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Isom Report

Sarah Isom Center for Women and Gender
Studies

Fall 2016

The Isom Report - Fall 2016

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THE ISOM REPORT

Fall 2016



Sarahfest

September 25 - 29

The Art of
In/Visibility

Director's Message: Homecoming



Dr. Jaime Harker
*Director and Professor
of English*

The Sarah Isom Center always felt like home to me. When I started at the University of Mississippi in 2003, I met people across campus through the Isom Center events, and I taught cross-listed gender studies classes. Those conversations with students and colleagues inspired my research, sustained my friendships, and renewed my commitment to feminist principles and practices. My year as interim director of the Sarah Isom Center was challenging, but the stellar staff and vast array of committed partners across the university and in the larger community made me realize what a difference the

Isom Center can make in individual lives and the larger culture. When I look at the many accomplishments of the Isom Center over the last five years—creating a sexuality

emphasis in the gender studies minor, bringing in amazing speakers like Brittney Cooper, John Waters, and Andi Zeisler, hosting drag shows, Code Pink, and the Pride Parade, and so much more—I know that Susan Grayzel, Theresa Starkey, and Kevin Cozart have built a remarkable legacy.

I am honored to join Theresa and Kevin at the Isom Center and continue the fight for a University of Mississippi that lives up to its creed, to create an environment that is more diverse, more accepting, more feminist, more queer. This year, I want to talk with you—the students, teachers, community members, and other allies who support our work. We are planning two brainstorming sessions for faculty this fall: one on developing new gender studies courses, the other on interdisciplinary research projects with Isom Center affiliates.

I want to hear from you as well. I will be meeting with people across the university and in the community to hear ideas for new projects. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have an idea, no matter how utopian it may



seem. The Pride parade last May featured hundreds of marchers, gay and straight, some of whom traveled from other states to be part of this historic event. It made many students feel welcome for the first time, and made alumni feel welcome again. We dream big at the Isom Center, as we build a Mississippi that welcomes all the UM graduates, Mississippi expatriates, and honorary Mississippians who may have felt unwanted in the past. The feminist and queer homecoming we imagine will be big enough for all of us.

Brainstorming Sessions

Creating New Classes in Gender Studies

October 11th ~ 12:15 - 1 PM

Come for coffee and conversation about new courses you would like to see, and/or teach, in the gender studies program. Is there a class you have always wanted to try? A crazy collaboration that you can't get to work in your home department? Come brainstorm with us as we build the gender studies curriculum through summer and intersession offerings.

Collaborative Research in Gender Studies

November 8th ~ 12:15 - 1 PM

Come discuss interdisciplinary projects in gender studies. The Sarah Isom Center wants to help facilitate collaborative projects involving gender and/or sexuality, and we will help identify possible grant support for such projects. Feminist and LGBTQ movements and the process of social change? The Radical South? STEM? Cultural interventions and social movements? If you are interested in joining a cross-disciplinary research cluster, come brainstorm with us.

Rock On!

I am proud to work with our community partners the Yoknapatawpha Arts Council, Proud Larry's, Thacker Mountain Radio, and the Oxford Film Festival, and thank them for the amazing programming they've lined up in support of Sarahfest.

I am also appreciative of the support the Center has received from our campus co-partners UM Museums, Rowan Oak, the Department of Art and Art History, the Overby Center, the J. D. Williams Archives and Special Collections, and the Meek School of Journalism and New Media.

The Center is grateful to artist Claudia DeMonte for her amazing generosity in curating an exhibit that covers forty years of her work and curated exhibits. DeMonte uses her craft to comment on and explore gender roles in variety of cultural contexts and that is why we are so proud that she accepted the Center's invitation to be part of Sarahfest this fall. Please come meet her on Tuesday, September 26th at the Powerhouse where

she will be in attendance for a reception from 6 to 8 p.m.

I also want to thank our UM students and staff who are participating in Sarahfest this year, too. A Big Thank You to Alicia Marie Venchuk, who will perform with her band Catfish Pie at Proud Larry's, and the amazing wordsmith and poet Aziza Barnes, who will read at Rowan Oak. Both are extremely talented graduate students. Also, heartfelt thank you to UM's songster Anne Freeman, who will perform with other local musicians on Monday the 26th at Proud Larry's for a late afternoon show (both Rowan Oak and the afternoon performance at Proud Larry's are free!), and of course, thank you to everyone, all the artists who are performing on our schedule.

Please check out our schedule of events at sarahfest.rocks.



Dr. Theresa Starkey
*Associate Director and Instructor
of Gender Studies*

Lillian McMurry and the Influence of Trumpet Records

The first half of the 1950s saw a slew of blues, gospel, and rockabilly records come out of Jackson, Mississippi. At the helm of Trumpet Records, a small, independent record label located on Jackson's Farish Street, Lillian McMurry was the first person to record blues heavyweights Sonny Boy Williamson II, Elmore James, and others. Not only was McMurry ahead of her time as one of the earliest female heads of a record label, she also defied the local musicians' union and

recorded black and white artists in the same sessions.

Lillian McMurry donated many master tapes and business documents, including original recording contracts, to the Blues Archive. Several of these items will be on display on the third floor of the J. D. Williams Library, outside the Department of Archives & Special Collections during the month of September.

