

40th
ANNIVERSARY

Connections

Department of Women
and Gender Studies



A Publication of the Department of Women and Gender Studies Fall 2013
Celebrating 40 years of Women's Studies at the University of Delaware

Two Spring Exhibitions Feature Women

In Spring 2013 University Museums, under the direction of Dr. Janis Tomlinson, displayed two important exhibitions at Old College Gallery highlighting the artistic accomplishments and the lives of American women. Both exhibitions, which opened on 6 February and closed on 28 June, represented initiatives by UD faculty and staff that crossed disciplines and departments and that attracted large numbers of student visitors. Both, too, were beautifully installed by Janet Broske to emphasize the visual appeal of photography, in one of the shows, and of fashion in the other.

Gertrude Käsebier: The Complexity of Light and Shade, which was curated by Professor Stephen Petersen, showcased the remarkable holdings at the University Museums and the UD Library of work by Gertrude Käsebier (1852–1934), a pioneering photographer who opened her own studio in New York in the late 1890s. Known for her portraits of Native Americans, as well as of artists and writers, and for her explorations of the theme of motherhood, Käsebier endorsed feminist causes and encouraged women to be self-supporting. Her career in art was the subject of a symposium on 2 March that was partially funded by the Delaware Humanities Forum and of an exhibition catalogue published by the University of Delaware Press.



Common Threads: A History of Fashion through a Woman's Eyes surveyed the changing lives, opportunities, and activities of American women across the twentieth century, doing so through the clothes that they wore—and, in a number of cases, also designed, made, or sold—for occasions ranging from proms to graduations to weddings to work. Curated by Professors Belinda Orzada, Dilia López-Gydoosh, and Vicki Cassman, the exhibition drew on the rich Historic Costumes collections of the Department of Fashion and Apparel Studies and involved numerous undergraduate and graduate students in conservation and research. A symposium with a variety of academic presentations on fashion history, partially supported by an Interdisciplinary Humanities Research Grant, occurred on 6 April.

The Department of Women and Gender Studies was involved in these exhibitions through the participation of Professor Margaret Stetz, Mae and Robert Carter Professor of Women's Studies and Professor of Humanities, who was a member of the working groups for both of them. In conjunction with the Gertrude Käsebier show, she gave a lecture on 1 March at the Delaware Art Museum and also contributed an essay to the published catalogue. For *Common Threads*, she gave a presentation at the 6 April symposium. In addition, she developed and taught a new WOMS course in Spring 2013 that drew on both exhibitions, "The New Woman in Black and White"—an exploration of transatlantic turn-of-the-century feminism through the lenses of dress, photography, journalism, and race.



(Left) Gertrude Käsebier
(Above) Margaret Stetz

Greetings from the Chair

Dear Alumni and Friends:

It is a pleasure to share with you some of the many activities of the Department of Women and Gender Studies, and I am always impressed by how much this small, but energetic team accomplishes each year. WOMS is a busy department, truly excited to engage our students and the community in issues surrounding women and gender studies. We have been doing this work for 40 years now, and in 2013/14 we are celebrating this major milestone. Looking back at 40 years of Women's Studies at the University of Delaware is cause for celebration but also for reflection and assessment.

Some of you may recall that a quilt bearing the names of WOMS faculty and supporters was commissioned for the 20th WOMS anniversary celebration. This year we needed to decide which material evidence would best document this 40th anniversary. We opted for creating a video that would chronicle the 40-year history of WOMS through the lens of oral history. **Dr. Marie Laberge**, Assistant Professor of Women and Gender Studies and an expert in oral history data collection and analysis, has spent months interviewing key players—faculty, administrators and students—and recording their stories (see "Women at the Center"). Assisted by Anna Asher, an undergraduate English major with a concentration in film studies, Dr. Laberge produced a 20-minute video that will be premiered in fall 2013. You will be able to see it on our new website and we hope you'll send us your feedback.

The inaugural event of our anniversary year was a visit by the acclaimed poet **Rita Dove** in spring 2013. Ms. Dove's lecture on the violin prodigy, George Bridgetower, the topic of her book *Sonata Mulattica: A Life in Five Movements and a Short Play*, drew a large audience (see "Pulitzer Prize Poet Rita Dove"). I have to admit I was spell-bound by her presentation and the poetry reading she gave the next day. It was a wonderful experience highlighting the 40th anniversary and the diverse work that our department is engaged in. We are currently planning a very different, but equally exciting anniversary event.

