



CENTER *for*
WOMEN'S
& GENDER
STUDIES

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

gendermatters

2013-2014

FROM OUR INTERIM DIRECTOR



It was a real honor to serve as Interim Director of the Center for Women's & Gender Studies in 2013-14. I saw firsthand the university-wide and national reach of our faculty and students. The CWGS team, led by Associate Director Mollie Marchione and ably supported by Pat Heisler, Jackie Salcedo, and Nancy Ewert, chalked up a number of significant accomplishments during the year. We received a \$50,000 grant from the Fath Foundation; established a new undergraduate concentration in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Sexualities Studies; made our first-ever CWGS-only hire, Embrey Postdoctoral Fellow Kareem Khubchandani; and presented the U.S. premiere of Wura Ogunji's performance installation *beauty*, in which a dozen women stood with their hair braided together for five hours on a cold day on the West Mall, provoking hundreds of conversations about women in public space. In our ongoing programs, the Performing Justice Program brought the principles of feminist pedagogy to two new sites this year, our spring graduate conference brought award-winning performance artist and speaker Sharon Bridgforth back to UT, and our Faculty Development Program welcomed six new scholars to campus and provided the opportunity to hear them give talks on their work. We are truly fortunate in the quality of our staff, faculty and students, whose creativity and commitment make feminist and queer research on the UT campus so rewarding. Thanks to everyone for your support during my interim year, and welcome back to Director Susan Heinzelman.

Lisa Moore



DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Spending a year thinking, reading and writing (and yes, visiting family and friends) was an extraordinary privilege and I thank all those who made it easy for me to step away from my directorial duties: Interim Director Lisa Moore, Associate Director Mollie Marchione, Pat Heisler, Nancy Ewert and Jackie Salcedo.

The year gave me a much-needed perspective on my first four-year term and allowed me to focus on the goals of my second term. Despite the financial limitations of the last several years due to state-mandated budget cuts and a tightened University budget, the Center has flourished and continues to grow both in intellectual prestige and community significance, on and off campus. Much of this growth is, of course, due to the continued support of the Embrey Family Foundation that has so generously supported us since 2009, not only with funding but also with organizational advice and networking opportunities. I will continue to seek public and private sources to support academic excellence and Center programs.

The goals of my second term include: recruitment of our first dedicated faculty member, without which the Center will always be at the mercy of budget cuts and faculty retrenchment; an extension of the funding for a two-year post-doctoral position so that we can attract to our faculty cutting-edge researchers; and securing permanent funds to sustain our two women's leadership programs, Inspire and New Leadership™ Texas.

Going forward, CWGS will not be able to sustain its academic and community programs over the long term relying solely on external funding. I believe that the 2014-2015 academic year will be crucial to the enduring success of the Center. I will aggressively pursue all opportunities to guarantee recurring funds for the Center from the University and from the College of Liberal Arts. Only with this financial commitment can we create a Women's & Gender Studies program that a Tier 1, research institution like The University of Texas at Austin warrants.

Susan Sage Heinzelman

CWGS EMBREY POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW



Dr. Kareem Khubchandani joined us this fall for a two-year appointment as the 2014-16 Embrey Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow in Women's and Gender Studies. Besides teaching Feminist Research Methods and CWGS Senior Seminar courses, Dr. Khubchandani will give a lecture on his research as part of the

Faculty Development Program, 2014-2015.

Dr. Khubchandani will also be affiliated with the Center for Asian American Studies and the South Asia Institute while at the University of Texas.

This is the first stand-alone hire CWGS has ever made, and we are thrilled to be bringing one of the top young scholars in the nation to the University of Texas. A performer and scholar, Dr. Khubchandani's interests include LGBT studies, social and vernacular dance practices, migrant populations, and ethnic/racial minorities, as well as drag performance, storytelling, and spoken word. His dissertation, "Ishtyle: Queer Nightlife Performance in India and the South Asian Diaspora," is a multi-sited ethnography that follows the lives of transnational migrants from across South Asia who come to international cities such as Bangalore and Chicago to work in

the IT industry and related fields. Khubchandani focuses on the experiences of immigrant gay men, who must live according to a variety of restrictive social scripts, including right-wing Hindu notions of masculinity and classed and minoritarian expectations of respectability. Dr. Khubchandani documents the significance of gay nightclubs as spaces where performance, especially dance, allows South Asian gay men to temporarily deviate from these gendered social scripts and the constant expectations of respectability. Through performances that he calls "ishstyle" (or "accented style") they explore new, more capacious ways of being in the world.

