

Colgate Center for Women's Studies

Spring 2015

Volume 21, Issue 2

**Open Hours for the Center for
Women's Studies**

Mon-Thu: 8am-9:30pm

Fri: 8am-5pm

Sun: 3:30am-9:30pm

From the Interim Director:

This has been an exciting semester as Interim Director of WMST. Coming from Biology & Environmental Studies, I am most impressed by the all work and activity of the Center. Not only is the space alive with Brown Bags and meetings of groups such as SORT, but we now share the space with LGBTQ Studies. The Assistant Dean and Director of LGBTQ Initiatives, Kristian Kemp-Delisser, and his 8 interns are a welcome addition and perspective to the Center.

There are lots of changes coming to WMST. We are celebrating Professor Ulla Grapard's retirement. Ulla has been a faculty member for 30 years and was the first and only feminist economist at Colgate, was Director of Women's Studies for four years (2008 - 2011), and has been a contributor to WMST since its inception. Jane Pinchin, Professor of English, is also retiring. Jane was a founding member of the WMST program and its Director from 1983-1984.

Letta Palmer, our Administrative Assistant since 2005, and at Colgate since 1993, is also retiring. Letta has been a constant source of care in the Center and her place will be hard to fill. Che Hatter, our Program Assistant and 2013 Colgate graduate, is also moving on. Che has worked tirelessly with our interns and on our programming and her steadfast presence will be missed. We will be welcoming our new Program Assistant, Allison Fry, in August who finished her BA with a Major in Gender & Women's Studies and a Minor in African Studies at Knox College in 2014.

And finally, congratulations to all of our senior concentrators who are leaving us in a few weeks: Katherine Cech, Tess Cumpstone, Valerie Garcia, Emily Hawkins, Liza Paudel, Stephanie Rameau, Natasha Torres, Elizabeth Yoder, and Kate Zucker. You will be missed!

Other exiting news from our WMST Faculty is that this Spring our Director, Meika Loe, was promoted to Full Professor and two of our faculty, Mary Simonson and Susan Thomson, passed third year review. Congratulations!

Thank you WMST Advisory Board and Joint Faculty for all the hard work you do to make WMST such a strong program! You have taught me so much.

Enjoy the summer!

Catherine Cardelús,
Interim Director of Women's Studies and Joint Associate Professor of Biology & Environmental Studies



Interview with Women's Studies Seniors



Natasha Torres

How has feminism and your time at Center changed you?

I found that center at a time where I felt voiceless, wordless, and silenced. Through feminism I have not only found the language to express my lived experience, but also a family and community of individuals who challenge me every day to think critically and compassionately.

What insightful words would you share with younger concentrators?

"The only home is each other, they've occupied all the rest, colonized it. An idea about ourselves is all we own." - Paula Gunn Allen



