

**Fall 2015**

# Fall Dream Team Lecture Series

13 OF THE MOST DYNAMIC  
FEMINIST PROFESSORS  
PRESENTING THEIR  
FAVORITE LECTURES

TUESDAYS 1:30-2:45  
FORNEY G140

August 26  
DR. T.J. BOGGS  
Associate of Arts  
"Introduction to the course"

September 2  
DR. ANNA GENTHERICH  
Professor of Women's Studies  
"Did you know the personal is political?"  
Guest #102 Studio:

September 9  
DR. KIM GALLON  
Assistant Professor of History  
"The Politics of Personal Differences"

September 23  
DR. CHEYENNE COOKY  
Associate Professor of History  
"The Social Construction of Gender in Sport"

September 30  
DR. EVE BLACKWOOD  
Professor of Anthropology  
"Finding the Backbone: Sexual and Gender Identity in a Global World"

October 7  
DR. WENDY EVANS  
Visiting Lecturer in the Department of Sociology  
"Choosing Between Medicine, Motherhood, and the Trans-  
formation of Birth in the Twentieth Century"

October 21  
DR. ASHLEY GARDNER  
Associate Professor of the University of Connecticut  
"Social Diversity in Organizing around Gender and  
Sexual Diversity in the Workplace"

November 4  
DR. ELLEN POLLACK  
Professor of Gender Studies (University of Washington)  
"One and a Half Strikes and the Map to the American  
Personality in Culture, Math, and Engineering"

November 18  
DR. MARILYN DAVIS  
Professor of Sociology with  
"From 'Back in the Saddle Politics' to Social  
Location Effects: Reproductive Justice Action"

December 2  
DR. STEPHANIE CLARKE  
Assistant Professor  
"Social Politics in College Campuses: Educating to  
and Learning from Student Activism"

December 9  
DR. SHANNON MCKENZIE  
Assistant Professor of Visual and Performing Arts and  
Social Science  
"Artistic Acts: The Production and Politics of  
Social Change"

15

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## 2013 Women's History Month March at Purdue

# In This Issue

- Directors welcome, p. 3
- Study Abroad: India and Cuba, pp. 4 and 5
- Angela Davis, p. 6
- bell hooks, p. 7
- Mark your calendars, p. 8
- LGBT Minor and Study Abroad, p. 9
- F.A.C.T. and SARA-V, pp. 10 and 11
- Meet the Faculty, pp.12 and 13
- Meet our Graduate Instructors, pp. 14 and 15
- Faculty and Student Achievements, pp. 16 and 17
- Final Thoughts, back page





## FROM THE DIRECTOR

**Welcome to our WGSS 2015 newsletter.** You will see from the pages that follow the WGSS program is a vibrant and exciting intellectual home for students, faculty, affiliates and allies at Purdue University. Our dedication to the field of WGSS manifests itself in our research, our teaching, our curriculum, and our co-curricular programming as well as our campus engagement and contributions to the world beyond Purdue. In

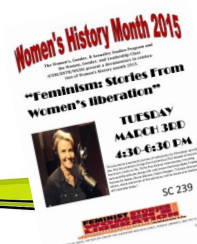
this edition of our annual newsletter, you will find WGSS core faculty, staff, and graduate instructor profiles, announcements, information about special events we have to look forward to this coming year, and a review of exciting highlights from last year.

Last year our commitment to WGSS found expression in numerous events and programming including our “Dream Team” Fall 2014 lectures series featuring a number of star Purdue faculty affiliates as well as guest lecturers from outside Purdue. A centerpiece of that series was a Q&A session offered by Dr. bell hooks and her evening lecture as the 2014 speaker for the Cummings-Perrucci Annual Lecture Series (see page 7). This was a prestigious moment in Purdue’s history and the history of our program. Our campus was honored again in February of 2015 by a visit from the inspiring Dr. Angela Davis, making last year one of the most memorable years for outside speakers at Purdue in recent memory. By following the ribbon of fliers on each page, you can see what other additional events occurred in 2014-15 including a horror film series, a WGSS co-sponsored LGBTQ film festival, Women’s History Month, and International Woman’s Day celebrations. You’ll see WGSS has also led the way on campus with efforts to educate our campus and bring awareness regarding sexual violence through our Spring 2015 Take Back the Night campaign (see page 11), and through collaboration with student groups such as F.A.C.T. (Feminist Action Coalition for Today) and SARA-V (Students Against Rape and Violence).

One of the most exciting program achievements of last year was the launching of our new “WGSS in India” Study Abroad Program. Three enterprising and fortunate students have traveled all the way to Mumbai where they are learning about women’s lives and the politics of gender and sexuality in India (see pages 4 and 5 for student testimonials). We expect to offer this unique SA program (the most affordable study abroad experience currently on offer at Purdue, by the way) again in 2016. Keep an eye out for a similar Study Abroad program to Cuba, “Politics and Gender Studies in Cuba,” cohosted by WGSS and the Department of Political Science, that we are hoping to launch a pilot, of in Spring 2016. Those of you interested in a fantastic opportunity to map the key sites of LGBTQ history in New York, Amsterdam, and Paris should sign up for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual planned “Sex, History, and the Cities” SA program co-sponsored by WGSS and the LGBTQ Center, and scheduled for summer 2016.

