

# WGSS Newsletter

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program

SUNY New Paltz



## 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 program 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 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.

However, we were pleased to welcome to campus a number of new women faculty 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 launching 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 at this summer's orientation sessions!



*Congratulations to the WGSS Class of 2015! Above, WGSS graduate Ramelle Liverpool.*

## 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.

## 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 external reviewer visits in March 2016.

## 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).

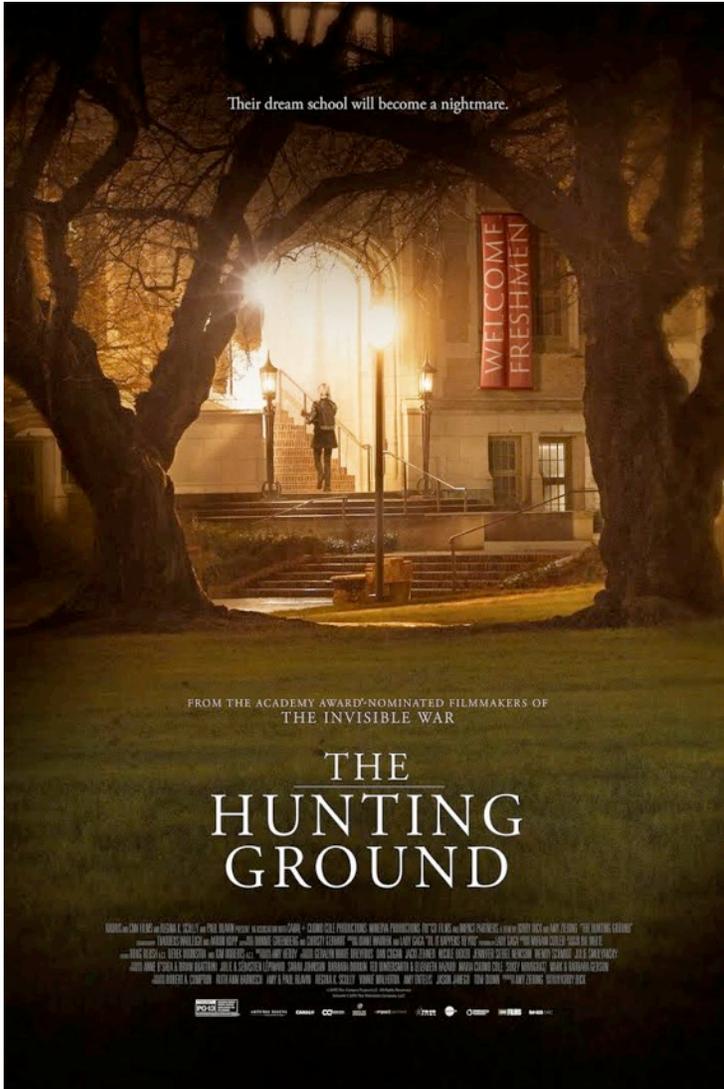
Support for the program was provided by the Economics Club, College of Liberal Arts and Science, Economics and History Departments, Political Science Department, CAS, and Provost's Office Special Events Funding.



## 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.





## LGBTQA+ Living Learning Community to be Launched in Fall 2015

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 social justice activist and fierce advocate for LGBTQ youth of color. Rivera as 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—an inspirational revolutionary figure from right here in New York—residents of the Rivera House are 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), Residence Life staff member **Amanda Norton**, Hudson Valley LGBTQ Community Center staff member **Corinne Werder**, and two student representatives from the WGSS Practicum program.

Incoming first-year and transfer students may apply to live in Rivera House, as can returning students who have remained in campus housing. All [Lenape](#) Hall rooms are L-Shaped triple rooms with a bathroom. The theme for this pilot year is “Healthy Living,” and some of the programming we are planning includes: creative writing and performance workshops by New York City-based queer artists, game nights, meditation, an Autumn Harvest dinner, various trainings, movie nights and more. To apply, students should contact the Department of Residence Life for an application ([www.newpaltz.edu/reslife/housing.html](http://www.newpaltz.edu/reslife/housing.html)). To keep up with Rivera House, please like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SUNYNPRiveraHouse>.

## FACULTY NEWS

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

## PROFESSOR MEG DEVLIN O’SULLIVAN

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

## WGSS Affiliate JUDY DORNEY (Education)

retired this spring having taught at SUNY New Paltz for 22 years. 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 Conference in 2013. Her colleague, Professor **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.”

## 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 to be included on our Facebook page, webpage, or yearly newsletter! Contact Cookie at [chandlec@newpaltz.edu](mailto:chandlec@newpaltz.edu). Follow us on Facebook for real time announcements of our upcoming events! [www.facebook.com/SunyNewPaltzWomensStudiesProgram](http://www.facebook.com/SunyNewPaltzWomensStudiesProgram)**



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