Mission
The mission of the Center for Women's & Gender Studies is to create committed communities that address the challenges faced in the areas of gender, sexuality, diversity, and equity. We recognize that ending gender discrimination requires ending the related discriminations against disability, ethnicity, gender identity, race, sexuality, and socioeconomic class.
As Director of the Center for Women’s & Gender Studies, I am pleased to introduce you to the scholarship, programs, honors and activism of our faculty, students, staff and community partners. It is only when one assembles an (incomplete) list of what the center has undertaken in the past year that one realizes just how committed our on-campus and off-campus community is to the pursuit of social justice: from faculty whose scholarship and teaching explores difficult and traumatic experiences to students from UT and across Texas who commit to a week-long institute to engage with political and policy issues; from staff who give up their personal time to promote and encourage undergraduate student organizations to community leaders who raise funds for the center and network on our behalf.

While each year brings its own challenges and opportunities, this last year has been especially difficult, as the leadership of the university has responded to ongoing tensions with the Board of Regents, resulting in the resignation of President Bill Powers in June. Furthermore, adequate legislative funding for the university remains uncertain from one session to the next, leaving us with budget cuts across the university. Despite these difficulties, and as a measure of the support we have received from Bill Powers during his entire presidency, the center was designated as one of the units to receive permanent funding as of August 2015. For the first time since the program was established in 1979, we will be able to plan several years into the future, rather than semester-by-semester. Moreover, thanks to the Embrey Family Foundation’s endowment of a professorship in Women’s and Gender Studies, we hope to hire a senior faculty member effective August 2016. Although we are still unable to secure dedicated faculty lines for the center, we can at least oversee the selection of this new faculty member.

On a less optimistic note, the last legislative session passed SB11, otherwise known as “Campus Carry.” As of August 1, 2016, the 50th anniversary of the deadly attack by Charles Whitman on the campus, licensed individuals can carry concealed weapons into campus buildings, unless specific prohibitions are in place. Many students, staff and faculty continue to protest the implementation of this bill and plan further actions in the days and months ahead. The Center for Women’s & Gender Studies, along with many other research units, submitted a petition against the bill, arguing that the sensitive and often controversial nature of topics examined in research projects and taught in classrooms made the center, its faculty, students and staff, particularly vulnerable to acts of violence. We are hopeful that the university’s upper administration will agree and insist that classrooms be off-limits to gun carriers.

As you read this newsletter, I encourage you to consider ways in which you can become more involved in the work of the center. Email us with questions you might have about programs and initiatives; help us expand the community of those who care about social justice, on and off campus; and attend film screenings, seminars, and book celebrations. Thank you for all you already do to help us succeed.

We cannot sustain the energy and vision of the center without you.

All best wishes for the New Year.
Sue Heinzelman
Three Faculty Awarded 2015 CWGS Research Grants

The Center for Women’s & Gender Studies awarded three Core Faculty Research Grants in 2015 to support scholarship that promotes social justice in women, gender and/or sexuality studies. CWGS Core Faculty Simone Browne (African and African Diaspora Studies), Shannon Speed (Anthropology), and Karin Wilkins (Radio-TV-Film) each received a $1,000 grant to support their current research.

Simone Browne’s grant supported a collaborative Mask Making Workshop at the university with artist Zach Blas (University of Buffalo). The Spring 2015 workshop is a component of Browne’s new research project that focuses on racial profiling and the concept of “aesthetic resistance.”


Karen Wilkins’ grant supported the completion of her book manuscript titled “Communicating Gender and Advocating Accountability in Global Development.” The book was published in October 2015 (Palgrave Macmillan) and explores the articulation of gender in the development enterprise, analyzing both the constructions of women and of the social change process.

Core Faculty Research Grant recipients will share their research findings in a public forum to be scheduled in Spring 2016.

Legare Receives $1.3M NSF Grant

CWGS Associate Faculty Cristine Legare (Psychology) and Faculty Development Program Fellow (2008-2009) received a $1.3 million grant from the National Science Foundation to support her research titled “Explaining, Exploring and Scientific Reasoning in Museum Settings.” The project investigates how diverse samples of parents and children engage in explanation and exploration of scientific concepts in three children’s museums across the United States, including the Thinkery in Austin.

Selected Faculty Achievements, 2014-2015

2014 & 2015 Regents Awards

- CWGS Core and Associate Faculty were awarded the Board of Regents’ highest honor: the University of Texas System Regents’ Outstanding Teaching Award. Core Faculty Robert Jensen (Journalism) and Barbara L. Jones (Social Work) received the award in 2014, and Associate Faculty Rebecca Rossen (Theatre & Dance) received the award in 2015.

