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Women's Studies Newsletter 02-2011

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Women's Studies Newsletter

February 2011

News from the Director:

I hope this newsletter provides a glimpse of the wonderful work being accomplished by Women's Studies faculty and students at Bowling Green State University. Just last night I was sitting in a packed audience for a lecture by Danielle McGuire on sexual violence and the civil rights movement organized by WS Affiliated Faculty Emily Lutenski. The engaged participation of undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty is an important reminder of the interest in and need for a vibrant and diverse Women's Studies Program at BGSU. We strive to realize that vision, and as Dr. Sarah Smith-Rainey discusses on the next page, the creation of our new undergraduate minor in Sexuality Studies is a significant step in the right direction.

We continue our efforts to form a School of Cultural and Critical Studies with our partners in American Culture Studies, Ethnic Studies, and Popular Culture. As part of this initiative, we have proposed new undergraduate curriculum that emphasizes the interdisciplinary connections between our units and an organizational structure that helps maximize our resources. Our proposal was recently discussed at an open forum organized by the College of Arts and Sciences' Council and the university's Undergraduate Council. I hope to be able to announce the implementation of the School in the near future.

We are also working to bring exciting events to campus that contribute to the academic mission of Women's Studies. We are working with the Women's Center to organize Women's History Month events around the theme of "Stealing the Show: Women and Performance." One event features performances by WS Affiliated Faculty Dr. Lesa Lockford and WS Graduate Certificate student Kari-Anne Innes. Our students are getting ready to share their research and creative work at the Women's Studies Research Symposium which will take place on March 25, 2011 and will feature a keynote address entitled "Aggression Meets Lipstick Dreams: Representation, Circulation, Femininities" by Dr. Maud Lavin, Professor of Visual and Critical Studies and Art History, Theory and Criticism at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Susana Peña

For more information on
Women's Studies
events, go to:
[www.bgsu.edu/
departments/wmst](http://www.bgsu.edu/departments/wmst)



Letter from the Undergraduate Coordinator



Dr. Smith-Rainey advises major Shayna Noonen at the Advising Open House hosted by Ethnic Studies, Popular Culture and Women's Studies.

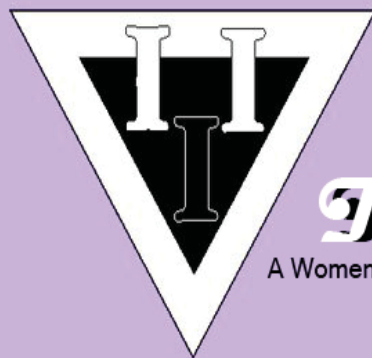
Happy New Year!

2010 was a very busy year for Undergraduate Studies in Women's Studies and we are starting 2011 with two new additions! First, I'm pleased to announce our new Sexuality Studies minor program. The minor is the result of an initiative started by Dr. Vickki Krane and Julie Haught, and the hard work of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, including Dr. Emily Lutenski, Dr. Melissa Miller, Dr. Susana Peña, Dr. Opportune Zongo, Julia Haught and undergraduate representatives Mackenzie Mukiira and Sara Myles.

We worked hard to create a truly interdisciplinary and innovative minor that explores sexuality as a culturally and historically specific construct, a form of human expression, and a social identity that impacts our understandings of citizenship, politics, and humanity. I believe our efforts have paid off; the Sexuality Studies minor spans 3 colleges and 7 programs at BGSU, including Psychology, Human Development and Family Studies, English, Medical Technology, Health Promotion, and Sociology. The required core course for the minor will be Women's Studies 2610: Introduction to LGBT Studies. Students select the remaining eighteen hours from a list of approved courses.

We have also started a chapter of Triota, the Women's Studies honors society at BGSU. Triota is open to all Women's Studies majors and minors with a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Adeya Pinnix and Julia Usitalo are the first co-Presidents of the undergraduate student organization, and Dr. Emily Lutenski and I are the co-advisors. Triota will be focused on professional development activities for Women's Studies students, and they plan to host their first "Career Café" with Luce' Tomlin-Brenner on March 18th at 3:30 p.m. in the Women's Center. Career Café's are informal conversations with Women's Studies alum from BGSU and beyond about what you can do with a Women's Studies degree. Since graduating from BGSU in 2006, Tomlin-Brenner has worked for a domestic violence crisis center and for Hilary Clinton's presidential campaign. Currently she is doing stand-up comedy in the D.C. area and managing a small business. I hope you can join Triota on the 18th for the premier event!

