

Connections

Department of Women
and Gender Studies
Fall 2014



Celebrating 40 years of Women's Studies

“Powerful Partnerships” Conference

Advocates, academics, activists, and students from across the nation arrived at the University of Delaware on April 24, 2014, to attend the conference “Powerful Partnerships: 20 Years of the Violence Against Women Act and the Path Ahead,” cohosted by our Department and the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCADV). This two-day conference recognized the 20th Anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act and honored Vice President Joseph Biden’s signature role in passing this landmark legislation. The conference also celebrated the 40th Anniversary of UD’s Department of Women and Gender Studies and the 20th Anniversary of the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence. These triple anniversaries represent the substantive and lasting progress that has been achieved for women while also creating opportunities to strategize about future directions in the fight against gender-based violence.

The title of this conference, *Powerful Partnerships*, drew attention to the real strengths that lie in partnership, teamwork, and collaboration, and the opportunities they generate for new projects and visions resulting from such collective efforts. Our aim was to create a unique space for survivors, community activists, advocates, researchers, business leaders, and government officials to share findings, best



From left to right: Jennifer Naccarelli, Bonnie Metz (Verizon), Senator Chris Coons, Carol Post, Monika Shafi.

practices, and lessons learned and to foster trust, resilient relationships, and innovative strategies for addressing gender-based violence. The organizing committee thus carefully designed workshops, roundtables, and panel presentations in order to integrate research and practice. Topics addressed ranged from bystander approaches, legal system responses, program and strategy evaluation to researcher/practitioner partnerships and leadership development. A key element of the conference concept was student participation. Students (past and current) enrolled in the WOMS’s Domestic Violence Prevention and Services concentration presented research which was based both on their academic coursework and their work in the field of direct services. The presence of students, academics, survivors, community leaders and advocates resulted in

*–Please see **Powerful Partnerships** continued on page 4*

Powerful Partnerships: UD Student Advocacy and Leadership

–Gabby Lanzetta

“Powerful Partnerships” drew nearly 300 participants from across the country, all interested in learning more about the issues of domestic violence and sexual assault. The nearly 100 students in attendance represent the next generation of advocates, academics, and politicians committed to taking leadership roles in developing initiatives and effective strategies to address gender-based violence. Future progress requires future leaders, and students are key to the movement of domestic violence and abuse advocacy.

During the conference, Jocelyn Samuels,

the acting assistant attorney general with the U.S. Department of Justice in the Civil Rights division, recognized such future leaders when she met with UD students and staff working on a violence-prevention program supported by a three-year grant, “Innovative Partnerships to Reduce Gender-Based Violence on Delaware Campuses.” This grant was awarded to UD and Delaware State University in 2011 by the U.S. Department of Justice. Molly Daddono, a rising senior and president of the University of Delaware registered student organization, Active Minds, had the opportunity to talk with Samuels about eliminating the stigma of mental illness in our community. Samuels stressed that mental illness and sexual assault often go hand

*–Please see **UD Students** continued on page 2*

Greetings from the Chair

Dear Alumni & Friends:

In July, as I write this column, the campus is abuzz with prospective high school students and their parents. Braving the heat, led by eager UD ambassadors, they are exploring the campus, strolling down Main Street, and checking out degrees and programs. There is excitement and promise in the air and the joy of new beginnings. I would like for all these students to take a WOMS or SGST class so they can learn how to analyze the role of gender, race, class and much else besides. Teaching students such critical skills is at the heart of our mission and this Department could not have a more dedicated and inspiring faculty. While much of their work takes place in the classroom, they also engage in numerous outreach activities bringing feminist activism and research to the community.



In 2013/14 we celebrated our 40th anniversary, an incredible milestone, whose importance cannot be overstated. Forty years ago, the first WOMS course was offered, today close to 3,000 students enroll annually in WOMS classes! In October 2013 the Department hosted a 40th anniversary dinner that brought together quite a few of the former directors, faculty, and administrators. The highlight of the dinner was the premiere of the video “Women at the Center: History of Women’s Studies at the University of Delaware,” created and produced by Dr. Marie Loberge (with the assistance of Anna Asher, an undergraduate English major with a concentration in film studies). Dr. Loberge, Assistant Professor of Women and Gender Studies and an expert in oral history, worked for more than three years on this project, conducting interviews with over 20 Women’s Studies faculty, chairs, and alumnae. Their compelling personal narratives brought to life in vivid and immediate terms the story of how Women’s Studies developed at UD as an academic field. Watching the video together was a very emotional moment for all those present.

