

BOLDER VOICES

University of Colorado at Boulder

Greetings from the Director

While enjoying the fall term, we have made many changes within the Cottage and the newsletter. You may already have noticed a new look and name for the newsletter, and we hope to increase the frequency of communication with our students, alumnae/alumni, faculty, and friends in the community. While many local organizations make use of the description “bolder” as a play on the name of our town, we feel that it very appropriately describes the strength of ideas within women and gender studies.



During the past year we welcomed a new faculty member to our program, Professor Deepti Misri, who is profiled in this issue. The Women and Gender Studies Program, with support from the College of Arts and Sciences, also expanded its staff to one and a half positions. Our full-time staff member, office manager and events coordinator, is Shelley Dahme, who comes to us from the Bay Area. Alicia Turchette, who has worked at CU in the past, was hired half-time to work on communications, including our website, newsletter, and community outreach. When you are on campus, please stop in and introduce yourself to them, and take a look at the Cottage porches, which were refurbished with help from the College.

Faculty member Alison Jaggar was honored as a *College Professor of Distinction* by the College of Arts and Sciences. Professor Jaggar was also selected by the seniors to give their graduation address this past May. Check out the pictures in this newsletter of last spring’s graduates and scholarship winners from the Joanne Easley Arnold Scholarship and Awards Luncheon.

We plan to produce at least three newsletters a year, regularly profiling our alums and current students (Mara Boyd and Jillian Basso in this issue). They, as much as the faculty, determine the future of Women and Gender Studies. The faculty is also revising the graduate certificate program at the same time as we are applying to begin offering a master’s degree.

On a personal note, I am very grateful to be back as director after a serious fall on campus this past March. Professor Janet Jacobs stepped in as interim director in spring 2009 and Professor Lorraine Bayard de Volo served as interim summer director. It is a tribute to this committed,

talented community that faculty jumped in quickly to keep the program moving forward in my absence.

If you have suggestions about the newsletter and our evolving plans for communication with friends of the program, I would love to hear them. Please contact me at anne.costain@colorado.edu.



We have several important on-going fundraising initiatives which are listed, along with information about contributing to the program, on page 5. The Women and Gender Studies Program continues to do well in these trying economic times, thanks largely to the support of alumnae/alumni and friends on the campus and in the community like you. Your continued financial assistance will ensure that we remain a “bold voice” on the CU campus as supporters of student learning and engagement through our undergraduate scholarships and awards (Lucile Berkeley Buchanan, Susannah Chase Memorial, and Jean Dubofsky) as well as our Women and Gender Studies Program Fund.

Anne Costain
Director and Professor

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In the Military

Student and Alumna Profiles

The following two women were both members of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) during their time at CU-Boulder but have very different stories. One tried to leave the service, and the other was not allowed to stay. They share with us their experiences and, in the true spirit of the women and gender studies major and a liberal arts education, how they came to question issues ranging from the personal to the global.



JILLIAN BASSO WGST major Spring 2010, expected

Jillian did not follow the standard path directly from high school to col-

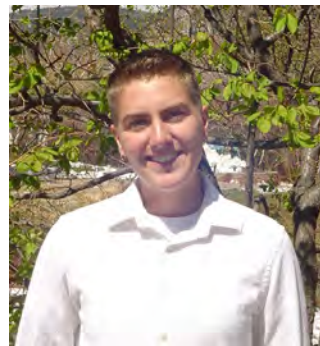
lege, but instead enlisted in the Army and served for four years, with a ten month tour in Iraq near the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom. She trained as a broadcast journalist and as a paratrooper, one of seven women in a class of 100. In public affairs for the 82nd Airborne Division, she worked with embedded media and wrote press releases. Thinking that the broad perspective of journalism was "one of the best jobs in the military," she was enthusiastic about an army career and applied to CU-Boulder's ROTC program, an additional four year military commitment. Enrolling in fall 2004 as a journalism major, Jillian took a women and gender studies course during her second semester. Her experience in this course, along with new feelings of being "turned off" by the media and their role in the war, was the beginning of many changes and led to her decision to change her major to women and gender studies (with a minor in political science).

