



DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Welcome to the 2013-2014 academic year! As usual, our year in WGS is already well underway, and, as I've mentioned in past years, I continue to be inspired by the vibrancy I witness every day among our students and faculty and staff colleagues. Our professors are offering students cutting edge educational opportunities, we are sponsoring and co-sponsoring a myriad of programs and events around the university and the city, and our students are working in creative ways toward social change and social justice.

As this new academic year begins, I want to thank Dr. Ann Russo for her many years of service and leadership for this WGS Newsletter. I do not exaggerate when I say that this newsletter likely would not exist without Ann's leadership and vision – so please join me in thanking Ann for all her hard work, and then in welcoming our new Newsletter leadership team. Dr. Robin Mitchell has taken over as the faculty supervisor for the newsletter, and she is working with two new student editors: Deanna Boland and Carly Petrusky. Welcome and thank you to all three for their hard work writing about the many facets of our WGS community!

I'm also delighted to welcome two new WGS faculty members this year: Dr. Heather Rakes and Nicole Garneau. I feel so fortunate that they both have joined our WGS community. They both bring great energy and teaching and research interests that contribute to our curriculum in really valuable ways. Heather Rakes, our new visiting professor received her Ph.D. in Philosophy (with a Graduate Certificate in Women's and Gender Studies) from DePaul in 2012. She has been teaching here for a number of years, and students cannot stop talking about her great classes! Heather's areas of specialization include Feminist, LGBTQ, and Transgender Studies, Disability Studies, Postcolonial and Ethnic Studies, and Continental and Sociopolitical Philosophy. Nicole Garneau will be teaching six classes for us this year. She, too, has taught at DePaul for several years and has received rave reviews! Nicole's areas of expertise include Performance as Revolutionary Practice, Pragmatic Mysticism, Ritual and Ceremony, Rural Women Homesteaders, Russian Theater, and Radical Queer Party Culture as a Site of Resistance. I hope you'll all have a chance to welcome Heather and Nicole in person very soon!

As I discussed last year, WGS has begun building a new internship program that we call SLIP – the WGS Service Learning and Internship Program.. After a successful launch to this program last year – including a new class entitled *Gender, Community, and Activism: Community-Based Learning in WGS* – I'm delighted to report that the program is continuing to grow in new and exciting ways. Last year we offered about 10 different internships and this year we already have 21 internships currently posted on our Beck Research Initiative website, and almost 20 more organizations that are committed to participating in our program.

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DEPAUL UNIVERSITY
Women's and
Gender Studies
Newsletter

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DIRECTOR'S LETTER (CONTINUED FROM P.1)

Among our new partnerships are Lambda Legal, Rape Victim Advocates, and the Illinois Safe School Alliance. Our community allies are doing important work in the community that includes legal advocacy, organizing, housing, refuge services, youth and yoga, anti-violence, among other areas of focus. One of the other very exciting developments is that we have had several community organizations reach out to us in their search for candidates for full-time job placement. Long term, we are excited about the opportunities that SLIP will create for our WGS students and graduates. Please be in touch with Anna Assenmacher, the Assistant Director of the Beck Research Initiative, if you have an interest in this program. Her hard work on developing this program is much appreciated, and I feel confident in saying that she's eager to work with as many of our students and community organizations as possible!

Beyond the WGS SLIP Program, there is a tremendous amount of energy and work taking place in WGS this fall. I can't possibly talk about all of these activities here, so please see our website, our bulletin board on the 5th floor of SAC, our office suite, and read through the rest of this newsletter for more detailed information about programs of interest. I will mention that Building Communities, Ending Violence is particularly active this quarter! With the hard work and vision of two new graduate assistants, Hannah Arwe and Buki Ogundipe, and Dr. Ann Russo, this program is continuing to grow in new and creative ways. It will be great to see everyone there!

Also, I am so excited about the work of Take Back the Halls: Ending Violence in Relationships and Schools this year. Pidgeon Pagonis is the graduate assistant who is working tirelessly to re-invigorate the program this year! With our new partnership with Metropolitan Family Services, and the vision and commitment of our community partner Heather Flett, we will have approximately 15 DePaul students working in three area high schools this year.

