NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR

We begin the 2005-2006 academic year in the Gender and Women’s Studies Program proud of our most recent graduates and student award-winners, and looking forward to helping to shepherd other cohorts through GAWS. For those readers wondering how the program name is pronounced, it is “JAWS,” since, as our student representatives reminded us, the “G” stands for “gender.” It is, in their words, the major that “bites back!” (And proud of it.)

Director Ann Cooper Albright is on leave in the 2005-2006 academic year, using a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship to work on her new book project, “Traces of Light: Presence and Absence in the Work of Loie Fuller.” Frances S. Hasso, Associate Professor in GAWS and Sociology and one of the two core faculty in Gender and Women’s Studies, has been appointed Acting Director of the program in her stead. Wendy Kozol, Associate Professor in GAWS, returned from a year-long research leave, during which she worked on her most recent book project, “Visible Wars and American Nationalism: Militarization and Visual Culture in the Post-Cold War Period.” Her latest book, co-edited with Wendy Hesford, is titled Just Advocacy? Women’s Human Rights, Transnational Feminism, and the Politics of Representation and was published in summer 2005 by Rutgers University Press. Frances Hasso is looking forward to the publication of her first book, Resistance, Repression, and Gender Politics in Occupied Palestine and Jordan in November 2005 by Syracuse University Press.

In another publication note, Oberlin College GAWS-affiliated faculty are batting 1.000 in Volume 31 (2005) of the journal Feminist Studies: Wendy Kozol published “Miss Indian America: Regulatory Gazes and the Politics of Affiliation” in issue No. 1; Sonia Kruks (Politics) published “Beauvoir’s Time/Our Time: The Renaissance in Simone de Beauvoir Studies” in issue No. 2; and Frances Hasso’s “Problems and Promise in Middle East and North Africa Gender Research” will be published in issue No. 3.

It would be difficult to run GAWS without the dedication and work of faculty throughout the college who have participated in governance through the GAWS Program Committee. In the 2005-2006 academic year, these faculty are Pamela Brooks (African American Studies), Meredith Gadsby (African American Studies), Daphne John (Sociology), Diana Kahn (GAWS), Margaret Kamitsuka (Religion, on leave in fall), Sonia Kruks (Politics), Patricia Mathews (Art History), Joyce McClure (Religion Department) and Ann Sherif (East Asian Studies). Also vital is the participation and work of the GAWS student representatives on the program committee, who this year are Katie Baum (in her second year), Sara Green and Krista Lewicki. Last but not least to the success of GAWS is the significant behind-the-scenes work of our administrator, Linda Pardee.

The accomplishments and news of some recent GAWS students and award winners are listed in this newsletter. Not noted, however, is that two of our recent alumna presented papers based on work in GAWS courses and with GAWS faculty at national conferences this past academic year. Rebecca DeCola (GAWS major, ’04) co-wrote and presented with Wendy Kozol a paper titled, “Rescue Narratives and the Problematics of Visibility: Gender, Race, and Trans/nationalism in the War on Terrorism,” at the annual meeting of the American Studies Association in Atlanta in November 2004. This paper is also forthcoming as a publication. Althea Lazzaro (English major, GAWS minor, ’05) presented a paper titled, “Narrating Identity Through Radical Memory Loss: Dilemmas in Oral History,” at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association in Philadelphia in August 2005.
Program faculty members are again offering a range of courses this year that continue to attract and serve not only majors and minors, but students from all the disciplinary corners of the college, including Introduction to Gender and Women’s Studies (GAWS 100, fall and spring); Visible Bodies and the Politics of Sexuality (202, fall); Feminist Research Methodologies (300, fall); Gender and the State in the Middle East and North Africa (406, fall); Gender and Sexuality in the Middle East and North Africa (233, spring); Practicum in GAWS (301, spring); Global Feminisms (330, spring); and Picturing War: American Visual Culture, Militarization, and Crises of Identity (407, spring). An additional number of discipline-focused gender and sexuality courses taught by other Oberlin faculty members are also offered, many taught by past or present faculty members on the GAWS program committee, providing majors and minors with a robust selection of courses.