-- by Dr. Greg Johnson



Lillian McMurry
*Owner of Trumpet
Records*



The Art of Making the Invisible Visible: A Retrospective by Claudia DeMonte

The Sarah Isom Center for Women and Gender Studies, in partnership with the Powerhouse Community Arts Center and with support from The University of Mississippi Museums, proudly presents a month-long exhibit that celebrates the art and activism of Claudia DeMonte. In the belief that

art is a bridge between cultural understanding and powerful social change, DeMonte has created a remarkable body of work. The assembled pieces in this exhibit cover forty years of her own work and curated exhibits. Her interest in exploring women's roles in society, perceived gender expectations, and standards of beauty reveals a commitment to making the invisible visible in women's lives.



The Sarah Isom Center for Women and Gender Studies is proud to share this exciting and thought-provoking exhibit with The University of Mississippi and larger Oxford community. The exhibit and artist reception are part of Sarahfest, the Center's annual festival celebrating women's contributions to the visual and performing arts.

The exhibit will be held at the Powerhouse Community Arts Center from September 3 through October 5, 2016. Reception with the artist will be held on Tuesday, September 27, 2016 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Exhibit and reception are free and open to the public. Powerhouse Community Arts Center is located at 413 South 14th Street, Oxford, MS 38655. For more information about this venue, including hours and directions, please contact The Powerhouse at: (662) 236-6429 or oxfordarts.com.

Celebrating the Sarah Isom Center for Women and Gender Studies 2016-17 Programming Theme "In/Visible"

About Claudia:

Claudia DeMonte has had more than 60 individual and 300 group exhibitions nationally, including exhibitions at the Corcoran Museum Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Mississippi Museum, Tucson Museum, Flint Institute of Art, and Museum of the Southwest. She has lectured and exhibited in 35 countries including: France, Italy, Estonia, Iceland, Germany, Thailand, Jamaica, The Netherlands, Belgium, Poland, Australia, and Japan. Her work is included in numerous museum permanent collections including the Brooklyn Museum of Art, Stamford Museum, Boca Raton Museum, and in major corporate collections such as those of Hyatt Regency Hotels,

Exxon, Citibank and Siemens. She has been a juror for the Prix de Rome and the Fulbright Fellowships.

Her public commissions have come from the N.Y.C. Department of Cultural Affairs, Brooklyn Library System, Queens Supreme Court, Prudential, the State of New Mexico and N.Y.C. School Construction Authority.

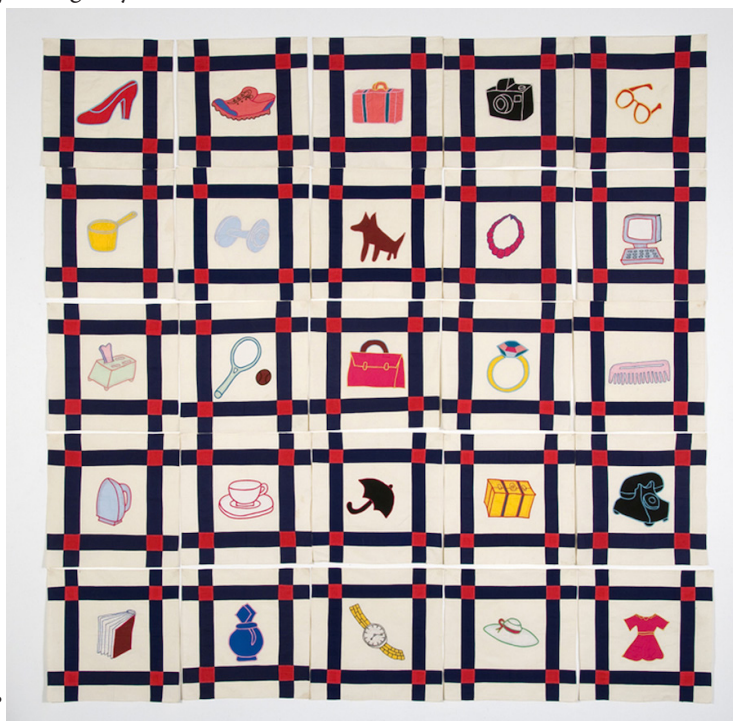
DeMonte is the curator of *Women of the World: A Global Collection of Art*. This traveling exhibition, with accompanying book,

includes work of women from 177 countries dealing with the image of women. This exhibit has been to 24 venues around the world.

Her project, REAL BEAUTY, uses handmade fabric dolls to express beauty standards around the world that are being lost due to plastic reproductions and globalization.

For 33 years DeMonte has served on the faculty of the University of Maryland where she has been named Distinguished Scholar Teacher and Professor Emerita. DeMonte also ran the Art Workshop program at the New School for Social Research from 1980-90. In 2006 she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the College of Santa Fe.

In fall 2009 a retrospective of DeMonte's work began a ten venue national tour. Pomegranate published an accompanying monograph, with essays by Eleanor Heartney and MOMA President Emerita Agnes Gund, was published by Pomegranate. She is represented by the June Kelly Gallery in N.Y.C.



Masculinity/Femininity

About the film

Experimental filmmaker Russell Sheaffer's *Masculinity/Femininity* takes over where his short film starring James Franco, *Masculinity & Me*, left off. Shot mainly on Super 8 film, this is not a typical documentary. Sheaffer asks filmmakers, academics, gender theorists, and artists to present their concepts of gender construction in what works as a sort of performance piece rather than as a narrative. In fact, the filmmakers themselves question whether *Masculinity/Femininity* is scripted or not. Whether through monologue, visual art, performance art, or storytelling, individuals including B. Ruby Rich, Susan Stryker, Barbara Hammer, John Greyson, Chris Vargas and Yvonne Tasker represent the personal experiences they have had with gender-normative societal constructs. Each performance is unique, but somehow viewers will be able to see something of themselves in each one.



