

the colgate center for  
**women's  
studies**

# NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 2

SPRING 2011

## Director's Note

*By: Ulla Grapard (Director of Women's Studies and Associate Professor of Economics & WMST)*

As the academic year 2010-2011 comes to a close, the Women's Studies community celebrates the accomplishments of our graduating seniors and many other students who have made their mark in the Center for Women's Studies this year. On April 14 at our annual banquet, our seniors were honored with individual toolboxes holding a few items a woman would need to get started in life after college - such as a screwdriver, a hammer, and a wrench. This set of tools, with their pink handles, is the metaphorical equivalent of the tools they have been developing for a while as Women's Studies majors and minors: the critical thinking tools of feminist theory, the feminist solidarity of sisterhood, and the strength to counter social injustices and misogyny in their worlds with determined and effective action.

As I say good-bye to this year's seniors, I also prepare to take leave of my office in the Center. After four years I am passing on the key to Meika Loe, Associate Professor of Sociology and Anthropology and Women's Studies, who will move into the Center as the next director of Women's Studies while I go back to Persson Hall.

I will miss the people I have worked with on a daily basis: Heather Dockstader who has been a wonderfully innovative and effective program assistant for the last two years, and Letta Palmer, our administrative assistant, whose talents, warmth, and good cheer are so important for everything that happens in the Center. I will miss the many and diverse students and interns who have helped create such an energetic,

lively, and deeply caring community, and my colleagues, Mary Simonson, Ken Valente, and Casey Sprock, who with their offices in the Center, have brought new conversations and terrific students into our space.

Lastly, I want to celebrate Marilyn Thie, a former director of Women's Studies and Professor of Philosophy and Religion and Women's Studies, who is retiring after 37 years at Colgate. Marilyn Thie has profoundly touched and influenced the lives of so many students, faculty, and administrators. In the early 1980s she was one of the most active forces on campus responsible for securing the grant that allowed for the development of the Women's Studies Program. I have been fortunate to spend my first years as director under the guidance of Marilyn Thie when she was Division Director of University Studies. She has taught many courses in the program, but her "Philosophy and Feminisms" has long been a favorite. It is the course above all others, our students say, where they learn to read, write, and think like feminists. Marilyn is irreplaceable, and we will miss her terribly.

To all those who leave us this year, I wish you good fortune and bright feminist futures!

## Center for Women's Studies:

Monday—Thursday

8:30am—9:30pm

Friday

8:30am—3:30pm

Sunday

4:30pm—9:30pm



*Ulla & Edith Kuiper view the exhibits at the NWRHP.*



*Dynamic discussion ensues during Ulla Grapard's Women's Studies senior seminar this spring.*

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## The Brown Bag Series

By: Rachelè Hatter '13

Another year, another semester filled with interesting topics as delivered by the Center for Women's Studies brown bag series. This semester saw a steady flow of audience members enter on Tuesday to hear about many issues surrounding gender and other areas of identity as they helped themselves to a Curtain Call lunch. And, while March for us was filled with topics of religion, these four months have generated a diverse menu of weekly conversation to the Colgate community – everything from mediative rhetoric to the recent political focus on Planned Parenthood. For all the changes in store for the Center this upcoming Fall, the brown bag series will undoubtedly remain available for the Colgate community and will stay in the business of providing good food and great conversation throughout the academic year.



