

## A Note from the Director

*By: Meika Loe, Professor of Sociology and Women's Studies; Director of Women's Studies; Interim Director of Upstate Institute*

### What a year we have had!

Almost 90 students took our Introduction to Women's Studies (WMST 202), we offered 32 courses that counted for credit in Women's Studies, we hosted almost 40 overflowing brown bags, and welcomed many wonderful speakers – from [Bettina Aptheker](#), to [Jaclyn Friedman](#), to [Jens Lapidus](#) to three of our wonderful alums, Lisa Henty, Rachel Greenburg, and Audrey Stevens.

Programming covered all sorts of ground this year, and we did not stray away from discussing many critical aspects of sexualities – from positive sexualities, to sexual medicine, to incest, to rape culture. We were also inspired to create "[Be the Change](#)," a video project dedicated to campus culture change regarding sexual assault. As Kimmie discusses in her column, this project was a true community effort – and one we are very proud of.

Thanks to the hard work of our interns, we now have a serious social media presence – from our [Facebook page](#), to our "Women @ Colgate Timeline" (on Facebook), to a [Feminisms blog](#), to our updated [resource pages](#).

Our two concentrators, Dena Robinson and Noah Jackson, took on bold research on hegemonic masculinity and heterosexism in relation to sport and prison, and we look forward to a class of 10 concentrators in the Fall.

Kimmie, Letta, and the interns also continue to make our non-virtual space - the Center - a vital and welcoming home away from home. This year we were thrilled to learn that the Center for Women's Studies won the Colgate Sustainability Award for our efforts in composting and recycling.

All in all, we remain a healthy, strong, and vibrant Women's Studies Program in another year when we are battling the war on women *and* the war on women's studies. Thank you for your tireless support and we'll see you in August!



*A photograph from our Facebook timeline.*



*Dena and Noah at the Senior Banquet.*

Center for  
Women's Studies:

Monday—Thursday  
8am—9:30pm

Friday  
8am—5pm

Sunday  
4:30pm—9:30pm

13 Oak Drive  
Hamilton, NY, 13346  
(315) 228-7156

## The Bustling Brown Bag Series



A large, diverse audience waits for the brown bag to start.

By: Xavia Publius '13

This semester, the Brown Bag Series, the Center's signature awareness raising and community building lunch forum, experienced two important changes: Thursday brown bags and greater student participation on panels. The average brown bag attendance was 72, and we learned from evaluations that the majority of our participants identify more as feminists as a result of attending. In addition to Tuesday brown bags, there was a large supplement of Thursday brown bags. The focus of Thursday's brown bags was more on presentations of research or on continuing conversations from other events, whereas the Tuesday brown bags were more topical. Another shift was that there was a much more student and panel-based dynamic in this semester's brown bags, which lends well to discussion and can, in some ways, be more relevant to students' lives. All of the brown bags are, of course, intriguing and full of insight, and have stimulated far-reaching and important conversations on this campus. Here's to another semester of good conversation and free food!