Screening and Filmmaker Q & A: October 20th @ 7PM
Overby Center Auditorium

About the filmmaker

Russell Sheaffer is an academic and filmmaker, using his work in both disciplines to interrogate the intersections between gender and performance. A California native, he completed his B.A. in Film and Media Studies at UC Irvine (where he won the Franco Tonelli Memorial Award for Film Theory) and his M.A. in NYU's Department of Cinema Studies.

He is currently working on his Ph.D. in the Department of Communication and Culture at Indiana University. Before starting work on *Masculinity/Femininity*, Russell co-wrote and co-directed the film *Masculinity & Me* with James Franco, which was an official selection of the 2011 Torino LGBT Film Festival and was featured in Franco's solo

exhibition, "The Dangerous Book Four Boys" (where the NY Times deemed the piece "the best by far" and V Man described it as "irresolute, pop culture-inlect-ed brilliance"). Russell's films include: *Acetate Diary* (short), *Memory of Objects* (short), *Monotony* (short), *Masculinity & Me* (short), *Alone.* (short),

and *The Forgetting Game* (feature documentary). In addition to his own experimental work, Russell has produced a number of documentary and fiction films, including Josephine Decker's *Thou Wast Mild and Lovely*, which premiered in Forum at Berlinale in 2014.



Meet our Sarahfest Performers

The

Sarah Isom Center for Women and Gender Studies is excited to announce the return of Sarahfest, our arts and music festival, which is scheduled for September 25th through the 29th. We hope to see you at our kickoff on the Sunday, September 25th on the lawn of William Faulkner's Rowan for special, early evening pop-up of Thacker Mountain Radio. Read more about our lineup for artists below.



About Catfish Pie

Catfish Pie is a duo consisting of Alicia Marie Venchuk on guitar/vocals and Elsa Nekola on drums. They enjoy playing jam-style hill-country blues, funk, and psychedelic music. Alicia Marie Venchuk is a first-year PhD student in English at the University of Mississippi. She hails from the state of Michigan. As a student and youth at the University of Michigan, Alicia built a reputation as an accomplished jazz and blues guitarist/vocalist and performed for a number of years in the Ludington, Ann Arbor, and Detroit areas. Alicia fronts her

own band -- Big Al and the Brothers of the Blues -- and she is also the guitarist in the University of Mississippi's top jazz ensemble-- The Mississippians. Elsa Nekola is a first-year MFA student at the University of Mississippi, with a concentration in fiction writing. She grew up in Wisconsin and began playing drums in high school. She has played in a variety of rock bands in the Madison, WI area as a drummer and guitarist. When she doesn't have her nose in a book, Elsa also enjoys songwriting and home recording.

About Aziza Barnes

Aziza Barnes is blk & alive. Born in Los Angeles, she currently is getting her MFA at The University of Mississippi. Her first chapbook, *me Aunt Jemima and the nailgun*, was the first winner of the Exploding Pinecone Prize and published from Button Poetry. You can find her work in *PANK*, *pluck!*, *Muzzle*, *Callaloo*, *Union Station*, and other journals. She is a poetry & non-fiction editor at *Kinfolks Quarterly*, a Callaloo fellow and graduate from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. She is a member of The Dance Cartel & the divine fabrics collective. She loves a good suit & anything to do with Motown.

About Libby Rowe

Libby Rowe is an artist working in photography, sculpture, interactive

installation, and performance. Her artwork explores ideas of identity and belonging through self-definitions as informed by social and domestic constructs. Rowe is interested in breaking from traditional presentation strategies for photographs to engage viewers in a more interactive experience, as well as the role of the photographic image in relation to other media. Through pink, Rowe explores the sociological, physiological and psychological aspects of femininity using image, object and installations. Rowe's performances were included in the Vertigo Performance Series at the Waterloo Center



for the Arts and Fountain Art Fair New York in 2014. Rowe's current photographic series, *Inside/Out* and the installation(sub)Division were recently exhibited together at United Photo Industries in Brooklyn New York and were exhibited with *Like Panes of Glass* at Morlan Gallery in Lexington, KY.

Rowe received her BFA from the University of Northern Iowa and her MFA from Syracuse University. She resides and works in San Antonio, Texas.

About Maggie Koerner

The Shreveport born songwriter spent the majority of 2013 and 2014 as the lead singer and front-woman for legendary New Orleans' funk-band Galactic. "Hey Na Na," performed by Galactic, is a song Maggie co-wrote with



The Revivalists' lead singer David Shaw and is currently the theme song for Top Chef: New Orleans.

It's not uncommon to find Maggie performing



on stage with a list of other iconic acts that has included Widespread Panic, Gov't Mule and Charles Bradley, to name a few. Spending 2015 on the road and in the studio, Maggie performed with her own band at a list of major North American music festivals including New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, Austin City Limits and Pemberton Music Festival, among others.

She is currently writing and recording her untitled project, set for a release in 2016. Collaborating with a roster of talented artists that includes esteemed producer Fin Greenall (Amy Winehouse, Banks, John Legend, Fink), the project is poised for success.

