



# WOMEN'S STUDIES

JANUARY 2015 NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 4

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Rebekah Ohlsen** graduated with a Master's in Women's Studies from SCSU in 2010. Ohlsen is the Supportive Housing Manager at Columbus House Inc. in New Haven and overseas housing services for 10 different programs between New Haven, Waterbury, Hartford and New Britain. Their mission is "To serve the people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, by providing shelter and housing and by fostering their personal growth and independence."

Her interests include social justice, adoption issues, literature, feminist theory, homelessness, art, and some activism. She is currently learning to sew and just generally enjoys creating things. Recently, Ohlsen recently began making magnets out of sea shells and is also exploring paper mache.



**Maura Jo Lynch** began her graduate work at SCSU in 1999, with the explicit goal of teaching at the collegiate level. Former Co-Treasurer of the first iteration of Triota, she worked extensively on Third Wave Feminist Issues while in the WMS MA program at Southern, and was one of the first in the program to submit a Thesis

("Women's Experiences Using Nonbiomedical Healing Modalities"). Just a few years later, she was 6 weeks postpartum, her partner "wearing" the baby in the audience, ready to hand baby over to nurse as needed, giving what became the first of many presentations on the critical centrality of homebirth (and birth choices) as a Women's Studies issue and she remains a passionate advocate of gestational and birth issues today.

Lynch has just been elected as Chair of the CCSU-AAUP Part-Time Advisory Committee, where adjunct instructors at Central work to improve working conditions, look at contract issues, and connect on the many overlapping encroachments adjuncts face in university settings. She looks forward to continuing the work she and two other adjunct colleagues started for their presentation this past summer at the national AAUP Conference, connecting feminist theory to the complexities of adjunct life.

Lynch teaches at two universities, is a Certified Professional Birth Doula, CAPPA Certified Childbirth Educator, and Certified Pregnancy Fitness Educator, as well as a Reiki Master, Our Whole Lives (comprehensive, age appropriate sexuality education) Facilitator, and parent of two homeschooled children.

The best parts of her experience at Southern all relate to people: The faculty members who influenced her life well beyond her time at SCSU, interviewing participants for her thesis, giving Third Wave presentations at conferences, guest lecturing in Medical Anthropology on Models of Care (which she still uses when teaching birth education classes!), going abroad to study in three separate countries with Field Schools and a Fulbright-Hayes Group Project Abroad, meeting people there and learning together. The moment she held her Master's Degree in her hands was a poignant one, the culmination of so much learning, intensity, life changes; suddenly, where desires had rested, possibilities were born. It is a moment she will never forget.

## OUR GRADUATES NOW

Associate Director of Residential Life & Student Conduct

Flamenco Artist and Educator

PhD in Sociology at the University of Central Florida

Director of Membership Services for the Girl Scouts of Connecticut

Hall Director at Western Connecticut State University

Director of the Women's Center, Southern Connecticut State University

Yale Behavioral Health Social Work Intern Researcher

PhD candidate in Philosophy, St. Andrews University in Scotland

Director of ISOP Operations at News America

Assistant Professor of Sociology, South Carolina State University, Union

Coordinator of the Women's Center, Eastern Connecticut State University

JD at the University of Connecticut School of Law

## IOTA IOTA IOTA

**Vagina Monologues:** Auditions will start the 1st week of March 2015. "The Vagina Monologues" will be on April 15th (EN C 112) and 16th (EN A 120), 2015.

### **Fundraisers & Events:**

2/13 (TBA): Craft making for craft sale  
2/20 (TBA): Craft making for craft sale  
3/4 (1pm): Women's Appreciation Tea  
3/9-3/11 (TBA): Triota Upcycled Craft Sale  
4/15 (7:30p): Vagina Monologues - ENG C112  
4/16 (7:30p): Vagina Monologues - ENG A120  
4/20 (1pm): Potluck Fundraiser

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, January 22, 2015 at 12pm in the WMS office



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www.southernct.edu/womenstudies  
www.facebook.com/SCSUWMS  
203-392-6133



## STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

**Kate Anderstrom** is a first year graduate student in the Women's Studies Master's program. As an undergraduate at Westfield State University she earned two Bachelor's degrees in Ethnic & Gender Studies and Psychology. She works in the Office of Diversity and Equity at SCSU and does companionship care for the elderly on the weekends. She is a resident of Holland, MA which is decidedly in the middle of nowhere.