- CWGS Core Faculty Janet M. Davis (American Studies), Associate Faculty Sonia Seeman (Middle Eastern Studies; Music) and Faculty Development Program Fellow (2013-2014) Katie Dawson (Theatre & Dance) were named 2015 University of Texas at Austin Provost’s Teaching Fellows, an honor meant to recognize “talented, forward-thinking and service-oriented faculty dedicated to furthering innovative teaching inside and outside of the classroom.”

Continued on next page.
CWGS Awards

- Contributor of the Year - President William C. Powers Jr., honored for his support of the Center for Women’s & Gender Studies during his presidency.
- 2015 Lucia, John, and Melissa Gilbert Teaching Excellence Award - Dr. Sofian Merabet (Anthropology).

Appointments

- Core Faculty Yolanda C. Padilla, (Social Work) has been appointed inaugural director of the Center for Diversity and Social & Economic Justice, housed in the School of Social Work. The Center is part of the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), a nonprofit national association representing more than 2,500 individual members, as well as graduate and undergraduate programs of professional social work education.

Selected Faculty Publications, 2015


**Héctor Domínguez-Ruvalcaba** (Spanish and Portuguese): “Nación Criminal: Narrativas del Crimen Organizado y El Estado Mexicano” (Planeta Publishing).


**Kelly McDonough** (Spanish and Portuguese; 2012-2013 CWGS Faculty Development Fellow): “The Learned Ones: Nahua Intellectuals in Postconquest Mexico” (Arizona University Press).

**Sofian Merabet** (Anthropology): “Queer Beirut” (University of Texas Press).

**Karin Wilkins** (Radio-TV-Film): “Communicating Gender and Advocating Accountability in Global Development” (Palgrave Macmillan).
2014-2015 Faculty Development Program

With support from the Provost’s Office, this program is designed to assist in recruitment, retention and promotion of new faculty members whose scholarship and teaching focuses on gender studies by providing them with support of various kinds. Our goal is to welcome, inform and support our new colleagues. Each faculty fellow presented a paper in the Fall 2014 Speaker Series.

Dr. Kathrynn Pounders, Assistant Professor
Department of Advertising
Moody College of Communication

*Exposure to Thin Models: The Impact of the Goal-Striving Process*
Kate Pounders is a consumer psychologist who investigates emotions, goals, and the self. Her research focuses on emotions in consumption contexts, consumer motivation, and information processing. Dr. Pounders is especially interested in the role that emotion and self-identity play in understanding women's health issues.

Dr. Mary Beltrán, Associate Professor
Department of Radio Television Film
Moody College of Communication

*Latinas Only Latinas Can See: Tween TV Stars, Ambiguous Latinidad, and Questions of Empowerment*
Mary Beltrán is an associate professor of Radio-Television-Film and a core faculty member of CWGS and Mexican American and Latina/o Studies. Her research is focused on the construction of race, class and gender in U.S. television, film, and celebrity culture, particularly in relation to Latina/o representation in and production of U.S. film and television.

Katie Dawson, Assistant Professor
Department of Theatre and Dance
College of Fine Arts

*Transforming Education through the Arts: Drama-Based Instruction as a Liberatory Pedagogy and Practice*
Katie Dawson is a nationally and internationally recognized consultant in arts-based and creative learning. Her scholarship has appeared in numerous U.S. and international journals. She is co-author of: The Reflexive Teaching Artist: Collective Wisdom from the Drama/Theatre Field. Katie received the Creative Drama Award and the Winifred Ward Scholar Award from the American Alliance of Theatre and Education along with multiple teaching awards from her University.

Dr. Kareem Khubchandani, Embrey Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow
Center for Women’s & Gender Studies
College of Liberal Arts

*Snakes on the Dancefloor: Bollywood Ishtyle and Sridevi’s Queer Gesture*
Kareem Khubchandani is the 2014-16 Embrey Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow in Women’s and Gender Studies. His research interests broadly include LGBT Studies, social and vernacular dance practices, migrant populations, and ethnic/racial minorities. He engages these themes and aesthetics in his performance practice through drag, storytelling, and spoken word.

www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/cwgs/
Signature Course ‘Women for Sale?’ Spurs State-Funded Initiative on Human Trafficking

The Texas Slavery Mapping Project, an initiative first developed as a project in the CWGS Signature Course Women for Sale?: The economic, social and political proposition of human trafficking, received a two-year $500,000 state grant in 2014 from the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor’s Office to chart the scope of human trafficking in modern-day Texas.

Dr. Noël Busch-Armendariz (Social Work) co-taught “Women for Sale?” in 2012 with Bruce Kellison, UT Bureau of Business, and Laurie Cook Heffron, LMSW. Development of the course was funded by the CWGS Embrey Critical Human Rights Initiative that supports projects to create an educational culture for gender and racial justice.

