

MARY & WILLIAM



FALL 2012: Issue 3

the Women's Studies Program Newsletter

WHAT'S INSIDE?

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

WOMEN'S STUDIES EVENT PHOTOS

TACKLING TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

*An Interview with Mary Minor,
President of Soroptimists of Williamsburg*

THE FIRST EVER W&M LGBTIQ PRIDE FESTIVAL "Difference is our Strength"

**"I BELIEVE IN THE RADICAL
POSSIBILITIES OF PLEASURE"**
Pride Fest Speech by Laura Andrew

WHERE ARE THEY NOW *Alumni updates*

**"I KNEW THAT MY SUMMER
WOULD BE UNLIKE ANYTHING
I HAD EVER EXPERIENCED"**
*Carol Woody Award Recipients
Discuss How They Spent
Their Summer Internships*

VOICES OF CURRENT STUDENTS *Why I Am a Women's Studies Major or Minor*

WORKING AT A "BIG THREE" IN THE BIG APPLE *A Woman at Work in New York City*

COURSE SPOTLIGHT *Rhymes with Witch: Sexual Politics in Contemporary Culture*

GIVE TO WOMEN'S STUDIES

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM. This is the proposed Program name change which we have sent recently to the College's Educational Policy Committee (EPC) for approval. I hope you'll be as excited as the Women's Studies faculty and current students are with this initiative to rename our program. We are changing our name to reflect more accurately our expanded curricular focus on gender and sexuality while retaining its existing footprint—theoretical and activist commitment to women as such. In recent decades, scholars of (trans)gender and sexuality, gay/lesbian studies, and queer theory have developed new analytical frames by which we understand the complex relationships between and among bodies, identities, sexualities, and gender. Our course offerings on these topics and integration of these themes into existing courses in recent years have enriched the intellectual breadth of student research and produced new areas of inquiry and activism. In addition to more accurately reflecting our broad, inclusive curriculum and program activities, renaming Women's Studies will also help us advance much closer connections with different departments and programs on campus to deepen the interdisciplinary educational experience, a top priority at William & Mary, while creating increased interest in and excitement about our classes and program activities. Engaging and empowering those students who are conversant with gender fluidity, who mark themselves as "other" (neither female nor male), is also our top priority. We want to more fully incorporate these students' curricular demands so that they can also find their voices in our program. We are hopeful that the EPC will approve our request as the new name accurately reflects our program's breadth, depth, strength, and ambitions.

Women's Studies' commitment to feminist education extends beyond the classroom: in Women's Studies we pride ourselves on our innovative programming activities to be an empowering force in community engagement, diversity awareness, support and advancement of the activist goals and aspirations of our students.

On Thursday, October 4th we proudly inaugurated a new initiative, Community Forums in Women's Studies, by hosting an open forum with two important local organizations dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls – Avalon, and Soroptimists of Williamsburg. The focus of our conversation was the two organizations' collaborative project called S.A.V.E.D. – Students Against Violent and Emotion-

ally Abusive Dating. The idea behind Community Forums is to link academics and feminist activism more closely and consistently by way of bringing leaders in local non-profit organizations together with students and other members of the campus community to exchange ideas about the most pressing needs and issues facing women and girls, and disadvantaged, vulnerable groups in our communities. In the process, we hope, students interested in doing internships or volunteer work will have early opportunities to make significant connections with organizational leaders. We plan to host at least one forum each semester, encouraging more extensive attention to local issues, and offering our students critical opportunities for gaining experience and nurturing leadership skills.

In this issue of Mary & William, you will also learn about the internship experiences of two of the 2012 recipients of the Carol Woody Real World internship awardees; one of our recent graduates "Working at a 'Big Three' in the Big Apple"; award-winning Professor Nancy Gray's widely popular course Rhymes with Witch which over the years has garnered student recognition for true feminist inspiration in which students are given opportunities to add to the course content by designing their own presentations with their own choice of material; and William & Mary's first ever LGBTIQ Pride festival during the I am William & Mary week last Spring. The creative force behind the Pride Festival was Laura Andrew '12 whose post-festival commentary and festival speech appear in this issue. Our academic program continues to be enhanced by a strong tradition of extra-curricular activities which play an important role in campus life and beyond. Thanks to the Gove endowment, we were able to financially support activities organized by student groups this past year, including the Pride Festival.

Also in this issue, our regular features "Why I am a Women's Studies Major or Minor," and "Where are They Now" bring voices of our current and former students. For those of you who missed our Fall events (Brownbags, Homecoming, Feminist Student/Faculty Halloween party, and The Annual Planning Meeting), we present pictures from these gatherings, in addition to pictures from the 2012 Graduation Ceremony.

Finally, a warm welcome to Faith Barton '13 as Mary & William's new student editor. Besides editing the newsletter, Faith will be a regular jour-

nalist/contributor to Mary & William. Her debut interview and writing on the Project S.A.V.E.D. is represented in this issue.

Faith and I welcome any comments you might have, and if you would like a few more copies of the issue, please contact me. We also welcome your contributions to the Mary & William Newsletter as student, faculty, and alumna journalists. Please stay connected by visiting our office on the third floor of Morton, our website, Facebook page, and through email. Please also mark your calendars for our Annual Braithwaite lecture this spring, Tuesday, March 26th, 6:30 P.M., University of Texas Professor Matt Richardson will present on "The Queer Limit of Black Memory."



