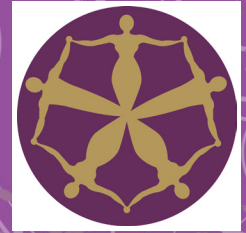


# Gender Notes

WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES  
THE COLLEGE AT BROCKPORT



Fall 2008

Issue #1

## A Note from the WMS Program Director



Barbara LeSavoy, PhD

The Women and Gender Studies (WMS) Program, now well into its second year of stewardship under the program's first full time faculty Director, continues to prosper. More than 21 students are pursuing WMS as major area of study and an additional 27 students are active minors. The WMS Program Board was reconstituted in fall 2007 introducing new energy and expertise into this already well established multidisciplinary WMS advisory board structure. You'll find a complete list of all WMS Board members and other faculty and staff roles associated with the WMS Program in the sidebar to the right.

WMS Program 2007-2008 highlights include eight WMS student presentations at Scholar's Day in April 2008, and two WMS student poster sessions at the NWSA Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, in June 2008. WMS associates/affiliates were active as both teachers and scholars, with more than 20 publications forthcoming or in print and more than ten WMS-related papers presented at international, national, and local venues.

New WMS Program ventures include a curriculum subcommittee chaired by Dr. Alisia Chase, associate professor in art history, which is already busy exploring several new initiatives for 2009-2010. These include the development of a WMS teaching and administrative assistantship experience as two unique options for fulfilling the internship required for the WMS major, and the establishment of formal advisement paths linking WMS with other complementing disciplines. Also new this year is the formation of a WMS Honor's Society, which is being overseen by Amber Humphrey, WMS associate faculty and office administrative assistant. The WMS Program continues to look to Dailey Hall as its new expanded office location. This relocation project is currently in the design phase with occupancy targeted for the summer of 2009.

As the WMS Program continues to flourish, I am thrilled to be sitting in the director's chair and excited to serve our students, faculty, and the College as we collectively move the WMS Program to new levels of teaching and learning excellence. On behalf of the WMS Program, I extend my thanks to Dr. John R. Halstead, president, Dr. Anne Huot, provost, and Dr. Stuart Appelle, dean of The School of Letters and Sciences, for their continued support of our operating needs, and my appreciation to all the members of our the WMS community for their dedication and hard-work.

Peace and best wishes to all for a happy and rewarding year ahead and please enjoy this fall 2008 inaugural launching of the WMS Program's "Gender Notes."

## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Ayana Weekley



of Rochester and a doctoral program at

Women and Gender Studies extends a warm welcome to WMS Presidential Fellow, PhD candidate, **Ayana Weekley**.

Ayana comes to us from postdoctoral work at the University

of the University of Minnesota, where she is very close to completing a PhD in gender studies. Ayana's academic interests include: Black Feminist Theory, Black Queer Theory, HIV/Aids in African American Communities, and Black Women's Fiction. We are excited about the expertise that Ayana brings to the WMS Program and college, and we look forward to her many contributions in the semesters ahead.

## WMS Program Board 2008-09

Barbara LeSavoy, Board Chair, women and gender studies  
Sharon Allen, English  
Marcia Betlem, residential life  
Alisia Chase, art history  
Denise Copelton, sociology  
Mary Corey, education and human development  
Colleen Donaldson, academic affairs  
Carl Davila, history  
David Gordinier, library  
Amber Humphrey, women and gender studies  
Kathy Halstead, member-at-large  
Donna Kowal, communication  
Jenny Lloyd, history  
Anne Macpherson, history  
Barbara Mitrano, women and gender studies  
Megan Obourn, English  
Anne Panning, English  
Alison Parker, history  
Andrea Parada, foreign language and literatures  
Jennifer Ratcliff, psychology  
Alberta Roesser, women's center  
Meredith Roman, history  
Patricia Sharkey, nursing  
Joan Spade, sociology  
Cheryl Stitchenko, student health center  
Juanita Suarez, dance  
Barbara Thompson, McNair/CStep  
Ayana Weekley, women and gender studies  
LouAnn Wurst, anthropology  
Hilarie Dahl and Lindsey Cain, wms student representatives

### WMS Curricula Subcommittee

Alisia Chase, art history, chair  
Megan Obourn, English  
Denise Copelton, sociology  
Jenny Lloyd, history  
Ayana Weekley, women and gender studies  
Meredith Roman, history