### Tuesday Brown Bags: Spring 2012

<b>Exploring Environmental Racism in the Wake of MLK Jr.'s Legacy</b>	<b>1/24/12</b>
Co-sponsored with ALST and ENST	
April Baptiste, Maureen Hays-Mitchell, Eliza Kent, Yuqiu Meng, Brian Moore & Paul Pinet	
<b>Interdependence is for Everybody: Perspectives on Disability from a Former PA</b>	<b>1/31/12</b>
Liz Thompson, '07-'09 WMST Program Assistant	
<b>Gender Rights Across the Spectrum: Non-Binary Gender Identities and Trans* Rights</b>	
Co-sponsored with LGBTQ Initiatives	<b>2/7/12</b>
Jamie Bergeron, Andrea Finley '13, Caden Polk '12, Xavia Publius '13, and Kristy Watkins	
<b>Reclaiming Words</b>	<b>2/14/12</b>
Cal Crawford '12, Casey Hampsey '13, and Macy Warren '14	
<b>Women's Stories From and Beyond the U.S.-Mexico Frontera</b>	
Co-sponsored with ALST	<b>2/21/12</b>
Jessica Aquino '14, Kimmie Garner, and Manuel Heredia-Santoyo '14	
<b>Uniting Across Differences: Understanding and Respecting Intersectional Identities</b>	
Co-sponsored with ALST	<b>2/28/12</b>
Kathryn Bacher '14, Christine LaBoy '12, BaRack Little '12, Kevin Morgan '12, & Darius Robinson '12	
<b>Reflecting on the U.N.'s 56th Commission on the Status of Women Experiences</b>	<b>3/6/12</b>
Caroline Anderson '12, Gwynne Gallagher '12, Molly Kunzman '12, & Breanna Pendleton '12	
<b>Feminist Parenting Perspectives</b>	<b>3/20/12</b>
Padma Kaimal, Meika Loe, Elizabeth Marlowe, Mary Moran, and Letta Palmer	
<b>Refugee, Farmworker, and Gender Rights in Central New York</b>	
Co-sponsored with ALST and Upstate Institute	<b>3/27/12</b>
Shelly Callahan, Barrie Gewanter, and Sonia Martinez	
<b>Female Genital Cosmetic Surgery</b>	<b>4/3/12</b>
Skye with Leonore Tiefer, New View Campaign	
<b>Rape and Rebirth: Reclaiming Your Personal Power</b>	
Co-sponsored with the Network	<b>4/10/12</b>
Renee DeVesty	
<b>Sustainability and Ecofeminism I</b> Co-sponsored with ENST	<b>4/17/12</b>
John Pumilio	

## First Ever LGBTQ Capstone Presentation

By: *Xavia Publius '13*

On February 9th, Leeander Alexander '12, the first ever LGBTQ Studies Minor at Colgate, gave his senior capstone presentation in the form of a brown bag. The topic was "Conflicting Identities: Intersectionality Between Sexuality, Race, and Gender." Tackling the issue of intersectionality from a campus perspective, he interviewed five black-identified students who also had some sort of queer identity and tried to assess how they felt on campus and in campus organizations that dealt with either issues of race or of queer identity. The results were surprising to some people, especially the characterization of one particular queer-identified group that many people of color found unwelcoming because interviewees felt it marginalized issues of race as they pertain to queer identity. Along with the Harlem Renaissance Center (HRC), the Center for Women's Studies was mentioned in multiple interviews as a place where queer students of color felt safe and welcome.



The brown bag was well received and spurred great conversation about the experiences of people of color on campus and how to connect in queer and racial identities. Coming right off of a Tuesday brown bag about gender non-conformance and trans\* rights, the campus got a very broad exposure to the margins of the queer community that brought up some really intriguing discussions about how we enact gender, race, and sexuality on campus.

### Thursday Brown Bags

2/9/12 **Conflicting Identities: Intersectionality Between Sexuality, Race, and Gender (w/ LGBTQ Initiatives)**

Leeander Alexander '12

3/1/12 **The Hypersexualization of Women of Color**

Sisters of the Round Table (SORT)

3/8/12 **Celebrating International Women's Day 2012**

Film Screening of *Taking Root*

3/29/12 **What You Really Really Want: How to Pursue a Real Sexuality in the Real World**

(w/ Counseling, LGBTQ Studies, Office of the Dean of the College, Office of the President, OUS, SOAN, and SYE)

