BOLDER VOICES

University of Colorado at Boulder

Summer Thoughts

As the excitement and activity surrounding the Joanne Easley Arnold scholarship awards reception, final exam week, and graduation ceremonies wind down, there is time to reflect on the previous year. For me, the primary emotion is gratitude for the hard work and extra efforts of students, staff, faculty, alumnae/i, and great friends of our program.

Many of our students have taken on additional paid employment to stay in school while still providing outstanding service to campus, local, and global communities (as is evident in this newsletter). The staff have supported students, families, alumnae/i, and friends in the hard times following the untimely death of senior major Tito Torres and have organized wonderful events during the year. Faculty have taught larger classes, increased their service work on campus, and done more out-of-classroom sponsorships of independent studies, honors theses, practica, and internships to keep an array of opportunities available to our students as the number of instructors in the program continues to decline.

Alumnae/i and friends have visited the Cottage more than I can remember in my previous three years as director, raising our morale with words of encouragement and stories about the importance of women's and gender studies in their lives and in the campus culture. Gifts to the program have also risen in these very tough economic times, which is a reflection of support for the program and our shared commitment to keeping it strong. I wish you all a summer filled with activity, love, and relaxation.



Anne Costain
Director and Professor

All-Electronic Newsletter Distribution

Beginning with the next issue (Fall 2010), the newsletter will be distributed ONLY via e-mail.

Please send us your e-mail address if you wish to receive future issues.

(wgst@colorado.edu)

If you already receive the newsletter via e-mail, you don't need to contact us except to update your e-mail address.



May 2010 graduates Lauren Koutavas, Whitney Houston, Kris Mayer (in back), Cameron Machell, and Shafiqa Mobarez

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Kelly Orians WGST Graduate, May 2008

Kelly Orians is advocating for juveniles in the Louisiana criminal justice system, and Scott Wisor (see next page) is investigating poverty on a global scale. Both set out on their respective paths within weeks of completing their degrees and demonstrate the dedication of many of our graduates of the Women and Gender Studies Program to causes of social justice.

During her four years at CU-Boulder, Kelly Orians completed bachelor's degrees with honors in women and gender studies and in political science, with a focus on American political systems and specifically the history and impact of the civil rights movement. Having grown up in Colorado, Kelly's interest in the history of the southeastern United States and how that had influenced the country's history as a whole led to her desire to move to that region. A week after graduation, she was on her way to Alabama, where she served for a time as regional field director for a U.S. congressional campaign. Now Kelly is the coordinator for the campaign to end juvenile life without parole (JLWOP) sentencing in Louisiana. This community-driven campaign to allow for meaningful parole review for the more than 300 youths serving life without parole in the state is currently based out of the Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana (JJPL) with collaboration from the group Citizens for Second Chances (CFSC).

Kelly was focused and active from the time she first arrived on campus, declaring her two majors during her first year. She thought that CU fostered the ideas of organizing and movement building. After a particularly inspiring lecture in one of her classes, Kelly realized that women and gender studies was "the place she wanted to be," and she immediately started volunteering in the program and became very active with her fellow students in the women and gender studies student advisory board (WGSTAB), which she chaired her senior year. This student group worked to develop the program and to create a "culture" around women and gender studies, collaborated with other groups to organize speakers and events, and fought together against instances of oppression on campus.

Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath had a significant impact on Kelly's outlook and shifted her focus of study from the international to the local. She still feels today that "[the U.S. government] has forgotten about places within our borders. It is a full-fledged systemic crisis. We need to make sure things are good on the home front because we are not the 'model' we are pretending to be." Kelly volunteered in New Orleans after Katrina and was fervent about doing something and creating change, but she was frustrated with "the system." One day, a friend and fellow WGST student acknowledged Kelly's passion for social activism, then asked, "But what are you changing?" She emphasized to Kelly that "true change was going to



happen *within* the system and not *against* it." As a result of this conversation and some self-reflection, Kelly recalls lightheartedly that she "cut her hair, put away her anarchy buttons, and bought a business suit." She spent the spring of 2006 as an intern at the state capitol, where perhaps she started the journey that she con-

tinues today, working within the system to create change.

