



WOMEN'S STUDIES

DECEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 3

ALUMNI NEWS



Jessica Kelly, WMS MA '10, is the Campus Leadership Program Manager at the American Association of University Women in Washington DC. Jess manages Elect Her—Campus Women Win, the only national program that encourages and trains college women to run for student government and beyond. The program will be held on 50 campuses across the country and Jamaica in 2015.

After working in the Women's Studies office at SCSU, Kelly realized that she wanted to continue working on college women's leadership, and got a MA in Higher Education Administration from the George Washington University, where she was Program Coordinator in the GW LGBT Resource Center for two years. She also sings competitive karaoke. (Yes, you read that right.)



Dr. Kim McKeage (WMS MA '12) is Associate Professor of Quantitative Methods in Business and Economics at Hamline University in Saint Paul, Minnesota and a graduate of the Women's Studies MA program. Her current research interests include food justice issues, especially access to healthy, local foods for all.

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 times): Triota Upcycled/Recycled Craft Sale
- 4/15 (7:30p): Vagina Monologues - ENG C112
- 4/16 (7:30p): Vagina Monologues - ENG A120
- 4/20 (1pm): Potluck Fundraiser

"EXPLORING SOCIAL JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS"

On November 17th, 2014, Nandita Das, an activist actor, director, and writer from India, gave a compelling talk to an incredible turnout of over 100 people on social justice and exposed the campus to the "Dark is Beautiful Campaign," which concerns the racial bias, colorism/pigmentocracy in India and around the world. We thank Nandita Das for speaking to the Southern community!



PASSIONS & PATHS



"Sapiosexual" A Poem by Shaina Donaldson

How about we take some time to get mentally lost,
you intrigue me with your mind,
And I'll intrigue you with the rapture of my words.

Let's go on psychological journey
Where we travel through different roads,
You get to know me I get to know you without taking off our clothes.

Let's become so mentally in tune that when this conversation is over,
I can walk away knowing what makes you laugh and...
What makes you smile.

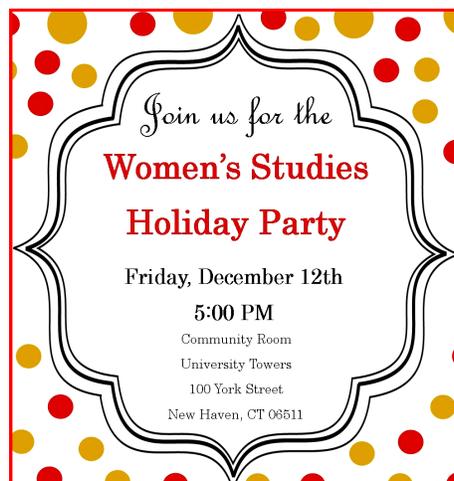
Stimulating your mind is more of my kind because,
Your body is a temple so I'd rather explore your mind than to just...
open wide and watch you enter.

I have this sexy fantasy of our left hemispheres becoming so exhausted
that we end up tapping out before 3

Just you and me, let's get trapped in an arousing state of mind,

I'll match the pieces to your Sapio,
You match mine.

UPCOMING EVENT



Join us for the
**Women's Studies
Holiday Party**

Friday, December 12th
5:00 PM
Community Room
University Towers
100 York Street
New Haven, CT 06511



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203-392-6133



STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Nicole Lowman holds a Master of Arts in English (2014) and teaches composition at SCSU and academic reading and writing at Gateway Community College. Her thesis discusses the psychic trauma that a heteronormative society's gender ideals can cause by examining the doubles in Chuck Palahniuk's Fight Club and Darren Aronofsky's Black Swan. She is currently enrolled in the Advanced Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies at SCSU and is applying to Ph.D. programs.



Lowman has written blog posts for the Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library website (<http://www.vonnegutlibrary.org/blog/>) and presented a paper on Vonnegut's Breakfast of Champions at the 2014 American Literature Association National Conference. Recently, the 2015 Pop Culture Association/American Culture Association National Conference accepted another paper related to her thesis work.

This semester, she has organized a household goods and personal care items donation drive for Safe Futures in New London, CT, an agency providing emergency shelter and legal advocacy for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. Monetary donations are accepted through the agency CrowdRise page: <https://www.crowdrise.com/safefuturesnewlondonct/fundraiser/nicolelowman>.



Xan Walker, graduating in Spring of 2015, is a lifelong New Havener, with two adult children, Keith Richard and Cheri, and two granddaughters, Curiah (7) and Xanae (3). Aside from church, school, and family, she enjoys traveling, watching baseball and boxing and loves hula hooping and dancing! In fact, Walker has been a line dance

instructor for eight years and an instructor to the elderly for six years.

Walker's WMS MA thesis, "In a Black Woman's World: Depression and Emotional Eating" concerns awareness to a silent problem crippling African American women. She examines how depression and emotional eating affects women of color in similar ways regardless of their age.

