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A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

This issue reflects our continued efforts to increase connectivity between the voices of alumni, current students, and faculty. I am delighted that alumina Erin Caro Aguayo ('03) leads the way with her essay "That's Ms. Mommy to You." Her autobiographical essay illuminates an issue which sparks great debate and interest in the Women's Studies classroom: the relationship between motherhood, domesticity and feminism.

In the Course Spotlight section, Women's Studies faculty Jenny Putzi profiles Suzanne Raitt's innovative course "Divorce in British Victorian and Edwardian Fiction." Putzi takes us through the process of constructing this interdisciplinary course, particularly the unique and dynamic collaboration that achieves powerful learning outcomes. For example, students engage with primary materials to explore and analyze "Divorce in the News." Raitt designed this assignment in close collaboration with Mary Molineux, and Alan Zoellner, the Reference Librarians.

We achieve another first in this issue by including photos of our Office Manager Lee Nguyen's artwork in recognition of her painterly exploration of space: Sadler Interiors.

We also feature two exciting pieces from current Women's Studies students. Mira Nair

details her experiences at the Feminist Boot Camp (FBC) in New York City early this year, an annual event that offers participants opportunities to connect with a variety of feminist organizations and activists outside of academia. FBC provides a "fun" experience and good networking with other young feminists from diverse regions of the U.S. and elsewhere.

Hsin-Mu (Morris) Chen takes us to his native country Taiwan to document the emergence of new lesbian and gay identities and communities and the rise of political campaigning for gay/straight alliances. His interview with one of the leaders of LGBT organization Taichung Rainbow Paradise (TRP) explores challenges and opportunities faced by LGBT Taiwanese.

Our regular feature "Why Are We Women's Studies Majors and Minors" brings together voices of our current students and makes connections between scholarship and activism. Five alumni also have their say by recounting how their Women's Studies education profoundly impacts their lives and professions post graduation.

This spring Columbia University Professor Sharon Marcus gave a talk entitled "The Double Life of Female Celebrity" at the 16th Annual Minnie Braith-

waite Lecture. The lecture series celebrates Minnie Braithwaite's 1896 petition to attend chemistry lectures and the eventual acceptance of women as students at William and Mary.

Three Brown Bag lunches jointly organized with Africana Studies brought together faculty and students to engage with topics ranging from Chinese Dance and Nationalism to Indigeneity in Reserve to Black English in Bermuda. They acquainted us with fascinating interdisciplinary research projects carried out by Emily Wilcox (Modern Chinese Studies), Kara Thompson (English and American Studies), and Iyabo Osiapem (English and Africana Studies).

Thanks to vital financial support provided by sponsors including the Carol Woody Real World Internship, the Gove Endowment, and the Charles Center Teaching Fellows Program (formerly Mellon Student Fellows), we were able to continue to offer financial support for student assistantships, internships and awards. Congratulations to all our prize and awards winners!

With this issue, we say farewell to our editor Mira Nair who edited the Fall'11 and the current issue with true passion and with a high-level of professionalism. We congratulate her and welcome her return to Mary and William in the near future as a frequent alumni contributor.

We are looking forward to celebrating our graduates at the Women's Studies Graduation Ceremony on Saturday, May 12th: congratulations to you all! We applaud and embrace your post-graduation aspirations.

With best wishes,

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Gul Ozyegin, Director of Women's Studies

THAT'S MS. MOMMY TO YOU *by Erin Caro Aguayo '03*

Erin Caro Aguayo, Women's Studies and Latin American Studies ('03), is a professional writer, editor, and graphic designer specializing in non-profit work. She is the creator of the surprisingly long-lived Flat Hat Column "Behind Closed Doors." She is also the proud parent and step-parent to four children, and spends a lot of her time pondering the great mysteries of feminism while cooking, cleaning, and picking up things. She welcomes readers' comments via email (eecaro@hotmail.com).

In 2001, I did an internship abroad in Buenos Aires, Argentina for credit at William & Mary. Every day, I took a subway and a bus to my job with a women's political rights group. It felt so important to be working on a big job to network women around Latin America, dressing up to meet new congresswomen, and negotiating an exotic city on my own. Every afternoon, I would pass a kindergarten on the bus, and watch women picking up their children. I remember feeling so sorry for them, for their wasted lives, stuck raising children at home, hidden and alone.

Fast forward ten years. I've had a few, very different jobs: social worker resettling newly arrived refugees, domestic violence prevention caseworker, academic editor and publisher.

I married an amazing man, and now have two step-children who live in Denmark, a busy, curious three-year-old daughter, and a son on the way in a few weeks. It gets complicated. I spend far too much time washing, cooking, and cleaning suspicious substances off the floor/sofa/ceiling. This summer, I'll be caring for four children between the ages of tiny and teenager.