<b>We May Have All Come on Different Ships, but We're in the Same Boat Now</b>	1/18/11
Panel of Faculty & Staff Co-sponsored w/ ALST	
<b>Feminisms across the Life Course</b>	1/25/11
Carol Bergen, Monica Costa, & Dr. Susan Marafino	
<b>Birth Control Matters: A Discussion with Our Local Planned Parenthood Affiliate</b>	2/1/11
Beth LeGere, Director of Public Affairs - Planned Parenthood Mohawk Hudson	
<b>An Up Close View of the Civil Rights Movement</b>	2/8/11
Rhonda Levine, Tony Aveni, & Pete Banner-Haley Co-sponsored w/ ALST	
<b>Dimensions of Stigma toward Women, Children, &amp; Men Living with HIV/AIDS in Communities in Southwestern Rural Uganda</b>	2/15/11
Ellen Kraly, Lesley Parrish, Alexandra Pons, Frank Frey, & Pete Scull Co-sponsored w/ ALST	
<b>The Pressure on Young Women to Be Perfect &amp; Why Your Best is Good Enough</b>	2/22/11
Liz Funk, author of <i>Supergirls Speak Out: Inside the Crisis of Overachieving Girls</i> Co-sponsored w/ Pan-Hellenic Council	
<b>Re-visiting <i>Sexual Ethics in Islam</i></b>	3/1/11
Kecia Ali, Assistant Professor of Religion at Boston University Co-sponsored w/ RELG	
<b>Queer Identity &amp; Religion</b>	3/8/11
Rabbi Steve Nathan, Rev. Patricia Raube, Father Fred Daley, & Eliza Kent Co-sponsored w/ LGBT & the Office of University Chaplains	
<b>Nourishing Lives: Judaism, Women, Food, Hospitality, &amp; Contradictions</b>	3/22/11
Merle Feld, Jewish feminist author & poet Co-sponsored w/ the Office of University Chaplains	
<b>Birth Stories: From Pregnancy to Parenthood</b>	3/29/11
Panel of Faculty & Staff	
<b>When the Stakes Are High, but We Just Can't Talk with Each Other: Approaching Communicative Impasse through Mediative Rhetoric</b>	4/5/11
Suzanne Spring	
<b>Activist Perspectives from National Conferences &amp; Organizations</b>	4/12/11
Panel of Students Co-sponsored w/ LGBTQ Initiatives	
<b>Senior Research: Projects from ALST, PSYC, SOAN, &amp; WMST</b>	4/19/11
Teesa Bahana, Alexandra Cassel, Louis Mensah, & Lisa Plenderleith Co-sponsored w/ ALST	
<b>New Perspectives on Micro-Finance, Women, &amp; Poverty Alleviation in Bangladesh</b>	4/26/11
Nadine Shaanta Murshid, MPP & Adjunct Faculty at Rutgers	

## For Colored Girls Comes to Hamilton Theater

By: Leeander Alexander '12

On January 26 the highly anticipated Tyler Perry film *For Colored Girls* hit the big screen at Hamilton Theater. The movie, sponsored by ALST, WMST, and the ALANA Cultural Center, brought out a huge crowd of the Colgate and Hamilton community. The story focuses on the lives of 8 black women living in New York. Each woman has her own story, and the audience is taken on a journey through the lives of the women and, more importantly, has a first class seat to an in-depth look at the lives of black women in America. The next day a brown bag was held in the Center for Women's Studies to discuss the film and its impact. Many areas were explored, including family, employment, health, socioeconomic status, and much more, and the dialogue was centered on how all these factors play into the lives of black women in America. The event was a huge success and succeeded in its goal in bringing more awareness about communities of color to the Colgate and Hamilton communities.



Professor Landon Reid leads a discussion about the choreopoem and the film adaptation.

## Creating Change

By: Rachel Hatter '13

In early February I and three other Colgate students departed the frigid cold and blinding snow of Upstate New York for the frigid cold of Minneapolis, MN. Seeing as I was attending a conference, however, there was not much time spent in the freezing weather. So, I spent the week in the heat of discussion, surrounded by passionate queer activists from around the country and around the world. Creating Change is a conference put on annually by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and it attracts thousands of folks to discuss, assess, and celebrate the queer rights movement. And, the topics there are fairly diverse (it took me a good two hours to flip through the thickly detailed program book and work out a schedule of sessions for the week). Some of my personal highlights from that week are "Uptight Gays and Out of Control Queers," "Doing Justice: Polyamory/Nonmonogamy in the LGBTQ Movement," and "White Weddings or Whitewashing: Homonormativity and the Argument Against Equality." Being part of the Creating Change Conference was a very different atmosphere than what I experience at Colgate. I mean, how often do folks make sure to ask for your PGP (preferred gender pronoun) on campus? Needless to say, it was a bit difficult to get back into the groove of Colgate once I returned. And, I'll admit, there was quite a bit of reluctance to leave such a liberating space at all. Everyone in our group half-jokingly complained about having to return to "straight world." But, being in Minneapolis did give me some idea to what an inclusive and educated space might look like. More so than the confidence and the enthusiastic engagement that I often found with those I interacted with at the conference, there was always an effort to speak from personal experience in order to avoid generalizations; and when assumptions or privileges were called out,



After 5 days in Minneapolis, MN, the group of 4 students and 2 staff members leaves exhausted but happy from a fabulous conference.

there was an ownership of being in the wrong. "Straight world" doesn't really have that type of mentality. Heck, it's oftentimes hostile to the idea of inclusivity or having to be conscious of the feelings and experiences of others (why else would there be so much groaning about having to be PC?). My aspiration after this experience after being in a starkly different environment is to bring some of those ideas into "straight world" (i.e. Colgate). Maybe starting with this project, we can really start to create change in the real world.



