

Center for  
Women's Studies:

Monday—Thursday

8:30am—9:30pm

Friday

8:30am—3:30pm

Sunday

4:30pm—9:30pm

13 Oak Drive  
Hamilton, NY, 13346  
(315) 228-7156

## From the Director...

It is a great pleasure to be part of the launch of an electronic version of the Women's Studies newsletter, and I want to take this opportunity to thank Liz Thompson, Elise Man, and all the other members of the Women's Studies community at Colgate who have worked hard to make it possible. It is a sign of the extraordinary initiatives and energy we have experienced this year in the Center for Women's Studies.

Colgate is one of a small group of colleges where the academic side of women's studies is closely connected to the programming activities of a women's studies center. We are exceptionally fortunate to have a space that is open to so many students, faculty, staff, and administrators from all over campus. Whether it is to attend a brown-bag presentation, to find a quiet place to work or a library devoted to scholarship on women and gender, or simply a place to hang out in the company of good people—the Center is a warm, welcoming place for all.

Increasing numbers of students are taking women's studies courses, and we have several new faculty and courses to celebrate. This year we have been offering two sections of WMST 202, *Introduction to Women's Studies*, per semester, and we'll continue this practice in the spring. In addition to long-time favorites, faculty from different disciplines have developed and are teaching new cross-listed courses with titles like *Gender and Development*, *Stand and Speak: Feminist Rhetorics and Social Change*, *Sex, Love and God: Religion and Queer Studies*. In the spring, seven completely new titles will be offered for Women's Studies credit in French, Theater, Film and Media Studies, University Studies, Sociology, and Africana and Latin American Studies.

This program is made possible thanks to the students, faculty, staff and administrators who help create and maintain a Women's Studies community we can all be proud of and that supports such an innovative and exciting curriculum.

Thank you all!

Ulla Grapard  
Director of the Women's Studies Program  
Associate Professor of Economics and Women's Studies

## Thoughts from the Program Assistant

One question I find myself asking, both internally and aloud is "How is it already December?!" It seems like the semester has flown by. In August, I started my second year as Women's Studies Program Assistant. I'm delighted to have the chance to spend my days at the Center for another academic year. There are few places on campus and in the world where I have witnessed this kind of positive community building and reflection through discussions at Tuesday brown bags, the *Clothesline Project* display or in everyday interactions as people take breaks before or after class. The fact that it is possible for us to engage in conversation about feminisms, gender roles and expectations and social justice in all of these forums makes my work so rewarding and fun, and I'm grateful to everyone who helps makes the Center a welcoming, safe space where ideas, thoughts on feminist and gender theory and lived experiences can be shared. There is no shortage of interesting, stimulating conversation here. Everyone is welcome at the Center – to browse the library, study, hang out, take a power nap, or just talk. Our events will start again with the brown bag on Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see you in the spring.

In the meantime, many thanks to Ulla Grapard, Letta Palmer and the student interns for their support of the initiatives I've proposed, especially Elise Man '09 who has worked tirelessly on putting together this newsletter. Thanks too to everyone who participates in Women's Studies programming! Liz Thompson

Women's Studies Program Assistant

## Denim Day: Not Your Typical Friday:

By Jie Lin '09

With students clearing out of campus grounds in cars and Cruisers, the Colgate hilltop seems like a deserted bubble every Friday. This Friday, however, is not your typical in-between space between weekday and weekend. Tucked away in the sundance-yellow space that we call the Center for Women's Studies is a small celebration of Denim Day, a time when members of the Colgate community wear pink shirts and blue jeans in celebration of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Since noon, members of the Colgate and Hamilton communities have been trickling into the center to hear an exceptional group of panelists speak about breast cancer awareness. The presenters include Dr. Merrill Miller and Nurse Manager Jan Lever of the Student Health Center, Women's Studies Concentration alumna Lisa Henty '08, and Charlotte Keenan '09, co-President of the Breast Cancer Awareness Coalition on campus.