Kelly now coordinates a large-scale community-led movement (as part of a national movement) trying to pass legislation that was originally drafted by an incarcerated youth to allow for meaningful parole review for youth in the Louisiana criminal justice system. Although the legislation has yet to be passed into law, a very recent U.S. Supreme Court decision on May 17 may be influential to their continuing efforts. The Court voted 5-4 that juveniles serving life sentences for non-homicide offenses must at least be eligible for parole. Kelly says, "This decision is a significant victory for advocates for youth sentencing reform, but our work in Louisiana is far from over." Her organization estimates that at least 17 individuals will benefit from this ruling, and the focus now is to assist their return to court for review and resentencing under the new guidelines and to continue working with the 300 individuals serving that were not affected.

When asked about the personal and professional impact of her women and gender studies degree, Kelly responds, "I learned to *think critically*. It has allowed me to step into the arena of public policy debate and see a variety of perspectives in play and to readily understand them or predict them. It taught me never to make assumptions or to speak *for* someone but instead to empower others to find their own words and to encourage individuals to speak." After college, Kelly "thought she had all the answers," but she continues to educate herself. She is currently studying to take the LSAT in the fall to eventually enter law school. She now considers lawyers to be soldiers, a "last line of defense" for individuals, and she would like to bring "community" back into the all too often elite practice of law.

Dr. Scott Wisor, PhD Philosophy, Dec. 2009 WGST Graduate Certificate, May 2009

Two weeks after defending his doctoral thesis in philosophy and having completed the graduate certificate in women and gender studies, Dr. Scott Wisor was on a plane to Canberra, Australia to begin his new position as a research associate with the Centre for Applied Philoso-

phy and Public Ethics (CAPPE). For the past five months, he has been working on designing the fieldwork to hear how poor men and women in six countries conceive of poverty and gender equity. This has been a combination of academic research and dialogue with partner



organizations and researchers in Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Fiji, the Philippines, and Indonesia. This work is part of the FemPov Project, a collaborative effort among academics (in economics, philosophy, women and gender studies, and anthropology) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), with the goal of designing and testing a gender-sensitive poverty measure that will lead to improved allocation of development resources.

Originally from Denver, Scott completed his undergraduate studies in philosophy at Washington University in St. Louis before beginning his doctoral studies at CU-Boulder in fall 2004. Prior to graduate philosophy classes that introduced him to feminist philosophy, he says he had almost no exposure to the discipline of women and gender studies. These classes allowed Scott to develop his thinking about feminism while at the same time pursuing his primary interests and goals, which were interdisciplinary. He officially entered the graduate certificate program in women and gender studies in fall 2005. He also went on to complete the certificate from Developing Areas Research and Teaching (DART) at CU, an interdisciplinary program in development studies. In spring 2007, Scott was awarded the Stahl Prize by the Philosophy Department for service to the community for his work on a two-year project with the national organization Genocide Intervention Network, encouraging the university and others to divest from investments in Sudan, as leverage for change in that country. He continued this work in an advisory role, after the project's completion.

Scott's coursework in women and gender studies has given him a comprehensive understanding of gender and gender inequality, and he considers this theoretical background to be extremely helpful in approaching the practical questions he is working with now. His doctoral thesis, "Developing a New Global Poverty Metric: Toward a Pro-Poor Approach," under the direction of Professor of Distinction Alison Jaggar, looked at, among other things, some existing methods of measuring poverty that don't necessarily take into account how gender affects deprivation. In his thesis and in his current work, Dr. Wisor asks, "Which deprivations are gendered, and how do existing measurement methods obscure this?"

Dr. Wisor says that his completion of the graduate certificate in women and gender studies has had an impact on him in many ways. "The opportunity has been indispensable. Professionally, I wouldn't be where I am today. My training as a philosopher wouldn't be as good. Feminist studies, I think, is always political, so it allows for those in academia to be more engaged in the world. Personally, it has shown me that you don't have to choose between being an academic and an activist. You can be both." Once Dr. Wisor and his fellow researchers have developed the method for fieldwork in the six countries of study, local organizations will use these methods in a participatory approach to gather input from individuals regarding poverty and gender. The FemPov research team will eventually compile this data to develop tools to address the issues of poverty, and fieldworkers will go back to talk with the participants about how the tools work.

