gendermatters
2015-2016

Mission
The mission of the Center for Women's & Gender Studies (CWGS) 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.

2016 NEW Leadership Texas (See Page 14) Photo credit: Hannah Whisenant
Recent multiple acts of gender and racial violence that have directly impacted our campus community—exacerbated by the implementation of Campus Carry on August 1st—reminds us once again of the crucial importance of the intellectual, emotional and pedagogical work of the Center for Women’s & Gender Studies. Impossible to quantify by metrics addressing only numerical and economic outcomes, the daily labor of our Core and Affiliated Faculty and those organizations to which they lend support is often invisible.

Even more at risk of being discounted, of course, are those whose very safety and well being are often the target of this hatred and violence. Only in moments of crisis does the focus turn to the marginalized—but then all too briefly and in such ways that those who are suffering are required to be responsible for alleviating their own pain.

The letter sent by the Pride & Equity Faculty/Staff Association (PEFSA) to the UT campus community after the June 12th Orlando murders reminds us that: “creating a culture of care requires an investment from all campus constituents, not just those being marginalized.” The Center for Women’s & Gender Studies will continue to educate and to advocate for a community free of violence and intimidation. As always, we remain most grateful to the students, faculty, staff and community allies who stand with us.

Susan Sage Heinzelman
Director, Center for Women’s & Gender Studies

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Marcela Lagarde y de los Ríos has devoted her life’s work to feminist scholarship and action. As one of Mexico’s foremost feminist thinkers, she has written extensively on gender violence. Trained as an anthropologist, the former longtime professor at Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) has also been a leader in the push toward legislative responses to these crimes.

Lagarde propelled the use of the Spanish-language concept “feminicidio” in response to the wave of murders of women and girls in Cuidad Juárez, which began in the early 1990s. Feminicide, as an extension of the English “femicide,” denotes the connection between murder and gender with an added dimension: state complicity in the acceptance of this crime by virtue of governmental and judicial inaction toward the perpetrators.

Now, Lagarde’s work and name have become the inspiration for the Marcela Lagarde y de los Ríos Cátedra (Program) for the Study of Gender Violence. The Cátedra will be formed by a network of six universities—The University of Texas at Austin, represented by the Center for Women’s & Gender Studies, LLILAS Benson Latin America Studies and Collections, UT El Paso, National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), Autonomous University of Juárez, Center for Research and Advanced Studies in Social Anthropology (CIESAS), Autonomous University of Aguascalientes—and one research center, Fundación Guatemala. Scholars from these institutions will work together both to study and to act on the roots of, and remedies for, gender violence in the Americas.

Some of the groundwork for the Cátedra was laid during the January 2016 visit of a UT Austin delegation to Mexico City that included President Gregory Fenves. This promising meeting was followed by the signing of a Letter of Intent on March 8, 2016, by Judith Langlois, executive vice president and provost ad interim for UT Austin; Charles R. Hale, director of LLILAS Benson; and Sue Heinzelman, director of CWGS. This letter establishes a commitment to work closely with the Center for Interdisciplinary Research in Sciences and Humanities of Mexico’s National Autonomous University (UNAM), as well as the other five universities, to put plans for the Cátedra into practice.

The auspicious occasion for the signing was a day-long symposium, “International Women’s Day and Feminism in Contemporary Mexico,” sponsored by the Center for Women’s & Gender Studies and LLILAS Benson. The symposium featured a keynote address by Lagarde and presentations on sexual and gender-based violence in the Americas by scholars from UT Austin and other future Cátedra partners. The goal of the Cátedra is to sponsor similar gatherings once a semester in each of the other six locales, returning to Austin three years hence.

A Conversation with Marcela Lagarde

Speaking one-on-one about her hopes for Mexico, for the rest of the world, and her strategy for pursuing justice and social change, Marcela Lagarde focused on several paths she considers crucial. She views gender violence within the philosophical paradigm of human rights, saying that a major shift in this paradigm carries the hope of eradicating violence against women.