## Sheryl Swoopes

By: Kat Kollitides '13

Sheryl Swoopes has always been a groundbreaker. From her role as the first woman ever to be drafted into the WNBA to her ongoing advocacy in the LGBTQ community, Swoopes leaves behind a blazing legacy wherever she goes. The Colgate community was treated to a fantastic lecture by Swoopes on the evening of February 3 in Love Auditorium. As the best-selling author of the memoir *Bounce Back*, Swoopes candidly discussed her upbringing, her ascent into fame as a basketball superstar, and the challenges she faced when she came out as a lesbian, a decision which profoundly affected her career and public image.

The native Texan and current basketball coach also touched upon themes of hope and optimism, explaining that every day she wakes up and asks, "How can I make my life better, and how can I make the lives of others better?" The event, sponsored by a host of groups including the ALANA Cultural Center, the Dean of the Faculty, and WMST, among other groups, was attended by a large crowd of over 100 individuals, who left the talk inspired by Swoopes' story and wisdom.



## Liz Funk

By: Katie Rapp '13 & Allison Rabill '13

Pan-Hellenic Council and Women's Studies co-sponsored published author Liz Funk for both a brown bag discussion and a lecture. Funk spoke to a group of young women about the pressures of growing up in a society where overachieving is a norm. The girls who play varsity sports, are active in multiple clubs, and manage to maintain a 4.0 GPA are everywhere. Funk discussed her research with young women across the United States who felt similar pressures to "keep up" in a society that demands perfection, the findings of which are published in her book *Supergirls Speak Out: Inside the Secret Crisis of Overachieving Girls*. She made several key points about the hype surrounding fashion and body image, relationships, and the differences in personality that certain women adopt in different situations.



Liz Funk talks about "supergirls," girls/women who try to do everything.

One of her most poignant and interesting examples was that of the well-rounded, female, college student who is determined to succeed after graduation. During the day, the student believes that men are attracted to smart and strong-minded women. However, within the social scene on campus, she adopts a ditzy demeanor who drinks too much and is only interested in the hook-up culture. Funk is puzzled as to why young women feel the need to change so much in the course of one day, suggesting that they assume the role that they believe is expected from them.

Funk made the strong point that women are empowered with vast opportunities but are also held to nearly unattainable expectations and standards. In a culture where women define themselves by what they look like, their GPA, and the activities in which they are involved, the strive for perfection is common. Funk encouraged her audience to embrace this ambitious drive, while still maintaining a sense of balance. Rather than dying one's hair to match Blake Lively's shade on *Gossip Girl*, Funk urged "supergirls" to slow down and make the distinction between what is truly important to them and what they are simply doing in order to please others. Ultimately, in this culture of overachievement, the goal is to make some time to get to know oneself and realize that one's intrinsic worth does not come from what is listed on a one-page resume but, rather, from all of the things – a girl's quirks, passions, and heart – that truly make up one's sense of self.

## Not Just a Game

By: April Bailey '14

On February 8 Woman's Studies co-sponsored a film screening of the documentary *Not Just A Game: Power, Politics & American Sports*, which critically examines the pervasive influence of sports on American society. Diane Williams, who worked on the film and was the WMST program assistant from 2002-04, was in attendance to facilitate the conversation and to present a related brown bag the following day.

Despite being the daughter of a former National Baseball Hall of Fame employee, sports fanaticism has never appealed to me. Nevertheless, it has also always been an integral part of my life. I love this documentary because it deconstructs the huge and seemingly innocuous pressures sports exert on our culture.

It begins by looking at masculinity and the militarization of football. The story of Pat Tilman highlights this connection. This professional football player turned soldier lost his life in Iraq. He is now used to promote patriotism in conjunction with football and military service. Tilman's family grieves this exploitation since after his first encounter with active duty, Tilman proclaimed to oppose the war. Sports news organizations ignore this position because a loyal, violent patriot coincides much better with conceptions of what masculinity should look like.



