WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES
FALL 2018 NEWSLETTER

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Feminism in Motion 2018

OUR FIRST SUCCESSFUL SPRING STUDENT SCHOLAR CELEBRATION

The Women’s & Gender Studies program’s first annual Feminism in Motion celebration was a huge success! The afternoon featured delicious refreshments, engaging conversations about complex gender and sexuality-related topics, and dozens of micro-presentations and poster presentations of our current WGS majors and minors on their diverse gender-related projects.

The discussion tables at the event captured the spirit of the event’s community and inclusion - with attendees decorating butcher paper tablecloths with inspirational quotes, observations from the presentations, and colorful drawings. Scans of these vibrant collages will be available for viewing on the WGS website soon.

The WGS program would like to thank everyone involved in making Feminism in Motion such a huge success, including Sugar Bakeshop who generously donated sweet treats! We look forward to next Spring when we’ll get to highlight our students again for another round of celebrating our intellectual community!
Meet the WGS Team

Kris De Welde
WGS PROGRAM DIRECTOR

INTRODUCE YOURSELF!
I’m Kris De Welde, originally from Miami, FL, though Boulder, CO is also where I call home after spending over a decade there. I’m most recently from Fort Myers, FL where I spent ten years working at Florida Gulf Cost University in a wide range of faculty and administrative roles. My current research includes women administrators in higher education with a focus on intersectional inequalities, oral histories of abortion pre- and post-Roe v. Wade, and various scholarship of teaching and learning projects.

WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE PART OF SERVING AS DIRECTOR OF WGS?
Aside from teaching and mentoring students, because this is truly at the very top, I really appreciate the dynamic challenges that connect me to others on campus and in the community. There is always something new for me to navigate, which keeps me busy, something I actually like. The newness of the challenges might dissipate as the learning curve evens out, but there is no shortage of gender related concerns that bubble up on a regular basis. I’m also really enjoying integrating myself into our vibrant community of social justice minded colleagues, students, and community friends.

Percy Haas
WGS OFFICE ASSISTANT

INTRODUCE YOURSELF!
Well, I’m a recent CofC English graduate (WGS and Film Studies double minor). I love analyzing and writing about video games and narrative storytelling, and I hope to one day be a part of developing more inclusive games for a new generation of gamers.

WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR FREE TIME?
I’m a hobbyist baker and an aspiring creative writer, so most of my free time is spent either in the kitchen or writing. I also play classical piano.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FOOD?
Fried green tomatoes... or double chocolate cake!

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT WORKING IN WGS?
Is "everything" an answer I can give? I fell in love with the program as an undergrad, but joining the team with Kris and our amazing affiliated faculty makes working here so spectacular. I’m hoping to learn as much as I can from all of them while I’m here.

WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR FREE TIME?
I enjoy cycling and yoga, cooking (especially brunch!), and traveling, though I don’t do as much leisure traveling as I’d like.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FOOD?
I really do love any sort of noodles: Italian pastas, Vietnamese rice noodles, Japanese udon or soba, even veggie noodles like zucchini or beet. I also really love vegetables – all of them. Oh, and cheese. Basically, all foods except meat and poultry, which I gave up almost 30 years ago.
Faculty Spotlight
CHRISTY KOLLATH-CATTANO - ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Dr. Christy Kollath-Cattano, known also as Dr. K-C, is an invaluable member of the WGS team. She is an Assistant Professor in Public Health and the Associate Director of Women’s and Gender Studies. Her research interests include maternal/child health and substance use prevention and treatment. We chatted with her about her research and her role as Associate Director to help you get to know her a little better.

WHAT SCHOLARLY PROJECTS ARE YOU WORKING ON CURRENTLY?
I am currently working on 3 different projects. The first examines college student substance use and mental health, which includes determining risk factors for substance misuse, reasons for use, mental health service use, and comorbidity of mental health issues and substance misuse, in addition to evaluating the effectiveness of a social norms campaign. For the second project we are looking at physician perceptions and practices related to e-cigarettes. And lastly, my latest project involves conducting a health needs assessment among homeless women in Charleston, with a focus on menstrual hygiene management.

WHAT IS YOUR WORK LIKE AS ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF WGS?
As the Associate Director my main responsibility is to supervise internships, which are required for the major and optional for the minor. That means I get to network with some amazing local organizations that are addressing social justice issues in the community and learn about how WGS students are applying their coursework to real world situations. I have also helped students prepare for conference presentations at the Southeastern Women’s Studies Association (SEWSA) Annual Conference and attend the conference with students when I can. I also work closely with WGS Director, Dr. De Welde, and the WGS Executive Committee on all of the "behind the scenes" academic work such as curriculum development, to ensure that we have a great program for our students.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT WORKING AT THE COLLEGE?
The students, of course! I love teaching and working with students on individual projects such as internships and research. I have worked with many students on research through being a faculty member on the Women’s Health Research Team. Students have been an important part of many of my own research projects and have helped with every aspect, from literature reviews to data collection and analysis, and I have learned so much from them while they are also working on their own professional development.

WHAT IS SOMETHING YOUR COLLEAGUES AND STUDENTS DON’T KNOW ABOUT YOU?
Hmm, this is a tough question! I usually tell students some of the more interesting things about me on the first day of class, such as the number and types of pets I have... I guess I will say that most people do not know I was an avid roller skater as a child back in the day, and even won some races at my local roller skating rink in my hometown of Oceanside, CA.
Each year we have the incredible opportunity to recognize student activists through the Ketner Emerging Leaders scholarship. Because of generous support from long-time champion of the WGS program, Linda Ketner, we are able to offer competitive scholarships to student leader-activists, working for social change in our communities. Students spend the academic year engaged in self-designed projects that advance social justice.

