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Highlights from a Busy Year

As my second year at UA winds down, it seems an excellent time to reflect on the Department’s accomplishments. Academic year 2013-14 has been eventful and challenging, but also fruitful.

If you read our Fall 2013 newsletter, you know that we are undergoing our Academic Program Review this year. Beginning last spring, we collected a massive amount of information about the Department in preparation for our site visit, which took place March 10-11, 2014. Our APR Committee, chaired by Dr. Priti Ramamurthy of the University of Washington and also including local community members and faculty, was deeply engaged and helpful. The Committee’s report recently arrived and was highly favorable.

Simultaneous to the APR, we conducted a search for a new faculty member as part of a broader UA Transgender Studies Initiative cluster hire, with four positions total across the University. GWS brought four excellent candidates to campus, and found much to appreciate in all of them. Happily, we recently made an offer to Eva Hayward, which she accepted. Dr. Hayward’s work encompasses transgender studies, visual studies, animal studies, queer theory, and science and technology studies. She will be an excellent addition to the GWS faculty, helping to facilitate collaborations across SBS and with the Colleges of Humanities and Fine Arts.

As if all of this was not enough to occupy our energies, our faculty members have been very busy publishing books and articles, chairing committees, conducting funded research, and traveling to offer lectures and talks. To note some highlights:


Dr. Zeynep Korkman and Dr. William Paul Simmons participated in the international, interdisciplinary project Religion, Secularism, and Political Belonging, organized by Head of English Leerom Medovoi.

Dr. Miranda Joseph published articles in the Scholar and

Dr. Sally Stevens participated in a meeting of stakeholders in D.C., focused on juvenile justice, where she brought important LGBT issues to the table.

Our graduate students were just as busy: Erin Dubran-Albrecht was awarded a prestigious AAUW American fellowship, while Liz Verklan attended the 8th Annual Feminist Theory Workshop at Duke University. Several students attended and presented at the NWSA meetings in Cincinnati, Ohio.

We’ve also been working hard to ensure greater professional development opportunities for our staff members. For example, with Department funds and donations from the GWS faculty, Megan Coe attended the 2014 AWP Conference, where she gathered useful information for our feminist publishing endeavors.

As this year draws to a close and we plan at least a bit of summer rest before jumping into our next academic year, we remain grateful for the support of our community, both inside UA and beyond. Our constituents—students, readers, colleagues, community members—are why we do what we do. Every one of us seeks not just to elucidate “what’s wrong with the world,” but we also seek to provide solutions for making our world a better place.

And what better time than spring to reflect on growth and change?

by Monica J. Casper, Ph.D., Head of GWS
Gender and Women’s Studies
Summer 2014 Schedule of Classes

Classes you can take from anywhere! All courses online, except for GWS 150 B4

Go to UAccess.arizona.edu to sign up or contact Debbie Marlow.

Tier 1 Individuals & Societies: GWS 150B1, GWS 150B2, GWS 150B4
Tier 1 Traditions and Cultures: GWS 160C1
Tier 2 Humanities: GWS 200
Tier 2 Individuals and Societies: GWS 240
Diversity Emphasis: GWS 200, GWS 240

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Women in Science and Engineering (WISE)

On Saturday, March 3, middle-school students from across southern Arizona gathered at Sahuarita Middle School to engage in a day of learning and scientific discovery. Expanding Your Horizons is a bi-annual (and soon to be even more frequent) conference, put on by UA’s Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) in order to provide middle and high school students with the chance to get excited about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). At EYH, students participate in hands-on scientific workshops run by UA students, clubs, and accomplished professionals in STEM fields, interact with role models, and listen to and learn about a day in the life of local flourishing scientists. Even the parents were offered a workshop during which they could learn about different methods of receiving financial aid to fund their child for college. At EYH, our goal is to leave no question unanswered and no mind uninspired.

But contrary to past conferences, which have been held nearby the University at the Riverpark Inn, instead of asking the students to make the trip, this time WISE went on the road to visit the students’ hometown in what we fondly termed a “Drag and Drop” conference. Another new entity was the funding from Freeport-McMoran and the aid of the incredible Green Valley Chapter of the American Association of University Women. With these sponsors and new collaborations, this was one of WISE’s most successful conferences to date, with high attendance, new and innovative experimental workshops, and no doubt, greatly affected lives. We look forward to continuing this conference format in order to reach a greater population of Arizona’s students in the future.

by Jennifer Sedler, WISE Intern

Meet the WOSAC President!