Scott reflects on the fact that philosophy has traditionally had a particularly masculine bias, even compared with many other academic disciplines. He explains that his work in our women and gender studies program has shown him that "moving forward, feminist studies will continue to make great contributions to philosophy."

For more information on these organizations, please visit their websites:

Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana (JJPL) www.jjpl.org

Center for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics (CAPPE) www.cappe.edu.au

Alumnae/Alumni News

To share your updates in the next issue, please send them to wqst@colorado.edu.

STEFANIE CARROLL (1999), MNM, continues as the assistant director of the Metropolitan State College of Denver Office of Alumni Relations. She just won an "Outstanding Woman's Award" from the Institute of Women's Studies and Services at Metro State College.

CHRISTA FJELLESTAD (2006) is now working as an elementary school teacher in a title 1 school predominantly with language learners, after having completed at CU-Boulder both an elementary teaching certificate (in the fall of 2006) and a master's degree in educational equity and cultural diversity (EECD), with an emphasis in linguistically diverse learners. She bought a house in Boulder in 2007 and will be backpacking in Europe for a month this summer.

SADIE ROSE PACE (2005) is currently working at Zuma Natural Foods in Mancos, CO. She also volunteers for Renew, a domestic violence and sexual assault hotline. She is the secretary for the Mancos Public Library Board of Trustees and is on the Mancos Centennial Scholarship Fund Committee.

CHRISTINE RHOADES (2008) graduated with a BA in women and gender studies as well as sociology in the winter of 2008. She is currently at the University of Chicago and will graduate this June with a master's degree in social sciences. She plans to move back to Colorado after graduation to look for a job in research or in other areas where she can contribute to the community.

VIRGINIA SANPRIE (2009, graduate certificate) will be joining the communication arts and sciences faculty at Metro State College of Denver as tenure-track assistant professor of speech communication. Virginia received her PhD from CU-Boulder in December 2009 and her graduate certificate in women and gender studies in May 2009.

RACHEL SMITH (1998) recently opened a counseling practice focusing on women and gender issues with offices in Denver and Arvada. She has special interests in reproductive mental health and trauma and is excited about this new venture!

ELIZA WILLIAMSON (2009) just finished backpacking around South America and has received a Fulbright research grant to study in Argentina next year.



Eliza Williamson visits the Uyuni salt flats in Bolivia

Special Update

MARA BOYD (2007)

You may have read our alumna profile of Mara Boyd in the fall 2009 issue of *Bolder Voices*. During her time as a student

at CU-Boulder, Mara was suspended from ROTC and discharged from the Air Force after revealing that she is gay. Since completing her degree in women and gender studies, she has been an active speaker, sharing her experiences and speaking out against the U.S. military's Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT) policy.

On April 20, 2010, Mara was one of six gay, lesbian, and transgender discharged service members who participated in a protest at the White House, hand-cuffing themselves to the fence to protest the fact that the DADT policy has still not been overturned. Among the other participants was Lt. Dan Choi, an Iraq War veteran and prominent spokesperson for the cause. We asked Mara about her experience.

What led to your decision to take part in this action?

I had the opportunity to meet Lt. Choi and hear him speak about "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" in April. It was there that we began a week long exchange that ended with me flying to D.C. to join five other GLBT service members in an act of civil disobedience and protest. I have been passionate about the repeal of the current ban on gay soldiers and continue to speak about my experiences at CU under the discriminatory realities of DADT. I couldn't pass up the opportunity to continue challenging the policy, to continue my service to our country by demanding the end to a policy that legalizes discrimination.

What was this experience like for you, from a personal standpoint and as an activist?

I was honored to be protesting with such an exceptional group of activists and soldiers. It was incredibly powerful (continued on next page)

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Alumnae/Alumni News

(Mara Boyd, continued from previous page)

and emotional to be arrested and detained with other soldiers, particularly while in uniform. It has made an exponential impact on my view of this movement, and honestly I am still processing much of it.

Is there anything in particular that you'd like to share with your fellow WGST alums?

