

DePaul University

Women's and Gender Studies Program

Newsletter

Spring 2008

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Women's and Gender Studies Graduate Program

The Women's and Gender Studies Program has successfully implemented a **NEW graduate degree program**, as well as the **NEW 5-year BA/MA program!** In its first year, the program enrolled 15 new graduate students from a variety of backgrounds and schools, and 7 current students that wished to extend their stay at DePaul, in order to achieve their BA and MA in Women's and Gender Studies! Congratulations to all of our new students and good luck to this new and exciting program!

Look For These Fall
2008 Graduate Courses!
Registration Begins May 5th.

Feminist Theories (WMS 400) - Ann Russo

Women in the Middle East (WMS 407) - Laila Farah

Contentions in Feminist and Gender Theorizing (WMS 415) - Sandra

Greetings!

As we enter the last weeks of spring quarter and the end of this academic year, I am filled with gratitude and pride with regard to the accomplishments and movements of the Women's and Gender Studies Program this year. We have had a bustling year - with many thought provoking and energizing activities and conferences, increasing numbers of affiliated faculty and undergraduate and graduate students, and amazing gifts and awards. It's been a great year - and it's not over yet! We've got some exciting end-of-the-year events (outlined throughout this newsletter). I hope you'll be able to join us for one or more of them.

One of the most amazing gifts this year comes from the Beck Foundation who is contributing **\$100,000 to the [Women and Gender Research Initiative \(WGRI\)](#)**. This Initiative, as many of you know, was co-founded by Dr. Beth Catlett and Dr. Irene Beck (who retired last year). The WGRI combines community-based, participatory action research with student learning and its mission is to inform the prevention of and intervention in gender-related oppressions. The Beck Foundation's vision for this gift is to create research assistantships for Women's and Gender Studies graduate students connected to faculty-driven community-based research projects. In addition to creating more funded research opportunities for our graduate students, it allows the WGRI to expand its faculty base to include more program and affiliated faculty. This amazing gift from the Beck Foundation ensures the sustainability and growth of the WGRI inspired and envisioned by Drs. Beck and Catlett. This gift has led to further support from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for partial tuition reimbursement for graduate student research assistants (thanks to Dean Suchar), and support from the [Steans Center for Community Based Service Learning](#) for stipends for faculty fellows whose projects are awarded research assistantships through the WGRI (thanks to Director of Howard Rosing). If you're interested in finding out more about the WGRI, please check out the [website](#) and/or contact Dr. Beth Catlett at bcatlett@depaul.edu.

This first year of the MA and BA/MA Program in Women's and Gender Studies has been powerful. A wonderful community is developing among this very vibrant and diverse group of students. A group of them will be presenting at the [National Women's Studies Association Conference](#) in Cincinnati, Ohio, [this June](#). AND [this Friday, May 9, 5:00-7:00 pm](#), we are hosting a reception for WMS graduate students and faculty from across the university. To RSVP for this, contact Karyn Haney at khaney@depaul.edu.

Thanks to the student activism of RISE (Resources, Information, Support, Empowerment), Feminists in Action!, students from WMS 303 of the past 3-4 years (Women and Violence), the Women's Center, and many of you, DePaul now has a **Coordinator of Sexual Violence Support Services through Student Affairs -- Alicia Oeser** who is helping to sustain RISE and to coordinate services addressing sexual violence. In addition, thanks to Dean Suchar, Women's and Gender Studies was able to fund a WMS graduate student **Erin Tinnon** to develop a **peer-education anti-oppression/violence initiative at DePaul**. Check out stories on both of these in this newsletter.

Jackson

Creating Change: GLBT Politics (WMS 432) -
Jamie Hovey

Methods and Scholarship (WMS 491) -
Natalie Bennett

Men, Masculinity, and Power (SOC 477/479) -
Ada Cheng

Continental Philos: Sexuality (PHL 557) -
Tina Chanter

Study Abroad: China
Applications due May 15, 2008!

This fall, students can travel to China as part of the study abroad program that fulfills Women's and Gender Studies or Junior Year Experiential Learning credits at DePaul. This amazing opportunity to live and learn in Asia is being led Dr. Chi Jang Yin, who teaches "**Social Perspectives: Film and Photography in Contemporary China**" (WMS 394) and Dr. Franklin Perkins, who teaches "**Topics and Contraversies: Chinese Philosophy in Transition**" (PHL 390). Participants will travel to Beijing and Guangzhou where they will examine photography, film, and painting as Chinese portrayals of traditional and contemporary women's roles in society. Students interested in experiencing this amazing semester abroad must apply immediately, as the deadline is quickly approaching!