“The project will fill a critical gap in the research,” said, Busch-Armendariz, director of the Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault and principal investigator on the project. “By expanding our shared knowledge about modern slavery in Texas and assessing the success of existing programs, the project will give policymakers and practitioners the information needed to improve legislation and on-the-ground initiatives that prevent exploitation and provide care for survivors.”
During the 2014-15 academic year, members of the CWGS Core and Associate Faculty participated in the Op-Ed Project Public Voices Thought Leadership Fellowship Program. The goal of the project is to dramatically increase the influence of women and minority thought leaders and to ensure their ideas shape the important conversations of our age. The following Op-Ed items appeared in print or online media:

- Daina Berry (History; African and African Diaspora Studies): “Slavery Scholar Shows Misconceptions Persist in U.S.,” and “The Civil War: The one we fought, the one we’re still fighting,” The Conversation;
- Domino Perez (English; Director of the Center for Mexican American Studies): “Thirty days to be Hispanic,” Fox News Latino;

**Additional CWGS Faculty voices in the media . . .**

“Reflections of a black female scholar: I know what it feels like to be invisible,” an Op-Ed written by Dr. Cherise Smith (Art History), appears in the April 14, 2015, issue of The Conversation. Smith is associate director of the John L. Warfield Center for African and African American Studies.

“If America Really Cared About Mothers, Reproductive Health Care Would Be Available to All,” an Op-Ed written for Mother’s Day, May 10, 2015, by Dr. Sharmila Rudrappa (Sociology), was published in American Prospect. Dr. Rudrappa is director of the Center for Asian American Studies.


Cynthia Walker Peña Scholarship(s) presented to **Katelyn “Katie” Burran** (WGS) and **Andy Escobar** (RTF/LAS/WGS) in recognition of their outstanding record of service and scholarship in Women's and Gender Studies. Co-sponsored by Office of Student Affairs, COLA.

The Lora Romero Memorial Award for Interdisciplinary Research in Race, Ethnicity and Gender presented to **Alfred Martin** (Radio-Television-Film) for “Scripting Black Gayness: Television Authorship in Black-Cast Sitcoms.”

Women's and Gender Studies Dissertation Fellowship(s) presented to **Caitlyn Collins** (Sociology) for “Work-Family Policies and Working Mothers: A Comparative Study of Germany, Sweden, Italy, and the United States”; **Sarah Nicholus** (Spanish & Portuguese) for “The Production of Queer Space in the Festas Juninas of Northeastern Brazil.”

Women's and Gender Studies MA Thesis Award presented to **Kaitlyn Newman** for “Refusing the rent to (re)make space: Feminist geographic perspectives on the Sunset Park Rent Strike.”

**Liz Elizondo** (WGS Graduate Portfolio Student) was awarded the Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship for her dissertation, “Sex, Deviance, and Drama: Socio-Racial Relationships in the Texas-Coahuila Borderlands, 1716-1821.”

**Andy Escobar** (WGS student) was one of 40 out of 1,000 applicants selected to attend the Civil Liberties and Public Policy (CLPP) Program/Reproductive Rights Activist Service Corps (RRASC) internship in New York City summer 2015.

**Kate Henley Averett** (WGS Graduate Portfolio Student) was awarded the 2015 Norval Glenn Prize for her paper “Queer Parenting at the Gender Buffet: LGBTQ Parents Resisting Heteronormativity.” The Norval Glenn Prize, established in 2011 to honor the memory of Professor Norval Glenn, a distinguished member of the Sociology Department for many years, is awarded each year to recognize The University of Texas at Austin graduate student with the best paper in the area of family sociology.
The Emerging Scholarship in Women's and Gender Studies Graduate Student Conference is an annual event hosted by CWGS. This conference provides an opportunity to share new and innovative research in women's, gender, and/or sexuality studies with the students and faculty affiliates of CWGS, The University of Texas at Austin community, and CWGS community partners.

The 2015 conference, “Feminist Geographies: Mapping Spaces, Nations and States of Being” was held in the Student Activities Center and the College of Liberal Arts Building (CLA) Glickman Center on March 25-26.

CWGS Core Faculty Professor Simone Browne (African and African Diaspora Studies), whose scholarship focuses on place, borders, race and surveillance, delivered the pre-conference keynote address. CWGS Core Faculty Omise‘eke Natasha Tinsley (African and African Diaspora Studies) delivered the keynote address.

Co-sponsored by: Office of the President, Department of American Studies, Center for Asian American Studies, Program in Comparative Literature, Department of English, Department of History, Department of Theatre and Dance, Department of Classics.

