FALL 2014
GRADUATE DIRECTOR’S
NEWSLETTER
WOMEN’S STUDIES DEPARTMENT, UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

Welcome Back!

I want to begin by thanking Dr. Deborah Rosenfelt who served graciously and judiciously as Director of Graduate Studies while I was on sabbatical. I also want to thank Ms. Clifornia Royals-Pryor whose efforts and knowledge ensured that the transition was a seamless one. You are both gems to the department. A special thank you to Ms. Jocelyn Coates for her assistance with this issue.

Recently, I saw a sign that said, “If Plan A doesn’t work, the alphabet has 25 other letters. Stay calm.” It caught my attention because it so succinctly captured two skills that are well worth honing throughout our academic life -- the capacity to adapt, innovate, or completely change course, and often more difficult, the ability to stay calm. Neither is innate and both can be learned. Of course, I couldn’t help but ask myself, “Well, what happens when you get to Z?” The more I thought about it, the idea of revisiting or modifying an earlier approach seemed as good a response as any. Sometimes, an approach re-tried at a different time may yield a different and better result. Regardless of which goals we’ve set for ourselves this academic year, staying calm and open to the need to adjust our course more likely than not won’t hurt our process. So, let’s give it a go together.

I’m happy to introduce our new cohort. Their arrival marks the collective effort of our entire community. I’m also pleased to extend a hearty welcome to Dr. Alexis Lothian. I know I can safely speak on behalf of the faculty in thanking you, the graduate body, for your participation in both processes. Inaugurated in 1999, our PhD program has now been in existence for fifteen years. We have a lot to celebrate, and this is a good opportunity to offer a roll-call of our doctoral alumnae (“Where Are They Now”), alongside our “Newly Minted Doctorates.” Please remember to look at our “Important Dates” section and the research and travel awards deadlines.

Welcome back. Wishing us all a rewarding year.

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INTERESTED IN APPLYING TO OUR PROGRAM?
Our application deadline is December 1st, 2014. 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. Clifornia Royals-Pryor choward3@umd.edu or Dr. Michelle V. Rowlley mrrowley1@umd.edu.

Department of Women’s Studies
Our New Cohort

Stephanie McClure
Stephanie secured a B.A. in English from Oregon State University. She also completed a Masters of Arts in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies at Oregon State University. She has worked as a Ms. in the Classroom Associate and as an Intimate Partner Violence/Pregnancy Advocate. Her master’s research “Voices Within A Grey World: An Evaluation of Oregon State University’s Sexual and Dating Violence Prevention Curriculum” utilizes a mixed methods design to evaluate OSU’s prevention curriculum’s ability to improve bystander behaviors. Her work examines the efficacy of various strategies to support students in the prevention of violence within their communities. McClure is interested in utilizing queer theory to develop “a comprehensive prevention curriculum for adolescents that focuses on and centers marginalized populations and the intersections of race, gender, class, and sexuality.”

Clara Montague
Clara double majored at Grinnell in Gender, Women’s and Sexuality Studies, and English, securing honors in both. She has worked as an English language tutor in India and recently completed a Fulbright teaching fellowship in Turkey. Clara is interested in the productive possibilities of queer theory as an applied pedagogical praxis within education. Her work considers the value that queer pedagogy holds for learning within the quotidiant or the “classroom of the everyday.” In this project, Montague is very much invested in a queer pedagogy, which when applied to non-university settings, “poses broader questions about the processes that lead particular identities and individuals to be constructed as central or marginal and the ways in which these systems come to be concealed and normalized in mainstream culture.” She is also interested in a transnational feminist analysis which explores how the growth of academic feminism and social movements have informed each other toward the attainment of social justice.
Cara Snyder

Cara graduated from Agnes Scott College with a B.A. in Economics and International Relations (2009). Cara has worked as a Program Coordinator in The Americas Program at The Carter Center, as a Fulbright Scholar and English Teacher in Brazil, and as an International Admissions Counselor at Agnes Scott College. She has also participated in a number of training programs that sit at the intersections of civil society and government. This training includes: The White House Project; Political Leadership Training “Go, Run, Lead” in Atlanta, Georgia; The Center for Global Women’s Leadership; the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy in Berlin, Germany, and the Universidad del Salvador; and the International Counselor Exchange Program in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Her previous research “I’m Chiquita Banana and I’m Here to Stay: US-Latin Relations, Carmen Miranda, and the Role of Cultural Diplomacy in Conflict Prevention” examined the symbolic deployment of Carmen Miranda as a heuristic device for understanding the successes and failures of cultural diplomacy in US-Brazilian relations. Cara is interested in researching women and sports in Brazil. In her future research, she wants to examine the effects of sexualization on women’s participation in public sectors such as athletics.

