Dear WGST community at UNT,

I write this letter at the end of our productive and eventful academic year 2018/19. We started the Fall semester with the inauguration of our Community Room, born of the inspiration to open a physical safe space so allies, friends, and students could visit our library, converse, or just enjoy the warmth of the space. Our Community Room has been quite busy throughout the year! The Social Justice Lab, which we coordinate with Anthropology and Behavioral Analysis, meets here once a week.

We enthusiastically embraced the addition of the LGBT Studies Program in the Fall. Suddenly, we became a robust community of around 100 undergraduate students, and a very diverse WGST and LGBT Studies faculty of about 50 affiliates. A new LGBTQ Curriculum Committee (Dr. Megan Morrisey (chair), Dr. Jara Carrington, Dr. Clark Pomerleau, and Dr. Elizabeth Oldmixon) met to redesign and give new structure to a high quality LGBTQ Studies academic program. I would also like to highlight the panel titled, “Feminist Struggles in Dark Times: A Transnational Dialogue,” moderated by Dr. Özlem Altıok, and composed of seven panelists coming from different disciplines and countries, to share their varied practices in feminism and advocacy for social justice.

Throughout a very intense agenda of activities, events, and programs, WGST has expanded our network of collaborators within UNT and in the North Texas Region. The month of March (Women’s History Month) evidences this schedule. First, on March 6th, we collaborated with UT Arlington, A&M Commerce, and SMU to organize the screening of Left on Pearl. Then, our partnership with UNT’s Pride Alliance and the Multicultural Center allowed students, faculty, and community members to enjoy poet, writer, performer, and educator Denise Frohman’s vibrant spoken-word performance. We ended the month collaborating with the Department of Dance and Theatre on the screening of Frida: A Ribbon Around a Bomb followed by a discussion lead by Sara Cardona, artist and executive director at Teatro Dallas. With Pride Alliance, we organized our first collaborative Lavender Graduation in the Fall, the success of which moved us to find a larger space to accommodate our students, their families, and friends for the Spring graduation. In short, we had a truly successful year, full of events and accomplishments. It is necessary to point out that all we do would not be possible without the time, energy investment, brain power, and passion of our program coordinator, Jennifer Aglio.

Finally, we are profoundly proud of our WGST and LGBTQ Studies graduating minors, and our WGST MA students, and trust that their knowledge and experience will help them to mark their path to success and inspire them to have social justice as their flag in their thoughts, hearts and actions. Please read on about the various events and accomplishments in this newsletter, and mainly stay in touch.

CONGRATULATIONS to Dr. Marilyn Morris!
It is a great honor to share with you the creation of the Marilyn Morris Award for Outstanding Academic Contributions to LGBTQ Studies. To commemorate the formation of the UNT LGBT Studies Program and to recognize Dr. Morris’s founding place in it, we have institutionalized this award. In this inaugural presentation, Dr. Morris was recognized for her life and professional commitment to the LGBTQ community during our Lavender Graduation Ceremony on April 27, 2019.
Graduate Student Spotlight

Leah Brooks-Hall

Leah is a graduate student in the Women's and Gender Studies Program. Her academic interests include womanism, queer theory, standpoint epistemology, gender and sexuality, and the intersection of spirituality and nature. Leah plans to devote her thesis work to fostering a more holistic understanding of the nuanced dynamics of romantic relationships between partners claiming identities across the spectrum of gender and sexuality. Her goal is to create educational/support resources for partners in such relationships, as well as individuals seeking to learn, such as allies and family members. After earning her masters, Leah hopes to pursue a PhD and become a Women's and Gender Studies Professor. Outside of academia, Leah enjoys baking bread, biking, and spoiling her three rescue chihuahuas.

Nadia Ala'i Rosales

Nadia is a fourth semester graduate student in the Women’s and Gender Studies Program. Her academic interests include feminist/womanist theory, queer theory, poststructuralism, feminist visual culture and aesthetics, reproductive justice, and Chicana feminisms, as well as feminist epistemologies and other epistemologies of resistance. Nadia is currently serving as a Development Intern at Denton County Friends of the Family. Following graduation, Nadia hopes to work in a non-profit or social service setting. Outside of school, Nadia enjoys making art, gardening, and spending time with her five year-old daughter, Penelope.
UNT Honors Day Recipient: Leslie Lopez

Leslie Lopez is a second year Psychology major and Women’s and Gender Studies minor. During the summer of 2018, Leslie interned at COLOR in Denver, Colorado through Hampshire College’s RRASC program. Feeling inspired and wanting to bring about change to UNT, she took to starting a reproductive justice organization called the Reproductive Rights Organization of Student Educators (ROSE). Recently, Leslie was accepted into NARAL Pro-Choice Texas’ Next Generation program where she hopes to build connections with other Texas based reproductive justice activists.

