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Upcoming Events

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This was another exciting year for Gender and Women’s Studies!

Our biggest news is that GWS has joined with Peace and Justice Studies, Cultural Studies, and other area programs to form the new Department of Global Interdisciplinary Studies! With the creation of this new department, Villanova University has recognized the important work we are doing and offers our students a significant path in their preparations for careers on the global stage. GWS majors will add GIS 2000, Intro to Global Studies to their curriculum; and majors and minors will profit from the new courses that this move will inspire, investigating feminisms beyond American borders.

GWS offered a variety of course offerings in 2017-2018, with 28 undergraduate courses in 17 different disciplines serving 800 students. New courses offered included Dr. Joseph Drury and Dr. Chelsea Phillips’s ENG 3490, "Sex and Celebrity," Dr. Mary Mullen’s ENG 2590, "Gender, Authorship, & Anonymity;" and at the graduate level, Dr. Kristie Schlauraff’s LST 7301, "Wandering Wombs: American Women and Medicine."

If you haven’t yet taken any GWS courses, for Fall 2018 do consider GWS 2050, "Introduction to Gender Studies," or courses such as AAH 3005 "Gender, Sexuality, and Visual Culture" and ENG 4692 "Crime Fiction and Gender." GWS Graduate Certificate students can look forward to ENG 9720 "The Works of Toni Morrison," ENG 8350 "Gender, Love, and Liberty in the Age of Milton," and LST 7101 "Crime Fiction and Gender."

Another exciting development this year was welcoming Dr. Shauna MacDonald (COM) as Programming Director, and she’s worked hard to continue the excellent programming tradition of GWS. We began 2017 with a panel co-organized by and for students. What Does Activism Look Like? brought student activist groups together to discuss the meaning of activism at Villanova. In October, we partnered with the Office of Health Promotions to put on the One Love Escalation Workshop, a workshop about healthy relationships, and participated in the launch of the Anne Welsh McNulty Institute. In January, we contributed to and participated in the third annual VU Women in Tech Conference, an event that featured professionals from VU and throughout the region. Then in February, we teamed up with the Department of Communication and others to present “Sexual Assault in the Age of #metoo: Zohar Kfir and Testimony,” through which the audience learned about the potential of virtual reality as a tool for telling difficult but necessary stories. We will continue to collaborate with groups across campus in the coming years.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CO-DIRECTORS

Dr. Catherine Kerrison and Dr. Shauna MacDonald
Villanova faculty showcased their work at several events as well. In the Fall, our faculty research luncheon featured Director Catherine Kerrison (HIS) presenting *Jefferson’s Daughters: Gender, Race, and the American Revolution*, based in her recently published book. We welcomed Melissa Hodges (SOC), who presented *The Price of Privilege? Investigating Wage Gaps within Married Couples by Occupational Status* on a very wintery day in February. GWS co-sponsored two panels this year featuring Villanova faculty. In October, Rayna Markin (COU), Chelsea Phillips (THE), and Suzanne Smeltzer (NUR) joined forces to organize and present *The Pregnancy Experience: Interdisciplinary Perspectives, Research, and Application: Making the Invisible Experience of Pregnancy Visible*. This month will feature *Caring Work: Who & At What Cost?*, a panel discussion organized by VWPN and featuring Melissa Hodges (SOC), Linda Maldonado (NUR), Meredith MacKenzie (NUR), and Lauren Miltenberger (MPA).

In addition to our annual conference, our major events this year also included performances, presentations, and films. We welcomed performer Kimberly Dark, who performed the social justice-oriented, *Becoming the Subject of Your Own Story – Instead of the Object of Another’s Gaze*. We also co-sponsored a presentation about gender violence and anti-eviction in Brazil by Keisha-Khan Perry of Brown University, and screened *I am Malala*, a documentary about activist Malala Yousafzai. Finally, in February, Andrea Baldwin (University of Houston, Clear Lake)—one of “10 Houston Women Making It Happen”—performed *Lone Star Feminist*.

We are honored to welcome Duchess Harris (JD, PhD) of Macalester College as the keynote speaker for this year’s Gender and Women’s Studies Student Research Conference (in conjunction with the Greater Philadelphia Women’s Studies Consortium’s Student Research on Women, Gender, and Sexualities Conference), at which many students will present their gender, sexuality, and feminist research. We hope you’ll join us for the rest of our events this semester, which include a screening of the documentary *Zero Weeks*, “ARE we sisters? A Dialogue about Sisterhood and Race,” a Villanova Poetry Society Poetry Slam, and graduate student presentations from the African American Women Playwrights class.

