



Gender & Women's Studies

Spring 2012 News & Updates

Report from the Interim Head, Dr. Miranda Joseph

As I write from my temporary post as Interim Department Head, the Gender & Women's Studies Department is in the midst of an incredibly busy and exciting semester. We have undertaken a national search for the next permanent Head and are incredibly gratified to have received a large number of applications from superbly qualified candidates. This is a tribute to our outstanding work and reputation and a reason for great confidence in our future.

We have experienced a number of transitions in the faculty. Elizabeth Lapovsky Kennedy has retired (read more about Kennedy on p5). Laura Briggs, Caryl Flinn and Nicole M. Guidotti-Hernández have all moved on to other universities, and we wish them the best in their new faculty positions. Meanwhile, we are thrilled to welcome Susan Stryker, internationally renowned scholar and founder of the field of Transgender Studies, to the UA as a faculty member in Gender & Women's Studies and Director of the Institute for LGBT Studies.

We are also pleased to have become the home for *Feminist Formations*. This important venue for the publication of feminist scholarship is now co-edited by GWS faculty member, Sandra K. Soto, and Adela C. Licona, GWS affiliate and faculty in Rhetoric Composition and the Teaching of English (RCTE). Our PhD candidate Erin Durban-Albrecht serves as Managing Editor and Londie Martin (PhD candidate in RCTE) as Editorial Assistant.

Our PhD program is going strong with our first three students—November Papaleo, Shannon Randall and Erin Durban-Albrecht—passing their comprehensive exams and advancing to candidacy. Turn the page for a full report on the program and our fabulous students.

Meanwhile, we have worked to educate ourselves and our community in response to the attacks on Ethnic Studies and, specifically, the Tucson Unified School District's Mexican American Studies program. The department's Anti-Racism Task Force has organized a series of presentations, workshops and colloquia addressing topics such as the history of political struggles initiating Ethnic Studies and the practice of feminist anti-racist pedagogy. Laura Pulido, Professor of American Studies & Ethnicity and Geography at University of Southern California, gave a presentation entitled "Popularizing Ethnic Studies through Alternative Tourism" to a large and enthusiastic audience. We hosted Bettina Aptheker, Professor of Feminist Studies and History at the University of California, Santa Cruz, where she taught her acclaimed

Introduction to Feminisms lecture course for decades. She led a workshop on pedagogy, gave a lecture from her new scholarship on LGBT people in the Communist Left, and spent a dinner with Honor's College students, talking with them about her own life story, which she has narrated in her recent memoir, *Intimate Politics: How I Grew Up Red, Fought for Free Speech and Became a Feminist Rebel*.

As always, our community supporters have been busy at work: as you'll read on p4, the Women's Plaza of Honor marked key achievements with the dedications of two arches this year. Meanwhile, the Women's Studies Advisory Council has organized a number of great events, including Women Who Lead and LunaFest, that bring friends and funds to our department.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter, which is intended to be the first in an ongoing series to keep you up-to-date on our activities and accomplishments. Thank you so much for your interest and support.



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