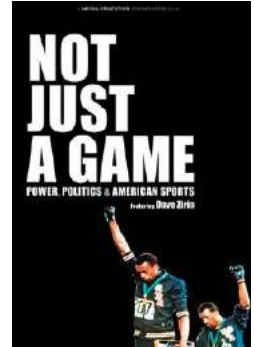
Diane Williams shares her passion for roller derby.

The documentary also examines women's roles in sports. Popular sports magazines misrepresent female athletes who receive cover status very rarely. When they do, it is often to hyper-sexualize them. In the discussion following the film, it was added that female beach volleyball players have a minimum size their bikini bottoms must be. There is no option for these female athletes to dress in a way that shifts the attention from their bodies onto their skills.

Towards the end of the film, the focus moves to the power athletes have as public figures. It provides both positive and negative examples. Positive representations, like Muhammad Ali, highlight the willingness to sacrifice wealth in order to stand for what one believes in. Others, like Michael Jordan, reveal the use of their position primarily to promote brands and make money.

The next day's brown bag complemented this film by examining a potentially positive manifestation of sports. Roller derby focuses on individual expression and diverse athletes. Age and gender do not conform to conventional understandings of the young, male athlete.

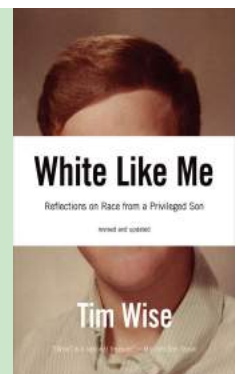
I came away from this experience feeling disillusioned but also empowered. Sports determine so much; when taken only as avenues to learn teamwork and self-discipline, this does not seem like a problem. But under a closer lens, sports' more nefarious effects are worth noting.



## Tim Wise

By: Dena Robinson '12

On February 28 the Black Student Union hosted anti-racist author and lecturer Tim Wise at Colgate. During his lecture, Wise used allegory and jokes to make a profound impact upon all of those who attended. Wise spoke of the racial history of the United States from immigration of whites into the country to the current housing crisis. Wise received plenty of laughs from students and faculty alike, drawing upon a diverse crowd. He urged students and faculty to do everything they could to end white supremacy and educate those around them - his message will not and did not fall on deaf ears. Colgate University looks forward to hosting Tim Wise once again in the near future.



## Vagina Monologues - 2011

By: Casey Schmidt '11



The Thursday night cast in Colgate's production poses for a cast photo.

This year Sisters of the Round Table and the Center for Women's Studies continued their tradition of sponsoring Colgate's production of *The Vagina Monologues*, which was held February 17 and 18 at the Palace Theater. The production raised nearly \$1200 - through ticket and cupcake sales - to be donated to the V-Day Campaign and to Vera House Inc. in Syracuse, NY. Vera House Inc. provides services for survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence, as well as the general community, including an emergency shelter, a rape and sexual assault hotline, counseling services, and educational programs. The V-Day Campaign will be using funds raised from this year's *Vagina Monologues* production to build safe houses

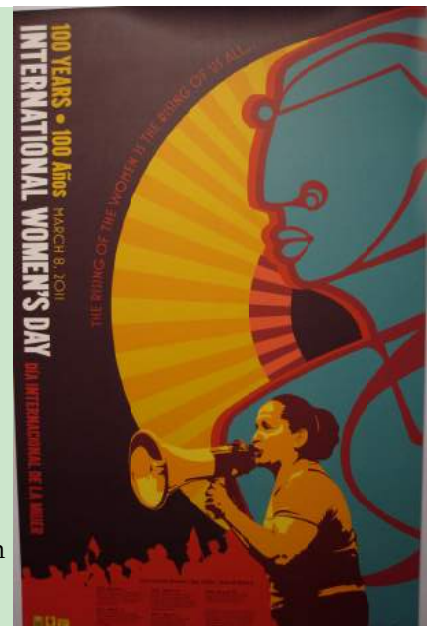
and legal assistance offices and to support existing anti-violence organizations for women and girls in Haiti.

