

Fall 2011

## Gender Notes Fall 2011

Barbara LeSavoy

*The College at Brockport, State University of New York, blesavoy@brockport.edu*

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/gendernotes>



Part of the [Women's Studies Commons](#)

---

### Repository Citation

LeSavoy, Barbara, "Gender Notes Fall 2011" (2011). *Gender Notes*. 2.  
<http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/gendernotes/2>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Women and Gender Studies at Digital Commons @Brockport. It has been accepted for inclusion in Gender Notes by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @Brockport. For more information, please contact [kmyers@brockport.edu](mailto:kmyers@brockport.edu).

# Gender Notes

WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES

THE COLLEGE AT BROCKPORT



FALL 2011

ISSUE #4

## A NOTE FROM THE WMS PROGRAM DIRECTOR



Barbara LeSavoy, PhD

*Looking Back, Thinking Forward*, the theme for our March 8, 2011 International Women's Day (IWD) 100-year celebration, perfectly captures another extraordinary year for Women and Gender Studies (WMS).

Building upon our growing achievements, WMS continues to forge new and innovative scholarly ground.

Impressively, our WMS student numbers reflect stable growth with 22 students pursuing a WMS major and over 50 students pursuing the WMS minor. While settled into our Dailey Hall office suite, WMS is once again on the move and now slotted to occupy the New Academic Building (NAB) in 2014 alongside the Departments of History, Modern Languages and Cultures, English and Philosophy. This new state-of-the-art facility introduces many new and exciting opportunities for WMS to collaborate on interdisciplinary teaching/learning initiatives with our Humanities colleagues. Our WMS Board, a vibrant multidisciplinary advisory structure comprised of faculty, staff and students, remains instrumental in supporting

WMS Program matters and in engaging students in the WMS discipline. You'll find a complete list of all WMS Board members, and other faculty and staff roles associated with WMS below. And our ever-expanding WMS alumni continue to impress us in life after Brockport. The Alumni Column on page seven highlights some of these growing accomplishments.

WMS Program 2010-11 highlights include 27 unique WMS student presentations at our April 2011 Scholar's Day, one student presentation at our fall 2011 Diversity Conference, and three student presentations at the November 2011 NWSA Conference in Atlanta, GA. In March 2011, WMS led an area college alliance in hosting an IWD 100th anniversary rally and "call for change" postcard signing and birthday celebration. Details about this event can be found on page four. WMS associates/affiliates were active as both teachers and scholars with over 25 publications including several books in print and an impressive array of WMS-related papers presented at international, national and local venues. Other important WMS Program milestones include the induction of eight new students into the WMS Honor Society, Iota, Iota, Iota (Triota) and the awarding of the spring 2011 Elaine K. Miller WMS Scholarship and Jennifer M. Lloyd WMS Essay Prize. Details about these and other WMS Program recognitions can be found on page three.

Several WMS ventures on the horizon include a new course on Girl Studies that was realized in summer 2011, and a new course on History and Challenges in Chilean Society, which, in cooperation with Dr. Andrea Parada

in Modern Languages and Cultures and the Office of International Education, is again being offered in winter and summer 2012 at the University of Viña del Mar in Chile. Also in a transnational arena, Ann Giralico Pearlman (CELT) and I have been selected as Institute Fellows under a two-year SUNY National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) funded COIL Institute for Globally Networked Learning in the Humanities, where we are partnering with faculty and students at Novgorod State University in Russia. Working with grant principal, Dr. Carl Davila, assistant professor in History, WMS continues its Levin Global Workforce contributions, where I am again piloting the newly revised gender module in my Honors WMS 360 class section. You'll find additional details about our GWP and COIL work on pages five and six.

On a sad note, WMS mourns the sudden passing of colleague and friend, Dr. Stuart Appelle, Dean of the School of Science and Mathematics and prior Dean to WMS under an earlier school configuration. Dr. Appelle's leadership and fair-mindedness as Dean were instrumental in helping WMS rise and succeed as a discipline. In tribute to Dr. Appelle, and in our *Looking Back, Thinking Forward* theme, I am excited to showcase these growing WMS successes and eager to steward WMS ahead in our teaching, research and service endeavors.

