



Villanova University Gender and Women's Studies

Spring 2009

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A Message from the Co-Directors

As this school year draws to a close, we wanted to take a moment to report on the recent growth that our program has enjoyed and the range of activities we've sponsored during 2008-09. The changes our program has seen during this year serve to focus our efforts and strengthen our commitment to ensuring our program's vital place on Villanova's campus.

We have continued to benefit from our program being run by two directors. Once again Dr. Sewell organized a full slate of lectures, faculty research presentations and other activities, most often co-sponsored with many other programs and departments on campus. On the academic side, Dr. Whidden has filled in for Dr. Kerrison (who received a research fellowship for 2008-09) and initiated some new projects to bring greater attention to our program within the classroom walls, from students and faculty members alike.

Other personnel changes have brought new voices and enthusiasm to our program: we welcome new Steering Committee members Drs. David Cregan (Theatre), Nicole Else-Quest (Psychology), and Catherine Warrick (Political Science), and are pleased that three colleagues have accepted our invitation to be Honorary Members of our program: Drs. Helen Lafferty (College Professor, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences); Gaile Pohlhaus (Professor Emerita, Department of Theology and Religious

Studies), and Barbara Wall (Special Assistant to the President for Mission Effectiveness).

Perhaps the biggest change has been our program's name change, to Gender and Women's Studies (GWS). While retaining a strong sense of the importance of the women's studies tradition that brought our program to where it is today, we are broadening our scope, in our course offerings and in our events, reaching out to men and women from all corners of campus and raising awareness of the importance of enlightened discussion of gender.

Almost as quickly as we officially announced our name change in February, we were able to expand our course offerings for fall 2009. After 15 courses during fall 2008 and 19 this semester (spring 2009), that number will grow to 23 for fall 2009. As this newsletter goes to print, 387 students are enrolled in GWS courses for the fall, including courses that focus on constructions of masculinity such as "Sociology of Sports." While the number of GWS minors and concentrators has held steady, we look forward to bringing more and more students into our program by expanding our course offerings – 723 students took GWS courses during 2008-2009, and 486 are already enrolled for next fall!

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The Gender and Women's Studies Steering Committee warmly welcomes three new members:

Dr. Nicole Else-Quest from the Psychology Department
Dr. David Cregan, O.S.A. from the Theater Department
Dr. Catherine Warrick from the Political Science Department

Current Steering Committee Members for the Gender and Women's Studies Program include:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Prof. Carol Anthony (P & J) | Dr. Jean Lutes (ENG) |
| Dr. Ellen Bonds (ENG) | Dr. Jill McCorkel (SOC) |
| Dr. Sheryl Bowen (COM) | Dr. Evan Radcliffe (ENG) |
| Dr. Linda Copel (NURS) | Dr. Jill Rappoport (ENG) |
| Asst. Dean Diane Edelman (LAW) | Dr. Heidi Rose (COM) |
| Dr. Judith Geisberg (HIST) | Dr. Lisa Sewell (ENG) |
| Dr. Heather Hicks (ENG) | Dr. Connie Titone (EDU/HUM) |
| Dr. Catherine Hill (Assoc. Dean) | Dr. Seth Whidden (MOD LANG) |
| Dr. Marylu Hill (Liberal Studies) | Dr. Rebecca Winer (HIST) |
| Dr. Catherine Kerrison (HIST) | |

For More Information Contact:
www.villanova.edu/artsci/gws

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(610) 519-3815

Work Study Student:
Katelyn Mazenko

**MARK
YOUR
CALENDARS**

**FOR
ECS 2010!**

**THURSDAY
APRIL 8,
2010**

The Gender and Women's Studies Program would like to announce the addition of three honorary members to our Steering Committee

Dr. Barbara Wall • Dr. Helen Lafferty • Dr. Gaile Polhaus

These three women have been instrumental in their continual support of female faculty and students at Villanova, and in calling to attention gender issues across the University.

