

WOMEN'S STUDIES

Spring Notes

THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY

May 2008

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Congratulations to our '08 Graduates!

Majors

Devan Barber
Morgan Berman (High Honors)
Danielle Garrett
Sarah Klotz (Highest Honors in English)
Sarah McCann
Patricia Nelson (Highest Honors)
Caitlyn Smith
Sarah Snyder
Caitlin Tuffin

Minors

Nathaniel Amos
Rebecca Fogley
Hayley Loblein
Alyssa Mezzoni

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**Questions?
Comments?
Suggestions?**

Please send them all to the editor!

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Update and goodbye from the Director

Sad to say, this is my last newsletter as Director. As I look back over my four years in the position, mostly what I feel is gratitude. It has been an inspiring and exciting time for me. The things I am most proud of during my time as Director could not have been accomplished without the dedication and hard work of other people, so I mention some of them here. We founded Friends of Women's Studies in 2004, and it has gone from strength to strength. Our graduate assistants, Sarah Jaggi, Maya Johnson, Tova Johnson and Kim Mann were crucial to the success of the Founding Friends book group, and the organization would never have got off the ground without Kendra Rhodes' advice and Ann Repeta's organizational skills and her recruiting efforts. The Community Action Projects in Introduction to Women's Studies were the brain-child of Jenny Putzi and Andrea Westcot, and we were able to introduce them in 2007 with the help of a Mellon Foundation grant.

I have learned so much from all of you: Nancy Gray was my wise woman, Gul Ozyegin always stepped in when I didn't know what to do, Jenny Putzi was my adviser both as a colleague and as a fellow new mother (there must have been something in the water), and Margot Weiss taught me that you don't have to be in a place for very long to become indispensable. As some of you know, I inconveniently gave birth to twins three semesters into my term as Director. Without the willingness of first Leisa Meyer, and then Christy Burns, to step in as interim Directors, I would have had to come to work with two howling babies in tow, and no-one wanted that.

Thanks also to the wonderful adjunct instructors I have worked with who have given unstintingly of their time and energy, and who have always gone the extra mile: Camilla Buchanan, Casey Cothran, Ella Diaz, Marcy Douglass, Emilie Godwin, Beth Kreydatus, Hilary Marcus, Juliana Mills, Melissa Ooten, Laura Puaca, Mei-Mei Sanford, and Andrea Westcot. Darlene O'Dell was here as a Visiting Assistant Professor when I arrived and one of the things I am sorriest about is that she wasn't able to stay. Ann Repeta was the funniest, kindest, most imaginative and most efficient office manager I could have wished for. Without her, my job would have been much more difficult, and – honestly – much more boring.

Finally, thank you to all the affiliated faculty and the Women's Studies students – majors, minors, and just-a-bit-interested – for making my time as Director so full of fun and surprises. I will carry your good will back with me to my exile in English.

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Congratulations to Morgan Berman (Women's Studies, '08) and Caroline Carpenter Nichols, who received the Dean's Prize for Student Scholarship on Women!



Morgan Berman

The Dean's Prize for Student Scholarship on Women, generously funded by the Dean's Office, recognizes an outstanding paper by a student at the College on a subject related to women or gender. We had a record number of submissions this year and it was an extremely difficult decision. Thanks to the Women's Studies Prizes Committee for all their hard work!

Morgan won in the undergraduate category, for her paper (based on her Honors thesis) "Beyond Pro Versus Anti: A Transnational Feminist Critique of Cross-Cultural Comparisons of Female Genital Cutting." Morgan identifies a deadlock in feminist accounts of FGC, showing how the debate has been reduced to two, opposing positions: "either supporting local communities to practice FGC as they see fit or rejecting FGC as an intolerable practice." In her paper, she argues that "Western feminist scholarship needs to take responsibility for its own biases and then confront them in order to support the work of local activist groups who are personally involved in the process of change enacted by activists working in these communities."

Caroline's paper was a revised chapter from her PhD dissertation in American Studies, and the title is "The 'Adventuress' Becomes a 'Lady': Ida B. Wells' British Tours." The chapter describes the effects on Wells' anti-lynching campaign of the lecture tours that she took through England and Scotland in 1893. Drawing on Wells' own autobiography and diaries, Caroline argues that the tours and the new outbreak of "spectacle lynchings" in the American South "spurred Wells to reconceptualize her campaign," to "assume new leadership roles" and to become more aggressive, even more masculine, in her self-presentation.