"My entry into thinking about queer nightlife as a productive place of study stems from my introduction in 2001 to queer South Asian subcultures at a party in New York City called Sholay," says Dr. Khubchandani. "At Sholay, I witnessed performers such as Bijli, who enacted dance repertoires that I found strangely familiar to those I grew up with in my Indian community in Ghana." Dr. Khubchandani notes that part of what he calls "ishstyle" is "the use of Bollywood sound in these spaces, which produces unique interactions between on-stage performers, party attendees, DJs, and film visuals."

LGBTQ/SEXUALITIES CERTIFICATE APPROVED

CWGS is pleased to announce that the College of Liberal Arts Policy and Curriculum Committee has approved an Undergraduate Certificate in LGBTQ/Sexualities Studies. A transcript-recognized undergraduate certificate program is a set of courses that allows a student to focus on an area of study in addition to the major. The LGBTQ/Sexualities Studies Certificate recognizes lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) scholarship and acknowledges widespread faculty expertise in this field. Professor Matt Richardson (English) and Omise'eke Natasha Tinsley (Department of African and African Diaspora Studies) will serve as the program co-chairs for the LGBTQ/Sexualities Studies Certificate.

For more information, please visit our webpage: <http://www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/cwgs/academics/LGBTQ-Studies.php>

Founded in 2004, the LGBTQ/Sexualities Research Cluster brings together faculty, graduate students and undergraduates from across campus to share research in feminist and queer studies. For more information on the CWGS LGBTQ/Sexualities Research Cluster, please visit: <http://www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/cwgs/faculty/research-clusters/LGBTQ-sexualities.php>

CWGS SELECTED FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

Héctor Domínguez-Ruvalcaba (Associate Professor, Spanish & Portuguese)

Professor Héctor Domínguez-Ruvalcaba has won the President's Associates Teaching Excellence Award, which recognizes excellence in undergraduate education in the core curriculum (including the Embrey funded Signature Course, Feminicides and Human Rights Activism in Mexico and Central America). Winners of the award must also have a demonstrated record of engagement with curriculum reform and educational innovation.

Eric Pritchard (Assistant Professor, African and African Diaspora Studies)

The Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC), selected Dr. Eric Pritchard as the inaugural winner of the 2014 CCCC Lavender Rhetorics Award for Excellence in Queer Scholarship's Article Award for his article, "For Colored Kids Who Committed Suicide, Our Outrage Isn't Enough: Queer Youth of Color, Bullying, and the Discursive Limits of Identity and Safety," which appeared in the Summer 2013 issue of *Harvard Educational Review*.

Matt Richardson (Associate Professor, English and African and African Diaspora Studies)

The Queer Limit of Black Memory: Black Lesbian

Literature and Irresolution identifies a new archive of Black women's literature that has heretofore been on the margins of literary scholarship and African diaspora cultural criticism. It argues that Black lesbian texts celebrate both the strategies of resistance used by queer Black subjects and the spaces for grieving the loss of queer Black subjects that dominant histories of the African diasporas often forget. Matt Richardson has gathered an understudied archive of texts by LaShonda Barnett, S. Diane Adamz-Bogus, Dionne Brand, Sharon Bridgforth, Laurinda D. Brown, Jewelle Gomez, Jackie Kay, and Cherry Muhanji in order to relocate the queerness of Black diasporic vernacular traditions, including drag or gender performance, blues, jazz, and West African spiritual and religious practices. (The Ohio State University Press).

Nicole M. Guidotti-Hernández (Associate Professor, American Studies)

The Modern Language Association of America awarded its tenth biennial MLA Prize in United States Latina and Latino and Chicana and Chicano Literary and Cultural Studies to Nicole M. Guidotti-Hernández for her book *Unspeakable Violence: Remapping U.S. and Mexican National Imaginaries* (Duke University Press, 2011).

***beauty*: A WURA-NATASHA OGUNJI PUBLIC PERFORMANCE**

Conceived by artists Wura-Natasha Ogunji and Nicole Vlado, *beauty* is a public endurance performance that explores the relationships that women have to each other and to their hair. Originally performed in Lagos, Nigeria, as part of Ogunji's Guggenheim Fellowship, this iteration of *beauty* included students in the Fall 2013 WGS Performing Justice course taught by Ogunji, as well as artists from the greater Austin community. *beauty* explored themes of gender, race and sexuality as well as the changing meanings and possibilities of the work as performed in Nigeria and across the Atlantic here in the United States.

beauty was performed on November 13, 2013, and was followed by a panel discussion on the relationship of performance art to social justice. Panelists included Wura-Natasha Ogunji, Ruby Amanze, Matt Richardson, Cherise Smith, and Lyndon Gill.

