

Department of Women & Gender Studies

connections

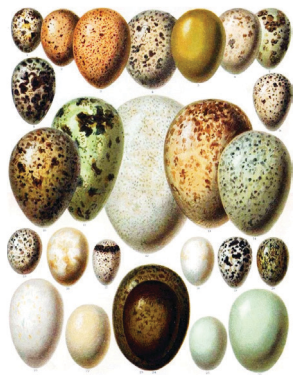
The Diversity Research Café

By Patricia Sloane-White, Chair of the Department of Women & Gender Studies

The Department of Women & Gender Studies continually explores innovative ways to make discussion of diversity, gender, women, and sexuality relevant to our undergraduate students. We also wanted to expand the in-depth, empowering, and intellectually stimulating conversations that usually happen in the classroom to a wider University of Delaware audience – faculty, staff, and graduate students.

Thus, in 2017, we launched The Diversity Research Café -- an initiative to create a learning community that brings together people from across the University and from myriad disciplines who are eager to share new trends and theories, support each other's research, scholarship, activism and teaching, and encourage interdisciplinary engagements and collaborations in the field of women and gender studies. The Diversity Research Café is envisioned as a place to incubate ideas and hatch cross-University relationships – symbolized in the image we chose to reflect these diverse possibilities – and as a gathering place for conversation in an informal setting where faculty, graduate students, and professional staff could learn more about the essential research and pedagogy emerging in the field.

Supported by the College of Arts & Sciences and departments throughout the



University, three Diversity Research Cafés were held during the 2017 Spring semester. In February, Dr. Sylvanna Falcón, Associate Professor of Latin American and Latino Studies at the University of California Santa

Cruz and award-winning author of *Power Interrupted: Antiracist Feminist Activism Inside the United Nations*, spoke on race and gender intersectionality by exploring the topic “Reading Power Backward and Forward.” Dr. Falcón shared with Café participants how feminist activists in the global south have expanded the debate about global racism, providing insights into methodologies and research that place antiracist feminist communities at the center

of analysis, rather than privileging men's experiences with racial injustice.

In April, Dr. Benjamin Fleury-Steiner, Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice at University of Delaware, engaged participants in a discussion on cyber harassment and cyber stalking as violent masculinity. Focusing on the sexist, racist, and often vengeful commentary on Twitter, YouTube and Facebook and the sharing of gifs, images, jokes and memes depicting gross violence that targets women and people of color, Dr. Fleury-Steiner explored the relationships among social media, gender-based violence, and masculinity and led a discussion about how male cyber harassers might be held accountable for their actions in the internet era.

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

The past year has been exceptional in every way for the faculty and students in the Department of Women & Gender Studies. Our voices, courses, and writing always focus on the complexities and dynamics of patriarchy, gender, race, and class, and our calendar and classrooms always provide resources for examining and identifying pathways to social change. But in 2016-2017, we were challenged by national events to engage in conversations about oppression and privilege inside and beyond the classroom, perhaps more directly and more urgently than ever before. When the campus community turned its attention to debating and confronting systems of power that generate blatant sexism, racism, and overt ableism and threaten sexual and gender identity and citizenship status, we were there to provide context. Through our ability to examine questions using feminist theory and intersectionality, we understand how social policies, institutional practices, and cultural, historical, and religious frameworks oppress or privilege certain individuals, types of sexuality, races, social classes, and gender. We shared our approaches to action that envisioned a more just world. Our department's comprehensive and long-term understanding of domination and power—and our commitment to seeking social, economic, and legal justice—made our faculty



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Spotlight: Chiara Sabina

By Kathy Turkel

In July 2017, the Department of Women & Gender Studies welcomed its newest faculty member, Dr. Chiara Sabina. Dr. Sabina received her B.A. from the University of Delaware, graduating with a double major in Psychology and Spanish along with a minor in Women's Studies, and she completed her Ph.D. in Applied Psychology at Loyola University in Chicago. Dr. Sabina was a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at the University of New Hampshire, where she contributed to the International Dating Violence Study. Prior to accepting the position at the University of Delaware, she was Associate Professor of Social Sciences at Penn State, Harrisburg, and also a Fulbright Scholar in Quito, Ecuador from August 2015 to June 2016, where she focused on improving professionals' abilities to address domestic violence.