Finally, I want to welcome new program coordinator Kim Vestal formally to WGSS. In just a few short months, she has made her friendly, efficient, creative, and effective presence felt in our program—and in this newsletter, for which all credit goes to her. Please don’t hesitate to contact Kim ([vestalk@purdue.edu](mailto:vestalk@purdue.edu)) or me ([tjboisseau@purdue.edu](mailto:tjboisseau@purdue.edu)) if you have any questions about the program, our course scheduling, our WGSS major or minors (WGSS and LGBT Studies), our upcoming events, if you would like to be included on our listservs, or if you want to get more involved with the study of women, gender, and sexuality at Purdue.

Onward!





# WGSS STUDY ABROAD IN INDIA

## What Our Students

My Journey by Stephanie Scott...

Everything about my journey so far has been beneficial to the way I wanted to expand the narrowness of mind that I have obtained from my western mentality.

I understand the system in which we all are born into, are you of a higher caste or are you of a lower caste, are you fair, are you dark, can you speak English, can you touch my hand or do you have to bow. All of these concepts play into everyday life.

I have already made life long friends, learned so much from their costumes and accepted their culture wholly to the point where I have every desire to come back. One thing that has truly stuck out to me was the sense of family and blessings that elders can give you. Most of the girls live in combined homes, which include uncle, aunts, cousins and grandparents. Also, it is a costume to touch the elders feet when you meet them and they touch your head to bless/accept you. I love that so much because in the western world, elders lose their value. Elders carry all the stories, recipes, and the longing to spoil their loins, for that reason they are put on the pedestal they deserve. Its amazing how a hierarchy of old to young is still so prevalent, I don't see that as much back home besides in my own family.

...Stephanie Scott, Class of 2016  
WGSS in India, Fall 2015



## Are Saying...



I will never forget first stepping outside of the airport into that night air because it was such a shock. Not only is it hot but it's humid so the air feels like it is wrapping around you and is very close and sticky. So, when there is a breeze it feels amazing! I am just now beginning to get used to the heat and humidity.

The traffic is incredible, no lack of horn honking or weaving through the mess. I don't come from a big city so this is very new to me but I definitely like the insanity and noise. So far we have taken taxis, train and bus. I don't mind the heat of the taxi or bus compared to the train. In the train everyone is packed in and you can feel the heat and chaos coming off of everyone.

In Women's Empowerment class we have been talking about things such as women's health and how technology can improve women's lives as well as taking a look at how the media represents or rather, misrepresents women in India.

...Anna Monical, Class of 2016  
WGSS in India, Fall 2015





**Christina Adams** ...Nothing has reaffirmed my independence more than coming here without any friends or acquaintances; it really gives me the opportunity to explore exactly what I enjoy without being held. "Plunging head first into new experiences alone is how you find out how strong you truly are."

As far as classes go...the way they are conducted is definitely a different experience, students are not used to having to take notes based off of what the instructor is discussing resulting in extra time spent repeating things in hopes that the girls will write it down. The professors are some of the sweetest women I have ever had the privilege of meeting.