In spring 2014, WOMS, in collaboration with the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence, will be hosting a conference celebrating the 20th anniversary of VAWA (Violence Against Women Act). "Violence Against Women Act - 20 Years and Counting: Critical Reflections on Advocacy and Research" will be held in Clayton Hall on April 24th and 25th, 2014. The conference committee is hard at work making this an important and exciting conference, and I hope that many of you will be able to attend.

Throughout the year, WOMS organized a series of talks, each provoking stimulating discussions. In October, **Santhi Leon**, Associate Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice spoke about "Sorting Out the Bad Guys: Ethical and Feminist Issues in the



Our History – Our Future



Jessica Schiffman

It is not always obvious that one is present at the start of something momentous. Beginnings can be small and slow and future success is impossible to gauge.

The start can be imprecise—is it the preparation of the soil? The planting of the seed? The green burst of the plant through the earth? The first fruit? Thus it was with Women's Studies forty years ago.

I have had numerous conversations over the years—almost, I must say, arguments—with faculty members who insist that they know the moment of our birth. The problem is that they offer differing narratives. Was our start the first course offered? If so, which one? Courses with women as a theme were first offered for the community through the extension program, but these were not for credit. Was it the first course focused on women offered on campus for credit? Since no one was keeping track that moment may be lost to time. Or, perhaps, it was the formation of the committee that envisioned a program, or the hiring of a director to oversee the development of the program. Let's just say that it took all these events, and many more, to form the foundation of the Women's Studies Program, which evolved into the Department of Women's Studies, and is now called the Department of Women and Gender Studies. No doubt we will continue to grow, adapt, and change in response to the needs of our students, the interests of our faculty members, and the events in the world around us. The narratives written of our future will probably be as contentious as those of our past. As our historians will attest, there is no one view of what has taken place. What we can agree on is that we have succeeded in growing a vibrant, multifaceted, challenging, solid enterprise.

Though I was not present at the earliest years, I have heard many stories about its creation. The Women's Studies founders who created the first courses, curriculum, and structure for the program were passionate and took many risks. In the early days, choosing to study and teach about women and gender might sideline an academic career. One former director told me that she was advised by her chair not to engage with Women's Studies until after she got tenure—advice that she took to heart. For some the association with Women's Studies might mean that unsympathetic colleagues would negatively view her work and she could therefore fail to be granted tenure.

Despite a generalized sense of hostility to the nascent field of women and gender studies, at UD we had the great good fortune to have many powerful supporters, female and male, over the years. At each juncture of our structural growth—the development of a program, the initiation of a minor, the inauguration of a major, the creation of a first tenure-track line, the establishment of a department, and the expansion of our mission inherent in our name change—we have been braced for resistance. Though we have certainly encountered doubts, and even derision, from some members of the faculty, we have never had a major setback in our growth. This is significant and says something wonderful about our UD community. Women and gender studies programs around the country have rarely experienced such consistently positive support. The interaction of eager students and inspirational faculty members at UD has mitigated the doubts or reservations some people might hold about an academic field so closely associated with a social movement.

Among the strongest strokes of good fortune for WOMS was the hiring of our first two faculty members, Dr. Sue Cherrin and Dr. Kathy Turkel. When I arrived in WOMS in 1986 as an adjunct faculty member, Sue and Kathy had been teaching courses to enthusiastic students for several years. The Department of Women and Gender Studies as it exists today was built from their early labors. It took the steady supply of introductory courses taught by engaging and approachable faculty members to build enthusiasm for more courses and a formalized program. Under Marian Palley's leadership as director, Sue's and Kathy's faculty lines became regularized and stable, a tremendous boost to our growing program.

In our early years, we seemed to exist on sheer determination. Kathy remembers that each resource gained was like “blood from a stone,” requiring extraordinary strategizing and struggle. One example is that for many years there was only one phone in the WOMS office! We had a secretary, two faculty members, a director and a program coordinator, but only one phone. When Barbara Gates arrived as director her first act was to demand that the administration provide phones for each desk. What a difference between that scarcity and the provisions of our wonderful current office building! Though we are already bursting at the seams, we have “rooms” of our own and certainly sufficient phones.