From detecting cancer lumps to advocating awareness, the panel spoke about various issues concerning breast cancer. For example, Dr. Miller and Nurse Lever gave a presentation on cancer detection and used a necklace with different-sized beads to demonstrate the development of tumors found in the breast. They also brought in jelly breasts which showed us what lumps might feel like in a real body.

Lisa Henty spoke about her internship at Breast Cancer Action, an organization that raises awareness about issues concerning breast cancer, including environmental factors that contribute to higher risk for cancer, social issues that lead to the disparity of treatment and help for different groups of people, and general information concerning breast cancer.



From left to right: Dr. Merrill Miller, Lisa Henty '08, and Charlotte Keenan '09



Attendees learn more about breast cancer by examining jelly breasts and tumor models.

Charlotte Keenan talked about a family member's experiences with breast cancer and how those experiences affected her. She said that breast cancer has affected her family in negative and unforeseen ways; nonetheless, she and BCAC try to make the best of the situation by using those experiences to bring awareness and change to the Colgate campus.

Although raising money was not the main goal of Denim Day here at Colgate, many generous members of the Hamilton and Colgate community gave generous donations to the cause after hearing the panel's presentations. Audrey Stevens '07, a Women's Studies concentration alumna, donated a hand-made scarf to the Scarf Raffle, which was the fundraising aspect of the Center's small contribution to the fight against breast cancer.

Denim Day was founded by employees of Lee Jeans, Inc. who wanted to raise money for breast cancer; and since its founding in 1996, Denim Day have raised more than \$70 million for breast cancer awareness and prevention. Though the founding idea was at first small, Denim Day grew to become one of the most well-known breast cancer organizations in the world.

Similarly, though our efforts at the Center for Women's Studies are only minor compared to those of other organizations, it hopes to continue bringing awareness and information to Colgate in hope that people of this community will carry this message further.

## Healthy Breast Fest: Recognizing Local Breast Cancer Survivors

By Jie Liu '09

In celebration of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Center hosted its annual Healthy Breast Fest on Thursday. During this time, panelists and attendees talked about a variety of breast cancer issues; many of them also shared some of their personal experiences with breast cancer.

The panelists were: Sylvia Roe, a retired employee of the Student Health Center and a long-time survivor of breast cancer; Ellen Kraly, Professor of Geography, director of the Upstate Institute, and a breast cancer survivor; and Dr. Merrill Miller, a Professor of Health Sciences and Director of the Student Health Center.

Dr. Miller talked about the science behind breast cancer as well as the importance of early detection; according to her, women who detect their cancer early have an 88% chance of surviving for at least five more years.

Sylvia Roe and Professor Kraly spoke about their experiences as breast cancer survivors. Sylvia Roe, who had overcome breast cancer and other health issues, reminded us to take care of ourselves. It was through good health habits and fighting hard, she said, that she was able to live as long as she did despite having breast cancer. Meanwhile, Professor Kraly also offered us some similar advice. She, too, lives a healthy lifestyle and continues to educate herself about breast cancer issues.



Center: Geography Professor Ellen Kraly talked about her experiences with breast cancer.



Pictured: Cakes from The Barge Cafe

Aside from taking care of themselves, however, both serve their communities as well. In fact, over the years, Ms. Roe and Professor Kraly have remained active in raising awareness about breast cancer issues. Ms. Roe, for example, participated in a 60-mile breast cancer walk-a-thon with her daughter and granddaughter while Professor Kraly climbed up the snow-covered, 10,781-foot Mount Baker in an effort to raise money for breast cancer research. Her efforts and endurance paid off— she raised over \$18,000 for the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center based in Seattle.

When we asked Sylvia and Professor Kraly why they do the things they do – walking sixty miles and climbing mountains – besides raising awareness and money to support a cause, they responded with the same answer: to empower themselves, to prove to themselves that they really *survived* cancer, and to live each day to the fullest. “If I haven’t had a good belly laugh every day, something has gone wrong,” said Professor Kraly.