The cast this year consisted of twenty-four Colgate students who imbued the monologues with their own voices, providing an outstanding feminist theatrical experience for audiences. Two new additions to the production this year were "Hey Miss Pat," a monologue focusing on the experience of a New Orleans woman who survived Hurricane Katrina and "Myriam," a tribute to Myriam Merlet, a Haitian activist who died in the earthquake. Once again, *The Vagina Monologues* created a space for women's experiences to be shared with the community and, hopefully, inspired conversations on gender, sexuality, and the issue of sexual violence both internationally and in our own community.

## ArtRage

By: Kelsey Gibb '13

This past Saturday night, I was able to be part of a group of thirteen students who attended ArtRage Gallery's exhibition *100 Years of Rockin' the World* in Syracuse to celebrate International Women's Day. After a filling dinner at Friendly's, we made our way over to the gallery where we were able to view artwork from 35 women artists, with nine being from the local area. The different pieces spanned a variety of mediums, including paintings, sculptures, and even embroidered pillows. A few other students and I were actually able to talk with one of the artists Arlene Abend. She spoke with us about her inspiration for her sculpture as well as for becoming an artist in general, which stemmed from her need to break out of the societal constraints she felt and to live a more fulfilling life through art. Witnessing the overwhelming support for these incredible women artists was definitely inspiring because women are highly underrepresented in almost all galleries and museums throughout the world. Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed this trip to ArtRage because not only did it allow me to get off campus and explore the world outside of Hamilton but it also opened my eyes to the amazingly talented women who are doing their part in spreading awareness about feminist issues through their artwork.

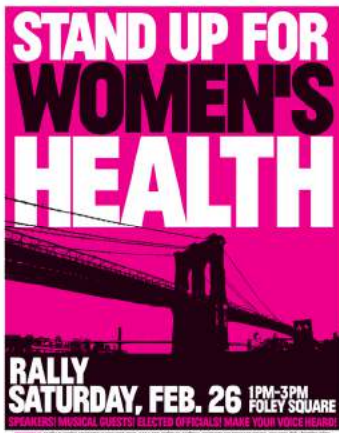




## Planned Parenthood Rally

By: *Emily Wakim '11*

Euphoric buzz and energy engulfed the crowd. The rally that supports continued federal funding for Planned Parenthood was an experience unlike anything else. It is truly amazing how such large issues can bring people of all different backgrounds together. The visible liminal community that gathered at Foley Square in New York City lasted for three hours filled with testimonies, music, and political addresses.



Of all the speakers, each incredible in their own right, one stuck out the most, encompassing the severity of the decision facing Congress. The story came from a marine, currently serving in Iraq, who had a friend read a portion of his latest letter aloud to the crowd. He was sadly disappointed when he had found out the House had currently passed a bill to stop funding to Planned Parenthood. "I love my country because of the freedoms we have. I choose to serve my country to always ensure that we will offer the freedom of choice. Choice comes in many different forms. Planned Parenthood offers women and men one form of choice. It should always be supported, regardless. To not, is to take away choice." These words spoke to the fundamental issue.

When the rally ended, I left feeling empowered. I left knowing I had made a stand. I had voiced my opinion, and I was not alone. I was part of a group making our voices heard. We were creating action and pushing for women's health to be taken seriously. We demanded to be heard!

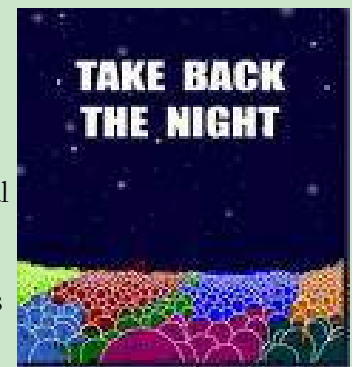


Thousands gather in support of Planned Parenthood during the rally in NYC.

## Take Back the Night

By: *Terica Adams '12*

Marching refers to organized, uniform, steady, and rhythmic walking forward. A speak out is a gathering where people relate their experiences or opinions about a specified topic or concern. Take Back the Night March and Speak Out is the annual event when members of the Colgate community march around campus declaring that we will not tolerate any form of sexual abuse or sexual violence. We march and chant from the quad to Broad Street. It is loud; it forces people to pay attention to us, and, sometimes, it even makes people feel uncomfortable. In our society, there are "taboo topics" that we try to avoid. Unfortunately, domestic violence and sexual assault are some of them. However, just because we do not talk about these issues does not mean they are nonexistent. Just because people are not reporting these crimes does not mean that rape or sexual assault are not problems at Colgate. In a society where we tend to ignore things that challenge our comfortable world, Take Back the Night is a reminder that everything is not perfect in the world or here at Colgate. Take Back the Night is actually a challenge of that false assumption and a call to action as well. We are loud because we want everyone in the vicinity to hear us. We walk around campus so we can reach all parts of the community. It makes the statement that we will not accept or tolerate the questionable activity that happens here, whether it is in our dorms or the Jug. Take Back the Night is one of the most powerful events Colgate has. I am proud that I am a part of it.