Peace and best wishes for an informed and productive year ahead. Please enjoy this fall 2011 edition of *Gender Notes*.

## WMS PROGRAM BOARD

**Barbara LeSavoy**, Board Chair, Women and Gender Studies  
**Sharon Allen**, English  
**Alisia Chase**, Art History  
**Katherine Clark**, History  
**Denise Copelton**, Sociology  
**Mary Corey**, Education and Human Development  
**Carl Davila**, History  
**Colleen Donaldson**, Academic Affairs  
**Patty Follansbee**, Health Science  
**Amber Humphrey**, Women and Gender Studies  
**Kathy Halstead**, Member-at-Large

**Donna Kowal**, Communication  
**Karen Logsdon**, Enrollment Management/Student Affairs  
**Anne Macpherson**, History  
**Barbara Mitrano**, Women and Gender Studies  
**Megan Obourn**, English  
**Anne Panning**, English  
**Alison Parker**, History  
**Andrea Parada**, Modern Languages and Cultures  
**Meredith Roman**, History  
**Patricia Sharkey**, Nursing  
**Jennifer Ratcliff**, Psychology

**Barbara Thompson**, History, McNair/C-Step  
**Em Scrivani and Laura Clark**  
(Student Members)

**WMS Curricula Subcommittee**  
**Denise Copelton** (Sociology), Chair, **Alisia Chase** (Art History), **Megan Obourn** (English), **Anne Macpherson** (History), **Meredith Roman** (History)

**WMS Associate Faculty**  
**Amber Humphrey, Barbara Mitrano, Karen Logsdon, Sharon Jacobson**

## STUDENT RESEARCH

National Women's Studies Association Conference (NWSA) November 9 – 13, 2011, Atlanta GA

Two WMS students, **JC Acosta** and **Em Scrivani**, presented posters at the NWSA national conference in Atlanta, GA. JC Acosta, a senior pursuing a double major in WMS and Sociology and an intern in the campus Women's Center, became fascinated with gender at Monroe Community College and brought that interest, which has expanded to include intersections of gender and power, to Brockport. Acosta's poster, entitled "Exploited Women's Labor in the Global Market," traces ways the global market impacts feminist efforts to stabilize and further women's labor contributions.

Em Scrivani, a senior pursuing a major in WMS and minors in English and Studio Art, works as a Women's Center assistant, serves as treasurer of SOUL and WGSO, and is a member of Alpha Phi Omega. Scrivani's poster entitled, "It Was Just a Joke: Misogynistic Humor,

Masculinity, and Rape Culture on College Campuses," focuses on ways students on college campuses reproduce and sustain rape culture through humor.

**Sherly Urena**, a WMS senior and McNair Scholar, also attended the NWSA conference, where she assisted WMS director and McNair mentor Dr. Barb LeSavoy in facilitating a program administrators workshop on constructing regional feminist collaborations. Sherly and JC are pictured with NWSA keynote speaker, Dr. Ruth



Em Scrivani

Wilson Gilmore, professor of Geography, doctoral program in Earth and Environmental Sciences, CUNY Graduate Center, and NWSA plenary speaker, Dr. Michael Kimmel, professor of Sociology with a specialization on gender, SUNY Stony Brook.

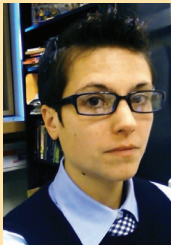


L-R: JC Acosta, Dr. Ruth Gilmore, Sherly Urena



L-R: Sherly Urena, Dr. Michael Kimmel, JC Acosta

## FACULTY SPOTLIGHTS



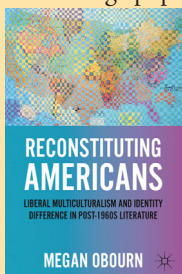
### Megan Obourn, PhD, English, WMS

Dr. Megan Obourn, assistant professor in English and WMS advisory board and curriculum committee member, recently

published "Reconstituting Americans: Liberal Multiculturalism and Identity Difference in Post-1960s Literature." Obourn teaches several ENG/WMS cross-listed courses including Sex and Gender in Literary Theory, American Women Writers, and African-American Women Writers.

