Note from the Director

Almost two years ago to the day, President Mearns announced that all classes must immediately transition to virtual learning, owing to the rapid spread of COVID-19. I recall feeling overwhelmed by the sudden transition. Many colleagues and students felt that way, too.

When a friend recently shared lines from the poet Antonio Machado, they certainly seemed resonant: “Traveler, there is no path, the path is made by walking.” In these two years, we have walked through this pandemic on paths we have created, individually and together. The experience has often felt disorienting, exhausting and sad. It has also revealed persistence, creativity, generosity, gratitude and resilience.

I am grateful for our faculty, staff, and students in Women’s and Gender Studies who have continued stepping forward onto new and emerging paths. Our faculty adapted their teaching with creativity and patience. Our Graduate Assistant, Betsy Kiel, overcame the abrupt cancellation of Women’s Week in spring 2020, designed an online Women’s Week in 2021, and has organized a wonderful slate of in-person events for Women’s Week 2022.

In August 2021, we were fortunate to hire Tiffany Flowers as our new administrative coordinator. Her amazing organizational and creative skills are extending the groundwork established by former director Dr. Lisa Pellerin, and by Betsy Kiel. I am also grateful for our professional advisor, Tareq Robin, who has helped to create paths responsive to the needs of students during the pandemic.

Our students’ continued steps toward realizing their goals inspire and impress me. Many WGS students have earned Dean’s List recognition and scholarship distinctions (page 7). Others’ successes may have been more personal and less visible. We honor them all! WGS scholarships for 2022-23 will soon be awarded. We invite nominations (page 5). Our walk continues!
This was a time of excitement and pioneering. The field of women’s studies was emerging and our early supporters were plunging into academic readings and research.

1970s

The first Women’s Studies course, ID 210, was offered in spring of 1972 and taught by Betty Newcomb, Sharon Seager, and Mary Vogel.

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In 1974 the Women’s Studies Committee was formed and work on the development of a minor started the following year with Althea Stoeckel as chair.

Focus on expansion of program and budget. Reorganizing structure of governance. Facilities and staffing were upgraded.

1980s

The Women’s Studies minor was approved in 1980 with Darlene Mathis-Eddy serving as the first academic advisor.

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1990s

A decade of institutionalizing. Increases in participation, minors, activities, facilities, and staff. The internship program expanded.

The program was renamed and re-organized in 2009 to its current name of Women’s and Gender Studies with Dr. Julee Rosser serving as Acting Director.

In 2001 the program had one full-time director, one full-time administrative coordinator, one part-time secretary, and an average of seven undergraduate interns.

2000s

The Women’s Studies major launched in 2004.
The 2000s through present day has been a period of immense transition and growth. Our digital footprint increased awareness and program interest. Each new Director helped shape the identity of the program. The pandemic challenges us to remain flexible and forward thinking.

**2010s**

- A new Director, Dr. Lisa Pellerin, was appointed in the summer of **2009**.
- Under the leadership of then Graduate Assistant Ashleigh Bingham our yearly promotional poster line was launched in **2014**.
- Our largest graduating class of majors (10) and minors (29) occurred in Spring **2018**.
- In **2019**, Gloria Steinem returned to speak during Women’s Week. She also was a key speaker in 2002.

**2020s**

- Our first full-time, non-tenure line faculty member, Rachael Smith, was hired in July **2019**.
- Dr. Pellerin ended her time as Director in summer **2020**.

**What’s with all the name changes?**

The title of our program has undergone considerable discussion and revisions over our 50-year history!

- The Women’s Studies Committee was formed in **1974**
- In **1988** the program was renamed the Program for Education and Research on Women and Gender
- The title was changed in **1989** to Women and Gender Studies
- The program’s name reverted to the original name of Women’s Studies in **2001**
- The program was renamed after a re-organization in **2009** to its current title of Women’s and Gender Studies
Betsy Kiel: Exceptionally Accomplished

Betsy has been an integral part of our office since 2017 when she first served as an intern and teaching assistant while completing a Bachelor of Science in Women’s and Gender Studies. During this time, she assisted with the planning of Women’s Week, completed student secretary duties, and trained under our former Graduate Assistant, Dr. Ashleigh Bingham.