### WMS Associate Faculty

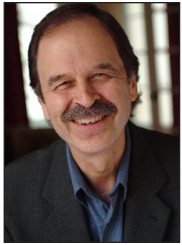
Amber Humphrey  
Barbara Mitrano  
Mary Buggie-Hunt  
Sharon Jacobson  
Jennie Lightweis-Goff

### WMS Office Assistants

Lindsay Hansen, wms, political science, English  
Lindsey Cain, wms

## Spring '09 Events

**Allan Johnson, PhD**  
**February 17, 2009, 7 pm**  
**New York Room, Cooper Hall**



Dr. Allan Johnson, PhD, is a writer, public speaker, and teacher. He received his doctorate in Sociology from the University of Michigan in 1972 and has published several books,

including *The Gender Knot: Unraveling Our Patriarchal Legacy* and *Privilege, Power, and Difference*.

Dr. Johnson's workshops and presentations focus on social inequality, privilege, and oppression, and he has presented at over 180 schools and organizations in 36 states.

On his Web site, Dr. Johnson says, "I try to . . . [open] windows to new and productive ways of thinking and living in the world. As a white male, I am especially concerned with reaching men and whites who may feel so uncomfortable with issues of privilege that they won't even talk about them."

The event is sponsored by the American Democracy Project (ADP) Speakers grant, submitted by and awarded to Dr. Jennifer Lloyd, history. Other event sponsors include: GICD, Provost's Office, Departments of Counselor Education, Education and Human Development, History, Sociology, Social Work, Women & Gender Studies Program, and the Women's Center. The talk is free and open to the public.

**Marge Piercy**  
**March 4, 2009, 8 pm**  
**New York Room, Cooper Hall**



Writer and poet Marge Piercy was born and raised in Detroit during the Depression and grew up around books, the labor union movement, and the racial tensions that continue to plague the city.

Piercy has published seventeen novels, including *Women and the Edge of Time* and *Sex Wars*, seventeen volumes of poetry, a

memoir, and several essays. Piercy's work is deeply rooted in the feminist movement and often highlights the issues that women face, even today.

On her Web site, Piercy says, "I consider myself a feminist. I was involved in the second wave of feminism when it began, basically around 1966, and I remain politically active and involved. Why am I a feminist? I was born a woman. I can't imagine not identifying strongly as a woman and not wanting things to be better and safer and more fun and less dangerous for myself and other women."

The event is co-sponsored by the Brockport Writers Forum and the Women and Gender Studies Program and is free and open to the public.

### WMS Reception

Please watch for details about the spring '09 WMS End of Semester Reception in honor of Dr. Jennifer Lloyd, history, WMS.



## WOMEN'S CENTER NEWS

- The biannual production of *The Vagina Monologues* will be at 7:30 pm on February 12-14, 2009, in the Hartwell Dance Theatre. Kristi Faulkner, Women's Center employee and MFA student in dance, will direct the production. Ticket sale information will be available in the spring.
- The Clothesline Project for 2009 will take place on April 7-8 in the Student Union.



## Student Research

WMS 411, Feminist Research Methods, under the instruction of Dr. Barbara Mitrano, is producing a unique and exciting breadth of fall '08 research topics. Students are geared up and interested in a variety of subjects.

Research questions include: Can female gun use be feminist? What brings happiness to elderly people? Why do women become attracted to diet culture? What's the nature of women's relationship to their breasts before and after breast feeding? What are the central behaviors of female

gamers? Why use the term "pro-abortion" to describe someone who is pro-choice? What factors lead to the decision to study women's studies and what do students plan to do professionally with this course of study?

Students will produce a research proposal by the end of fall semester, and are encouraged to present their abstract at Scholar's Day. Please stay tuned for further research updates and look for the WMS 411 student panel at Scholar's Day in April.

## WSO News

The Women's Studies Organization (WSO), with the help of Brockport Student Government, the Women and Gender Studies Program, and the Women's Center, will present the second annual Women's Week in March 2009. Planned events include breast casting, a make-up drive and self-portrait painting with the donated cosmetics, and several speakers. Keep an eye out for a more detailed calendar in February!

On October 18, 2008, WSO celebrated Love Your Body Day by passing out T-shirts declaring "I Am Beautiful" to students passing through the Union. Included was a list of Body Facts, explaining the purpose behind Love Your Body Day. The T-shirts were very popular among students and continue to be seen around campus.