In conjunction with this performance Wura-Natasha Ogunji facilitated a Performance Workshop Intensive. Participants explored key themes and social justice issues raised in the *beauty* performance as they developed techniques for creating their own unique performance works.

A digital repository of the Performing Justice course can be accessed through University of Texas Libraries website: repositories.lib.utexas.edu.



Photo Credit: Sonseree Verdise Gibson

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (FDP) 2013-2014

The FDP program, with support from the Provost's Office and Graduate School, is designed to assist in recruitment, retention and promotion of new faculty members by providing them with support of various kinds, including mentors and research funding. During the Fall 2013 semester, all of the fellows gave presentations in the New Faculty Colloquium.



Mary Angela Bock, Assistant Professor of Journalism

Barbie is a Zombie: Women, TV Journalism, and the Rise of the One-WOMAN-Band

A former television journalist, Bock's research interests include visual rhetoric and photojournalistic practice.



Xavier Livermon, Assistant Professor of African and African Diaspora Studies

Queer(y)ing Freedom: Black Queer Visibilities in Post-Apartheid South Africa

Livermon's research exists at the intersection of popular culture, gender, and sexuality in post-apartheid South Africa and the African Diaspora.



Tina Curran, Assistant Professor of Dance

Experiencing George Balanchine's Prodigal Son Through the Feminist Pedagogy of the Language of Dance

Curran is co-developing the BFA in dance education leading to Texas State dance teacher certification. She is a cofounder, with Ann Hutchison Guest, of the Language of Dance Center (USA).



Susan M. De Luca, Assistant Professor of Social Work

Latina Adolescent Suicide Prevention

De Luca is a Research Associate with the National Research Consortium of Counseling Centers in Higher Education, housed at the University of Texas Counseling and Mental Health Center.



Daina Ramey Berry, Associate Professor of History and African and African Diaspora Studies

'For Sale a Young Negro Woman': Auctions, Breeding & Enslaved Women in Early America

Berry previously taught at Michigan State University and Arizona State University before coming to Texas in 2010. She is working on a comprehensive study of enslaved prices in the U.S.



Laura G. Gutiérrez, Associate Professor of Latin American and Latina/o Performance Studies

Desiring the Possible: Queer Political Cabaret Culture in Contemporary Mexico City

Gutiérrez's research and teaching interests are Mexican and Chicana/o embodied practices and visual culture, gender and sexuality, and questions of nation, modernity and the transnational.

21ST ANNUAL EMERGING SCHOLARSHIP IN WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES CONFERENCE



(Re)Membering the Body,"

March 20 - 21, 2014

What are the limits of history and memory? How do we remember/recover that which the archive has erased?

What are the implications of embodied history, embodied storytelling, embodied

memory? UT Students presented papers or posters that address these questions using the lenses of gender, race, sexuality, ability, performance or other feminist, womanist, queer or anti-racist methodologies.

The annual CWGS conference coordinated by WGS MA and Graduate Portfolio students offers both undergraduate and graduate students at any recognized university the opportunity to share their research highlighting issues in women's, gender, and/or sexuality studies with the students and faculty affiliates of CWGS, the UT Austin community, and CWGS community partners.



We were delighted to have Sharon Bridgforth, award-winning poet, activist and organizer, conducting the keynote address on memory, history, language and (re)membering.

Jazz Tone Poems/Beyond The Veil; A Theatrical Jazz Performance Installation

Bridgforth used her improvisational theatrical jazz composition techniques to engage the audience using gestural language and story to create a collective Jazz Tone Poem.

The 2014 conference was co-sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts Dean's Office, Comparative Literature Program, Dept. of English, Gender and Sexuality Center, Dept. of History, LBJ School of Public Affairs, Dept. of Sociology, Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese, Dept. of Theatre and Dance.