Sarah Smith-Rainey



**New to
BGSU:**

Triota

A Women's Studies Honors Society

Named after the goddesses Inanna, Ishtar and Isis, Triota is the newly formed BGSU chapter of a national Women's Studies honors society.

The organization's goal is to promote excellence in scholarship and achievement among Women's Studies majors and minors on the BGSU campus.

For more information contact

Adeya Pinnix (apinnix@bgsu.edu)

Student Accomplishments

Internships and Activities

This past summer **Kate Noftsinger** (WS minor) interned at Ms. Magazine and **Sara Myles** (WS minor) attended Feminist Summer Camp (see photo on right). **Shayna Paige Noonan** (WS Major) is currently a Civic Action Leader and **Heather Elizabeth Pritash** (WS Graduate Certificate Alum) is in her second semester as an assistant professor of composition at Western Wyoming Community College.

Awards

Amira A. Akl (WS Grad Certificate) was awarded the 2010 NWSA Women of Color Caucus Award for Students of Arab Descent at the NWSA Conference in Denver, Colorado. **Kate Noftsinger** won 3rd place in the 2008-2009 Women's Equity Action League Ohio Essay Contest for her essay called "Killing them off: How Antifeminism Disconfirms Feminism." **Shayna Paige Noonan** was recently awarded Spring grant funding through the Center for Undergraduate Research & Scholarship (CURS).

Publications

Rachel Dean-Ruzicka (WS Grad Certificate) has two upcoming publications, "Themes of Privilege and Whiteness in the Films of Wes Anderson" forthcoming from *Quarterly Review of Film and Video* (2013) and "Guerrilla Girls" forthcoming from *The Encyclopedia of Women and American Popular Culture* (Facts on File Press 2011). **Christy Mesaros-Winckles** (WS Grad Certificate) had an article, "TLC and the Fundamentalist Family: A Televised Quiverfull of Babies," published in the online *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture*. **Heather Elizabeth Pritash** co-authored "The Needle as the Pen: Intentionality, Needlework, and the Production of Alternate Discourses of Power," a chapter in *Women and Things: The Material Culture of Needlework and Textiles, 1650-1950*. Ashgate, 2009.

Presentations

Marne Austin (WS Grad Certificate) will be presenting "Us Versus the World": Mother-Daughter Co-Narratives of the Relational Experience of Anorexia" at the International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry,



Urbana-Champaign, IL and "Walking in and Through Multiple Worlds: Identity Negotiations and Enactments of Muslim Converts" at the Western Social Science Association, Salt Lake City, UT in 2011. In 2010 Austin presented a paper and participated in a panel discussion at the National Communication Association conference in San Francisco, CA. She also presented two papers for the Women's Research Network here at Bowling Green State University.

Manda Hicks (WS Grad Certificate) will be presenting, "The Female Military Service Member as a Location of Disruption" and "A Second Woman: Representations of PFC Lori Piestewa in Print Media" at the International Communication Association Conference in Boston, MA this May. In 2010 Hicks presented three papers at the National Communication Association Conference in San Francisco, CA and two papers at the International Qualitative Inquiry Congress Conference, Urbana-Champaign, IL.

Christy Mesaros-Winckles will be presenting a paper she co-authored with her sister, Jessica Mesaros, an undergraduate at Spring Arbor University, titled "Is God Like My Father? Exploring Family Abuse through Sibling Narratives" at the 7th International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana-Champaign, IL this May.

Congratulations to all our Women's Studies students!

New Affiliated Faculty



Women's Studies Welcomes Dr. Valeria Grinberg-Pla!

What are your research/teaching interests?

My work focuses on Latin American cultural studies. Specifically, I am interested in the ways literature and film can be used both to underscore and to contest hegemonic ideologies regarding gender, race and identity. I believe that most peoples' ideas about history and society are informed by popular culture, film and to some extent literature, rather than history or social sciences. This is why I have worked extensively on artistic, that is fictional and popular, representations of Eva Perón in Argentina. My research shows Eva Perón's body has been used as a surface in which to inscribe national values.

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

As I was saying, in the case of Eva Perón, a female body has been used as a location to negotiate national identity, and this is part of a longstanding tradition in Western culture to signify territory through the female body. Think for instance about the first representations of America in the visual arts. To critically assess the impact of such appropriations of the female body I read them through the lenses of feminist theory.