The video, unedited digital oral histories, and pdf logs of each interview are housed on the UD library’s Special Collections website and available for both research and teaching. In spring 2014, Dr. Margaret Stetz, Mae and Robert Carter Professor of Women’s Studies and Professor of Humanities was the first faculty member to use these materials in a senior capstone seminar, and future generations of students will have an opportunity to work with this rich historical resource.

This year’s speakers included Dr. Heidi Hartmann, MacArthur Fellow, President and Founder of the Institute for Women’s Policy Research in Washington, D.C. and 2013 resident scholar at the Greater Philadelphia Women’s Studies Consortium, who visited in November. Earlier, Dr. Ruth Fleury-Steiner, Associate Professor in the Department of Human Development

*–Please see **From the Chair** continued on page 6*

PARIS 2014: Many Lessons



Study Abroad Students in Paris, at the grave of Simone de Beauvoir, left to right: Lauren Boudreaux, Erica DePriore, Faith Buckley, Seraphina Cromwell, Carlie Saint-Laurent, Lawra Campbell, Zachary Fritz, Rachel Walker, Madeline Lydon, Shannon Kearney, Beth Johnson, Gabby Lanzetta.

—*Jessica Schiffman*

Life is replete with intended and unintended lessons. In January 2014, UD students preparing to study abroad in Paris learned firsthand two important lessons: that the frustrations and joys of travel cannot always be controlled and that a positive attitude will pave the way to a good outcome.

It was an inauspicious beginning. Our eager group of study abroad scholars arrived at the Philadelphia airport just in time for a major snowstorm. After 7 hours on the runway, two de-icings and a sick baby returned to the gate, our flight to Paris was cancelled. At 4 a.m., we gathered in the departure area to regroup. No flights were available for rebooking for four days. Plans for our first few days in France had to be rescheduled. Classes were delayed. Instead of views of the Eiffel Tower, we faced piles of snow. When we finally arranged a new flight schedule we encountered a new challenge; a two-legged trip, through Chicago, where the temperature was 15 below. After teaching two catch-up lessons in O'Hare Airport, our luck changed. We were one of two last flights out to Europe before the airport shut down due to freezing fuel lines.

Our fortunes continued to look up upon arrival. A lost suitcase (hard to imagine, but the airline lost a student's luggage while never leaving the Philadelphia airport) was awaiting us, the sun was shining, and it was 65 degrees warmer in Paris than it had been in Chicago!

Twelve UD students took full advantage of the opportunity to learn and live in Paris for a month. The group visited with representatives of four feminist organizations to learn firsthand about women's issues in France and met with their art history professor at several of the world-renowned Parisian museums to study artworks by and about women. We viewed several French films related to topics of interest to students of sex and gender. Outside of class, the group toured Versailles and the 6th arrondissement, shopped at an outdoor market to purchase foods for an indoor picnic, got expert advice from a master photographer on shooting photographs in the Tuilerie Gardens, ascended to the top of the Eiffel Tower for a view of Paris at night, and enjoyed the tastes of a chocolate and cheese tour.

Throughout, the students displayed openness to new experiences and an eagerness to engage in discussion about what they learned in and out of class, the sign of accomplished scholars of the world. "We were able to completely submerge ourselves in the learning experience and become part of what we were studying," remarked Gabby Lanzetta, whose participation in the Study Abroad program was provided by a generous scholarship from the Women Studies' Mae and Robert Carter Endowment. "I may have left Paris, but I brought so much back with me, from new friends to a broader outlook on feminism and culture. The trip to Paris was an experience of a lifetime and one I will forever cherish."

UD Students *continued from page 1*

in hand, and explained that she was grateful to have the opportunity to discuss this important correlation. During this interview, Samuels emphasized the need to engage athletic teams and Greek organizations in efforts to eliminate sexual violence on campus. Samuels also acknowledged the accomplishments of UD organizations such as Sexual Offense Support (SOS) and Sexual Assault Prevention and Education (SAPE).

Melissa Pleasanton, a UD Women and Gender Studies Class of 2014 graduate, is among the future advocates in the domestic violence and abuse movement. At the conference she was interviewed by National Public Radio (NPR). During this interview Pleasanton discussed how her academic work at UD and her internship with the Wilmington Police Department has

prepared her for a successful career dedicated to domestic violence response in direct client service settings. Reflecting upon her experiences at the conference she voiced her excitement about having spoken with NPR, noting that it was her first big interviewing experience. Furthermore she explained "the Conference was very interesting in regards to the mix of academics and service providers," Pleasanton said, "and it offered a very interactive environment that provided research and practices everyone could use."