Laurie Robinson, MTS, has been a member of the Women’s Studies Advisory Council (WOSAC) Board of Directors since July, 2008 and is currently serving as the Board President. She chaired WOSAC’s committee in 2008 through 2010 for the development of three community forums on HPV which were available to the university community as well as to the general public.

Laurie served as the Wellness and Health Promotion Manager for El Rio Community Health Center until October 2013. There, she worked to bring a comprehensive understanding of wellness that incorporated a focus on how mind, body, spirit and community interact in people’s lives to affect health and well-being.

Before moving to Arizona in 2007, she served for ten years as the Region I Women’s Health Coordinator for the Office on Women’s Health within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, working with the six New England states.

Laurie holds a Bachelor’s degree in environmental health and biology from Whitworth College and a Masters in Theological Studies from Boston University in feminist theology and bio-ethics. Before joining the federal government, she served as Director of the Women’s Health Unit for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, where she oversaw the state’s Breast and Cervical Cancer Initiative; Sexual Assault Prevention and Survivors Service programs; the Batterer Intervention program, as well as federal grants which provided services, training, advocacy and surveillance in the area of domestic violence.

Prior to her work with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Laurie worked for ten years in the field of adult mental health with the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health both as Director of a regional, 100-bed inpatient unit and rehabilitation program at Worcester State Hospital and later as Director of Adult Services for the Metro West Area of Massachusetts, developing community based resources and supports. Her early work was in the area of theological education where she was Director of the Field Education Program and Associate Director of Ministerial Studies at Harvard Divinity School.

Laurie has served as President of the Board of Directors for the Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center, the Farnsworth House Corporation, and the Springhouse Continuing Care Retirement Community in Massachusetts. She has been Co-Chair of the Community Action Board for the Prevention Research Center at the University of Arizona and participates in the Healthy Pima Initiative of the Pima County Health Department.
Feminist Formations

Coming off the heels of a busy 2013 during which we presented a fantastic regular issue, a special issue titled "Feminists Interrogate States of Emergency," as well as an issue that included a dossier on Robyn Weigman’s book *Object Lessons*, Feminist Formations is preparing for the arrival of our first issue of 2014. This issue contains work that explores topics such as racialization and gendering through legal discourse as well as small-scale interventions to propel multilingual pedagogies, and it features beautiful cover art by the Department’s own Brooke Lober.

In addition, our upcoming August issue presents diverse topics such as the complexities of class, gender, and race in Indian diaspora, financial management and success and its relationship to gender and class, and grassroots opposition to the expanding carceral state. It will also feature work by the incredibly talented artist Wangechi Mutu.

We are excited about these upcoming releases and we welcome submissions of articles, book reviews, and poetry for future issues. For more information about the journal or to submit your work, please see our webpage at feministformations.org.

LUNAFEST at the Loft

The Women’s Studies Advisory Council (WOSAC) hosted its 9th annual LUNAFEST® on March 4th. This national film festival, created and funded by LUNA®, The Whole Nutrition Bar for Women®, is dedicated to promoting awareness of women’s issues, highlighting women filmmakers, and bringing women together in their communities.

This year’s local LUNAFEST was the most successful in WOSAC’s history, raising over $9,000 dollars to benefit WOSAC and GWS locally and, nationally, to benefit The Breast Cancer Fund.

LUNAFEST started the show with the winning feature from a local short film contest. This year’s winner was a beautifully done and thought-provoking documentary, *Uprooted*, by GWS Ph.D. Student Carmen Elena L’Annunziata. Congratulations, Elena!

This unique film festival is always a community favorite. We were honored to have over 400 people in the audience. Based on the survey results, everyone enjoyed the films, which covered a wide range of topics, including health, motherhood, body image, disabilities, sexuality, love, cultural diversity, and breaking barriers. There was thunderous applause at the end of the show and many smiling faces leaving the theater, promising to be back, with friends, next year. No wonder our Tucson LUNAFEST is regarded as one of the top ten in the country!


LUNAFEST would not be possible without the creativity, dedication, and hard work of the 2014 planning committee and all the dedicated volunteers who helped make the event such a great success. Thank you!

