

GENDER STUDIES NEWSLETTER



Spring 2017

Letter from Director



As we move into the Spring and I take stock of our accomplishments for the 2016-2017 year, I am truly astonished and so very proud. In this newsletter, I have attempted to cover the wide range of gender-related events and advancements on campus, and frankly, I ran out of room. For such a small campus to create such a massive, wide-reaching impact brings me joy. We have a truly committed faculty and hardworking students who are determined to open the theories of our classrooms to the wider world. Imagine what we can accomplish if we keep it up. We can change the world. We are changing the world. Given the divisiveness of recent political events, finding hope and strength in our work is imperative. So is solidarity. Here's to a refreshing spring semester and another round of transformative gender programming.

Corey L. Wrenn, PhD

DID YOU KNOW?

Many Gender Studies minors also major or minor in SOCIOLOGY! Monmouth's Gender Studies Program is a housed within the Sociology Department. Speak with a faculty member today about what a degree in Sociology and/or Gender Studies can do for your life after Monmouth.

NEWS

Monmouth University Gender Studies Faculty and Affiliates Pen Letter to *The Outlook* The following is a reprint of a letter printed in a November issue of *The Outlook*, Monmouth's student newspaper.

As concerned educators, we are reaching out to students, faculty, administrators, staff, and the extended campus community to encourage open and respectful dialogue in this post-election period.

Monmouth University must provide a safe physical and intellectual space for all students and community members. We acknowledge the heightened sense of fear, distrust, and anger present on campus. We encourage open and respectful dialogue so that students can better understand and respect each other on campus and beyond, regardless of political affiliation. As faculty, we are committed to facilitating such conversation. We invite students to ask questions in class, visit faculty during office hours, and we call on faculty to participate in formal and informal student discussions around campus.



We also urge students to both speak and act; but before doing either, to make sure that what they are saying and doing is thoughtful, respectful, and moves us toward mutual understanding, not bullying and hate. As faculty, we publicly affirm that while we welcome open discussion, we will not tolerate harassment and violence in our classrooms.

The 2016 Presidential election has cracked open and revealed a series of festering and interrelated wounds that economic, race, gender, sexual, national, religious inequalities, and socio-cultural marginalization in the United States have produced. These are phenomena that many of us regularly study and teach. We have witnessed a rising wave of racist, sexist, homophobic, nationalistic, xenophobic, anti-Semitic, and Islamophobic hate speech and acts. The fears of undocumented citizens and their families are quite palpable. We are incensed that a presidential race would inspire such bigoted sentiments that place Americans and our neighbors at risk.

We recognize that many Americans are frustrated by the political establishment, and many are also angered by the weakening of their social and economic status. We share their critiques of growing inequalities. However, we are also deeply troubled by the harassment and hate speech that has been rising in the wake of this election. Our campus must work diligently to avoid perpetuating such inequalities, and we must draw on education and serious intellectual dialogue to help move past this divisive historical moment. Especially given our campus's recent conversations around sexual violence and historical racism, we feel that we would not be meeting our obligations as educators if we failed to raise our concerns.

Indeed, we are dedicated to social action that promotes the common good. We are willing to lead and facilitate open and respectful discussion. We hope that those coming from all walks of life can explore their own biases, fears, concerns, and questions in the fertile intellectual space upon which Monmouth University is built and depends.

Respectfully signed (alphabetically),

Professors Heidi Bludau, Manuel Chavez, Anne Deepak, Chris DeRosa, Lisa Dinella, Donna Dolphin, Corey Dzenko, Melissa Febos, Johanna Foster, George Gonzalez, Andrea Hope, Scott Jeffrey, Alison Maginn, Jennifer McGovern, Marie Mele, Nancy Mezey, Mihaela Moscaliuc, Brooke Nappi, Eleanor Novek, Katherine Parkin, Tom Pearson, Mike Phillips-Anderson, Julie Schaaff, Karen Schmelzkopf, Deanna Shoemaker, Don Swanson, Claude Taylor, Kara Van Cleaf, Marina Vujnovic, Michael Waters, and Corey Wrenn

Inauguration March to Trump Tower

On January 21st, the Gender Studies club in tandem with the School of Humanities and Social Sciences hosted a bus trip to New York City, the sister march of Million Women March held the same day in Washington D.C. The trip included students from Rutgers and Seton Hall as the bus filled with 40+ students took to Midtown from 11:30 am until 5:00 pm.