Dr. Barbara Wall

Dr. Wall, while Director of the Center for Peace and Justice Education, spearheaded the creation of the Women's Studies Program in 1989, and began initiatives such as proposing a major, a minor and concentration. It was her idea to host a Women's Studies student conference (ECS) that is now in its 20th year. Dr. Wall currently serves as the Special Assistant to the President for Mission Effectiveness at Villanova University and Associate Professor of Philosophy.

Continued on page 3...

A Message from the Co-Directors (cont'd)

– and by continuing our aggressive efforts of reaching out to first- and second-year students and making them aware of our exciting academic offerings while they are still considering their courses of study.

The speakers and events GWS organized this year were designed to enhance the work being done in classes that focus on women's and gender issues, but also to explore experiences and issues that were relevant to students and faculty members' real life experiences. In the Fall, we celebrated Simone de Beauvoir's centennial with a lecture by Margaret Simon. Simon's lecture highlighted the human side of this central figure for feminism. Katherine Jellison's talk on the history of the traditional American wedding drew a large audience and worked in the opposite direction, as she was able to take a topic that everyone feels they understand, and defamiliarize it, exposing the ways this apparently private, personal ritual reflects the capitalist drives and gender norms of the larger culture.

Our 20th Annual Elizabeth Cady Stanton Research Conference was also a success and gave us the opportunity to celebrate students' work, our name change and our honorary members. Over fifty students presented their work, and the talk by former New York Times reporter, Linda Greenhouse was well attended and well received. This year we also had the opportunity to engage with three local scholars – Donna Shai (Sociology), Jill McCorkel

(Sociology) and Heather Hicks (English) – who are all working on gender related research. The faculty research talks and seminars are designed to foster stronger collegial and intellectual bonds among GWS faculty. Finally, we expanded our roster of events to include two documentary films that engage gender issues: "Absolutely Safe," directed by Carol Ciancutti-Leyva, investigates the potential health hazards associated with breast augmentation surgery. We were really pleased that the director was able to attend the screening to answer questions.

April is Sexual Violence awareness month, and we joined nationwide efforts to increase awareness of the problem of sexual violence with two events: a screening of "The Greatest Silence," Lisa Jackson's important film about rape and war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and a mock trial that was based on an actual rape case. Next year, we hope to host events that will reflect our more expansive approach to gender issues, and we plan to explore ways to involve GWS in social activism that reflects our abhorrence of gender discrimination of all kinds at all levels of society.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lisa Sewell (English)

Dr. Seth Whidden (Modern Languages)

The Gender and Women's Studies Program welcomes Honorary Members

(continued from page 2)

Dr. Helen Lafferty

Dr. Lafferty, first in the Dean's office, later as University Vice President has been a constant supporter of gender issues and the Women's Studies Program, attending our events, presenting awards, and supporting faculty. Dr. Lafferty has recently been appointed the first College Professor, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and continues to educate and counsel students on gender and diversity issues.

Dr. Gaile Polhaus

Dr. Pohlhaus is Professor Emerita of Villanova University and a former director of the Women's Studies program and is responsible for a number of its assets including the creation of its Resource Center and graduate assistantship position. Dr. Polhaus retired in 2005 as full-time professor of Theology and Religious Studies and now teaches at Villanova part-time.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT!



Dr. Nicole Else-Quest

Dr. Else-Quest is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Villanova University. She earned her BA, MS, and PhD in Psychology from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in lifespan development and the psychology of women.

Dr. Else-Quest's research program focuses broadly on women's lifespan psychological development. Recent and ongoing studies in her lab include a meta-analytic study of the effects of societal gender equity on cross-national patterns of gender differences in mathematics ability and affect, as well as a longitudinal study of ethnic variations in gender differences in STEM (science, technology, engineering, & mathematics) interest and achievement among adolescents. Current research projects of graduate students in her lab include an assessment of self-objectification as a predictor of risky sexual behavior in young women and an experimental study on the effects of perceived onset controllability and heterosexism on HIV stigmatization.

