

SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE

GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

FALL 2014


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Issue 5

A WORD FROM OUR CHAIR

Welcome to the fall 2014 edition of the Gender and Women's Studies newsletter! Our first semester as a department has been a busy one. We now have four intended majors and twenty-three minors. Four faculty members, Professor Sonalini Sapra, Professor Marne Austin, Professor Terri Russ, and Librarian Ula Gaha, gave presentations at the National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) Annual Meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The department also had its first fundraiser; thanks to everyone's generosity, we now have a travel fund of \$759.30.

Speaking of traveling, plans are already underway to attend the 2015 NWSA Annual Meeting in Milwaukee. If you are interested in going next year, please contact Professor Jamie Wagman. And looking ahead,

I would like to introduce you to our youngest intended major, Hadley Hum, daughter of Julie (Malone) Hum '07. This picture was Julie's response to the news of the GWS major.

Good luck with the end of the semester!

All the best,



Stacy Davis, associate professor, religious studies, and GWS chair

Future GWS Major



Class of 2036

Michiana Monologues Announcement

– by Nia Parillo

The Michiana Monologues production features locally written monologues recounting the personal experiences of Michiana women. It's a wonderful way to connect with other women; these stories bring women together. It is directed and produced by local women, and there is also a Silent Auction each night of the performance which raises much needed funds for local organizations that help women in crisis. It's a night full of laughter, tears, growth, and understanding. As co-director, I will be working closely with the performers as well as my fellow directors. Our goal is to have these stories told in the best way so they truly connect with the audience. We also want to make sure we convey the message for the person who submitted their piece because we are using our voice to tell their stories.



Women Against #WomenAgainstFeminism

Gender and Women's Studies faculty and students discussed the online #WomenAgainstFeminism movement at a September 3rd panel, featuring (left-to-right): GWS faculty including assistant professors of communication studies Helen Ho and Marne Austin, associate professor of psychology Bettina Spencer, and GWS student Payton Moore. The #WomenAgainstFeminism movement is an online social movement that grew in popularity over the summer, and a Tumblr blog that features various people explaining why they are not feminists.

Professor Austin discussed the blog marking feminism as a singular entity - a limited viewpoint of a large and still growing discipline. Spencer discussed national stereotypes of feminists, and Moore reminded the audience that feminists are still fighting for equality in many ways, such as combatting violence against women and the wage gap, among other issues.

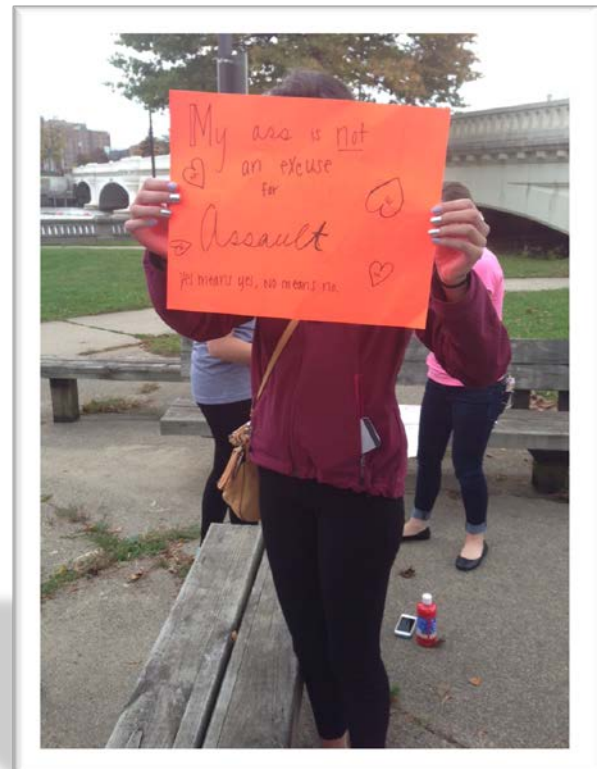
Feminists United and GWS sponsor South Bend's First SlutWalk

After a panel explaining the history and intentions of the SlutWalk movement, nearly 40 students, faculty and community members met downtown on October 17th to march against victim-blaming, slut-shaming and rape culture. Marchers met next to the St. Joseph County Courthouse and finished the walk in Howard Park, where many stayed to complete a mural art project underscoring that many felt united in fighting gender oppression and sexual violence.

Payton Moore, president of Saint Mary's College's Feminists United created a media campaign prior to the event, posting articles about the upcoming walk on Reddit and

BuzzFeed and creating a Facebook invitation. Moore wrote online, "Feminists United of Saint Mary's College is a student led organization that is no longer taking a passive stance to victim blaming and slut shaming." She also wrote that students coordinated the walk to create a welcoming and safe environment in the wider South Bend community.

Two days prior to the walk, panelists Moore, student Kayla Gaughan of Feminists United, and professors Phyllis Kaminski and Jamie Wagman spoke on a panel titled, "Slut Walks, Rape Culture, and Social Justice," striving to debunk myths surrounding the walk. Students consider making this an annual event.



We Made the News!

<http://www.wsbt.com/news/local/college-students-others-walk-to-raise-awareness/29205348>



Speaker on the Lesbian History of South Bend

Local writer and activist Bethy Williams spoke to GWS students on campus on September 18. Williams discussed using oral history interviews in her book project, “I Don’t Want to be the Victim No More: A Lesbian History of South Bend, Indiana 1974-present.” The title of the book comes from a quote from one of Williams’ oral history interviews, Therese, who had burned 20 years worth of journals. When Williams asked why, she answered, “I was so much the victim...But I don’t want to be the victim no more. Your story from your past if you keep talking about it and tell it over and over again, you keep it alive.” These words capture Williams’ mission in her book project – to document the lives of 12 women in South Bend, expand our knowledge of LGBT history, and recover unrecorded stories of a generation of lesbians before they are no longer with us.

Bethy Williams was born and raised in South Bend, and she graduated Magna Cum Laude from Smith College in 2013. She majored in the Study of Women and Gender, and this book project began as her senior thesis. This year she splits her time between writing, working at the Purple Porch Co-Op, working in the public schools, and teaching a sexuality education course for teenagers.