The Women’s and Gender Studies Department continues to develop and strengthen as we transition from a program to a department. It is an exciting time to be part of this process. The energy and enthusiasm of the students and faculty are palpable!

Our minor continues to thrive. With 25 faculty members from 13 different departments throughout the university, we teach a broad variety of classes. (See list on page 2). We persist in our desire to teach small classes and provide opportunities for students and faculty to work together both in and out of the classroom on research and on community projects. To get a better idea of our activities, I hope you enjoy reading entries from individual faculty in this newsletter. As you can see, WGS faculty members are excellent teachers and scholars, professionally active and contributing significantly to the department in their fields of expertise. Many find time to pursue feminist and social justice work in the larger community as well.

We are very excited to welcome Dr. Silvia Salvatici to Cal Poly for fall quarter 2011. She will teach two courses as the WGS Susan Currier Visiting Professor for Teaching Excellence. Salvatici is a women’s/gender historian at the University of Teramo, Italy. She is a very accomplished scholar, having published four books, several edited volumes and 30 academic articles and book chapters. She is an energetic and interesting teacher who brings a wealth of knowledge about European women to the classroom. Salvatici will teach two classes, a course on gender and human rights and another on women refugees in the 20th century.

We also welcome Dr. Tom Trice, associate professor in the Cal Poly History Department, as our next department chair. Trice teaches HIST 458: Gender and Sexuality in Modern Europe and HIST 216: History of Modern Social Movements. He writes, "What I see in the WGS core and affiliated faculty, students and staff is a crucial interdisciplinary program for fostering intellectual debate and social awareness about issues of both historic and lasting importance that affect each and every one of us at and beyond Cal Poly.” Trice is teaching in the Thailand Study Abroad Program this spring, and we look forward to his return to Cal Poly in June.

As interim chair this year, I’ve enjoyed hearing from our students about the deeply transformative nature of WGS classes. This newsletter includes submissions from current students and alumni who speak to the knowledge they have gained in the minor and convey the multitude of opportunities for those interested in women’s issues and social justice as it pertains to gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity and more. We love to hear from you, and your emails and letters provide encouragement to our current minors regarding the value of a WGS minor. Please keep in touch!

Jean Williams, WGS Interim Chair

WGS Mission Statement

Women's and Gender Studies (WGS) is an interdisciplinary academic department that promotes a critical understanding of how genders and sexualities shape and are shaped by social, political, ethical, economic, legal, and cultural institutions in historical and contemporary contexts. Our goal is to promote scholarly inquiry and activism that is feminist, anti-racist, anti-classist, and LGBTQIA positive; including the study of identity construction, popular culture and the media, bodies and body projects, ethical and values systems, religions, and science and technology.

Our focus on genders includes the study of historical and contemporary femininities, masculinities, and other gender identities. We strive for an integrative perspective that acknowledges the intersections of gender, race, sexuality, class, religion, dis/abilities, and other social categories within both national and transnational contexts, and includes a focus on economic justice and sustainability.

The Women’s and Gender Studies Minor core and elective curriculum is offered by the following departments at Cal Poly: Art and Design, Communication Studies, English, Ethnic Studies, History, Kinesiology, Music, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology and Child Development, Social Sciences, Theatre and Dance, and Women’s and Gender Studies.
This year’s course offerings enabled WGS minors and students to learn about gender, sexuality, race, and class in many fascinating and important contexts. The variety of courses demonstrated the breadth and depth of knowledge possessed by WGS faculty. And they illustrated faculty commitment to enabling students to step into the lives and experiences of individuals and groups that too often have been ignored or denigrated. The courses, cross-listed with other Cal Poly departments, were:

**Classes, we had classes...**

**WGS Scholarly Events in 2010-11**

The Women’s and Gender Studies Department worked with other campus departments and organizations to sponsor well-attended campuswide events this year. Our events offered students the opportunity to examine significant issues and to hear about cutting-edge research on a variety of topics.

In November, WGS, Women’s Programs and Services, Ethnic Studies and the Center for Excellence in Math Education organized “Women and People of Color in Science and Engineering at Cal Poly: Past, Present and Future.” The forum examined the status of underrepresented groups in these fields and suggested ways to enhance their recruitment and retention.

