

Gender and Women's Studies Newsletter

Spring 2008



A Letter from the Director:

On Friday May 16th we held the last of this year's GWST Faculty Workshops in which we continued our discussion of ways and means to improve our program. We again held our meeting in the lovely Garden Room at the Chamber's Center in the Women's College and we thank the Women's College for making us welcome.

We had very useful discussions about ways to develop the Major and on the need to develop an upper-level "capstone" class. Previously, we had sent out a questionnaire to all GWST Majors about the program. Student responses were full and thoughtful (they are on file in the office and may be consulted) and helped focus our discussion. Karen Benson of Partners in Learning and Jenny Whitcher from Community Engagement joined us and provided many good ideas about ways in which we could co-ordinate with their offices to enrich the student experience. Indeed, one such collaboration will be underway next Fall when Dr. Jennifer Reich heads up the lecture/course series GWST 2981:2 "Gender, Politics and Power," which will conclude with an election night event at the Cable Center sponsored by Partners in Learning (and to which all are welcome)!

Three members of the GWST Executive Committee are leaving the committee at the end of this quarter, Jennifer Reich, Susan Stakel, and David Shneer. I thank them all very much for all their work, advice, and help. I am happy to welcome in the three new members: Geoffrey Bateman, The Writing program, Luc Beaudoin, Languages and Literatures, and Sandy Dixon, Religious Studies.

The GWST program will be graduating two majors this June—Austin Scott and Ashley Ruiz. Both Austin and Ashley were also the winners of this year's Rita Braitto Award; we wish them both all the best for the future. Finally, I wish everyone a happy and productive summer whether teaching, researching, or good heavens, relaxing!

Jessica Munns

Spring Quarter and Upcoming Events

GWST Workshop: Teaching Difference & Diversity: Developing the GWST Program

The third and final workshop of this academic year proved to be a success! Several ideas regarding curriculum development were brought forward such as developing a capstone class as well as other ways to develop the major. It was a productive day with exciting things to look forward to in the future.

Jewlia Eisenberg:

On Wednesday, April 9th, GWST in conjunction with Judaic Studies hosted a research sharing featuring Jewlia Eisenberg. Jewlia Eisenberg is a composer, extended-technique vocalist, cantor, and founder of Charming Hostess. Her work focuses on the emotional, erotic and spiritual terrains that the voice can traverse while exploring the intersection of text and the sounding body, pushing for translation strategies between verbal and non-verbal languages. She has been an Artist-in-Residence at MIT and has studied with sozanda Muna Nissimova, Fred Frith and Daniel Boyarin. Brooklyn born and bred, she now calls San Francisco home. For more information on her work, visit their website at <http://charminghostess.us/>

Jeanne Flavin

Jeanne Flavin is an associate professor at Fordham University. On April 18, she presented her forthcoming book and discussed the challenges of conducting engaged scholarship that can be used to affect public policy and support social change. In particular, Professor Flavin described her work for a legal aid organization which seeks to help mothers and pregnant women accused, and often imprisoned, for their drug use on the grounds that their usage makes them unsuitable and even criminal parents. Professor Flavin's talk was followed by a very lively discussion. This talk was sponsored by the Marsico Initiative, the Gender and Women's Studies Program, and the Department of Sociology and Criminology.

Rita Braitto Award Winners: We are excited to announce this years Rita Braitto award winners: Ashley Ruiz and Austin Scott!

Rita Braitto taught in the Department of Sociology at the University of Denver from 1973-1985 and served as the first Director of Women's Studies in 1984-85. Dr. Braitto left the University of Denver in 1985 to accept a position at the University of Missouri--St. Louis. She died in 1990 after an early retirement. Dr. Braitto was a very special human being--a feminist, activist, and scholar with wide-ranging interests. She worked unceasingly to improve the status of women at D.U. and throughout the world. Rita Braitto would be very pleased that Ashley and Austin are receiving an award given in her memory.

Each year, the Rita Braitto Award for Exceptional Achievement in Gender and Women's Studies is given to students who capture in their work at D.U. the creative thought, high standards, commitment to women's well-being, and intellectual curiosity that Dr. Braitto personified and sought to develop in her students. Exceptional achievement can be recognized through, for example, general scholarship, an internship, a research paper, or works of art or literature.

GWST faculty members nominate candidates among the graduating Gender and Women's Studies Minors or Majors, and submit the list of candidates to the Gender and Women's Studies Executive Committee which, in turn, selects the recipient(s) of the Award.

