

Voices and Visions

UW-Eau Claire Women's Studies Newsletter

Spring 2013

Director's Corner

—Theresa Kemp



As I conclude my three-year term as the UWEC Women's Studies Program director, I write with much gratitude and a strong sense of ambivalence about leaving this post. Looking back, I see that these have been some of the most rewarding, if challenging, times of my academic career. I have been given the opportunity to work closely with colleagues across campus in new and exciting ways, and I have learned a lot about how the University works in the bigger picture. As ever, I am eternally grateful for the encouragement and inspiration of those around me as I have served as the program's director. My goal throughout has been to help lead the program as it moves forward in deepening its commitment to feminist teaching, learning, activism, and scholarship. I could not have done my job without dozens of helping hands, and I have continually marveled at and admired the hard work, dedication, and talents of the program's faculty, staff, affiliates, and students.

Collectively, we have accomplished a great deal over these past few years. Among the highlights this past year is the successful recruitment of Dr. Tanya McNeill, who now holds a joint appointment with the Women's Studies Program and the Sociology Department. It has also been exciting to see the new changes in our curriculum officially beginning to take shape. In particular, I am pleased to have been able to work firsthand with students in our new social justice capstone as they collaborate with community partners such as the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin and Planned Parenthood.

I hope that, like me, you will draw inspiration and pride from reading this issue of *Voices and Visions* and learning about the recent achievements of the students, faculty, staff, and alumni in the Women's Studies Program. I also hope that you will please consider supporting the Women's Studies Program by using the form included in this newsletter to make a tax-deductible gift to the UWEC Foundation. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated, and even small amounts can help sustain the work we do.

Although I am somewhat sad for my term to end, I look forward to continuing to support the program as a Women's Studies Program affiliate. And I rest easy in knowing that the program passes into the very capable hands of our next Program Director, Dr. Asha Sen. I end this note by welcoming Asha, and thanking her for her willingness to take on this important work.

Alumnae News

Andrea (Nelson) Dahl

Since receiving my bachelor of arts degree from UWEC in 2010, majoring in psychology and minoring in women's studies, I have had a whirlwind of growth. I published my capstone project for both psychology and women's studies in the peer-reviewed journal, *Archives of Suicide Research*. I got married in September of 2012 to my high school sweetheart, who is also a UWEC graduate. Our wedding took place at the Owen Park band shell. Because my husband and I are both feminists, our wedding featured equality, respect, and partnership.

In December of 2012 I received my master of science degree from the University of Wisconsin-Stout in Mental Health Counseling. Currently I am living in Madison, Wisconsin, where I was recently hired as a program manager at Family Works, Inc. I develop and implement treatment plans while supervising direct-care staff in a treatment foster-care home for children and adults with autism and other developmental disabilities.

My women's studies preparation has not only shaped me personally but now professionally. My courses taught me that equality is a right for all individuals regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, age, or ability. From my studies I have learned that individuals with disabilities are often seen as "less than." In my work with individuals with disabilities, I make sure each person receives the respect and dignity that all human beings deserve. Just because a person is from a nondominant population does not mean that he or she deserves anything less than the dominant population. Women's studies has taught me to use what privileges I have to fight for those for whom society does not fight. My courses in psychology, women's studies, and counseling have given me the skills, theories, insights, and critical thinking that keeps me working hard for the individuals I serve.

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Catherine Emmanuelle

I had the pleasure of presenting at the 2012 National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) conference, held in Oakland, California. Along with fellow UWEC Women's Studies alumna Mary Jo Klinker, I presented a panel presentation entitled "National (In) Security: Gendered Experiences in a Time of Perpetual War."

Catherine Emmanuelle For those not familiar with NWSA, it is the leading association for women's studies. I was particularly excited to present because my paper was inspired by a national conference that I attended in the fall of 2010: the Fair Game Summit in Washington DC, organized by The White House Project. I was personally supported by UWEC undergraduate research travel funds. This experience gave me an opportunity to learn with some of the contemporary greats in international security (also known as IS in academia). What the heck was I doing learning about IS issues? The goal of the summit was to educate emerging female leaders around the United States on IS issues, in part to demystify yet another realm of knowledge and power that is heavily represented by males. There I met with women on nuclear security issues and got to rub shoulders with the likes of Valerie Plame Wilson and upper female brass of the United States State Department (we didn't meet Secretary Clinton, but we did meet with her Under-Secretary Ellen Tauscher and the lead negotiator for The New Start Treaty, Rose Gottemoeller, who is the Acting Under-Secretary of State for Arms Control).

