With the issue of sexual assaults on campuses in the forefront, we must work together to stand up against violence by educating perpetrators, providing resources and support to the campus community, and making campuses safe for all.

A Message from the Chair

Huma Ahmed-Ghosh

The past year was a very packed year for our Department. We had a busy 2013-2014 organizing events to bring in speakers, host workshops, and most importantly surviving (very successfully) the five-year external review of our Department.

Besides the usual activities we engage in, our faculty achieved many milestones. I would like to congratulate our newly anointed Associate Professor Anh Hua on receiving tenure. Irene Lara’s co-edited volume, titled *Fleshing the Spirit: Spirituality and Activism in Chicana, Latina and Indigenous Women’s Lives* hit the bookshelves this year. Susan Cayleff completed her manuscript titled, *Nature’s Path: Naturopathic Medicine and Alternative Healing*. Sara Giordano published an article on “Scientific reforms, feminist interventions, and the politics of knowing,” in *Hypatia*, and a book chapter in an edited volume titled, *Gender and the Science of Difference*. Doreen Mattingly and Kimala Price as co-Directors revived our Bread and Roses Center for Feminist Research and Activism. Esther Rothblum was awarded the prestigious Monty Award, an
Faculty News

Susan E. Cayleff

Professor Susan Cayleff’s current research interests continue to be the history of medicine, girls’ studies, and the histories of LGBTQ sexualities. The final manuscript for Nature’s Path: Naturopathic Medicine and Alternative Healing has been sent to Johns Hopkins University Press. She is also writing the “Body Politics” introduction for Women in Culture: A Women’s Studies Anthology, co-edited with her colleagues, to be published by Blackwell Publishing. A continuing love affair with issues in women’s sports still informs her research projects. Dr. Cayleff teaches courses on women’s history in the U.S., women and sports, narrating women’s lives and body politics.

Huma Ahmed-Ghosh

Professor Huma Ahmed-Ghosh is the Chair of the Department of Women’s Studies at San Diego State University. She is also on the Advisory Board of the Center for Islamic and Arabic Studies and the Center for Asia-Pacific Studies. Her research focuses on women in Afghanistan, Muslim immigrant women to the USA, and Islam and feminism. Through research in Afghanistan, Ahmed-Ghosh has published extensively on women in Afghanistan, and mothering in the Afghan diaspora. She has also published on Muslim women’s issues in India and the USA, and on gendered ageing in India, widowhood, domestic violence and women’s representations in beauty pageants in India. Ahmed-Ghosh has also guest edited a Special Issue for the Journal of Lesbian Studies on Lesbians, Sexuality and Islam. Two books titled Contesting Feminisms: Gender and Islam in Asia, and Walking the Tightrope: Lived Realities of Asian Women are currently being published by SUNY Press, New York. Ahmed-Ghosh is also working on a co-authored book titled, Women Transforming Communities: Confronting Conflict and Building Peace. She has spent the past summer negotiating/wrestling with the University’s administration and bureaucracy in an attempt to set up a Women’s Resource Center and as a member of the University’s Sexual Violence Task Force! Besides teaching undergraduate students, one of my favorite activist experiences is taking students on Travel Study Abroad. Traveling with SDSU students (men and women) for periods of ten days to three weeks to India, South Africa, Ghana, Jamaica, China and Turkey has kept me on a feminist mission 24/7!

Esther Rothblum

Professor Esther Rothblum received the Alumni Association Award for Outstanding Faculty Contributions to the University in August 2014. Also known as the “Monty,” this statue is given to one faculty member from each SDSU college during Convocation, accompanied by a video about that faculty member. In the video Esther described her background in women’s studies, lesbian studies, and fat studies, and also practiced her juggling skills so she could juggle in front of the camera. She wanted to demonstrate that academia is also a juggling act—between research, teaching, and service—and that it is important not to drop the ball. Esther also competed in the Gay Games for the second time, winning the silver medal in doubles racquetball along with her racquetball partner Beth Mintz from Vermont. Their team name was “E.Coli-the Killer Team.” Esther’s favorite form of activism is getting women to publish. Women still represent a small proportion of published authors, yet have much to say about the state of the world.

Anh Hua

Associate Professor Anh Hua received her BA in Cultural Anthropology as well as her MA and PhD in Women’s Studies at York University in Toronto. She joined the Women’s Studies Department at SDSU in Fall 2008. In May 2014, she received her tenure and promotion and became an Associate Professor. At SDSU, she teaches the following undergraduate and graduate courses: “Women in Literature,” “Women’s Experience of Migration,” “Women and Violence,” “Gender, Culture and Representation,” and “Gender and Diaspora.” Her areas of research include Asian and Black diaspora studies, cultural studies, critical race and postcolonial feminisms, migratory and diasporic identities, communities and cultural productions (literature, film and the visual arts). At the moment, she is working on two book projects: a rewriting of her PhD dissertation into a book manuscript tentatively entitled Feminist Diasporic Art, and her Feminist Traveling Diasporic Memoir.