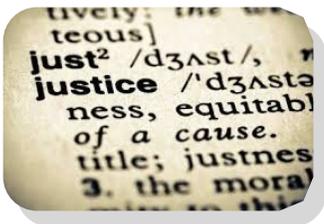
So many of our WGS graduate students are hard at work as they invigorate our WGS community – for instance, under the leadership of Dr. Sanjukta Mukherjee, our graduate students are working to create this year's graduate colloquium series that will feature speakers from DePaul and the Chicago community throughout the academic year. So please keep your eyes and ears open for publicity about upcoming events!

Moving forward, we have wonderful course offerings for winter quarter, so please drop by our office or check out our website to see what courses might be of interest to you.

Wishing everyone a productive year filled with joy and laughter! Please feel free to stop by my office to visit anytime. I'll hope to see you soon!

Beth Catlett

BUILDING COMMUNITIES ENDING VIOLENCE LAUNCHES NEW BLOG



Building Communities Ending Violence is a project out of Women's and Gender Studies which works to develop collective, community-based responses and interventions to everyday oppression and violence in our communities. Throughout the year the project hosts a multitude of transformative justice events, including this year's three part workshop series Building Communities across Difference, and the quarterly Dandelions in the Concrete.

This quarter, the project is also happy to announce the official launch of the Building Communities Ending Violence Project blog. On this blog you'll find a whole host of transformative justice work and resources, including articles, photography, art, and music. The project hopes that the blog will be a "transformative, eye-opening, consciousness raising third space that straddles the line between our everyday physical lives and the 'online' world."

Building Communities Ending Violence is committed to making the blog a community space and would like to feature student writing and artwork. If you're interested in being a guest blogger or submitting your work, contact the project at bcevproject@gmail.com and be sure to subscribe to the blog at bcev.wordpress.com

HOW I'VE GROWN AS A WGS MAJOR

BY NYA BROOKS

Like many of you reading this, I recently took a survey to evaluate the Women's and Gender Studies department and programs. By the time the section about "Learning Outcomes" came up, I'll admit, I was near tears. I was overwhelmed with humility and gratitude. All of my knowledge about social identity, intersectionality, feminist theory, my reasons for becoming a Black feminist, my educational background, my passion, my happiness, came from my experiences with Women's and Gender Studies. After being a Women's and Gender Studies major for two years, it astonishes me how much I have evolved as a woman and a Black feminist. As a fourth year senior in the program, the impact that Women's and Gender Studies' has had on my life has finally hit me.

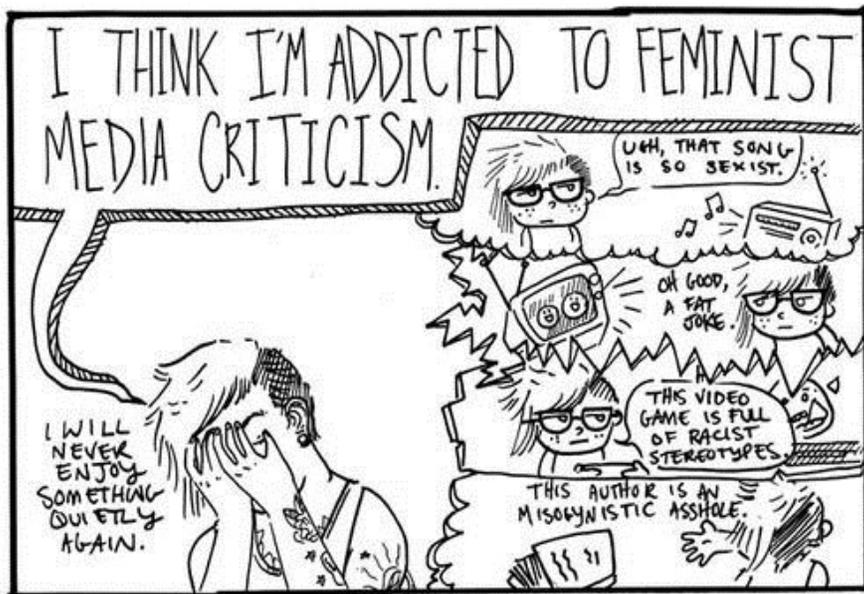
My first year at DePaul I attended a meeting for STRONG (Sisters Together Recognizing Our Never Ending Growth), an organization whose goal is to foster a community for women of color. The topic of that meeting was beauty and body image for Black women. During the discussion, I became infuriated when someone brought up the idea that Black men only desire light skinned women with long hair, a thin waist, and a big booty. The idea that men could define womanhood so strictly infuriated me. (And if you know me, you know that I despise men defining womanhood at all.)