The march received bigger numbers than expected. In fact, for several hours, it was at a standstill due to the of the amount of people, causing a "human traffic-jam." Nevertheless, this did not take away from the experience; many students made eyecatching signs, chants resonated amongst the people and the crowds were huge but everyone still felt the same emotion: unity.





On Campus Last Fall

The Gender Studies Club and SAGE (Students Advocating for Girls' Education) organized an anti-hate rally on campus in response to campus post-election tensions. The rally was well attended by faculty, administration, student clubs, and students. A number of campus members of color, immigrants, LGBT+, and other marginalized groups shared stories, poems, and other wisdoms.



The Office of Equity + Diversity presented an outdoor screening of The Hunting Ground and followed with Take

Back the Night, which featured local nonprofits and speakers who shared their personal experiences with sexual assault before leading Monmouth students on a peaceful walk across campus. Students from the Gender Studies Club were also present to raise awareness to the shortcomings of university responses to sexual assault.

Delta Phi Epsilon hosted **Better Than Barbie** to build self confidence in the Greek community and combat harmful stereotypes about body presentation. This sorority also hosted an **ANAD vigil** to raise awareness to anorexia and other eating disorders while providing solidarity and support for survivors.



Better than Barbie event, scale reads "Perfect"

The Monmouth Area Vegetarian Society has changed its name to *Plants for Peace*. Plants for Peace is a volunteer organization offering free vegan-related educational programs that advocate for people, the planet, and animals. All events are hosted on Monmouth University campus. Plants for Peace can be followed on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Instagram</u>.



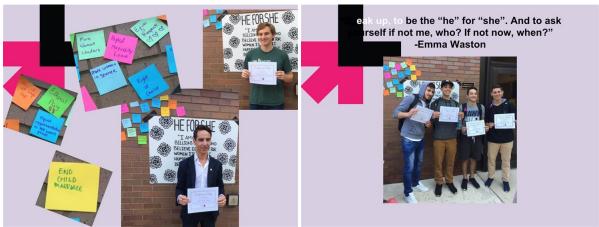


New Plants for Peace logo

Plants for Peace hosted a **Thanksliving** presentation by author Victoria Moran (pictured right) on the importance of compassion and ethical eating in the face of violence and injustice.



SAGE (Students Advocating for Girls' Education) hosted a PB & Jam Session with Blue Hawk Records and The Music Alliance to raise funds for a women's homeless shelter and featured an all-female lineup. They also hosted **He For She** to encourage men to support women's rights. The **Annual 5k** fundraiser was also a hit.



SAGE He for She event

The Sociology Club screened Aubrey & Daisy, a film on sexual assault and victim-blaming in America. They also held an awareness table in September in support of Standing Rock and later took a group of students to New York City in December to support a UN protest against female genital mutilation for

Human Rights Day, sponsored a free sign language workshop, and advocated for homeless persons in the community.

Monmouth Arts sponsored a number of gender-themed events, including the screening of *The Official Story*, a film exploring domestic violence and sexual assault in the home.

SPECTRUM, the LGBTQ+ student club, has also been hard at work, hosting a **Coming Out Day** event and a transgender activist and speaker. Vice President Jane Lai created **bathroom inclusivity posters** in collaboration with the Gender Studies

Program, the Office of Equity + Diversity, and Facilities to inform students and faculty about the importance of safety in public restrooms.