Featured Fall Courses:

Queer Film (WMS 290) will be taught by Dr. Kate Kane on Wednesday nights. This course examines film representations of LGBTQ identities and their link to social power structures. The relationship between queer identities and race, gender, nationality, and class will also be analyzed. The course will explore

Congratulations are in order for our two **Ballenger Scholarship recipients - Melissa Keller** and **Melissa Furlette**. The Ballenger Scholarship is a merit-based scholarship that was established with the legacy from the late Sally Ballenger--a founding member of the Women's Studies Program and faculty member and chair of the Department of Nursing. This scholarship is awarded annually to students with demonstrated strengths in academics and community service/activism.

Please also join me in congratulating **Karyn Haney** - the administrative assistant extraordinaire - who received a Staff Recognition Award this spring. This award recognizes Karyn for her outstanding contributions to the Women's and Gender Studies Program including her incredible organizational skills, professionalism, creativity, personalism, and great humor!

I'd also like to just mention a few other accomplishments this year connected to Women's and Gender Studies - the powerful **Out There: LGBTQ Issues in Catholic Higher Education Conference** (co-chaired by **Beth Kelly** and **Gary Cestaro**); the Paving New Roads: Communities Engaged in Resisting Violence (collaboration with **Women and Girls Collective Action Network**) documenting and sharing innovative strategies in Chicago to address violence against women of color, youth, queer and trans youth, women in sex trade, and women with disabilities. And, the collaboration, cultivated by **Kathryn DeGraff** (Special Collections in the Library), with the **Chicago Area Women's History Council**, on their "Documenting the Second Wave Women's Movement in Chicago" project.

As you'll see from the rest of this newsletter, we have some very exciting events coming up. I'd like to mention two here -- the annual "**On the Cutting Edge: Students Present Their Capstone Research Projects.**" This year it will be on Tuesday, May 27, 3:30-5:30 pm, Student Center, Room 314. The topics and approaches this year represent the breadth and vibrancy so indicative of the field of Women's and Gender Studies and of the passion, intellectual interests, and creativity of the amazing students in our program!

Finally, I'd like to invite you to our **end-of-year celebratory luncheon on Wednesday, June 4, 12-2 pm!** This year, we're opening it up to the broader Women's and Gender Studies community--majors, minors, program and affiliated faculty, members of Triota: the Women's and Gender Studies Honor Society at DePaul, and more! Hope you'll join us. Please RSVP to Karyn Haney at khaney@depaul.edu.

Hope to see you all in the upcoming weeks and months as we continue to build Women's and Gender Studies at DePaul and beyond!

Ann Russo
Director, Women's and Gender Studies

 Forward to a Friend

LGBTQA Awareness Month



May is going to be full of exciting events as we celebrate DePaul's 1st Annual LBGTQA Month!

Join in the festivities, including **SPECTRUM WEEK**, May 12-16!

May 6 - Inaugural Kick-Off Breakfast, Cortelyou Commons (8:30 - 10:30am) and **Office of LBGTQA Student Services**

Open House, LP Student Center, 307 (2-5pm).

the role that film plays in how LGBTQ identities are understood and experienced.

Contentions in Feminist and Gender Theorizing (WMS 415) will be taught by Dr. Sandra Jackson on Tuesday nights. This new graduate course focuses on the controversies and debates in the field of feminist and gender theorizing. It will examine feminist negotiations of philosophical, ideological, social, political, and cultural debates, conflicts, and contradiction.

Look For These Fall 2008 Undergraduate Courses!

Registration begins May 5th.

Women's Lives: Gender, Race, Class, Sexuality (WMS 100) - Kate Kane

Growing Up Female (WMS 212) - Sandra Jackson

Women in Caribbean Societies (WMS 270) - Natalie Bennett

Queer Film (WMS 290) - Kate Kane

Feminist Theories (WMS 300) - Beth Kelly

Women in the Middle East (WMS 307) - Laila Farah

Creating Change: GLBT Politics (WMS 332/LGQ 332/ PSC 312) - Jamie Hovey

Methods &

May 7 - Out at Lunch!, LP SC, 215 (12-1pm) and Film Screening: "For the Bible Tells Me So" (2007), LP SC, 314B (5-8pm).