UD's Students Acting for Gender Equality (SAGE) hosted "Take Back the Night," after the conference's sessions on Thursday. The event brought together conference attendees and the campus community in recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, with featured guest

Event Highlights

Ruth Wilson Gilmore, feminist geographer and designated guest of the Greater Philadelphia Consortium, presented "Fatal Couplings: Racial Capitalism and the Black Radical Tradition" on October 8, exploring racial capitalism and the legacy and future of the Black Radical Tradition, with a focus on the work of Amílcar Cabral, Claudia Jones, and Angela Y. Davis.

Jill McDevitt presented "Virgins and Sluts" on October 7, selected video clips and stories explored from a feminist perspective of how America's obsession with the sex lives of women is used as a tool of oppression, and engaged students to explore the role of sexuality as it relates to gender equality and violence.

Janet Mock, contributing editor for *Marie Claire* Magazine and *The New York Times* bestselling author of *Redefining Realness: My Path to Womanhood, Identity, Love & So Much More*, released by Atria Books/Simon & Schuster, spoke November 7 on issues related to the impact that a Queer identity and one's ethnicity or race has on one's experience in our world as well as her life experience as a trans woman and that of other trans individuals.

Olaf Kapella, Research Coordinator and Senior Researcher at the Austrian Institute for Family Studies, University of Vienna, Austria, presented his work November 17 on WHO-European Models of Successful Sexuality Education.

Elizabeth Anderson, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor and John Dewey Distinguished University Professor of Philosophy and Women's Studies at the University of Michigan, and president of the American Philosophical Association's Central Division, on November 21 presented her work in feminist theory and feminist epistemology, "Social Movements and Moral Progress."

Women and Gender Studies Research on Women Series (WOMS 299) featured interdisciplinary lectures where faculty, staff and advanced students shared results of their research on women's issues in anthropology, sociology, political theory, psychology, philosophy, literature, history, theology, ethnic studies, music, art, sciences, and health.

Gender in International Films Series (WOMS 290) featured films about women and/or gender in cultures outside of the mainstream United States, that explore how sex and gender shape lives and experiences and enrich our understanding of the diversity of gendered cultural norms and ways filmmakers choose to illustrate them.

Student Research on Women, Gender and Sexualities Conference, April 17, 2015, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA. Presented by Temple University Women's Studies Program and the Greater Philadelphia Women's Studies Consortium. Visit <http://sites.temple.edu/wgsconsortium2015>

April 2015. Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Events will take place at various locations on the UD campus to raise public awareness and to educate communities and individuals on how to prevent sexual violence.

speaker and slam poet Andrea Gibson, whose performance engaged the issue of sexual violence in deeply moving poetry. Gibson's performance was followed by a rally through the UD campus and a speak-out for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. On Friday, the conference was brought to a close with "The Last Word," an emotionally powerful listening session with a panel of survivors who shared their personal stories of how domestic violence has impacted their lives. The conference ended with a dynamic musical performance by Matred Conaway, whose song "I Can" expressed the passionate hope inspired by "Powerful Partnerships"—a future of change and community in addressing domestic violence and sexual assault.

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!

Dr. Candace Archer	Dr. Devan V. and Mrs. Andrea G. Mehrotra
Mae R. and Robert C. Carter	Jason Nadell and Roni L. Grill
Suzanne Cherrin	Elizabeth Murphy Penczak
Karen M. Chonofsky	Kris Proeschel
Caitlin Del Collo	Brenda O. Rice
Gwen L. Dittmar	Alyssa M. Sharrock
Mary Fox	Cedric Steenbergshs
Emily B. Jonas	Lloyd L. Thoms, Jr.
Caley Kammerman	Crystal E. Woodford
Rebecca JoAnn Marshall	The Verizon Foundation
John and Donnette Mayrack	

Congratulations to our 2014 Women and Gender Studies Majors with DVPS Concentrations

Nadia Begum	Marissa Phillips
Gabrielle Coleman	Melissa Pleasanton
Zakkiyah Johnson	Abigail Samuels
Arleigh E. Lane	



Congratulations to our Women and Gender Studies Majors for 2014

Binta Bah	Kristi Keating
Nadia Begum	Arleigh Lane
Karen Chonofsky	Rebecca Marshall**
Gabrielle Coleman	Rena Miller
Jennifer Cornejo-Ordorica	Ekta Patel
Jaimie Ermak** (HBA)	Elizabeth Penczak
Lisa George	MarissaPhillips
Kelly Grzinic** (HBA)	Melissa Pleasanton
Emma Haberern	Abigail Samuels*,**
D'Janna Hamilton	Alyssa Sharrock
Zakkiyah Johnson	Dana Steele

Cedric Steenbergshs
Stephy Thomas

* 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.