Obourn is currently working on a new project, which examines the work of writers Susan Choi, Cherrie Moraga and Octavia Butler, who utilize narratives of disability to challenge popular cultural and political

images of wounded white masculinity, and to reclaim disabled history as a foundation for the contemporary politics of women and people of color in the United States.



### Joan Spade, PhD, Sociology, WMS

Dr. Joan Spade, associate professor in Sociology and longtime WMS advisory board member, retired at the end of spring 2011. In

recognition of Dr. Spade's many years of teaching, research and service to WMS, the WMS Program presented her with the Ms. Anthony purse at our WMS Program end-of-year ceremonies. Designed as a fundraising initiative with proceeds in support of the Susan B. Anthony House, the purse is a numbered, limited edition contemporary version of Susan B. Anthony's trademark alligator bag. The purse is stamped with two well-known Susan B. Anthony inscriptions, "Every woman needs a purse of her own" and "Failure is impossible," fitting tributes to Dr. Spade's tireless and extraordinary faculty contributions to the college and WMS discipline.



## WMS POWER OF GIVING

Please consider WMS in your giving plans. The Elaine K. Miller Scholarship and the Jennifer M. Lloyd Essay Prize, endowed by and named in tribute to their respective benefactors, carry monetary awards to student recipients. In these changeable times, your generous support can help sustain and further the monetary share to these awards. Contributions to The College at Brockport annual giving campaign can be designated to either of these funds. Even small contributions can secure these extraordinary WMS recognition opportunities and the remarkable WMS students they laud.



# WMS AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

## WMS Senior Scholar

Tina Ditzel (WMS/HLS '10)

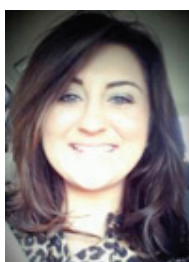


The award recognizes a WMS graduating senior with the highest GPA who has contributed measurably to WMS-related interests on campus and within the community. Tina Ditzel, the 2011 recipient, is a McNair Scholar who graduated with 3.75 GPA. Tina served as an intern in the College Women's Center where she assisted with the Clothesline Project and facilitated several

brown bag sessions on issues of domestic violence and media and body image. In July 2010, Tina presented "Contemporary American Beauty Ideal: Healthy or Harmful" at the McNair Conference, University at Buffalo and at Scholars Day, April 11. Tina is a member of Teen MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) steering team and is attending the University of Buffalo, where she is pursuing graduate studies in teacher education.

## WMS Student Leadership Award

Chelsey Franz (WMS/HLS)



The WMS Program established this award in spring 2009, granted by nomination, to recognize extraordinary student leadership in support of the WMS Program and WMS program-related initiatives. Chelsey Franz, the 2011 award recipient, was recognized for her outstanding WMS leadership contributions and activism. Chelsey has served as president of VOX, treasurer for WGSO, was an AIDS

Rochester volunteer, and a representative on the BSG Service Council. In 2009, Chelsey was also a presenter at Scholars Day and our National Women's Studies Association Conference (NWSA). In addition to Chelsey's extraordinary leadership contributions, she is a new mom to daughter, Stella, who turned one in July 2011.

## Harriett Whitney Award

Kelly Gaskin (WMS)

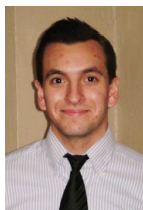


The Harriet Whitney Women's Studies Award was founded in 1974 to commemorate the retirement of Harriet Whitney. The award is by nomination and recognizes students for personal commitment to Women and Gender Studies and sensitivity to women's lives as an aspect of the human condition. The spring 2011 Whitney Award recipient, Kelly Gaskin, is a member of Triota Women and Gender Studies Honor Society and serves as an intern in the Holley High School Counseling office. Kelly plans to pursue a master's in Social Work in spring 2012.

