

the colgate center for women's studies

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 1

FALL 2009

Dear Friends of the Women's Studies Program

By: Ulla Grapard (Director of Women's Studies and Associate Professor of Economics & WMST)

There is much to celebrate in the Women's Studies Program this time of year. As you scroll through the Newsletter, you will read about the new minor in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Studies which has infused the academic program and the Center with lots of energy and new initiatives. Many of our major events this fall have been organized across communities: LGBTQ certainly, but also Africana and Latin American Studies (ALST), Native American Studies (NAST), and various academic departments. Multicultural intersections have been the rule for most of our events, including those involving student organizations such as Latin American Student Organization (LASO), Sisters of the Round Table (SORT), and Men at Colgate (MAC).

The long-awaited release of the data from the Campus Climate Life Survey has been the focus of discussions and events on campus and in Women's Studies. Having actual data showing patterns of sexual misconduct that we have known about --through anecdotal evidence-- for years has given a new urgency to the push for change in policies and practices on campus. Several senior faculty from the Women's Studies community have been involved in formulating the new Sexual Harassment Policy, introduced this fall by Charlotte Johnson, Dean of the College. Student initiatives such as the Speak Out have also raised awareness about these issues. In the coming year, we are committed to working for change through dialogue, educational activities, and a reevaluation of past practices to combat sexual abuse on campus.

In the spring we will welcome Liza Bakewell as the NEH Associate Professor of the Humanities in Women's Studies to Colgate. She will be teaching two new courses which will be cross-listed with Sociology and Anthropology.

In conclusion, I want to congratulate our Program Assistant Heather Docksta-der for the terrific job she has done in her first semester. She runs the Center and the brown bag series like a pro, and she has put together the Newsletter in collaboration with our student interns. Together with Letta Palmer, our Administrative Assistant, they make the Center the warm and welcoming place many of us choose as our favorite place to teach, to learn, and to hang out with friends.

Center for Women's Studies:

Monday—Thursday

8:30am—9:30pm

Friday

8:30am—3:30pm

Sunday

4:30pm—9:30pm



Terica Adams '12, Christine LaBoy '12, Leeander Alexander '12, Veronica Hanus '10, Angelica A. '10, and Dena Robinson '12 gather mid-conversation for a photo during a regular day in the life of the Center.

13 Oak Drive
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The Women's Studies Brown Bag Series



At the most popular brown bag of the semester, attendees listen to a presentation on sexual misconduct at Colgate.

By: Pat Weaver '13

In 1994 someone in the new Center for Women's Studies realized that feeding people is one of the best ways to guarantee that they'll listen to what you have to say. Fifteen years later, the WMST Brown Bag Series is a Center tradition and one of the most effective WMST outreach programs. This weekly event provides complimentary lunch and a lecture or discussion on a topic that deals with feminism, gender, sex, or women in general. Below are the topics for Fall 2009.

9/1 *The F Word*

Rachel Greenburg '10, Josh Morris '12, & Dena Robinson '12

9/8 *This Shot is for You! Protecting Women (and Soon Men) from HPV*

Angelica A. '10, Dr. Merrill Miller, & Tina Young

9/15 *What I Learned about and from Mary Everest Boole (1832-1916)*

Ken Valente (Mathematics and University Studies)

9/22 *Everything You Wanted to Know about Counseling but Didn't Know How to Ask*

Khym Isaac DeBarros, Jane Jones, Dawn LaFrance, & Shelly Lear

9/29 *Discussion of the Canceled Release of the Campus Climate Life Survey Results* (with ALST)

Ulla Grapard (Economics and WMST)

10/6 *Masculinities*

Members of Men at Colgate (MAC)

10/13 *Women in the Muslim World*

Ayesha Chaudhry (Religion)

10/27 *Faces of Domestic Violence* (with ALST)

Liberty Resources and Campus Safety

11/3 *Education, Work, & Family: How Our Options Have Changed Since Our Mothers' Time*

Ulla Grapard (Economics and WMST) & Letta Palmer (WMST Administrative Assistant and Student)

11/10 *Sexual Misconduct at Colgate: From Perception to Education*

Miriam Aziz '10, Susan Fortkiewicz '10, & Claire Watts '10

Facilitator: Nisha Thapliyal (Educational Studies)

11/17 *No Laughing Matter: Harassment: What it Is, and What You Can Do About It*

Hélène Julien (Romance Languages & Literatures and WMST), Lyn Rugg (Romance Languages & Literatures), & Kim Taylor (Dean of Sophomore Experience)

12/1 *The Role of Machismo Across Latin American Countries* (with ALST)

Members of Latin American Student Organization (LASO)

12/8 *A Force for Change: Feminist Rhetorics*

Members of WRIT 242 - Stand & Speak: Feminist Rhetorics & Social Change



Attendees grab a quick bite before the start of a brown bag.