Call for Proposals:
2016 Emerging Scholarship in Women’s and Gender Studies Conference

Proposals are now being accepted for the 23rd Annual CWGS Emerging Scholarship in Women's and Gender Studies Graduate Student Conference to be held March 23-24, 2016.

We invite individual papers, creative writing and artistic posters, performance pieces, and panel submissions from participants in any discipline whose research focuses on women’s, gender, and/or sexuality studies but especially welcome submissions related to the 2016 conference theme: (Un)soundness of Being: Feminist Approaches to Health and Healing. Priority submission deadline: December 19; Final submission deadline: January 9, 2016.

To download Call for Proposals (pdf) go to CWGS web site: http://www.utexas.edu/cola/cwgs/news/10027

Congratulations to the Women’s and Gender Studies Class of 2015

Bachelors of Arts Degree
Sharlla Dawn Biefeld - with University Honors
Karen Michelle Duke - with University Honors
Augusta Rose Durham
Samantha Caroline Heinly
Devon Fitzgerald Howard - with WGS Honors
Choyette Katherine Mahtab - with WGS Honors

Master of Arts Degree
Wanjira Murimi
Supervisor: Matthew T. Richardson

Leila Grace C. Pandy
Report: “Decentering Jose Rizal and Maria Clara: Interventions in Filipina and Nationalist Fiction by Transpacific Filipina Writers”
Supervisor: Susan S. Heinzelman

Kaitlyn Newman
Supervisor: Rebecca Torres
The Center for Women’s & Gender Studies joined the university's Social Justice Institute in sponsoring a discussion with activist and author Ai-jen Poo, whose recent book “The Age of Dignity, Caring Across Generations” points to bold solutions that can help us better care for our loved ones as they age—and create millions of good jobs in the process. Ai-jen Poo is co-director of the Caring Across Generations Campaign and a 2014 MacArthur “Genius” fellow.

The Center for Women’s & Gender Studies hosted a talk by Celia Santiz Ruiz, founding member of the Mayan women’s weaving cooperative, Jolom Mayaetik. Ruiz spoke about her experiences as an indigenous woman living in Chiapas, Mexico, and discussed her six years of experience as president of Jolom Mayaetik. The talk included a presentation on the history of Jolom Mayaetik formed in 1996 and the process of empowerment of indigenous women through their participation in the women’s weaving cooperative.

The Center for Women’s & Gender Studies joined the university’s Social Justice Institute in sponsoring a discussion with activist and author Ai-jen Poo, whose recent book “The Age of Dignity, Caring Across Generations” points to bold solutions that can help us better care for our loved ones as they age—and create millions of good jobs in the process. Ai-jen Poo is co-director of the Caring Across Generations Campaign and a 2014 MacArthur “Genius” fellow.

The Future of Elder Care: What We Need for a Changing America

Performing Justice Project Explores Gender and Racial Justice

Enacting justice in our daily life is a topic that weaves throughout the creative devising process and the whole of the Performing Justice Project (PJP), co-directed by CWGS Associate Faculty Dr. Megan Alrutz (Theatre & Dance) and Lynn Hoare, MFA, Voices Against Violence. PJP prepares high school students, teachers, and audience members to understand, talk about, and enact gender and racial justice.

The script for the most recent production performed in summer 2015, “The Good in Me/In My Skin,” reflects the youth’s vision(s) for a more just society and many of the youth’s scenes and monologues speak to future action steps for themselves and the audience. The participants, a group of young women at a juvenile justice facility in Texas, used theatre to explore gender and racial justice in their lives and communities. See CWGS Youtube video on the Center’s home page. PJP is supported by the Center for Women's & Gender Studies and the Embrey Critical Human Rights Initiative.
INSPIRE, the university’s signature leadership program for women undergraduates, completed another successful academic year.

In March, students researched, wrote, and presented original scholarly papers at the CWGS Annual Emerging Scholarship in Women’s and Gender Studies Conference. Paper topics included: “Ethical Dilemmas in Transnational Surrogacy in India”; “Feminism in Batterers Intervention Programs”; “Controlling Images of Black Women in the Media- Mammy, Jezebel and Sapphire”; “Pero No Me Veo Así: Analyzing Latina Stereotypes on Television: Latina’s Colorism and the Music Industry.”

In May 2015, six INSPIRE participants attended the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders in Maryland and Washington, DC. While there, they networked with college women from across the US, and attended workshops and breakout sessions. They returned to Austin with skills and the confidence to put those skills into action at UT.