FROM THE CWGS LIBRARIAN By Kristen Hogan



Dr. Lorraine Haricombe

Dr. Lorraine Haricombe has accepted the offer to serve as our new Vice Provost and Director of Libraries at The University of Texas at Austin. When she officially takes on the position on February 1, 2015, she will be the first woman and first person of color to serve as University of Texas at Austin Librarian, Director, or Vice Provost of the Libraries (as the title has changed since the first librarian in 1885). These firsts matter for CWGS communities. Dr. Haricombe, currently the Dean of Libraries at the University of Kansas, has demonstrated a commitment to supporting recruitment and retention of historically marginalized librarians as well as to building dialogue with librarianship in South Africa: she is a mentor to historically marginalized librarians through the Association of Research Libraries Leadership Career Development Program, and she serves on the South African

Research Library Consortium. This work, in turn, serves as an example of how our identities and standpoints matter to our faculty and students' relationships with libraries and information. Dr. Haricombe advocates for information access – she co-founded the Coalition of Open Access Policy Institutions in North America, and she emphasizes librarians' innovative roles in faculty and student success through teaching, collections, and research. Dr. Haricombe earned her bachelor's degree in psychology, sociology, and library and information science from the University of the Western Cape in South Africa, and her master's and PhD in library and information science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. I look forward to continuing to work with you and your students in your classes, our research consultations, and our collaborative events as we welcome new leadership. Please do share a CWGS welcome with Dr. Haricombe in February.

Visit the Press Release:

<http://www.utexas.edu/news/2014/10/02/lorraine-haricombe-director-of-libraries/>

Sources:

<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/vprovost/history.html>

<http://ir.library.illinoisstate.edu/fpml/28/>

<http://www.stm-assoc.org/people/lorraine-j-haricombe/>

CONGRATULATIONS WGS CLASS OF 2014

We would like to congratulate the Women's & Gender Studies Class of 2014.

Women's & Gender Studies, Bachelor of Arts Degree

Samantha Archer, WGS/Anthropology	Amanda Marquez, WGS/Sociology
Callie Barrons, WGS/English	Taylor Milburn, WGS
Emily Braun, WGS	Rio Salazar, WGS
Lauren Burton, WGS/Sociology	Linda Serna, WGS/Sociology
Michelle Cuellar, WGS	Bibha Suvedi, WGS/Biology
Zoey Lichtenheld, WGS/Journalism	Virginia Yachinich, WGS/Social Work



2014 WGS Senior Seminar Class
Photo by Ryan Miller, Courtesy of
LAITS

Women's & Gender Studies, Master of Arts Degree

Patena Key - Thesis title: "*No Such Thing as Gender?: Black Vernacular, Sex and Street Lit.*" Director: Dr. Matt Richardson

Austin Rodenbiker - Thesis Title: "*Imagining Queerness / Queer Imagination: Online Slash Fiction and Radical Fan Productions.*" Director: Dr. Simone Browne

Nicole Murphy - Thesis Title: "*Class Negotiations: Poverty, Welfare Policy, and American Television.*"
Director: Dr. Mary Beltrán

SELECTED STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Scholarships

Lenzi Sheible, an African & African Diaspora Studies and Women's & Gender Studies senior, has been accepted to UT Austin School of Law and has received the Chancellor's Scholarship (\$100,000), a full tuition scholarship for three years. Lenzi also won the Larry Temple Scholarship (\$11,000) in September 2013, for excellence in academics, leadership, community service, and societal contributions.

Awards

Kora Noël Garcia-Cook, a Women's & Gender Studies senior, won the Undergraduate Student Service Award for LGBTQA Community Development. Kora has been involved with campus organizations, including: TRANS*action, Queer People of Color and Allies, the Feminist Action Project, Queer Chorus, and the Student Leadership Committee.

WGS BA Honors Thesis

Devon Howard, WGS BA 2015

Fall 2013, Thesis Title: "*The Power of the Uterus: A Brief History of Childbirth in America*"

Abstract: This thesis is a brief history and analysis of the changes in the level of autonomy a person has over

her own birthing process. This thesis looks at two main topics - practitioners (midwives and physicians) and medical advancements (pain medication and surgical innovations) - and the social, cultural, and political forces behind them.

Thesis Supervisor: Dr. Helena Woodard

Zoey Lichtenheld, WGS BA 2014

Spring 2014, Thesis Title: "*Let Her Speak: Using Subversive Testimony To Be Heard*"

Abstract: This paper explores the experiences of people who testified against restrictive abortion legislation at a House State Affairs Committee meeting after the chairman temporarily ended the testimony period and called it "repetitive." This research specifically looks at witnesses who broke the rules and standards of giving legislative testimony.

Thesis Supervisor: Dr. Sharmila Rudrappa

*The 2013-2014 WGA BA Honors Thesis Chair was Core Faculty member Dr. Ann Reynolds (Associate Professor, Art & Art History).

