It has been a busy few semesters in the Department of Women’s and Gender Studies. Looking back, the 2009-2010 academic year may well be remembered as the year of the statewide furloughs—and hopefully the only year of furloughs. But despite the fits and starts inherent in furlough teaching and cuts to the number of offerings, WGS steadfastly moved forward. I am pleased to announce that, under the leadership of Assistant Professor Don Romesburg, WGS now offers a Queer Studies Minor as of Fall 2010. After just two semesters, with limited publicity, we already signed up 12 QSM minors (and counting)! This interdisciplinary minor is one of just a few such programs in the CSU system. In addition, our popular Introduction to Queer Studies course also gained approval as a General Education (GE) course in Area E. This enables us to bring this cutting edge field to even more students at SSU, and introduce them, in the process, to the WGS Department. And through the generous support of the School of Social Sciences Dean’s Fund, Drs. Romesburg and Lena McQuade were able to attend “Expanding the Circle” conference, where educators from across the country gathered to explore issues of creating a more inclusive environment in higher education for LGBTQ students and studies. Thank you to Dr. Romesburg and Dr. Nan Alamilla Boyd before him for all their efforts in building the queer studies curriculum in WGS, as well as the faculty in other departments at SSU whose courses will count toward the Minor and whose enthusiastic support helped bring this Minor to fruition.

More exciting news, WGS is now officially on Facebook! The site has already been tremendously successful in announcing our lecture series speakers, posting of online newsarticles, and bringing current and past WGS students together, alongside other ‘fans’ of Women’s and Gender Studies. The more the merrier! We are looking forward to organizing alumni events—both formal and informal—through Facebook so please encourage all your friends and alum to sign-up.

And we are pleased to announce that the entire WGS Gender Studies Lecture Series has been funded again through SSU’s Instructionally Related Activities for the next two years. The Fall Semester WGS 301: Feminist Lecture Series and the Spring Semester Queer Studies Lecture Series will continue to successfully bring in provocative, intellectually stimulating, and inspiring speakers to the WGS and SSU community. For more on what WGS students and faculty have been up to, check out the following pages! And finally, we love to hear from our current and past students as well as supporters. Volunteers for events are always welcome as are donations to our WGS Foundation (see back page). Look forward to crossing paths whenever and wherever that may be!

Charlene Tung, Chair, Women’s and Gender Studies Department
STUDENT NEWS

WGS Major Named SSU Nichols Scholar for 2011

The Sonoma State University Alumni Association has named WGS major Kristel England as the recipient of the 2011-12 Nichols Scholarship Award. Congratulations to Kristel for this prestigious honor!

The $3000 annual scholarship was established and named for SSU's founding president, Ambrose R. Nichols, Jr., and is awarded each year by the Alumni Association for outstanding scholastic achievement and contributions to the campus community.

Making the issue of “gender and work” real

WGS major Kristel England, testified before the California State legislature as part of the parent organization, “Parent Voices”—on behalf of women and children on TANF. She and organizers aimed to push back proposed cuts to TANF and childcare subsidies.

In addition through funding provided by the WGS Foundation, Kristel also participated in the annual Women of Color Conference in Spring 2010 held at UC-Berkeley. If you have a conference you’re interested in attending, apply to the WGS Foundation (contact, Professor Tung) for financial support!

WGS Club Chartered and on the move

As the newly constructed mission statement states, the Women's and Gender Studies Club is interested in issues of gender, race, class, and sexuality. It aims to bring education and awareness of such issues to both the campus and surrounding community. In addition, the WGS Club strives to take action, provide social support, and raise the visibility of the Women's and Gender Studies Department. Faculty adviser Dr. Lena McQuade has worked to gather students, focus energy, and reactivate this club in the 2009-2010 year. Under Dr. McQuade’s leadership, students have taken this opportunity to create a club from the ground up. Together they have worked to construct a mission statement, elect officers, announce their presence at Seawolf Day and around campus, and have drafted a club constitution. The Women's and Gender Studies Club is open to everyone; you do not have to be a WGS major to participate. Join the Club in raising awareness, hosting events, and making a difference at Sonoma State! Contact Dr. Lena McQuade for more information or check out the WGS Facebook and listserv for announcements to find out when and where the Club will meet!