About Shannon McNally

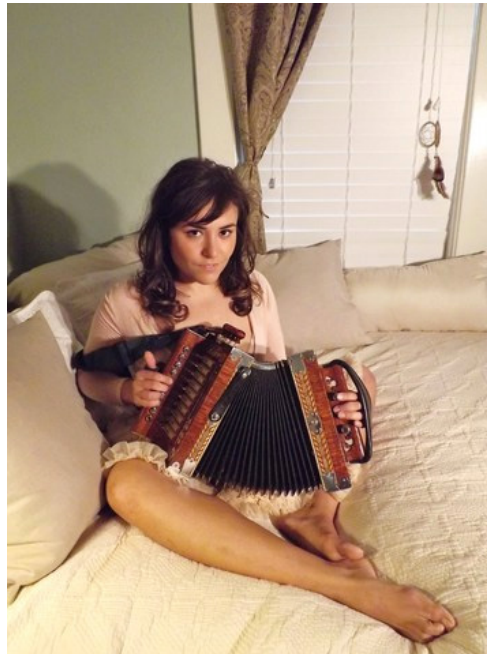
McNally conjures ghosts and heroines, thieves, lovers and redeemers in a transcendent folk-blues, country-rock moonshine she's been pulling straight from the still for nearly 20 years. She's been living in the deep South for fifteen years, first in New Orleans and now in the higher ground of the North Mississippi Hill Country after Hurricane Katrina. She's about to hit the road for a tour with monumental songwriter Rodney Crowell, and sings with him on his just-released album *Tarpaper Sky*. Check out



their inspired duet-singing on *Famous Last Words of a Fool*.

Her last recording, *Small Town Talk*, is a loving, collaborative tribute to the late Bobby Charles, conceived and created together with the great Dr. John and his Lower 911 Band at Dockside Studios, deep in Louisiana's bayou heart. *Off Beat Magazine* nominated the collection for Album of the Year 2014. She's released 10 albums, been nominated for a Grammy Award, and performed with a who's who of rock, country and soul: Willie Nelson, John Mellencamp, Vince Gill, Levon Helm, Charlie Sexton, Dr. John, Rufus Wainwright, Anders Osborne, Luther and Cody Dickinson, Greg Leisz, Derek Trucks...

About Marcella Simien



Marcella René Simien is making a name for herself and her band in Memphis's thriving music scene and is gaining a following

throughout the larger South and beyond. The talented, bold artist is a native of Lafayette, Louisiana and graduated from the Memphis College of Art and Design in 2013. In that same year she met guitarist David Cousar, drummer Rory Mills Sullivan, and bassist Dirk Kitterlin; together they created Marcella & Her Lovers. The group immediately landed coveted regular performances at some of the city's hippest music rooms and festivals. Chris Herrington of the *Commercial Appeal* calls Simien "one of the most interesting artists to emerge on the Memphis scene in years." In 2014 Simien released her debut EP, titled *The Bronze Age*.

About Jacqueline Lee

Jackie has worked as a real estate agent,



non-profit coordinator, marketing consultant festival planner and a maid over the last four years. She provides consulting to the Mississippi Main Street Association and its member communities with large scale event planning and marketing strategy. Her company Freedom Cleaning, a non-toxic cleaning service, turns five years old later this year. Her latest adventure is as the editor of *Dime Entertainment Magazine*. She is a proud 14-year resident of the Pine Belt and a Southern Miss journalism alum. She lives near downtown Hattiesburg with her two "children" dog Paco and cat Nancy Drew.

OTHER PERFORMERS INCLUDE:

GINA SEXTON
KATE TEAGUE • AMY LAVERE
WILL SEXTON • KIT THORN
ANNE FREEMAN

Sarahfest Schedule



September 5th ~ October 5rd
Powerhouse Community Arts Center

Art Show: The Art of Making the Invisible Visible: A Retrospective
Featuring Claudia DeMonte



Sunday, September 25th @ 7 PM
Rowan Oak

Thacker Mountain Radio Special Pop-up Show with poet Aziza Barnes and musicians Maggie Koerner and Marcella Simien



Sarahfest 2016 Poster

Monday, September 26th @ 4 PM
Overby Center Auditorium

Roundtable Discussion: "Boss Yourself - Owning and Elevating Your Work" with Jacqueline Lee, editor of Dime Entertainment Magazine and others.



Monday, September 26th @ 4-7 PM
Proud Larry's

Local Musicians Happy Hour featuring Anne Freeman, Gina Sexton, Shannon McNally, and Kit Thorn.



Tuesday, September 27th @ 6PM
Powerhouse Community Arts Center

Artist Reception with Claudia DeMonte. In coordination with Oxford Art Crawl. Free and open to the public.



Wednesday, September 28th @ 7 PM
The Shelter on Van Buren

Endo documentary viewing with Director Shannon Cohn. Cosponsored by Oxford Film Fest and FEMISS. Free and open to the public.



Wednesday, September 28th @ 9PM
Proud Larry's

Late Night with Catfish Pie opening for Amy LaVere & Will Sexton. \$5 Cover Charge



Thursday, September 29th @ 9 PM
Proud Larry's

Sarahfest Grand Finale: Kate Teague opens for Jessica Lea Mayfield. \$15 Cover Charge



Find out more about these events at sarahfest.rocks!

For assistance related to a disability for these events, please contact the appropriate venue except for events on campus. For those events, please contact Kevin at 662-915-5916 or isomctr@olemiss.edu.