CWGS ANNUAL AWARDS FOR FACULTY AND STUDENTS

2014 AWARD RECIPIENTS:

Lucia, John, and Melissa Gilbert Teaching Excellence Award in WGS

Héctor Domínguez-Ruvalcaba (Department of Spanish and Portuguese). This award honors faculty members with an outstanding record of undergraduate and/or graduate teaching in Women's and Gender Studies courses.

Cynthia Walker Peña Scholarship

Karen Michelle Duke (BA Women's & Gender Studies). This award honors a student for academic achievement and volunteerism. Duke, a WGS major with a minor in chemistry, serves as co-president of Voices Against Violence and is involved with the Feminist Action Project on campus. She is a hospital advocate with SafePlace, an Austin area organization ending sexual and domestic violence through safety, healing, prevention and social change.

The Lora Romero Memorial Award for Interdisciplinary Research in Race, Ethnicity and Gender

Oluwakanyinsola ("Kanyinsola") Oluwademilade Obayan, (major in International Relations and Global Studies; African and African American Studies), *"State Violence, Radical Protest and the black/African Female Body."* Obayan's research highlights inherent contradictions and limitations embedded in Western conceptualizations of modernity, while bringing to light the ways in which personal and collective agency are expressed through and by black female bodies.

Ellen Clarke Temple Award In the Study of Women in History

Lady Anima Adjepong (PhD Sociology), *"Imagined lives in diaspora: Gender, race, and sexuality in the lives of black African women immigrants to the United States."* Adjepong's research investigates the migratory experiences of West African women as they adapt to their new social contexts in the US. By centering questions on diaspora and "queerness," Adjepong is able to theorize the complexity of population movements beyond the linear models that often frame mainstream approaches to migration studies.

Women's & Gender Studies Dissertation Fellowship

Kristine M. Kilanski (PhD Sociology), *"Gender and Work in an Economic Boom."* Kilanski uses mixed methods, including ethnography, interviews, and survey data, to study her primary research interests of gender, work, and poverty.

Women's and Gender Studies MA Thesis Award

Patena Starlin Key (Women's & Gender Studies), *"No Such Thing as Gender?: Black Vernacular, Sex and Street Lit."* Key's study of a subgenre of African American literature known as "street literature" looks specifically at works with Black queer characters. Key has generated a new term in the lexicon of queer gender theory, "trickstering," to convey the negotiations of gender she finds in these texts.

Contributor of the Year Award

The Honorable Bea Ann Smith, former Justice on the Texas Court of Appeals, Third District; is an adjunct professor in the School of Law and a member of the CWGS Community Advisory Board. She receives the 2014 award for her service to CWGS. Smith teaches the WGS course, "The Face of Justice," that focuses on the issues that have changed our view of justice, the institutional changes that have promoted a new vision of justice, and some of the players who have brought about that change.



WGS Graduate Student Patena Key and her advisor, Professor Matt Richardson

Photo Credit: Sian Paulin



CWGS Interim Director, Professor Lisa Moore

Photo Credit: Sian Paulin

INSPIRE: EMPOWERING TEXAS WOMEN LEADERS



Since 2009, the INSPIRE program, supported by the Mary Braunagel-Brown Endowment, the Jody Conradt Excellence Fund, and a \$50,000 contribution from the Creekmore and Adele Fath Charitable Foundation, has served as UT's signature leadership program for women undergraduates. INSPIRE Leadership is a three-year program (sophomore to senior) with three cohorts simultaneously developing skills necessary to achieve the highest levels of attainment in their chosen fields.

INSPIRE Leadership provides the participants the opportunity to gain the confidence and knowledge to express their voice in their community. INSPIRE is a direct channel through which the students can reach out to other people and make an impact by engaging in community service, and working with other young women in supportive and interdisciplinary environments. Our participants develop skills applicable to diverse social settings: critical thinking, public presentation, group motivation, and negotiation.

Opportunities that the program offers are:

- Community service/leadership development
- Mentoring and networking
- Internship/career assistance
- Attending leadership conferences

During the 2013-2014 academic year our students wrote and presented their research papers; attended the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders in Baltimore and Washington, DC; and volunteered and participated in activities during Sexual Violence Prevention Month. Eight seniors graduated in May, one of whom received the Truman Scholarship. We enjoyed fall and spring retreats, potluck dinners, and an end-of the year reception at the Littlefield Home. Our students participated in various UT organizations including the Orange Jackets, Texas 4000, and Student Government. Some also worked at the Texas State Capitol, and visited nations across the globe through Study Abroad opportunities.

INSPIRE is made possible by the generous contribution of the Mary Braunagel-Brown Endowment, Jody Conradt Excellence Fund, Creekmore and Adele Fath Charitable Foundation, College of Liberal Arts, UT Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, and many individual donors.