Sylvia and Professor Kraly gave us a more humanized view of breast cancer. From feeling physically sick to being emotionally impacted, their stories gave us a deeper understanding and empathy for the millions of people who are currently living with incurable diseases such as breast cancer. They taught us to have a newer appreciation for life.

To learn more about breast cancer, please check out [www.breastcanceraction.org](http://www.breastcanceraction.org)

## Professor Spotlight: Lecturer Mary Simonson

By Elise Man '09

We are happy to welcome Lecturer Mary Simonson to the Women's Studies and University Studies programs here at Colgate. A recent Ph.D graduate in Critical and Comparative Studies in Music at the University of Virginia, Professor Simonson comes to us with an extensive academic background in nineteenth- and early twentieth-century opera and dance, particularly film music, feminist theory, female vocality, and women's roles in performances.

Professor Simonson has presented papers on the Salome character in early twentieth century American culture, vocal and corporeal interactions among female characters in Auber's *La Muette de Portici*, and Anna Pavlova's appearance in Lois Weber's opera-film "The Dumb Girl of Portici." In addition, Professor Simonson has published many articles on the role of women in music and film.

Currently, she is working on several different publications, including a book about the central role of female performers in turn-of-the-century American art and entertainment culture. She is also working on a chapter entitled "Screening the Diva" for a collection called *The Arts of the Prima Donna in the Long Nineteenth Century*. Said Professor Simonson, "Believe it or not, a number of leading opera singers in the early twentieth-century had careers as silent film actresses; in this essay, I discuss the ways in which their films "coped" with their silent voices by foregrounding and testing the limits of their bodies."



In the past, Professor Simonson has taught a variety of Women's Studies and Music courses, including Music and Dance, 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Opera, Entertainment Yesterday: Stage and Screen at the Turn of the Twentieth Century, and most recently, Intro to Women's Studies at Colgate. "I've really enjoyed my first semester at Colgate and in Hamilton. I've been welcomed very warmly by both students and faculty, and have been so impressed by the caliber and engagement of the students I taught this semester. My WMST 202 students always arrived full of ideas and reactions to share, and our class discussions were wide-ranging and stimulating," said Professor Simonson.

Next semester, Professor Simonson will be teaching a film course entitled Hollywood and World: Performing Gender and Sexuality Onscreen. At the same time, she hopes to balance out her heavy workload by doing ballet and modern dance, spending time with her dogs, and by taking advantage of the heavy snow in Hamilton. "I'm looking forward to learning how to cross-country ski!" she says.

## The Women's Studies Website Gets a New Look

By Liz Thompson, WMST Program Assistant

If you've visited the Women's Studies webpage lately, you may have noticed that it's out of date and could be more user-friendly. Well, we have noticed that, too. As a result, we have been actively searching for ways to improve the "virtual face" of our Center.

Since early spring 2008, I have researched websites by other Women's Studies programs and centers across the country. Meanwhile, we have also been brainstorming with faculty, students and staff about ways in which we could make the website more useful and accessible to all. Collectively, we have decided to make the following additions:

- Calendar and photos of Women's Studies events, including Brown Bags, lectures, and awareness campaigns.

- An updated list of faculty, staff, and student interns involved in the WMST program

- Information on how to major or minor in WMST, including current course descriptions

- Job descriptions for the WMST Program Assistant and student work-study positions

- A list of on-campus, off-campus and online resources related to feminism, gender equality, women's health, sexuality, body image, and sexual and gender-based violence support.

- The Center for Women's Studies blog

You will be able to see many of these changes by next semester. Thanks to Mike Parsons '09 for his hard work on the website re-design.