**Benjamin Bateman,** assistant professor of English at Cal State Los Angeles, came to campus in January for a talk sponsored by the WGS and English departments. His topic: “Reinventing Queerness: E.M. Forster, Connection and the Queer Invitation.” Through a fresh reading of Forster’s *Howards End*, Bateman argues that “queer invitations” provide a means for new ideas about gender and sexual difference to circulate among the population at large.

In March, **Gwen D’Arcangelis,** a post-doctoral scholar at the UC Santa Barbara, gave a talk titled “Racialized Bioterror and Feminized Nationhood: Manufacturing Risk in U.S. Bioterrorism Discourse.” In the wake of 9/11, D’Arcangelis argued, anxiety about bioterrorism centered on Middle Eastern men, who could be constructed as threatening a vulnerable, feminized nation. This obsessive focus put into place measures that masked risks caused by the bio-defense itself. Her talk was sponsored by WGS and Ethnic Studies.

**Beth Savage,** assistant professor of English at Lynchburg College in Lynchburg, Va., presented “‘Treat Me in Every Aspect as an Errant Woman’: Masculinity, Pornography, and Cross-Dressing in the 18th Century” in May. She analyzed pornographic portrayals of male heterosexual relationships through the lens of shifting ideas about masculinity. As homosexual identities became more codified, Savage argues, male friendships shifted away from their earlier intimate, and even erotic, dimensions. Her talk was sponsored by WGS and the English Department.
Silvia Salvatici Named Susan Currier Visiting Professor

Historians, journalists and politicians have long debated war’s impact on societies throughout the world in the 20th century. If they now place women at or near the center of such debates, it may be due in part to Dr. Silvia Salvatici, a scholar and activist from the University of Teramo, Italy, who has written extensively and taught a variety of courses on gender and social upheaval in Europe from World War II through the Balkan Wars of the 1990s.

Salvatici earned two doctoral degrees from universities in Italy. One doctoral degree is in family and gender history and the other is in historical sciences. She also completed post-doctoral work in contemporary history.

Over the past two decades, Salvatici has covered an impressive and eclectic array of topics in four books and dozens of articles and edited volumes. She has written about Italian peasant women and female anti-fascist resistance fighters during and immediately after World War II; female militants; women’s transnational movements as they relate to changing definitions of human rights; and forced migrations of women in the aftermath of conflicts such as Bosnia and Kosovo. She also wrote “A Long Journey: Elsa Becheri Massai,” a biography of a trade union activist. And she has used media, particularly photography, as a lens to analyze how Italian fascists created and disseminated the notion of “model women” as a propaganda tool in the interwar period.

Salvatici has made gender the primary focus of her teaching as well. As a professor in the Media Studies Department at Teramo and other institutions, she has examined women’s civil and political rights in the 20th century, gender and mass consumption, oral history and memory, international migrations, gender and human rights, and the history of women’s political movements.

In fall 2011, Salvatici will bring her passion, commitment and deep knowledge of international women’s issues to Cal Poly, where she will be the campus’ second Susan Currier Visiting Professor for Teaching Excellence. She will teach two classes. HIST 307: European Thought, 1800-2000 will focus on gender and human rights. WGS 470: Women Refugees of the 20th Century will track forced migrations from World War I to the genocidal conflict in the former Yugoslavia in the 1990s. WGS 470 is cross-listed as ES 470, HIST 470 and POLS 470 and will afford “a wide-ranging interdisciplinary look at experiences of women who comprised this global flow and at the highly gendered forces that framed and affected them.”

Salvatici also has worked outside of academia on projects designed to facilitate healing in women and men severely traumatized by war. From 1999 to 2001, she served as project officer for a United Nations’ program called ”Archives of Memory in War-Torn Kosovo.” Project organizers utilized media and cultural artifacts as therapy for severely traumatized Kosovars. The work was detailed in a series of published “Psychosocial Notebooks.” One aspect of the project included theater workshops, which one participant described as “a very powerful tool” enabling trauma victims to use their bodies to help overcome “the restraints of verbal communication” and to “express anguish and suffering.” The workshops also provided “a safe space” for victims to re-experience their trauma.