...Christina Adams, Class of 2016  
WGSS in India, Fall 2015

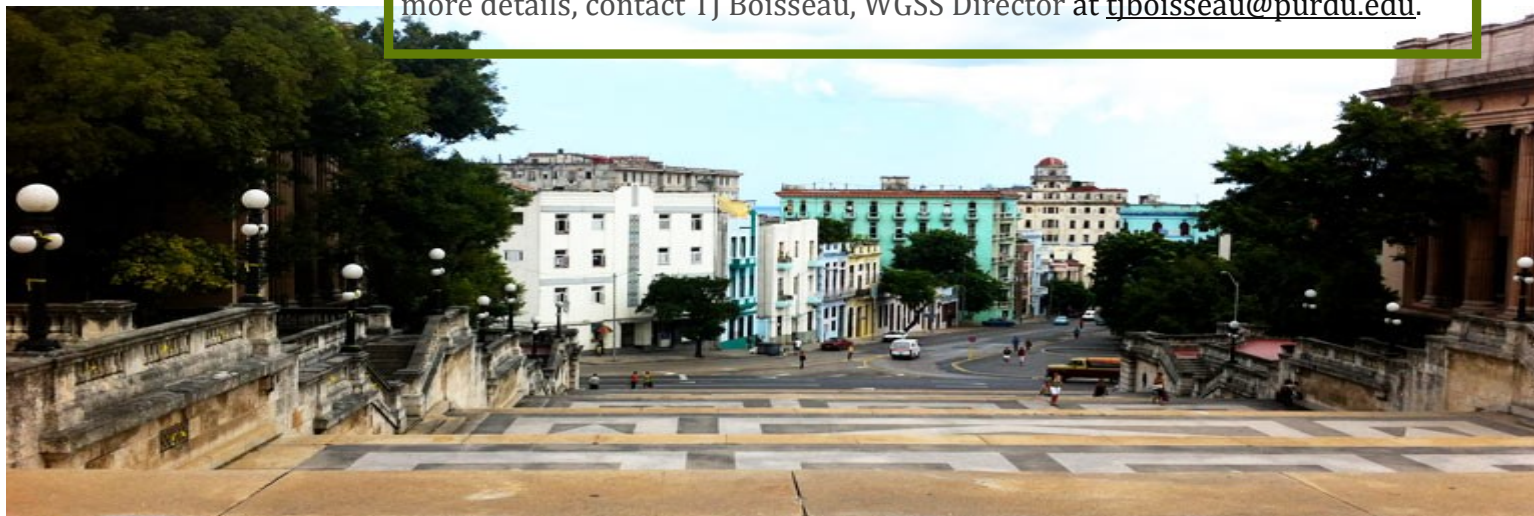
## WGSS Study Abroad in India—2016

WGSS in India is a unique study abroad opportunity hosted by our partner institution in India, Sophia College in Mumbai whose campus is a historic former Maharajah's palace. This SA is open to any Purdue student with at least 30 earned credit hours and 3 WGSS (or WGSS related) course credits behind them. The program earns students 12-15 credits and thus qualifies them for a minor in WGSS as well as a \$3000 scholarship which can be applied directly to the \$3000 fee. This fee covers a full semester of credit at Purdue as well as accommodation and three meals per day, seven days a week, for five months. Thus the only costs to the student of this program are: a \$931 placeholder fee, roundtrip transportation to India, international travel insurance (\$32/month), and pocket money for incidentals making this the most affordable—as well as one of the most intensive and exciting—study abroad programs currently available to students at Purdue.

## WGSS Study Abroad in Havanna, Cuba—2016

Cuba is now within reach of American citizens; the WGSS program and the Department of Political Science want to put it within reach of students at Purdue University as well.

With the assistance of our proposed partner institution in Cuba, the Instituto de Filosofia (Institute of Philosophy) located in Havana and affiliated with the Universidad de Habana (University of Havana), the "Politics and Gender Studies in Cuba" SA expects to launch a pilot program in Spring 2016. For more details, contact TJ Boisseau, WGSS Director at [tjboisseau@purdue.edu](mailto:tjboisseau@purdue.edu).



# Angela Davis



Author, educator and activist **Angela Davis** drew from her life's experience to inspire many on February 25. She was able to draw the crowd in detailing stories from her involvement in the Civil Rights Movement and her year and a half spent in jail. Pulling from her experiences, she gave the audience an in-depth view of the ongoing struggle for

economic, gender and racial equality in today's world. Her topics ranged from the lynching of the 1930s to the struggles that relate to the current fight for minimum wage, environmentalism, and the travesties of justice in Ferguson, MO last fall. Davis believes that we should always ask questions and find a way to involve ourselves in struggles characteristic of the transformative time of history in which we live. Creativity is essential in defining each moment of our battle against social injustice.

*We have to talk about liberating minds as well as liberating society. - Angela Davis*



**Elliott Hall, Purdue University**  
**Lecture begins promptly at 5 PM**  
**Free and open to the public**

**Lecture begins free and open to the public**

Coordinated by The Division of Diversity and Inclusion

[illegible]

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One of the highlights of the Dream Team Lecture Series came on October 28 when Dr. bell hooks, who was also our featured speaker for the 2014 Annual Cummings Perrucci Lecture, attended the class to answer students' questions about her work. Over 1,000 students, faculty, and guests attended this year's Annual Cummings Perrucci Lecture on Class, Race, and Gender Inequality featuring Dr. bell hooks. hooks is a feminist author, scholar, and social activist. She spoke on the historical links between capitalism and racism, illuminating the everyday ways in which both

systems combine to produce oppressive regimes of power.



# bell hooks



*The moment we choose to love we begin to move against domination, against oppression. The moment we choose to love we begin to move towards freedom, to act in ways that liberate ourselves and others. That action is the testimony of love as the practice of freedom. - bell hooks*



## Fall Dream Team Lecture Series

WGSS was honored to feature 13 of the most dynamic feminist professors from within Purdue as well as the from around the country to deliver their signature lectures on varying topics and research that lie at the heart of the academic study of women's, gender and sexuality to WGSS students and the Purdue community.