Dr. Sabina's numerous publications include "Alcohol and drug use and the risk of intimate partner violence victimization among college students," with J.L. Schally and L. Marciniak (forthcoming in the *Journal of Family Violence*); and "Longitudinal dating violence among Latino teens: Rates, risk factors and cultural influences," with C.A. Cuevas

and H. M. Catignola-Pickens, published in the *Journal of Adolescence* in 2016. Dr. Sabina's work focuses on interpersonal violence including domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and child sexual abuse, emphasizing the importance of working to put a stop to acts of violence against women: "I am passionate about ending violence against women in order to improve the physical, mental, and spiritual health of women and men and advance related educational and vocational outcomes. Given the devotion of our department, I am confident that Women & Gender Studies at UD is an ideal community in which to work towards these ends."

Since she spent her formative undergraduate years at UD, Dr. Sabina considers the University of Delaware as "home" and holds a deep regard for UD and its faculty. "What I especially liked about the Women's Studies Program during my undergraduate studies was the enthusiasm and dedication that faculty had for supporting students," Dr. Sabina recalls. "In fact, the first research project I undertook was guided by faculty in Women's Studies." She looks forward to continuing



her research and contributing to the Women & Gender Studies department's work in domestic violence services and prevention. "I intend to continue the department's tradition and look forward to getting to know students and finding ways to foster their development."

We look forward to working with Dr. Sabina and extend her a warm welcome and best wishes as she joins our faculty.

Rachael Hutchinson: Faculty Research Award Recipient

By Margaret D. Stetz, Mae and Robert Carter Professor of Women's Studies and Professor of Humanities

As committed feminists and unflagging advocates of women's studies, Mae and Robert Carter - at the respective ages of 95 and 96 - have continued to support the University of Delaware in countless ways. Their acts of generosity include scholarships for outstanding women students, a named professorship in Women's Studies, and the Mae and Robert Carter Endowment's Women's Studies Faculty Research Award, which provides funding for faculty from across the University to pursue research in women's studies.

The 2016 recipient of this award is Dr. Rachael Hutchinson, Associate Professor of Japanese Studies in the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures. In October 2017, she presented her research, "The Representation of Women in Japanese War-Themed Videogames," focused on understanding contemporary Japanese culture through the imagery used in gaming,

as the Department of Women & Gender Studies' Fall Lecture. During her research, Dr. Hutchinson traveled to the annual "Replaying Japan" conference in Leipzig, Germany, where she presented the paper "Distancing War: Japanese Videogames



and World War II," on the hyper-sexualized drawings of girls and women in the Kantai Collection, a popular online card game. As Dr. Hutchinson has noted, each card supposedly represents a particular warship in the history of the Japanese Navy; the

images, however, are not of boats, but of female figures with exaggerated erotic appeal. For Dr. Hutchinson, this is a sign of how Japanese manufacturers are encouraging consumers to distance themselves from the historical past and to place World War II, in particular, in a sphere of unreality. At the same time, they are also teaching gamers to associate militarism and aggression with sexual fantasy. The implications of such a development are both troubling and important for scholarly analysis to expose.

Dr. Hutchinson was invited to deliver the keynote speech at the 2017 'Replaying Japan' conference, held in Rochester, New York. Her project is yet another example of significant social, political, and cultural research related to women that Mae and Robert Carter have made possible through their extraordinary support and their visionary dedication to advancing the discipline of Women's Studies.

Return to Roots

By Jennifer Naccarelli

In November 2016, students in the Women & Gender Studies internship course had the opportunity to engage with Krupa Jhaveri, the College of Arts & Sciences' sponsored artist-in-residence. During her visit to the University of Delaware, Ms. Jhaveri led two workshops for our student advocates focused on utilizing art and meditation to aid in processing exposure to trauma acquired through their internship placements in agencies dedicated to the fields of mental health treatment and gender-based violence services.

Currently based in southern India, Jhaveri leads the Sankalpa Art Center, dedicated

to providing art therapy to foster healing, empowerment, and mindfulness – not only to make sense of individual experiences, but also as a technique to build community and foster connections among individuals. Through the collective processes of generating art and building the exhibit and celebration, the Women & Gender Studies internship students and faculty engaged Jhaveri's philosophy of using art as a bridge across difference.

Over the course of two workshops, the students participated in guided meditations and shared reflections. Inspired by these moments, our students created large painted

cloth panels intentionally designed to be both visual and wearable pieces. Each group of students working with Jhaveri across the University generated different types of artistic projects. Collectively these diverse projects and materials came together powerfully in the interactive art installation entitled "Return to Roots," exhibited in the Taylor Hall Gallery. Attendees and artists alike experienced the transformative power of this collective art as they explored, touched, and shared in this exhibit. Krupa Jhaveri's art therapy provides an important reminder of the value of self-care, creativity, and community healing.