LGBTQ Studies

By: Ken Valente (Director of LGBTQ Studies and Professor of Mathematics & University Studies)

In the midst of our inaugural semester, reflecting on the incorporation of LGBTQ Studies in the Colgate curriculum encourages me to play with one of Cole Porter's most-loved songs. Permuting the lyrics of "I've Got You Under My Skin," and subverting the cynicism they convey therein, I want to celebrate waking up to reality and using our mentality. I'd like to think Porter, the enduring queer icon, would find this revision both apt and amusing.

Establishing LGBTQ Studies as a minor-granting interdisciplinary program took several years and the dedication of many. This has to be acknowledged. Yet, with our inclusion in the curriculum and affiliation with Women's Studies, we find ourselves negotiating a new reality, one replete with possibilities. Ambitions once constrained by "when we have a program" have been transformed into ideas framed by "now that we have a program."

Two events announced our arrival this semester. *Coming Out in the Curriculum* included a forum on student research that was admirably led by Angelica A. '10, Benae Beamon '11, and Eugene Riordan '11. A few days later Sarah Chinn, Executive Director of CUNY's Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies, joined Professor Meika Loe and Casey Sprock '86 to discuss the contributions LGBTQ studies makes to the academy.

Other developments soon followed. We secured an adjunct appointment for Casey Sprock, who will offer *Sexuality, Gender, and the Law* (LGBT 250) in the Spring semester. We also endorsed the addition of Mary Simonson's *Introduction to Women's Studies* (WMST 202) and Nisha Thapliyal's *Gender and Development* (EDUC 303) to our list of LGBT electives. Through the auspices of other programs and offices, speakers such as Faisal Alam, Andrew Marin, and Lee Badgett brought their perspectives and research on the LGBTQ community to campus audiences. Indicative of exciting new intellectual opportunities on the horizon, we've been invited to participate in a two-year project underway at Syracuse University that seeks to explore transnationalizing queer studies. Preliminary plans call for a summer 2010 workshop on the Syracuse campus as well as an international conference in Madrid in summer 2011.

Initiatives and collaborations will continue at Colgate in the coming semester. In February Kenji Yoshino, the Chief Justice Earl Warren Professor of Constitutional Law at NYU, will be on campus for a public lecture co-sponsored by a broad coalition of programs and offices. Yoshino's experiences as a gay, Japanese-American man provided the impetus for his book, *Covering: The Hidden Assault on Our Civil Rights*. On another front, we'll be working with Women's Studies to organize at least one brown bag discussion that addresses LGBTQ concerns.

This fall we've adapted well to our new reality and confidently proclaimed our mentality. If Porter's lyrics provided me with a whimsical way of assessing our young program, then one of his many song titles poses an appropriate question: "Where do we go from here?" While we can't be certain, it's shaping up to be a stimulating journey.



Professor Ken Valente is serving as the first director of the new LGBTQ Studies Program.



Warming their hands before the forum on student research are panelists Benae Beamon '11, Eugene Riordan '11, and Angelica A. '10.

LASO Invites Rosie Perez to Campus

By: Javier R. Calvo Mendoza '12

We waited several minutes in the Mercury we had driven down to the Colgate Inn to wait for Rosie Perez. “She’s changing,” we were told as a couple of us, who had decided to head to the Club House, turned our heads frantically with every passing car, hoping it to be that Mercury that still waited outside the Inn. Her arrival to the Club House took us by surprise. We never saw the Mercury drive in. Instead, she was picked up in a fancy black Dodge. She stood before us as tired and disoriented as we were overwhelmed by her presence.

“Is this a *dinner* dinner?”

“Yes.”

“Good, I’m starving.”

She had flown into Syracuse from New York City that same afternoon. Her flight had been delayed which explained our long wait and her fatigued expression. Appetizers were all it took to bring her distinct, unmistakable smile back. Formalities were gotten over with, in the most informal fashion, and from there, all those at the table conversed with Rosie with a certain familiar trust.

She said Robert DeNiro bought some property in Puerto Rico, close to the shore, because it was so cheap and beautiful.

“That’s why it’s so cheap! Wait ‘til the hurricanes come,” she joked with a smile and loud laughter.

She said Spain is a beautiful country. She said the cast of *CSI: NY* was amazing. She asked when the food was coming. She said she stopped choreographing when dance never evolved from hip-hop. But, there was one thing she talked about with an unmatched enthusiasm and excitement: Working Playground.

Working Playground, also referred to as Urban Arts, is the organization she created to encourage arts in inner-city schools. When the money runs short, the arts are among the first things to go. Now, tens of schools in several boroughs of New York City can allow their students to explore the arts through Rosie’s help. It was her description of the project, from its foundation to its planned events for the coming year, that seized the conversation for the rest of the night.