A Victory for Love



In May 2016, I stood just a few papers and exams away from concluding my undergraduate career at The University of Mississippi. Perhaps all seniors feel that their graduating year is uniquely momentous, but I was struck, as a gay man, by how much I had seen my university grow during my time here. Over the past four years, student groups such as UM Pride Network had greatly expanded their visibility and outreach. The Sarah Isom Center for Women and Gender Studies, where I was proud to be a student worker, had brought thrilling cultural figures such as John Waters and Neko Case to Oxford, and had succeeded in launching a Queer Studies track within the Gender Studies minor. I had been invited to sit on a committee to advise Chancellor Dan Jones on issues affecting UM's LGBTQ community. And now, just as I was getting ready to leave, the Lafayette-Oxford-University community was gearing up for its inaugural LOU Pride Weekend. Held from May 5-8 2016, LOU Pride Weekend felt like a culmination of all these efforts, and an encouraging sign of the progress to come.

The weekend kicked off Thursday with a Code Pink dance party at Proud Larry's, a fun and unexpectedly moving event. Led by UM alum Blake Summers, a troupe of dancers dressed as unicorns took the floor to Beyoncé's "Sorry." UM alum Kaleb Mitchell entered wearing a papier-mâché mask of Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant. Just a month earlier, Bryant had signed into law Mississippi House Bill 1523, a piece of legislation allowing for sweeping discrimination against LGBTQ

people. The papier-mâché governor was greeted with a chorus of boos from the crowd, and the unicorns swarmed to defeat him.

For so many of us in that bar, HB1523 had been a source of pain, frustration, and heartache. As queer people, or as women, or simply as people whose lives do not fit the rigid framework our elected officials wish to foist on us, we had once again been made to feel unwelcome in our own state. Code Pink was a much-needed moment of catharsis. We all needed dancing unicorns that night, to lift our collective distress into laughter and celebration.

Friday I participated in UM's first Lavender Graduation, sponsored by the UM Center for Inclusion and Cross Cultural Engagement and its campus partners. Before we received our lavender cords, distinguishing us as LGBTQ graduates of UM, Dr. Jaime Cantrell, Visiting Assistant Professor of English at UM, delivered a rousing call for activism in the queer community. Her talk invested the cord that would soon be draped around my neck with the weight of responsibility. My fellow LGBTQ graduates and I were not only being honored, but also being trusted with continuing to fight for the rights of queer people.

Proud Larry's was packed Friday night for the GoDiva's Eleganza Extravaganza drag show, with a line snaking around the block. I was reminded of the similar crowd who showed up for the drag show at Lamar Lounge the previous year. Both times, the remarkable

turnout confirmed the desire in Oxford for queer forms of entertainment. As a freshman I had listened with envy as my friend, a student at UC Berkeley, described attending drag events on and off campus. The idea of finding such a spectacle in Oxford seemed painfully unlikely. The same year I drove to Memphis' Spectrum nightclub on a drag night. I felt electrified by the crush of bodies, the beauty and self-possession of the queens, the connective jolt that passes between queen and adoring fan when she reaches to accept your outstretched dollar. Standing in Proud Larry's, watching one performer launch into an encore of "And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going," I was pleased to know that future UM freshmen might not need to venture to a major city to experience the joys of queer entertainment. Even Oxford's Square, so often a pageant of heteronormativity, could play host to queens.

The irony of parades is that you cannot participate in one and simultaneously take it all in; but from where I was sitting, the LOU Pride Parade that concluded Pride Weekend was a joyous, well-organized celebration. I shared the "Artists of Oxford" float with several friends, including UM alumni Nathan Adams and Hunter Johnson, helping them to hold up an enormous unicorn cutout as we rounded the Square. It felt transformative to see the familiar landmarks of Oxford—the university buildings, churches, and courthouse—pass by through a gauntlet of rainbow flags, bubbles, and balloons. I had often policed my behavior on these same streets, hyper-conscious of my walk or the tightness of my shirt, too nervous to hold another man's hand. To be so visible, so openly proud, was wonderfully surreal.

I remember feeling a surge of gratitude: for my amazing friends; for the organizational efforts of the Isom Center and UM Pride Network; for the Oxford Police Department's efforts to ensure the parade went safely and





show, waved flags and held signs and marched with me in the parade, and it hit me: This could have been us. A circle of mourners recited the names of the victims, one by one, and I imagined hearing instead the name of each person speaking. “Don’t ever go to a club without me,” a friend told me, sobbing. Faced with unspeakable cruelty, I felt a sense of collective powerlessness.

But we are not powerless. If I have learned one thing from the experience of LOU Pride Weekend, it is that LGBTQ people and our allies have the power to

organize and make our voices heard. In the wake of heartless legislation such as HB1523 (which has since been struck down in federal court), and horrors such as the massacre in Orlando, it becomes all the more imperative that we continue to celebrate one another in a world where many wish to shame and silence us. This spring I saw a city, a university, and a larger community organize to celebrate its people who have been marginalized for too long. I could not be prouder of my community. I know it will continue to raise its voice in pride.

—by Charles McCrory

smoothly; for all the familiar faces lining the streets to express their love and support. I saw professors, classmates, townies, and out-of-towners of all orientations and identities, cheering us on as we passed. I glimpsed only one negative response, a sign printed with an ugly, homophobic sentiment; I will not give it power by repeating its words here. My heart stopped for a moment at the open cruelty of the sign, but then I saw how isolated its holder was. The people around him kept cheering and waving, ignoring him; the sign vanished among rainbow flags. That blip of hate was an anomaly, at odds with the unified spirit of the event. At the inaugural LOU Pride Parade, love won.