## Professor Spotlight: Professor Angela Hattery

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By *Amanda McKeon '10*

Sociology Professor Angela Hattery may be new to campus, but one could never tell just by interacting with her. In fact, as a visiting professor from Wake Forest University, Professor Hattery has dived into the Colgate community quite well— she engages with students outside of the classroom and participates in campus events, attending sports games and guest speakers. More recently, Professor Hattery also presented and signed her latest book, *Intimate Partner Violence*, at the Colgate Bookstore.

Her interest in sociology, particularly in gender and women's issues, began as an undergraduate at Carleton College, where she was a Sociology and Anthropology major concentrating in women's studies. During this time, Professor Hattery volunteered at a rape crisis center. Those volunteer experiences, coupled with a seminar that she took in graduate school entitled "When Battered Women Kill", sparked her interest in intimate partner violence, the subject of her latest work.

Intimate partner violence is not the only issue that she tackles, however. In fact, throughout her career, Professor Hattery has focused on many other issues of gender, including patriarchy, traditional family ideologies, and women in the workforce. Professor Hattery's dissertation, appropriately enough, dealt with balancing work and family. She explains, "All my work has always been about a question of gender, though topics have varied."

Nonetheless, although she has tackled different aspects of gender in her work, Professor Hattery sees intimate partner violence as one of the most compelling subjects that she has studied. In particular, she found the interviews that she did as part of her research to be emotionally wrenching and tragic. However, she believes that the stories must be told. "As a researcher, I felt like a vessel for their stories," she says. Professor Hattery sees progress in stopping intimate partner violence as possible if society directs attention to it, exposing its injustice. In a sense, her work helps to reveal the horror behind domestic violence as it tells the stories of abused women.

On another note, Professor Hattery has become somewhat a staple at our weekly Women Studies' Center Brown Bags, asking key questions and providing insightful comments during discussion. She relayed that she found the Brown Bags to be a wonderful way to bring up important issues about feminism and women's interests, calling the events, "teaching moments, opportunities for dialogue." Specifically, Professor Hattery cited the brown bags on "midwives" and "sororities" as two of the most interesting to watch and participate in. She found these Brown Bags especially fascinating because of the questions about feminism they created. Moreover, the events brought up the idea that "just because something is women-centered doesn't mean it is feminist," she said.

Next semester, Professor Hattery plans to host a WMST brown bag as part of a symposium on exoneration that will take place at Colgate. She will also be teaching two SOAN/ WMST courses: "Social Inequality" and "Gender, Power and Violence." Please join us in welcoming A. Lindsay Distinguished Professor of American Studies in Sociology and Anthropology to Colgate!

## Airing Our Dirty Laundry: Speaking Out About Gender-Based Violence

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By *Liddy Kang Covington '09*

This fall, Colgate's Center for Women's Studies hosted the Clothesline Project, a national campaign which utilizes personalized t-shirts to raise awareness about sexual and domestic violence. These t-shirts— all adorned with hand-painted messages, poems, and images— were hung on clotheslines at the COOP as well as inside and outside the Women's Studies Center. Participation was open to anyone who was willing to make a t-shirt addressing gender-based violence.

Some t-shirts were made in memory of survivors and victims of gender-based violence. Other t-shirts raised awareness about gender-based violence at Colgate, in local communities, and throughout the world. Still, others used the Clothesline Project to share some of their own experiences as survivors of gender-based violence. Overall, the Clothesline Project reminded the Colgate community that gender-based violence remains a serious issue, and that it afflicts individuals across different ethnicities, genders, and sexual orientations.

The first Clothesline Project was founded in Massachusetts in 1990, but today communities throughout the United States as well as people in other countries are hosting Clothesline Projects of their own. For more information, please visit the Clothesline Project website at <http://www.clotheslineproject.org/>.



