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CENTER FOR WOMEN’S & GENDER STUDIES

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Cover Photos: Clockwise from top left: Dr. Sharmila Rudrappa at the 2017 Annual CWGS Awards Reception, Sophomore cohort of INSPIRE, NEW Leadership Texas participants at the Texas State Capitol, Casey Camp-Horinek, a Ponca Native rights activist, environmentalist and actress speaking at the Rachel Vincent Book Talk, Sabra Moore at An OPENINGS Dialogue: Reading/ Slide Show/Discussion/ Book Signing, Dr. Rebecca Bigler at the January Women’s March in Washington, DC, and CWGS grad students at QPOCA tabling event.
2017 GRADUATES

Master of Arts Degree
Lindsey Davis, Challenges of White Anti-Racist Praxis
Candice Lyons, Nobody Knows But Jesus (And Miss Fanny): A Queer Reading of the U.S. Female Slave Archive
Hayley Morgenstern, Genealogies of Trauma: The Inheritance of Hysteria
Sierra Salazar-Zepeda, Emergent Ether: Investigating Healing Spaces in the Lower Rio Grande Valley
Giorgia Shields, ‘A DISEASE PLAGUING MEN ALL OVER THE GLOBE’: The Friend Zone as a Site of Compulsory Heterosexuality and Sexual Violence
Alana Victoria Varner, Archival Landscapes: Crossing Of Theory And Practice In Institutional Repositories.

Bachelors of Arts Degree:
Amadeus Miranda
Harita Nandivada
Jacob Stanley Kalbfleisch
Sneha Mehta
Ariel D. Smith
Javier Rivera
Katherine Elizabeth Dembny

LGBTQ/Sexualities Certificate
Jonathan Arevalo
Khyree Dean Davis
Marcus Hal Elliot
Emilia Garanzuay
Erika Y. Mercado

Graduate Portfolio
Anima Adjepong
Sara Auclair
Adam Aziz
Drea Brown
Shantel Gabrielle Buggs
Zoe Crabtree
Amy Kathleen Guenther
Lizeth Elizondo
Jenna N. Hanche
Stephanie Hotz
Janine Jones
Rebecca Anne Macmillan
Elissa Underwood Marek
Megan Tobias Neely
Brandon Robinson
Casey Sloan
Nicholas Spinelli
Laura Struve

ENROLLMENT

Undergraduate Majors
Summer 2016: 27 (major), 30 (major or profile)
Fall 2016: 61 (major), 83 (major or profile)
Spring 2017: 67 (major), 88 (major or profile)

Master’s Program
Fall 2015: 12
Spring 2016: 12

Portfolio Program
As of Fall 2016, there are 67 graduate students (50 Doctoral and 17 Masters level) enrolled in our Portfolio program, representing over 20 different fields of study.

CWGS MA and Portfolio Student Travel Awards
Jessica Goldstein-Kral
Anushka A Jasraj
Shehnaz Haqqani
Hayley Morgenstern
Sierra Salazar
FACULTY NEWS

This year, Dr. Erin Lentz is Public Voices Fellow for the Op-Ed project and wrote “In the fight against hunger, why don't we prioritize women?”, which has been posted in The Hill. The data are from field research this past summer with wonderful folks at Nijera Kori in Bangladesh and are part of a multi-year project on the Women’s Empowerment in Nutrition Index.

Two College of Liberal Arts faculty members recently received top national honors from the American Historical Association (AHA): Hina Azam, associate professor in Middle Eastern Studies, won the James Henry Breasted Prize for her book Sexual Violation in Islamic Law: Substance, Evidence, and Procedure (Cambridge Univ. Press, 2015). Ann Twinam, professor of Latin American History, won the Albert J. Beveridge Award for her book Purchasing Whiteness: Pardos, Mulattos, and the Quest for Social Mobility in the Spanish Indies (Stanford University Press, 2015).

COMMUNITY NEWS

Dr. Nancy Baker Jones, President of the Ruthe Winegarten Foundation, received the well-deserved honor of being named a Fellow of the Texas State Historical Association. Jones has been a fierce champion for Women in Texas History for decades and joins a stellar list of Texas history honorees holding this distinction. Congratulations to Nancy. If you haven’t read her recent article, “Making Texas Our Texas: The Emergence of Texas Women’s History, 1976–1990” in the Southwestern Historical Quarterly (Jan 2017), you should!

