

# the colgate center for women's studies

# NEWSLETTER

Volume 18, Issue 1

Fall 2011

## Director's Note



At the Día de los Muertos BB, students and staff enjoy decorating skulls and matchboxes.

*By: Meika Loe, Director of Women's Studies, Director of Upstate Institute, and Professor of Sociology & Anthropology and WMST*

The 2011-12 year is off to a great start in Women's Studies. Our Center is bustling with life. Nobody can believe the crowds we are getting for our Brown Bag series, visiting speakers have been fantastic, and our academic program continues to be strong. Our interdisciplinary courses this semester range from Women's Rights in U.S. History; to Gender, Sexuality and the Law; to Gender and Language; as well as courses on women and Islam and women and education. As always, Letta Palmer helps us to stay on top of everything.

Enrollments in Introduction to Women's Studies continue to be high. Both sections filled quickly with students across the gender spectrum (approx 1/3 self-identify as male). Thirteen of us took a day trip to Seneca Falls on a lovely fall day in October, where we toured the Women's Rights National Park (where we had an awesome feminist scavenger hunt), Harriet Tubman's home, and William Seward's home. On the bus ride home, some of us discussed the lack of women-hosted parties on campus, and proposed a feminist-themed party. We are excited to see this idea come to fruition in the final week of classes as the "Come As You Are" WMST 202 celebration at Donovan's Pub featuring feminist artists gifted in slam poetry, juggling, and song.

Two more highlights this semester: In October, Abby Kelley Foster and George Gavin Richie, two amazing abolitionists from our region, were inducted into our local National Abolition Hall of Fame (NAHOF) in Peterboro, NY. We're excited that Abby Kelley Foster will be inducted into the Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls in October 2012; we will be hosting WMST Center events focused on learning more about her. Furthermore, Colgate will host NAHOF Traveling Exhibits for MLK Jr.'s birthday during the first week of classes at Case-Geyer Library. If you are interested in our rich regional history, these are not to be missed!

Finally, attending the Our Bodies Ourselves 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Symposium at Boston University with Kimmie Garner and alum Rachel Greenburg was a thrill. The speakers were phenomenal, pointing to much progress in women's health both domestically and trans-nationally, as well as continuing challenges.

We are delighted to have Kimmie Garner on board as our new Program Assistant. She, along with the fabulous WMST Interns (Michelle, Natalie, Breanna, Xavia, Rachelè, and Renyelle) work hard to make the Center welcoming and educational. This team made Día De Los Muertos a day to remember, with a shrine to beloved women, skeleton-crafts, and stirring poetry readings. And Kimmie's training in Global Studies and Women's Studies will be evident in the Spring Brown Bag offerings. Lots of good stuff on its way!



The Center is bustling every Tuesday at 11:30am for the Brown Bag Series.



Striking hypermasculine and hyper-feminine poses at the "Body Talk" BB.

## Center for Women's Studies:

Monday—Thursday

8am—9:30pm

Friday

8am—5pm

Sunday

4:30pm—9:30pm

13 Oak Drive  
Hamilton, NY, 13346  
(315) 228-7156

## The Brown Bag Series: New Directions

By: Xavia Publius '13

The Brown Bag series is a Center staple, but this semester it has undergone many interesting adaptations from previous years. For a few years, there has been a trend towards more collaboration with other departments and organizations, evident yet again in this semester's great diversity of topics. Similarly, Brown Bags made greater use of panels than before, integrating more voices into presentations. Another intriguing development this semester was the expansion of the Brown Bag form. In celebration of Día de Los Muertos, the Brown Bag featured poetry readings followed by a day of activities associated with Día de Los Muertos. The last Brown Bag of the term took place in a Ryan studio as we took a look at gendered dance moves. This series never fails to entertain and to educate, even as it adapts to the community's interests, as evidenced by the record attendance.



Our colorful Día de los Muertos shrine created by the WMST interns.