## QueerFest: Celebrating All Identities

By: Andrea Finley '13 & Jamie Bergeron, Assistant Director of LGBTQ Initiatives

In March Colgate celebrated *QueerFest: Celebrating All Identities*, formerly known as Big Gay Weekend. It is an event meant to raise awareness and education around topics of gender and sexuality. The weekend celebrated and enlightened participants by providing educational workshops, speakers, and social events. The keynote address, given by renowned theologian Reverend Irene Monroe of Harvard Divinity School, stressed the importance of recognizing the way oppression of our identities affects our scope of the world. She shared her personal journey to understand the intersections of her race, ethnicity, sexuality, and social capital in order to create strong relationships. The weekend's workshops included conversations about current social and political issues, including California's Proposition 8, the politics of language, and drag performance culture.



Reverend Irene Monroe, the keynote speaker, discusses the idea of a hierarchy of oppression.

Two of Colgate's own professors, Kenneth Valente and Casey Sprock '76, led workshop discussions connecting queer-community issues to Colgate specific action steps. Rev. Monroe also helped Colgate students create an action plan to better support LGBTQ Greek students, to communicate issues of bias or exclusion to administrative decision-makers, and to become involved with nationally recognized rights organizations. The Seattle-based grassroots organization Put This on the Map showcased their documentary about increasing the visibility of queer youth. Their film and education tour is an example of a mobilization effort for young people and adults to share stories and speak frankly about the oppression and homophobia that perpetuate stigma for LGBTQ folks and give rise to bullying. Ending the long list of *QueerFest* events was the annual Drag Ball, featuring celebrity drag queen Pandora Boxx and 9 student drag performances. These amateur performances energized the audience and became the highlight of the weekend's events!

The events were extremely informative and well attended by Colgate students, staff, faculty, and visitors from other local college campuses. To see the Colgate community come together was phenomenal - openly discussing issues of gender and sexuality keeps relevant issues at the forefront of our understanding and allows us to be active participants in making positive change. Support for *QueerFest* and other LGBTQ themed events on campus proves that students are interested in making an impact to support the rights and equality of LGBTQ individuals.

### Spring 2011 WMST Courses

<b>CLAS 232</b>	Sexuality and Gender - Classical	<b>POSC 217</b>	Identity Politics
<b>CORE 144</b>	The Psychology of Oppression	<b>RELG 253</b>	Sex, Love, and God: Religion and Queer Studies
<b>ECON 234</b>	Gender in the Economy	<b>SOAN 369</b>	Women, Health, and Medicine
<b>EDUC 303</b>	Gender & Development	<b>SPAN 226</b>	Latin American Women Writers
<b>ENGL 208</b>	Introduction to Literary Study: Sex and the Global City	<b>WMST 202</b>	Women's Lives: An Introduction to Women's Studies
<b>ENGL 433</b>	West Indian Literature	<b>WMST 302</b>	Women's Lives in Biography and Autobiography
<b>ENGL 442</b>	Virginia Woolf & E.M. Forster	<b>WMST 490</b>	Feminisms: Personal, Local, and Global Perspectives
<b>GEOG 321</b>	Gender, Justice, and Environmental Change	<b>WRIT 242</b>	Stand and Speak: Feminist Rhetorics and Social Change
<b>LGBT 303</b>	Speaking Its Name: Gay and Lesbian Identities since the 19th Century (CORE 303)		



## Senior Profile: Casey Schmidt

It is a tradition for the Women's Studies Newsletter to feature its graduating senior interns; and while we at the Center for Women's Studies don't do things simply for tradition's sake, we like to honor those people who have served the Center well. This year we have one graduating intern - Casey Schmidt. We asked her a few questions about her experience at Colgate and at the Center. Thanks for everything, Casey!

Major: Women's Studies

Extracurricular activities: Outdoor Ed.

Years as an intern: 1.5

What was your favorite course?

