A Letter from the Director,  
Dr. Laura Engel

It’s been an exciting year so far for the Center for Women’s and Gender studies! We’ve co-sponsored speakers from England and Vienna, welcomed ten new students into our graduate certificate program from departments across the college, finalized plans for our events for Women’s History Month, which focuses on the timely theme of “Women and Politics,” and added two distinguished new members to our steering committee, Dr. Aimee Light from Theology and Dr. George Yancy from Philosophy.

I am thrilled to be working this year with Dr. Sarah Miller, Classics, who is our Assistant Director, and Michelle Gaffey, our graduate assistant extraordinaire and author of this fantastic newsletter. I hope to see you at our Fall Reception on Tuesday, November 29, between 4:30 and 6:30 p.m. in room 643 College Hall, and I wish you all a wonderful holiday season!

Best wishes,
Dr. Laura Engel

WSGS Staff
Dr. Laura Engel, Director, English  
Dr. Sarah Miller, Assistant Director, Classics  
Michelle B. Gaffey, Graduate Assistant, English

WSGS Steering Committee
Dr. Laura Callanan, English  
Dr. Alison Colbert, Nursing  
Dr. Pat Dunham, Political Science  
Dr. Linda Kinnahan, English  
Dr. Edith Krause, Modern Languages & Literature  
Dr. Aimee Light, Theology  
Dr. Holly Mayer, History  
Dr. Moni McIntyre, Social & Public Policy  
Dr. Magali Michael, English  
Sr. Marie Agatha Ozah, Music  
Dr. Elaine Parsons, History  
Dr. Maggie Patterson, Journalism & Multimedia Arts  
Dr. Lanei Rodemeyer, Philosophy  
Dr. George Yancy, Philosophy

Save the Dates for 2012! (see pages 9 and 10 for details)

Sarah Beckwith Presentation  
12 January 2012  
time/location TBA

Linda Kinnahan Presentation  
January 2012  
time/location TBA

WSGS Work Dialogue  
9 February 2012  
4:30pm, 643 CH

Women’s History Month: Keynote and Panelists  
8 March 2012, 7pm, Power Center  
29 March 2012, 4:30pm, 613 DU
WSGS Announcements

Dr. Aimee Light and Dr. George Yancy Join WSGS Steering Committee

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Aimee Light, Assistant Professor of Theology, and Dr. George Yancy, Associate Professor of Philosophy, have joined the WSGS Steering Committee.

Dr. Light has been the Executive Editor of *The Journal of Interreligious Dialogue* since 2008. She teaches a number of courses at Duquesne, namely *Women and Christianity; Interreligious Dialogue and the Theologies of Religion; Global and Cultural Perspectives; and Judaism, Christianity, and Islam*. She is currently working on a book-length project, *God at the Margins: The Intersection of Feminist Theologies and Interreligious Work*, and she has co-edited the following forthcoming essay collections: *God and Popular Culture and Identity and Exclusion: Totalizing Texts and Interreligious Dialogue in Postmodernity*.

Dr. Yancy works primarily in the areas of critical race theory, critical whiteness studies, and philosophy and the Black experience. He has recently edited or co-edited several books that contribute to the scholarship on women’s and gender studies: *The Center Must Not Hold: White Women Philosophers on the Whiteness of Philosophy* (2010) and *Critical Perspectives on bell hooks* (2009). In 2008 Dr. Yancy co-wrote, “Whiting Up and Blacking Out: White Privilege, Race, and White Chicks” with Tracy Ryser, which appeared in the *African American Review*, and his article, “Situated Black Women's Voices in/on the Profession of Philosophy” was published in *Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy*.

New Students Enroll in Graduate Certificate Program

Please help welcome the ten graduate students who enrolled in the Graduate Certificate Program this fall 2011:

- Samina Ali, English
- Beth Cubbison, Journalism & Multimedia Arts
- Liz Gowers, English
- Jade Higa, English
- Jennifer Kane, English
- Jessica Konig, Philosophy
- Celeste Pietrusza, Clinical Psychology
- Alexandra Reznik, English
- Jeff Stoyanoff, English
- Melissa Wehler, English
Fall 2011 WSGS Speakers

This fall WSGS co-sponsored several speaking engagements on campus. Along with the English, Philosophy, and Psychology Departments, we helped bring the following scholars to Duquesne:

Dr. Jennie Batchelor

On Wednesday, September 21st, Dr. Jennie Batchelor, from the University of Kent-Canterbury, delivered her presentation, “Gaining a ‘Footing in the Inclosure’: The Lady’s Magazine & Women’s Literary Histories,” to a captivated audience. Over fifty faculty and students from Duquesne, West Virginia University, Carnegie Mellon University, and the University of Pittsburgh were present as she suggested new paradigms for, and ways of understanding, women’s writing and reading during the second half of the 18th century.