Congratulations to CWGS Community Advisory Board Member, Cynthia Levinson, on the publication of her new book, The Youngest Marcher: The Story of Audrey Faye Hendricks, a Young Civil Rights Activist. Nine-year-old Audrey Faye Hendricks, the youngest known child arrested for protesting in Birmingham, Alabama, 1963, was confident, bold and brave as can be. Hers is the remarkable and inspiring story of one child’s role in the Civil Rights Movement.

The Women’s March was a women-led movement providing intersectional education on a diverse range of issues and create entry points for new grassroots activists & organizers to engage in their local communities through trainings, outreach programs and events. The CWGS community attended women’s marches across the globe!

In Memoriam: Barbara Harlow, 1948-2017

Barbara Harlow, Louann and Larry Temple Centennial Professor of English Literature, Core Faculty with Women’s & Gender Studies, scholar and human rights activist, died Jan. 28 after a short battle with terminal cancer. Her fierce resistance to the multiple forms of social injustice was an inspiration to us all. She will be sorely missed but her vision of a more just world remains with us in the many students, colleagues, and activists she filled with hope for a better future.
STUDENT AND FACULTY AWARDS

At the Annual Spring Awards reception, CWGS recognized student and faculty excellence in the 2016-2017 academic year.

The following awards and recipients were announced at a reception held May 9 in the T-House Suite of the Texas Union:

Cynthia Walker Peña Scholarship: Jeanette Celine Pacheco, BA, Women’s and Gender Studies.

Lora Romero Memorial Graduate Award for Interdisciplinary Research in Race, Ethnicity and Gender: William Mosley. Title: Can the ATLien Speak? Gender, Race, and the Politics of Performance in Contemporary Hip-Hop

Women’s and Gender Studies Dissertation Fellowship: Brandon Andrew Robinson. Title: OUTcasts: LGBTQ Youth Homelessness in the Urban South, Supervisor: Dr. Mary Beltrán (Radio-Television-Film)

Women’s and Gender Studies MA Thesis Award: Hayley Morgenstern. Title: Genealogies of Trauma: The Inheritance of Hysteria, Supervisor: Dr. Ann Cvetkovich (English)

Lucia, John, and Melissa Gilbert Teaching Excellence Award in Women’s and Gender Studies: Julie A, Minich (English, MALS, Women’s & Gender Studies)

Also recognized were the Spring 2017 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.

Jeanette Celine Pacheco received the Cynthia Walker Peña Scholarship presented by Jackie Salcedo (WGS)

Hayley Morgenstern received the WGS MA Thesis Award presented by supervisor Dr. Ann Cvetkovich (English).

William Mosley received the Lora Romero Memorial Graduate Award, Presented by Dr. Caroline Faria (Geography) with Rachel V. González-Martin (Mexican American Studies)
**FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

The Center for Women’s & Gender Studies welcomed two New Faculty Development Program Fellows in 2016-2017. This program is designed to assist in recruitment, retention and promotion of new scholars in women’s and gender studies by providing support of various kinds, including mentors and research funding.

**Erin Lentz**

LBJ School of Public Affairs

*Complicating narratives of undernutrition*

Lentz is currently pursuing two parallel research agendas; she examines issues of food insecurity, US and international food aid and assistance polices, as well as the relationships among subjective wellbeing, community attributes, relative deprivation, and inequality in sub-Saharan Africa.

**Mary Bock**

School of Journalism

*We Haven’t Come a Long Way, Baby: Gendered Representations of Taboo, Violence and Attractiveness in the News*

Dr. Bock is a former journalist turned academic with an interest in the sociology of photographic practice, the relationship between words and images, and digital media.

**Mary Beltran**

Dept. of Radio-Television-Film

*Television Centering Latina Teens and Their Empowerment: The Anomaly of East Los High*

Dr. Beltran writes and teaches on Latina and Latino representation in U.S. film, television, and celebrity culture, on Latina/Latino media producers in the U.S., and on race, gender, class, and sexuality in the entertainment media.