For various reasons, I've given up my full-time job, my half-finished master's degree, long bike rides, my dog, and painting my toenails. I've done the double shift, and then some. I snuck my infant daughter to work with me for a year, since editors don't make enough to pay for babysitters. I have breastfed through conference calls, and begged a two-month old to stop crying because "if anyone hears you, Mommy will get fired, and then we'll be broke, and then she can't feed you anymore."

I've wondered what I was thinking to get myself into this mess. I know better. I have a degree in how to empower myself, and somehow am still fighting the fight that our mothers and grandmothers supposedly already won for us. I worry that I've sold out, that I've become everything I had vowed to work against.

There's a feminist view circulating that the women who have "opted out" of the workforce to raise a family, usually highly educated with ample opportunities, are doing a disservice to the women's movement. It rejects the idea that a domestic life is feminist because you got to choose it, instead of having it foisted upon you by society.

I would have wholeheartedly agreed with that—before I had children. Now I know that having it all at once isn't always possible. You can have what you need, one thing at a time, or you can try to fit it all in and end up overworked, overwhelmed, and exhausted.

For now, I need my family. I'm working on women's rights on a micro level. My daughter hears that she's smart, strong, and brave more than that she's pretty. Her favorite toy is a power drill set. She got a set of dolls for Christmas and takes great joy in running them down in her push car. Maybe I should worry about that one, but I'm proud. And her new baby brother will learn how to be a feminist, too. In a few years, when they are busy with their own lives, I will need to be back at work full time.

There is no right way to be a feminist. After four years of struggling with my vision for my life versus the current reality, I've come to terms with my feelings, and worked it out in a way that makes sense to me. Women have worked for generations for our equality, which means the right to unapologetically live our lives and demand equal opportunities. Feminism shouldn't be yet another pressure on women to perform. By criticizing women for living their lives as best they can, we undermine the movement. Why is it different to be forced to live up to women's expectations, rather than men's? I have never been so miserable as when I "had it all."

Now I feel sorry for the twenty-year old me, who couldn't understand why a mother would want to raise her child, why she would sacrifice that time and energy on mundane, everyday tasks. The world will still be out there, ready to explore and change, when I'm done with the 24/7 job of raising little kids.

This period is a small amount of time in the average life, and I don't want to miss it for ridiculous deadlines and more-ridiculous salaries. I'll have plenty of time to engage in office politics and produce piles of books that no one will ever read. Decades, most likely. Despite the constraints, my life has gotten bigger since meeting my step-kids and having my daughter. Who knows, maybe I'm even learning something that I can teach them someday.



Erin Caro Aguayo '03 with her children.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW? WOMEN'S STUDIES ALUMNI UPDATES

ELIZABETH FOX MILLER '11 *Women's Studies Major and Sociology Minor.*

Where am I now? Still at William and Mary now as an Americorps VISTA and Coordinator for Student & Community Engagement. I'm working on combining my feminist and active citizen identities into one while addressing poverty in Williamsburg. If you're on-campus and want to talk feminism, community action or Americorps, feel free to stop by Blow 323 or email me at efmiller@wm.edu. Proud to say I miss Morton and all the incredible things I learned there that I am doing my best to put into action in the 'grown-up world.' Still sending my thesis advisor articles about marriage education (Sorry Jenny) and finally starting to consider a Women's Studies PhD.

MORGAN BERMAN '08 *Women's Studies Major and Anthropology Minor.*

I was just accepted into Philadelphia University's Sustainable Design MS program but am waiting to hear if I get the assistantship I need. Right now, I'm working at the University of Pennsylvania as a Research Assistant in the Surgery Department. I am also working at Apple, a new adventure that I am really enjoying. And best of all I am now growing delicious plants in two city gardens, one of which I helped start!

KATIE DIXON '09 *Women's Studies and Art History Double Major.*

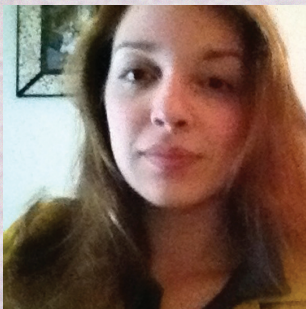
Since leaving W&M I have been kind of all over the place in political jobs, from campaigns to advocacy to a political appointee in the Obama administration working in press for the Department of Justice, which is where I am currently. I am proud to be working for a department that is working so diligently on civil rights issues, and my background in Women's Studies definitely prepared me for this. My fondest memory of college was my sophomore year Intro. to WMST class with Jenny Putzi – I miss her dearly. In the future I think I'd like to continue doing communications advocacy work, and look forward to whatever that may be.