## Faculty News

**Dr. Barbara LeSavoy**, women and gender studies, presented “*Student Views on Feminism*,” at the Women and Society Conference, Marist College, Poughkeepsie, NY, October 2008. “*On the Outside End: Systems of Oppression and Academic Success*,” was presented at the NWSA Conference, Cincinnati Ohio, June 2008.

**Dr. Barbara Mitrano**, women and gender studies, published “Tools for Feminists in Today’s Post-feminist Climate,” in the June 2008 edition of *Women in Higher Education Journal*.

**Dr. Megan Obourn**, English, published “Hybridity, Identity, and Representation

in *La Mollie and the King of Tears*,” in *American Literature*, Volume 80, Number 1 (March 2008): 141-66. “A Critical Race Analysis of Intrapsychic Space,” was co-presented with Dr. Annie Lee Jones at the Mental Health Grand Rounds, Queens, NY, December 5, 2008.

**Dr. Anne Panning**, English, had new work appear in *The South Loop Review*, *The Hawaii Review*, and *32 Poems*. She recently received The Constance Saltonstall Grant for Nonfiction Writing.

**Dr. Alison Parker**, history, co-editor of a new book series for the University of Rochester Press, called *Gender and Race*

in *American History* is excited about the prospect of bringing new books to students and scholars that analyze race and gender simultaneously.

**Dr. Jenny Lloyd**, history, is the author of *Plucking Sinners from the Fire: Methodist Women Preachers in 19th-Century Britain*, forthcoming in fall '09 from Manchester University Press.

**Dr. Andrea Parada**, foreign languages and literatures, is the author of “Nacencia errada and Docile Femininity in *Estábamós tú y yo* by María Luisa Mendoza,” published in *Revista de Literatura Mexicana* 33 13 (2007): XIII-XXII.

## Seneca Falls Dialogues

October 11-12, 2008

If not us . . . Who? If not now . . . When? If not Seneca Falls . . . Where?

The first biennial Seneca Falls Dialogues took place on October 11 and 12 in historic Seneca Falls, NY. The weekend began with a videotaped greeting from Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and the United Nations Commissioner of Human Rights. The Convention brought together students, professors, renowned authors, feminist activists, and an international Russian women’s delegation in the effort to mark the 160th anniversary of the first Women’s Rights Convention, the signing of the Declaration of Sentiments, and the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Keynote speaker Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney delivered an inspiring message of encouragement regarding Congress and the women’s rights agenda, and human rights activist Carolyn Hannan spoke on the global chal-

lenge in uniting feminist causes.

Panel topics at the conference included, “Women’s Rights/Human Rights, Locally and Globally;” “Legacies of the Women’s Rights Movement;” “Women’s Leadership and Activism;” and “Young Feminism on the Rise.” The College at Brockport, St. John Fisher College, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, SUNY Buffalo, SUNY Geneseo, and RIT provided panel participants. Dr. Barbara LeSavoy (WMS), Dr. Carla Davila (HST), Dr. Jenny Lloyd (HST), Dr. Mary Corey (EHD), and Jamie Bergeron (WMS ’08 and graduate student at University of Buffalo), were all Brockport panel presenters. The College at Brockport student participants included Lindsey Cain and Rosa Luciano, both WMS majors who served as student reporters, and Carol Smith, WMS major, who

assisted with the conference planning in association with a WMS Internship experience. Other College at Brockport student attendees included Devon Davidson, Jamie Stoltz, Chelsey Franz, Taylor Brown, Renee Garnier, Susan Boylan, and Victoria Ripple. Dr. Barbara LeSavoy, WMS Director, and Alberta Roesser, Women’s Center Director, were both part of the conference organizing committee and were active in planning and overseeing the weekend event.

While honoring the legacy of the great women who came to Seneca Falls before us, the Convention left participants energized, enthusiastic, and dedicated to change. The next Seneca Falls Dialogues is scheduled for the fall of 2010. Details for this 2010 event will be publicized as they become available.



