



# Graduate Director's Newsletter

## Welcome Back!

*An Exciting Semester is Ahead*



Meet our new cohort. From left to right we have Tangere Hoagland, Eve Grice, Donnesha Blake, Sunhye Kim, Avery Dame and Justin Sprague. We provide a more detailed introduction

on p. 2. Welcome to the Women's Studies Department. We are all very happy to have you.



### In This Issue

After a hectic but rewarding recruitment, we are thrilled to welcome our new cohort of students. You will meet each of these accomplished individuals in this issue. As a result of their achievements and the collective efforts of our faculty, we secured two Flagship Fellowships, two McNair Awards, and one CRGE Interdisciplinary Scholars Program Award (CrISP). I would like to thank the Graduate School, ARHU Dean's Office, and the Ronald E. McNair Program for their continued support of our program. I also want to thank the graduate students who participated in our recruitment. It makes a world of difference.

As we say hello, we also extend a bittersweet goodbye to the students who successfully defended their dissertations in the last academic year. We will learn a bit more about their work and where they are now under our Celebration Corner.

We continued with our professional development colloquia and had two very well attended sessions, which we held in collaboration with AMST.

This year our program also experimented with a two part student orientation. The second half of our orientation took us to UMD's Challenge Course and there are highlights from this fun activity in this issue.

Please remember to look at our Important Dates section and our Research and Travel Awards Section. Wishing us all a rewarding semester. M.V.R.

### INTERESTED IN APPLYING TO OUR PROGRAM?

Our application deadline is December 1st, 2012. We have extended this deadline to Dec. 3rd, 2012, to accommodate Dec. 1's falling on a weekend day. Our program has five areas of specialization; these are Gender, Race, Racialization, and/or Diaspora Studies; Women's Movements, Global and Local; Bodies, Genders, Sexualities; Gendered Labor: Households and Communities; Art, Culture, Technologies, and Social Change. The University of Maryland requires you to apply to their respective departments through the Graduate School. Our online admissions process can be found at <http://www.gradschool.umd.edu/application>. If you have any questions please contact Ms. Clifforia Howard [choward3@umd.edu](mailto:choward3@umd.edu) or Dr. Michelle V. Rowley [mrowley1@umd.edu](mailto:mrowley1@umd.edu).



OUR NEW COHORT.....



**Domesha Blak:** B.A. in Communication (May 2012) Central Michigan University. Ronald E. McNair Scholar. Her Ronald E. McNair research project entitled "Forgiveness Communication in Interracial Friendships Between Women" aimed to investigate whether forgiveness is communicated differently between women of different racial groups and examined the rhetorical and communication strategies of "forgiveness-seeking" and "forgiveness-granting" deployed by women in interracial friendships.



**Avery Dame:** B.A. English, minors in Journalism and Asian Studies. Flagship Fellow. He holds an M.A. in American Studies from the University of Kansas (2012). Avery's M.A. thesis "A Little Bit Discourse, A Little Bit Diary: Role and Border Maintenance in the Trans Male Vlogger Networked Public" explores the ways in which individuals who are in the process of transitioning (gender reassignment) use the technology of video blogs (vlogs) as a medium that facilitates the very act of gendered becoming.



**Eve Grice:** B.A. double major in French and Francophone Studies (Highest Honors) and Women's Studies (2011) Williams and Mary. Flagship Fellow. For her honors thesis she conducted her research independently at the Cité Nationale de l'Histoire de l'Immigration in Paris, France. Her thesis is entitled "The National Museum on the History of Immigration: A Crisis in French Republican Values?" This project offers a critical analysis of the museum as a culturally produced object as well as a reading of the overt and underlying discourses in its artifacts, its curation, its layout, and its literature.



**Tangere Hoagland:** BA in Women's Studies, minor in Education, Duke University (2011). CrISP Scholar. Her MURAP research project "Literary Representations of the Dead in Juárez: Un-Silencing the Marginal" focuses on literary discussions of the many women killed in Juárez, Mexico. The piece explores Alicia Gaspar de Alba's *Desert Blood: The Juárez Murders* (2005) and Marisela Orta's *Braided Sorrow* (2009). Tangere reads these texts for the ways in which the authors engage with the ideas of "marginality" and "silencing."



**Sun Hye Kim:** B.A. Sociology (2004) and M.A. Sociology (2008), Yonsei University, South Korea. Sun Hye was a full-time researcher at the Korean Women's Development Institute. Her M.A. thesis, "The Infertility Treatment Industry and the Politics of Reproduction in South Korea," uses qualitative in-depth interviews to examine South Korean women's experiences of infertility treatment practices. With an interest in transnational flows of labor and care work, Sun Hye is also interested in investigating immigrant women from "less developed" countries who travel to South Korea to marry South Korean men.



