



# WOMEN'S STUDIES

FEBRUARY 2015 NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 5

## ALUMNI NEWS



**Jill Bassett** graduated with her MA in WMS in 2008. She had been working as a Residence Hall Director & found that many of her students were lacking self-esteem, positive images of women and suffered from gender stereotyping. Bassett wanted to find a degree that would help her provide knowledge to her students as well as connect with her passion for equality...and then she found the Women's Studies Program!

Bassett is currently the Associate Director of Residence Life and Student Conduct at the University of Bridgeport (UB) as well as an Adjunct Professor at UB. The most rewarding aspect of her work is being able to help students in and outside of the classroom and watching them have that "AHA" moment. At UB, she has started the program "Take Back the Night," and created an awareness program called "UB Aware," which educates students on topics from body image to bullying. She now is producing the first ever production of *Vagina Monologues* this April.

Bassett has these words for students: "Brag about your work, often in the WMS sphere we are bashful and are too humble...it is through talking about our work that it gives the work power! Get out there more. Often students do what feels comfortable instead of trying something that feels different. There is value in getting out of the comfort zone. Trust your gut. If you feel that something is wrong, trust yourself! Never settle." She also feels networking is quite important. In her spare time, Bassett enjoys running and

hiking with her three year-old Australian Blue Heeler Cattle Dog, Lycan, visiting family and friends, and working hard. Kickboxing is her favorite workout and she loves to surround herself with positive people.



**Jillian Eagles Woychowski** earned her MA in Women's Studies in 2009. Since graduating from the program, she has earned her +60 and is working on a cross-endorsement in Library Media. Woychowski taught English at West Haven High School for 13 years before becoming a Library Media Specialist at West Haven High School. The most rewarding part of her work is being a teacher! She enjoys hiking, boating, and swimming, being outdoors, with her husband and son, along with their two Golden Retrievers.

Her words of advice for current students: "to utilize all the resources available to them, including their professors, fellow students, and campus offerings such as the writing center. Keep a portfolio of your work and accomplishments, in paper and digital form. Update your resume as it changes. Read, read, read. Don't stop learning just because you've got a degree in your hands."

The most rewarding experience she had as a WMS student was being a part of Jill Bassett's special project "A Feminist Fashion Show."

Woychowski recently became the co-advisor to Girls in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) and is very excited at the prospect of fostering girls' interest in STEM fields.

## PASSIONS & PATHS

### Presence

By Jessica Bachinski

my presence will ricochet  
from deep within the damp soil,  
or drift towards the azure illusion  
above me -  
inundated with the  
glow, glow, glow,  
from the kaleidoscopic star,  
letting the colossal inferno overhead  
shroud my pallid bark in warmth -  
mama,  
nurturing my crumbling roots  
drinking from the cool dew of the  
morning  
growing, stretching  
to sustain the gift of nourishment  
from earth and sky.

Jessica Bachinski (SCSU '14) earned her BS in Liberal Studies. She was the recipient of the Women's Studies Outstanding Student Award & the Ingrid Washinawatok El-Issa Award. She enjoys learning about natural herbs, her cat, and listening to music.

## IOTA IOTA IOTA

IOTA IOTA IOTA is a National Women's Studies Honor Society and is open to undergraduate students, graduate students, and alumnae/i in Women's Studies.

Candidates must:

- Have a strong interest in Women's Studies
- Have at least third-semester undergraduate standing
- Have at least six hours/credits of Women's Studies coursework
- Have a GPA of 3.0 or higher

**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. Auditions: 3/12, 3/13, 3/23, 3/24 - 6pm-10pm. Practice Dates: 4/10, 4/13, 4/14, 6p-10p.

### Fundraisers & Events:

- 2/13 & 2/20 (3pm): Craft making for craft sale, WMS office
- 3/3 (1pm): Women's Appreciation Day Potluck
- 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

**Next Meeting:** Feb 5 from 12p-1p, EN C 206

## STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



**Celia Padmore** is from the island of Barbados, where refined luxury and exceptional culinary foods are popular among the local people. Proud of her roots, Padmore shares that Barbados is a very beautiful island, with lots

of art, activities, night life, music, history and some of the best restaurants to be found anywhere. Padmore, who likes to be referred to as "Cece," currently works in Student Support Services helping first year students adjust to college life. She often goes above and beyond to help any student she comes in contact with and loves meeting new students!

As a master's student in the Women's Studies Program, her thesis research is on, "Perceptions of Women Portrayed in Reality Television." Reality Television has exemplified the negative behaviors of women and her thesis will examine exactly how reality television impacts society's views perceptions of women. Her plan for the future is to eventually earn her PhD once graduating this Spring. In her spare time, Padmore likes to hike, bike, and workout at the gym. Although she is constantly busy, she still finds time volunteering to work with the elderly population suffering with Alzheimer Disease.

**Julian Wilson** is a New Haven native who completed his undergraduate degree in Media Studies at SCSU. He is currently pursuing his masters in Women's Studies and loves the program due to its interdisciplinary nature which allows him to pursue his passions in Media Studies while broadening his horizons.



He is currently working on his thesis titled "On Display: A comparative Study on Race and Gender in Advertising." His thesis seeks to explore the impact that race and gender have on the levels of sexual objectification that occur in life style magazine advertisements.

As a graduate intern, Wilson's responsibility at the Women's Center is primarily sexual violence prevention programming. His programs generally focus on bystander intervention and male accountability. He speaks with young men, teaching them about the issues of sexual violence and explaining to them simple means of interventions that can diffuse potentially bad situations.

