

Department of Women's Studies



SPRING 2011 • VOLUME 1 • ISSUE 2

Welcome to Our New Faculty

With the coming of our Fall 2011 semester we are excited to welcome the following core faculty members to the Department of Women's Studies:



Danielle Taylor Phillips, Ph.D., Assistant Professor.

Dr. Phillips received her Ph.D. in Women's and Gender Studies from Rutgers University, and her B.A. in Comparative Women's Studies from Spelman College. Her areas of specialization and research interests include critical race feminisms, globalization and transnationalism, nineteenth and twentieth-century U.S. history, women's labor, diversity in higher education, and black feminist thought. Dr. Phillips has two forthcoming publications in *Signs: The Journal of Women in Culture and Society* and *Journal of the Motherhood Initiative*.

Agatha Beins, Ph.D., Assistant Professor.

Dr. Beins defended her dissertation in Women's and Gender Studies from Rutgers University at the end of March 2011. She holds an MFA degree from Eastern Washington University in creative writing, an M.A. in Women's Studies from the University of Arizona, and a B.A. from Carleton College in Classical Languages. Her areas of teaching and research include histories of feminism and women's studies; social movements; print and material cultures; cultural studies; art and activism; pedagogy; and feminist geography.

We are also very pleased that **Dr. Christa Downer** will remain in our department for the 2011-12 academic year as a visiting assistant professor. Her areas of interest include the rhetoric of multiculturalism in the 21st century, the politics of motherhood, studies of feminist activism, feminist theories, as well as rhetoric and composition.



The Department of Women's Studies at TWU offers an exciting multicultural curriculum that integrates diverse perspectives and critically applies feminist/womanist scholarship on behalf of social justice.

TWU is the largest public university primarily for women in the United States and one of the most diverse institutions of higher education in the nation.

*Transdisciplinary,
Transgressive,
Transformative*

Programs:

- Ph.D. Degree
- M.A. Degree
- Graduate Certificate
- BGS Concentration
- Undergraduate Minor

"As universities are increasingly reshaped according to corporate agendas, as social welfare becomes privatized and Women's Studies students find themselves in the position of modern ladies bountiful, as the productive space between theory and practice threatens to grow into an unbridgeable chasm--for all these reasons and more, we need committed Women's Studies scholars to produce the theories, questions, and data that shape and influence meaningful social and political activism."

--Bonnie Zimmerman

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College of Arts and Sciences

"Educating Global Citizens"

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"We have to care not just about 'our' rights but all women's rights, not just about 'our' children, but about all children."

--Diana Taylor

Let Us Hear From You!

We are constantly updating our website and also looking for new inclusions to our newsletter. Please email Gail Orlando (gorlando@twu.edu) with any of your activities or achievements. Photos are always welcome too!

Check Us Out!

facebook

On Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_39041519415

"If I were really asked to define myself, I wouldn't start with race; I wouldn't start with blackness; I wouldn't start with gender; I wouldn't start with feminism. I would start with stripping down to what fundamentally informs my life, which is that I'm a seeker on the path. I think of feminism, and I think of anti-racist struggles as part of it. But where I stand spiritually is, steadfastly, on a path about love."

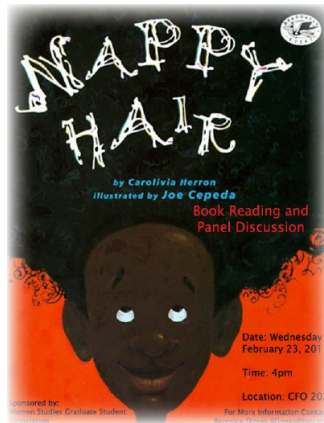
--bell hooks

Welcome to Our New Students

In Fall 2010 we enrolled our first cohort of doctoral students: **Jessica Camp, Lauren Cross, Allison Davis, Angela Johnson Fisher, Lindsay Robertson, Pamela White, and Todd Winkler.** We also enrolled the following new master's students: **Cristina Chavez, La'Tonya Coleman-Hill, Deon Daugherty, Allison DeLuca, Jo-Ann Edgar, Susan Harper, Sonia Jordan, Flannery Mitchell, and Maria Trevino.** In Spring 2011 additional master's students enrolled: **Tiffany Evans, Jennifer Hanna, and Ambre Williams.** Welcome!

What's Happening with WSGSA

In 2010-11 the **Women's Studies Graduate Student Association (WSGSA)** sponsored several great activities such as the Halloween costume drive for the Denton County Friends of the Family and food drives for the TWU Food Pantry.



WSGSA also had a book reading and panel discussion on Carolivia Herron's controversial book *Nappy Hair* in February 2011 that was a huge success.