## Book Review: Professor Angela Hattery's Intimate Partner Violence

By Amanda McKeon '10

Professor Angela Hattery delves into perhaps one of the most pressing issues for women—that of intimate partner violence—in her recently published book entitled *Intimate Partner Violence*. In the introduction, Hattery stipulates that her work aims to shed light on IPV, a type of violence that goes largely unacknowledged by the media and society. She proposes that her book is heavily influenced and driven by the stories of women who have been IPV victims, and also the stories of men who perpetrate these violent and criminal acts. Besides simply providing their histories and stories, however, Hattery also sets out to examine how structural and cultural factors make violence against women seem normal.

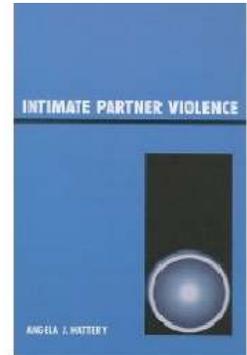
To begin her analysis of the problem, Hattery gives a concise summary of the domestic violence movement. In this short history, she provides context for the lenient laws that allow men to avoid serious consequences for abusing women. She also provides shocking statistics on the rate of violence against women: citing the CDC Fact Sheet for 2006, she tells the reader that “4.8 million acts of intimate partner violence are reported by U.S. women each year.”

Hattery continues to inform the reader about IPV injustices throughout the book. As she describes the perpetuation of violence from childhood to adulthood, Hattery imbues a sense of horror and urgency in the reader; the stories she inserts tell of fear and violence.

Particularly interesting is Hattery's discussion of structural and cultural enablers of intimate partner violence. She devotes much time to the structural constraints of economy and capitalism on women. Specifically, Hattery examined how these systems created expectations for how women should behave and for what “duties” she should perform in the home. These structures were somewhat mimicked in cultural systems that contributed to intimate partner violence—especially the discussion of proscribed cultural gender roles. Hattery sites masculinity and its importance to American culture as a force often behind intimate partner violence: men who feel that their partner's threaten their masculinity often expressed their feelings over this through abuse. In a sense, the work on structural and cultural constraints tapped into the importance of gender roles in creating intimate partner violence. Structural systems promoted subservience of women, while cultural beliefs glorified masculinity; when men and women deviated from these roles, violence often occurred.

The book also looked at the evolution of intimate partner violence in relationships. The theme that Hattery noted in many abusive relationships was that of possessiveness. Men felt a clear sense of their partner's as a possession. Women became something that they owned, and this belief of ownership led to behaviors such as isolating their partners from friends and family or suspecting their partners of having affairs with other men. From these beliefs and actions, violence often flowed.

In her conclusion of the book, Hattery reflects on the impacts of intimate partner violence and also delves into possible solutions. She sees the end of patriarchy and reform of economic systems through institution of a living wage as particularly necessary for future change, as well as the inclusion of sense of equality among the sexes in relationships. As Hattery ends her work, she imparts a message that intimate partner violence is an issue that must be dealt with by changing society's views about gender and power and creating the realization that masculinity does not justify abuse.



<b>September 2</b>	Emily Ha '09, Elise Man '09, Myra Guevara '10 The F Word: What's Up with That?	<b>Brown Bags Fall 2008</b>
<b>September 9</b>	Jane Jones, Shelly Lear, and Dawn LaFrance, Counseling and Psychological Services Everything You Wanted to Know About Counseling, but Didn't Know How to Ask	
<b>September 16</b>	Barb Church and Maureen Fox, Community Action Program Community Action: Everyone's Call	
<b>September 23</b>	Professor Tyrell Haberkom, Peace and Conflict Studies The Silencing of Women in Radical Political History in Thailand	
<b>September 30</b>	Professor Mary Moran, Anthropology and African Studies Re-making Gender in Post-Conflict Societies	
<b>October 7</b>	Professor Kay Johnston, Educational Studies Education for a Caring Society: Can We Do It?	

