

# Connections

Women's Studies Program

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE A Publication of the Women's Studies Program ..... Fall 2009



Kristen Roach (left) & Morgan Vozobule (right) received the Nanú Paloma Guerrero Award for their outstanding video about Chandra Pitts (center).

## Women's Studies Majors Create Archives

During the past two years the Women's Studies capstone course, required of our majors, has contributed to the historical record. The graduating class of 2008 read about the development of women's studies programs, many of which contained personal narratives of the professors who founded the field. Drs. Stetz and Cherrin, who each taught a section of the capstone, then asked students to interview their own Women's Studies professors to record the stories of their careers. Students brainstormed questions which they then posed to the professors. The idea was that each group would be involved in recording the histories of their teachers and thus the Women's Studies Program itself. Ultimately, these narratives were archived in the Women's Studies office as a permanent contribution to the program's organizational history.

The 2009 graduating class in Women's Studies found out first hand that learning in tandem with service to the community reaps many benefits. Students in this capstone course had the opportunity to serve the community, engage with new technologies, and learn valuable research skills. The class, under the guidance of Dr. Quintana and with the assistance of Dr. Bitzer, collaborated with members of the Governor's Advisory Council on Hispanic Affairs (GATCHA) to gather

primary research evidence through oral history interviews with members of the Delaware Afro-Latina community.

The interview material resulted in 10 video documentaries produced by the students. Screening of the documentaries took place on May 28 at the Delaware Art Museum in Wilmington. The Nanú Paloma Guerrero Award for excellence in documentary work was presented to majors Kristen Roach and Morgan Vozobule at the screening for their video of Chandra Pitts. The videos are now archived at the University's Special Collections in the Morris Library.

## Women's Studies Welcomes New Faculty Member Pascha Bueno-Hansen

We are excited to begin the fall semester 2009 with a new member of our faculty. Pascha Bueno-Hansen, Assistant Professor of Women's Studies, comes to us from the University of California at Santa Cruz where she received her doctorate in Political Science. Her dissertation, "Use and Abuse of Human Rights: Women and the Internal Armed Conflict in Peru," examines efforts to document sexual violence that took place during the late 20th century conflict in Peru. Her research interests in transnational feminism, Latin American and Latino Studies, and cross-cultural social movements add strength to important areas of our curriculum.



Pascha Bueno-Hansen

Dr. Stetz, chair of the hiring committee, comments that: "Women's Studies feels very fortunate to have hired Pascha Bueno-Hansen, who will bring to our students her love of the classroom, her passion for scholarship on issues of social justice, her expertise in transnational Queer Theory, her connection to Global Studies through experience with feminist politics in Peru, and her ability to mentor anyone seeking a career in non-profit organizations."

## Greetings from the Director

Dear Alumni and Friends:

Most of you, I assume, know the joy of accomplishing a long-term goal. You work hard for it, you weather the set-backs, you increase efforts and you sure feel terrific when you can cross the finish-line and celebrate success.

One long-term goal of the Women's Studies program was to be granted a tenure-track faculty line, and we are thrilled that this goal finally has been achieved! Dr. Pascha Bueno-Hansen from the University of California, Santa Cruz emerged as the top-candidate, and we feel so very fortunate that she accepted our offer. Dr. Bueno-Hansen has done extensive field work in Peru and Columbia developing cutting-edge approaches and networks for the study of women's human rights issues. She will join the Women's Studies program in fall 2009 and we are simply thrilled to have this energetic, vibrant scholar on our faculty.

A focus on transnational feminism, which is widely considered to be the current frontier area in women's studies, guided not only the tenure-track search but informed changes in the curriculum. Our students will now have to complete a second introductory course on Women's Studies in a Global Context. The topic of this year's capstone, "Women's Studies: Past, Present and Future," was on Afro-Latina Women in Delaware. The class, jointly taught by Drs. Quintana and Bitzer, reflected the importance of addressing women's studies issues through multiple national and international frameworks.