All graduate students in Women's Studies at TWU are automatically members of the organization. For more information on WSGSA and its committees and upcoming meetings: <http://www.twu.edu/ws/WSGSA.asp>.

Special Mention



We wish to congratulate **Dr. Jo-Ann Stankus** on her new position at TWU. Beginning on June 1, 2011, Dr. Stankus will serve as an academic advisor for the College of Nursing. We are grateful to Dr. Stankus for her teaching and service to the department on a full-time basis during this academic year, and we will miss her.

Also, a special congratulations to **Ms. Burlyce Sherrell Logan**, our former Women's Studies secretary, who graduated with her bachelor's degree in May 2011 from the University of North Texas! Ms. Logan was one of the first African Americans to attend the University of North Texas in 1956. After enduring harassment and brutality, she left the university in 1958 and decided to return in 2006. In the fall she plans to pursue a master's degree in history at UNT. Ms. Logan was recently profiled nationally in *The New York Times* and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

Congratulations to.....

Congratulations to our 2010-11 master's graduates: **Jessica Camp**, **Meredith Fortner**, **Aleda Reyes**, **Deepti Sihota**, **Susan Bradley**, **Camilla Davis**, **Amie Lewis**, and **Gaby Marquez**.

Congratulations also to **Patrice Lockett**, who received her Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies in December 2010, as well as to **Gillian Collie**, **Becky Spencer**, and **Sydney Peck**, who received their Graduate Certificates in Spring 2011.



Also, a special congratulations to **Elizabeth Claffey** who is a 2011 Master's recipient of the Graduate Student of the Year Award!!! Elizabeth completed her MFA degree and is a graduate certificate student in Women's Studies.

Women's Studies Students in the News



One of our current master's students, **Reanae McNeal**, presented her *Weeping Blood Art Exhibit* at the 15th International Conference on Violence, Abuse, and Trauma in San Diego in September 2010, and also spoke on a survivor's panel and performed her award-winning one-woman play "Don't Speak My Mother's Name In Vain," about the sexual assault of African-American women.

Some of our Women's Studies students presented at the International El Mundo Zurdo conference in San Antonio, Texas on November 5-6, 2010, in a session organized by Dr. AnaLouise Keating: **Berenice Dimas**, "The Coatlicue State: Facultando the Spiritual-Erotica in Gloria Anzaldúa's Work," **Susana Ramírez**, "Moving Beyond Borderlands: Shifting towards New Theoretical Understandings of Gloria E. Anzaldúa's Children's Literature," and **Jessica Camp**, "Radical Rhetoric: Excavating the Early Drafts of 'La Prieta.'"



Giving to Women's Studies

The TWU Department of Women's Studies appreciates all donations. Your generous donations enhance our programs and benefit our students. Thank you!! Your donations to the Friends of Women's Studies Support the following priorities:

The Nancy Johnson Coyle Endowed Scholarship Fund, an endowment fund that gives scholarships to students in the Master of Arts degree in Women's Studies at TWU. Persons who are interested in making donations to this fund can send their contributions to:

Texas Woman's University
Foundation
P.O. Box 425618
Denton, TX 76204

The Women's Studies Friends account. These funds are directed to the greatest needs within the Women's Studies Department. The Friends account supports guests speakers, receptions, and events that benefit students in Women's Studies. To donate go to the following website: <http://portalmisc.twu.edu/OnlineGivingWeb/frmWelcome.aspx>. During the donation process, click on "a specific department or program." Then select "Friends of Women's Studies."

"The knowledge that is too often missing and is often desperately needed is at the intersection between things and people, between feats of engineering and social structures, between experiences and bodies"

~Nancy Tuana



"Feminism is the political theory and practice that struggles to free all women: women of color, working-class women, poor women, disabled women, lesbians, old-women—as well as white, economically privileged, heterosexual women. Anything less than this vision of total freedom is not feminism, but merely female-aggrandizement."

--Barbara Smith

Women's Studies Students in the News



Lauren Cross, Women's Studies doctoral student, showed her documentary film, "The Skin Quilt Project," at TWU in October, 2010. Lauren also curated "The Skin Quilt Project: Uplifting our Culture, Celebrating Tradition" at the Plano African American Museum and The ArtCentre of Plano in February 2011.

Camilla Davis, who recently graduated with her M.A. in Women's Studies, presented a paper, "Transformations: Transitioning from Radical to Liberatory Feminism through Radical Alliances," at the University of North Texas Philosophy Symposium in November 2010.