Sue and Kathy remember the mix of determination, idealism, political savvy, intellectual ferment and differing views that characterized the very early days of our development. As Kathy pointed out to me, in retrospect it may seem sanitary and inevitable, but in the moment it was messy and fraught with struggle. Sue remembers

animated scholarly discussions between Sandra Harding and Maggie Andersen as they worked to develop a framework for the future of WOMS. These were passionate dialectics between two influential and powerful women, both of whom would lead Women's Studies as program directors. The maps that they figuratively drew were created through passionate intellectual jousts and the directions they provided helped to form the core of what Women's Studies was to become, both at UD and in the wider world. To be present was to witness the creation of something—a birth of philosophies and beliefs that would shape an intellectual movement. It was, apparently, great fun, imbued with a sense of possibility for the future.

Listening to Sue's and Kathy's remembrances and recalling my own interactions with directors and faculty reminds me that Women's Studies at UD was on the cutting edge of the development of a field. While it is true that we lagged in some structural advantages, for example it took much longer at UD than at many other campuses to get tenure lines and departmental status, we were early in embracing such important concepts as intersectionality, transnationalism, and gendered sexualities. These ideas broadened our mission and put us in the forefront of the national agenda for women and gender studies.

Women's Studies has always engaged in a balancing act between political necessity and commitment to our foundation as an outgrowth of the women's movement. Inevitably, over time, we have been tugged in one direction or another. Simultaneously, the political climate has changed and the women's movement itself has broadened into a more complicated body encompassing sex, gender, sexualities, sexual identities, race, transnationalism, power and privilege. It is a vibrant field, evidenced by the continuing process of engagement with contentious ideas and their applications in the world around us. Our students know this and continue to look to us for guidance while challenging us to think in ever more expansive terms about our identity as an academic project. We would do well to remember Sandra Harding's refrain not to see things as problems, but as challenges. Such disciplined determination is what brought us forward and will continue to move us into the unknown ahead. How we continue to stay relevant, to push at the boundaries of scholarship, to be open as a home for alternative perspectives, to be as widely inclusive as possible—these are the challenges we continue to address. I think our founders would be proud of how we have built on their foundation. I know our current leadership is both mindful of that history and open to the trials ahead. We are optimistic—and with good reason. Look how far we've come!

• Thank You Donors

We are grateful to the students, alumni, alumni families, faculty and friends who have generously donated to support our department. Your generosity helps fund events and activities in Women and Gender Studies. Thank you!

Suzanne Cherrin	Caley Kammermann
Crystal Dalton	Latoya Kosh
Constance DeCherney	Crystal Michielli
Kathryn Evinger	Donna Seldomridge
Cheryl Jaroslaw	Sam and Sue Shipley

Gifts Received in Memory of E. Arthur Trabant

Barbara Gorman	Dick and Clella Murray
Dorothy Heldt	Nick and Wanda Simons
Mary Ann Hitchens	Art and Louise Sloane
Beryl King	Gerard and Laura Smith
Andy and Fran	Ruth Stetson
Kirkpatrick	Deirdre Taylor
Hazel Morris	Robert Gene Thompson
Dorothy Munroe	Judy Van Name



Congratulation to our Women and Gender Studies Majors for 2013

Margaret Di Girolamo
Kate Feiner
Paige Fisher**
Chelsea Frederick
Katrina Gearhart* **
Julie Hughes
Nikki Kress
Amy Leeds

Hope Levins
Breann Luff**
Jessica Markowski
Allison Sample
Alexandria Smith
Ashley Thomas
Yessenia Tolentino
Iman Shamloul
Dana Steele**

* Recipient of the Nellie Thompson Rudd Award for scholarship, leadership, and service in Women's Studies.

**Recipients of the Women's Studies Award of Special Merit for academic excellence.

Congratulation to our Women and Gender Studies Minors for 2013

Michelle Albrecht
Kaitlin Attardo
Catherine Cahill
Julia Certa
Dayna D'Amico
Rachel Darby
Kelsey Deboda
Elizabeth Hoey

Madelynne Jensen
Miranda Klein
Chelsea Lawrence
Amanda Leiman
Emily Mackey
Ashley Miller
Precious Morris
Christina O'Brien

Alexandra Ross
Chelsea Rubin
Rosemary Scalzi
Jessica Schilero
Meaghan Tohill
Kimberly Tomlinson
Serena Walker
Dana Weaver



*Katrina Gearhart,
Recipient of the
Nellie Thompson
Rudd Award and
the Women's Studies
Award of Special
Merit*

AWARDS

Awards of Special Merit were conferred upon four outstanding graduates in Women and Gender Studies. They are Paige Fisher, Katrina Gearhart, Breann Luff, and Dana Steele.