### Tuesday Brown Bags: Fall 2011

<b>The F Word</b>	<b>8/30/11</b>
April Bailey '14, John Donnally '12, Samantha Lee '14, Jared Madison '12, Caden Polk '12, Michelle Van Veen '14, and Catherine Yeh '14	
<b>Race &amp; Feminism: We are All Part of One Another: Building Coalitions for Social Justice</b>	<b>9/6/11</b>
<b>Co-sponsored with ALST &amp; EDUC</b>	
Bettina Aptheker	
<b>Reproductive Health Activism: Sex &amp; Laws in New York I</b>	<b>9/13/11</b>
<b>Co-sponsored with ALST</b>	
Beth LeGere, Planned Parenthood Mohawk Hudson	
<b>Title IX Success Stories in Women's Athletics</b>	<b>9/20/11</b>
Kathy Brawn, Vicky Chun, Cathy Foto, Anne-Marie Guglieri, and Janet Little	
<b>Dimensions of Mental Health on College Campuses: Gender, Race, Religion, &amp; Access to Treatment</b>	<b>9/27/11</b>
<b>Co-sponsored with Wellness Initiative</b>	
Ali MacDonald '12, Mark Shiner, and Jung Yi	
<b>Coming Out I</b>	<b>10/4/11</b>
<b>Co-sponsored with LGBTQ Initiatives</b>	
Jack Daly '12, Lamont Fields, Catherine Herne, Melissa Melendez '14, Caden Polk '12, and Xavia Publius '13	
<b>Change of Heart: A Performing Artist's Journey through 40 Years of Social Change Activism</b>	<b>10/18/11</b>
Holly Near	
<b>Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) Bystander Program</b>	<b>10/25/11</b>
Scott Brown, Evan Chartier '14, Stephanie Manning '13, and Mark Thompson	
<b>Día de los Muertos: Remembering Beloved Women I</b>	<b>11/1/11</b>
<b>Co-sponsored with ALANA</b>	
Renyelle Jiménez '14, Christine LaBoy '12, Xavia Publius '13, Carmen Serrano, Michelle Van Veen '14, and Racquel Waite '14	
<b>Mothers, Daughters, and Sexualities I</b>	<b>11/8/11</b>
<b>Co-sponsored with Wellness Initiative</b>	
Joyce McFadden	
<b>The Daily Lives of Tajik Women and their Contributions to Folk Art</b>	<b>11/15/11</b>
<b>Co-sponsored with Longyear Museum of Anthropology</b>	
Larisa Dodkhudoeva	
<b>Women and Education Forum</b>	<b>11/22/11</b>
Casey Adler '13, Amy Brown '13, Eliza Dawson '13, Rebecca Griffin '12, Eddy Sihavong '14, and Barbara Regenspan	
<b>Behind the Scenes of the Student Conduct Board</b>	<b>11/29/11</b>
Evan Chartier '14, Margaret Darby, Meika Loe, Janna Minehart '13, and Kim Taylor	
<b>Body Talk: Gendered messages behind movement I</b>	<b>12/6/11</b>
<b>Co-sponsored with OUS</b>	
Tehmekah MacPherson '02	

## Reflections from the Santa Fe Study Group

By: *Kelsey Gibb '13 and Emily Drowel '13*

This semester, a group of eleven students traveled to Santa Fe, NM to take part in Colgate's Native American Studies Off-Campus Study program. This was truly an interdisciplinary program. All of the students involved came from different majors. The program was also comprised of various fields of study such as, archaeology, literature, history, and contemporary issues. Our internship placements in various organizations within the Native American community were an extremely important aspect of our program. Some students were placed at the Santa Fe Indian School, where they assisted in Native American education as student teachers to middle and high school students. Other members of our program were able to work at Tesuque Pueblo in Head Start, as well as on a traditional sustainable farm. The rest of the students worked at Cochiti Pueblo in the senior citizen center, the environmental department, the administrative offices, and the language nest, which is a day care center dedicated to immersing children in their traditional language in order to preserve this part of their culture. Some of our most meaningful learning has come from our extensive traveling through the Southwest. From the 1000-year-old pueblos of Chaco Canyon to the cliff dwellings of Mesa Verde, being able to actually experience the subject material has enriched our learning immeasurably. We have read a range of Native writers, many of them being women. These poems and narratives have illuminated the role of women in different Native American societies, especially considering that a number of the pueblos in this region, like the Hopi, are matrilineal and matrilocal. This study group has opened our eyes to the historical experiences of a minority group whose existence is unknown and silenced to most of the U.S.



*Members of the Santa Fe Study Group pose at Mesa Verde in Colorado.*

## Out for Work

By: *Lamont Fields, Career Services Advisor*

Out for Work (OFW) is the national college career conference for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Ally undergraduate students. Career Services joined OFW, specifically OFW's Career Center Certification program, to enhance, strengthen, and better support LGBTQA students of all class years in career exploration, internship, and job searches. The certification program evaluates the types of resources and support structures available to LGBTQA students and provides recommendations to improve the quality of those resources.