Jaelyn Friedman

4/5/12 **African Research Presentations**

Caroline Anderson '12, President Herbst, and Breanna Pendleton '12

4/19/12 **Alums' Feminism Beyond Colgate**

Rachel Greenburg '10, Lisa Henty '08, and Audrey Stevens '08



### Spring 2012 WMST Courses

<b>CORE 165S</b>	Women Physicists & Triumphs	<b>RELG 334</b>	Women & Religious Thought: Gender/Body
<b>ENGL 204</b>	American Lit: Native American Writers	<b>SOAN 333</b>	Sociology of the Life Course
<b>ENGL 333</b>	African/Diaspora Women's Narratives	<b>SOAN 371</b>	Gender and Society in Africa
<b>ENGL 442</b>	Virginia Woolf & E.M. Forster	<b>SPAN 226</b>	Latin American Women Writers
<b>ENGL 460</b>	Dramas: Medieval to Renaissance	<b>SPAN 474</b>	Contemporary Spanish Theater
<b>GEOG 321</b>	Gender, Justice, & Environmental Change	<b>WMST 202</b>	Women's Lives: An Introduction to Women's Studies
<b>HIST 348</b>	History of Women in Europe in Modern Times	<b>WMST 324</b>	The Scandinavian Welfare State: A Gendered Perspective
<b>LGBT 220</b>	Exploration in LGBTQ Studies	<b>WMST 490</b>	WMST Senior Seminar

## Interdependence is for Everybody

By: *Kimmie Garner, WMST Program Assistant*

On January 31, Liz Thompson, '07-'09 Program Assistant, returned to the Center for Women's Studies to present in our weekly Brown Bag series and facilitate Sarah Wider's WMST 202: An Introduction to Women's Studies class about her experiences as a disabled woman. While Liz has had cerebral palsy left hemiplegia for her entire life, she did not consider herself disabled until January 2010, when she injured herself through overexertion exercising and could barely walk. Upon her return to graduate school in Michigan, she had no choice but to contact Services for Students with Disabilities and self-identify as a disabled person for the first time. This coincided with her enrollment in a Disability Studies course, which helped her through this difficult period and to become part of a community in which others identified as disabled. This course, as well as her internship in a social justice education initiative, deepened her understanding of disability studies as part of feminism and the importance of interdependence as opposed to independence.

Liz utilized the concept of interdependence to emphasize the significance of building relationships in the midst of a society which models and places highest importance on self-sufficiency. She said that while articulating our needs, relying upon others, and admitting our constant interconnectedness may be difficult in an independent culture, it is crucial that we foster honesty, openness, and transparency through this type of relationship-building. Through Liz's presentation, audience members gained a more nuanced understanding of accessibility, disability as a spectrum and experience that may and often does change at any given time, the able-bodied assumptions and language we may exude, and whether spaces foster inclusivity or exclusivity. Her presence as a dynamic feminist and social justice educator was evident in every aspect of her visit and she initiated critical dialogues that broadened participants' exposure to and understanding of (dis)ability and interdependence.



*Liz discussing disability and interdependence openly and dynamically.*

## The Vagina Monologues

By: *Christina Liu '13*

The Vagina Monologues, written by Eve Ensler, is performed at Colgate annually as part of the V-Day campaign to spread awareness about gender-based and sexual violence against women. The proceeds from the event support Vera House, a Syracuse-based organization that supports survivors of sexual violence. This year, Christina Liu '13 and Dena Robinson '12 co-directed the show, which boasted a cast of 30 self-identified women.

To quote from the director's note:

*"The stories never cease to be powerful no matter how many times they're told, but the real vitality of VM lies not in the stories but in the empowered voices of the women involved in the show. It rests in the conversations leading up to the performance, in the negotiation between the woman speaking and the woman being spoken about, and in the community of women who for 2 short weeks get to share their womanhood together."*

In speaking of her fellow director, Christina says, "Dena will be dearly missed next year when she graduates this May. She really has been an inspiration to many." In terms of next year, Christina hopes to hold auditions in the fall so the cast has more time to really become a family, have more conversations about their own identities and perspectives, and to help raise more money for Vera House. She was particularly inspired by the enthusiasm and strong identities of all the women she worked with this year and hopes to elongate that experience next time around.



