Welcome to the latest news from Gender Studies Minor (GSM). Fall 2014 has been a productive semester for us. GSM students began the semester by attending sessions, presenting papers, and participating in a workshop at the PASSHE Women’s Consortium, which took place on Bloomsburg campus this year. In its second year, *GSM Student Research Presentations* attracted many students and faculty to the research projects presented by five students.

While the GSM office will not be the same without Keara Hozella, work-study student since spring 2013, who is graduating this semester, Talia Hazelton’s amiable presence, as the new work-study student, has been felt in the GSM Office.

It is my pleasure to announce that Dr. Jennifer Oast, Associate Professor of History, joined the GSM board this semester.

I am happy to report that GSM’s enrollment reached 35 this fall.

Please enjoy reading through the events and accomplishments in this issue prepared by Keara Hozella and Talia Hazelton.

Dr. Ferdâ Asya
Professor of English and Director of GSM

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**Spring 2014 GSM Graduation Reception**

The Gender Studies Minor Spring Graduation Reception was held on Friday, April 18, 2014. Seniors Michelle Mattar and Flint Jackson were congratulated on the upcoming commencement ceremony and received the green Gender Studies Minor cords.

The Reception was attended by Dr. Ferdâ Asya, Dr. Archita Banik, Dr. Kelly Dauber, Dr. David Heineman, Dr. Thomas Klinger, and Dr. DeeAnne Wymer. Student attendees included Rachel Wagaman, Talia Hazelton, Flint Jackson, Michelle Mattar, Julecann Gusick, Albra Wheeler, Jacqueline Whitman, Keara Hozella, and Katharine Cantrell.
Q: Did your position with the College of Liberal Arts (COLA) lend itself to any gender-based inquiries?

A: Yes and no. There weren’t any projects that were explicitly designed to be gender-based, but I'm a sociologist, so we always make the argument that you’ll see gender, race, sexuality, and intersections of all those identities in everything you do. In the Dean’s office, a lot of my work was working with students who were struggling with academic dismissals and stuff like that, and working to build the research center for community and consulting, which involves students a great deal, so there’s a gender element in everything you do if you’re paying attention. Certainly in quite a bit of our research, we’ve been researching a community in Berwick, and again, it’s not necessarily a study on gender, but as you’re going through the interviews with people about their sense of community and their fear of crime, there’s a gender element in thinking about gender ethics and how to conduct your study, as well as in the findings themselves.
Interview with Dr. Feldhaus, cont.

**Q:** What were your thoughts and impressions about Gender Studies Minor (GSM) when it was first started/when you first became a board member?

**A:** I’ve been really excited with how it has developed. When I first got involved, it was just emerging, and it was relatively small. We were still working on recruiting majors. It used to be called the Women’s Studies Minor. I was wildly supportive of the name shift to Gender Studies. I think it’s more inclusive, and it more clearly affects what we’re actually doing. It allowed us to recruit a more diverse pool of students. It has us speaking about what gender issues are, not just women’s issues, which is where we should be in the modern world. Feminism gets a bad rap. It’s interesting how many people I’ve seen on social media bash feminists, and all of the questions they pose about certain types of expressions of feminism are actually what we’re studying. They’re railing against something that, when Gender Studies is done right, we’re addressing just what they’re saying they wish we would address. You can’t really study gender without studying race, and you can’t study those two without studying social class, and you have to talk about sexuality in there too. Women’s Studies implies a binary of male/female. By switching away from that binary and making it Gender Studies, we’re really talking about ideas surrounding masculinity and femininity, not just men and women. It’s exciting to see that the GSM has so many students now.

**Q:** What do you think about the GSM’s growth over the past few years?

**A:** In the short run, I think and hope that the minor will continue to grow. I’ve seen it exist in other schools as a thriving major. In the long term, it would be nice if we didn’t even have to have these discussions on a certain level. I would like to see all of these issues incorporated enough into the curriculum, so that they’re not a special thing but just part of what we do and talk about on a regular basis. Gender Studies was way off in the future, and Women’s Studies was seen as radical. There weren’t as many female professors in academia, and being a woman in that time period, it took me so long to start recognizing and questioning some of the patterns. I wasn’t thinking in terms of all of the stuff going on there, like how to dress professionally, speak to male and female colleagues, have kids, etc. There’s been so much progress, and it’s exciting to see that. I think this is in part due to things like gender studies. But it also looks like we’re ready for even more changes now, as LGBT has progressed much more, gender should come along and progress along with it. It helps get rid of the gender binary.
Interview with Dr. Feldhaus, cont.

