From the Department Head

Greetings to all our core and affiliate faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, and Friends:

2013-14 has been a successful and interesting year, with “old” and new people engaging in new activities.

Three of our core faculty members spent part or all of this year traveling for research.

- **Amy Lind**, fresh from promotion to full professor, was appointed visiting professor of Gender and Human Rights in the Programme on Gender and Global Change of the Graduate Institute and the Institute of Gender Studies at the University of Geneva, Switzerland. Amy spent fall semester in Geneva and elsewhere in Europe, teaching and lecturing, and occasionally finding time to take pictures of the spectacular view of Lake Geneva out her apartment window. Then, bolstered by a Taft Leave Extension grant, she has spent spring semester in Ecuador and Chicago, working on her book manuscript Decolonial Justice and deepening connections with FLACSO-Ecuador.

- **Ashley Currier**, whose promotion and tenure dossier is advancing successfully through the approval process, earned a $30,000 Post-doctoral Research Leave Fellowship from the American Association of University Women to support her second book project, The Politicization of Homosexuality in Malawi. In addition, Ashley has co-authored (with WGSS graduate student Rashida Manuel) an article entitled “When Rape Goes Unnamed: Gay Malawian Men’s Responses to Unwanted and Nonconsensual Sex” in Australian Feminist Studies (will appear later in 2014). Ashley also spearheaded the WGSS Department’s successful grant proposal for the purchase of the LGBT Thought and Culture Collection for the Langsam Library.

- **Rina Williams**, funded by Taft International Travel Funds and the University Research Council, spent her fall semester “junior leave” in India. There she did research and interviews in preparation for her second book project, Winning With Women: Religious Nationalism, Political Parties and Indian Democracy. Back at UC for spring semester, Rina worked on the WGSS departmental assessment plan, and gave the keynote talk at our Graduate Recruitment reception.

WGSS also welcomes two new core faculty members, who have come to us from elsewhere at the university.

- **Thérèse Migraine-George**, Associate Professor of French in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, has adjusted her affiliation to join WGSS half time. For now she is serving ably as our Director of Graduate Studies.

- **Giao Tran**, Associate Professor of Psychology, is moving to join WGSS full-time in summer 2014. Giao will teach Gender and Health and other courses for us, and will also serve next year as Interim Director of Undergraduate Studies.

I want to particularly commend the new energized Friends of WGSS Board under the leadership of **Barbara Myers**. This year Friends has increased fundraising, and are also working on formalizing a community mentoring program to assist WGSS graduate students who are interested in careers in nonprofits.

Many of our faculty and students participated in the National Women’s Studies Association’s annual conference, which was held here in Cincinnati in November 2013. A particular highlight for me was the WGSS Alumnae panel, comprised of four MA graduates from our department who have gone on to academic careers in Women’s/Gender Studies: **Susan Freeman** (Western Michigan University), **Lisa Huebner Ruchti** (West Chester University), **Ahoo Tabatabai** (Columbia College), and **Laura Foster** (Indiana University).

During this academic year WGSS brought an impressive slate of outside speakers to campus through the Charles Phelps Taft Fund:

- **Val Moghadam** on Democratic transition in Turkey;
- **Kamala Kempadoo** on sex trafficking;
- **Cynthia Enloe** and **Carol Cohn** on women’s peace and security issues;
- **Alex Myers** introducing his new novel Revolutionary; and
- **Sonia Alvarez** on globalization and Latin America.

If you missed these but would like a promise of next year’s events, WGSS is working with Taft to bring **Susan Stryker** here to discuss the place of trans* studies in the academy, and **Kelsy Burke** to discuss feminism and evangelical Christianity.

Beginning this spring we welcome several other visitors to the department. Husband and wife team **Jan Currie** (Emerita, Murdoch University, Perth, Australia) and **Paul Snider** (Emeritus, Curtin University, Perth, Australia) have arrived in Cincinnati to do research here. Their book project concerns **Hazel Heintz Currie** (cousin of **Mary Ellen Heintz**), after whom our endowed professorship is named, and relative of Jan Currie) and her lively experience as a flapper at UC in the 1920s. During the summer **Wang Juan**, a visiting scholar from China, will arrive to do a semester’s research on Victorian women’s literature; she will work with me and with affiliate **Tamar Heller** from English.