KAITLIN TURCK '07 *Women's Studies and Hispanic Studies Double Major.*

This spring I am celebrating two years as a Foreign Service Officer. I am about to finish up my tour in Mexico then it will be back to DC to learn Albanian and off to work Public Affairs at the Embassy in Macedonia. My Mexican friends always want to know what I studied in order to be a diplomat. International Relations? International Business? I always happily explain that I studied Women's Studies! Honestly, Women's Studies has also given me a unique perspective in my job, because right now I work in American Citizen Services and I see a lot of women in trouble in Mexico. Having the background knowledge to a wide variety of women's issues has certainly helped in many cases!

SARAH KLOTZ. '08 *Women's Studies Major.*

Since I graduated from William & Mary, I have been working towards a PhD in English at the University of California, Davis. This past December, I passed my Qualifying Exam and began writing my dissertation. My work looks at representations of Native American literacy practices in works by nineteenth-century writers such as James Fenimore Cooper, Lydia Sigourney, and Catharine Sedgwick. I am also an instructor of Composition and Literature at UC Davis.



From l to r: Elizabeth Miller, Morgan Berman, Sarah Klotz, Katie Dixon, Kaitlin Turck

MY EXPERIENCE AT FEMINIST BOOT CAMP *by Mira Nair '12*

I cannot imagine a more concentrated and intensive way to experience feminist scholarship, activism and art than when I was fortunate enough to participate in the Winter 2012 session of Feminist Boot Camp Between January 4-11 2012. FBC is a program hosted by authors, activists, artists and the founders of Soapbox, Inc. In 2002, Jennifer Baumgardner and Amy Richards, who wrote modern feminist works *Manifesta* (2007) and *Grassroots* (2005), founded Soapbox, Inc. which has progressively expanded to represent dozens of authors, speakers, scholars, and artists at the forefront of feminism. Feminist Boot Camps started in 2007 and are held twice a year during a winter and summer term for feminist of all ages. They will also host the first ever Feminist Intensive for professors and staff June 20 – 23, 2012.

Attended by feminist students of Women's Studies and other programs from around the country attended, FBC is designed to be a week-long introduction to various facets and areas of feminist activism in New York City. I stayed in a Youth Hostel in the Upper West Side, rooming with seven other amazing feminist peers, many of whom were graduate students getting their MA's in Women's Studies.

Each day of FBC features a feminist theme. On the Sex and Justice Day, the talk on parent-daughter dialogues by Joyce McFadden, psychoanalyst and author, spanned mother's fear of girls' masturbatory behaviors to the small ways that even strangers contribute to this sense of sexuality as a negative or dangerous thing for girls. She cited the oft-heard prescription to the parents of a young girl, that they should 'keep her locked up when she's older.' We discussed ways to dialogue with our mothers about sexuality as well as with parents of young children who may be subconsciously passing along the sexuality messages they internalized as children.

The same day, we visited the International Women's Health Coalition, founded in 1984 to address women's health rights, such as abortion access. Supporting communities in Latin America, Asia, and Africa, IWHC nurtures grassroots initiatives by providing sustained funding, support, and community leadership around reproductive rights. As Audacia Ray, the Program Officer for Online Communications and Campaigns, pointed out, IWHC is not "in the business of shipping westerners in to solve problems" but rather supports community-rooted initiatives. My favorite part of this day was our visit to Red Umbrella Diaries, a monthly storytelling series led by Audacia Ray as part of the Red Umbrella Project. In celebration of \$pread, a magazine for and by sex workers, several writers featured in the latest issue read their pieces on sex work and racial issues.

On Reproductive Justice Day, my favorite activity was visiting NARAL Pro-Choice New York. David Benzaquen, the Political and Legislative Action Coordinator at NARAL NY; and Sabrina Shulman, the Political Director of NARAL NY, gave a presentation and conducted a discussion on countering so-called Crisis Pregnancy Centers (CPCs). Increasingly prevalent on college campuses, CPCs aim to prevent women seeking abortions from getting the medical assistance they need. CPCs typically mislead these women with inaccurate information about their medical rights and health, and thus place them in medically risky and uninformed positions. CPCs lure women with the promise of paying for their health services, but which they never fulfill.

Another highlight of Feminist Boot Camp was Feminist Art Day. We traveled to Brooklyn to visit A.I.R. (Artists in Residence) Gallery, a 30 year old artist-directed and maintained gallery founded by women artists. We next went to the Brooklyn Museum, which houses the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art, a wing that's been part of the museum for five proud years. We explored all three triangular sides of Judy Chicago's monumental artwork *The Dinner Party*, which features both well known as well as obscure women of history and pre-history. We saw vulvar imagery on painted china plates and historically and



Mira Nair '12 and other Feminist Boot Camp participants



The Dinner Party is an installation artwork by feminist artist Judy Chicago depicting place settings for 39 mythical and historical famous women. It is on permanent exhibition at the Brooklyn Museum.

sociologically-specific embroidered runners, textile banners, theatrically oversized goblets, utensils and more. The project was completed over many years with many more laborers in the attempt to re-address what is considered monumental art and to re-appropriate traditional “women’s” artistry. Catherine Morris, the Curator of the Sackler Center, led an extremely detailed tour of The Dinner Party and discussed the evolution of the Sackler Center. Originally conceived as a stand-alone museum, Morris argued that the eventual placement in the Brooklyn Museum exposes a wider range of people to feminist art as well as including feminist art as a part of art and art history rather than silo’ing it into a separate facility. Morris observed that she “would not have been interested in working for the Center” had it ended up as a stand-alone institution.