*The amazing cast became very close this year.*

## Women's Studies Visits the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

By: Breanna Pendleton '12

In early March, I spent three days in New York City with three other seniors, Kimmie, and Professor Loe attending the [United Nation's 56th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW\)](#). The six of us were able to attend sessions both at the U.N. and parallel sessions occurring at the Church Center, located across from the U.N. I spent my days at the Church Center attending sessions run by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from 8:30 in the morning until 7:30 at night, with a lunchtime and teatime debrief to keep all of our heads clear. The specific themes of the conference change each year and this year's CSW focused on "Rural Women, Empowerment, Poverty Reduction, and Rural Development." I attended sessions on topics ranging from domestic violence, rural women's access to basic health, the role of rural women in post-conflict reconstruction, as well as ecology. Each session taught me something new and I very much enjoyed watching the NGOs mingle and share best practices. Many connections, whether formal or informal, were formed between NGOs here and I feel this conference helped each NGO that attended in some way.

My favorite session was titled "Ethics, Rural Ecology, and Poverty" and consisted of a panel of three women: two from India and one from Ghana. Each speaker talked about how important it is for women and men around the world to realize that we are all a piece of the puzzle and that we need to include everyone at the table's discussion. Maame, the woman from Ghana, who now works in California, was an incredibly inspirational speaker, who started off the session by singing a song about coming together and welcoming all. She then went on to discuss how women on the ground are actually the experts and that NGOs should focus on working with and learning from them instead of trying to teach them foreign concepts that might not necessarily help. Maame spoke most about "soul consciousness" and how we all must come together to sing the same song. She also reminded us to remember that though some of the stories of rural women are grim and sad, we should all use the power of voice and laughter to bring everyone together. We must think globally, but act locally, always with laughter on our side.



(L to R): Molly Kunzman '12, Gwynne Gallagher '12, Breanna Pendleton '12, Caroline Anderson '12, and Professor Loe pose outside of the UN.

Though that was my favorite session, I learned from each session and took away many lessons. First off, this conference proved to me that there are NGOs and women all over the world working on different issues so it is important to work on what we are most compassionate about and trust that others will fill in the blanks. I also learned that we must include men in all conversations; we cannot educate women separately and hope that everyone will suddenly understand. Gender includes men and women, as well as everyone in between, and to be successful, everyone must be included in the conversation.

### Fall 2012 WMST Courses

<b>ECON 234</b>	Gender in the Economy	<b>SPAN 477</b>	Women Writing in Latin America
<b>ENGL 306</b>	Antebellum American Literature	<b>WMST 202</b>	Women's Lives: An Introduction to Women's Studies
<b>HIST 311</b>	Women's Rights in US History	<b>WMST 302</b>	Women's Lives: Biography and Autobiography
<b>LGBT 350</b>	Sexuality, Gender, and the Law	<b>WRIT 347</b>	Language and Gender
<b>RELG 234</b>	Women and Religious Traditions: Islam		
<b>RELG 328</b>	Experiencing Islam		

## Dr. Dweck Teaches the ABCs

By: Natalie George '13

On March 5<sup>th</sup>, the Center for Women's Studies and the Colgate Bookstore hosted "The ABCs of a Healthy Vagina" event. This particular discussion was led by Dr. Alyssa Dweck, co-author of [V is for Vagina: You're A-to-Z Guide to Periods, Piercings, Pleasures, and So Much More.](#) Dr. Dweck opened up the audience by showing humorous videos related to practicing safe sex, which were very well-received. I was surprised by the number of men present; however, her son and co-author's daughter attend Colgate. Nevertheless, the men were not afraid to ask questions regarding STIs and how to please their own partners. Her book is extremely informative and no topic goes unanswered. I suggest that everyone take a look at our copy and get the answers you need!



Attendees listen to Dr. Dweck answer a range of sexual health questions.

## Reflecting on Gina Velasco and the Mail Order Bride

By: LGBT 220: Exploration in LGBTQ Studies



The Mail Order Brides in "Always a Bridesmaid, Never a Bride," one of the performances Velasco analyzed.