The Mae Carter Scholarship is awarded to an undergraduate woman student who embodies the values of Mae Carter and advances the status of women at the University. This year the award went to Shelah Balakhani. "I hope to carry out the values of the Mae Carter Award in my personal life and my career," Balakhani said upon receiving the scholarship.

The Nellie Thompson Rudd Award acknowledges excellence in scholarship, leadership, and service to the University. This year's recipient was Women and Gender Studies 2013 graduate Katrina Gearhart. Katrina was awarded for her commitment to furthering the status of women at UD as an undergraduate. Gearhart stated that, "In the spirit of Nellie Thompson Rudd and Dr. E. Arthur Trabant, I will continue to advocate for the safety and advancement of women in my community, especially domestic violence survivors."

Ruth Fleury Steiner will be sharing her research at the Women and Gender Studies' biannual public evening lecture held on Thursday, November 7 at 6 pm. This event features the recent scholarship of our faculty. A reception will follow, offering the opportunity for conversation among our students, faculty and friends. Please check our new website for details regarding the location and time of the event at www.wgs.udel.edu.

Attend our **Gender in International Films Series (WOMS 290)**: It will be held in Gore Hall 102 during the Fall 2013 semester on Wednesdays, 10/02/13-10/30/13, from 3:35 pm

Mark Your Calendars!

to 6:35 pm. This series, open to the public, screens feature films about women and/or gender in cultures outside that of the mainstream United States. Doing so, it explores how sex and gender shape lives and experiences. This series enriches our understanding of the diversity of gendered cultural norms and ways filmmakers choose to illustrate them.

Heidi Hartmann Scholar in Residence Visit: Please join us for a visit from Heidi Hartmann, resident scholar at the Greater Philadelphia Women's Studies Consortium. Hartmann is an economist, MacArthur Fellow, and president of the Institute for Women's Policy Research, a sci-

entific research organization that she founded in 1987 to meet the need for women-centered, policy-oriented research. For locations and times please visit our website at www.wgs.udel.edu.

Research on Race, Ethnicity and Culture (WOMS 298), Spring 2014: A public lecture series in which faculty and guest speakers discuss their research on contemporary and historical perspectives on race, ethnicity and culture. Research is presented from several disciplines, including sociology, history, literature, anthropology and psychology, among others. Please

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DVPS Update

The Domestic Violence Prevention and Services Concentration and Minor has experienced another year of growth and has made significant contributions to our local community. Moreover, the program is receiving national attention for being the first undergraduate academic program providing systematic advocate training in the field of violence against women. We had the opportunity to share our development and successes at the November 2012 meeting of the American Society of Criminology in Chicago, and our story will also be highlighted in an upcoming edition of *Violence Against Women* focusing on “Teaching About Domestic Violence.”

In May, we graduated our second class of DVPS Concentration students and like the class of 2012, our 2013 graduates have secured employment in the field or gained acceptance into graduate programs. Our students are enrolled in diverse graduate programs ranging from nursing, to social work, to the law at the University of Delaware, the University of Pennsylvania, Long Island University, Fordham University and Widener University. Domestic violence service providers in the region such as the House of Ruth, the Wilmington Police Department, CHILD Inc., and People’s Place employ other recent graduates.



(Above) The 2013 Graduating Class of DVPS Concentration Students: (from left to right) Nikki Kress, Amy Leeds, Hope Levins, Jess Markowski and Kat Gerhart. (Below) DVPS Concentration Student presents at The Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence’s annual advocates retreat.



Women at the Center: History of Women’s Studies At the University of Delaware

Over the past three years, Dr. Marie Laberge, Assistant Professor of Women and Gender Studies and an expert in oral history data collection and analysis engaged in a fascinating new project, entitled, “Women at the Center: History of Women’s Studies at the University of Delaware.” Designed to document the development of Women’s Studies at the University of Delaware through oral history, this endeavor involved both extensive archival research and conducting interviews with over 20 Women’s Studies faculty, chairs, and alumnae. Dr. Laberge, assisted by Anna Asher, an undergraduate English major with a concentration in film studies, produced a short, 20-minute video that summarizes the most salient moments in our history. The video will serve as the material centerpiece of our 40th anniversary celebrations and will be featured on our new website. Both the video and the unedited digital oral histories will become part of the University of Delaware Archives held in Special Collections.