## Jennifer M. Lloyd

### WMS Essay Prize

Nicholas Ruffo (WMS/HLS)



This prize, established in spring 2009 in honor of esteemed faculty member of the Department of History and prior Director of WMS Dr. Jenny Lloyd, recognizes outstanding undergraduate writing on and about women and/or gender issues. Dr. Pilapa Esara (ANT) nominated the essay winner, "Social Constructions of Gender: Sambia and Thai Case Studies," written by Nicholas Ruffo (ENG) for his fall 2010 WMS 305 Gender, Sex and Power class. Two additional submissions, both nominated by Dr. Barbara LeSavoy (WMS) and completed in fall 2010 WMS 360 Sex and Culture, earned honorable mention: "Rape in the Democratic Republic of the Congo: Wartime Rape Theory and Thoughts on Globalization," written by Mary Thomas (ENG/WMS) and "Women, Poverty, and Contraception," written by Christina Lo Tempio (PLS, PHL, WMS).

## Elaine K. Miller Scholarship

Jessica Velez (WMS/PSH)



The Elaine K. Miller scholarship, established in 2007 by Elaine K. Miller, PhD, associate professor emerita in the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures and former interim director of WMS, is by application and seeks to recognize an outstanding, engaged and rising WMS student. Jessica Velez, the spring 2011 scholarship recipient, serves as Women's Center assistant and is an active member of

Save the Children. Jessica is an officer in the student-run Women and Gender Studies Organization (WGSO) and a member of Voices for Choice (VOX). She is also an accomplished athlete and teaches Turbo Kick and P90X on campus.

*These WMS honors are awarded annually and the winners are recognized during the WMS End of Year Ceremonies held in April. Please watch for details on nomination/application procedures for these spring '12 WMS recognitions and details on the spring '12 WMS End of Year Ceremony.*

## FACULTY PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS

### Alisia Chase, (ARH)

In Paula Rabinowitz and Cristina Giorcelli (Ed.), *Like Their First Pair of High Heel Shoes... Continental Accessories and Audrey Hepburn's Cinematic Coming of Age* (vol. II, pp. 20). Minneapolis, MN: Habits of Being, University of Minnesota Press.

### Anne Panning (ENG)

Nonfiction - Anthology, "Waikiki Beach to Brockport: Why I Came & Why I Stayed," *Why We're Here: New York Essayists on Living Upstate*, edited by Bob Cowser Jr., Colgate University Press, NY, Fall 2010.

### Sharon Allen (ENG)

(2011). "Reterritorializações de Republicas Passadas/Presentes nos Romances de Liudmila Ulitskaia e Lídia Jorge: cartographia, corpo, corpus literário". To appear in *Letras com Vida*, 3(1).

### Megan Obourn (ENG)

"Reconstituting Americans: Liberal Multiculturalism and Identity Difference," forthcoming, Palgrave, August 2012.

### Alison Parker (HST)

Review Essay, "The Alcotts and the Wilders: Revealing Family Histories," for *Reviews in American History* (December 2010).

### Katherine Clark (HST)

Putting on the Garment of Widowhood: Medieval Widows, Monastic Memory and Historical Writing (appeared in January 2011). *Quidditas: The Journal of the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association*, 31(1).

### Andrea Parada (MLC)

"Subjetividad femenina e historiografía chilena: una mirada desde Constanza de Nordenflycht Cortés" ("Female Subjectivity and Chilean Historiography:

A Look from Constanza de Nordenflycht Cortés") published in *Literatura a ciencia cierta: Homenaje a Cedomil Goic*. Juan de la Cuesta Hispanic Monographs, 2011. 327-48.

### Jennifer Ratcliff (PSH)

With Elek, J. K., Ware, L. J., Ratcliff, J. J. "When the Camera Lies: Judicial Instructions Mitigate the Camera Perspective Bias." To appear in *Legal and Criminological Psychology*.

### Denise Copelton (SOC) and Joan Spade (SOC)

Co-book review editors for the feminist sociology journal *Gender & Society*

### Barbara LeSavoy (WMS)

"How to be the Best at Everything: The Gendering and Embodiment of Girl/Boy Advice" (2011). *Journal of Interdisciplinary Feminist Thought*, Volume 5 (1), Women and the Media.

