

WOMEN'S STUDIES SPRING NEWSLETTER

THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY

MAY 2011

Inside this issue:

Congratulations!	1
Prizes and Awards	2
Honors and Living Wage	3
Community Action Projects	4
2011 Graduates	5



The New and the Returning

Kathy O'Brien is back as our part-time office manager for a few months, and we are very lucky to have her! Please stop by Morton 322 and say hello. She's taking over while DuCLe Nguyen is on maternity leave, taking care of Ben, her first born. DuCLe says Ben is happy to have the PR and they are both doing well. We look forward to her return in June, and wish her happiness and health!

Gul Ozyegin wins Plumeri Award for Faculty Excellence:

Women's Studies is delighted to announce that Professor Gul Ozyegin was one of the recipients of this year's Plumeri Awards for Faculty Excellence. Professor Ozyegin is a joint appointment in Women's Studies and Sociology, and she will be our new director, of Women's Studies, beginning this summer. Please join us in congratulating her on this award, and in welcoming her to her new role as Director of Women's Studies. For more on her research and the Plumeri award, please see our website at

<http://www.wm.edu/as/womensstudies/index.php>

Congratulations!



Congratulations as well go to Lizbeth Allison, Chair, Biology, a member of our Women's Studies Executive Committee. She was one of the recipients of a 2011 Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence. Also to Lisa Landino, in Chemistry, who won a Plumeri Award and has served on our Women's Studies Executive Committee. We'd like to congratulate Lily Panoussi, who has been on our curriculum committee for several years. She has been awarded the Robert and Sara Boyd Term Distinguished Associate Professor of Classical Studies.

Women's Studies' Spring Prizes for 2011

Dean's Prize for Student Scholarship on Women

Our two recipients for this year's Dean's Prize for Student Scholarship on Women went to Jennifer Root (class of 2011) and Alexandra Meav Jerome (Ph.D. candidate in American Studies).

Jennifer Root's winning essay, "The Invisible Cage: the Art of Remedios Varo and the Creation of Equality of Gender," was originally submitted to Professor Cate-Arries (Hispanic Studies 493), and she translated it for us.

Alexandra Meav Jerome work, "Shahrazad in the White City: Gender, Performance, and Muslim Womanhood at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition," comes from a Master's Thesis supervised by Professor Maureen Fitzgerald.

Women's Studies Student Activism Prize

This year we awarded two campus activists for the Student Activism Award, which is sponsored by the Friends of Women's Studies:



Kim Green (2013)'s work on LGBT issues. Kim was nominated by Professor Anne Charity Hudley, who works with her in **Community Studies**. Kim has done outstanding work around lesbian, gay, bi- and transgender issues, pursuing research, networking, and community building with equal devotion. A Women's Studies and Community Studies double major, she has worked with the Student Assembly's diversity initiative, has served as co-President of the NAACP W&M chapter, and with LAMBDA alliance. In response to six suicides in Sept 2010, Kim became involved with David Savage's "It Gets Better" campaign, recording her own experience about "coming out and eventually being accepted and accepting myself." Working with Margaret Cook, in Diversity, she completed and posted this video, which has now been viewed over 8500 times. And there's more, but we are out of space! Congratulations, Kim.

Our second activist award goes to KB (Kathleen) Brower works with the Living Wage Campaign. She was nominated by Professor Cindy Hahamovich, a labor historian who has long worked with the Living Wage Campaign and supported housekeeping staff in their requests for equitable work conditions and pay. Prof. Hahamovich writes that KB is one of the leaders of the Tidewater Labor Support Committee, and a key force behind the Living Wage Campaign. She is "always there, working behind the scenes, keeping things together, bringing her characteristic intelligence, warmth, and courage to everything the TLSC does.. Thanks, KB. *For more on the Living Wage Campaign, see page 3.*

This year's **Carol Woody Internship Award** went to Madeleine De Simone (2013). A Hispanic Studies major, Madeleine has been invited to intern at the Spanish Embassy in Washington D.C. this summer. While there she will translate documents and help with research and cultural events programming. The program will also serve as an emersion in the Spanish language, strengthening her fluency. Carol Woody Internship awards are intended to support students seeking real world experience that will complement their studies.



Women's Studies Student Undertakes First Activism Honors Project

This year, Elizabeth Miller (Women's Studies '11) achieved one of many firsts at the College. She created a 1 credit course on marriage and the history of its teaching, the first of its kind at William & Mary. And another first: Elizabeth's honors project is the first activism honors project in Women's Studies. Elizabeth researched and wrote up her analysis as part of the project, and for the activism component she organized a course on the topic. Professor Jenny Putzi facilitated the class, with Elizabeth's work being the foundation of it. The course created a space for discussion of how institutional "instruction" on marriage has changed over several decades, sparking dialogue among its 16 participants. Elizabeth also organized a panel of faculty who addressed the topic, and her work has mapped out a path for future honors projects that encompass both scholarship and activism. We are happy to report, as well, that she received highest honors for this project. For more information, see the Women's Studies website, at <http://www.wm.edu/as/womensstudies/index.php>

The Living Wage Campaign activists who occupied the President's Office in the Brafferton on Wednesday, April 20th were protesting low wages for housekeepers at the College. Professor Cindy Hahamovitch recalled the movement's first success ten years ago, when protests succeeded in raising wages from about \$6 an hour (one woman was earning that after 29 years at the College) to a new minimum of \$8.50. Today most housekeepers' hourly wages are about \$9.50, but many still work multiple jobs to make ends meet. After months of meeting with the administration, students decided to stage a sit in in the president's office. In the morning of April 20th, there were about 50 occupants, but only five protesters decided to remain after being warned that they would be arrested. Supporters are hoping that President Reveley will drop all charges and make a living wage a priority. Many faculty and the Women's Studies Program as a whole have signed a petition in support of this campaign.