Doreen Mattingly

Associate Professor Doreen Mattingly is making steady progress on her book, An Unwilling Token: Midge Costanza, the Carter Administration, and Washington Feminism, and hopes to have a complete draft to a publisher this fall. Two articles based on the book research have been published recently (one in Journal of Women’s History and one in Journal of Lesbian Studies) and another will be out soon in Feminist Studies. This fall she is teaching a new class, “Feminist Activism and Organizations” that will focus on learning about local San Diego women’s organizations. She is also the department undergraduate advisor, coordinator for the internship program, and co-director of the Bread and Roses Center. In her free time she keeps busy with the University Senate, General Education Committee, and California Faculty Association. This fall she will also be chairing a Senate Task Force on Class Size.
I have a short memory, so my favorite activist battles are the ones I’m involved in right now: fighting for smaller classes and better faculty pay at SDSU. As a product of California public education, I cannot bear to watch the system become privatized and depersonalized.

Irene Lara

Associate Professor Irene Lara recently published *Fleshing the Spirit: Spirituality and Activism in Chicana, Latina, Indigenous Women’s Lives* (co-edited with Elisa Facio) and will host a panel of contributors for a book release event at SDSU on November 25 at 2 pm.

A favorite feminist experience has been co-organizing the Reproductive and Sexual Justice Healing Circle and Workshop three different times as SDSU (with colleague Kim Price in 2010 and 2012; with colleague Sara Giordano in 2014; and several undergraduate and graduate students and social justice community activists throughout the years, including California Latinas for Reproductive Justice, Brown Boi Project, Dorothy Roberts, and Luz Alvarez Martinez).

Kimala Price

Associate Professor Kimala Price was on sabbatical during the Spring 2014 semester. While on sabbatical, she conducted field research for her ongoing project on the activism of women of color within the reproductive justice movement, continued her work that examines both the verbal and visual rhetorical strategies used by the anti-abortion movement to mobilize the African American community, and gave several invited talks and conference presentations at places such as Mills College and the annual conference of the National Association of Ethnic Studies. Dr. Price teaches courses on gender, race and class; reproductive justice; sexuality and the body; and women’s relationships and social policy. She continues to serve on the board of Planned Parenthood in San Diego. Along with Doreen Mattingly, she serves as Co-Director for the revamped Bread and Roses Center for Feminist Research and Activism, which will sponsor the Feminist Research Justice Symposium in Spring 2015.

One of my favorite feminist activist experiences was participating in the 1995 United Nations Fourth Conference on Women which was held in Beijing, China. I was part of a delegation representing a Washington, DC-based NGO, and it was one of my first forays into transnational feminist politics. (I was only in my mid-twenties at the time.)

Sara Giordano

Assistant Professor Sara Giordano’s area of focus is feminist science studies. Through her research she critically examines scientific assumptions and claims about race, gender, sexuality, disability and other socially salient categories of difference. She is currently working on two projects. The first focuses on the DIY ethics of synthetic biology; comparing synthetic biologists’ plans for open access science with decades-old calls from feminist communities for democratic, community-based and community-controlled practices. The second project looks at biometric technologies, such as face recognition software. The aim of this project is to ask what understandings of race and gender inform current biometric technologies and what effect could/should interdisciplinary understandings of these categories have on these technologies. One of Dr. Giordano’s long-term goals is to develop a community/academic science partnership based on the concept of a feminist science shop.

One of my favorite activist projects was being a panelist for Whose Vaginas Monologues? Feminist critiques of V-day. I spoke along with an intersex activist, Trans activist and South Asian activist about critiques that have been ignored by V-day. We ended up bringing together students who were members of the performance to have a dialogue about what could become.

Anne Donadey

Professor Anne Donadey has been teaching feminist theory for the Women’s Studies department and enjoyed offering Foundations of Feminist Scholarship (the introduction to graduate studies course) for the first time last fall. She continues to remain active in university governance, most recently by participating in the Provost’s search committee, serving on the strategic plan working group on recruitment and retention of underrepresented faculty, and chairing the department of European Studies where she also teaches courses in French. She is currently working on two edited book projects, the first of which is Approaches to Teaching the Works of Assia Djebar (one of the most famous Arab women writers). The other project is a second edition of the Women’s Studies anthology *Women in Culture: An Interdisciplinary Anthology of Gender and Women’s Studies*, co-edited with colleagues Bonnie Kime Scott, Susan Cayleff, and Irene Lara.

Anne’s favorite activist experience is facilitating diversity and social justice workshops for various community organizations and university groups. Over the years, she has given workshops on anti-racism, privilege, and becoming effective allies to feminist and LGBTQ groups; feminist workshops for students interested in multicultural competency; and workshops on teaching diverse students and topics effectively to interested faculty and staff.

Thanks!

Teddi Brock

Thanks to Teddi Brock who celebrates her 15th anniversary with the department in November! She has extensively supported the production of this newsletter in addition to her ongoing work to keep everything running smoothly.