In her own essay, Salvatici described how working with cultural artifacts as diverse as drawings, essays, letters and even an identification card helped participants experience healing. Forgetting might seem the easier path, she wrote, but remembering “gives meaning to the loss... Remembered, [the dead] become martyrs and their loss is made more tolerable.”

Currently, Salvatici is studying relief work and humanitarian programs in Europe following World War II under the auspices of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA). Her objective, as she described it, is to “focus on the relief workers who were supposed to accomplish the mandate of the [United Nations], which had been conceived by Franklin Delano Roosevelt as a milestone in his plan to internationalize the New Deal.”

The Susan Currier Visiting Professorship honors the late Dr. Susan Currier, Cal Poly’s beloved associate dean in the College of Liberal Arts. It commemorates and sustains Currier’s commitment to education and to the Women’s and Gender Studies Department. Currier’s undergraduate years at Mt. Holyoke College in Massachusetts served as the basis for her lifelong support of women’s issues. Her own academic scholarship focused in part on feminist theory and women writers. Her passionate support of women’s rights extended beyond Cal Poly to Kabul, Afghanistan, where she spearheaded a successful fundraising campaign for a children’s center at Kabul University, making it possible for mothers to attend college. Dr. Ghada Talhami, who writes and teaches about women in the Middle East, served as the inaugural Currier visiting professor in fall 2009.
Members of Cal Poly's WGS Department share an intense commitment to teaching students to “shape the culture of Cal Poly and the world,” as English/WGS lecturer Nicole Ann Jacobs so aptly puts it. They come from diverse academic specialties, do cutting-edge research, and participate in community activism, as their 2010-11 newsletter submissions reveal.


Shawn Burn (Psychology and Child Development) taught Women in Global Perspectives in spring 2011. In this class, students learn about women's issues and empowerment and how these are shaped by intersectional forces. They also become part of the global women's movement through service projects. A member of Cal Poly’s Diversity Coalition Steering Committee, Burn works with others to promote diversity at Cal Poly. Her book Women Across Cultures: A Global Perspective examines issues women face throughout the world and details efforts from the local to the global level to empower women and promote equal rights. It received stellar reviews when it was published last fall. One reviewer noted that she “used this book for several sociology courses, women's studies courses, and public health courses.” Burn is currently working on research studies on gender, ethnicity and the environment, and sexual consent attitudes and behaviors in college men.

Kathleen Cairns (History) completed her fourth book for the University of Nebraska Press, which focuses on the 1955 California execution of Barbara Graham and its impact on gender and death penalty politics. She is beginning a new project focused on a 1934 “cold case” in Glendale, Calif., and is a member of Action Committee for Women in Prison (ACWIP), an organization that lobbies for female prisoners and raises money to enable the inmates to visit with their children. In the past year, she has reviewed several books on gender and the criminal justice system for H-Law and academic journals.

Rachel Fernflores (Philosophy, WGS) has chaired the Cal Poly Academic Senate for two years. Being senate chair has limited her time in the classroom; however, Fernflores has been able to lead several students in independent studies. One focused on body image, beauty, gender and eating disorders and another on feminist theory. She also published scholarly articles in Women's Studies and in Literature and Aesthetics, and she wrote a "Review of Marti Kheel's Nature Ethics: An Ecofeminist Perspective" in the journal Between the Species. Fernflores says, “Women's and Gender Studies, or ... some central tenets of feminism, continue to shape my interpretations of the world.”

Nicole Jacobs (English) spent her life on the East Coast until she arrived at Cal Poly in 2008. She teaches classes in Medieval, Renaissance and 18th century literature, in addition to Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies. She encourages students “to become involved in activism and advocacy.” Many of her students “present or participate in the Change the Status Quo Conference” at Cal Poly each year. Jacobs also stages debates “where students must step outside of their own perspectives to formulate arguments about gender, sexuality, media, healthcare, education and reproductive rights.” She has contributed entries on women writers to the Blackwell Encyclopedia of English Renaissance Literature and is currently revising a journal article on the role of England’s Princess Elizabeth in constructing the memory of her father, Charles I, executed in 1649.