Thanks for all of your support throughout the year. We are especially grateful to the faculty and administrators who support the Gender and Women’s Studies Program, particularly Dean Adele Lindenmeyr, to our students, and to Joyce Harden, our administrative assistant, and Tara Demmy, our graduate assistant.
STUDYING GWS AT VILLANOVA

Jalaneya Marrero-Golden, GWS Major ‘18

As a Gender and Women’s Studies major, I have grown to realize that being a woman is both empowering and challenging. Recognizing the role of intersectional feminism is crucial for change to happen not only for all women but all individuals affected by the norms of our society. GWS has taught me how women are affected in different ways globally and how oppression is multifaceted in the ways it affects people. Being a GWS student has not only enlightened me about the experiences of women and the oppression faced by many but has given me the tools to push for the eradication of violence against women, give a voice to those without one, and work towards the liberation of all individuals. Majoring in GWS has allowed me to take courses in many different disciplines and learn how sexism is reinforced and perpetuated everywhere like religion, history, sociology, philosophy, etc. After taking my first GWS course Gender and the World I knew I wanted to explore the topics of sexism, gender and women’s theory more. I felt empowered with just opening my eyes to the many different experiences individuals have faced in society based on gender. As a black woman in this world, I am faced with being both black and woman at a time when both are systematically oppressed. GWS has taught me that I have privileges of my own in which I can use to help others produce change and an understanding of the language surrounding how we talk about what women and men should be and do. I often reflect about how pertinent all the readings seemed, not only to my own experiences as a black woman, but society around me. Majoring in GWS has given me an opportunity to be a part of a community of students and professors who are continuously pushing themselves to engage with the world in more reflective, intersectional and intentional ways. My GWS learning path serves as a constant reminder to question my own positionality and privileges in a world that can be unfair and unjust. One of the best decisions I could have made was choosing to be a part of the GWS community by taking classes that challenged norms, pushed boundaries of thought and provided a space to engage with students from all different backgrounds and perspectives at Nova.

As a GWS student, I appreciate the encouragement of professors to take courses in different areas to help me see the ways in which facets like gender, race, ability, age, class, and nationality play a vital role in the world. The fact that women are subject to violence, discrimination, and harassment solely on the basis of their gender is horrific. Studying GWS has given me a foundation for understanding the root causes of these experiences and ways I can voice my ideas and opinions for change. In my GWS classes, I recall examining the cultural and social construction of gender, exploring the history of women’s lived experiences and analyzing the contributions of women in society, which has shaped my learning and transformed my thinking. At first I just listened in classes but after reading, listening, and absorbing this new knowledge, I gained my own voice. One of my favorite quotes is by Audre Lorde, “When we speak we are afraid our words will not be heard or welcomed. But when we are silent, we are still afraid. So it is better to speak.” I have come to realize that I have a voice and can use it to produce the change that I want to see in the world. Reading authors like Audre Lorde, Kimberlé Crenshaw, and Judith Butler has empowered me to uplift those in minoritized groups on the road to awareness and raised consciousness. Looking ahead, I will continue to use my voice to learn about who I am and how I can become independent from the stereotypes placed upon me because of my identity. My GWS experience as a whole has provided me with the tools to understand the specific and unspoken roles that gender plays in everyone’s life regardless of things like race, class or religion.
The relevance and intellectual vitality of GWS courses are informed by the cutting-edge research GWS faculty undertake. Their publications, including performances, find highly respected publishers and venues. A sampling, from the past three years include:


Catherine Kerrison (HISTORY) *Jefferson’s Daughters: Three Sisters, White and Black, in a Young America* (Ballantine, 2018).

Shauna MacDonald (COMMUNICATION) *To Catch and To Keep: A Solo Performance*, a one woman show she created and performed.

Rayna Markin (EDUCATION/COUNSELING) has published three articles in the journal *Psychotherapy* in 2016-2017.