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 100TH ANNIVERSARY: MARCH 8, 2011



March 8, 2011, one week into Women's History month, marked the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day (IWD). WMS, in collaboration with the Greater Rochester area American Association of University Women (AAUW) along with a Women and Gender Studies College alliance, led a 100th IWD birthday celebration at the AAUW Perkins Mansion in Rochester. The event included an outdoor rally and historical reenactment, then moved indoors for a social salon with international food and dialogues for change. The evening concluded with an award ceremony recognizing some of Rochester's prominent women leaders. Organic to this IWD centenary, WMS

launched an IWD "calls for change" postcard-signing campaign, which asked students to write and submit personal calls for change written on individual IWD postcards. WMS collected and analyzed the signed postcards and mailed them in bulk with a summary cover letter to Valerie Jarrett,

chair of the White House Council on Women and Girls. WMS also mailed the cover letter to several political dignitaries including Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and United Nations Under Secretary General for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women Michelle Bachelet. The postcard signing campaign was a grassroots effort designed to raise national and international awareness of gender injustices, and importantly, use the 100th anniversary of IWD to give voice to area young women and men championing important gender equality causes. **Jessica Sullivan**, WMS major, presented some preliminary IWD research to a packed room at our fall 2011 Diversity Conference.



Jessica Sullivan



## INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM IN CHILE

**Laura Clark** — Junior, Spanish/WMS major with a French minor, recently returned from a summer in Chile, where she was enrolled in History and Challenges in Chilean Society at the University of Viña del Mar and also completed an internship for her WMS major at Comunidad Terapeutica, Levántate, which translates to Therapeutic Community, Wake up. Laura described her coursework in Chile as “incredible and eye-opening” and her internship as “life-changing.” Some of Laura’s reflections follow: “*The Comunidad Terapeutica, Levántate is a therapeutic community run by women for women with drug addiction. It was amazing to be a part of an all-female led, very successful center. Though Chile has had a female president, there is still much progress for women to be made in the workforce, so it was amazing to see this community function. While there, I learned that many of the women were pushed into drug use because they could not fulfill all of society’s pressures that were placed upon them. The humanistic approach of this community was truly inspiring. Every workshop and action that the women performed was purposeful with the intention to cultivate psychological change. This center taught me the power of human connection and how that when women come together, their power to change other women becomes unstoppable.*”



Laura Clark at Comunidad Terapeutica, Levántate in Chile

### Study Abroad in Viña del Mar

In collaboration with the office of International Education and **Dr. Andrea Parada**, department chair in Modern Languages and Cultures, *History and Challenges in Chilean Society* is again being offered at University of Viña del Mar in Chile, January 3 – 20, 2012. Viña del Mar, known as “The Garden City,” was founded in 1874 and is considered the capital of Chilean tourism. It is part of the Valparaíso Region and is located 75 miles east of the Capital City of Santiago. Its sister city Valparaíso, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is the main seaport and seat of the Chilean Parliament. Average temperature (December – March) is 75 degrees. Course instruction is in English with transfer credit approved in Women and Gender Studies and available by advisor approval in the Departments of History, Political Science and International Studies, and Spanish.

## HONORS SEX AND CULTURE (WMS 360) AND THE LEVIN GLOBAL WORKFORCE PROJECT

**Barbara LeSavoy**, PhD, is continuing her fall 2010 work as pilot faculty in a Levin Global Workforce Project (GWP) grant, where she is piloting a newly revised globalization instructional module on gender in her fall 2011 WMS 360 Honors Sex and Culture course. The GWP, funded by the US Department of Education’s Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Languages Program (UISFL), is coordinated by **Carl Davila**, PhD, GWP grant principal and assistant professor in History, and **Christopher Price**, director of the Center for Excellent in Learning and Teaching (CELT), in collaboration with several faculty at SUNY Cortland and The Levin Institute. The GWP seeks to prepare undergraduate students to compete effectively in the global economy through programs developed to enhance global understanding and requisite global workforce skills of the 21st century, including language study.