Congratulations to our Women and Gender Studies Minors for 2014

Katie Alteri	Hope Kitchin
Julia DuPlessis	Alyssa Norfleet
Stephanie Everitt	Brittany Phipps
Chelsea Flores	Chandler Przybylski
Emily Gessmann	Evelyn Rajan

Allison Rozovsky
Heather Sowards
Marissa Tinari
Kelsey Zych

Graduating Class of 2014 Awards

Awards of Special Merit were conferred upon four outstanding women graduates in Women and Gender Studies. The 2014 recipients are Jaimie Ermak, Kelly Grzinic, Rebecca Marshall, and Abigail Samuels.

The Mae Carter Scholarship is awarded to an undergraduate woman student who carries the values of Mae Carter to advance the status of women at the University. This year, the scholarship was awarded to Abigail Samuels.

The Nellie Thompson Rudd Award, endowed by University of Delaware's past president E. Arthur in honor of his mother to acknowledge excellence in scholarship, leadership and service to the University, was also presented to Abigail Samuels for her commitment to furthering the status of women at the University of Delaware.

"I am lucky to belong to a community whose history includes the work of remarkable women like Mae Carter and Nellie Thompson Rudd," Samuels said upon receiving the scholarship and award. "I am proud to forge a path of my own, but in the spirit of these two women by pursuing a career in legal advocacy. I hope to help all marginalized groups, especially women, obtain justice through our community's court systems."

Abigail Samuels winner of the Nellie Thompson Rudd Award

—Kathy Turkel

Abigail Samuels was the 2014 winner of The Nellie Thompson Rudd Award. This award recognizes student achievement in the areas of scholarship, leadership and service to the Department of Women and Gender Studies.

An honors student with a double major in Women and Gender Studies and Political Science, a minor in History, and a concentration in Domestic Violence Services and Prevention, Abby graduated in May 2014 with an honors degree with distinction. Candidates for the degree with distinction must complete a senior thesis. Abby's thesis focused on the way that domestic abusers use "Paper Abuse" to manipulate the structure of the system as a way to harass their victims. Professor Susan Miller, her thesis advisor, said the following about the nature and quality of Abby's research:

"In order to truly understand the problem, she sat in on groups of male abusers who were court-ordered into treatment. Through her observations and interviews with the group's facilitator, Abby designed a questionnaire for the group participants to answer and an interview instrument to use with attorneys who often represent batterers in court. I can't emphasize enough how innovative this is for an undergraduate—if she had more time and was differently situated, this could become a doctoral level dissertation."

Abby served as Vice-President of SAGE (Student's Acting for Gender Equality) and as Partnership



Coordinator for Natasha's Justice Project, an organization focused on ending the rape kit backlog in the U.S. to document and process untested rape kits lying dormant in storage facilities across the country. Through Abby's initiative, SAGE became the first university student group in the U.S. to partner with NJP. Karen Owen, Executive Director of NJP, openly expressed her admiration as well as her gratitude for the work Abby did for NJP:

"Abby has proven to be a compassionate leader for Natasha's Justice Project. Daily she inspires us with her dedication, devotion, thoughtfulness and willingness to help us build chapters across the country... Abby's work truly goes beyond the campus borders, there's no limit to the work she's begun."

Abby has served as an ambassador for the Department of Women and Gender Studies by representing WOMS at various recruitment events for incoming students. She has also served as an Intern in the Domestic Violence Advocacy Program in New Castle County Family Court, where she helped victims to complete Protection Order petitions, coordinated details related to court hearings, and accompanied clients to hearings. In addition, Abby has worked as an Intern in the Wilmington office of U.S. Senator Chris Coons where she collaborated with constituent case-workers in helping community members navigate bureaucracy and governmental agencies. Abby plans to attend law school in the near future and to continue her work as an advocate for victims of domestic violence.