The two-day conference was held at the Westin Hotel & Resorts and was supported financially and programmatically by a cross-section of industries (i.e. Lockheed Martin, Cargill, American Airlines and Nordstrom, to name a few). The first day began with a "Welcome Breakfast" and keynote by Commissioner Chai R. Feldblum followed by an "Employers Panel" discussing strategies for "coming out" in the work environment, interview, and resume, as well as company specific resources and services for LGBTQ employees. The latter half of the day was spent attending workshop panels. Each panel discussed successes and challenges with being out in nonprofit, education, government, STEM, and business organizations. Career/Employment professionals had the opportunity to attend the Career Center Certification sessions. The second day consisted of an interview preparation session before the Career Fair. There were 26 companies and organizations in attendance. Overall, the experience was gratifying and the networking was exceptional.

As a result of my networking, I hope to secure a tour of the HRC (Human Rights Campaign) next year and involve LGBTQA students at Colgate to learn about internships, programs, and services. There are some awesome opportunities with HRC and I believe Colgate students would benefit greatly. The HRC intern hiring cycle starts in the Fall, Spring, and Summer months. In addition, I would like to partner with Jamie Bergeron (Assistant Director of LGBTQ Initiatives and CLSI) on developing additional support programs by learning best practices from neighboring institutions and outside colleagues.

## Bettina Aptheker: Working Toward Empowerment and Equity

By: Amy Brown '13

In Education 312: Women and Education, taught by Professor Barbara Regenspan, we read the memoir *Intimate Politics: How I Grew Up Red, Fought for Free Speech, and Became a Feminist Rebel* by Dr. Bettina Aptheker in preparation for our own biography projects of women in the community and in anticipation of her visit during the second week of classes. The course, which brings together the development, oppression, and lived experience of women and formal and informal education in schools and in life, began with this text as an exemplar of a beautifully-rendered memoir and a guide for themes and questions we would discuss with our interview partners.

Dr. Aptheker presented at two WMST Brown Bag lunches titled *Race and Feminism: We are All Part of One Another: Building Coalitions for Social Justice* and *I am Entitled to Your Body: Incest, Sexual Oppression, and Boundary Making* (with Professor Regenspan). She spoke about her Communist upbringing, her leadership in the Berkeley Free

Speech Movement, and her process of dissociation and coming to terms with the sexual and emotional abuse she experienced. Her extraordinary courage and vulnerability demonstrated the power of storytelling and bearing witness.

She has maintained a commitment to Feminist Studies as a discipline since its earliest conceptions and shared "Bettina's Working Definition of Feminism" with the captivated Brown Bag audiences. In her opinion, "Feminism means the collective empowerment of women" so that "women have control over their own bodies" and have freedom from all forms of racial oppression, poverty, violence and sexual coercion, hierarchy, and systems of domination. She went on to write that, "For these reasons feminism...requires a radical reconstruction of human society." It is difficult to create a more equitable society, but Dr. Aptheker encouraged us to imagine and reconstruct a new way of being in its image and realize the power of individuals in movements for social change.



Professors Aptheker and Regenspan's discussion of incest raised questions about sexual violence at Colgate.

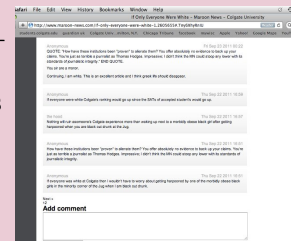
## Racism at Colgate: The Maroon-News Controversy

By: Rachelè Hatter '13

From the first release of the campus student newspaper, the Maroon-News, this semester, tensions were already high. Two commentary pieces (headed by a disclaimer that opinions expressed in articles belonged solely to their respective authors) that accused the Greek system of promoting structural inequalities advocated for avoidance of fraternities and implied that such affiliations should be eradicated. Such strong opinions did not go unnoticed and ignited defensive, as well as dismissive, comments from readers on the Maroon-News website. Reactions also arose in print with Greek-affiliated students providing their opinions on the continuous criticism their groups received and sharing their own experience with these organizations. This, essentially, turned into a back-and-forth of weekly articles where students either attempted to defend Colgate's Greek system or tried to point out its flaws. Conversations on this topic spilled from the pages of the campus newspaper and into classrooms, Brown Bag discussions, and the dining halls.