After her graduation, Walker looks forward to spending more time with her granddaughters and family, reading for pleasure, working on an unfinished autobiography, and finishing a book of writings and poems that were composed both by her and her children. Walker also looks forward to and embraces the opportunity to work in environments that will continue to inspire, encourage, and uplift her sisters.



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REPORTS FROM THE NWSA CONFERENCE, "FEMINIST TRANSGRESSIONS"

San Juan, Puerto Rico, November 13-16, 2014



Jess Bachinski (WMS Minor): During the plenary on Israel, Palestine and the United States, Angela Davis said, "One does not have to be an expert to participate in the struggles for justice." Feminism is rooted in anti-imperialist and anti-racist thought. It not only resists modes of subjugation based on gender and sexuality but all forms of injustice.

Madison Breuer (WMS Minor): My highlights from NWSA include my experience at the session, "Crunk Feminist Collective Roundtable," the Triota Business Meeting, the Women of Color Open Mic, and meeting bell hooks. The entire trip was an important bonding experience for Triota.

Dr. Siobhan Carter-David (Professor in History): For me, among the top highlights of the conference were the bell hooks talk, the panel on Palestinian/ Israeli conflict (featuring Angela Davis), and the panel on "My Brother's Keeper" organized by Kimberle Crenshaw. The most memorable moment by far, however, was the party on Friday evening hosted by Tricia Lin. Not only were many of the foremost scholars of Black Feminist Theory together in one space; it was also a time of bonding in true sisterhood amongst faculty, graduate students, and friends of Women's Studies here at Southern. A great time overall. Looking forward to Milwaukee!

Freda Grant (WMS MA '15): I really enjoyed the conference. Being in Puerto Rico was very spiritually and intellectually fulfilling. The highlights on the conference were bell hooks' keynote, sitting in on "The Crunk Feminist Collective Roundtable" and the panels on Black and Hip Hop Feminism and maneuvering academia as a Black women. I also enjoyed sharing space with my Black and Hip Hop feminist idols!

Dr. Yi-Chun Tricia Lin (Professor & Director WMS): As someone intimately involved in the transformation of the National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) in the recent years, I find it nearly impossible to sum up briefly thoughts, emotions, and inspirations from the 2014 NWSA conference--the second and final conference that I presided over as President of NWSA. Over the decade of attending the NWSA conference, this annual gathering of scholars and activists in women's studies has come to be, yes, academic, scholarly, and political, but also affirmatively personal and soulful.



If gauged by Dr. Bevelry Guy-Sheftall's feminism-is-delicious motto, I must say NWSA 2014 was surely one of the most delicious in my decade of attending NWSA. It was also a deep privilege for me to experience this historical NWSA (with a record turnout of 2,500 attendees) with the largest delegation of SCSU WMS souls (10 in total, not counting alums) on the land of the Taino people. I would also characterize this particular conference as the NWSA of bell hooks, whose keynote presence throughout the four-day conference is likened to that of a rock star, absolutely inspiring and rejoicing.

As I now step into my role as Immediate Past President of NWSA, I look forward to the many happy, feminist, and transformative returns of the amazing annual gathering of feminists at NWSA.

Melanie Lozada (WMS MA '15): From Tricia being president to bell hooks' inspiring and honest keynote, NWSA 2014 was truly a one-of-a kind experience! One of the most relevant sessions for me was "Queering Menarchy: Intersectionality in a Menstrual Activist Discourse" where Jax Gonzalez spoke about constructing menstruation as a gender-neutral experience creating a new public narrative for menstruation. Her discussion filled quite a few gaps in my own research about menstruation and it was wonderful to hear about a new menstruation narrative.

Skyla Seamans (WMS MA '15): My experience at the NWSA conference was invaluable, one of the most meaningful moments taking place in a session on transgressive perspectives of motherhood. The topics discussed ranged from the importance of breast feeding to the stigma against teen moms to hate mail a specific midwife received for her work on safety within home births. This session not only affected me as an expecting mother learning about these topics with my own parenting style in mind but it also provided me with connections, new statistics, and additional focus for my thesis on race and class within the modern midwifery movement. I feel like my research is much more grounded just from hearing these panelists speak and my confidence in my studies has increased immensely!

Lauren Todd (WMS MA '16): The NWSA conference was phenomenal! What I liked best was probably bell hooks' keynote. After years of reading, discussing, and citing her, it was uplifting to hear her speak in person and be inspired all over again. I was pleased by the turnout and feedback from both of the panels I was on as well.



Bina Walker (WMS MA '15): "Laboring Positions: Black Mothers, Graduate School and Mothering" was an invigorating session in which I attended. Work and family balance was one of the main concepts discussed throughout this session. Aside from this fantastic session, there was another one that I attended that allowed me to gain scope within the issues going on in Palestine, the session consisted of a group of women, including Angela Davis and others who visited universities there. Meeting and having both Chandra Mohanty and bell hooks sign my books was simply wonderful.

FEMINARWHAL PRESENTS...

BY KATE ANDERSTROM (WMS MA '16)