Riding in the back of that float, surrounded by this outpouring of love and pride, I could not have imagined that, one month later, I would be standing on the pier at Lamar Park with these same friends and neighbors, joined not in laughter but in tears as we mourned the 49 victims of the mass shooting at Orlando’s Pulse nightclub. With the joyous events of LOU Pride Weekend still fresh in my mind, I was devastated to hear of such a large-scale attack on members of the LGBTQ community, specifically those of color. Still, it was not until we were all gathered on that pier that I felt the full weight of my grief. I looked out at the people around me, people who had danced with me at Code Pink, held out dollars with me at the drag



LOU PRIDE *Weekend*

What did LOU Pride mean to you?

“LOU Pride meant that the Oxford LGBTQ community and allies could finally openly show their bravery and love together.”

**Kendrick Wallace
UM student (Exercise Science)**

“The parade gave me hope for the future in the South. I never could have imagined that many people in Mississippi cheering us on.”

**Nathan Adams
UM alum (Art)**

“To me, it meant revived hope in Mississippi’s abilities to become a more accepting and inclusive place, and that made me feel extremely elated and less estranged in my own home state.”

**Johnathan Kohliem,
UM alum (Biology)**

“The highlight for me was coming around the Abner’s corner and seeing all the rainbow-colored people hanging off balconies and filling the streets. I got chill bumps and tears from that and the realization that so many people that I love who have felt marginalized could physically see their support in the town they lived in.”

**Claire Whitehurst,
UM alum (Art)**

“I have a renewed faith in humanity!”
Captain Libby Lytle, OPD

Affiliated Student Organizations



Rebels Against Sexual Assault, or RASA, began as an idea between students when they attended a screening of *The Hunting Ground* and a discussion panel afterward in Spring 2015; an idea soon became a reality as RASA developed into a recognized student organization in Fall 2015. Rebels Against Sexual Assault aims to provide the University of Mississippi community with peer education, resources, and preventative

measures for sexual assault and dating violence. In order to accomplish this mission, we work closely with the Violence Prevention Office, Counseling Center, Title IX Office, Health Promotion, and the Sarah Isom Center to be able to educate and inform students of the resources on campus in the event they or someone they know experience sexual assault and/or dating violence.

Last year, we organized a multitude of events to reach out to our community and start a dialogue about sexual assault, including the Consent Carnival, screenings of *The Hunting Ground* with discussion panels afterward, the Love Is Campaign, the Clothesline Project, and It's On Us week. In addition, April is Sexual Assault Awareness month, so in 2016 we held the Take Back the Night march and a performance of Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues*. To end the 2015-2016 school year, we organized an open panel discussion for students, faculty/staff, and the greater Oxford community about our campus rape culture.

Finally, we have trained peer educators to speak to interested student organizations on campus and educate about sexual assault, consent, and bystander intervention. We have already planned multiple peer education outreach programs and events for the upcoming school year, including Sex Week in September, It's On Us week in October, and a poetry slam/speak out to end the semester. We are all very passionate about shedding light on the issues of sexual assault and dating violence. We aim to make these topics more "acceptable" to talk about, to undo the norms surrounding campus rape culture, and to assure that students know about the resources we have on campus. Even though we are a new organization, we have already made a difference on campus in the past year and we will continue to be a catalyst for change throughout the 2016-2017 academic year. To contact us or stay up-to-date on our events for this school year, please email olemissrasa@gmail.com or find us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Tumblr, or OrgSync.



UM Pride Network is The University of Mississippi's undergraduate LGBTQ student organization. We are pleased to announce the following events for the 2016 fall semester:

AUGUST

27th ~ Pride Camp: A Queer Celebration

SEPTEMBER

1st ~ Code Pink

23-25th ~ Mid-South Pride in Memphis, TN. Carpooling will be available.

OCTOBER ~ LGBT History Month

4th ~ Orlando Pulse Memorial Die-In at the Student Union

7th ~ "An Awkward Pause" LGBTQ Comedy Night

27th ~ *Rocky Horror Picture Show* screening

31st ~ Code Pink Halloween Bash

TBA ~ *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* screening

NOVEMBER

TBA ~ Trans* Awareness Panel

For more details, see our Facebook page and social media outlets, or write us at umpridenetwork@gmail.com. Meetings are held on the first and third Thursdays of every month, at 6pm in the William Winter Institute room (3rd floor).



OUTGrads is a new student organization for LGBTQIA+ graduate and professional students and post-docs affiliated with the Sarah Isom Center for Women and Gender Studies at The University of Mississippi. OUTGrads aims to create and foster a sense of community for graduate/post-doc students through various social, on-campus, and academic events. Ultimately we seek to offer a safe space for LGBTQIA+ students and allies to commune for recreation and change.

Along with organizing events on and off campus, OUTGrads aims to both join in and generate conversations regarding the state of LGBTQIA+ students on campus, in

Mississippi, and throughout the SEC. We hope to establish dialogues with established OUTGrads programs at other major public universities to foster a cohesive, politically oriented, and pragmatic approach to addressing issues facing LGBTQIA+ graduate and post-doc students every day. For the 2016-2017 school year, the officers of OUTGrads are as follows: President- Jared O'Connor, Vice-President-Allison Serraes, Secretary-Ian Whalen, Event Organizer - Matt Kessler. If you are interested in joining OUTGrads or have any questions, please feel free to contact Jared O'Connor at jjoconno@olemiss.edu or you can email us at umoutgrads@gmail.com.



As a new organization on campus, FEMISS has already grabbed the attention of forward-looking students and faculty interested in giving voices to the voiceless and making the University of Mississippi a safer and more inclusive place.

