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## Women's Studies Newsletter 04-2011

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# Women's Studies Newsletter

April 2011

## News from the Director:

Although our last newsletter was only distributed two months ago, a lot has happened in that short time! We hosted a fabulous series of events in March as part of Women's History Month (WHM) that we co-organized with the WHM Planning Committee and our longstanding partners in the Women's Center. Organized around the theme of "Stealing

the Show: Women and Performance," our month included thirteen separate events by activists, scholars, and performers. In addition to all our inspiring guests, I want to thank all BGSU faculty and students, who presented or performed (for free) as part of this month. Without their creativity and generosity, we would not be able to organize so many events with such limited funds.

I wish all of you could have attended this year's Women's Studies Research Symposium. The day started with extraordinarily strong and diverse research presentations by BGSU undergraduate and graduate students. The symposium is juried; so all students faced the careful scrutiny of the dedicated WS Core and Affiliated Faculty who served on our WS Research Symposium Committee. I congratulate all of the presenters. Our dessert reception, awards presentations, and keynote address were extremely well attended, and I am especially happy that our colleagues from BGSU Firelands (who received a Feminist Falcon Institutional Change Award) and so many parents were able to join us. Thanks to Dr. Janice McCabe, Assistant Professor of Sociology at Florida State University, who agreed to be our keynote speaker on very short notice after our scheduled speaker canceled due to health reasons. Dr. McCabe's talk on "Gender Representations in 20th Century Children's Books" was the perfect bookend for an exciting day. For a list of symposium awards and pictures of the events, please turn to pp. 6-7.

Last but not least, after a vote of endorsement from BGSU's Faculty Senate, the proposed School for Cultural and Critical Studies is one step closer to becoming a reality. The next (and final) step is a vote by the Board of Trustees. We hope for a positive vote, and I look forward to working with our colleagues in American Culture Studies, Ethnic Studies, and Popular Culture to realize our plans for the School.

Our next newsletter will be out in the Fall. Until then, I wish everyone a happy and productive summer.



*Women's Studies Research Symposium keynote speaker Dr. Janice McCabe with Dr. Sarah Smith-Rainey (WS Undergraduate Coordinator) and Dr. Susana Peña (WS Director)*

Susana Peña

# Letter from the Undergraduate Coordinator

Greetings!

It's been conference season for our undergraduates this semester! Shayna Noonan (WS Major) and Abby Williams (WS Minor) attended a conference at the University of Richmond called "Emancipatory Knowledge: Women's and Gender Studies Now," at which Shayna presented a paper called "The Past and the Present." As you can see in the picture on this page, Abby and Shayna were excited to get to meet Patricia Hill Collins at that conference!



In addition, I will travel with three undergraduates—Adeya Pinnix (WS Major), Sh'Dymond Pierce (WS Minor), and Laurel Hanson (WS Major)—to a conference at The Ohio State University called "Gender and States of Emergency." We look forward to hearing Kimberlé Crenshaw and Cynthia Enloe speak!

Back at BGSU, the new Women's Studies honor's society, Triota, has been busy. We had our first Career Café with Lucé Tomlin-Brenner and Emily Resnik, at which undergraduates got to speak with these successful Women's Studies alums about careers. Co-leaders Adeya Pinnix and Julia Usitalo also organized the first Triota induction ceremony which took place at the Women's Studies Research Symposium reception. We were happy to have so many parents at the induction ceremony, proudly supporting their Women's Studies daughters (see Picture 1 on p.6).

Finally, anticipation for the new Sexuality Studies minor is building! Students and faculty alike are all abuzz about this exciting new addition to the curriculum. As I announced in the last newsletter, the new minor has been officially approved and is scheduled to begin Fall 2011. Julie Haught will be offering the core course for the new minor, WS 2610: Introduction to LGBT Studies, this fall. If you are interested in learning more about the minor, or, designing a course to fit the minor, please contact me!