Dr. Laberge also created a new combined graduate and undergraduate course in “Feminist Oral History,” in which her students had the wonderful opportunity to become actively engaged in the project acquiring both the technical and the historical knowledge needed for oral history research. Moreover, the students in Dr. Laberge’s 2012 WOMS Capstone class were also interviewed, providing the opportunity to add their views on Women’s Studies and feminism to those of our founders.

By capturing the voices and memories of the many faculty, staff, and administrators involved in Women’s Studies at UD and revealing their dedication and passion, Dr. Laberge has created an invaluable resource for future scholars. We hope that many will view this unique record that showcases both our history and our future. We are immensely grateful to Dr. Laberge for her terrific work.

Check it out!

We have a new website.
Go to www.wgs.udel.edu

Pulitzer Prize Poet Rita Dove Opens Celebration of WOMS 40th Anniversary



On April 18-19, 2013, Rita Dove, Pulitzer Prize winner, former U.S. Poet laureate, and Commonwealth Professor of English at the University of Virginia visited UD

to deliver a public lecture and a poetry reading, which was followed by a book signing. In her lecture, Rita Dove spoke about her most recent book, *Sonata Mulattica: A Life in Five Movements and a Short Play* (2009). She explained that while watching a film about Ludwig van Beethoven, she was fascinated to discover the existence of a black violinist in Vienna. According to Dove, “that set me on a journey, because I wanted to know why, why, why did he disappear?” Through research she learned of the mixed-race violin prodigy, George Bridgetower, who began performing at age 9 and established himself in France and England as a violin virtuoso. In 1803, he met Beethoven in Vienna and impressed him so powerfully that the great composer wrote a violin sonata for him, which eventually became known as the *Kreutzer Sonata*. *Sonata Mulattica* chronicles the story of Bridgetower, who later had a falling out with Beethoven and faded from the public eye. Dove read the volume’s first poem, which outlines Bridgetower’s life, but she cautioned against too much emphasis on the biographical: “I didn’t want to tell the story of his life; I wanted to understand his life.” *Sonata Mulattica* extends Dove’s lifelong project of documenting and commenting on historical figures and events who been ignored by history. Both the lecture and the poetry reading drew large audiences and stimulated intense discussion.

Dove’s appearance was part of the multi-year Transnational Encounters Series that brings internationally known authors to campus. The series was made possible by a cornerstone grant from the College of Arts and Sciences Interdisciplinary Humanities Research Center. Other support was contributed by the Departments of English, Foreign Languages and Literatures, Women and Gender Studies, the Confucius Institute, and the First year Experience. Rita Dove was hosted by the Departments of Women and Gender Studies, English, Foreign Languages and Literatures as well as the Center for Black Culture and the Honors Program. Dove’s lecture and readings were the first of a series of events celebrating the Department of Women and Gender Studies’ 40th anniversary.

Faculty News

Pascha Bueno-Hansen, Assistant Professor of Women and Gender Studies is completing her monograph, *“Decolonizing Transitional Justice: A Feminist Analysis of Human Rights and Internal Armed Conflict,”* under contract with the University of Illinois Press. She has presented her work at “The Missing Peace Symposium 2013: Sexual Violence in Conflict and Post-Conflict Settings. U.S. Institute for Peace” (Washington, D.C), and at the “Frontiers/Fronteras/Fronteras in Latin American/Latin@ Queer and Sexuality Studies Symposium”(University of Massachusetts). She also organized a panel, participated in a workshop, and presented a paper at the Latin American Studies Association conference held in Washington D.C. Pascha serves as a board member of the Gender and Feminist Studies section of the Latin American Studies Association.

Marie Laberge, Assistant Professor of Women and Gender Studies is an expert in oral history data collection and analysis. She has been continuing her work on the “Women at the Center: History of Women’s Studies at the University of Delaware” Oral History project and produced a short 20-minute video. This film explores the history of women’s studies at the University of Delaware using oral histories and it is a center piece of the 40th Anniversary of Women’s Studies at UD.

