves to travel and spends her free time mindlessly meandering around the country, sleeping under the stars, and relying on the kindness of strangers. Anna is passionately committed to promoting environmental sustainability and social justice. She serves on the Board of Directors at MoBo Bicycling Cooperative in Northside and promotes local bicycling culture through coordinating workshops and alley cat races. Anna is currently in the process of developing a website dedicated to sustainable living in Cincinnati, which will be a resource for radical homesteading, all things DIY, and a guide to waste reduction. In October 2011, Anna received funding from the Sierra Club to attend the 10th annual Healthy Foods, Local Farms Conference in Louisville, KY and in November, she attended the University of Cincinnati’s Sustainability Summit in Oxford, OH. Anna is currently conducting research on the medicalization of childbirth and criminalization of midwifery in the United States. This June Anna plans to attend a Birth Activist Retreat at “The Farm” in Summerville, Tennessee. Anna lives in Clifton with her cat, Compost.

**Ayça Mazman** is a 5th year PhD student at the Department of Philosophy. She is currently pursuing an MA at the Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Her areas of specialization in Philosophy include the philosophy of mind, philosophy of psychology and cognitive science, while her areas of specialization in Women’s Studies include feminist epistemology/philosophy of science, transnational feminisms, and Islamic feminisms. Ayça has presented papers at a number of conferences in the past academic year, including: Commentary on Stichter: “The Skill Model of Virtue and the Psychology of Expertise” at the Indiana Philosophical Association, in Hanover, IN, and “A Response to Rorty’s Endorsement of the Idea of a Shared Humanity, Sympathy and the Human Rights Discourse as Means to Eliminate Global Injustice” at Uehiro Cross Currents Philosophy Conference in Honolulu, HI. Ayça also received a number of honors this year, including attending the United Nation 2012 Commission on the Status of Women as a Temporary Delegate, receiving the Graduate Student Research Fellowship Award at the University of Cincinnati, and completing the Preparing Future Faculty Program. Upon completion of her PhD/MA double degree, Ayça hopes to secure a tenure-track position at a university where she can continue to research in her areas of specialization.

**Sarah Maguire** is in her 2nd year of the WGSS MA program and will hopefully be graduating by the end of fall semester 2012. Sarah works full time as a student supervisor in UC’s Langsam Library in the Reference & Instructional Services department. She has worked for UC Libraries for almost 9 years and hopes to work there for at least the next 9! Sarah was also the Grad Program GA for WGSS for the first year and a quarter of her graduate degree. Her main scholarly interest is the creation, implementation, and reiteration of language in feminist and queer theoretical texts. However, having a BA in English Literature, she is also obsessed with the use of feminist theory in literature of all kinds! Sarah’s working thesis title is “Theoretical Becoming: A Bakhtinian Analysis of How Textbooks Create Selves from Constructed Others.”
Lucy Ross Breidenthal is a first year Master's Student in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at the University of Cincinnati. Lucy specializes in feminist analysis of transnational migration in Modern Europe, with a special focus on French constructions of citizenship and Roma (“gypsy”) exclusions in France. This year, Lucy received a number of honors, including the Taft Graduate Enrichment Award to conduct archival research on juridical, political, and social erasures of Roma from French national memory in the Third Republic and Vichy periods for her proposed paper “Resisting the Cultural and Juridical Erasure of the Roma: A Feminist Intersectional Analysis.” Lucy also presented at and attended multiple conferences this year, including the Cincinnati Conference on Romance Languages and Literatures and the Feminist Majority Foundation Youth Leadership Conference in Washington, DC. In addition to her academic pursuits, Lucy co-founded PoMoCo: A Feminist Imaginary with Stef Murawsky. Together, Lucy and Stef organized, submitted, and constructed the first-ever PoMoCo Art Show in Cincinnati, OH. After graduation, Lucy hopes to pursue a Ph.D in Diaspora and Ethnic Studies, as well as language proficiency in Slavic and European Languages. In her spare time, Lucy enjoys drinking tea and coffee, practicing yoga, bicycling, and pretending I’m seaside in France, pounding out my hit book and sucking on pomegranate seeds.