May 8 - Bi Any Other Name: Understanding the Bisexual Student by Robyn Ochs, Munroe Hall, 114 (10-11:30am) and **Identity Conflict or Flexibility: Understanding Bisexuality** by Robyn Ochs, Munroe Hall, 114 (2-3:30pm).

May 9 - Serving Bisexual Clients by Robyn Ochs, LP SC, University Counseling Services, 350 (9-10:30am).

May 14 - Out at Lunch!, LP SC, 215 (12-1pm) and Film Screening: "Trembling Before G-D" (2001), LP SC, 314B (5-8pm).

May 19 - Safe Zone Training: Become an Ally, LP SC, 350 (5-7pm).

May 20 - Health Issues Facing Young Gay Men, LP SC, 313 (3-4:30pm) and **Lesbian Health and Well-Being: An Holistic Perspective**, LP SC, 313 (5-6:30pm).

May 21 - Out at Lunch!, LP SC, 215 (12-1pm) and Film Screening: "Khush" (1991), LP SC, 314B (5-8pm).

May 23 - A Perfect Life: Performance by Takao Kawaguchi, LP SC, Atrium (Installation all day, final performance at 7pm).

May 27 - 2nd Annual Stonewall Awards Ceremony & Luncheon, Cortelyou Commons (11:30am-2:30pm).

*For additional information regarding these events, contact: LGBTQASERVICES@DEPAUL.EDU

Upcoming Events

There are many exciting events at DePaul this spring!



May 8 - Activist, Robin

Ochs (see LGBT Awareness Month).

May 13 - "Transforming Hate at DePaul" Free Lunch and Dialogue, SC 2nd Floor Performance Area (12-1:30pm) "Navigating the Grey Area Between Free Speech and Hate Speech" by Professor Charles R. Lawrence (Georgetown Law), SAC 161 (3:30-5:30pm). DePaul students, faculty, staff, and guests will speak out about experiencing and transforming hate.

May 15 - "A Rabbi's Journey to Islam" by Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb, DePaul University Art Museum (5-7pm). Rabbi Gottlieb will share her experiences trying to create understanding between Jewish and Muslim communities.

May 15-17- "Year of Antigones Conference" Department of Philosophy, check website: <http://condor.depaul.edu/~phildept/antigone>.

May 23 - Performing Artistic, Takao Kawaguchi, "A Perfect Life" (see LGBTQA Awareness Month).

May 24 & 25 - "The Price of Sex" A Film Festival About the Sex Trade, hosted by The Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation and DePaul's Women's Center (see "The Price of Sex").

May 27 - "On the Cutting Edge: Women's and Gender Studies Present Their Amazing Capstone Research Projects" (see Senior Capstone Course).

Scholarship (WMS 391)
- Beth Catlett

**Intro to LGBTQ
Studies** (LGQ 150) -
Beth Kelly

**History of Sex in
America 1: Colonial to
Late 19th Century**
(AMS 275) - Tom Foster

19th Century Art (ART
238) - Paul Jaskot

**Adaptations:
Recrafting of Meaning
(Jane Austin)**(DC 235)
- Barbara Schaffer

**Women and
Literature** (ENG 383) -
Staff

**Muslim Women in
Texts** (IWS 272/REL
272) - Aminah Beverly
McCloud

**History of Sexuality in
Europe** (HST 273) -
Julia Woesthoff

**Feminism and Visual
Culture** (ART 367) -
Joann Gardner-Huggett

Queer Readings (LGQ
397/ PHL 383/CPL 319) -
Darrell Moore

**Growing up
Latino** (LST 307) -
Lourdes Torres

**Women's Health:
The Physical Self** (NSG
230) - Staff

**Issues in Sex and
Gender** (PHL 233) -
Heather Rakes

**Philosophy and
Women** (PHL 238) -
Holly Moore

**Women and American
Politics** (PSC 217) -

June 2 - "Drawn From Experience: an art exhibit", SC Atrium (5-8pm). Chicago's female identified student artists will be displaying their works reflecting women's life experiences.

Senior Capstone Research



**Celebrate
the**

2007-2008 WGS Undergrads who have completed their Capstone Research Projects! Come to "On the Cutting Edge" Tuesday, May 27 in the Student Center, 314 from 3:30-5:30pm. Students will present their thesis and share their findings.