Jennifer Naccarelli, Assistant Professor and Associate Chair of the Department of Women and Gender studies co-authored an article entitled “Teaching about Domestic Violence: A Snapshot of Two Academic Programs” to be published in a forthcoming special edition of the journal *Violence Against Women* focusing on “Teaching About Domestic Violence.” Jennifer also presented at the November 2012 American Society of Criminology meeting in Chicago, as part of a panel on Feminist Theory and Pedagogy. Her paper “Innovative University Programs for Teaching about Domestic Violence” documented the recent evolution and success of the Department of Women and Gender Studies’ Domestic Violence Prevention and Services program; her talk also offered suggestions for other institutions who wish to launch similar advocacy based programs. Jennifer was also one of the 2012-13 recipients of an instructional improvement grant from the Center for Teaching and Assessment of Learning.

Monika Shafi, Elias Ahuja Professor of German and Chair of the Department of Women and Gender Studies published a monograph, *Housebound: Selfhood and Domestic Space in Contemporary German Fiction* (Rochester: Camden, 2012). In addition, she published essays in the journal *Gegenwartsliteratur: Ein germanistisches Jahrbuch*; in the collection *Heimat: At the Intersection of Memory and Space*, edited by. Frie-

derike Eigler and Jens Kugele (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2012) and submitted three new articles. She also wrote three book reviews and presented four papers at national and international conferences and delivered invited lectures at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, at the University of Victoria, Canada, and at Georgetown University.

Margaret Stetz, Mae and Robert Carter Professor of Women’s Studies and Professor of Humanities, delivered papers at Victorian Studies conferences in Richmond, VA (October ’12) and in Venice, Italy (June ’13), and was an invited presenter on the panel organized by the MLA’s Commission on the Status of Women at the Modern Language Association convention in Boston (January ’13). She was also an invited lecturer at a symposium on authorship, organized by the University of Iowa (November ’12), and at a symposium on Asian military sexual slavery during WWII, held at George Mason University (December ’12). In June ’13, she gave a keynote address at a conference on Oscar Wilde at the University of Limerick, Ireland. This year, she published essays in the *Journal of European Popular Culture*; in *Upstage: A Journal of Turn-of-the-Century Theatre*; and in *Opticon 1826*, as well as book reviews in *Tulsa Studies in Women’s Literature* and in the *Journal of Human Rights Practice*. Another essay appeared in the volume *Shaw and Feminisms: On Stage and Off* (University Press of Florida, 2013), and an earlier essay was reprinted in the volume *Short Story Criticism: Criticism of the Works of Short Fiction Writers* (Gale Publishing, 2013).

Kathy Turkel, Assistant Professor of Women and Gender Studies was the coordinator for the Spring 2013 Research on Race, Ethnicity and Culture lecture series. This year the series was part of the History Department’s “Emancipation Semester”, which marked the 150th anniversary of emancipation in the U.S. The series featured speakers from the University of Delaware as well as regional institutions and covered a wide range of topics connected to emancipation and its aftermath. Dr. Turkel also chairs the WOMS Curriculum Committee and is active in the newly formed caucus for CNTT (Continuing Non-Tenure Track) faculty.

Alvina Quintana published a book review, entitled “Hybrid Politics: A Xicana Codex of Changing Consciousness” in *Women’s Review of Books*, July/August edition 2012. She also served as chair/moderator for a session “Mexico: Time and Space” at the American Studies Association convention in Puerto Rico, November 2012. In January 2013, Alvina reviewed her documentary promo “Bridging Cultures in the Black Pacific: Kamaka Kehau Fernandez” at the Hawaii University International Conference.

Assessment of Sexual Offenders.” Akasha Hull, a former WOMS director followed in November with “Black Women’s Studies: From Theory to Fiction”, and in spring, Rebecca Davis, Associate Professor of History delivered a lecture, entitled “More Perfect Unions: Marriage, Heterosexuality, and U.S. History.” On a different note, we have also been working with the IT team in the College of Arts and Sciences creating a brand new website. It is forthcoming and will allow us to share so much more information about us and all that we are engaged in.

The most festive day of the academic year is, of course, convocation, and at the end of May we celebrated the accomplishments of a terrific group of seniors. Bidding them farewell, we hope that their experiences in WOMS will guide them well in their personal and professional life. In closing, I would like to express my most heartfelt thanks to the students, colleagues, and staff as well as to the UD administration for their exceptional dedication to WOMS. A special note of thanks goes to Dr. Jennifer Naccarelli, who joined us last year as the new Associate Chair. Her energy and enthusiasm are unsurpassed and she has been a terrific addition to the team.