When asked what can be done to turn scholarly study of gender violence into action, she points to Mexico’s Ley General de Acceso de las Mujeres a Una Vida Libre de Violencia (General Law for Women’s Access to a Life Free of Violence, 2007), which she was instrumental in helping to create. “We must try to build a conscience of the State,”
Lagarde says. For while over 30 laws have been created in Mexico to address violence against women, “not all judges understand and apply the law.”

On the level of culture and society, Lagarde believes “we must take apart the culture [of violence] beginning with adults, and combat the normalization” of gender violence. This necessitates “work on multiple levels—political, worldwide—to reeducate all governments.”

Sustainable human development—involving a realistic recognition of the roots of gender violence and a reeducation of both those who govern and society at large—is another theme that Lagarde emphasizes. She cites Northern Europe and Canada as places where democracy and development have played a role in advances in equality and cultural change.

Lagarde warns “there are no magical solutions.” In fact, in Mexico societal violence has risen. Yet she is heartened by movements to hold the state accountable, and by social activists: “There are groups who are trying to advance the country, and this is what I long for.”

Story by Susanna Sharp, Communications Coordinator, LLILAS

Signing the Letter of Intent - Charles Hale, Susan Heinzelman, and Judith Langlois

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2015-2016 Faculty Development Program

The Faculty Development Program is designed to assist in recruitment, retention and promotion of new faculty members whose scholarship and teaching focuses on gender studies. CWGS offers support of various kinds, including research funds. Our goal is to welcome, inform, and support our new colleagues. Each faculty fellow presented a paper during the 2015-2016 FDP Speaker Series.

LaQuetta Carpenter
Dept. of Theatre and Dance, *Ms. Conceived Shakespeare*
LaQuetta teaches acting and actor movement, directs student productions and co-produces the Cohen New Works Festival. She also teaches Meisner-based Practical Aesthetics for Brock Allen Casting and is an Artistic Associate at Southwest Shakespeare Company.

Gina Chen
School of Journalism, *A Gendered Digital Sphere*
Gina’s 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.

Rachel González-Martin
Dept. of Mexican American & Latina/o Studies, *Visualizing a Middle-Class Latina: Quinceañeras and Cultural Economies of Practice*
Rachel 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.
Lauren Gutterman
Dept. of American Studies, “Will the Real Lesbian Please Stand Up?” The Moral Imperatives of Lesbian Feminism
Lauren’s writing has been published in Gender & History, the Journal of Social History, The Public Historian and Transformations: The Journal of Inclusive Scholarship and Pedagogy. She is currently revising her book manuscript “Her Neighbor’s Wife: A History of Lesbian Desire within Marriage”, under contract with the University of Pennsylvania Press.

Courtney Handman
Dept. of Anthropology, Walk like a Christian: Gender and Space in Rural Papua New Guinea
Courtney’s work is concerned with the instabilities and conflicts within Pentecostal Christian social formations in the global south. She has been conducting field research in Papua New Guinea since 2005, where she has examined the ways in which Bible translation projects have been the institutional and ideological sites for local Christians to critique what has come to be called “traditional culture.”

Julie Minich
Dept. of English and Mexican American & Latina/o Studies, Panza Revolution: Chicana Fat Aesthetics

Suzanne Scott
Dept. of Radio-Television-Film, To Squee, or Not to Squee: Spreadable Misogyny and the “Fake Geek Girl”
Suzanne is teaching courses on gender and fan culture, digital media, transmedia storytelling, and video games. Her work has appeared in Transformative Works and Cultures, New Media & Society, and Cinema Journal, in addition to collections such as “How to Watch Television” and “The Participatory Cultures Handbook.”

Meet the CWGS Librarian
Gina Bastone came to UT from Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts, where she was an Academic Outreach Librarian and worked with Brandeis’s Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies program. She previously worked for the UT Law School’s Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice, where she created a website featuring the digitized papers of activist/politician Sissy Farenthold. She received her MS at UT’s School of Information in 2011 and her BA in English at Berry College in Georgia.
CWGS has created a series of research clusters in specific subject areas. Through these research clusters and the work of various other schools, colleges, and research centers, we promote faculty research collaboration and interaction with undergraduates and graduates. Bringing together scholars trained in different methodologies and disciplinary traditions around a common theme, interdisciplinary research promises new opportunities for innovation and insight.