Ideally, each academic year has a mix of new initiatives and on-going work, and this past year we continued to offer numerous lectures including the popular Wednesday luncheon series "Research on Women" which, incidentally, was the very first course ever offered by the program. **Claire Rasmussen**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science and International Relations, presented a seminar on "The Nature of Marriage: The Radical Gender Performative of the Marriage Movement" which was followed by a spirited discussion. We also welcomed **Angela Kane**, Under Secretary General for Management at the United Nations who spoke to us on "Women, Peace, and Prosperity: A Personal Perspective from Inside the United Nations". Throngs of students crowded around Ms. Kane after the lecture, peppering her with detailed questions about (her) work at the UN. In spring, **Tissa Hami**, a stand-up Muslim comedian, entertained a large crowd.

— continued on back page



## Women's Studies on Two Continents

During January 2009, **Suzanne Cherrin** (Women's Studies and Latin American Studies) and **Gladys Ilarregui** (Foreign Languages and Literatures and Latin American Studies) teamed up to co-lead a Study Abroad to Argentina. **Carey Fleiner** (A.A. Program) led a group of students on a study program to England. At the same time **Jessica Schiffman** (Women's Studies) and **Lysette Hall** (Foreign Languages and Literatures) accompanied a group of students on a new program to France.

The Argentina experience used Buenos Aires as home base. While in Buenos Aires, students stayed with host families and attended classes at Universidad Catolica, located in the barrio of Puerto Madera, where all streets are named for women who struggled for women's rights in Argentina. There was no shortage of women's studies topics on this winter session. Students went to the Evita Museum and visited the Ricoleta Cemetery where Eva Peron is now buried, and discussed the complicated story that marks her legacy. The group spoke with the director of the Women's Museum and Bookstore and learned about historical and current issues facing women in Argentina. They observed "Las Madres de la Plaza de Mayo" march in honor of disappeared sons and daughters from the "dirty war" of the 1970s–1980s. The students deliberated over whether and to what extent Cristina Kirchner, the current President of Argentina, supports feminist concerns. Argentina—the first country in Latin America to pass a gender quota law for political parties—mirrors a clash of patriarchal tradition with feminist values. The focus of the London program was to consider the changing role of masculinity from the middle of the twentieth century, as reflected in, and influenced by, popular cul-



Study Abroad Students with Sue Cherrin in Argentina, Winter 2009

ture. Students studied aspects of these changing roles mainly through primary sources that included popular films, television shows, bar culture, shop displays, West End shows, and museum and gallery exhibitions. The goal was to see how both masculine and feminine roles are created by, represented by, and reacted to in popular culture. One major theme was the changing role of women through the lens of popular media and music—who the good girls are, and the bad girls; how movies, television, advertisements, and music videos shape and mold our perception of the ideal female roles and behavior; how accurately these roles fit in the with changing 'norm' or status quo over the years. Using the city and media as a "textbook" raised students' awareness of how popular culture shapes—and is shaped by—our perception of the different roles we play as men and women.

A new winter-session program in Paris launched in January 2009 was an instant hit, filling all available spots months ahead of deadline. Based in Paris, the group made use of many historical and contemporary relationships to feminism. Students lived with host families for five weeks and attended classes at Reid Hall, UD's on site location. Three courses were offered: Elementary French, Feminism in France, and Woman as Image and Iimagemaker, the latter taught by French art historian, Cristophe Boicos, with classes held in many Parisian museums. Students met with

representatives of several current women's organizations and learned about the rich history of French feminism, including that the word "feminist" was first coined by a woman journalist in France in the late 1800s. Particular emphasis was given to the influence of North African immigrants and their descendents in the development of the French women's movement.

Opportunities to study women situated in various locations around the world offer students an unparalleled glimpse into both the similarities of women's movements in different countries and the distinct challenges women face, specifically in local contexts. Such experiences lead to a wider understanding of our world and help them to become global citizens able to influence cross-cultural relations in the future.

## Women's Studies Grants Research Awards

In the final year of a three-year research award program, Women's Studies granted awards to four faculty members, three graduate students, and two undergraduates. The recipients represent the breadth and vitality of work in our field.