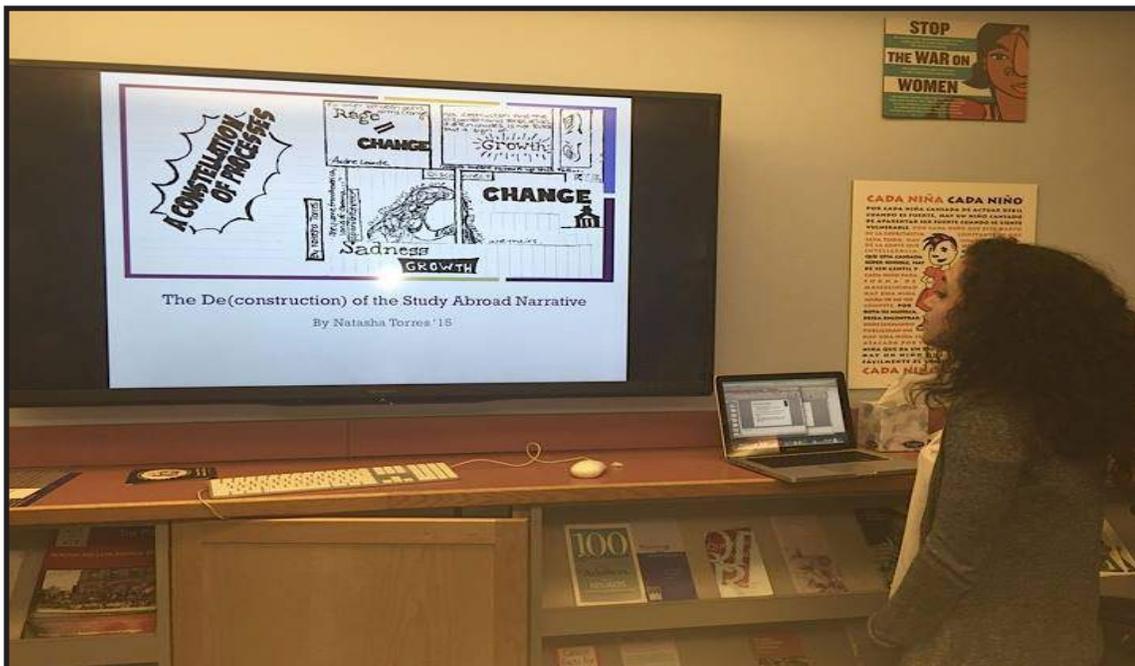
Liza Paudel

How has feminism and your time at Center changed you?

My time at Colgate made me realize that there are multiple feminisms--not just one. That to me was a major revelation, even if it is a little silly, because realizing that just made everything fall into place. Suddenly everyone could be themselves and still be able to work together for the same cause of equality.

What insightful words would you share with younger concentrators?

It is okay if you are unsure, or if you constantly question yourself. Constantly pushing yourself and being uncomfortable is often how you know you are really learning!



Natasha Torres '15 shares her findings on the influence of racial identity on study abroad experiences in her brown bag, "Race and Study Abroad."



Katie Czech

How has feminism and your time at Center changed you?

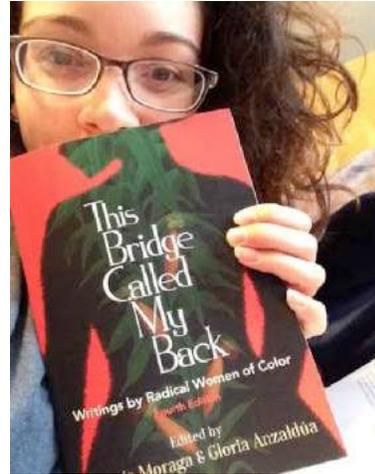
The WMST Center and Department gave me words to talk about things I had been feeling for years. It feels like I am finally able to express a part of me that has been hiding for a very long time. So I wouldn't necessarily say it's changed me but it has let me be my true and complete self. I will never be able to repay WMST for giving me that gift.

And what insightful words would you share with younger concentrators?

Find comfort in radical uncomfot. That is where learning and change and development happens. Static, the same, constant is boring and who wants to be boring?

“The only home is each other, they’ve occupied all the rest, colonized it. An idea about ourselves is all we own.”

- Paula Gunn Allen



Valerie Garcia

How has feminism and your time at Center changed you?

Feminism has provided me with a vocabulary that allows me to articulate my thoughts, feelings and the ways I navigate the world as not just a woman, but as a Puerto Rican woman from a working class background. Feminism has given me lenses that allow me to look at things from different points of views, while also justifying my feelings, experiences and my very existence within this society. The Center has definitely changed me because it has provided me with an inviting space and community where people come together to talk about (intersectional) feminist issues. The Center itself strives to embody feminist praxis, and I am happy to be a part of that.

And what insightful words would you share with younger concentrators?

Take the classes that seem most interesting to you, not just because they fit your schedule. If you see any gaps in the curricula, voice your concerns; I think the WMST professors are responsive to these kinds of concerns or may already be working on trying to fill these gaps. Take an Educational Studies class or two, because these departments compliment each other well. Practice everyday feminisms and take full advantage of off-campus programs, conferences, retreats etc. so that you can expand your feminist learning to outside of Colgate's campus (with Colgate's [monetary] support). Become a Women's Studies Intern!



Tess Cumpstone

How has feminism and my time at the WMST Center changed me?