I am particularly interested in the development of feminist thought in Latin America. One can see how among women writers there has been some very original, thought provoking reflections on gender roles and power. Literature has been in this sense a very privileged site for women to explore notions of gender and to engage in a debate about gender inequalities in society. Starting with Sor Juana in Mexico as early as in the 17th century, over Clorinda Matto de Turner (Peru) and Manuela Gorriti (Argentina) in the 19th century up to the many female poets, novelists, and screenplay writers from the 20th century on, irony has been one the most used strategies to question dominant assumptions about gender. Coming back to your question, I look at the ways their literary works engage readers in a discussion of prevalent ideologies about femininity in Latin America.

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

I look forward to teaching and advising students. My hope is to contribute to the program by offering some insight into women's writing about gender in Latin America. I would most certainly welcome research projects on Latin American feminist thought, or projects that include a comparative aspect.

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

I would like to share one of my favorite poems by Guatemalan writer Ana María Rodas from her poetry collection *Poemas de la izquierda erótica* (1973) in my humble translation. (see page 5)

New Affiliated Faculty



Women's Studies Welcomes Dr. Lee Nickoson!

What are your research/teaching interests?

My research and teaching interests revolve around my deep interest in better understanding how and why we compose texts, and how we make writing for us. Additionally, I am invested in learning more about how we read and respond to writing. These general scholarly interests drive my teaching as well as my research in the areas of qualitative research methods, writing assessment, and composition pedagogy.

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

I bring an explicitly feminist approach to my work as a researcher, a teacher, and as a member of the academy. For me, feminist work involves collaborative, change-based research and pedagogy that privilege critical self-reflection as an integral component of the learning process. And, to that end, I find the "messiness" involved in the processes of feminist scholarly work energizing.

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

I look forward to participating as a full member of the Women's Studies program, looking from and with other WS faculty and students. I also try to seek out opportunities to work with engaged scholars across the disciplines, and what better way to achieve this than with the WS program!

DOMINGO 12 DE SEPTIEMBRE, 1937

BY ANA MARÍA RODAS

DOMINGO 12 DE SEPTIEMBRE, 1937
A LAS DOS DE LA MAÑANA: NACÍ
DE AHÍ MIS HÁBITOS NOCTURNOS
Y EL AMOR A LOS FINES DE SEMANA.
ME CLASIFICARON: NENA? ROSADITO.
BOTÉ EL ROSA HACE MUCHO TIEMPO
Y ESCOGÍ EL COLOR QUE MÁS ME GUSTA,
QUE SON TODOS.
ME ACOMPAÑAN TRES HIJAS Y DOS PERROS.
LO QUE ME QUEDA DE DOS MATRIMONIOS.
ESTUDIÉ PORQUE NO HABÍA REMEDIO
AFORTUNADAMENTE LO HE OLVIDADO CASI TODO.
TENGO HÍGADO, ESTÓMAGO, DOS OVARIOS,
UNA MATRIZ, CORAZÓN Y CEREBRO, MÁS ACCESORIOS
TODO FUNCIONA EN ORDEN, POR LO TANTO,
RÍO, GRITO, INSULTO, LLORO Y HAGO EL AMOR.
Y DESPUÉS LO CUENTO.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1937

TRANSLATION BY VALERIA GRINBERG-PLA

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1937
AT TWO IN THE MORNING: I WAS BORN.
HENCE MY NIGHTTIME HABITS
AND MY LOVE FOR WEEKENDS.
THEY CLASSIFIED ME: GIRL? PINK.
I THREW IT AWAY LONG AGO
AND I CHOSE THE COLOR I LIKE BEST
WHICH IS ALL.
THREE DAUGHTERS AND TWO DOGS
KEEP ME COMPANY:
WHAT'S LEFT FROM TWO MARRIAGES.
I WENT TO COLLEGE BECAUSE THERE
WAS NO OTHER CHOICE
LUCKILY I FORGOT ALMOST EVERYTHING.
I HAVE A LIVER, A STOMACH, TWO OVARIES,
A UTERUS, HEART AND BRAINS, PLUS
ACCESSORIES
EVERYTHING WORKS JUST FINE, THEREFORE,
I LAUGH, SCREAM, CRY AND MAKE LOVE
AND AFTERWARDS, I TELL ABOUT IT.

