Hello everyone!

As we slowly close down the fall 2009 semester, and start to think about the spring 2010 semester, I want to reflect on all of our accomplishments in the past several months as well as our exciting events to come.

Having transitioned to a Center a little over a year ago, we have been taking steps to formalize our new status: We restructured our administrative body a bit, moving to a Director and Assistant Director structure, with myself and Laura Callanan taking up those positions. In addition, we finally obtained a graduate stipend to support our WGS Graduate Office Assistant, Adrienne Freeland, and this stipend will hopefully be renewed to support those who come after her. Further, we applied for, and received, a McAnulty Faculty Development grant to subsidize our Women's History Month speaker in March 2010. The Gumberg Library has also generously awarded us stipends with which to purchase books on WGS issues. We sent in a long list last spring, and we have another stipend with which to purchase books this semester. Most recently, we have sent out surveys to our undergraduate students in order to assess how to attract minors and second majors to WGS, and we launched our Center BlackBoard site. Oh—and last but not least—our new Dean, Chris Duncan, generously outfitted our WGS office with standing lamps and a small refrigerator. Things (and our office) are looking good!

We are looking forward to a host of activities in the near, and more distant, future: On November 13th, the English Graduate Student Organization (EGO), in collaboration with WGS, will be featuring two of our Women’s and Gender Studies Eleanore Holveck Essay contest award winners. In January or February, we are organizing an event for undergraduates in all majors, in order to discuss pertinent WGS issues. For Women’s History Month, we hope to coordinate once again with the Modern Languages film series, we are organizing a graduate panel on feminist theories and methods, and we are sponsoring Maria Buszek as our main speaker (March 25th at 7pm in the Power Center Ballroom). We are also co-sponsoring such speakers as Laura Edwards with the History department (March 18th in the Power Center Ballroom); Linda Hogan with the English department (April 13th, 4pm, Power Center); and Adrienne Rich with Carlow College (2011). Finally, we are communicating with Trinh Minh-Ha as our possible main speaker for Women’s History Month in 2011.

Whew! Wonderful efforts and collaborations—thank you so much to all of you! I wish you a peaceful holiday season, and I hope to see you at our celebratory fall reception on the 18th!

-Lanei Rodemeyer

**Colloquium**

Two of the Women’s and Gender Studies Eleanore Holveck Essay Award winners will present their winning papers on Friday, November 13th in 220 College Hall at 3:00 p.m. Graduate winner Mary Parish will present her paper “9/11 and the Limitations of the ‘Man’s Man’ Construction of Masculinity in Don DeLillo’s *Falling Man*,” and Honorable Mention winner Megan Kelly will present her paper “Gender vs. Race: Constructing Conflict and Perpetuating Racial Patriarchy.”

The presentation is a part of the larger Colloquia series the English Graduate Organization presents every month. This special edition will be co-sponsored by the Center for Women’s and Gender Studies. We encourage you to support your fellow students, and join us for refreshments and engaging scholarship.

Also, look forward to hearing more about the next essay contest in the Spring!

**Save the Date!**

**Colloquium:**
Friday, Nov. 13, 2009
Time: 3:00 p.m.
Location: 220 College Hall

**WGS Reception:**
Wednesday, November 18, 2009
4:30 – 7:00 p.m. in CH 643
Come celebrate another successful semester for Women’s and Gender Studies!
A Note From Our Assistant Director

Lanei has asked me to look into ways that we can increase the buzz in the undergraduate community for issues in Women’s and Gender Studies. Now that we have a second major, along with a minor and a graduate certificate, we see the path wide open for expanding our list of affiliated students.

As a way to begin to get the conversation going, we’re working to obtain a copy of the documentary, Be Like Others, by Iranian American director Tanaz Eshaghian.


I stumbled on this amazing work one night on HBO while channel surfing. The story deals with the paradoxical situation in Iran that homosexuality is punishable by death, but transsexual operations are sanctioned by the state. The documentary follows the stories of several individuals walking through the process of sex-reassignment surgery with mixed results. While some find themselves freed by the process, others clearly say that if they could live in the west as openly lesbian or gay, they wouldn’t be having the surgery.

This powerful, heart-wrenching, and beautifully done documentary brings up all kinds of questions about gender, sexuality, religion, politics, and the workings of power—perfect questions for our students and to suggest the ways in which our work deals globally with the lived realities of individuals. We’ll let you know as our process of obtaining and setting up a showing of this documentary proceeds!

-Dr. Laura Callanan