

SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE GENDER & WOMEN'S STUDIES

A WORD FROM OUR CHAIR

Welcome to the
spring 2014
edition of the
Gender and
Women's
Studies

newsletter! As the semester ends, the program has much to celebrate. First, congratulations to our twelve graduating minors. Many thanks for all that you have done for the program. Second, this is our final semester as a program. Our major proposal was approved in February, so we become a department in the fall. And third, welcome to our first intended major, Kylie Garabed.

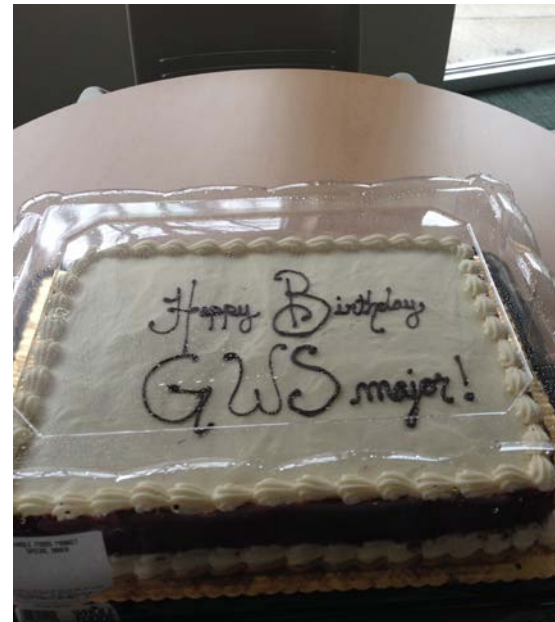
Tentative plans for next year include bringing a few speakers to campus and (hopefully)

having a GWS fundraiser, which has not happened in quite some time. And it will not be a bake sale! But next year is in the future. For the present, I wish all of you a quick and productive end of the semester and a long and joyful summer holiday.

All the best,

Stacy

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



New groups on campus:

Project HEAL

A 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, Project HEAL: Help to Eat, Accept and Live raises funds to provide scholarships for treatment to individuals suffering from eating disorders. Liana Rosenman and Kristina Saffran, two New York teens, founded the organization in 2008 after meeting during inpatient treatment for anorexia nervosa. The two supported each other to full recovery and now help others do the same. Project HEAL provides scholarship funding for people with eating disorders who cannot afford treatment, promotes healthy body image, and serves as a testament that recovery from an eating disorder is possible. Since 2008, Project HEAL has raised over \$350,000 and has sent nine applicants to treatment. They have opened over 30 chapters across the U.S., among them, a new chapter at Saint Mary's.

A recovered anorexic, I know firsthand the debilitating physical and mental effects of an eating disorder and the long, difficult road to recovery.

I also know that recovery instilled in me a greater sense of self-confidence and appreciation for those who supported me along the way. My experience, coupled with encouragement from Christina Grasso, a 2010 alumna and co-founder of the New York City chapter of Project HEAL, have been the driving force behind my formation of Project HEAL SMC. Eating disorders and body image in general are issues that are very much overlooked, yet extremely prevalent on our campus. As an all women's college, we should be discussing these topics, informing our students of their seriousness, and empowering one another to listen to, respect, and appreciate our bodies for all they can do.

Project HEAL SMC is a way to begin the conversation and take steps toward building a community in which all women recognize their undeniable beauty. Starting next academic year, our chapter will host fundraising events to contribute to the



national scholarship fund as well as all events to increase awareness and knowledge about eating disorders of all kinds. Students who are interested in becoming advocates for the cause and positive role models to their fellow Belles are encouraged to get involved with our chapter!

Mackenzie Woods

Feminists United Reactivated!

Feminists United advocates for justice and activism. Our goal is to inform, support, inspire, and challenge ideas and perceptions about: education, feminism, current women's issues, our campus, sexism, racism, and stereotypes. Beginning in the fall Feminist United invites all student to support equality for women and men and stand together for women who can and who cannot stand for themselves.

- Kayla Gaughan

FEATURING FEMINISM AT THE DSLC

In March, the Student Diversity Board hosted the 9th Annual Diverse Student Leadership Conference. DSLC is a completely student run conference on campus celebrating the diversity within Saint Mary's College. The mission of this annual conference is to bring awareness to our students through a variety of activities, workshops, and speakers. Celebrating the multiculturalism of Saint Mary's, this year's DSLC was another memorable and successful event!

Many of our GWS professors and students presented workshops for DSLC. Stacy Davis, Laura Williamson Ambrose, Ann Marie Alfonso-Forero, Laura Elder, and Jamie Schmidt Wagman presented a workshop entitled, "Feminism: Not One Size Fits All." During this discussion, each professor showed ways in which feminism influences their area of work. The variety of fields and professors allowed students to experience the many faces of feminism. Professor Jamie Wagman, and GWS students, Payton Moore, Cara Lutz, and Emily Beaudoin shared what they learned from attending the National Women's Studies Association Conference. Their excitement about their experience created a lively discussion afterward, sharing new ideas about GWS clubs and awareness events on campus.

Adrienne Lyles-Chockley presented on the harsh realities of incarceration and the intersection of race, gender, poverty, and imprisonment. Phyllis Kaminski's workshop, "Diversity and Just Good Sex. Got Questions?" discussed different questions about sex, sexuality, gender, and religion in our own world. Helen Ho presented on Masculinities in the Media, showing us how the media pressures men to conform to strict gender roles. Each workshop shared new ideas and allowed for thoughtful and relevant discussion surrounding sometimes, difficult issues. Thanks to all those who participated in DSLC and a special thank you to the GWS faculty! The new ideas that were shared and discussions that were held helped to deepen our understanding of issues relating to gender and diversity. We look forward to another Diverse Student Leadership Conference in March 2015. -- Tori Wilbraham

Bursting Gender's Bubble

On April 5th of this year, I attended and presented at Notre Dame's Bursting Gender's Bubble: An Interdisciplinary Gender Studies Conference. I presented on the Sexuality panel; my paper was titled "Sexual Christian Inclusiveness: Mutual Pleasure." I presented my paper second out of three. One paper on the panel was about Queer Theology and another was on the social construction of virginity in Shakespeare's Measure for Measure. The paper on Shakespeare went first, I went second, and the paper on Queer Theology went third. In a way, we all built off of each other, and it was really intriguing.

Since this was my first paper presentation at a GWS conference, I felt that it went really well. Although, I did learn from very good tips for the next time I present. First, I learned that you can never speak too slowly. Second, I learned that no matter how many times you practice you will mispronounce common words from everyday language due to nerves. Third, don't be terrified; the people who are in the audience want to be there and are interested in furthering your ideas. Overall, presenting was a great experience. The critique I received was helpful and constructive. I really encourage anyone who has a paper they are proud of to present it! -- Payton Moore



Spring 2014 Gender and Women's Studies minors, hooding ceremony.
