



# WOMEN'S STUDIES

APRIL 2015 NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 7

## IOTA IOTA IOTA



### Upcycled/Recycle Craft Sale:

On March 9th, 10th, and 11th Triota sold handmade jewelry, crafts, magnets, lip balm, cards and more to raise money for the organization.

Thank you to all who helped craft and staff the table and a special thanks to those who purchased the crafts and helped bring in funds for Triota!

**Vagina Monologues:** Iota Iota Iota participates in the V-Day movement by putting on performances of "The Vagina Monologues" every year. The proceeds of the show go to the V-Day campaign and a local New Haven organization that supports and empowers women and girls.

If you are interested in acting in or helping out at the Vagina Monologues, please contact Kate Anderstrom at [AnderstromK1@owls.southernct.edu](mailto:AnderstromK1@owls.southernct.edu)

Practice Dates: 4/10, 4/13, 4/14, 6pm-10pm

### Fundraisers & Events:

4/15 @7:30pm: Vagina Monologues - ENG C112

4/16 @7:30pm: Vagina Monologues - ENG A120

## PASSIONS & PATHS

By Anonymous SCSU Student

there was a time  
when i hated all this  
black hair.  
jet black

stubborn.  
deep rooted and rough  
like my mother  
wild and always responding  
to its surroundings  
like me

unforgiving and demanding  
but always comforting  
like my sister

all this black hair  
is beyond me  
and now loved

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The WMS MA Thesis Symposium 2015** will be held Tuesday, May 12th from 5-8PM, EN B 121 A & B. Come by to hear graduating Master's students present on their thesis research, meet graduate students and their families, and celebrate our 10+ MA graduates.



**Estela Lopez** graduated with a BA in Women's Studies from the University of Connecticut and then after some time became a bilingual case manager at a children's outpatient mental health clinic. Her role was to connect parents of the children at the clinic to resources to meet their basic needs. Lopez became frustrated with how the mental health agency appeared to medicalize the problems of the clients and never discuss macro-level influences. She did not observe people connecting political issues to the personal problems experiences by the people she served. She earned her MA in Women's studies, 2011, so she could go more in depth in feminist studies.

Currently, Lopez works as a Youth Development Specialist at the Path Academy in Connecticut. She works with the youth who are considered "over age and under credited." She is also obtaining the clinical social work degree, so that she can become qualified to provide mental health therapy to individuals one day. What she loves most about her career is how her experience in high school experience differed from the youth she works with in Williamantic, which has a large population of Latino youth.

While in the MA program, she explored her visions of how to create a just world. She stresses that the debates and intellectual conversations in classes will be missed after one leaves. Some advice she has for current students includes the following: "to diversify your resume, especially if you have a very feminist-focused academic background. Continue to try to practice self-care, become economically stable, and invent creative ways to bring your women's studies education in whatever job you have. It's also important to nurture good relationships with your professors in the program."

In her free time, Lopez enjoys going to an alternative healing center, meeting with women who share interest in alternative spirituality. She states, "If I could do anything in the world, I would take at least one year off from work and modern life obligations and live in the woods." Her favorite quote is, "My ability is stronger than my disability." Luke Watson

## STUDENT OF THE MONTH



**Tiffany Trowbridge-Bernard**, received her Bachelor's degree in Women's Studies from the University of Saint Joseph's in 2013 and is a current student in the WMS MA Program. After completion of the program, she aspires to use her feminist perspective to educate others, help victims of domestic violence, and earn her PhD in Women's Studies.

Currently, she works as a Graduate Assistant in the Ruthe Boyea Women's Center at CCSU. She helps plan various women-oriented events across the campus, such as "Take Back the Night" and "The Vagina Monologues." She is also working on the campaign, "Who Needs Feminism?" which she has brought to SCSU and now the Women's Center at CCSU. She hopes this campaign will work to reintegrate the word "feminism" into everyone's vocabulary, showing that anyone who desires equality among class, gender and race is a feminist.

As a second-year graduate student, she is currently writing her thesis, which focuses on resilience-based therapeutic techniques for adolescents who have witnessed Intimate Partner Violence in their household. Trowbridge-Bernard hopes that her research will contribute to the services provided to children and families and help curb the victimization of those who have witnessed Intimate Partner Violence in their household.

## ALUMNI NEWS

Having always been passionate about fairness, equality, and women's rights, **Katherine McDonald**, after obtaining her undergraduate degree in Government from Connecticut College, worked at Safe Futures, a domestic violence and sexual assault agency in New London. Knowing she wanted to go to graduate school, she found it a natural fit to get a degree in Women's Studies and she graduated from the SCSU WMS MA Program in 2008. She is currently an Adjunct Lecturer in the Humanities and Communications department at Mitchell College and the Women's Studies Program at Southern Connecticut State University.



She finds the most rewarding aspect of teaching to be engaging with students every day and being present during those "Ah Ha" moments as they realize their passions and their power to make a difference in the world.

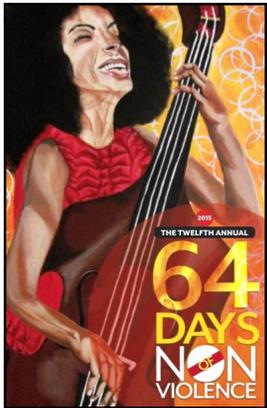
She offers the following words of advice: "Find your passion and fight for what you believe in. Explore all of the options and courses in the WMS department and take advantage of opportunities to volunteer, mentor, attend programs and connect with faculty and other students. Make a difference. Present and volunteer at conferences and programs whenever possible. Make genuine connections with people you admire and keep in touch with them. Never miss an opportunity to learn something new."