With this anger, I enrolled in Dr. Sanjukta Mukherjee's WGS 100: Women's Lives: Race, Class, Gender course in Spring 2011. When Dr. Mukherjee told us on the first day of her class that we would view the world differently, she was not kidding. After reading about the dehumanization of women by McDonald's in Deborah Barndt's "Arch Deluxe with a Smile: Women Never Stop at McDonald's", I stopped eating McDonald's. I started constantly analyzing the world around me through a feminist lens, from advertisements to product labels. I knew it was real when I caught myself analyzing a child on a Downy bottle through a feminist lens.

I knew I needed to learn more so I enrolled in PHL 233: Issues in Sex and Gender with Marie Draz in Fall 2011. This class blew my mind! I was introduced to concepts of how gender is socially constructed and how women are viewed only through the context of men and the male gaze. For the first time, I learned about Black feminism, Sarah Baartman, and the difference between homophobia and transphobia. Until this course, I have never been mentally stimulated by my school work at DePaul.

At this point, I was a sophomore and undeclared. I was interested in Women's & Gender Studies, but still hesitant. I was fearful; what could I actually *do* with a WGS major? One day, I asked Dr. Robin Mitchell for advice on what I should do. I did not know Dr. Mitchell at the time but having heard nothing but good things about her and seeing how well she interacted with students, I decided to go to her. Dr. Mitchell gave it to me straight. She told me that I needed to get my act together because this was my sophomore year. I was running out of time and I needed to declare a major sooner than later. She assured me that if I were to become a Women's and Gender Studies major, that the WGS faculty would be there to offer me their full support and help me reach my career goals.

Let's just say I left her office feeling as though my face was blown off. After our conversation, I went to my workstation, logged onto Campus Connect, and changed my major to Women's and Gender Studies. I am not going to lie, I did flinch a bit, but becoming a WGS major has been one of the best decisions I have made during my time at DePaul. With the support of the WGS department and faculty, I have grown into a passionate black feminist, ready to take on the world.



WELCOMING NEW PROFESSORS



Hello all, I'm Heather Rakes, new Visiting Assistant Professor of Women's and Gender Studies. I am thrilled to be working in WGS at DePaul. All during my time getting a PhD in Philosophy and Certificate in Women's and Gender Studies at DePaul, I've admired and loved the WGS department! I focused my research on feminist philosophy and theory as well as queer theory and disability studies. I've always been interested in transnational and post/anti-colonial feminisms and women of color feminism, and these methodologies kept me grounded in what matters to me. At the same time, as philosopher of race Falguni Sheth insists, "if you don't do theory, theory will do you." Which is to say that if we don't pay attention to the ideas that have made the world as it is, it's all the more difficult to

change it. Thus my interest in popular education and in academia's indebtedness to activism that it often doesn't acknowledge, as well as theory's role in movement-building and the interpretation of our world.

In my research, teaching, and life, I'm always interested in the concepts of reorientation and becoming. Who and what we are matters, but who and what we care about are also really important; they are always changing us and moving us to lean toward people, animals and things differently. We grow up being told that following certain paths and scripts will make us happy and allow us to fulfill our roles and responsibilities, and when we question those scripts and paths we are already beginning to reorient ourselves and to become differently. These are the resources that I'm looking for when I read texts, and the frameworks that motivate my teaching and my engagements with the world around me.

I'm currently teaching Intro to Trans Studies, as well as a Peace, Justice and Conflict Studies course on Conflict and a Multiculturalism Seminar on the Politics of Childhood. In the Winter I'll be teaching Queer Theory! In my research, I'm working on developing a theory of what I'm calling critical inflexibility, which claims and reframes an unwillingness to compromise basic principles against oppression. I'm also collaborating with a friend on a piece about the prison industrial complex. It argues for prison abolition as an ethic and a daily practice that requires a refusal of the idea that prisons make us safer. I'm so excited to meet all of you I haven't met yet!

My name is Joy Ellison and I'm very excited to be teaching in the WGS department this quarter. I recently graduated from the DePaul WGS MA program, so it is wonderful to be back with the department. As a student, I was co-editor of the WGS newsletter and the graduate assistant for the Building Communities, Ending Violence Project. This experience with transformative justice and community-centered responses to everyday oppression and violence continues to inform my work as a teacher and staff member.