To my fellow alums . . . there is nothing I can say that I hope you don't already know, but as the years pass since we spent time in Hazel Gates Cottage or WGST office hours, don't forget to continue to ask questions. Keep checking in with your gut, are we doing all that we can? Are we accepting and tolerating discrimination and intimidation in our own lives? How do we make this place better for future generations?

A special thanks to WGST students, faculty and staff, and of course alums for all the support in the last couple of months.

Faculty News

Lorraine Bayard de Volo has received a CARTSS grant for the project "The Nonmaterial Long-Term Benefits of Collective Action: Empowerment and Social Capital in a Guatemalan Women's NGO." She will be guiding the ethnographic work in Central America of political science graduate student Lindsey Richardson.

Deepti Misri's manuscript "Are You a Man?' Performing Naked Protest in India" has been accepted by the journal *Signs* and recommended as a finalist for the Catharine Stimpson Prize for outstanding feminist scholarship.

Two instructors for our program have accepted permanent positions at other institutions beginning in the fall. We congratulate **Emmanuel David**, who has accepted a position as assistant professor of sociology at Villanova University, and **Alison Hatch**, who will be taking a position as assistant professor of sociology and women's studies at Armstrong Atlantic State University in Savannah, GA.

May 2010 Commencement

At the Women and Gender Studies Program commencement ceremony, held on May 6, 2010 in Old Main Chapel, we awarded 16 undergraduate degrees, 13 minors, and 11 graduate certificates. A posthumous degree was presented to the family of Transito "Tito" Torres. The graduates share with us their future plans, as they answer the question . . .

What can you do with a women and gender studies degree?

CHANGE THE WORLD

Bachelor of Arts Recipients

MAGGIE ABEYTA also graduated with a degree in English. Her plans after college are to be employed.

JILLIAN ADAMS is hiking the Appalachian Trail where she plans on writing a personal narrative on topics ranging from feminism to militarism. She plans to get a master's in social work, and her dream is to operate a rural safe house for victims of domestic violence that would incorporate small-scale farming as a means of healing and empowerment.

JULIE COMBEST is also a graduate of the INVST Community Leadership Program. This summer she will be embarking on a 10-day silent meditation retreat before beginning her work toward an MFA in writing and poetics at Naropa University.

MELISSA DAVIS plans to go to CU-Denver to get a teaching certificate. She plans to teach elementary education and hopes to incorporate all she has learned in women and gender studies into her future curriculums.

HANNAH GREENSTREET completed a double degree in women and gender studies and Spanish. She will be moving to San Francisco to work at NARAL Pro-Choice California, focusing on development and grassroots organizing.

WHITNEY HOUSTON also graduated with a minor in ethnic studies. Next year, she will be attending the University of Texas at El Paso to get her master's in special education.

LACEE JÁUREGUI graduated with degrees in psychology, English literature, and women and gender studies, with a minor in political science and a certification in LGBTQ studies. She has chaired the CU Gay-Straight Alliance and the GLBT Resource Center student advisory board.



L. Jáuregui



Front row: J. Adams, S. Mobarez, C. Verhaalen. Row 2: M. Davis, K. Mayer, H. Greenstreet, C. Machell. Row 3: J. Combest, W. Houston, N. Ziemba, M. Abeyta. Back row: A. Willet, E. Williams, L. Koutavas, J. Vonburg (L. Jáuregui pictured below)

LAUREN KOUTAVAS also graduated with an environmental biology minor. She seeks to share and spread the social awareness and personal empowerment she has gained in whatever communities she becomes a part of in the future.

CAMERON MACHELL also received a BA in ethnic studies. She plans to continue being an active member in the community by working with local youth and promoting non-violent communities.

KRIS MAYER also minored in religious studies and plans on working in a feminist or LGBT nonprofit.

(continued on next page)

Photos by Caitlin Savage

May 2010 Commencement

Bachelor of Arts Recipients (continued)

SHAFIQA MOBAREZ graduated with double majors in international affairs and women and gender studies. She plans on working with underrepresented populations, especially women and children.

COURTNEY VERHAALEN finally finished her long five-year road with a double major in women and gender studies and sociology. She is enjoying her last few months of freedom before she steps into the demanding nonprofit world.