-Meg Carlucci, President WGS Club, Fall 2010
WGS Faculty News

Assistant professor Lena McQuade was very inspired Fall 2010 semester participating in two excellent pedagogy workshops—one with Tim Wise on “ Undoing Racism, Privilege and Inequality in the Classroom” and the other at the conference “Expanding the Circle: Creating an Inclusive Environment in Higher Education for GLBT Students.” Lena received a summer 2010 travel grant from the Rockefeller Archive Center in New York to continue her research on histories of reproductive public health in New Mexico. In Fall 2010, she taught “Feminist Research Methods” where students focused their research on producing oral histories of WGS alumni. Look for the stories to be posted online at the WGS website soon! Feel free to email Lena if you are interested in participating in future such projects. Mcquade@sonoma.edu.

Don Romesburg presented “Queerness, Adolescence, and Development Citizenship: Concerns for the 21st Century” at the American Historical Association Annual Meetings. He also gave an invited lecture entitled “Rae Bourbon: Longevity and Limits of a Life in Motion” at UC-Davis in Spring 2010. Don continues to bring in an exciting slate of speakers in the Spring Queer Studies Lecture Series. Check out the line-ups and past series on-line at the WGS Department website. This Spring 2011, Don is teaching the WGS Senior Seminar, with a focus on youth and adolescent sexuality.

Associate Professor Charlene Tung is looking forward to presenting her paper, “The Marketing of Tibetan Nannies” at the Association for Asian American Studies conference in Spring 2011. In Fall 2010 she also returned to teaching a Core course for majors and minors, WGS 475: Contemporary Feminist Theory, once again (after a few years off). She especially enjoyed reading the highly creative and humorous “feminist” fairy tales that comprised one of the possible final paper assignments. These were compiled into a ‘book’ for interested students. In Spring 2011, she was able to offer WGS 370: Gender in Asian America for the first time since 2008.

Charlene Tung and Lena McQuade presented at Spring 2011 SSU Retreat on Community Engagement. The two posters, entitled, “WGS Gender Studies Program Series: Bringing Community Knowledge to SSU” and “Community Engagement: Central to Mission of Women's and Gender Studies” highlighted the Queer Studies Lecture Series and the Feminist Lecture Series as they bring diverse community speakers, both national and local, to the SSU Campus, as well as the required 4 unit internship for the WGS major and efforts such as the annual Power of Know Conference (a collaboration between community organization Circle of Sisters and WGS).

Lena McQuade and Charlene Tung, at SSU Spring Retreat on Community Engagement
Alyssa Burnham (2007) was accepted into SFSU’s MSW program, but chose to defer a year in order to teach English in Japan for a year.

Ashley Carrion (2009) is completing her MSW at CSU-East Bay (started in Fall 2009). During her program, she had a placement at Sutter Delta Medical Center in Antioch as a medical social worker and at Kaiser Hospital, Union City. And she has a new job! In her words…,”I am taking a post graduation job with Contra Costa County’s public health program. The concept of the position is bringing reproductive health service, education and social services to where the kids are at, providing services at full health clinics located on campus. I will also get to do some health education in the classrooms. Just wanted to pass along the exciting news and express how excited I am to continue to apply my WGS degree in a large public health setting.”

Stacy Cohen (2005) was promoted to Dean of Students at Sonoma Academy. And for those who remember her (then-young) daughter, Arianna is a senior in high school and looking forward to college herself!

Danielle Colombana (2010). After minorng in WGS, Danielle will be starting a job at major accounting firm KPMG in Fall 2011. She is currently studying for her CPA exams.

Celina Corona-Romero (2010) is in the MA in Anthropology program at San Diego State.

Ryan Connor (2010) is currently an on-board Youth Staff Counselor for Holland America cruises. He is traveling back/forth between Canada and Alaska for the entire summer!

Alli Deering Brinkerhoff (2006) returned to United Against Sexual Assault, now called Verity, to work as a Sexual Assault Advocate for the new Family Justice Center. She also shares that “I was married in late 2008...legally (thanks California) in October and had a ceremony in December.”