**Liz Engelman**

Theatre and Dance

*Slowing Time, Enlarging Space: A Conversation*

Engelman has served as President, Board Chair and is a current Board Member of LMDA, Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas. She has written articles published in Theatre Topics and Theatre Forum.

**Pat Somers**

College of Education

*Women and Campus Carry*

100 faculty and staff women were interviewed at UT about campus carry using self-determination theory as a framework. Dr Somers presented their results and made recommendations to universities, administrators, faculty and staff members, and administrators. Pat Somers, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of Higher Education and the Campus Carry Research Team.

**CWGS FACULTY RESEARCH LECTURE SERIES**

The Center for Women’s & Gender Studies awards Core Faculty Research Grants to support scholarship that promotes social justice in women, gender and/or sexuality studies.

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EVENTS

- Faculty Development Program and CWGS Faculty Grant Research recipients presented 6 lectures throughout 2016-2017.
- Sponsored or co-sponsored 15 talks, lectures and presentations from UT and the community
- Sponsored or co-sponsored 7 book events, a film screening, and hosted a workshop, “Twerk the Inauguration: A Woman of Color Feminist Workshop” led by Shakia Williams on Jan. 20.
- Sponsored or co-sponsored 7 conferences/symposium including:
  - Disability Studies: A Public Symposium, “Marked and Unmarked Histories of Slowness” (Oct. 28)
  - Security Precarity, Surveillance Conference (Feb. 16-17)
  - 24th Annual Conference on Emerging Scholarship in Women’s and Gender Studies: Queer(ing) Futures, Queer Futurity (March 31)
  - UT AMS Graduate Conference: The World in American Studies Today (March 30)
  - Intersectional Advocacy: Feminist Action Project/QTSA Conference (March 31)
  - Gothic Trespass: Borders, Bodies, Texts, a Comparative Literature Symposium (April 1)
  - 2017 NEW Leadership Texas (June 1 - 6)

Additionally, CWGS, with Pride & Equity Faculty/Staff Association, hosted a secular vigil and altar visitation in honor of the 1-year anniversary of the Orlando shooting on June 12.

CWGS FACULTY AND STUDENT SUPPORT EVENTS
- Explore UT (March)
- Promotion and Tenure Panel (April)
- CWGS Spring Reception (May)
- Continuous events for SAGE
- Launch and continuing meetings for INSPIRE Women First

24th Annual Conference on Emerging Scholarship in Women’s and Gender Studies

Now in its 24th year, the Emerging Scholarship in Women’s & Gender Studies Graduate Student Conference presented: Queer(ing) Futures, Queer Futurity, Friday, March 31, 2017, in the GWB. Panels were held throughout the day beginning at 9:00 am.

The Keynote, “‘The Amazing Past’ or Feeling lo femenino” was presented by Dr. Juana María Rodríguez, Professor of Gender and Women’s Studies and Performance Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. The graduate student committee organizing the 2017 conference was chaired by WGS MA student Abe Heath.

The 2017 conference was co-sponsored by: The Sterling Clark Holloway Centennial Lectureship in Liberal Arts, Center for Mexican American Studies, Department of English, Department of History, Department of Radio-Television-Film, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, and Department of Theatre and Dance.
Rachel Vincent Book Talk - *When We Are Bold - Women Who Turn Our Upside Down World Right*

On March 22, 2017, Rachel Vincent, director of Media and Communications at the Nobel Women's Initiative in Ottawa, Canada, talked about her book, *When We Are Bold - Women Who Turn Our Upside Down World Right* (Art and Literature Mapalé & Publishing Inc, 2016), shared stories, and celebrated women activists and peacemakers. The book, an anthology of stories meticulously collected, range from anecdotes from well-known Jane Goodall, to life stories of woman who should be known but are not. Rachel Vincent has worked as a senior communications advisor, speechwriter and media strategist for not-for-profit groups and governments on international and social justice issues, environment and health. *Sponsored by the Center for Women's & Gender Studies*

**Twerk the Inauguration: A Woman of Color Feminist Twerkshop with Shakia Williams**

This workshop was promoted the day of the inauguration to relieve stress and to demonstrate empowerment in the new political climate. The event was featured in an article on Breitbart, a link to which can be found here: http://www.breitbart.com/texas/2017/01/19/u-texas-anti-trump-demonstration-promises-social-justice-twerkshop/

Straight out of New Orleans Bounce with roots in West African ritual dance, twerking celebrates black fem(me)inine v’ bodies, spirits, and power. Join Shakia Williams of Her Sins Burlesque & Cabaret to shake what your mama gave you and twerk for black and brown, cis and trans* women's empowerment! We invite you to connect with your body and your community as we move together like nasty women; claim our bodies as our own, ungrabbable assets; and share strategies for self-care and community-building. No previous dance experience required, and all are welcome to participate (no observers please).