**Emily Davis**, Assistant Professor, English: "Global Romance: Intimacy and Exploitation in Contemporary Postcolonial Fiction" Proposed Course: "Bodies and Other Commodities in Contemporary Global Literature and Film."

**Carla Guerrón Montero**, Associate Professor, Anthropology and Women's Studies: "An Ethnographic Study of the *Cidade do Saber*: Education, Social Inclusion, and Citizenship in Bahia, Brazil" Proposed Course: "Gender, Sustainable Education, and Human Rights."

**Carol Henderson**, English and Black American Studies: "Resurrecting the Hottentot Venus: Visions, Revisions, and Literary Responses" Proposed Course by the same title.

**Maggie Ussery**, Black American Stud-



*Feminism in France* Study Abroad Students in Paris at the Grave of Simone de Beauvoir and Jean-Paul Sartre



ies: "The New Negress: The Construction of Middle-Class Black Womanhood in *The Crisis*" Proposed Course: "Race, Gender, and Identity Formation."

**Nicole Smolter**, Graduate Student, Sociology: Teaching Award for an apprenticeship with Dr. Margaret Andersen.

**Janneken Smucker**, Graduate Student, History: Dissertation Fellowship for "From Rags to Riches: Amish Quilts and the Crafting of Values."

**Gabriela Wasileski**, Graduate Student, Sociology: Graduate Travel Award for presenting "Gender Equality and Regularization Policy" at the 4th International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences in Athens, Greece.

**Alison Kreitzer**, Undergraduate Student, History, Assisting Dr. Rebecca Davis in completing her book manuscript on *Saving Marriage: Couples and Conflict in Twentieth Century America*.

**Catherine Mulhall**, Undergraduate Student, Women's Studies, Service-Learning Project at Planned Parenthood of Delaware.

## Changes to Our Global and Interdisciplinary Curriculum

Though it is a cliché that change is constant, it is true that change is necessary to accommodate new dimensions of knowledge in an academic program. Developments in research and theories about women and gender across the globe require new thinking about the academic experience we want for Women's Studies students.

Under the leadership of the Curriculum Committee Chair, Dr. Peter Feng, Women's Studies created two important changes in place starting Fall 2009. We now require that our majors take WOMS 202, Women's Studies in



## 2009 Graduation Class

### Majors

Grace Chou  
Andrew Christy\*, \*\*  
Eliana Cuas  
Jillian Finkelstein  
Raquel Genfi  
Miagora Grayman  
Roxanne Horrell\*  
Rachael Juhls  
Laura Keller\*  
Alysha McLaurin  
Crystal Michielli  
Stephanie Patterson  
Alissa Poerio  
Heather Richards  
Brittany Richter  
Kristen Roach

Kelley Roark  
Tiffani Ross  
Kathryn Saya  
Morgan Vozobule  
Megan Whitehair\*  
Stephanie Wiegand\*  
Rachael Wummer  
Laura Yarnall\*

### Minors

Kelsey Addy\*  
Julianne Alicino  
Emily Aufschauer\*  
Alexandra Barniea  
Jessica Black  
Amber Bonsall  
Kimberly Boulden

Jennifer Breithaupt  
Emily Coon  
Erica Crevier\*  
Darby DeCicco  
Kristy Duhamel\*  
Ann Garofalo  
Mary Gooding  
Katelyn Hammond  
Jessica Hazzard  
Alyson Helfand  
Cory Jackson  
Megan Kelly  
Renee Legare  
Cristina Luna  
Perrie Malone  
Veronica Manning  
Alise Masterson

Amy McGovern  
Karen Middlekauff\*, \*\*  
Brianna Mulrooney\*  
Rebecca Pollack  
Katharine Rogers  
Michaela Rossette  
Roza Sahibzada  
Lauren Sheiner

\*Recipients of the Women's Studies Awards of Special Merit

\*\*Recipients of the Nellie Thompson Rudd Awards for scholarship, leadership, and service in Women's Studies.