Finally, we have several new affiliate faculty this year: **John Lynch** (Communication, A&S), **Michael Gott** (Romance Languages, A&S), **Kristi Nelson** (A&S Dean, DAAP), **Christine Mok** (English, A&S), **Rob Neel** (Neurology, MED), and **Jaime Lewis** (Oncology, MED). We are grateful for their willingness to participate in our departmental life and culture.

Best wishes to all,

Deb Meem
LGBTQ Center

The LGBTQ Center supports the mission of the University of Cincinnati through a commitment to diversity, equity, leadership development, and intellectual inquiry with particular respect to sexual orientation and gender identity. We are an inclusive campus community that welcomes people of all sexual orientations and gender identities and provides support, resources, and advocacy regarding LGBTQ issues. We also promote, support, and collaborate with three LGBTQ student groups: GenderBloc, Colors of Pride, and UC Alliance.

The support from UC students, staff, and faculty continue to help the LGBTQ Center grow. Some of our programming and services include Safe Zone Training 101 and 201, Queer Spirituality, Rainbow Celebration, and QueerCat Pride Week. We collaborate with a wide range of university departments and student groups to present additional programming, and provide student panel discussions for classrooms, departments, student groups, and off-campus entities. In addition, we offer Trans* 101, classroom presentations, and other educational workshops for both the UC and greater Cincinnati communities.

Faculty Updates

Deb Meem is working on an edition of Eliza Lynn Linton’s 1867 sensation novel Sowing the Wind. Her co-editor for this project is Kate Holterhoff, an MA (English) grad from UC, who is now completing her PhD at Carnegie Mellon. StW is a lurid book: you’ll love it!

Michelle Gibson is WGSS Professor Emerita. Her most recent scholarly work (with Jonathan Alexander and Deborah Meem) is the second edition of Finding Out: An Introduction to LGBT Studies. In retirement, she writes a blog called ProfSpazz at http://profspazz.com.

Thérèse Migraine-George will have a joint appointment in RLL and WGSS starting next academic year and will be continuing as the Graduate Director in WGSS. In 2013 she published her second research monograph From Francophonie to World Literature in French: Ethics, Poetics, and Politics with the University of Nebraska Press. Her article “From Masisi to Activists: Same-Sex Relations and the Haitian Polity” is forthcoming in the Spring 2014 issue of Journal of Haitian Studies.

With funding from the American Sociological Association’s Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline, Ashley Currier spent June-August 2013 doing research on pro-LGBT and anti-LGBT organizing in Côte d’Ivoire and Liberia. After receiving an AAUW Postdoctoral Research Leave Fellowship, she has spent AY 2013-14 writing her second book manuscript, “The Politicization of Homosexuality in Malawi.” One sole-authored article is forthcoming in Feminist Formations, and an article she coauthored with WGSS graduate student Rashida Manuel will appear in Australian Feminist Studies later in the year. She also received the following external awards in 2013-14: 1) Honorable Mention for the 2013 ARNOVA Award for Outstanding Book; 2) 2013 Lambda Literary Book Award finalist; 3) 2013 American Sociological Association Sex and Gender Distinguished Article Award; and 4) American Council of Education Ohio Women’s Network Professional Development Scholarship.

Dr. Olga Sanmiguel-Valderrama earned tenure this past summer, becoming an Associate Professor in WGSS. Subsequently, she became the new Director of the Undergraduate Program in WGSS. In fall 2013 she published a peer review article on immigration at the Journal of Latin American Perspectives and presented at the NWSA on two themes: first, on ethics and methodologies while doing fieldwork abroad and second, on online teaching and learning across international borders. She also taught a graduate seminar on Gender and Labors during the fall semester. She has been invited to contribute to an ILO collection on gender and work in the global economy and a sole-authored book.