As we finished our dinner, the wind and rain conspired to cut off the power from the University. Everything from finishing our meals to walking into Olin was done in a darkness that our dim cell phone lights could not challenge. Once the power returned and we all, including Rosie, had eaten a couple of brownies that made up for the dessert the delayed flight deprived us from enjoying, the lecture was ready to begin.

Perez spoke candidly about her experiences. The crowd was visibly drawn in. Her story highlighted the struggles of a poor Puerto Rican, so poor that she envied those living in the projects. It was her aunt who kept her focused during a childhood filled with yearning but very little opportunity. She was Rosie’s most positive influence and provided a contrast to the hardships faced as soon as she walked out of her house. When, as a teen, Rosie began to steer in the wrong direction, beginning with a fight in school, it was her aunt who pulled her back and forced her to reflect on her actions and encouraged her to take ownership of them. It was she who educated Rosie so that those actions were positive and constructive. That is how Rosie finally made it to college.

Finding herself far away from the refuge her family provided, Perez once more began to steer off course. Her turbulent first year in college culminated with two life changing events. The first was her aunt sitting her down in the same way she had after Rosie fought a classmate. For a second time, Rosie was forced to assess the path her actions were forcing her to take. Rosie’s ancestors had supported the revolutionary cause in Puerto Rico. That was their legacy. What would Rosie’s be if she were to continue down the path she was headed? It had been decided. She would return to New York in order for her to get her act together. She would also go out one last night before returning to New York. That was the night when everything changed. That was the night she was discovered by Spike Lee. That was the night her career unexpectedly sky-rocketed. That was the night that began a trajectory that would produce the countless anecdotes, stories, and pieces of advice she uttered before the crowd as LASO’s keynote speaker for Latino Heritage Month.

The crowd was unequivocally receptive to Perez’s message: Do not doubt your ability to accomplish great things. That night, as the lecture came to a close, the attendees did not step out of Olin Hall; they stepped, as Rosie said, out “into [their] greatness.”



Rosie Perez poses for a picture with several members of LASO.

Seneca Falls

By: Dena Robinson '12

On Saturday, October 10, 2009, the Center for Women's Studies organized a day trip to Seneca Falls and Auburn, NY, to see the Women's Rights National Historic Park and the homes of Harriet Tubman, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and William Seward.

At the Women's Rights National Historic Park we viewed a film on the making of the Declaration of Sentiments, a document which outlined the desire to attain the civil, social, political, and religious rights of women. Afterwards, a park ranger gave us a tour so that we could view the remains of the Wesleyan Chapel. The Wesleyan Chapel was the location of the First Women's Rights Convention in 1848. The Convention was organized by Lucretia Mott, Martha C. Wright, Jane Hunt, Mary Ann McClintock, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton and was the catalyst for the women's rights movement in the United States.

Upon leaving the National Historic Park, we went to Elizabeth Cady Stanton's home. Stanton, one of the five organizers of the Women's Rights Convention, played a very active role in the women's rights movement in the years following the Convention. Thirty years after the Convention, Stanton and Matilda Joslyn Gage, another women's rights pioneer, penned the *Declaration of the Rights of Women*. Later on in her reform career, Stanton again worked alongside Gage to pen *The Woman's Bible*. She was quite the fascinating feminist.

We then paid a visit to Harriet Tubman's home. We watched a video on the history of her life which detailed all that she accomplished. Tubman was an abolitionist who had escaped from slavery. She is best known for her work on the Underground Railroad, an informal network of secret routes and safe houses that were used to help slaves escape to free states and Canada with the aid of abolitionists and those supportive of the cause. Tubman led hundreds of slaves to their freedom, never losing one or getting caught. Later on, Tubman became a leader in the abolitionist movement and was also a spy and nurse during the Civil War.

The last part of our visit was spent at the home of William Seward. Seward was a Senator as well as the governor of New York. The tour of the home, however, focused mostly on the women of the Seward house within the context of Seward's life. We learned that his wife Frances was a shy woman and that his daughter died at the young age of 21. Although Seward was a senator and governor, he and his wife were very supportive of the abolitionist cause and, it seems, the women's rights movement as well. Their home

was used to shelter fugitive slaves as part of the Underground Railroad. Seward also gave Harriet Tubman the land to build her home in Auburn, NY. During his time in office, the United States purchased the Alaskan Territory from Russia. It is known as Seward's Folly, and this legacy is perhaps the one for which he is most well-known. In 1865, the same night that President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated, an assassination attempt was made upon Seward's life from which he survived.

This trip was amazing, inspiring, and educating all at once. It was very refreshing to be immersed in such a rich history that is respectively close to Colgate University. Everyone should visit these four locations. You will be surprised at what you will learn.



Alice Feng '12 reads the Declaration of Sentiments at the Wesleyan Chapel historical site.



The group quickly poses for a photo outside Elizabeth Cady Stanton's home. They will soon play with chestnuts.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

By: Dan Muniz '10

In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Colgate campus saw a flurry of activities and events in the month of October for the purpose of raising awareness and providing education in regards to the disease.