Diana Drips (2005) will be finishing up her MA in Counseling from SSU this Spring. She has been working as the YWCA Community Advocate (assisting survivors of assault) at the Sonoma County Sheriff’s Dept. for the past couple years. She regularly serves as a guest speaker in WGS courses!

Jessica Hernandez (2008) started her MSW program at University of Washington, Seattle this past Fall 2010. She writes that the program has been “intense”, but “I just have to say thank you because while it is intense work and a whole lot of reading, I really feel like the WGS Department adequately prepared me for the complex social issues and course work I’m tackling now.”

Rachel Higgins (2009) accepted San Francisco State University’s offer for admission to their MA in History program.

Yissel Lopez-Timpano (2004) wrote awhile ago (editor’s apologies) letting us know that she was completing her LCSW (clinical hours post-MSW) and was employed as a mental health therapist at ALDEA counseling services in Napa.

Megan Izen (2005) was accepted at both Columbia Journalism School and CUNY, and entered CUNY in Fall 2010. She spent the previous years working and writing for Applied Research Center (offices in Oakland and NYC), a public policy institute Advancing racial justice through research, advocacy and journalism. She also blogs for RaceWire and, in her free time, has been running races in order to qualify for the 2011 New York City Marathon.

Megan Johnson (2009) was accepted, with a scholarship, into the MSW program at Washington University (St. Louis), one of the top-ranked MSW programs in the country. Congratulations! She spent the year post-WGS graduation, working in Seattle at the Ryther Child Center (a facility/group home for sexually bused and aggressive youth aged 6-13). “I highly recommend it for grads who want to work with kids or psychology!”

Skye Simon (2009) started graduate school at USF in Fall 2010 in Counseling/Psychology with an emphasis in Marriage and Family Therapy.

Danielle Moreno (2007), WGS major and Women’s Health Minor, continues to be involved in public health policy work. She was appointed Chair of the Sonoma County Prevention Partnership Policy Committee. She is working on writing two count-wide ordinances related to alcohol use. She is also working on her MA in Public Health through Walden University.

We love to hear from you (as do all your fellow Alumna and Alumni). Please contact the WGS Newsletter Editor at tung@sonoma.edu with your updates! Even if you’re still looking for that dream job/situation, drop us a line (you’re not alone)
WGS Department News

WGS and Women's History Month
March was Women’s History Month! This Spring 2011, the WGS Department under the guidance of Professor Lena McQuade, along with Associated Student Productions and the support of the School of Social Sciences Dean Elaine Leeder, hosted a very special event that featured one of the founders of SSU Women’s Studies from the early 1970s, Dr. Ann Neel. Dr. Neel and Pam Smith spoke to a packed Cooperage (150-200 students and community members) on “Entangled Lives: A Dialogue between Descendants of Master and Slave” on Wednesday evening March 23. Through prose, spoken word, and lively discussion accompanying a slide, Ann Neel and Pam Smith took the audience through their almost twenty year friendship which grew from the realization that Pam's enslaved great great grandfather was actually owned by a member of Ann's family.

“Our History is Our Strength”
Approximately fifty community members, students and faculty had the great honor of hearing the indomitable ever-engaging and inspirational Molly MacGregor, co-founder of the National Women’s History Project (based in Santa Rosa, CA) speak on Saturday March 26, 2011. Her appearance capped off a day long reunion of the Women’s Studies class of 1974. In conjunction with the Lesbian Archives of Sonoma County (LASC) and able assistance of current WGS senior Cassidy Dobson and WGS alumna Meg Carlucci ('10), oral histories were conducted and recorded for posterity. Both students were left astonished and inspired by the activism of these founders of SSU's Women’s Studies! Likewise, a similar feeling swept over the audience as Molly MacGregor detailed the passionate efforts that went into the founding of National Women’s History Project—which has become the basis of the celebration of National Women’s History Month nationwide. The evening ended with an inspirational video produced by the NWHP, “A Fine Long Tradition”.