Prior to coming to Colgate, I did not consider myself a feminist. As a middle class, white, able-bodied woman with U.S. citizenship and (almost) a college degree, it would have been very easy to continue to exist in a world where I thought everyone existed on an even playing field. I found out, though, that there is a lot more to the advancement of women's rights than what I had previously assumed. After myself and some of my friends were assaulted freshman year, I could not deny that sexist oppression was alive and well. Identifying as a feminist and fighting for women's rights became both a passion and a way of healing. If I had not stepped into the WMST Center, I know my university education would have been incomplete. The interdisciplinary nature of the major allowed me to explore my interests in a variety of fields: peace and conflict studies, sociology, anthropology, LGBTQ studies, educational studies, writing and rhetoric. The feminist curiosity I learned in my introduction to women's studies course taught me how to look for the power dynamic in each of these classes. It also taught me how to recognize my own privileges. My teachers and peers have pushed me to be a better activist and ally in the larger struggle for equality in this country. I undoubtedly still have a long way to go, but my journey has begun.

And what insightful words would I share with younger concentrators?

Being a feminist is a process. You don't flip a switch and become master of the feminist universe. The beauty of feminism, though, is that you are taught to appreciate the complexity of the human existence, the space between theory and practice. Never lose your sense of feminist curiosity. Be open to the experiences and insights of others. There is always room to grow.



Biz Yoder

How has feminism and your time at Center changed you?

As a first year, I had a very limited view of what feminism was - I went to an all girls school that was predominantly white. After taking a variety of classes for my Women's Studies minor my idea of feminism has become a lot less narrow and I have come to understand that not only is feminism fluid, it is also personal. My experiences at the Center and at Colgate have helped me develop different parts of my feminism in both a very accepting place at the Center as well as a sometimes less comfortable place on Colgate's campus. The Center has taught me to think. That is the biggest and best gift it has given me throughout my four years.

And what insightful words would you share with younger concentrators?

Talk about what you love - put time in to it. Spread your passion. Be good to your self. Challenge what you read. Get involved. Stay open minded and appreciate what others have to say - we are all learning and on our own journey. Enjoy your time here because your path will be short and will weave through many obstacles but it will all be worth it if you allow yourself these comforts as well as allow yourself failure.



Emily Hawkins

How has feminism and your time at Center changed you?

Colgate and specifically the time I've spent in the Center were my introduction to feminism, and remains the foundation of my consciousness. WMST gave me the language and theory to discuss all that I trusted, distrusted and mistrusted in the world. Social (in)justice, institutional oppression, systemic violence, gender bias, intersectionality, revolutionary love - these terms, and many others, allowed me to see inequity as outside of interpersonal interactions, to see people as survivors of a system that aims to build up some through the breaking down others, to understand that we do not live in a vacuum, and that Colgate is not unique in all of its many flaws. The Center taught me to never see the latter as an excuse, and to hold myself, my peers, and my school to higher expectations of respect, empathy, and love. Suddenly, and finally, I found myself in a space of community. Ours is not a community of unconditional approval or blind acceptance, rather a space of critical love seeking honesty, authenticity, and self-reflexivity. It is in the Center that I learned to reflect, to turn inwards, to attempt to understand myself as individual and as a part of a collective, and to challenge others to do the same.

How has feminism and your time at Center changed you?

WMST concentrators, I have no advice, no guidance really, because I hope you learn some of these things and many, many others through your own experiences in the Center, a place that will forever remain in my heart and in my head.

WMST Brown Bag Series Spring 2015 Tuesdays at 11:30AM

The Language Of The Unheard: Social Justice, Movement Building, And Dr. King's Legacy

Anneliese Gretsche And Che J. Hatter

Feminist Organizations At Colgate

Providence Ryan '16, Michael James '17, Christelle Boursiquot '15, Chrissie Chen '17, Michelle Sagalchik '15, Julia Hooks '16, Kendall Murtha '15

Oral Histories As Feminist Methodologies

COVE Transmedia Activism Trip Students

Black Identities

Aidan Davis '16, Dayna Campbell '17, Solomon Tesfaye '15, Sharon Nicol '17, and Jabari Ajao '18

