I would like to recognize the work and enthusiasm of Dr. Julie Vandivere and other past directors of the Gender and Women’s Studies Minor (GWSM), with which they have made the minor as successful as it is today.

In fall 2010, two new board members, Dr. Michael Martin, Assistant Professor of English and Director of the Professional Writing Minor, and Dr. Leilani Kupo, Director of the Women’s Resource Center, joined the GWSM.

Quinn Chase, who has enriched her career and enhanced her job opportunities with GWSM courses, graduated in December 2010 with a minor in Gender and Women’s Studies. Quinn Chase, of Shamokin, minored in GWS to complement her Criminal Justice career-path.

“There’s an underlying psychology to Gender and Women’s Studies,” Chase said. “The psychology background will help me to relate to victims. The minor has also exposed me to a lot of diversity and important social issues.’’ After graduation, Chase plans to move to Washington, D.C. and pursue a career as a probation officer.

Since the beginning of fall 2010, the GWSM has a new location, 111 BCH. In spring 2011, the GWSM is starting The GWSM Foreign Film Series for the campus and Bloomsburg communities.
Achy Obejas, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, and author of award-winning novels, will visit campus on Thursday, April 7 for a question and answer session on her books, and a lecture titled, “Identity and Dislocation.”

The question and answer session will be held between 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. in 163 Centennial Hall. Obejas’ lecture will begin at 7:30 p.m. in 2303 McCormick Hall. Both will be free and open to the public.

Obejas, who was born in Cuba, and emigrated with her family at the age of six to the United States, has written the award-winning novels, Memory Mambo, Days of Awe, Ruins, the story collection, We Came All the Way from Cuba so You Could Dress Like This? and the best-selling poetry chapbook, This Is What Happened in Our Other Life.

Obejas is editor of the critically acclaimed crime-fiction anthology, Havana Noir.

Her work has been translated into Spanish, German, Hungarian, and Farsi. She has translated Junot Díaz’s Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao, into Spanish.

Obejas is the Sor Juana Writer-in-Residence at DePaul University in Chicago. She often visits her native city of Havana.

There will be two reading and discussion sessions for the campus and Bloomsburg Communities on Obejas’ novel, Days of Awe, on Wednesdays, March 23 and March 30, 2011 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in 163 Centennial Hall. The sessions will prepare participants for Obejas’ lecture and question and answer sessions during her visit to campus on Thursday, April 7.

For registration and a free copy of the novel, please contact Dr. Ferdâ Asya at fasya@bloomu.edu, or 389-4433, by February 10.
Films will be shown on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. in 2303 McCormick Hall.

The film series is free and open to the public.

**Film Schedule:**

**January 27:**
*The Legend of Rita (Germany, 2000)*
Director: Volker Schlöndorff

Bibiana Beglau plays a nineteen-seventies-West German radical activist, who escapes to East Germany, maintaining her revolutionary spirit intact up to 1989.

**February 24:**
*The Double Life of Véronique (Poland 1991)*
Director: Krzysztof Kieślowski

Irène Jacob acts as a Polish choir soprano and her double, a French music teacher, in a film of profound emotion and spectacular color.

**March 31:**
*Everlasting Moments (Sweden, 2008)*
Director: Jan Troell

Based on a true story, in this film, beginning in 1907 and extending to the social turmoil of the war years, Maria Heiskanen portrays the liberation through art of a mother of four from her alcoholic and abusive husband.

**April 21:**
*8 Women (France, 2002)*
Director: François Ozon

Snowed in a house with a dead man, eight fabulous women of French cinema, including Catherine Deneuve, Fanny Ardant, Emmanuelle Beart, Isabelle Huppert, present this murder-mystery in a blend of French pop songs of the 1960s, exquisite costumes, and remarkable acting.
Student Profile: Meet William Doran

William Doran feels enlightened by his Gender and Women’s Studies courses. “The courses have given me a better understanding of gender, how it has played a role in our history, and how it affects decisions,” said Doran, an English major from Pittston, who declared the minor in the fall of 2010. Among some of his favorite elective courses in the minor were Marriage & Family, Human Sexuality, and Feminist Reading of Culture.

In the Fall, Doran took The American Woman, a History course with Dr. Jeanette Keith. “It’s very interesting to learn about the women’s plight. For example, in The American Woman, we learned about women and the right to vote,” Doran said.

Doran also worked on a 30-minute video assignment about three generations of women in his family as a project for the class.

Doran, a junior, who plans to enter the army and then possibly pursue a master’s degree program in Elementary Education, after graduation in May 2012, feels that his minor in GWS will be a benefit to him in his future endeavors.