Women’s and Gender Studies participates in Sonoma County’s Human Race
This Spring, the WGS Department began what it hopes will be a yearly participation in Sonoma County’s Human Race—a 5k and 3k run/walk that raises funds for Sonoma County’s Volunteer Center, as well as nonprofits from around Sonoma County. WGS and the WGS Club participated in order to fundraise for the Women’s and Gender Studies Foundation. Students, alum and faculty could participate either by joining the team as walkers/runners; on-line giving or pencil/paper pledge forms. We are happy to report that over $1000 was donated to the WGS Foundation! These monies will go directly toward supporting WGS student services and programming.

WGS is recipient of the first annual Richard Rodriguez Social Action Justice Awards
Under Professor Lena McQuade’s guidance, the WGS 311: Circle of Sisters course were awarded a grant from the Richard Rodriguez Social Action Justice Awards to assist them in putting on the Power of Know conference. This yearly collaboration between WGS and the community organization Circle of Sisters brings at-risk middle school girls from around Sonoma County to the campus for workshops designed by students in WGS 311(see page 6). Professor McQuade, students from WGS 311, Amy Chevrolet (director of Circle of Sisters), COS staff and a middle-school COS student speaker were all on-hand to receive their certificates of recognition on Friday May 13. In a touching tribute, the parents of Richard Rodriguez were at the ceremony to thank the awardees for their efforts on behalf of social justice.
The 7th and 8th Annual Power of Know Conferences

The Women’s and Gender Studies Department, in conjunction with the Circle of Sisters (COS) community organization continued its collaboration in Spring 2010 and in Spring 2011! Each year, through the Power of Know conference, we in approximately 50 middle-school aged girls from across Sonoma County. The girls are participants in the COS after-school program. Last Spring 2010,

This Spring, after visiting the after-school program and surveying the girls, the WGS students settled on four workshop topics: 1) relationships, 2) cyber safety, 3) health/fitness, and 4) emotional well-being. After brief tours of the campus and a snack, the girls split into their workshops. Aside from the content of the workshops, we have found over the years that the most meaningful aspect of the afternoon is the opportunity for the middle school girls to be on a university campus, and spending time with college women. For the WGS students, it is an opportunity to get inside the lifeworld of middle school girls and get a gauge on how much (and little) has changed since their own middle school years. WGS is thrilled to continue this collaboration with Circle of Sisters. The Department will continue to offer WGS 311: Circle of Sisters (1 unit) conference each Spring, as well as continue their internship program with Circle of Sisters. Anyone interested in participating, feel free to contact Dr. Charlene Tung or Dr. Lena McQuade.

WGS Club and QSA Club are here for you in 2011-2012

Are you looking for a group of like-minded folks who can share your experiences and provide support (and fun)? Then check out the WGS Club and Queer Student Association (QSA) Club! Both clubs have officer positions open beginning in Fall 2011, so please do contact Kayla Weiss (weisska@seawolf.sonoma.edu) if you are interested in participating in either of these groups next Fall! (You don’t need to take an officer position). Come one, come all!
WGS Students Contribute 3420 hours in 2010-2011

WGS students are required to complete 120 to 145 hours of community involvement or internships for graduation. Each semester brings a wide array of organizations into contact with our students and a valuable reciprocal relationship is built between WGS/SSU and the wider community.

Morgan Bannister, Alisa Koos Verity (sexual assault prevention and education)

Ashley Barth, Lillian Clements. The Living Room (drop-in day time shelter for women/children)

Jocelyn Berry. WGS Office Assistant/Development Intern (WGS Dept)

Jocelyn Berry, Cassidy Dobson, Julie Houston, Amber Jerome, and Mia Tedone. Circle of Sisters middle-school after-school program

Ali Boecker. Ukiah Hospice of Mendocino County and Meditation Teacher, Redwood Children’s Services (Ukiah)

Meg Carlucci. Research Assistant (WGS Dept). LGBTQ History Bibliography

Cassidy Dobson Research Assistant. (WGS Dept). Women’s Oral Histories

Lauren Duensing. Nursing Assistant. Petaluma Valley Hospital

Kristel England. Parent Voices

Joel Evans-Fudem. Price Campaign Solutions and Media Freedom Foundation

Ruth Leal. Community Action Partnership (CAPs)

Marylu Javier, Mia Tedone. YWCA Sonoma County


Candace Madu. Legal Aid of Sonoma County

Amanda Nolan. Panhellenic Council (SSU)