Poster campaign by honors student Jane Lai (left); SPECTRUM's Coming Out event (right)



Introduction to Gender Studies GS 225

Students in Dr. Van Cleaf's GS 225 course created a <u>blog</u> containing writings on students' personal experiences of gender, some of the performative aspects of it, as well as intersectional analyses of how gender informs the unequal distribution of social power and resources. You can read about some of the most mind-blowing topics covered by clicking on the "Reflections" tab. To learn about the understanding of intersectionality in students' own lives, please click on the "Intersectionality in Our Lives" tab. Dr. Van Cleaf encourages readers to leave comments and questions!



Students in **Professor Wrenn's** GS 225 course created over thirty gender projects designed to benefit the community. Section 1 **visited classrooms** from preschool to high school to teach students in the community about gender theory. They also created a **gender fashion show** in the student center, **promoted transgender access**, created social events for

Monmouth LGBTQ+ solidarity, organized self-defense classes, organized film screenings on rape culture, tabled outside the student center for a variety of causes, created workshops for sororities, collected supplies for homeless shelters, gave presentations for their workplaces and church groups, wrote blog posts, and more.

Section 2 raised about \$500 for women's organizations, gave a radio show on sexism in the music industry, blogged, created online quizzes and websites for their social networks, organized a homeless shelter coffee shop concert, leafleted about LGBT+ homelessness at work, tabled on campus to raise awareness about rape and domestic violence, and chalked about sexual violence at the boardwalk. Both sections also helped to promote the Gender Studies program across campus.

These sixty students have inundated our little community with knowledge, solidarity, and support.



GS 225 student Brielle Pontelandolfo chalks gender statistics at the boardwalk



GS 225 student Charity Turnquist organized a children's self-defense class in her community (top)





GS 225 student Selena Ortiz (right) gives a gender inequality presentation to her workplace



SOC Dish Season 3

Season 3 of SOC Dish launched this January. The new time is every other Wednesday at 9 a.m. SOC Dish on WMCX 88.9 FM is a project of the Monmouth Sociology Department hosted by the faculty in tandem with two student representatives. For thirty minutes, the team dishes on hot topics on gender, race, class, and more from a critical perspective. You can stream online from The X website. Find SOC Dish on Facebook for updates and reminders.



Trans Inclusion Tip Sheet

In cooperation with the Office of Equity and Diversity and SPECTRUM, the Gender Studies Executive Team has devised a tip sheet for best practices in the classroom regarding the inclusion, comfort, and safety of trans students and their classmates. This tip sheet was distributed in faculty mailboxes in December and is available in most classrooms. It can also be accessed on the Gender Studies website.



Recent Student Achievements in Gender Studies

Gender studies minor **Jane Lai** has accepted an internship with the intersectionality-minded *Pen America: A Journal for Writers and Readers*.

Recent Faculty Publications and Achievements in Gender Studies

Dr. Anne Deepak has offered continued service as an appointed member to the Council on Social Work Education's Women's Council on the Role and Status of Women in Social Work Education. She was appointed from 2013-2016 and have a renewed 3 year appointment until 2019. As a member of the council, she has been chairing the Feminist Manuscript Award, a competitive annual award granted to the best feminist manuscript based on an accepted Council on Social Work Education abstract.



Dr. Lisa Dinella was invited to a White House event in April called Helping Our Children Explore, Learn, and Dream Without Limits: Breaking Down Gender Stereotypes in Media and Toys. After telling leaders of major toy corporations about her research on children's interactions with toys and media and their profound, lifelong effects, she met Rosemarie Truglio, Senior Vice President of Curriculum and Content for the Children's Television Workshop. Dr. Truglio invited Dr. Dinella to travel to Sesame Workshop in September to meet with the writers, digital media specialists, marketers, and educators who help make the show Sesame Street come to life. Each year, Sesame Workshop aims to identify a new lesson to incorporate into their show and calls professionals in the field to make recommendations to them based on their own research. Dr. Dinella says that Sesame Workshop wants to learn "how to engage kids without gender labels," and in order to do that, she recommends the reduction of labeling kids' toys and activities as either "for boys" or "for girls," normalizing "cross-gender" play through their characters, and showing boys and men in the show engaging in "nurturing" roles. Her research conducted at the Gender Development Laboratory at