While I don't think I'll become a prominent IS leader, it was a way for me to learn and be inspired by contemporary women IS leaders with hands-on leadership training. The experience gave me insight as a women's studies student and a civic leader. And besides, it's not every day that one gets to hang out with a former spy (Google Valerie Plame Wilson if you don't know who she is). I learned many lessons from these experienced female leaders, and these lessons continue to inform my leadership perspectives as I serve in my current role of Eau Claire City Council Member.

In 2011, The White House Project held another IS summit. This time, they invited me to join as an intern and lead a plenary session of the conference on community leadership. Once again, the UWEC Women's Studies Program played a part in my attendance, as I was interning for The White House Project through an independent study in women's studies. Also in attendance at the conference was UWEC alumna, Mary Jo Klinker.

The UWEC Women's Studies Program was a pivotal cornerstone of my undergraduate life, building the solid foundation to learn about systemic power dynamics that affect not only women but the world around us. My studies

continue to inform my everyday personal and professional life. Thank you for all you have done to make the UWEC Women's Studies Program a life-changing and transformative place to be!

Brianna Belmore

During my undergraduate career I developed a passion for feminism and a desire to work with people and advocate for change. When I graduated in May 2011 with majors in women's studies and social work, I had no idea what my future would hold. I wanted to find a job that could incorporate elements from both of my majors.



Brianna Belmore

My first job out of college was a residential counselor position at a treatment center for teenage girls with mental health issues. These young women had experienced so much in their short lives: many of them had faced dating violence or had witnessed violence in their own home. Many had been the victims of sexual assault and had issues relating to body image and self-esteem. These macrofeminist issues had a significant impact on these girls, and it was a challenge to integrate my feminist theories into a language they could understand and help them recognize how they could enact change. This job taught me so much about mental health, the importance of listening, and the ways in which so many feminist issues are affecting our youth.

I am currently working as a behavior therapist at an autism therapy center, where I work with children aged five to nine who are affected by autism. My work here is challenging but very rewarding. Back in college, this job wouldn't have appeared to be "feminist work" to me, but over the past couple of years I have embraced a much broader definition of feminism. From the Women's Studies Program at UWEC and my experiences post college, I have learned so much about the importance of letting others speak for themselves, assuming nothing, questioning everything, and trusting others to make the decisions that are best for them.





Tanya McNeill

My Feminist Roots

—Dr. Tanya McNeill

I began my joint appointment in the Women's Studies Program and the Sociology Department in fall 2012. I am thrilled to have a tenure home in the Women's Studies Program. It is an amazing opportunity to be able to support and help shape the LGBTQ Certificate in Women's Studies and the Family Studies Program in Sociology.

I grew up in Berkeley, California, and went to college at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut. After graduating with a double major in women's studies and sociology, I worked for three different nonprofit organizations in Massachusetts and in California. I was able to draw on my interests in racialized and classed discourses of motherhood in the welfare-reform debates of the mid-1990s in my first job as a public policy assistant for the Child Care Resource Center of Cambridge. I lobbied for more child-care funding for low-income families and for more funding for high-quality child care in Massachusetts.

Later, when I moved back to California, I worked briefly as a development assistant for the Volunteer Legal Services Program of the Bar Association of San Francisco, then got a position as Training and Education Coordinator for Medical Students for Choice. Medical Students for Choice is a grassroots organization founded by medical students who are advocating for more abortion training and reproductive health education in medical schools in order to address the shortage of abortion providers that threatens to limit the reproductive options of all women in the United States.