Mary Ruth Warner

*Adjunct Professor, Department of
Women and Gender Studies*

—Suzanne Cherrin



Still not fully awake, I walk through the Trabant University Student Center to get my early morning coffee, and there, sitting at the large round table, is Mary Ruth Warner with a small group of students. She meets with students outside of class twelve times each semester to discuss their research projects. She works to accommodate their schedules; sometimes she even comes down on a Saturday, just one small example of her dedication to students. She says “I’ve never seen teaching as work, but as a passion.” During this past spring semester, she taught “Women and Popular Music,” “Gay and Lesbian Film,” and “Introduction to Women’s Studies.” Overlapping her teaching commitments at UD, she also teaches courses at Widener and West Chester Universities. On weekends, she volunteers for ‘From Our Kitchen,’ a Wilmington nonprofit group that serves homeless individuals and others considered food deprived.

Mary Ruth is a woman who has made history at UD. Mary Ruth came to UD as a student, already seasoned in activism as a member of SDS (Students for a Democratic Society). The late 1960’s were times of protest and turbulence, and an exciting time on campus. Mary Ruth: “I loved it!” As one of a very small number of Black students, she began supporting demands for racial justice from Harvard to Delaware State, especially deriving inspiration from Harvard’s African American students. At UD, she was a force to be reckoned with, and through her leadership, the Black Student Union was born.

Mary Ruth also was involved in political activism beyond the campus. She participated

in one of the first anti-Vietnam demonstrations in Wilmington, in the national anti-war demonstrations in D.C. and New York from 1966 to 1971, worked with local politics in Wilmington, and served on the Delaware Commission on the Status of Women. She used her experience to develop innovative educational programs for students, create new courses, and initiate women’s studies workshops and conferences to facilitate the discussion of race, lesbianism, and the dynamics of a women’s studies classroom. She served as a planner and faculty member for a Midwest women’s studies institute. Her work as an administrator and faculty member took her to New Jersey (Stockton State College), Western Massachusetts (University of Massachusetts/Amherst, Hampshire College and Smith College), and California (UC San Diego and Cal State LA).

continued from page 1

She noted that “campus sexual assault is a civil rights issue” and emphasized the need to provide a safe environment for all students. “Sexual assault denies students [the] right to live and learn in a safe educational environment.”

Activist Eesha Pandit spoke about the fight against domestic violence, emphasizing the complexity of the issue and the need to account for multiple factors and influences: “Race, gender, sexuality, citizenship status, poverty, unemployment, disability—they all shape our experiences and they can limit access to resources.” She emphasized the need for an intersectional analysis for the prevention and treatment of gender-based violence but also for the lived experiences of advocates.

Carol Post, Executive Director of the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Dr. Jessica Schiffman, former Associate Chair of WOMS together with Marcey Reszak, Program Director of the SAFE program at People’s Place, and Stephanie Hamilton, Director of Victim Services for the Wilmington Police Department were joined by recent DVPS graduates, who described the WOMS’s collaboration with DCADV, which resulted in the creation of the DVPS Program. Our community partners on

As an undergrad, Mary Ruth majored in American Studies. She studied Folklore at the University of Pennsylvania, and in her 50s, she did graduate work in English Literature at the UD. Her career is a testament to interdisciplinary teaching and intersectionality; including Women’s Oral Testimony, African American Folklore, and Black Feminism. She recalls a women’s studies seminar titled “The Folklore of Oppression.” She asked the students to give an example of an instance when they were oppressed. The depth of their responses in this first class meeting was amazing. The students—all women—were in a circle, speaking in impromptu fashion. Several spoke of sexual violence. She later asked the class, “What was it today that led you to reveal these personal and intimate stories?” The answer: “It was you.” She had established a level of trust very rare in academic settings.

Her ability to create an open environment continues today. One of her current students says, “My favorite part of her class is how comfortable she makes it to talk about sexuality, which can be a sensitive topic for many people,” and another describes her as “witty, playfully irreverent and exquisitely articulate” and notes “she encourages questions and debate and never marginalizes any student.” Many students have become majors and minors in Women and Gender Studies because they were introduced to it by Mary Ruth Warner. As one student said, “I cannot thank her enough for making learning a joyful experience.” May Mary Ruth continue to inspire students for many years to come.

this panel highlighted the tangible contributions resulting from academic and advocates partnerships. The conference ended with a session, in which survivors shared their stories, the lived experiences of domestic violence victims and survivors, ongoing struggles navigating current service systems and ideas for designing better resources.

The concept of Powerful Partnerships also characterized our relationship to our donors. We are extremely grateful for the most generous support we received from the Verizon Foundation and the UD’s College of Arts & Sciences, and sponsorships from the Office of Equity and Inclusion, the President’s Diversity Initiative, the School of Public Policy and Administration, the Center for Black Culture, the Center for Political Communication, and the Departments of Anthropology, Black American Studies, Communication, English, Foreign Languages and Literatures, Political Science and International Relations, and Sociology and Criminal Justice. We will build upon the momentum of Powerful Partnerships as we expand our research, curriculum, and advocacy in the field of gender-based violence.