“It [the minor] looks good on a résumé. It’s a good complementary minor,” he said. “It will open a lot of doors for me.”
The following are bits of news from professors and board members of the GWSM:

*Dr. Amarilis Hidalgo de Jesus' poetry was published in Joya Literaria, Antología de Poetas Iberoamericanos Contemporaneos in Lima, Peru. The book was presented in July in the Lima International Book Fair. She also published the article "Mujer y esclavitud en Saeta de Yolanda Arroyo Pizarro" in Letras Hispanas, University of Nevada (referee journal). (Dr. Hidalgo de Jesus is a professor of Spanish in the department of Languages and Cultures).

* In September, Dr. Hidalgo de Jesus was invited by the Manta Ecuadorian Government, Cultural Affairs Division of Monte Christi, to a poets of the world encounter. Dr. Hidalgo de Jesus read her poetry in local schools, public events, and at the Poetry of the World Event.

* Dr. Hidalgo de Jesus presented the power point "How to edit a critical anthology" at the International Women's Writers Conference in Bogota, Colombia in October. She also read her poetry in a special activity dedicated to Contemporary Latin American Poets.

* Dr. Christina Francis, assistant professor of English, co-chaired the 3rd Annual Mid-Atlantic LGBTQA Conference at Bloomsburg University on November 5-6. The conference theme was Improving Campus Climates. Dr. Francis hosted a series of workshops and sessions on LGBTQA issues. Students, staff, and faculty from 24 universities and colleges from around Pennsylvania attended the event. Sue Rankin (Penn State University) gave the keynote speech, "The State of Higher Education for LGBTQQ People."

* Dr. Christina Francis, committee member for the 8th Annual High School Conference on Diversity, presented a session called, "Express Yourself with 'Glee'", which asked high school students to examine their diversity awareness through a discussion of the television program 'Glee' and its use of song.

* Dr. Christina Francis presented her paper, "Belle Chose': Joss Whedon's 'Dollhouse' Gets Ac(quaint)ed with the Wife of Bath," at the 2010 Film and History Conference in Milwaukee, WI in November. The paper examined the presentation of female agency and power as it is linked to the Wife of Bath in the 'Dollhouse' episode, 'Belle Chose'.

* Message from Nicole Defenbaugh, Assistant Professor of Communication Studies: "For those interested in participating in a national gender organization, please check out the Organization for the Study of Communication, Language, & Gender (www.osclg.org). It's a wonderful organization that is undergraduate friendly—meaning: they welcome undergraduate papers for their conference and suggestions on their website. Please check out their website and consider getting involved."

* Message from Nicole Defenbaugh: "If you're looking for a place to submit your work, I highly recommend Women and Language, an international journal related to communication, language, and gender; it's associated with OSCLG. Please check out their website (http://www.womenandlanguage.org/). They accept article submissions AND visual and performance pieces. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact Nicole Defenbaugh (ndufenba@bloomu.edu)."

To submit news, announcements, or items of interest for the Spring newsletter, e-mail the Women's Studies office at womstudy@bloomu.edu.

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Women’s Resource Center Book Club Discussion

This semester, the Women’s Resource Center on campus will be sponsoring a book club, on the book, *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow is Enuf*, by Ntozake Shange.

“Passionate and fearless, Shange’s words reveal what it meant to be of color and female in the twentieth century,” reads a quote from Amazon.com’s product description on the book. The ground-breaking dramatic prose poem has appeared on Broadway, and was recently made into a film, directed by Tyler Perry, starring Janet Jackson, Whoopie Goldberg, and Phylicia Rashad.

The book is filled with vivid and powerful prose, and is complete with stage direction. The WRC will provide the books, meeting space, and refreshments.

The expectation is for participants to have read the book in advance and be ready to discuss what they’ve read at meetings.

Those interested should contact WRC Director, Lei-lani Kupo at vkupo@bloomu.edu by January 25.
"The experiences I had at the institute this summer was extraordinary. I simply can’t begin to explain it in just a few words.” ~ Eva Yuen, a participant in last summer’s PASSHE Women’s Leadership Conference last summer.

Eva is an Anthropology and Environmental Science major, Heather is an American Sign Language major, and Kristin is an Anthropology and English major.