Additional activities involving INSPIRE participants in 2014-2015 included:

- Tabling activity to educate middle-school students about leadership at Explore UT;
- Community project on the Guadalupe Street “Drag”: supplying homeless women with feminine hygiene products;
- Improvisational classes;
- Mentoring project: seniors recruited first-year students to mentor and presented “College 101,” an introduction to campus life.

“In addition to our May 2015 graduates, all of our alumnae are doing amazing things with their lives, including attending medical school, graduate school, and law school, working for the federal government, teaching, and beginning careers in their field of study,” said Nancy Ewert, INSPIRE program coordinator.

Special thanks to the Alice Kleberg Reynolds Foundation, the Mary Braunagel-Brown Excellence Fund for Young Women’s Leadership, the Jody Conradt Endowed Excellence Fund, Creekmore and Adele Fath Charitable Foundation, and all the wonderful donors who have supported INSPIRE.
During June, 26 Texas women undergraduates representing 17 universities and colleges participated in NEW Leadership™ Texas (NEWLT). The intensive, six-day bipartisan residential program coordinated by CWGS gives college women the knowledge and skills to become effective leaders in politics, public policy, and public service. Throughout the week, students attended workshops and panel discussions to learn about their leadership styles, public speaking, diversity, networking, managing their message, and becoming the next generation of effective civic and political leaders.

Students heard from elected officials, including: Lora Livingston, Travis County District Judge; Kathie Tovo, Austin Council Member/Mayor Pro Tem; Amalia Rodriguez-Mendoza, Former Travis County District Clerk; Texas State Representatives Carol Alvarado, Mary E. González, Donna Howard, and Elliott Naishtat.

We were honored to have Senator Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo; District 21) give the keynote address. She discussed the importance of women going into public service, gave important advice, and reflected on her amazing career. Dr. Zaffirini is the first Hispanic woman elected to the Texas Senate, the second highest-ranking senator, and the highest-ranking woman and Hispanic senator.

NEWLT participants also benefited from the experience of faculty-in-residence, three women leaders who mentor students during the summer institute. This year’s mentors were Nancy Bocskor, President, Nancy Bocskor Company; Mavis B. Knight, Immediate Past Member/Secretary, Texas State Board of Education; and Ryane Ridenour, Digital Strategist, New Blue Interactive/West Fund.

NEWLT is made possible, in part, with support from the Embrey Family Foundation, RGK Foundation, Eileen Fisher, Inc., Alice Kleberg Reynolds Foundation, and Mr. Gatti’s Pizza.

**Comments from 2015 NEWLT participants:**

“I realized that I can be an important part of the political process without being the face of the process. The research I plan to do can help shape policy and help the people who run gather strong information to help change society for the better.”

“I have always been interested in running for office (either local or federal) and after attending NEW Leadership™ Texas, I have gained more knowledge, confidence, and created relationships that could assist me with reaching my dreams.”
New Gender, Race, Sex, and Health Research Cluster Launched

The Center for Women's & Gender Studies is pleased to announce our theme for the 2015-2016 academic year: Gender, Race, Sex, and Health. A number of theme-related events have been scheduled for the academic year, the first of which was a reception held September 28 to launch the new CWGS research cluster: Gender, Race, Sex and Health.

CWGS Director Sue Heinzelman welcomed faculty, graduate and undergraduate students and introduced the research cluster’s organizing faculty: Dr. Julie Minich (English; Mexican American and Latina/o Studies; Women's & Gender Studies); Dr. Sharmila Rudrappa (Sociology); and Dr. Christen Smith (Anthropology). Each one of these CWGS Core Faculty members discussed their interest in establishing an interdisciplinary research cluster that will offer opportunities to explore how class, citizenship status, spatiality, age, disability, sexuality, gender and race affect health experiences and health outcomes for individuals and their communities.

The wide-ranging possibilities for faculty and student engagement with the Gender, Race, Sex and Health research cluster became evident as Professors Minich, Rudrappa and Smith, respectively, briefly described their research interests: how Latina/o cultural production represents public conflict around legislation governing health care and disability; the cultural politics of assisted reproductive technologies in India; and black women and the politics of race and violence in Brazil.

Fall 2015 Open House Welcomes INSPIRE Leadership Participants

The Center for Women's & Gender Studies hosted an Open House for new and returning student participants and graduate student facilitators in the INSPIRE: Empowering Texas Women Leaders program.