Back Row:

Sarah Benedict Casper - *Teenage Masculine Performance: An Examination of Masculine Behavior and Homophobic Rhetoric Among High School Boys*

Kathryn Kawczynski - *Antigone and the Instability of Identity: Connections of Class, Gender, Kinship, and Sexuality*

Leanne M. Bazzetta - *A Study of Women's Blog Culture as a Means of Self-Help*

Jen Pagonis - *Reclaiming the Gaze: Back from the Medical Establishment Back to the Intersexed*

Middle Row:

Eleanor Bossu - *Suffrage in Early Twentieth-Century Britain and Colonial India*

Valerie J. Kmiecik - *Adolescent Girls and Their Body Image: An Examination of a Rural, Midwestern High School*

Dr. Beth Catlett - Capstone Course (WMS 395) Professor

Mollie Ann Haley - *Silencing of Domestic Violence in Edison Park, IL: An Exploration of the Intersections of Religion, Ethnicity, and Occupation*

Allin E. Young - *The Social Conceptualization of Lesbians and Cancer: Shared Ares of Discourse*

Front Row:

Lynwellyn H. Gudger - *News Media's Role in Reproducing Gender Ideologies: A case Study of Britney Spear's Head Shaving Spectacle*

Ashley Lacey - *"I Like It Like That": Finding the Real in Representations of Black Women in Porn*

Rachel Seher

**Sex in America:
Puritans to Victorians**
(HST 275) - Tom Foster

Human Sexuality (PSY
215) - Staff

LGBTQ Minor

**If you are thinking
about minoring in
LGBTQ Studies, you
should know this:**

Requirements:

**LGQ 150: Intro to
LGBTQ Studies**

5 Electives:

(a minimum of one class
in each concentration
must be completed):
*Queer Theory and the
Intersection of
Identity; Queer
Representations;
History, Politics, and
War.*

Featured Spring Courses:

Several new courses
affiliated are in progress
during this current
spring semester.

**Asian American
Women's Activism** (WMS
290) by L. Joyce Mariano
(English Department)
explores race, gender,
and nation through a
feminist eye.

Queer Latinidad (LST
310) by Dr. Lourdes
Torres explores the
queer experience of U.S.
Latinas.

**Jane Austen and the
Movies** (DC 270) by
Barbara Schaffer seeks
to discover why there
have been so many
adaptations of Jane
Austen's works.

Freeheld

A Film by Cynthia Wade

Lauren Rzepka - *Feminist Negotiations of Traditional White Weddings*

Jessica Dangles - *In Their Prime: The Lives of Older Gay Men*

Amber Gibson-Knowlden - *Online Social Networking Sites: The Creation of the Virtual Identity Utilizing the Social Normatives of Sex, Gender, and Sexuality*

Sexual Violence Support Services: New at DePaul

As the result of a student-led activist movement during the 2006-2007 academic school year, DePaul now provides Sexual Violence Support Services via the Division of Student Affairs. Coordinator, Alicia Oeser, has been hired to manage the important task of assisting students who have been victims of violence.

With a Bachelors of Arts in Political Science from University of New Hampshire and experience as a YWCA Chicago Rape Crisis Hotline Supervisor and Crisis Counselor, Oeser is a welcomed asset to this previously absent support center. Oeser is currently an MA candidate in Sociology at DePaul.

As the Coordinator of Sexual Violence Support Services, Oeser is working with the Counseling Center, Dean of Students Office, and Residential Education to "help students navigate through the school's policies regarding sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, and harassment."

In addition to confidential counseling services, Oeser is "working closely with RISE (Resources, Information, Services, Empowerment) to raise student awareness and encourage further education on this subject." She is also "developing a curriculum for a peer led program to educate classes and groups around the issue of sexual violence."

Using the skills she continues to obtain via training sessions and conferences, as well as her undergraduate experience concentrating "on gender inequality and our social norms and ideals with regard to gender," Oeser works directly with victims, so that "together we can talk through the resources most appropriate for their needs and lifestyle."

Although each situation is unique, Oeser offered, "we can help victims work out a plan for counseling, judicial hearings or correspondence with professors, should there be any disruption of their classes. **I want to stress that a student is welcome to come in to discuss their options with confidentiality.**"

If you have been a victim of violence, are interested in a made-to-order, educational presentation by Oeser, or want to volunteer with this program, please contact Alicia Oeser anytime by calling 773-325-7295 or emailing her at aoeser@depaul.edu. Oeser is available in person on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9am-5pm, Tuesdays from 1pm-5pm, or by appointment.