Student Groups

Graduate Women's Caucus

THE PROFESSIONAL
THE PERSONAL
THE POLITICAL

BGSU's **Graduate Women's Caucus** (GWC) is dedicated to supporting the professional, personal, and political development of graduate women. GWC

offers a place for peer support where all graduate women can discuss any and all concerns related to academics, feminist activism, or other issues. Our programming also fosters mentorship between faculty and graduate women at various stages in their scholarship and professional development. Through workshops, roundtable discussions, film screenings, an annual benefit show, and other activities, GWC aims to serve the various needs and interests of our members and welcomes new ideas and involvement. The Graduate Women's Caucus meets the first Wednesday of every month from 1:30 to 2:30 in the Women's Center.



The **National Council of Negro Women's** (NCNW) mission is to lead, develop, and advocate for women of African descent as they support their families and communi-

ties. The organization meets every other Thursday at 8pm in the Student Union and all are welcome! Please contact Sean-Nika Steele at Steeles@bgsu.edu for more information.



Exceptional Intellectual Ladies(EIL) is an on-campus organization in which ladies at Bowling Green State University are given the opportunity to encourage and uplift young girls

ages 8-18 through peer mentoring. The ladies of EIL mentor girls at Grace Community Center in Toledo, OH and conduct a positive impacting program entitled, "Girl Then, Lady Now".

QueerGrads is a student organization aimed at outreach to and support of queer-identified graduate students, since graduate school can be an isolating experience for anyone, and far more so for those whose identities don't align with the mainstream. QueerGrad's activities are open to all queer-identified graduate students and their allies. QueerGrads holds "Tea? Fine By Me" socials every Sunday from 2:00-4:00 at Happy Badger.

Get to know **Precious Stones**, an organization "dedicated to the uplifting and unifying of all women on BGSU's campus," by attending one of these upcoming events. Each year Precious Stones gives a lucky girl in the Toledo area her dream prom. There are an overwhelming number of teenagers who are not able to afford prom therefore we are teaming up with the most popular prom shops and hair salons to make someone's dream come true. Qualified students must send in a 500 word essay, have at least a 2.5 GPA, and a letter of recommendation to apply. Other upcoming events include: "Welcome to the Madhouse" on Saturday, February 19 in the BTSU Ballroom at 8:00 pm. The second full-figured fashion show "Constructing a BRAND New Me" is on Saturday, March 19 in Olscamp 101. Come out and learn how to construct yourself into a more professional you! This event is open to the public, and features keynote speaker Omarosa (from Apprentice). For more information about Precious Stones contact Alexis McCain by email at amccain@bgsu.edu.

Organization for Women's Issues (OWI) is an activist student group comprised of both men and women. Our goal is to educate the community on issues of domestic violence, sexual assault, environment, reproductive rights, and GLBT issues. We meet Wednesdays at 9:00pm in 107 Hanna Hall (the Women's Center). Mark your calendars, February 25 and 26 we will be holding our annual performance of Eve Ensler's *Vagina Monologues* to benefit the Cocoon Shelter. If you have any questions, comments or would like to know more, email snoonen@bgsu.edu or visit our Tumblr <http://bgsu-orgforwomensissues.tumblr.com/>.

Jeannie Ludlow Visits BGSU



On September 13 Women's Studies at BGSU welcomed back former director, Jeannie Ludlow. Ludlow led a brown bag discussion on *Women's Studies Beyond BGSU* and spoke at an evening screening of the documentary film *The Coat Hanger Project*. During the brown bag Ludlow discussed her experiences with Women's Studies programs since leaving BGSU and the rewards and challenges awaiting new Women's Studies graduates.

The Coat Hanger Project, directed by Angie Young, addresses reproductive justice and abortion rights today. It features Ludlow along with medical practitioners, "artists, activists, and other notable voices on the movement" for reproductive justice. Before the film the audience was invited to take a wire coat hanger and bend/shape it while listening to opening comments by Young and Ludlow (one example pictured right). Young hoped this tactile exercise would help the audience connect with the experience of women before abortion was legalized. After the film,



Young and Ludlow answered questions posed by audience members.

The Coat Hanger Project was brought to BGSU as part of the Feminist Film Series co-sponsored by the Women's Studies Program and Graduate Women's Caucus. GWC also hosted a reception in the Women's Center immediately following the film where audience members could talk personally to both Young and Ludlow. Young is screening the film across the country. For more information on the film or to schedule a screening visit www.thecoathangerproject.com

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!

Please head to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CLLDKV5> to give your input on what the BGSU FAN should look like. For more information, or to get involved, please contact: bgsu.feminists@gmail.com

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