LGBTQ+ and Radical Justice Activism Living Learning Community

By Pascha Bueno-Hansen



The Department of Women & Gender Studies established the LGBTQ+ and racial justice activism Living Learning Community (LLC) in collaboration with Residential Life under the leadership of Kathleen Kerr and LLC Coordinator Pascha Bueno-Hansen, WOMS Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Sexualities and Gender Studies Minor. The first year, 2016-2017, the LLC accepted six first-year students who responded to the following call:

Interested in social justice and activism? Would you like support in exploring aspects of your own identity? Interested in building a better world where all people are valued, respected and appreciated? The LGBTQ+ and Racial Justice Activism Living Learning Community responds to the growing socio-political awareness and activism of today's college students. As we've seen, many students on campuses across the globe have identified the need to actively transform our world

into a more respectful, just, and nurturing environment for all. Students are mobilizing to create substantive change. With a focus on LGBTQIA+ issues as they relate to racial justice issues, this space will support and connect struggles across dis/ability, ethnicity, religion, class status, nationality and more. Based on the premise of an interdependent world in which we must be accountable to each other, this learning community increases exposure to contemporary models of social justice organizing and action. Additionally, students will learn the importance of intergenerational connections through the marginalized histories of those who came before us and inspire us today. Participants will build a network with others working towards social change on campus and in the community.

Highly successful monthly events included an "After Orlando" speak out, an Art Jam, and a Latinx@UD political organizing event, in addition to several invited speakers. Students expressed that the LLC offered them an incredible opportunity to build community and support each other's integral growth especially given the extremely hostile political climate.

Hip-Hop and Feminism

By Emerald Christopher-Boyd

In Spring 2017, a new topic – “Hip-Hop and Feminism” – was introduced to the Women & Gender Studies’ WOMS 260 course exploring cultural representations of women. Hip-hop, a cultural movement that has influenced everything from music and clothes to the words we speak, has become one of the largest and furthest-reaching movements in modern history. Drawn from research on race and gender in popular culture, this course interrogates hip-hop and feminism using a gendered lens.

Designed to examine the formation of hip-hop and its expansion into a discourse of resistance to its mainstream and global commodification, “Hip-Hop and Feminism” evaluates the creation, adaptation, and use of current hip-hop concepts to acknowledge the complexities and nuances of women’s lived experiences. Moreover, it opens up the possibility of a feminist consciousness that allows us to evaluate representations and images as both empowering and problematic.

While reading, discussing, and analyzing pop culture references in literature, film, music, and new media, students explore and contest how the socio-political aspects of hip-hop culture and its main elements (MCing, DJing, Graffiti, and B boying/B girling), feminist thought, and activism converge to create potential interventions in social justice issues and add to conversations on race, class, gender, and sexuality.

What We’re Reading

The faculty and staff of Women & Gender Studies are pleased to launch our first “What We Are Reading,” book and media recommendations from our summer reading, composed of titles to be enjoyed throughout the year.

Lost in Translation: Life in a New Language, Eva Hoffman

Recommended by Patricia Sloane-White

Because I spent part of last summer searching out my immigrant family’s lost history in Ukraine and Poland, I was drawn to émigré Hoffman’s post-Holocaust memoir as she adjusts to a new life and language in Canada. She finds that, as the impact of an enormous dislocation begins to lessen, “I am being remade, fragment by fragment, like a patchwork quilt; there are more colors in the world than I ever knew.”

Notes on the Flesh, Shahd Alshammari

Recommended by Margaret Stetz

The author, educated in Kuwait and the UK, writes what she calls “fiction and biomythography” about a young Arab woman struggling with both multiple sclerosis and a restrictive culture.

A Gentleman in Moscow, Amor Towels

Recommended by Jennifer Naccarelli

This summer, compliments of author Amor Towels, I enjoyed an escape to Moscow’s luxurious Metropol Hotel during the dawn of Stalin’s new regime. Seen through the

eyes of Count Alexander Rostov, a “former person” existing under a lifetime of house arrest, the author imagines possibilities for the variety and depth of human experiences acquired within strictly confined spaces.