Christina Kaviani (coordinator, Gender Equity Center) was appointed coordinator of Women’s Programs and the SAFER program in Student Life and Leadership in fall 2010. A 2009 graduate of Cal Poly's Master of Education, Counseling and Guidance program, Kaviani previously served with AmeriCorps as assistant coordinator of Women's Programs. Prior to joining Cal Poly, she managed at-risk youth cases in the juvenile court system. She also interned as a school counselor at Atascadero Junior High School and Paso Robles High School.
Devin Kuhn (Philosophy-Religious Studies, WGS) teaches Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies and Religion, Gender and Society. In the past year she has also added Sexuality Studies to her course load. Kuhn currently is working on two research projects. One explores modern sexual practices in evangelical Christian communities and the ways these practices both reinforce and subvert traditional gender norms. The second project examines sexual ethics within polyamorous communities. Kuhn also speaks to community groups on civility and anti-LGBT bullying, and transgender portrayals of the divine. She led a community workshop focused on gender in Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Jane Lehr (Ethnic Studies, WGS) was honored this year as the “most supportive professor” for the Society of Women Engineers, Cal Poly chapter. Only two of the nominees for this award were outside CENG, and Lehr was the only one from the CLA. In November, she participated in a faculty development workshop at the annual National Women's Studies Association Conference. The workshop, “Civic Engagement in the Women's & Gender Studies Classroom: Power and Privilege at the Intersection of Class, Race and Nation,” was designed to foster reflection and discussion about the practices and effects of civic engagement. In January 2011, Lehr took part in a “science café” that discussed “The Big C: Cancer in the 21st Century.” Lehr spent the month of March in the island nation of Malta with faculty and student participants in the International Computer Engineering Experience Program at Cal Poly. The students collaborated with marine archeologists in Malta to investigate previously unexplored underwater archeological sites.

B. Christine Shea (Communication Studies) has been a member of the WGS Board since its inception nearly 20 years ago. She has worked with the Cal Poly SAFER program, served on the board of directors for the San Luis Obispo Sexual Assault Recovery and Prevention (SARP) Center for five years, and facilitated workshops on a variety of sex and gender issues for students, faculty, and staff. More recently, Shea was a guest panelist in the Multicultural Journalism course. Some of her research interests include social constructions of health and illness and media portrayals of female athletes. Currently, she serves on the WGS Scholarship Review Committee and the University Human Subjects Committee.

Tom Trice (History) is spending spring quarter 2011 teaching in Thailand. In fall, five years after gaining approval for History 458: Gender and Sexuality in Modern Europe, he had “the pleasure to teach the class with a small, but superb group of students.” The course was designed “first and foremost, to foreground feminist historical practice and expose contradictions in systems such as republicanism, political economy and medicine that claim to be coherent and taken as first principles of social organization.” The class also utilizes recent work in queer and post-colonial studies that call into question reigning historical narratives of modern Europe. Trice is also involved in many community activities. He serves as the faculty advisor for Phi Alpha Theta, the history honor society, and Campus Democrats and is an Affirmative Action advisor.

Catherine Waitinas (English) teaches courses on women writers. This year she facilitated a Women's “Herstory” poetry reading and presented a paper titled “White Lies: Womanly Virtue and the Work of Narrative Deceit” at the Nineteenth Century Studies Association’s national conference. Her paper argued that the narrator of Charles Brockden Brown's 1798 novel “Wieland” “uses her skills of rhetorical persuasion to enable her sexual freedom and social respectability.” Waitinas also has a forthcoming article in the James Dickey Review titled “Gay and Godly: Coming to Jesus in James Baldwin's Go Tell It on the Mountain.” Waitinas argues that the book's central character “ultimately experiences religious ecstasy and conversion” because — not in spite — of the fact that he “simultaneously experiences sexual ecstasy with another man. This new love object offers a new model of Christian manhood to the novel's protagonist.”