My favorite feminist activity is coming to work every day…

Cindy Kim

We’d also like to thank our office assistant Cindy Kim who brings her cheerfulness and willingness to support us and learn in this feminist environment. We enjoy having her around and pleased that she returned to us this year.
A Penny for Her Thoughts: Reflections on Women’s Studies Internship

Christine Landor, Undergraduate Student

I paid fifty thousand dollars on a feminist education when I could have bought it for one cent. In a sea of bars and restaurants on 30th Street in North Park, there is a space called Stage 7 School of Dance. This is where I would spend a portion of my summer trying to fulfill my Women’s Studies internship. When I asked the owner and operator of Stage 7, Kathryn Irey, to mentor me she said, “This internship is about power and freedom!” In order to unpack that statement, I needed the help of several dancers, my camera, and the autobiography of Isadora Duncan titled, My Life (1928). I ordered the book online, for a penny, and began a 120-hour internship of documenting power, freedom, activism, and movement, through a feminist lens.

My internship goal was to study the work of the American dancer Isadora Duncan (1877–1927) and to digitally choreograph a short film. My task was to document dance footage and compose a seven-minute video clip. The purpose of the film was to supply a teaching tool for the dancers at Stage 7; a tool they could use to study because there is no cinema of Duncan dancing. One can find a thirteen-second clip online but that is all there is. My goal was to create something that was not there, and in order to do that, I needed to discover who Isadora was and how dancers embody her iconic gestures.

Through this internship, I have discovered the art of dance, Isadora Duncan, and the unsung dance heroines of my community. Each time the women at Stage 7 dance they are sending something out into the world that isn’t always preserved in the archives. The intimate dance soirées that Stage 7 hosts are not in the papers, and seldom is movement considered activism. The short film was meaningful to me because I had a chance to preserve a piece of her story that would have otherwise never been captured. Kathryn Irey told me that in order to successfully complete this internship I had to discover, “Time, space, dynamics and my own intentions and capacity to make meaning out of my tasks.” I have learned that freedom and power are viable in movement and that dance is an embodiment of bigger issues in the lives of women. Dance is an exercise of activism and the reclamation of space. For 120-hours, I was Isadora Duncan with the rest of them. I have spent fifty-thousand dollars learning how to unpack feminist theory, and one-penny learning how to apply it through dance. One summer internship at Stage 7, and a penny for Isadora Duncan’s thoughts, proved priceless.

Feminist Research Justice Symposium

Taylor Wondergem, Graduate Student

In conjunction with the Women’s Studies Department, The Bread and Roses Center will host the Feminist Research Justice Symposium on February 27, 2015. This one-day event provides an opportunity for emerging feminist researchers to connect with local organizations. The Feminist Research Justice Symposium is focused around five themes: empowering girls, reproductive rights and justice, domestic violence, working women, and electoral politics. Multiple community organizations concerned with at least one of the themes, including Jewish Family Services, the LGBT Center, Planned Parenthood, San Diego Domestic Violence Coalition, Center for Policy Initiatives, and Run Women Run, will speak on panels about their programs and research needs. The discussions will highlight the organization’s research needs and encourage collaboration between student scholars and community organizations in designing research programs. Students will have the opportunity to partner with an organization to carry out the research designs emerging from the symposium. For first year MA students, this presents a unique opportunity to conduct thesis research for a local feminist organization. The Bread and Roses Center will invite student scholar and community organization partnerships to compete for a small grant funded by the President’s Leadership Fund. If selected, students will be named fellows of The Bread and Roses Center and receive support for their research projects.
A Message from the Chair

continued from page 1

SDSU award that recognizes outstanding contributions to the university, as well as winning a silver medal in racquetball at the Gay Games. Anne Donadey, Chair of European Studies, continues her service to the Women’s Studies Department by being on a number of committees while she also perseveres on the Women in Culture anthology with women’s studies colleagues.

The colloquium series for last year, titled Science, Sexuality and Health was organized by Sara Giordano and Irene Lara. In line with the theme, Women’s International Day was celebrated with a panel on “Water, Sovereignty, and Social Justice: Honoring International Women’s Day.” The keynote speaker was Native water rights lawyer Susan Williams (Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate). This session was accompanied by a partial screening of a film highlighting women’s involvement in the Peace and Dignity Journey 2012 by Sharah Nieto, and a talk by local activist Elizabeth Pantoja who participated in the Midwest route of this Indigenous solidarity run to/from Alaska and Tierra del Fuego dedicated to water. This year the Bread and Roses Center will host speakers on the topic of Women and Politics. A Female Research Justice Symposium in Feburary 2015 will bring in local elected women officials to address our students. Updates will be available on our website: womensstudies.sdsu.edu.

The Department of Women’s Studies is also one of the few departments that has taken the lead in Travel Study Abroad Programs. This year we added Jamaica in partnership with the University of the West Indies. The Department has also approved an internship or Travel Abroad requirement for all Women’s Studies majors. In the summer of 2015, I will lead a Travel Study Abroad trip for a course titled “Sustainability and Gender in India” which will also include a private audience for our students with the Dalai Lama.

We have also welcomed our entering graduate students, and others now entering their second year. It has been my honor to encounter each one of them in the introductory graduate course Women’s Studies 601 in the Fall semester. I am glad to conclude that both groups are very bright and enthusiastic students who keep our hallways buzzing with laughter and activity.

I would also like to acknowledge our lecturers and part-timers. Without their contributions to teaching, this department would not survive. Jacki Leak, Janet Roberts, Sue Gonda, Moriah Meeks, Jessica Nare, Shogofa Abassi, Cat Thompson, Geneva Robinson-Darcueil and Dae Elliott help maintain a robust course offering for our majors and minors. We are sad that we have had to bid farewell to one of our lecturers. We wish Jacki Leak a productive retirement and exciting future ventures. Janet Roberts is in her final semester with us—while she starts off the New Year with relaxation and happiness, we will sorely miss her too.