Each workshop ran approximately 75 minutes, including warm up and cool down.

*Sponsored by the Center for Women's & Gender Studies, in collaboration with Dr. Omise’eke Tinsley’s AFR/WGS course: Beyonce Feminism/Rihanna Womanism.*

**We Stand with Standing Rock**

As the Standing Rock Sioux tribe and their supporters prepared their camp to block construction of the oil pipeline through the winter, the tribe asked supporters to donate items to help the Water Protectors stay warm and stay strong. CWGS placed a donation box in the reception area, and received an overwhelming amount of support from the community. We filled several large boxes with winter hats, gloves, scarves, blankets, and food, which were then personally delivered to the tribe during the Thanksgiving break by a volunteer.
Marta Zarzycka, Affective transactions and faces of horror, WGS Visiting Scholar

In both media and NGO aid initiatives, photographed faces of children in need are primary signifiers of issues such as economic inequality, disease, famine, and war. Children invariably stand at the top of the operative ordering of who in the world is most deserving of protection and least culpable for violence; their images are deployed to create remorse among aggressors, dialogue among policy-makers, and empathy among global audiences. Acknowledging the cultural fascination with photographs of children, Marta's talk focused on the strategies of persuasion set in motion by a photographed face and foregrounds its affective workings, shaped both by humanitarian aid visual regulations and by the demands of corporate media. Along with their powers of interpellation, she considered how these images foster the identities, ideologies, and social order of transnational capitalism that sustains paternalistic relations between the safe and affluent and the endangered and the poor.

OPENINGS Dialogue: Reading/ Slide Show/ Discussion/ Book Signing with Sabra Moore

SABRA MOORE returned to her alma mater to read from Openings: A Memoir from the Women's Art Movement (New York City, 1970-1992, published by New Village Press.) She discussed women artists trailblazing personally and politically meaningful artworks, exhibitions, protests, and institutions in response to war, environmental degradation, violence against women, struggles for reproductive freedom, and racial tension - all while fighting for greater opportunities for women in the art world. Sabra's vivid memoir with almost 1000 images of the art and artists of this era chronicles 22 years of her life, work and collaboration with other women artists at the center of New York City “second feminist wave”.

International Women’s Day & A Day Without A Woman

To celebrate International Women's Day, jointly with A Day Without a Woman, CWGS opened its doors to all students, faculty, staff, and community members who sought a safe space for rejuvenation, discussion, pursuing gender equality, and free snacks. The Center created an enviroment of empowered thinking and revitalized the attendees to continue their fight against discrimination, social oppression and political targeting. We recognize that trans and gender nonconforming people face heightened levels of these injustices. The Center believes in gender justice.

Explore UT 2017

Women's and Gender Studies undergraduate and graduate students engaged Texas families and teachers in learning about CWGS during the university's annual Explore UT event. A table representing the Center for Women’s & Gender Studies ran a trivia game to win buttons featuring feminist heroes that were designed by our work study students. Additionally, attendees were challenged to draw themselves without stereotypical gender features. CWGS continues to encourage teens to explore feminism through fun activities.
Cátedra for the Study of Gender Violence

By using the word “feminicide” to describe the violence perpetrated against women and girls in Juárez, Mexico, renowned Mexican anthropologist and scholar Marcela Lagarde y de los Ríos created an international awareness of crimes committed with impunity against females in Latin America and Mexico.