What are the relationships that exist between same-sex marriage rights and immigration policies in the US? Is it really the case that African-American voters in California were largely responsible for the defeat of Proposition 8? What might be problematic about the often-heard phrase, "Gay is the new Black"? These, and other questions, emerged in the March 22 lecture given by Gina Velasco, Assistant Professor of Women's and Gender Studies at Keene State College. Her talk, "Performing the Filipina 'Mail-Order Bride': Queer Neoliberalism, Affective Labor, and Homonationalism," exposed and explored the complex dynamics that underscore intersectional considerations.

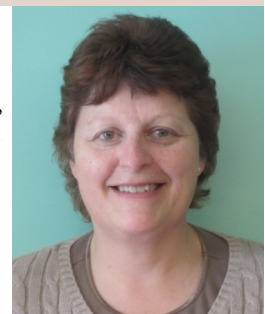
Among others, students in LGBT 220, Exploration in LGBTQ Studies, attended Professor Velasco's talk. In a subsequent classroom discussion, they focused on several essential aspects of her wide-ranging talk.

Perhaps most compelling was the way that she queried the extent to which the fight for marriage equality is creating a form of homonormativity in the US. In this context, homonormativity can be understood to be a socially acceptable form of homosexuality. The satirical videos produced by the Filipina performance art group Mail Order Brides and shown as part of the lecture drew attention to homonormative dynamics at work in pursuing same-sex marriage rights. At the same time, these queer parodies highlighted aspects of consumerism, affective labor, and immigration policies that might otherwise be overlooked when discussing LGBTQ rights.

Professor Velasco encouraged her audience to move conversations beyond a framework of LGBTQ concerns. Her talk invited the audience to think about queer responses that could challenge misconceptions or inclinations that frame questions of sexuality apart from considerations related to race, class, and socioeconomic status, to name only a few possibilities.

## Welcome, Val Brogan!

Hello, my name is Valerie Brogan and I'm the newest Campus Safety Investigator. I recently retired from the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office after twenty-four years of service. For the past sixteen years, I was a Detective in the Abused Persons Unit, which is commonly referred to as the Special Victims Unit (SVU). Our unit was primarily responsible for investigating all sexually based crimes, child abuse, and infant death cases. In addition to these crimes, I've also investigated homicides, robberies, burglaries, serious assaults, hate crimes, and fatal car accidents that involved alcohol or drugs. Based on my past experience, my hope is to assist faculty, staff, and students with the task of reporting and investigating sexually based offenses and see that affected individuals receive medical and emotional support.



## Jaclyn Friedman Contributes to Positive Sexuality Conversations on Campus

By: Michelle Van Veen '14

This semester, we had the honor of hosting Jaclyn Friedman March 28-29. Jaclyn Friedman is the co-editor of *Yes Means Yes: Visions of Female Sexual Power and a World Without Rape* and author of *What You Really Really Want: The Smart Girl's Shame-Free Guide to Sex and Safety*. During her stay, she gave a presentation titled "Sane, Safe & Strong: How to create a safe and healthy sexual culture for your community" and facilitated a Brown Bag about "What You Really Really Want: How to Pursue a Real Sexuality in the Real World." Jaclyn also co-led the final session of the Yes Means Yes seminar. She discussed how to pursue a healthy and positive sexuality and provided helpful tips to achieve success.



Jaclyn addresses a large crowd in Love about communication and pleasure.