Gul Ozyegin

My best wishes for a New Year filled with health, hope, and happiness.

Gul Ozyegin

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The Women's Studies planning meeting brought together students and faculty to debate changing the program title, creating new courses, and the pros and cons of being a program versus a department.

TACKLING TEEN DATING VIOLENCE: PROJECT S.A.V.E.D.

Mary Minor is the President of Soroptimists of Williamsburg, a local chapter of an international organization devoted to helping women and girls around the world. Along with the other Soroptimists, she has teamed up with Avalon to create an awareness raising campaign around the issue of intimate dating violence amongst teens in the Williamsburg, James City and York County communities. This project will target teens in the high schools and their parents to teach them how to identify signs of an abusive dating relationship and strategies to deal with it. Mary & William student editor Faith Barton interviewed Ms. Minor in September for the project in preparation for the first Community Forum in Women's Studies with the Soroptimists and Avalon.

FAITH BARTON: How did the program S.A.V.E.D. (Students Against Violent and Emotionally Abusive Dating) get started?

MARY MINOR: Members of the Williamsburg Soroptimists club attended a regional workshop where a speaker presented the story of Yeardley Love to illustrate the issue of teen dating violence. The club president was interested in us doing something in response to that by working with teens and parents. Last spring with approval of International Soroptimists of Williamsburg I applied for a grant from Soroptimist International of America.

I was aware through our partnership with Avalon of the organizations on campus so I decided to contact the Women's Studies Program and Gul Ozyegin. This is a way to expand people working on teen dating violence awareness as Avalon and Women's Studies has experience with these types of activities. Also, high school students are the target audience so having college students involved is very important.

The goals are one, for the Soroptimists in Williamsburg to become more visible as we assist in "What's best for women and girls;" second, to increase public awareness of teen dating violence as a service to high school students and parents. Clearly, the Yeardley Love case was nearby and there are documented incidences of sexual harassment within the schools. So I thought, let's get parents engaged in this.

FB: The project is targeting high school students—at what age does dating violence start manifesting, and what do you think are the causes? What is the goal or purpose of targeting kids within the school system?

MM: When I looked at the information from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the first instance for boys is age 11 and for girls is age 13. Around 11 and 13 there is bullying, verbal abuse, particularly younger students versus more aggressive older ones, but there is research that shows that some 7th graders have already experienced dating violence. Parents think dating doesn't really start in middle school, however testing of sexual identity and sexual relationships does. As parents we don't

perceive our children that way, particularly the fathers; dads have a hard time with the daughters' sexual development.

The culture of objectifying and accepting a level of crudeness that didn't exist previously is one cause. Another is the conflict between kids who have not been exposed to the crudeness running up against it. My personal experience was with my daughter as a high school freshman who ended up



Faith Barton interviews Mary Minor about Project S.A.V.E.D.



Members of the Students Against Violent and Emotionally Abusive Dating planning committee greet W&M students to the first community forum. Mary Minor, President of Soroptimists International of Williamsburg, Gul Ozyegin, Women's Studies Program director, Dexter Strong, Avalon Prevention Specialist and Trisha Saunders, Avalon Counselor.

with a senior in a math class who decided she was 'the one.' He was sexually harassing her verbally and she was intimidated. She really didn't have the skills to stand her ground. A junior girl became her protector in her class. The boy and junior girl had a blow up in class because of what he was doing with my daughter. Until the incident the teacher wasn't aware. My daughter had no idea how to deal with him. I don't think he meant harm, I think her reaction was off putting so it escalated. She couldn't defend herself so it became a game.

We've sexualized our kids so much more, which is part of it. Then there are the kids who haven't observed healthy relationships. There is a level of impoliteness, of not accepting personal and emotional boundaries, which has a lot to do with culture and peers.

FB: What are Virginian laws around dating violence, stalking, and sexual abuse?

MM: It seems that teenagers can't get protective orders, so if there is a minor harassing, stalking, or threatening another minor they can't get a protective order. So if a 15 or 16 year old girl is being harassed by a 17 year old there is little legal recourse.

FB: What do you want William & Mary's role to be in the program? Are Avalon or the Soroptimists of Williamsburg planning on working within the college in the future?

MM: For Women's Studies—William & Mary student efforts on campus to encourage safe relationships and to protect women make them a good partner for this community project. Soroptimists would like W&M students to assist in putting together essays for the month of February for publication in local newspapers. The W&M students are needed to assist with the work with the Avalon Youth Council to achieve the project goals. The day of the workshop some college students will facilitate discussion and work with the parents as well. Parents should hear from college students about dating living away from home. It would be great if W&M students could assist in making this project sustainable, if they would help us learn what other communities are doing, so we might work with other organizations on the Peninsula like Avalon.

continued on page 11

THE FIRST EVER W&M LGBTIQ PRIDE FESTIVAL 2012: DIFFERENCE IS OUR STRENGTH

Reflections by Laura Andrew

“The First Ever LGBTIQ Pride Festival’s primary purpose was to gather allies and members of the LGBTIQ community across Virginia together in the celebration of differences as our strength.”