Tensions reached a high point at the end of September when the article "If Only Everyone Were White," which criticized the campus's methods of attracting students of color, received several hateful anonymous comments on the Maroon-News website. By mid-afternoon, the inflammatory statements were removed and commenting was suspended. The Maroon-News acted in accordance with its commenting policy by removing the anonymous words, and later updated its policy. However, this action was seen as hiding the bigotry directed at the article's author and the campus's students of color. Screenshots of the comments were uploaded onto Facebook, and a protest in response to these events was organized. Students carried signs and chanted throughout the academic quad, reading the offensive comments aloud in Frank, the Coop, and Case Library. An organization of students came to the forefront, demanding changes to the campus bias policy and later marched in Admissions to speak directly with President Herbst.

While these requests had yet to be addressed by the university, a campus-wide forum organized by the National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI) was held that allowed students to express their frustrations about the campus climate on October 4. The campus community was directed to send their suggestions on how to improve Colgate to ALANA Affairs by October 24, and an administrative plan that will deal with these events is expected to be announced before the end of the semester.



A screen shot of the comments made in response to "If Only Everyone Were White."

## Seneca Falls Trip

By: Lindsey Skerker '14

In Colgate tradition, thirteen Women's Studies students, faculty, and staff went on a field trip to Seneca Falls to the historic sites in and around the area. Our first stop was The Women's Rights National Historic Park and Museum. It was amazing to stand in the building where the first women's rights convention was held and the Declaration of Sentiments was signed. Outside, there was an abstract waterfall wall that had the Declaration of Sentiments written on it. All of the names of the people who signed it were also etched into the waterfall wall. It was a very symbolic memorial to these courageous people who spoke out about women's rights, and it was interesting how you could partially see your own reflection in the falling water, as well.

We had a delicious lunch catered by Hamilton Whole Foods outside on picnic tables near the river that runs through the downtown area of Seneca Falls. After lunch, we partnered up with a person we had never met before to complete a scavenger hunt. We went back to the museum and looked through the exhibits to find the answers.

One of the interactive exhibits about how men and women have a double standard really resonated with everyone on the trip. There was a video that first showed two male and then two female actors acting out the same script about how they had spent the night with a person they just met. Museum visitors then had to vote whether their story would improve the way in which others viewed them. Essentially, the findings showed that the woman would be viewed negatively for sleeping around with an unknown man, whereas the man would be viewed more positively for sleeping around with a random woman. This reminded me of the hook-up culture here at Colgate: a man who gets with a lot of women is a cool "bro" or "stud," but a woman who does this is then considered a slut even though it is completely unfair and unjust to judge people in that way.

We also went to tour the homes of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Harriet Tubman, and William Seward. Visiting all of the houses was very informative and the different styles and sizes of the three homes showed much about how people of different socio-economic classes lived during the 1800s. Elizabeth Cady Stanton's home was a fair-sized two-story structure near a river in which she and her family lived. Harriet Tubman's home was much more secluded and smaller, even though it housed many more people who would stay with her as they traveled along the Underground Railroad. William Seward, the Secretary of State to President Lincoln and the purchaser of Alaska, had the largest and most elaborately decorated of the three homes. Its location was also right in the center of town, but it was somewhat gated off, which illustrates how Seward probably wanted a balance between his public and private life. The home was beautifully furnished with exquisite furniture and artwork. Additionally, Seward was an abolitionist and a very liberal and modern politician for his time; his home was a stop along the Underground Railroad, and many travelers stayed in his basement before departing to head north to Canada where African Americans gained freedom.



Participants inside Women's Rights National Historical Park.



Students pose in front of the Declaration of Sentiments waterfall.

An aspect of the Seward family that stood out to me was that William Seward's youngest daughter, Fannie, kept a red leather diary that she wrote in daily. It documented the day-to-day happenings of the family and many gendered roles were highlighted in it. The Seward's had many female and male servants working in their house, and the wife and daughters did more activities in and around the home compared to the husband and sons, who did more traveling and business-related activities. However, the fact that the Seward women possessed such impressive writing skills and educational opportunities was remarkable for their time period and speaks to the fact that they were a very privileged family. If Fannie Seward had not kept this diary, much about the Seward's family history would not be known today. This trip demonstrated what a profound historical impact women had of which I was unaware prior to participating!

### Fall 2011 WMST Courses

<b>CORE 144S</b>	The Psychology of Oppression	<b>RELG 328</b>	Experiencing Islam
<b>EDUC 312</b>	Women and Education	<b>SOAN 220</b>	Gender, Sexuality, and Society
<b>HIST 311</b>	Women's Rights in US History	<b>WMST 202</b>	Women's Lives: An Introduction to Women's Studies
<b>LGBT 250</b>	Sexuality, Gender, and the Law	<b>WRIT 347</b>	Language and Gender
<b>RELG 234</b>	Women and Religious Traditions: Islam		

## Coming Out Week

By: *Melissa Meléndez '14*

National Coming Out Week at Colgate was once again an exciting week. National Coming Out Day was actually on October 11<sup>th</sup>, which fell during Fall Break, but Colgate still celebrated from October 3-7 vibrantly and enthusiastically. Coming Out Day was founded by Robert Eichberg and Jean O'Leary in honor of the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights on October 11, 1987. This day is observed as a day to publicly celebrate and appreciate those who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender or Questioning, whether they are out or still closeted.