My favorite course... wow, that's hard... probably *The Relational Self* with Professor Kay Johnston.

Where is your Colgate hideout spot?

It used to be up on the Ski Hill: that alcove with the bench that looks out West. Now, my hideout spot would probably have to be the SAP (the Saperstein Jewish Center); I go and distract my friend who works there and occasionally take naps on the couches (those couches are impossible *not* to fall asleep on!).



What is one thing you would change at Colgate?

I was just talking about the things I wish I could give/help change at Colgate with my advisor. One of the ones that's been on my mind a lot in the past year or two is a kind of pre-orientation and continuing support program for students who don't belong to the dominant or majority culture of Colgate, especially students of a lower socio-economic status. There are a lot of kids who don't necessarily qualify for the OUS program but who—I think—could really benefit from having some kind of support network and safe community space set up for them on campus. I was definitely one of those kids who almost didn't make it past my first year, and, now, I've come to really appreciate my experience here. But, it could have been easier, and I would like to see it made easier for others who feel the same way I did: like I didn't belong here. If I ever got the opportunity, I would love to set up a program that addressed these concerns at Colgate.

If the Center for Women's Studies were to add a room, what would you want?

A napping room! Dim lights, white noise, some mattresses, and curtains to draw around you (that's definitely a selfish wish and largely influenced by my desire to find places to nap up the hill). Or, I could dig a sun room with lots of plants (probably hard to manage in a basement, though).

What is your most embarrassing moment at the Center for Women's Studies?

I had recently sent out an email to my fellow interns at the Center, and I had used the word "guys" to address them. Then, right after a (male) student I perhaps maybe liked walked out of the Center, Heather looked at me and said "Guys?! Guys, Casey? Really?" And, I responded, "I'm *allowed* to like guys, Heather!" She, of course, was not talking about my crush but my inappropriate use of the word "guys" to address non-male students. I'm pretty sure I turned beet red, and Heather walked around with a satisfied smirk for a while: "You totally outed yourself!"

## The Next WMST Program Assistant

By: Heather D. Dockstader (WMST Program Assistant)

Thank you for two wonderful years. Now, here's a little background about our new program assistant. Please welcome Kimmie Garner.

"I have lived in the Southeast for my entire life (Texas, Georgia, and North Carolina) and have attended UNC-Chapel Hill for the past four years. I majored in Global Studies and Women's Studies and minored in Social and Economic Justice. Because I have moved around the Southeast a lot, becoming immersed and rooted in the Chapel Hill community was very important to me, and I was involved with a number of different community organizations. My most enduring commitments were with the APPLES Service-Learning Program, in which I helped plan and coordinate service opportunities for students that paired academic learning with community service; UNC BirthPartners, a volunteer doula program at our local hospital; Benevolence Farm, a nonprofit seeking to create a rehabilitative farming community for formerly incarcerated women; and Saludamos, a walking, cooking, and gardening group for Latina women that facilitates in the building of social support networks. I am passionate about sexual and reproductive rights, as well as immigrants' rights, and my work with these organizations/groups culminated in my attendance at and participation in the United Nations' 55th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in February through WomenNC (Women for North Carolina), which seeks to raise North Carolinians' awareness about CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women) and send at least four student fellows to CSW each year.

My hopes for working in the Center are that I continue to make it an inclusive space for students of various backgrounds and identities and that I include students and faculty as stakeholders in the development of innovative programming. I also hope to facilitate in the growth of new opportunities at the Center that pair academic learning with community service. I am excited about developing close relationships with the staff at the Center and with Colgate's students and faculty and deepening my knowledge of and experience with gender-based programming. I hope to make brown bag discussions as intersectional as possible, which is why connecting with and including students, faculty, and staff of myriad identities is important to me."

Her favorite movie is *The Birdcage*, and if she were to have an adventure with a famous feminist, she and Gloria Anzaldua would go to Italy and eat, bike, and hike their way through the countryside during the Fall.

Til next time...

### The Center for Women's Studies Staff

**Director:**

Ulla Grapard,

Associate Professor of Economics and Women's Studies

**Program Assistant:**

Heather D. Dockstader '04

**Administrative Assistant:**

Letta Palmer

**Student Interns:**

Casey Schmidt '11

Natalie George '13

Kelsey Gibb '13

Rachelè Hatter '13

Christina Liu '13

Xavia Publius '13