Evicted: Poverty and Profit in an American City, Mathew Desmond

Recommended by Kathy Turkel

A Harvard Sociologist, Desmond follows 8 families in Milwaukee as they struggle to keep a roof over their heads. This book is harrowing, gut-wrenching and heartbreaking. It will challenge everything you think you know about poverty in the U.S. Eviction used to be rare in the U.S. but now it is a common occurrence. It is not only ordinary but also profit making for those in the business of throwing people out of their homes. And, as Desmond says, “Without a Home Everything Else Falls Apart.”

On Second Thought: Learned Women Reflect on Profession, Community, and Purpose, Luisa Del Giudice, Editor

Recommended by Marie Laberge

In this fascinating collection of 13 personal essays, scholars in a variety of academic fields “reflecting on lives of learning” explore how a variety of cultural and spiritual sources shaped their vocations as teachers, scholars, mentors, and advocates and how these roles have been integral to their life’s work. These women are deeply committed to their professions, their spirituality, and their soul purposes in the world. As I approach my 60th birthday, I am drawn to their reflections about their lives and their life paths.

Hunger: A Memoir of (My) Body, Roxane Gay

Recommended by Emerald Christopher-Byrd

In her latest book, a personal narrative exploring the ways in which being overweight makes individuals simultaneously hyper visible and invisible, Gay explores how acts of violence contributed to her relationship to food and her body and sheds light on the tension our society has with appearance, health, and food.

Latinas Attempting Suicide: When Cultures, Families, and Daughters Collide, Luis Zayas

Recommended by Chiara Sabina

To help understand the troubling fact that Latina teens have elevated levels of suicide attempts, I have turned to Zayas’ rich qualitative work and extensive clinical experience. His book explores the intersections of social, psychological, familial, and cultural risk factors as experienced by Latina teens who are often caught between two worlds.

Letters from Limbo, Jeanne Marie Beaumont

Recommended by Deborah Arnold

Interwoven with messages from a mysterious soul in limbo, Beaumont’s collection unveils the long-buried secret of her grandmother’s death at a state asylum in 1927, three weeks after childbirth, through reconstructed archives and deconstructed myths reimagined in formally inventive, richly envisioned poems.

Faculty News

Pascha Bueno-Hansen received three University of Delaware grants for her research in Bogotá, Colombia: UD's Advance Institute Leadership Mini-grant, 2017-2018; The Institute for Global Studies' Global Exchange Program 2017-2018 research grant for "The Emerging LGBT Rights Challenge to Transitional Justice"; and The Center for Global and Area Studies 2017-2018 research grant for "Gender and Sexuality in the Colombia Peace Process."

Emerald Christopher-Byrd presented "Twenty-First Century Jane Crow: Racialized Gendered Borders and the Black Body" at the National Women's Studies Association's (NWSA) annual conference in Canada in November 2016. She organized the panel "Speaking Truth to Power: Social Media, Politics, and Naming as Forms of Resistance," for NWSA's 2017 annual conference in November. The panel featured her paper, "I'm Sick and Tired of Being Sick and Tired: Black Women and Political Activism as Resistance," as well as a paper by fellow UD faculty member, Dr. Maria S. Johnson, Assistant Professor of Sociology, entitled "Black Girl Magic and the Sociological Imagination." In June, she attended the 17th Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, Genders, and Sexualities, where she presented her paper, "Feminists, What's Good?: Black Women, Race, and Sexuality." In November, she presented at the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora's biennial conference in Seville, Spain.

Jennifer Naccarelli, was awarded a grant funding her participation in the Center for Teaching & Assessment of Learning (CTAL) research study to examine the impact of automated computer scored quizzing on student performance. Student learning outcomes were measured in her Fall 2017 section of Women and Religion. With the Chair of Women & Gender Studies, Patricia Sloane-White, and faculty from Jewish Studies and Philosophy, Dr. Naccarelli obtained a curriculum development grant to design and launch a new minor in Women and Religion for the Department of Women & Gender Studies. Additionally, she received support to work with the Peer Observation Workgroup charged with developing consistent measures to document teaching excellence at the University of Delaware. Also in 2017, Dr. Naccarelli was elected to serve on the Domestic Violence Coordinating

Council, a state agency legislatively created to improve Delaware's response to domestic violence and sexual assault. During the November meeting of the National Women's Studies Association Annual Conference in November, she presented two talks: "Small Steps Guide Big Visions: A Roundtable on Growing our Programs" and "Cultivating a Trauma Informed Campus Climate: Survivor, Faculty, and Administrator Interactions in a Mandatory Reporting Context."