The formal side of FBC featured other noteworthy visits to feminist organizations, like the Third Wave Foundation, Ms. Foundation for Women, and Choices in Childbirth, to name few. Throughout these dozens of visits, the overriding value of the FBC experience was in the social networking, and especially befriending other young feminists from around the country. I came to know some truly remarkable feminist peers, being lucky enough to spend the week bonding with them in the hostel, to travel together on the New York subway, and to learning from each other’s feminist sensibilities and experiences.

BROWN BAGGIN’ IT



Professor Emily Wilcox (Modern Languages and Literatures) presents on “Is Heritage Gendered? Debates Over Female Movement in the Making of Chinese Classical Dance”



Professor Iyabo Osiapem (English and Africana Studies) presents on “A Speculative History of Black English in Bermuda”



Professor Kara Thompson (English and American Studies) presents on ““What in Blazes is That?!”: Reserving Space in the Final Frontier”

VOICES OF CURRENT WMST STUDENTS

WHY I AM A WOMEN'S STUDIES MAJOR OR MINOR

DOROTHY LAWLESS EDWARDS '13 *Women's Studies and Religious Studies Double Major.*

I transferred to William & Mary from Tidewater Community College last fall, intending to be major in religious studies. Searching to fill my fall semester schedule with something, I jumped around the registration site looking for the last few interesting classes that were still open. Eventually I noticed the courses which appealed to me in English, history, American studies, psychology, anthropology and sociology, were cross-listed with Women's Studies. Those classes were also closed, but it became clear to me that I had an interest in Women's Studies, so I looked Women's Studies up in the course catalogue and knew I would take at least the six classes needed for a Women's Studies minor before I was finished. I did not consider it as a major because careerwise it tasted to me like eating candy for dinner instead of vegetables. Then I attended a presentation at the Cohen Career Center by an alumnus who worked in non-profit. She advised us to choose a degree as specific as possible to our dream job if we want our resumes to stick out. My dream job would have something to do with the LGBT community, so Women's Studies would be the most helpful to me. I was given the perfect excuse to take all the best classes at William & Mary! I still feel guilty stealing such a treat of an education, with homework that is often reading about sex and sexuality, and sometimes watching films about sex or sexuality. Best of all—I get to learn about the gay community which I have suddenly found myself a part of after 47 years of assuming I was a heterosexual. I am relearning gay history with a fuller interest and a more intimate perspective. I hope to take my fresh enthusiasm for the gay community and filter it through my maturity to develop as a uniquely qualified liaison between religious parents and their gay children.

SHAN DAVIS '13 *English Major and Women's Studies Minor.*

I am a WMST Minor because I believe women's rights are human rights. Typically, in America, race, gender, class, sexuality, ethnicity, ability, and other oppressors can get in the way of what is important. If we all made an effort and commitment to look past such minor hindrances, we could finally move forward as a community and as a society. I am an English major, and before committing to a WMST Minor, I was going to be a sociology minor. Sociol-

ogy just doesn't cut it for me. I felt like I wasn't doing what needed to be done. People ask me from time to time what I plan to do as WMST minor and I simply let them know: I plan to change the world. I live WMST and hope to use the skills and facts I've learned from my classes to make the change I want to see in the world a reality in the lives of others. I seek to change our thinking as a society towards equality and the advancement of all.

EMILY GLASSON '13 *Women's Studies and Religious Studies Double Major.*

I am a Women's Studies major because of the connections it builds between knowledge and lived experience and between academics and activism. The classes fill a void left by the rest of academia by exploring knowledge that originates from outside a white, male-dominated center. My studies have helped me to confront privilege, marginalization, and power structures that form the world we live in. I've gained a better, critical perspective of the world and a broader understanding of feminism as a framework that celebrates difference and advocates for all people marginalized by racism, sexism, classism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, xenophobia, etc.