This department cannot function and survive without the untiring efforts and most sociable presence of Teddi Brock. Teddi Brock in her capacity as the administrative coordinator not only works for the Department of Women’s Studies but also assists in LGBTQ major and minor programs, the Young Women’s Studies Club and SafeZones, as well as keeping our MA program organized. Her talent in creating fliers, posters and brochures definitely shows up in our programs, commence-ments and events for which she also offers much administrative support.

In conclusion, I would like to make a special plea for donations to the Department of Women’s Studies. This year, our graduate funding was halved and existing funds are fast dwindling. Any support would be highly appreciated. The Department of Women’s Studies continues to be dedicated to teaching, mentoring and publishing. Fighting for social justice is a constant driving force for most of our faculty.
Dorothy Roberts Speaks about Reproductive Justice

Mary Marchan, Graduate Student

In April of 2014, the Women’s Studies department at San Diego State University had the honor of hosting Dorothy Roberts at the annual Bread and Roses scholarship ceremony and the Reproductive Justice and Sexual Healing Circle. Dorothy Roberts is an internationally renowned scholar and social justice advocate whose work focuses on the intersections of gender, race, and class in public policy and law. Her work has made major contributions in transforming ideas surrounding health, welfare, and bioethics. More specifically, some of her major books include Killing the Black Body: Race, Reproduction and the Meaning of Liberty (Pantheon, 1997), Shattered Bonds: The Color of Child Welfare (Basic Books, 2002), and Fatal Invention: How Science, Politics, and Big Business Recreate Race in the Twenty-first Century (New Press, 2011). Currently, she is a professor of law and sociology at the University of Pennsylvania.

At both events, Dorothy Roberts spoke about reproductive justice, outlining the concepts in reproductive health scholarship, the current issues in the U.S. context, and the future of reproductive justice scholarship and advocacy. Beginning both lectures with true stories that were seemingly unrelated to each other, the stories unraveled in ways that revealed their interconnectedness and the centrality of reproductive justice to issues affecting race, class, gender, and sexuality. She noted how different kinds of women are disenfranchised through the state control of their bodies along different state mechanisms like welfare, legislation, and access to health care. Concluding both lectures, she advocated a shift from the framework of reproductive choice, common in the U.S., to a reproductive justice framework that calls attention to the social context of interlocking oppressions in which decisions are made.

The Reproductive Justice and Sexual Healing Circle

Mary Marchan, Graduate Student

This workshop was founded on the theorizing and practices of women of color that led to the framework for reproductive justice. As this framework recognizes the multiple forms of oppression that affect reproductive health, it acknowledges the significance of collective and individual experiences, as well as individual and collective healing, to further social justice. Pairing reproductive justice with holistic, co-counseling techniques, the purpose of the workshop was to build community through healing and encourage activism. The leaders of the event were Gabriela Valle, Mayra Lizette Yñiguez, and Laura Jiménez of California Latinas for Reproductive Justice; Luz Alvarez Martinez, former director of the National Latina Health Organization; Dorothy Roberts, professor at the University of Pennsylvania Law; and Women’s Studies Professors Irene Lara and Sara Giordano, among others.
Connecting Feminist Students with Local Feminist Organizations in Class

Taylor Wondergem, Graduate Student

As part of the Women’s Studies Department and The Center for Bread and Roses “Women’s Studies in the Community” initiative, the Women’s Studies Department began offering a new class, WMNST 596 Feminist Organizations and Activism in Fall 2014. The course directly links feminist scholarship with local feminist activist organizations, non-profits, and social businesses in the San Diego area. Each week, students welcome guest speakers from the local community who discuss connections between their work and feminist theory. In addition to guest speakers, students design and conduct action-oriented research projects in conjunction with local organizations.

Students in the course are finding themselves inspired by the speakers and carrying their feminist passions into their activist projects. When asked about the course, graduate student Laura Ortiz recalls a recent guest speaker, “Recently, we had Nora Vargas of Planned Parenthood. She was amazing! At 1 a.m. I was still thinking about her talk with us. Everyone is really excited about the class. It has a completely practical approach. We have had speakers from non-profits talking to us about their experiences.” Other students echo Ortiz’s excitement, indicating an overall enthusiasm and desire to attend class each week.

In developing and teaching the course, Dr. Doreen Mattingly collaborated with Women’s Studies MA alumni who are now working in feminist activist organizations, non-profits, and social businesses in the San Diego area. In addition to providing valuable insight into local feminist organizations and helping secure guest speakers, the alumni also gave guest lectures about their own feminist work.

Women’s Studies in the Community: Revitalizing The Bread and Roses Center

Taylor Wondergem, Graduate Student

Since its establishment in 2002, The Bread and Roses Center has been promoting creativity, scholarship, and community action in support of the women’s movement. Each year the Bread and Roses Center supports various outreach activities of the Women’s Studies Department, including the Feminist Research Colloquia Series and the Young Women’s Studies Club. In 2014, Women’s Studies Professors Dr. Doreen Mattingly and Dr. Kimala Price became the Directors of the Center, and are working to revive and broaden the Center’s mission and outreach. While the Center will continue supporting departmental activities, it will also focus more specifically on building a strong local feminist community, linking feminist theory to practice, and training future feminist advocates and professionals.