Patricia Sloane-White marked the publication of her book, *Corporate Islam: Sharia and the Modern Workplace* (Cambridge University Press, 2017), with lecture presentations in Canada, the U.K., and Germany, examining "not only how the spread of global capitalism transforms the lives of Muslims... but how capitalism empowers the spread of Islam." Drawing from interviews and ethnographic fieldwork over a seven-year period, and a wealth of knowledge from over two decades of research in Malaysia, her work argues that the "sharia space" of the today's corporate Islamic workplace is a third domain between the public and the private in which employees must submit to the guidance of their professional and personal lives by men who insist that their businesses can and must be both profitable and pious. In Dr. Sloane-White's podcast for *New Books in Southeast Asian Studies*, she talks about Malaysia's self-styled men of the mosque and the market; the new nexus between Islamic scholars and CEOs; the decline of the bumiputera generation; sexuality, gendered divisions of labour, and the problem of patriarchy in the capitalist workplace everywhere. Dr. Sloane-White also received a research grant for extending her study of Muslim corporate life to a new ethnographic site, in Sri Lanka.

Margaret Stetz, Mae and Robert Carter Professor of Women's Studies and Professor of Humanities, traveled to Seoul in Spring 2017, at the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Korea, as part of the "Korea Foundation Program for Distinguished Guests in Academia." While there, she delivered a lecture at the Korean Women's Institute at Ewha Woman's University. She was also curator of the exhibition "Victorian Passions: Stories from the Mark Samuels Lasner Collection" at the UD Library (February – June 2017) and delivered a talk about it in March. Her review-essay "The Victorian Art Scene in 2016: Pre-Raphaelite Women Artists and Marie Spartali Stillman's

Overdue Retrospective" was published in the journal *Victorian Literature and Culture*, and her essay "Looking at Victorian Fashion: Not a Laughing Matter" was published in the edited volume *Neo-Victorian Humour: Comic Subversion and Unlaughter in Contemporary Historical Revisions* (Leiden and Boston: Brill Rodopi). Dr. Stetz delivered the keynote lecture at a Victorian literature conference in the UK; a paper at the Modern Language Association Convention in Philadelphia; a paper at a Victorian studies conference in Florence, Italy; an invited lecture at a symposium on Israeli women filmmakers at the University of Illinois; and an invited presentation at an arts and humanities festival in Cleveland, Ohio.

Joint Faculty: In September 2017, Women & Gender Studies welcomed five new Joint Faculty:

James R. Angelini, Associate Professor and the Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Communication, recently published *Olympic Television: Broadcasting the Biggest Show on Earth*, a commentary on the last 20 years of U.S. Olympic broadcasts, with particular attention given to the NBC television network's prime time coverage of the 2016 Summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. His research interests include the cognitive processing of media with a focus on mediated sports and identity, and his cross-listed courses for Women & Gender Studies focus on how gender, sex, and violence are portrayed in the media and will investigate such questions as the history of portrayals of LGBT individuals in television and film, and how women are taking more active roles in online gaming and the online violence that is generated in response.

Benjamin Fleury-Steiner, Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice, has published five books and numerous scholarly articles all connected by an enduring interest in the nexus of intersectional inequities and the criminalization of everyday lives. His work on HIV/AIDS, race, class, and mass incarceration has been featured in the *Daily Beast*. Dr. Fleury-Steiner has been a featured speaker at the annual conference of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund's (LDF) annual conference and on NPR's *Tell Me More* with Michelle Martin. Dr. Fleury-Steiner's research is influenced most directly by black feminist praxis and second wave feminism, including the

study of black women anti-rape protesters and violent masculinities. Resistance and identity is central to his research, as realized in his Choice Award-winning volume *The New Civil Rights Research: A Constitutive Approach* (co-edited with Laura Beth Nielsen). His most recent work as a faculty associate at the Center for Drug and Health Studies focuses on addiction, stigmatization, and possibilities for transformation among those in long-term recovery. Dr. Fleury-Steiner's cross-listed courses for Women & Gender Studies examine masculinity and violence.

Lindsay Naylor, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, is a feminist political geographer who uses food and agricultural production as a lens to explore human-environment interactions and spaces of resistance. She conducts work in Latin America, Spain and the U.S. Recent publications include: "Reframing Autonomy in Political Geography: a feminist geopolitics of autonomous resistance;" and "A Place

for GMOs in Food Sovereignty?" She is currently completing a book manuscript based on her work with fair trade coffee farmers in Southern Mexico. One of the courses she has cross-listed with Women & Gender Studies is "Food Geographies and Food Justice."