Betsy graduated with her bachelor’s in the spring of 2019 and continued on to obtain a double Master of Arts in Sociology and Political Science. Her tenure as a graduate assistant began in 2019 and her time with us has been nothing short of remarkable.

She manages a wide range of responsibilities such as program recruitment for our major and minor, event planning for our yearly Women’s Week festivities, oversight of our social media, and design and distribution of our marketing materials. In addition, she also teaches one of our introductory sections, WGS 210, supervises internship students, and mentors a graduate assistant in training who will assume her position full-time in the fall.

Simply put, Betsy is incredible and other people have noticed too. Her most recent recognitions include Graduate Assistant of the Year (2021) and a Disability Services Access Award (2022).

Outside of the Women’s and Gender Studies office, Betsy also works part-time in the Office of Disability Services as an Office Assistant. She has volunteered in a graphic design capacity for various campaigns since 2020 and formerly served as Outreach Chair for Muncie Resists from 2020-2021.

We are so thankful for her service and excited to follow her journey as it unfolds. We also look forward to celebrating all her achievements during the upcoming spring graduation ceremony in May where she will cross the stage for both master’s degrees! To further honor her dedication to our program and to the field of Women’s and Gender Studies, we asked her to reflect on her experiences and to share how she will take it with her as she moves on to professional employment.

How has your academic training with WGS and in your master’s programs deepened your understanding of women in the world?

I decided early on while taking WGS 210 during the spring semester of my sophomore year that I was drawn to the program and its core values, and wanted to switch to a major in Women’s & Gender Studies. Taking the more advanced courses in the major, such as WGS 310: Queer Women in Media, WGS 410: Feminist Theory, and WGS 499: Capstone allowed me to deepen my understanding and articulation of complex gender and intersectional issues in a real-world context.

What refined critical lenses for thinking about gender, sexuality, intersectionality, etc. have you developed?

Through both taking, and subsequently teaching, WGS courses, I’ve developed and honed my ability to use my “feminist lens,” a method by which I’ve learned to read and critique anything from academic theory to novels to news articles. Using your feminist lens involves examining a piece of literature or media by considering the entire sociopolitical context related to gender, race, sexuality, economics, etc. Being able to critique with a feminist lens has opened up a new world of academic and political criticism that has made me a stronger academic and will eventually help me as I transition into the workforce.

In what way has your outlook (on any topic/area) changed the most as a result of your time with WGS?

I’ve been lucky throughout my years in WGS to be mentored by some of the most amazing women on campus, and some of the most important lessons I’ve learned came from them. First, I’ve learned that every person and project situation will be different and learning to meet people where they are at and roll with the punches is a pivotal skill to have. In short, aside from the practical skills I’ve picked up in this program, I think I’ve gained some really important insights on how to best be a mentor, leader, and advocate through my time in WGS, which I will cherish forever.
**Scholarship Reminders**

### Muriel and Irene Goldman Scholarship
**Application Required**
- Preference will be given to those demonstrating financial need.

**$1,500**

### Andrea Lauren Scamihorn Memorial Scholarship
**Faculty Nomination Required**
- Have a declared Women’s and Gender Studies major or minor at Ball State University
- Have demonstrated a passion for activism (e.g., whether in service of the WGS program or with a community organization)
- Hold freshman, sophomore, or junior standing at the time of nomination

**$250**

### Anne Pieroni Szopa Scholarship in Women’s Studies
**Faculty Nomination Required**
- Preference will be given to first-year students.