LAURA ANDREW '12 *Women's Studies and Psychology Double Major.*

I am a Women's Studies major because, as bell hooks says: "Feminism is not simply a struggle to end male chauvinism or a movement to ensure that women have equal rights with men; It is a commitment to eradicating the ideology of domination that permeates Western culture on various levels—sex, race, class to name a few and a commitment to reorganizing U.S. society so that the self-development of people can take precedence over imperialism, economic expansion, and material desires." I am committed to this struggle. The Women's Studies department supports me with knowledge, experience, and critical thinking skills to pursue these goals and to constantly challenge myself, check my privilege as a student, and move forward with my activism in LGBTIQ issues, campus worker solidarity, reproductive rights, and racialized poverty in Williamsburg-James City County schools.

BRAITHWAITE LECTURE



Columbia University Professor Sharon Marcus presenting on 'The Double Life Of Female Celebrity' at the 16th Annual Minnie Braithwaite Lecture.



STANDING STRAIGHT AND OUT ON THE RAINBOW ROAD TO LOVE: QUEER TAIWANESE CHALLENGES

Hsin-Mu Chen '14, a.k.a. Morris, is an international student from Taiwan R.O.C, and a rising junior at the College. He is a double major in Women Studies and Psychology.

Taichung Rainbow Paradise (TRP) is a community health and culture center for LGBT folks in Taichung, Taiwan, and the main contributor behind the fabulous success of Central Taiwan LGBT Pride. Under the slogan: "Straight Out Of Solidarity", the pride parade attracted over 3,000 participants, of which 40% were heterosexual allies. The deputy mayor of Taichung City also met with the organizers during the pride parade, and publicly supported diverse identities and took the pledge to promote Taichung City's friendliness toward different expressions of sexuality. I met with one of TRP's organizers to discuss challenges faced by LGBT Taiwanese, and challenges within Taiwan's LGBT community.

MORRIS: What is the mission of TRP? What role does TRP play in central Taiwan's LGBT lives/community/movement?

TRP: TRP was established by Taiwan Lourdes Association, whose initial mission was to provide help to individuals living with AIDS, as an extended effort to prevent further infections. STD and AIDS transmissions between Taiwanese males have increased at an alarming rate, as is the case in other Asian countries. Many factors may contribute to this growth: for example, the numbers may have always been high but just recently exposed by frequent screening. Lourdes decided to be proactive and prevent transmissions. However, AIDS has always been a touchy subject among gay men. Having sex is a very private activity; gay men may become very defensive when confronted with external efforts that hope to strop transmissions. Some may think: "I know all the precautions and knowledge on general STDs, why do you (Lourdes) have to stick you head into my bedroom and tell me what to do?" TRP needed to be a community center that recognizes and values non-heterosexual identities, and not just a mere extension of Lourdes' health-centered missions. TRP promotes physiological health and also mental health, and is now an important gathering place for LGBT individuals in Taichung.

We are sometimes equated with gay social/hookup clubs, and are assumed to pollute the neighborhood cognitively, morally, and environmentally. This misunderstanding easily alienates TRP from the local neighborhood. Therefore, we actively construct a positive, educational image in the public.

MORRIS: So TRP resulted from attempts to reach out to a larger population of LGBT individuals based on their identities... Would you say that identification is a challenge to, and/or a pivotal aspect of, LGBT movements in central Taiwan and in Taiwan in general?

TRP: I think this answer depends on who are truly in need. Not everyone within the LGBT community requires additional social resources and/or services from TRP, or other organizations. Most people find support and allies throughout their daily interactions. TRP found that people who come for additional resources are usually people of unusual backgrounds. For example, some may have grown up in an environment that's irrevocably anti-LGBT; or, in addition to reconciling with their LGBT identity, individuals may be challenged by depression or bipolar disorder. TRP is a safe space for these people. We found that many frequent visitors usually regard TRP as their second or third home, or as the only safe space where their sexual orientation is recognized and valued. We recognized this pattern, and catered our missions more toward these truly

marginalized individuals. TRP goes beyond addressing health issues and also takes pride in our open, positive, and educational engagement with marginalization and oppression.

I don't think TRP can be defined as an activist organization or as a grassroots organization; instead, it is an organization that is oriented around human interaction and the needs of the (LGBT) community. Activism is not the only way to satisfy needs of the community; in fact, I personally am intimidated by the political undertones of LGBT activism. Yet, as long as TRP harbors marginalized groups, we have the responsibility to fight for their deserved social rights and statuses in every way we are capable of.



Women's Studies Major Hsin-Mu (Morris) Chen '14

MORRIS: So what challenges does the LGBT community in Taiwan face?

TRP: Taiwanese LGBT individuals still face challenges posed by traditional cultures and social recognition, or the lack thereof. Central Taiwan LGBT Pride Parade's overwhelming success can be partially understood through this social oppression and cultural misunderstanding. I-Jung neighborhood, having little knowledge about TRP and little willingness to engage with LGBT individuals, wrote a community regulation against "LGBT social clubs" such as TRP. Although this community regulation doesn't have actual legal powers to evict us, we complied to avoid complications, and used this as an opportunity to

demonstrate the discrimination the LGBT community faces. The Pride Parade also empowers LGBT individuals and reminds everyone that through collective actions, we can speak for ourselves, reject discrimination, and celebrate our spirits and vibrancy despite being a marginalized group.

