

WGSS Newsletter

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program SUNY New Paltz

FALL 2015 NEWS

Professor Karl Bryant (WGSS/ Sociology) will be on sabbatical for the AY 2015-2016, and he will be missed, but we are fortunate to have Brandon Masterman (ABD, NYU) teaching WOM330: Introduction to Queer Studies this fall, and Dr. Cris Levecchi teaching WOM 315: Queer Women in the spring to round out our offerings in the sexuality cluster.

PROGRAM REVIEW

This summer, the Coordinator will begin collecting data with the support of Institutional Research in order to launch our 5 year program review in the Fall of 2015. The Steering Committee will review the program mission, curriculum and data on student learning outcomes, since the last review in 2009-2010. The process will culminate with a visit from two external reviewers in March 2016, with whom WGSS students, faculty, staff, and affiliates will meet to discuss program strengths and weaknesses.

From the Coordinator:

[Greetings from Southside House!](#)

We've had a great past year of growth, innovation, and activism here at WGSS. We welcomed our new full-time hire in WGSS, Dr. Jessica Pabón from NYU, proposed and adopted several important curricular changes, and sponsored and co-hosted a number of campus and community events, including our biennial interdisciplinary conference, this year titled "Sex, Money, and Power: A Dialogue Between Feminism and Economics." We were also saddened by the death of a former WGSS colleague, Emily Caigan, and the retirement of our long-time affiliate Judy Dorney from the School of Education.

We were pleased to welcome to campus a number of new women faculty to campus, with a desire to work with WGSS in an affiliated capacity, such as Professor Melissa Rock in Geography and Professor Annie Swafford in Digital Humanities. Next year we undergo a major Program Review, and will be offering our new Feminist Methods course (taught by our affiliate Professor Kate McCoy) in the Spring of 2016. And we continue to work collaboratively

with CRREO on the 2017 Conference celebrating the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in New York State. We celebrated the graduation of the class of 2015 and look forward to welcoming the newest crop of majors and minors this summer.



WGSS SPRING 2015 CONFERENCE

This year's biennial spring conference "Sex, Money, and Power," took place on Friday, April 17, in cooperation with the Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site. The conference was co-organized by Professors Edith Kuiper (WGSS/Economics) and Susan Lewis (History) and it featured poster presentations by students in Professor Kuiper's class of the same name, a plenary session panel held in LC 102 in conjunction with the Women: Images and Realities class, and 2 afternoon roundtables, followed by a tour and dinner at the Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic site at Val-Kill. The plenary speakers, Professor Rose Brewer (Minnesota) and Professor Julie Nelson (UMass-Boston) addressed the importance of economics for women's, gender, and sexuality studies, and how feminist economists could better integrate issues of intersectionality in their work. Professor Drucilla Barker (South Carolina) moderated the roundtable following the plenary panel, which included responses from New Paltz Professors Mona Ali (Economics), Heather Hewett (WGSS/English), Melissa Rock (Geography), and Susan Lewis (History), as well as NP students Sam Lacovera (WGSS) and Emily Vanderpool (Economics).

Support for the program was provided by the Economics Club, College of Liberal Arts and Science, Economics and History Departments, Political Science Department, CAS, and Provost's Office Special Events Funding.



Sex, Money and Power A Dialogue between Feminism and Economics



Campus Screening of *The Hunting Ground*:

On Monday, April 27 WGSS co-sponsored a screening of the documentary *The Hunting Ground* (2015) highlighting the problem of campus-based sexual assault at US universities. The screening played to a full house of students, faculty, staff and community members in LC 102, and the panel discussion that followed was both thoughtful and engaged. WGSS Coordinator Kathleen Dowley moderated the panel, which included WGSS student and Take Back the Night organizer Sam Lacovera, Student Association President Osatohamwen Okundaye, Sociology Student Kathryn Zink and Tanhena Pacheco Dunn, Executive Director of Campus Climate and Title IV Compliance. UUP President Peter Brown and Vice President for Academics Anne Roschelle (Sociology) worked with Dowley and Dunn to bring the film to campus. The audience included several coaches and NP athletic teams, as well as a New Paltz High School class, taught by NP alum Alexandra (McKinnon) Nneji. The event launched a week of activism against sexual violence leading up to the annual Take Back the Night event on Sunday, May 3. As a result of the event and the ensuing discussion of it, Alex Nneji then invited Dowley and Dunn to lead a similar discussion for NPHS students on campus sexual assault policies, with a focus on affirmative consent. About 400 juniors and seniors attended the assembly on May 28.