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*Galina Matveeva, ombudsman for human rights in Novgorod, Russia, and former vice governor of the Novgorod province, visited The College at Brockport campus as part of her two-week trip to attend the Seneca Falls Dialogue conference. The visit was sponsored by Linkages of Rochester, Inc., an all-volunteer organization whose mission is to increase the understanding of the people, politics, and culture of Russia, with a focus on people-to-people relations between Rochester and Novgorod. Barbara LeSavoy PhD, Director of Women and Gender Studies, chairs the Linkages Women’s Partnership Committee and she was instrumental in planning and hosting Matveeva’s visit. (l-r) Asya Ryazantseva, Galina Matveeva, President Halstead, Kathy Halstead, Barbara LeSavoy.*

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## Elaine K. Miller Scholarship

At the conclusion of the spring '08 semester, the WMS Program honored WMS and Foreign Languages and Literatures faculty emerita Dr. Elaine K. Miller, who recently endowed the WMS Program with a scholarship that was realized for the first time in the fall of 2008. In recognition and appreciation of this endowment, the WMS Program honored Elaine by installing her in *The Book of Lives and Legacies* at the National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, NY. *The Book of Lives and Legacies* is an initiative of the Women's Hall of Fame

to recognize exceptional women admired by their families/friend/colleagues. A plaque that bears Elaine's name now resides in the Hall of Fame along with a nominating letter that details her many extraordinary professional and personal life achievements. If you visit the Hall of Fame, please look for Elaine's plaque on display, a fitting tribute to a distinguished College at Brockport faculty emerita who we are honored to call a mentor, colleague, and friend.

Hilarie Dahl, WMS '09, is the first recipient of the Elaine K. Miller Scholar-

ship. Hilarie is a Women and Gender Studies major with a minor in Communications and currently serves as President of the student government sponsored Women's Studies Organization. Hilarie is an Honors Program student who is interested in pursuing certification as a midwife and graduate work in theology. Hilarie currently works in the Women's Center and recently completed an internship earning DONA certification as a doula.

## Graduate Corner — Where are our WMS graduates now?

**Kim Adams**, '08, co-recipient of the WMS Harriett Whitney Award, C-Step Scholar, and School of Letters and Sciences and Adult Student Awards nominee is attending Wayne State Law School on a full academic scholarship, where she is pursuing a law degree.

**Jamie Bergeron**, WMS and foreign languages and literatures '08, WMS Senior Scholar, McNair Scholar, and Celebration of Writing and Student Chancellor Award nominee, is attending SUNY Buffalo on a full academic scholarship, where she is pursuing a master's program in higher education with a focus on student affairs/personnel services.

**Rebekah Orr**, WMS and sociology '08, co-recipient of the Harriett Whitney Award and McNair Scholar is attending Syracuse University on a full academic scholarship where she is working on a joint master's/PhD program in sociology and feminist methodology.

**Melissa Davies**, '04 WMS and history, SUNY Buffalo '08, works for the veterans administration as a rehabilitation specialist for the blind and is about to take her licensure exam to be a LMSW.

**Emily Tennant** '03 is the coordinator of gay and lesbian youth services in Buffalo, NY, and runs a Drop-In Center for GLBT youth, ages 14-21.

## Did you know...

that at The College at Brockport, students can pursue graduate work in Women and Gender Studies through the Masters of Liberal Studies (MLS) degree? Using the Liberal Studies seminars and graduate-level WMS courses, students can design a plan of study that concentrates on their areas of interests within Women and Gender Studies. Additional information can be found at: [www.brockport.edu/wms/master.html](http://www.brockport.edu/wms/master.html).

## ATTENTION Women and Gender Studies Alumni...

We would love to hear from you! Please update us on where you are what you're doing. E-mail your latest news to [blesavoy@brockport.edu](mailto:blesavoy@brockport.edu).

## WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES MISSION STATEMENT



*The Women and Gender studies program is committed to exploring gender and women's issues from a multidisciplinary perspective: across different populations; and within a local, national and transnational context. The program seeks to provide students with the occasion to investigate the intersectionality of sex, gender, race, ethnicity, class, age, sexuality and other dimensions of social identity. The program offers both a major and a minor with course work dedicated to heightening the awareness of the political, socioeconomic, and cultural ideologies related to gender theory. The women and gender studies curriculum seeks to support pedagogy rooted in social justice and equality and to situate the classroom as a collaborative space where both instructor and students mediate knowledge production. The Women and Gender Studies Program works to make the diversity of women's and gendered perspectives visible and to position student success within an academic, professional and personal context.*

## To learn more about the Women and Gender Studies Program at The College at Brockport, contact:

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