Sarah Smith-Rainey



*Ashley Porter, Melissa Darnell and Sabrina Bialy at the Women's Studies Research Symposium*



*Shayna Noonan, Abby Williams and Carly Toepfer with Patricia Hill Collins*

# Student and Faculty Accomplishments

## Student Awards

**Rachel Dean-Ruzicka** (WS Grad Certificate, WS GTA) was awarded the Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Assistant Award by BGSU's Graduate College and Graduate Student Orientation (See photo at right.)

**Sheana Director** (WS Graduate Teaching Assistant) was awarded the 2011-2012 Non-Service Fellowship by the American Culture Studies Program.

## Student Presentations

**Kerry L. Jones** (WS Grad Certificate) presented a poster "Comparing Male and Female College Students as Political Actors" at the American College Personnel Association (ACPA) College Educators International conference.

**Shayna Paige Noonan** (WS Major) presented her paper "The Post and the Present: How Current Discourses Surrounding Race and Gender Influence Women's Musical Activism" at the Associated Colleges of the South's Women's and Gender Studies Conference.

**Erin Paun Osborne** (WS Grad Certificate) presented "Love Art Laboratory Marries a Mountain: The Cultural Significance of Ritual, Art, and Ecosexuality through Communication, Performance, and Dance" at BGSU's Battleground States conference and a poster titled "Exploring Recent Physical Performance Work Completed with a Series of Collaborative Artists as Part of Annie Sprinkle's Love Art Lab" at the Audrey-Beth Fitch Women's Studies Conference, California, PA.

## Special Congratulations

**Manda Hicks** (WS Grad Certificate) was hired as Assistant Professor and Director of Forensics for Boise State University starting in Fall of 2011. We wish her the best in her new position!

## Faculty Publications

**Becca Cragin.** "Beyond the Feminine: Intersectionality and Hybridity in Talk Shows," *Women's Studies in Communication* (2010) and "Teaching Sexuality through Media," *thirdspace: a journal of feminist theory and culture* (forthcoming, 2011).

**Cynthia Mahaffey.** "Wearing the rainbow triangle: The effect of out lesbian teachers and lesbian teacher



subjectivities on student writing in the first year composition classroom" Saarbrücken, Germany: Verlag Dr. Muller. 2008.

**Melissa K. Miller, Jeffrey S. Peake, and Brittany Anne Boulton.** "Testing the Saturday Night Live Hypothesis: Newspaper Coverage of Hillary Clinton's 2008 Presidential Campaign," *Politics & Gender*. 2010.

**Sarah Smith-Rainey.** *Love, Sex & Disability: The Pleasures of Care*. Lynne Rienner Publishers (2011).

## Faculty Presentations

Neil Englehart and **Melissa K. Miller.** "Women's Rights in International Law: Why is CEDAW Different?" Paper delivered at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois, April 2011.

**Melissa K. Miller** and Jeffrey S. Peake. "Rookie or Rock Star? Newspaper Coverage of Sarah Palin's Vice Presidential Campaign." Paper delivered at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington, D.C., September 2010.

## Community Involvement

ONE Bowling Green received the Civil Libertarian of the Year Award from the ACLU of Ohio. The campaign successfully gathered support for the passage of two anti-discrimination ordinances in the city of Bowling Green. WS affiliated faculty and steering committee members **Mary Krueger** and **Jane Rosser** served on the Leadership Team for ONE Bowling Green and a number of other WS faculty, affiliated faculty, graduate students and undergraduate students also worked for/supported the campaign.

# New Affiliated Faculty



## Women's Studies Welcomes Dr. Cynthia Mahaffey!

### What are your research/teaching interests?

The work of lesbian professors in the writing classroom; lesbian subjectivity in the academy; "queer geography" in the composition classroom; LGBT students and the college composition classroom; teacher self-disclosure and LGBT students; celebration of queer sexualities; and the college writing teacher as "text."

### How does your work intersect with gender, sexuality and/or Women's Studies?

I see my work as intimately interconnected in the fields of gender, sexuality, and concepts of women's studies, such as erasure of women, marginalization of "minority"/transgressive sexualities, disruption of heteronormativity, reconfiguration of sexual "normativity" and ideas of difference.