GWS bids farewell to Dr. Katina Sawyer, as she leaves for her new position as assistant professor in the Department of Management in the School of Business at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Sawyer has taught undergraduate courses and graduate courses in Villanova’s Human Resources Development programs. She studies the impact of negative workplace behaviors such as harassment, abusive supervision or counterproductive work behaviors on employees and organizations, as well as the possibility for positive psychological mechanisms—such as mindfulness, hope and optimism—to buffer those effects.

Her work has been published in major academic research journals such as the Harvard Business Review, Journal of Business and Psychology, and the Journal of Applied Psychology. She and her work have been featured in Fast Company and Forbes. Earlier this year, Dr. Sawyer was named to Philadelphia Business Journal’s 2017 40 Under 40 list. The annual award aims to identify and recognize current and future leaders in various industries and the community in the Philadelphia region. In the GWS courses she has taught and events she has organized, Dr. Sawyer has been a dynamic member of the GWS Program. We are sad to say goodbye, but we wish her every success in her new venture!

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Gaile Pohlhaus
Professor of Theology and Gender & Women’s Studies

GWS deeply mourns the passing of one of its earliest faculty members, Dr. Gaile Pohlhaus.

Dr. Pohlhaus earned her BA and MA in Mathematics from College of St. Elizabeth (1960) and Boston College (1965). She earned her MA in Theology from Villanova University in 1977 and in the same year began her 28 years of teaching at Villanova. Upon earning her PhD in Religion from Temple University (1987), she became Assistant Professor of Theology and Religion and later affiliate faculty in Gender and Women’s Studies. Dr. Pohlhaus was a beloved teacher honored through the establishment of the Pohlhaus-Stracciolini Award for Teaching Excellence at Villanova.

She received the College Theology Society Presidential Award for Service in 2007. Dr. Pohlhaus was a strong feminist, peace activist, and deeply compassionate Christian who worked tirelessly and fiercely for social justice within the Catholic Church, including her leadership within the Voice of the Faithful organization.
I was intrigued by Dark’s performance as I had been told it would be about feminism and the daily struggles of societal pressure. As a young woman in a patriarchal society, both these topics were extremely interesting to me. Dark wasted no time; she thrust us into her performance almost immediately with a soft spoken introduction, in which she portrayed what it is to be a woman in society through a poem. She then introduced herself, and framed her performance by informing us of the six stories she would tell; stories about the human experience. In between, Dark would break the fourth wall between each story to interact with us as an audience. There was not a second that I wasn’t enthralled in what was happening in front of me, or that I wasn’t engaging in the back and forth between Dark and us. I think every single audience member left the auditorium with a more open mind, a clearer perspective on society and a lot more self-confidence. It was obvious from the way that Dark’s audience interacted with her and her performance that it hit home.

On Friday, February 23, 2018 I attended Andrea Baldwin’s Lone Star Feminist performance. She was totally awesome. I was instantly drawn in by how honest she was about herself and her performance. She owned that fact that it was easier to say she was a feminist than to actually be a feminist, which really struck me personally because I feel that so much. It’s an easy label for me to give myself but I often have to think about what I’m doing or not doing as a feminist. I particularly loved the last act about her mom and her grandmother. Her story about her grandmother watching out for and protecting the people she loved and her mother fiercely doing the same thing for Andrea and her sister really resonated with me. I was able to relate my grandmothers and my mom to them, but similarly, my grandmother and my mom would never call themselves feminists. Yet, they taught me to be a feminist. My mom is a human resource manager and I’ve seen her fight to get women the same wages as their male coworkers, but she would never call herself a feminist. My granny left my dad’s biological father and worked hard to be able to support my dad. She even went on strike in Washington, D.C. when the nurses she worked with weren’t being paid fairly, but she would never call herself a feminist. My nanny loved fiercely and raised her daughters to be strong independent women (they are), but she would never call herself a feminist. I think Andrea’s performance highlighted that our identities are complex and messy – something we know deep down inside but don’t like to talk about because it’s hard. By owning her complexities and contradictions, she embraces the idea that people get to define themselves and their own identities and it’s important to listen to their stories. I also loved her act about Beyoncé and when she said something like, ‘sometimes we need feminism with a beat.’ Yes. That’s so important because music is accessible and also private. It allows people to be themselves and find themselves, which is why Beyoncé is so important and I love that she talked about her.
Feminova was founded in the spring of 2016, in an effort to create a space where feminists could come together to discuss issues of gender as they pertain to Villanova’s campus and beyond.