Rudi Matthee, the John and Dorothy Munroe Distinguished Professor of Middle Eastern History at the University of Delaware, works on the political and socioeconomic history of early modern Iran and its connections with the wider world. He is a two-time fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, 2002-03 and 2017, and the author of four-prize-winning scholarly books, most recently *The Monetary History of Iran*, and co-editor of another four books. He is the former president of the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies (2002-05 and 2008-11), is currently the President of the Persian Heritage Foundation, and serves as coeditor of *Der Islam* and as a consulting editor for

the Encyclopaedia Iranica. His cross-listed courses for Women & Gender Studies focus on women in the Middle East.

Yasser Arafat Payne, Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology & Criminal Justice, has organized a street ethnographic research program centered on exploring notions of resilience and resiliency with the streets of Black America using an unconventional methodological framework entitled: Street Participatory Action Research (Street PAR)—the process of involving members of street identified Black populations in research-activism centered projects. Challenging the dominant arguments in the literature, Dr. Payne asserts that all of the streets of Black America are, in fact, resilient. His research program focuses on Black racial identity, street identity, physical violence, Gangster Rap music and culture as well as the topic of street participatory action research. His courses cross-listed with Women & Gender Studies focus on Black masculinity, race, and gender.

Staff News

Deborah Arnold, WOMS Administrative Specialist, was a featured reader at University of Baltimore's Passenger Journal celebration of National Poetry Month in April 2017, at the Village Learning Place in Baltimore, MD. Her mixed media art and a collaborative letterpress book, "Chesapeake Meander," created with Jill Cypher of Lead Graffiti Press in Newark, DE, appeared in the Upper Chesapeake Book Arts Group's October 2017 show "Related to the Book," at The Palette & the Page Gallery in Elkton, MD.

Halley Pradell, WOMS Web Designer, also works in IT Support for the Mathematical Sciences Department. A WOMS and Math\Economics double major, Halley is now completing the final year of a 4+1 program in Mathematics. In the 2017 Winter Session, Halley studied abroad in India and cherished the opportunity to study

international gender relations through hands-on experience. Currently serving as President of V-Day, Halley is happy to be back and fighting for gender equity on UD's campus.

Shawnee Sloop, WOMS Office Assistant from 2015-2017, graduated in May with a Bachelor of Arts in English and minors in Journalism and Women & Gender Studies. Although sad to say goodbye to her home at UD for the last four years, Shawnee is so thankful for the wonderful memories and for the friendships she made, and is



Halley Pradell



Shawnee Sloop

excited to embark on future adventures. She spent this summer traveling throughout Italy and Spain, returning to the island of Menorca for some much needed rest and relaxation amid hiking and beach excursions. Shawnee is currently a social media and editorial intern at a media company in her home state of Connecticut.

Rachel Evans and **Kristen McEnroe**, future 2020 UD graduates, joined WOMS as Office Assistants in September 2017. Rachel, who has worked as a legal assistant at a Newark firm and at UD's Writing Center, is pursuing double majors in Political Science and Women & Gender Studies and a minor in Philosophy. Kristen, a transfer student from the University of Miami in Florida, where she worked as an office assistant in the Litigation Office of UM's School of Law, is pursuing a degree in Philosophy at UD.

Congratulations, 2017 Graduates!



Women & Gender Studies Majors

Megan Barnette
Morgan Benson
Olivia Blythe
Heather Brody
Sage Carson
Nicole Gawel
Meghan Juszczak
Kristin Kelly
Alice Lamborn
Naomi Major
Lauren Markovich
Tessa Mitterhoff
Jacqueline Nathan
Christopher Norton
Leah O'Brien
Halley Pradell
Allison Ruffner
Brianna Shumate
Sarah Stump
Alexi Viets
Miriam Waites
Bridget Walters
Anne Yeager
Kelsey Youells

DVPS Minors and Concentrations

Olivia Blythe
Heather Brody
Sage Carson
Lauren Markovich
Leah O'Brien
Allison Ruffner
Brianna Shumate
Sarah Stump
Bridget Walters