Queer Leadership And Activism

Bennie Guzman '17, Taylor Huffer '18, And Romelia Loalza '17

Vagina Monologues

Vm Cast & Core Members

Africana Women's Week: De-Mystifying Sort

Members Of Sisters Of The Round Table

Gender, Race, And Food Justice

Tanya Fields, Founder Of The Blk Project

International Women's Day: Global Feminist

Artivism: Coalitions And Frictions

Ani Maitra (Fmst) And Cristina Serna (Wmst)

Letting All Children See Themselves

S. Bear Bergman, Storyteller And Editor Of *Gender Outlaws*

Race And Study Abroad

Natasha Torres '15

Queerfest Queering Disability

Eli Clare, Author And Educator

Black Feminism(s)

Maya Atakilti '15, Alexandria Davis '16, And Aja Isler '15

Seniors Speak Out

Wmst Senior Concentrators

¿Cómo Se Dice Queer?: Language And Sexual Identity In Latin American/Spanish Contexts

Danny Barreto (Span)

Reflection on Spring 2015 Brown Bag Series

Valerie Garcia '15

When creating our schedules and planning our calendars, Tuesdays at 11:30am are always reserved for the weekly Women's Studies brown bags. These brown bags are a chance for community members to build ties and stronger bonds over food, good conversations and group activities.

To highlight a few of this semester's Brown Bags, here is a list of superlatives for:

Most attended brown bag: "The Language of the Unheard: Social Movements, Community Building, and MLK's Legacy" with Che Hatter Anneliese Gretsch (130 attendees!)

In this BB, the speakers talked about reclaiming MLK's legacy, which has been told through reductionist narratives, and remembering that MLK was an agitator, radical, socialist, and extremist.

Brown Bag with most co-sponsors: "Gender, Race and Food Justice" with Tanya Fields, founder of the BLK Projek

Tanya is a Food Justice activist from the South Bronx. She and the BLK Projek run and sell fresh produce from the South Bronx Mobile Market, a renovated school bus filled with food straight from the farm.

Most interactive Brown Bag: "Deconstructing the Study Abroad Narrative" with Natasha Torres '15

Natasha shares her experiences and findings in her research on race and study abroad with students in predominantly white institutions. She discussed the implications of going abroad as a U.S. citizen, and how the nuances of one's identities shape these experiences.

Most community building Brown Bag: "Africana women's Week: De-mystifying SORT" with members of Sister's of the Round Table

As an organization, SORT creates a space where all women of color can come together, a space that is crucial on Colgate's campus. Loretta Ross states, "[women of color] is a solidarity definition, a commitment to work in collaboration with other oppressed women of color who have been minoritized."

Speaker who traveled the farthest to present a Brown Bag: Letting All Children See Themselves with S. Bear Bergman, storyteller and editor of Gender Outlaws

Bergman is the founder of Flamingo Rampant, a micro-press for children's book with the mission to produce "better kid's books about gender."

Most artistic Brown Bag: "International Women's Day: Global Feminist Artivism: Coalitions and Frictions" with Ani Maitra (FMST) and Cristina Serna (WMST)

Cristina Serna discussed artivism (artivismo), her research and experiences at Festival LesbianArte, which takes place in Mexico City and hosts a series of workshops, performances, and which functions to foster solidarity. Ani Maitra discussed international documentaries centered on issues of gender and LGBTQI.

Brown Bag that encouraged most student involvement: "Feminist Student Organizations at Colgate" with panel of student organization leaders

Student representatives from the various feminist organizations at Colgate spoke about their groups' mission on campus.