With support from a generous donation by Deb Carstens and a grant from the President’s Leadership Fund, the Bread and Roses Center and the Department of Women’s Studies have launched a new initiative entitled “Women’s Studies in the Community.” This initiative works to connect SDSU feminist researchers with local organizations serving women. The initiative includes the introduction of a new Women’s Studies class, “Feminist Organizations and Activism,” a one-day Research Justice Symposium, and a competitive grant to support collaborative research between SDSU researchers and community organizations.
The Vagina Monologues

Sharlene Castle, Undergraduate Student

There are few events in the movement to end violence against women and girls that are more effective, compelling, and fun to watch than *The Vagina Monologues*. Written in 1994 by playwright and activist Eve Ensler, *The Vagina Monologues* is a full theatre production about—you guessed it—vaginas. In an effort to learn about women’s experiences of everything from sexual self-discovery to sexual assault, Ensler traveled the world interviewing women about their vaginas: what they liked about them, what they disliked about them, and what they want other people to know about them.

Those interviews inspired *The Vagina Monologues*, which includes such varied monologues as “Hair,” “My Angry Vagina,” and “Because He Liked to Look At It.” Many of the monologues are funny while others are heart wrenching, but the show as a whole illuminates the diversity of the female experience and underscores the reality of sexual assault and the urgency ending it requires.

*The Vagina Monologues* is now performed in over 140 countries worldwide under the guidance of V-Day, Ensler’s non-profit organization dedicated to ending violence against women and girls. In addition to raising awareness about violence against women, V-Day also raises funds to end it: one hundred percent of the proceeds from each performance of *The Vagina Monologues* are donated to local organizations that empower and aid women and girls who have been subject to domestic, sexual, or other forms of violence. V-Day SDSU, San Diego State University’s chapter of V-Day, has been producing an annual benefit performance of *The Vagina Monologues* for over a decade. In 2014, V-Day SDSU raised over $13,000 for STARS, a San Diego non-profit that provides services to teen girls in San Diego who have been involved in commercial sexual exploitation and domestic trafficking. In addition to its monetary contributions, V-Day SDSU has made great strides in raising awareness about sexual assault within the SDSU community by hosting other events and collaborating with women’s, Greek, and other student organizations. This year’s production of *The Vagina Monologues* at San Diego State will be February 6–8, 2015. If you wish to get involved or have any questions, please email vdaysdsu@gmail.com or visit facebook.com/vdaysdsu or vday.org for more info.

The Young Women’s Studies Club

Claire Plourde, Graduate Student

The Young Women’s Studies Club is an activist opportunity that bridges San Diego State University and the community through weekly lunchtime meetings at Hoover High School in City Heights. The Young Women’s Studies Club, joint effort between the Department of Women’s Studies and Hoover High School, seeks to create a more just, feminist, and race aware world. The meetings specifically focus on different topics that impact girls which can include body image, self-esteem, the media’s representation of women, goal-setting, responding to sexual and street harassment as well as learning about LGBTQ issues. This is accomplished through discussions with undergraduate and graduate mentors and the production of various creative projects.

As the graduate coordinator of the Club, I am honored to be a part of such a unique, powerful, and brilliant program designed to empower young women. The Club’s success, which has spanned over twenty years, is immediately evident in the lives of the Club members and the mentors. The opportunity to take part in a girl-focused space is not only rare, but it is hugely welcomed by the Hoover High School Students.

Over the past year, the Club has gained such enormous popularity that Club members have to show up immediately to get a seat. Average attendance spans from forty to fifty members per week, often with standing room only for many students. The Club’s acceptance is not only exciting for the students, but it also shows the continued need for a feminist space for youth. The Young Women’s Studies Club is able to provide this welcoming environment that encourages girls to use their voices to claim their lived experiences as important and of value.

This year at the Club we are looking forward to engaging in discussions and activities around feminism, goal-setting, analyzing representations of women in the media, holding an LGBTQ panel and having a college application workshop.
Faculty Student Mentoring Program

My Curandera-Scholar-Activist Experience

Erika Pérez, Undergraduate Student

Overall, I am really grateful for having had the opportunity to be in such an amazing program my last year at SDSU. This program has helped me develop in many realms of life - on academic, professional, and personal levels. Through this program I have been able to engage in Women of Color feminist literatures that are often not included in my other classes. I connected with these writers and feel validated in my experiences and empowered through their rhetoric. I learned about many new concepts including curanderas (women who are considered healers in their communities) and transformational epistemologies, which I can apply to my professional and personal life.

A great part of this class was focused on preparing us as scholars and for graduate school. Through the program, we had the opportunity to attend the National Association of Chicana and Chicano Studies conference in Salt Lake City. This was the first academic conference I attended; prior to this experience, I saw conferences and graduate school in such an abstract manner. I can say that it was thanks to this preparation that I feel that graduate school is definitely something I can accomplish. I also believe I can contribute to academia with my own research and to present it at national conferences.