What stood out to me was Jaclyn's focus on teaching young adults (and all ages for that matter) **tools** instead of teaching rules. Most of us are aware of the rules of what one should and should not do: don't take a drink someone has given you, don't walk home alone at night, lock your car doors when driving, don't put yourself in potentially dangerous situations, etc. Although these are sound suggestions, it is clear that they aren't working. If they were, we wouldn't still be facing the reality that 1 in 4 women will be sexually assaulted in her lifetime. Instead, we need tools to guide us in making healthy and smart decisions. This toolbox includes what questions we should be asking ourselves before we make decisions regarding our sexuality. What are the risks? How big are the risks in pursuing your sexual wants and needs? What would happen if these risks came into play? How likely are these risks going to happen? But also, what are the *awesome* things that could happen? Instead of only focusing on the negative aspects of our sexuality, we should also be asking the questions of what the benefits will be of getting what we want! Every decision involves risk, thus weighing the risks with the potential benefits is crucial when making decisions about your sexuality. Overall, Jaclyn Friedman fostered an environment where it was okay to talk about one's sexuality. She inspired many of us to leave these discussions and think about what we really want physically and emotionally in our intimate relationships.

## Jens Lapidus Discusses Gender and Sex Work in Sweden

By: Michelle Van Veen '14

On April, 16<sup>th</sup> Jens Lapidus came to Colgate through the [Swedish Embassy's Stieg-Larsson Lecture Series](#) to give a presentation titled "Prostitution Despite Gender Equality." Lapidus is a successful Swedish criminal defense lawyer and author. He wrote the Swedish bestselling Stockholm Noir Trilogy, which includes *Snabba Cash* (English Translation: "Easy Money"), *Aldrig Fucka Upp* ("Never F\*\*\* Up"), and *Livet Deluxe* ("Life Deluxe"). Swedish critics have praised his work for it has been considered a gateway to a new genre in Swedish literature. Lapidus began his writing career when he started writing about the scenarios he witnessed in the courtroom as a therapeutic outlet. After taking a creative writing course, he began developing fictional characters inspired by the personalities he saw in the courtroom.

During his presentation, Lapidus explained how prostitution laws differ in Sweden from most of the world. In Sweden, it is not illegal to sell sexual services, but rather it is illegal to buy these services. Therefore, when the police catch a transaction, the man (for it is predominantly men who buy sexual services) gets in trouble with the law and not the woman. This particular law aims to decrease the demand in order to eventually decrease the supply. The law provides an interesting gender perspective for it recognizes that many women face constrained choices when it comes to sex work. Rather than blaming the victim, this law forces the public and law enforcement to blame the perpetrator. Although there is little information on whether this law has decreased the amount of prostitution in Sweden, it is an interesting concept to mull over. What do you think?



Jens speaks about crime and prostitution in Sweden.

## Why Take Back the Night is Still Important

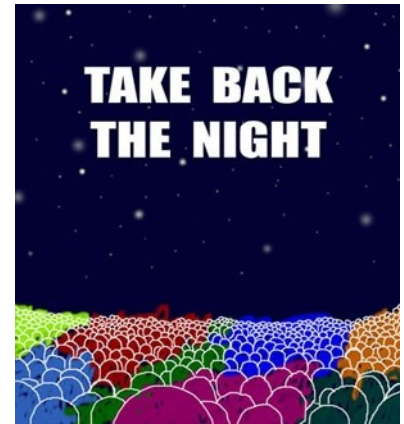
By: Terica Adams '12

Here at Colgate, although we pride ourselves in being a safe campus, we must recognize that acts of sexual harassment and violence happen constantly. Nationally, one of every four college women is a survivor of attempted rape. It would be naive to think that Colgate is somehow excluded from other schools in this regard. 25% of women and 10% of men who took the 2009 Campus Climate Survey reported that they were victims of attempted sexual assault. A shocking 70% of the entire student body reported experiencing sexual harassment on campus. The statistics are undeniable. While there are many people who recognize that it is a major issue, there are still many people who do not. Students do not like talking about these issues openly. When they do, it is under a shroud of secrecy and fear.

This is exactly why every year, The Network, along with other student groups and departments, sponsors the Take Back the Night March and Speak Out. It is a way to bring up the issue of sexual violence in a way that people cannot ignore. It is a symbol for individuals who have experienced these acts of violence to know that there are people championing their cause. It serves as a reminder that Colgate has issues that need to be brought to the forefront and addressed.