Anna Storti

Anna graduated from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona (2013), double majoring in Gender, Ethnicity, and Multicultural Studies and Business Administration, Management, and Human Resources, with an emphasis in Non-Profit Management. She has worked with the Violence Prevention and Women’s Resource Center (VPWRC). She served as the Vice President for her campus’ Queer People of Color Collective (QPOCC) and has mentored young high school students of color at the Boys and Girls Club of Pomona Valley. Anna’s previous research “(Re) Conceptualizing the Normative: A Glimpse into the Radical Potential and Ultimate Failure of Queer Politics” is a theoretical engagement with the complexities of gender performance among queer subjects. The project examined the ways in which queer feminine presenting women sit at the intersections of “queer” and “normative” locations. Storti argues that despite the desire for queerness to push against the grain, there are still expectations about how queerness should be performed and that this presents a form of erasure for queer feminine women. Storti wishes to expand on her earlier discussion of the queer feminine to incorporate a discussion of the racialization of mixed-race queer bodies and the ways in which these intersecting identities complicate conversations about political agency in contemporary queer coalitions and performance space.
Colloquia and Presentations

Our WMST 628 Colloquium is a placeholder for so many things – engaging new and interesting scholarship, professional development, and interacting with scholars-in-residence, among other things. Thank you to Drs. Barkley-Brown, Kim, and Rosenfelt, who all facilitated sessions in WMST 628 last year. It is always a very special occasion when the speaker happens to be one of our former students. Dr. Bettina Judd (right) joined us in Spring 2014 for a presentation entitled "A Different Kind of Rigor: Creativity and Scholarly Practice." Building on her own intersections as an artist and academic, Dr. Judd offered a thought provoking discussion on the dilemmas and possibilities of forging a research praxis out of one’s art practice. A special congratulations to Sunhye Kim (left: photo taken by Dr. Julie Enszer) who was invited to serve as a facilitator/presenter at the Transnational Feminisms Summer Institute, Ohio State University, Columbus. Sunhye’s presentation was entitled "Reproductive Rights in the Context of Transnational Reproductive Technology Industries."

Challenge course orientation

The challenge course at the Eppley Recreational Center has now become a staple feature of our annual graduate student orientation program. The program is guided by the lovely philosophy that "You can discover more about a person in an hour of play than in a year of conversation" (Plato). This is a philosophy that we wholeheartedly embrace as we work together to get Marty-the-Marble to school, as we build puzzles by communicating with each other about our respective pieces, and as we reflect on the skills that we needed to draw on to complete each task. It’s always loads of fun and a wonderful way to start the semester.
The culmination of training, the dogged pursuit of a question, the passionate delivery of ideas, the sigh of relief. Each contributes to the doctoral dissertation defense being a very momentous occasion for every candidate. I’m pleased to extend warm congratulations to Dr. Denise Shupiko, who defended her dissertation "The Development of the Russian Counter-Trafficking Movement: The Angel Coalition and International Politics on Civil Society, Feminism and Human Trafficking" on March 20th, 2014.

Dr. Shupiko’s dissertation examines the role that transnational advocacy networks (TANs) have played in challenging states to realize democratic and egalitarian changes on social issues. Her field work was conducted in Russia, where Dr. Shupiko worked with the Angel Coalition as her primary case-study. The Angel Coalition, run by activists from Russia, other countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, and Western countries, was at the forefront of the fight against trafficking of women in Russia during the time period that Dr. Shupiko examined, 1998-2008. Her work argues that two factors were critical to the Angel Coalition’s success in pushing the Russian state to take action against human trafficking: 1) counter-trafficking activists demonstrated a practiced understanding of the political environment of Russia; and 2) activists effectively communicated to the state how it would benefit from collaboration with civil society. As a case-study, the work offers important insight into the ways that transnational civil society and transnational movements on women’s issues are able to lobby toward social change at the national level. Dr. Shupiko’s dissertation was chaired by Professor Emerita, Claire Moses, and her committee comprised of Profs. Linda Aldoory, Lynn Bolles, Seung-kyung Kim and Cynthia Martin.