Her favorite place in Connecticut is a beach on Long Island Sound. She recently began collecting sea glass there. In her spare time she likes to write poetry, which someday she hopes to share with a greater audience. She also enjoys painting, drawing and sewing, especially when the subject is absurd. She is currently in the process of receiving copyright for a piece of artwork she created for Feminist Theories and Practices this past fall.

Some of the greatest experiences in Anderstrom's life include seeing Celine Dion perform in Las Vegas and meeting her favorite author, Terry Tempest Williams, at Yale this past fall. She is confident that being in the Women's Studies program at SCSU will provide equally exciting experiences.



As a first-year graduate student in the WMS MA program, **Dixie Wiafe** loves the professors in the program as they are all amazing, and care about their students. She loves the fact that she has a strong relationship and bond with her class. Wiafe feels great to lean on a classmate

when she is in need of help or just a friend to talk to. After getting to know the other students in the program, she feels blessed to have welcoming students who guided her throughout her first semester as a graduate student.

Wiafe is from Worcester, Massachusetts and has moved to New Haven, CT to attend SCSU. She graduated from the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth in 2014 with a BA in Women & Gender Studies and Sociology. In her Master's work, she is hoping to turn her interest in human trafficking awareness into activism, and working with victims of human trafficking and domestic abuse. In her spare time, Wiafe loves to hangout with her friends and read novels.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- The University provides a lactation room located in the Women's Lounge in Conn Hall on the first floor. This private room contains a rocker and a wash area.
- You can submit your WMS or Gendered Studies related artwork, research papers or poetry to be featured in the newsletter. Contact the office for more information.



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## INTRODUCING THE WOMEN'S STUDIES STAFF



A 17th-generation daughter of Taiwan, **Yi-Chun Tricia Lin** (林怡君) is Director and Professor of Women's Studies Program at Southern Connecticut State University. She traveled from her native island to pursue a doctoral degree in continental philosophy and theory. In the process, she found herself home in ethnic studies and women's studies. Her dissertation, a study of Asian American women's cultural and literary productions, was her first step away from her "European" education. Since her doctoral days, her research and teaching have gone intensely ethnic, feminist, and post-colonial. Among her current projects is a special issue on transnational Indigenous feminism for the 2016 issue of *Lectora*, a peer-reviewed journal based at University of Barcelona. Before joining the Women's Studies faculty at Southern in 2004, Lin taught writing and literature and Asian American literature at City University of New York/Borough of Manhattan Community College from 1994-2004, where she discovered her passion for teaching for liberation of all minds and found her calling in struggle for peace and justice.



**Melanie Lozada** is a second-year graduate student and WMS graduate assistant in the Women's Studies program. After the completion of the program in May, she hopes to continue her education with a degree in Library and Information

Science, focusing on youth/children's programming. She is interested in promoting her feminist perspective in the public library system, advocating critical literacy among youth. As a stress reliever, she enjoys painting with watercolors and collaging and hopes to learn weaving by the end of the semester.

**Taylor Renaud** is currently a part-time graduate student in the Sociology MA program at Southern. She lives in Windham, CT, where she coaches the Modern Movement Dance Company at Eastern Connecticut State University. Renaud graduated from Eastern Connecticut State University with her Communications degree in 2012. In her spare time, she enjoys baking desserts for her friends and family, especially vegan desserts for the WMS staff. Renaud also loves spending time with her miniature poodle named Zeus. She is currently volunteering as a graduate assistant in the WMS office.