This Semester's Brown Bags



Above: Feminist Organizations At Colgate

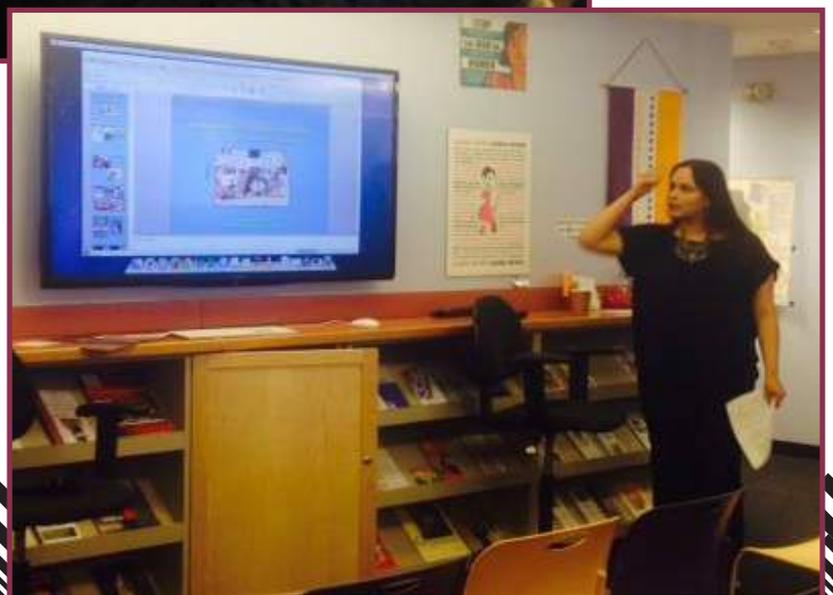
Above: Africana Women's Week: De-Mystifying Sort

Below: Letting All Children See Themselves



Left: The Language Of The Unheard: Social Justice, Movement Building, And Dr. King's Legacy

Below: International Women's Day: Global Feminist Activism: Coalitions And Frictions



New Faculty Spotlight: Cristina Serna

Natasha Torres '15

This year has been an exciting moment for the Women's Studies Department as they introduced their first full time faculty member Professor Cristina Serna. Professor Serna comes to Colgate from the UC Santa Barbara. Her specialization is in queer Chicana/Latina and Latin American transnational feminist activism and, specifically, the role of art within feminist and queer transborder movements. When asked what led her to this particular area of study, she shared: "My interest in Chicana/Latina feminist and queer activism grew out of my work as a founding member of various queer women of color activist organizations in Los Angeles. Through this work, I met many of the artists and groups that I now write about. Several of these organizations were also involved in building cross-border coalitions with lesbian feminist groups in Mexico and elsewhere. I also lived in Mexico City for several years and this allowed me to meet lesbian feminist artists and activist collectives in Mexico. I became interested in studying the connections between Chicana and Mexican feminist and queer movements in the U.S. and Mexico."

This past academic year, Professor Serna taught the courses -- Women's Lives: An Introduction to Women's Studies, Women's Autobiography: Chicana Feminist Literature and Art, and CORE Communities and Identities: Mexico.

As a student in Professor Serna's Women's Lives course, I was extremely happy with how nuanced the conversations were throughout the semester. She expressed that she placed intersectionality as the lens in which we thought through the different waves of feminism and historical/contemporary social movements, asking us to complicate the dominant narratives, the conflicts, the tensions. This upcoming semester, Professor Serna will be teaching a new course called Feminist Methodologies: Theory and Praxis. She shared that the course "will be engaging in the creation of critical and creative forms of knowledge that put feminist theory into practice." As a graduating senior, I am extremely jealous of all the students who will be taking this course!

Professor Serna's thoughts on Colgate and her time thus far:

It has been a challenging year for many of us who are



invested in issues of social justice as they affect not only Colgate, but the rest of the country and world. Looking back on the conversations and actions that took place on campus this year, I also believe that it has been a good year because it is causing us to recommit to justice and to question what justice means and looks like in a multi-racial, multi-gender, sexually and socially diverse world. I am glad for the important conversations that have been happening due to the activism students initiated last semester. I am also glad to be at the Center for Women's Studies because it allows me to meet and work with the amazing students, faculty, and staff that are affiliated with the Center. Many important conversations take place there.

Her favorite events:

There have been a number of great speakers and events this past year. A few of my favorites were two artist visits I coordinated in the Fall. One was by the queer Central American feminist poet Maya Chinchilla who performed spoken word poetry from her book *The Cha Cha Files: A Chapina Poetica* in one of my courses. The other visit was by queer Chicana/Tejana playwright Virginia Grise, who did a reading from her play *The Panza Monologues* and also visited my classes. I was happy to be able to introduce these amazing artists to Colgate. My favorite events this semester have been the visits by Janet Mock and Favianna Rodriguez during African Women's Week. The knowledge and creativity they shared were invigorating.