Jean Williams (Political Science, WGS) is interim chair of the WGS Department. She teaches Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies as well as classes on social movements and social welfare policy for the Political Science Department. Her wide-ranging research centers on the politics and policies associated with adolescent sexuality, including sex education policy, abstinence education, and teen pregnancy. Williams' analysis of the Christian Right and the abstinence movement will appear in Sexualities: Studies in Culture and Society, an international journal focused on the politics of sexuality. As she phrases it, “My research reveals the extent to which young women’s sexuality is targeted by abstinence education, and critically analyzes calls for ‘sexual purity’ and heterosexual marriage that often underlie abstinence education.” Williams, who has also written on homelessness, has turned her attention to the immigrant rights movement, and she is looking forward to interviewing movement activists and leaders in California and Arizona.
WGS Alumna and Students: Scholars and Community Activists

The Women and Gender Studies Department has extraordinary students determined to achieve career success in a way that also enables them to make a difference in the world. For evidence, look no further than three Cal Poly alumnae and four current students. All seven share their experiences and life goals in the following paragraphs.

**Annika Johnson** graduated from Cal Poly in 2010 with a degree in psychology and child development and a minor in WGS. In addition to doing graduate work in counseling psychology at Pacifica Graduate Institute in Carpinteria, Johnson works part time at Sierra Vista Hospital as a phlebotomist and runs her own business, Annika Laurel, which sells handmade accessories such as hair clips and jewelry. Her designs are featured at the San Luis Obispo Creamery and at Farmers’ Market Thursday nights in downtown San Luis Obispo. Johnson says having a minor in WGS has impacted her deeply. “It inspired the topic I will probably write my master’s thesis on,” she said. “Additionally, since I started my business, I made giving back to the community an important part of it. Each month I spotlight a hairclip and donate 100 per cent of the profits.” Among Johnson’s causes are Let’s Stop Violence with Purple and the Family Care Network.

**Jay Ledbetter** graduated from Cal Poly in 2009 with a degree in psychology and child development and a minor in WGS. Currently Ledbetter is completing a master’s degree in social psychology at San Francisco State and has created an impressive resume. S/he is one of 11 SF State students chosen to receive the prestigious $3,000 Sally Casanova pre-doctoral research grant. Ledbetter also earned a Graduate Equity Fellowship and had a paper accepted for publication in *American Psychologist.* “Very exciting stuff,” Ledbetter says. Ledbetter’s thesis focuses on gender identity in adulthood and a new measure of identity. S/he is also in the process of writing a National Science Foundation grant proposal focused on women in science, engineering, technology and math. Next fall Ledbetter will begin studying for a Ph.D. in counseling psychology at UC Santa Barbara.

**Keely Sweeney** graduated from Cal Poly in 2006 with a degree in English and a minor in WGS and is completing her master’s degree in curriculum and instruction at Cal State Bakersfield. She also teaches ninth grade English and journalism at San Jose Collegiate, a charter school in east San Jose, and serves as the advisor to her school’s Gay Straight Alliance (GSA). “My WGS minor influences ways in which I approach most things in my daily and work life,” she writes. “I consistently strive to create a safe environment in my classroom by putting a halt to discrimination and by openly confronting stereotypes and biases with my students.”

**Kara Barbieri** is a fourth-year psychology and child development major and WGS minor. “Having my emphasis in WGS has encouraged me to pursue my passions concerning women and gender issues,” she writes, “as well as work alongside passionate and motivational professors and staff.” Barbieri is an intern and educator at the Gender Equity Center, creating and presenting curricula on topics such as sexual assault, healthy relationships, and modern maternity and childbirth. For her senior project, Barbieri created and presented a series of educational workshops for the cast of the “Vagina Monologues” to assist them in understanding the topics that are covered throughout the production, such as female genital cutting, rape, and intimate partner violence. After graduation, she plans to become an AmeriCorps member in San Luis Obispo County, working in a nonprofit organization for one year. “From there, I am hoping to earn my dual master’s in public health and social work, with an emphasis in nonprofit development and infant and maternal health.”