IN MEMORIAM:

EMILY FAITH CAIGAN
1967-2015



The WGSS community at SUNY New Paltz was saddened by the death of our long-time colleague, Emily Caigan. Emily worked for the WGSS program, developing and teaching the Feminist Art and Culture and Performing Feminism classes, as well as the introductory Women: Images class. She was an artist, an educator, a brilliant business advisor, and a feminist. She leaves behind a husband, Khem, and two children, Tuli and Gage, and a host of former students.

STUDENT AND ALUMNI NEWS:

Congratulations to all of our recent graduates, but especially WGSS Class of 2015 Outstanding Graduates Tess Wolgemuth and Jules Capone, and our Alice Fix award winners, Zachary Rousseas and Nikki Goldschein. In alumni news, 2014 Outstanding Graduate Brenna McCaffrey has been offered a full scholarship to the PhD program in anthropology at the CUNY Graduate Center, where she will continue her research on Reproductive Justice in the United States.

GOT NEWS? Share it with us!

Contact Cookie at chandlec@newpaltz.edu.

Follow us on Facebook news of our upcoming events!

www.facebook.com/

[SunyNewPaltzWomensStudiesProgram](https://www.facebook.com/SunyNewPaltzWomensStudiesProgram)



LGBTQA+ Living Learning Community Launched in Fall

We are pleased to announce that in Fall of 2015, WGSS will pilot SUNY New Paltz's new LGBTQA+ Living Learning Community, Rivera House, in Lenape Hall. The LLC has been named for Puerto Rican and Venezuelan-

American transgender

activist Sylvia Rae

Rivera (b 1951- d 2002).

Rivera was a devoted

activist and fierce

advocate for LGBTQ

youth of color,

committed to changing

conditions and the quality of life for those who, like her, were on the margins of

not only mainstream society, but also the mainstream LGBTQ rights

movement. Taking our cue from Rivera—a revolutionary figure from right here

in New York—residents of Rivera House will be committed to an intersectional

social justice approach to learning and living. In addition to the faculty advisor,

Dr. Jessica Pabón (WGSS), Rivera House has a planning committee

comprised of faculty members Andrea Gatzke (History) and Karl Bryant

(WGSS/Sociology), a Residence Life staff member, a Hudson Valley

LGBTQ Community Center staff member, and two student representatives.

Incoming first-year and transfer students may apply to live in Rivera House, as

can returning students who have remained in campus housing. The theme for

this pilot year is “Healthy Living,” and some of the planned programming

includes: creative writing/performance workshops by New York City-based

queer artists, meditation, an Autumn Harvest dinner, various trainings, movie

nights and more. To apply, students should contact NP Residence Life for at

(www.newpaltz.edu/reslife/housing.html). Please follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/SUNYNPRiveraHouse>.



FACULTY NEWS

In October 2014, PROFESSOR HEATHER HEWETT (ENGLISH/WGSS) gave a talk, “Feminist Food Studies: Food Allergies, Exclusion, and Disability,” at Indiana University as part of their “Eat, Drink, Think: Food From Art to Science” program. She also published a chapter on narratives of human rights, gender, and violence in the fiction of Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche for *The Critical Imagination in African Literature* (Syracuse Press, 2015).

PROFESSOR MEG DEVLIN

O’SULLIVAN was awarded a UUP Nuala M Drescher leave award in Spring 2015 to begin her new project, “Reformers, Criminals, and Sober Mothers: Stereotypes and Hidden Histories of Alcoholic Women in the U.S.”

PROFESSOR JUDY DORNEY (Education)

retired this spring after 22 years at SUNY New Paltz. Judy taught “Women and Anger” for the WGSS Program for the past 12 years, and regularly served on the Steering Committee, as well as the planning committee for the Reproductive Justice Conference. Nancy Schneidewind writes of her, “Judy brought a depth of academic and personal understanding of psychology to her teaching and interactions. We will miss her warmth, good humor and her willingness to stand up and speak out about inequities, large and small.”