TRP, as a community center, offers a space for LGBT individuals to meet and inspire one another in face of challenges; we are also the channel of LGBT community's collective voice. However, when TRP becomes representative of the LGBT community, people forget how they can confront challenges individually.



Central Taiwan LGBT Pride Parade

Health is an unavoidable topic when talking about challenges faced by the LGBT community. Although safe sex has been advocated for many years, STDs and AIDS transmissions have, sadly, only increased in unprecedented rates. Policy interventions were very unsuccessful, but we also wonder: What's happening to LGBT folks? I don't know if this is universal... but at least in Taiwan, LGBT folks are greatly upset whenever someone talks about condoms. I often hear about people rejected on Internet hookups or in the sauna because they talked about condoms—safe sex became something unpleasant and undesired. Last year TRP conducted a survey about STDs. One of the questions asked, “How confident are you in your knowledge on STDs and AIDS?” around 85% of our participants answered “very confident” and “confident”. Yet, at the same time, we gave detailed STD and AIDS questionnaires to one of our focus groups and found the average to be around 60/100. LGBT individuals engage in what they “think” are safe sexual behaviors, and refuse external help. Education is a key component to diminishing STD and AIDS transmission, but education in itself is a tough goal, because everyone believes that they have sufficient knowledge on these topics—they have no motivation to learn about, or engage in, safe sexual behaviors.

TRP helps LGBT individuals become more responsible for their own hygiene as they recognize their LGBT identities in a positive way. Being responsible for one's own health includes engaging in safe sexual conduct. Although our

research wasn't controlled rigorously, our hypothesis was largely validated—LGBT individuals' sexual conducts are significantly influenced by levels of self-recognition. Even when we see a flaming gay man sashaying down the parade route in public, it doesn't necessarily mean that he accepts himself for his sexual orientation or identity. In a country that's so full of tension and oppositions—and especially under Taiwan's Confucian values and collectivist characteristics—one's ability to accept his/her sexual orientation and identity largely depends on external opinions and perceptions. Taiwan's societal norms clearly influences how LGBT individuals perceive and take care of themselves.

WOMEN IN CITY FILMS: A SCREENING OF MOSQUITA Y MARI AND VISIT FROM THE DIRECTOR AURORA GUERRERO by Mira Nair '12

Every Spring semester, The College of William and Mary hosts a Global Film Festival with films spanning various genres, countries, and time periods, all related to the specific theme of the year. In 2012, the theme was “The City”. This year, three female-directed films graced the Global Film and the City film festival: Avenue Montaigne (2006), directed by Daniele Thompson; Mumbai Diaries (2010), directed by Kiran Rao; and Mosquita Y Mari (2012) directed by Aurora Guerrero. Women's Studies helped sponsor the screening of Mosquita y Mari and visit from the Director and starring actress Fenessa Pineda, who played Yolanda. Guerrero explores the complexities of a budding friendship between two Chicana high schoolers in Los Angeles's Huntington Park. Guerrero told us in the Q&A that this story, based on her first love, has “been in my heart since I was 13 but was not until I was 22 that I decided to write about”. I attended most of the screenings of the festival, and thought that this film did the best job of telling a story through a female lens and perspective. We were very lucky that this was one of the very first screenings of this film, coming to us after its debut as the first full length Latina

Mosquita Y Mari Director Aurora Guerrero and Starring Actresses Fenessa Pineda (“Mosquita”) and Venecia Troncoso (“Mari”).





COURSE SPOTLIGHT

DIVORCE IN BRITISH VICTORIAN AND EDWARDIAN FICTION *by Professor Jennifer Putzi*

In nineteenth-century Britain, travelling abroad could be dangerous for your marriage. Or at least that is the conclusion that nine students in Professor Suzanne Raitt’s course, “Divorce in British Victorian and Edwardian Fiction,” came to after completing the “Divorce in the News” assignment, in which they searched nineteenth-century newspapers for coverage of divorce.

Take Mrs Pellew, for example, who fell in love with a man who nursed her as she miscarried on an arduous journey back from Australia where her husband was posted; or Mr Campbell, whose wife wandered through Europe with her military lover, pretending to be his cousin. Both the Pellew and the Campbell divorce trials were covered in the London Times, and students had to piece together these sad tales of disintegrating marriages from newspapers, court reports and reference sources.

The idea behind this assignment was “to think about literature as one of many languages that was building the culture of divorce in the nineteenth century—novels, journalism, legislation. Those languages are permeable and they are shaping and informing one another.”

