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Women’s Studies Alumni News

Amber Garland majored in communication with a concentration in Speech and a minor in Women’s Studies. Ms. Garland graduated in 2010 and went on to attend law school. Since graduating from law school, Ms. Garland practices law in the areas of family law and estate planning in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Jessica Hall graduated from ETSU in December 2013 with a BA in English and a minor in Women’s Studies. She is currently a Masters Candidate in ETSU’s Department of Literature and Language, where she also works as a research and teaching assistant. Her Women’s Studies background has proved invaluable to her work in graduate school, as she has conducted scholarship on Virginia Woolf, the role of the feminine in classical epic, and feminist anthropology in twentieth century British poetry.

Since graduating the Women’s Studies program at ETSU in December 2009, Sarah Olivo worked as the Program Specialist for the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC) at the University of North Carolina at Asheville for close to three years. In 2013, she moved to Seattle to pursue a Master’s in Museology from the University of Washington. Sarah is currently writing her graduate thesis on Feminist methodology when developing exhibitions of personal narrative, specifically those of the female-identified and LGBTQ experience. Sarah lives in Seattle with her partner and can often be found exploring the Pacific Northwest with her dog, Leia.

Maggie Osborne graduated from ETSU in May of 2009 with a double major in Anthropology and Women’s Studies. Since that time she attended graduate school at Lincoln Memorial University where she graduated with her Master’s degree in Education for Counseling. Currently, she works as a Property Manager at a HUD based apartment complex for the elderly in Kingsport, Tennessee and just received her real estate license. She is honored to have gone through the Women’s Studies program at ETSU as it has shaped her life in a most fantastic way!
Spring 2015 Women on Wednesday’s Scheduled Panels

January 28th: “The Campus Community Interface: Examples from Women’s Health” with Dr. Katie Baker and Mrs. Donna Noland, RNC, MSN, WHNP: D.P. Culp Center Room 3 at Noon. Dr. Katie Baker and Mrs. Donna Noland will discuss the university-community interface and the impact of these collaborations on maternal and child health in the Northeast Region of Tennessee. Dr. Baker and Mrs. Noland will cite examples of successes and failures based on collaborations designed to improve women’s and children’s health in Northeast Tennessee. Dr. Katie Baker is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Community and Behavioral Health at East Tennessee State University. Mrs. Donna Noland is a Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner and the First Lady of ETSU.

February 11th: “Raising Awareness About Cervical Cancer in Nicaragua: Working with Health Promoters to Increase Pap Smear Uptake” with Megan Quinn: D.P. Culp Center Dining Room 3 at Noon. The lecture will describe cervical cancer incidence and mortality globally, with a specific emphasis on Nicaragua. Additionally, we will discuss the value of utilizing local health promoters to raise awareness about cervical cancer in the community and increase pap smear screening.

March 4th: “Behind the Lens: Women on Photography” with Ms. Lyn Govette and Ms. Jessica Hillyer: D.P. Culp Center Room 3 at Noon. Ms. Lyn Govette and Ms. Jessica Hillyer are the co-curators for the upcoming exhibit titled: Behind the Lens: Women Photographers on the South and Appalachia. The exhibit will be open from March 9th to March 28th, 2015, in the Tipton Gallery. In their lecture, Ms. Govette and Ms. Hillyer will discuss their exhibit as well as give a preview as to what to expect. Additionally, they will discuss the history of women in photography and the effects of gender within the profession. Ms. Hillyer is a graduate of East Tennessee State University who holds a B.S. in Studio Art. Ms. Govette is currently and MFA candidate at East Tennessee State University.

March 18th: “URSA: Music for Tuba by Women Composers” with Dr. Stephanie Fry: Wednesday, March 18th in D.P. Culp Center Room 3 at Noon. Dr. Stephanie Frye will discuss her CD project, URSA: Music for Tuba by Women Composers, which was released in November 6457. Dr. Frye will discuss why she chose the project and composers, the process of recording, working with composers, and feedback since the release. Additionally, Dr. Frye will speak about her experience as a woman in the “tuba world,” and she will play a piece of her music for the guests in attendance. Dr. Frye is an instructor in the Department of Music at East Tennessee State University.