For more information about INSPIRE, please contact Nancy Ewert at 512-471-5680 or newert@austin.utexas.edu



INSPIRE Retreat in November



National Conference For College Women Student Leaders



Presenting at the CWGS Emerging Scholarship in Women's and Gender Studies 21st Annual Conference

DONORS

Mary Braunagel-Brown Endowment

In 2013, UT alumna Dr. Mary Braunagel-Brown established an endowment supporting women undergraduates selected for INSPIRE Leadership, a three-year revolving program serving sophomores to seniors that helps women develop the skills they need to achieve the highest levels within their chosen academic fields.

During 2013, Dr. Braunagel-Brown matched new gifts to the Mary Braunagel-Brown Excellence Fund dollar-for-dollar, up to a total of \$25,000. After this successful campaign, Dr. Braunagel-Brown again offered the \$25,000 match in 2014.



Dr. Braunagel-Brown (standing)
Photo Credit: Andrea Zarate

Creekmore and Adele Fath Charitable Foundation



INSPIRE student visiting Washington, DC while attending the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders

In January 2014, the Center for Women's & Gender Studies received a \$50,000 contribution from the Creekmore and Adele Fath Charitable Foundation to sustain and expand their INSPIRE Women's Leadership Program.

Under the direction of CWGS in the College of Liberal Arts, INSPIRE is a three-year interdisciplinary program that helps women undergraduates develop the skills they need to excel within their academic fields. About 90 percent of INSPIRE participants are young women of color, most are in underrepresented majors, and many are first-generation college students.

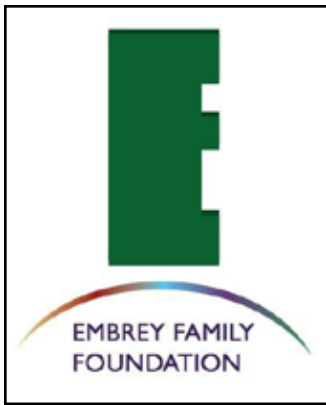
They represent crucial science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields, as well as business and economics. Each class of INSPIRE students has a graduate student facilitator who serves as a leadership role model and shares their academic interests.

"The University of Texas offers a variety of programs that encourage students to develop their leadership skills but INSPIRE is the only program that specifically addresses women students from underrepresented populations," says CWGS Director Susan Sage Heinzelman. "The generous support of the Creekmore and Adele Fath Charitable Foundation will help ensure that we can continue to offer this unique opportunity for women undergraduates at UT."

All those who have been part of the INSPIRE program have either completed their degree in four years or have graduated early from their undergraduate program. INSPIRE alumnae have been accepted to graduate school, law school and medical school.

CWGS receives partial funding for INSPIRE from the Dean's Office in the College of Liberal Arts, the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, and from two endowments.

Embrey Family Foundation



A \$680,890 grant from the Embrey Family Foundation will bolster teaching, research and outreach efforts in the Center for Women's & Gender Studies (CWGS) at The University of Texas at Austin, and will include funding for a new Women's & Gender Studies professorship focusing on critical human rights.

The grant will also continue funding for undergraduate Signature Courses that address human rights issues and for the Performing Justice Project, a joint project with the Department of Theatre and Dance that helps Austin-area high school students and other communities of young women develop performances based on social justice themes. The grant will also support a post-doctoral position for a scholar of critical human rights for two years.

"We are so thankful for this creative grant from the Embrey Family Foundation," said UT Austin president Bill Powers. "There is nothing more important than human rights and nothing more powerful than education to promote them. The foundation has my profound thanks."

"The Embrey Family Foundation is excited to continue developing its growing partnership with the Center for

Women's & Gender Studies at the University of Texas. It has been a fulfilling partnership," said Lauren Embrey of the Embrey Family Foundation. "The progress achieved and performance exhibited by the Center has been exemplary. We look forward to future opportunities and collaborations with the Center as we participate in the education of young people and work towards a just society for all."

"This grant provides a tremendous opportunity for the college to enhance teaching and research in the area of human rights," said Randy Diehl, dean of the College of Liberal Arts. "It also supports important outreach efforts in our local community, engaging young people in the important issues that are shaping their world."

The grant builds on previous funding CWGS has received from the foundation. A \$450,000 grant in 2010 established the Women's Human Rights Initiative, and a \$100,200 grant in 2011 provided funds for NEW Leadership™ Texas, a summer institute at UT Austin that addresses the underrepresentation of women in state politics and policy making.