Monmouth University explores how the gender labeling of toys and characters in children's media inhibits children from exploring all possible toy and play experiences, which can set early expectations for their behaviors and eventually affect what skills they develop and what careers they choose. Awareness of these gender roles begins as early as preschool, so it's important for organizations like Sesame Workshop to consider the images they present to the youngest viewers. What happens in Sesame Workshop, stays in Sesame Workshop, "but I promise," Dr. Dinella says about next year's programming, "that it will be cool!" In the meantime, she continues to not only teach in the classroom, but mentor her research assistants, who have helped her with field work, writing up research findings, and presenting at conferences. For now, Dr. Dinella can confidently check "White House" and "Sesame Street" off of her own bucket list on her quest to dismantle gender stereotypes in media and toys and hopefully influence children to simply play and dream without any limits.

Write up by Maryam Srouji



Dr. Fran Trotman, considered an Elder of Distinction, was recognized with an award for her distinguished contributions to Multicultural Psychology and Social Justice at the 2017 National Multicultural Conference and Summit in Portland, Oregon in January. As part of a token of appreciation for her many achievements, Dr. Trotman's expenses were paid and she was given an honorarium. After the award presentation, Dr. Trotman presented a speech on some of her career successes and life highlights, and how her being 'the first' in many instances paved the way for other women and people of color. Dr. Trotman was also asked to speak about her experiences as a Civil Rights Activist and some of 'the greats' with whom she protested and was arrested over 50 years ago. She was thanked and honored for having made a difference in the world and in the field of psychology.

Dr. Corey Wrenn was <u>interviewed</u> by *The Huffington Post* on feminist stereotypes and cat imagery in early anti-suffragette propaganda.

- **Deepak, A.**, Tower, L. E., Chiarelli-Helmeniak, C., Hamilton-Mason, J., Kominkiwicz, F. B., McClerklin-Motley, S., Anyikwa, V. A. 2016. "Women's Rights are Human Rights: The Price Women Pay for Caregiving." Presented at *Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Program Meeting*, Atlanta, GA.
- **Deepak, A.** 2016. "Feminism: Postcolonial Feminist Social Work Perspective." *Teaching for Social Justice Series*. CSWE Center for Diversity and Social and Economic Justice and the CSWE Commission for Diversity and Social Justice and its councils. [Voiceover PowerPoint].
- **Dinella, L.,** E. Weisgram, and M. Fulcher. 2016. "Children's Gender-Typed Toy Interests: Does Propulsion Matter?" *Archives of Sexual Behavior*. Online first.
- **Dzenko, C.** 2017. "Presenting the Past to Change the Future: Dora Longo Bahia's Contemporary Art Practice in Brazil." Panel: Between the Personal and Political: Women's Self/Conscious Creative Practices in Latin America (Co-chairs: Erin McCutcheon and Celia Vara). *Latin American Studies Association Annual Congress*. Lima, Peru (forthcoming April).
- **Estes, H.** 2015. "Beowulf and the Sea: An Ecofeminist Reading." *The Maritime World of the Anglo-Saxons*, ed. Bill Schipper, Stacy Klein, and Shannon Lewis-Simpson (Essays in Anglo-Saxon Studies 5). Tempe: Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies: 209-216.
- **Estes, H.** 2017. *Old English Literary Landscapes: Ecotheory and the Anglo-Saxon Environmental Imagination*. Forthcoming from Amsterdam University Press, Spring 2017.
- **Estes, H.** 2016. "Beowulf and the Sea," Plenary lecture, *Undergraduate Conference in Medieval and Early Modern Studies*, Moravian College, December 3.
- **Estes, H.** 2017. "Gender as Hyperobject in the Exeter Book Riddles," *International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds*, July 2017. [scheduled]
- **Estes, H.** 2017. "The Exeter Book Riddles and the Persistence of Misogyny," *The Middle Ages and the Modern World*, University of Manchester, 2017. [accepted]
- **Estes, H.** "Wealhtheow, Hrothgar, and the Future of Heorot," with Hilary Fox, Dead Language Flyting Karaoke," *International Congress on Medieval Studies*, Western Michigan University, May 2017. [proposed]
- Estes, H. Christian Masculinity and the Jewish Other in Anglo-Saxon England. Forthcoming.
- Wrenn, C. L. 2017. "Review. Breeze Harper. 2014. Scars: A Black Lesbian Experience in Rural White New England. Sense Publishers" *Feminist Spaces* 3 (1): 124-126.
- Wrenn, C. L. 2017. "Fat Vegan Politics: A Survey of Fat Vegan Activists' Online Experiences with Social Movement Sizeism." Fat Studies 6 (1): 90-102.
- Wrenn, C. L. 2016. "Social Movement Prostitution: A Case Study in Nonhuman Animal Rights Activism and Vegan Pimping." *Griffith Journal of Law & Human Dignity* 4 (2): 87-99.