“Dr. Marcela Lagarde has been able to convince not just small audiences but entire nations of the existence of systemic unpunished violence directed toward women that has often appeared as state sanctioned,” UTEP President Diana Natalicio said about the influential feminist who was recently recognized by the University for her immense contributions to feminist scholarship. “Her work and her focus on ‘feminicidio’ in Mexico led to the establishment of an investigatory commission that ultimately resulted in the passing of laws directed at curbing female homicide and recognizing the right of women to a life free from violence.” Lagarde’s work will be the focus of a new program to promote the study of gender violence under the auspices of seven partner institutions, including The University of Texas at Austin.

In March 2017, UTEP President Natalicio and representatives from the Center of Interdisciplinary Research in Science and Humanities of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and the Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social (CIESAS) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to establish the Marcela Lagarde y de los Ríos International Cátedra (program) for the Study of Violence, Gender and Peace.

The first Cátedra symposium was hosted by UT Austin in March of 2016.

UTEP, UNAM and CIESAS will collaborate with the Autonomous University of Aguascalientes, the Autonomous University of Ciudad Juárez (UACJ), the Fundación Guatemala and The University of Texas at Austin to continue Lagarde’s legacy by improving research, teaching, outreach and political impact on issues related to gender violence, consolidating research on gender violence, developing topic-related discourse communities, and promoting academic innovations within discourse communities.

To achieve these goals, the partner institutions will participate in several activities. They plan to hold biannual conferences, promote related research projects, create public policy initiatives, recognize student research through annual awards and publish joint research on gender equality and violence against women.

Alma Jackie Salcedo, WGS Academic Program Coordinator, received a 2016 Texas Exes James W. Vick Award for Academic Advising. While teachers are central to what makes the University of Texas special, so too are dedicated administrators. The James W. Vick Award for Academic Advising recognizes individuals whose advising improves students’ overall experience.
NEW LEADERSHIP™ TEXAS

NEW Leadership™ Texas is an intensive, six-day, non-partisan residential program that gives college women the knowledge and skills to become effective leaders in politics, public policy, and public service. This program, sponsored by UT's Center for Women's & Gender Studies, is held every summer on The University of Texas at Austin campus.

This year from June 1-6, 37 women attended from 27 universities and colleges: Austin Community College, Baylor University, Brookhaven College, Collin College, Hofstra University, Huston-Tillotson University, Lamar University, McMurry University, Prairie View A & M University, Rice University, San Jacinto Community College, St. Edward’s University, St. Mary’s University, Texas Woman’s University, Trinity University, University of Houston, University of Houston at Clear Lake, University of Houston Downtown, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, University of North Texas, The University of Texas (Arlington, Austin, Dallas, El Paso, San Antonio, Tyler, Rio Grande University).

Students heard from elected officials, including: Christi Craddick, Chairman, Railroad Commission of Texas; Delia Garza, Austin City Council Member; The Honorable Lora Livingston, Travis County District Judge; Kathie Tovo, City Council Member/Mayor Pro Tem; Dawn Buckingham, Texas State Senator; Donna Howard, Texas State Representative. At City Hall, we heard from women leaders in local government: Deborah Thomas, Deputy City Attorney; Veronica Lara, Director of Small & Minority Business Resource Department; Elaina Ball, Chief Operating Officer & Deputy GM of Austin Energy; Julia Joseph, Financial Manager, Austin Convention Center; Sara Hensley, Interim Assistant City Manager, City of Austin; Joya Hayes, Director of Human Resources.

Senator Wendy Davis gave the keynote address. Her message emphasized leadership, education, and activism. She told anecdotes about her life and career that were relate-able and applicable to this diverse group of students. She encouraged the women to put their voices into conversations that shape the political and public discourse of policymaking in this country. The students felt energized and motivated to get into the public arena in whatever way possible.

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.

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 Jehmu Greene, Fox News Political Analyst; T. Dean Adams, Write Your Life as a Woman, Workshop Leader; Jacquie Baly, Baly Projects, President & CEO.

NEW Leadership™ Texas was made possible, in part, with support from the Embrey Family Foundation, LBJ School of Public Affairs, H-E-B, and Mr. Gatti's Pizza and all the donors who support NEW Leadership™ Texas.
Since 2009, the INSPIRE program has served as UT's signature leadership program for women undergraduates. INSPIRE is a three-year program (sophomore to senior).