**Gender, Race, Sex and Health**

This research cluster is intended to promote interdisciplinary research on issues of women’s and men’s health and the relationships between race, sex, gender and health. The cluster will promote research being undertaken by UT Austin faculty from different disciplines, including but not limited to history, social work, nursing and medicine. Research methods include qualitative and quantitative approaches. In addition, the cluster emphasizes collaboration between communities within and outside of the university, such as the Dell Medical Center, the Waggoner Center, Toxicology Training Center, the Institute on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault, SafePlace, Planned Parenthood, and Jane’s Due Process.

**LGBTQ/Sexualities**

Issues such as same-sex marriage, gays in the military, and transgender visibility have drawn public attention to LGBTQ cultures. The scholarly study of sexuality -- its history, meanings, and expression -- is a crucial tool for evaluating these debates. How have views about “normal” and “aberrant” sexual expression changed over time? How do views differ across the globe and within different local communities? How do other social identities, such as race, gender, and gender expression, class, ability, and citizenship, shape our experience of sexual orientation? The field of LGBTQ/Sexuality Studies has been rapidly expanding over the past 20 years as the result of the expansion of Women’s and Gender Studies and the need to separate gender and sexuality as categories of analysis. “Queer theory” has had a huge impact on cultural studies, area studies, and interdisciplinary scholarship.

**Gender, Childhood, and Youth**

This research cluster focuses on gender, childhood and youth from an interdisciplinary perspective. We consider issues such as gender socialization through parenting, education, literature, and media; gendered images of childhood and youth in media and popular culture; youth media production; children’s and teenagers’ media consumption and fandom; gender-specific children’s organizations, such as the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts; self-esteem and body image in children and youth; childhood and adolescent sexuality; gendered play; child and teenage celebrities; transnational and comparative girls’ and boys’ cultures; minority and immigrant children and youth within the United States (considered from a gendered perspective); public policy, gender and children; queer, transgender, and intersexed children; gendered histories and theories of childhood and youth; and other related themes as participants raise them.

**Breast Decisions: 3-D modeling-based decision support for optimizing quality of life following breast reconstruction, a Gender, Race, Sex, and Health event.**

**The Amazon Project: Race, Coalition Politics, and Lesbian Musical Culture, a talk by Judith Casselberry, sponsored by the LGBTQ/Sexualities Research Cluster.**

**Framing the Possibilities of Black Childhood in Photographic Books and Comics, a Gender, Childhood, and Youth event.**

Center for Women’s & Gender Studies
The Black Feminist Research Collective is a group of scholars in the Center for Women & Gender Studies, whose intellectual and political work engages issues of race, gender, and sexuality through the lens of Black feminist theory. This collaboration supports individual and collective work located at the intersection of multiple disciplinary approaches to Black Feminist Studies, including historiography, literary studies, performance studies, and cultural studies. By working collectively in research, publication, and programming, the hope is to support and highlight the work of numerous CWGS faculty doing cutting edge work in Black Feminist Studies, so drawing national attention to the University of Texas as a leader in this field.


The Center for Women’s & Gender Studies has awarded four Core Faculty Research Grants to support scholarly activities that promote social justice in women, gender and/or sexuality studies with special emphasis on this year’s annual theme: Gender, Race, Sex and Health. The 2016 CWGS Core Faculty Research Grant recipients will each share their research findings in a public forum to be determined in consultation with CWGS in the 2016-2017 academic year.