The most powerful aspect of Take Back the Night this year was our march through Case-Geyer Library. It showed defiance against the status quo and the complicity that many students experience here. It demonstrated that we are not going to let people sit comfortably while people are being assaulted and raped on campus.

The time is here to stop ignoring the issue. The time is here to stop silencing those who have the courage to say something has happened to them. It is time to recognize that sexual harassment, sexual assault, and rape happen at Colgate. Once we are brave enough to admit the truth, then we can actually work on preventing these acts from happening. Until that time, we must continue to Take Back the Night.



## “Undue Influence” Performed by the Dartmouth Dance Theater Ensemble

By: Christina Liu '13

Sometimes words simply cannot do an incident justice, especially when that incident involves the multi-layered, highly nuanced, and deeply troubling issue of sexual assault. This is what Ford Evans and Peter Hackett sought to address when they conceived the idea of creating a dance piece dealing with the issue of sexual assault on college campuses. With a cast of over a dozen students, the Center for Women’s Studies and the Network brought Dartmouth’s Dance Theater Ensemble to perform “Undue Influence” at Colgate.



From: <http://hop.dartmouth.edu/performances/dartmouth-dance-theater-ensemble>

On April 13, the Dartmouth Dance Theater Ensemble arrived at Colgate’s Center for Women’s Studies for dinner, discussion with some of Colgate’s staff and students, and to view Colgate’s brand new video campaign about sexual assault: “Be the Change.” They were intrigued by the Center as a space and resource on Colgate’s campus, and some students voiced their opinion that they wished a similar “center” could be at Dartmouth, as well. Through various discussions, it became clear that Colgate and Dartmouth share many of the same social issues. Both schools have a substantial Greek life presence (Dartmouth more so than Colgate), and both are looking for healthy ways through which individuals can interact socially without involvement in potentially compromising situations.

The dance itself took place that night at 8pm in Parker Commons. It was a



## Senior Spotlight: Breanna Pendleton

By: *Renyelle Jiménez '14*

**Breanna Pendleton**, senior from Olympia, Washington and overall rockstar, has made a considerable impact on our community while at Colgate. When she's not busy being a SOAN superstar, you can find her working at WMST as the Community Action Intern. Or at the Off-Campus Study office as a peer adviser. Or serving as the co-leader of the COVE group, Student Global AIDS Campaign. Or on the field during women's club rugby practice. Or catch her at home in the Positive Sexuality House. Or maybe she'll be in Ghana where she studied abroad last spring as a Benjamin A. Gilman Scholar. Wherever it is you may run into Breanna, you'll be sure to leave a lot happier as few people have energy as infectious as hers.



### **What was your first WMST course?**

The first WMST course was a cross-listed SOAN course taught by Meika Loe. I took her Sociology of Age, Aging, and the Lifecourse the fall of my junior year and LOVED it because I learned so much we rarely talk about and also got to do a video project on an elder in the community which was so fun! Since then, I've taken all cross-listed course such as Gender, Justice, and Environmental Change with Professor Hays-Mitchell, and Gender and Society in Africa with Professor Moran. Even though I'm not a WMST major, I am very interested in gender and write about it often for classes. My SOAN senior thesis was titled "Who Needs Saving? Neocolonialist Feminism in Ghana" and dealt with the imposition of Western feminism on women in Ghana.

### **What are your plans post-graduation?**

I am moving to Burlington, Vermont with my boyfriend and am currently applying for jobs in the social work sector!

### **If you could come back to Colgate next fall as a first-year, would you do anything differently?**

I would start taking WMST classes earlier on; I also wish I got involved in the center earlier. It is just such a wonderful place to be! I could have taken so much more advantage of all the brown bags and events, as well as just being in the center and with the WMST people.

### **What will you miss most about the Center and/or Colgate?**

I will definitely miss the people of Colgate, including my friends from around campus, and the people of the Center. I will miss getting to attend a Brown Bag at least once a week and learn something new! I will miss all the discussions of positive sexuality and feminism and everything those topics entail, but hope to continue these discussions wherever I end up!