**Q:** How do you think studying gender concepts and issues changes students’ perspectives, either in their personal or academic lives?

**A:** Back when I taught a lower-level gender course, I frequently had students come to me and say, “You’ve ruined television for me. I can’t even sit and watch a simple movie without paying attention to the gender dynamics and how they fit into history.” I think I may have ruined a few relationships too, which is a little awkward. I also talked about dividing the household tasks based on preference rather than gender. There are students coming in saying, “I thought I had to do that, but now I know I don’t have to.” There’s so much to think about in gender in the workplace, too. My research in the past focused also on different aspirations and how people plan their futures that might be grounded somewhat in gender. In my dissertation, I talked to high school students. It was based on social class and sex. What I found was that there were real differences between the male and female students, especially with their decisions and how they gathered information for their futures. Men tended to think about something they wanted to do and seek out expert advice; whereas females tended to ask people who knew them or people who they knew well for advice. The men asked very direct questions about what the job market is like, etc. Women asked questions like “Is this right for me? Will I be happy doing this?” On the surface level, I feel like this resonates with how men and women are socialized. When we start thinking about these issues, we probably make better choices for ourselves personally and professionally.

**Q:** In what ways do you think GSM may enhance students’ job opportunities?

**A:** The modern job is about dealing with people. There’re very few of us who will deal with raw materials. It’s all about interacting, and doing something that helps you do that effectively. That is a great thing to have in your skill set.

**Q:** How do you think teaching gender studies courses changes faculty’s perspectives on the subject matter of a particular course? Can you give examples from your own teaching?

**A:** For me, everything comes back to these core identities. For most of us, gender is one of those things that shapes how we spend our day to day lives, how we think about the world. Others can include religion, ethnicity, sexuality; it depends on the person. In almost any course, it always comes up and it helps enrich the course.
Interview with Dr. Feldhaus, cont.

Q: In what ways do you think GSM is a good complement to a student with a major in COLA?

A: I think it should be mandatory. I think the strength of the COLA is that we study everything. There’s such diversity in our types of interests, and our skill sets we’re developing. As a sociologist, core identities like gender, race, social class, and sexuality, all have such a large influence on how society, communities, and we as individuals operate, and how all of these different institutions respond to us. I think anybody, who wants to work with other human beings in any way, shape, or form, benefits in learning about how these different statuses affect us and others. Certainly, in every job out there, knowing how to work with diverse groups is a huge asset. While someone might not think that gender in particular is one of these, it’s a huge piece of the puzzle. By studying gender carefully, what you’re also studying is how to think about different perspectives and groups and thinking about how history affects our communities now.

Q: What do you foresee for future collaborations between majors in the COLA and/or other colleges in Bloomsburg University and GSM?

A: Overall, I would love to see more collaboration between the GSM and multiple campus entities, because gender and these other things are so central. The more we incorporate these things as a matter of fact, and not as an add-on, the better. It’s the same problem with having black history month...maybe it should just be called history. It is just a fact of life, that this is something that matters, and we should factor it in. Two years ago, I was really involved in the Campus Climate Diversity Study. This was one study where we did focus groups, large surveys, but I’d like to see the university take it on and continue it. There were a lot of fascinating things we should follow up on. One thing from the focus groups that’s been eating at me is that some male students said they spend a lot of time talking about the culture of violence on campus. Their friends can be drawn into a fight, and then they can be too. They said it was a stressor; the expectation of fighting is stressful and a challenge. We heard from LGBT students that if they presented gender in a non-traditional way, they felt more at risk on campus. Their friends can be drawn into a fight, and then they can be too. They said it was a stressor; the expectation of fighting is stressful and a challenge. We heard from LGBT students that if they presented gender in a non-traditional way, they felt more at risk on campus. They certainly have heard that women felt at risk on campus and downtown. There were some differences even on staff about equitable treatment, and having the same treatment as others. Maybe having students from all majors and minors, including the GSM, taking on some of this research and creating new research, can be a possibility in the future.
In this essay, Michelle Mattar investigates the causes of gendered institutions and how they directly influenced the discipline of archaeology. The theory of gendered institutions states that men have used the state to create and consolidate systems of male privilege and advantage. Studying the history and development of gendered institutions, Michelle Mattar observes that deeply rooted concepts of “natural hierarchy” and “domestication of women” have a profound effect on the disposition of archaeology as a gendered institution. She claims that the promotion of male privilege and advantage in politics, through the theory of gendered institutions, have greatly impacted the discipline of archaeology, endorsing a gendered institution which fosters unequal advantages for women.
Fall 2014 GSM Student Research Presentations

On November 11, 2014 Gender Studies Minor (GSM) held its second GSM Student Research Presentation Day, and GSM students presented their research in Schweiker Room to the campus community.