In 2001, I decided to pursue a PhD in sociology at the University of California at Santa Cruz. At UCSC I also had the opportunity to do graduate-level work in feminist studies. My dissertation research examined the production of knowledge about the family in a range of sites, including federal and state welfare policy and marriage law; political advocacy materials about the gay and lesbian marriage movement; sexuality and family life educational curricula and policy; and media coverage, television shows, and memoirs and self-help books on the topic of having gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender children or parents. I argue that in the wake of roughly forty years of dramatic demographic, cultural, and legal shifts in how we live, think about, and define familial relations, discourses about the family have become increasingly significant, regulatory, and ambivalent. I am currently interested in looking at how the "It Gets Better" Project and other responses to homophobic bullying in schools are connected to my dissertation findings. I have done preliminary fieldwork for a new project on gender nonconformity in childhood.

I have taught courses on feminist theory, family, gender, race/class/gender, queer theory, and sexuality and politics in the Sociology Departments at UCSC, University of California–Davis, and most recently in the Women's and

Gender Studies Department at Wellesley College.

It's been a pleasure to join such a vibrant and committed group of faculty who run and support the Women's Studies Program here at UWEC. I am particularly enjoying the opportunity to teach two courses, Perspectives in LGBTQ Studies and Queer Theories and Politics.

Internship at Bolton Refuge House

—Jenny Zirk

There are few core staff at Bolton Refuge House, and they rely quite heavily on their interns and volunteers. Bolton Refuge House provides many services for domestic violence and sexual-assault survivors. Services include emergency shelter, advocacy, childcare, transitional housing, a 24-hour crisis hotline, legal services, and other valuable assistance. Throughout my internship, I provided support groups for children who have either experienced or witnessed abuse, working with children aged five to eight every Tuesday night.

Since I ended up working with the same children from the start of my internship in August to the end, I was able to develop a trusting relationship with them. Many individuals may not see the direct effects abuse may have on a child. Feelings about the abuse can reveal themselves in many different ways. Many children in a crisis situation are often confused and may express their anger in an unhealthy way. We often acknowledged that it is okay to be angry and provided different positive tools to deal with their anger.

We tried our best to provide advocacy help for the children and their mothers in crisis situations. As the advocate on duty for several weekends during the semester, I responded to crisis calls. I was also trained to hold one-on-one screening interviews with clients and provide the intake process for those requesting and needing shelter. I also kept track of clients in the shelter and responded to their needs, given my training, as best as I could. On Mondays after weekends on duty, I reported at case review meetings on what had occurred over the weekend.

The issue of domestic violence ultimately reflects on our society. Heightening awareness and attempting to change societal views is something that shelters and advocacy groups are trying to address across the country. Through my internship, I truly saw what great work shelters like Bolton do.

My Women's Studies Program internship has allowed me to reflect on myself and evaluate what I want to do for my future career. I plan to keep volunteering at Bolton and participating in their Court Watch program, where I may accompany individuals to court to take notes and observe hearings. I gained a great deal of experience through this internship, and it will augment my career regardless of the job I obtain. My work in this field doesn't end here; I am excited for new opportunities to come!

My Adventure in Cameroon

—Crystal Kazik

I graduated from UWEC in May 2011 and departed that September for Cameroon, West Africa to begin Peace Corps service. Although I had traveled abroad before, I had never before been to Africa and had no idea what to expect. Cameroon seemed to be a helpless, wild land, yet one I knew to be vibrant and rich as well.

I received a wide range of responses and reactions when people heard I would be living in Cameroon for over two years. Comments like “you’d better bring pepper spray” and “everyone over there has a disease, you know” or “I hope you don’t die” were actually just as common as “we are so proud; you will do great things.” While some of my previous ideas of Africa may still ring true, I met some amazing personalities. It is a land I will never forget, and a place I called home.

Being a Peace Corps volunteer is, as they advertise, “the toughest job you’ll ever love.” You learn about your country, the ways of the world, and most of all yourself. Cameroon, also known as “Africa in miniature,” was a land of extremes.