GAWS-affiliated faculty and students, with the indispensable assistance of program administrator Linda Pardee, organized a range of highly successful and well-attended events that involved and attracted other students, faculty, and staff from throughout the college, as well as town residents. During this past year, these events included a fall series on the Iraq war that premiered on campus two new films (“About Baghdad” and “Forget Baghdad”), and featured presentations by Anthony Shadid, Pulitzer Prize-winning Islamic affairs correspondent of the Washington Post who spoke about reporting from Iraq; Ella Shohat, Professor of Art and Public Policy and Middle East Studies at New York University; and Sinan Antoon, an Iraqi poet and filmmaker, and a professor at Dartmouth College. In Spring, Professor Angela Y. Davis of UC Santa Cruz gave the International Women’s Day keynote address to a standing room only crowd at the First Church in Oberlin. GAWS also sponsored two Feminist Research Lectures, one by Kim Germain (visiting instructor in GAWS) and another by Wendy Kozol. The program also held a “really fresh fruit and pizza party” for students to discuss their GAWS-sponsored 2005 Winter Term projects: ‘05 graduates Althea Lazzaro, Fae Williams, and Tessa Levine-Sauerhoff presented the results of their projects to an appreciative audience of faculty and students in February. Meredith Gadsby and Wendy Kozol are planning another exciting series of events for 2005-2006 that we hope will again serve to inform and build communities based on discussion and the sharing of knowledge. These events would not be possible without the generous support of donors and various offices and departments at Oberlin College.

I end this piece with words I wanted to begin with but had trouble articulating: Many of us have in the past two weeks followed with horror the death, destruction, and displacement that have been visited on the U.S. Gulf Coast and its peoples, not only by Hurricane Katrina, but also as a result of the combined effects of 25 years of state disinvestment (in environmental protection and conservation, healthcare, infrastructure, and a social safety net for all), profit-driven corporate cynicism, the persistence of racism, and “pull yourself up by your bootstraps” class/race/nation/gender politics. It does seem that all of this washed down more easily, especially since the 1980s, by a putatively “God”-sanctioned cultural politics attacking the queers, feminists, reproductive rights activists, and especially since 9-11, potential traitors within and terrorists without. Where we go from here I am not sure, but I do know that as gender activists and scholars, we are working to turn the corner to much more humane, inclusive, and ecologically sustainable realities.

GRADUATES

Congratulations to the students who graduated last year with a major or minor in Gender and Women’s Studies. We wish you the best of luck in all of your future endeavors.

Amerikaner, Ary  Macaluso, Elizabeth
Beam, Myrl  Miliniscic, Alexis
Brown, Gabrielle  Robinson, Helen
Dale, Magdalen  Shauger, Allison
Ehrenhalt, Lizzie  Stokes, Andrea
Gentile-Miserandino, April  Timreck, Eleanor
Lazzaro, Althea  Washington, Alesha
Levine-Sauerhoff, Tessa
Phyllis Jones Memorial Award

The Phyllis Jones Memorial Award was established through gifts from students, colleagues, and friends of Phyllis Jones (1945-1982). This annual award recognizes and honors student work in areas related to Phyllis Jones’s interests: women writers, minority women, women in the community, and the integration of personal and professional goals for women. This past year the award was given to two deserving students, Lizzy Ehrenhalt and Althea Lazzaro

LIZZY EHRENHALT
Gender & Women’s Studies / Latin Language & Literature Major

Project title: Alone Among Women: Explaining Sappho in Ancient Roman Testimonial Literature

Project description: The Greek lyric poet Sappho is at once familiar and obscure in today’s culture. Because of her popular image as an independent, talented, homoerotically-inclined woman of antiquity, Sappho is claimed by feminist writers and lesbian activists as a kind of foremother. But contemporary discussions rarely look beyond Sappho’s symbolic dimension to consider where this legacy comes from, and how it evolved from ancient perceptions of the Lesbian poet. “Alone Among Women” looks closely at a variety of Roman-era testimonies, in their original Greek and Latin, that reference Sappho. It locates the origin of modern understandings of Sappho as transgressive and unique in the literature of this period, when commentators first began to write of her as a sexual and gender deviant.