After moving to Boulder and starting college with a limited view of the world, Jillian says that she first resisted a lot of things she heard in her classes and in the community. But these new experiences and her course work caused her to re-evaluate world issues, relationships and power dynamics, herself, and what she "wanted to be a part of." She began to "open up and examine things on her own terms," while losing interest and pushing away from her involvement in ROTC, the military, and the associated violence in one's life. It took a lot of courage, but after three semesters, she filed for conscientious objector status with the Army and as a result lost her ROTC scholarship.

How could she feel this way, after enlisting twice? With "limited knowledge before," she now felt she had an "abundance of information" and could "choose how to interpret it." When you are part of something, it can be

very "hard to see what you're doing is wrong." Jillian sees her change as "evolving as a human being." A year and a half later, she was officially released from ROTC. Jillian does not regret her first four year term served in the Army but values what she has learned since. She calls her women and gender studies courses "contemporary," covering themes that are happening in the real world, and not just history lessons. Now, she sees her future being involved in solving these real world issues.

Jillian is currently taking a full course load and plans to graduate next semester. She would like to attend graduate school in social work and is considering working in counseling with female and male veterans who have suffered sexual trauma in the military. Her final thoughts: "The most important thing I've learned is to question and not to take something at face value, even if it appears to be the norm."



MARA BOYD WGST graduate May 2007

Mara's enjoyment of teamwork and leadership on the sports field in high

school led to her interest in the military and the officers' training program. She applied to Air Force ROTC and entered CU as a kinesiology major in fall 1999. During basic training at Lackland Air Force Base after her sophomore year, Mara placed in the top 10% of 550 cadets, showing her aptitude for leadership. She went on to train underclassmen and women in the Air Force core values of integrity, service, and excellence and was elected by her fellow cadets as a "character development officer."

A strong internal conflict developed for Mara, as she had just recently come out *to herself* as a lesbian, and in accordance with the U. S. military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, she was not permitted to reveal this. She was teaching
(continued on next page)

In the Military

Student and Alumna Profiles

(Mara Boyd, continued from previous page)

ethics but was forced to be dishonest. Eventually, Mara submitted a memo to her Commanding Officer, revealing her sexuality, at which point she was suspended from ROTC and lost her scholarship. She eventually received an honorable discharge from the Air Force. She took time off from school to assess her situation, but despite letters of recommendation promoting her moral standing from cadets, officers, state and university representatives, the Air Force decided that her scholarship had to be paid back.

Mara returned to campus in spring 2005 and enrolled as a women and gender studies major. She had previously taken some elective courses in the program that she found “eye opening,” that “caused her to look at the world in a different way.” She found the faculty to be enthusiastic, passionate, and committed and the students to be active and interested in creating change. Mara now believes that she is at an advantage in anything she does when she is out in the world and views race, class, gender, or sexuality through the “lens of women and gender studies.” The program was “perfect for where she was” in her life and in her education, and she graduated in May 2007.

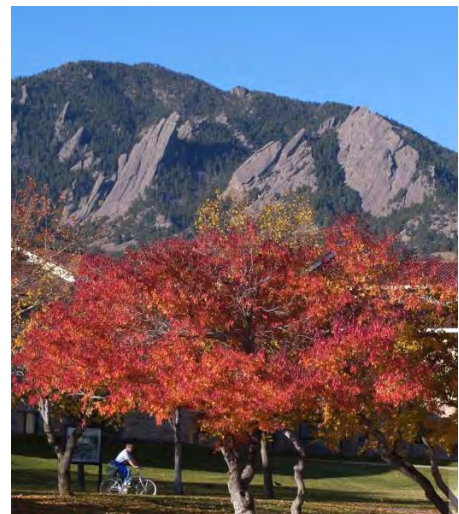
Mara has done formal and informal speaking to increase awareness and understanding of the Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT) policy, in order to turn a negative experience into something positive. Mara does not hold a grudge against the military or the ROTC, but calls herself “anti-policy” regarding DADT. She believes that this ban will be lifted soon, and that gay service women and men will be allowed to reveal their sexuality *if they choose to*. Mara says she would be “honored to be a part of the transition,” in some capacity, were the policy to be reversed. After working for Boulder County Parks and Open Space for several years, she is currently interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement.

Master's Degree Program in Development

Though our program has offered a graduate certificate in women and gender studies for ten years, our faculty are currently working with the university to establish a master's degree program in global gender studies. As a number of faculty members specialize in this area, the degree would take advantage of our program's strengths. It will provide a unique opportunity for undergraduate students to continue their studies and will also attract graduate degree-seeking students from around the world.