Dr. Mary Beltrán
Associate Professor, Radio TV Film
Teens, Telenovelas, and Latina/o Television Futures

Dr. Mary Angela Bock
Assistant Professor, Journalism
News as Culture: Representations and Social Inequality

Dr. Patricia Somers
Associate Professor, Educational Administration
Campus Carry, Gender, Race, and Ethnicity: Perspectives from Self-determination Theory

Dr. Nancy Stalker
Associate Professor, Asian Studies

Kristen Hogan (Educational Coordinator, Gender and Sexuality Center) The Feminist Bookstore Movement: Lesbian Antiracism & Feminist Accountability” (Duke University Press, Apr. 2016)


Student and Faculty Awards

Student and faculty excellence during the 2015-2016 academic year were recognized at the Center for Women's & Gender Studies Annual Spring Awards Reception. The following awards and recipients were announced:

Cynthia Walker Peña Scholarship: **Marilyn Nicole Adams** (BA: Women’s and Gender Studies & Psychology)

Ellen Clarke Temple Award in the Study of Women in History: **Sierra Salazar** (MA: Women’s and Gender Studies). Title: *Storefront Speculations: Examining the Specter of Community Healing Spaces*. Supervisor: Dr. Rachel V. González-Martin (Mexican American & Latina/o Studies)

Women’s and Gender Studies Dissertation Fellowship: **Amina Riad Zarrugh** (Sociology). Title: *Only God Knows: The Emergence of a Family Movement Against State Violence in Libya*. Supervisor: Dr. Mounira Charrad (Sociology)

Women’s and Gender Studies MA Thesis Award: **Briana Barner**. Title: *The Creative (& Magical) Possibilities of Digital Black Girlhood*. Supervisor: Dr. Mary Beltrán (Radio-Television- Film)

Lucia, John, and Melissa Gilbert Teaching Excellence Award in Women’s and Gender Studies: **Dr. Matt Richardson** (English, African and African Diaspora Studies, Women’s and Gender Studies)

Contributor of the Year: **Dr. Rebecca “Becky” Bigler** (Psychology)

Director Sue Heinzelman also recognized the Spring 2016 recipients of the following degree, certificate and portfolio programs in the Center for Women’s & Gender Studies: WGS BA, Undergraduate LGBTQ/ Sexualities Studies Certificate; WGS MA, WGS MA/MSIS, and WGS Graduate Portfolio Program.
Now in its 23rd year, the Emerging Scholarship in Women’s & Gender Studies Graduate Student Conference presented: (Un)soundness of Being: Feminist Approaches to Health and Healing on Wednesday, March 23, 2016, in the SAC. Panels were held throughout the day.

A lunch and keynote was held in the SAC North Ballroom, “Self-care as Warfare: Living in Bodies Under Surveillance” presented by Dr. Larissa M. Mercado-López, Women’s Studies Program, Fresno State University, with an introduction by CWGS Core Faculty Dr. Julie Minich (English and Mexican American & Latina/o Studies). The graduate student committee organizing the 2016 conference was chaired by WGS MA student Sierra Salazar.

What does it mean to be in “good” or “bad” health? In what ways/for whom is “good” health accessible? How do constructions of knowledge around health, care, and healing inform identities and relationships? How do we as individuals, patients, caregivers, and community members navigate the moral, cultural, and historical dynamics of health, well-being, disease, and trauma? Papers that address these and other questions using the lenses of gender, race, sexuality, ability, performance or other feminist, womanist, queer or anti-racist methodologies will be presented.

The 2016 conference was co-sponsored by: Department of African and African Diaspora Studies, Department of Anthropology, Department of History, Department of Mexican American and Latina/o Studies, Center for Mexican American Studies, Warfield Center for African and African American Studies, Graduate Student Assembly (GSA), and University Co-Op Board of Directors.

Jackie Salcedo, Academic Advisor at CWGS wins the James W. Vick Award

The Texas Exes James W. Vick Award for Academic Advising recognizes individuals who improve students’ overall experience at The University of Texas at Austin through outstanding advising. Each year, five winners are awarded $500 and were recognized with an awards ceremony in March. The nomination and selection process is done solely by students.