## “How Does It Feel to Be a Problem?”: Ana Lydia Vega’s Literary Dialogue with W.E.B. DuBois

By Brianne Moore '11

In celebration of ALST Day, Women's Studies partnered with the ALST department to bring Ana Lydia Vega, one of Puerto Rico's most celebrated contemporary authors and critic of Hispanic and Caribbean literature, to Colgate. Her work is reflective of Puerto Rican history and the ambiguous state of Puerto Rico, being a country that is not quite independent but not truly a member of the US Federation.

She began her lecture by discussing why she chose to talk about W.E.B. DuBois, an African-American writer and activist who was heavily involved in the African-American civil rights movement of the mid-1950s and '60s. According to Vega, she discovered African-American literature after reading the anti-slavery novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin* in school, and when she started her writing career, that was when she realized how significantly African-American literature, particularly W.E.B DuBois' work, influenced her own writing.

To illustrate this point, Vega talked about some of her short stories. According to Vega, the concept of two-ness, which was heavily discussed by W.E.B DuBois, serves as a major theme in many of her works. For example, in “Patejo’s Little Prank,” the protagonist is a 19<sup>th</sup>-century plantation boy who has a black head but a white body. Meanwhile, Vega’s “Though the Eyes of Others” also addresses the concept of two-ness by discussing how people view one another, particularly how Nuyoricans view both themselves and others.

In “Struggling with El Dificil” Vega describes how she reconciled with the Spanish language. During her childhood years in Puerto Rico, Vega was taught that English is the universal language, and that it is the language of the capitalistic world. Hence, throughout her childhood, Vega only spoke Spanish at home. However, this changed when Vega started studying Spanish at the University of Puerto Rico. According to Vega, these studies helped her gain an appreciation for the intellectual aspects of Spanish language; she later even discovered that her father was an oral poet in Spanish. This newfound understanding of Spanish, combined with her knowledge of W.E.B. DuBois, helped Vega identify with the struggles, successes, experiences, and two-ness that constitute Puerto Rico as a whole.

Vega would often ask the question: How does it feel to be a colonial problem?" This concept of twoness—to be conquered and oppressed and yet still a citizen of the world— is similar to the twoness one may feel being a woman in a patriarchal society. Her final message to students dealing with negative history and the question "How does it feel to be a problem?": "Turn your anger into something positive. Use the knowledge you have learned to become something bigger."

<b>October 14</b>	ALST Day (co-sponsored by Africana-Latin American Studies and Women's Studies) Latin American Student Organization “The Presidential Candidates Views on Issues that Matter to Minorities”
<b>October 28</b>	Professor Earl Smith, Sociology and Anthropology African American Men, Masculinity and Intimate Partner Violence
<b>November 4</b>	Mary Chapin, retired Colgate employee Voting Can Become an Addiction: The Historical Impact of Women's Voting in the United States
<b>November 11</b>	Jeri O'Bryan Losee, Academic Advisor for Non-Traditional Students at SUNY Morrisville The Challenges of Advising Non-Traditional Students (in recognition of Non-Traditional Students Week)
<b>November 18</b>	Diane Starsiak and Naomi Starsiak, Certified Labor/Birth Doulas in Madison County Modern Birth: From Do-It-Yourself to Designer C-Sections
<b>November 25</b>	Professor Antonio Barrera, History (The Lack of) Women's Perspectives on 16 <sup>th</sup> Century Medicinal Plants in Mexico
<b>December 2</b>	Members of Panhellenic Council Colgate Women Going Greek: Sorority Sisters Speak Out
<b>December 9</b>	Professor Padma Kaimal & Professor Lesleigh Cushing Maternity and Childcare Policies at Colgate

## WMST Brown Bag Series: Not Just a Meal Ticket

By Elise Man '09

Every Tuesday afternoon, one can find a hefty crowd of students and faculty at the Center for Women's Studies at Colgate. No, they're not there to avoid the snow. Nor are they there to attend a Women's Studies class; but rather, they're there to engage in the Women's Studies Brown Bag series, a discussion panel which has become a beloved tradition and staple at Colgate since the Center's founding in 1994.