Students in the proposed degree would choose between two tracks: a traditional academic MA and a professional MA. In addition to course work, the professional degree would include a one-year off-campus experience with the Peace Corps or with another NGO (non-governmental organization), followed by a written thesis. The Peace Corps Masters International Program currently collaborates with over 60 institutions that offer master's degree programs, mostly in the areas of agriculture, environmental science, or public health. We would be the first to specialize in global gender studies!

Of course, adding a new degree program is a large undertaking, and many things must happen before the first students can enroll. The current projected start date of the program is fall 2012. Stay tuned for more information.



Alumnae/Alumni News

NINA AMBLE (1993) has been a consultant, manager, and researcher at the Work Research Institute in Oslo, Norway since 1997.

KATE BLACK (2005) attended law school at the University of Denver's Sturm College of Law and now represents indigent death row inmates in state and federal court in Texas.

STEFANIE CARROLL (1999) received a Master of Non-Profit Management in spring 2009 and is currently the Assistant Director for the Office of Alumni Relations at Metro State College of Denver.

ANDRA (COOPER) CHIKOVA (2008) is a co-chair and co-founder of the annual Huntington's Disease Walk in Denver. She is also a co-chair for the greening effort of the Marriott Business Council.

CYNTHIA COOK (2000) joined the US Foreign Service in 2008 and is currently posted to Dhahran, Saudi Arabia as a Public Affairs Officer at the US Consulate there.

KELSEY DRAPER (2008) is attending graduate school at the University of Cape Town in South Africa and studying for a master's degree in social anthropology. She is focusing her research on women, children, and poverty/development.

OLYMPIA FRASCONE-STEFANSKI (2000) is currently working as an ELA (English Language Acquisition) teacher in a Title 1 school in the Cherry Creek School District and is participating in the collaborative co-teaching model.

LIZA HENSLEIGH (2005) is the lead study abroad advisor in the Office of International Education at CU-Boulder. She recently co-presented at a conference on the topic of sexual assault response in the field of education abroad.

BETH ELLEN HOLIMON (1994) opened "Bee Write" and "Executive Bee" for nonprofit consulting and grant writing. She has been busy with projects in medical research, executive association management, and opening a charter school.

LINDA MCCARTHY (1990) received a doctorate in social justice education in 2003 and has been teaching at Greenfield Community College in Massachusetts since 2004. She has guest-edited at the journal *Equity and Excellence in Education*.

LINDSAY MILLER (2007) is now working as the Spanish Bilingual Nonviolence Elementary Educator at Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence in Boulder, CO. She also continues to work for the Women's Wilderness Institute.

STEPHANIE MURIB (2003) worked at the nonprofit "Women for Women International" in Washington, D.C., coordinating their programs in Bosnia and Kosovo, and is now pursuing a PhD in political science at the University of Minnesota.

HEIDI PETERSEN (1992) received a PhD in philosophy in 2006. She is now self-employed in two enterprises, "Heidi's Healings" and "Coming Home, LLC." She has been organizing and participating in a speaker series in Longmont, Colorado called PsychicSpeak.

SHELLEY POPKE (1993) completed an MA in Russian and Central European History and is now the Executive Assistant to the Dean at The Women's College of the University of Denver.

MICHELLE RICHARDSON (2000) studied civil rights and constitutional law at American University, Washington College of Law. She has been lobbying for the ACLU on national security issues for three years as a Legislative Counsel.

BETH SCHWARTING (2000) has worked in freestanding birth centers around the world. She received a master's degree from the University of California San Francisco and is now working as a certified nurse midwife in northern California.

Please send us your updates for the next issue. We'd love to hear from you! wgst@colorado.edu

Joanne Easley Arnold Scholarship and Awards Luncheon

Scholarship Winners, April 2009

The *Jean Dubofsky Scholarship*, established by Dr. Joanne Arnold, was awarded to **NATALIE ZIEMBA**. She is currently a senior in women and gender studies.

The *Susannah Chase Memorial Scholarship* was awarded to **CHELSEA SOMMER**. She is now a junior and a double major in women and gender studies and anthropology.

The *Community Service Award in Women and Gender Empowerment* was awarded to **ABBEY CAIN**. She is a senior, completing degrees in women and gender studies and sociology.