JONNI VONBURG also graduated with a certificate in peace and conflict studies and has been a proud member of the Women and Gender Studies Student Organization (WAGON). She plans to attend a two-year intensive social work program in Denver as well as one year of graduate school to receive her master's in social work.

ALYSSA WILLET also graduated with a certificate in the study and practice of leadership from the INVST Community Leadership Program. She will be pursuing a master's degree in the College Student Personnel Administration Program at James Madison University. She aspires to work in student affairs and hopes one day to be the president or chancellor of a university where she can work to change the culture of women's leadership and inspire the next generation of women to lead in politics and in higher education.

EMILY WILLIAMS graduated with a double major in women and gender studies and political science. She plans on working to increase awareness of women's social justice issues within politics. Her favorite aspects of the Women and Gender Studies Program have been the very supportive, helpful, and knowledgeable community and the fact that every class can be related to everyday life.

NATALIE ZIEMBA also graduated with a certificate in the study and practice of leadership from the INVST Community Leadership Program. She still does not know how best to answer the question of "What's next?" but hopes to change the world, maybe via the Peace Corps. Stay tuned for details!





The commencement address was given by Terry Greenblatt, executive director of the Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights. (www.urgentactionfund.org)

Alyssa Willet and **Natalie Ziemba** were the student commencement speakers.

Photos by Caitlin Savage

May 2010 Commencement

Minors attending WGST Commencement



Front row: M. Cromie, J. Bailey, M. Smith, E. Kavanagh Back row: L. Scheer, E. Tappy, K. Zink

Recipients of the Minor

The following students completed the minor in women and gender studies in addition to the degree in their listed home department(s).

JORDAN BAILEY (Political Science)

KYLA BENSON (Film Studies and Sociology)

OLIVIA BROWNSON (Film Studies)

MEGHAN CROMIE (Integrative Physiology)

SAMANTHA FELD (English)

JAMES GROUP (Sociology)

ERIK KAVANAGH (English Literature)

DANIELLE MACDONALD (Film Studies)

KAYLEY McMahon (Advertising)

LEE SCHEER (Psychology)

MICHELLE SMITH (Biochemistry and Integrative Physiology)

ERRYN TAPPY (Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology)

KATHRYN ZINK (Communication)

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.

JASON BISPING (PhD candidate, Theatre) "Using Theatre for Development to Mediate the Introduction and Design of New Energy Technologies."

AMANDA GIGUERE (PhD, Theatre, May 2010) "The Plays of Yasmina Reza: Dismantling the Mainstream Stage."

DIANE KEELING (PhD candidate, Communication) "Yelping a Sense of Place: New Media and Rhetorics of Emplacement."

PETRA LANDFESTER (PhD candidate, Comparative Literature) "How works of art lay claims to recognition: Germans with a migration background and their call for recognition via literature, film and architecture."

LEITH LOMBAS (PhD candidate, Sociology) "Being in the Peace Corps: An Investigation into the Lived Experiences of Peace Corps Volunteers."

KATHERINE MARTINEZ (PhD candidate, Sociology) "Using a Mixed Methods Approach to Test the Limits of Self-Objectification Theory Among BDSM Participants."

COURTNEY McDonald (PhD, Sociology, May 2010)
"A Qualitative Study of the Experiences of Woman-to-Woman Intimate Partner Abuse."

JENNIFER POPPLE (PhD candidate, Theatre) topic not available.

${\bf Graduate\ Certificate\ students\ attending\ WGST\ Commencement}$



A. Giguere, D. Keeling, J. Bisping, P. Landfester, A. Morales Shaw, L. Wagner

APRIL MORALES SHAW (PhD candidate, Philosophy) "Absent Identities: The Invisibility of Gender and Racial Injustice In Pogge's Analysis of Severe Poverty and Human Rights."

CHRISTY-DALE SIMS (PhD candidate, Communication) a reexamination of the concept of "intersectionality" in gender studies.

MEGHAN CHRISTINE VICKS (PhD candidate, Comparative Literature) "Narratives of Zero: Writing Absence in Modern and Postmodern Literature."

LISA WAGNER (Master of Liberal Studies, University of Denver, 2008) "Telling," a collection of monologues based on the experiences and issues faced by homeless women at a local overnight shelter.