### What aspects of the Women's Studies program are you most looking forward to participating in?

Continued participation in the women's research symposium, working with students as they are introduced to women's studies, encouraging students to become women's studies minors

### Is there anything else you would like to share with the students, faculty and alumni of Women's Studies at BGSU?

I am delighted to become a more integral part of the Women's Studies program, as I love teaching the classes and working with and learning from bright women and men who are respectful of and celebrative of women.

**Triota**

A Women's Studies Honors Society



CONGRATUALIONS TO THE 2011 INDUCTEES

SARAH DEININGER  
SARA MYLES  
PATRICIA BORING  
CASSANDRA COLLIER  
JOETTA KYNARD  
KATRIN MCBROOM  
KATE NOFTSINGER  
AMY VAN HUFFEL  
TIA WOODDEL  
CARLY TOEPFER  
SHAYNA NOONEN  
ADEYA PINNIX

### BGSU Feminist Alumni Network (or BGSU FAN)

Want to know what that awesome feminist you sat next to in Women's Sexuality class is up to these days? Searching for a job or networking opportunities? Alums are looking to develop a BGSU Feminist Alumni Network that will reunite classmates, connect current and former students through networking and mentoring, and more!

For more information, or to get involved, see BGSU Feminist Alumni Network on Facebook or e-mail us at [bgsu.feminists@gmail.com](mailto:bgsu.feminists@gmail.com)

# New Affiliated Faculty



## Women's Studies Welcomes Dr. Sung-Yeon Park!

### What are your research/teaching interests and how does your work intersect with gender, sexuality and/or Women's Studies?

I teach a WS course crosslisted with the Department of Telecommunications. The course is TCOM/WS 4670 and entitled "Media, Gender, and Culture." I started to develop the course since I arrived on this campus in 2003. I always dreamed of teaching a course like that when I was in grad school. So, I am really attached to the course. I also get the most joy out of teaching the course. The issues encompassing gender, media, and culture are always on my radar and thus I try to update the courses as often as I can. At the same time, students also keep the course new and fresh by bringing different perspectives and experiences. The most difficult part is grading because I don't think I can judge which thoughts are absolutely better than others. All I can do is to grade students' work based on how much evidence and reflection each thought has originated from. Other than this course, I teach courses in TCOM that deal with media and society, advertising and other strategic communication. I also teach a Ph.D. seminar on media theories and effects.

My research areas are closely aligned with my teaching. I study media effects on women and men's body image. In addition, I am interested in racial stereotypes in the media and user-generated content on the web such as user comments on blogs and retail websites.

### What aspects of the Women's Studies program are you most looking forward to participating in?

To compensate for my position as an academic, I am very much interested in the activist arm of WS. I would like to engage in women's issues at the community level and see how theories and research can intersect with the reality of women, especially those who are subjected to injustice, violence, and discrimination.

### Is there anything else you would like to share with the students, faculty and alumni of Women's Studies at BGSU?

I have always appreciated the voice of WS students in my classroom and also on the campus. They are the ones we can count on to come out and protest if there is any miscarriage of justice on our campus and the wider society. I think WS still has a lot to contribute to our society both intellectually and practically. Keep going and never doubt its place in our society. I am a proud feminist and hope everyone feels the same!