Vanessa Bentley is a fifth year Philosophy PhD and WGSS MA double degree student. Her research focuses on the philosophy of neuroscience, feminist epistemology and the philosophy of science. Vanessa presented her article “Putting together the pieces: Building Science from Local Labs” at the Society for Philosophy of Science in Practice at the University of Exeter, UK, and her paper, entitled “Constructing a feminist philosophy of cognitive neuroscience” was accepted to the 2012 NWSA conference. After graduating in May 2013, Vanessa hopes to get a job teaching philosophy and women's studies. She spends most of her free time on Twitter, @pirateV.

Anna Laymon is currently finishing her first year in the MA program in the WGSS Department. She serves as the Graduate Assistant for the Friends of Women's Studies, and will be intern- ing for the Women's Center at Wright State in Dayton, Ohio in the summer of 2012. Her current research interests are in women in the U.S. military, with an emphasis on sexual assault in areas of combat. Anna is getting married in October, and spends most of her free time trying to understand the differences between white, ecru, ivory, and cream.

Emily Rath is currently finishing up her first year in the MA program in the WGSS Department. She serves as Office and Research Graduate Assistant for the department, where she bombards people daily with copious number of emails and helps WGSS core faculty with research-related tasks and as WGSGSO Co-chair. This summer, she will attend Indiana University's Summer Workshop for Eastern European and Slavic Languages (SWSEEL), to which she has received full FLAS funding to learn Turkish. She is hoping that this will help her with her own research, which looks at the ways in which Turkish women are portrayed in German media. When not pondering the crazy world of feminist theory, Emily enjoys cooking vegan food, hanging out in cafes with friends, reading a good book, and spending time with her fiancé, Shane.

This past school year, B has presented at the 2012 Leadership Conference on being “Social Justice Allies” and the Diversity Conference on “Institutionalized Discrimination: LGBTQ Rights and the Law.” Last year she was a co-organizer and facilitator of a study abroad panel on “LGBTQ: Gender & Sexuality Identities Abroad” for UC’s Worldfest week. She also participated in the 2011 Leadership Conference, Diversity Conference and the Pop Praxis: Social Justice & the Media conference. After finishing her thesis entitled “Third Spaces of Mestizaje Consciousness: Liminality and Movements in Queer Mestizaje Performance Art,” B plans on attending Miami University (Oxford, OH) for a PhD program in Educational Leadership with an emphasis in Culture, Curriculum and Leadership. She will continue to study her research interest in queer Latin@ studies, critical consciousness studies and indigenous pedagogy.

Graduating Graduate Certificate Students

Jacqueline Daugherty
Jenn Dye (J.D./Political Science Ph.D)
Karen Floeckher (Ph.D. in Romance Languages and Literatures)
Anamarie Miller (M.A. English Literature)
Vanessa Plumly (German Studies, Ph.D—Afro-Germans)
Elizabeth Harmon Threatt (Comparative Literature)
Marie Buesch (Ph.D German Studies)
Undergraduate Program Notes

Let me say once again, as I have at the end of each of my three years in this position, how much I enjoy working with WGSS students. Our majors and minors are smart, talented, and dedicated to social justice. It’s a pleasure to talk with them about their courses and their futures, their internships and ambitions, their favorite teachers and their plans.

We’ll graduate 7 majors and 5 minors this spring, about the same as last year. Next year, after a very short summer, we’ll begin semesters. For WGSS undergraduates, semesters will provide more opportunities for research and for project-based work in courses. This in turn may create more opportunities to connect coursework to students’ activist agendas. In any case, the longer academic terms may make us all feel less rushed and constantly behind!

Changes to the major, as we move from 54 quarter credit hours to 36 semester credit hours, will largely be in the number of electives; the same is true for the minor. Students should check the documents on Blackboard for updates, and be sure to consult with the new Undergraduate Director next year, as I’ll be stepping down after three years as Interim.

— Lisa Hogeland, Undergraduate Program Director

Undergraduate Program Majors

Katie Lambing (High Honors) is graduating with a double major in International Affairs and WGSS, with certificates in International Human Rights and Middle Eastern Studies. Katie’s research focus involves conceptualizing and working towards universal human rights within a feminist framework. Katie spent winter break of 2011 studying population and development in Ghana. In her spare time, she enjoys baking and spending time on the internet. Katie will be attending Boston University School of Law in the fall.