From L to R: Sara Tessarvich, Anna James, Matthew Boyarsky, Bryan Molk, and Albra Wheeler.

Photo courtesy of Ferdâ Asya

The abstracts of the Fall 2014 GSM Research Presentations are as follows:

Matthew Boyarsky
“Masculinity and Its Effect on Language”
My presentation reflects on the origins of gender biased language and the way it perpetuates a dated and heavy-handed male culture. It ultimately suggests ways in which society can alter this pattern. The presentation also invites an open dialogue for any alternative ways of addressing language and using its power to create environments that are comfortable for all genders.

Anna James
“Feminine Figures and Their Roles: Comparison between Ancient Society and Nineteenth Century Society”
The topic I am currently researching is ‘Women’s Roles in Society: The Comparison between Ancient Society and Modern Society.’ As my research progresses, it leads me to many theories as to why women in the ancient society of Egypt were treated as equal to men. Women in that society were breaking rules and becoming leaders, while women in the 1920s and earlier, had lesser rights than those of a child or even a slave. One of the most credited theories relates to Egypt’s worship of many Gods and Goddesses and the reflection on how these Goddesses were seen; they mostly represented fertility and nurturing, while 1920s American society had Greek and Christian influences that included the worship of male figures.

Bryan Molk
“Gay and Lesbian Rights from an African Perspective: Applying the Research”
As part of the Gender Studies Minor Research Presentations, I am presenting my research on gay and lesbian views from an African perspective at universities in the United States, and how my research helped me to land an internship with an international human rights organization. My ethnographic research surveyed forty-one African students, who were studying in the United States, on their views and opinions of gay and lesbian rights. My data showed an overall positive receptiveness for gay and lesbian people, with a clear influence of Western ideology as a result of these students’ studies and experiences at the institutions in the United States. This research helped me to acquire and successfully complete an internship with Global Rights: Partners For Justice, where I helped to develop and support aspects of their Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender & Intersex (LGBTI) and Women’s Rights programs.

Sara Tessarvich
“Portrayal and Representation of Transgender Individuals in Popular Media”
My presentation deals with how those who identify as transgender are portrayed in television and movies and how they are represented in media such as magazines and reality shows. I show this by discussing the overarching number and nature of the representations in recent television shows and by providing examples of media containing transgender individuals (Transparent, Orange is the New Black). I also then discuss reality shows and magazines that feature transgender individuals (Time magazine, Dancing With the Stars, TRANSform Me).

Albra Wheeler
“Getting Bi in a Hetero World: Myths and Stereotypes of Bisexual Individuals”
My research and workshop are a celebration of bisexual identities. In my presentation, I expose to the audience the diversity of the bisexual identity while uncovering stereotypes, myths, and misconceptions of the LGBTQA community; particularly those who identify as bisexual and non-monosexual.
Interview with Keara Hozella

by Talia Hazelton

Q: How long have you been working at the GSM Office?

A: I’ve been working for the GSM for four semesters. I started in spring 2013.

Q: What was the best part of your job?

A: The best part of my job was being able to interact with the GSM students, Dr. Asya, and other professors involved in the GSM on a regular basis. It was great to discuss things with like-minded people who understood how important and beneficial the GSM is.

Q: What was the most challenging aspect of your work?

A: I think the most challenging aspect is staying on top of all the different activities and e-mails associated with the GSM. There’s always an influx of information that comes in daily, and at times, it can be difficult to maintain.

Q: Which was your best experience of interviewing for the GSM?

A: My best experience of interviewing was with the author Anna Monardo in spring 2013. She was the perfect interviewee and I had a lot of fun questioning her at the Inn at Turkey Hill. It was also an interesting interview because I had read her book, The Courtyard of Dreams, prior to our meeting, so I was able to ask her about both her novel and her writing process in general.

Q: What are your views about the Gender Studies Minor (GSM) Gazette?