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Congratulations to Constance Sisk (Music, '08), who received the inaugural Friends of Women's Studies Prize for Student Activism!



The Friends of Women's Studies Prize, funded by membership fees and generous donations from the Friends of Women's Studies, recognizes individuals, groups, or campus organizations who have done outstanding feminist activist work outside the classroom context during the 2007-8 academic year. Activism is alive and well on our campus, and we had a number of outstanding nominations. Thanks to the Women's Studies Prizes Committee for all their hard work in making the selection.

Constance has been active on campus in a variety of areas, including LGBTQ issues, substance abuse, liaising with unions on campus, and agricultural sustainability projects. In all of these areas she has been a central figure. Her association with the Lambda Alliance dates officially from her sophomore year, when she was the activist chair, and she is now the president. Her work in this area has focused on creating safe spaces on campus for queer students, lobbying and publicity on the Marshall-Newman Amendment (the "Marriage Amendment"), and conference-organizing. Her work with Students for Sensible Drug Policy and the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Task Force includes conducting "Know Your Rights" trainings, organizing a series of Drug Policy Awareness weeks, and helping to implement a Medical Amnesty Policy. A few months ago she was elected to SSDP's national board of directors. In addition to these efforts, she has been active in the Tidewater Labor Support Committee, helping to organize demonstrations against the Iraq war, a Living Wage campaign, and a Grass Roots Organizing Weekend. Finally, she has been President of the Farmers and Gardeners Club, a group that volunteers at a local organic farm and works to promote sustainable food policies and practices on campus.

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Congratulations to Stephanie Beckett '09, who received the Carol Woody Real World Internship Award!



A number of years ago, W&M alum Carol Woody generously endowed a fund to support a female student at the College during a spring or summer internship. Stephanie Beckett is a junior Government and Black Studies double major, and she will use her Carol Woody Real World Internship Award to intern with the Genocide Intervention Network in Washington DC. The Genocide Intervention Network envisions a world in which the global community is willing and able to protect civilians from genocide and mass atrocities. The goal and mission of the organization is to empower individuals and communities with the tools they need to rise up against genocide. Stephanie's interest in this group grew out of her work with the William & Mary chapter of STANDarfur (Students Taking Action Now: Darfur), which is a national anti-genocide student group. Working with the Genocide Intervention Network will give Stephanie valuable experience in policy research, writing, fund raising, community organizing, and lobbying.



Carol Woody

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Congratulations to our '08 graduates!

You are all invited to the Women's Studies graduation ceremony on Saturday May 10th at 11 am, in Chesapeake A, when we will honor the extraordinary achievements of the Women's Studies majors and minors who are graduating this summer. They are:

Majors

Devan Barber
Morgan Berman (High Honors)
Danielle Garrett
Sarah Klotz (Highest Honors in English)
Sarah McCann
Patricia Nelson (Highest Honors)
Caitlyn Smith
Sarah Snyder
Caitlin Tuffin

Minors

Nathaniel Amos
Rebecca Fogley
Hayley Loblein
Alyssa Mezzoni

Graduates, please stay in touch. We will miss you and we wish you the very best of luck in the future!

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Goodbye, Margot, and good luck!



We are very sorry indeed to say goodbye to our Visiting Assistant Professor, Margot Weiss, who is leaving us for a tenure-eligible position at Wesleyan University. In her short time here, Margot has become one of our most beloved teachers and a highly valued colleague and friend. She took our students to all sorts of new intellectual and political places, and she inspired us all to think differently about not just sexuality (her research area), but about how we teach and what we do. In the words of one of her students, Margot is "absolutely fabulous." And of course, without her, we would have no idea what BDSM is (Bondage Domination Sado-Masochism, for those of you who missed her brownbag). We will really miss her, and we wish her the best of luck in her new job.



Majors, Minors and Graduates: Join the Women's Studies Alumni Society!

Julian Carr ('04) and Carolyn Barbadoro ('07) have formed a Women's Studies alumni society, geared towards community building, networking and fundraising. If you would be interested in joining such a group either now or after you've graduated, visit http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wm_wmst/.

Julian graduated from W&M's law school in May ('07) and has just begun working for PETA as a research associate on vivisection issues. He took the Virginia state bar in February. Carolyn is currently taking her finals at William Mitchell College of Law.