The White Privilege Conference

Alexandria Davis '16

The week of March 11-14, the Anti-Racism Coalition was honored to take more than 16 students for the third time to The Annual White Privilege Conference. This year, the conference was held in Louisville, Kentucky and hosted by Dr. Eddie Moore Jr, the founder of the White Privilege Conference. The conference seeks to educate attendees on the complexity of white privilege and systemic racism in a U.S context.

This year being my second time, I chose to look more closely at how whiteness permeates through education and for Asian identity by attending one workshop on the Model Minority Myth. In that session, we briefly discussed the scope of the model minority myth and its history, although many yearned for more. We then each took turns in the group to figure out ways in which we can resist facets of the model minority myth. I found the session to be a learning moment both in content and in negotiating my place within the session as a visibly black body. Many yearned for more time to really unpack the model minority myth and how it is internalized.

The most enjoyable moment at the conference however was few hours members of our group got to mingle with other college attendees to form a protest regarding an incident in Louisville just the week before. We were able to meet some of the people who stood on the frontlines of the Ferguson, Missouri protests. They helped organize the protest regarding a man thrown out of a nightclub allegedly for wrong clothing attire but then also put in jail for a week for resisting arrest by holding a one-man die-in inside the club.

The conference continued its attendance record of almost 2,000 people. However, I would say that although many of the attendees were people of color, the conference is built for the white attendees to be educated about their contributions to oppression, and the ways white people espouse white privilege. My only wish is the narrative of white privilege could have been complicated and problematized more since even at the conference on white privilege in a session on hair led by black facilitator, the discussion centered around whiteness. No doubt, the centering of whiteness in such a political discussion as hair fails to meet the intended goal educating people on how hair is indeed political.

Next year, the conference will be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Because of its close location, the Anti-Racism Coalition hopes to take more willing students next year. So be on the lookout for the application in Spring 2016!

“There is no such thing as a single-issue struggle,
because we do not live single-issue lives.”

-Audre Lorde

Vagina Monologues, 2015

Liza Paudel '15

Valentine's Day weekend was definitely special this year, as the Colgate Vagina Monologues cast and crew performed to a packed audience all three nights of Feb 14-16 at the Brehmer Theater. While the monologues and script of the main performance were licensed and quite immutable, the show also featured a Clit-tail Hour before the scripted monologues to include some experiences from within Colgate. After three hours of some intense, some hilarious, but all powerful monologues, the cast and crew took a bow to rounds of applause from the audience.

The cast and crew of VM had been working on the show since last semester when auditions were held, lines were assigned, and posters created. The director of the show this year, Natasha Torres '15, shared about her own experience seeing VM for the first time her first year, "I thought it was one of the most radical things I'd seen. There were women yelling 'cunt!' I was also like what is wrong with them..." The next year, she decided to audition for a role and she has been a part of it every year since. "I hadn't seen my vagina before I don't think. It made me realize I needed to get in touch with myself."

Her words were echoed by some of the other cast and crew members like Sahara Zamudio '17, Monica Hoh '16, Anika Rutah '18 and Nina Cook '17. Torres also talked about her role as a director, and how bonding within the cast/crew and conversations between them, and fostering that community was the most important aspect of the job for her. She reminisced that the community built around the show without her even realizing it. She also touched upon some of the problematic aspects within the show: its rigidity and silences, for instance. Those two in particular also lingered often in the discussions during otherwise exciting, empowering, and impactful bonding sessions filled with nothing but praises for the show and the community.

Having been a part of the show myself, I have been thinking about the silences within the script myself. I remember Natasha sharing her concerns about it from very early stages of the show, and her efforts to alleviate some of them through the charity element and the Clit-tail Hour that adds local Colgate experiences to the show. Even then, the show, while phenomenal, can often feel inadequate, particularly in its limited inclusion of trans women and their experiences. Not misleading in its name, Vagina Monologues, only does include monologues and experiences—while pioneering and wide-ranging—of not women, but persons with vaginas. It has been a controversial issue for the show in recent years, with Mt. Holyoke College even scrapping the performance of the show entirely for the same reason.