Rina Williams spent summer and fall in India and Sri Lanka—with support from the University Research Council and Taft Research Center—to continue research on her second book project, which examines the changing roles of women in religious politics over time. While she was in India, she had two articles published on this topic, and has another co-authored chapter on Indian secularism coming out this year. She will present a paper on the initial results of her research at the Association for Asian Studies conference in Philadelphia this month, and is organizing a panel on the Indian elections later this spring. In the midst of all this activity, she has been enjoying being back in Cincinnati and back in the classroom, teaching feminist theory, intersectionality, and South Asian politics.

During her sabbatical year, Amy Lind spent the Fall in Geneva, Switzerland as a Visiting Professor at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, where she taught a seminar on human rights and collaborated with Swiss Gender Studies Network researchers. She divided her time between Chicago and Quito, Ecuador during the Spring, thanks in part to a Taft Faculty Release Grant. She is completing a book on sexual

Amy Lind in Switzerland with the Matterhorn in the background
justice and Ecuador’s socialist-inspired Citizen Revolution, co-authoring a book on gender and international political economy, and began writing a book on sexuality and development, with an emphasis on LGBTI rights and the politics of foreign aid. She has been invited to lecture at several institutions this year, including the University of Vienna (Austria), University of Pittsburgh, FLACSO-Ecuador, and the World Bank. She was promoted to Full Professor in August 2013 and became a UC Fellow of the Graduate School in Spring 2014.

Anne Sisson Runyan (Professor, WGSS) published the fourth edition of Global Gender Issues in the New Millennium (Westview Press, 2014), “Taking Feminist Violence Seriously in Feminist International Relations” (co-authored with Marysia Zalewski) in the International Feminist Journal of Politics (Fall 2013), and a book review of Political Worlds of Women also in the International Journal of Politics (Winter 2014) for which she serves as an Associate Editor. She was part of a team that won a speaker’s grant from the US Institute of Peace to bring feminist peace researchers Cynthia Enloe and Carol Cohn to UC, an event she also co-organized along with other lectures she co-organized as Co-Chair of the Taft Global Studies Research Group. She presented at the 2013 National Women’s Studies Association Annual Conference and the 2014 International Studies Association Annual Meeting, has been accepted to present at the Thinking Transnational Feminisms Summer Institute in July 2014.

Departmental Awards
Returning woman student: Jami Nathan
Undergraduate student: Holly Rouse
Graduate student: Annabelle Arbogast and Rashida Manuel
Friends: Emily Hodges
Staff: Sara Strouse
Faculty: Emily Houh, Kristin Kalsem, and Verna Williams
Alumna: Panelists from NWSA -- Laura Foster, Susan Freeman, Lisa Huebner Ruchti, and Ahoo Tabatabai.

MA/JD

India Scarver is a MA/JD student in her 1L year at the College of Law. Her final MA project title has yet to be decided, however, she hopes to focus on either a raced and gendered analysis on permitting the death penalty as a punishment for rape convictions, or an analysis of race, gender and class concerning surrogacy contracts. This upcoming summer she will be an extern for Chief Justice Maureen O’Connor at the Ohio Supreme Court. Currently, she is a book review editor for the Human Rights Quarterly Journal and a member of the Black Law Student’s Association. She looks forward to becoming involved in the Domestic Violence Clinic during my 2L year.

4+1

Cortnie Owens believes in the Political Power of the Fat Selfie and was inspired by her own experience as a fat feminist activist and blogger. Realizing that her fat selfies were healing her own body image issues and inspiring others, she decided to research fat bloggers and their impact on fat feminist activism. She contributed to a body positive NWSA roundtable last fall, and has guest lectured in classes on campus, but she is not sure what the future holds for her thesis research. After graduation, she plans on prowling for a job while dedicating a lot of her time to fat feminist communities and her blog.

Undergrad Majors

Amanda Schroeder is a senior filled with personality, spunk, and passion. She is graduating this spring with a dual major in Psychology and Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies. When it comes to post graduation plans she has decided to go wherever the wind blows, whether that be going to grad school to receive a masters in social work, or working full time in a business related field with hopes of opening her own non profit, or working in the health services field.