**Justin Sprague:** B.A. in Communications, minor Women's Studies (2009), M.F.A. (2012) Old Dominion University. His M.A. thesis "The Invisible Role of the Translator: Cross-Media Representation and the Inclusion of Feminist Translating Epistemologies" critiques the field of translation studies. In this project Justin discusses the ways that translators identify themselves as well as the ways that they assert authorship, using Bourdieu's notions of habitus and Keith Negus' discussion of cultural intermediaries. For his doctoral work he is interested in investigating the relationship of Confucianism and Korean women.



WMST 628 COLLOQUIA



**Above:** Profs. Jo Paoletti, Katie King, Jason Farman.

**Below:** Profs. Mary Sies, Perla Guerrero, Tara Rodgers

After a short lived adjustment, WMST 628 returned to its emphasis on professional development. In collaboration with the Department of American Studies, we hosted two very successful panels. The first provided an opportunity for Profs. Jo Paoletti, Katie King, and Jason Farman to share their recently published books with our two communities. The second session was held on April 11th, at which Profs. Mary Sies, Perla Guerrero, and Tara Rodgers talked frankly with graduate students about the nuances of the job market. This session focused on a range of issues, inclusive of the application process, the campus interview, and post-interview interactions. This semester we will be joined by Ms. Allison Kimmich, Executive Director, NWSA, and Ms.

Patti Provance, Deputy Director, NWSA. They will share general information about NWSA, our professional organization and talk a bit about how they have navigated their professional careers with a Women's Studies Ph.D. We will once again hold two collaborative sessions with AMST. Stay tuned for more information. The dates for WMST 628 are:

- 5th September (2-3)
- 12th September (2:15-4)
- 24th October (2-4)
- 14th November (2-4)
- 5th December (2-4)

CHALLENGING OURSELVES ON THE CHALLENGE COURSE



Getting ourselves across the river of chocolate



You learn a lot about yourself and others when you're given twelve wooden bars and told that you've got to figure out how to get sixteen people across molten hot chocolate, without ever losing contact with the bars and the other fifteen people you're with. This was just one of the exercises in our challenge course orientation session. We learned, in a very tactile way, that you really can accomplish a lot more when you work with each other rather than in isolation. In the debriefing session for one of our activities, we found a number of parallels between the activity and our academic world. Some of the observations included:

- "The way you begin isn't necessarily the way you're going to end."
- "You've got to be aware of the group, but you also have to figure out what your own strategy is going to be for getting across."

I've only included a few of the images here and we'll place a few more on our website. For the dirt on who made it to the top of the climbing pole and then got all scared to come back down, or who boasted they would get to the very tippy top and didn't make it pass the first few rungs ....well, that's our little secret.





## CELEBRATION CORNER

We have had a very successful and rewarding year. These are just a few highlights of our many accomplishments:

### BENCHMARKS

Congratulations to:

- Renina Jarmon, Michele Prince, Yuen Mei Wong, Jessica Vooris, Melissa Rogers, and Cristina Perez for passing their General Exam (2011-12).
- Lara Torsky for successfully defending their dissertation prospectus.
- yh Patt, Katie White and Jeannette Soon-Ludes for passing their Major Field exam.
- Jeannette Soon-Ludes, Lara Torsky, and Katie White who received their MA in Women's Studies.

### AWARDS

Congratulations to:

- Julie Enszer who received a Woodrow Wilson Dissertation Fellowship in Women's Studies (special designation as Ostriker Fellow in honor of Alicia Ostriker).
- Bettina Judd who received an Ann G. Wylie Dissertation Fellowship (declined) and a Five College Fellowship. She will take up her Fellowship at Mt. Holyoke College.
- Jeannette Soon-Ludes and yh Patt who received the Women's Studies Summer Research Fellowship.
- Lara Torsky and yh Patt who received the CTE Distinguished Teaching Assistant Award.
- Katie White who received first place for her paper presentation in the Culture, Literature, and Society theme at Maryland's Graduate Research Interaction Day (GRID).