It leads me to wonder however, about how helpful banning or not performing the show is in the big picture. The show is still pretty radical in its concept. Especially at a place like Colgate, so rife in slut-shaming and sexual assault and yet so silenced in the topic of sexuality of women, a group of women leading the stage talking about experiences with vaginas is incredibly powerful. As Hoh talked about her reaction after seeing the show her first time her first year, "That's probably the first time I have heard the word 'vagina' so many times." She is more than likely not alone in her reaction. As she remarked subsequently, "Why is it so? Why are we not talking about this more? I think the show helped me have more honest conversations with my friends." Similar to Hoh, if the show nudges students on this campus to think about vaginas, and sexuality, and consent, say if it makes a drunk fratbro wonder about his partner's needs for once, then the show has more than done its job. In the show's defense, there is only so much awareness and ground one show can cover—and the show already goes for three hours! This is not to say however, that the show couldn't do a better job of including more wide-ranging experiences. For now, maybe one way to go about improving the show without scrapping it altogether would be to encourage those silences to be filled in the optional Clit-tail Hour, as this year's performance tried to.

The cast and crew of the Vagina Monologues.



CLAS 232 A Sexuality & Gender-Classical
 CORE 171C A Mexico
 ECON 234 A Gender in the Economy
 ENGL 204 A American Literature: Native American Writers
 ENGL 208 A Sex and the Global City
 ENGL 306 A Antebellum American Literature
 ENGL 333 A African/Diaspora Women's Narratives
 FREN 445 A 20th Cent French Autobiography
 LGBT 303 A Queer Identities/Global Discourses
 PCON 260 A Gender in Conflict and Peace
 POSC 364 A Politics-India/Pakistan/Bangladesh
 PSYC 300SO A Topics: Psych of Gender
 RELG 234 A Women & Religious Traditions: Antiquity
 SOCI 306 A Sociology of the Family
 SPAN 227 A Machismo & the Latin Lover
 WMST 202 AB Intro to Women's Studies
 WMST 490 A Women's Studies Senior Seminar
 WRIT 242 A Stand & Speak: Feminist Rhetoric

From left to right: Stephen Dickinson from
 ENST/Sustainability, Che Hatter from WMST and
 Tanya Fields from the BLK Projekt



QueerFest

Sharon Nicol '17

This year's Queerfest theme was "Highlighting the Intersectionality of the Queer Experience," and from the array of identities embodied by this year's speakers, the Queerfest committee certainly lived up to its expectations. The party started early with Drag Ball serving as the commencement event. As usual, Colgate students were decked out in their most fabulous outfits, performing renditions of their favorite tunes. The crowd was extra live, full of friends in support of friends. Drag Ball proved that there is a community at Colgate that values spirit. A community that hopes to empower its members in being whoever they are, and freely expressing themselves.

Queerfest continued to deliver with Mia McKenzie, writer and founder of Black Girl Dangerous. McKenzie tackled serious issues with the same blend of humor and wisdom that is displayed on BGD. She detailed to the audience that "with queerness, anything is possible" and discussed her hopes for the queer community of color. Donning a "not your respectable negro" t-shirt, McKenzie intersected stories of her resistance work with her lived experience as "super duper fucking gay" black woman.

McKenzie's Q&A beautifully displayed resistance in action as she employed "progressive stacking," which is a technique to ensure that marginalized people have the chance to speak. McKenzie asked that those whose voices are heard and empowered in dominant structures take a backseat to allow room for other voices.

Writer, activist, teacher, speaker, and poet Eli Clare spoke at Tuesday's Brown Bag about the politics of queerness, body shame, and disability. Clare discussed how his identity as a disabled genderqueer shapes his perspectives of the world and urged the audience to use their varying marginalized identities as points for solidarity and coalition building. Clare focused on shame as a community issue. For Clare, in order to find liberation, we must acknowledge the shame that individuals have regarding identity. Later, Clare joined in a special family dinner at ALANA where the conversation carried on in a more personal setting.