In the words of Kristin Kelly (right):

During our stay at the PASSHE Women’s Consortium Undergraduate Leadership Institute in Sandy Lake, Pennsylvania in the summer of 2010, we learned how to become leaders in our schools and communities. There were several sessions each day, which addressed different topics. We discussed women’s issues on campus and in society and how we as women must become active leaders in helping to eliminate these issues. Outside speakers came and talked to us about everything from finding what type of leader we are to providing information on dating violence and sexual assault in a campus setting. We learned so much in such a short period of time on how we can become better leaders and help change policies and improve our status as women. The material provided at this institute helped us to see that we need to take more action and become more aware of the issues that are occurring and that affect us every day. We want to raise more awareness on campus and hope to create a stronger voice for the women here. We met women from the other PASSHE schools and learned what remarkable things they are doing on their campuses. The conference was an amazing experience that we will never forget. We encourage any women who are interested in becoming leaders to apply for this wonderful opportunity that will change their lives forever. (Editor’s note: Kristin, who is double majoring in Anthropology and English also presented a research project on gender at the Annual PASSHE Undergraduate Anthropology Conference at California University of PA in April 2010).

For more information on the conference: contact Faith Warner, Associate Professor of Anthropology at fwarner@bloomu.edu.
In the front room of the Women’s Resource Center, a homey-converted apartment on the ground floor of Schuylkill Hall, there’s a picture on the wall with a caption, “Do what makes you happy and believe in the wisdom of your heart.” This motto is a perfect fit for the new WRC director at Bloomsburg University, the effervescent Leilani Kupo, whose deep-seeded passion for helping people find their places in the world, has translated to personal, professional, and academic experiences that have led her to her new position at B.U.

Kupo began the position of WRC director in August, after graduating earlier that month with a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from Bowling Green State University. Kupo, who is also the assistant director for Social Equity at B.U., is devoted to helping people find their places in the world because as a young woman growing up in Glendale, Arizona, Kupo had to deal with discovering her place in the world, too. “My mother is White and my father is Hawaiian-Chinese. I was a multi-race child from a multi-race household,” Kupo said. “I was forced to question who I was, justify who I was, and where I belonged. That experience helped shape the way that I see the world, and why I examine what I examine, and why I research what I research.”

Kupo’s research interests are studying indigenous knowledge systems and how they are incorporated into curriculum. Her Ph.D. thesis was: “What is Hawaiian: Exploring Native Hawaiian College Women’s Understanding and Conceptions of Identity.” While working on her Ph.D., Kupo was a research assistant for Higher Education and Student Affairs, focusing on identity and identity formation, especially in African-American students. She was also a research assistant in the Center for International Comparative Education, a position in which she did comparative analyses that included systems in the U.S., Kenya, Jordan, South Africa, and in other developing countries.

Through her doctoral program and assistantships, Kupo had opportunities to do a great deal of travel. She went to New Zealand to research issues that Maori (the indigenous Polynesian people of New Zealand) students face in retention and academic achievement, China to teach a six-week master’s level course at Shandong University in Jinan City, Hawaii for data collection, and Jordan to participate in a Fulbright project.

While in Jordan, Kupo had dialogues with women about their experiences as women. The conversations focused on aspects of life that included wearing burkas.

Story continued on next page...
“It’s a center that should be accessible to all-gendered individuals.”
~Leilani Kupo, Director of the Women’s Resource Center

Kupo continued...

“From a Western standpoint, we see it [the burka] as oppressive, but for them, it makes [many of] them feel safe, accepted, and powerful. Women there say that without it, they’d feel exposed,” Kupo said. “It all goes back to power. Who has the power to make the choices? Who is making those value judgments? What is equity? What is freedom of choice?”

Questions related to social justice, the examination of power and privilege, invisible power structures, and underrepresentation, are ones that will be on Kupo’s mind in her quest to reinvent the WRC into a resource center for everyone that encompasses a wide variety of social issues.

Kupo is approaching her goals from a holistic view. “It’s a center that should be accessible to all-gendered individuals,” she said. “I’m trying to develop a mission statement focused on any-gendered individuals. We are open to providing educational resources to not only women, but anyone impacted by issues of violence, those who are stalked, birth control crises, cancer, those who are not being paid at an equal rate, and other issues of equality.”

Kupo wants the WRC to become a welcoming place where students can come with questions or concerns about anything, and won’t leave without answers—or at least contact information to help find the answers. To accomplish this, Kupo said that she plans to make cosmetic improvements to the center: lighting, and signage, as well as forming partnerships with student organizations on campus that follow women’s and social issues. “I want it to be everything and more,” Kupo said with a smile.

Volunteering at the WRC: A Student’s Testimony

By Brooke Schlenker, sophomore, psychology

The Women’s Resource Center on campus is a place that offers reliable resources pertaining to the concerns of women, and others.