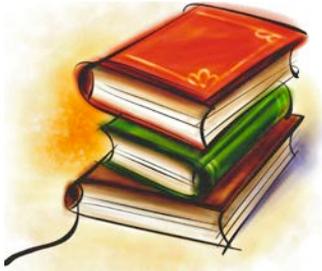
### PUBLICATIONS

- Epstein, Robyn and Melissa Lewis. Book Review of *Cold War Femme: Lesbianism, National Identity, and Hollywood Cinema*, by Robert J. Corber and *Soldiers' Stories: Military Women in Cinema and Television since World War II*, by Yvonne Tasker. *Feminist Formations*. (Forthcoming)
- Staking, Kimberlee. "Women's Health and Well-Being: A Transcultural/Transnational Teaching and Learning Collaboration" in *Feminist Cyberspaces: Pedagogies in Transition*; Editors: Carolyn Bitzer, Sharon Collingwood, Alvinia Quintana, and Caroline Smith (2012) Cambridge Scholars Publishing: Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK.
- Vooris, Jessica. "Estrategias y cálculos económicos de las artesanías en Zinacantán, México." in *Las Microfinanzas en los Intersticios del Desarrollo: Cálculos, Normatividades y Malabarismos*. ed.by Villarreal, Magdalena and Lourdes Angulo. Guadalajara CIESAS, FOJAL. 2012.
- Williams, Kimberly. *Imagining Russia: Making Feminist Sense of American Nationalism in U.S. - Russian Relations*. New York: SUNY Press, 2012.
- Wong, Yuen Mei. Book Review: *Thomas Streeter, The Net Effect: Romanticism, Capitalism. The Internet, International Journal of Communication, IJOC*, Vol 6, (2012).
- Wong, Yuen Mei. "Islam, sexuality and the marginal positioning of Pengkids and their girlfriends in Malaysia." *Journal of Lesbian Studies*, Vol 16 (4), 2012.



## CELEBRATION CORNER CONT.

### NEWLY MINTED DOCTORATES



This year saw the culmination and successful defense of four dissertations in our department. Each defense offered a lively and thorough engagement with the candidate's scholarship.

Congratulations to Dr. Jing Song, who defended her dissertation, "Global Assimilation and Global Alienation: Lives of Professional Women in Contemporary China" on December 1st, 2011. Dr. Song's dissertation examines the careers and family lives of "professional, white-collar women" in contemporary China in order to understand the ways in which labor markets, state policies, and gender expectations affect these women's lives in an era of rapid globalization.

Congratulations to Dr. Geneviève Pagé who defended her dissertation on 9th April, 2012. Dr. Pagé's dissertation entitled "Feminism À la Québec: The

Travelings of American and French Feminist Thought (1970 – 2005)" examines the specificities of feminisms in Québec and explores the travels and shifts of three main concepts (gender, intersectionality, and queer) for the ways in which they both challenge US hegemony within feminist discourses and offer unique expressions of Québécois feminisms. Dr. Pagé has accepted a tenure-track position at L'Université de Québec à Montréal.

On April 12th, 2012, Dr. Rajani Bhatia successfully defended her dissertation entitled "Lifestyle Sex Selection: Reproduction, Transnational Flows, and Inequality." This dissertation examines new practices and technologies of sex selection with a particular focus on the interrelationship between the scientific products that enable these practices; the discursive production of these practices through news media, promotional literature and self-help communication; and the institutional operations of U.S. clinics both within and across national borders. Dr. Bhatia has taken a Visiting Assistant Professor position in Women's and Gender Studies at Georgetown University.

On July 26th, 2012, Dr. Melissa Lewis successfully defended her dissertation "Body of Knowledge: Black

Queer Feminist Thought, Performance and Pedagogy." Dr. Lewis' dissertation examines the ways in which the body, identity, and performance function as "equipment" for teaching and learning in the college classroom. Her project explores the ways in which the body functions as a text for some instructors, who self-identify as Black queer feminist women. Dr. Lewis has accepted a tenure-track position in the Women's Studies Department at Goucher College.

Congratulations to the candidates, their chairs, and their committees. We look forward to your future scholarship.



FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

**The Mary Savage Snouffer Dissertation Fellowship, 2012-2013**

The Mary S. Snouffer Scholarship Fund will support up to three fellowships for qualified students pursuing the doctorate in any discipline in the humanities, including the study of language, literature, culture, philosophy, history or the arts. Criteria for selection shall be based upon both academic merit and need. Each department should put forward its very best candidate and no department should submit more than three nominations. Proposals should be written with a non-specialist audience in mind. Applicant Requirements:

Must be a graduate student who has reached the dissertation stage.

Must have completed all course work and passed the qualifying examination for the doctorate degree.

Students receiving the Mary Savage Snouffer Dissertation Fellowship are expected to enroll full-time and to devote full time to work on their dissertation. To be certified as a full-time student, recipients of the Fellowship must be officially registered for 6 credits of 899.