This year, Jackie Salcedo was one of the five who won this prestigious award. “ Compassionate,” “ altruistic,” proactive,” “ selfless.” These are a few of the words students use to describe academic advisor Jackie Salcedo. At the Center for Women’s & Gender Studies, she is an especially strong advocate for women, students of color, first-generation college students, and LGBT students.
Congratulations to the Women’s and Gender Studies Class of 2016

Bachelor of Arts Degree:

Marilyn Nicole Adams
Katelyn Danielle Burran
Caitlyn Jo Ann Du Bose,
Andy Escobar
Carmen Eliza Jimenez,
Alice Thomas Lazare
Anikka Dakota McMah Lekven
Elexia Ann Lowe
Blanca Mercedes Murillo
Heather Annalee Norman
Melissa Diane Saenz
Hannah Margaret Shepherd
Kimberley Auriol Winder

Master of Arts Degree:


Amanda Frances Brown, Indigenizing Cyberspace: The Possibilities Of New Media Technologies For Indigenous Peoples.

Carrie Danielle Gavit, U.S. Slaughterhouse Industry: Masculinity, Violence, And A Call For Feminist Intervention.

Helen Logan Hicks, Reconciling Contradictory Feminism Law & Order: Special Victims Unit And The Queers Who Love It.


Garrett Michael Sawyer, Exploring Possibilities For LGBT Youth Programming In Religious Spaces: A Study Of The Episcopal Church.

Alana Victoria Varner, Archival Landscapes: Crossing Of Theory And Practice In Institutional Repositories.
Madyson Crawford is a graduate of Spelman College, an all women’s historically black college in Atlanta, GA. She earned her degree in Comparative Women’s Studies with a concentration in activism. During her time at Spelman, she participated in various actions around labor, reproductive justice, and mass incarceration, all of which she is passionate about and will incorporate into her research. She is currently working on a zine titled The Glass Between Us, a project that will focus on the experiences of children with parents and guardians in prison. Her research will expand on mass incarceration and familial life. She is from Houston, Texas and she enjoys tea, books, picnics, and conferences. Madyson LOVES her two little sisters who encourage her to do any and everything.

Anushka Jasraj was born and brought up in Mumbai, India. She moved to New York in 2008 to pursue a BFA in Film Production at NYU, and ended up minoring in creative writing. She then moved to Texas to pursue a MFA in Fiction from the New Writers Project at UT-Austin. After graduating in 2013, she worked as a program assistant at UT-Austin’s Humanities Institute. Most recently she was a writing fellow at the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, Massachusetts. Her research interests include women’s diaries, and illness narratives. She is also currently obsessed with Maggie Nelson, Emily Dickinson, and feminist tarot cards.

Kate Orazem received a Bachelor of Arts in History from Yale University in 2012, where her research focused on the intersections of gender, race, and power in the East African colonial context. After graduation, she received a Charles P. Howland fellowship to work for RefugePoint, a refugee resettlement nonprofit in Nairobi, Kenya. She moved to Austin in 2013 and currently works at The Archives of the Episcopal Church. She hopes to facilitate the telling of histories that center marginalized voices while also preserving for future study new and radically democratized forms of expression and protest that take place in digital spaces.

Jowell Padro is a graduate of SUNY Binghamton. He earned degrees in Latin American & Caribbean Area Studies and Comparative Literature. During his time at SUNY Binghamton, Jowell was head chef of the Binghamton Food Co-Op, and President of Students for Ethical Living and Food (S.E.L.F.), a student organization concerned with sustainable agriculture, local food, and environmental racism. He also wrote for La Respuesta Magazine – a Puerto Rican diasporic magazine based in Chicago – under the column “Queer Platano”. Jowell is interested in gender embodiment, racialized gender, transgender studies, decoloniality, and feminisms of color.

Continued on next page.
Deidre Rodríguez was born in Mexico City. After receiving her B.A. in Latin American Studies from Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México she went on to work in the non-profit sector, focusing particularly on the advancement of human rights. She was Program Officer at Semillas, Mexico’s largest women’s fund, and later on became Programs Coordinator at sivam, an organization focused on funding young artists and building new audiences for the democratization of the arts in Mexico. Her research interests include women’s rights in developing countries, subaltern and postcolonial perspectives in Latin America, the politics of desire, sexuality, and patriarchal control over women’s bodies, the gendered division of work, more specifically the role of working women in peripheral capitalism, and women’s labor rights, focusing on maquila workers, sex workers, and domestic workers.