We also further developed as activists by using our research to highlight an issue in society and to propose solutions through a creative project approach. It is our goal that through this set of tools, Curanderas-Scholars-Activists, we can facilitate healing and empowerment for our communities and ourselves. I am still working on a project that I had envisioned many years ago; it wasn’t until I joined FSMP-CSA that I received the guidance to research, plan, and develop a plan to carry out this vision. This vision is slowly, but surely, becoming a reality for me.

I have a grand appreciation for my mentor, Dr. Irene Lara, and for everyone in this cohort that contributed to such an experience. Had I been able to join earlier in my undergraduate years, I definitely would have!

I speak highly of this program and definitely recommend it to others!

The Andrea O’Donnell Womyn’s Outreach Association

Jessica Valencia, Undergraduate Student

The Andrea O’Donnell Womyn’s Outreach Association (WOA) is a small on-campus organization that strives to educate and inform our members and SDSU students about issues women face in our daily lives, in the United States and abroad. WOA is currently the only organization on campus with the explicit mission to empower and liberate the female student population of SDSU. We do this by holding weekly meetings in which we discuss different topics that affect women. Through these discussions we wish to question and challenge ideas about women within our society and throughout the world. We table throughout the semester to distribute information and invite people to join us in our meetings.

WOA hosts two major events during the academic year:

Love Your Body Day (LYBD) takes place during the Fall semester, (this year it was on November 13th), and it is an event that promotes body positivity and having a healthy image of one’s body. Through LYBD, WOA challenges the construction of beauty in the United States and we deconstruct the “beauty norm.” We give SDSU student different tools to love and accept their body. We distribute information about eating health foods and leading a healthy life, embracing all bodies, and resources to help with all of this. WOA invites organizations to table and distribute information, engages in games with attendees to raise awareness about body issues, hosts a cultural panel to discuss the different beauty expectations within various cultures, and invites speakers to talk about having a good body image, eating healthfully, and deconstructing beauty expectations.

Take Back the Night takes place in April, Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and protests the violence women face in our society. WOA hosts a march around the SDSU campus protesting rape, sexual harassment and assault, and slut shaming. We invite speakers to talk about these issues and why it is important to break the silence about them. We hold an Open Mic starting with Andrea O’Donnell’s story and invite our attendees to share their stories in an open and healing space. We also invite organizations to table and distribute information about rape, sexual assault, and resources to help us heal.

WOA has been working with other organizations to collaborate in hosting events. Last semester we hosted a Self Defense Workshop in collaboration with SDSU’s Women’s Resource Area, a Women’s Empowerment Speaker with Pan-Hellenic Council and the Women’s Resource Area, and Trans* Week of Empowerment with the Queer Student Union, SDSU’s Pride Center, Queer People of Color Collective, SafeZones, Gamma Rho Lamba, Delta Lambda Phi, and OUTreach. This semester we plan on hosting a movie screening and an event reaching out to new freshmen to invite them to learn about feminism.

You can learn more about us on our website: http://www.aodwoasdsu.org/
Scholarships!

Undergraduate Scholarships

• **Andrea O’Donnell Memorial Scholarship:** Ornella Godoy-Perez, Miriam Melendez, Marna Shorack, and Jessica Sabory, recipients (pictured with Professor Susan Cayleff).

Given in the memory of an activist student at SDSU, this $1,000 scholarship was designed to aid in the education of SDSU undergraduate students who demonstrate commitment to community activism and leadership in developing, promoting, or supporting activities which empower women.

• **Joanne Davis Women’s Studies Scholarship:** Farhiya Mohamud, recipient

In memory of Joanne Davis, this $1,000 scholarship is given in support of students whose parents did not attend a four-year college or university.

• **The Sue Russell Scholarship:** Jessica Arroyo and Shyanne Shelton, recipients.

Given in memory of an SDSU graduate who earned her degree later in life, this scholarship was created to aid Women’s Studies majors or minors who demonstrate academic success while facing challenges toward attaining their degree.

• **Betty Nesvold Scholarship:** Nassim Moallen, recipient

Given in memory of one of the founders of the department, this scholarship is for undergraduate Women’s Studies majors or minors who plan to enroll for the following academic year on the basis of outstanding academic achievement.

Graduate Scholarships

• **Oliva Espín Graduate Student Scholarship:** Laura Ortiz and Mary Marchan, recipients.

Given by Professor Emerita Oliva Espín, this scholarship is awarded to students in the SDSU Women’s Studies M.A. Program who are entering their second year of study or beyond and who have a thesis advisor. Their research should focus upon lesbian women and/or women of color.

• **Phyllis Hall Graduate Student Scholarship:** Claire Plourde, recipient

Given by Professor Laura J. Hall in honor of her mother, this scholarship is available to students in the SDSU Women’s Studies M.A. Program who are entering their second year of study and link the relevance of their thesis topics to post-graduation goals. This scholarship recognizes the contribution of Phyllis Hall to Women’s Studies during her years in publishing.

• **Wertz/Carstens Sistership:** Taylor Wondergem, recipient

Given in honor of Professor Jackie Wertz by her student Deb Carstens, this award honors the beginnings of the Department. This is given to incoming MA students.