Debra Dayton, a current Women's Studies M.A. student, presented her paper "Judaism, Ecology, and Feminism: Is Ecofeminism Consistent with Judaism?" at the the Second International Research Conference for Graduate Students in San Marcos, TX in November 2010 and again in April 2011 at the Florida Consortium for Women's Studies at Florida Atlantic University.

Susan Harper, who is pursuing her M.A. degree, gave the following conference presentations: "'And Then I Met This Woman...': Women Coming Out After Marriage and the Challenge to Queer Theory," National Women's Studies Association Annual Conference, Denver, Colorado, November 2010; and "When Survivors Teach: Embodiment and Disclosure in the Women's Studies Classroom," with Kristen Alder (UNT graduate student in Interdisciplinary Studies), Educational Bodies Conference, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, April 2011. The second paper originated in Dr. Jo-Ann Stankus' course on Feminist Pedagogies in Fall 2010.

Amie Lewis recently completed an internship at the Denton Law Offices of S. Camille Milner, an attorney who focuses on collaborative approaches to family law.

In 2010-11, Women's Studies M.A. student, **Gaby Marquez** completed an internship working with young girls in after-school programs. She worked in El Paso at Latinitas, a non-profit "dedicated to empowering young Latinas through media and technology."

What's New With Women's Studies Faculty and Affiliate Faculty...



Dr. Claire Sahlin, Chair of the Department of Women's Studies, published "Holy Women of Medieval Scandinavia: A Survey," in *Medieval Holy Women in the Christian Tradition: Twelfth through Fifteenth Centuries*, edited by Alastair Minnis and Rosalynn Voaden, pp. 689-723. Turnhout, Belgium: Brepols International Academic Publishers, 2010. Dr. Sahlin also gave a presentation, "The Role of Technology in Women's Studies Program Administration and Teaching: (How) Does It Work?," at the Program Administration and Development Pre-Conference, National Women's Studies Association,

Dr. AnaLouise Keating, Director of the Doctoral Program, published an article "Archival Alchemy and Allure: The Gloria Evengelina Anzaldúa Papers as Case Study" in *Aztlan: A Journal of Chicano Studies*. Dr. Keating was also the keynote speaker at three events this spring: the Southern Colorado Rhetoric Society's Inaugural Symposium, where she delivered a paper titled "Poet-Shaman Aesthetics: Anzaldúa Insights into Imagination, Transformation, and the Writing Process;" Women's History Month at the Women's Institute, University of Georgia, where she spoke on "From *This Bridge Called My Back* to *this bridge we call home*, and Beyond: U.S. Women of Colors' Radical Visions for Transformation;" and the Graduate English Student's Symposium at UTSA, where she spoke on the following topic: "*This Bridge Called My Back* is (potentially) for everyone! Activating Theory in the Flesh." Most exciting is Dr. Keating's newly published book *Bridging: How Gloria Anzaldúa's Life and Work Transformed our Own*, co-edited with Gloria González-López (University of Texas Press).

Dr. Gina Anderson, Associate Professor in Teacher Education and Women's Studies affiliate faculty member was awarded the Dr. G. Ann Uhler Endowed Fellowship for Higher Education Administration. She used the Fellowship to attend the Power Pipeline Conference, a leadership program sponsored by The Foundation for Women's Resources, in Dallas in April.



At the April TWU Honors Convocation two Women's Studies affiliate faculty received recognition:

Dr. Linda Marshall, Associate Professor of Social Work, received The Humphries Award for Dedication to TWU.

Dr. Penny Hanstein, Professor of Dance, received The Cornaro Award, the highest award given to a TWU professor.

Summer 2011 Course Offerings

Summer 2011 6/6/11-8/13/11

Transgressive Identities

WS 5253.50 (Course Code 68543)

For more information contact **Dr. AnaLouise Keating** (analouisekeating@gmail.com or 940-898-2129).

Anzaldúa Seminar

WS 5293.50 (Course Code 68545)

For more information contact **Dr. AnaLouise Keating** (analouisekeating@gmail.com or 940-898-2129).

Summer II - 6/6/11-7/9/11

Family Violence

WS 5663.01 (Course Code 68946)

Cross listed with SOCI 5663.01. Tuesdays/Thursdays, 6:00-9:50 p.m. For more information contact **Dr. Linda Marshall** (lmarshall@twu.edu or 940-898-2072).

Contemporary U. S. Women In Politics

WS 5663.50 (Course Code 68947)

Online with virtual meetings on Tuesdays: 6/7, 6/21, and 7/5, 6:00-8:50 p.m. For more information contact **Dr. Christa Downer** (cdowner@twu.edu or 940-898-2112).