Dr. Else-Quest is being supported this summer with a fellowship and grant from the Villanova Office of Research and Supported Projects to complete a meta-analysis of the development of gender differences in self-conscious emotions (pride, shame, guilt, and embarrassment). Her research has been published in the journals *Science*, *Psychological Bulletin*, *Child Development*, *Journal of Sex Research*, *Psychology & Health*, *Mathematical Thinking & Learning*, *Merrill-Palmer Quarterly*, and *Journal of Mathematical Behavior*.

Originally from Milwaukee, she lives in center city Philadelphia with her husband Steve Agostini, two-year-old daughter Raeka, and three cats.

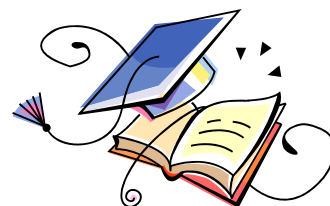
Congratulations to our Graduating Gender and Women's Studies Seniors!

Graduating Seniors:

Marisa DeFrancesco (MKT)
 Laura Freeman (ENG)
 Jacquelin Giacobbe (SOC)
 Samantha Harding (ENG)
 Ana Hernandez (PSC)
 Katherine Janson (GST)
 Sandy Krogulski (HIS)
 Danielle Robert (ENG)
 Liz Toledo (PSC)

GWS Minors and Concentrators:

Lindsay DeFusco
 Jenna DeVico
 Kyrie Hupka*
 Francesca Montalvo*
 Katarina Mayers*
 Katelyn Mazenko*
 Kara Poydenis
 Madeline Reynolds*
 Alissa Ricci*
 Jenna Troup*



*denotes new minor!

2009 Fall Gender and Women's Studies Course Offerings

Course Title

Instructor

Intro. to Gender and Women's Studies	Sheryl Bowen
Women in Literature	Ellen Bonds
Milton	Lauren Shohet
Drama: American Femenactment	Gail Ciociola
Senior Seminar: Modernist Sexualities	Megan Quigley
Francophone Women's Voices	Beatrice Waggaman
Special Topics: German Women and Film	Charles Helmetag
History of American Women	Judith Giesberg
Women in Modern European Society	Lynne Hartnett
Women in the Middle East	Hibba Abugideiri
Toni Morrison	Crystal Lucky
The Image of the Woman in Italian Literature	Inna Rayevsky
Women in Asia	Masako Nakagawa
Philosophy of Sex and Love	Dalia Nassar
Philosophy of Women	Katie Grosh
Psychology of Women	Nicole Else-Quest
Sociology of the Family	Donna Shai
Sociology of Gender	Jill McCorkel
Special Topics: Sociology of Sports	Rick Eckstein
Christian Marriage	John Groch
Women in Religion and Society	Fayette Veverka

For information on how to include your course among the many others carrying the Gender and Women's Studies attribute visit <http://www.villanova.edu/artsci/gws/courses/> or contact Interim Academic Director Dr. Seth Whidden.

REFLECTION ON THIS YEAR'S 20th ANNUAL ELIZABETH CADY STANTON STUDENT RESEARCH CONFERENCE!



This year the Gender and Women's Studies celebrated its 20th annual Elizabeth Cady Stanton Student Research Conference. The ECS conference provides Villanova students with an opportunity to showcase their best work in an all-day academic conference highlighting gender-based issues and themes. The conference is open to all Villanova students with prizes awarded to exceptional first year, undergraduate and graduate writers.

The GWS program was pleased to receive 48 paper submissions from a total of 57 young Villanova authors. The conference participants included students with majors ranging from History, to Marketing, to Nursing, with topics as diverse as sexuality, family and law, in formats from essay, to research proposal, to dramatic play, and in languages from English, to French and Spanish! The conference took place Thursday, March 19 in the Connelly Center.

This year's keynote speaker was Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, former Supreme Court Reporter for *The New York Times*, Dr. Linda Greenhouse, now of Yale Law School. Greenhouse presented a talk on "What Judges Know (Or Don't Know) About Sex Discrimination (Or Anything Else)" detailing her experience of the role of gender in the proceedings and outcomes of Supreme Court cases, citing cases such as *Roe v. Wade*, and *Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co.* Greenhouse expressed the inevitability of including personal experience in judges' decisions, including their own understandings of gender.