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**“Celebrating Fifteen Years: Where Are They Now?”**

- **Rajani Bhatia**, PhD (2012): Assistant Professor, SUNY, Albany.
- **Barbara Boswell**, PhD (2010): Project Officer for the Young Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights Leadership Project at The African Gender Institute, University of Cape Town, South Africa.
- **Julie Enszer**, PhD (2013): Visiting Assistant Professor, Women’s Studies Department, University of Maryland.
- **Claire Jen**, PhD (2008): Assistant Professor, Women’s Studies Program and Department of Biology, Denison University.
- **Bettina Judd**, PhD (2013): Visiting Assistant Professor, Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies, College of William and Mary.
- **Na Young Lee**, PhD (2006): Associate Professor, Chung-Ang University, Seoul, South Korea.
- **Melissa Lewis**, PhD (2012): Assistant Professor, Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Goucher College.
- **Laura Logie**, PhD (2008): Assistant Director, Consortium on Race, Gender and Ethnicity, University of Maryland, College Park.
- **Geneviève Pagé**, PhD (2012): Assistant Professor, University of Québec, Montréal, Canada.
- **Ana Perez**, PhD (2013): Visiting Assistant Professor, Gender and Women's Studies Department, Minnesota State University, Mankato.
- **Heather Rellihan**, PhD (2007): Associate Professor and Coordinator, Women’s Studies Program, Anne Arundel Community College.
- **JV Sapinoso**, PhD (2009): Assistant Director and Undergraduate Advisor, Department of Women’s Studies, University of Maryland, College Park.
- **Denise Shupiko**, PhD (2014) - Dissertation Title: “The Development of the Russian Counter-Trafficking Movement: The Angel Coalition and International Politics on Civil Society, Feminism and Human Trafficking.”
- **Kimberlee Staking**, PhD (2013): Adjunct Lecturer, Diablo Valley College, Pleasant Hill, CA, and Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA.
- **L. Ayu Saraswati**, PhD (2007): Associate Professor, Women’s Studies Program, University of Hawaii, Manoa.
- **Amy Washburn**, PhD (2010): Assistant Professor of English at Kingsborough Community College (CUNY).
- **Kimberly Williams**, PhD (2008): Associate Professor and Program Coordinator, Women’s Studies Department, Mount Royal University, Calgary, Canada.
Celebration Corner

It is always a pleasure to acknowledge your progress, your diverse and extensive accomplishments, and your scholarly contributions to your respective fields. Additional kudos to the planning committee for the Graduate Student Symposium “Interventions: Women’s Studies On The Edge” -- Laura Brunner, Eve Grice, Cristina Pérez, Michelé Prince, Melissa Rogers, Cheyenne Stevens and Jessica Vooris. We’re very proud of each of you.

AWARDS

Congratulations to:

- **Donnesha Blake** who received first prize for her poster at Maryland's Graduate Research Interaction Day (Category: Expressing Identity) and an NWSA Travel and Registration grant.

- **Laura Brunner** who was a finalist (top 10) at the University of Maryland for the *Three Minute Thesis* competition.

- **Sara Haq** who received an International Conference Student Support Award (ICSSA) and a Jacob K. Goldhaber Travel Award.

- **Melissa Rogers** and **Michelé Prince** who, along with Jarah Moesch (AMST) and Cameron Mozafari (ENGL), secured grant funding through the Center for Literary and Comparative Studies. The grant allows them to work with Dr. Mary Helen Washington (ENGL) to integrate multimodal projects into her classroom and to run a series of workshops on teaching with technology for faculty in Fall 2014.

- **Michelé Prince** and **Jessica Vooris** who received a Distinguished Graduate Student Teaching Award for Spring 2014.

- **Melissa Rogers** and **Michelé Prince** who both received a Graduate School Summer Research Award.

- **Jeannette Soon-Ludes** who received first prize at Maryland's Graduate Research Interaction Day (Category: History and Sociology).

- **Katie White** who received a WMST Dissertation Completion Award for Summer 2014.

PRESENTATIONS

**Donnesha Blake:**

**Laura Brunner:**

**Sara Haq:**

Presentations Cont’d

Sunhye Kim:
"Reproductive Rights in the Context of Transnational Reproductive Technology Industries," Transnational Feminisms Summer Institute, The Ohio State University, Columbus, July 7-11, 2014.