Trisha Durham (High Honors) is double majoring in International Affairs and WGSS, with a minor in Spanish and certificate in International Human Rights. Trisha’s research focus is on Native American women and human rights. Trisha presented her research at the 2012 Native American Literature Symposium in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She was awarded a Taft Undergraduate Enrichment grant for her research and trip to New Mexico. Trisha spent winter break in the Yucatan region of Mexico, where she studied the effects of globalization on the people and the environment. In June, Trisha will be presenting at the UC Undergraduate Research Conference on a human rights panel organized by Dr. Stephen Porter. Trisha’s presentation will highlight research about Native American women’s sovereignty of land and body. In the fall, Trisha will begin work on her Masters degree in the WGSS department at UC. In her free time, Trisha likes to run marathons, hike, camp, and garden.

Jamie Drout (Honors) is a double major in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Philosophy. After graduation, Jamie will be participating in the WGSS Master’s program at the University of Cincinnati, where she plans to research work and family conflict. Jamie’s research will illustrate the various pressures one must overcome to maintain a balance of the responsibilities within the workplace and the home, the limitations our society specifically creates, and possible solutions to solve this conflict. When she’s not tearing down the patriarchy, Jamie enjoy reading philosophy, debating, maintaining strong relationships with family and friends, and searching YouTube for new illustrations of fighting social injustice within the realm of social media.

Hannah Marie Smith (Honors) will be graduating with a major in Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies and a minor in Africana Studies. Hannah’s interests surround women of African descent and the struggles they face due to patriarchy and racism. Hannah loves learning about female empowerment and how black women have come together to have their voices and contributions heard. She is also passionate about refugee rights and plans to volunteer after graduation to help those who are struggling to adjust in American society. Additionally, Hannah’s interests include sex education, particularly in African nations, with regard to HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections or diseases that are preventable. Hannah’s capstone research analyzes how the welfare system and the hip-hop industry simultaneously work together to create a negative image of African American females. Last quarter Hannah worked as a public affairs intern at the Southwest Ohio region Planned Parenthood; she also presented at the National Council for Black Studies conference in Atlanta, Georgia. Hannah spent the 2010/2011 school year studying abroad in South Africa, where she completed additional research on the affects of Apartheid on African women after completing coursework at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. Hannah continues to volunteer at Planned Parenthood phone banks, rallies, and events. After graduation, Hannah plans to take the GRE and apply for graduate programs in Africana Studies. When she is not busy with school or volunteering, Hannah enjoys reading, being outside, spending time with her friends and family, and admiring her cat.

Tina Seger will be graduating with her BA in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and a minor in Psychology. Tina is a member of Triota and Golden Key International Honour Society. Tina’s primary research interest is Masculinities Studies. This

SAVE THE DATE!

WGSS
Annual Awards Ceremony
Friday, April 5, 2013
5-7 p.m.
summer Tina will be working at a sports camp for blind and visually impaired youth. In the fall, Tina will be attending the University of Arkansas - Little Rock to earn her Master’s degree in Rehabilitation of the Blind: Orientation and Mobility. When not tearing down the patriarchy, Tina enjoys rescuing stray animals and feeding the local squirrels.

Cortnie Owens will be graduating with a Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies major. Cortnie’s research interests include fat studies and queer studies, which is appropriate, as she self-indentifies as “a big queer.” Cortnie’s capstone research examines why fat issues need to be included within feminist academia, and discusses activism related to fat issues and oppression related to fat shaming and fat-phobia. Cortnie runs a blog – ThatCortnieGirl.com – in which she occasionally writes about fat acceptance. Cortnie has found that her posts about fat acceptance attract more views than other posts, which she believes reinforces the need for more feminist dialogue about fat issues. This year Cortnie is attending the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders in Baltimore and visiting DC for the first time, thanks to funding from the Women’s Center! Cortnie will return as a graduate student in the 4+1 Program in the fall. In her spare time, she pets her cats, drinks coffee, and blogs @ thatcortniegirl.com.