Dr. Lisa Folkmarson Käll

From the Center for Gender Research at Uppsala University, Dr. Lisa Folkmarson Käll presented “Reclaimed Voice?—Echo’s Own Echo” at Duquesne on Friday, October 14th. Dr. Käll’s talk reconsidered Ovid’s story of Echo and Narcissus in the Metamorphosis through the lens of Merleau-Ponty’s writing on expression and speech, suggesting that Echo’s voice is a break and disruption of the voice and the words she repeats, and that each repetition is also its own origin. Dr. Käll argued that Echo’s own voice and subjectivity are only made present when we listen to it as something other than a simple repetition of the voice of Narcissus.

Dr. Silvia Stoller

Dr. Silvia Stoller, from the University of Vienna, presented her talk, “The Indeterminable Gender: Ethics in Feminist Phenomenology and Poststructuralist Feminism,” on Thursday, November 17th. During her presentation, Dr. Stoller considered what kind of ethics we can imagine in the framework of feminist phenomenology that takes poststructuralist feminism into consideration. Suggesting that phenomenology and poststructuralism share the idea of the “indeterminable,” Dr. Stoller explored the ethical implications of the concept of the “indeterminable gender.”
Help us congratulate Dr. Alison Colbert, Assistant Professor of Nursing and WSGS steering committee member, who won a competitive grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to develop interventions to improve the health of incarcerated women as they re-enter society.

For her project, Dr. Colbert will develop an intensive health care case management program for women who have been recently released from jail. The program, a nurse-led intervention, is intended to help participants establish long-lasting relationships with health professionals, set short- and long-term health goals, and develop plans to reach those goals.

“Leaving jail is a very tumultuous—and often dangerous—time for many women,” Dr. Colbert says. “I hope to help these women maximize their chances for success in the outside world by engaging them in their own healthcare.”

“Social service researchers devote considerable attention to the period when incarcerated women re-enter society, but health researchers also have a vested interest in this critical time,” says Dr. L. Kathleen Sekula, one of Dr. Colbert’s mentors. “Dr. Colbert’s study will shed important new light on how nurses can help incarcerated women help themselves when they re-enter society.”

Dr. Colbert is one of just twelve nurse educators from around the country to receive the three-year, $350,000 Nurse Faculty Scholar award last year. She was also recently awarded the 2011 Junior Investigator Award from the Public Health Nursing Section of the American Public Health Association, which is given to junior faculty who show outstanding promise as future leaders in academic nursing.

We are honored to have Dr. Alison Colbert with us in the Center for Women’s and Gender Studies.

Select Recent Scholarship

This fall, Dr. Colbert delivered two presentations: “Healthcare Needs of Women Immediately Post-Incarceration” at the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association in Philadelphia, PA and “Identification of Victims of Intimate Partner Violence by Emergency Department Nurses: A Pilot Study” at the scientific assembly of the International Association of Forensic Nurses in Montreal, Canada. She was a co-author on the article, “Assessing Fidelity to an Intervention in a Randomized Controlled Trial to Improve Medication Adherence” in the Journal of Nursing Research. In 2010 Dr. Colbert co-wrote “Disaster Assistance: Culturally Congruent Care of Victims of Natural Disaster” in the Journal of Transcultural Nursing and Health Care, and was the first author on “An Examination of the Relationships among Gender, Health Status, Social Support, and HIV-Related Stigma,” which appeared in the Journal of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care.
We are proud to announce that Dr. Linda A. Kinnahan, Professor of English, WSGS steering committee member, and co-founder of the Women’s and Gender Studies program, was named the **Hillman Endowed Professor** at Duquesne University on July 1, 2011.

“I’m honored and humbled to receive this appointment, especially among so many deserving people at Duquesne who I admire,” says Dr. Kinnahan. “This opportunity will support a range of research activities that include traveling to important archives, interviewing poets, and gaining time to think, read, and write.”

In particular, this endowed professorship will help support her current book project, *Modernist Poetry and the Gendering of Economics*, which is a study of early twentieth century women poets Mina Loy, Marianne Moore, and Lola Ridge.

“The study places their work within the contexts of changing economic ideas and practices related to the rise of consumer capitalism in this period, especially as ideas of value, labor and possession respond to new economic systems and theories,” Kinnahan says.