Queerfest ended on a spectacular high note with trans South Asian performance art duo, DarkMatter. For some, DarkMatter's brand of reality is too stark, as evidenced by the tears in the room after performances of poems such as "White Fetish" and "Bring in Brown to Keep Black Down." However, on a campus where marginalized identities are too often forced into silence, DarkMatter's reality provided an hour of bliss where those in attendance were free to snap, shout, and curse their affirmation. DarkMatter's message was one of rage, experienced in solidarity with other trans people of color, other marginalized bodies. In "Not gay as in happy, but queer as in FUCK YOU" style, the duo tackles the fight for gay marriage as one that is non-encompassing of the vast struggles of the queer community, especially queer people of color. One line in "Marriage: Queer Rage" says: "Tell that to El'Jai who lost his job last year. His state is one of only 12 where you cannot legally be fired for having a body that doesn't sit right with your heart but his job 'could only be done by a man' and his genitals did not conform to his employers expectations... but who needs money for bread when you can eat wedding cake!"

DARKMATTER's performance was a part of the late night arts initiative, Lounge, and was sandwiched by spoken word, musical, and dance performances by Colgate students. Ultimately, the night was a perfect ending to a successful Queerfest.



DarkMatter ended off Queerfest

Good-Bye

Letta Palmer

Administrative Assistant for Women's Studies, LGBTQ Studies, Asian Studies

It was nearly ten years ago, I was sitting in a chair similar to this one and then Program Assistant, Heather Angstrom, took my photo to introduce me to the Women's Studies Program. Funny thing is, one of our senior concentrators remarked that I came into the program with a short haircut, and I am going out with a similar cut (this didn't even enter my mind when I got my hair cut a short time ago).



So much has happened in the past ten years of my coming to the WMST Center, some good and some not-so-good. I have always felt that making the decision to come to Women's Studies saved my soul. I have grown these past ten years as a person, but especially as a woman, a feminist and an activist and gained the courage to begin my matriculation to Colgate as an undergraduate student while working here in the Center. As I leave here to follow my dream of becoming a minister, I leave with the knowledge that this place has been a place of nurturing, learning and introspection.

I will be finishing my Bachelor's next spring, God willing, and in the meantime will put more time and effort into the Bed & Breakfast I am currently managing. I am so blessed to have this opportunity to follow my heart. I have no doubt that I will miss the students, faculty, and staff here that work and call the Center their home away from home. Don't worry. I will still be in the area and looking forward to attending events on campus from time to time.

My parting words to all of you is this: so long, farewell, auf wiedersehen, good-bye (for now)... but never forever.

From the Program Assistant's Desk: A Farewell

What an experience. The past couple of years have gone by so quickly, and being in this position has transformed much about how I think about, navigate, and engage with the world around me. Working in the Center has encouraged me to grow in new ways, and remaining part of the campus has generated an appreciation for the relationships I have built here.

I am deeply proud of how the Center has expanded and focused its purpose during my time here – through our programming initiatives and the conversations we've sparked. I have great hope for the future of this community and the campus at large because of the hard work, sincere compassion, fierce knowledge, and unreasonable love of those in this space.

My time here could not have been successful without the wonderful guidance of Meika and Letta, the support of Cat, Mary, and Cristina, the assistance of our remarkable student interns, the contributions of our community partners in ALANA, ALST, UNST, LGBTQ Initiatives, the Counseling Center, ENST, EDUC, Shaw Wellness, the COVE, the Chapel, and the DoC.

Thank you for working and growing with me.

Farewell, WMST. Until next time.

The Center for Women's Studies Staff

Interim Director
Catherine Cardelús

Program Assistant
Che J. Hatter

Administrative Assistant
Letta Palmer

Student Interns

Community Outreach and Alumni Affairs: Natasha Torres '15

Women's Health: Valerie Garcia '15

Sexual and Gender Based Violence: Liza Paudel '15

Multicultural and LGBTQ Affairs: Alexandria Davis '16

Information Technology and Resources: Sharon Nicol '17

Publications: Hannah Shaheen O'Malley '17



Some of the WMST staff meet Mia McKenzie.

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