ALTHEA LAZZARO
English Major, GAWS minor

Project Title: Narrating Identity through Radical Memory Loss

Leah Freed Memorial Prize

The Leah Freed Memorial prize is awarded to support student research, creative work, performance, or other academic projects. Awards are granted to help defray costs of deserving student projects. Competitions for the award are held every fall semester for work to be completed during that academic year. The Fall 2004 recipients were Myrl Beam, Laura Bellows, Melson Carlsen, and Catherine Thornton-Stocks

MYRL BEAM
Comparative American Studies Major

Project Title: Gay Patriot Games: Citizenship, Privacy, and Pledging Allegiance

Project Description: In this project, which is an Honors thesis in Comparative American Studies, I will be examining narratives of citizenship, privacy and patriotism in the mainstream gay press, working to challenge the ways that tropes of nation, allegiance, heroism, masculinity, and family are mobilized. My research will look primarily at discourses surrounding gays in the military, the post-9/11 rise of the gay patriot hero, and gay marriage as lenses though which to interrogate gay and lesbian projects of citizenship. Why is it that the primary sites for the assertion of citizenship have been located in the most normative domains of political and social life, marriage and the military? It is imperative to examine this question within the context of post-9/11 constructions of citizenship, with a critical analysis of the implications of citizenship itself; the categories at play here are marked – who then is marked non-citizen? I envision this research as responding to the question and challenge posed by M. Jacqui Alexander in her recent lecture: “Who becomes the citizen patriot that is legalized, so that non-citizen, non-patriot can be criminalized?” (Alexander, 2004)

LAURA BELLOWS
Environmental Studies Major

Project Title: Ecofeminism and Creative Environmental Education

Project Description: How can we introduce the study of earth, and our evolving history of relating to it, in a way that challenges the patriarchal assumptions of domination over the land and over knowledge; and that instills in the curriculum a subjective, imaginative, integrated and kinesthetic approach to environmental

http://www.oberlin.edu/gaws
learning? How can we shift from an educational epistemology that values power over, and mastery of, earth and knowledge, to one which allows for creativity, and contributes positively to a reconstructed, if gendered, relationship to the earth?

This project explores how ecofeminism manifests in non-traditional forms of elementary and early secondary environmental education, namely, the schoolyard garden; and then, how an ecofeminist perspective can be made accessible and meaningful to a young audience. This project is three-pronged: First, it investigates and documents the use of schoolyard gardens in and around the Berkeley and San Francisco, California areas as examples of creative, experiential environmental education. Second, it offers an accessible, imaginative, non-patriarchal view of earth-human relationships through the creation of a written and illustrated ecofeminist children’s book, or series of books that address either the processes and cycles of raising a garden and/or our gendering of nature. And third, it brings the knowledge gained back to Oberlin through presentations in the college classroom, and collaborating on an outdoor classroom curriculum at Eastwood Elementary School.

**MELSON CARLSEN**
Studio Art / Piano Performance Major

*Project Title:* Genderworks: Documenting My Experience in a Dual-Gendered System

*Project Description:* As I am navigating my transition from being a person with a female body to being one with a male-presenting body, I am creating a body of artwork that documents my experience. This experience is both a physical transition and an emotional/psychological journey wherein I am constantly coming up against and trying to conscientiously navigate a gender-binary institution. By referencing famous paintings in my photographic self-portraits, I hope to communicate my experience in a way that is very strong and clear. I will be showing this work in the spring in the first floor hallway of the Art Building.

**CATHERINE THORNTON-STOCKS**
Cinema Studies Major

*Project Title:* Women's Health Documentary

*Project Description:* This eighteen (18) minute documentary film entitled *Something That She Could Carry*, explores the memories and emotions of two women who became pregnant in high school. Delving into family, relationship, as well as issues of choice, the film complicates the stigma of teenage pregnancy.