Wrenn, C. L. 2016. "Review of Our Children and Other Animals." Between the Species 19 (1): 2010-2014.

INFORMATION

Gender Studies Outlook Calendar

A calendar for Gender Studies events has been created in the Monmouth University Outlook system. Please email Corey Wrenn (cwrenn@monmouth.edu) to be added as a subscriber and/or editor. All faculty are welcome to edit the calendar to increase awareness to upcoming gender-related events on campus and off.

Gender Studies Club

This semester's student club leader is **Kayvon Paul** (s0937408@monmouth.edu). Monmouth's Gender Studies Club Advisors are Susan Bucks (sbucks@monmouth.edu) and Prof. Claude Taylor (ctaylor@monmouth.edu). The club is always looking for new members! They meet Wednesdays at 3:30 in the Library meeting room on the first floor.

Student Scholarship Week

The Gender Studies program is considering participation in the 2017 student scholarship week with Monmouth University. Faculty with classroom activities, student achievements, and papers related to gender studies are eligible to contribute. Gender studies faculty should consider their students for poster or paper presentations.

Sadie Nash Leadership Project

Sadie Nash Leadership Project is a non-profit organization that promotes leadership, service and activism among high school aged young women in New York City and Newark, NJ. The program is designed to strengthen, empower, and equip young women as agents for change in their lives and in the world. Applications are currently being accepted for the Dean Leadership Training Program. Deans are collegeaged women who are leaders, movers and shakers, and role models on their campuses and in their communities. They are passionate about women's issues, youth work, and social change. Deadline to apply is February 12, 2017 but interviews will occur on a rolling basis.

New Jersey Women's and Gender Studies Consortium

In June 2016, Monmouth University was represented at the NJWGSC summer retreat to assess the status of the organization and goals for the future. Faculty should keep in mind the Undergraduate Research Colloquium to be held March 31, 2017. This is an opportunity for students to present their gender-related research and network with students and faculty in the field.

Don't forget the upcoming **Undergraduate Summer Internship Awards**. All undergraduate students currently enrolled at a college or university in New Jersey who will be doing an internship related to women's or gender studies during the summer are eligible. Students must present a budget of how the award will be spent, but do not have to have secured an internship in order to apply for the award. Students must have a faculty advisor on campus to certify that they have the internship and sign off on completion. Please visit the <u>NJWGSC website</u> for more information.



NEW Leadership New Jersey

This six day program is summer program for women who are aspiring leaders or just want to make a change, whether it is in a small group or community of people. It is being held at Rutgers New Brunswick from June 8-13 and anyone is eligible. For more information, contact: sashap@eagleton.rutgers.edu



Gender Studies Promotional Material Available

New posters and brochures for the gender studies program have been printed. Please contact Corey Wrenn to request copies be sent to your office through inter-office mail.





New Work Study

The Gender Studies Program Assistant for the spring semester is **Ms. Taffy Lashley** (s1128003@monmouth.edu).