In addition to teaching as an adjunct faculty member, I also work at the Stean's Center as the Community Service Scholars Program Coordinator. I am also happy to continue supporting student organizing on campus. I serve as faculty co-advisor for Trans*(*formation*) DePaul and Students for Justice in Palestine. I believe that student activism is extremely important, so my door is always open to students seeking support for their political organizing efforts. If you ask nicely, I might lend you my megaphone.

My research interests include transgender theory and movements and intersections between gender, race, and sexuality. I completed my MA research on Israeli rhetoric about LGBTQ rights commonly called "pinkwashing." In my research, I put this rhetoric in historical context through the lenses of Arab feminist and transgender theory. In my free time, I enjoy cross-stitching and writing comic books. I'm always happy to chat, so come and visit me in my office in room 105 of the Stean's Center.



My name is Nicole Garneau and my history in the Women's and Gender Studies program here at DePaul University actually began around 2007 when Dr. Laila Farah invited me to be a guest artist/performer in her "Explore Chicago: Women's Theater" class. In 2009, I began teaching a second section of that popular class. I'm very happy to be here at DePaul teaching for the whole year in WGS.

I describe myself as an interdisciplinary artist. I am interested in creating performance and visual art work that is directly political, critically conscious, and community building. My most recent project was UPRISING—5 years of monthly outdoor performances exploring practices of revolution. If you stop by my office in WGS and I'm not grading papers, I'm working on a book about the project. From January-June 2012, I lived in Denmark as part of the Living Copenhagen artist residency, and then continued to tour in Europe, creating participatory UPRISING performances in Russia, UK, and Portugal.

I have participated in many forms of feminist, queer, and anti-war activism for more than 20 years. Lately I have been active in an organization called Alternate ROOTS, which is a collection of performing and visual artists who are dedicated to social and racial justice.

My research interests include performance art as revolutionary practice, pragmatic mysticism, ritual and ceremony, Russian theater, and radical queer party culture as a site of resistance. Over the years I've been really interested in feminism; gender; queer politics; race theory; the body; spirituality; my experiences living and working in Moscow, Russia; and revolutionary movements. I have a B.A. in Theater from the University of Illinois at Chicago and an M.A. in Interdisciplinary Art from Columbia College Chicago.

I really like to cook. My current specialties are lentil soup and cabbage slaw. I also love to go out dancing. I think going dancing is a good form of physical and emotional therapy. I enjoy hand embroidery and poetic music like Iron and Wine. Costumes, masquerade, and "Strong Looks" inspire me. I like to build and maintain shrines and altars. I love New Orleans and try to get to Mardi Gras whenever possible. I practice Reiki energetic healing and endeavor to be a healing force in my art-making life as well as the classroom. My work is documented at nicolegarneau.com.



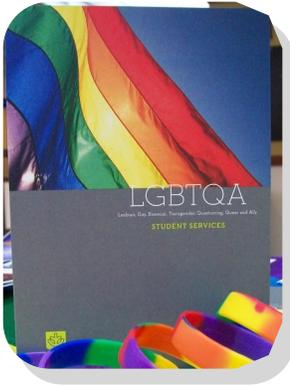
My name is Marie Draz and I am a PhD candidate and Instructor in the Department of Philosophy here at DePaul. As an interdisciplinary scholar with undergraduate degrees in Philosophy and Feminist Studies, my research and teaching interests include continental and feminist philosophy, queer and race theory, and transgender studies. I teach a variety of courses at DePaul, including "Issues in Sex and Gender," "Philosophy and Existential Themes," "Sophomore Seminar in Multiculturalism," "Philosophy and Its Issues," "Philosophy and Film," and a "Focal Point" seminar on body modification. I hold a graduate certificate in Women's and Gender Studies and am thrilled to be teaching "Feminist Theories" in WGS this quarter.

My dissertation, "Transitional Subjects: Gender, Race, and the Politics of Temporality," reworks queer and feminist concepts of sex, gender, and sexuality to account for the challenges posed by the emerging field of transgender studies. I am particularly interested in the role of temporality in the nation-state's racialized maintenance of the category of sex. My work has appeared in the *American Philosophical Association's Newsletter on Philosophy and LGBT Issues* and is forthcoming in *Returns of Antigone* (SUNY Press) and *Why Race and Gender Still Matter* (Pickering & Chatto). Future research projects include a genealogy of the term cisgender and a feminist critique of new surveillance technologies (e.g. rapiscan) that affect and jeopardize the life of non-normatively gendered bodies.