Dr. Kinnahan specializes in 20th century poetry, women’s and gender studies, and feminist theory. In 2008 she coordinated *Lifting Belly High*, an international conference hosted by Duquesne that celebrated women poets from the 20th and 21st centuries. She served as the director of the Center for Women’s and Gender Studies from 2010-2011, and this past summer she was invited to deliver the keynote speech on Mina Loy at the University of Louisville’s campus in Madrid, Spain.

The Hillman Endowed Professorship rotates among Duquesne’s ten schools for a five-year term. Please help us congratulate Dr. Kinnahan on receiving such a distinguished and well-deserved honor.

**Select Recent Scholarship**

In 2011 Dr. Kinnahan published several essays in books or journals: “Feminism’s Experimental ‘work at the language-face’” was included in *The Cambridge Companion to Twentieth-Century British and Irish Women’s Poetry*, “The Gender of Economics in Modernist Poetry by Women” was printed in *The Oxford Companion to Twentieth-Century American Poetry*, and “British Experimentation and Women: Interview with Caroline Bergvall” appeared in *Contemporary Women’s Writing*. This November she presented, “‘A Foliage of Mass Production’: Photography and the Modern Urban Scene in Mina Loy’s Poetry,” for Carlow University’s Cultural Theory/Historical Practices Lecture Series. In 2010 her journal article, “‘An Incremental Shaping’: Kathleen Fraser and a Visual Poetics” appeared in *Contemporary Women’s Writing*, and in 2009 Dr. Kinnahan published “Lyric, Self, and Subjectivity in Contemporary British and Irish Poetry by Women” in *A Concise Companion to Post-War British and Irish Poetry*.
WSGS Graduate Student Presentations, Honors, & Achievements
Fall 2010 – Summer 2012

Leah Boisen, Psychology

Jennifer Kane, English

Marcie Panutsos, English
Recipient of the 2011 Eleanor Holveck Essay Award from the Center for Women’s and Gender Studies at Duquesne University.


Beth Buhot Runquist, English

Jeffery G. Stoyanoff, cont.

Amy Taylor, Psychology
Shortlisted for the 2011 Student Prize from the Psychology of Women Section of the British Psychological Society.

Melissa Wehler, English

Jeffery G. Stoyanoff, English
Duquesne senior Samantha Adams has been inspired by an important woman in her life to pursue her major in Art History and minor in Women’s and Gender Studies at Duquesne University. “I came to Duquesne,” says Samantha, “because of my remarkable sister, who encouraged me to expand my horizons beyond my small town upbringing.”

Originally from Schellsburg, PA, near Bedford, Samantha has been studying at Duquesne for the past four years. Her major/minor courses of study, combined with electives in political science, have helped her to “grow as a socially-conscious individual,” says Samantha.

As president of Duquesne’s chapter of Amnesty International, Samantha has organized a bus trip to Washington, DC for the annual “Stop Modern Slavery Walk,” and she has also worked with the Panzi Foundation, a group that strives to support women in the Congo. “Amnesty International has played an important role in my life,” notes Samantha. “It has absolutely changed the way I live life on a day-to-day basis and for that I am truly grateful.”

Samantha credits Dr. Moni McIntyre’s Exploring Women in Gender Studies course—one of Samantha’s “favorite classes” she has taken at Duquesne—with encouraging her to continue working on social justice issues, particularly those that focus on ending discrimination against women: “Dr. McIntyre’s class was so deeply stimulating and sparked many fascinating class discussions. She truly inspired me.”

Last year in Women and Art, Samantha completed a project that invited her to focus on feminist art from the 1970s. “This was one the largest and most involved papers I had written to date. Though the task intimidated me at first, the subject was thought-provoking and combined my love of art with my interest in feminism. I am proud of the final product and am glad I had the opportunity to work on these topics in an academic setting.”

After graduation in May 2012, Samantha plans to attend graduate school for art history to focus on feminist art. We are grateful that she has studied with us in the Center for Women’s and Gender studies these past few years and proud of what she has contributed to the Duquesne community with her studies and activism.
After taking Dr. Claire Barbetti’s *Logic and Rhetoric* class, which focused in part on gender, performativity, and sexuality, Brett Braley was hooked: by the end of his first year at Duquesne, he had declared his minor in Women’s and Gender Studies and his major in English.

Since then, Brett has studied in Italy, has gained a greater appreciation for art, and has structured his courses of study to complete his undergraduate degrees in only three years. Just this year—his graduating year—he converted his WSGS minor to a second major.

“My coursework in women’s and gender studies has helped me to better understand the fluidity and social construction of gender,” says Brett. “Realizing that sex and gender are not synonymous has helped me to better understand my own social placement and to appreciate what it is like not to be part of heteronormative society.”