In the few months since the organization's introduction to Ole Miss, more than 160 students have joined and over \$900 was raised for the UM Violence Prevention Office at a fundraiser in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April. Members of FEMISS organized a cabaret night at the local coffee house, The Shelter on Van Buren, featuring local musicians, poets, artists, and even a stand-up comedian. It was a night for

the expression of female empowerment as well as the recognition of those impacted by sexual assault. Students and members of the community came together for a night of laughs and good conversation over the delicious specialty coffee, the Lady Lavender, courtesy of The Shelter on Van Buren.

The impact FEMISS is already making in the lives of students on campus is amazing. The organization is able to offer a place for those who feel the university has the potential to be an even more tolerant and enlightened place. FEMISS is taking progressive steps towards inclusivity, acceptance, and equality for all.

ENDO WHAT?

About the film

ENDO WHAT? is a groundbreaking, new film about endometriosis, the most common, debilitating disease that most people have never heard of. It affects 1 in 10 or an estimated 176 million women globally, yet takes an average of 10 years to diagnose. Endo What? is the first film to include interviews with the world's top endo experts, giving a woman the tools she needs to take control of her health. Hailed "Film of the Year" by The Guardian, "the first step in a plan to educate & organize for change" by Newsweek and a film that "shatters myths to create awareness" by The New York Times, it's an essential resource for girls and women everywhere.

About Shannon Cohn

For over a decade, Shannon Cohn produced several award-winning feature films with Mangusta Productions, a NYC-based production company. She produced a travel adventure series called *Sea Nation* that currently airs on over 60 countries on Discovery Channel and Nat Geo. That production called for sailing on 25 different boats over 6 months with her then 18-month old in tow. Before becoming a filmmaker, Shannon lived and worked in west Africa at Buduburam, the largest Liberian refugee camp just after that country's particularly brutal civil war and established health & education initiatives with the UNHCR and Medicines sans Frontieres. Before that, she practiced international law and was part of the legal team that prosecuted Enron. A Mississippi native & current resident of Oxford, she went to film school at NYU and has a law degree from Vanderbilt.



Screening: Wednesday, September 28, 7 PM at The Shelter on Van Buren

Meet our Brown Bag Lecturers



Dr. Tanya Nichols

September 19 ~ “The Women of Color Network Roundtable”

Dr. Nichols graduated from Loyola College in Maryland with a bachelor’s degree in Psychology and a master’s degree in Clinical Psychology. Her professional experience has included providing mental health treatment to youth, families, and young adults in a number of school-based and community settings. She completed her doctoral studies in Clinical Psychology at the University of Virginia. She was a predoctoral psychology intern at Yale University where she worked with children/adolescents, families, and young adults in a community mental health clinic. She also completed a postdoctoral fellowship in the university counseling center at Cornell University. Her clinical interests include identity issues, first generation students, family of origin concerns, anxiety, depression, trauma, adjustment problems, relationship difficulties, and the impact of discrimination and all forms of microaggressions and oppression. During her spare time, Tanya enjoys mentoring, traveling, reading, and going to her spinning classes.



Dr. Jandel Crutchfield

September 19 ~ “The Women of Color Network Roundtable”

Dr. Crutchfield is an assistant professor in the Department of Social Work-Tupelo Campus. Prior to serving in this role, Dr. Crutchfield worked as a licensed clinical school social worker in Mississippi and Louisiana schools. She has served at every level of K-12 education, including community mental health, in-home counseling, and residential treatment. Dr. Crutchfield’s research areas include the intersection of education reform and school social work and school social work practice in charter schools and takeover schools. Dr. Crutchfield also examines the need for increased cultural competence in social work education, research, and practice broadly, and more specifically regarding colorism.



Jared O’Connor

October 24 ~ The Politics of Vulnerability: Queering the Cold War with Joe Brainard”

Jared O’Connor is in his final year of his M.A. in English with a certificate in women and gender studies at The University of Mississippi. His scholarly interests concern the intersections of Cold War poetry, politics, and sexuality with a special emphasis on the “so-called” second generation New York School. He is currently the president of OUTGrads, an organization for LGBTQTIA graduate students at UMiss. In his free time, Jared enjoys wrangling his kittens, Rizzo and Frank, seeing as much live music as possible, and watching Rays Baseball.



Dr. Carrie Smith

November 7 ~ The Making of Men and Women on Greek Row : Sociosexuality, Sexism, and the Greek System

Dr. Smith is currently an Instructional Associate Professor at The University of Mississippi in the Department of Psychology. She earned her bachelor’s degree in Psychology and Government and her master’s degree in Experimental Psychology from the College of William and Mary in 1999 & 2001, respectively. She earned her Ph.D. in Social Psychology from the University of Houston in 2004. Prior to obtaining her current position at The University of Mississippi, she was held positions at the University of Delaware, Rowan University, and Drexel University. Carrie’s research interests include (a) the role of the self, personality, and motivation in people’s relationships, including friendships and romantic and sexual relationships, and (b) situational and individual determinants of perceptions of daily experiences, including social interactions and sexual interactions. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking and eating well, traveling, and engaging in vigorous debate with students & colleagues.



Dr. T Davis

November 28 ~ HIV in the South - In Honor of World AIDS Day

She is “T”...from Chattanooga, Tennessee...the University of Florida is where she received her bachelor’s degree...and she has two from The University of Mississippi...she is currently a health educator...by the way, that rhymes with Gator...which it is great to be...but she loves her Rebels too, you see...it is where she received her Ph.D...in Health and Kinesiology...with an emphasis in health behavior...it’s a degree she will ever savor...Selah...in God she trusts and believes...and on His faithfulness she shall ever feed...she prays you have enjoyed this read...you’ll have to guess what colors she bleeds...or maybe not...oh...there is something she forgot...to tell...be treated well and treat others well.