Professor Hahamovitch noted that, over the years, two groups have been crucial to this work: The Living Wage Campaign--which has been supported by multiple organizations--and the Tidewater Labor Support Group, which has been around since 1997 and has done the lion's share of the work of cultivating relationships with staff.

While the Student Activism Award is set up to single out individuals, Women's Studies would like to honor as well **the entire Living Wage Campaign**, as its movement has been the result of coordinated thought, action, and vision coming from a larger group.

COMMUNITY ACTION PROJECTS

The Introduction to Women's Studies Sections (WMST 205) Spring 2011

Every spring, the campus sees a rise in student activism, much of it coming from community action projects (CAPs) that students organize in our WMST 205 sections. This year, we had a nice variety of important, creative work. Here are the projects our students brought to W&M and the community beyond:

Trans Action Zine: This CAP project was dedicated to raising awareness about transgender issues throughout the campus community. Students created a zine which discusses various topics and answers questions about transgender life. They held a screening of "The Birdcage" in order to promote the zine.

Alta Gracia at William and Mary: This CAP group worked on advertising for the new line of sweatshop-free clothing from the company Alta Gracia at the Bookstore. Alta Gracia is a humane, living wage environment that employs many women, giving them a better life. They worked with the aWEARness Fashion Show for Multiple Sclerosis and put some of the clothes in this show.

Stereotypes, Feminism, and You: This group worked to elicit discussions in the W&M community about what feminism is and, in particular, who feminists are. One of their central questions was: how do stereotypes affect how we view feminism and how feminists view us?

Beauty, Actually: This CAP sought to promote a positive body image by discussing and analyzing the media's effect on how we perceive beauty and body image. They sponsored a "Campus-Wide No Make-Up Day" as well as interviewed students around campus and organizations such as CARES. This culminated in creating a documentary using the footage they created and screening it to the &M community.

Perceptions of Muslim Women: This group made a documentary exploring the perceptions of Muslim women and culture on the William & Mary campus. The documentary will be screened and discussed in the W&M community.

Eating Disorder Awareness: Through fundraisers, informational flyers/brochures, and a movie screening of *America the Beautiful* (a documentary on America's beauty obsession and perceptions of body image), this CAP worked to raise awareness about eating disorders on the W&M campus, shedding light on little known information, dispelling myths, and promoting resources (i.e. CARES) along the way.

William and Mary Activism: a consistently updated database of activist groups, events and engagement on campus and in the Williamsburg community. <http://wmactivism.blogspot.com/>

FYI: An org., publication and news source at W&M, showing how current issues relate to women's and gender issues. They hope to provide an alternative to public media and to educate about these issues:

Links: fyiwam@gmail.com <http://fyiwam.blogspot.com/> <http://twitter.com/fyiwam>
<http://www.facebook.com/?ref=logo#!/pages/Fyiwam/138395516229294?sk=info>

Perception: A look at how gender and racial roles affect our daily lives. The purpose of this CAP was to explore hidden biases and prejudices among William and Mary students in a documentary format.

Feminist Youth Project: This CAP project sought to present non-stereotypical gender roles to young children ages 5-8. Students did a reenactment of Babette Cole's "Princess Smartypants" at the Williamsburg Regional Library. The book is about a young princess who doesn't want to get married and instead wants to be an independent woman. Before the play, the kids decorated crowns and had their faces painted. The students also handed out bookmarks with a suggested reading list on the back.

Vox Promotional Group: advertised and promoted activities and events for Vox: Voices for Planned Parenthood, in order to increase membership and participation.

The Sex Slam: an open reading of poetry and other creative materials about sexuality, as well as a discussion about cultural taboos surrounding sexual activity and expression.

Non-Discrimination Policy: This group lobbied greek life and student clubs and organizations to adopt formal non-discriminatory policies in their bylaws. They also organized a day where students will be encouraged to sign a pledge to not discriminate and to not tolerate discrimination when they see it.

STRIP: Students Together Rallying for Inner Peace: To encourage both men and women to recognize and accept their beauty and strengths rather than focusing on the unattainable beauty that the media promotes. STRIP encourages everyone to be their perfect and unique selves. After all, you cannot accept or appreciate others until you love and appreciate yourself.

2011 GRADUATES

MAJORS

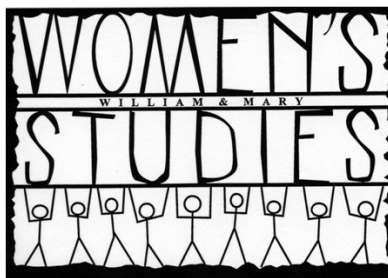
Katie Dalby
Amanda Fleming
Audrey Ford
Eve Pamela Grice
Megan Rae Keeling
Maia Landey
Emily Larkin McMillen
Elizabeth Fox Miller
Kali Anne Murphy
Kelsey Alexandra Powell
Casey Allen Sears
Errin Toma
Eric David Lajeunesse Tyler
Jessee A. Vasold

MINORS

Beth DeGiorgis
Justine Alyssa di Giovanni
Rebeca Garcia
Gagan Deep Jindal
Tessa Raebeck

Graduates & Alumni:

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