## Coming Attractions for 2015-2016....

September 30 7:00pm- PMU	Cummings Perrucci Lecture/William Julius Wilson
October 1 9:00am-PMU	Symposium: Featuring Evelyn Nakano Glenn, New Approaches to Citizenship & Inequality: Gender, Race, & Rights
October 4	The All Shades of Purple Film Series: Addressing Domestic Violence—SARA-V
October 5 7:00 pm- BCC	Conversation with Karen Toering: Black Women Using Film as a Strategy for Social Transformation
October 8	Film Series: Highlighting films about gender based violence—SARA-V
October 9 6:00pm—Riehle Plaza	Walk A Mile in Her Shoes Charity Walk—SARA-V
October 14	Domestic Violence: An Introduction Workshop—SARA-V
October 15-16 9:30am-7:30pm—Mallett Theatre	Boilers OUT Loud    Sponsored by the LGBTQ Center
October 22 9:30 am - Krannert Auditorium and Rawls Hall, 3rd floor	LGBTQ Center Symposium Sponsored by LGBTQ Center, WGSS, Diversity Resource Office, CRDI
October 27 6:30pm- Krannert Auditorium	#Liberation Social Justice/Media Event    Sponsored by the LGBTQ Center
November 2-3 Lawson 1142	Dr. Fernandez Robaina Presentation
February 2016	WGSS certificate and CRDI awards Ceremony
February 2016	W.E.B. Dubois Lecture
February 9-21	MBLGTACC
March 2016	Women's History Month
March 8	International Women's Day

**For more information or to see what new events are added go to:  
WGSS@purdue.edu and click on Events**



# LGBTQ



## LGBT Studies Minor

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Leadership | Social Justice | Intersectionality

The 12 credit LGBT Studies Minor provides students with opportunities to examine topics of gender and sexuality through an interdisciplinary perspective.

### Eligibility

All undergraduate students, regardless of major, gender identity, or sexual orientation are eligible.

### Requirements

Over 20 courses in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Anthropology, History, Sociology, and Psychology satisfy the requirements of the minor.

For a full list of courses, please visit:  
[www.cla.purdue.edu/academic/sis/p/wgss/](http://www.cla.purdue.edu/academic/sis/p/wgss/)

## SEX, HISTORY, AND THE CITIES

A QUEER HISTORY OF NEW YORK CITY,  
BERLIN, AND PARIS

SUMMER STUDY ABROAD

May-June, 2016

SIX WEEKS — 6 CREDITS

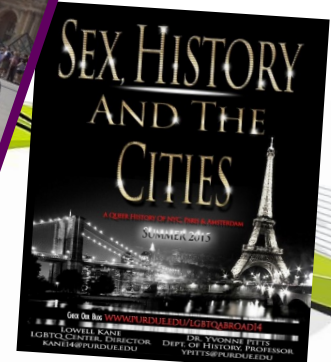
See our blog from Summer 2015:

<https://www.purdue.edu/lgbtqabroad/2015/>

For more information contact:

Lowell Kane  
Director, LGBTQ Center  
[Lowell@purdue.edu](mailto:Lowell@purdue.edu)

Dr. Yvonne Pitts  
Professor, History  
[Ypitts@purdue.edu](mailto:Ypitts@purdue.edu)



# FACT

## Purdue Feminist Action Coalition for Today

Feminist Action Coalition For Today is Purdue's fully-inclusive feminist organization, welcoming people of any gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, nationality, race, and religion who are interested in promoting equality and fighting gender oppression on their campus and in their community. The organization was founded in September 2009 by students in Women Studies who shared the same passion for feminism.

### Feminist (n.):

Someone who advocates social, political, legal, and economic rights for all regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, class, or sexual orientation.

To join or for more information contact Sydney Tomasko, FACT President, stomasko531@gmail.com

## Students Against Rape And Violence

SARA V serves as a vehicle to protect and support survivors while combatting sexual violence, by offering a safe environment for survivors, and educating against rape culture. Sara V, also serves as a liaison between students and the university to ensure that reported cases are handled properly, and provides awareness as an activist component.

Up coming events for the semester includes:

October 4th—The All Shades of Purple Film Series: Addressing Domestic Violence

October 8th—Highlighting films about gender based violence

October 14th—Domestic Violence An Introduction Workshop

October 9th—Walk A Mile in Her Shoes charity walk on

On going projects include the t-shirt fund raiser and canvassing signatures to petition the university to establish a rape crisis center.

To join or for more information contact Ti'Air Riggins, SARA-V President, triggins@purdue.edu





## Women Unite, Take Back the Night by Dana Bisignani

This past spring, members of the Feminist Action Coalition for Today (FACT), WGSS graduate instructors Dana Bisignani and Ekeama Goddard-Scovel, the Purdue Social Justice Coalition, and the newly-formed group Students Against Rape and Violence (SARA-V), joined the national conversation about sexual assault on college campuses.