Mariana Rodriguez. Social Advocates for Youth (SAY), and Adult Probation Department (Sonoma County)

Christina Storck. Stephanie Morris. Youth Counselor. Kid Street Learning Center

Mia Tedone. Petaluma Valley Hospital

Students who are interested in finding placements can contact the WGS Department for further information, or check out past Newsletters online at http://www.sonoma.edu/womenstudies/newsletters for additional sites in and around Sonoma County. Students are allowed to complete internship hours during summer breaks. However, students must check with a WGS Faculty prior to starting hours to make sure the site is acceptable. Out of area sites are possible!
The WGS Department was excited to present a line-up of innovative faculty research in Spring 2010. Faculty had opportunity to present completed research, works in progress, and pedagogical reflections all of which continued advancing gender-focused scholarship at SSU. Below are some highlights.

**Alison Bechdel’s “Dykes to Watch Out For” and the Problem of Judgment**  
Ada Jaarsma, Assistant Professor, Philosophy  
I will analyze several examples in Bechdel’s ‘Essential Dykes to Watch Out For’ that seem to demonstrate the relevance of Hannah Arendt for contemporary debates within gender studies.

**Beat It Like a Cop, Baby: The Cultural Politics of Punishment in the Era of Post-Racialism.**  
Tryon Woods, Assistant Professor, Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies.  
This presentation considers the cultural logic of what is now being called the era of “post-racialism.”

**Envisioning Another World: How Grassroots Activism Affects Welfare Mothers’ Perspective on Poverty Policy.**  
Sheila Katz, Assistant Professor, Sociology  
Through longitudinal research with women on welfare pursuing higher education since the 1996 welfare reforms, I explore how women on welfare would change poverty policy, including welfare regulations.

**Beyond “homophobia”: The (gendered) nature of heterosexuals’ feelings toward sexual minorities.**  
Matthew Callahan, Assistant Professor, Psychology  
In this talk I will present evidence that the primary emotion felt toward sexual minorities is not fear/anxiety, but disgust. Moreover, I hope to convince you that the felt experience of prejudice toward sexual minorities is inextricably linked to gender.

**Will Marriage Matter? Effects of Marriage Anticipated by Same-Sex Couples**  
Julie Shulman, Assistant Professor, Counseling  
The current study used an online survey to explore the anticipated impact of legalized marriage on partners in same-sex couples living in California.

**Rae Bourbon: Performing Transgender Cosmopolitan Citizenship**  
Don Romesburg, Assistant Professor, Women’s and Gender Studies  
Exploring queer comic and female impersonator Ray/e Bourbon’s long life (1892?-1971) through concept of transgender cosmopolitan citizenship showcases how the performer endured

**The Princess as Frog: Intersections of Race, Gender and Disney**  
Ajay Gehlawat. Assistant Professor, Hutchins.  
I would like to examine the confluence of race and gender in Disney’s recent animated feature, “The Princess and the Frog.”
Student Point of View (POV)

I had the opportunity to participate in Alternative Spring Breaks through JUMP (Join Us Making Progress) this Spring 2011 break. JUMP encourages students to get involved in a variety of philanthropic programs. The alternative spring break trip allows students to address issues specific to the location and needs of the area visited. In past years groups have traveled to New Orleans to help rebuild the Gulf Coast, participated in restoration work in Moab, Utah, and focused their efforts on poverty relief in Portland, Oregon.

This Spring Break a group of 24 students traveled together to Eastern Tennessee to work in the Appalachia region. This trip had an environmental focus, however as the trip progressed I found myself learning more than I could have expected about the Cherokee community that lives in Snowbird, North Carolina. Our host site, Once Upon a Time, run by Ed and Arleen Decker, facilitated much of the trip’s education along with an intern, Ian. Given my background in Women’s and Gender Studies, I was curious as to how much these hosts (who are not a part of the Cherokee community) would be able to share the lived experiences of these people.

I was astonished by how dedicated our hosts were to securing trust with the Cherokee such that their relationship enabled students to work in the Snowbird Cherokee community. We communicated firsthand with the community we came to serve. I was also touched to see how the group of SSU students came together around service, and began to open themselves up to the transformation that this trip offered. I saw many people challenge themselves to see their world in a new way and expand their consciousness around Native histories.