"If a student is the victim of sexual violence, be it rape, harassment, stalking, or relationship abuse, they are encouraged to get in touch with the SVSS office to discuss their best course of action, through phone, e-mail, or stopping by the Student Center, Room 307. Because every situation is different, there is not one clear cut answer to what should be done by victims."

New Anti-Violence Initiative at DePaul

**Concerned about violence and power structures at DePaul?
Consider volunteering with this newly formed group...**

DePaul's Community Accountability Initiative consists of seven active members - both graduate and undergraduate students - who are committed to challenging violence, privilege, and oppression on DePaul's campus. We believe that it is possible to change violence and oppression as they

A Battle for Justice -

This film documents the struggles that veteran New Jersey policewoman, Laurel Hester, and her life-partner, Stacie, suffered through as Laurel was denied the right to leave her pension benefits to Stacie following her diagnosis of lung cancer. The film chronicles the final days of Laurel's life as she fights to provide security for Stacie. *Freeheld* was screened at the Hoover-Leppen Theater at Center on Halsted, April 8th, followed by a Q & A session with WGS professor, Dr. Beth Kelly. A college peer of Laurel Hester, Dr. Kelly served as a consultant for this multi-award-winning film, which includes the Academy Award for Best Documentary Short Subject. In addition to the April screening, *Freeheld* was shown at the "Out There Conference" at DePaul in October, in which creator, Cynthia Wade, filmed a round-table discussion where she spoke with a small group of conference participants. Look for this amazing movie to be released this summer, possibly with clips from DePaul in the Special Features section! To find out more about this film or to pre-order a copy, go to www.freeheld.com.

The Price of Sex

"The Price of Sex" is an upcoming film festival about the sex trade industry at DePaul's

currently exist in all of our lives, and believe that we can do so through education and awareness. We are working on a peer education anti-oppression initiative that addresses issues of racism, classism, sexism, homophobia, ableism, hate speech, privilege, harassment, sexual assault, and dating violence on our campus as well as how all of these oppressions interlock to affect people's lives. We hope to begin implementing our curriculum and workshops around the campus during the fall quarter of next year. If you are interested in more information or wish to get involved, please contact Erin Tinnon at etinnon@depaul.edu.

Take Back the Night

April saw many activities at DePaul designed to increase visibility during Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Take Back the Night, led by DePaul's activist group, FIA (Feminists In Action), consisted of many emotionally moving events, including the Clothesline Project, Rally, March across campus, Speak Out, and Candle Light Vigil, all on April 17, 2008.

International Women's Day Celebration

by Dunja Antunovic

As a part of DePaul's celebration of the International Women's Day on March 6, Gordana Igric lead a workshop entitled "*Documenting Rape as a Tool of War: Journalism, Human Rights and Accountability*." Igric has been a journalist for over 25 years and has been reporting on war crimes in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo. She is currently the Regional Director of Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN), which is an organization that strives for impartial, quality, in-depth reporting on political and economic issues in the Balkan.

I could not hide my excitement when I found out Igric was coming to our university, as I was also born in the former-Yugoslavia. Listening to her for one and a half hours was a truly unique experience which enabled me to step outside my boundaries, just as our university professors encourage us to do. For me, though, this particular stepping outside took me straight back home. The presentation made me forget about the geographical distance between my family and me; it created a bridge over the Atlantic Ocean; it proved that we are truly connected to each other, regardless of in which part of the world we are located. Most importantly, the presentation reminded me that we cannot live in a bubble and ignore the conflicts that

Lincoln Park campus. This is a weekend long event, hosted by the Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation and DePaul's Women's Center.

May 24 (Saturday) - The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children
The following films and discussion panels will be shown in SAC 254:

Svetlana's Journey (2pm) tells the story of a 13-year-old girl sold to pimps and held captive for eight months.

Bangkok Girl (4pm) is a documentary of Thailand's notorious sex tourism industry.

Trade (6pm) is about a 13-year-old girl kidnapped and trafficked from Mexico to the U.S. for use in an Internet sex slave ring.

May 25 (Sunday) - The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Adults
The following films and discussion panels will be shown in SAC 270:

Turning a Corner (2pm) documents those affected by the Chicago sex trade industry and their efforts towards policy reform.