A: I think the GSM Gazette provides a great overview for people interested in the minor, and keeps those in the minor informed of what’s going on. I like that we include the announcements and accomplishments section because it helps to spotlight our faculty and students, and highlights the amazing things they’re doing.

Q: Are there any advice you can provide for future work-study students?

A: My best piece of advice is to get involved and stay involved with all the GSM events. It helps when compiling the Gazette and also gives you background information and talking points for conversing with people in the GSM.

Q: Is there anything else you’d like to say?

A: I’d like to thank Dr. Asya for bringing me into the GSM world and helping me improve my office and professional skills. Dr. Asya has been a wonderful mentor for me over the past couple semesters, and without her guidance and welcoming demeanor, I wouldn’t feel as prepared for the “real world” as I do now. I’d also like to thank the GSM board, faculty, and students for their passion because it’s been passed along to me. I want to thank Talia Hazelton for making my last semester at the GSM Office the most memorable and enjoyable one for me. I don’t know what I would have done without her in the office this semester.
Love of Literature and Campus Events:  
From Sarah Kay to Francesca Segal  
by Albra Wheeler

Words, words, and more words. From the written to spoken to the shouted to the whispered. I love them all. I inhale and digest them constantly. I can’t get enough. My interests have centered on the use of language as far back as I can remember. I loved being read to as a young child and taught myself to read before I entered kindergarten. I have a bookcase. In fact, I may have more than five. Or six. I’ve been a librarian and still contemplate on returning to that profession at one point in my life. As for now, I’m a Senior Communication Studies Major with a concentration in Leadership and Public Advocacy. So I’m still surrounded by words all the time; just in a different manner now than when I was a librarian or a four-year-old.

Now, I have the opportunity to attend wonderful events on campus that feed into my love of language conception and usage in many different ways. I attended the opening of the PASSHE Women’s Consortium and I also was able to participate in Sarah Kay’s Spoken Word Poetry Workshop. I became interested and enamored with poetry at a young age. I’ve had the fortunate opportunity to attend open mic/slam poetry events since I was a freshman in high school. I’ve performed some of my work at the events I have just mentioned, but have never had any formal training outside high school English classes. Nevertheless, that training was very limited. To be afforded the opportunity to be taught by one of the best spoken word poets of our generation was an honor and a blessing. Attending Sarah Kay’s workshop, not only interested me personally, but also, as a Communication Studies major and Gender Studies minor, fired up my academic side as well. Workshops like these are a unique opportunities to get up close and personal with those figures to whom one may never have access outside academic setting. These onetime events are opportunities abound on campus for students to participate in and grow from regularly.

For instance, in spring I’ll be participating in reading and discussion sessions centered on Francesca Segal’s novel, *The Innocents*, and I will have the opportunity to meet the author when she visits our campus in April. I look forward to reading a text outside an assignment for class and being able to incorporate it into other areas of my work in the campus environment. It’s lovely to read the book and meet its author afterward and have something to look forward to as well. I think we all forget sometimes how lucky we are to have access to such programming that we are provided here on Bloomsburg campus. I hope my readers will take the time explore all the possibilities that Bloomsburg University has to offer.
On October 16, 2014, Margo Cottone and Albra Wheeler were among ten other students selected to attend the PA Conference for Women held at the Convention Center in Philadelphia. The trip was sponsored by the Multicultural Affairs and the Women's Center of Bloomsburg University. Madelyn Rodriguez, Director of Multicultural Center, and Jennifer Raup, Associate Dean of Students, accompanied the students. There were 8,000 attendees. The keynote speakers included Jane Pauley, Robin Roberts, and Diane Keaton.

The breakout session that Margo Cottone and Albra Wheeler attended was led by Tara Sophia Mohr, who is the founder of the global Playing Big leadership program for women and author of the forthcoming book, “Playing Big: Find Your Voice, Your Mission, Your Message,” for release by Gotham Books in October, 2014. An expert on women’s leadership and well-being with a deep commitment to amplifying women’s voices, Mohr empowers women to play bigger in their work and in their lives. Mohr takes a unique approach that blends inner work with practical skills training, and weaves together both intellectual rigor and intuitive wisdom. She is also a certified coach, trained by the Coaches Training Institute. Her “10 Rules for Brilliant Women” have struck a chord with hundreds of thousands of women around the world. She is a regular contributor to the Huffington Post and she has been featured on national media ranging from “TODAY,” to Harvard Business Review. Mohr earned an M.B.A. from Stanford University and an undergraduate degree in English literature from Yale.