Toni Jean Brock (Honors) will be graduating with a major in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies as well as a Diversity Certificate and Deaf Studies Certificate. Through her participation with RAPP, Toni was awarded the Terence L. Jones Diversity Award.

Rachel Berman (High honors)

Undergraduate Program Minors

Amanda Hulgin
Benjamin Kennedy
Rashida Manuel
Angela Mundell
Margaret Reedy

At the Annual WGGS Awards Banquet
From left: Emily Rath and Lucy Breidenthal

Triota

President and Membership Chair — Michele Smith
Vice President and Web Master — Rachel Wurm
Secretary — Cortnie Owens
Treasurer, Fundraising Chair and Public Relations Chair — Jamie Drout
Academic Chair — Hope Fidder
Activism Chair and Community Service Chair — Annie Huelefeld
Social Chair — Shagun Sehgal

Alumnae Updates

Venus (Fasce) Moose: After working in social services for a couple of years, Venus (Fasce) Moose went back to graduate school and completed a Master’s in Library Science at the University of Kentucky. She now works in Northern Kentucky as an Adult Programming Librarian at the Erlanger Branch of the Kenton County Public Library. She’s also happily married and has a beautiful, silly toddler girl.

Heather Ann Wildrick graduated in 2007 and moved back to Indianapolis, IN. Right after graduation, she completed a 6 month AmeriCorps term with Aftercare in Indiana through Mentoring, as a After Care Coordinator/Team Leader, mentoring incarcerated youth, facilitating a 10-day life skills academy, and served as a Restorative Justice facilitator. This experience led to a job with Goodwill Industries of Central Indiana at their Day Reporting Program, as the Family Support and Community Coordinator. There she provided case management to post-adjudicated and pre-trial youth in the Marion County Juvenile Justice system and taught life skills/education remediation. Currently, she is the Community Services Director for Turning Point Domestic Violence Services for the Johnson County Outreach program. In this role she works on advocacy, provides client services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, facilitates prevention work with the youth in the community, and works on systemic change with community partners. In more personal news, she married her partner, Brandon, in 2011.

Jessica Price moved to Las Vegas at the end of 2010 and currently works as a Student Support Specialist at University of Phoenix. She also teaches Race, Class, and Gender at the College of Southern Nevada. Over the last year, she has presented at the Far West Popular Culture Association Conference and the University of Phoenix Academic Research Symposium.

Laura Foster (M.A./J.D. ’00) expects to complete a PhD in Women’s Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles this spring. She will be starting as an Assistant Professor of Gender Studies at Indiana University, Bloomington in the fall of 2012. Her dissertation, “Re-inventing Hoodia: Patent Law, Epistemic Citizenship, and the Making of Difference in South Africa,” highlights her expertise in feminist science studies, feminist legal theory, and transnational feminisms. Laura currently resides in Los Angeles with her partner Scott, and her two young boys, Garrett and Kyler.
Bridget Leising Brown teaches AP Language & Composition and English III at Campbell County High School in Northern Kentucky where she also acts as the school Literacy Lead. She is excited to have recently completed her Rank I certification in Teacher Leadership. In the past year, her articles on pedagogy and technology have been published in eLearn Magazine and on the Digital Learning Environments website sponsored by HP and Intel.

Since graduating from the WGSS program Leisan C. Smith has worked for the YWCA running a program for teen mom & their babies. She has worked in administration in a local charter high school, and has run an Upward Bound program. Most recently she has served on the Board of Directors’ for Hope Springs Institute and is a member of MUSE Cincinnati’s Women’s Choir. She has been the Program Director for the LGBTQ Center at the University of Cincinnati for the past year and a half.

Sarah-Jaine Szekeresh recently moved to Washington D.C. to pursue employment at Maya Angelou Public Charter High School where she works to improve after-school programs. She is also serving on the school’s Girls Rock Committee, a group that hosts workshops for female students on topics ranging from body image to entrepreneurship. In her free time, Sarah-Jaine enjoys vinyasa yoga, trail running, and loudly pontificating leftist ideology at bars.

Karen Whyte, after minoring as an undergraduate in WGSS, went on to receive her Master’s in History at UC in 2010. She has since moved to Chicago, volunteered for Open Books (which boasts amazing literacy programs and a great bookstore!), and will begin work on a Master’s in Library Science this year. She’s happy to report that she will be getting married in June. Karen misses all her old WGSS colleagues and professors and wishes everyone the best!