### Free Counseling

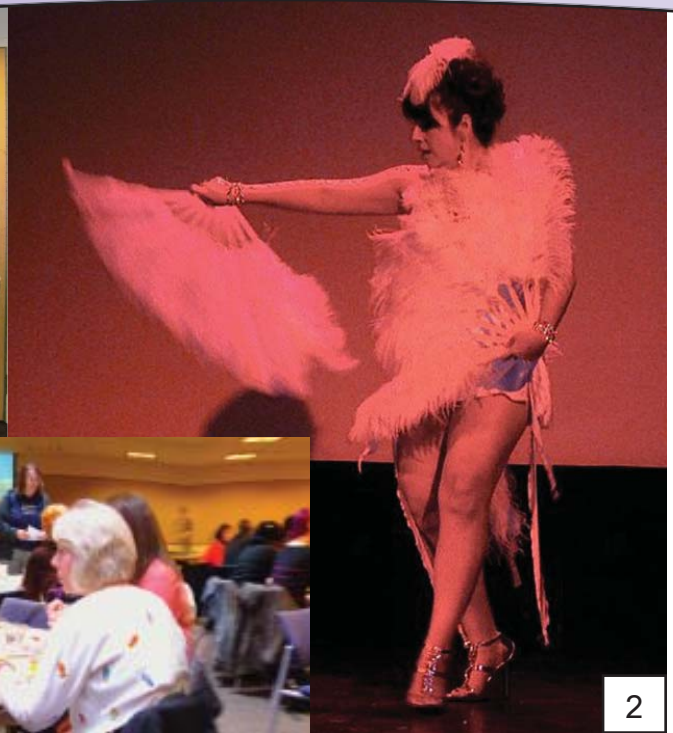
As part of practicum, the BGSU School of Intervention Services offers free counseling to students and the larger BGSU Community in a very accessible location (4th floor of the Education building). Practicum students are supervised by Dr. Peggy Lesniewicz. Mental Health Practicum Trainees help clients deal with a variety of issues which include, but are not limited to, depression, homesickness, relationship issues, and academic and social adjustment issues.

To learn more, interested parties can contact Dr. Peggy Lesniewicz at [plesnie@bgsu.edu](mailto:plesnie@bgsu.edu).

# Women's Studies Events



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1) Women's Studies undergraduate students and parents at the Women's Studies Research Symposium awards ceremony 2) Viva Valezz, feminist burlesque performer, at the final event of WHM at the Clazel Theater 3) Audience at the WS Research Symposium keynote event 4) Dr. Mary Krueger (Women's Center) and Dr. Ellen Berry (ACS/English) 5) Lucé Tomlin-Brenner at the Last Feminist Standing comedy night 6) A'ame Kone (MACIE/EDFI) and 7) Sheana Director (American Culture Studies) and Clare Lemke (American Culture Studies) present their research at the symposium

Opposite page: 8) Sara Myles (WS Minor/Social Work Major) listens to Symposium presentations 9) Aditi Paul (School of Media and Communication) during her Symposium presentation 10) Courtney Robinson (Human Movement, Sports, and Leisure Studies) and Katie Sullivan Barak (American Culture Studies) received the award for Best Graduate Presentation 11) BGSU Firelands faculty and students received the Feminist Falcon Institutional Change Award

# Women's Studies Events

## Women's Studies Scholarship, Research Symposium and Feminist Falcon Award Winners

**2011 Women's Studies Scholarship**  
**Amy Van Huffel** (Sport Management Major/  
Women's Studies Minor)

**Best Undergraduate Presentation**  
**Shayna Noonan** (Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, and Spanish Major), "The Post and the Present: How Current Discourses Influence Women's Political Activism"

**Best Graduate Presentation**  
**Katie Sullivan Barak** (American Culture Studies) and **Courtney Robinson** (Human Movement, Sport, and Leisure Studies), "You Look Stupid Smiling and You Look Stupid Now Wearing Cleats: Negotiating Being a Girl in Sport" (pictured in 10).

**Women Mentoring Women Award**  
**Prof. Sandra Faulkner**, Associate Professor in the School of Media and Communication

**Best Intro to Women's Studies Student**  
**Ross Schira**, nominated by his Instructor Rachel Dean-Ruzicka

**Supportive Parent/Guardian Award**  
**Laureen and Don Boring**, nominated by their daughter Patti Boring

**Institutional Change Award**  
**Katia Castile** (Firelands student), **Heather Beverly** (former Firelands student), **Traci Taylor** (Firelands student), **Brigitte Green-Churchwell** (Special Needs Assistant at the Fireland Teaching and Learning Center), **Dr. Sue Ellen McComas** (Assistant Professor of Communications), **Sharon Britton** (Library Director and Co-advisor of the Women's Resource Group), and **Julie Didelot** (Instructor of Sociology and Women's Studies) (pictured in 11)







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