Summer III - 7/11/11-8/13/11

The Politics of Writing

WS 5863.50 (Course Code 76302)

Online with face-to-face meetings Tuesdays, 6:00-8:50 p.m.: 7/12, 7/19, 7/26, 8/2, and 8/9. For more information contact **Dr. Christa Downer** (cdowner@twu.edu or 940-898-2112).

Fall 2011 Course Offerings

M.A.-Level Courses

Foundations of Scholarly Inquiry

WS 5023.01 (Course Code 74637)

Tuesdays, 2:30-5:20 p.m.. The course will be taught by **Dr. Agatha Beins**.

WS 5023.02 (Course Code 76417)

Thursdays, 6:00-8:50 p.m. The course will be taught by **Dr. Agatha Beins**.

Feminist Pedagogies

WS 5353.01 (Course Code 74639)

Thursdays, 2:30-5:20 p.m. For more information contact **Dr. Christa Downer** (cdowner@twu.edu or 940-898-2112).

Fall 2011 Course Offerings- continued

M.A.-Level Courses (continued)

U.S. Women of Colors

WS 5463.01 (Course Code 74640)

Tuesdays, 6:00-8:50 p.m. Course will be taught by **Dr. Danielle Phillips**.

WS 5463.50 (Course Code 75191)

Course will be taught by **Dr. Danielle Phillips**.

Women's Studies Seminar: Studies in Feminist Activism

WS 5663.50 (Course Code 74643)

Online with virtual meetings Mondays: 9/12, 10/17, and 11/21 from 6:00-8:50 p.m. For more information contact **Dr. Christa Downer** (cdowner@twu.edu or 940-898-2112).

Women's Studies Seminar: Masculinity, Manliness, Culture, and Race

WS 5663.51 (Course Code 76340)

Online with virtual meetings Saturdays: 9/3, 10/8, 11/12, and 12/3, 9:00-11:50 a.m. Course will be taught by **Dr. Ruben Rodríguez Jiménez**

Ph.D.-Level Courses

New Directions in Feminist/Womanist Theories

WS 6103.01 (Course Code 74662)

Wednesdays, 2:30-5:20 p.m. For more information contact **Dr. Christa Downer** (cjeandowner@yahoo.com or 940-898-2119).

Women's Studies Disciplinary/Interdisciplinary Knowledges

WS 6203.01 (Course Code 75382)

Tuesdays, 2:30-5:20 p.m. For more information contact **Dr. AnaLouise Keating** (analouisekeating@gmail.com or 940-898-2129).

Transdisciplinary Feminist Research Methods

WS 6303.01 (Course Code 75124)

Wednesdays, 6:00-8:50 p.m. For more information contact **Dr. Claire L. Sahlin** (csahlin@twu.edu or 940-898-2255).

Holistic Pedagogies Colloquium

WS 6501.01 (Course Code 75126)

Mondays, 2:30-5:20 p.m. on 9/12, 10/3, 10/24, 11/14, 12/5. For more information contact **Dr. AnaLouise Keating** at (analouisekeating@gmail.com or 940-898-2129).

Women's Studies Alumni News...

In Fall 2011 **Courtney O'Dell Chaib**, who completed an M.T.S. degree at Brite Divinity School, will begin doctoral studies in religion at Syracuse University.

Tara Conley is pursuing her doctoral degree in education and communication at Columbia University in New York City.

Since graduating from TWU in May 2008, **Rachel E. Duhan** has taught English as a Second Language, reading, and writing to adults and children in the Houston Area. She recently got married and plans to travel to Europe and Brazil before living in Argentina for 15 months, where she plans to read, write, and become fluent in Spanish.

Rachael Federico just completed her first year at Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland, Oregon.

Karen Kapusta-Pofahl is a lecturer in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas.

Kari Kesler is a Sexuality Health Educator for the Public Health Department of Seattle & King County, Washington. She and her partner recently adopted five children.



Laura Knudson is currently pursuing her Ph.D. and teaching in English at Texas Christian University.

A graduate of Stanford Law School, **Dorotha Ocker** works for a law firm in Corpus Christi providing legal guidance to veterans on how to receive long-term care benefits, additional pensions, and health packages.



Muriel Sims (M.A. 2008) has published a chapter in *Gendered Bodies: Feminist Perspectives*, second edition by Judith Lorber. Her chapter, "Me and My Breasts," gives an account of Muriel's journey through breast cancer.

Susan Townzen, who is pursuing her doctoral degree in religion at Claremont Graduate University, received a 2011-12 Transdisciplinary Studies Dissertation Award for her dissertation "Imaginations of Belief: The Believing Subject, Enculturation, and Social Control."

A special thanks to Ms. Gail Orlando, Senior Secretary, for designing and writing this newsletter! Ms. Orlando was recently recognized for five years of service to TWU.