Powerful Partnerships

engaging and dynamic discussions among all conference participants.

The Thursday morning keynote, presented by Dr. Chris Sullivan of Michigan State University, set the tone of for this collaborative conference. In “Happy Anniversaries: Thoughts of Honoring Our Past, Harnessing Our Power, and Transforming Our Work”, Dr. Sullivan reviewed past, present, and future troubles and triumphs while emphasizing the importance of a collaborative approach to end gender-based violence. Dr. Sullivan’s remarks were an important reminder of the transformative power of bridging a divide that is often assumed to separate academics from advocates. U.S. Senator Chris Coons of Delaware, a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee and co-chair of the Senate Law Enforcement Caucus, delivered the lunch keynote. He passionately advocated for domestic violence education and shared his concerns about the ubiquitous nature of gender-based violence but also expressed his hope that future generations would be able to end it.

On Friday morning, Jocelyn Samuels, Acting Assistant Attorney General with the U.S. Department of Justice, delivered forceful remarks focused on sexual assault on college campuses.

Spotlight: Elaine Salo

—Chrysanthi Leon



The UD community and the Department of Women and Gender Studies welcome Elaine Salo, an African feminist and scholar of the rights of women and LGBT communities on the

African continent. Born in South Africa, with a PhD from Emory University in Anthropology, Elaine joined UD in 2014 with joint appointments in Women and Gender Studies and in Political Science and International Relations. She teaches classes in water politics in the global South, the politics of transitional societies, and gender and politics.

Her publication titles are wonderfully evocative, including “Carrots or Sticks? A study on incentives to attract and retain women in science, engineering and technology in South Africa” (in *Paths to Career and Success for Women in Science*, ed. F. Liersch, L. Mohlakoana-Matopi and M. Maree Britta Thege, et al., 2013) and “Coconuts do not live in townships: Cosmopolitanism and its failures in the urban peripheries of Cape Town” (*Feminist Africa 13 Special Issue Body Politics and Gender Justice*). Consult her CV (available on our website) for many other wonderful titles, and to find material that will undoubtedly enrich many of our syllabi. Elaine is a fantastic resource on many topics of interest to our department, and her expertise is invaluable as we extend our global studies curriculum. Elaine is committed to drawing connections among US women and women in the global south. As she maps these links among women and among LGBT communities she stresses that we are more interconnected than assumed.

Elaine recently served as the director of the Institute for Women’s and Gender Studies at the University of Pretoria in South Africa, a challenging position in which she developed skills in mentoring young scholars and in diverse recruitment. Here, she was forced to confront her own anti-Afrikaner racism, to learn to work with Afrikaner feminists, and to recognize the challenge of having to break out of her own box. Among other projects, her current work, funded by the Global Water Project and South African Research Commission, partners with researchers across African continent to explore gender mainstreaming in water policies. She hopes to encourage policymakers to consider water in women’s lives. Elaine values accessible writing, stating that “one doesn’t have to be obscurantist in order to make a scholarly contribution.”

The mother of a son, 23, and daughter, 10 (she completed her PhD in between) and in a long-term relationship, Elaine knits to relieve stress, believing the feminine crafts teach more about math than we realize. We welcome Elaine to our intellectual community.

Monika Shafi, Elias Ahuja Professor of German and Chair of the Department of Women and Gender Studies, published three articles dealing with the topics of masculinity; work; and work and gender in texts by contemporary German authors. She presented talks at the German Studies Association, three international conferences, and was an invited speaker at a workshop on objects and domestic space held in Greifswald, Germany. Additionally, she published three book reviews in *Monatshefte für deutschsprachige Literatur und Kultur*.

Margaret Stetz, Mae and Robert Carter Professor of Women’s Studies and Professor of Humanities, delivered a keynote lecture on the work of two Victorian lesbian poets who wrote together as “Michael Field,” for a conference held in July 2014 at the Institute of English Studies, University of London, UK. In conjunction with an exhibition at the Winterthur Museum of costumes from the British TV series *Downton Abbey*, she presented a lecture on October 23, 2014 titled “The Well-Dressed Modern Rebel.” To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I, on October 25, she gave a lecture at UD titled “WWI for Girls,” about recent transatlantic young adult fiction featuring girls’ and women’s experiences on the battlefield and on the home front. She is co-curator of the exhibition “Everything is going on brilliantly: Oscar Wilde and Philadelphia,” at the Rosenbach Museum and Library in Philadelphia, running from mid-January through mid-April 2015. This year, she published a chapter, “Oscar Wilde and the New Woman” in *Oscar Wilde in Context* from Cambridge University Press, as well as essays in *The Space Between Journal* and *The Journal of Neo-Victorian Studies*. Margaret supervised the McNair Scholars Program research project by DJanna Hamilton, a Women and Gender Studies major (WGS 2014), on women’s Carnival costumes in St. Vincent, and current research by Yvonne Rivera on representations of female protagonists in dystopian fantasy novels for young adult readers.