UPCOMING EVENTS

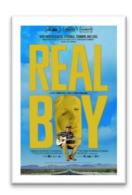
January 31st 2017: 13th Screening and Panel



March 6th 2017: On Screen/In Person: Real Boy

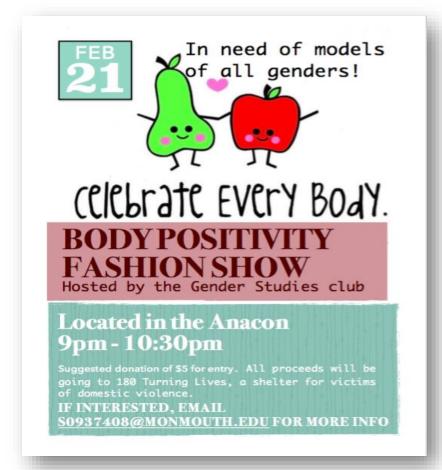
7:30 PM | Wilson Auditorium | Free Event

Real Boy is the coming-of-age story of Bennett Wallace, a transgender teenager on a journey to find his voice as a musician, a friend, a son, and a man. Navigating the ups and downs of young adulthood, he works to gain the support of his mother, who has deep misgivings about her child's transition. As tension mounts at home, Bennett is taken in by his idol, Joe Stevens, the lead singer of the alt-Americana band, Coyote Grace. Exploring how our search for personal identity also involves those closest to us, REAL BOY is a nuanced look at the new American family and the people we turn to when our given families are unavailable. There will be a post screening Q&A with the director Shaleece Haas.





February 21st 2017: Gender Studies Body Positivity Fashion Show



Sociology Program, February 15th, 2017: "Voices from the Inside: Learning from Formerly Incarcerated Students."

2:45-4:20 | Bey Hall 226

Formerly incarcerated speakers will be visiting campus to offer their critical insight into one of the most pressing social justice crises in American history.

Sociology Program, March 1, 2017: Exhibit Opening & Feature Presentation "Out of the Classroom and Into the Streets: 50 Years of Student Activism at MU"

4:30-6:00 | Bey Hall 226

Dr. Johanna Foster has created a mural with the help of Monmouth University gender studies students that documents the political history of student protest and social justice on campus and in the community. Please join us in celebrating this new art installment that will preserve our program's contributions and inspire students and faculty well into the future.



February and March 2017: Women in Film and the Arts

Women in the World ... A Visual Perspective

The "Women In the World...A Visual Perspective," art exhibit ties into the theme for Women in Media – Newark's 8th annual Women's History Month Film Festival, and takes a broad look the struggles and triumphs experienced by women globally. This exhibition, exquisitely curated by the renowned Gladys B. Grauer, uses the work of a socially and culturally diverse group of New Jersey based women artists to explore this seemingly simple topic. The images in this exhibit are not necessarily intended to be a literal interpretation of the theme, rather they often offer a metaphorical relationship to the theme. This inspiring exhibit is not to be missed!

"Women in the World" Women's History Month Film Festival

Now in its 8th year, Women In Media Newark's international Women's History Month Film Festival continues to educate about, and advocate for global issues facing women. "Women In the World," the theme of the 2017 film fest, will focus on independent films that illustrate the resilience and determination of women worldwide to triumph over adversity. This will be the first year that this exciting, free film festival will be shared with Monmouth University's audience.

February 5th: Plants 4 Peace – Meet the Vegan Authors and Activists

Please join Plants for Peace on Sunday, February 5, 2017 at 12:45 pm in Bey Hall Room #201 for a sharea-dish vegan potluck and roundtable discussion: *Meet the Vegan Authors and Activists*.

All are welcome to attend, but space is limited for this event, so an RSVP to mcharris@monmouth.edu is required only if you are attending please. Local authors and activists, including author Mary Ann Cavallaro and Monmouth University Professors **Dr. Christopher Hirschler** and **Dr. Corey Wrenn**, among others, will be a part of this gathering.