Colgate has celebrated Coming Out Week for years and it never seems to disappoint as students and campus partners join together in a movement for visibility. The annual Coming Out door displays, which were a series of four doors placed in the O'Connor Campus Center, Frank Dining Hall, Reid Athletic Center, and Case-Geyer Library between 9/26 and 10/7, were an important aspect of the week. The Colgate Bookstore also displayed a door from last year. The doors are used as symbols of support for the community. People who are closeted, queer and out, and allies all have opportunities to write encouraging messages. These doors are not hidden because the point is for beautiful, encouraging messages to be shared and read by those who need love and support. One message read, "My heart will always be with and feel for my LGBTQ friends and all people who identify as LGBTQ." In addition to this, there were many messages that appreciated specific LGBTQ people to whom our students and faculty are close, whether they be their coaches, mothers, siblings, or best friends.

In addition to the door displays, LGBTQ Initiatives hosted the annual BBQueer barbeque with Neal Rosenberg '74 in his home on Broad Street on October 1. This barbeque is always a fun, meaningful way for students and faculty members to come together over a meal and build relationships with people who are supporters. The week also included the now annual "Coming Out" Brown Bag co-sponsored by Women's Studies and LGBTQ Initiatives on October 4. Six panelists spoke honestly and openly to a crowd of over 100 people about their coming out stories, humanizing and personalizing the lives of LGBTQ people at Colgate and beyond.



Panelists from the "Coming Out" Brown Bag pose following their highly attended panel on October 4.

This year was filled with many triumphs for the queer community, as well as losses, but this week reminds everyone to stand up, be proud, and support each other within the community. It has been encouraging to see an increase in the number of people who actively want to learn how to fight against discrimination and for the rights of their fellow classmates and campus partners this year. With that said, thank you to everyone who participated and to those who are helping Colgate to become a safe and inclusive environment for queer people!

## Lift Me Up to the Light of Change

By: *Michelle Van Veen '14 and Kimmie Garner, WMST Program Assistant*

It is difficult to think about feminism without referring to activism. As a feminist, I find myself struggling with how to approach activism and what is the most fitting path for me to take. On October 18, Holly Near visited campus and facilitated one of the most engaging and powerful discussions I have attended this semester about feminism, activism, and art. Holly reminded us that there are multiple ways to be a feminist or an activist. She offered a unique perspective on feminism through the use of song writing and performance. Rather than preaching to those who do not agree with our opinions, Holly reminded us that through song, people are invited to listen without the fear of being attacked. She showed us that art can be a less threatening, powerful medium to express our thoughts, desires, and beliefs.

Her main message throughout the Brown Bag was that activism is important. When an audience member expressed that the current generation seems apathetic, Holly responded that before the peace movement in the 70's, her generation was also silent about a number of serious issues. Thus, just because our generation may appear indifferent to current social issues does not mean it will remain static nor does it need to replicate the activism of our parents. Activism does not necessarily mean one has to stand on the streets with huge posters (although that can still be effective), but rather activism can be whatever you, as an activist, want it to be.

In response to Holly's message, a group of faculty, students, and staff gathered on October 26 in the Quad and the Coop to sing a refrain from her song "[I Am Willing](#)." The group displayed signs that represented political and social demands and the work in which they were involved on campus. It displayed a powerful message and allowed participants and passer-bys to recover courage and hope.



Michelle and Holly in the Center after the moving Brown Bag.

## Breast Cancer Awareness Month



By: Natalie George '13

October was Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The Center approached this important month differently by holding bake sales at every October Brown Bag. The cupcakes, brownies, and cookies were a major success! The proceeds will go to the SHARE Foundation to support both breast and ovarian cancer. The SHARE Foundation offers informational classes on breast health and counsels those working through cancer, as well as survivors. This year we raised \$311.50. Just like previous years, the Center also offered free Breast Cancer Awareness mints, nail files, brochures, stickers, and my personal favorite, bracelets

that say "Fight Like a Girl!"