Alyssa Arnold '11 and Doneisha Synder '10 bake at Healthy Breast Fest.

The Center for Women's Studies was decorated with a multitude of informative displays, and not one diligent observer could have left the Center without an idea of how to perform a self-exam, when to get a mammogram, the prevalence and risk factors of the disease, and what a "pinkwasher" is (in case you missed it: a company that purports to care about breast cancer by promoting a pink ribbon campaign but manufactures products that are linked to the disease). Also, on display in the Center were depictions of breasts of all sizes and shapes, in celebration of the diversity of breasts in general.

On October 27, the Center for Women's Studies, Sister 2 Sister, and Breast Cancer Awareness Coalition (BCAC) joined to celebrate Healthy Breast Fest, an event in which a score of students gathered in the ALANA kitchen to cooperatively bake and decorate cupcakes and cookies and eat foods conducive to breast health, all the while learning facts about breast cancer. The event created a sense of community among those who care about the issue and were able to attend.

The next day the BCAC-sponsored Charity Denim breast cancer fundraiser took place in the Coop. Charity Denim is a non-profit organization which facilitates charitable fundraising by selling designer jeans. The event was a success, and the proceeds were donated to The National Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc. and the Y-ME National Breast Cancer Organization.



Veronica Hanus '10 helps decorate for Denim Day.

Safe Zone Training

By: Veronica Hanus '10

The six Women's Studies student interns and several other students participated in a Safe Zone training, facilitated by Emily Blake, Assistant Director for Student Life and Academic LGBTQ Initiatives, and Benae Beamon '11. Discussions were guided by a series of activities which included the spectrum, heterosexual privilege, and BinGay. As a part of each activity, participants were encouraged to describe why they took the stand they had, regardless of their position on the issue, which allowed students to see the vast differences in reasoning and interpretation shown by their peers. As the training progressed, students worked in small groups to match terms and definitions used to address identities and issues within the LGBTQ community.

So, just what IS the difference between a drag queen/king and a cross-dresser? Toward the end of the session, students were given a case scenario which challenged them to describe how they would advise a LGBTQ student who had come to them with a situation. Each of these situations were based on a real occurrence of discrimination or personal struggle in which queer students have found themselves. I, for one, had never imagined that some of these problems exist, and I had to admit that I didn't know exactly how I would handle the situation I was given. It was clear that we all had plenty to continue thinking about when we went home that evening.



Christine LaBoy '12, Dena Robinson '12, and Dan Muniz '10 play "BinGay."

The Clothesline Project

By: *Amanda McKeon '10*

October marked Domestic Violence Awareness Month; as such, the Center for Women’s Studies used the opportunity to draw attention to the issues pertaining to violence that students have faced on campus and in life. Participation in the Clothesline Project served as the focal point of programming, and the Center also screened the film *VDay: Until the Violence Stops*, a documentary made by Eve Ensler.

The Clothesline Project is a national awareness-raising initiative. Anyone was welcome to paint messages on white t-shirts to convey their experiences with sexual violence and the experiences of those they know who have experienced sexual violence and to express solidarity with victims. The shirts were then hung up on a clothesline.



Strung between trees on the quad are t-shirts decorated with messages against sexual abuse and domestic violence.



Catherine Polk '12 reads the t-shirts that are on display in the Center for Women’s Studies.

At Colgate the shirts were hung in and outside of the Center for Women’s Studies. Their placement sent a powerful message to the community: the issue of sexual violence should not be ignored or “swept under the rug.” The messages on the shirts often contained expressions of despair, rage, and powerlessness: “As a man, it HURTS having so MANY MANY MANY MANY MANY MANY friends that are victims,” “Marriages does not give the right to RAPE *dedicated to my mother,” and “It’s never OK and it will happen again, over and over.” These are only a sampling of the statements and emotions communicated by the shirts. Each carefully designed and painted white t-shirt told a different story about experiences with sexual assault and domestic violence.

The multitude of shirts strung from the walls of the Center and its outdoor pillars conveyed the powerful, somber message that sexual violence is pervasive and inescapable for so many people. What is written on each shirt communicates a different experience; but when seen next to others, those experiences tell a larger story about sexual violence in our culture. A common phrase of the Women’s Movement was “the personal is political;” and surrounded by the words on all the white shirts, one was struck by how true that statement still rings.