Women in Global Perspective Concentration

Sanika Salim

SGST Minors

Brianna Shumate
Sarah Stump
Troy A. Woolsey

Women's Studies Minors

Aubrey Arnold
Armen Borrell
Julia Brody
Celine Choo Woon Chee
Dejuanah Collymore
Melanie Czerwinski
Sarah Davidson-Catalano
Emily Denboske
Jessica Downes
Devon Ennis
Kelly Gallagher
Nicole Gregory
Amy Guillermain
Megan Kmetz
Felicia Kriner
Ching Lai
Elizabeth McClain
Eliza Reinhardt
Jackeline Saez-Rosario
Emily Shutak
Shawnee Sloop
Kit White
Morgan White
Cassandra Zebrowski

Graduating Class of 2017 Awards

By Marie Laberge

The Nellie Thompson Rudd Award, endowed by University of Delaware's past president E. Arthur Trabant in honor of his mother to acknowledge excellence in scholarship, leadership and service to the University, was presented to Sage Carson, a double major, combining Anthropology and Women & Gender Studies with a concentration in Domestic Violence Prevention and Services.



Sage Carson

Sage Carson has worked tirelessly to raise awareness, effect university and legislative change, and support and advocate for survivors. As a member of the Faculty Senate Commission for Sexual Harassment and Assault Prevention, Carson helped to improve the University's sexual misconduct policy in 2015, and assisted in developing recommendations for Undergraduate Education. As an intern with the Office of Equity and Inclusion for the Title IX coordinator, she worked on improving the campus prevention and education campaign and served on the Bystander Intervention Committee. Carson also served as a Sexual Offense Support Advocate for UD Student Health and Wellness, and represents Planned Parenthood of Delaware's Generation Action and Students Acting for Gender Equality on the Sexual Assault and Prevention Education Committee (SAPE).

Awards of Special Merit were conferred upon four outstanding graduates in Women and Gender Studies. The 2017 recipients were Naomi Major, Lauren Markovich, Allison Ruffner, and Bridget Walters.



Pallavi Mather (right)

The Mae Carter Scholarship in honor of Mae Carter, former Assistant Provost for Women's Affairs and Executive Director of the Commission on the Status of Women, is awarded to an undergraduate woman student at the University who carries the values that Mae Carter has represented to the University community of women. The 2017 recipient was Pallavi Mathur, an Honors Senior from Hockessin, Delaware, majoring in Electrical Engineering. Mathur organized and led student work groups in her department to create an inclusive community and served as President of the UD Student Chapters of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. Her passion for social justice issues and commitment to making change have led her to apply for law school in the Fall, to pursue her goal to be an advocate for women and children.

The Diversity Research Café, continued from page 1

In May, Dr. Katie King, Professor of Women's Studies at the University of Maryland, shared with Café participants her perspective on the current state of feminism and Women's Studies. Conversing across what are now the field's "multiple communities of practice, knowledge worlds, and feminisms," she said, requires us to fully engage with and explore the "overlaps, disagreements, political and institutional contexts, uneven privilege and power" that increasingly define it. Focusing on the meaning and implication of key words (intersectionality, triggers, microaggressions) and their use and the variety of concepts reflecting states of "trans" (transnational/transdisciplinary/transgender) that occupy feminist scholars and lesbian studies activists, Dr. King explored new ways of thinking, talking, and writing about feminism.

During the next academic year, The Diversity Research Café will continue to offer UD faculty, staff, and graduate students the opportunity to explore topics concerning diversity, gender, women, and sexuality, and to engage in informal discussions moderated by an inspiring scholar in a setting where creative thinking, open debate, and collegiality prevail.

Letter from the Chair, continued from page 1

and students' voices and perspectives necessary, urgent, and heard all over campus.

The faculty and students in Women & Gender Studies are feminists, scholars, and activists committed to understanding ways in which systems of inequality are reproduced and maintained, and are equally committed to seeking strategies for building social justice. As you read through this year's edition of Connections, I urge you to explore the extraordinary engagements, scholarship, solutions, and creativity that reflect what we do and what we care about in Women & Gender Studies—and the enormous contribution that our faculty and students make within and far beyond the University of Delaware.

