

Center for Women's Studies

Newsletter

Volume 22, Issue 2

Letter from the Director

This was another record-breaking year for the Women's Studies Program. We had our largest senior class ever (17), and what a group of talented scholar-activists! Eight of our seniors wrote amazing honors theses. We offered our first feminist methodologies course ever. And this Spring we offered more WMST 202 (Intro) sections than ever before (4). Many of our Intro students say they were inspired through recent student activism to come and take a class with us.

Programming-wise we welcomed an amazing group of feminist heroes including Bree Newsome, Staceyann Chin, and the phenomenal Barbara Smith, who reminded us to keep on keepin' on. And a wonderful mix of our own faculty and staff members shared their feminist expertise with our community, including Travis Beaver, Kim Creasap, Berlisha Morton, Cristina Serna, khristian kemp-delisser, Christelle Boursiquot, Allie Fry, Susan Wooley, and Ashley Taylor. And none of this would have been possible without the WMST power team: Heidi Angueira and Allie Fry.

I am endlessly inspired by and proud of our community. I look forward to another year of growing our program and doing intersectional feminisms together.

Meika Loe

Letter from the Program Assistant

I'm ending the year with immense gratitude. Together, the interns, staff, faculty, and affiliated organizations pulled off a program-packed semester.

Our dynamic Brown Bag series attracted an average audience of 100 people. A few of my favorite speakers this year included Queerfest's Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha who spoke to us about disability justice, Barbara Smith's visit on International Women's Day, and the Birth Stories panel of faculty and staff.

In March, The Monument Quilt, a public healing space by and for survivors, brought together nearly 50 volunteers and brought together the Colgate and larger Hamilton community in support of survivors of sexual violence and abuse. The Monument Quilt activists taught us the power of joy and healing in activism.

Our interns worked hard to co-create amazing programs like a Brown Bag/Zine Workshop that generated our first "Community Zine," a workshop on how to support survivors in our lives, a revisioning of our Center's library, and a Brown Bag on Black women's experiences with sexual assault. I also had the incredible opportunity to learn alongside Pitzer and Hamilton students, faculty, and staff at the historic Highlander Center, in the spirit of organizers who have come before us.

I am so thankful for the WMST community's support this past year, especially Heidi Angueira, Meika Loe, and our intern team. I look another year of learning, collaborating, and mobilizing.

Allie Fry



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Colgate University Center for Women's Studies



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wmst@colgate.edu

Center for Women's Studies
Brown Bag Series | Spring 2016
@ 11:30am



JANUARY

- 19 - **Where We Stand** | Ariyana Smith
- 26 - **Are You Mad? White Feminism 101** | Christelle Boursiquot & Allie Fry

FEBRUARY

- 2 - **Black Women's Experiences with Sexual Assault: Reflections on the 10th Anniversary of *No! The Rape Documentary*** | Student Panel Selected by the Black Student Union
- 9 - **Conference to Campus: Queering Colgate** | Creating Change Conference Attendees
- 16 - **Socialist Pasts and Queer Futures: LGBT Life & Activism in Post-Socialist Romania** | Prof. Lavinia Nicolae
- 23 - **Zines: Feminism & Do-It-Yourself Media** | Prof. Kim Creasap, Jake Mahr '17, & Hannah O'Malley '17

MARCH

- 1 - **The Medea Project: Where Art & Social Activism Meet** | Rhodessa Jones
- 8 - **Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around: Forty Years of Movement Building** | Barbara Smith & Alethia Jones
- 22 - **Birthing Stories** | Kerra Hunter, Profs. Rebecca Metzler, Alicia Simmons, & Susan Woolley
- 29 - **The Monument Quilt: A Guide to Upsetting Rape Culture** | Hannah Brancato, Deletta Gillespie, & Rebecca Nagle

APRIL

- 5 - **The Art and Practice of Disability Justice** | Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha*
- 6 - **Gay Steelworkers: Exploring How We Imagine Queer Folks and How Working-Class Bodies Expand Queer Meanings** | Anne Balay
- 12 - **Unpacking the Feminist/Womanist Ethics of Studying Abroad** | WMST Interns
- 19 - **Gender & Leadership: An Outdoor Education Panel** | Nicole Cormier '19, Anna Heil '16, Meg Ryan '16, Sierra Larson '16, Nick Gilbert '17, Ben Oliver
- 26 - **Feminist Praxis and the Places We Learn Part I** | WMST Senior Concentrators
- 28 - **Feminist Praxis and the Places We Learn Part II** | WMST Senior Concentrators



Staceyann Chin shares her work. photo credit: Gerard Gaskin
 The WMST team, faculty and majors with Barbara Smith.
 The Monument Quilt brown bag. photo credit: Communications

No! The Rape Documentary: Reflection

This semester I organized and later sat on the Brown Bag panel discussing *No! The Rape Documentary*, pertaining to sexual assault within the black community. We felt it was important to show clips from the film because whenever sexual assault on college campus is discussed, it focuses on the narratives of white women. We know these are not the only narratives when it comes to sexual assault, and we wanted to bring more identities into the conversation.

Leading this type of Brown Bag made perfect sense for me considering I am the LGBTQ and Multicultural Affairs intern at Women's Studies and the General Council of Black Student Union.

Planning a Brown Bag is both exciting and nerve-racking. It was exciting because I was allowed to take on my own project and select the topic and panelists. It was nerve-racking because you never know how the audience will respond to the material.

Even though putting the Brown Bag together was a lot of work, I enjoyed the process. I had the opportunity to work with Ciara Swan, Chinyere Okogeri and Onyi Nwabunnia. Working with the panelists and watching the documentary together was probably my favorite part. It gave me a chance to hear different perspectives on the film and different ways to present the material we were examining. From putting on the Brown Bag, I have learned that I am more of a behind-the-scenes type of person.

-Ashleandra Opoku '17, LGBTQ and Multicultural Affairs Intern



The Monument Quilt
3/29
A public healing space for survivors of rape and abuse.



Highlander Center: Reflection

During Spring break I took part in a retreat with students from Hamilton College and Pitzer College at the Highlander Research and Education Center. The retreat was organized under the banner of "Students Leading the Change for Racial and Gender Justice: Identity, Agency, Transformative Leadership." The trip began with unexpected setbacks including flight cancellations and delays resulting in approx. 6 hours of layover, but the experience was worth the wait.

The experience allowed for critical personal and collective reflection through team developed workshops focused on issues central to our collective and individual activists. We learned Highlander's central methodologies of popular education, cultural organizing, language Justice, participatory action research, intergenerational organizing, and legacy and place, thought about how these strategies can be employed on our respective campuses, and meaningfully situated our personal and collective "thrival" as community activists. Eating, analyzing, laughing, and crying with students filled with compassion and passion for social change renewed my hope and dedication to my personal activism and allowed me to better situate my role in movements for collective change. I gained valuable knowledge that I hope to employ in my WMST Outreach work and beyond. The Highlander experience is not history, but an evolving collective commitment, represented through our adopted name: WEAVE - Working to Exist through Action, Vitality, and Empowerment, that I am fortunate to be apart of.

-Sharon Nicol '17, Community Outreach Intern