The conference presentations and keynote address were followed with a banquet in the Villanova room for all conference participants, GWS minors, and friends of Gender and Women's Studies. Father Kail Ellis, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, delivered a blessing celebrating the achievement of not only the student participants of the ECS conference, but the GWS program in its expansion endeavor. In accordance with celebrating the future of GWS, Co-Director Dr. Lisa Sewell introduced the first three Honorary Members of Gender and Women's Studies, Dr. Gaile Pohlhaus, Dr. Helen Lafferty, and Dr. Barbara Wall, all of whom were fundamental in the growth and development of the Women's Studies program at Villanova. Dr. Wall provided a brief history of the program's origins and expressed best wishes for the future.

Co-Director Dr. Catherine Kerrison presented award certificates to senior students graduating having accomplished a minor in Gender and Women's Studies. GWS minor Sandy Krogulski (History) addressed the crowd on behalf of the minors indicating the influence of GWS courses and programming in her life and the importance of gender-based scholarship.

To conclude the banquet, ECS Conference co-chairs Dr. Heidi Rose and Dr. Sherry Bowen presented the awards for outstanding ECS paper submissions. These awards were presented to first year winner Lauren Moyer, for her paper "Master Heldris Maintains Her Silence," undergraduate winner Kimberly Marini, for her paper "Women in Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*," and graduate winner Steven Schultz for his paper, "Actually, Darling, Debbie Does Doris." Two additional awards were presented to undergraduate student Sandy Krogulski for "Suffragette Autobiography: Smashing the Windows of Women's Writing," and graduate student Carlie Allison for "Mediational Model of Risky Sex." These awards are given in recognition of the newly instated "Barbara Wall Award" recognizing work that demonstrates a commitment to practical applications of feminist theory.

The 20th Annual Elizabeth Cady Stanton Student Research Conference was co-sponsored by Communication, the Writing Center, the Center for Peace and Justice, Writing and Rhetoric, Ethics, Nursing, the Office of Mission Effectiveness, and Africana Studies.

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE ON ECS 2009

“To throw obstacles in the way of a complete education is like putting out the eyes.” ~ Elizabeth Cady Stanton

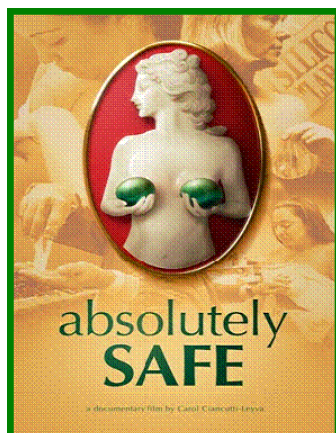
As a graduate student, I have parceled out the majority of my life into the acts of studying, researching, writing, and discussing. The day I spent at Villanova’s ECS conference reminded me that I do so because academia, at certain times, provides those involved in it with a feeling that is incomparable to other activities. While listening to other panels, engaging in the discussion of my own panel, and as an audience member to Linda Greenhouse’s lecture, I – as well all of the other participants of ECS – were privileged to hear the interests, discoveries, and inquiries of many scholars in a variety of different texts, through a wide range of methodologies, and across multiple academic disciplines. In doing so, I got *that feeling*. I got the feeling that great things are happening because discussions like these are being had, that big changes within our campus community and throughout our global community are happening because complex activity is taking place in many minds. When one studies gender, one constantly confronts daunting and disappointing truths. Villanova’s ECS conference reacted and responded to the truth of gender inequality with dignity, charm, and admirable brilliance. Witnessing that response was, to say the least, exhilarating.

