# News from the Women and Gender Studies Program

# BOLDER VOICES Spring 2015 Issue 14

University of Colorado Boulder

# FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Greetings from the Cottage! In my first year as director of the Women and Gender Studies Program, we've had quite a few exciting accomplishments. We celebrated our 40th anniversary last September with a series of well-attended events. **Deepti Misri** has been recommended for tenure and promotion to associate professor, and **Rob Buffington** has been approved for promotion to full professor! Professor **Janet Jacobs** 



Lorraine Bayard de Volo

has returned to the Cottage, now splitting her faculty appointment between WGST and the Department of Sociology. Last but not least, we have a new faculty member, **Robert Wyrod**, who will be moving from the University of Michigan to join our faculty in January 2016. Please join me in extending a hearty congratulations and warm welcome to these faculty.

I have one more bit of exciting news that is still pending a final decision—CU approved WGST for departmental status and defended this proposal before the CU Board of Regents in April. We await the regents' decision in late June. Yes, this move is long overdue, and WGST has long functioned as a department. But the title change will bolster WGST's standing on campus and beyond.

I'm very grateful for all the donations, big and small, to WGST in the past year—this is a terrific form of support for us. Among other activities, it helps faculty and students get out into the world beyond Boulder and to bring people to campus to share their insights and research. Along these lines, I just returned from leading a WGST study abroad trip to Cuba! It was a fantastic educational experience for all of us. Though I've traveled to the island numerous times for research, I came away with so many new insights from students. From reading their papers, I know that their education has been enriched in ways that simply cannot be attained in the traditional classroom. CU is a leader in study abroad programs, and WGST will continue to search for ways to bring the world to our students and our students to the world in ways informed by gender, race, and sexuality.

Best Regards, **Lorraine Bayard de Volo**Director and Associate Professor

# **WGST COMMENCEMENT 2015**

The rainy weather on May 8th did not deter our celebration of this year's Women and Gender Studies

Program graduating class of 2015! The skies cleared just in time for our traditional procession from the Hazel Gates Woodruff Cottage to the chapel in Old Main, and our faculty and graduates joined their family and friends in a beautiful ceremony to celebrate our graduating majors and minors, graduate certificate students, and our scholarship and award winners.

This year's commencement speech was given by Sam Bullington, chosen by the senior class for his honesty, compassion, and commitment to activist issues that have inspired students both in and out of the classroom. Three students were also nominated by their peers to speak about their experiences in completing their degree programs at CU-Boulder: Emily Morgan, Jamie Woodworth, and Katie Raitz, each of whom exemplify the talent, accomplishments, and critical engagement of our senior class as a whole. We also enjoyed a vocal performance by graduating minor Kate Manley, whose adapted piece from the musical Wicked illustrated the passion our students have for creating positive



change in our world. We were also delighted to have CU-Boulder student and Denver's first Youth Poet Laureate, **Toluwanimi Obiwole**, give a powerful spoken word performance of her piece "according to my upbringing" to end our ceremony. Her performance, as well as the entire ceremony, can be viewed on our program's YouTube page at www.YouTube.com/WGSTatCU.

The ceremony also gave us the opportunity to honor this year's scholarship and award recipients. Two students received the Lucile Berkeley Buchanan Scholarship, named in honor of the first black female graduate of CU-Boulder. Katelyn Nagel, a sophomore double majoring in WGST and ethnic studies, and Amelia Trujillo, a junior double majoring in WGST and sociology, were both recognized for their commitment towards social justice. The Jean Dubofsky Scholarship, named in honor of the first woman to serve on the Colorado Supreme Court, was presented to junior Haylee Wexler for her academic excellence, service to the campus and community, and demonstrated commitment to raising awareness and combating oppression. Haylee has been an active participant in a number of organizations and activist events on campus and is particularly passionate about combating gender based violence. We were honored to have Jean Dubofsky attend our ceremony. In her tireless work as an attorney on civil rights issues, she has served as a powerful role model for our students as they begin their own career paths.

# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2015!

#### For the Bachelor of Arts:

#### **Teresa Diane Boness**

Social justice for all, with special attention to American Indian women, is important to Teresa. At CU she has served with student government sitting on the Diversity Committee, a Career Services student advisory board member, and as part of the Cultural Unity & Engagement Center. Teresa dedicates her degree to her Grandma Verda, the strongest feminist she has ever known, and to her children: Tarrel, Taylor, and Blythe.