Recipients are not allowed to hold on- or off-campus jobs of more than ten hours per week. **Nominations for the Mary Savage Snouffer Dissertation Fellowship must be received by March 15, 2013.**

**ARHU Graduate Student Travel Awards 2013-14**

To support the professional development of our graduate students through the presentation of original research, the College of Arts and Humanities awards up to forty grants per year for travel to significant national and international conferences. There will be three competitions per year with approximately six awards given in each competition.

Eligible expenses include transportation, lodging, registration fees, and per diem for food.

General Guidelines:

Up to \$500 for travel within North America and \$700 for international travel.

College deadlines (for departments to submit materials to the Dean's office):

**October 5, 2012, December 7, 2012, and May 3, 2013.** Please check

with the individual program graduate director about the departmental deadline.

Students:

To apply, send the following to your graduate program director: short c.v.

Letter of application including:

--Stage of graduate career (e.g., defending dissertation in Fall 2013)

--Brief description (no more than a paragraph) of the research to be presented and the format of the presentation (e.g. paper on a panel, poster presentation). Include a statement of the review process your presentation underwent.

-- Brief description of the conference and its organizing body, including the url of the conference/organization website

--Statement of the contribution the conference will make to your career

--Statement of whether application has been made for this trip to other funding sources (e.g. Goldhaber Travel Awards from the Graduate School). Students are encouraged to apply for outside funding.

--Budget of estimated costs

--Copy of the letter/email accepting/inviting the presentation

**Ann G. Wylie Dissertation Fellowships**

Ann G. Wylie Dissertation Fellowships are one-semester awards intended to support outstanding doctoral students who are in the final stages of writing their dissertation and whose primary source of support is unrelated to their dissertation. Wylie Dissertation Fellowships carry a stipend of \$10,000 plus candidacy tuition remission and \$800 toward the cost of health insurance. The Graduate School awards approximately 40 Wylie Dissertation Fellowships per year.

2012-2013 Wylie Fellowship guidelines and nomination forms are at the Graduate School's website. Nominations are due on **Wednesday, February 20, 2013 by noon.**

**Important Dates**

12 September - Last Day to Electronically Submit Application for Graduation to Registrar's Office

14 September - Fall Gathering

19 September -Last Day to Submit Nomination of Dissertation Committee Form (Doctoral Students) to Registrar's Office

8-11 November - National Women's Studies Association Conference

15 November - Graduate Certificate Application Deadline

16 November - Final Date to Electronically Submit Dissertation to the Registrar. Final day for Dissertation Directors to send Report of Examining Committee Form to the Registrar

3rd December - Application Deadline for WMST Ph.D. Program

12 December - Grad. Night Out

cont.



## FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

### Flagship Fellowships

Flagship Fellowships are intended to help graduate programs to recruit and retain truly exceptional students. Flagship Fellowships are multi-year enhancement awards to be added to fellowship/assistantship offers made by graduate programs. Flagship Fellowship enhancements may total \$40,000 per student over the duration of the award. The goal is to award ten Flagship Fellowships per year, reaching a steady state of approximately forty Flagship Fellows. Nominations for the Flagship Fellowship will be due in the Graduate School by **Friday, January 28, 2013, by noon.**

### Ronald E. McNair Graduate Fellowships

In the Spring 2012 recruitment cycle, the Graduate School will award up to five Ronald E. McNair Graduate Fellowships. The new McNair Fellowship program will enhance opportunities for our campus doctoral programs to recruit and retain outstanding alumni or alumnae of McNair undergraduate programs from institutions across the country. The McNair Graduate Fellowships will provide entering graduate students with a first-year support package that includes a fellowship stipend of \$18,000, plus tuition remission, fees, and health insurance. Programs admitting McNair Fellows must commit to providing an additional three-year package of at least comparable annual GA and/or fellowship support. **The deadline is Monday, February 4, 2013, by noon.**

### Graduate Student Summer Research Fellowships

Graduate Student Summer Research Fellowships provide support to outstanding doctoral students at "mid-career," that is, in the period approximately before, during, or after achievement of candidacy, and are intended to enable students to prepare for or complete a key benchmark in their program's requirements. Summer Research Fellowships carry stipends of \$5,000.

2012 Graduate Summer Research Fellowship Guidelines and nomination forms are available below. **Nominations are due on Wednesday, March 6, 2013, by noon.**

### International Conference Student Support Awards

The Office of President Wallace Loh and the Graduate School established the International Conference Student Support Award (ICSSA).