Holly L. McEntyre (MA/JD) completed her law degree in 2009 and passed the Ohio Bar Exam in 2012. She has been teaching Feminism & Pop Culture online as an adjunct for the department and recently moved to sunny Florida, where she lives with her parents and her and her two kitties and yearns for a kinder, more peaceful world. She also works nearly full-time in retail, selling shoes and t-shirts and other products to tourists, some of whom are actual living and voting feminists as well, and many of whom are from Ohio and other states in the Midwest. When not working, reading, or teaching, McEntyre likes to swim in the Gulf of Mexico and to play tennis. She very much misses the intellectual stimulus of her scholarly peers and of a university town.

Ellen Eardley is an Adjunct Professor at American University Washington College of Law, where she teaches a course called “Sex-Based Discrimination.” She is also an attorney at the law firm of Mehri & Skalet, PLLC. She represents women and people of color in civil rights litigation and in confidential settlement negotiations. She focuses her practice on systemic employment discrimination and sexual harassment. In 2011, along with co-counsel, she settled a class action gender discrimination lawsuit for female financial advisors at Wachovia/Wells Fargo that resulted in significant changes to the company’s employment policies and practices as well as $32 million in monetary relief.

Jessica Morgan is the Prevention Coordinator for the Kentucky Domestic Violence Association in Frankfort, KY. Jessica develops prevention programming, training and resources for the state’s 15 domestic violence shelter programs and lobbies the state legislature on issues related to violence prevention and intervention. She works directly with children and teens across the state, as well as currently and formerly incarcerated battered women in Louisville, on violence prevention programming and mentoring. Jessica volunteers as a hospital advocate for The Center for Women and Families in Louisville, KY, and serves on the board of Directors of the Kentuck Health Justice Network.

Darla J. Bowen lives in Cincinnati, Ohio with her husband, son, and two bearded dragons. Thus far, she has published 15 short stories in the fantasy genre, most portraying strong female protagonists. Her stories have appeared in Lorelei Signal, Silver Blade, Bards and Sages Quarterly, Beyond Centauri, and Roar and Thunder, with her latest piece appearing in the anthology A Rustle of Dark Leaves. She continues to work at the University of Cincinnati in the College of Engineering and Applied Science as a Financial Administrator.

Kayte Gilmore is a case manager for foster families with Necco, a therapeutic foster care agency in Northern Kentucky and is training parents and coworkers on how best to help trans identified youth in care. Of course, she also continues to play with, and advocate for pit bulls any chance she gets.

Shelby Smith, Class of 2000, is currently working at Emory University School of Medicine as a Program Coordinator in the Admissions Office. She has been with Emory for almost 5 years, and is very happy being at a university where she is the Sustainability Representative for the School of Medicine. Shelby volunteers with the Dekalb County Rape Crisis Center and enjoys attending First Existentialist Congregation of Atlanta, a philosophical spiritual community.

Samantha Casne is working at the Jay Inslee for Washington campaign as the Statewide Outreach Director. Previously, she worked as a Legislative Aide to the Speaker of the House in the Washington State House of Representatives.
“Defining American Identity at Crux of Today’s Politics: New UC faculty member Rina Williams analyzes the influence of the state on gender and identity politics.” in McMicken Profiles

The assistant professor in Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies and Political Science says recent electoral cycles have brought the notion of an evolving American identity to the forefront of the public consciousness alongside political mainstays such as taxes, jobs and the economy.

But what is the 21st century American identity? As the nation’s demographics change, a conclusive identity gets harder to define.

“At some level I think there’s a battle for how we are going to define American identity,” Williams says.

Rina Williams is writing a book on the role of women and gender in religious nationalism in India and other nations.

Williams has discussed the issue in her “Nationalism and Identity Politics” class in the McMicken College of Arts & Sciences. She says there’s a faction in American politics that sees our national identity as driven by a Judeo-Christian, Anglo set of values, and this group wants to hold on to that for fear of losing the core of what it means to be American. However, there are other emerging political perspectives on the national identity.