Inspire is a three-year interdisciplinary program (sophomore to senior) that supports students in the classroom, on campus, and in community leadership roles. We focus on sustaining women students who come from low-income communities, are first-generation college students, and are majoring in a field where women are underrepresented, such as STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) and its related fields. Of the incoming INSPIRE Class of 2018, 60% are women of color, 50% are first-generation college students, and 67% are majoring in STEM fields.
Support NEW Leadership Texas 2016

Planning is underway for NEW Leadership™ Texas June 2-7, 2016. Texas women undergraduates in any academic discipline at any college or university are eligible to apply to attend the intensive six-day residential summer program. Participants learn from state and local women leaders about politics and policy making. We place particular emphasis on recruiting women from groups that, with few exceptions, have had little voice in the political process, especially women of color, low-income women, and women with disabilities. There is no direct cost to applicants to attend.

CWGS has received a $5,000 grant from the Alice Kleberg Reynolds Foundation to support the 2016 summer institute and our fundraising efforts continue.

See what NEWLT alumnae have achieved:

- Texas Director, FWD.us
- CEO of Texas Millennial Institute, “a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, whose mission is to represent the voice of Millennials in the Lone Star State and provide infrastructure that empowers them to seek and promote ideas that lead us toward a freer Texas and ultimately a freer world.”
- Outreach and Communications Associate at Cambridge Global Advisors in Washington, DC
- Internship with U.S. Secretary of State/U.S. State Department
- President/Co-founder of Leaders In Liberty, Lone Star College Montgomery, coordinating opportunities for students to participate in community service, voter engagement, and political activism.

Do you know a Texas woman undergraduate who should apply this year? For more information, please contact Nancy Ewert, NEWLT program coordinator, newert@austin.utexas.edu

New Organization: SAGE (Students’ Association for Gender Studies Engagement)

The Center for Women's & Gender Studies will launch an initiative in Spring 2016 for undergraduates who engage in the field of feminist and gender studies. The newly created organization, Students’ Association for Gender Studies Engagement (SAGE), will provide an outlet and support system for undergraduates and create opportunities to enhance camaraderie, leadership, professional and academic development, networking, service learning, and activism.

SAGE will connect Women's & Gender Studies majors and other undergraduates from across campus who share an interest in research and activism about social justice. A robust social media component will help foster these connections. SAGE activities will be student-driven, but based on a set of organizational guidelines, objectives and goals developed by two graduate facilitators, Briana Barner and Helen Hicks, who are students in the master's program in Women's & Gender Studies. Josephine Lawson, an undergraduate in Women's & Gender Studies, is providing assistance in developing SAGE. For more information on SAGE, please contact Nancy Ewert at newert@austin.utexas.edu.
Sept. 21: Maggie Nelson Reading from ‘The Argonauts’

Dr. Maggie Nelson, director of the MFA Creative Writing Program at California Institute for the Arts, read from her book “The Argonauts” (GraywolfPress, 2015) and discussed questions of genre and gender with CWGS Core Faculty Ann Cvetkovich (English). The book, a genre-bending memoir and work of “autotheory” has a romance at its center: the story of Nelson’s relationship with artist Harry Dodge. Nelson is the author of nine books of poetry and prose. She has been on the faculty of the School of Critical Studies at California Institute for the Arts since 2005.

Sponsored by the LGBTQ/Sexualities Research Cluster, Center for Women’s & Gender Studies, Department of English, and New Writer’s Program.

MIGHTY REAL The Politics of Queer Nightlife Artist/Speaker Series

Open to the university and Austin communities, this four-part Fall 2015 series invites musicians, entertainers, DJ, and organizers working in queer nightlife spaces to offer their perspectives on politics, performance, and labor. Events began in September and have offered perspectives from those working on the ground and providing a nuanced understanding of nightlife as a space of political action. MIGHTY REAL The Politics of Queer Nightlife is organized by Dr. Kareem Khubchandani, 2014-2016 Embrey Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow in Women’s and Gender Studies.

9/15: Como La Danceflor: Artist Talk, Music Set, and Interview with AB Soto, visual/performance artist and musician, and followed by a conversation with local activist Jesus Valles, and CWGS Core Faculty Julie Minich (English; MALS; CWGS), and Laura Gutierrez (Theatre & Dance);

10/8: Everything is Austin: A Roundtable with Nightlife Artists BLXPLTN, House of Shakur, Body Rock ATX, Queer Qumbia, The Glitoris, & DJ Boyfriends;

10/15 : Salaam E Ishq: Artist Talk, DJ Set, and Interview with DJ Rekha, a producer, curator and educator based in New York City. She is the founder of the Basement Bhangra™, Bollywood Disco and co-founder of Mutiny Club nights.

12/4: SISSY THAT TALK: A Graduate Symposium (of Sorts). Students in Khubchandani’s Queer Nightlife graduate seminar will present artworks, soundscapes, visual works, and performances they have developed through their in-class research.