As a feminist of direct Appalachian descent with an invisible disability and a Native American boyfriend, Holly Rouse’s life is a bit of a culture study. Born and raised in Cincinnati, her experiences have molded her into a storyteller by nature and a journalist by trade whose interests include identity and disability construction, and the importance of storytelling on cultural and individual levels. After working as an editor for The News Record for three years, she began her editorial internship at CityBeat in May 2013. She will graduate with two Bachelor’s degrees in Journalism and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

2nd Year Bios

Annabelle Arbogast completed her MA in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies in April. Her MA project, Aging Bodies, Sexual Subjects: Feminist Health Activism and Biomedical Constructions of Sexual (Dys)function, explores how feminist
health activists can reinvent tactics from the twentieth-century women's health movement for confronting new challenges that emerge when anti-aging and sexual normalization projects converge. While attending UC, she presented her work at several conferences, including Being Undisciplined: An Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference, the National Women's Studies Association Conference, and the Vitalizing Movements Conference. She also completed an internship at the Ohio Lesbian Archives in Cincinnati, OH, and worked as a teaching assistant for the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. After graduation, Annabelle will be pursuing a Ph.D. in Social Gerontology at Miami University.

Rachael Shockey's thesis, "Time to Shine: Negotiations of Gender, Disability, and Sport in Special-Needs Cheerleading Communities," explores gender, identity, and inclusion practices on cheerleading teams that accommodate people with disabilities. She conducted 35 interviews with cheerleaders, parents, and coaches on four teams in Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky for the project. In her paper, she identifies the greatest sources of appeal participants find in cheerleading, as well as the challenges and victories each team faces in including people of diverse abilities. Rachael hopes to work in disability services and access after graduating in April. She received the 2014 Outstanding Master's Student Award.

Rashida A. Manuel is currently finishing her final MA project entitled, Bearing Whiteness: Transnational Surrogacy in the Age of Globalization. She was recently hired as a Site Coordinator for the Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools program, where she will coordinate a literacy and social justice summer program targeting youth of color. After the program, Rashida plans to pursue a career in health policy. She is passionate about issues of reproductive justice and hopes to use her WGSS background to build public awareness of health disparities in low-income communities of color and to work towards the eradication of policies that adversely impact women's ability to access quality reproductive healthcare. Rashida was able to intern with Planned Parenthood of South West Ohio's Public Affairs Department. Additionally, during her time at UC, Rashida presented her paper, Of Slaves and Surrogates: Reproductive Labor in the 21st Century at the 20th Annual Susan B. Anthony Institute International Graduate Conference at the University of Rochester. She also worked with Dr. Ashley Currier on the forthcoming article in Australian Feminist Studies, When Rape Goes Untitled: Gay Malawian Men's Responses to Unwanted and Nonconsensual Sex.

Bhumika Patel incorporates her interests of myth, art, and transnational feminism in her MA project. She argues that the 2008 animated film, Sita Sings the Blues, and the 2011 graphic novel, Sita's Ramayana, are transnational feminist retellings of the ancient epic, the Ramayana. She's interested in the feminist potential of retelling stories that have traditionally focused on the experiences of men from a woman's perspective. She's spent the past three semester teaching the introductory WGS course, Women, Culture, & Power, and she hopes to translate the skills she's gained from teaching into a career in student affairs.

Mercedes Katis has recently completed her MA project entitled (Re)Negotiating Sex and Virginity Loss: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Queer Narratives of Virginity, Virginity Loss, and First Sexual Experiences. After graduation, Mercedes plans to pursue a career in feminist program development either in a university setting or in a non-profit organization in Washington, DC. While at UC, Mercedes served as the Graduate Assistant to the Women's Center's Women in Leadership and Learning (WILL) program, where she facilitated conversations about feminist leadership, theory, and activism. She also presented at numerous conferences, including the 2013 NWSA conference in Cincinnati, the Student Leadership and Diversity conferences at UC, and the 2014 PCA/ACA conference in Chicago.

1st Year Bios

Courtney Harchaoui has enjoyed working at, and being a part of the events at the Charles Phelps Taft Research Center. She will also present at the PCA/ACA Conference.