“There’s another faction that thinks even if that set of values is the core of our identity, that core has shifted a lot,” Williams says. “It’s the ‘politics of others,’ in a sense. We’re going to see to what extent the others are going to become more central, and which political parties are going to be able to adapt to that reality. And not just adapt, but help create that reality and push it forward.”

Meanwhile, Williams has been carving out her own identity here at the University of Cincinnati since she joined the faculty in September. The India-born mother of one was raised in sunny California and moved across the country to earn her Harvard PhD in snowy Massachusetts — where her education included learning the difference between mittens and gloves. Most recently she’d been teaching at the University of Virginia the past seven years.

She joined UC not long after her husband, William Williams, was hired as the director of the School of Architecture and Interior Design at the College of Design, Architecture, Art and Planning. UC’s prestigious architecture program and urban campus were part of the draw for the Williams family, but so was the career opportunity for Rina.

“It was a good move for me because the configuration of departments at UC lines up well with what I do,” Williams says. “My work is balanced between women’s studies and political science. That’s a good fit for my research on gender, the state and identity politics in South Asia, primarily India.”

Williams’ first book, Postcolonial Politics and Personal Laws: Colonial Legal Legacies and the Indian State (2006), was based on her dissertation and focuses on the Indian legal system’s interpretation of family law according to a person’s religion. She’s working on another book that explores the role of women and gender in religious nationalism in India and beyond.

It’s an important topic in light of today’s geopolitical climate, where widespread civil uprisings beginning with the Arab Spring in December 2010 have spread the fire of revolution across the Middle East. Williams wants to examine whether this potential hotbed of religious nationalism will do better developing with the boundaries of democracy, as it had in India.

“If political groups such as the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt have to come to power through democratic means, then does
I was intrigued by their experience, which I soon learned was not typical of most direct sellers. I was also drawn to the glossy four-color sales catalogs, which were full of images of luxury and wealth (and blue-eyed blondes), and seemed so disconnected from the everyday Ecuadorian context.

How are direct sellers different in Ecuador than in other parts of the world?
On one hand, they’re similar to direct sellers anywhere else: they perceive a lack of opportunity in the formal labor market and see direct sales as a valid income-earning strategy. On the other hand, there are certain cultural factors specific to urban Ecuador that they have to consider: people’s reluctance to talk about money directly, for example, which can make collecting payments from customers difficult.

What are some interesting things you learned while researching?
The biggest surprise for me was finding that men are involved in selling cosmetics and perfumes! I thought the book would be all about women. But men are involved directly—selling products—and indirectly, in their stances toward their wives’ work or as customers. It was also interesting to see how women crafted an image or appearance of professionalism in order to distinguish their work from other, less prestigious, types of selling.

What are your goals with publishing this book?
I hope to provide a new perspective on women’s work in a globalizing world, where work is more precarious and informal than ever. The book tells the stories of women who valiantly cobble together multiple income-earning strategies to support themselves and their families in the midst of tremendous poverty, and who do so with enthusiasm, pragmatism and a sense of humor.

What are the biggest takeaways from your research?
Even “flexible” jobs like direct selling don’t alleviate the stress women feel in balancing work and family. And in times of economic crisis, people turn to alternative forms of employment and consumption. If I don’t have the connections or education to work in the formal economy, I can sell cosmetics. If I don’t have $50 to buy a nice perfume, I can buy from my direct seller and pay in weekly installments of $5.

Is there anything else you would like to add?
I’d like to thank the women in Ecuador who shared their stories with me and invited me in to the social world of direct selling. The book will be published in Spanish next, and I hope that when they read it, they’ll feel that I have accurately represented their experiences.

Announcements
WGSS Affiliate Laura Micciche Wins Prestigious Mrs. A.B. Dolly Cohen Award for Excellence in Teaching
WGSS Affiliate Professor Laura Micciche was awarded the Cohen Award for Excellence in Teaching, a prestigious honor awarded to only one UC Professor each year. Professor Micciche was awarded this honor for her commitment to her students, her creativity in the classroom, her dedication to multiculturalism, and her ability to inspire her students to achieve and succeed.