Any other vegan or plant-based authors, vegan activists, and guests are welcome to attend. This event is free and open to the public. Everyone will have the opportunity to say hello and briefly share a little bit about their work in the vegan movement (if applicable and if you would like to), as we all share a vegan potluck meal together.

NEW CLASSES

Gender, Sex and Medicine (AN378)

Prof Heidi Bludau developed the course as a way to explore ways sex and gender influence our experiences with health and medicine. Using cross-cultural examples, the course will employ an anthropological approach to explore how health, well-being and even medical belief systems operate in relation to different genders. As a class, students will examine how cultural constructs of gender frame ideals and norms regarding health, explore ways that biological sex is used to support gendered constructs, and demonstrate how these constructs eventually frame how healing takes place.

NEW COURSE SEQUENCE IN SOCIOLOGY AND COMMUNICATION: Investigating the School-to-Prison Pipeline (SO/CO398 and PS/CO598)

Monmouth University's new two-semester class, "Investigating the School-to-Prison Pipeline," is a provocative new



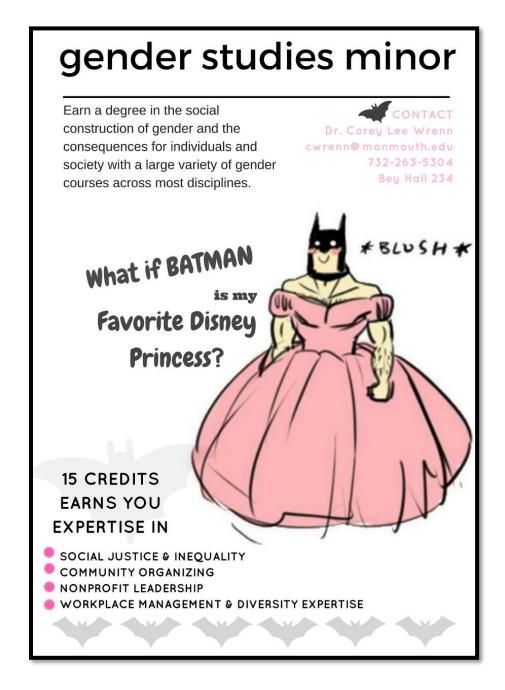
offering that will engage Monmouth students in an exchange of ideas and perspectives with students incarcerated in a New Jersey state prison. In the first semester of the class, led this spring by sociology professor, Dr. Foster, MU students are studying the crisis of mass incarceration in the United States as one of the most critical civil rights issues of our time. In doing so, they explore the history of the prison as related to race, class and gender inequality; the current social forces that have shaped the growth of the punishment industry in the U.S.; the conditions inside prisons today that impact both incarcerated people and correctional employees; and the logistical, ethical and political issues facing volunteers and also workers in the prison context. Included in the course is a look at the two-sided nature of public education as a paradoxical institution that can either open doors to social mobility or reproduce serious social inequalities.



In the second part of the course sequence, led by communication professor, Dr. Novek, in the fall 2017 semester, MU students will travel to a New Jersey prison classroom to extend their learning in collaboration with incarcerated students. Only students who have successfully completed the spring course with Dr. Foster (also offered in Summer B to you can still get oriented!) may enroll in the second part inside the prison. Building from this understanding of our commonalities and differences in the realm of education, the class will generate specific academic support strategies to benefit the needs of the students enrolled. In doing so, a goal of both courses is to promote greater democratic access to education for marginalized

people in the hopes of reducing recidivism through program peer support. This course marks the first collaborative effort between Monmouth University and the New Jersey Department of Corrections. Please contact Dr. Foster (jfoster@) or Dr. Novek (enovek@) to learn more.





Submissions to future newsletters can be emailed to cwrenn@monmouth.edu. This can include new classes, upcoming events, student or faculty achievements, other relevant announcements and opportunities, and short essays.

Find us online at: https://www.monmouth.edu/school-of-humanities-social-sciences/gender-studies.aspx

Join the listsery at: genstudy@monmouth.edu or contact Dr. Karen Schmelzkopf at kschmelz@monmouth.edu