Throughout March, we held a series of three teach-ins on defining sexual assault, understanding victim-blaming and rape culture, and resources for survivors available both on campus and in the community. Our last teach-in, co-taught by FACT vice president Sydney Tomasko and a member of the Greek community also informed those attending about the need for a rape crisis center on Purdue's campus and student efforts to draft a proposal for the center and its services, modeled on the efforts of other large universities. Miranda Sieber, a film student, made her first documentary about students' efforts to address sexual assault at Purdue, which premiered at the Lafayette Theater on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

The teach-ins culminated in a Take Back the Night rally at Slayter Hill on April 29<sup>th</sup>, followed by a candle-lit march through campus and down past the bars of Chauncey Hill, ending behind the West Lafayette Public Library. The rally featured local singer-songwriter Denise Wilson and testimonials from survivors like T'Air Riggins, co-founder and president of SARA-V.

This semester's organizers have already begun planning events in 2015-16 to continue to address sexual assault and to create safe spaces for the voices of survivors during the coming fall semester.

# TAKE BACK THE NIGHT

JOIN US IN A RALLY AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT & (RE)CLAIM PURDUE'S CAMPUS, AS A SAFE SPACE FOR ALL

APRIL 30th STARTING @ 8 PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [PURDUESOCIALJUSTICECOALITION@GMAIL.COM](mailto:PURDUESOCIALJUSTICECOALITION@GMAIL.COM)  
FACEBOOK.COM/PURDUESOCIALJUSTICECOALITION

From Slayter Hill to West Lafayette Public Library near Chauncey Hill

**PURDUE LIBERAL ARTS**

**LATINO CULTURAL CENTER**

**FACT SARA(V)**

**PURDUE DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION**

**ASAP**

**PURDUE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ETHICS & COMPLIANCE**

**PSJC**

w/ Musical Artist **DENISE WILSON**



# Meet the faculty



**TJ Boisseau** is Director and an Associate Professor of WGSS in the School of Interdisciplinary Studies (CLA). She received her PhD in U.S. Women's History from Binghamton University (SUNY-Binghamton) in New York in 1996. Her foremost interest as a scholar lies with the historical formation of feminism as an idea, as a hegemonic subject position, and as an identity, 1850 to present. Her research explores both the ways that individual subjects have projected, embraced, or distanced themselves from this identity and the ways that hegemonic US media have produced, defined, and delimited a feminist subject position and identity in American popular culture and transnationally.

Dr. Boisseau's published works include *Feminist Legal History*, co-ed. (New York University Press, 2011); *Gendering the Fair: Histories of Women and Gender at World's Fairs*, co-ed. (University of Illinois Press, 2010); *White Queen: May French-Sheldon and the Origins of American Feminist Identity* (Indiana University Press, 2004), "New Orleans: Gender and the Politics of Place and Displacement," A Special Issue of the National Women's Studies Association Journal, co-ed. (2008). She has published her work in *Feminist Teacher* (2015), *Women's History Review* (2009), *thirdspace* (2008); *Anthropology and Education Quarterly* (2002), *Gender & History* (2000), *Signs* (1995) and in numerous anthologies and collections of essays.

Dr. Boisseau has directed the Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program since arriving to Purdue University in 2012. She teaches courses on the history of feminism, gender, race, popular culture and American women's history. She is an affiliate of the American Studies Program and the African American Studies and Research Center and a member of the Advisory Board for the Center for Research on Diversity and Inclusion at Purdue.



**Cheryl Cooky** is an Associate Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies in the School of Interdisciplinary Studies. She received her Ph.D. in Sociology and Gender Studies from the University of Southern California in 2006.

Cooky's scholarship is interdisciplinary, situated at the intersections of sociology, kinesiology (sociology of sport), media studies, and women's/gender studies. Her research centers on the ways gender shapes experiences, cultural meanings, and societal structures in sports. Her work offers ways of understanding voices of freedom and responsibility, voices of authority and power, voices of prejudice and ignorance, voices of hope and possibility, and even voices of silence.

Cooky's research has been published in *Communication & Sport*, *Feminist Studies*, the *Journal of Sex Research*, the *American Journal of Bioethics*, *Sociology of Sport Journal*, *Sociological Perspectives*, *Journal of Sport and Social Issues*, and in many edited books and anthologies. She is serving a 3-year term as President of the North American Society for the Sociology of Sport and serves on the editorial boards of the *Sociology of Sport Journal*, *Communication & Sport*, and *Qualitative Research on Sport, Exercise & Health*.

Recognized by *The Feminist Wire* as a "Feminist We Love" and as a recipient of the Title IX Distinguished Service award, conferred by Purdue for her research on girls and women's sport, Cooky demonstrates a strong commitment to the public translation of her research. She collaborates with several women's/ sports advocacy organizations leveraging her empirical research towards policy ends, including the Women's Sports Foundation's National Policy Advisory Board. She has also appeared on *National Public Radio*, *HuffPost Live*, in *Fortune Magazine*, *The Globe & Mail*, as well as other local, national and international news media outlets.