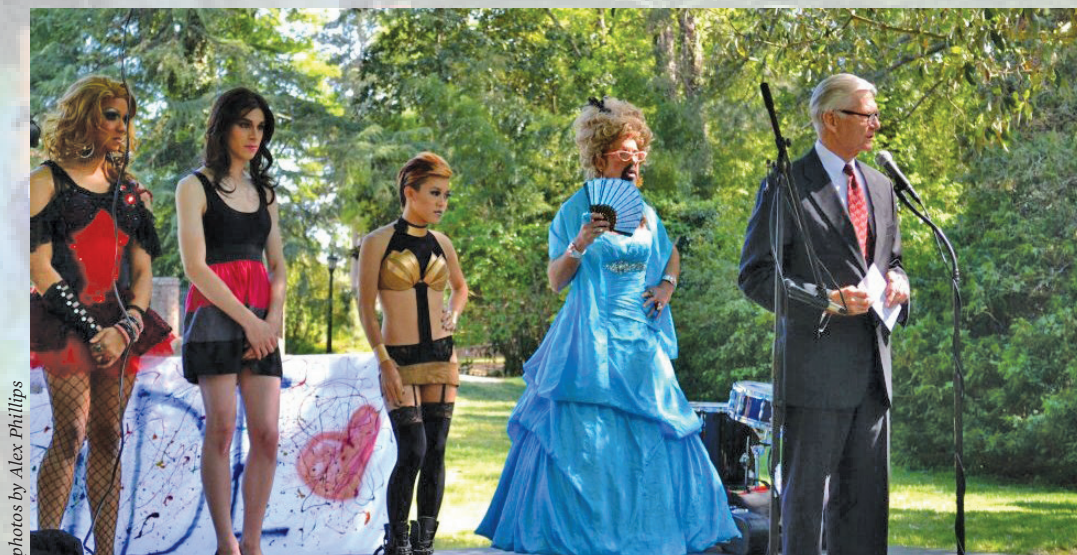
Underlying photo: Laura Andrew and other students enjoy Pride Fest during I Am W&M Week.

What are the needs of the queer community at William & Mary? Passion, acceptance, visibility, sex, safety, history, culture, support, recognition, space—two months into my Women’s Studies Independent Study: Radical Queer Activism and Theory, I was lost on how to facilitate the achievement of these always evolving goals. The inspiration for the First Ever LGBTIQ Pride Festival came in a light bulb moment; it was shocking that W&M had never seen such an event. Our Pride filled the Crim Dell Meadow with hundreds of queer and allied individuals, organizations, and performers not calling for assimilation or patience but in the shared belief of the radical, redemptive, and transformative power of love to change the world.

The amount of support offered for the First Ever LGBTIQ Pride Festival was overwhelming. While the process of applying and reaching out for funding was time consuming, it was always rewarded. The Women’s Studies Program, Student Assembly: I AM W&M Week, Center for Student Diversity, Residence Hall Association, Ludwell Hall Council, Jamestown Hall Council, and Mark Constantine of Student Ac-

faculty organizing for desperately needed wage increases for W&M’s lowest paid staff members. However, I did recognize that Reveley’s presence would draw an audience, attention from mainstream publications and organizations, and most importantly, an opportunity for subversive action. No one thought it could happen, but I somehow managed to get the First Ever LGBTIQ Pride Festival on President Reveley’s calendar. In his speech, he applauded our community for our slow progress and spoke of how white male privilege (clearly) no longer existed. Our triumph was the four drag queens standing behind him for the entire speech and all of the photos.

The First Ever LGBTIQ Pride Festival’s primary purpose was to gather allies and members of the LGBTIQ community across Virginia together in the celebration of differences as our strength. The less publicized agenda was subverting traditional campus systems of power, heteronormativity, and normalizing structures. Those of us who felt left out by advocates for same-sex marriage and the “It Gets Better” Project had a lot on our minds. The full content of my speech was controversial and upsetting to some,



President Reveley joins the drag performers on stage in celebrating Pride Fest.

tivities all contributed to financially support a “Drag Yourself” Booth, rainbow colored refreshments, the professional drag performances of Eunita Biskit and Alessandra McQueen, a stage and sound equipment, and enough tables to support over twenty campus and community organizations.

I am not a fan of W&M President Taylor Reveley after his despicable treatment of students, staff, and

but here it is printed in its entirety. The passion and purpose behind this speech, coupled with the photos from the event, communicate the extraordinary spirit behind Pride. I hope that this event will continue annually, and that other members of the LGBTIQ community at W&M will ensure its survival and place as a part of I AM W&M Week and in the queer cultural history at the College.

I BELIEVE IN THE RADICAL POSSIBILITIES OF PLEASURE

by Laura Andrew

José Esteban Muñoz writes, “There is a certain lure to the spectacle of one queer standing onstage alone, with or without props, bent on the project of opening up a world of queer language, lyricism, perceptions, dreams, visions, aesthetics, and politics. Solo performance speaks to the reality of being queer at this particular moment. More than two decades into a devastating pandemic, with hate crimes and legislation aimed at queers and people of color institutionalized as state protocols, the act of performing and theatricalizing queerness in public takes on ever multiplying significance.”