In March, the Junior Cohort students researched, wrote, and presented original scholarly papers at their own Inspire Research Conference. Presenters and paper topics included: Katarina Antolovic, *Linguistic Repertoire on Ethnic Identity: A study of attitudes and beliefs*; Hannah Ray, *Effects of Speech Clarity on Sentence Recognition Memory*; Jessica Wu, *Effects of Nutritional and Osmotic Stress on Metabolite Production in Endophytic Fungi*; Madeline Hoadley, *Voluntourism: Beneficial or Exploitative?*

In May 2017, twelve INSPIRE participants and facilitators 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 2016-2017 included:
- Feminism 101 class
- Creative community building classes
- Funky Exercise class to promote healthy lifestyles
- Participated in Empowered Young Womyn Panel with two middle schools
- Attended the Rachel Vincent Book Talk
- Attended a UT Women's Basketball game
- Visited the Performing Arts Theater for a performance
- And an End-of-Year Celebration.

INSPIRE is supported by the Mary Braunagel-Brown Excellence Fund and the Jody Conradt Excellence Fund as well as individual donors.
INSPIRE WOMEN FIRST

The Creekmore and Adele Fath Charitable Foundation granted our request to expand INSPIRE to reach incoming freshmen students during the critical first year of college with a $15,000 award. INSPIRE Women First assists the transition of first-generation, women of color, and women in STEM majors to college by creating an educational, social, and supportive network in order for them to be successful in their freshman year and beyond at UT Austin.

Social adjustment is just as important as academic adjustment; integration into the social fabric of campus life plays a role at least as important as their studies in determining whether they stay in school. Often times individuals can feel like they are lost in the crowd that is UT Austin, but having a personal community from INSPIRE Women First helps them find their voice on this big campus. These students have the opportunity to stay within this supportive mentored group for four full years; they will be given the space and time to step back and reflect on what it means to be a female student, more than likely a first-generation college student, often a student of color, and more often than not in male-dominated careers. They also expand their network of women students across the university that will last long after graduation from UT Austin and into their careers.

SAGE: SCHOLARSHIP. ACTIVISM. GROWTH. ENGAGEMENT.

SAGE is an academic and activist organization at the University of Texas at Austin supporting feminist/queer scholars and Women’s & Gender Studies students.

The Women’s and Gender Studies (WGS) and LGBTQ academic programs are growing rapidly, but many students only meet each other during upper-division courses. SAGE is an effort by the Center for Women’s & Gender Studies (CWGS) to help our students create community with each other. We aim to provide space for WGS majors, feminist and LGBTQIA+ scholars on UT’s campus.

FACILITATORS:
Nathalia Ochoa is a first-year Ph.D. student in the Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies program. She holds a M.A. in Gender and Women’s Studies from the University of Florida. Nathalia’s research interests include indigenous and black women’s alternative conceptualization of politics, art and healing, and community activism in post-war Central America.

La’Kayla Williams is a first-year M.A. candidate in Women’s and Gender Studies. She plans to continue her studies in the African and African Diaspora Studies program. Kayla’s research interests include Black women’s sexuality, Black feminism, hip-hop culture, and the role of Black social media in the development of consciousness among queer, Black millennials.
Welcome Fall 2017 MA Cohort

Aems Emswiler is from Southeast Texas and received their BA in English literature and Feminist Studies at Southwestern University in Georgetown, TX. Since becoming involved with the Inside Books Project in 2012, an Austin-based books to prisoners project, Aems has focused their community organizing and academic work around restorative justice, abolitionist frameworks, and trans resistance to the prison industrial complex (PIC). By grounding their academic praxis in community-based work led by those directly affected by the PIC, specifically queer and trans women of color, Aems hopes to build an accessible digital archive of art, essays, poetry and other materials from folks incarcerated in Texas. At UT, Aems’ digital archiving studies will continue to be grounded in this community-based organizing, centering queer frameworks for abolition and studies of censorship as enactments of carceral violence.

Shawntal Brown is from the University of Oklahoma, where she received her Bachelor’s of Arts in Psychology and Women’s and Gender Studies. She focused both her academic and service work on the Black women’s experience. Shawntal conducted research titled, “Symbolic Racism and the Perceptions of Police Brutality,” to provide awareness about police brutality in the United States. In “The Metamorphosis of the Single Black Mother,” she analyzed the mobilization of the Black family and mother in the historical contexts of slavery, eugenics and welfare. Shawntal was also involved in student activism with the campus movement, OU Unheard. She is interested in traveling, art, and womanism pedagogies. Shawntal’s current research interests focus on the intersection of race, class, and gender in constructing Black womanhood through the lens of history for various contexts and how these areas impact Black women in navigating their daily agendas.