Sponsored by the Center for Women’s & Gender Studies. Co-sponsored by The South Asia Institute; Department of English; Center for Asian American Studies; Harry Ransom Center; Radio, Television, Film Department; Division of Diversity and Community Engagement; Teresa Lozano Long Institute for Latin American Studies; Department of Mexican and Latina/o Studies; Department of American Studies; LGBTQ Research Cluster; the Humanities Institute, through the Holloway Centennial Lectureship in Liberal Arts; and the Performance as Public Practice Program.
On October 21, during Breast Cancer Awareness month, the Center for Women’s & Gender Studies sponsored a film screening and panel discussion of “Foreign Puzzle.” The film’s director, university alumna Chithra Jeyaram, and protagonist, Sharon Marroquín, were present to introduce the intimate documentary that captures Marroquín’s journey. For 18 months, the film followed the struggles of Marroquín, an accomplished choreographer and modern dancer in Austin, as she juggled the roles of a recently divorced parent (of a six-year-old) and primary school teacher amidst intensive treatments for breast cancer.

Community guests Ray Anne Evans, executive director of Breast Cancer Resource Centers of Texas, and Chandini Portteus, president and CEO of LIVESTRONG Foundation, joined Dr. Barbara Jones, assistant dean for health affairs, School of Social Work, on the panel. Dr. Noël Busch-Armendariz, associate dean for research, School of Social Work, served as panel moderator. Jones and Busch-Armendariz are members of the CWGS Core Faculty.

Panelists discussed with the audience many of the issues raised in “Foreign Puzzle” related to breast cancer diagnosis, survivorship, and using dance as a way to heal. Portteus talked about the importance of the patient’s ability to navigate daily issues—financial worries, caring for children—while trying to manage logistics and access resources and emotional support. Jones noted that there is not enough psychosocial support for children and families during illness and more must be done to understand the needs of long-term survivors. Health disparities resulting from socio-economic and racial inequities must also be addressed. Evans discussed the high mortality rates among African American women with breast cancer and attributed this, in part, to late initial screenings and diagnosis of the disease. Evans said another critical gap is found in the only 7% of national research funding provided to find a cure for Stage 4 breast cancer that claims 40,000 deaths annually, a rate unchanged since 1990.

The event was held as part of the Center’s 2015-2016 annual theme on Gender, Race, Sex and Health and was co-sponsored by: the Department of Sociology, College of Liberal Arts; Department of Radio-Television-Film, Moody College of Communication; Institute for Collaborative Health Research and Practice, School of Social Work.

The Center for Women’s & Gender Studies participated in tabling at the DDCE Student Diversity Welcome Event sponsored by Queer People of Color and Allies at the Gregory Plaza Sept. 5. The event welcomed incoming students and provided information about LGBT resources on campus and within the Austin community while highlighting Queer culture through song, dance and poetry. QPOCA contributes to the self-empowerment and visibility of people of color, and queer people and their communities at UT. They aim to address stereotypes around campus and the Austin community by raising awareness and offering resources for queer students, students of color, and allies.
CWGS Faculty Fellows Named for 2015-2016

We are pleased to present our 2015-2016 CWGS Faculty Fellows, seven outstanding young scholars from across the university who are working in gender studies. CWGS offers the university-wide Faculty Development Program each year, with support from the Provost’s Office. The Faculty Fellows will make presentations in a speaker series held in the fall and spring semesters.

LaQuetta Carpenter, Lecturer
Department of Theatre & Dance
College of Fine Arts

Ms. Conceived Shakespeare
LaQuetta Carpenter is a classically trained professional actor and acting instructor. She began working professionally at Phoenix Theatre in the world premiere of Alan J. Prewitt’s “The Three Bears,” going on to apprentice and intern in the acting company of the Tony Award-winning Utah Shakespeare Festival. LaQuetta earned both a Master of Fine Arts in Acting from Penn State University and a Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies in theatre and dance from Southern Utah University, as well as training at Chicago’s Remy Bumppo Theatre and in Toronto with the Professional Actor’s Lab.

Dr. Gina Chen, Assistant Professor
School of Journalism
Moody College of Communication

A Gendered Digital Sphere
Gina Chen earned her Ph.D. in Mass Communications from the Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University after a 20-year career as a newspaper and online journalist. Her research focuses on online interaction and how it influences social, civic, and political engagement. She is particularly interested in how gender intersects in this process and how women navigate the digital sphere.

Dr. Rachel González-Martin, Assistant Professor
Mexican American and Latino/a Studies
College of Liberal Arts

Visualizing a Middle-Class Latina: Quinceañeras and Cultural Economies of Practice
Rachel González-Martin is an anthropological folklorist whose work focuses on the cultural practices of contemporary U.S. Latina/o communities. Her current book project investigates the secular influences on quinceañera coming-of-age celebrations of millennial Latinas as ways of creating a unique Latina/o middle-class style.