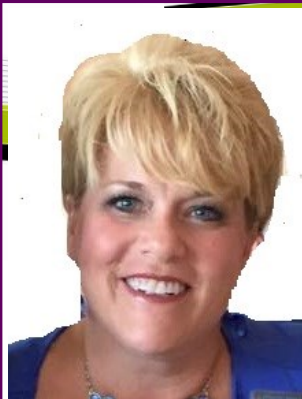
**Dr. Jennifer Freeman Marshall** is Assistant Professor of English and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

Her research specializations include Black feminist thought, feminist theory and methods, and 20th century African American literary and cultural productions, and feminist ethnography. A recipient of the 2011 Women's Studies Outstanding Faculty Teaching Award, she received the Teaching for Tomorrow Award at Purdue (2013-2014) and most recently won the Outstanding Instructor Award for 2015. She has developed courses on Contemporary Black Feminist Literature, Zora Neale Hurston, and other courses on gender, culture, and literary studies. Her book-in-progress, Zora Neale Hurston: Icon, Token, and Canons, explores the popular and scholarly receptions of the iconic writer and anthropologist. Her most recent publication is entitled "In Search of Heidi Durrow within a Black Woman's Literary Tradition" in the *Forum for World Literature Studies*. She delivered a paper entitled "Black Feminist Literary Production and Social Justice" at the 2014 NWSA conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico.



**Marlo D. David** is an Associate Professor of WGSS and English. She received her PhD in English from the University of Florida in 2009. Her research has focused on contemporary African-American cultural studies as well as feminist gender and sexuality studies. Dr. David's interdisciplinary research traces the ways black writers, artists, and performers respond to inter- and intra-racial representations of blackness and contemporary American politics in the post-Civil Rights era. Her work offers ways of interpreting African-American literature, performance, and popular culture that emphasize the multiplicities of black identities and challenge stereotypes that stigmatize black people, particularly black women and girls.

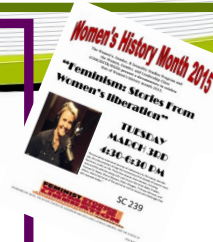
Dr. David's current book project, *Mama's Gun: Black Maternal Figures and the Politics of Transgression*, examines the ways African-American writers and performers use methods of vernacular signification to modify controlling images about black mothers in contemporary American culture. By identifying a new literary trope and five new categories of maternal signification in her book, Marlo provides alternative ways of reading transgressive mother figures that are deemed "bad mothers" within dominant discourses. Her work is applicable in the fields of U.S. literary studies, American Studies, African-American Studies, and Women's and Gender Studies. In addition to her current book project, her essays have been placed in *Tulsa Studies of Women's Literature*, *Black Camera: An International Film Journal*, *The African American Review*, and *Home Girls Make Some Noise: A Hip Hop Feminist Anthology*.



This year we welcomed **Kim Vestal** to the WGSS family. Born and raised in the Lafayette area, Kim is a Boilermaker to the core. She has been an employee of Purdue for 16 years and in March 2015 joined WGSS as the new Program Coordinator. She brings a wealth of University experience to this position and is excited to be associated with the dynamic individuals that educate, enlighten and prepare those who will be our future leaders.

As Program Coordinator her responsibilities are to assist in the management and supervision of all aspects of program administration including the faculty and teaching assistant recruitment process. Kim coordinates academic and programmatic activities while overseeing budget and organization of several celebrations and events held throughout the year. Web page development and social media implementation are also among her duties.

Kim has been married for 29 years to Jerry, has 4 married children and 3 beautiful granddaughters with 2 more grandchildren on the way. She feels extremely blessed for her own family and her Purdue family and welcomes the opportunity to chat about the opportunities in WGSS and how Purdue can enrich the lives of others.



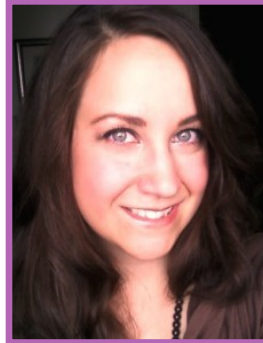
**Julia Smith, Instructor WGSS282**



**Julia's** research interests and intellectual passions as a scholar of English Literature and Theory and Cultural Studies have been guided by feminist politics. Her central fields of interest include gender and sexuality studies, cultural theory, film studies, visual culture, and postmodernity. She specializes in the vicissitudes of female masochism in its discursive formations among literary, cinematic, psychoanalytic, and cultural contexts. Grounded in feminist politics and queer theory, a current that runs through her work is to find ways to bridge the often dismal nature

of postmodern thinking with strategies of resistance to oppressive regimes of power. Her research methods heavily rely on aesthetics and close-reading practices to excavate often overlooked socio-historical realities and cultural artifacts from the standpoints of marginalized subject groups.