**DONORS**
The Gender and Women’s Studies Program is extremely grateful for the generous contributions made by the following individuals this past year.

- Ms. Sherri B. Levine ('85)
- Mills, Kevin P. ('83)
- Fechner, Holly B. ('85)
- Fischel, Carolyn N. ('64)
- Dr. Sally McConnell-Ginet ('59)
- Rife, Marilyn N. ('76)
- Zaslow, Richard and Lucy
  *(parents of Emilie Zaslow, '93)*

- John & Nancy Gebhardt
  *(parents of Sarah Gebhardt, '03)*
- Thomas & Jeanne Swartele
  *(parents of Laura Swartele-Brooks '91)*
- Mr. & Dr. Charles Goldsmid ('64)
- Mr. David J. Cordell & Ms. Candace D. Jarrett
  *(parents of Caitlin Cordell '08)*
- Ms. Jean C. Robinson ('73)
- Ms. Maryasha L. Katz ('85)

Thank you for your support. Your generous contributions enable us to schedule and sponsor events both on and off campus, benefiting the Gender and Women’s Studies majors as well as the entire student body at Oberlin College.
**Alumni News**

It’s always a pleasure to know what our alumni have been up to since their days at Oberlin College. If you would like to be included in following newsletters we would love to hear from you. You may contact us via e-mail at linda.pardee@oberlin.edu or via snail mail at 10 North Professor Street, Rice 116, Oberlin, OH 44074. Here are a few of updates from some of our alumni . . .

**Rebecca Adelman:** I just completed my M.A. in Women's Studies (with a focus on visual and popular culture) at The Ohio State University. My Women's Studies training at Oberlin left me very well-prepared for graduate study; because of it, I was able to start my M.A. work already fluent in theories and methodologies that were absolutely essential to producing the kind of scholarship expected of graduate students. This fall, I am beginning my Ph.D. in the Department of Comparative Studies at OSU, where I'll be studying intersections of contemporary American nationalism and popular culture.

**Julie Beicken** (’03) is training for an AIDS marathon in February and applying to graduate school. After spending two years working for a civil rights law firm in New York City, she has decided to continue the research she started at Oberlin about women in prison.

**Lizzie Ehrenhalt** (’05): I am living in a house full of cool Obie-style people near downtown Minneapolis. I'm applying to grad school for archives and records management at the University of Michigan for the '06-'07 school year, and also to the University of Washington in Seattle for library science. My plan is to get into women's studies librarianship so I can keep doing feminist work as a career.

**Nava EtShalom** (’04): I've spent the past year working at a social justice foundation in Philadelphia, living with Haley Pollack (OC ’04). I've also been working on a radio documentary project called Queerspawn Diaries (queerspawn.org) with Chana Joffe-Walt (OC ’03). In Philly, I'm continuing to do Palestine solidarity work, including developing curricula for youth with the Palestine/Israel Education Project and organizing with SUSTAIN (Stop US Tax-Funded Aid to Israel Now). I've recently left my job, and am supporting myself teaching workshops and working at a bookstore. This fall, I'll be applying to poetry MFA programs in sunny places so I can go on to teach about writing and reading literature of revolution.

**Stephanie Gilman** (’88): I have been working in theatre since 1992 or so. I founded and ran an interdisciplinary company called Collision Theory from 1996-2003, and taught physical theatre at the New Actors Workshop. I have recently crossed over to the "other side", and am now working as a freelance director. I am about to direct Cyrano at the Weston Playhouse in Vermont, and when I return I'll direct Wasted by Kirsten Childs at the George St. Playhouse in New Jersey. I'm represented by Abrams Artists Agency, and am a proud member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers. I live in Brooklyn with my partner of 10 years, Kristin Tanzer.

**Rachel Hess** (’04): After finishing a year of literacy work as an AmeriCorps VISTA, Rachel just completed a road trip up and down the Pacific Northwest. Rachel is living in (and LOVING) Boston, where she starts a new job very soon. She will be the Training Coordinator (training the new volunteers for the hotline) for the Samaritans of Greater Boston, a suicide prevention group. Rachel is truly changing the world, one person at a time (insert heavy Obie sarcasm here).