I stand before you here today, four weeks away from graduating. The LGBTIQ community at W&M is incredibly diverse, brilliant, beautiful and passionate – how fortunate are we all to be here today? Because of the diversity of viewpoints on this campus – conversations, debates, meetings are always going on in informal and formal ways about being queer at W&M. Is this a “safe place?” What does that mean? Does discrimination happen here? Does homophobic violence ever happen here? Are people openly transphobic on this campus? We all have different opinions. We all have different strategies for dealing with those who stand against queer identity and expression.

This is the First Ever LGBTIQ Pride Festival at W&M. We must name ourselves as LGBTIQ and insist upon that or we will be reduced to “gay” or some other, non-inclusive term. But, I would like to take a moment to read aloud from the work of Riki Anne Wilchins. She writes, “For identities like gay or lesbian or transgender to be visible and distinct, how many other complex and unnamed identities have to be silenced and erased? I will defend anyone’s wish to call themselves drag, transsexual, transgender, gay, bi, tri, or quad. For me, these are not natural identities but simply political categories we are forced to inhabit when we do certain things with our bodies. And it is my larger agenda to fight this cultural machinery which categorizes, stigmatizes, and then marginalizes minorities, rather than to fight for the rights of one particular category over another.”

We are in this fight here, together, today. When I was hiring drag queens—we talked about the risks of being out and genderqueer during the day time, sober, in small numbers, in Virginia. The fear of violence, the stares, the comments—all the ways we are policed and told exactly who we are and who we should be and who we should love and what we should look like.

We were NOT born this way. Stop that message. Shut the fuck up Lady Gaga. We were born naked and you probably don’t even remember that happening.

Every day we make choices to follow what we want and who we want and everyday those choices are valid and no one should ever try to stop you. You don’t need to justify it, and you don’t need to explain yourself.

Until we, as a society, can recognize and understand and appreciate that DIFFERENCE is our STRENGTH—we will continue down this road—the racist, sexist, classist, ableist, heterosexist, ageist institutions of power that continue to divide us, drain us, and disempower us.

When Judith Butler wrote about identity categories as instruments of regulatory, normalizing structures – she said, “This is not to say that I will not appear at political occasions under the sign of lesbian, but that I would like to have it permanently unclear what precisely that sign signifies.”

Today in the Crim Dell Meadow we have drag and makeup and body painting and glitter – this is for fun but also for us all to come together in numbers to queer the space and celebrate gender as performance and as a fluid expression.

Thank you all for coming here today. The support is truly incredible, more than I think anyone expected or thought possible. While things may “get better” for some, and society might slowly becoming more accepting... together, let’s all promise that we aren’t going to wait. We are fighting. In every conversation, with every outfit, with every raised hand in class and moment of confidence – we are working together in the belief of the radical, redemptive, and transformative power of love to change the world.

To conclude, in the words of Ru Paul, “If you can’t love yourself, how in the hell are you gonna love somebody else. Can I get AN AMEN?”



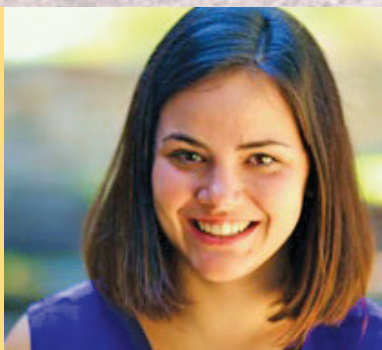
Laura Andrew

“Every day we make choices to follow what we want and who we want and everyday those choices are valid and no one should ever try to stop you.”



MARY & WILLIAM NEWSLETTER

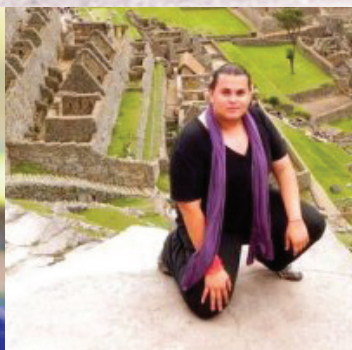
WHERE ARE THEY NOW? WMST ALUMNI UPDATES



Kaley Horton

KALEY HORTON '10 WOMEN'S STUDIES AND GOVERNMENT DOUBLE MAJOR.

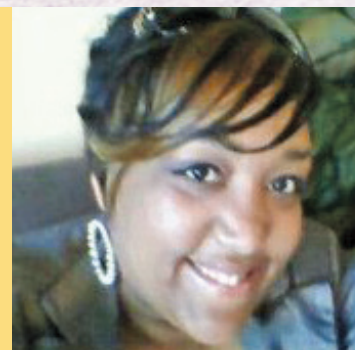
After graduating in 2010, I returned to Texas for a third and final summer as an 8th grade English teacher for the Breakthrough Collaborative, a rigorous college preparatory program for high performing middle school students from low performing schools that provides one-on-one support throughout the school year and an intensive summer school program. After finishing up at the Breakthrough Collaborative I spent a year as an AmeriCorps VISTA for the Arlington Public Libraries. I finished my term in August 2011 and moved to Austin to accept a position with United Way for Greater Austin's early childhood initiative, Success By 6. Success By 6's mission is for all children in Central Texas to enter school happy, healthy and ready to succeed by increasing quality standards in child care centers, funding and coordinating evidence-based parent education programs and providing mental health and behavioral services for child care centers and programs, and advocating on the local and state levels. My background in Women's Studies helps immensely in identifying and understanding the barriers our families face. I'm also getting my Master's in Political Science with a concentration in Legal Studies at Texas State University and would like to get more involved in the public policy surrounding early childhood. I dearly miss Morton and still get an occasional hankering for the Cheese Shop.