Demand (4pm) is a documentary that investigates the different roles of individuals within the sex trade industry.

Lana's Rain (6pm) asks the question, "How far would you go to survive" as it portrays the dark side of the American immigrant experience.

Admission:
All Day Pass: \$10
Per Movie: \$5

are occurring on other continents.

Shortly after Igric started talking about the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina which occurred from 1992 to 1995, she was asked to show a map to help the audience visualize the territory to which she was referencing. While I can clearly picture that map in my head, I have to admit, it is becoming difficult to follow its transformation. You see, the countries of the former Yugoslavia are continuously changing their names and splitting into pieces. These transformations are often accompanied by war and war crimes, including rape, torture, murder and more.

Igric began by specifying she is Serbian. This was a significant piece of information as her presentation was putting Serbs in a rather harsh perspective. Her activism as a journalist focuses on revealing what was happening during the war of Bosnia, particularly in a Bosnian town, Foca. Her quest was to go to Foca to research on war crimes, especially on the raping done by Serb soldiers to Muslim women. She visited Foca several times, risking her life to document human rights abuses. In 1997, she was there with a CBS crew and made a documentary, which she showed during the workshop. In the documentary, they are interviewing women who have been raped multiple times by a particular man that the NATO soldiers claimed they could not find. Igric, however, goes into a "kafic" (a little coffee shop) and sits face-to-face with that man and has a conversation with him, which they record with a hidden camera.

Igric then explained the difficulties she encountered when she went back to Belgrade. Apparently, the Serbian media did not want to hear about the revelations Igric found. Besides that, her family also started receiving death threats when the CBS documentary, called "In Plain Sight," was shown.

Despite the danger she has been facing, Igric continues to stand for what she believes a journalist should do: report high quality, professional work. While her presentation provided only a piece of the whole picture, she undeniably achieved at least one of the significant goals of the International Women's Day conference: **she gave voice to those women who had been silenced.**

Alumni Profile: Jenn Gerrard



As the ***International Programs Coordinator*** for the English Language and International Programs (ELI) at the **University of California Santa Cruz**, DePaul alumni, Jenn Gerrard, is responsible for organizing and coordinating recreational activities that allow international students the opportunity to experience American culture.

As a **2003 graduate of DePaul's Women's and Gender Studies program**, Gerrard's background includes a strong knowledge of "global gender issues," which is essential to her success with the ELI. In her current position, "gender issues come up constantly. Students come from all different cultures and countries and explain how gender works in that culture."

At the moment, Gerrard is preparing for the second year of the ***Young Iraqi Leaders Program***, which is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. Through this program, students come to the U.S. for six weeks to "learn about science, technology, and American culture." Additionally, Gerrard will be managing the "huge influx of international students" that comes to UCSC each summer. During this hectic time, Gerard "manages everything from intake to acclimating students" via helping them adjust to the cultural differences.

Gerrard's work with the ELI has relied greatly on her experiences in the WGS program. **"Looking at feminism in a global**

For more information you can go to www.caase.org.

Bitch to Quit!

Fact: Smoking is the leading preventable cause of death in the U.S.

Fact: Tobacco kills more people each day than AIDS, alcohol, car accidents, firearms, & illegal drugs - combined!

Fact: LGBT individuals are 40-70% more likely to smoke than non-LGBT people.

Fact: GBT men are 50% and LBT women are almost 200% more likely to smoke than the general population.

*Facts provided by Howard Brown

Bitch to Quit - Howard Brown's anti-smoking program currently provides much needed services to the LGBT community and Allies in the form of a "non-judgmental forum for quitting smoking," Karyn Haney, Women's and Gender Studies' Program Assistant. After successfully completing the program two years ago, Haney is now a Group Facilitator with the **Bitch to Quit** program. Considering the outstanding price of cigarettes, the public ban on smoking, and the overwhelming statistics linking smoking to death and higher rates of smoking to the LGBT community, the time to quit appears to be now. **Bitch to Quit** is an eight week succession program in which smokers all quit halfway through. Howard Brown provides on-going support services and participants examine the habits and triggers that lead them to smoke, so they can be better prepared to battle the urges once they have quit. No one is turned away due to lack of

context is something that I have carried with me, as it sparked my interest in world cultures. It also effects how one sees organization leadership, the way decisions are made, and the way I approach being a leader when working with people."