The purpose of Villanova Feminism Society (affectionately nicknamed Feminova) is to spark and foster continued feminist discussions on Villanova’s campus, to de-stigmatize and clarify feminism as a movement, and to create meaningful change through activism and action. We are committed to maintaining a safe environment for all our members, and so we strive to be intersectional and inclusive in everything we do.

We achieve these goals in a number of ways. Our primary activity is our discussions series, twice-monthly meetings wherein we talk about a range of issues of our members’ choosing. Our topics so far have included masculinity, menstruation, intersectionality, the Women’s March, slut-shaming, and much more. These lively discussions have been very well-attended, and have created meaningful conversations that extend well beyond the initial meetings.

In addition, Feminova has participated in and sponsored a number of other activities and events, including an excursion to the Women’s March on Philadelphia, philanthropic efforts, feminist movie nights, a book club, a panel on the experience of women of color at Villanova, a speaker, and a “Wildcats Against Catcalls” sticker and button fundraiser. We have also partnered with numerous other groups on campus, including Gender and Women’s Studies, VU Pride, the Association for Change and Transformation, the Society of Women Engineers, She’s the First, Philosophy Club, the Office of Health Promotion, College Republicans, and the National Panhellenic Conference, to further realize our mission.
2018 GWS GRADUATES

Congratulations!

GWS MAJOR

**Jalaneya Marrero-Golden**

*Title of culminating project for GWS: Black Women’s Sexuality in relation to the Black Church*

*Awards/notable achievements: Who’s Who Award 2018, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated Chartering Chapter Member, Phi Sigma Tau National Honor Society*

*Plans after graduation: Jalaneya will be doing a service year with AmeriCorps.*

GWS MINORS

**Elaina Fragoulias**

*Title of culminating project for GWS: The Alt-Right Online: How Reactionary Groups use Hate Speech to Silence Women in the CyberSpace*

*Plans after graduation: Elaina plans to attend medical school after a gap year.*

**Mitsy Wedderburn**

*Title of culminating project for GWS: Muffled Mental Cries of the Overlooked, Over-abused and Underappreciated*

*Awards/notable achievements: Women of Color Scholarship Recipient, Chartering Member of the Prestigious Upsilon Tau Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated, Edward Collymore Honor Society Member*

**Sophie Sitar**

*Title of culminating project for GWS: Television Viewing and Acceptance of the #MeToo Movement*

*Awards/notable achievements: Completed two summer internships at the US Federal District Court, in Newark, NJ. Interned at Love True, a non-profit that aims to raise awareness of human trafficking in NJ and to help survivors. Performed in the Vagina Monologues on campus. Completed a semester abroad in Copenhagen, Denmark studying human trafficking systems in Europe.*
UPTCOMING GWS EVENTS!

**Zero Weeks (Film)**
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11 AT 6PM**
PWC AUDITORIUM, BARTLEY HALL
*Co-sponsored by VWPN*
*Approved ACS Cultural Event*

**ARE we sisters?**
**A Dialogue about Sisterhood and Race**
**THURSDAY, APRIL 12 AT 6PM**
SPEAKER’S CORNER, FALVEY LIBRARY
Featuring a talk by Dr. Catherine Kerrison followed by a student response and audience conversation.
*Co-sponsored by The Anne Welsh McNulty Institute for Women’s Leadership, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, the Department of History, and Falvey Library.*

**Caring Work: Who & At What Cost? (Panel Discussion)**
**TUESDAY, APRIL 17 AT 6PM**
ICE INSTITUTE, FALVEY LIBRARY
Panel Discussion: 6pm-7:15pm
Q&A and Refreshments: 7:15pm-8pm
Featuring: Melissa Hodges (Sociology/Criminology) Linda Maldonado (Nursing) Meredith MacKenzie (Nursing) Lauren Miltenberger (Public Administration)
*Co-sponsored by VWPN*
*Approved ACS Cultural Event*

**Poetry Slam**
**THURSDAY, APRIL 19 AT 7PM**
BELLE AIR TERRACE, CONNELLY CENTER
Organized by the Villanova Poetry Society
*Approved ACS Cultural Event*

**African American Women Playwrights**
Graduate Student Final Presentations, Performance and Research
**WEDNESDAY, MAY 9 AT 5PM**
VASEY HALL 206
*Approved ACS Cultural Event*