#### Chloe Hanna Evans

Chloe is graduating with degrees in women and gender studies and English literature. After graduation she hopes to work with womencentered nonprofits, work on an education start-up project with her best friend, and immediately adopt a puppy with her fiancé. She would like to thank her friends, family, professors, and the Gender Justice League for their love and support.

#### **Shannon Denise Holleran**

Shannon is graduating with a major in women and gender studies. She would like to thank her parents, Brad and Michele, for their constant love and support. She would also like to thank her brother Robbie for being her best friend and role model, and all of her extended family and friends who are here today for always supporting her and bringing joy to her life. In the future, Shannon hopes to achieve balance as a leader at work and in her home, and to treat all human beings with respect, dignity and love. She hopes that through her future experiences she can figure out her life's meaning, significance and value.

#### Megan Josephine Irvine

Megan is excited to be graduating with double degrees in psychology and women and gender studies, with a certificate in LGBTQ studies. She looks forward to taking a year off to find how she would like to use her degrees to best provide inclusive mental health service to her community. She would like to thank her wonderful supportive family and friends, without whom this simply could never have been possible.

#### **Amy Rose Johnson**

Amy is a double major in women and gender studies and political science, and has earned the Certificate in Global Gender and Sexuality Studies. During her time at CU she was a member of the Gender Justice League and on the executive board of CU's Student Ambassadors. Next year she hopes to do campaign or non-profit work while eating as many tacos and petting as many dogs as humanly possible. She plans to someday earn a master's degree in public policy and she would like to thank her parents for privileging her with the opportunity of attending CU-Boulder.

#### **Katie Raitz**

Katie is graduating with summa cum laude honors from women and gender studies, with a double major in ethnic studies, and a minor in education. She recently received a Campus Sustainability Award for her work with Fossil Free CU, and has received the Jean Dubofsky Scholarship, Ripple Award for multiculturalism, Jacob Van Ek Award, and the James L. Schafer Award. After graduation, Katie will be moving to New York City to join the 2015 New York City Urban Fellows Program, and she would like to thank her sisters, parents, mentors, the Puksta scholars program, (her house) the Beet Collective, and her fellow activists for being wonderful sources of support and inspiration!

#### Sadie Kathryn Esther Vermillion

Sadie happened upon the women and gender studies program by chance and since her adoption of the major, the program has continually inspired and taught her more than she ever thought possible. She is planning on going to law school in the hopes of representing the marginalized group of Native American women and children.

#### Jamie Woodworth

Jamie Woodworth has graduated summa cum laude with distinction in women and gender studies and environmental studies, and is a 2015 Van Ek scholar. She has been acting president of the Triota Honors Society, as well as a student leader for the CU Environmental Center. She would like to thank the Environmental Center staff for their love and support. She would also like to thank Sam Bullington and Celeste Montoya for their guidance during her senior year. After graduation, Jamie is departing to earn her master's degree in human ecology at Lund Universityin Sweden.

Also completing the Bachelor of Arts, but not in attendance:

Lima Esslam

#### For the minor:

#### Melissa Arreola Peña

Melissa is an ethnic studies major with a double minor in women and gender and political science, and is part of the Miramontes Arts and Science program. She has been doing research for 3 years dealing with underrepresented populations, and in the future is planning on continuing to work with underrepresented populations to being able to help more students of color graduate from college.

#### Alison Reed Conner

Alison Conner is graduating with her BA in psychology and a minor in women and gender studies. She is proud to have been the vice president and treasurer for the Triota Honors Society, and is grateful to her fellow members for their hard work and activism. She will be attending CU-Denver in 2016 to pursue her masters in multicultural counseling. She hopes to provide specialized mental health care for marginalized individuals and communities, advocate for universal access to quality mental health care, and erase the stigma surrounding mental health. She would like to thank her family, friends, and boyfriend, Anje, for supporting her through her unconventional journey to graduation, and is especially grateful for her mom, Diane, for being her first feminist role model.

#### Kate Manley

Kate Manley is graduating with a Bachelor of Music in vocal performance, as well as a minor in women and gender studies. She is a member of the Triota honors society, and thanks her fellow members for their leadership and dedication to making the world a better place. This year she is proud to have started an all-inclusive feminist club called the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance. She served as president of FMLA, and is eager to pass the torch along to the future feminist leaders of CU. Her plans for the future include melding her love of performing, and feminism in some fashion to continue on her path for social justice, and passion for singing. You'll find her in a big city living life to the fullest, and taking every opportunity presented to her.