Freddie Gonzalez

FREDDY GONZALEZ '09 HISTORY AND WOMEN'S STUDIES DOUBLE MAJOR.

Currently I am a graduate student at Tulane's School of Social Work and Tulane's School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. I will be graduating from Social Work in December of 2012 and getting my MPH in Global Health Systems and Development May of 2013. I am an intern at the Louisiana Public Health Institute with the Louisiana Community AIDS Partnership. As an organization, we fund different projects and initiatives around the state of Louisiana as a way to better assist those people living with HIV/AIDS. My work has and will continue to revolve around issues of HIV/AIDS, focusing in advocacy work for those affected by and infected by the disease. My focus is more of a macro level approach and I hope to someday work for a global organization dealing with issues of HIV program development, prevention and implementation and health access for PLWHIV in countries of the Global South. I am thinking of applying for a post-graduate fellowship for 2013-2014 and hopefully starting a PhD program focusing on health policy and sustainable development—or something along those lines.



Avina Ross

AVINA I. ROSS '09 SOCIOLOGY AND WOMEN'S STUDIES DOUBLE MAJOR.

Since graduating from W&M, I have worked as the Criminal Justice Planner for the Colonial Community Criminal Justice Board in James City County and as Virginia's state coordinator for local domestic violence fatality review teams. I am currently finishing my term as the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Coordinator and transitioning into the nonprofit movement to combat gender violence. I have recently started working for a local and familiar nonprofit, Avalon: A Center for Women & Children as their Operations and Community Response Specialist. I am responsible for developing and designing a rapid re-housing program for women in crisis. Additionally, I will develop a community needs assessment for the Greater Williamsburg area, manage agency accreditation and outcomes, as well as grant writing and reporting. On a lighter note, I've graduated from VCU this Spring with a M.S. in Sociology, where I focused on domestic violence against black women. In the future, I plan to continue working as an advocate and positioning myself to be a mentor and motivator for future sociological and feminist thinkers.

"I KNEW THAT MY SUMMER WOULD BE UNLIKE ANYTHING I HAD EVER EXPERIENCED."

The Carol Woody Award Recipients Discuss How They Spent Their Summer Internship

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. This past year's recipients reflect on their summer exploring their passions using the scholarship provided by Carol Woody.

CHARLOTTE TREGELLES '13 ANTHROPOLOGY AND FEMINIST LAW AND POLICY DOUBLE MAJOR.

While at The Bronx Defenders I worked as a Policy and Community Development Intern. Along with four other interns, we independently organized the annual block party for the South Bronx residents and the clients of The Bronx Defenders. It was the most successful block party to date, with over 1,200 attendees! It was an amazingly happy day filled with spoken word poetry and rap, carnival games and amusements, and a lot of delicious food—all in celebration of South Bronx culture and pride. It was wonderful to see how happy everyone was, despite the fact that they live in an impoverished part of the city, rife with police violence and animosity.

Through this internship I also became very involved with the "Stop Stop and Frisk" campaign, and my eyes were opened to the reality of police violence and the injustices that poor black and Latino people face on a daily basis. Due to this experience, I am now more motivated than ever to reform the criminal "justice" system and to improve police-community relations in places like the Bronx. In fact, since returning to William and Mary, I have founded the student organization Students for Criminal Justice Reform. The main focus of this group is voter disenfranchisement—Virginia is currently one of four states that permanently removes a person's voting rights if he or she is convicted of a felony. The only way to restore these civil rights is to submit an application that

must then be approved by the governor. Students for Criminal Justice Reform is currently working with law school students and various off campus organizations to implement a clinic in which we will help individuals to complete their applications to get their voting rights restored. I am incredibly excited for this project, and I would not be on the path that I am on today had it not been for my experience with The Bronx Defenders.

After this summer, I have also realized my goal of studying criminology and criminal justice in graduate school so that I can better contribute to the discussion of how to reform our current penal system.

ELIZABETH HAMPTON SCOTT '14 WOMEN'S STUDIES MAJOR AND SOCIOLOGY MINOR.

Spending the summer in Cleveland, Mississippi initially horrified me. I was ready for new experiences and ready to live life in a new place. However, I knew that my summer in Mississippi would be unlike anything I had ever experienced. I have most certainly never seen anything like Mississippi in my life. The Delta is a beautiful place with a rich and dark cultural past. My role was to provide operational assistance to those young people training to teach the children of the Delta and the rest of the American South through Teach For America, a nonprofit dedicated to eradicating educational inequality in our country.

The achievement gap is a phenomenon of which I was unaware prior to my stint in Mississippi. I knew that some schools were afforded more than others, and I knew that it wasn't fair. Teach For America

addresses issues of educational inequality by placing new and innovative minds in the most high-risk areas with the intention of eliminating the achievement gap. My specific job was the coordination of classrooms and visitors at the Delta training institute. I spent a lot of time working at the copy center, making sure that these future teachers had access to resources they needed to create a culture of student achievement in their classrooms. Additionally, I coordinated the classrooms for their training sessions, acting as a liaison between Teach For America and our partners at Delta State University. My shifts were long, but rewarding. I got a chance to experience true student achievement through my mornings in classroom observation where I would watch these new teachers at work, putting their fresh skills into practice in places like Greene/McNair Elementary, Quitman Middle School, and Greenville High School.