**Amanda Brooks** is a third-year student pursuing a bachelor’s degree in history with a WGS minor. “My interest in women’s issues began with my study of history,” she wrote. “In a historiography class I focused my research on feminist science fiction novels [from] the 1960s-70s. While reading Ursula Le Guin and James Tiptree Jr., my eyes were opened to the Second Wave feminist movement and to the continuing struggle women have endured fighting for their equality.” Brooks also has interned at the San Luis Obispo Self-Help Family Law Center. “For six months I interned under three amazing women who spent their days offering free legal help to the San Luis Obispo and Paso Robles communities. What moved me most ... was that, under the umbrella of family law, I was able to help women complete domestic violence restraining orders.” Brooks spent last summer in Costa Rica in an internship focused on empowering local women. Her next project entails studying for the LSAT in preparation for her career as a feminist lawyer. Her WGS background will enable her to “further empower my sisters as well as myself.” Brooks is a recipient of the James M. Duenow scholarship.

Four current undergraduates at Cal Poly are establishing impressive credentials even before graduating. Three of them were among the recipients of six scholarships for academic year 2010-2011. (A complete list of scholarships and recipients follows this story).
Kaitlin McCormick is a fourth-year liberal studies major and WGS minor, who has “loved the challenge and variety of WGS classes, as well as getting to work with passionate professors.” She has taken the knowledge gained in her coursework into her job as an educational events coordinator in the Gender Equity Center and as a director coordinator in Student Community Services. In the latter capacity, she helped to plan events such as the “Vagina Monologues” and the Change the Status Quo Conference. Change the Status Quo aims to train activists and “bring together people devoted to making a difference in the community and in the world.” McCormick is currently working on her multiple subject teaching credential and looks forward to being an elementary school teacher. She received the Dr. Shirley H. Walker Scholarship.

Tabatha Smith is completing her final year at Cal Poly as a political science major with a concentration in pre-law. She is a member of the Women’s Leadership Council. WGS classes have furthered her interest in women’s issues and in empowering women. Smith has worked in the Gender Equity Center, where she helped to plan “Love Your Body Day,” a two-day yearly event designed “to highlight and respond to socially constructed standards of beauty.” She also participated in a Wellness Workshop, where she led a discussion of the media’s influence on body image “that creates an unattainable standard of beauty.” Smith’s senior project investigates the role gender plays in sexual harassment and proposes that courts take into account the unique experiences of women in a society where they are overwhelmingly victims of sexual abuse. Smith plans to pursue a career as a women’s rights attorney. She received the L. Diane Ryan Scholarship.

WGS Scholarships

The Women’s and Gender Studies Department administers seven scholarships each year.

The Susan Currier Memorial Scholarship is conferred on a student in the College of Liberal Arts with a 3.0 grade point average and financial need. Preference is given to students from disadvantaged backgrounds and who have overcome significant adversity and/or who make a valuable contribution to community service. Sociology major Britney Huelbig received this year’s scholarship.

The James M. Duenow Scholarship is given to an individual considering a career as a feminist attorney; preference is given to liberal arts majors. The scholarship recognizes a Cal Poly student who demonstrates commitment to the rights of women. Amanda Brooks received this scholarship.

The Vicki and Darell Farrer Scholarship is given to a student in the College of Engineering or departments of Chemistry, Physics or Statistics in the College of Science and Mathematics who has demonstrated a commitment to women’s equality via service in organizations that promote women’s rights politically, economically and socially. The recipient should have a minimum 3.0 grade point average. BioMed major Lesley Telford received this scholarship.

The Steve Harmon Scholarship is awarded to individuals considering investigative reporting careers. Preference goes to students with experience on the campus publication Mustang Daily and covering corruption, cover-up or crime against women. Recipients must be nominated by Cal Poly faculty or staff. No scholarship was conferred this year.

The L. Diane Ryan Scholarship was established by Wendy Spradlin in honor of Ryan and is given to a Cal Poly student identified by faculty or staff as a principled individual with the potential to provide moral leadership in the workforce of the future and a person who is committed to women’s rights. Tabatha Smith was the recipient.

The Nell E. Spradlin Scholarship for the Recognition of Individuality is awarded to a Cal Poly student in the College of Liberal Arts, identified by a faculty or staff member as a person with exceptional outlook, insight and spirit. GrC major Sarah Willis received this year’s award.