The purpose of WMST brown bags is to give students the opportunity to learn about women's and gender issues outside of the classroom. In particular, these brown bags give non-WMST students the opportunity to explore how feminism, sexism, gender inequality influence our local, national and global communities. Meanwhile, WMST brown bags also give faculty, staff, and students the opportunity to interact with one another in an informal and comfortable setting.

Overall, the Brown Bag series was incredibly successful this semester. In particular, student-driven and collaborative brown bags were especially well-attended. Said WMST program assistant Liz Thompson, "I find that one key to success is collaboration. Colgate students and other members of our community sometimes have four different opportunities to attend a program at lunchtime, but working closely with other programs and departments often brings students with a number of different interests to one event."



*Pictured: Mary Chapin, a retired Colgate employee, led a brown bag discussion entitled "Voting Can Become an Addiction: The Historical Impact of Women's Voting"*



*Center: Education Professor Kay Johnston presenting her brown bag in early October.*

Next semester, the Women's Studies Center will continue its brown bag tradition with a variety of presentations. A number of brown bag speakers—including musicians, filmmakers, and scholars from other universities—will be coming to Colgate from elsewhere. Local talent will also be recognized this spring with brown bags featuring Colgate faculty and Women's Studies students.

The Women's Studies Center hopes that this variety of presentations will appeal to those who are looking for another source of intellectual and social stimulation outside of the classroom. Furthermore, the Center hopes that WMST brown bags will encourage students take a Women's Studies course, since many of the bigger themes addressed at brown bags—such as gender inequality, feminisms and social justice, in particular—are supported by feminist and gender theories in the classroom.

To learn more about the WMST Brown Bag series, please contact our program assistant, Liz Thompson, at [erthompson@mail.colgate.edu](mailto:erthompson@mail.colgate.edu). Or drop by the Center and join our Brown Bag discussions on Tuesdays at 11:30am. Everyone is welcome and food is always provided.

## Alumna Spotlight: Audrey Stevens '08

By Natalie Gaugh '12

After graduating in 2008, Audrey Stevens moved to Baltimore, Maryland to focus on her volunteer work. Reflecting on her involvement in Women's Studies, she says that she has taken that "same motivation and transferred it to involvement in [her] new job". Audrey has been pursuing all the involvement she can find—once in Baltimore, she emailed the Women & Gender Studies director of John Hopkins University, and began hunting for information on activities that involved women's issues in Baltimore.

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In the past, Audrey raised awareness on breast cancer, served as an M&T marathon volunteer, and worked with the non-profit House of Ruth, which helps battered women in Baltimore. She was also involved in the non-profit CASA of Maryland, which helps women of color who are single mothers, disadvantaged, in need of childcare, or are victims of violence or AIDS. Currently, she's working with The Greater Homewood Community Corporation, which aims to better the quality of Baltimore neighborhoods and help people get more out of their community and resources (something which she feels is a women's issue as well).

Audrey attributes her decision to major in Women's Studies to several of her experiences within the department. Simply "being in Introduction to Women's Studies and being in the Center" helped her to know, and she enjoyed being able to have "interests and passions" and "to explore that more". Her toughest and favorite class was Philosophy and Feminism, and she appreciated how the department allowed "all aspects of life to apply to Women's Studies". In fact, working with the program developed into a very meaningful idea for Audrey—in October 2007, she became a victim of rape, and while she had the support of faculty and staff, she found she had trouble opening up to her friends. Working with Professor Micholo, she was able to establish a personal practicum to develop peer support groups and create a network of students to listen and help those who have been abused.

"Take the opportunity now to talk about issues that are really important in society, so you can learn and ask about yourself," advises Audrey to Colgate students. It's "hard to find what activities the real world has... Be involved! Go to everything! Take advantage of it, and have fun with it. There are (sadly) no Brownbags in the real world". She reminds students interested in Women's Studies that the "department gives you elbow room—you make the class what you want it to be".