I felt haunted throughout my entire two-month stay in Cleveland, Mississippi: haunted by ancestral presence that I felt in every single nook and mile through the Delta and haunted by how much I was learning about myself every single day. I learned about the achievement gap in our country and the very real problem that educational inequality poses to the future of the next generation. I learned genuine kindness from the community members who opened their homes, their kitchens, their places of worship, and their neighborhoods to a bunch of twenty-something undergraduates. It gave me a lot of time to think about where my passions truly rest.

BROWN BAGGIN' IT



Left photo: Professor Davison M. Douglas (Arthur B. Hanson Professor of Law) presents on "Pauli Murray and the Pursuit of American Democracy."

Right photo: Visiting Assistant Professor of Sociology Jude Hand presents her research on "From 'Always Knowing' to 'Left Field': Sexuality Stories of Later in Life Lesbians."



MARY & WILLIAM NEWSLETTER

WORKING AT A “BIG THREE” IN THE BIG APPLE: *A Woman at Work in New York City*

by Kathryn Failon '12 Sociology Major

I never could have imagined when interning during the summer of 2010 at a Richmond advertising agency that I would find myself in New York City a mere 9 months later. I spent the latter part of that summer working on a 3 credit research study about the implications of social media marketing, specifically on how big corporations are endeavoring to foster relationships with their consumers online via sites like Facebook and Twitter. Even though I was well aware that the agency at which I interned is just one among many paid to create such large-scale campaigns, I characterized the corporations who commissioned them as overeager, greedy and manipulative in their quest to acquire fans and followers of their brands and ultimately drive sales. There was no way I would ever work at such a corporation.

How fitting is it then that my first job out of college would be at a media agency in New York City producing digital advertising campaigns for one of the world's largest household brands, SC Johnson. Fast forward a year and a half from then, and I am now at one of the country's “Big Three” television networks, ABC. I work in their sales department, where my responsibilities include putting together sponsorship packages and advertising plans that align clients with ABC's various shows and content. Some of my personal clients include big spenders Procter & Gamble, Walmart, and Anheuser-Busch, who collectively budget millions of dollars a year on marketing alone. So much for staying away from corporations.

I am frequently asked by William & Mary alums if I was a business major upon hearing about my current position, and I happily answer no each and every time. I think that one of the most rewarding parts about having received a liberal arts education is that my major and the classes that I took did not necessarily determine nor hinder what career path I could pursue upon graduation. Although I can say that I left Williamsburg feeling ready and eager for the next chapter in life, nothing could have really prepared me for New York City. My job description may sound important and possibly even glamorous on paper, but my New York City life is far from it. It's even farther from (I would venture to say in stark contrast to) what you might see in an average *Sex and the City* episode.

Any delusions of living by myself flew out the window the second I learned how much a studio apartment costs. In fact, I lived with extended family in New Jersey for a few months prior to moving into

the city because, honestly, I couldn't afford to do otherwise. I now live on the sixth floor of a walk up (that's right, no elevator!) in downtown Manhattan with two roommates. I'm fortunate in that they are friends of mine who both went to William & Mary and aren't Craigslist killers. We also have 3 true bedrooms, which is a something of a luxury when compared to those I know who use makeshift screens as walls in their apartments. While the days of \$1 Coronas and pitchers at The College Delly might be long behind me, don't go thinking I'm drinking Cosmos at some swanky lounge a la Carrie Bradshaw. As I overheard someone say recently, “everyone in New York makes a lot of money, but everyone's always broke.” I couldn't have put it better myself. I have taken the term “paycheck to paycheck” to a whole new level. William & Mary might not have readied me for the impossible act of balancing my checkbook in this exorbitantly expensive city, but it did open my eyes to many nuances of the working world that I otherwise might have missed or ignored. My senior seminar for example, Gender & Work, taught by Gul Ozyegin was not only one of my favorite and most fascinating college classes but also has been one of the most applicable to my daily life.

As a woman in a predominantly male department, I am more attuned to certain gender norms as a result of having explored them in depth with Professor Ozyegin and my classmates. The ABC sales team as a whole is still very *Mad Men*-esque in that it is comprised of account men in suits taking clients out and closing deals. For those who don't watch *Mad Men*, which is set in the 1960s, it is also very realistic in its depiction of how the only role that women traditionally held in the advertising world was that of a secretary. Granted, times have changed, but to rise to the top as an executive in advertising requires grueling hours spent in the office and sometimes making highly contested decisions. For a woman to fill this role, she usually must make the choice between having an outside life (i.e. having a social life and/or starting a family) and dedicating herself entirely to work. Ironically, however, two of the most senior players on the floor of my office, the Senior Vice President of Digital Sales and the President of Sales, which encompasses both TV and digital, are women. I find it extremely interesting that one of these women has a family and children and simultaneously maintains her high-powered job, whereas the other has devoted herself almost entirely to her career in the 15 or so years since graduating

from college. Being in the presence of such contrasting ways of life has exposed me to the wide range of what I can expect in for myself years to come.