Breast cancer has become a huge topic not just during this month. This year, much of our focus was on the Think Before You Pink Campaign, which spreads awareness about breast cancer, as well as corrupt companies that profit from the Pink Ribbon symbol. These companies make millions of dollars in profit, which rarely go toward breast cancer research. It is organizations like SHARE that help ensure that donations are truly supporting research and survivors. In 2011, alone, there have been **230,480** new cases of invasive breast cancer, with **39,520** deaths. These deaths, however, are still decreasing due to early detection and increased awareness. However, in 2011, there were found to be **2.5 million breast cancer survivors** in the US. Lastly, don't forget, this is not just a woman's disease; men represent **1 in 100** of those diagnosed with breast cancer.



## Ann Pellegrini: Beyond Tolerance

By: Renyelle Jiménez '14

On November 3, Ann Pellegrini, Professor of Religious and Performance Studies at New York University, came to Colgate to lead a Brown Bag discussion titled "Same-Sex Marriage and the Limits of Equality." This Brown Bag followed her lecture the previous evening on a similar topic. In her humorous Brown Bag discussion, she talked about many things, including her seemingly strange interest in religion and gender and sexuality studies. Using a video from Stuff Made Simple, Pellegrini touched on one of the most resonating topics of her discussion. This short video on Proposition 8 in California touched on the idea of tolerance. It followed a heterosexual couple and their gay neighbors. The heterosexual couple was very good friends with their neighbors, but ascertained that they could still be good neighbors without affirming their neighbors' lifestyle choice and chose to vote yes on Proposition 8 against the legalization of the right to same-sex marriage in California.



*Ann Pellegrini problematizes tolerance towards same-sex marriage in a witty, engaging way.*

Pellegrini established that though tolerance is the moral language in the United States, it is a flawed way to view morality and equality. The simple rhetoric of tolerance is that of inequality. In the case of non-heterosexual lifestyles, it is offensive to encourage tolerance. This implies that there is one way to live and the majority is doing the minority a favor by "tolerating" their lifestyles. Tolerance is simply a blissfully ignorant way of perpetuating inequality.

## Mothers, Daughters, and Sexualities

By: Breanna Pendleton '12

On November 8, the Center for Women's Studies had the pleasure of hosting Joyce McFadden, author of *Your Daughter's Bedroom: Insights for Raising Confident Women*, for a Brown Bag lunch. Olivia, Joyce's fifteen-year-old daughter, also attended and helped Joyce honestly and realistically discuss mother-daughter relationships.

The Brown Bag was an open, relaxed discussion with ample time for interaction and audience members had the chance to ask Olivia questions throughout to contextualize Joyce's points. In the beginning, Joyce told the audience about her original study that served as the foundation for her book. This study, titled the Women's Realities Study, consisted of both surveys and interviews of women aged 18 to 105 which discussed women's innermost issues. Through this survey, Joyce attempted to understand what happens in a woman's life that has an effect on her future self-confidence and happiness. What prompted her to write her book was her finding that the most interesting theme in women's lives, in terms of exploring their own identities, was concerned with how their mothers influenced their understanding of their identification as sexual beings. She believes that the distance that sometimes exists in mother-daughter relationships stems from mothers who conveyed to their daughters that sexuality was somehow wrong, or who completely ignored the subject altogether. This alienation that daughters then felt from their own bodies and instincts sometimes led the women to lose faith in their mothers' ability to help them in the ways that they actually needed.

What was memorable about Joyce's discussion of her study was that she read aloud survey responses from a Colgate graduate that focused on masturbation and the graduate's guilt that she felt for masturbating, without being able to understand why she felt such guilt. After this reading, the audience got the chance to engage in an honest discussion with Joyce about how their own parents did or did not address sexuality as they were growing up and the effect this has had on their self-image and current relationships.

The open discussion that was held between Joyce and the audience, as well as Olivia, who offered her own insights about being raised to talk freely about sexuality, was a significant opportunity for students to open up and led to an important reflection for each student. I left the Brown Bag pondering how my mother and I had discussed sex and sexuality as I was growing up and even musing about how this might change one day when I discuss sexuality freely and honestly with my own daughters.



Joyce shares testimonials from her book related to personal sexual pleasure.