Kathleen Turkel, Assistant Professor of Women and Gender Studies, co-authored “Obama, *Precious*, and *The Blind Side*: Race in Politics and Popular Culture” which was published in *The Almanack: The Journal of the Mid-Atlantic Popular and American Culture*

Student Activities

Amy Hopkins is a 2014 Service Learning Scholar. Her project at the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence focuses on Program Development and Community Outreach. Her faculty mentor is Professor Kathleen Turkel.

V-Day at University of Delaware is the local chapter of V-Day International, a non-profit organization dedicated to preventing sexual violence. This Fall, V-Day hosted their fundraising event, V-Day Bingo Night to raise awareness for sexual assault prevention and victim/survivor support, and funds raised this

year will go to support Natasha’s Justice Project, to educate students about the nation’s backlog of unprocessed rape kits, the culture of rape, and what they can do to stop sexual assault and rape on their campus.

Men’s Action Network (MAN) at University of Delaware is a registered student organization (RSO) on campus that works with Student Wellness and Health Promotion to promote healthy masculinity and engage men in the fight against gender violence. MAN designs educational outreach programs that it offers to the University of Delaware community, such as The F Word and Man Up.

Faculty News

Association, Vol. 23, 2013. She was the co-presenter of “Class, Gender and Property in *Downton Abbey*” at the annual meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Popular and American Culture Association in November, 2013.

Anne E. Bowler and **Chrysanthi D. Leon**, Associate Professors in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, and **Terry G. Lilley**, a UD alumnus and Assistant Professor of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, are co-authors of the article “What Shall We Do with the Young Prostitute? Reform Her or Neglect Her?” The New York State Reformatory for Women at Bedford, 1901-1913” that recently appeared in *Journal of Social History*. Lilley received his doctorate in Sociology in 2012 from UD, and was the recipient of the Frank R. Scarpitti Award for Outstanding Graduate Student in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice.

Jennifer Naccarelli, Assistant Professor and Associate Chair of Women and Gender Studies coordinated the *Powerful Partnerships: 20 Years of the Violence Against Women Act and the Path Ahead* conference, together with a wonderful team of UD faculty and staff and DCADV coalition members. In May 2014 she co-presented with Carol Post on useful collaborations among academics and advocates at the VAWA funded training conference: *Innovative Partnerships to Reduce Gender-Based Violence on Delaware Campuses*. She served and was recognized by the Carnegie Community Classification Task Force for exemplary achievement in community service. Additionally, she published a review of Women and Religious Traditions in the January 2014 edition of the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*. She is currently serving as a contributing scholar for two forthcoming History Making Productions documentaries, *Urban Trinity: Catholics in Philadelphia* and *The Women of Philadelphia*.

Pascha Bueno Hansen announces her forthcoming book: *Feminist and Human Rights Struggles in Peru: Decolonizing Transitional Justice* (2015) University of Illinois Press special series “Dissident Feminisms.”

These programs work to raise consciousness about gender norms and their role in fostering violent behavior, such as sexual and dating violence. MAN is excited to empower men on campus to challenge norms surrounding gender identity, especially masculinity, and create positive change in their world.

Students Acting for Gender Equity (SAGE) is an RSO focused on gender issues on and off campus. SAGE brings in speakers, comedians, and holds events such as Love Your Body Day and Take Back the Night. During the Fall 2014 semester, SAGE meets on Mondays at 8pm.

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and Family Studies spoke on the issuance of civil protection orders for intimate partner violence, the conditions of those orders and the implications for policy development.

The fight against domestic violence has become a major focus (see DVPS update), and it is only fitting that we concluded our year-long anniversary celebration in April with our partner, the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence, hosting a two-day conference, Powerful Partnerships: 20 Years of the Violence Against Women Act and the Path Ahead, which marked the 20th anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act as well as the 20th anniversary of the Delaware Coalition and our own 40th. More than 300 scholars, advocates, survivors, and students gathered in Clayton Hall for lectures and workshops. I can proudly state that Powerful Partnerships was a most energizing and stimulating conference.