**$1,000** Renewable

### Outstanding Women’s Studies Student Award
**Faculty Nomination Required**
- Have a declared Women’s and Gender Studies major or minor at Ball State University
- Have demonstrated academic excellence in academic performance, campus activities, and/or community service
- Have at least a 3.0 overall grade point average

### Honorary Award

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**Deadline:** Friday, April 1, 2022 at 5:00 PM EST

**Students:** Submit Muriel and Irene Goldman applications to wgs@bsu.edu

**Faculty:** Submit nominations via Qualtrics form
# Summer 2022

All Listed Course Offerings Are Online

## Women’s & Gender Studies Core
- **WGS 210**: Introduction to WGS

## Humanities and Fine Arts Electives
- **ENG 490**: Literature and Gender

## Social and Biological Sciences Electives
- **ANTH 241**: Gender, Sex, and Sexuality
- **CJC 211**: Race, Gender, and Crime
- **CJC 332**: Victimology
- **PSYS 324**: Psychology of Women
- **SOC 235**: Sociology of Gender

## Fall 2022

### Women’s & Gender Studies Core
- **WGS 210**: Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies
- **WGS 220**: International Women’s Issues
- **WGS 410**: Feminist Theory
- **WGS 499**: Women’s and Gender Studies Capstone

### Humanities and Fine Arts Electives
- **CC 302**: Women in Antiquity
- **ENG 217**: Intro to Queer Literature and Queer Theory
- **ENG 490**: Literature and Gender

### Social and Biological Sciences Electives
- **CJC 211**: Race, Gender, and Crime
- **CJC 332**: Victimology
- **CPSY 360**: Interreational Aspects of Sexuality
- **HSC 261**: Health, Sex, and Family Life
- **HSC 372**: Women and Health
- **PSYS 324**: Psychology of Women
- **PSYS 326**: Psychology of Diversity
- **PSYS 377**: Psychology of Sexual Behavior
- **SOC 235**: Sociology of Gender

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Photo courtesy of Ball State University
Congratulations!

The following students are recipients of the University’s inaugural Top 100 Student Awards:

Kimberly Ingold
Lauren Szymczak
Olivia Vincent

The following students made the Fall 2021 Dean’s List:

Briyah Badgley
Rachel Bailey
Shawn Battleday
Hailey Beaty
Asia Bennett
Makenna Bottrorff
Emily Cole
Ally Crumley
Emily Cunningham
Emily Fouche
Madi Garrett
Taylor Gillespie
Jack Gillespie
Delia Hernandez Guerrero
Kaitlyn Herrenbruck
Kimberly Ingold
Jacquel Jones
Rae Keeler
Kylie Leavitt
Monet Lindstrand
Brianna Lopez
Gabrielle Mark
Annabelle McCammon
Nico Meisner
Anna Meister
Madison Miller
Kylie Norton
Sarah Olsen
Tailer Pangallo
Jazmin Powell
Payten Romig
Aster Rye
Victoria Sills
Lauren Szymczak
Olivia Vincent
Grace Wagner
Lily Weidenbach
Jane Worley
Blake Wright
Kathryn Zavala

Scholarship News

Emily Cole — a legal studies & pre-law student with a minor in women’s and gender studies has been named a finalist for the Truman Scholarship! The Truman Scholarship is awarded to juniors who intend to pursue careers in public service and who want to create systemic change. Approximately 60 recipients will be announced in mid-April, at www.truman.gov.

Brianna Lopez — a psychology student with minors in philosophy and women’s and gender studies has made it to the semi-finalist round for the Fulbright U.S. Student Program for an English Teaching Assistantship in Bulgaria!

Sarah Olsen — a freshman Honors College student, with majors in political science, journalism, and telecommunications and a former minor in women’s and gender studies has been awarded a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship for study abroad during spring and summer 2022! She will study political science and international relations in Athens, Greece, for five weeks in summer 2022.

Make a Gift

It continues to be a critical time for funding in the humanities. For the Women’s & Gender Studies Program to continue to offer the very best in undergraduate education it is essential that we are able to support innovative teaching, research, and special events. Please consider a gift to the Ball State Women’s and Gender Studies Program.

To contribute by mail, send a check to:
Ball State University Foundation
2800 W. Bethel Ave.
Muncie, IN 47304
Memo Line: Women & Gender #044040

Online donations:
https://connect.bsu.edu/SciencesHumanities-Give
Select Women’s Studies Fund

For more information contact:
Tiffany Barnes
Director of Development, College of Sciences & Humanities
765-285-7053