Mattie Griffin works part time as a Graduate Assistant for the Department of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies as well as at the Charles Phelps Taft Research Center. Her research interests include the mind/body/spirit connection, the psychosomatic network, trauma, alternative healing practices, women and spirituality and transnational feminism.

Emily Merz enjoys working with the Friends of WGSS. Her research interests include how Catholic women navigate the patriarchal hierarchy of the Church.

Alyssa Kahle enjoys working part time as a Graduate Assistant for the WGSS Department. After she completes her MA she would like to attend a PhD program in Social Psychology.

Lauren Novelli is working with UC LEAF to improve recruitment and retention rates of women STEM scientists at UC.

Mia Lawrie is an officer in the WGSGSO, and a graduate teaching assistant for the Women, Culture & Power class. She will be presenting a paper on cultural appropriation in the American music industry at the 2014 Pop Culture Association National Conference.

Katie Ratajczak's research interests include sexual trauma narratives, victim/survivors identities, and survivor interactions with institutions, as well as on the ground work in advocacy, education, and prevention.

Sherry Porter is a student in the JD/MA program who is interested in making things better for pregnant women in the United States prison system.

Tanya Montgomery presented at two conferences: one in Oregon and another in Madison on sexual confusion of identities within literature. She is interested in homoeroticism in Mark Twain's Huckleberry Finn.
Talia Tuesta works in the Ombuds office as a graduate assistant and in her spare time enjoys thinking of ways to end xenophobia.

Shailaja Paik’s first book Dalit Women’s Education in Modern India: Double Discrimination is in production with Routledge Press, London. In her book Paik focuses on marginalised Dalit women in modern Maharashtra, who have rarely been at the center of systematic historical enquiry and breathes life into their ideas, expectations, potentials, fears and frustrations. She also received Taft summer fellowship for her second book-length project on popular culture.

Steven Bowman will spend the spring affiliated with the Medici Archive Project in Florence and also in Israel preparing a monograph on Sepher Yosippon and reading proofs for two books in press. He will present a paper in Oxford UK on Yosippon. His article on Greek Jews in WWII Resistance (Catholic UP) will be available in May.

Affiliate Bios

Erynn Masi de Casanova (Assistant Professor, Sociology; WGSS Affiliate Faculty) is a Taft Research Center Fellow, completing a book on men’s work dress in corporate America that explores issues of masculinity and conformity. She recently published two co-edited books: Bodies without Borders and Global Beauty, Local Bodies (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013).

Theresa Leininger-Miller gave a lecture at the Muskegon Museum of Art and curated an exhibition on illustrated sheet music of the Civil War at the Cincinnati library (both 2013) and published an essay on the black Canadian artist, Deborah Grant, in a catalogue for The Drawing Center in NYC (2014).

Steve Carlton-Ford, is professor and head of the Department of Sociology here at the University of Cincinnati. His recent research examines the impact of armed conflict on adolescent’s and children’s well-being, focusing mainly on the impact of war, militarization, and poor governance on children’s mortality rates cross-nationally.

Jana Braziel recently returned from the Fifth International Queering Paradigms Conference in Quito, Ecuador, where she co-presented on “Queering Haiti” with Erin Durban-Albrecht, a doctoral candidate in Women’s Studies at the University of Arizona. With Erin and other Caribbean scholars of gender and sexuality (Carlos Decena, Ana Lara, and Nadege Clitandre), Jana will be co-editing a special issue of the academic journal Feminist Formations on “Queering Hispaniola.”

Michael Gott (Assistant Professor of French) co-authored an article on queer French-language road movies that will appear in a special issue of Studies in European Cinema in 2014. He is currently completing work on a co-edited collection on European cinema since 1989 and working on a monograph on French-language road movies.

Our WGSS students shown on NWSA website: Alyssa Kahle, Mattie Griffin, Rachael Shockey, Bhumika Patel, Sherry Porter, Katie Ratajczak, Mercedes Katis.