This year’s cohort includes students who are focused on issues such as LGBTQ+ oppression, racial and gender health disparities in Charleston, sexual assault prevention, neighborhood/community organizing, and equity in education. Join us in celebrating these students, and stay tuned for progress on their forthcoming projects.

Our four newest members of the Ketner cohort, Kionne Epps (top left), Sydney Davis (top right), Pablo Palacios (bottom left), and Makayla Cook (bottom right). Not pictured: Tanner Crunelle, Trisani Mukhopadhyay, Jasmine Shabazz, and Allie Stern.

STAY CONNECTED!

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Three WGS Students Begin Collecting the Program's History

An exciting new independent study project is in the works with current WGS students Kate Cockerham, Savannah Crocker, and Raegan Whiteside. The trio joins WGS director Kris De Welde (WGS Director), Cara Delay (History, previous WGS Director), and Susan Farrell (English, previous WGS Director) in the collection and documentation of the rich history of the College’s Women’s & Gender Studies program.

Over the Fall semester, Kate, Savannah, and Raegan will sit down with past directors of the program and conduct qualitative interviews. This will lead to a robust understanding of our program’s history, as well as the history of women at the College. Each of the three student researchers commented on which parts of the project excite them the most.

"I’m most excited about uncovering the history of the program so that other majors and minors and I can learn and understand the story of our program," says Kate. "It will be so interesting to talk to these people that have created a program that led me to my passions and made my college experience more than I ever thought possible!"

Savannah says that she is "very intrigued to see how past directors have navigated [changes in the political climate] and integrated new ideas into the program."

What excites Raegan the most about her independent study is "giving the Women’s and Gender Studies Department the recognition and appreciation it deserves. I want the campus and others to see and experience how amazing this program and community is and I think the oral history of the WGS program we’ll present through this independent study, as well as the Year of Women, will help do that."

The project will culminate in a reception (November 2018) to celebrate all previous directors. A Special Collections exhibit also will feature the program’s history in the Spring.
The College's Year of Women

Women's & Gender Studies is thrilled to be participating in the College's Year of Women celebration for the 2018-19 academic year. The kick-off event, Yes! I'm a Feminist, is detailed on the next page of this newsletter.

In April 2018 the College’s Board of Trustees unanimously and enthusiastically declared via a resolution that the 2018-19 academic year would be the “Year of Women,” honoring the centennial of (white) women’s admission to the College, while also “acknowledging all progress and continuing challenges associated with this centennial commemoration.”

As a discipline which focuses on intersectionality, Women’s & Gender Studies will be collaboratively hosting a series of innovative panels called "Intersections." These sessions will feature guest lectures and discussions that hone in on both intersections of identity and discipline and cover a range of gender-related topics.

Our first "Intersections" panel will be on September 11. This panel, titled "Women, Equality, and Voting: Let’s Get This Done!", will be in ECTR 116 from 5:30-7:00. WGS has partnered with Political Science and Equal Means ERA Coalition and the purpose is two-fold: 1) share information about the relevance and urgency of the ERA, and 2) provide voter registration and information for students. This is specifically timed to get new registrations in before the October 2nd deadline!

Future "Intersections" panels include "Black Women in Higher Education" (October), "Gender, Race, & Medicine" (January), "Women in South Carolina Education" (February), and many more.

All events are open to the public!

Come Visit Us!

OUR OFFICE IS LOCATED AT 7 COLLEGE WAY, ROOM 100

Recently redecorated and with a fresh coat of paint, the WGS office is the perfect spot for student study groups and feminist conversations!

Come visit us at 7 College Way, Room 100. Our office is on the ground floor of the yellow Communications building, accessible beneath the stairs facing the community gardens. We look forward to seeing you!
2018 MARKS THE SIXTH-ANNUAL YIAF CELEBRATION! JOIN US!

The WGS Community Advisory Board invites you to the Cistern Yard for our sixth annual Yes! I’m a Feminist fundraiser! YIAF is the kick-off event to the College’s Year of Women celebration. This kick-ass party for feminists of all kinds celebrates civil rights, the feminine spirit, and radical women through the years to benefit CofC’s WGS program and the Alison Piepmeier Scholarship.

This year’s celebration is on Friday, September 7th, 6:00-7:30pm. There will be refreshments and music from our feminist DJ for the evening, DJ Lanatron! You can pre-register (and donate) by going to:

http://friendsof.cofc.edu/yes-im-a-feminist

Join us under the oaks for some bubbly and sweets. We hope to see you there!

WGS CAB Members:
Jennet Robinson Alterman, Amanda Bunting Comen, Margaret Pilarski, Drisana McDaniel, Callie Shell, Leah Suarez

Save the Date
6th Annual

I’m a Feminist.
The Cistern, College of Charleston
Friday, September 7th

Women’s and Gender Studies depends on gifts from alumni, friends, corporations and foundations to meet our strategic goals.
Support the program online at giving.cofc.edu/WGS

The impact of the WGS program would not be possible without its dedicated Executive Committee Members:
Vivian Appler, Cara Delay, Melissa Hughes, Christy Kollath-Cattano, Lauren Ravalico, Noelle Zeiner-Carmichael