As a volunteer at the center, I have the chance to help women with their needs, and that is very fulfilling. At the center, we educate, and bring awareness to women’s issues around campus. We promote a place where people can feel safe and comfortable. Being able to help others feel safe is important to me.

I support the achievement of women and giving them the strength and confidence to be happy and healthy. In planning, and organizing informational programs, and events, I am happy to be a part of upholding the empowerment of women and individuals on campus.
Women in Sport (05.334.01), an elective for the GWSM, offered through the department of Exercise Science and Athletics, is being offered this semester.

The course, taught by Dr. Kelly Vangorden, Assistant Professor of Exercise Science, surveys aspects of the historical and contemporary role of women in sport. It encourages students to develop an awareness in regard to differences between sport for men and women in various contexts, including social, psychological and biophysical.

By examining the past and current practices and cultural norms in light of evolving research findings, students are expected to increase their understanding of issues germane to sport.

Students will learn to communicate an understanding of sport as a gendered institution from cultural, psychosocial, and political perspectives by identifying historical developments and being able to relate them to the current status of women, analyzing the media and the media’s representation of women, discussing sexualities of straight, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered athletes, analyzing bodies, physicality, and power issues for women, including socialization, empowerment, and athletic identity, as well as explaining policies and politics specific to title IX and the NCAA.

Women in Sport is approved as a Diversity General Education Course.

Campus and Local Women’s Resources Information

- **Bloomsburg University Health Services**: http://www.bloomu.edu/health; appointments: (570) 389-4451; nurses: (570) 389-3800.
- **Bloomsburg University Police**: For information regarding police and safety: (570) 389-4168; for safety personnel: (570) 389-4792.
- **Bloomsburg Hospital ER**: (570) 387-2111
- **Bloomsburg Town Police**: (570) 784-4155
- **Women’s Resource Center on campus**: (570) 389-5283, stwomen@bloomu.edu
- **Columbia Montour Family Health (Bloomsburg)**: http://bloomsburgfamilyplanning.com; (570) 387-0236
- **Columbia Montour Family Health (Berwick)**: (570) 759-2213
Title IX states:

“No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance...”

By Daren Mensch  
Former Sports Editor, The Voice

They are winning conference player of the week awards, they are making conference tournament appearances, and they are making National Championship tournament appearances. They are... the female athletes at Bloomsburg University.

Thanks to Title IX, which focuses on women having equal opportunities as men, field hockey players such as, Lauren McGinley, Amanda Riley, and Meghan Hollenbach have earned PSAC (Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference) East Player of the Week Awards in the fall of 2010.

“Being recognized as PSAC-East player of the Week was a tremendous honor,” said McGinley. “It gave me great positive reinforcement and encouragement to keep working hard.”

McGinley, a member of the field hockey team, started 10 of the first 16 games of last season, recording 11 goals and two assists.

Outstanding athletics is nothing new to Husky Nation. The BU football program has been a well-coached team with success for many years, but did you know that the women’s field hockey team has won 16 Division II National Championships? Or, did you know that the women’s softball team has played in the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) tournament every year from 2000-2010?

From the tennis courts, to the field hockey and soccer field, to the running trails, the success of the female athletes at Bloomsburg continued last fall. Three members of the women’s tennis team competed in the PSAC Championships with one member, Michelle Perez, advancing as far as the semifinal match.

On the trails, Bloomsburg finished seventh out of 16 schools at the PSAC cross country championships, while sophomore Katie Filemyr finished 17th out of 145 runners.

“I am very happy with my performances this year,” Filemyr said. “I have come a long way since missing the second half of last year’s season.”

BU’s most storied women’s team is the field hockey team, which has won four consecutive National Championships. In the fall, they won the PSAC Championships, and advanced to the NCAA semifinals. Field hockey player Alexis Weber spoke of the team’s success. “It’s an amazing feeling because a lot of
Women’s Sports continued...

success. “It’s an amazing feeling because a lot of teams don’t have the success we’ve had,” she said. Weber contributed in each of the first 16 games of the season, recording five goals and two assists.

McGinley added to Weber’s statement: “It is a great feeling to know that I am part of the best Division II field hockey program in the nation. We are a powerhouse squad that is known as the best year after year.”

The field hockey team is not the only women’s team that excels on the field at Sports Stadium on Bloomsburg University’s Upper Campus. Field hockey shares the field with the women’s lacrosse team, and also with the men’s and women’s soccer teams. The women’s lacrosse team shone during the 2009 season, advancing to the semifinal game in the PSAC Tournament, before falling to the third-ranked team in the nation. The Huskies tied a school record with 13 wins in the fall of 2010.