Margo Cottone and Albra Wheeler also were able to assemble and include handwritten cards of encouragement in toiletry bags that were going to be passed out to women in homeless shelters. They filled the bags with toothpaste, soaps, and shampoos. They were able to gather a lot of pertinent information about organizations that are currently active in promoting women's social equality. It was an inspiring day and Margo Cottone and Albra Wheeler hope to be able to attend next year’s conference.
Accomplishments and Announcements, cont.

On September 25-26, 2014, at the PASSHE Women's Consortium in Bloomsburg University, Jacqueline Whitman presented a poster on her paper, “The Female Experience: An Understanding of the Universality behind the Performance Art of Womanhouse,” and also she gave a PowerPoint speech on her paper, “Womanhouse: Opening the Closed Doors.”

From L to R: Jacqueline Whitman, Dr. Nogin Chung, and Alicia Pucci
Photo courtesy of Jacqueline Whitman

Four GSM students attended the PASSHE Women’s Consortium: Talia Hazelton, Karli Miller, Albra Wheeler, and Jacqueline Whitman. At the conference, Karli Miller presented a paper, titled “Raising Our Voice: Slam Poetry as Activism for Queer Women."

Talia Hazelton’s poem, “What They Say,” which was the winner of the 2014 Savage Poetry Award, was published in the literary journal, Warren, in 2014.

Guest author Francesca Segal, author of The Innocents, will come to Bloomsburg University on Thursday, April 16, 2015. In the afternoon, between 2:00 p.m. and 3:15 p.m., she will visit Dr. Ferdâ Asya's class, ENGLISH 283 Jewish Fiction: An International Perspective. Students are invited to join Dr. Asya's class during the author's visit. To reserve a seat, please contact Dr. Ferdâ Asya (fasya@bloomu.edu).

In preparation for Francesca Segal’s visit, in March 2015, Dr. Asya will conduct two reading and discussion sessions on The Innocents for the campus, Bloomsburg, and surrounding communities.

For registration and a free copy of the novel, please contact Ferdâ Asya (fasya@bloomu.edu).

Information about Francesca Segal and her novel, The Innocents, can be found at http://www.francescasegal.com.

The events are sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts, Department of English, and Gender Studies Minor.
GSM Work-Study Students

Keara Hozella and Talia Hazelton
Photo courtesy of Ferdā Asya

GSM Gazette is prepared and compiled by Keara Hozella with the help of Talia Hazelton.

Hozella is a senior English major with a minor in Gender Studies. This is her fourth semester working for Dr. Asya and the GSM. She’d like to thank Dr. Asya for the fantastic past few years at the GSM. She would also like to thank the GSM students and Board for their passion for, interest in, and suggestions for the minor.

Hazelton is a junior English major with a minor in Gender Studies. This is her first semester working for Dr. Asya and the GSM. She would like to thank Dr. Asya for this wonderful opportunity, and the GSM students for their continued enthusiasm about the world.
The purpose of the Gender Studies Minor (GSM), which offers cross-listed courses in sixteen departments across Bloomsburg campus, is the study of social, cultural, and historical constructions of gender and its intersections with other constructions such as race, class, nation, and sexuality. The program investigates gender relationships and inequalities in a variety of societal contexts and strives to provide co-curricular experiences to enhance the Gender Studies Minor curriculum and raise awareness about issues of gender. Eighteen credit hours are required to complete this minor program.

GSM Director:
Dr. Ferda Asya

Work-Study Students:
Keara Hozella and Talia Hazelton

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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.

Spring 2015 Course List

COMMSTUD 309.01.02 Gender Issues in Communication
David Heineman

If you are planning to take COMMSTUD 309 Gender Issues in Communication, which will be offered (two sections) in spring 2015, please complete a blue request form at the Department of Communication Studies. The department is willing to waive the prerequisite of Interpersonal Communications for Gender Studies minors.

ECON 313.01 Labor Economics
Medhi Haririan

ENG 287.01 Black Women Writers
Shanna Smith

ENG 288.01 Feminist Reading of Culture
Christina Francis

EXERSCI 288.01 Women in Sport
Kelly Dauber

NURSING 240.01 Contemporary Women’s Health
Devon Manney

POLISCI 377.01 Feminist Political Theory
Diana Zoelle

PSYCH 350.01 Psychology of Sex and Gender

Please refer to the GSM website, for courses and information.

bloomu.edu/gs