I consider myself to be a hardworking, career-minded individual, and I can say with confidence now that I have certain professional goals that I hope to accomplish. In the same vein, I also know that in the future I, like many women, will eventually want to start a family and that this could potentially conflict with any serious career ambitions. Much like I once questioned the motives of big businesses and made the case that they cared only about pushing product, sentiments and what one wants at a particular point in life can change with time and experience. Although I was first introduced to the world of advertising the summer of 2010 and formed a critical view of the industry, I can say now that I really enjoy what I do and foresee myself continuing down this path for awhile. And as much as I love the energy and vitality of New York City now, it's quite possible that one day I will tire of the constant go-go-go mentality and set my sights on another city. I also like to think that I will move steadily up the ranks at ABC in the years to come, but as the saying goes, the only constant in life is change.



Kathryn Failon '12

VOICES OF CURRENT STUDENTS: *Why I am a Women's Studies Major or Minor*

SARAH OVERTON '14 WOMEN'S STUDIES AND SOCIOLOGY DOUBLE MAJOR.

I'm a Women's Studies major first and foremost because I think we should be dedicated to understanding and trying to eliminate oppression in our society at every level, and if we remain ignorant less privileged people will end up paying the price. Additionally, I want to go into a career of activism and non-profit work focusing on gender and sexuality, which WMST is perfect for.

DANA O'CONNOR '13 WOMEN'S STUDIES MAJOR.

Before officially declaring my major through the Registrar's Office, I really thought about what I wanted to accomplish with my remaining years at school. I didn't want to spend the last two years of my undergraduate career taking courses that I didn't feel passionate about. I figured I might as well take something interesting, something that would really make me tick. I know I have benefitted from everything I have learned, as well as my friends and family who have listened to me rant about what I learned in class that day. Women's Studies lends itself to those outside the department, whether through community service, classroom discussions, or by analyzing my favorite television shows with familiar faces in the department. Without Women's Studies, I would not have nearly as critical of an eye for injustice and intolerances against women and those individuals who like myself do not abide by the so-called norm. As time continues to pass and I get closer to graduating, I find myself more appreciative of the Women's Studies program and everything that I have learned. I have taken arguably the most interesting classes that William & Mary has to offer. As a Women's Studies major, I knew I would have the same freedom to do with my education as I would after graduating. I know that no matter what I do, I will be able to use everything, I mean everything, that I have learned in the Women's Studies program in my life after college and in whatever career I may choose.

WOMEN'S STUDIES IN PICTURES

Graduation 2012



Left: The Women's Studies graduates of 2012 and Women's Studies faculty. Below left: Professor Jennifer Putzi sharing stories with students and their families during the graduation reception. Below right: Women's Studies student Purvi Sarup, her mother and brother talking with Professor Gul Ozyegin at graduation.



Homecoming 2012



Above: Faculty and students mingle during the Homecoming brunch. Below: Professor Gul Ozyegin announces Women's Studies name change to Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies.

Halloween 2012



Lisbeth Salandar and 70s-era feminist Nancy Gray hung out at the Halloween party too.



Course Spotlight on WMST 380

"WITCHES ARE REAL AND MOST OF THEM ARE WOMEN"

Rhymes with Witch: Sexual Politics in Contemporary Culture by Professor Nancy Gray, Women's Studies and English

Interview by Zeynep Korkman, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Women's Studies and Sociology

"Witches are real and most of them are women." This is not a Halloween joke, it is the main idea of *Malleus Maleficarum*, a 15th century witch hunt text assigned in the Women's Studies course, *Rhymes with Witch*. Professor Nancy Gray, the recipient of 2012 Ashley Graves, Jr. Award for Sustained Excellence in Teaching, has been teaching *Rhymes with Witch: Sexual Politics in Contemporary Culture* since 1996 in the Program of Women's Studies at the College of William and Mary. Her extraordinary wit, enthusiasm for feminist criticism, and commitment to active student participation have resulted in a class so popular that she regularly gets more enrollment requests than she is able to accommodate. I met Professor Gray over a sushi lunch to learn more about this exciting course. Read on and remember to register early to reserve a place!

How did you come up with such a creative course title, *Rhymes with Witch*?

In 1995, something going on the campus got me really angry at how women were being treated. So I just decided to call my course *Rhymes with Witch*! (laughs) And it worked well. The students really liked the title and the course.

I am jealous that I did not go to a college where a course with this or a similar title was or could be offered.

Well, I was a little surprised that I could get away with it! (laughs) Actually the educational policy committee tried to get me to change it one year. The subtitle of the course is *Sexual Politics in Contemporary Culture* and they wanted me to call it that. The reasoning they gave me was that they thought that the parents might be nervous when they saw the title on their children's transcripts. I responded, "will they be less nervous when they see *Sexual Politics*?" (laughs) I finally agreed to give it a try for one semester but I reserved the right to go back if it did not go well. And it did not go well. So I contacted them again and they let me change it back.

Can you tell a little about the *Malleus Maleficarum*, the 15th century text you assign?

The text was commissioned by Pope Innocent VIII. His edict was that Satanism and witchcraft

were a real present danger to Christendom and anybody who did not believe in witchcraft could be considered a heretic. So he commissioned two priests as inquisitors. They wrote the book and travelled throughout Europe with a band of inquisitors to find witches. They would go after anyone accused of witchcraft. Many, many thousands of people, mostly women, were put to death.