• **Bonnie and Tom Scott Sistership:** Claire Plourde, recipient

Given by Professors Bonnie and Tom Scott in order to help recruit new MA students into the program by increasing their financial aid award.

Congratulations to all!

Save the Dates!

**Spring 2015**

**Bread and Roses Feminist Research Colloquia**

All events are open to the public. Dates, times, and locations are tentative so please visit our website for updates: [womensstudies.sdsu.edu](http://womensstudies.sdsu.edu)

- Friday, April 27, “Feminist Research Justice Symposium” All-day workshop
- Wednesday, March 18, noon, Lillian Faderman
- Wednesday, April 8, noon, Zenzele Isoke “Black Urban Women and the Politics of Resistance”
- Tuesday, April 14 Luz Calvo and Catriôna Rueda Esquibel, “Decolonizing Food”
- Thursday, April 23, 7 pm, Scholarship Lecture, Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez
Lavender Graduation

Ashley Green, Graduate Student

On May 7, 2014, the LGBT Studies Program and SafeZones@SDSU held their fifth annual Lavender Graduation ceremony. Lavender Graduation is a special ceremony for LGBTQ students and allies, allowing a safe space for those who may not be out to their families or the campus community to celebrate their accomplishments with their partners, friends, and other loved ones. This year Lavender Graduation honored approximately forty graduates from eighteen different departments across SDSU’s campus. Each student was given the opportunity to say a few words as they walked across the stage, and many mentioned how moved they were that such a space existed on this campus.

In addition to honoring this year’s graduates, special awards were presented to SDSU’s Chief Diversity Officer, Aaron Bruce, Dr. Carrie Sakai of Counseling and Psychological Services, and SDSU alumnus Robert DeKoven for everything they have done in support of LGBT issues. Visiting scholar Anzio Jacobs was also presented with a “SafeZones Award” for all of the work he has done internationalizing the SafeZones program at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa.

SafeZones@SDSU

Mary Kasik, Graduate Student

SafeZones@SDSU is a program dedicated to providing a welcoming, informative, educational, and safe campus atmosphere for all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, and ally (LGBTQQIA) students, faculty, staff, administrators, and members of the campus community. SafeZones came about in fall of 2007 after a series of homophobic incidents occurred on the SDSU campus. Students felt unsafe after experiencing verbal and physical harassment on campus, so people representing different organizations on campus gathered to create a permanent program that would make SDSU a safe, welcoming campus for all LGBTQQI students, faculty, administrators, staff, and their allies.

The SafeZones@SDSU program offers Ally Trainings (run by Counseling and Psychological Services) that teach individuals to become effective listeners and supporters, fostering a positive campus environment. SafeZones is also involved in social justice programming by putting on a variety of events in order to address the needs of LGBTQ students. These events include National Coming Out Day, a bi-annual Resource Fair, and an annual Lavender Graduation. SafeZones also has film nights, discussion panels, tabling, and a student organization. SafeZones helps run these events with the help of volunteers and interns. Overall, SafeZones@SDSU is a beneficial program that has significantly contributed to SDSU’s 5-Star LGBTQ Friendly-Rating.
Dr. Huma Ahmed-Ghosh led a trip to Kingston, Jamaica in spring of 2014. ‘Gender issues in the Caribbean’ was the core focus of our excursion. Prior to the trip, students attended sessions covering topics such as women in Afro-Caribbean history and the impact of globalization, especially US policies, on Jamaica’s economic hardships.

Our first cultural experience was in the living room of one of the apartments. The Sistren Theatrical Group performed skits about domestic violence and interpersonal communications followed by a spoken word poetry performance. Our next stop was Edna Manley School for the Performing Arts. The master dance instructor took us through warm-ups, four drummers began the beat and the dance teacher bellowed, “Follow my movements and breathe.” Though we didn’t know we could contort like this, we danced for an hour or more. Our bodies were now pliable and loose and our skin glistened with the sheen of perspiration.

A special treat awaited us as we arrived at the Bob Marley Museum—his actual residence. The walls were covered in murals containing quotes, lyrics, family portraits, historical representations and other images. We felt the positive energy emanating from the garden that held a statue of Marley surrounded by stone lions. Bob Marley’s presence still resonates. He is still home.

Labor Day (May 24) is celebrated much differently in Jamaica than in the United States with voluntary community involvement. We helped to clean the central park in downtown Kingston through painting, raking and trash collection while being entertained by a parade. The music of school bands resonated through the streets and our work was rewarded by a feast in the park.

We visited Women’s Resource and Outreach Center (WROC) where the leadership encouraged a long term partnership between their organization and SDSU. WROC is an NGO that provides medical services and educational and professional training for women in need. They offer guidance and counseling services to women who are homeless or are victims of domestic violence. The leadership exuded positivity, strength and most of all patience in their mission.

Our visit to The University of The West Indies (UWI) at Mona included very informative lectures. The Jamaican Forum of Lesbians, All-Sexuals and Gays, known as JFLAG (jflag.org) brought members to talk about the violence and discrimination they face daily. They revealed that there are no ‘Hate Crime’ laws in Jamaica and thus no government protection. Each panelist expressed their own personal story of coming out to friends and family, and how they were treated. One woman shared her story of going through sexual reorientation surgery—from male to female—and how there were no doctors on the island who could or would perform the task or prescribe the needed hormones. Her community rejected her, at times violently, and then she found refuge with JFLAG. This discussion shed light on current conditions within the LGBT community on the island.