Women’s Studies Courses – Fall 2009

CORE 166	India	HIST 311	Women’s Rights and Women’s Suffrage in U.S. History
ECON 234	Gender in the Economy	JWST 343	Gender and Judaism (RELG 343)
ENGL 204	Native American Writers	LGBT 220	Lives, Communities, and Modes of Critical Inquiry: An Exploration into LGBTQ Studies
ENGL 333	African/Diaspora Women’s Narrative	PHIL 360	Philosophy and Feminisms
ENGL 362	Global Desires: Race, Sex, and Modernity in Literature	SOAN 333	Sociology of the Life Course
ENGL 412	Jane Austen and the Rise of the Woman Novelist	SPAN 474	Contemporary Spanish Theater
FMST 350	Hollywood and the World: Performing Gender and Sexuality Onscreen	WMST 202	Women’s Lives: An Introduction to Women’s Studies
FREN 455	Francophone Voices from North Africa	WRIT 242	Stand and Speak: Feminist Rhetorics and Social Change
FSEM 145	Women’s Lives: An Introduction to Women’s Studies		

Vulvagraphics

By: Christina Liu '13

A 4-hour long bus ride on the Colgate Cruiser at 8 a.m. on a Sunday morning is something that Colgate students normally avoid like the plague. But, there we were, about 15 of us, sleepily sprawled across the tight vinyl seats and bumpily speeding along the highway past hills and farmland on our way to New York City for the *Viva La Vulva! Vulvagraphics* exhibition.

Tucked away in the quaint Williamsburg, just across the Hudson from bustling Manhattan, was *The Change You Want to See* gallery proudly sporting a multitude of *Viva La Vulva!* posters on 84 Havemeyer Street. The gallery, although small, was filled with an interesting mixture of individuals ranging from local townspeople to some of the biggest names in 3rd wave feminism, including Leonore Tiefer, the founder of New View Campaign, the feminist organization responsible for this event. There we were, in the heart of 3rd wave feminism, witnessing the events that fueled the feminist movement of today.

As we munched on bagels and cream cheese and slowly made our way across the room, what we saw was a mural of vulvas: pink vulvas, purple vulvas, small vulvas, large vulvas, asymmetrical vulvas, tight vulvas, hairy vulvas, drawings of vulvas, knitted vulvas, vulvas with a word blurb next to them, vulva collages, and embroidered vulvas. A poster on one of the walls carried the message of the exhibit by simply depicting a pair of threatening looking scissors chasing a terrified looking cartoon vulva in order to transform it surgically.

Vulvagraphics is the most recent project of New View Campaign, a grassroots campaign established in 2000 whose chief cause is to protest the messages of sexuality that the pharmaceutical industry projects to the public. These pharmaceutical companies have latched on to the fact that there is a huge market in the field of sexuality and have proceeded to produce a multi-billion dollar industry from it. However, sexuality, as described on the New View web page, is "complicated," "diverse," and affected by many multi-dimensional aspects of real life that cannot easily be "cured" by drugs or plastic surgery which make up the quick fix model of pharmaceutical companies. The consequence is that sexuality becomes one-dimensional and a product of the media. A lack of adequate sex

education paired with an onslaught of sex images thrown at us through the forms of advertisements, pornography, and entertainment create a distorted image of what we consider to be "normal" in terms of our bodies and our sexuality. Women, in particular, have been the latest victims of this.

Some of the stigmas attached to female sexuality include: the need to achieve vaginal orgasm, the need to look and act young, and the need to have "standard" female genitalia. In response to this last stigma, the *Vulvagraphics* exhibit created a gallery focusing on the beauty and, more importantly, the diversity of the female vulva. It hopes to put an end to the shocking increase in vaginal plastic surgery that seeks to standardize the vulva to the same small, tight, and symmetrical image that the media pushes forth.

This exhibit is a celebration of the female vulva and the female body, but more importantly, as Tiefer announced during her speech, "it presents a series of important problems in our present society. The next steps to be taken include a change in the male-dominated sexual education system that we are exposed to." A speaker from Planned Parenthood declared that he is looking toward pushing forward a pamphlet which focuses solely on the female vulva to use as a supplement for current sex textbooks since it is important for females to be exposed to images of real vulvas instead of the computer altered images that plastic surgery sites have or the ambiguous ones that sex textbooks provide.

As we left the gallery, exhilarated over what we had just witnessed and heard, I bought a "Love Your Vulva" pin which now resides proudly on my backpack. After all, if we don't love our own vulvas, who will?



The poster for the *Vulvagraphics* exhibit illustrates the diversity of vulvas.



The Colgate group and Leonore Tiefer (far right) shown here with the photographic display of vulvas in the background.

Women's Spaces, Women's Places: A Celebration of Women's Studies



At the brown bag in celebration of the Center's 15th anniversary, WMST faculty share stories from the past.

By: *Amanda McKeon '10*

As part of the Center for Women's Studies celebration of Women's Spaces, Women's Places on campus, the Center hosted a brown bag lunch to commemorate its fifteenth anniversary in this location. Current students, Women's Studies alumnae, and former and current Women's Studies professors attended. In preparation for the event, the Center had been adorned with photographs and newspaper articles that documented its origins and history through the years, turning the Center into an instructive time capsule of sorts for visitors.