**Maryasha Katz** (’85) has been working coordinating a sexual assault program and counseling department at Women’s Crisis Support–Defensa de Mujeres in Santa Cruz, CA. She also dances and teaches salsa. She lives with her domestic partner, Hannah, and her cat, Mr. Mojo Tucker.

**Chloe Maryann Maher** (’03): I am working for the Children's Literacy Initiative (www.CLIontheweb.org), a non-profit organization that does professional development
for teachers, with the goal of improving children’s literacy skills and fostering a love of reading. Philadelphia is my home these days, and I’m enjoying exploring my native town as an adult. I continue to sing, folk dance, and play music with friends. I enjoy taking classes around town at different universities and language centers. I hope to go abroad again in the near future to continue to live and learn in new places!

Michael Mastman (’03) spent his first year after Oberlin in restaurant kitchens on the East and West Coasts. He had the privilege of working tandoor and sauté stations at Tallula Indian-French fusion restaurant in San Francisco, and a hot appetizer station in a bustling Manhattan bistro. He currently waits tables on Capitol Hill, while applying to law schools.

Alexis Milinusic (’05) is presently residing in Red Deer Alberta Canada, where she is making art, studying french, and having fun.

Lauren Mizock (’03) is currently in her second year of a clinical psychology doctoral program at Suffolk University in Boston. She was awarded the Outreach Fellowship for committing her clinical and research work to the underserved. Currently she is doing therapy with teens in the juvenile justice systems in Chelsea, Massachusetts. Her master’s thesis will investigate ways to make sexual health services more accessible to African-American women. She is also doing drama therapy with children with social deficits and case management with survivors of brain injury.

Mitali Routh (’01): Currently I am in my third year in the PhD program in Art and Art History at Duke University. This will be my final year of course work after which I will take my preliminary examinations, and then begin research for my dissertation. My primary areas of research are sculpture, performance art, film and video since 1960, with a special emphasis on the use or construction of the body within these media. In addition, this September I joined the editorial collective of Polygraph (an international journal of culture and politics) produced by the Literature department at Duke.

Look for Issue 18: “Biopolitics, Narrative, Temporality” due to hit current academic periodical shelves this Spring! Outside of my work I have much to be thankful for. Most importantly are my two cats (Marcel and Valie) who I adopted last year as kittens and who have grown into the most loving companions. And just recently I have taken up swimming, which has significantly improved my overall happiness and reduced the stress of graduate school!

Sonya Satinsky (’00) will be finishing her Masters of Public Health at Indiana University, Bloomington this December, and will be starting the doctoral program in Health Behavior at IU in January. She is currently also interning at the Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender, and Reproduction, and is Research Coordinator for IU’s Sexual Health Research Working Group. She can be reached at: ssatinsk@indiana.edu.

Jennifer Taub (’91): I am currently living in Boston, and recently moved into JP CoHousing, a community-oriented housing development I have been working on for 4 years. I work in Worcester at the Center for Mental Health Services at UMass Medical school, where I am a psychologist researching programs and services for children and families. I am the mom of a wonderful 2 year old. I recently chaired a roundtable on Motherhood in Academia at the annual American Psychological Association convention. I can be reached at: jennifer.taub@umassmed.edu.

Katie Tell (’97): After finishing up at Oberlin in 1997, I went on to work for various international women's reproductive health and rights NGOs, focusing mostly on the west Africa region, but always based in New York. I also went on to get my masters at Columbia in international human rights, and have just finished a one year consultancy with the United Nations Population Fund, working on their global Campaign to End Fistula (www.endfistula.org). I will be starting a new job with the NGO EngenderHealth, still working to prevent and treat obstetric fistula.