– Patricia Sloane-White

Domestic Violence Prevention and Services Program Update

By Jennifer Naccarelli



The 2017-18 academic year is poised to bring wonderful changes to the curricular offerings in the Domestic Violence Prevention and Services (DVPS) Concentration and Minor. We continue to expand our focus to ensure the best possible training to our advocates and sustain our commitment to work force development in the state of Delaware. Last year, we more intentionally aligned our course content with best practices in the field of violence prevention. This year, we welcomed new faculty member Dr. Chiara Sabina, who will offer a new upper division course focused on prevention in Spring 2018. Additionally, we are expanding our training into the area of trauma studies. Dr. Barbara Ley will begin our focused coursework on trauma with a class supporting those working in caregiving, crisis, and at-risk settings. Dr. Ley's "Mindfulness and Self Care for Trauma Professionals" will "examine the nature of trauma, the mind/body risks that

advocates and other trauma professionals face, and the role that mindfulness can play in their self-care routines." With enrollments reaching capacity, this new course demonstrates the need for trauma-informed structured self-care techniques for the advocacy community.

Summer 2017 marked the seventh year of the 300-hour DVPS practicum experience. We currently have eight students placed with service providers throughout the state of Delaware, where students provide direct services and resources to survivors, offenders, and their families. The Mae and Robert Carter Endowment in Women's Studies and the College of Arts and Sciences generously provided funding to support these placements. The direct service summer experience is a key element of developing and sustaining a well-trained and stable workforce in gender-based violence prevention advocacy.

We also celebrated the 2017 graduation of our sixth DVPS Concentration class. Congratulations to Heather Brody, Sage Carson, Lauren Markovich, Leah O'Brien, Allison Ruffner, Brianna Shumate, Sarah Stump, and Bridget Walters. We congratulate you and look forward to learning about all of the ways you continue to contribute to the field of gender-based violence prevention and services.

Summer 2018 DVPS Practicum applications are now being accepted. While in the practicum, students utilize domestic violence course work to serve victims and survivors of domestic violence in placements that are particularly useful for students considering careers focused on the law, social work, law enforcement, counseling, policy and advocacy. To apply or learn more about the program, contact DVPS Practicum Coordinator Dr. Jennifer Naccarelli at jnacc@udel.edu

Staying Connected

Olivia Blythe (WOMS 2017) has been working at The Athena Centre for Women in Chios, Greece, the first all-female refugee facility established to respond to the refugee crisis in Greece. “I am one of the Centre’s coordinators as the main point of contact for the Centre’s clients; women and children refugees from Syria, Iraq, Morocco, Algeria, Cameroon, Congo and Afghanistan. I am also in charge of case management for the women and giving them referrals to other organizations on the island. Most of the refugees have experienced domestic violence or intimate partner violence, so getting them in contact with organizations that can provide counseling or organizations that can assist with relocating the women to a safe space has been my biggest focus.”

Sage Carson (WOMS 2017) is Project Manager of Know Your IX, a project of Advocates for Youth. Know Your IX is a youth-led national survivor organization empowering young people to end gender violence in their schools.

Gabrielle Lanzetta (WOMS 2016) received the Mariam K. Chamberlain Fellowship in Women and Public Policy. Through this fellowship, she has worked for the Feminist Majority Foundation in Arlington, VA, as Assistant to FMA co-founder Eleanor Smeal, publisher of Ms. magazine, which featured Gabby in an article published in the Spring 2017 issue.

Pallavi Mathur (2017) has begun her first year at Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, where she hopes to combine her electrical engineering degree with legal studies and eventually pursue a career in patent law. In this field, she especially hopes to help and advocate for women innovators and entrepreneurs, who often face significant challenges in the male-dominated tech industry.

Sanika Salim (WOMS 2017), is Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff in Senator (DE) Tom Carper’s office as well as Intern Coordinator for the Washington D.C. office, where she reviews incoming applications, trains legislative interns, and

participates in hiring new interns for spring, summer, and fall internship programs, a role Sanika says “is very close to my heart, because I began my journey on Capitol Hill as an intern.” Her future plans are to earn a Master’s in Public Administration and ultimately to work for the State Department, the United Nations or international NGOs concerning women’s rights and international development.

Brenda R. Mayrack (WOMS/IR 2000) in April 2017 started a new position as the Managing Director of Specialty Audit Services, LLC, in Narberth, Pennsylvania, a company that provides abandoned and unclaimed property auditing services to state governments. She currently serves as a trustee and a member of the volunteer sailing crew of the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation, the Tall Ship of Delaware; as a member of the board of directors of the Latin American Community Center; and as a member of the advisory board of the Delaware Coalition Against Gun Violence, all based in Wilmington, Delaware.



Thank You, Donors!

We are grateful to the students, alumni, alumni families, faculty, and friends who have generously donated to support our department in 2017. Your generosity helps to fund events and activities in Women & Gender Studies, and we thank you.

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