Dr. Lauren Jae Gutterman, Assistant Professor
Department of American Studies
College of Liberal Arts

“Will the Real Lesbian Please Stand Up?” The Moral Imperatives of Lesbian Feminism
Lauren Gutterman holds a PhD in History from New York University and recently completed a postdoctoral fellowship in the Society of Fellows at the University of Michigan. Her writing has been published in Gender & History, the Journal of Social History, The Public Historian and Transformations: The Journal of Inclusive Scholarship and Pedagogy.

Continued on next page.
**Spring 2016 Faculty Development Program Speaker Series Schedule**

**FEBRUARY 10, 2016**  
Suzanne Scott  
Dept. of Radio-Television-Film  
*To Squee, or Not to Squee: Spreadable Misogyny and the “Fake Geek Girl”*

**FEBRUARY 24, 2016**  
Gina Chen  
School of Journalism  
*A Gendered Digital Sphere*

**MARCH 9, 2016**  
LaQuetta Carpenter  
Dept. of Theatre and Dance  
*Ms. Conceived Shakespeare*

**MARCH 23, 2016**  
Lauren Gutterman  
Dept. of American Studies  
*“Will the Real Lesbian Please Stand Up?” The Moral Imperatives of Lesbian Feminism*
Welcome to the incoming class of WGS MA students

Lindsey Davis is from southern California and graduated from Cal Poly Pomona with a Bachelor’s degree in Gender, Ethnicity, and Multicultural Studies as well as a minor in Regenerative Studies. During previous research, Lindsey focused on grassroots food justice activism and was inspired by decolonial research methods. They would like to continue learning about decolonization and marginalized epistemologies at UT Austin. Lindsey’s current research interests include social justice organizing, the intersections of identity, and media representation. Lindsey’s academic interests include women of color feminisms, queer theory, spiritual activism, and health justice.

Abe (or Abbie) Heath received their BA from Michigan State University, graduating with a dual major in Gender Studies, with a LGBT specialization, and Arts and Humanities, where they were a part of a residential college that focused on ethics, race, and civic engagement. Abe is pursuing a dual Masters in Archiving and Gender Studies in the hopes of focusing on identity-based archiving practices as a community resource. Coming from a DIY organizing background, Abe is interested in archiving the underrepresented spaces and populations, infiltrating archives and libraries with non-normative and inclusive narratives of the everyday, focusing specifically on queer, non-gender conforming, and POC narratives.

Candice Lyons was born and raised in East Texas, graduating with honors from Longview High School in 2008. She went on to earn a B.A. in Philosophy from The University of Texas at Austin, before returning to her hometown to teach 7th grade English Language Arts at a local middle school. During her time as a secondary educator, Lyons remained active in her community. Spurred by her personal and academic interests in LGBT activism, Lyons volunteered on the planning committee of one of Longview’s very first pride festivals, along with contributing to public outreach efforts designed to educate locals on LGBT history and culture.

Sierra Salazar was born and raised deep in the heart of the Rio Grande Valley. She received her B.A. in psychology from The University of Texas at San Antonio with a minor in Women’s Studies. During her undergraduate career, she became interested in exploring alternatives to standard verbal counseling as well as fleshing out her analyses on the aftermath of sexually traumatic experiences on an individual’s cognitive state and physical behavior. Sierra’s academic interests include sexuality studies, dance therapy, and learning the ways of curanderismo. She similarly enjoys live music, exploring cultural festivals, and cooking.

Georgia Shields grew up in Auburn, AL and attended Auburn University for two years as an English major. Following a five-year hiatus, she returned to school at Georgia State University in Atlanta to complete a Bachelor of Arts in sociology. At GSU, her research focused primarily on issues surrounding sexuality education in American public schools. As a student in GWB-era Alabama, Georgia was a recipient of federally funded abstinence-only sex education. The melodrama, absurdity, and misinformation therein prompted her ongoing interest in the culturally constructed beliefs held by US society with regard to adolescent agency and sexualities.

Shane Stringfellow received his B.A. in Feminist Studies and Psychology from the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB). He graduated with distinction in the major of Feminist Studies for completing an honors thesis titled “(Re)Conceptualizing Masculinity: Gender Labor and Affect in Trans-masculine Communities.” His honors thesis builds upon the work of feminist scholar Jane Ward by analyzing how ‘gender labor’ (a form of intimate labor that provides gender affirmation) circulates in trans masculine communities. He is interested in the ways in which hegemonic masculinity is both resisted and reproduced by trans masculine individuals, and how we might move toward queering masculinity.
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