Wilson is seeking work locally after the completion of his degree, this May, in fields that allow him to interact directly with community members in order to move New Haven in a positive direction. He is also open to the possibility of furthering his education.





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## 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.

### February

- 4th: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial (1-2 PM, Adanti Student Center Ballroom)
- 17th: A Dialogue with Ana-Maurine Lara, Author of *Erzulie's Skirt* (5:30-7 PM; Skype conversation)
- 18th: "A Glocal Movement Against Gender Violence," with Chilean feminist Pía Barros (12:10-1:25; Engleman Hall B 308);
- 19th: Screening of "Dear White People" (5-7 PM; Adanti Student Center Theatre)
- 20th: "Digital Pedagogies and Gender: Women, Community, Technology," with Dr. Brittney Cooper, of Rutgers University (9-3 PM; Engleman Hall B 121 B)
- 23rd: "The New Black" Documentary Screening & Discussion (1-2:30 PM and 7-8:30 PM; Adanti Student Center Theatre)
- 25th: Lunar New Year Celebration (12-2 PM; Engleman Hall B 121 A&B)
- 25th: Screening of "Dear White People" (3-5 PM; Adanti Student Center Theatre)
- 25th: A Seminar with Barbara Gurr, WMS Alum and Author of *Reproductive Justice: The Politics of Health Care for Native American Women* (5-7 PM; Engleman Hall B 304)
- 26th: "Celebration of Blackness" (7 PM; Engleman Hall B 121 A&B)

### March

- 5th: Performance Poetry Duo "About That Elephant" (7-9 PM; Adanti Student Center Ballroom A)
- 6th & 7th: Kingian Nonviolence Workshop with Victoria Christgau (1-7 PM and 9-4 PM; Engleman B 121 A&B)
- 12th: "Gender Justice and Cyber Technology," an evening with feminist legal scholars on intersections of gender and technology (5-7: PM; Engleman Hall A 113)

- 21st: The 20th Annual African American Women's Summit, a Sisters' Collective in New Haven (8-3 PM, Wexler-Grant School, New Haven)
- 25th: Sisters' Luncheon—"Sisters Supporting Sisters"
- 26th: The 6th annual "The Z Experience," a spoken word event in memory of Zannette Lewis, in conjunction with Women's Appreciation Day: "Celebrating Women of Character, Courage, and Commitment" (6-9 PM; Engleman Hall A 120)

### April

- TBA: Screening of "Very Young Girls" (Info forthcoming)
- 2nd: "Everyone Matters" Day
- 3rd: Courageous Conversation on White Privilege (TBA; Engleman Hall B 121 A&B)
- 14th: NDN (American Indian) Women's Cultural Production & Sustaining Turtle Island: Katsi Cook and Gail Small
- 17th: Celebrating/Remembering Gabriel García Márquez with Jean Franco and Edith Grossman (Info forthcoming)
- 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 (7-9 PM, Engleman Hall C 112 and 7-9 PM Engleman Hall A 120)
- 22nd: "Take Back the Night," an annual event to stop violence against women and shatter the silence (7-9 PM, Adanti Student Center Ballroom)
- 23rd: Centennial Commemoration of Armenian Genocide (Info forthcoming)
- 30th: An OWL (Opportunity for Women's Leadership) Empowerment Symposium, our 11th leadership conference with young women from James Hillhouse, Metropolitan Business Academy, Wilbur Cross High School, and West Haven High School (8-3 PM; Engleman Hall B 121 A&B)

## DID YOU KNOW?

SCSU offers a competitive Graduate Research Fellowship (GRF), a Graduate Studies Graduate Assistantship (GSGA), and other opportunities. Deadlines are approaching early February, follow the link below for more information <https://www.southernct.edu/academics/graduate/research/research-competitions/index.html>

## ACTIVISM NOW

**Madison Breuer** is an ELLA Fellow through the Sadie Nash Leadership Project. For her ELLA project She is creating and facilitating an original program called "Crafting a Feminist Future."

This program works with middle-school girls in New Haven, in collaboration with the LEAP Program. This project focuses on engaging girls in the New Haven community with feminist ideas through crafts, art, and handmade goods. It also asserts that there is something radical in girls claiming their agency, identity, and announcing their existence through creative means. This project rejects the notion of crafts as passive and separate from the voice of their maker – and will produce crafts that represent the voices of the individuals who made them. These craftivist projects invite girls to express their views on political, community, and individual issues they encounter.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The University MLK Celebration has been rescheduled for Wednesday, February 4th, 2015 at 1 pm in the Adanti Student Center Ballroom. Please join SCSU in honoring the life and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Including Special Guests: Pastor James Lane, professional monologist Tiffany Young and student vocalist Erin Roccapriore.
- SCSU Women's Center/Men's Initiative presents a film screening of, "The Black Power Mistape: Angelia Davis, Assata Shakur and the Women of the Black Power Movement," Wednesday, February 4th from 2p-4p in the Adanti Student Center Room 305
- SCSU Women's Center presents, "History of Black Feminism," Monday, February 2nd from 1p-2p at the Adanti Student Center Room 309



If you have jobs, internships, or other opportunities in the New Haven area for Women's Studies students or alumni, we would love to feature them in our next newsletter, on Facebook, and email! Please send us an email about your organization, a job description, and contact information and we will happily share your opportunities with the Women's Studies community at Southern.