This trip was an eye-opener for all of us. The impact of colonialism was still very present, but hope is on the horizon given the growth of community services, non-government organizations and individuals working towards the betterment of their society. Despite the poverty and social issues, the landscape of Jamaica is stunning, the people very generous, and the culture steeped in music, poetry and art. I hope to be back there again next year!
Women’s Studies
Internship at Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition

Jessica Arroyo, Undergraduate Student

In March, Women’s Studies hosted a visit by sixteen women from countries in Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Europe with the State Department’s International Visitor Leadership Program. They were invited to San Diego by the San Diego Diplomacy Council. In their home countries they run programs for health care, gender equality, education and women’s empowerment through microloans. When they arrived on campus, Women’s Studies faculty, staff, and graduate students were on hand to host a reception and a discussion on common issues faced internationally. Besides visiting SDSU, they visited a recovery program for victims of sexual exploitation, an artists’ cooperative, an “Empowering Women” exhibit, and hit the major tourist spots. They enjoyed their time on campus and we exchanged many great ideas for future collaboration.

LGBT Graduate Certificate Now Open at SDSU

Laura Ortiz, Graduate Student

This fall marks a first for San Diego State University, the CSU System and for the state of California. It is the first semester for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Graduate Certificate program at SDSU. It also marks the first of its kind in the California State University system to have an advanced certificate in LGBT Studies and it is also the first in the state. Additionally, it is one of few LGBT Advanced Certificate programs in the nation.

This advanced certificate became a reality thanks to the many students who made the focus of their thesis research in the LGBT area, in addition to other work conducted by students and faculty, showing the need for an advanced certificate program. The advanced certificate is a 12-unit program including an internship in graduate level work specific to the diversity in sexuality and sexual identity. The courses are interdisciplinary with a range of eligible courses from English, LGBT, Public Health, Religious Studies, and Women Studies. This program is designed for post-baccalaureate students who wish to expand their knowledge in the “cultural, historical, ethnic/racial, and contemporary experiences or people across sexualities” (http://lgbt.sdsu.edu/certificate.html). It is also designed for those who would like to seek employment in the service of LGBT communities and organizations.

If you are interested in adding this certificate to your Master’s program, please contact the LGBT Studies advisor, Dr. Esther Rothblum (erothblu@mail.sdsu.edu) for an appointment to complete a Request for Permission to Enter an Advanced Certificate Program form and subsequently take it to the Graduate Division in SSW.
Graduating Seniors
Jessika Seekatz, Mara Salinas, Diana Y. Ramon, Elizabeth Khalifeh, Roxanne Cueva, Parisa Crockett, Stephanie Cook, Lizbeth Comery. Not pictured, Megan Rogers.

MA Graduates and their thesis topics:

Sanam Kalhoro: “The Politics of Space and the Creation of the Third: a Study of the Women’s Parliamentary Caucus in Pakistan”

Damien Sutton: “The Interpersonal is Political: Contesting Patriarchy Within the Chaldean Community”

Rhianna Maras: “A Feminist Re-reading of U.S. Media Depictions of Women Murderers”

We also honor our Outstanding Graduating Senior, class of 2014 Parisa Crockett and her Most Influential Faculty Doreen Mattingly
Mid-Semester Reflections on being a Graduate Teaching Associate

Taylor Wondergem, Graduate Student

After a summer of carefully choosing readings, designing class projects and creating a syllabus, I am now teaching Women’s Studies 101 Self, Identity and Society twice a week at 8:00 AM. With each week, I find myself becoming more inspired by my students’ overall eagerness to learn. When I was assigned a morning class, I worried that students would resist feminist pedagogical practices that required them to actively engage in class early in the morning. I imagined forty people staring blankly at me each time I asked them to form small groups, completely uninterested. Contrary to my fears, my students are enthusiastic, ask questions, introduce new ideas and respond to one another, and to me, with genuine interest and respect. Each day I leave the classroom, I am filled with gratitude for the previous seventy-five minutes of teaching and learning.

While preparing to teach, I spent a lot of time reflecting on my own learning experiences. I thought about the classrooms that felt welcoming, the classrooms that were isolating, the teachers who inspired and empowered me, and the teachers who intimidated and silenced me. In taking Women’s Studies 612: Feminist Pedagogies with Dr. Irene Lara, I learned to identify the teaching strategies my own feminist mentors had used in their classrooms, and obtained a knowledge base to implement feminist pedagogical strategies in my own classroom. In Feminist Pedagogies, I was able to practice and develop the skills to create a feminist learning community.

The mentors in the Department of Women’s Studies make it possible for graduate students to teach, providing ongoing support and leading by example. Without the example set by the faculty as well as their support, I cannot imagine that my experience so far would be as inspiring as it has been. As the semester continues, I look forward to witnessing the personal and intellectual growth of my students. With each passing week, I find myself also growing personally and intellectually because of my experiences in the classroom. This experience has inspired my desire to teach at the collegiate level and I am looking forward to seeing how the rest of the year unfolds.
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