Ulla Grapard, the current director of Women's Studies, welcomed attendees to the Center before introducing the four professors who were to speak formally—Marilyn Thie, Deborah Knuth Klenck, Hélène Julien, and Kay Johnston. Each professor shared her experiences with the Women's Studies Program at Colgate.

For students, the brown bag afforded the opportunity to learn about the history of the Women's Studies Program and the Center from those who helped build it, and it provided insight into the struggle to bring a women's studies curriculum to Colgate. Beyond providing a history, the professors who spoke described their attachment to the goals of the Center as a space where students and professors alike feel comfortable. Professor Hélène Julien spoke of the impact the Center had on her experience teaching at Colgate as she described the sense of comfort and warmth she felt upon first entering the Center as a new professor.

The discussion of the program and the Center's history not only conveyed the challenges that women professors on campus faced as they instituted the program but also provided inspiration for the students listening as the women described how they organized to overcome institutional challenges. Lastly, brown bag attendees were left with a renewed sense of pride in and appreciation for both the Women's Studies Program and the Center as they heard the experiences of those who fought for both and were garnered with a sense of awe at the accomplishment that the program and the Center's continued thriving represents.



A sign outside the Center gives trivia about Women's Studies and coeducation to passers-by.

Women's Studies Courses – Spring 2010

CORE 144	The Psychology of Oppression	HIST 212	The Emergence of the Modern Woman
CORE 309	The Relational Self: A Feminist Perspective	POSC 217	Identity Politics
EDUC 303	Gender & Development	RELG 317	The Bible and/as Literature (JWST 317)
ENGL 208	Introduction to Literary Study: Sex and the Global City	SOAN 312	Social Inequality
ENGL 305	The Female Protagonist	SOAN 366	Women Speak: An Introduction to an Engendered Linguistic Anthropology
ENGL 306	Writing and Society in the American Renaissance	SOAN 368	Material Cultures, Material Matters: The Study of Objects and Gender
ENGL 336	Native American Literature	SPAN 477	Women Writing in Latin America
ENGL 405	The Bröntes	WMST 202	Women's Lives: An Introduction to Women's Studies
ENGL 408	Medieval Identities	WMST 324	The Scandinavian Welfare State: A Gendered Perspective
ENGL 433	West Indian Literature	WMST 490	Feminisms: Personal, Local, and Global Perspectives
ENGL 442	Virginia Woolf & E.M. Forster		
GEOG 321	Gender, Justice, and Environmental Change		

The Speak Out

By: *Angelica A. '10*

On November 11, at 11 a.m., well over 200 students, staff, and faculty gathered at the Chapel steps. They were present for a public speak-out against sexual assault at Colgate University, organized by myself in response to my own sexual assault, all my sisters' experiences of sexual abuse, and the statistics released by the Campus Climate Life Survey (CCLS). Their overwhelming presence was proof that our community has finally acknowledged the reality of sexual abuse at Colgate and, more importantly, that we are ready to make change, to work together, and to make our community a safer place.

I began the speak-out by giving a speech, highlighting Colgate's history of sexual abuse in the context of the CCLS which states that 45% of women and 19% of men on our campus experience sexual abuse. Ultimately, the CCLS does not tell us anything new; it just exposes to us an aspect of our community that has been ignored for over 40 years at Colgate. I set the tone for the event by stating that in order to create positive change we must all work together – men and women, students, staff, and faculty – and we must listen to the survivors of sexual abuse because only they can show us the true reality of this issue in our community.

The focus of the event was to give a public voice to survivors of sexual abuse and to provide a forum for allies to come together and help each other heal. After I gave my speech, women came up and read stories that had already been written about sexual abuse for the Sexual Assault Exposé I started back in September. The project was the first part in getting survivors' stories out to the public. Women wrote about their experiences which were published anonymously on Intuit, an independent webzine I co-created with Dan Muniz '10.



A crowd gathers for the speak out. Many stayed in the cold for the entire 2.5 hour event.

The first story was read by the author, who claimed her story titled "Another Statistic" and shared it with the entire Colgate community. After the stories were read, men and women came up to show their support for the speak-out and share insights about how to create change. From then on, the entire speak-out was full of women taking the mic, crying, and sharing their own stories of sexual abuse. People on stage were crying, and people in the audience were crying. After each woman shared, she walked into the audience full of open arms.

We all learned so much. Sexual abuse is not an individual problem; it is a social problem which has the same issues running across each experience. Every time a woman or a man says "No!" and the perpetrator refuses to listen, sex and power are the only things on the perpetrator's mind. We do have agency, and individually we can make huge changes. As members of the community, we can work together to support our sisters and brothers who are subjected to sexual abuse and banish the perpetrators. We saw how deeply sexual abuse wounds our sisters that day; and for those brief moments, we all shared our sisters' pain.