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Ethan Katz is currently completing two book projects due out next year. One is his monograph The Burdens of Brotherhood: Jews and Muslims, from North Africa to France (Harvard University Press), and the other is a co-edited collection, Secularism and the Jews (University of Pennsylvania Press). In recent months, he has delivered several invited lectures, including one at Yale in October and another at Brown in March.

Michele Vialet, affiliate of WGSS, taught 17th-century and contemporary literature written in French and created “Africa in Pics and Film,” a new course examining evolving gender roles in the works of North and West African filmmakers. She presented a paper on “Code-Switching Variations in A. Kechiche’s film, The Secret of the Grain” at the African Literature Association Annual Conference and one on “Motherhood according to Kristeva” at the South Central MLA. Her 2013 publications include the co-authored 8th revised edition of Bravo! (Cengage); Kristeva in Process: The Fertility of Thought - La pensée féconde - Die Fruchtbarkeit des Denkens, a special issue of the Cincinnati Romance Review (Spring 2013, vol. 35) co-edited with Irene Ivantcheva-Merjanska, Azucena G. Blanco (U of Granada, Spain)

Angela Potochnik has been promoted to Associate Professor in the Philosophy Department and is currently a research fellow at the Taft Center. She is working on a book about how idealizations, or false assumptions, are widespread in science and influence science’s nature.
and Stefan Hollstein (Berlin Humboldt-U); and vol 36 of the Cincinnati Romance Review, co-edited with Andrés Simon-Perez (Fall 2013). The Kristeva in Process volume (pp. 158-89) includes Michèle’s and Dr. Ivantcheva-Merjanska’s interview of the 2004 laureate of the Holberg Prize who sees herself as “a European citizen, of Bulgarian origin, French by nationality and American by adoption”: “Entretien avec Julia Kristeva: Penser en nomad et dans l’autre langue le monde, la vie psychique et la littérature [A Conversation with Julia Kristeva: Thinking the World, the Life of the Mind, and Literature as a Nomad and in the Language of the Other].” Using the freer style of conversation, Kristeva reflects upon the role of thought and writing in ordering one’s own life experiences and her adoption of French in her work as a theoretician of the mind and as a novelist. In Fall Michèle became the webmistress of the Cincinnati Romance Review, and was appointed director of the multidisciplinary faculty-driven European Studies program.

Valerie Gray Hardcastle was named the Executive Director of UC LEAF, an initiative supported by an NSF institutional transformation ADVANCE grant. UC LEAF is charged with achieving higher levels of representation of women and women of color in the STEM sciences at UC by improving the recruiting, hiring, and retention of women in departments and programs.

Danielle Bessett is an Assistant Professor in Sociology, specializing in the study of reproductive health. Her most recent publication examines knowledge about reproductive health among US adults aged 18-44; she finds that survey respondents consistently overestimate the health risks of abortion in the first trimester as compared to the risks of carrying a pregnancy to term.

Laura Dudley Jenkins
Associate Professor of Political Science and WGGS Faculty Affiliate. Laura’s book, Affirmative action matters: Creating opportunities for students around the world, co-edited with Michele S. Moses, will be released this spring. Laura recently lectured in India on affirmative action at the National Law University, on historically Dalit colleges at Jawaharlal Nehru University, and on anti-racist strategies at Mizoram University.

Janine Hartman, an historian in Romance Languages and Literatures, and a WGS affiliate, is currently translating a narrative of nineteenth century French revolution, civil war, and massacre, by eyewitness Catulle Mendes, THE SEVENTY THREE DAYS OF THE COMMUNE 1871. It will be a Digital Humanities common source, available online as an ebook on the University Library servers.

UC Women’s Center

The UC Women’s Center (UCWC) inaugurated the Women in Leadership and Learning (WILL) last academic year. It is a multi-year leadership development program for undergraduate women that aims to build a community of leaders committed to social justice and feminist leadership through experiential learning. This program incorporates a core curriculum based in the Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGS) as well as co-curricular leadership development programming coordinated through the UC Women’s Center.

WILL programs across the country demonstrate increases in undergraduate women students’ retention and graduation rates as well as attracting students into the WGS field of study. This is particularly relevant at UC where retention rates for women undergraduates in the College of Arts and Sciences is low.