Professor Raitt’s interdisciplinary course is cross-listed with Women’s Studies and Literary and Cultural Studies. The assignments were developed in close coordination with Mary Molineux, the Reference Librarian Liaison to Women’s Studies, and Alan Zoellner, the Reference Librarian Liaison to the English Department. As Suzanne says, “I really feel that all three of us are teaching the course.” I talked with Suzanne, Mary, and Alan, as well as Josh Burns, a student currently enrolled in the course, to find out more about these assignments and what they are bringing to the experience of the course.

What impressed me most about these primary source-driven assignments was the amount of work that Suzanne, Mary, and Alan did before the semester even began. They had to search for relevant legislation and other materials together, and develop assignments with clear goals that would contribute to the students’ understanding of divorce in this period.

Mary insists, “The assignment was so good because it led them through so many steps of research,” but each of these steps had to be explained in order for the students to succeed. For Mary and Alan, this meant that they did the assignment

themselves. Mary explains that this is generally done for every class they work with: “we essentially go through the same process a student researcher would—selecting the possible databases to search, searching them, discovering the best search strategies, evaluating what each database offers, questioning why there’s not more or not exactly what we’re hoping to find, and then repeating that process until we feel that we have a good sense of what we should recommend to the students in the class. And in doing all of those steps, we inevitably learn about the topic—whether it’s infant custody laws in mid-nineteenth century England, women’s rights

affair himself, but he couldn’t be aware of his wife’s adultery. In the Campbell case, the wife’s affair was so obvious—she stayed in hotels with the sailor with whom she was having the affair—that the court suspected Mr. Campbell’s connivance.

According to Josh, this assignment was particularly interesting because of the need to construct a narrative from the many newspaper articles. “You are kind of putting together a story,” he explained.

In the first assignment as well, he was struck by how the divorce legislation provided narratives about divorce that could be studied in conjunction with the novels being read for the class.

In addition to learning about divorce, however, Josh found himself learning about the research process and the many resources that Swem Library has to offer. “As a senior going in, you think you know how databases work,” he says. “It was humbling because I didn’t know the extent of the databases. Everyone uses JSTOR. You can go all three years without having an assignment like this. It turned out to be very useful and very entertaining. JSTOR would have failed miserably for this—it would have crashed and burned.” Mary agrees, saying that students generally overuse JSTOR, and part of her job is to direct them elsewhere.

Assignments like these are important because they require students to read differently and to inhabit, as much as possible, the period they are studying. Alan notes that primary sources ask students to think independently; he says, “I think it is necessary to get good students into primary materials so they can form their own opinions on issues without the strong guidance of scholarly experts telling them what to think.” Ultimately, Suzanne hopes that the assignment will “get students excited about research and about using all the wonderful resources the library has to offer—including its people!”



Professor Suzanne Raitt, Professor Jennifer Putzi, Reference Librarian Liaison to Women’s Studies Mary Molineux, and Josh Burns ’12 meeting to discuss the course.

in Afghanistan, or cultural influences on Eugene O’Neill’s drama.”

Senior English major Josh Burns has already completed a report on the Act to Amend the Law Relating to Divorce and Matrimonial Causes of 1857, and an assignment on newspaper and periodical coverage of divorce. His group investigated the Campbell case, widely covered by newspapers in England in 1857. The case excited his group, he told me, because it was so scandalous. The main question in the case was whether or not Mr. Campbell was aware of his wife’s adulterous behavior. An act passed later in the same year made it easier for a man to get a divorce if his wife had cheated on him, yet if it could be proved that he knew she was cheating, his petition for divorce would be thrown out.

“Divorce was intended to protect the innocent party,” Suzanne explains, “so if you weren’t innocent you couldn’t have it.” This meant that not only could a man requesting a divorce not be having an

AWARDS & PRIZES

FACULTY AWARDS

Nancy Gray received the 2012 Graves Award for Sustained Excellence in Teaching. The Thomas Ashley Graves, Jr. Award is presented annually to a member of the faculty in recognition of sustained excellence in teaching. Suzanne Raitt has been awarded the 2012 Jennifer and Devin Murphy Faculty Award. This award honors the effective integration of outstanding research with undergraduate teaching.

STUDENT AWARDS

2012 Carol Woody Internship Award Recipients

Funded by a generous donation from William & Mary alum Carol Woody, the Carol Woody Real World Internship awards are available for female students seeking real world experience to complement their studies. The awards are available for students interested in doing an internship over spring break or in the summer. Awards usually range from \$200-\$400, depending on available funds. Below are this year's recipients.

SHAN DAVIS (English Major - Women's Studies Minor). Shan will be doing a summer internship with SONG (Southerners on New Ground). SONG is a home for grassroots LGBTQ organizing for liberation across all lines of race, class, abilities, age, culture, gender, and sexuality in the South. She plans to help SONG in building communities within Williamsburg, specifically LGBTQIA folks of color.