I did quite a bit of reading on witch-hunts in Western Europe in the 15th to 16th centuries when I was in graduate school at the University of Washington, where I used to give a guest lecture in the introduction to Women's Studies class. In that lecture, I would talk about this book and the students were very interested. So it got me thinking. Since I am not a historian but a literature and culture person, I come at it more in terms of the kinds of representations of women that this book offers.

It is very laborious reading, so I only assign parts. According to the book, all the witches are women. The only time that men fall under the spell is through a woman. Women are weak. Women are vulnerable to Satan. Women have carnal lust and that is their whole problem. The first woman, Eve, was made of the rib of Adam. But not just any rib, it was the rib bent away from the soul. Those kinds of images, this way that women are often thought of as weak and yet somehow extremely dangerous, set the tone of the book.

After the *Malleus Maleficarum*, we do just a little bit of a historical trajectory and quickly come to the 20th century to talk about what feminism and women generally have done to fight back and sometimes reclaim the title of witch on their own behalf. We also have very lively discussions about the term bitch because third wave feminism has taken it back. Last year, we had a very long and kind of funny discussion in class about whether it was okay to use the word bitch, whether it was really benign, and what it means that men get called bitches sometimes.

I want to ask you a question that you direct to your students as a paper prompt: Who are your favorite witches and why?

Any woman who refuses to be docile and quiet. There are a lot of women, many feminist women and I do not want to choose any one over the other and create a status hierarchy among them. When I ask the question in class, I am speaking of all of the women we have read and the issues they raised.



Top photo: Zeynep Korkman interviewing Nancy Gray over lunch about her course *Rhymes with Witch*. Bottom photo: Feminism doesn't need a vacation! Erin Nichols and Christine Kennedy brought some spring break reading about sexism from *Rhymes with Witch*.

Students sometimes choose a historical figure or a contemporary feminist, and sometimes someone we have not read in class, such as Jessica Valenti, the founder of the blog Feministing.com. To me, it is about women finding their voice and talking back. Sometimes my favorite witches are the students in the class! (laughs)

You invite a lot of student participation in the course through group work and presentations.

This course, more than my other courses, is shaped by what students want to do with the material. The course has had many incarnations over the years. The students wanted to focus more on third wave feminism and issues such as transgender activism, so I had to educate myself on some of the newer stuff. I grew up with 2nd wave feminism, so I enjoyed educating myself and being more on top of things.

I consider this course to be a joint effort between my students and me. I ask students to bring in relevant material to the class. For example, I ask them to post interesting media on blackboard, and we often discuss those in class. Students bring in a lot of examples from popular cultural venues like advertisements and blogs. They regularly incorporate texts, images and sounds from television and the internet into their presentations, bringing contemporary culture into the classroom. Women's studies is personal and the students bring in the issues they encounter or experience personally into this class. We discuss representations of women and men, and of transgender individuals, on campus as well as nationally and globally. Students sometimes discover that representations of women as sexual, wicked, evil beings, like those in the *Malleus Maleficarum*, can be found in contemporary culture, such as Disney movies and music videos.

Who can take your class?

All are welcome. They just have to be willing to work hard and should be able to have fun doing that! (laughs)

PROJECT S.A.V.E.D.

continued from page 2

FB: What is the structure of the workshop going to be like? Are teachers going to be involved as well, or other school faculty?

MM: The workshop plans are still in development. It will be a four hour workshop from 10 A.M.–2 P.M. The teens will work with the Soroptimists, Youth Council, and W&M student volunteers on exploratory workshops titled “What Would You Do.” Situations, role-playing, and scenarios will be a part of the teen workshop. During the same time the parents will spend time talking through experiences that teens find when dating so parents develop awareness of the situations their children may face when dating or with peers, as well as help parents develop some strategies for supporting their teen. When they arrive there’s going to be some pre-assessment questioning about teen dating violence and a post-test to see if knowledge has increased and if they can all name two strategies to help youngsters they see in these situations.

Research from the CDC indicates that teachers often first observe the signs of inappropriate and unsafe relationships. They see so much more of what teen behavior is like, so their ability to recognize it and to help teens develop some coping skills is an essential piece of it. I take that from my experience with my daughter. School is supposed to be a safe haven. It has an academic impact and a learning impact. If you’re paying attention to an abusive relationship, you don’t have stamina for the rest of your life. And some of the kids just really don’t know how repulsive it is, and that’s where teachers can help.

FB: Are Avalon or the Soroptimists hoping to follow up this program with others of a similar nature?

MM: If we’re successful, it is hoped to replicate the program each year during the month of February, Teen Dating Violence Awareness month.



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MARY & WILLIAM NEWSLETTER

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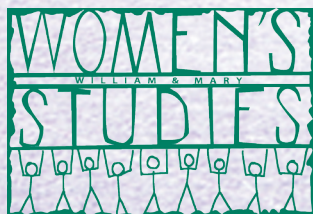
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Your contribution to the Women's Studies Program will help our faculty members provide the best learning experience to our students. You can contribute online with your credit card, using our secure web server at: <http://www.wm.edu/as/womensstudies/support/index.php> 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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