I am still awe-struck by that 2.5 hour period full of learning, sharing, crying, and hugging. As a survivor, I must admit it was one of the few times I could see and touch my allies. There was no denying it; I was definitely not alone! We all succeeded in transcending our differences and embracing each other as family. The event had the entire community buzzing in excitement, and we did not stop talking about it. This time the movement to abolish the silencing of victims of sexual violence will be successful. And, unlike the movements in the past, it will be recorded, remembered, and used to make positive changes. Indeed, the history of sexual abuse at Colgate University was forever changed on November 11, at 11 a.m. on the Chapel Steps!



Angelica A. '10, the event organizer, speaks out about sexual assault at Colgate.

Navajo Narratives Engendered

By: Natalie George '13

On November 19 and 20, 2009, Colgate University students were given the great opportunity to participate in various events about Navajo narratives that focused specifically on women. The Native American Studies Program, the Women's Studies Program, and the Department of Religion brought this opportunity to Colgate University. In the ALANA Cultural Center on November 19, Navajo storyteller Sunny Dooley engaged an audience with her cultural tales about the sun and the moon. More importantly, she focused on the positivity around her culture. She noted that, now more than ever before, she is seeing more violence among her own people as well as among people around the world. She stressed that it must be stopped, and I am sure her captivating story will help her message of peace and harmony. Later that evening in the ALANA Cultural Center, there was a symposium geared towards talking about more issues of importance surrounding women and Navajo culture.

Lastly, on Friday, November 20, the Center for Women's Studies opened its doors for the writer Louise Lamphere and her Navajo protagonist Carole Cadman. Carole Cadman and her family members were the subject of Lamphere's non-fiction book *Weaving Women's Lives in a Navajo Family*. The book featured Cadman's daughter, who was going through the rite of passage called the Kinaalda. Cadman colorfully explained that the Kinaalda is a Navajo rite of passage. The Kinaalda is celebrated when a young Navajo woman starts menstruating for the first time. Her family and friends gather around and produce a huge ceremony in her honor.

Later that day two movies were shown, *Kinaalda: A Navajo Rite of Passage* and *Miss Navajo*. I had the chance to sit alongside Cadman, Lamphere, students, faculty, and staff and watch these interesting films. The movies provided a visual insight into the process of Kinaalda, from making the cake to the ceremonial run in which the girl must partake, and *Miss Navajo* showcased a unique and eclectic type of beauty pageant during which the women are asked to slaughter a sheep and cook a traditional Navajo meal.

Overall, these two days were filled with incredible stories and gave students the chance to learn more about a culture that is too often ignored. If you happened to miss these events, please do make the effort next time to partake in them. You won't regret it.



Carole Cadman describes her friendship with Louise Lamphere and the stories within the book.

When Gay People Get Married

By: Pat Weaver '13

On November 18, in the Center for Women's Studies, a crowd gathered to hear a lecture about a topic that has attracted a lot of attention in recent years. Author M. V. Lee Badgett was there to speak about her book *When Gay People Get Married* which explores what happens after societies legalize same-sex marriage. In the countries she studied, she noted that few people actually take advantage of the right to gay marriage because other structures similar to marriage also exist in these cultures as viable alternatives.

After the lecture, the floor was opened to discussion wherein audience members questioned her and each other about her findings and about gay rights in America. In this way, the book served to foster dialogue about an issue about which many Americans are concerned.

WHEN GAY PEOPLE
GET MARRIED

What Happens When Societies Legalize
Same-Sex Marriage



M. V. LEE BADGETT

Finesse of Tress

By: Dena Robinson '12

On Saturday, November 21, 2009, Sisters of the Round Table (SORT) hosted Finesse of Tress. Finesse of Tress is a hair-focused performance, originally created by Kia King '06 and Christine Miller Kelly, that involves students, faculty, and staff performing monologues about their hair experiences, what beautiful hair means, and the daily processes that go along with styling hair, etc. The last performance of Finesse of Tress was in 2005, but Saturday's performance was a success! As one of the performers, I can truly say that Finesse of Tress provided a warm atmosphere for performers and was, in a sense, familial. It was very interesting to hear everyone share their hair experiences. Some performers spoke about reclaiming cutting their hair, the effects that "creamy crack" (relaxers) had on them as children, hair in the South, coming to terms with white identity as a black male, and reconciling queer identity and hair, among many other interesting topics. I believe the event provided the audience with a chance to learn through the experiences of others which is an integral part of feminist scholarship. Congratulations to all who performed; we hope to see amazing Finesse of Tress performances again!



April Covington '11 demonstrates her childhood ponytail evolution on Virginia Parkman '12.