## The Clothesline Project

By: Michelle Van Veen '14

On October 17<sup>th</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup> the Center for Women's Studies held its annual Clothesline Project. Decorated t-shirts from years past, as well as new additions, were hung all through the Center as a reminder to those that domestic violence and sexual victimization *do* occur to students on Colgate's campus. The anonymity of the t-shirts reminded many of us that we cannot always tell by looking at a person what they have endured or continue to endure. Therefore, it is important for all of us to stand up against domestic violence and sexual victimization even if we do not believe it pertains directly to our own lives. Who knows, we might be providing critical support to a friend, classmate, coworker, professor, the person who lives across the hall, or someone we bump into at Frank. Regardless, silent sufferers may feel the most isolated, which I believe is the powerful message conveyed in the Clothesline Project.

## Spring 2012 WMST Courses

<b>CORE 165S</b>	Women Physicists & Triumphs	<b>RELG 334</b>	Women & Religious Thought: Gender/Body
<b>ENGL 204</b>	American Lit: Native American Writers	<b>SOAN 333</b>	Sociology of the Life Course
<b>ENGL 333</b>	African/Diaspora Women's Narratives	<b>SOAN 371</b>	Gender and Society in Africa
<b>ENGL 442</b>	Virginia Woolf & E.M. Forster	<b>SPAN 226</b>	Latin American Women Writers
<b>ENGL 460</b>	Dramas: Medieval to Renaissance	<b>SPAN 474</b>	Contemporary Spanish Theater
<b>GEOG 321</b>	Gender, Justice, & Environmental Change	<b>WMST 202</b>	Women's Lives: An Introduction to Women's Studies
<b>HIST 348</b>	History of Women in Europe in Modern Times	<b>WMST 324</b>	The Scandinavian Welfare State: A Gendered Perspective
<b>LGBT 220</b>	Exploration in LGBTQ Studies	<b>WMST 490</b>	WMST Senior Seminar



## Larisa Dodkhudoeva's Visit to Colgate

By: Xavia Publius '13

This semester, Colgate was fortunate to host a professor whose knowledge ranged from culture to politics to women's issues in the context of a land often obscure to those living in the U.S.: Tajikistan. Professor Larisa Dodkhudoeva visited Colgate for about two weeks in November and shared her vast knowledge with various departments, starting with a lecture in Art & Art History, then a Brown Bag in the Center, and two class visits to give lectures on Tajikistan's relationship to specific topics. Her focus in the Center was on "The Daily Lives of Tajik Women and Their Contributions to Folk Art." She articulated the way in which Soviet control for the better part of the 20th century influenced women's role in Tajik culture and how this, in turn, influenced woman-created art. Her visit here was co-sponsored by WMST, the Longyear Museum of Anthropology, and Project Afghanistan.



Professor Dodkhudoeva discusses the status of Tajik women, the oppressions they face, and efforts to improve their lives.

### Additional Brown Bags: Fall 2011

<b>I Am Entitled to Your Body: Incest, Sexual Oppression, and Boundary Making</b>	9/8/11
Bettina Aptheker and Barbara Regenspan	
<b>Understanding Colgate's Bias-Related Incident Policy I Co-sponsored w/ALANA</b>	10/13/11
Kim Taylor and Lyn Rugg	
<b>Exploring What It Means to Be a Man at Colgate</b>	10/20/11
<b>Co-sponsored w/CAPS, MAC, the Network, the Sorella Society, and SORT</b>	
Lee Alexander '12, Evan Chartier '14, and Marco Pizzitola '12	
<b>My Climb Against Cancer I Co-sponsored with GEOG and Wellness Initiative</b>	10/28/11
Ellen Kraly	
<b>Same-Sex Marriage and the Limits of Tolerance I Co-sponsored with RELG</b>	11/3/11
Ann Pellegrini	

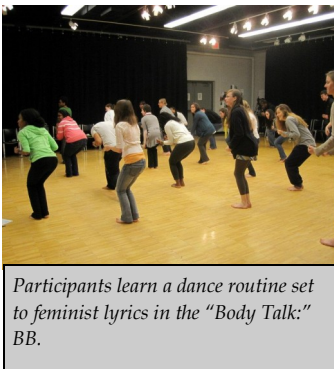
## We Gotta Break through the Binaries!

By: Rachel Hatter '13

The final Brown Bag of the Fall semester (co-sponsored with OUS on December 6) certainly switched it up. Unlike the typical lecture-followed-by-discussion style Brown Bag that we've come to love on most Tuesday afternoons, Dr. Tehmekah MacPherson '02 had the audience get up and get movin'. And instead of the sit-down set up in the Center, this particular Brown Bag filled the space of Ryan 212 with students and staff members.