Mac Irvine is a graduate of Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism and holds a degree in magazine journalism with specializations in sociology and gender studies. Mac’s journalistic work as a writer and editor has focused on a number of issues, such as technology, identity, queer health outcome, nightlife and art, local politics, and food culture, and has been published in the Chicago Reader, Time-Out Chicago, Popular Science, the Medill Equal Media Project and several other student-led and DIY publications. Mac is interested in how and why queer identities and communities coalesce around media and how digital forms of communication and media production have thus far impacted and continue to shape the process of queer identity and community formation. In addition, Mac is interested to explore ways these queer identities and communities and the media around which they form affect societal and technological power structures. A native Iowan, Mac has spent time living in Chicago, New York City and London. Mac enjoys the arts, building community, travel, and the outdoors.
**Marcia Black** was born in Detroit and raised as a military child. Marcia moved back to Detroit in 2013 from Jacksonville, Florida to attend Marygrove College, where she received her Bachelors of Arts in Political Science and Sociology. As an undergraduate student Marcia engaged in activism and organizing work in a variety of topics, including environmental racism, racial equity, gender equity, and anti-gentrification. She was one of the co-chairs of the Black Youth Project 100 Detroit Chapter. While co-chair, Marcia contributed to the coordination of an action to honor the memory of Aiyana Stanley-Jones life and passing, a 7 year old black girl murdered by Detroit police. Most recently, Marcia works as a program coordinator to promote college readiness for 11th and 12th grade girls in Southwest Detroit. Her research interests include radical storytelling of black women and femmes in the Movement for Black Lives and the ways that storytelling can be used as a tool of liberation. She loves cooking, black people, and all things Detroit. Marcia is an avid believer that there is no such thing as black liberation without the intentional inclusion and centering of black women, black non-gender conforming people, and black trans people.

**Nyesha Brown** is a recent graduate from the University of Wisconsin Madison with a degree in Human Development Family Studies and Gender & Women's Studies. During her undergraduate career, she spent a semester abroad in Cape Town, South Africa, where she examined how her experience of gender changes as she moves from one geographic location to another. She would like to expand on this research by analyzing the historical prevalence of misogynoir violence and its impact on Black women's present realities in the United States. Her research interests lie at the intersection of Black feminism, intersectionality theory, resistance studies, and the performance of misogynoir violence. She is also currently interested in the politics of social media and body positivity. Outside of her academic work, Nyesha manages her handmade natural skin care line, natural mystic and her self titled blog. She also loves cooking, making art, reading leisurely, and all things Erykah Badu. As a graduate student in the Center for Women’s and Gender Studies, Nyesha's research will interrogate the possibility of Black women’s liberation in a culture that remains antithetical to their existence.

**Shelby Murphy** was born and raised in Groves, Texas. As a first generation college student she graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature, with a minor in Sociology from Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas. During her undergraduate career she co-founded a feminist and democratic socialist organization on campus, and was a Reaud Honors College student. She was a Student Director for the Lamar University Office of Diversity and Inclusion, helping organize multicultural programming throughout the year on campus. She has been recognized for her academic, community and leadership efforts by being chosen as a Lamar University Senior of Significance and a Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. She is active in social justice work, serving as National Co-Chair of the Young Democratic Socialists Coordinating Committee from 2015-2016, and is currently serving on the Democratic Socialists of America's National Political Committee. She is also a co-chair of the Socialist Feminist Working Group of the Democratic Socialists of America where she and other co-chairs help to provide resources for DSA chapters to organize around feminist issues that especially impact working class and poor women, and women of color. She was also a Ronald E. McNair Scholar where she researched feminism in folklore, primarily looking at the legend of “La Llorona,” and Chicana Feminist Theory. She plans to continue her research on Chicana Feminist Theory and liberating the voices and stories of Latina women. She loves animals, cooking, reading, writing, nature and art.
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