The Joanne Easley Arnold Scholarship Awards Celebration

This year, the Joanne Easley Arnold Scholarship Awards Celebration took place on April 11, 2010 at the Koenig Alumni Center under beautifully sunny skies. The three named scholarships in women and gender studies were awarded to the four individuals below. Congratulations to these accomplished students! We look forward to their future achievements. To read more about each of these awards that honor important women while providing opportunities to our undergraduate students, visit our webpage: www.colorado.edu/WomensStudies/Scholarships.html.

2010 Jean Dubofsky Scholarship

Chelsea will be a junior in fall 2010, triple majoring in anthropology, women and gender studies, and psychology. She works at the Women's Resource Center (WRC) as the new volunteer coordinator, is a peer educator at the GLBT Resource Center, and co-facilitates a new feminist group with Sarah McCullar, as well as Queer Women in Community (a peer group through the WRC). She is also involved



CHELSEA MULLEN

with the Queer Initiative, a queer activist group on campus, and volunteers for MESA (Moving to End Sexual Assault). Chelsea's work in school is focused around feminist anthropology in different contexts. She is passionate about ending oppression and injustice within a context of cultural understanding and cooperation. For fun, she enjoys reading and swimming and also teaches swim lessons.



SARAH McCullar

Sarah will be a junior this coming year, with a double major in women and gender studies and political science. She is involved in the Women and Gender Studies Student Organization (WAGON), a new feminist student/community group that she is organizing called "CU Feminists for Social Justice," the Queer Initiative, as well as an internship with 9to5, the National Association of Working Women. She is focusing her studies on gender violence and

prevention and is extremely passionate about advocacy for the LGBT community and advocacy for victims and survivors of intimate partner violence and sexual assault. She is "honored to be a part of such a great department and cannot wait to see what the coming years will bring." Sarah was also recently awarded the GLBT Alumni Chapter Scholarship.

2010 Lucile Berkeley Buchanan Scholarship



BRITTANY BURTON

Brittany will be a senior in the fall, majoring in women and gender studies and working towards a certificate in peace and conflict studies. She is involved in the Women and Gender Studies Student Organization (WAGON) and this summer plans to work with other student members to launch another feminist group on campus. She is passionate about human rights, especially those of women, and would love to go to law school in the future.

2010 Susannah Chase Memorial Scholarship

In fall 2010. Erin will be a senior women and gender studies and philosophy dual major. She is a member of CU's Ethics Bowl team (a philosophy debate team), and she volunteers at the Women's Resource Center. She is very passionate about feminist philosophy, and she hopes to bring that passion to a career in law, after she graduates from CU and law school. Over the summer she is going home to Massachusetts to spend time with her grandma, Helen Makar, who at the age of 91 is still as lively as ever.



ERIN KANE

University of Colorado at Boulder **Women and Gender Studies Program** 246 UCB Boulder, CO 80309-0246

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Bolder Voices

Women and Gender Studies Program Newsletter

Director

Anne Costain

Faculty

Lorraine Bayard de Volo, Robert Buffington, Alison Jaggar, Deepti Misri, Celeste Montoya

Staff

Shelley Dahme, Alicia Turchette (editor)

Contact Information

Women and Gender Studies Program University of Colorado at Boulder Hazel Gates Woodruff Cottage 246 UCB

Boulder, CO 80309-0246 Phone: (303) 492-8923 Fax: (303) 492-2549

E-mail: wgst@colorado.edu

Website: www.colorado.edu/WomensStudies



Fall 2010 Course Offerings

WMST 2000 Introduction to Feminist Studies

WMST 2200 Women, Literature, and the Arts

WMST 2400 Women of Color and Activism

WMST 2600 Gender, Race, and Class in a Global Context

WMST 3210 American Indian Womer

WMST 3300 $\,$ Gender. Sexuality. and U.S. Law

WMST 3500 Global Gender Issues

WMST 3650 Women and Politics in Latin America

WMST 3700 Gender and War

WMST 5190 Feminist Methodology (Graduate)

The above-listed courses are sponsored by the Women and Gender Studies Program. Additional courses that may cover topics of interest are offered by other academic departments and are cross-listed under the course heading WMST.