**Dana Bisignani, Instructor WGSS280**



**Dana** is a doctoral candidate in English and has taught in the WGSS program for three years. She authors a blog, The Gender Press, and recently published a chapter on "activist-apprentice pedagogy" in *Feminist Community Engagement: Achieving Praxis* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2015). Her research examines the critical reception of anti-war poet

Denise Levertov's political poetry and activism, and the intersections of gender, art-making, and war-making more broadly. She holds an M.F.A. from Purdue and her poetry has appeared in several journals, including *Cimarron* and *Prairie Schooner*.

**Heather Lauren Murton, Instructor WGSS280**

**Heather** is an English PhD student with a concentration in Theory and Cultural Studies. In 2013, she graduated summa cum laude with a BFA in English and Creative Writing and a focus in women's studies and critical race studies from Chatham University, a small liberal arts and women's college in Pittsburgh, PA. Heather earned her M.A. from



West Virginia University in English Literature where she also pursued a certificate in Women's and Gender Studies. Heather has taught Introduction to Rhetoric and Composition, Feminist Theory, and a film class on gender politics and violence in the horror genre. At Purdue, Heather hopes to continue to bridge together her interests in the humanities and feminism, and she looks forward to celebrating and exploring feminism on Purdue's campus.

# Our Awesome

**Christopher D. Munt, Instructor WGSS 282**

**Christopher** is a PhD student in American Studies with a concentration in Science, Technology, & Environment Studies. He holds an MA in American Studies with a concentration in Anthropology (Purdue '13) and a BA in Religious Studies (Purdue '06). His current research investigates the impacts of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) on LGBT/queer identities and spaces in 1980s San Francisco, California. His project draws on critical race theory, queer of color critique, and new feminist materialism to bring into focus the way HIV "intra-acts" with identities, bodies, neighborhoods, and discourses.

Prior to joining the WGSS program, Christopher worked as a diversity and inclusion professional in corporate and higher education settings. He currently serves as the steering team co-chair for *Conversation Circles*, an initiative of Greater Lafayette Commerce's Diversity Roundtable. Christopher is also a performance poet, musician, and writer; his work most recently appeared in *KALEIDOSCOPE: Exploring the Experience of Disability through Literature and the Fine Arts* (University of Akron Press). He lives in a really old house in downtown Lafayette, Indiana with roommates, pets and an often-neglected garden.



**Jasmine Linabary, Instructor WGSS280**



**Jasmine** is a PhD candidate in the Brian Lamb School of Communication. Her emphasis is on organizing, new media, and social change, with particular interest in gender and participatory methodologies. Her research examines issues of voice, (dis)empowerment, and organizing for social change in online and offline contexts. In particular, her research has focused on topics of transnational

feminist organizing online and gendered online harassment. She is also a research assistant with the Purdue Peace Project, working with locally driven initiatives in Ghana that aim to reduce the likelihood of political violence.

She received her bachelor's degree in Journalism and Mass Communication from Whitworth University, and her master's degree in Communication Studies from California State University, Chico. She has a background in journalism, having spent time as a reporter and a managing editor of several weekly newspapers in Idaho and Montana. In addition to her studies, she does consulting work with the nonprofit World Pulse, an online media network that aims to unite and amplify women's voices to accelerate their impact.

**Dorothy Snyder, Instructor WGSS280**



**Dorothy** is a PhD candidate at the Brian Lamb School of Communication in Organizational Rhetoric. She holds a graduate certificate in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, and currently serves as an assistant course director for COM 114, the introductory presentational speaking course on campus. She earned her Master of Arts and Bachelor of Arts in Communication from Purdue University, Calumet.

Her research interests include the use of new media technologies to facilitate a more democratic political participation among marginalized communities, the public's perception of women as leaders particularly in the sphere of politics, alternative organizational rhetoric as used in peacebuilding, and incorporating community building in the classroom as an instructor. Her dissertation focuses on the usage of gender mainstreaming in peacebuilding efforts of the UN and how this impacts gender in organizational roles related to peacebuilding at the UN. Her research has been presented at the annual conferences of the National Communication Association and the Central States Communication Association.

# Graduate Instructors

**Nicholas Marino, Instructor WGSS282 LC, WGSS482**



**Nicholas** is a PhD candidate in English, specializing in Rhetoric and Composition. His dissertation research focuses on the intersection between literacy learning and the socialization of masculinity. In particular, he looks at how masculinist ideologies inflect our assessment of "good writing" across the curriculum. He received his graduate certificate in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies in the spring of 2015, and has taught Intro to LGBT Studies 282, and the capstone course for the LGBT minor. Within the English department, he has also taught Intro to Composition, and Accelerated Composition with a service learning component. He is an active member of the American Men's Studies Association, and received the Loren Frankel Memorial Scholarship from the organization in 2014. He also serves on the vetting committee for the journal, *Men and Masculinities*. Prior to attending Purdue, Nick received his M.A. in English and American Literature from Georgetown University. There, he researched the intersection of bodybuilding, masculinity and the construction of time within American popular culture. He is excited to be a part of the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies program at Purdue.