On behalf of the faculty and staff, I extend my very best wishes

– Monika Shafi, *Elias Abuja Professor of German and Chair of the Department of Women and Gender Studies*

Alumni Corner

Connections is one of the ways of keeping you up to date on events and news in the Department of Women and Gender Studies. The *Staying Connected* section in our newsletter also serves to showcase the range of activities our alumni are engaged in and some of the exciting projects they are currently pursuing. Quite a few of our alumni may have drifted by chance into a WOMS course and isn’t it amazing how profoundly this encounter shaped their direction in life? We hope that current students feel inspired by these accounts and that these alumni stories encourage students to pursue a major in Women and Gender Studies, a minor in Women and Gender Studies, Domestic Violence Prevention and Services, or Sexualities and Gender Studies or adopt one of our concentrations in Women in Global Perspective or Domestic Violence Prevention and Services.

We always love hearing from our alumni and friends and look forward to sharing your stories. Please send updates about your life and career to Jennifer Naccarelli at jnacc@udel.edu.

Staying Connected

Josefina Ayllon (WS 2011) Over the past two years, she completed her Master’s Program at Boston College. She would like to thank Women and Gender Studies for supporting her in this journey.

Jaiara Boskett (WS 2012) (jboskett@gmail.com) Jaiara has joined the AmeriCorps Program, and is serving as a mentor coordinator at William Penn High School in New Castle, Delaware. She recruits community members to mentor the students at the school.

Katherine DiMaggio (WS 2010) (kdimagg@gmail.com) is enrolled in the EdM School Counseling program at Columbia Teachers College.

Colleen Dougherty (WS 2012) (cdough@udel.edu) is working with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Delaware in Wilmington as the case manager for their new LGBTQ mentoring program. The program is part of an initiative with the United Way of Delaware.

Jessica Eichholz (WS 2012) is currently a Master’s student at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in their Clinical and Counseling Health Psychology program. In September, she is starting her practicum placement at Women Organized Against Rape, Philadelphia’s only rape crisis center.

Alexandra Gawel (WS 2009) (agawel@mhainde.org) is the community educator at Mental Health Association in Delaware. Following graduation, she pursued her dreams and went to Paris, traveled throughout Europe (Germany, Belgium, Sweden, Normandy, etc.) and saw the other side of the world.

Gail S. Ludwig CFP* (WS 1987) (gludwig@aiusa.org) is the Director of Planned Giving West, Amnesty International USA, in San Francisco, California. She works with donors on charitable estate planning. She enjoys working for social justice and advocating for human rights, especially women’s rights.

Julia O’Brien (WS 2007) Julia’s dissertation title was: “The Interaction of Race and Status in Determining Discrimination.” Her advisor was Chuck Stangor. She will begin teaching at UMD in the fall and is applying to jobs in the meantime. She is looking for program evaluation or applied research positions.

Jennifer Scalia (WS 2010) is now a mentor at A Center for Relational Living. She will be volunteering at Film Brothers Productions Movie Co-op by helping this agency collaborate with other non-profit agencies in Delaware to help plan special events.

Sarah Trotta (WS 2011) has taken the position of sexual assault aftercare therapist at Contact Lifeline in their New Castle County, Delaware, office. She has resources available for students. Contact her at strotta@contactlifeline.org.

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check out our new website, www.wgs.udel.edu, for further information.

Spring 2014: Please join us for the **28th Annual Women’s History Month Film Series** and explore women’s historical experiences through the medium of film. Learn more at www.wgs.udel.edu.

The Greater Philadelphia Women’s Studies Consortium, Student Research on Women, Gender and Sexualities Conference: This annual conference provides undergraduate and graduate students from the Philadelphia region with the opportunity to share their current

research on women, gender and sexualities. Villanova University will host this year’s conference on April 4, 2014.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month: Events will take place at various locations on campus in April 2014. The month of April has been designated Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) in the United States. The goal of SAAM is to raise public awareness about sexual violence and to educate communities and individuals on how to prevent sexual violence. Details will be posted to our new website, www.wgs.udel.edu.

Powerful Partnerships — 20 Years of the Violence Against Women Act and the Path Ahead held at Clayton Hall, University of Delaware, April 24, 8:00 a.m. through April 25, 5:00 p.m. This national conference will bring together scholars and practitioners in the field of violence against women. The conference is held in honor of the 40th anniversary of the Department of Women and Gender Studies, the 20th anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act, and the 20th anniversary of the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence. See www.wgs.udel.edu for registration details.

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