"We are deeply appreciative of the support the Embrey Family Foundation has shown for the Center's academic and outreach mission," said Susan Sage Heinzelman, author of the grant proposal, director of the Center for Women's & Gender Studies and an associate professor of English.

Jody Conradt Excellence Fund in Equity and Leadership



In her 31-year career as head coach of the women's basketball team, Conradt served as a change agent both on the court and off. Not only did Coach Conradt direct championship-winning teams, in her long career she helped hundreds of young women excel as players, students, and future leaders. She showed that academic success and athletic success go hand in hand. As President Powers has said, "Jody Conradt has been a pioneer in women's college basketball, and thereby in progress toward equality for young women." Conradt expanded the horizons of her players and expanded understanding within the community about the ability of all people to succeed and lead in all areas of life.

In honoring Coach Conradt's legacy, we continue to raise funds for the Jody Conradt Excellence Fund in Equity and Leadership. Funds from this endowment will be used to inspire and instruct students on the importance of leadership and equity. The endowment supports the INSPIRE Women's Leadership program at CWGS. See more about INSPIRE on page 8.

PERFORMING JUSTICE PROJECT (PJP)



Megan Alrutz
(Assistant
Professor, Theatre
& Dance), Lynn
Hoare (Theatre
for Dialogue
Specialist, UT
Voices Against
Violence), and
Mollie Marchione,
(CWGS Associate

With continuing support from the Embrey Critical Human Rights Initiative, this year we deepened our community connections and located the Performing Justice Project at three different sites in the region: we directed a second performance at a juvenile detention center in Central Texas and created new partnerships and performance programs with The Settlement Home for Children and Eastside Memorial High School in Austin.

A core component of PJP remains the involvement of UT Austin students with youth and communities. This year, we involved five graduate students as teaching artists in PJP, preparing them as facilitators of embodied racial and gender justice. We continued to build on the interdisciplinary conversation of this work by partnering MFA students from Theatre & Dance with MA and portfolio students from CWGS.

Director and Project Director) have worked extensively this year to facilitate various branches of the project: developing graduate students as teaching artists, expanding the influence of the Performing Justice Project beyond high schools, and including community-based artists in the project.

FALL 2013 UT AUSTIN COURSE: WGS 340 PERFORMING JUSTICE

WGS 340 (47788) Performing Justice with Wura-Natasha Ogunji, MFA Fall 2013

TTH 11:00 to 12:30pm in MEZ B0.302

In this course students imagine and enact a more just society through the performing arts. We will use performance art to visualize and challenge systems and acts of oppression—including those based on race, gender, sexuality, ability, age, and class—in order to create meaningful social change. The creation of solo and group performances in tandem with the making of a collective archive will offer a powerful means of individual and community activism. A selection of weekly readings will place the work in a broader context and serve to provide historical grounding for student research and reflection.

Students will (1) Develop the skills to engage with multiple audiences about justice in relationship to race, gender, sexuality, dis/ability, class, (2) Create performances as advocacy for and articulation of justice, (3) Reflect on and explain their own relationships to race, gender, sexuality, dis/ability, class, (4) Contribute to a collective performance documentation focused on justice and other core questions which arise during the course.

Instructor Biography

Wura-Natasha Ogunji is a visual artist and performer. As a recipient of the prestigious Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship she recently spent a year in Lagos, Nigeria making performances about the presence of women in public space. She has performed at Centre for Contemporary Art (Lagos), The Menil Collection (Houston) and the Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts (St. Louis). Her works may be viewed here: www.wuraogunji.com

Also Meets with:

AAS 335
(36367)
AFR 372E
(30378)
T D 357T
(26657)



In addition to facilitating the community-based programs with youth, this year we piloted PJP as a university course that invited undergraduate students to explore racial and gender justice through the creation of original theatre and performance work based on their own lives, as well as the experiences of youth collaborators off campus. The course, Performing Justice, was taught by artist/performer Wura-Natasha Ogunji and served undergraduate students from across the UT campus and culminated in an intergenerational performance addressing gender and racial justice. This hybrid model was highly successful, as our university students deepened their own experiences and understanding of justice, while performing and learning alongside incarcerated youth. Several of the UT students in this program said PJP has been the most worthwhile and meaningful activity of their college careers.

A digital repository of the Performing Justice course can be accessed through University of Texas Libraries website: repositories.lib.utexas.edu.