Alumna Spotlight: Gabriella Jones-Casey '08

By: Dena Robinson '12

Gabriella Jones-Casey is a dynamic women's studies and history graduate of Colgate who is actively working to affect the lives of many marginalized people. During her time at Colgate, Gabby was heavily involved as a student leader and was an active participant in the Colgate community. She immersed herself in the ALANA Cultural Center, the Center for Women's Studies, and the Center for Learning, Teaching, and Research. She worked for four years at the Center for Learning, Teaching, and Research where she implemented the bi-annual trip to NYC Broadway Program which funds students and staff to attend theatrical performances related to culture in the city. In working with the Center for Leadership and Student Involvement, Gabby established the "alcohol free" all night party that provides food and water to students during Spring Party Weekend; the event was awarded the title of "most successful event" for the weekend.



Gabby Jones-Casey (center) shown here with Hélène Julien and Jeff Spires.

Gabby also introduced the idea of collaboration between the Center for Women's Studies and the ALANA Cultural Center to fund faculty and staff to attend the conference: Feminism, Sexuality, and the Return to Religion. Throughout her four years, Gabby was also an active participant of the *Vagina Monologues*, and as a core member of Sisters of the Round Table, she contributed to bringing many feminist speakers to campus and participated in many fundraising efforts for causes that directly affect women and their children.

Gabby now teaches human rights at the International High School where she works as an Educational Liaison (Facilitator) for the Advocacy Lab, a non-profit company that partners with schools to provide human rights education. In addition, Gabby works as an administrative intern for Girls Educational and Mentoring Services (GEMS), a non-profit that works with girls who have been domestically sex trafficked.

The Center for Women's Studies congratulates Gabby on all of her accomplishments. Keep up the amazing work Gabby. You make us proud!

Finals Week Study Break

By: Heather Dockstader (WMST Program Assistant)

During the heat of finals week, the Center hosted a three-hour study break for any student who wanted to stop by to enjoy the overall friendly atmosphere of the Center and to partake in the plethora of stress-reducing activities. The event was co-sponsored by CLTR, Counseling and Psychological Services, Residential Life, the Wellness Initiative, and Women's Studies.



Terica Adams '12 and Casey Macaulay '12 take a few quiet minutes to color.

Healthy food options were available in order to counter the typically unhealthy eating habits during this hectic week. Board games, coloring books, and stress balls were also on hand. The seminar room featured Rock Band. A local licensed massage therapist from the Hamilton community was here giving ten-minute massages for students. Kerry Koen, Teacher of Piano/Staff Accompanist and Choral Director, led two sessions of yoga in the sanctuary of the converted classroom. Jane Jones and Khym Isaac DeBarros from Counseling and Psychological Services helped

guide students through a biofeedback computer program which monitored the body's autonomic responses as the user played a variety of relaxation games. The aim was to help the user become aware of one's ability to influence the body's stress level.

Overall, the event was a huge success, and students left comments stating, "Smiling faces make studying better" and "Such friendly people here."

It was a joy to see a number of new students, in addition to the loved regulars, venture in to the Center for Women's Studies. The Center's study break even made the news in *U.S. News & World Report*. Check out the [story](#).



Students and Professor Ken Valente play Taboo, providing the players and bystanders many opportunities for laughter.

The View from 107B

By: Heather Dockstader (WMST Program Assistant)

As I sit to write this article for the newsletter, I take in the sights and sounds of the Center. A student intern is asleep in the chair after Letta brought her one of the Center blankets. A "fixture" as we call them is working on a lab while occupying her standard place. A class discussion, punctuated with Ulla's voice, filters through the Center and mixes with the sounds of the intern on duty cleaning the kitchen. Music plays from my office, the lights are dimmed, and the snow is finally falling outside. It's a snapshot of life in the Center.

On another day, or even within the hour, the vibe of this space will change drastically. Classes will switch, students will spark conversations not often heard outside these doors, or a crowd will gather for a presentation. It's a space that fosters feminism in a variety of forms. It's a space where some of the most passionate and engaged students on campus spend countless hours. It's a space that begs for voices to be heard and for questions to be raised. Coffee and tea are always on the menu with Curtain Call on Tuesdays for the weekly brown bag. Couch space is typically available, and the computers in the library are open for use. So, if coffee, couches, critical thought, and community seem to be up your alley, I challenge you to come to the Center. I challenge you to read the entire newsletter and discover what Women's Studies has been up to this semester. Get involved and enjoy.

Announcements

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.

This year Allegorical Athena hopes to include Our-Logues, monologues about the experiences of Colgate students as sexual beings. Our-Logues can be about anything dealing with issues presented above, as well as anything else dealing with sex, sexuality, or the body.

For more information or to submit works, please contact Heather Dockstader, the WMST Program Assistant, at hdockstader@colgate.edu or Pat Weaver '13 at pweaver@colgate.edu.

Vagina Monologues ({}) 2010 ({})

Are you interested in being a part of the Core group that brings the Vagina Monologues to Colgate University every spring?!

Are you interested in being a part of the cast and shouting, moaning, crying, or even orgasming on stage?!

Us too!

Email Dena Robinson '12 or Angelica A. '10 for more information.

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