She shares three quotes that make words inspire action and guide her to be a better person: "Well behaved women seldom make history" (by Laurel Thatcher Ulrich); "Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle" (by John Watson); and "If you can't do great things, do small things in a great way" (by Napoleon Hill).



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**12TH SEASON OF 64 DAYS OF NONVIOLENCE**

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.

**April**

**9:** Courageous Conversation on White Privilege (5-7:30 PM, Engleman Hall A 120)

**16:** "Very Young Girls" Film Screening and Discussion (6-8 PM, Adanti Student Theatre)

**17:** Conference "Literature across Disciplines-Gabriel García Márquez: Translation and Criticism," with Jean Franco and Edith Grossman (10 AM-5:30 PM, Adanti Student Center Theatre)

**15 and 16:** A reading of Eve Ensler's *Vagina Monologues*, with Iota, Iota, Iota, the SCSU Chapter of the National Women's Studies National Honor Society (7-9 PM, Engleman Hall C 112, and 7-9 PM, Engleman Hall A 120)

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

**23:** Centennial Commemoration of Armenian Genocide Art Exhibit and Reception (5-7 PM, Buley Library) Concert (7:30-9:30 PM, Engleman Hall C 112)

**24:** Coalition of Women's Studies in CT & RI (9-3 PM, Saint Joseph University)

**25:** The 20th Annual African American Women's Summit, a Sisters' Collective in New Haven (8-3 PM, Wexler-Grant School, New Haven)

**30:** An OWL (Opportunity for Women's Leadership) Empowerment Symposium with *Ebony Revived*, the SCSU Women's Studies 11th leadership conference with James Hillhouse, Metropolitan Business Academy, Wilbur Cross High School, and West Haven High School young women (8-3 PM, Engleman Hall B 121 A&B)

Please visit our website for the most updated schedule for 64 Days of Nonviolence <http://www.southernct.edu/academics/schools/arts/departments/womensstudies/64daysofnonviolence/index.html>

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM PAST EVENTS****Women's Wit and Wisdom: Beauty Across Cultures**

On March 4th, 2015, the Women's Center, the Department of Residence Life, and the Women's Studies program welcomed Ms. Hanan Hameen, the Performing Arts Director of the Lineage Group and author of *Rebirth of a Dancer: Lupus Tried to Kill Me but Dancing Saved My Life* for the program "Women's Wit & Wisdom: Beauty Across Cultures," celebrating the beauty and wisdom of women. Hameen led the talk through her dance perspective, leading the students, faculty, and staff who attended in traditional African dance and song to assert the beauty of Black women and the intrinsic power of feminine energy.

**Gender Justice and Cyber Technology**

Have you ever wondered how technology affects gender violence? On Thursday, March 12th the panel of distinguished guests, Professor and Lawyer Monique Ferraro, Detective Peter Morgan, and Linda Blozie, from CCADV, spoke at the yearly event, "Gender Justice and Cyber Technology." In doing so, they discussed how technology, particularly smartphones and the internet are used to perpetuate domestic violence and sexual assault. The panel generated lively discussion on the importance of education to prevent cyber violence as well as the impact that technology has on gender justice at both a local and global level.

**Women's Appreciate Ceremony along with The Z Experience**

On March 25th, SCSU celebrated the successes of SCSU women, undergraduate and graduate students during an evening of tribute to Zanette Lewis. Featured artists who performed were Ngoma Hill (violinist, singer, and poet), and Croilot Adames (coach of the CT Poetry Slam Team) a part of the team of four members including Mind Evolution and Tarishi-Midnight Shuler. The Connecticut Poetry Slam Team performed pieces to be show-cased at the National Poetry Slam in California in August 2015. In addition to the poets, the singer-songwriter duo, Janet Fall and Elaine Kolb performed pieces in celebrating the connectedness of all people.

With the dynamic performances, students being honored, and remembering the wonderful Zannette Lewis, the night was a success in celebrating the great and powerful women in our Southern community!

**SUMMER COURSES****WMS 599: Ecofeminism: Women, Nature, Ecology and Spirituality**

Instructor: Dr. Rosalyn Amenta, June 22; July 6-8; 13-15; and 20-21 (MTW) 5pm—8:30pm and Saturday, July 11, 10am—5pm

**WMS 350: Women's Health Conscious: 18-40**

Instructor: Dr. Marian Evans, June 22-July 26; (MTWR); 3:15pm-5:15pm

**ACTIVISM NOW**

Freda Grant, a second-year WMS grad student is active both on and off campus. On campus, Grant serves as a liaison for multiple students and organizations. She has spoken on a variety of panels pertaining to race, sexuality, and gender discrimination. Recently, Grant was a guest on the *Kitty Bella Show*, a podcast dedicated to LGBTQ equality. She uses her philosophy, which she has coined as "Hip Hop Feminist Baby Mama Perspective" to empower the young women she mentors in the community. She is also a member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Incorporated, an international community service based, historically Black organization. Recently, Grant assisted her sorority with hosting their annual youth symposium for residents in New Haven and other surrounding areas. She is currently planning a "Mardi Bra" event, which provides undergarments and sanitary products to women at a local shelter. In March of 2015, Grant was awarded the Zanette Lewis Award for her dedication to activism, the community, and academic excellence.