In association with their WMS 360 GWP gender module course material, WMS 360 Honors students are completing poster projects on topics that include: “Women in Media,” “Sex Trafficking in India,” “Identity, Freedom and Equality: Lived Experiences of Capitalism in the Context of Globalization and Materialism,” “Rape in the Congo,” “Women and Religion,” “Intersex: Issues and Challenges,” “Reproductive Freedom and Maternal Health: A Global Perspective,” “Saving Women and Girls from Brothels,” “Women and Climate Change,” “Performance of Gender and School Bullying,” “Global Perspectives on Literacy and Education,” “Sex Tourism,” “Gender and Microlending,” “Empowering Middle Eastern Women Through Sport,” and “Women in Sport and Title IX: An Empowering Act or a Flawed System.”

On December 5, 2011, WMS 360 honor students held a GWP poster session open to the campus community in the Seymour College Union. Additional information of the GWP can be found at [www.levininstitute.org/globalWorkforceSkills.cfm](http://www.levininstitute.org/globalWorkforceSkills.cfm).

## NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY — OCTOBER 11, 2011

Celebrating National Coming Out Day on October 11, WMS held a screening of *Beyond Gay: The Politics of Pride*, screened with the film’s Vancouver-based director, **Bob Christie**. The film offers a comprehensive look at ways gay pride



marches and festivals around the world are contributing to an increasingly globalized human rights movement. **Mel Kelsey** (WMS/HLS) organized the

film screening and Christie’s campus visit. The event was made possible by a Better Community Cultural Diversity Grant awarded to Mel, in association with a WMS GLTBQ informed internship Mel pursued in spring 2011.



Mel Kelsey



Bob Christie

## GREATER ROCHESTER CONSORTIUM OF WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES FACULTY (GRC): A MODEL IN FEMINIST COLLABORATIONS

**Dr. Barb LeSavoy**, director of Women and Gender Studies (WMS), just returned from the National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) conference in Atlanta, GA, where she and WMS colleagues from Monroe Community, St. John Fisher, and Nazareth Colleges presented a workshop for WMS faculty and program administrators on their founding work with the Greater Rochester Consortium of Women and Gender Studies faculty (GRC), as a model for regional feminist collaborations. The NWSA workshop, "Sticks in a Bundle: Creating Regional WGST Collaborations," introduced nationwide Women and Gender Studies (WGST) faculty and program administrators to the Greater Rochester Consortium (GRC) of WGST faculty, a local collective of diverse WGST academics who work at separate colleges/universities but in close

geographical proximity. Along with Dr. LeSavoy, presenters included founding GRC members, **Dr. Deborah Uman**, associate professor of English and prior director of Women and Gender Studies at St. John Fisher College, **Dr. Maria Brandt**, associate professor of English at Monroe Community College, and **Dr. Sekile Nzinga-Johnson**, former associate professor and director of Women and Gender Studies at Nazareth College. The workshop offered participants the chance to develop hands-on strategies for constructing similar feminist collectives in their own regions, championing WGST's interdisciplinary merit while capitalizing on the resources of differently positioned but geographically-linked WGST scholars. Workshop participants walked away with a specific action plan that transforms the boundaries of local

WGST colleagues/programs towards avenues of empowerment and activism. Forthcoming, January 2012, in "Women in Higher Education," and coauthored by all four presenters, is an article featuring the GRC entitled, "The New Old Feminism: Regional Coalition and the Future of Women and Gender Studies."



L-R: Dr. Sekile Nzinga-Johnson, Dr. Barb LeSavoy, Dr. Maria Brandt, Dr. Deborah Uman

## COLLABORATIVE ONLINE INTERNATIONAL LEARNING (COIL)

**Dr. Barbara LeSavoy** (WMS) and **Ann Giralico Pearlman** (CELT) have been selected as Institute Fellows under a two-year SUNY National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) funded Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) Institute for Globally Networked Learning in the Humanities, partnering with Novgorod State University in Russia.

COIL received nearly forty institutional grant applications from colleges and universities across the United States. LeSavoy and Giralico Pearlman in

partnership with **Dr. Elena Lukovitskaya** at Novgorod State University in Russia, are one of 22 teams selected to work together as Institute Fellows. The project supports the collaboration of faculty, instructional designers, international programs staff and administrators from academic institutions in the US and abroad, who will develop courses to teach and share knowledge from a global perspective.