The Dr. Shirley H. Walker Scholarship is conferred on a student identified by faculty or staff as demonstrating a commitment to women’s equality via organizations that promote women’s political, economic and social rights as a primary objective. Students should possess a 3.0 grade point average. This year two students, Kaitlin McCormick and Clare Teagle Patterson, a psychology graduate student, won this award.
WGS “Partners” in Service at Cal Poly

WGS students and faculty work closely with campus resources dedicated to fostering gender equity, social justice and a safe and secure environment. The programs also offer WGS students crucial experience for future careers.

The Gender Equity Center is a campus resource that offers the Cal Poly community a place to gather for educational events and programs related to gender equity, identity and social justice. It aims to foster dialogue that will eradicate hate and violence via services that acknowledge students’ diversity and provide leadership roles and opportunities for students.

On February 14, 2011, The Cal Poly Women's Center transitioned into The Gender Equity Center. This significant and historical change makes Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, the first campus in The California State University to create a Gender Equity Center. The reason behind the name change was to be more inclusive of all genders to get the most action and movement toward progress.

The Gender Equity Center has three programs: Women’s Programs, Men and Masculinity Programs and SAFER. Implementation of the new Men and Masculinity Programs has already begun. The center’s new name demonstrates the impact of the gender equity movement at Cal Poly. By offering workshops, presentations and events on sexual assault risk reduction, feminism, body image and gender identity, the center aims to educate women, men and other genders on the importance of these issues; create a campus free of violence and hate; and lastly and most importantly, help create successful, educated student leaders who can positively impact other students at Cal Poly, other communities, and people all over the world.

The Gender Equity Center continues to meet the needs of students by offering new programs and events. Thus far, many new and returning events have been held such as:

- **Love Your Body Day**: an event that focuses on bringing awareness of the need for a healthy body image and re-defining what beauty truly is.
- **University Luncheon Celebrating Women**: faculty and staff are brought together to celebrate women and their achievements.
- **Women's and Gender Studies and Women’s Center SOCIAL**: WGS minors, Gender Equity Center staff, and WGS affiliated faculty and staff had the opportunity to connect in this informal get together.
- **Run to Remember**: a 5K run to remember survivors of sexual assault in our community.
- **The Vagina Monologues**: the annual production of women’s stories about what it means to have a vagina and be a woman.
- **Women’s HERstory Week**: a series of events that celebrate the triumphs and successes of women. The underlying theme of all the events is empowering women.
WGS Faculty Board

A big thank you goes to our wonderful WGS faculty board members for their continued support and dedication to furthering the WGS Department and feminist scholarship on campus. This year’s WGS faculty board members are:

Interim Chair, Jean Williams (POLS, WGS), Elizabeth Adan (ART & DESIGN), Shawn Burn (PSY & CD), Kathleen Cairns (HIST), Renoda Campbell (ex officio - coordinator of MultiCultural Center), Erin Echols (ex officio - coordinator of Pride Center), Rachel Fernflores (PHIL, WGS), Christina Firpo (HIST), Christina Kaviani (ex officio - coordinator of Gender Equity Center), Devin Kuhn (PHIL/RELS, WGS), Jane Lehr (ES, WGS), Andrea Nash (ex officio – administrative support coordinator WGS), Camille O’Bryant (KINE), Christine Shea (COMS), Tom Trice (HIST), and Catherine Waitinas (ENGL).

DONATE TO WGS

We are so very grateful to those who have donated resources to our department. Any donation—small or large—helps us accomplish our mission and acknowledge those who make a difference through scholarship, teaching, and service. Donations have been used to fund visiting professors, assist WGS professors to attend conferences so they can share the newest feminist scholarship in the classroom, fund scholarships and awards, and purchase classroom materials such as films. We can put even the smallest donation to good use. We also are happy to use your donation in a specific way; support specific course offerings, buy particular films for our collection, or to bring a speaker to campus. Your donation is tax-deductible. For more information on making a donation, or to make a donation to WGS, go to: http://cla.calpoly.edu/wgs/support.html.
INFORMATION ≫ ALUMNI UPDATE ≫ DONATION FORM

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Update on your career and life to be included in the next issue of The Observer. Attach additional page(s) if necessary. 
Mail to Women’s and Gender Studies Department at address below or email to wgs@calpoly.edu.

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