I DID IT! I DID IT! I REALLY, REALLY DID IT!!! Congrats of the
highest order to me for passing the Ohio Bar Exam in February 2012! And a million THANKS to all my friends and family who supported me through the process - you know who you are, and you know how much I LOVE YOU! I am one great big step closer to being Holly Lee McEntyre, Esquire ;) Yay, me! :)

Congratulations Anne Sisson Runyan with the assistance of Langsam Librarian Sally Moffitt for winning a major Taft Collections Grant for a UC subscription for an International Women’s social movement database.

PoMoCo, a feminist art collective founded by Lucy Breiden-thal and Stef Murawsky, hosted their first annual art show this May. PoMoCo’s Mission Statement reads: PoMoCo invites all thinkers and artists of diverse backgrounds, positions and questions to join us in the dialogue around what f and/or woman means to us in this era. Following the movement of feminists of the 1970s and 80s, it is our hope to renew discourse within and around Feminism at the nexus of intellect, activism and art. We believe there is a necessity for a conscious, collective dia-

We acknowledge and seek to understand the diverse nature of the human relationship to the subject ‘f’ (feminism, femininity, female) or ‘woman’, and intend to provide a safer space in which individuals can express the power of thought and art together, as a diverse collective. Finally, we believe that this era, politically, socially and economically rife with questions of who we are, and how we imagine our communities, be they nations, states, families, institutions, or just ourselves, demands new voices who might contribute to new understanding of human relationships and inequalities. In this way, we seek to imagine an emancipatory world, in which dialogue across communities might itself corrode systems of inequality. This is our Feminist Project. We invite you, whoever you are, to contribute your voice to a relevant collective of diverse voices as we seek to (de)construct relations of and to ‘f’ and ‘woman’ in this era.

WGSS Awards
Faculty Award: Katharina Gerstenberger
Graduate Student Award: Sonnet Gabbard, Rachel Nickens
Undergraduate Student Award: Rachel Berman, Katie Lambing
Friends Memorial: Helen Levine
Friends Award: Barbara Myers
Returning Student Award: Niki Dorsett
Alumna Award: Amy Howton
Staff Award: Emily Rath, Lucy Breiden-thal, Anna Geimeier, Anna Laymon

Annual WGSS Awards Banquet
From left: Dr. Anne Sisson Runyan and Dr. Deb Meem read and handed out awards.
Friends President’s Report

I am proud to serve as Co-president of Friends with Julia Montier-Ball, Assist. Director of the Career Development Center, University of Cincinnati. As board members of the Friends of Women’s Studies we continue our mission in support of the Department of Women’s Gender’s and Sexuality Studies.

The board began the year with the Department and Friends Fall welcome dinner. This is a unique opportunity to meet new and returning students, to talk with professors in and affiliated with the Department of WGSS and to offer our board members as mentors. The enthusiasm of students, faculty, board members and friends was inspiring.

The Friends Fall Fundraiser, held at the home of Lou Bilionis, Dean of the College of Law, marked the beginning of our fundraising campaign for 2011-12. Prof. Shailaya Paik spoke on the Dalit (the untouchables) Women’s Struggle for Education. The talk and discussion were vibrant reminders of why Friends of Women Studies exists. Our mission contains a commitment to disseminating knowledge about women’s achievements, needs and aspirations to the broader community as well as to the support and growth of the Department of WGSS. As a community member on the board of Friends of Women’s Studies, these interactions and events re-enforce that serious scholarship has a rich connection to Cincinnati and to a broader, truly a world-wide community. At the welcome dinner, we met those students who will be outstanding representatives of the University of Cincinnati and Department of WGSS as they work for change and understanding in their future communities.

Congratulation to Anna Laymon, first year graduate student, who received the Friends graduate assistantship this year. In April we co-sponsored the showing of Miss Representation, a documentary about the representation of women in the media and its effect on society. We continue our commitment to research through the Women’s Library Fund with donations in honor of outstanding individuals that have supported the mission of Friends.

As cuts to higher education continue, we know that there is more work to do. This is a difficult economic time for fundraising - yet fundraising is more important than ever. We take on this challenge with energy and commitment and look forward to a successful year. And, as always, I invite you to join us in the Friends of Women’s Studies!