My year in review concludes, of course, with Convocation, a beautiful but also bittersweet celebration. We are immensely proud of our students and it is hard to see them leave. Dr. Anne Boylan, Professor of History addressed this year's graduates, noting "And finally a blessing: bless your energy, your commitment to social justice, your efforts to make this world a better place, your willingness to do feminism your way."

It takes a great deal of energy, dedication, and tenacity, to accomplish all this work, and I express my most heartfelt thanks to the faculty and the staff whose commitment is second to none. I extend a special note of thanks to the Associate Chair, Dr. Jennifer Naccarelli. We all treasure her enthusiasm, energy, and creativity. I also wish to acknowledge Deborah Arnold, our new Administrative Assistant, who joined us in January 2014, an absolutely stellar 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*

Connections is the Department of Women and Gender Studies' newsletter. We welcome updates from our alumni and friends. Our Staying Connected section helps us to encourage new student involvement in our Women and Gender Studies major, our DVPS and SGST minors, and the Women in a Global Perspective concentration. Please send us updates about you and how Women and Gender Studies has affected your life and career to Jennifer Naccarelli at jnacc@udel.edu.

Gabrielle Coleman (WGS, DVPS 2014) is a Community Service Learning Fellow at Child, INC, funded through an AmeriCorp grant. Gabby is working at Gauger-Cobbs Middle School helping children with behavioral/attention problems.

Brenda Mayrack (WS 2000), founder and owner of Mayrack Law LLC, a Wilmington, Delaware law firm specializing in unclaimed property holder advocacy and advising, has

Staying Connected

co-authored the revised Bloomberg BNA (Bureau of National Affairs) Corporate Practice Series Portfolio: Unclaimed Property (CPS 74-3rd, Jan. 2014). The treatise contains a comprehensive review of unclaimed property law, historical and recent developments in holder litigation and state and federal legislation, as well as what companies can anticipate during routine reviews.

Sara Mann (WGS), is working as a Program Assistant and Web Master at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. She also owns and operates Sara's Tutoring, in Damascus, MD.

Hope Levins (WGS, DVPS 2013) has officially become a Certified Sexual Assault Advocate in Burlington County, NJ. Hope says, "Without the DVPS program, I do not think this

would have been possible. Because of the program, I was beyond prepared for the training and certification. I am a Clinical Trials Assistant for medical research at Delaware Valley Urology. I hope to one day combine my advocacy work and research interests to pursue a career in the field of DVPS and Sexual Assault Prevention and Services. Thank you so much for the program, because that is how I got to where I am today!"

Abigail Samuels (WGS, DVPS 2014) is a paralegal in the Disabilities Law Program at Community Legal Aid Society, Inc.

Major William Wightman, US Army (WS 2005) has completed a three year tour as the senior operations officer for the Joint Personal Effects Depot on Dover AFB. He is currently assigned as the commander of a mortuary affairs unit in Dover, DE.

Domestic Violence Prevention and Services Program Update

—Jennifer Naccarelli

The 2013-14 academic year marked an exciting year of growth for our Domestic Violence Prevention and Services (DVPS) program. This summer, our fourth class of concentration students completed their 300-hour practicums, providing service to The Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence, The Department of Corrections, Probation and Parole: Domestic Violence Unit, The Wilmington Police Department: Victim Services Unit, Child, Inc.: Domestic Violence Advocacy Program at Family Court, and the SAFE program and community assistance program at People's Place.

New to our summer practicum program is the "Prevention Placement," designed and hosted by the DCADV and awarded to Brian Eiermann (2015), which offered the opportunity to help develop and implement education, training, and community activism geared toward the prevention

of domestic violence. Prevention track students have the opportunity to explore programs that prevent violence before it begins. A central step to this process is framing inter-personal violence as a preventable public health issue. We are excited to expand this track next summer with local community based initiatives.

Our current and past concentration students played a central role in our Powerful Partnerships conference. Abigail Samuels (2014) shared her research on abuses of the PFA system, scholarship directly informed by DVPS field experience, highlighting the interplay among academic research and direct service. Kat Gerhart (2013) and Melissa Pleasanton (2014), luncheon keynote panelists, shared their experiences in our DVPS program. We were thrilled by the DVPS graduates who returned to represent their organizations as young professionals in the field. DVPS students and graduates are contributing as advocates and policy makers in the field of gender based violence. We look forward to our future growth.

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