Last year in his *Critical Issues* course with Dr. Laura Engel, Brett explored these ideas in a poem series about his relationship with his mother after he came out as being gay. “While I am excited about my current paper on Yeats’s use of mythology to showcase a patriarchal view of Irish/British tensions, I would say my poem series was the most important project I have worked on at Duquesne because I was so deeply invested in it on a personal level.”

Brett’s commitment to social issues and to nourishing his intellect will, as we might expect, continue after he graduates in May 2012. Influenced by the social justice thematic focus of many of his English and WSGS courses, Brett plans to apply his knowledge from his undergraduate coursework to his study of Law and Medical Ethics. Upon completion of his law degree, Brett hopes to defend victims of sexual and gender identity abuse in the medical profession.

Originally from Eastern Indiana, Brett made his way to Duquesne by way of Florida, upstate New York, Kentucky and, most recently, Bedford, PA. We are thrilled and fortunate that he has studied with us in the Center for Women’s and Gender Studies throughout his undergraduate career.
Looking Forward to Spring 2012

Eleanore Holveck Essay Award

Each spring the Center for Women’s and Gender Studies honors one WSGS undergraduate and one WSGS graduate student with the Eleanore Holveck Essay Award. All WSGS undergraduate and graduate students are invited to submit an essay that advances conversation about women’s and gender studies—winners will receive a certificate and monetary award! More details in the spring.

Presentations

On Thursday, January 12, 2012 Dr. Sarah Beckwith, Professor of English and Chair and Professor of Theater Studies at Duke University will give a talk at Duquesne University, sponsored by the English Department and Women’s and Gender Studies. Dr. Beckwith works on late medieval religious writing, medieval and early modern drama, and ordinary language philosophy. She is currently working on a book about Shakespearean tragedy and philosophy’s love affair with the genre of tragedy.

Also in January 2012, WSGS Steering Committee member and Professor of English Dr. Linda Kinnahan will deliver her talk “A Foliage of Mass Production’: Photography and the Modern Urban Scene in Mina Loy’s Poetry,” which she also presented for Carlow University’s Cultural Theory/Historical Practices Lecture Series this November.

Work Dialogue & Coffee Hour

On Thursday, February 9, 2012, the Center for Women’s and Gender Studies will host a “Work Dialogue” for all interested WSGS faculty and graduate students. During this information session, graduate students and faculty will briefly describe their research interests and scholarship with each other. The goal is to foster connections and collaboration between graduate students and faculty—particularly across disciplines—whose interests and academic work complement each other in innovative ways.

Undergraduate Research & Scholarship Symposium

The Center for Women’s and Gender Studies is proud of the scholarly and creative work produced by our undergraduate majors and minors, and we would like to showcase this research and scholarship at the next Undergraduate Research and Scholarship Symposium, which will be held in April 2012. Duquesne students who participate in the symposium are eligible to compete for honors: most outstanding scholarship, research, or poster. Winners receive a monetary award. If you would like your work to be considered for this spring symposium, please contact WSGS Assistant Director Dr. Sarah Miller at millers2578@duq.edu.
Women’s History Month, March 2012: “Women and Politics”

Women’s History Month 2012 coincides with the presidential primary season, and the Center for Women’s and Gender Studies is planning a focus on women and politics.

Regina Lawrence, Keynote Speaker

Regina Lawrence, co-author of the influential and well-received book *Hillary Clinton’s Race for the White House: Gender Politics and the Media on the Campaign Trail* (2009), is scheduled as our keynote speaker on Thursday, March 8, 2012, at 7 p.m. in the Power Center Ballroom.

Dr. Lawrence is currently the Kevin P. Reilly chair and Professor of Mass Communication/Political Science at Louisiana State University. Addressing issues of gender in relation to the American political system and media representation, her work will be of great interest to a broad audience of faculty, graduate students, undergraduate students, and Pittsburghers as they engage in the presidential primary discussions for 2012.

Earlier that same day Dr. Lawrence will meet with undergraduate students at Duquesne for an informal conversation about gender, politics, and the media. These events are co-sponsored by the Center for Women’s and Gender Studies and the Departments of History, English, and Political Science.

Women, Politics, & Activism Panel

On Thursday, March 29, 2012, from 4:30-6 p.m. in 613 Duquesne Union, five outstanding local women will address the topic, “Women, Politics, and Activism” during a panel presentation and open dialogue. We encourage you to attend what promises to be an engaging event!

Panelists include: Natalia Rudiak, Pittsburgh City Councilwoman; Diana Irey Vaughn, County Commissioner of Washington County; Scilla Warhaftig, Director of Pennsylvania State Program of the American Friends Service Committee; Sister Patricia McCann, Carlow University; and Heather Arnet, Women’s and Girls Foundation.