LeSavoy, Giralico Pearlman, and Lukovitskaya, working under the group, "Human Societies: College at Brockport/

Novgorod State University, Russia," will use blended technology to mount a globally networked course, "Sex and Gender Across Cultures," likely live for fall 2012. LeSavoy, Giralico Pearlman, and Lukovitskaya attended a COIL seminar at the SUNY Global Center in NYC, in September, where their work began in earnest.

## WMS AT THE GRADUATE LEVEL

Did you know that at The College at Brockport, students can pursue graduate work in Women and Gender Studies through the Masters of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) degree? Using the Liberal Studies seminars and graduate level WMS courses, students can design a plan of study that concentrates on their areas of interest within Women and Gender Studies.

**Jessica Cutcliffe**, a current WMS MALS student, has crafted a graduate program tailored to her interests in women

and disability. As Jessica reported: *"With the support of Dr. Rajasethupathy, the MALS program director, and Dr. LeSavoy, director of Women and Gender Studies, I've had the unique opportunity to craft an interdisciplinary program of study tailored to my interests in women and disability studies. The MALS program has allowed me to see how classroom learning can transpire throughout the college community and beyond."*

## IOTA, IOTA, IOTA (TRIOTA)

The College at Brockport chapter of Iota, Iota, Iota (aka Triota), WMS honor society, was founded in spring 2009 and inducted its first members at the WMS April 2009 End of Year Award Ceremonies. Iota, Iota, Iota, named after three goddesses, Inanna, Ishtar and Isis, strives to maintain feminist values central to women and gender studies: egalitarianism, inclusiveness and diversity.

**Spring 2011 Inductees:** Jessica Velez, Laura Clark, Alyssa Pezone, Courtney Lapoint, Mary Thomas, JC Acosta, Tina Ditzel, Kelly Gaskin

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

## WMS '04

**Melissa Davies**, (WMS) (HST), communications specialist, US Department of Veteran Affairs, Long Beach, CA

**Kathryn King**, pursuing a master's in Women and Gender Studies at Towson University. Presently, a grad assistant for the Institute for Teaching and Research on Women (ITROW)

## WMS '08

**Jamie Bergeron**, EdM in Higher Education Student Affairs, University at Buffalo, May 2010; employed as assistant director of LGBTQ Initiatives at Colgate University, Hamilton, NY, and as summer WMS teaching faculty at The College at Brockport

**Deborah Blonsky**, Transitional Studies faculty, Monroe Community College; pursuing graduate studies at Nazareth College

**Rebekah Orr**, MS in Sociology, Syracuse University (SU), May 2010; currently, working toward her PhD in Sociology with a certificate of Advanced Studies at SU, and as teaching associate at SU, is teaching several Women and Gender Studies courses

**Kimberly Adams**, Juris Doctor Candidate (2012), Wayne State University Law School, Wayne State University Law School Public Interest Law Fellow, 2009; University of Michigan Law School Bergstrom Child Welfare Law Fellow, 2009; Vice Chair, OUTlaws, Wayne State University Law School 2009-2010; member, Law School Congress, National LGBT Bar Association

## WMS '09

**Emily Lynch**, Community Health Educator, Highland Family Planning, Rochester, NY

**Rosa Luciano**, graduate student, Counselor Education, The College at Brockport

**Sarah Evans**, MA, English, SUNY Binghamton, May 2011; pursuing a second master's in Public Administration at Cornell University