Currently, there are nineteen students in WILL. Four women graduated from WILL last Spring. Although the core curriculum in WILL is based in WGS, students represent every college (except CCM) and a diversity of majors/minors. In fact, only one current WILL member is a WGSS major. WILL’s membership is diverse, including nontraditional and commuter students, mothers, and international students; WILL students represent a rich diversity in terms of race/class/ability/sexual-orientation identities. Now recruiting the third WILL cohort, the UCWC received over ninety nominations to the program from across campus.

In addition to our partnership with WGS, the UCWC works with the national AAUW to provide seminars and trainings aimed at increasing women students interest and skill in running for elected office (ELECT HER) and in negotiating their first compensation package (Start $mart). Each year, several UC undergraduates attend the AAUW national conference in June to increase their activism skills and knowledge.

Courtney Harchaoui, Anne Runyan, Tanya Montgomery, Lauren Novelli, Mattie Griffin at grad recruitment.
Friends of WGSS President’s Report

Thank you to all of our Friends for your support throughout the years. This last year has been a pivotal one for Friends. The Board has been working hard to reinvigorate the organization, and to renew our commitment to disseminating knowledge about women’s achievements, needs, and aspirations to the broader community.

The year 2013-2014 began with the annual Welcome Dinner for Friends, faculty and grad students of WGSS. This is always a gathering filled with enthusiasm. This year, the Friends Fall Reception and Fundraiser was highlighted by our speaker, Ashley Currier, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of WGSS, who talked about Who Counts as Allies - Lessons from Social Justice Organizing in Africa. It was held in the magnificent home of our hostess, Michele Young, who is a new and enthusiastic supporter of WGSS.

We developed a Speaker’s Bureau, highlighting our faculty and graduate students who can be resources for other women’s groups and civic organizations. We continued our monthly Friends email newsletter with notice and descriptions of campus lectures, community events, and alumnae and departmental news. Our new recipient of the annual Friends graduate assistantship, Emily Merz, has been a wonderful addition to our Board meetings and we are so pleased that she will be back again next year.

This year we worked hard to devise a new more flexible curriculum for the major and the minor, which will be implemented by phases in the next few years; a 3-year, 120 credits long baccalaureate degree in WGSS, which will be implemented by UC and McMicken in a couple of years; and promoted the 4+1 program. Now, student majors who accrue UC graduate credits with at least 3.0 GPA during their undergraduate studies (to be applied to their MA in WGSS), can finish the MA in a year if they meet the requirements and are accepted to the graduate program. To that end 4+1 students are eligible for a 25% Graduate Incentive Award scholarship (GIA) for the first two academic year semesters after completion of the baccalaureate degree. To apply to this scholarship, students shall indicate intention to pursue the 4+1 no later than the penultimate semester of the UG program.

As our new UG Director, Dr. Sanmiguel-Valderrama will be in a well-earned and deserving sabbatical during 2014-15, we are welcoming Associate Professor Dr. Giao Q Tran to the Department as a full-time core faculty of WGSS. Dr. Tran will be the Interim Director of the Undergraduate Program during 2014-15, in addition to teaching a new undergraduate course titled “Gender and Health.”

With thanks,
Barbara Myers, Friends Board Chair

Undergraduate Program Notes

The 2013-2014 academic year has been an exciting time for exploration for the Undergraduate Program of the Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. The members of the Undergraduate Committee, including its new Director, Associate Professor Dr. Olga Sanmiguel-Valderrama met in Fall and Spring to devise new paths for growth and flexibility for our students and the programs (undergraduate major, minor and 4+1).

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With thanks,
Barbara Myers, Friends Board Chair
Friends of Women’s Studies

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Michelle Gibson
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Deb Meem
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Giao Tran
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Genderline
Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Genderline is published annually by the University of Cincinnati Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. The deadline to submit notices, make inquiries, or be placed on the mailing list for the next issue is April 1, 2015. Genderline 2014 was edited by Emily Merz and Alyssa Kahle.
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