April 1st: “Women in Literature: Kenyan Women Writers and Their Dialogues on Issues Affecting African Women” with Dr. Martha Michieka: Wednesday, April D.P. Culp Center Room 3 at Noon. Dr. Martha Michieka will discuss how Kenyan women writers voice the concerns of African women through their writings. This event serves to highlight the importance of women authors and their roles in telling the woman’s story from an angle that only women can tell. Dr. Michieka is an Associate Professor in the Department of Literature and Language at East Tennessee State University where she teaches African literature among other courses. Her research interests include World Englishes, Sociolinguistics, and second language teaching.
March W.O.W. Highlight:
Stephanie Frye, Instructor of Music

During the Q&A after her tuba interpretation of Elizabeth Raum’s Sweet Dances—Blew Tango, Stephanie Frye shared further insight about the motivation behind her music. Frye admitted to the audience that when she was in middle school, the tuba was her instant instrument of choice because she liked its different sound, which did not conform to her friends’ inclinations to the clarinet or the flute. “I get asked often how I manage to play tuba as a woman,” Frye shared with the audience, “because it just so happens that more men play tuba than women.” Frye explained that being a woman in the “tuba world” requires a lot of passion, but passion only expedites success to a certain point. We must develop excellence in order to exceed expectations in the competitive music world.

Her 5-year plan: “I do love teaching at a university. I love working with college-aged students. Working with students, teaching, has become more of a passion that I thought it was going to be. Playing and teaching. That’s what I see in my next five years.”

Interpretation of music: Interpreting music and interpreting literature possess the same subjective characteristics. “If you gave one piece of music to three different people,” explained Frye, “all three would play it differently. I’m reading what’s on the page, the notes, the dynamics, [but] interpretation affects things like pulling and pushing time, how soft I’m playing. It’s definitely the same for music [as it is for literature].”

Dealing with “overbearing” musicians and constructive criticism as a woman: “I am fortunate that the tuba world generally isn’t like that. The tuba stereotype can be pretty accurate. It’s a very laidback group of people. Everyone wants to see everyone else succeed.”

If anyone is interested in purchasing her CD URSA: Music for Tuba by Women Composer, Frye has copies on hand. Her CD is also available on Amazon and Spotify.

Women encouraged to get involved at ETSU women’s issues talk

When Dr. Katie Baker, who both serves as a Washington County Commissioner and professor of public health at East Tennessee State University, went with colleagues to a conference this past October, she was met with a situation that both frustrated her and inspired her to continue with her efforts.

Female lawmakers told Baker’s group about the bills they’d tried to move forward that would positively affect women across the state in topics ranging from domestic violence to matters related to neonatal abstinence syndrome, or NAS, babies. All six of those proposed bills failed to pass.

“We’re all in this together and have a responsibility to address women’s issues,” Baker said.

She and Donna Noland, a women’s health nurse practitioner and first lady of ETSU, spoke about ways to improve the quality of life for All Tennesseans—with an emphasis on the women—at the school’s Women on Wednesday talk.

Matter-of-factly, Baker clarified that she wasn’t joking when she suggested the women in attendance run for office in local government as she had in the last election cycle, winning her county seat, the only seat out of 25 held by a female.

“If you attend local government meetings, you will notice a lack of women at the table,” Baker said of the makeup of the commission. “It’s not that they’re bad people, they’re not well versed in women’s health.”

But running for local government is just one way the duo suggested the two dozen in attendance change their state’s public health woes. Education was emphasized by Noland, who laid out slide after slide in her presentation numbers that showed how the Volunteer State was ranked near the very bottom of states with the worst obesity rates, most violence, most drug-related deaths, low incomes, highest rates of tobacco and prescription drug use, child death and other negative statistics.

This, she said, gives the state a lot of room for improvement.

“If the greater the education you have, the more you’ll be involved with your community,” Noland said, pointing at Gov. Bill Haslam’s Tennessee Promise free communi-
ty college program as one way to help the state. That being said, she also pointed at statistics that show an increase in cancer among impoverished populations.