It was a very aggressive yet agreeable place. The oxymorons and irony of the country never ceased to amaze me. People were either extremely happy or very sad. Adages like “we are together” had their counterparts in those like “we are suffering.” I was welcomed into strangers’ homes for shelter from the rain or for a meal, yet was intensely harassed on the streets and marketplaces. It was hard to find a solid footing and to understand the culture and community through a Western world lens; I had to let all my inhibitions go and integrate as if I were a native.

I often found myself battling or questioning the feminist and sociologist in me. Cameroon, although a matriarchal and community-based society, is one of the most heterosexual, homophobic, and sexist places I have ever been. Yet men walk hand in hand with other men down the street and boys and girls interchange clothing styles without being teased or humiliated. The limits of personal space are extremely reduced: imagine packing yourself into a five-person Toyota Corolla with ten other people, two chickens, and a goat for a five-hour car ride through the mountains on an unpaved road with the windows rolled up because the dust makes it hard to breathe in the dry season.

You get to know people, and you don’t complain: you push and shove along with the rest. You sneer and retort an even more offensive line at the man who has grabbed you one

too many times in the market. You find yourself saying “you people,” “whiteman woman,” or “that black man.” You remain quiet(er) and calm when the topic of two men being in love is brought up, or when people yell that they love and respect Obama but are disgusted when he supports homosexuality. I remained quiet not because I lost myself or found myself questioning my beliefs: I did it because I was learning how to live in another country.

While in Cameroon, I found the most comfort amongst other Peace Corps volunteers, with close friends in my village, or in the hospital nursing room where I worked. Before serving abroad, my interest in health was limited to HIV/AIDS research and prevention. My Peace Corps service allowed me to learn more about the importance of health care, and I had the opportunity to teach health education to prisoners, school children, and hospital workers.

I helped plan water projects, helped with vaccination clinics, and promoted outreach programs. One of the most fulfilling aspects of my work was my ability to work with pregnant women and girls. My colleague and I educated and counseled over 200 women about family planning, nutrition, maternal and child health, and sexual health. We helped to smoothly operate antenatal clinics, and I even got the chance to help in the hospital labor and delivery room. I learned immensely from working in a small village hospital, and my experience

supporting women through childbirth has inspired me to pursue a career in nursing. I hope to become an LPN and then go on to be a midwife. I would definitely contemplate working and living abroad again and suggest it to anyone looking for a rewarding and eye-opening experience. It will certainly turn your world upside down.

A Choice Internship

—Becca Hubbard

I once thought it was impossible to have fun while interning, especially without pay, but my internship at Planned Parenthood proved me wrong. Not only did I have fun, I learned more than I thought possible. I made a difference in my community by helping people make safe reproductive decisions and telling them about the services Planned Parenthood offers. I developed new friendships, and I gained valuable skills that will help me secure future employment. By planning and participating in Planned Parenthood events, engaging in political work, and volunteering at the local clinic, I learned the value of my reproductive rights, which I took for granted before this internship. One of the best parts about being a Planned Parenthood intern was distributing free condoms to friends and strangers. It’s a friendly reminder to the sexually active to stay safe,



Discussing family planning at a vaccination clinic in Kichow, Cameroon



Distributing condoms during UWEC Homecoming

and everyone likes free things. Through this internship, I had the opportunity to get creative with advocacy (and condom distribution), so I chose to run a Homecoming Court campaign on a safe-sex platform—I was actually the only candidate with a platform. Although I did not win my campaign, it was an excellent opportunity to spread the good word about Planned Parenthood, and the feedback I received from fellow Blugolds was immensely positive. I also participated in community events hosted by Planned Parenthood, such as Action Team meetings, which are held every few months to mobilize supporters in the Eau Claire area to volunteer, donate, and socialize. I attended the meeting fall semester and encouraged the Action Team to help with the November election. There was even a special meet-and-greet for the Action Team to speak with local candidates seeking office, and since I was a Planned Parenthood intern, I had the opportunity to meet them and thank them for supporting reproductive health-care rights.