NEW LEADERSHIP™ TEXAS



NEW Leadership™ Texas brings together college women from across the political spectrum to discuss the roles of women in leadership and politics. The program exposes participants to new ideas and opportunities as they consider their future careers. NEW Leadership™ is a national initiative that began at Rutgers University Center for Women and American Politics in 1991 and is now in over 25 states. This is the third year that NEW Leadership™ Texas has been hosted at UT Austin and sponsored by the Center for Women's & Gender Studies.

Participants are undergraduate women representing a wide range of socioeconomic, ethnic, racial and educational backgrounds and academic majors. We encourage applications from non-traditional college students, women of color, and students majoring in fields outside political science.

This year, 25 women college students from 16 colleges and universities across Texas gathered at The University of Texas at Austin from May 28 through June 3 for a week -long residential program designed to educate women about politics and leadership.

During the week, the students:

Met Women in City Leadership:

- Laura Morrison, City Council Member
- Dawn Clopton, Division Chief, Austin Fire Department
- Margo Frasier, Police Monitor, City of Austin
- Karen Kennard, Austin City Attorney
- Rosamaria Murillo, Assistant Director, Health Department

Heard from Women Legislators:

- Senator Leticia Van de Putte
- Representative Senfronia Thompson
- Representative Donna Howard
- Representative Celia Israel
- Representative Elliott Naishtat

Participated in interactive sessions and workshops:

- Effective Presentation and Communications
- True Colors (Learning your Leadership Style)
- Networking Workshop: Making Connections
- Women + Politics + Tech = 21st Century Power
- Diversity, Identity, and Social Justice
- Organizing 101: How to Turn Your Passions Into Action
- Managing Your Message
- Political Action Project Mock Hearing

Attended Panels:

- Women and Public Leadership
- Why You Should Consider Running For Office
- Panel of Policy Experts
- After NEW Leadership™ Texas - Alumni Panel

NEW Leadership™ Texas is made possible through the generosity of the Embrey Family Foundation, College of Liberal Arts, UT Austin, H-E-B, Jason's Deli, and Mr. Gatti's Pizza.

For more information about NEW Leadership™ Texas, please contact Nancy Ewert at 512-471-5680 or newert@austin.utexas.edu



Senator Van de Putte



Representative Thompson



At Austin City Hall

Photo Credit: Mikhaela Locklear

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FALL 2014 M.A. COHORT

Welcome to the incoming class of MA students at the Center for Women's & Gender Studies.



Briana Barner is a graduate of Bennett College for Women in Greensboro, NC, one of only two historically black colleges for women in the United States. She earned degrees in Journalism and Media Studies and Africana Women's Studies. During her time at Bennett, Briana was Editor-In-Chief of the award-winning student publication BELLE Magazine for three issues.



Carrie Gavit attended Hanover College, a small liberal arts school in southern Indiana, where she received her Bachelor of Arts in English literature with a minor in Gender Studies. During her undergraduate career, she spent a semester in Istanbul, Turkey sparking her interest in gender issues. Using this experience, Carrie combined her passions for literature and international travel with her new interest in gender studies.



After attending the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and City College of San Francisco, **Helen Hicks** completed her Bachelor of Arts in American Studies at San Francisco State University. During her time at all three schools, she focused on studying representations of gender and violence in media. More recently, her personal interest in Law & Order: Special Victims Unit has spawned her desire to study representations of activism against gendered violence.



Lauren Kramer received her Bachelor of Arts in American Studies and Biology with a minor in Environmental Studies from St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota—a town with the official motto of “Cows, Colleges, and Contentment.” She first developed an interest in Women's and Gender Studies through studying the past, particularly stories from the social movements of the 1960s and 1970s.



Garrett Sawyer received his Bachelor of Arts in Women's and Gender Studies and Political Science from Grand Valley State University, a liberal arts school just outside Grand Rapids, Michigan. As an undergraduate, he was the president of the school's Iota, Iota, Iota Women's Studies honor society chapter and an executive officer with the service-learning organization Alternative Breaks.



Hayley Morgenstern received her Bachelor of Fine Arts from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in conjunction with Tufts University. Her interdisciplinary performance practice crosses through fields of intellectual and creative discourses; including queer theory, performance studies, art history, and trauma studies. Her research-based art practice deals with historical and current representations of trauma as well as the lived experience of queer survivors.



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Support our Programs

Your gifts to the Center for Women's & Gender Studies help create committed communities that address the challenges faced in the areas of gender, sexuality, diversity, and equity. Gifts designated to the Center for Women's & Gender Studies help preserve and enhance programming, course development, endowments and support outreach initiatives.

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