We are proud of Audrey's awareness and involvement, and look forward to her next visit to the Center!

## Alumna Spotlight: Lisa Henty '08

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*By Natalie Gaugh '12*

Alumna Lisa Henty and her work, past and present, are prime examples of the valuable personal, practical, and academic applications of a Women's Studies education. Having graduated in 2008 with a double major in Women's Studies and Sociology, Lisa says that her WMST experience at Colgate helped her to "look outside the box" and to gain insight into "why opposite standpoints" of an issue exist. The interdisciplinary aspect of Women's Studies, as well as her combination of majors, made it possible for her to "pursue things from multiple angles." Meanwhile, Lisa reports that her WMST professors were understanding and pushed students to question their personal beliefs, thus giving her a college experience that was fulfilling "both academically and socially."

Lisa cites Philosophy & Feminism with Professor Marilyn Thie as being most influential in her decision to major in WMST, as well as several of the classes she took with Professor Grapard. "For the first time," she says, she "was interested in history because it was a women's issue" and she could really "relate to it". The courses helped her to "realize a variety of different viewpoints," as well as to conclude that it is "okay to contradict oneself later...based on the reassessment of a standpoint". Lisa also appreciated her Peace & Conflict class, which looked at war from the perspective of women. According to Lisa, discussions would often continue even after the class session ended, with small groups of people continuing to converse on their way to their next class. This not only demonstrates the intellectual capabilities and pursuits of our students, but also the complex and thought-provoking qualities of a Women's Studies education.

Thanks to collaboration with Professor Antonio Berrara and the San Francisco study group, Lisa was able to further her interest in women's issues by interning with Breast Cancer Action in San Francisco. The organization works to discover a cure, as well as find less toxic, more effective methods of treatment, and decrease involuntary environmental exposures. They do not accept money from pharmaceuticals, she points out, but they do accept donations and select grants. Overall, Lisa said that her experiences with BCA were incredibly rewarding and humbling, and that she enjoyed advocating on behalf of breast cancer victims and survivors, particularly since her mother is a breast cancer survivor. Currently, Lisa is studying at Syracuse University for her Masters in Public Administration. Her experiences in Women's Studies are serving her well, and she is aspiring toward a career in government at the federal or state level. She visited Colgate on October 3rd to discuss her experiences with Breast Cancer Action, appearing as a guest speaker for Denim Day (in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month).

She is very missed by her friends in the Center, and we wish her all the best!

## Announcements

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### Vagina Monologues: Auditions

Tues., January 27th, 2009 4:30—7:30pm  
Wed., January 28th, 2009 4:30—7:30pm  
Thurs., January 29th, 2009 4:30—7:30pm

**Auditions will be held in East Hall 109B.** Women students, faculty and staff are encouraged to audition. If interested, please drop by the Women's Studies Center for copies of the script.

### Allegorical Athena

Submissions are being collected for the *Allegorical Athena*, a gender-oriented magazine edited and produced by the Center for Women's Studies at Colgate. Submit anything related to gender issues: drawings, articles, poetry, photography, and more. Suggested topics include (but are not limited to): beauty perceptions, the media, sexuality, sexism, and relationships.

For more information please contact our program assistant, Liz Thompson, at [erthompson@mail.colgate.edu](mailto:erthompson@mail.colgate.edu). Or, feel free to direct your inquiries and submissions to [allegoricalathena@gmail.com](mailto:allegoricalathena@gmail.com).

the colgate center for  
**women's  
studies**

### The Center for Women's Studies Staff

Director—Ulla Grapard, Associate Professor of

Economics and Women's Studies

Program Assistant—Liz Thompson

Administrative Assistant—Letta Palmer

#### WMST Student Interns, fall '08

Liddy Kang 'Dec. 08

Elise Man '09

Jie Liu '09

Amanda McKeon '10

Brianne Moore '11

Natalie Gaugh '12