Natalie Ziemba, Chelsea Sommer, Abbey Cain

If you are a current student in the Women and Gender Studies Program and would like to find out more about scholarship opportunities, visit our office or our website.

I want to help create futures by supporting the educational experience of students enrolled in the Women and Gender Studies Program. Enclosed is my gift of: _____

Please credit my gift to: 0121072 **Women and Gender Studies Program Fund**
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A check for the full amount of my gift is enclosed (made payable to the **University of Colorado Foundation**).

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Questions? Please call Kimberly Bowman, CU Foundation, 303-541-1446 or contact her via email at: kimberly.bowman@cufund.org

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Update: Lucile Berkeley Buchanan Endowed Scholarship

Lucile Berkeley Buchanan was the first African American woman to graduate from the University of Colorado, receiving a degree in German in 1918 and going on to teach in Chicago and other cities before returning to Denver. After CU journalism Professor Polly McLean uncovered and researched much of Lucile's story, sociology Professor Joanne Belknap gave \$5,000 in 2006 to start the fundraising for an endowed scholarship to honor Lucile. Thanks to the generous donations of many of you, along with the efforts of dedicated students and faculty, the remaining \$20,000 needed to establish the endowment was raised. However, due to the economic downturn and the severe drops in the stock market, the level of the endowment fell below the minimum total of \$25,000, and we were



unable to award the scholarship this past April. We are thrilled to report that, this month, community advisory board member Ardyth Sohn (former CU faculty member and current professor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas) has arranged for a gift of \$3,000 to the Lucile Berkeley Buchanan endowed scholarship. This contribution will fully fund the endowment and allow us to award the scholarship in the coming year to a women and gender studies major who demonstrates good academic standing and financial need. It is our pleasure, with this scholarship, to provide opportunity for current students in our program while we honor the memory of this former student and pioneer Lucile Berkeley Buchanan. For more of Lucile's story and the creation of the endowment, see the College of Arts and Sciences online magazine: <http://artsandsciences.colorado.edu/magazine/2008/11/honoring-a-nearly-forgotten-trailblazer/>. Of course, to maintain this endowment and continue this annual award, we rely on your help. Please see the donation form above for this and other ways to support the Women and Gender Studies Program.

Faculty News

Faculty Spotlight

We are pleased and honored to announce that Professor Alison Jaggar, who holds a joint appointment in the Women and Gender Studies Program and the Department of Philosophy, has been named a *College Professor of Distinction* by the College of Arts and Sciences. This title is reserved for scholars of “national and international distinction who are also recognized by their College peers as teachers and colleagues of exceptional talent.” A pioneer in the fields of feminist philosophy and women’s studies, Professor Jaggar believes that this honor is acknowledgment that the intellectual significance of women and gender studies and feminist philosophy is finally being recognized. She will keep this title for the duration of her career at CU-Boulder.



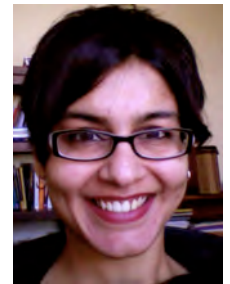
Continuing her recent work in the area of global gender justice, Professor Jaggar is currently part of an international team of philosophers and social scientists who received a \$1 million (AUS) matching grant from the Australian Research Council for a project entitled “Assessing Development: Designing Better Indices of Poverty and Gender Equity.” This research aims to create improved measures of poverty and gender-based disadvantage that may eventually lead to more successful policies and better allocation of development resources.

Also of note, the journal *Philosophical Topics* will publish a special issue covering the global gender justice conference given by Professor Jaggar through the Centre for the Study of Mind at the University of Oslo, where she also holds a position as a Research Coordinator. She is co-author of the recently published book *Abortion: Three Perspectives* and has numerous past and pending publications.

Professor Jaggar is teaching the graduate course Feminist Methodology this fall. With regards to teaching, she says, “The ideas I work with are very powerful. It is very gratifying and a privilege to present students with new material that opens up their universe.” We are also fortunate to have Professor Jaggar in our program, as a teacher and as a scholar, and we congratulate her on receiving the title *College Professor of Distinction*.