When I'm not teaching and researching, I love reading YA and science fiction, poetry, and fashion blogs. After defending my dissertation this spring, I also have big plans to join Twitter.

MAPPING GENDER INCLUSIVE RESTROOMS

BY KATY WESEMAN



Hello WGS community! My name is Katy Weseman and I've been working here at DePaul as the first full time LGBTQA Student Services Coordinator for just over a year. LGBTQA Student Services, housed within the Dean of Students Office, exists to promote, foster, and support a campus environment that is inclusive of people from all sexualities and gender identities. Our resource room and my office are located in suite 307 in the Lincoln Park Student Center. We also have pages on major social media sites. Please stop by or follow us on social media to learn more about the many programs, resources, and support that we offer.

Among these programs, I'm proud to announce an initiative to raise awareness around restrooms and the importance of trans* inclusive spaces at DePaul. This conversation has been ongoing and with the help of many students, faculty, and staff, we created an electronic map to pinpoint gender inclusive and single occupancy restrooms on campus and in the surrounding area. This map is linked to the trans* resources tab of the LGBTQA Student Services website at <http://studentaffairs.depaul.edu/lgbtqa/transresources.html>, or you can view the map directly at <http://is.qd/DePaulInclusiveRestrooms>.

Restrooms, locker rooms, and other gender segregated spaces by can be hostile and unsafe environments for trans* and gender non-conforming people. DePaul is not immune from this phenomenon; trans* and gender non-conforming people on our campus often face discrimination in restrooms labeled "women" and "men." Being able to use a restroom without harassment is a basic right, very much in line with DePaul's Vincentian mission of recognizing the dignity of the individual.

Gender inclusive restrooms (i.e. single occupancy restrooms that are not labeled "men" or "women") are a great resource for trans* and gender non-conforming people, but education around this topic is also crucial. We must challenge the gender norms that we are taught from an early age. If you walk into a gendered restroom or locker room and see someone who you do not think "belongs" in that room, I encourage you to pause and reflect on your own assumptions about gender and the space you are in rather than react with aversion or shock.



Inclusive restroom sign at University of Wisconsin

If you want to learn more about being an ally to trans* people at DePaul, I encourage you to attend a Safe Zone training (<http://studentaffairs.depaul.edu/lgbtqa/ourservices.html>) and/or participate in a program with the student organization Trans**(formation)* DePaul. I am also happy to serve as a resource if you identify as trans* or if you are working to be an ally to trans* and gender non-conforming people.

RESOURCES ABOUT GENDER INCLUSIVE RESTROOMS & TRANS* EQUALITY

- ◆ <http://safe2pee.org>
- ◆ <http://amplifyyourvoice.org/youthresource/youthresource-genderneutralfaq>
- ◆ <http://transequality.org/>
- ◆ <http://wehappytrans.com/>

Please contact me at kweseman@depaul.edu with any questions or suggestions regarding this initiative. The restroom map is a work in progress and I welcome any feedback, additions, or subtractions!

MEET THE NEW NEWSLETTER TEAM

To wrap up the Fall Quarter issue, we would like to let readers get to know us and hear our visions for upcoming installments.

Before we go further, we'd like to take a moment to recognize Dr. Ann Russo, who served as faculty advisor for the WGS newsletter from its creation. We would like to warmly thank Ann for her leadership, inspiration and dedication to the newsletter. We hope we can make her proud.

We'd also like to formally introduce Dr. Robin Mitchell as our new faculty advisor. Dr. Mitchell is thrilled to be embarking on this project with us and, like us, has a lot of ideas for what we can accomplish this year.



Hi everyone! My name is Deanna Boland and I'm incredibly excited to be co-editing the Newsletter this year.

This is my third year at DePaul and I am a double major in Women's and Gender Studies and English. My interests involve applying queer and trans* theory to feminism, transformative justice, prison abolition, and sex education. I cofounded Trans*(*formation*) DePaul, a student organization that does activism and advocacy for trans* and gender non-conforming students on campus through community building and educational workshops. When I'm not studying or running Trans* 101s, I'm usually devouring a new series on Netflix, trying out a new recipe, or having a board game night with friends.