We began by distinguishing what "body language" and "body vocabulary" meant. Groups were divided by lining up in rows of seven and each line was assigned to strike either a hyperfeminine or hypermasculine pose. Based on the poses that each group modeled, we discussed the gendered implications of these poses. For example, participants observed that the hypermasculine poses tried to convey physical strength and dominance; they took up a lot of space and communicated aggression. On the other hand, the hyperfeminine poses emphasized "child-bearing" hips and fragile/timid stances. From this exercise, the group learned that our body vocabulary was already tainted with expectations of gender. Dr. MacPherson then discussed how dance, particularly hiphop dance, usually utilizes these gender expectations.

Our group then moved into an exercise of transforming hiphop dance into a gender neutral expression by learning some choreography. Feminist hiphop dance, if I may call it that. So, Dr. MacPherson dropped the beat to Snoop Dogg/Pharrell's "Drop It Like It's Hot" (sans lyrics) and taught us some more empowering words to go along with our movements. The lyrics, which are part of a larger song pending publication, encouraged participants to utilize feminism to listen to their own bodies and break through the male-female binary. We can't wait to hear the full song!



Participants learn a dance routine set to feminist lyrics in the "Body Talk:" BB.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Allegorical Athena**

Submissions are being collected for the *Allegorical Athena*, a gender-oriented magazine edited and produced by the Center for Women's Studies at Colgate. Submit anything related to gender issues: drawings, articles, poetry, photography, and more. Suggested topics include (but are not limited to): beauty perceptions, the media, sexuality, sexism, and relationships.

For more information or to submit works, please contact the Program Assistant, Kimmie Garner, at [kgarner@colgate.edu](mailto:kgarner@colgate.edu) or Publications Intern, Xavia Publius at [pweaver@colgate.edu](mailto:pweaver@colgate.edu).

**Vagina Monologues****(}) 2012 (}**

Are you interested in being a part of the Core group that brings the Vagina Monologues to Colgate University every spring?

Are you interested in being a part of the cast and shouting, moaning, crying, or even orgasming on stage?

Email Christina Liu for more information:

[cliu@colgate.edu](mailto:cliu@colgate.edu)

**From the Program Assistant's Desk**

By: Kimmie Garner, WMST Program Assistant

It is hard to believe that my first semester as Program Assistant is already coming to an end! This has been an invigorating semester in the Center for Women's Studies, full of stimulating Brown Bags, film screenings, awareness raising events, and immersive field trips.

Student, faculty, and staff participation in the Center was exceptional; our average Brown Bag attendance was 73, which is the highest it's ever been. We collaborated with a number of departments and programs, from ALST and ALANA to the Wellness Initiative and OUS, to plan events that represent the various racial, socioeconomic, sexual, and gender identities present on Colgate's campus. Our most highly attended Brown Bags with over 100 participants were "I am Entitled to Your Body: Incest, Sexual Oppression, and Boundary Making," "Dimensions of Mental Health on College Campuses: Gender, Race, Religion, and Access to Treatment," and "Coming Out."

The Center for Women's Studies responded to controversial events occurring at Colgate and beyond by organizing relevant Brown Bags and film screenings so that students, faculty, and staff could have a safe forum to discuss sexism, racism, homophobia, and classism. The Center also provided students with the opportunity to immerse themselves in local history through the annual Seneca Falls trip, as well as develop their campus and community organizing skills at a Planned Parenthood Youth Organizing conference in Ithaca. Jamie Bergeron, Assistant Director of LGBTQ Initiatives and CLSI, also began having office hours in the Center from 9am-12pm every Friday to bridge her work in each realm.

Our six passionate, motivated interns worked diligently to maintain the welcoming space of the Center daily. They were integral to the development of a Women's Studies major's blog, [Feminisms in Action](#), our biweekly [Alumni Spotlight](#), and the transformation of our [website](#) into a resource hub for feminist articles, films, books, fellowships, and jobs.

We're excited for the Spring, which will bring the much-anticipated Vagina Monologues, a trip to the United Nations' Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), a visit by Jaclyn Friedman, co-author of *Yes Means Yes: Female Visions of Sexual Power and a World Without Rape* upon which Colgate's Yes Means Yes seminar is based, violence prevention opportunities, and more! See you in January!

**The Center for Women's Studies Staff****Director:**

Meika Loe,

Associate Professor of Sociology and Women's Studies

**Program Assistant:**

Kimmie Garner

**Administrative Assistant:**

Letta Palmer

**Student Interns:**

Natalie George '13

Rachelè Hatter '13

Renelle Jimenez '14

Breanna Pendleton '12

Xavia Publius '13

Michelle Van Veen '14