

SPRING 2016

ISSUE 8

GENDER & WOMEN'S STUDIES NEWSLETTER

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR:

Welcome to the spring 2016 edition of the Gender and Women's Studies newsletter! We have much to celebrate.

Congratulations to our graduating seniors for all of their accomplishments in the last four years. I trust this is only the beginning. Congratulations also to Professor Sonalini Sapra, who has accepted a position at Saint Martin's University in Lacey, WA as a tenured associate professor of political science. Her expertise in the classroom, service to students outside of the classroom, and wisdom in committee meetings have been most appreciated. Saint Martin's is lucky.

Our second fundraiser, January's Trivia Night, raised \$784 for faculty-student travel. Thanks to all who helped make the night fun and successful. In addition to raising cash, GWS

also raised awareness through sponsoring LGBTQ ally training in February.

As the year ends, so does my time as chair. After five years of signing check requests, filling out minor (and now major) forms, and buying sparkling water and cupcakes for events, my work is done. Thanks for the good times. Next year, we celebrate our first class of majors — there are many more good times ahead. Until then, however, happy summer.

All the best,



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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

1. Gender Studies conference in South Bend
2. Honoring Professor Sonalini Sapra

New Directions Gender Studies Conference, Spring 2016

The New Directions in Gender Studies conference was a wonderful way to be able to connect with other feminist scholars and hear about different types of research and insight regarding gender from students around the Midwest. There were presentations on a range of different topics such as Motherhood, Masculinity and Film and Gender and politics. I was given the opportunity to present a paper regarding my views on gender identity in relation to the gender binary as a speaker on the Gender Identity

Politics panel. Being my first time presenting a paper at a conference, I was fairly nervous however everyone was incredibly welcoming and open to hearing new ideas. I found it to be very helpful in terms of my development as a student and a writer because I was able to present ideas to a large group of people and get feedback and ideas that could help further my thinking and my argument through considering things I would not have thought of otherwise. The topic that I was presenting on was relatively controversial just in terms of the language I was using which made me especially nervous to hear feedback however, the people in attendance of the conference were very open minded and I was pleasantly surprised when I was met with helpful criticism and



genuine interest in the idea that I was presenting. Overall, it was an experience that has raised my confidence as a writer and a thinker and I look forward to hopefully attending and presenting at more conferences in the future.

– Annelise Steele



Good Bye and Good Luck!

The Gender and Women's Studies department wishes to congratulate and bid a warm farewell to Professor Sonalini Sapra, who will be leaving Saint Mary's at the end of this school year to take the position of Associate Professor of Political Science at Saint Martin's University in Lacey, Washington. During her six years at Saint Mary's, Professor Sapra has been a much-admired member of the GWS community, earning respect and affection from her students

and colleagues alike. She has contributed so much to the department, from organizing events about feminisms, girlhood, and slut walks, to giving talks on a wide range of topics related to politics, gender, sexuality, sustainability, and development. Moreover, she has inspired her students to challenge themselves as scholars and activists, taking groups to conferences such as NWSA, the Feminist Research/Activist Conference, the Climate Change March in New York, and the Women's World Conference. Professor Sapra will be sorely missed, but we wish her all the best in this new endeavor!

-- by Ann Marie Short



Gender and Women's Studies hooding in Stapleton Lounge, April 27th, 2016. A great group of graduating students!