- Stephanie McConnell



**Keynote Speaker
Dr. Linda Greenhouse**

SPOTLIGHT ON: ABSOLUTELY SAFE GENDER AND WOMEN’S STUDIES DOCUMENTARY FILM SERIES



Filmmaker Carol Ciancutti-Leyva visited campus in October to introduce “Absolutely Safe,” her thoughtful and disturbing documentary on the safety of breast implants. Ciancutti-Leyva’s film was inspired by the health problems experienced by her own mother, who had silicone-implant reconstructive surgery after a breast-tumor diagnosis required her to have a double mastectomy. A year later, her implants ruptured and her health began a steady decline. Ciancutti-Leyva suspects that the implants caused her mother’s illness, although most doctors and researchers deny the link. The GWS screening of “Absolutely Safe” gave the Villanova community an opportunity to hear multiple voices in the debate over breast implants. It included interviews with plastic surgeons, attorneys, activists, and government officials. It also told the personal stories of two women whose lives were changed in very different ways by cosmetic surgery, following one young woman who chose to have breast implants for cosmetic reasons and another woman who was having her implants surgically removed after suffering from unexplained illnesses for several years. At a reception after the screening, Ciancutti-Leyva met with students and faculty to discuss the ongoing controversy over this increasingly common cosmetic procedure.

[All documentaries screened as part of the GWS Documentary Film Series are available in Falvey Library]

WHAT OUR STUDENTS HAVE SAID ...

*“Being Women’s Studies students has given us a completely different view of the world. What we’ve explored in our classes and now in our culminating seminar tint the way we see everything in our lives. We’ve basically been overwhelmed with different and conflicting views of women in society, and so a lot of times our words and actions contradict each other. Not to worry, we’re young and new at this, so we are still sorting it out. But if anything, this program has forced us to look, and look hard, at our lives. We can no longer sit in class and talk about feminist theories, only to turn off that switch when we step outside of class. More than any other minor, I believe, Women’s Studies has impacted our *lives* – we are changed and challenged on a daily basis, and not just in the classroom.”*

- Lynette Moore, 2004, from her ECS award speech

“Four years ago I stepped into an institution being very unsure of myself and afraid of what lay ahead. Today I am still nervous about what the future holds, but I am confident in myself and my identity to not only fight battles, but to also pursue and defend my beliefs. Women’s studies has opened my eyes as well as my heart to possibilities of different schools of thought and action. It has helped me to further understand myself and relationships to others. It is so much more than a mere field of study, it is my constant companion, challenging me at every turn and supporting me through the many confrontations of adversity. My passion for this subject runs deeper than a simple enjoyment of its contents; it’s more connected to my survival as a strong woman, feminist, and advocate of change in society today and for generations to come. I offer my sincerest thanks to Villanova for providing me with this educational and growth experience and I look forward to sharing it and continuing to develop a stronger sense of self through the lens of Women’s Studies. Thank you!”

- Kate Mottola, 2006, from her ECS award speech

*“Education needs to transcend the classroom walls. It not only needs to shape your views, but alter the way you live your life. It is safe for me to say that *only* my women’s studies classes have provided me with knowledge and wisdom that affected the way I lead my life day to day. These classes create this new lens for you to observe the world around you. Some of the lenses slightly shift what you see, some turn your world upside down, and some just allow you to see a picture more clearly. I never completed a women’s studies course at this school unchanged.”*

- Amanda Wendlinger, 2008, from her ECS award speech

“My Gender and Women’s Studies classes engage my life outside the classroom. What I have learned affects my everyday life. It has been a very transformative experience. I learned to ask the hard questions. No longer do I read newspapers or scholarly articles and accept it as fact. Now, I look for the deeper meaning. I have faith in my ability to discern the author’s argument, but I trust my own opinion and ability to develop it.

The GWS curriculum has prepared me to confidently discuss a variety of topics, but it has also provided me with an education that goes beyond the books. More socially, culturally and politically aware, I understand that every day is history in the making.”

- Sandy Krogulski, 2009, from her ECS award speech

Do **YOU** have something to say about your experience with the
Gender and Women’s Studies Program here at Villanova?

WE’D LOVE TO HEAR YOUR COMMENTS!

Send your feedback to: gws@villanova.edu

Thank you for your continued support!