#### Catarina Lopes Massa

Catarina is a geography major, graduating with a summa cum laude honors designation and distinction. She successfully completed her thesis about the empowerment and positive transformation of women and girls through female-only adventure education in order to achieve such honors. Catarina will be working to revitalize The Women's Wilderness Institute here in Boulder, and wishes to thank all of the teachers, mentors, and advisors of the Women and Gender Studies Program for supporting her through this 4-year journey.

#### **Emily Morgan**

Emily Morgan is graduating magna cum laude in molecular, cellular, and developmental biology with a double major in biochemistry and minors in women and gender studies and chemistry. She was a proud member of the Gender Justice League and Advocates for Choice at CU. She plans to work in the Fierer Lab on metagenomics during the coming year and apply for a PhD in microbiology the following year. Many thanks to the Women and Gender Studies Program for providing a space for critical engagement of societal discourse and to Professor Montoya, Valerie Bhat, and Alicia Turchette for supporting the activism of the Gender Justice League.

Also completing the minor, but not in attendance:

Devin Jolaine Blomquist Anna Boyd Ashley Megan Clevenger Mary Ann Linares Marie McDonnell Sandra Sunny No Pamela Erin Prescott Sarah Vogel Lily Hope Wilkinson

#### For the Graduate Certificate:

#### Samantha Renee Rohrborn

Samantha has earned a master's degree in comparative literature and the Graduate Certificate in Women and Gender Studies, with the completion of her thesis "Knowing the Margins: Colonizing the Gypsies in Victorian Literature". Samantha notes that the WGST certificate, and the courses she has taken, have allowed her to engage critically with the issues of race and gender. In her own research she used the tools from her WGST courses to discuss the racialization of the group known as Gypsies during the Victorian era and how that has furthered the racialization of groups today that have historically been described with that term.

#### Elizabeth Ellen Whalley

Beth is a PhD candidate in sociology. The transnational methodology Beth utilizes in her dissertation "Rape Crises in Rape Cultures: Transnational Feminisms, Nationalist Patriarchies, and Postcolonial Sexual Abuse" is a product of WGST courses, and Beth would like to specifically thank Dr. Deepti Misri and Dr. Celeste Montoya for their substantial contributions to her scholarship. Beth's theoretical and methodological approaches are deeply rooted in the feminist frameworks she engaged with in their classes. Her experiences in WGST have also informed her own pedagogy as a feminist instructor, centering the role of gender within every sociological course she teaches.

Also completing the graduate certificate, but not in attendance: Cristina Sajovich
Amanda B. Tyler

# WGST 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

This past September, the Women and Gender Studies Program observed its 40th year on the CU-Boulder campus, bringing together current and former faculty, students, and administrators for a day-long celebration including a luncheon, panel discussions, and a keynote speech given by **Dr. Cynthia Enloe.** 

Founded in 1974 through the diligence of a group of faculty, students, and staff, the Women Studies Program at CU-Boulder is the oldest in the state of Colorado, and one of the oldest in the nation. First led by Dr. Carol Pearson, Women Studies was an independently-structured major built on over 20 courses in numerous disciplines across campus. The



Watch the 4oth Anniversary Keynote featuring Dr. Cynthia Enloe on YouTube.com/WGSTatCU

program moved in 1989 to its current location in Cottage #1, the original women's dormitory, at the request of then director **Marcia Westkott**, who was also able to join us for our anniversary celebration.

Several of the students and faculty members who have helped shaped the Women and Gender Studies Program on our campus were present, some meeting with our faculty and students for an informal luncheon, and others joining us for panel discussions on the past and future of women and gender studies. We invite you to watch the fascinating keynote speech given by Dr. Cynthia Enloe of Clark University, available on our YouTube channel. www.YouTube/WGSTatCU

# FEMINISTS OF THE FRONT RANGE

Each year, students in the Senior Colloquium create a class project, connecting what they've learned in the classroom to make a positive impact on their community. This year they created a book and Facebook page "Feminists of the Front Range" (inspired by "Humans of New York") which chronicles the diversity of feminism in our area by sharing the feminist experiences of people in all walks of life.

Visit Feminists of the Front Range on Facebook to view all the posts, and "like" the page to receive updates in your newsfeed. Hard copies of the book are available for viewing in the Hazel Gates Woodruff Cottage, and posters of several featured entries can currently be seen hanging in our library and across campus.