Politics is about a lot more than rubbing elbows with those in office. It's a grassroots effort of phoning, knocking on doors, and talking with voters about the issues. I was a part of Planned Parenthood's political campaign to elect pro-choice candidates into office, so I spent a large portion of my internship educating voters about the details of the Affordable Care Act, Planned Parenthood's services, and politicians who do and do not support Planned Parenthood. This was a wonderful part of the internship because it encouraged me to get comfortable talking about issues that matter to me with people who might not care or have opposing viewpoints. However, once I started talking with people about reproductive health issues, they were willing to listen and saw the value of their vote. It is an incredible feeling to be a part of a movement towards more women-friendly legislation, especially after victory is achieved, and I aspire to continue my involvement with politics in the future.

Out of all of the fantastic opportunities this internship provided me, working at the clinic was, by far, the most rewarding. This internship gave me the chance to shadow a nurse at the local Planned Parenthood clinic, so I could gain valuable experience for my future profession as a counseling psychologist. I shadowed the RN in her inter-

actions with patients to learn effective methods of clinical communication, but I also learned about the small acts of office work that keep a clinic running. That is the magic of Planned Parenthood: they provide reproductive care and education to those in need, and, when nothing beyond the necessary fees are asked for, the patients give back too. To see patients donate their hard-earned money to keep the clinic operating and thank the staff for all they do were beautiful acts of humanity.

I adore Planned Parenthood. The internship is over, but my involvement will continue. I am working at the local clinic throughout the spring and summer until I leave for graduate school, and I hope to gain employment with Planned Parenthood someday. If you know little of Planned Parenthood, check out their website; if you are interested in getting involved with them, check out the Advocates for Choice campus organization or join the Action Team; and if you are curious about an internship, feel free to email me (hubbarrl@uwec.edu). This internship was even better than I expected, and I will never, ever forget it. The next Blugold who gets to enjoy this wonderful experience will be very lucky indeed.

My Women's Resource Center Internship: A Catalyzing Experience

—Gretchen Bachmeier

This past fall semester I had the great opportunity of doing an internship in the Women's and LGBTQ Resource Center under Chris Jorgenson. I approached the semester with an excited face and a nervous stomach, knowing it would lead to both challenges and success. I was right. The internship pushed boundaries, expanded my knowledge, built relationships, and altered my plans.

This internship allowed me to develop skills in both my areas of study: women's studies and public relations. I was the intern for the women's side of the office, assisting Chris with numerous events, as well as brainstorming, creating, conceptualizing, marketing, and delivering a public Prezi presentation of my own.

The Women's and LGBTQ Center sponsors the Night Out Film Series, which screens various documentaries and films free to students twice a month. I facilitated discussions with attendees after the film *Killing Us Softly* by Jean Kilbourne and the documentary *War Zone* by Maggie Hadleigh-West. While the Women's Studies Program prepares you to facilitate class discussion, it is a different experience when you are unsure of your audience's previous knowledge, opinions, or values. I wanted to stimulate thinking and possibly alter attitudes, but I had to be mindful to steer conversation rather than control it. This isn't always an easy task.

Combining many areas of interest, I developed a Prezi on women in sports, which I presented on campus for the Women's and LGBTQ Resource Center. Afterward, we discussed the history and challenges of women in athletics, examining the benefits and backlash of Title IX legislation

and looking forward to progress in women's athletics. Above all, I appreciate Chris for knowing me well enough to push me in the ways I needed to be pushed. Growing up in an atmosphere that is filled with rubrics and grade sheets, I have learned to be truly comfortable confined by explicit directions. I know Chris caught on to my ways. He forced me to become comfortable with my own decision making and problem solving, seeking him only when I had exhausted all other options. This experience also confirmed the value of communication. As a student, communicating with people in positions of authority can at times be intimidating, even for a confident gal like myself.

Through this internship, I had to communicate effectively with numerous offices, departments, student organizations, faculty, and staff members.

I am set to continue my journey with the Women's and LGBTQ Resource Center. I'm excited to dive into the many events that happen during Spring Semester, including the Fire Ball and Women's History Month. I want to embrace the challenges I faced in the fall and let them catalyze my new goals as a student and as an activist.

"Interaction with the world tests academic theory learned in course work against the realities of women's lives. The Women's Studies paradigm thus incorporates teaching, research, and service as necessary components to developing curriculum and extending frontiers of knowledge in an evolving interdisciplinary field and a changing world."

