I am happy to report that, since spring 2010, the enrollment has grown from seven to twenty-five. In fall 2011, four students graduated and in spring 2012, ten students will be graduating with the minor. At the graduation reception, on April 17, 2012, the GSM graduation cords will be presented to the graduating students. I am also glad to add that the GSM students are now listed on the BOLT Website and they are involved in such campus events as Love Your Body Day, and lectures, activities, and films related to women’s and gender issues on campus and in the Bloomsburg community.

Dr. Ferdâ Asya
Associate Professor of English
Director of GSM

As most of you know, in the Fall 2011 Semester, in line with the evolution of the Bloomsburg University courses, the title of the minor was changed from Gender and Women’s Studies to Gender Studies.

In an interview by Deanna Kellett, Dr. Diana Zoelle, who teaches Feminist Political Theory, one of the core courses of the Gender Studies Minor (GSM), expressed her views about the title change. Deanna Kellett, a junior Mass Communications and Spanish major, has been working as Work-Study Student since fall 2011. GSM Office owes its agreeable atmosphere to her amiable personality and efficient work habits.

Taylor Roberts and Joshua Stoner were the winners of the inaugural essay competition of the minor in spring 2011.

The minor’s Spring 2011 Foreign Film Series was well attended by faculty, students, and members of the community, and the GSM Film Series will continue in the Fall 2012 Semester.

I am also glad to add that the GSM students are now listed on the BOLT Website and they are involved in such campus events as Love Your Body Day, and lectures, activities, and films related to women’s and gender issues on campus and in the Bloomsburg community.

Dr. Ferdâ Asya
Associate Professor of English
Director of GSM

During the Spring 2011 GSM Graduation Reception, on April 26, Gender Studies Minor presented awards to the winners of its inaugural essay competition. The winners were Sociology major Taylor Roberts (graduated with the minor in fall 2011) and Anthropology major Joshua Stoner (graduated with the minor in spring 2011).
Over the past year, the Gender Studies Minor (GSM) underwent an important change. The title of the minor was changed from “Gender and Women’s Studies” to “Gender Studies.” The change seems insignificant, but it says a lot about the progress of our culture.

By removing the word “women” from the title, we are shifting the emphasis from a difference or an inequality to a right or power that naturally belongs to both genders.

Early this semester, I sat down with Dr. Diana G. Zoelle, Associate Professor of Political Science here at Bloomsburg University, to discuss the title change of the minor. Dr. Zoelle has a Ph.D. in political theory and she is one of the many professors teaching a course offered in the Gender Studies Minor curriculum. Her course, Feminist Political Theory, is one of the core courses of the minor and it covers material from a feminist perspective.

Question: What are the courses that you have taught for the GSM?

Answer: For the most part, just Feminist Political Theory.

Q: What kind of material do you cover in the courses that you teach for the GSM?

A: Mostly gender issues from an international perspective. I teach women’s human rights and international relations from a feminist perspective; it’s a completely different field from a feminist perspective. I talk about the different ontology, epistemology, and histology. This is the text I use [shows Gender Matters in Global Politics]. It’s a compilation of different theorists. It’s good because it shows a broad view of the subject with regard to gender. I picked up this book [shows another book] and may add it [to course readings], but I have to read it first to find out what I think.

Q: Do you find the title change of the minor appropriate? Why/Why not?

A: Absolutely. I think it’s an important shift. It’s more inclusive; it’s not restrictive.

Q: Do you see this title change as a natural consequence of the evolution of the content of the women or gender related courses taught at BU?

A: Yes, with regard to my last answer. I see it as an indication of the progress and culture on campus.

Q: Do you think that the GSM course lists should include course titles reflecting the issues of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered?

A: Absolutely. I would have expected it to have included these before the change.

As Dr. Zoelle was describing the material of her course, it was apparent to me how much she believes in what she teaches. As she was discussing the details about her course, she was clearly excited to show the texts she uses for her class and explain how the perspective she teaches is different from those taught in other classes about politics.

Dr. Zoelle thinks the recent change of the title of the minor from “Gender and Women’s Studies” to “Gender Studies” was an important and necessary revision. She believes that the new title is more “inclusive” and less “restrictive,” as she sees it as “an indication of progress and culture on campus.”

Dr. Zoelle is the kind of professor we need in today’s culture. She is open-minded and ready to teach the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered communities, as well as human rights.
“Love Your Body Day is a day to remember that beauty fits every size and we should forget about the way media portrays beauty.”