**Goodbye and Good Luck, Breanna! We'll miss you!**

(continued from page 8) stylized, interpretive rendition of not only an act of sexual assault, but the circumstances leading up to it, the trauma after it, the consequences following it, the confusion surrounding it, and the stigmas attached to it. The dances varied from solo renditions, group dances, interpretive movement work, and partnered dancing. Overall, the performance was tremendously powerful. Most importantly, the dance captured the nuance of sexual assault. No fingers were pointed as to who was to "blame," nor did they resort to clichés of perpetrator vs. victim. The story they told was one wrought with misunderstandings in which lines were blurred, boundaries were crossed, and people were deeply hurt.

Following the dance was a Q&A with the dancers and members of the creative team. Most illuminating were the confessions by various dancers that involvement in this piece was not only their first time encountering dance, but also their first time discussing or contemplating issues of sexual assault or gender/sexual inequality on a college campus. It was inspiring to hear the men in the group confess how this experience changed their own viewpoints, prompting them to start mentorship programs within their own fraternities to educate their brothers on the seriousness of such issues.

## Be the Change: Reflecting on a Semester of Violence Prevention Activism

By: Kimmie Garner, WMST Program Assistant

This semester has been full of movement and progression. The Center continued to host a vibrant array of Brown Bags, off-campus speakers, and film screenings to large, inquisitive, and hungry crowds. The primary work of our staff, interns, and regular Brown Bag attendees focused on sexual assault prevention initiatives, which characterize this semester as one of intense engagement and change.

Students' activism following Brown Bags rose to a new level. Following rape survivor Renee DeVesty's Brown Bag presentation on April 10, students began discussing ways in which they could take immediate action regarding the lack of local SANE-trained nurses (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners) in Hamilton and voice zero tolerance for rape and sexual assault. As a result, the Positive Sexuality House and Theta Chi fraternity are in the process of having "Zero Tolerance for Rape" banners created to place outside of their living spaces and are requiring house members to sign agreements stating their commitment to be active bystanders and not commit or condone such acts.

This Brown Bag also coincided with the unveiling of *Be the Change*, a video project focused on sexual assault at Colgate. *Be the Change* arose out of conversations with students about sexual violence prevention. A committee comprised of cross-campus allies - administrators, faculty, staff, and students - began meeting in December 2011 and January 2012 to discuss and solidify the vision for the project. The purpose of the video is to link survivors and others to resources on campus, create transparency about the reporting and healing process, and display a unified message of zero tolerance and support. We hope to show the video in various venues around campus, from film screenings and CU TV, to the plasma screens in the Coop and the library and first-year orientation, so be on the lookout for it!

In addition to the previous initiatives, Colleen Nassimos, COVE Office Manager and Team Advisor for the Network, and I developed a three-part violence prevention seminar, *One in Three*, to train campus members on dimensions of violence, social factors that enable sexual and relationship violence to persist, and ways to be active bystanders, allies, and educators. Ten students and staff participated in the seminar and students submitted actual scenarios they had experienced for the participants to work through in the final session. We plan to offer this seminar next year and welcome anyone interested in violence prevention to join us!

Each of these initiatives demonstrates the power that **all** members of campus have to engage in feminist activism and create change. The Center remains a crucial space to incite conversations, spur campus members to creatively address injustices, and provide support in these ongoing processes. I look forward to continuing to do that next year and appreciate all you've done to support feminism at Colgate and beyond!



### The Center for Women's Studies Staff

**Director:**

Meika Loe,

Associate Professor of Sociology and Women's Studies

**Program Assistant:**

Kimmie Garner

**Administrative Assistant:**

Letta Palmer

**Student Interns:**

Natalie George '13

Renyelle Jiménez '14

Christina Liu '13

Breanna Pendleton '12

Xavia Publius '13

Michelle Van Veen '14