The women’s soccer team also enjoyed a good season last fall with a 12-3-3 regular season record, before falling in the quarterfinal game of the PSAC Championship. Despite the quarterfinal loss in the conference championship, the Huskies qualified for the NCAA Tournament Championship, where they advanced to the second round. After a down season in 2009, the team was happy to compete in the postseason in 2010.

Katie Walczuk, leading scorer on the soccer team with 13 goals, spoke of last season: “This season seemed like a whole new beginning. We had a ton of freshman come in and really step up to the plate,” she said.

women’s sports do not get as much recognition as men’s sports, so as the former Sports Editor of The Voice, I always did my best to give the female athletes at B.U. as much recognition as possible in the student newspaper.

“We are out there every day working just as hard as any male sports teams are,” said McGinley. “I do wish that women athletics did not have to work as hard to get the recognition that we deserve.”

As a sports fanatic, I have always known that women’s sports do not get as much recognition as men’s sports, so I would recommend each and every student at Bloomsburg to get out and take in a women’s sporting event and see what the teams are really all about.

The players don’t receive enough recognition for what they do, in terms of winning games and championships, and for putting everything they’ve got into their performances, so get out and support the female Huskies! Who knows what stellar accomplishments the Women Huskies winter sports teams will accomplish in this new year of 2011? Go to some events and find out for yourself!

“I do wish that women’s athletics did not have to work as hard to get the recognition that we deserve.”

--Lauren McGinley, field hockey, 2010 PSAC East Player of the Week Award-winner

To check out sports schedules for the B.U. Women’s Winter Sports team, go to www.BUhuskies.com, and click on Women’s Sports.

Top photo: #17 Kelsey Stoka
Bottom photo: #2 Nicole Bruce
Photos courtesy The Voice
The Gender and Women’s Studies Minor is an interdisciplinary program administered by the College of Liberal Arts.

Courses vary by semester and may be offered in the departments of Anthropology, Biological and Allied Health Sciences, Communication Studies and Theatre Arts, English, Health and Physical Education, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, Social Welfare and Criminal Justice, and those identified as interdisciplinary studies.

**Requirements:** (18 credits)

**Core courses:** Students are required to take one course from the following three core courses:
- 20.288 Feminist Reading of Culture
- 28.404 Feminist Philosophy
- 44.377 Feminist Political Theory

**Electives:** The remaining five courses are to be selected from the courses listed below and must be from a minimum of three different departments.

The following courses are the GWSM electives offered for Spring 2011:
- * 5.334.01 Women in Sport
- * 12.212.01 Spanish-American Culture and Civilization
- *12.214.01 Hispanic Culture and Civilization
- * 12.331.01 Literary Analysis of Hispanic Texts
- * 12.402.01 Spanish Advanced Conversation
- * 12.420.01 Spanish Literature
- * 20.311.01 Structure of English Language
- * 20.288.01 Feminist Reading of Culture
- * 25.309.01/02 Gender Communication
- * 31.360.01 Women, Art, and Society
- * 40.313.01 Labor Economics
- * 44.377.01 Feminist Political Theory
- * 49.456.01 Social Work and Issues of Aging
- * 50.230.01/02/03 Human Sexuality
- * 60.406.01/02 Multicultural Education
- *90.350.01/02 Diversity in Business

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**Facts to Know:**

**GWSM Director:** Dr. Ferdâ Asya

**Office:** 111 Bakeless

**Phone:** (570) 389-5254

**E-mail:** womstudy@bloomu.edu

**Information Board:**
On the wall outside 111 Bakeless

**Work-Study Students:** Abigail Mills and Jessica White

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**More Women’s Resources Contact Information:**

- **Beyond Violence (Berwick):**
  1612 Walnut St. Proves free, confidential services to victims of domestic violence and their children, and victims of sexual assault. 570-759-3797; 24-hour Hotline: 570-759-0298.

- **Columbia County Office of the Victim Advocate:** 800.563.6399, www.ova.state.pa.us.

- **Columbia County Victim Services:** 570-389-5658, http://www.columbiapa.org/victim_witness/index.php

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**Questions, comments or concerns? Ideas or news for future issues of the GWSM newsletter?**

**Write to us at:** Womstudy@bloomu.edu

*Unless otherwise noted, photos taken by, and text written and compiled by Susan Field. Newsletter design and layout also by Field, work-study student for GWSM in the Fall of 2010.*