Additionally, "the ability to rely on critical thinking skills and to really dissect an idea" are essential skills that she took from the program. "Class participation is so stressed that students really gain skills and learn to value and respond to others' ideas." These skills have been essential to Gerrard's success in working with people and exploring new cultures.

Although she acquired many skills essential to her career, Gerrard did not jump straight from WGS to her position at UCSC. Rather, she worked many different jobs, gaining valuable experience along the way. For instance, her freshman year, Gerrard worked at a **political campaign consulting office**, followed by her work as a **Resident Advisor** and then Community Advisor in DePaul's student housing. She did this from her second year at DePaul until graduation. She also worked in the **Student Center** for one year and as a **nanny** during her entire DePaul career.

In addition to her busy work schedule, Gerrard was highly active amongst the student organizations. She was co-president of **PRIDE DePaul**, an LGBTQ group, a member of the **Women's Issues Network**, as well as **SURVIVE**, which dealt with sexual assault issues, including Take Back the Night.

Beyond her experiences on campus, Gerrard had the opportunity to go to Amman, Jordan for a conference sponsored by the **Institute of Gender Justice** in Iraq and the **National Democratic Institute**, which "brought female women's rights activists from Iraq and other countries together to look at legislation and efforts in other countries, in order to see what could be used in Iraq while writing a new constitution." Despite suicide bombings in Iraq during that time, "the conference continued even in the face of all that adversity. It was a great opportunity for women activists in Iraq who had not met any people doing similar work in other countries."

Additionally, she was able to travel to El Salvador for three weeks through the Latin American and Religious Studies programs. She studied theology and civil war with Professor Lourdes Torres.

After graduating from DePaul, Gerrard continued her activism. She was hired by **Public Allies**, followed by a position with the **Jane Adams Research Association**, where she worked with adults "struggling with basic literacy issues." During this time, she helped organize a one-on-one tutoring program. From September of 2004 until June of 2006, Gerrard worked in the Loop at the **International Human Rights Law Institute**. During her time there, DePaul helped rebuild three Iraqi law libraries.

Gerrard expressed her true appreciation for the opportunities that the WGS program provided to her, especially those of "developing a personal sense of values and beliefs, while dedicating oneself to social change." She expanded, "you cannot be a WGS major and be apathetic. **The program pushes you to develop your ideas and find what you truly care about, rather than being told what you care about.**" This was especially important when it came time to write her thesis. Gerrard explored the politics of asylum in her thesis by focusing on women's testimony literature out of Al Salvador.

In the future, she hopes to return to graduate school to pursue a

funds or sexuality. Feel free to email Karyn Haney with any questions or for a first-hand view of the program at khaney@depaul.edu. You may also call Howard Brown at 773-388-8682 or go to <http://www.howardbrown.org>.

Boogie Not Bombs

Join Triota (Women's and Gender Studies Honor Society) at **Boogie Not Bombs** on Saturday, May 17th from 12-9:30pm. Boogie Not Bombs is an anti-violence, anti-war, and anti-hate festival sponsored by the Activist Students Union. Live music, food, arts and crafts, guest speakers, and more will be provided in the Quad at DePaul's Lincoln Park campus. Triota will be joining this event by providing guests a space and supplies to make Peace Cranes, which will then be donated to the Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima, Japan. Come out and enjoy the festivities with us!

Quick Links...

[Women's and Gender Studies Program](#)
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[Spectrum](#)
[Feminists In Action!](#)
[Bitch to Quit](#)
[Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum](#)

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PhD in Political Science. She is interested to see how immigrant communities in the U.S. view political issues and ideas of change after living here.

As for her undergraduate experiences, Gerrard recommended that current students "**develop relationships with professors** because you realize in the working world that you do not have those types of mentoring opportunities too often. This experience is unique to the WGS department because it is small and **the faculty really care about the students.**"

Women's and Gender Studies' Luncheon

The Women's and Gender Studies Program invites majors, minors, affiliated faculty and staff, and friends to our end-of-year luncheon. The luncheon will take place on June 4th, 12 noon - 2 pm, in the Lincoln Park Student Center 314 A&B. Food, entertainment, and an awards ceremony will featured. RSVP to Karyn Haney at khaney@depaul.edu We hope to see you there!

Christina Wright (cwright9@depaul.edu)
 DePaul University
 Women's and Gender Studies Program
 Newsletter Editor

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