— Paula Fletcher, M.D.

Friends’ Profiles

Julia Montier-Ball is Co-President of Friends and has been a board member for many years. Julia’s involvement has grown over the years since being invited to a Friend’s Award Ceremony by her long time mentors and Friends founders, Marquita McLean and Pat O’Reilly. A UC alum, she earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Interior Design from DAAP and is now finishing a Master’s of Education degree in Curriculum & Instruction/Instructional Design Technology. She has worked at UC for nearly 12 years; in her role as the Assistant Director in the Career Development Center, she teaches Career Development for Arts & Sciences, is the Career Coach for A&S, DAAP and CCM colleges assisting both undergraduates and grad students with their job search and coordinates programs focusing on Freshmen, Seniors and International students. In 2008 she was awarded a 2-year NACE Foundation Grant to study the Effectiveness of CDC’s Professional Development I Courses, which was published in the 2010 NACE Journal. Formerly a professional fundraiser and entrepreneur, she has always been active in the community serving and providing leadership on numerous boards including the Urban League, the Cincinnati Human Relations Commission, Melrose YMCA, Bond Hill Academy and Victory Neighborhood Services Agency. Most recently, she was involved with a powerful program on women in domestic violence, “My Cry in the Dark II: My Path to Peace, Health & Action”, sponsored by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Cincinnati Alumnae Chapter. She and husband Charles have two grown children, Ray and Casey and live in Bond Hill with their English bulldog Merry.

Rachel Strasinger is the Program Resources Coordinator at the YWCA of Greater Cincinnati, where she assists with grant writing and helps coordinate funding and resources for multiple programs. She received her MA in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies from the University of Cincinnati in 2009. After graduation, a version of her MA project was published in the online journal Affinities: A Journal of Radical Theory, Culture, and Action. In addition to serving on the board of the Friends of Women’s Studies, Rachel is on the board of the Cincinnati Interfaith Worker Center, which works to mobilize, educate, and organize low wage and immigrant workers to creatively challenge the power relationships with their employers and improve their working terms and conditions. She also serves on the board of Community Blend, a worker-owned coffee cooperative opening in Evanston in the fall of 2012. She and her partner Sophia live in Norwood with their two cats, Luna and Emma.
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 March 22, 2011 to May 30, 2012.

We are deeply grateful to all of our Friends for their continued or new support that creates and sustains grants, scholarships, and programming.

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Women’s Center

The University of Cincinnati Women’s Center is one of the oldest continually operating university women’s centers in the United States. Since 1978, the center has worked to address student needs at UC. Established in 1978 as Women’s Programs and Services, the office first served as a referral center for female students. The small, initial staff connected students and staff to resources and events that were off-campus. Today we continue to offer a variety of programs and services. We are centrally located on UC’s West Campus and provide a comfortable, informal space for students to meet, talk and study. Our friendly and knowledgeable staff can help answer questions, locate resources and help address personal, academic or work-related concerns. Students can participate with our Peer Advocate program, build upon leadership and activism skills through our class offerings or take part in our social programs with their peers. Women student leaders are honored at the annual C-Ring event, held since 1922, to recognize UC’s outstanding senior women. We also continue to offer a 24-hour help line staffed by peer advocates trained to provide support for those experiencing violence or abuse in their lives. The

UC Women’s Center Mission Statement
To promote equitable and safe environments on campus for women through advocacy, research and education.

Our Vision
The Women’s Center will be integral to the University of Cincinnati’s efforts to create a diverse and inclusive learning environment for women students.

Our Goals
Goal 1: Increase and improve student safety in interpersonal relationships.
Goal 2: Identify and help eliminate institutional barriers that impede the full participation of women in the university.
Goal 3: Increase student activism in UC and beyond.

Become a Friend!
Support research and scholarship about women, activities, and programs of the WGSS Department.
Please make checks payable to the UC Foundation.

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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.
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Olga Sanmiguell-Valderrama  
Lori Vine  
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Friends of Women’s Studies
Phone 513-556-6653  
E-mail friendsws@uc.edu

Located on the third floor of French Hall – West

www.artsci.uc.edu/womens_studies

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.

Please contact:
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womens.studies@uc.edu