Jaime Madden:

Michelé Prince:

Jeannette Soon-Ludes:

“Boundaries of Belonging: Deserving Disempowerment and the Possibility of Inclusive Community,” Rhetorics and Feminisms Conference, Stanford University, September 2013

Jessica Vooris:


Katie White:


"Food on the Move: Exploring the Role of Migration and the Sensory in Gullah Foodways," Okra to Opera: Conference on Southern Culture, Converse College, Spartanburg, South Carolina, April 2014.

Publications


Washburn, Amy (alumna)


BOOK REVIEWS


MAKERSPACES

Melissa Rogers:
- Facilitated a pop-up makerspace for MITH's HILT summer institute (Humanities Intensive Learning and Teaching) in the WMST Multimedia Studio.
- Co-organized a three-day makerspace and art installation for the Cultural Studies Association, May 2014.

PERFORMANCES

Sara Haq:
### Fellowships and Grants

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<tr>
<th>Important Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>15 September</strong> - Last Day to Electronically Submit Application for Graduation to Registrar’s Office</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>22 September</strong> - Last Day to Submit Nomination of Dissertation Committee Form (Doctoral Students) to Registrar’s Office</td>
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<td><strong>10 October</strong> - Fall Gathering</td>
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<td><strong>13-16 November</strong> - National Women's Studies Association Conference</td>
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<td><strong>14 November</strong> - Graduate Certificate Application Deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>14 November</strong> - Final Date to Electronically Submit Dissertation to the Registrar. Final day for Dissertation Directors to send Report of Examining Committee Form to the Registrar</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1 December</strong> - Application Deadline for WMST Ph.D. Program</td>
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<td><strong>12 December</strong> - Grad. Night Out</td>
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#### The Mary Savage Snouffer Dissertation Fellowship
This fellowship is offered by the College of Arts and Humanities. It 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. Preference will be given to students in English, but scholarships can be awarded to students in other disciplines in the humanities and arts. Criteria for selection are based upon both academic merit and need. Proposals should be written with a non-specialist audience in mind. Applicants must have completed all course work and passed the qualifying examination for the doctorate degree.

*Department deadline: February 13, 2015; ARHU deadline: March 12, 2015.*

#### Ann G. Wylie Dissertation Fellowships
Ann G. Wylie Dissertation Fellowships are one-semester awards from the Graduate School, intended to support outstanding doctoral students who are in the final stages of writing 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.

*Department deadline: January 27, 2015; Graduate School deadline: Wednesday, February 8, 2015, at noon.*

#### Graduate Dean's Dissertation Fellowships
Graduate Dean's Dissertation Fellowships are one-year awards intended to support outstanding doctoral students. The Fellowship carries a stipend of $25,000 plus candidacy tuition remission and $1600 toward the cost of health insurance for the academic year.

*Department deadline: January 27, 2015; Graduate School deadline: Wednesday, February 8, 2015, at noon.*

#### Graduate All-S.T.A.R. Fellowships
The Graduate All-S.T.A.R. Fellowships are intended to honor graduate students who are both outstanding scholars and outstanding graduate assistants. Graduate All-S.T.A.R. Fellows will be featured on the Graduate School website and receive a $10,000 stipend. For eligibility, visit the Graduate School site. The Department will nominate one fellow to the College, which forwards its nominations to the Graduate School. More information about this award and nomination processes will be distributed in the spring.

*Department deadline: TBA; ARHU Deadline TBA; Graduate School deadline: Thursday, April 30, 2015.*
Endowed Awards from the Graduate School
The Graduate School currently offers four endowed awards: the Dr. Mabel S. Spencer Award for Excellence in Graduate Achievement; the Dr. James W. Longest Memorial Award for Social Science Research; the Michael J. Pelczar Award for Excellence in Graduate Study; and the Phi Delta Gamma Graduate Fellowship. For guidelines and nomination forms, visit the graduate school website.

Department deadline for all four endowed awards: February 13, 2015. Graduate School deadline: Wednesday, March 11, 2015, by noon.

The Dr. Mabel S. Spencer Award for Excellence in Graduate Achievement carries an annual stipend of at least $15,000 and candidacy tuition remission (if not covered by other tuition remission).

The Dr. James W. Longest Memorial Award for Social Science Research 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).

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 offers $1,000 to a student who “best exemplifies interdisciplinary scholarship achievement.”