See you all again at the movies in March 2015! Could 2015 be the year we sell out The Loft? Let’s make it happen!

by Leigh Spencer, WOSAC Program Coordinator

WOSAC Says Goodbye to Two Beloved Members

Earlier this year, WOSAC and the Tucson community lost two extraordinary women, Rita Cuny Nelson and Dr. Anna Jolivet.

Rita served as a dedicated and enthusiastic board member for many years, both for WOSAC and Resource Exchange. Her loves included her BIG sunglasses, mystery novels, playing cards, her cat, her many friends, and her nieces and nephews. Rita loved life and lived it to the fullest, teaching many of us lessons on how to have a positive attitude and be happy with yourself. Rita's bright ideas and infectious smile will be greatly missed. Her friends and family have chosen to honor Rita with a large paver in the Women’s Plaza of Honor, to be unveiled this summer.

Anna Jolivet was a WOSAC Lifetime member and was instrumental in establishing the African American Women’s Arch in the Plaza of Honor. Dr. Jolivet, a native Tucsonan, UA graduate, and retired assistant superintendent for TUSD, was known for her work as an educator, community advocate, and cultural leader while also serving on the board of directors for many local, regional, and national organizations. In 2010, she received the Ray Davies Lifetime Humanitarian Achievement Award for her involvement in programs and institutions that promote quality education and serve Tucson’s youth. She was a tireless advocate for civil and human rights and making the world a better place.

While it is with profound sadness that we must say goodbye to these truly amazing women, their legacy of outstanding community service is an endless source of happiness and pride.
Together, the University of Arizona (UA) -Southwest Institute for Research on Women (SIROW) (http://sirow.arizona.edu) and the Department of Gender and Women’s Studies (GWS) (http://gws.arizona.edu) work to diversify the next generation of scientists! Our multi-pronged approach involves the local community and expands the UA campus. While we continue to develop new programs in response to community and UA needs, three of our programs include iSTEM, Women in Science and Engineering, and Love Maps for Middleschoolers.

**iSTEM** (http://sirow.arizona.edu/equity), a 3 year project funded by the National Science Foundation, is testing an innovative hybrid approach to engaging 3rd – 8th grade Pascua Yaqui students in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) – and inspiring them to be future scientists! Partnering with the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, public schools, a non-profit agency, and several UA colleges, iSTEM combines a mentoring approach with field trips around science-related curriculum of importance to the Pascua Yaqui community. Science themes such as “Soil Science” and “Water & Watershed” are each offered for a two-month period. At lunch time, mentors and mentees participate in pre-packaged hands-on activities related to the science theme and participate in a field trip also related to the theme. While most STEM mentoring programs use professionals as mentors, iSTEM is testing the differential effectiveness of three types of mentors: (1) STEM professionals, (2) UA students, and (3) Pascua Yaqui community members.

The **Women in Science and Engineering (WISE)** program (http://wise.arizona.edu) was established at the UA in 1976 as part of SIROW and GWS. Funded primarily by the UA-College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, WISE offers a wide range of programs for students and professionals, including conferences for middle and high school students, academic and career preparation programs for college students, mentoring, internships, scholarships, a UA living-learning residential community, and much more! WISE uses the UA student internship model to support its wide range of activities thus assisting with UA’s goal to have 100% student engagement. Every semester, 20 WISE interns learn critical engagement through community-based service learning and the development of a civic identity.

**Love Maps for Middleschoolers** (http://hastac.org/competitions/winners/lovemaps-middle-school), funded by the University of California Humanities Research Institute, aims to engage middle school students in digital activism for social justice. Primarily working with girls and communities of color, our Saturday workshops facilitated for middle school students in the fall of 2013 offered an opportunity to collaborate, produce, and use a geographic information system (GIS) social app that enabled students to locate, follow, and learn from positive examples of social justice. Focusing on the UA campus, specifically the Women’s Plaza of Honor, LoveMaps engages youth in both technology and activism – fostering lifelong engagement and community identity.
The experience of trauma embeds itself in two ways, one intangible and the other physical. Trauma is in the Pandora’s Box brimming with the memory of experiences we try to tamp down for fear of what may spill out. Trauma is also contained in the senses, cloister of physical memory.