La’Kayla Williams is a recent graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, with a Bachelor of Arts in African & African Diaspora Studies and a Bachelor of Science in Radio-Television-Film. Born in Clarksdale, Mississippi, she was raised in Ruleville, Mississippi, home of Civil Rights Activist Fannie Lou Hamer. At the age of six she moved with her single mother from the rural Delta to the big city of Houston, Texas. Always a connoisseur of rap music, her complicated relationship with hip-hop has served to shape her interests in Black Feminism, southern hip-hop, and presentations of Black womanhood in rap media. Kayla is the newly minted Editor-In-Chief of HUEston Magazine, an up and coming culture guide for Black women in her home city of Houston. In graduate school her research will take a radical Black feminist perspective on the construction of Black women’s sexuality in hip-hop culture and media.

SAGE: Students’ Association for Gender Engagement

The Students’ Association for Gender Studies Engagement (SAGE) provides a gathering place for the academic gender studies community here at UT Austin. SAGE welcomes undergraduate students that want a casual space outside of the classroom to discuss issues that come up in their coursework as well as their current research.

SAGE also offers a welcoming space for those students not yet involved with the Center for Women’s & Gender Studies (CWGS) but who are interested in engaging in related work. Meeting times and programming will be posted throughout the year. SAGE is open to all WGS majors, minors, and certificate students, as well as any undergraduate students interested in gender issues.

Contact Information/Social Media
Email: sageutexas@gmail.com
Facebook: facebook.com/SAGEUTAustin
Performing Justice Project

The Performing Justice Project (PJP) uses theatre and performance to engage young people in envisioning the creation of a more just society. Youth participants move through a process in which they reflect on, examine and interrogate their own embodied experiences of racism and sexism. Through this process, they devise and share original performance material that creates opportunity for dialogue with the goal of activating personal and community change. The Performing Justice Project relies on long-term partnerships between the Center for Women’s and Gender Studies at the University of Texas at Austin, the Embrey Family Foundation, and school and community-based collaborating sites. Performing Justice Project works with young people in diverse community and school sites to generate original performance that investigates racial and gender (in)justice.

PJP produced two workshops culminating in performances during the spring 2016 semester: On Friday, April 15, 2016 PJP presented “My Voice” at Eastside Memorial High School. “My Voice” is a performance of selected student work from Introduction to Theatre classes led by Malin Lindelow, Theatre Director, Eastside Memorial HS and Tamara Carroll, PJP Teaching Artist, MFA Candidate in Drama & Theatre for Youth & Communities, The University of Texas at Austin.

The performance at Hays County Juvenile Detention on Saturday, April 23, 2016 was titled “(I Am) More Than Society Thinks.” Throughout the twelve weeks, the young people grappled with a number of topics, including intersectionality, respectability politics and gender and sexual identity. Graduate student facilitators Briana Barner and Cortney McEniry helped the young people decide the original performance based on racial and gender injustice.

Established by J. Lindsey Embrey. The Embrey Family Foundation began in 2004 and continues to “cultivate human rights awareness and advance initiatives that challenge and embolden people to walk better in the world.”

The Free Minds Project

The Free Minds Project, partially supported by CWGS, provides Central Texas adults living on low to moderate incomes with a chance to fulfill their intellectual potential and to "jumpstart" their college education. In the Free Minds Project, students explore new ways of thinking about themselves and about their world by studying important works of literature, history, philosophy, and art. Founded in 2006 by the Humanities Institute, Free Minds has served seven classes of students as well as its more than 80 alumni and developed strong community partnerships with Austin Community College, Foundation Communities, Camp Fire USA, and others.