I believe that the newsletter is a great way to lift up the voices of our many different communities, through reflections on activism, student scholarship, art work, poetry, essays and more. But it's also a way to unite us all together, to celebrate our many accomplishments, and to build up our own WGS community. My co-editor Carly and I have some great plans for the Newsletter this year, but I want to express that this publication is for our community and should be run that way. We welcome your comments or suggestions, and of course your writing!

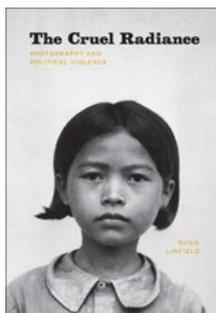
Hey there! My name is Carly Petrusky and I'm the other half of this year's newsletter staff. I can't wait to start collecting your stories and achievements, as well as showcasing your creative pursuits.

I transferred from College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, Illinois to DePaul in Winter 2013. Though I always had a feeling that I would end up at DePaul after high school, I never thought it would be as a Women's and Gender Studies major. Areas of special interest for me in the field include feminist media analysis, the expression of masculinity and femininity throughout historical and cultural contexts and adolescent sex education and violence prevention. I'm currently training to become a health educator with the DePaul chapter of Peer Health Exchange and will begin teaching workshops to 9th graders in Chicago public schools at the start of Winter Quarter. I'm also passionate about collecting records, vintage clothing, surreal and alienating midnight movies, fine paper and stationery and trying my hardest to duplicate projects I see on Pinterest.



It's always so unbelievable to me how interdisciplinary classes in the WGS program are, encouraging students—majors and non-majors alike—to reflect deeply on how issues of gender effect their lives across many intersections. Deanna and I would love to use the newsletter as a space for diverse voices and their discoveries in any way they are expressed. This newsletter is for you, by you.

UPCOMING EVENTS: ON & OFF CAMPUS



What is the Image We're Looking for? Depictions of Race and Class in American Journalism and Photojournalism

Thursday, November 14 – 6:00pm
DePaul Art Museum – 935 W Fullerton Ave

This talk with Susie Linfield, author of *The Cruel Radiance: Photography and Political Violence* will explore the intersections between race and class and how these identities are portrayed in journalism. It will be held in conjunction with the current exhibition *We Shall: Photographs by Paul D'Amato*.

Outside In: The Mexican-American Street Art Movement in Chicago

Saturday, November 16 & December 14 – 12:00pm
National Museum of Mexican Art - 1852 W 19th St

Head to Pilsen for a free tour of the National Museum of Mexican Art. Be sure to check out their current exhibit on Mexican-American Street Art which showcases graffiti and street art in Chicago as a social practice, focusing on agency, mobilization and identity formation. Can't make the tours? Don't worry, because the museum has free admission every day.



Everyday Responses to Everyday Harassment

Thursday, December 5 - 6:00pm - 9:00pm
DePaul Lincoln Park Campus (Location TBA)

Part of Chicago's Transformative Justice Fall Calendar, join Building Communities, Ending Violence for this strategy session focused on building community accountability for interrupting violence. For further information, contact: arusso@depaul.edu.

"Constitutional Law as it Applies to Transgender Prisoners" by Owen Daniel-McCarter

Saturday, December 7, 2013 - 11am-1pm
Hoover-Leppen Theatre - 3656 N. Halsted St

This lecture is part of the Center on Halsted's ongoing Lavender University series featuring top academics and activists in the LGBTQ community. Owen Daniel-McCarter, a former DePaul professor, is co-founder of the Transformative Justice Law Project of Illinois which provides free, holistic, and gender-affirming legal advocacy to criminalized transgender and gender non-conforming people in Chicago and throughout Illinois prisons.

Student price \$15.

WANT TO WRITE FOR THE NEWSLETTER?

Have an idea for a story you would like to see in the newsletter? Or do you have artwork, poetry, essays, or photos you would like to see included in Winter's issue?

E-mail us your work, suggestions, feedback, or questions to wgs.newsletter@gmail.com



LET'S BE FRIENDS!
Search for "WgsNewsletter DePaul."

COMING ATTRACTIONS:

Look for the WGS Newsletter on Twitter & Tumblr,
launching Winter 2013!