TRAVEL GRANTS

International Graduate Research Fellowships
The Graduate School is now accepting applications for the International Graduate Research Fellowships. These fellowships are to provide graduate students a meaningful research experience in an international context, broadening the student’s knowledge and perspective. The fellowships take advantage of ongoing collaborations between UMD faculty and their international colleagues and, through graduate student exchange, also will enhance those collaborations. The fellowships facilitate and support research opportunities for doctoral students for a period of one to three months in another country. This period can be at any time during the year. The fellowships take the form of financial support for travel and living expenses and do not provide stipends. Students in consultation with their advisors apply directly to the graduate school.

International Conference Student Support Awards
These awards from the Graduate School 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. Eligible graduate students are invited to submit applications for international travel through June 30, 2014. Funds will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Students are eligible to receive the ICSSA twice, once before candidacy and a second time after the achievement of candidacy.

Deadline: Rolling

Jacob K. Goldhaber Travel Grant
These are Graduate School awards intended to help defray expenses incurred in traveling to scholarly conferences to present papers. Amounts vary. Visit the Graduate School site for guidelines and more information.

Deadline: Rolling

College of Arts and Humanities Graduate Student Travel Awards
To support the professional development of our graduate students through the presentation of original research, the College of Arts and Humanities awards grants for travel to significant national and international conferences. There are three competitions per year. Eligible expenses include transportation, lodging, registration fees, and per diem. Submit materials on-line.

There are two remaining deadlines:

Department Deadline: Please upload your materials NO LATER THAN ONE WEEK BEFORE THE APPLICATION IS DUE to ensure that the DGS can append a letter of support.

ARHU Deadlines: Round 1 - Friday, October 3, 2014; Round 2 - Monday, December 1, 2014; and Round 3 - Friday, May 1, 2015.
WMST Graduate Awards and Fellowships

**Women's Studies Department Travel Grants**
When funds are available, the Women's Studies Department provides annual grants for professional travel to all students (in recent years $300 for travel within the United States). Awards are typically for research or presentations at appropriate conferences. The department chair or DGS will inform students about available funds early in the fall semester. Students may apply for funds at any time throughout the year, provided it is no fewer than 60 days prior to the date of departure. (See Appendix II, Graduate Student Handbook, for Travel Grant Request form.) They will receive decisions about their applications no more than thirty days after their completed applications are submitted to the DGS and the department chair. Prior to travel, students must fill out and submit the Travel Expense Reimbursement Sheet (See Appendix II).

**Deadline:** Rolling

**Women's Studies Summer Research Award**
The Women's Studies Department will provide four summer research fellowships ($2,500 each). This support will vary from year to year based on the availability of funds and need. We expect applicants to simultaneously apply for the Graduate School Summer Research Fellowship. This is a “mid-career” award and may be used to complete the field exam or the prospectus.

Your applications are due to the DGS via electronic submission by 5 p.m. on **Friday, March 13, 2015**. Please submit to Ms. Pryor (choward3@umd.edu), with a cc. to the DGS (mrowley1@umd.edu).

**Women's Studies Dissertation Completion Award**
The Women's Studies Department will provide two Women's Studies Dissertation Completion Awards carrying a stipend of $5,000 each. This support will vary from year to year based on the availability of funds and need. The award will be administered over the summer. The Women's Studies Dissertation Completion Award is geared toward advanced doctoral candidates who are in the final stages of writing their dissertation. The selection process will take into consideration the applicant's ability to clearly delineate the research project's focus, its contribution and significance to the field or research area, and the likelihood of completion within the academic year. There is the expectation that recipients will graduate by May, 2016.

Your applications are due to the DGS via electronic submission by 5 p.m. on **Friday, March 13, 2015**. Please submit to Ms. Pryor (choward3@umd.edu), with a cc. to the DGS (mrowley1@umd.edu).

**MEMBERSHIPS**

**Annual Membership in NWSA**
The Women's Studies Department's institutional membership in the National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) provides us with three annual memberships. All students may apply for these memberships. Students may receive a membership no more than once during their time in the program. Preference will be given to students who are presenting at the annual conference. We will also give special consideration to advanced students who will be on the job market in the coming academic year and will benefit from having their work in circulation as they approach the job market. Applications for memberships typically take place in the spring when students know if they will be attending the fall NWSA conference.

**Deadline:** To be announced in the spring.