Oh, and I'm also now engaged to be married in July 2006.
Faculty News

Pam Brooks, Assistant Professor of African American Studies, is currently beginning her sixth year teaching at Oberlin, and her fourth semester as a member of the GAWS Program Committee. She teaches several courses that are affiliated with GAWS: African American Women's History, Black Feminist Thought, and two that are of interest to GAWS students: Black Women and Liberation (a First Year Seminar) and AAST 101. Ms. Brooks continues to liaise with the Women's Reentry Network in Cleveland sponsoring a student who will help to lead their writing workshop, and keeping in touch with the organization herself. In addition to her teaching, Ms. Brooks continues work on her book manuscript, "Boycotts, Buses, and Passes: Black Women's Political Resistance in Montgomery, Alabama and Johannesburg, South Africa, from Colonization to 1960." Her article, "Crossing Borders: A Black Feminist Approach to Researching the Comparative Histories of Black Women's Resistance in the US South and South Africa was recently published in South Africa and the United States Compared: The Best of Safundi, 2003-2004. This is Ms. Brooks' tenure year, and she invites past and present student feedback from any who have taken her courses.

Meredith M. Gadsby, Assistant Professor of African American Studies. Meredith Gadsby is happy to return this semester to work with the dynamic women in Gender and Women’s Studies. A professor of African Diasporic Literatures, Cross Cultural Feminisms, and Black Women’s Literatures, Ms. Gadsby is committed to activism in the interests of communities of color internationally. In her courses, she strives to illuminate the lives of those who often go unacknowledged. She teaches several courses with emphasis on gender and issues of gender and race based inequalities, several of which are offered for credit in GAWS. Her course Black Women's Writing deals specifically with the efforts of Black women to mobilize against oppression through literature. While at Oberlin Ms. Gadsby has worked with a variety of student organizations including ABUSA and SOCA. She has worked to invite ZAMI and feminist writers and scholars to Oberlin, such as Dorothea Smartt and Carole Boyce Davies. Ms. Gadsby is especially proud of her efforts in organizing the 30th Anniversary Celebration of the Oberlin College African American Studies Department. Her first book, "Sucking Salt: Caribbean Women Writers, Migration, and the Politics of Survival" is scheduled for publication in Spring 2006.

Frances Hasso, Associate Professor of Gender & Women’s Studies and Sociology, and Acting Director of GAWS. Frances Hasso is looking forward to the publication of two journal articles and her first monograph. The articles are titled "Problems and Promise in Middle East and North Africa Gender Research," in Feminist Studies (Fall 2005), and "Discursive and Political Deployments by/of the 2002 Palestinian Women Suicide Bombers/Martyrs," in Feminist Review (November 2005). The book is titled Resistance, Repression, and Gender Politics in Occupied Palestine and Jordan (Syracuse University Press, 2005). She presented talks and papers in a number of fora this past year, including at a conference on hate crimes sponsored by the Cleveland FBI office, the American Sociological Association annual meeting in Philadelphia, and a summer institute on Islamic and Jewish gender studies at Dartmouth College.
Margaret Kamitsuka, Assistant Professor of Religion, is on research leave for fall semester 2005. She will be teaching two courses for spring semester 2006: RELG 263. Roots of Religious Feminism in North America and RELG 366. Feminist Interpretations of Evil.

Wendy Kozol, Associate Professor of Gender and Women’s Studies. Wendy teaches courses on feminist theories and methodologies as well as courses on American visual culture. This fall Ms. Kozol is teaching a new 200-level course, “Visible Bodies and the Politics of Sexuality.” Last spring, she published an article in Feminist Studies titled “Miss Indian America: Regulatory Gazes and the Politics of Affiliation.” Ms. Kozol is currently working on a book project, Visible Wars and American Nationalism: Militarization and Visual Culture in the Post-Cold War Period. This book examines the ways in which visual cultures have represented ideals of the nation – of citizenship, national security, threat and enemy status -- during a period in which American foreign policy has increasingly relied on military actions to maintain global political and economic hegemony. One part of this study will be published in 2006 as a co-authored article with a former GAWS major, Rebecca DeCola (‘94), “Remapping the Visual War on Terrorism: Citizenship and its Transnational Others.” In Spring 2006 she will teach a related seminar called “American Visual Culture, Militarization, and Crises of Identity.”