—Women's Studies Program Objective

Celebrating a New Stability for the Women's Studies Program

—Dr. Barbara L. Kernan

I joined the Women's Studies Program faculty fall 2011 as the program's first full-time professor with a tenure home in the Women's Studies Program after teaching here for 10 years as an adjunct instructor. I am very happy to usher in this more stable framework for the program, and to see Dr. Tanya McNeill expand on it so soon afterward. These tenure lines mean good things and a solid future for women's studies at UWEC.



Barbara Kernan

I earned my bachelor's degree from UWEC with a double major in English and French. I was a Blugold, and I have many fond memories of my years on campus. The dramatic change created with the opening of the new Davies Center and the replacement of Campus School with the new education building will make lower campus look very different, however, and even more beautiful.

I traveled to the Bread Loaf School of English at Middlebury College in Vermont to earn my master's degree. Perhaps most famous as the summer home of poet Robert Frost, Bread Loaf is an idyllic setting to study literature among renowned faculty. I earned my PhD at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. My area of specialization is American Literature, Colonial to World War I, with an emphasis in women's writing and material culture theory. My PhD minor in women's studies allowed me additional theoretical grounding in feminist criticism and pedagogy.

My research addresses material culture studies of various types including domestic architecture and artifacts that help me recover women's stories. I have written on Edith Wharton and her home, The Mount; Catherine Maria Sedgwick and decorative excess; Nathaniel Hawthorne and drapery; and Anna Julia Cooper and Victorian chivalric tradition. I am pleased to have developed and introduced two courses to our curriculum: Women and Artifacts and Design and Domesticity.

Since coming to UWEC I have worked with four different program directors and have enjoyed the visions each brought with her. I have served on the Women's Studies Program Steering Committee and have helped shape the growth of the program. It feels most rewarding to have been offered a faculty position in the program where I feel so invested.

2012 Women's Studies Awards

Helen X. Sampson Awards Undergraduate Research Paper Category

First Place: Carly Hanson and Rebecca Hubbard, "Missing Girls of India"
Faculty Nominator: Sanjukta Chaudhuri

Second Place: Desirae Lezotte, "Eugenically Speaking: Cora Anderson and the WI 'Eugenic' Marriage Law"
Faculty Nominator: Jane Pederson

Third Place: Rebecca Rohan, "You Write, He'll Fight: An Analysis of WWII Letters from Women: 1941-1945"
Faculty Nominator: John Mann

Undergraduate Project Category
Megan Bartos, "Examining Social Justice Inequality in Alternative Food Movements"
Faculty Nominator: Laurel Kieffer

Graduate Project Category
Abby Vercauteren, "Weighting on You"
Faculty Nominator: David Shih

Donna C. Turell Award
Award Sponsor: Susan Turell
Jill Mattek, "Understanding EC County Law Enforcement Officers' Interactions with the Victims Crisis Response Program"
Faculty Nominator: Laurel Kieffer

Mary Catherine and Caroline Kessler Award
Award Sponsor: Patricia Quinn
Emily Schreiner, "Pie and Pluralism: Lizzie Black Kander's Settlement Work in Milwaukee, 1894-1922"
Faculty Nominator: John Mann

Mickey Crothers Award
Elizabeth Albert, Katherine Chaplin, Megan Chilman, and Brianna Mueller, "Here Me Now"
Faculty Nominator: Pam Forman and Ellen Mahaffy

Virgiline and Joseph See Award
Award Sponsor: Patti See
Jillian Phillips, "Reclaiming Medusa: A Narrative of Female Blugolds"
Faculty Nominator: Selika Ducksworth-Lawton

Tillie Olsen Award
Award Sponsor: Patti See
Cameron L. Stoeger, "The Value in a Wallet!"
Faculty Nominator: Karen Loeb

Ailish Frances Barcelo Award
Award Sponsor: Christine Webster
Katie Johnson, Women's Studies major

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and your
announcements!*

Send items to
Lucy Lee at
leelucy@uwec.edu
OR mail items to

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Graphic Design by Ali Puestow and Nancy Lee

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