New Faculty

Dr. Deepti Misri joined our faculty in fall 2008, after completing her PhD in English and a graduate minor in gender and women’s studies from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She never thought she would look forward to winter again until she came to Colorado! Dr. Misri’s areas of interest span transnational feminist studies, feminist theory and criticism, South Asian fiction and cinema, and postcolonial studies. She has taught courses on feminist theory, women in Islam, and gender and violence. Her current project, *Reading Violence*, focuses on the relation between gender, violence, and representation in South Asian literary and cultural discourse. She is also the program’s academic events coordinator, and this semester, she is serving as the faculty coordinator for the WAGON student academic program. Her article “‘A Family’s Shame Made Flesh’: Shame, Violence, and the Body in Salman Rushdie’s *Shame*” is included in the recently published book *States of Trauma: Gender Violence in South Asia*.



Ask us about the LGBT Certificate Program

A certificate program for *undergraduates*, from any major degree program, interested in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies

24 hours of course work
(2 required classes and 18 hours of elective courses)

For more information: <http://www.colorado.edu/ArtsSciences/LGBTStudies>

Spring 2009 Commencement

Bachelor of Arts Recipients



BRITTANY BREWER plans to pursue a career in family law and victim advocacy.

HANNAH BULICK was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa and graduated with distinction.

CAROLINE BURDICK is currently doing research on spotted owls in northern California.

AMBER CAMUS also graduated with honors in ethnic studies. She is currently working towards an M. A. in English at Ohio State University.

MELISSA CONNELLY is pursuing a commercial real estate career here in Denver at RMI Capital Management.

LUKE DE CICCIO plans to travel to Peru to take part in the Belen Project, which uses clowning as a way to engage locals in community issues.

JENNIFER MAYER graduated with honors in women and gender studies (WGST). Next year she plans to live in Brooklyn, NY and attend midwifery school.

SARIANNA MURPHY is taking a year off to travel and work before attending law school to study international law. This fall, she is assisting on a research project, interviewing torture victims seeking asylum.

JOANNA PACHECO is currently studying for the LSAT and plans on going to law school next fall.

SHAYNA PETERSON-PAPKE will be working at Boulder Valley Women's Health.

GINA POSTIGLIONE is attending law school to become a legal advocate for women.

KERRY ROBINSON graduated with a double major in WGST and sociology and hopes to join the Peace Corps.

VICTORIA VAN ANTWERP also graduated with honors in sociology. She is pursuing a master's in criminology at CU-Denver.

ELIZA WILLIAMSON graduated with honors in WGST and is applying for a Fulbright Scholarship to study in Argentina.

NICHOLE WINTER will be working at Boulder Community Hospital and plans to become a nurse.

TIFFANY ZARR, after receiving her degree in women and gender studies, plans to graduate with a degree in English this fall.

MEGHAN GUTIERREZ and **BRITTANY MOORE** each completed a *minor* in women and gender studies.

Graduate Certificate Recipients The following students completed the graduate certificate in women and gender studies as a complement to their disciplinary degree. Their home departments and current or completed thesis topics are listed.

CORWIN ARAGON (PhD candidate, Philosophy) moral responsibility for global injustice, including issues of gender justice

JANELL BAUER (PhD candidate, Communication) "The Business of Bereavement: Exploring Grief as a Site of Identity Struggle for Organizational Members."

JANELLA BAXTER THORNE (MA, Philosophy, Aug '09) "Kant's Mereological Theory of Parts and Wholes."

AMANDINE CATALA (PhD candidate, Philosophy) a normative theory of secession

EMMANUEL DAVID (PhD, Sociology, May '09) "Women of the Storm: An Ethnography of Gender, Culture, and Social Movements Following Hurricane Katrina."

BARRETT EMERICK (PhD candidate, Philosophy) "Apology as a Practice of Moral Repair."

CHELSEA HARAMIA (Master's candidate, Philosophy) the morality of determinism, specifically the moral permissibility of praising acts without the moral permissibility of blaming acts

KRISTIE SOARES (MA, Comparative Literature, May '09) "Traveling Queer Subjects: Homosexuality in the Cuban Diaspora."

KACEY WARREN (PhD candidate, Philosophy) topic not available

PETRA WATZKE (MA, German, Aug '09) "Howgh, ich habe gesprochen. German literary representations of Native American ritual and religion."

SCOTT WISOR (PhD candidate, Philosophy) "Developing a New Global Poverty Metric: Towards a Pro-Poor Approach."