#### **AMY JOHNSON**

"I feel like you can define your own feminism for what it is to you, but that doesn't entitle you to being defined as a feminist by other people."

### **NEW FACULTY PUBLICATIONS:**

A book release celebration was held December 5th, in recognition of the most recent book publications by WGST's own Deepti Misri, and Sanyu Mojola, assistant professor of sociology. Joined by their colleagues and students, Dr. Misri and Dr. Mojola introduced their latest releases and acknowledged those people who have helped them reach this exciting milestone.









Faculty and graduate students celebrating the first book releases of Dr. Deepti Misri and Dr. Sanyu Mojola

# **Beyond Partition: Gender, Violence, and Representation in Postcolonial India** Deepti Misri

Beyond Partition explores the cultural representation of a history of politicized animosity associated with the differing ideas of "India" held by communities and in regions on one hand, and by the political-military Indian state on the other. Misri begins with the moment of India's Partition in 1947, and moves on to examine other forms of gendered violence in the postcolonial life of the nation, including custodial rape, public stripping, deturbanning, and enforced disappearances. Assembling literary, historiographic, performative, and visual representations of gendered violence against women and men, Beyond Partition interrogates the gendered scripts underwriting the violence precipitated by contested visions of "India" in the postcolonial period.



For more information on *Beyond Partition* visit the University of Illinois Press. A South Asian edition of the book has also been recently released through Women Unlimited.

# Love, Money, and HIV: Becoming a Modern African Woman in the Age of AIDS Sanyu A. Mojola

How do modern women in developing countries experience sexuality and love? Drawing on a rich array of interview, ethnographic, and survey data from her native country of Kenya, Sanyu Mojola examines how young African women, who suffer disproportionate rates of HIV infection compared to young African men, navigate their relationships, schooling, employment, and finances in the context of economic inequality and a devastating HIV epidemic. Writing from a unique outsider-insider perspective, Mojola argues that the entanglement of love, money, and the transformation of girls into "consuming women" lies



at the heart of women's coming-of-age and health crises. At once engaging and compassionate, this text is an incisive analysis of gender, sexuality, and health in Africa.

#### Faculty News, continued

We are pleased to announce that **Robert Buffington** has officially been promoted to full professor by the chancellor. His latest manuscript, *A Sentimental Education for the Working Man: Mexico City 1900-1910*, which analyzes the impact of modernity on working-class notions of manhood in early twentieth-century Mexico City, was released by Duke University Press in May 2015. The 10th edition of the two-volume *Keen's Latin American Civilization*, which Dr. Buffington has co-edited with Lila Caimari, will be published in July by Westview Press.



Emmanuel David's essay "Purple-Collar Labor: Transgender Workers and Queer Value at Global Call Centers in the Philippines" has been published in the April issue of *Gender & Society* (Vol. 29, No. 2. April 2015:169-195). Focusing on transgender workplace experiences

in the global call center industry in the Philippines, his article examines new patterns of workplace inequality that emerge as transgender people are incorporated into the global labor market. Dr. David's forthcoming article "The Sexual Fields of Empire: On the Ethnosexual Frontiers of Global Outsourcing," will appear in the fall in the special issue of *Radical History Review* titled, "Sexing Empire: Bodies, Gender, and Desire in Colonial and Postcolonial Relations."

Lorraine Bayard de Volo has recently published an article in the summer 2015 issue of *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* with Lynn K. Hall, a former U.S. Air Force Academy cadet. "'I Wish All the Ladies Were Holes in the Road': The US Air Force Academy and the Gendered Continuum of Violence" analyzes the prevalence of rape and sexual violence in this institution by drawing on interviews, participant observation, military documents and other reports.

The paperback edition of Celeste Montoya's book *From Global to Grassroots: The European Union, Transnational Advocacy, and Combating Violence against Women* (New York: Oxford University Press) came out this spring. She also authored a chapter on "Institutions" published in the *Oxford Handbook of Feminist Theory* (New York: Oxford University Press) edited by Lisa Disch and Mary Hawkesworth. Dr. Montoya presented on her Occupy research "From Identity Politics to Transversal Politics; The Occupy Movement and Intersectionality" at the Western Political Science Association Conference in Las Vegas in April, where she also participated on a roundtable "Gendered Violence: Integrating Theory and Empirics."