CHARLOTTE TREGELLES (Feminist Law and Policy /Self-designated major): Charlotte plans to spend her summer in a ten-week internship program at the Bronx Defenders in New York City. The Bronx Defenders is an organization that provides legal defense for Bronx citizens who cannot afford attorney services. Completely dedicated to educating and inspiring the next generation of public defenders, the program also focuses heavily on community organization and advocacy, so that it can expand its influence beyond the courtroom.

ELIZABETH SCOTT (Women's Studies major and Sociology minor): This summer, Elizabeth will be an intern for the Teach for America Summer Institute in Cleveland, Mississippi. The Summer Institute is a five week session in which the educators for TFA are trained and taught how to be effective classroom leaders, motivators, and supporters. As an Operations Coordinator Intern, she will be in charge of running educational programs about children in high risk communities, and coordinating training sessions for future TFA employees.

PAMELA PALMER (2nd year Law) : Pamela's summer internship will be with the American Federation of Government Employees – Women's and Fair Practices Department , Legal Division in Washington, D.C. The Women's and Fair Practices Department focuses on securing women's rights regarding family and medical leave, equal pay, childcare, sexual harassment, and domestic violence.

2012 Women's Studies Internship Award Recipient

Hsin-Mu (Morris) Chen (Double major Women's Studies and Psychology). He will be doing a summer internship with SONG (Southerners On New Ground), working on activism development for feminism, lgbtq, and immigrants. He wants to take this internship opportunity to help build wider networks for LGBTQ movements in Virginia—particularly around Williamsburg and nearby cities working work with local women shelters, churches, and schools to integrate feminist and LGBTQ-related issues into their agendas.

Student Activism award

Maggie Russolello (Literary and Cultural Studies), Laura E. Andrew (Women's Studies)

Dean's Prize for Scholarship on Women Award

UNDERGRADUATE WINNER:

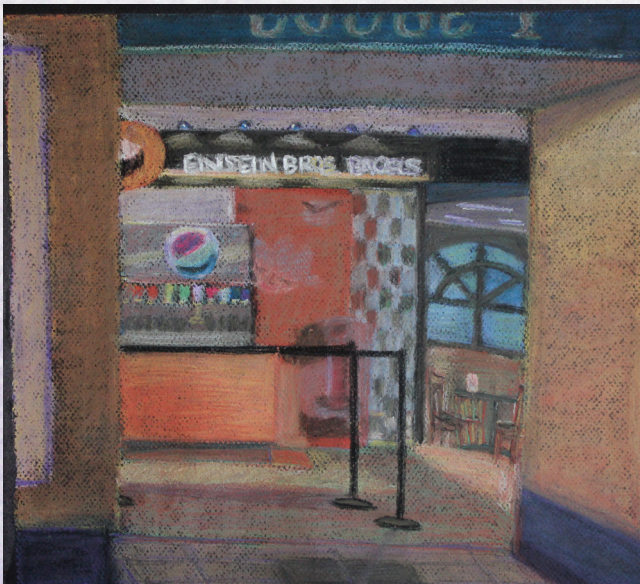
Katelyn Durkin "Into the Bookstore, Into the Community, Into Her Bed: Political Power, Sexual Pleasure, and The Community of Women Readers" in Alison Bechdel's Dykes to Watch Out For. Instructor: Jennifer Putzi, Women's Studies 390-2: Women and Popular (Print) Culture

GRADUATE WINNER

Kathryn Snyder "Temptress of the Stage: The Specter of the Widow in Colonial Theater and Culture." Instructor: Karin Wulf, History 710 Research Seminar

Women's Studies Phi Beta Kappa Recipient

Mira Elena Peralta Nair was inducted into the College of William and Mary Phi Beta Kappa Alpha Chapter this year. Phi Beta Kappa, founded at William and Mary in 1776, celebrates and advocates excellence in the liberal arts and sciences. Its campus chapters invite for induction the most outstanding arts and sciences students at America's leading colleges and universities.



LEE NGUYEN'S PAINTERLY EXPLORATION OF SPACE: SADLER INTERIORS

*Lee is the Office
Manager for Women's
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Your contribution to the Women's Studies Program will help our faculty members provide the best learning experience to our students. You can contribute online with your credit card, using our secure web server at: <http://www.wm.edu/as/womensstudies/support/index.php> The contribution form will be pre-selected to direct your gift to the general academic fund for the Women's Studies Program, which supports student and faculty needs directly.

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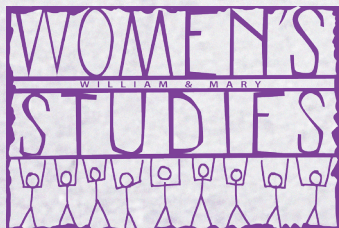
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