Brooke Schlenker, a junior Psychology major at Bloomsburg University, contacted Dr. Ferdâ Asya, Director of GSM, for the participation of the GSM students in the upcoming event described below. The GSM students showed interest in the event and some are enthusiastic about participating in the day-long activities and the presentation in the evening.

Because the summer months are fast approaching and body image is a topic of interest, I thought it would be a perfect time to encourage women that they are ALWAYS beautiful! Love Your Body Day is a day to remember that beauty fits every size and we should forget about the way the media portrays beauty. We should focus on our own perception of beauty and celebrate it.

On March 20, 2012, there will be numerous activities around campus to honor Love Your Body Day. From 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. there will be a tabling event in the Kehr Union during which the Psychology Association will have an interactive demonstration that will focus on how we perceive our bodies and compare those perceptions to how they actually appear. Stop by the table to see for yourself!

The W.I.S.E. (Women Inspiring Strength and Empowerment) group on campus will also be demonstrating how the scale can provide more than just a number.

The Women’s Resource Center will be sponsoring a special presentation given by Stacey Nadeau, an advocate for Dove’s Real Beauty campaign. Nadeau will be speaking about widening the stereotypical views of beauty and how to be proud of the skin you are in. After her presentation, Nadeau will conduct a workshop that is open to everyone. The presentation will be in the Kehr Union at 7:00 p.m. with the workshop to follow at 8:00 p.m. Please feel free to participate in these activities and remember that YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL!

In the Fall 2011 Semester, Emily Bolick (Sociology major), Debra McCracken (Nursing major), Jahzaree Sexton (Nursing major), and Taylor Roberts (Sociology major) graduated with a minor in Gender Studies. On November 15, during the reception honoring the graduates, the GSM faculty and students spent some time socializing, speaking about job opportunities after graduation, and airing views about the issues currently surrounding the minor.

By Brooke Schlenker

G E N D E R  S T U D I E S  M I N O R  G A Z E T T E

Fall 2011 GSM Graduation Reception

Back (from left to right): Heather Feldhaus (GSM Board Member), Emily Bolick (GSM Student), Megan Drumheller (GSM Student), Ferdâ Asya (GSM Director), Deanna Kellett (GSM Work-Study Student)

Front (from left to right): Christina Francis (GSM Board Member), Taylor Roberts (GSM Student), Eva Yeun (GSM Student)

Photo courtesy Ferdâ Asya
Past Events

The Bloomsburg University Women’s Basketball team hosted a clinic for elementary and middle school girls on February 25, 2011 at the Nelson Field House as part of National Girls and Women in Sport Day. The clinic was free to all elementary and middle school girls. Throughout the day, young women experienced the basketball team’s insights on the tricks and trade of the game. At the end of the clinic, more than one hundred and twenty participants of the clinic received free tickets to the Bloomsburg University Women’s Basketball game versus Millersville. At the end of the game, the participants attended an autograph session and they were treated to pizza.

Gender Studies Minor

Contact Information
Gender Studies Minor
Bakeless Center for the Humanities 111
Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania
400 East Second Street
Bloomsburg, PA 17815
Phone: 570-389-5254
Email: womstudy@bloomu.edu

Information about the requirements, faculty, and courses of the GSM can be obtained from the Gender Studies Minor website:
http://www.bloomu.edu/gs

GSM Director: Dr. Ferdâ Asya
Work-Study Student: Deanna Kellett

GSM Gazette prepared and compiled by Deanna Kellett, Work-Study Student of GSM

News and Notes

The Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble will be performing the play *In the Next Room, or The Vibrator Play* from May 3 to May 20, 2012 at the Alvina Krause Theatre in downtown Bloomsburg. The play, written by upcoming female playwright Sarah Ruhl, deals with women’s sexuality in the early twentieth century.

***

The Organization for the Study of Communication, Language & Gender (OSCLG) Conference this year is in Tacoma, Washington, October 11-14, 2012. Submissions are due June 1, 2012, and the call for papers can be found on the website (http://osclg.org/?page_id=101). The conference is very welcoming of undergraduate students. Two students from Bloomsburg University attended the conference last year. For more information, please contact Dr. Nicole Defenbaugh (Communication Studies, MCHS #1142) at ndefenba@bloomu.edu or (570) 389-5306.

Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania is committed to affirmative action by way of providing equal educational and employment opportunities for all persons without regard to race, religion, gender, age, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or veteran status.