Global Context (a name change from Introduction to International Women's Studies, which was not a required course). This change solidifies an ongoing process to emphasize the transnational focus of our program.

The second change drops the internal disciplinary requirements for Women's Studies

majors. As faculty increase their interdisciplinary teaching and research, adhering to the traditional boundaries of the disciplines is less common. In our courses it is now more typical for students to be exposed to material from a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary sources, enriching the classroom experience.

## Staying Connected

We love to hear from our majors and minors!

**2004 Rebecca McIntyre** is working in marketing in Chicago.

**2006 Sarah VonEsch** is a Program Assistant with USAction, a progressive advocacy organization in Washington, DC. She is "excited to be working towards universal healthcare, economic justice, access to quality education and other issues I care deeply about."

**2007 Carly (Kathryn) King** is working for a medical company at St. Francis Hospital in Wilmington, DE.



Stephanie Martin (kneeling center).  
Photo courtesy Glacial Reporter

**2008 Stephanie Martin** is a VISTA Volunteer working with The Blackfeet Manpower Program and the National Society for American Indian Elderly in Montana. Stephanie has been working with senior centers, elder organizations and elder groups on the reservation to improve their services and address issues of poverty. During summer 2009 she led a group of Summer Associates who assisted with her projects.

**2009 Andrew Christie** will begin studies at Georgetown Law in fall 2009.

**2009 Alysha McLaurin** is working for the Kent and Sussex County YWCA through Americorps presenting domestic violence prevention in schools.

**2009 Brittany Richter** will be attending graduate school at UD in the Department of Communication starting this fall with a full tuition scholarship as a Teaching Assistant.

**2009 Kelley Roark** is beginning graduate work at San Francisco State University in Women's and Gender Studies.

### Help us stay connected

Please e-mail Jessica Schiffman at [jess@udel.edu](mailto:jess@udel.edu) or write to Women's Studies Program, 34 W. Delaware Ave., University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716.

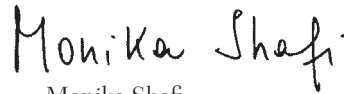
This most memorable performance was made possible through the support of numerous sponsors including the Office of Women's Affairs, specifically Becki Fogerty and Robyn Mello of Students Acting for Gender Equality (SAGE). Tissa, too, was swamped by students, curious about veils, Muslim female identity, and Tissa's take on the American world.

Another cornerstone of the Women's Studies program is the **Geis Student Research on Women Conference**, held each April. This year it attracted a record number of contributions from graduate and undergraduate students, and the judges had a tough job deciding the first prizes for best paper. Also, **Linda Bell**, Provost and John B. Hurford Professor of Economics, Haverford College gave a most inspiring keynote address. You can find all information about the Geis conference on our website which also lists the 2009 recipients of the Women's Studies Research Grants as well as detailed information about the program ([www.udel.edu/WomensStudies](http://www.udel.edu/WomensStudies)).

As you can see, it has been another exciting and most successful year for the Women's

Studies program, and I continue to be amazed by the selfless dedication, esprit de corps, and enthusiasm of this very special group of UD faculty. It is a privilege to work with them, and I would like to give my most sincere thanks to all my colleagues in WOMS. Jessica Schiffman, Assistant Director and Emily Hayworth, Office Coordinator deserve special thanks for their extraordinary commitment and tremendous efforts. Our work for the students and the program is, of course, greatly enhanced by your contributions, and we are all extremely grateful for your support and generosity. Your confidence in our work is inspiring and will help us achieve the next round of goals. And please—do drop us a line or stop by at 34 West Delaware Avenue, the pretty Victorian house sitting on the corner of Amstel and West Delaware. We always love to hear from you and hope that all of you are doing well.

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



Monika Shafi,  
*Elias Ahuja Professor of German  
Director of Women's Studies*

## • Thank You Donors

Your contributions to Women's Studies support many important programs.

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The Sexualities and Gender Studies minor is thriving with your generous assistance.

Lloyd Thoms, Jr.

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