I have been home for three weeks now, and I still cannot stop reflecting on the experience that I had in Tennessee. The JUMP program plans to offer three trips next year in response to an increasing interest in the Alternative Breaks program on SSU’s campus. One of those trips will be with Once Upon a Time in Tennessee.

It is my observation that each individual that goes on an Alternative Break gets a little something different out of it given his or her background and cultural perspective. I feel very strongly that this program is perfect for Women’s and Gender Studies students. The possibility to place intersectional education outside of the classroom is one that has completed my undergraduate experience in the best possible way.

Jocelyn Berry, WGS Senior
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2009-10 WGS GRADUATES!!

Spring 2010
WGS Majors
Ryan Connor (double Human Dev.)
Celina Corona-Romero (double Anth)
Coralie Ettinger-Avila
Ashlee Herd (double Psych)
Arielle Kubu-Jones (double Psych)
Liz Mackey
Lindsey Schweichler
Linda Smith
Danielle Williams
Brittany Wojaczynski
Kathryn Young

Fall 2009
WGS Majors
Rhonda Balzarini (double Psych)
Ashleigh Burger
Dzidzinou Djugba
Emma Smales

Minors
Julie Blum (Women’s Health)
Stephanie Castaneto (Women’s Health)
Jacklyn Deeter (Women’s Health)
Jamie Grace (WGS)
Nancy Ordaz (WGS)
Rebecca Schulz (Women’s Health)
Linda Smith (Women’s Health)
Lauren Stavish (WGS)
Kathryn Young (Women’s Health)

Special Recognition to our 2009-2010 WGS Department Graduates with Distinction for 2009-2010

Rhonda Balzarini
Coralie Ettinger-Aviles
Liz Mackey
Emma Smales
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2010-11 WGS GRADUATES!!

Spring 2011 WGS Majors
Jake Bailey (double Business)
Jocelyn Berry (double with Psych)
Ali Boecker
Cassidy Dobson
Joel Evans-Fudem (double with Psych)
Jennifer Gonzalez (double with CCJS)
Marylu Javier (double with English)
Amber Jerome
Ruth Leal Torres
Liz Mackey
Candace Madu
Rose Njoroge
Mia Tedone
Jenacee Torri

Fall 2010 WGS Majors
Meg Carlucci (double Hutchins)
Lauren Duensing
Sara Kaufman (double Psych)
Mariana Rodriguez (double CCJS)
Christina Storck
Araceli Vega

WGS Minor
Danielle Colombana
Audrey McElroy

Women's Health Minor
Andrea Floyd
Danielle Humphreys

Queer Studies Minor
Jake Bailey

WGS Minor
Samantha Bynum
Laura Dimech

Marisa Hatcher
Aubrey Koch

Women's Health Minor
Mia Tedone
Ashley Cope

Special Recognition to our
WGS Department Graduates with
Distinction Awards for 2010-2011

Jake Bailey
Jocelyn Berry
Meg Carlucci
Candace Madu
Araceli Vega
We're on the Web!
See us at: www.sonoma.edu/womenstudies

WGS Welcomes your Support

Alumni and Community members often ask us how they can stay involved or support WGS. There are numerous ways! Please see below! The WGS Foundation was set up specifically to assist the department in providing quality curriculum enhancements and activities for students of WGS. Possibilities for use include travel grants, research opportunities, and technological innovations.

I am interested in:
___ Sitting on a WGS Alumni Panel
___ Contributing to the WGS Foundation*
   ___ $5-$50 Friend
   ___ $50-$75 Supporter
   ___ $75 & above Advocate
___ WGS Alumni Book Club
___ WGS Alumni Facebook/MySpace or other online community

*Checks payable to: WGS Foundation.
*Mail form/e-mail interest to tung@sonoma.edu. Dept. address below.

CONTACT US

The WGS Department would love to hear from you! Alumni, let us know how you are. Students, consider writing for us! Community folks, let us know how we can be of assistance.

Contact the Chair of the Department at tung@sonoma.edu or Jo-Ann Smith at 707-664-2840.