Reliving past trauma sets the blood pulsing, the heart aflutter. “Do I flee or can I stand firm?” In trauma we are not whole, we are fractured, held together by the threadbare cord that gave us life. Building resilience through a combination of gradual exposure, learned coping skills, strategies for countering triggers, is the salve to help us heal and learn to cope. Tools to make us whole, resilient.

The quest for effective treatments for trauma range from the clinical to the expressive arts including poetry and drawing among other forms. In previous work (Andrade & Stevens, 2004; 2011; Stevens & Andrade 2006; 2011), we found that many women with extensive histories of trauma declined clinical services, while these same women were willing to participate in literature study groups indirectly exploring trauma through readings and discussions (e.g., The Bluest Eye, White Oleander, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings).

In our work through the University of Arizona’s Southwest Institute for Research on Women (SIROW), we carry out research for and about health and wellness of women and families including feminist research to address women’s experiences of trauma — historical, structural, and personal. This research allows insight into developing responsive, acceptable, and innovative services through participatory action methods. One recent project explored healing through digital storytelling.

Digital storytelling emerged in the 1990s as an approach that combines personal narrative with digital images and music in 3 to 5 minute videos. More recently, the National Library of Medicine (NLM) introduced digital storytelling as a new media tool for engaging American Indian populations through its American Indian Health (AIH) portal. The AIH portal is dedicated to addressing health and wellness of American Indians. Under sponsorship with NLM, nDigiDreams, a Native women-owned company, has been training community members across North America, on American Indian reservations, health centers, and educational venues, to create digital stories.

From January 30th to February 3rd, 2014, NLM and SIROW co-sponsored a digital storytelling workshop, Healing Our Communities One Story at a Time, at SIROW’S community-based site (Mujer Sana, Healthy Woman). Thirteen Native American women representing 11 Native American tribes participated in the workshops, completing 13 unique digital stories; 12 of which will be made available through the AIH portal and the SIROW website. A screening and panel presentation featuring the participants will be organized for the fall of 2014 in Tucson, Arizona.

The story circle set a group of women in motion to reflect and tell of an experience. Each story a secret revealed. And as each woman narrates, each breath gives voice to her truth.

by Rosi Andrade, PhD. Research Professor, Southwest Institute for Research on Women, University of Arizona
GWS Associate Professor Eithne Luibheid, with co-editors Robert Buffington (Professor and Director of Women and Gender Studies at UC Boulder), and Donna Guy (Distinguished Professor of Humanities at Ohio State) recently published *A Global History of Sexuality* (Wiley Blackwell, 2014), which offers a wide-ranging introduction to the history of sexuality from the late 18th century to the present. The book:

- explores what sexuality has meant in the everyday lives of individuals over the last 200 years
- is organized around four major themes: the formation of sexual identity, the regulation of sexuality by societal norms, the regulation of sexuality by institutions, and the intersection of sexuality with globalization
- examines the topic from a comparative, global perspective, with well-chosen case studies to illuminate the broader themes
- includes interdisciplinary contributions from prominent historians, sociologists, anthropologists, and sexuality studies scholars
- introduces important theoretical concepts in a clear, accessible way

Contributors include Hai Ren (East Asian Studies, UA) on sexuality and mass media; Robert Parker (Center for the Study of Culture, Politics and Health at Columbia U) and Jonathan Garcia (Sociomedical Sciences, Columbia U) on globalization and sexual rights; Mytheli Sreenivas (Women’s Studies and History at OSU) on sexuality and modern imperialism; Laura McGough (a consultant based in Ghana) and Katherine Bliss (CSIS Global Health Policy Center) on sex and disease from syphilis to AIDS; Sabine Fruhstuck (East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies at UC Santa Barbara) on sexuality and the nation state—as well as the editors’ chapters (Luibheid on Sexuality and International Migration, and Buffington on Sex Trafficking).

The 4th annual Miranda Joseph Endowed Lecture by Dr. Saidiya Hartman took place on Thursday, April 3, 2014. Nearly 200 people attended the Thursday evening lecture and 80 more came to the Friday Scholars’ Studio, making this the most successful Miranda Joseph Endowed lecture on record yet. Hartman’s lecture was entitled “A Serial Biography of the Wayward.”