The International Conference Student Support Award will cover a graduate student's conference registration fee up to \$500. To be eligible, a graduate student must be presenting a paper, poster, or other research or creative material at a major, international scholarly, scientific, or professional conference that is held outside of the US. The graduate student must be enrolled at the University of Maryland at the time of travel to the international conference.

The Graduate School is extending the program from July 1 through December 31, 2012. **Eligible graduate students now are invited to submit applications for international travel during these dates.** Funds will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis. The program has been expanded so that graduate students are eligible to receive the ICSSA twice, once before candidacy (which includes both doctoral and MA students) and a second time after the achievement of candidacy (doctoral students only).

### The Jacob K. Goldhaber Travel Grant

The Jacob K. Goldhaber Travel Grants are intended to help defray the expenses incurred by graduate students who are traveling to scholarly, scientific, or professional conferences to present papers, posters, or other scholarly material.

Jacob K. Goldhaber grants are awarded according to:

- \* The amount of funding available;
- \* The number of students applying;
- \* The destination of travel.

To apply for the Goldhaber Grant, please review the award guidelines and complete the application.

### Rolling Deadline

The Goldhaber Travel Grant is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. A rolling deadline allows graduate students to apply at any time as long as the necessary documents are included with the application and the application is received before the travel dates.

### University of Maryland Distinguished Dissertation Award

In AY 2010-11, the Graduate School inaugurated an annual University of Maryland Distinguished Dissertation Award. This year will be the third annual competition and will be for PhD dissertations defended and submitted to the Graduate School in the calendar year 2012. This year's selection process will occur in Spring 2013.

The Distinguished Dissertation Award recognizes original work that makes an unusually significant contribution to the discipline. Both methodological and substantive quality will be judged. Awards will be given each year in four broad disciplinary areas: 1) Mathematics, Physical Sciences, and Engineering; 2) Social Sciences; 3) Humanities and Fine Arts; and 4) Biological and Life Sciences. The Council of Graduate Schools uses these categories for its annual national dissertation awards. Recipients of the Distinguished Dissertation Award will receive an honorarium of \$1000 and may be nominated by the University for the CGS national award.

Nomination packages from Colleges are due in the Graduate School on Thursday, February 28th, 2013, by 12 noon. Award guidelines and nomination forms are available below. AY 13-14 award materials will be available in mid November.

### ENDOWED AWARDS

The Dr. Mabel S. Spencer Award for Excellence in Graduate Achievement

The Spencer Award, established by the daughters of Dr. Mabel S. Spencer, honors the memory and outstanding professional achievements of Dr. Spencer. It carries an annual stipend of at least \$15,000 and candidacy tuition remission (if not covered by other tuition remission).

Dr. Spencer taught at the University of Maryland from 1948 to 1968. Her energy, dynamic personality, and commitment to bringing about positive change made her a leader in the University community. Dedicated to programs and activities that advanced the interests of women at the University, Dr. Spencer was also known for her extraordinary ability to communicate with and provide assistance to her students, especially those from underrepresented minorities and from foreign countries.



## FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

### **ENDOWED AWARDS CONT.**

#### **Dr. James W. Longest Memorial Award for Social Science Research**

The Longest Award, established by Mary Jack Wintle (Mrs. James W. Longest), honors the memory and outstanding personal and professional achievements of Dr. James W. Longest. It provides \$2,000 to support doctoral dissertation research in the social sciences with potential benefits for small and/or disadvantaged communities. Candidacy tuition remission also will be granted for each of two semesters (if not covered by other tuition remission).

Dr. James W. Longest served on the research faculty of Cornell University for ten years before coming to the University of Maryland in 1967. Dr. Longest retired and became Professor Emeritus in 1990. He took great interest in assisting students, for whom he set high professional standards, and continued advising students until his death in November 1992. Throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Longest supported an interdisciplinary approach to problem solving in the areas of community development and the delivery of services in rural areas.

#### **The Michael J. Pelczar Award for Excellence in Graduate Study**

The Michael J. Pelczar Award for Excellence in Graduate Study offers \$1,000 to an outstanding doctoral candidate who has demonstrated excellence beyond his or her course work, and who has served at least one academic year as a teaching assistant with a commendable performance.

#### **The Phi Delta Gamma Graduate Fellowship**

The Phi Delta Gamma Graduate Fellowship offers \$1,000 to a student who "best exemplifies interdisciplinary scholarship achievement."

All Endowed Awards are customarily due to the Graduate School in the first week of April. Please visit the respective

website for additional guidelines and updates. **ALL SPRING FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE DUE TO THE DGS ON JANUARY 23rd, 2012. This is a non-negotiable deadline. Please work with your advisor to plan accordingly.**