**Jennie Thomas Moore**, interpreter for Gallaudet University

**Caitlin Simonse**, master's program in Library Science, University of Buffalo

**Lindsey Cain**, pursuing master's in Human Sexuality Education, Widener University

## WMS '10

**Monica Hall**, vocal performer for Carnival Cruise Lines

**Catherine Dean**, organizer, Democratic Committee, Penfield, NY

**Mary Shanz**, kindergarten teacher through AmeriCorps at St. Francis School in Lumberton, NM

**Lauren Burdett**, pursuing master's in Social Administration, Case Western Reserve University

## WMS '11

**Dena Defazio**, pursuing master's in Social Work, University of Buffalo

**Tina Ditzel**, pursuing master's in Education, Teacher Certification, University at Buffalo

## WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES MISSION STATEMENT



*The Women and Gender Studies Program is committed to exploring gender and women's issues from a multidisciplinary perspective: across different populations; and within a local, national and transnational context. The program seeks to provide students with the occasion to investigate the intersectionality of sex, gender, race, ethnicity, class, age, sexuality and other dimensions of social identity. The program offers both a major and a minor with course work dedicated to heightening the awareness of the political, socioeconomic, and cultural ideologies related to gender theory. The women and gender studies curriculum seeks to support pedagogy rooted in social justice and equality and to situate the classroom as a collaborative space where both instructor and students mediate knowledge production. The Women and Gender Studies Program works to make the diversity of women's and gendered perspectives visible and to position student success within an academic, professional, and personal context.*



**Barbara LeSavoy, PhD**  
 201A Daily Hall  
 The College at Brockport  
 State University of New York  
 Brockport, NY 14420  
 Phone: (585) 359-5700  
 Email: [blesavoy@brockport.edu](mailto:blesavoy@brockport.edu)  
[www.brockport.edu/wms/](http://www.brockport.edu/wms/)



The College at  
**BROCKPORT**  
 STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK





The College at  
**BROCKPORT**  
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
350 New Campus Drive  
Brockport, NY 14420

## SPRING '12 WMS EVENTS

### Spring 2012 WMS Events:

WGSO-sponsored **Women's Week** in March celebrating Women's History Month

**International Women's Day**, March 8, American Association of University Women (AAUW), Rochester, NY

Women's Center-sponsored **Clothesline Project**, April 17-18.

**The Women's Center**, located in the basement of the Seymour College Union, and the WMS Program work collaboratively in support of women and gender goals. Watch for upcoming Women's Center programs and events.

### American Democracy Project Spring 2012 Speaker Series

**Sister Helen Prejean, Dead Man Walking: The Journey Continues**

7:30 pm, February 29 in Hartwell Hall

*Free and open to the public.*

For additional information, visit  
[www.brockport.edu/adp/speakers.html](http://www.brockport.edu/adp/speakers.html)



## BROCKPORT SPRING 2012 WRITERS FORUM EVENTS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO WMS

### February 8

**Ayun Halliday**, former theater major and erstwhile massage therapist, is the chief primatologist of The East Village Inky zine. Her authorial career began with four self-mocking autobiographies. Her most recent labor of love is a wholly analog, highly participated, illustrated guidebook, *The Zinester's Guide to NYC*.

### February 22

**Dr. Stephen Fellner**, associate professor of English at The College at Brockport, is author of *All Screwed Up*, *The Weary Word Rejoices*, and *Blind Date with Cavafy* (which won the Thom Gunn Gay Male Poetry Award.) He is currently co-editing a poetry anthology, *Love Rise Up*, with his spouse, Phil E. Young.

### March 2

**Allison Joseph**, born in London, England and raised in Toronto and the Bronx, Allison currently lives in Carbondale, Illinois, where she directs the MFA program in Creative Writing at Southern Illinois University. She serves as poetry editor of Crab Orchard Review and director of the Young Writers Workshop, a summer conference for teen writers.

### April 4

**Jo Ann Beard**, originally from the Midwest, where she received her graduate degree in nonfiction writing from The University of Iowa, lives in upstate New York and teaches at Sarah Lawrence College. She is the author of *The Boys of My Youth*, a collection of autobiographical essays, and *In Zanesville*, a novel.

### April 25

**Augusten Burroughs** is author of many best-selling books and short stories, including *Sellelevision*, *Running with Scissors*, *Dry*, and *Possible Side Effects*, to name a few. His writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *House and Garden*, *Blackbook*, *New York Magazine*, and *The Times*. In 2006, *Running with Scissors* was made into a film. He currently splits his time between New York City and Amherst, Massachusetts.

**THE WRITERS  
FORUM**

For further Writers Forum information, and to see the complete spring 2012 author line-up, visit [www.brockport.edu/wforum](http://www.brockport.edu/wforum) or contact **Anne Panning**, PhD, Writers Forum co-director at [apanning@brockport.edu](mailto:apanning@brockport.edu).

*Unless otherwise noted, all readings are held at 8 pm in New York Room, Cooper Hall. They are free and open to the public.*