Free Minds is directed by Vive Griffith, who can be reached by phone at (512) 610-7961 or email at vive.griffith@foundcom.org.
In March, three students researched, wrote, and presented original scholarly papers at the CWGS Annual Emerging Scholarship in Women’s and Gender Studies Conference. Presenters and paper topics included: Ashley Berry, *Vulnerability: Innovation from the Office to the Classroom*; Brandilyn Monene, *Tracing the Definition of Medical Consent and Competency: An Exploration into the Amount of Coverage it Provides to the Mental Health Community*; and Gina Mia Okada, *Safety v. Segregation? Public Transportation Around the World*.

Five INSPIRE participants and a facilitator attended the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders in Maryland and Washington, DC in June. 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.

This year’s service project involved volunteering and working with staff at Dell Medical Center. The senior’s mentoring project paired the senior class with the sophomore class as they helped work on their service project and imparted sage advice on how to survive college.

INSPIRE supports students in the classroom, on campus, and in community leadership roles. Students develop skills in critical thinking, public presentation, group motivation, and negotiation in diverse social settings. The program offers young women opportunities to build leadership skills through the experiences of successful female mentors, engaging in community service opportunities, and working with other young women in environments that foster support and diverse, interdisciplinary perspectives.

Additional activities involving INSPIRE participants in 2015-2016 included:
- A breakfast in the CWGS offices to welcome back the returning and new INSPIRE students,
- A fall retreat,
- An overnight camping trip to Lake Georgetown,
- And an End-of-Year Celebration.

INSPIRE is proud to announce the 2016 graduates: Mia Ferguson (Biology), Carmen Jimenez (Women’s & Gender Studies), Jamilla Karemo (Accounting), Anvita Jain (Biomedical Engineering), Suchi Sundaram (International Relations and Global Studies), Megan Maldonado (Sociology), Natalia Gonzalez (English), Marilyn Adams (Psychology), and Ana Leal (Advertising).

Special thanks to the Mary Braunagel-Brown Excellence Fund for Young Women’s Leadership, the Jody Conradt Endowed Excellence Fund, and all the wonderful donors who support INSPIRE.
From June 2-7, 2016, Texas women undergraduates representing 21 universities and colleges participated in NEW Leadership™ Texas (NEWLT). The annual 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: The Honorable Harriet O’Neill, Justice (Ret.); Supreme Court of Texas; The Honorable Christi Craddick, Railroad Commissioner; The Honorable Delia Garza, Austin City Council Member; The Honorable Diana Maldonado, Former State Representative; The Honorable Elliott Naishtat, Texas State Representative; and Gina Hinajosa, Candidate for Texas State Rep (District 49).

We were honored to have Catherine “Kiki” McLean, director of the Walton Family Political and Communications Office, give the keynote address. She discussed the importance of women going into public service, gave important advice, and reflected on her amazing career. Kiki is a veteran of six presidential campaigns, including the historic 1992 Clinton-Gore campaign. She served as senior advisor to the Hillary Clinton for President Campaign in 2008, and has served as spokesperson and led communications for Vice President Al Gore, Senator Joe Lieberman, the Democratic National Committee and others.

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 Whitney Harp, State Program Manager, IGNITE Texas; Kimberly Inez McGuire, Program Director at ConwayStrategic; and Jennifer Kim, Financial Advisor, Voya Financial and Former City Council Member.

NEW Leadership™ Texas is made possible, in part, with support from the Embrey Family Foundation, Alice Kleberg Reynolds Foundation, LBJ School of Public Affairs, H-E-B, and Mr. Gatti’s Pizza and all the donors who support NEW Leadership™ Texas.

“Participating in NEWLT has made me truly believe that running for office and leading in politics is truly attainable. Hearing from all of the speakers, how they reached where they are, and the unique paths they took, has given me confidence at this stage in my life. There are so many uncertainties about my future, but now I know that running for office and leading in politics is an achievable goal.”

-2016 Participant
Support our Programs

Your gifts to the Center for Women’s & Gender Studies help create committed communities that address the challenges faced in the areas of gender, sexuality, diversity, and equity. Gifts designated to the Center for Women's & Gender Studies help preserve and enhance programming, course development, endowments and support community outreach initiatives.

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