**Bina Walker** is from Seattle, WA and is in her last semester of the MA program in WMS. Her research involves college students' preferences towards breastfeeding, childbirth education and breastfeeding promotion. After graduation, she plans to pursue a PhD in Public Health. She loves spending time with her little girl, Abigail, and is expecting another baby girl in February. She and her husband are both excited to graduate from their Master's programs this May! Walker works as a graduate assistant in the WMS office and loves working on the WMS Newsletter.

**Fortune Arce** is a Public Health major and is in her senior year of her undergraduate work and is graduating this spring. Arce is from the Philippines, having moved to the US when she was 8. She is interested in health promotion in nutrition. Arce enjoys taking care of and observing her multitude of fish as they are beautiful and relaxing. Her favorite genre of music is Kpop, which is Korean pop music. Her definitions of fun are socializing, traveling, being outside, listening, and dancing to music. She is volunteering in the WMS office for her public health internship.



## 12TH SEASON OF 64 DAYS OF NONVIOLENCE AT SCSU

The 64 Days officially begins each year on January 30th, the day Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated, and ends on April 4th, the day we commemorate Dr. King. In our twelfth annual observation of the 64 Days at SCSU, we continue to celebrate the peace and justice heritage in many of our cultures and heritages, including our observation of Black History Month, Women's History Month, and Asian/Pacific Heritage Month. [A tentative schedule is below.](#)

### January

29th: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial (1 PM-2 PM, Adanti Student Center (ASC) Ballroom)

### February

18th: "A Global Movement Against Gender Violence" with Chilean feminist Pia Barros (Location and Time TBA)

19th & 25th: Film Screening, "Dear White People" (12 PM (on the 19th) and 5 PM (on the 25th), ASC Theatre)

19th: Lunar New Year

21st: "Feminist Pedagogy 2.0 and Beyond: Teaching Women's and Gender Studies," (9 AM-3 PM, TBA)

### March

12th: "Gender Justice and Cyber Technology," an evening with feminist legal scholars on intersections of gender and technology (5 PM -7:30 PM, Engleman Hall B 121 A&B)

21st: The 19th Annual African American Women's Summit, a Sisters' Collective in New Haven (8 AM-3 PM, Wexler-Grant School, New Haven)

26th: "The Z Experience," a spoken word event in memory of Zannette Lewis, in conjunction with Women's Appreciation Day (7 PM-9 PM, ASC Ballroom)

### April

"African Women's Cultural Work and Sustaining Environment," with Dr. Bertrade Ngo-Ngijol Banoum (Location, Date & Time TBA)

14th: NDN (American Indian) Women's Cultural Production & Sustaining Turtle Island: Katsi Cook and Gail Small (Location, Time TBA)

15th and 16th: A reading of Eve Ensler's *Vagina Monologues*, with Iota, Iota, Iota, the SCSU Chapter of the National Women's Studies National Honor (8 PM-10 PM, Engleman Hall C 112)

22nd: "Take Back the Night," an annual event to stop violence against women and shatter the silence (7 PM-9 PM, ASC Ballroom)

26th: Celebration of Blackness (Location, Time TBA)

30th: An OWL (Opportunity for Women's Leadership) Empowerment Symposium, our 10th leadership conference with young women James Hillhouse, Wilbur Cross High School, and other New Haven high schools (8 AM-3 PM; EN B 121 A&B)

### May

"Courageous Conversation on White Privilege" (9am-3pm, Engleman Hall C 112, Date TBA)

8th: "Coalition of Women's Studies in CT & RI, at Saint Joseph University (9 AM-3PM)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Apply for graduation! The deadline is Monday, January 19, 2015 [https://www.southernct.edu/ext/registrar\\_gag.php](https://www.southernct.edu/ext/registrar_gag.php)
- Monday, January 19th, no Classes-Martin Luther King Day
- Tuesday, January 20th, last day for full-time students to withdraw with a 90% tuition refund, last day for add/drop classes, last day for part-time students to withdraw with a 100% tuition refund, last day for undergraduate students to fill out the Grade Replacement Contract on the Registrar's Office Website