Noland, like Baker, grew up in East Tennessee. (Cont. on next page) Both women attended high school in Greeneville and feel invigorated in helping this area that often ranks near the bottom of counties within the state in terms of the previously mentioned categories.

“For me, coming back to this university means a lot,” she said.

Her experiences as a nurse practitioner gave her the means to discuss women’s health topics such as the types of cancers that greatly affect women, as well as the way to prevent those hurtles, and we jumped them. Sex Week at ETSU began February 10th and ended at 1 Billion Rising on February 12th.

Those three days consisted of everything from free HIV/AIDS and STI testing, to panels on the intersection of religion and sexuality, to "Sex: Am I Normal?" with the world’s leading sexologist Dr. Jill McDevitt. There were over a dozen events that went on with Sex Week and each had close to 2 dozen present and some had well over 50. The week was a success and there was a response from the students and community.

Volunteers often heard attendees say “I never knew that!”, “LGBTQIA people have a hard time getting healthcare, don’t they?”, “These condoms are free?! I need to tell all my friends!”. We knew that this week was making an impact by the questions we got and the interest in what we were doing and saying to people on campus. 1 Billion Rising solidified this feeling when we raised a substantial amount of money for abuse shelters and a packed Willow Tree Music Room and Coffee House.

ETSU Sex Week set for Tuesday opening

With East Tennessee State University’s first sexuality education event set to kick off in a few days, one of the organizers, Max Carwile, said she doesn’t understand what all the fuss was about.

“It really just doesn’t feel like a controversial event to me,” Carwile said Friday of Sex Week at ETSU, a three-day slate of educational presentations focused on health and social topics related to human sexuality. “I didn’t feel like there was any ill will from the SGA. Some of the senators come up to me and told me they support it hope it goes well, but they thought it was not best to fund it with student funding because of outside concerns.”

Those outside concerns, from Tennessee Board of Regents officials and state legislators, according to student leaders, led the student body representatives to deny the $9,340 organizers at two meetings of the student Senate requested by Sex Week organizers at two meetings of the student Senate.

After the first denial, the event’s planners began an online fundraising campaign and, through it and other fundraising events, raised $6,200 to pay for speakers and other needed items.

“We ended up making the perfect amount for what we needed to do,” Carwile said, noting that one speaker the group originally hoped would present had a scheduling conflict and some giveaway items and advertising were cut to make budget. (Cont. on next page)
Among the schedule are discussions about stigmas, stereotypes, sexuality and spirituality, all designed to facilitate open communication among attendees, Carwile said.

At a Wednesday evening presentation titled “Sex: Am I Normal?” in the D.P. Culp Center Auditorium, sexologist Jill McDevot will prompt the audience with survey questions regarding sexual attitudes and behaviors answered via smartphones.

“She’ll ask questions like, ‘Have you ever faked an orgasm?’ and the percentages from the audience’s answers will be displayed on a screen,” Carwile said. “That event is really important for understanding the whole idea behind Sex Week, that we are normal, and it gives students the option to be anonymous, comfortable and honest with their answers.”

A pair of lectures, “The Bible and Sex” and “Belief in Sexuality: A Trans-religious Discussion of Sexuality Inside Religion,” on Tuesday and Wednesday, respectively, will describe sex in a religious framework comparing and contrasting historical texts with modern religious teachings.

With such a large Christian population on the Johnson City campus, Carwile said the topic may be of interest to a large number of students.

On the expected attendance figures, Carwile said it’s anyone’s guess.

On-campus programming is notoriously difficult to predict, and often events that seem to have widespread interest can draw only a handful of people.

“I’m hoping this week turns out to be incredibly popular, and I hope a lot turn out,” she said. “It’s just a matter of making sure the word gets out to the students.”

Not among the programming schedule are sex toy demonstrations and “drag shows,” events pinned to Sex Week by some student senators to cast an unsavory light on the week.

Much of her work during event planning was spent dispelling such rumors from curious students, Carwile said.