UNT Honors Day Recipient: Adela Gonzalez

Adela Gonzalez is junior working towards her undergraduate degree in Psychology with a minor in Women and Gender Studies. She is incredibly passionate about people and eager to commit to a career in helping people. In her free time, she spends a lot of time with her dog. Some of her hobbies include: arts and crafts, reading, and watching movies.
Our affiliates have been staying busy! Here are some notable accomplishments...

**Dr. Clark Pomerleau,** Department of History

- Presented “Planting a Good Life: Women’s Organic Work in Maine,” at the National Women’s Studies Association, Atlanta, GA, November 2018.

**Dr. Julie Leventhal,** Department of Educational Psychology

- Started as the Faculty-in-Residence in Rawlins Hall in Fall 2018.
- UNT Athletic Council Mean Green Faculty/Staff Spotlight, University of North Texas, 2018.
- College of Education Outstanding Lecturer Award, University of North Texas, 2018.
- 'Professor Graham Award, University of North Texas, 2018.

**Dr. Megan Morissey,** Department of Communication Studies

- Presented at the National Communication Association Conference in Salt Lake City last November.
- Paper, titled, “Calaveras, Calacas, and Cultural Production: The Queer Politics of Brown Belonging at U.S. Día de Los Muertos Celebrations,” was selected as one of four top papers for the Critical Cultural Studies Division of the National Communication Association.
**Affiliated Faculty Highlights**

**Dr. Marijke Breuning**, Department of Political Science


- Breuning, Marijke, and Anna Pechenina. “Role Dissonance in Foreign Policy: Russia, Power, and Intercountry Adoption.” Foreign Policy Analysis. Accepted for publication October 19, 2018.


**Dr. Jennifer Way**, Department of Art History


Affiliated Faculty Highlights

**Dr. Suzanne Enck**, Department of Communication Studies


- Served as the program planner & Vice Chair for the Feminist & Women Studies Division of the National Communication Association’s annual conference in Salt Lake City.

**Dr. Kate Imy**, Department of History

- Co-taught an interdisciplinary study abroad course in the U.K. and Ireland

- Received a book contract, and submitted the final manuscript, for her book entitled *Faithful Fighters: Identity and Power in the British Indian Army*, which is forthcoming with Stanford University Press

- Became a managing editor of the *British Journal of Military History*.

- Hosted a successful mentoring group on “Borderlands and Migrations” in 2017-2018 that consisted of a junior faculty lunch series and visits from two external speakers (Cynthia Bejarano, NMSU and Junaid Rana, Illinois).

- In July 2018 she organized a one-day international colloquium in London on “The Body in Colonial India” with participants from the UK, Canada, the US, Spain, India, and Sweden with funding from Goldsmiths (University of London), the Royal Historical Society, UNT-International, and the Society for the Social History of Medicine (UK).

- Received a Cham Uswachoke International Development Fund Award to host a conference at UNT April 18-20, 2019 on “Imperial Legacies of 1919.”
WGST has stayed involved and active in the community, hosting and co-sponsoring various events on campus.
Event Snapshots

WGST has stayed involved and active in the community, hosting and co-sponsoring various events on campus.
WGST has stayed involved and active in the community, hosting and co-sponsoring various events on campus.
What we do...

The mission of the Women's and Gender Studies program at UNT promotes teaching, research, and outreach with a critical analytical focus aimed at interrogating gender-related stereotypes, especially as our identities intersect with sexuality, race, and ethnicity in a global context. Our program’s interdisciplinary scholarship supports and sustains campus-wide discussions in areas including, but not limited to: global contexts, feminist approaches, women’s social movements, feminist activism, and explorations of the connections among gender, class, ethnicity and race in social and cultural constructs. Students in Women’s & Gender Studies may interact with more than 40 members of the Women’s & Gender Studies affiliated faculty, expanding understandings of gender differences, cultural diversity, and social changes while strengthening critical thinking and communication skills.