Thank you and Farewell

Closing out my term as director of the Isom Center this summer was bittersweet. And I wanted to take a brief moment to say one final public thank you to the community of students, faculty, and staff who have helped us to sustain our mission of “integrating scholarly research on women’s and gender issues with advocacy for women in the classroom, on the campus, and in the larger community.”

I particularly wanted to acknowledge the behind the scenes efforts of members of the Isom Steering Committee for 2015-16 (Alison Combs, Whitney Greer, Kirsten Dellinger, Willa Johnson, Shawnboda Mead, Jon Moen, Jared O’Connor, Heather Ondercin, Melinda Sutton, and Brooke White). With their input and assistance, we were able to advance our work and sustain the programming and teaching that will continue to enrich our campus and beyond. I have learned a tremendous amount about collaboration, benefiting from the generosity of these members (and of all of our campus partners) who shared their expertise and perspectives.

I am especially thankful to have worked closely with the nimble mind and creative energy of Theresa Starkey and the organizational resourcefulness of Kevin Cozart. Within what seemed like days of each other this past spring, we faced the open discrimination of HB 1523 and the exposure of the egregious sexism of an incident at the Derby Days fraternity charity event. And I am so proud that Isom was able to offer support to the incredible students who helped organize the best responses to such

incidents: education and action. By creating the first ever Pride Weekend and an inspiring student forum on rape culture, these student leaders energized and inspired us.



There is still so much work to be done to confront the many unsolved problems that face members of our campus community from the lack of affordable, high-quality, and accessible child care to parental leave to a living wage to pay equity to reproductive justice to the everyday racism, sexism and homophobia that still surround us. I know that the staff

and supporters of the Sarah Isom Center for Women and Gender Studies will continue to do their best work on these issues, and I am honored to have been a small part of these ongoing efforts. Thank you for that.

About the Sarah Isom Center:

The Sarah Isom Center for Women and Gender Studies was established at The University of Mississippi in 1981 to address the changing roles and expectations of women students, faculty, and staff.

The University has provided educational opportunities for women longer than any other state university in the South. When UM opened its doors to women in 1882, eleven women registered for classes. Today, women constitute half the student body.



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About the newsletter:

All articles were written by Isom Center staff, with biographies supplied by guest speakers, artists, or their representatives.

Unless images have been credited, they are the work of Isom Center staff or supplied by guest speakers, artists, or their representatives.

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Fall 2016 Calendar

September

1st @ 9:30 PM ~ Proud Larry's
Code Pink, a LGBTQ dance party
8+, \$5 cover

5th - Oct 3rd ~ Powerhouse
Art Show: The Art of Making the
Invisible Visible: A Retrospective
Featuring Claudia DeMonte
Visit Oxfordarts.com for location
information including hours.

19th @ Noon ~ Faulkner Room
Brown Bag - The Women of Color
Network Roundtable
Presented by Dr. Tanya M. Nichols &
Jandel Crutchfield.

19th - 23rd ~ Sex Week
Contact Office of Health Promotions for
schedule. healthpromotion.olemiss.edu

25th - 29th ~ Sarahfest
Full schedule on page 8.

October

**12th @ 4:30 PM ~ Overby Center
Aud.**
Your True Gender, a lecture featuring
trans activist Jessica Lynn. Cosponsored
by Center for Inclusion and Cross Cultural
Engagement, Department of Sociol-
ogy and Anthropology, and Associated
Student Body.

20th @ 7 PM ~ Overby Center Aud.
Masculinity/Femininity documentary
screening and Q&A with filmmaker. Co-
sponsored by the Oxford Film Fest.

24th @ Noon - Faulkner Room
Brown Bag - "The Politics of Vulnera-
bility: Queering the Cold War with Joe
Brainard"
Presented by Jared O'Connor

31st @ 9PM ~ Proud Larry's
Code Pink - The Hallokween Edition, a
LGBTQ dance & costume party.

November

7th @ 1 PM ~ Faulkner Room
Brown Bag - "The Making of Men and
Women on Greek Row: Sociosexuality,
Sexism, and the Greek System"
Presented by Dr. Carrie Smith

15th @ ~ Union 404
Art Moves - A collaboration between
artists and activists working to support
reproductive rights, pleasure, health and
justice. Cosponsored by the Office of
Health Promotions.

15th @ 6 PM ~ Butler Auditorium
UM Women in STEM Dinner

28th @ Noon ~ Faulkner Room
Brown Bag: "HIV in the South - In
Honor of World AIDS Day"
Presented by Dr. T Davis.

Jessica Lea Mayfield Closes Out Sarahfest!

Musical headliner Jessica Lea Mayfield has gained widespread acclaim for singing delicate confessions about love and contradictory emotions in a way that captivates listeners and enchants critics. Whether she was heartbroken, or breaking hearts, Mayfield's acoustic strumming and laid back demeanor have remained consistent since her earliest recordings.

However, on her third album, *Make My Head Sing...*, Jessica takes on distorted guitar tones, crashing drums, and heavy riffs that would more likely evoke a comparison to her idols of the early 90's such as The Stone Temple Pilots, Foo Fighters, and SoundGarden than any modern day artist. The album was recorded at Club Roar in Nashville and was co-produced by Jessica, along with her husband Jesse Newport and features Matt Martin on drums. It finds Jessica in a place where she is ready to take control of her music.