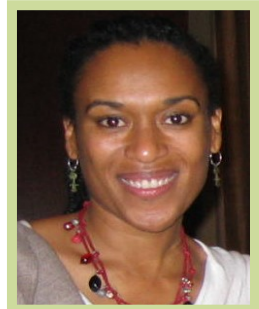


# Continued Successes!



Our Congratulations to Marlo David, on her promotion to Associate Professor of WGSS and English.

Jennifer Freeman-Marshall, Asst Professor of WGSS and English, won the 2015 WGSS Excellence in Teaching Award.

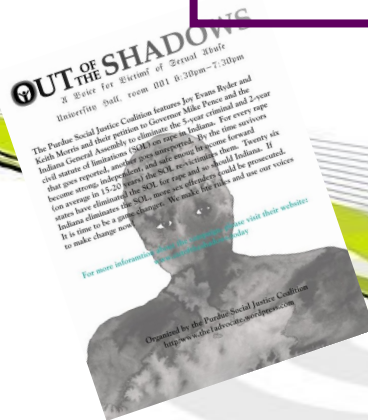


WGSS is extremely proud of Dr. Cheryl Cooky, Associate Professor of WGSS, who this year had numerous media appearances on both television:

*PBS Newshour* and radio: *CounterSpin* and *Air Talk*, and had featured articles in *The New York Times* and *The Huffington Post*.



TJ Boisseau, Director and Associate Professor of WGSS, published an article in *Feminist Teacher* 24:1-2 (2015). "Always in the Mood for Moody; Teaching History Through Anne Moody's *Coming of Age in Mississippi*."



# WGSS Best and Brightest!

## Student Successes!



Emily Fogle  
2015 WGSS Undergraduate Leadership Award  
Being congratulated by Dr. Cheryl Cooky



Congratulations to Nicholas Marino, Mandy Wheadon, Esther Teixeira and Juanita Crider for completion of the WGSS Graduate Certificate.



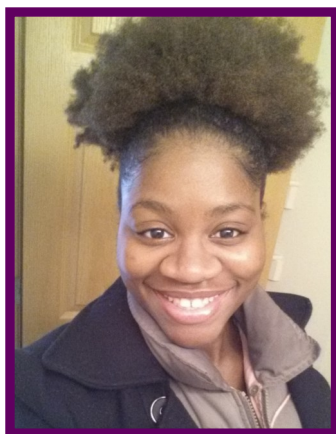
Dana Bisignani,  
2015 Graduate Teaching Excellence Award



Jamilyn Lemish  
2015 WGSS Undergraduate Leadership Award



Dana Smith,  
2015 WGSS Undergraduate Leadership Award



Jima Fahnbulleh  
2015 Carolyn C Perrucci Undergraduate Achievement Award

On April 9, 2015 these creative, determined and talented students were among those WGSS Students that were honored for their imaginative work and dedication to feminist studies and social justice at the 2015 Celebration of Excellence in Diversity Scholarship event.



"I thought he was my friend."

Join others who are thinking the same thing.

**3/4** of all sexual assaults are committed by a friend.

Survivor? Advocate? Help kickstart a student led sexual assault advocacy and rape education prevention group. Become an officer for Students Against Rape and Violence (Sara V). Our first meeting is February 26th @ 4:30 pm 1001 MJIS.

If you cannot attend, please contact triggian@purdue.edu.

Transgender  
Day of Visibility

Tuesday, March 31st

Panel Discussion: Beyond Visibility: Transgender  
Students and Staff at Purdue  
6:30pm - 8:00pm  
MTHW 304

## Final Thoughts...

**ALUMNI and WGSS STUDENTS...** We would love to hear from you. Give us an update on what you are doing with your WGSS degree. Let us know how your WGSS's courses prepared you for work and/or life. Please share your accomplishments and journeys since graduation. Just keep in touch by emailing us at [WGSS@purdue.edu](mailto:WGSS@purdue.edu)!

### **Additionally...Consider supporting WGSS!**

Your gift of any amount makes it possible to publish this very newsletter, provide funds for awards for both graduate and undergraduate students, support WGSS student groups and hold campus events to raise awareness for feminist issues on campus.

**Please consider making a gift to WGSS today!**

### **Contact Us**

If you have questions, or would like more information, give us a call!

#### **WGSS**

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765-494-6295

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Visit us on the web at :  
[www.cla.purdue.edu/WGSS](http://www.cla.purdue.edu/WGSS)

*Don't Forget to  
Check Us Out!!*



**PURDUE**  
LIBERAL ARTS  
**THINK BROADLY.**  
**LEAD BOLDLY.**

Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies  
100 N. University St., BRNG 6164  
West Lafayette, IN 47907

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE