On the evening of November 6, a community of researchers, students, academicians, health care professionals and family members filled the Reece Museum to celebrate Dr. Sarah Melton and Dr. Lynn Williams, this year’s recipients of the 18th Annual Notable Women of ETSU award. The Women’s Studies Program hosts this event each year to honor and celebrate the remarkable work of women on campus and to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas, research, and projects that are generated by women faculty.

ETSU President Brian Noland welcomed guests and honorees by noting the significance of women at the university. “Throughout our history, our examples of notable women have had a profound influence on this institution, on our colleges, and on our campus, and that is why this colloquium is so important,” he said. Dr. Phyllis Thompson, Director of Women’s Studies, followed by acknowledging the previous Notable Women who were among the guests, demonstrating the scope of community behind the award.

Dr. Lynn Williams, who is associate dean in the College of Clinical and Rehabilitative Health Sciences (CCRHS) and professor in the Department of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology, accepted her award first and recounted her “uncommon path to becoming an unlikely Notable Woman.” Williams’ journey began in the small, coal mining town of Tams, West Virginia, and led her to become a first-generation college student at West Virginia University. After receiving her master’s, Williams returned to her roots where she began the first speech and language department not far from her home in the Appalachian Regional Hospital System at Beckley Hospital, serving as its only staff member. Not long after, she went on to receive her Ph.D. from Indiana University’s Speech and Hearing Sciences program run almost entirely by women, which was an inspiring motivator for Williams.

In the years since, she has developed widely used methods and models of speech therapy and assessment, and was recently elected president of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association for the upcoming term. Williams concluded her talk by expressing her gratitude to those who’ve most shaped her life – her colleagues in CCRHS, friends, daughters, husband, and parents.

Dr. Sarah Melton, professor at Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy and practicing clinical pharmacist, followed by telling her story of growth and development through the impact of teamwork. Her journey began at the University of Virginia, where she obtained both her bachelor’s and doctorate in pharmacy. Melton’s career as a pharmacist led her to become a nationally recognized expert on prescription drug use, speaking to Congress in 2015 about prescription drug and heroin misuse from state and local perspectives where she called for greater federal involvement. Melton’s knowledge on regional efforts stems from her appointments to multiple, critical state-wide commissions in Virginia and Tennessee. However, Melton’s commitment to service and change isn’t just heard in government; it’s a remarkable piece of her teaching pedagogy that has gained her recognition.

In 2005, Melton began teaching at Appalachian College of Pharmacy, where she developed a passion for mentorship through her students’ eagerness to provide care for those in medically underserved, rural areas. She spoke with pride of her student mentees’ accomplishments, practice of pharmacy, commitment to change, and the students they have mentored as a result. Melton closed by saying, “What I want to continue doing is being that agent of change and to continue creating new ones who can continue to do the hard work needed to make a real difference in the lives and communities that surround us. And who could ask for any more than that?”

As both Williams and Melton stood side-by-side fielding questions from the audience at the end of the evening, their shared reverence for the lives that have touched theirs was clear, and their compassion for the lives they have impacted was inspiring. Notable Women is an award designed to advance understanding of women, their work, and their lives. The spirit of that mission was felt as the crowd lingered in the museum to chat with the honorees, offer congratulations, take pictures, and thank them for their stories.

The Women’s Studies Program would like to thank Reece Museum Director Randy Sanders and Exhibition Coordinator Spenser Brenner for welcoming the program once again. In addition, thanks to Women’s Studies student staff for their work, and to photographer Charles Warden and videographer Jason Jones for capturing the event.

Is there a notable woman you would like to nominate for next year? Email thompsop@etsu.edu or womenstudies@etsu.edu for more information.
Dr. Leslie Temme of the Social Work Department launched the fall semester’s Women on Wednesdays series with an interactive discussion on meditation and yoga and their unique benefits. Her research has focused on using meditation in both clinical and recovery settings as a way to change the cycle of unhealthy actions and reactions. She encouraged treatment providers to remain trauma-aware as they incorporate yoga and meditation into treatment and recovery plans. Temme highlighted many of the other benefits of yoga, such as decreased chronic pain and heart disease, and during an interactive portion of her presentation, she led the audience through guided meditation and chair yoga exercises that she has used in her own workplace to provide mental space and stress relief.

**Integrating Yoga & Meditation into Clinical Practice**

Leslie Temme

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Dr. Jill LeRoy-Frazier, along with Master of Liberal Arts graduate students Tobi Oloyede, Oluwafisayo Ogundoro, Kolade Olaya, Lia Bevins, and Thomas Townsend, held an interdisciplinary conversation concerning stigma and the many forms it can take. Examining the impact of stigma on various issues, including teen pregnancy, intimate partner violence, colonialism, rural development, and inequality in the workplace, this group illuminated the diverse aspects of stigma, how ingrained it has become in everyday life, and the possibility of severe consequences for stigmatized populations. The students offered suggestions for resisting stigma, such as adopting a more caring perspective alongside self-reflection and

**Symposium on Stigma: An Intersectional Approach**

Jill LeRoy-Frazier and MALS students

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Angela Hagaman, Operations Director of ETSU’s Center for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment, provided a historical account of the opioid epidemic sweeping the nation and, more specifically, Central Appalachia. Hagaman described ETSU’s response, which includes efforts to prevent opioid addiction with programs aimed at proper drug disposal, school-based prevention, and health care provider training. Other crucial efforts include community education regarding medication-assisted therapies and the establishment of the Overmountain Recovery treatment center. Hagaman is a native of Appalachia and feels a strong connection to bringing recovery and treatment to the people of this region. Her future research will focus on the resilience of communities affected by opioid use.

**ETSU’s Response to the Opioid Epidemic**

Angela Hagaman

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Assistant Professor of Psychology Dr. Alyson Chroust wrapped up the fall lecture series by discussing developmental processes in infants. Chroust used an interactive model to demonstrate her method of analyzing infant visual recognition to determine their level of processing. She then discussed her research, which has found a significant association between prenatal opioid exposure and infants’ performance on spatial processing tasks: infants who have not been exposed to opioids perform twice as well compared to infants who have been exposed. Not only are Chroust’s findings important in understanding the challenges of mental development for infants exposed to opioids, but they also bring critical attention to a neglected area of the opioid crisis.

** Peek-A-Boo: How Infant Minds Perceive the World**

Alyson Chroust

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Women’s Studies Program Fall 2019 Newsletter
Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Jill Drouillard

What led you to Philosophy and Gender Studies?
I initially became interested in Gender Studies when I was around fourteen years old. Around this age, I became acutely aware of sexual difference, particularly as it played out in the sexualization of female bodies. I went to the Baltimore Public Library searching for answers, and it was there that I first discovered Catherine Mackinnon and Andrea Dworkin. I became interested in Philosophy after reading Plato’s “Allegory of the Cave” in high school. My freshman year of college, I took an introduction to philosophy course titled “The Problems of Being Human,” and I was hooked from there.

Could you describe your time spent studying abroad?
Studying abroad is one of the best decisions I have ever made. My sophomore year in college, I participated in a study abroad program on “Inequality and Social Policy in South Africa”. The experience was both jarring and amazing. When I graduated from Goucher, the Women’s Studies Department awarded me the Dorothy E. Brody Prize in Women’s Studies, which I invested toward French language lessons in Paris. After that summer, I enrolled in LSE for my Master’s in Gender Studies, where I also took French language courses and received a grant from the French government to teach English to middle-school and high-school students in Bordeaux. From there, I moved to the Paris region, where I lived for almost seven years and completed my graduate studies in Philosophy. Studying abroad has definitely impacted my academic perspectives, as I am interested in contemporary French feminism and French bioethics legislation. I suppose I’m not only trying to reconcile Philosophy and Gender Studies, but Philosophy, Gender, and French studies. My dream is to one day create a faculty-led study abroad program in France.

What are your research interests?
My research interests lie at the intersection of Feminist Philosophy/Philosophy of Gender & Sexuality, Bioethics, Social Philosophy, and 20th Century Continental Philosophy with a particular focus on reproduction and assisted reproductive technology. Currently, I am interested in: (1) what it means to be a “woman” today, (2) how women create and procreate in the 21st century, and (3) how the U.S. and France socially and legally regulate how one ought to be a “woman” and how such women ought to procreate. New and emerging research in trans philosophy has highly influenced the current work I am doing.

What are you most excited about bringing to ETSU’s Philosophy Department and Women’s Studies Program?
Next semester, I am teaching Introduction to Ethics, Philosophy as Conversation, and Philosophy of Gender & Sexuality. I’m always excited to try new pedagogical techniques in the classroom. I also look forward to finding ways to promote these disciplines outside of the classroom. For example, this past semester, I was part of a post-screening panel that discussed epistemic violence in the trans community after the screening of the film Call Her Ganda at the Tipton Gallery. Next semester, I’ve gained support from seven different departments to bring Gabby Rivera, creator of Marvel’s first Latina lesbian superhero and author of queer Latinx fiction and non-fiction, to speak at ETSU.

Congratulations to the 2019 Tri-Iota Inductees!
Tri-Iota is the national Women’s Studies Honor Society, an egalitarian national society of scholars dedicated to the ideals of excellence in Women’s Studies and scholarship. Tri-Iota promotes an interest in Women’s Studies, research in social issues affecting women, and a variety of activist and intellectual activities. If you are interested in joining our exciting organization, please contact Lia Bevins at womenstudies2@etsu.edu.

Left to right: Claire Roberson, Cassandra Walls, Teasha Brown, Lia Bevins (Not Pictured: Lauren Synder, Rodrigo Hernandez-Sordi)
Photo by: John Cole, Women’s Studies Intern
Today is the last day of classes. As I watch the sun rise on a new day, I’m reflecting on the semester that’s just past and looking toward the one ahead. It’s been an exciting fall in Women’s Studies. We’ve enjoyed record attendance of 495 people at our Women on Wednesdays lecture series and Notable Women symposium. Women’s Studies Steering Committee members have been engaged in important work for the program, assisting with curriculum development proposals to update our program and change our name to Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS); employing best practices in feminist and trauma-informed protocols to rewrite attendance and other classroom policies with an eye to student resilience and retention; and beginning the brainstorming process and strategy work of the transition to WGSS so we will be ready if we are approved.

The program has also continued its collaborative outreach by partnering with Student Life and Enrollment to update and distribute the “You Have Options” sexual assault education and awareness posters we originally created through funding from an Avon Foundation grant, with Nursing to update our ‘If Someone Reports to You’ postcards that emphasize a trauma-informed approach to discussing gender-based violence, with the Office of Equity and Inclusion to organize its first annual Diversity Conference, with Admissions to recruit new students at our fall open houses, with the WMST 4500: Capstone class and community health providers to hold a “Let’s Talk Sex and Healthy Relationships Fair” at the CPA, with the LCRC for a Health Fair at St Mary’s and with UMOJA to provide health and awareness information at their Johnson City festival, with the Johnson City Women’s Suffrage Centennial Coalition to plan community-wide events to celebrate the ratification of the nineteenth amendment and women’s right to vote, and with Sherrod Library to provide a self-care and aromatherapy table for students during dead week as they prepare for exams. It’s been an exciting semester of feminist research, program development, and action on campus and in the community!

Faculty Scholarship

Drouillard, Jill. “Gender Critical Feminism as a Form of Resistance to Feminism.” Women’s Resistance to Feminism(s) in the United States since the 19th Century, Université d’Aix-Marseille, Marseille, France. Accepted for 2020.


If you have news to share, let us know! Email us at womenstudies@etsu.edu

UPCOMING WoW LECTURES
February 5: Chelsea Wessels, Film Studies
February 19: Katherine Weiss, Literature and Language
March 4: Carshonda Harris, Multicultural Center
March 11: Sage Perrott, Art and Design
April 1: Deidra Rogers, Counseling and Human Services