After a recent re-dedication to combating sexual assault on campus announced by university President Brian Noland during a state of the university address, Carwile said she’d hoped to have more communication and support from the college’s administration for the week, some of which focuses on sexual assault.

“I wished they had gotten involved and had a little more interest in our event,” she said. “A lot of what we’re doing falls in line with the ideas I heard the president talking about.”

Most of Sex Week at ETSU takes place Tuesday through Thursday in the campus’ Culp Center. Carwile said the events are open to the public.

Here is a glimpse of the sort of classes Women’s Studies majors and minors participate in:

Intro to Women’s Studies; Gender in Transition; Queering the Canon: LGBTQIA Literature; Men and Masculinities; Queer Studies; Sex, Gender and the Body.

Look for some of these courses offered in Fall 2015!

Pictured above: Lydia Hasch and Caitlin Meadows, two of the many exemplary student workers who adhere to the Women’s Studies Mission Statement.
Memories

Special thanks to Kathryn Travis for capturing Women’s Studies’ presence and excellence at the conference!
Veronica Limeberry named Fulbright Academic Research Fellow

Veronica Limeberry, a native of Candler, North Carolina, has been named a 2015-2016 Fulbright Academic Research Fellow. She graduated in December 2014 from East Tennessee State University with a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies degree with a concentration in gender and diversity studies. Limeberry will live and work for nine months at Navdanya, the Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology in Dehradun, India, under the direction of Dr. Vandana Shiva. During her stay, she will study women in sustainable agriculture—an outgrowth of her coursework and thesis research in food insecurity—particularly among women and children in mountainous regions of the world, including Central and Southern Appalachia, the Andes Mountains of Peru and the Gharwal region of northern India, where Navdanya is located.

Limeberry studied in Dehradun for a summer during her graduate schooling. She also spent a summer in Cusco, Peru, to explore the predominant agricultural practices in that region and the ways in which the market women of Cusco devised strategies to overcome the food insecurity caused by those practices.

Dr. Jill LeRoy-Frazier, Limeberry’s thesis director, nominated her student for the Fulbright fellowship and has also recommended her for the Outstanding Thesis in the Humanities Award in the ETSU School of Graduate Studies. LeRoy-Frazier notes, “Veronica’s work not only engages the most current research in the anthropology of food studies and in cultural constructions of power and identity, but also embeds itself in the developing field of Appalachian women’s studies, which takes a deliberately global approach to understanding the diverse yet shared experiences of women across mountainous regions of the world.”

For further information, contact LeRoy-Frazier at 423-439-4223 or leroyfra@etsu.edu.

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Congratulations to Women’s Studies Awards Recipients!

Faculty Award for Outstanding Student
Max Carwile is the Vice President of Tri-Iota, President of FMLA, and member of the Women’s Studies Steering Committee. She was the head organizer of ETSU Sex Week during Spring 2015. She will graduate in May 2015 with a Bachelor of Arts in Women’s Studies

Feminist Activist Award
Kathryn Travis is the Treasurer of Tri-Iota, Secretary of FMLA, and organizer for ETSU Sex Week during Spring 2015. She is a Women’s Studies minor and plans to graduate in December 2015.

Graduate Feminist Activist Award
Veronica Limeberry graduated in December 2014 with her Master of Arts in Liberal Studies with an emphasis in Gender and Diversity Studies. She currently serves as an adjunct professor for Women’s Studies.

Warm Farewell and Thanks to Brandi Teetor

On behalf of the Women’s Studies Department, we want to extend a special thanks to Ms. Brandi Teetor for her outstanding work as our Graduate Assistant. Brandi will graduate in May 2015 with a Masters of Arts in Social Work and will leave our nest to change the world with her intelligence, compassion, and empathy. Congratulations, Brandi! We will miss you!
Women's Studies Photo Gallery: Spring 2015
Department Scholarship

Selected Publications and Presentations for Spring 2015


LeRoy-Frazier, Jill. “‘...a shade too provocative...a shade too unreserved:’ Modernist Color Theory and the Politics of the Color Line in Nella Larsen’s Passing”—Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture Since 1900, University of Louisville, February 2015.


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