



WOMEN'S STUDIES

INVIGORATING, EVOLVING, TRANSFORMING

A GRAD STUDENT INITIATED PROJECT

DECEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 3 ISSUE 3

“INDIAN COUNTRY AND INDIGENOUS ISSUES TODAY: WHY THEY MATTER TO YOU”



On Tuesday November 15, students and faculty, both from SCSU as well as Yale, joined together to celebrate Native American Heritage month. In the photo, speakers Connor Smith SCSU '17, Chase Warren Yale '20, Haylee Kushi Yale '17, and Ruby Beguhn SCSU '18, spoke about issues facing Native and Indigenous peoples today. Smith, non-Indigenous and adopted into the Native community, spoke about the loss of native languages and his work in language revitalization. Warren, a member of Standing Rock, North Dakota, told us about the Dakota Access Pipeline and the Water Protectors protesting its construction and the destruction it would cause their sacred lands and the environment. Kushi, a Kanaka Maoli, an Indigenous lineage of peoples from Hawai'i, addressed the cultural appropriation of Hawaiian culture and land and the immersion schools that teach Natives and non-Natives about traditional Hawaiian culture. Ruby Beguhn, Indigenous to Huamuxtitlan, a province in the state of Guerrero, Mexico, discussed the corruption of the government in her home city and the stigmas surrounding migration of Mexican people into the United States. The keynote speaker, Kelly Fayard, (Poarch Band of Creek Indians) Assistant Dean of Yale College and director of the Yale Native American Cultural Center, spoke about cultural appropriation of Indigenous peoples' culture today, such as Indigenous dress and regalia used at festivals and concerts, the use of Indian people as sports mascots, and Native people in films portrayed as savage and performed by non-Indian people. She countered with examples that are Native-positive such as student created films from their own perspectives.

FEMINIST OF THE MONTH: ALISHA MARTINDALE



Alisha Martindale is a second year WMS MA student currently working on creating a feminist based, socially engaged, community art program. She is a Graduate Assistant in the SCSU Women's Studies office as well as Assistant to the Hamden Director of Arts, Recreation and Culture. With the help of two education advisors, Alisha is using her SCSU undergraduate background in visual arts and photography, coupled with the positive values of empowerment conceived in the Women's Studies program, to create a special project that aims to encourage and inspire communities to use art as a tangible expression of collective voice to affect the social change they wish to see. She also currently serves as a board member for the P.L.A.C.E Multicultural Children's Museum and Creative Arts Center and looks forward to using her feminist ideas to help guide the organization as it flourishes as a bustling arts hub in the Hamden community.

MULTICULTURAL CROCKPOT COOK OFF

It was the night after the election, with mixed emotions of hope for a successful event coupled with somber and unsure attitudes about the future, we set up for our first ever Multicultural Crock Pot Cook Off Fundraising event. The evening started off slowly with a few people exchanging polite greetings in the new office of the colorfully decorated Sexuality and Gender Equality Center. Within about thirty minutes, the room was full and alive with laughter as we began to unfold the layers of personal, cultural and meaningful histories behind each of the generously filled crock pots simmering in the background. Even with the multitude of diverse cultural backgrounds represented in each crock pot, we learned about how our familial comfort foods are often and similarly used as expressions of love and endearment whether for dietary purposes, medicinal purposes or simply traditional purposes. Through all of our efforts, we hosted a beautiful evening of new connections and solidarity and were able to raise over \$45 in which will be donated to a humanitarian cause by the end of the school year.





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Major Success! Through the generous donations by individual donors, departments, friends and family, Triota was able to donate over 25 large bags full of clothing and more than 27 small bags full of soaps, toiletries and more to The Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services (IRIS) in New Haven as part of our Winter Clothing Drive. IRIS, as it is known, "does the important work of resettling refugees to Connecticut". The donations collected throughout the month of November will make a world of difference for those just settling into a new life.

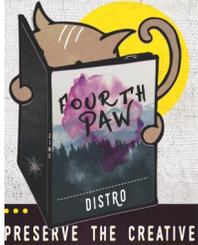


OUR GRADS NOW: AMANDA DIGIOIA



Amanda DiGioia is a first year PhD student at the University College of London School of Slavonic and East European Studies. Her thesis will examine gender as a part of the complex web of cultural connections between Finnish women and heavy metal. Her main research question asks how is the female gender conceptualized, perpetuated, and performed in the Finnish heavy metal subculture?" According to DiGioia, using Judith Butler's Gender Trouble (1990), "that gender is a performative identity created by culturally accepted acts, such as corporal styling. Looking at gender as performance via an ethnography of Finnish female heavy metal music fans will serve to illustrate the Finnish metal scene's expectations of people based on their gender. Due to the genre's popularity, this will also shape a larger understanding of gender in Finnish society." DiGioia's other work is frequently published. The majority of her published work, she says, has been on "the current and forthcoming chapters and articles on heavy metal music, werewolves, Little Red Riding Hood, feminist online communities shaping of Game of Thrones fandom, feminist fathering in horror texts, and Sami women." In addition to her PhD work, DiGioia is learning basic Finnish and working on a mini-ethnography on the heavy metal music scene in New Haven, Connecticut. DiGioia would like to thank the SCSU Women's Studies Program and her MA thesis supervisor, Dana Sonnenschein, for providing her with the skills to undertake her PhD.

ZINES FOR THE FUTURE



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

VANESSA YOUNG

A second year WMS MA student, Vanessa currently manages her own distribution network called, "Fourth Paw" in which she connects with local artists, writers and activists to curate and distribute art Zines. Zines are handmade art booklets, reminiscent of magazines, in which artists publicly explore and reflect personal thoughts, opinions and experiences- much like a visual diary. Zines first became popular in the 70's as a DIY form of advertising and then surged in the late 80's, early 90's when alternative bands like Riot Grrrl used them to promote the feminist ideals they sang about*. While the majority of the Zines she curates express the authors' views on societal issues, she says an even stronger theme present within her collection is feminism and self care. When asked which Zine she considers to be most significant, she states she is most proud to have two original Zines created by Tuesday Bassen; a pin, patch and clothing artist whom of which has recently been embroiled in a highly public legal battle with ZARA, a major fashion company, which she accused of stealing her designs. Along with other artist's Zines, Vanessa says she is currently creating her own personal Zine called "Points of Connection"- a jumbled mix of thoughts and experiences relating to my place in the world today". While it is an exciting project to take on, she states that one of the challenges to producing a Zine is printing costs. Going forward, she hopes to continue to collect and distribute new and existing Zines as well as establish a system of garnering donations to help sustain her own. You can reach Vanessa through her Fourth Paw Facebook *<http://grrrlzines.net/overview.htm>