The work of Alison Jaggar was celebrated by her current and former students and colleagues at this past August's 38th annual Morris Colloquium "In the Unjust Meantime: A conference in honor of Alison Jaggar." Jaggar presented a keynote speech titled "Reasoning about Justice in the Unjust Meantime: Ideal and Non-Ideal Theory in Political Philosophy," and the conference featured two additional keynote speeches by Susan Brison of Dartmouth College and Elizabeth Spelman of Smith College. This two-day conference was organized by the members of the Philosophy Department at CU-Boulder and supported by the generous contributions of the Bertram Morris Fund, the Graduate Council on the Arts and Humanities, the President's Fund for the Humanities, and the Women and Gender Studies Program.

# **New Global Gender and Sexuality Studies Certificate**

Career specialization in international gender and sexuality has grown in both the private and public sectors, in fields including international development, finance, public health, public policy, and education. We are very pleased to

introduce a new academic offering, designed to help undergraduate students set themselves apart in this competitive job market. The Undergraduate Certificate in Global Gender and Sexuality Studies builds on the research strengths of our core and affiliate faculty, and is available to all CU-Boulder undergraduates enrolled in any program on campus, such as international affairs, political science, sociology, ethnic studies, anthropology, geography, and communication.

Globalization has had a marked impact on our dayto-day lives, not only in the availability of cheaper manufactured goods due to international trade, or TOTAL TOTAL

the outsourcing of jobs overseas, but also in the ways in which people around the world express and experience themselves as gendered and sexed beings. The certificate in Global Gender and Sexuality Studies is intended to help students examine these changes through interdisciplinary courses such as Gender Politics and Global Activism; Gender, Genocide & Mass Trauma; and Gender, Race and Class in a Global Context; as well as study abroad offerings including this summer's global seminar in Cuba, Gender, Race & Revolution.

For more information on our new certificate offering, please see http://wgst.colorado.edu/ggss.



# **GENDER JUSTICE LEAGUE**

The Gender Justice League is our student practicum made up of majors and minors in women and gender studies who are chosen for both their good academic standing and their activist spirit. Led this year by **Dr. Deepti Misri** in the fall semester and **Dr. Celeste Montoya** in the spring, the students successfully hosted several popular

events including Denim Days, an annual week of activism aimed at combating gender-based violence and victim blaming.

GJL-Spring15Their first Conversation at the Cottage, "Beyoncé Breakdown," began in response to Beyoncé performing in front of the word "Feminist" at the Video Music Awards. The event attracted a very large audience of students, and featured the viewing of four Beyoncé videos spanning her career. The panelists, Hillary Potter and Bianca Williams of ethnic studies, Tamara Williams Van Horn of sociology, and WGST alumna and MESA staff member Sophia **Surage**, each spoke in regards to the lyrics and images portrayed in Beyoncé's videos, and the overall mainstreaming of feminism in popular culture. Their second Conversation, "The NFL and Domestic Violence" supported a discussion of the media's representations of domestic violence and its victims, and the evolution of hazing culture in college sports. Panelists included Joanne Belknap of sociology, Anne Tapp, the executive director of Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence; and Chris Bader, CU's director of Counseling and Sports Psychology.

In the spring semester, the GJL hosted "Calling Out Injustice, Calling Into Community" led by student **Hibaq Loyan**, student **Alex Elisha**, GSA president **Caitlin Rowe**, and GLBTQ Resource Center Director **Scarlet Bowen**. Panelists shared their experiences and discussed ways to address microaggressions in activist spaces while positively calling people into community. Their final *Conversation*, "Healthy Masculinity," focused on what performances of healthy masculinity might look like and its importance in combating sexual violence.

Panelists **Sam Bullington**, instructor in women and gender studies, **Jack Workman**, a women and gender studies undergraduate student, **Camilo Casas**, program coordinator for MESA's (Moving to End Sexual Assault) Men Standing Up group, and **George Williams**, a graduate student in sociology, helped lead the discussion.





#### **Bolder Voices**

Women and Gender Studies Program Newsletter
Director
Lorraine Bayard de Volo

Faculty

Robert Buffington, Sam Bullington, Emmanuel David, Janet Jacobs, Alison Jaggar,

Deepti Misri, Celeste Montoya

Alicia Turchette, Valerie Bhat



#### **Contact Information**

Women and Gender Studies Program University of Colorado Boulder Hazel Gates Woodruff Cottage 246 UCB Boulder, CO 80309-0246 Phone: (303) 492-8923

Fax: (303) 492-2549 wgst@colorado.edu http://wgst.colorado.edu

www.facebook.com/WGSTatCU