A little bit about the winners:

Ashley Ruiz is a graduating senior at the University of Denver and a local human rights activist. Majoring in Gender and Women Studies and International Studies with a concentration in Gender and Development, Ashley is a passionate advocate for human rights, particularly women's rights. Ashley has worked closely with many local and international organizations including PeaceJam, the African Community Center, the Empowerment Program, and Polaris Project. Additionally, she has been very involved with Amnesty International acting as the Colorado Stop Violence against Women Coordinator and facilitating human rights education programs for youth throughout the state. Last year, Ashley had the opportunity to study in Kenya where she conducted a research project on the role of beadwork in women's development and empowerment in Nairobi. This spring, she is traveling back to Eastern Africa to research the effects of the 2008 post-election violence on women and children in Kenya. In her future plans, Ashley is committed to continue working for human rights and positive social change in her community and across the globe.





Austin Scott: Originally from Oklahoma, Austin Scott moved out to Colorado in 2004 to attend the University of Denver. He is double majoring in English and GWST, and will be graduating this summer. Austin recently spent 11 months studying abroad in London, and hopes to return there after graduation. Sparked from his time in England, Austin undertook an independent study in GWST this quarter that focused on queer British writing from 1950-1970. In the summer of 2006, Austin worked for 'Coloradans for Fairness and Equality' in an attempt to pass a domestic partnership law for same-sex couples in the state. At DU, Austin has also been involved in the Queer Straight Alliance and the DU Democrats.

Fall 2008 Classes

SOCS 1112	<p>Foundations in Gender and Women's Studies 10:00 -11:50 a.m., Monday/Wednesday, 4 credits, Jessica Munns This course offers a broad and theoretically engaged introduction to the field(s) of gender and women's studies. Feminist theory will serve as a framework for exploring how women <i>and men's</i> identities, opportunities and experiences are informed not only by our cultural assumptions about gender, but also by other interrelated factors such as race, ability, ethnicity, class, and sexuality. Topics we will interrogate include: the social construction of masculinity and femininity; the politics of bodies; communication and gender; sexuality; families; violence; and the media. The course will be run as a seminar in which all students will write regularly and participate often.</p>
GWST 2981-1	<p>Colloquium in GWST: Rhetoric, Suffrage, and US Women's Writing 10:00-11:50 a.m., Tuesdays, 2 credits, Geoffrey Bateman This course will allow students to gain familiarity with the history of feminist rhetoric through an exploration of the U.S. women's suffrage movement and the literary traditions surrounding the issue in the 19th and early 20th centuries.</p>
GWST 2981-2	<p>Colloquium in GWST: Gender, Politics, and Power 4:00 p.m-5:50 p.m., Wednesdays, 2 credits, Jennifer Reich Sept 17, 24, Oct 1, 15, 22, 29 Students taking this course will attend a series of 6 politically related talks given on campus over the fall term, with class meetings immediately following the lecture. Gender, Politics, and Power is a service learning course, so students will complete 8 contact hours of service learning in addition to the 6 class meetings. Students will be doing politically related work, such as voter registration. A final election night event at the Cable Center will wrap up the exciting course!</p>
GWST/ HCOM 3680	<p>Gender and Communication 10-11:50 am, Mondays and Wednesdays, 4 credits, Beth Suter</p>

Also-listed Courses

SOCI2780	<p>Women and the Law 2:00-3:50 p.m., Monday/Wednesday, 5 credits, Nancy Reichman</p>
SOCI2210	<p>The Family 4:00.-5:50 p.m., Monday/Wednesday, 5 Credits, Christine Sheikh</p>

Other Courses of Interest

CORE 2653	<p>Law and Politics of Reproduction 10:00 -11:50 a.m., Monday/Wednesday, 4 credits, Jennifer Reich</p>
CORE 4281	<p>Witchcraft and Renaissance Drama 10:00-11:50 a.m., Tuesday/Thursday, 4 Credits, Linda Bensel-Meyers</p>



Professor Information:

W. Scott Howard, Department of English

Journals:

Appositions: Studies in Renaissance / Early Modern Literature and Culture.

Volume One: Genres & Cultures (2008): <http://appositions.blogspot.com/>.

Reconfigurations: A Journal for Poetics and Poetry / Literature and Culture. Volume One: Contingency (2007):

<http://reconfigurations.blogspot.com/>.

Book Chapters:

"'That Noble Flame': Literary History & Regenerative Time in Katherine Philips' Elegies and Society of Friendship." *Dialogism and Lyric Self-Fashioning*. Ed. Jacob Blevins. Cranbury, NJ: Associated University Presses (Susquehanna University Press), 2008. 136-62.

Jessica Munns and her sister Penny Richards gave a talk in late March at the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Arizona State University, Tempe on "The Myth of the Guise."

In April, **Jessica Munns** chaired a session for the Aphra Behn Society at the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Portland, Oregon.

Jennifer Golightly also chaired an Aphra Behn Society panel at the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Portland, Oregon.

Sarah Gjertson, Assistant Professor, Core Art and Media Program, School of Art & Art History. I just received news that I'll be receiving a Creative Arts Materials Fund Grant for a body of work I've begun (loosely titled) "Married With Children....Or Not", which I just presented as part of a Humanities Institute Lecture a few weeks back. I'm also approaching 400 skydives.