Hartman is a professor at Columbia University, specializing in African American literature and cultural history. Her pathbreaking works include Scenes of Subjection: Terror, Slavery, and Self-making in Nineteenth Century America (Oxford University Press, 1997) and Lose Your Mother: A Journey Along the Atlantic Slave Route (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007). She is on the editorial board of the journal Callaloo, and has been a Fulbright, Rockefeller, Whitney Oates, and University of California President’s Fellow. In 2007 she was the recipient of the Narrative Prize from Narrative Magazine and the Gustav Myers Award for Human Rights.

Ten Things You May Not Know About…

1. ...studied the Classics and has read most of Plato’s works in the original Greek;
2. ...is an avid runner and has completed five marathons;
3. ...supported himself in graduate school by betting on horses;
4. ...is writing the very first book, ever, on joy and human rights;
5. ...taught at Southern University, an Historically Black College and University (HBCU);
6. ...worked as a shipping dock foreman and a 3rd-shift security guard;
7. ...is an expert on Franco-Jewish philosopher Emmanuel Lévinas;
8. ...researches sexual violence at the U.S./Mexico border;
9. ...knows just about everything there is to know about sports, especially the Green Bay Packers;
10. ...can dance the Charleston.
On February 13, 2014, Megan Coe, GWS Office Specialist, interviewed Margaret Randall, guest speaker, activist, writer, photographer, and more, at Caffe Luce in Tucson.

Check out our YouTube site to view the interview here and see below for some interview highlights.

Margaret: For me, poetry is who I am, more than what I do. It's the way I identify myself. As a poet, I really resist the idea that poetry should be activism or should be anything. It should be good.

We write out of who we are. Everyone writes out of who they are. So if some form of political activism is important to you, then that's going to come into your poetry.

Megan: What about your writing in particular do you feel incited the [American] government enough to deport you in 1984?

Margaret: The fact that I transcribed women's voices, first of all the voices of ordinary people in Latin America who were living lives often damaged by US government policy. The fact that I gave voice to those women... angered the government. The exact wording of the first judge who actually ordered me deported was, “Her writings go against the good order and happiness of the United States.” When you think of that, it's pretty laughable, but it's also very serious, because what it means is the only thing that upholds the good order and happiness of the United States is to accept—hook, line, and sinker—the policies, the attitudes, the idea that a government puts forth, and that's absurd. It absolutely goes against the idea that we live in a free country where there's freedom of speech, of dissent, and so forth. I also think that just as a woman, refusing to say I was sorry put a big thorn in their [the government's] side, because on a number of occasions during the five years of my case, I was sort of given that opportunity, surreptitiously, to say that I'm really sorry I said this or wrote this, I won't do it again... you know. The kind of thing that is often expected of women, even today. It became important for me not to say, Oh I'm sorry I wrote that; it became important for me to defend the right even to be wrong.

Megan: Can you tell us a little bit about the Women's Plaza of Honor?

Margaret: Tucson is one of the only places in the world that has such a place. Women’s contributions to history all around the world are so undervalued, in all the fields, and it's still a struggle, and to think of a physical place that would be beautiful and serene and would honor all these women that would have their biographies and their photographs in a database easily accessible that would teach the visitors about these women's lives, and they would be famous women and ordinary women... how incredibly democratic it became. You could buy an arch for $100,000, something like that, and you could buy a brick for $250. It was open for people of all kinds of means to make that honoring gesture. A couple of years ago, I decided that I wanted to contribute to it in some way, and I began to buy a couple of little leaves or the least expensive kind of brick. The kinds of borders that fictitiously divide us in this world, women from men and known people from unknown people... shouldn't really operate in a place like this Plaza. The arbitrary border between Mexico and the United States should not exist. So I decided to honor a woman commander of the Zapatista movement in Mexico. Whenever I can, I feel really good about [honoring women in the Plaza]. It's been a very joyous thing to, every once in a while, if I have some extra dollars, to contribute to it, to see it grow and succeed and become more than anyone dreamed of. It's such an example of diverse people coming together, not always agreeing about the goals and the different operational elements in the Plaza, but working it out democratically, coming to consensus, and making it happen. It's a very very unique place, and I wish that we had more places like that in the world.

For more information about the Women's Plaza of Honor, contact Leigh Spencer at 520-621-5656 or spencerl@email.arizona.edu
GWS shows some skin!