Postdocs bid farewell
SPAN’s inaugural fellowship recipients finish second year

Program changes name
Event celebrates Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies Programs
Program name change, faculty awards highlight banner year

The walls of Harris 108 – one of the most elegant rooms on campus – rang with talk, laughter, and the clink of glass, silverware and china. The Gender and Sexuality Studies Program, with support from the Kreeger-Wolf family, the African-American Studies Program, and the Sexualities Project at Northwestern, was hosting a gala dinner. I looked around the room and saw glowing faces and animated gestures at every table. Often, the heads turned eagerly towards one another were not those I would have expected to find seated together in open conversation. It was a truly interdisciplinary moment: faculty from across campus and from other universities; from the fields of feminisms, sexuality studies and queer studies; from the social sciences and the humanities, all sharing a festive meal – and judging from the din, they were finding a lot to say to one another.

It was a relief to have pulled this event off at all – the date, February 14th, had created logistical complications that stretched the creativity and patience of our Program Assistant, Emily Gilbert, to the limit. In the end, the dinner didn’t just happen: it took off. The catalyst was a sparkling trio of invited speakers, Rod Ferguson, Inderpal Grewal, and Robyn Weigman (for details, see the review on page 5); but the real energy came from the program itself, and the wide-ranging interests and expertise of the Northwestern faculty seated at those tables.

The occasion was our new name, “The Gender and Sexuality Studies Program”. We wanted to celebrate the growth and maturation of our program that the name represents, as well as our relief at having finally navigated the surprisingly elaborate administrative approval process. We were ready to have a party, but also to acknowledge the complicated histories and politics involved in the act of naming; we did so by inviting three scholars that we could count on to do more than pay lip service to the change. Sure enough, their panel discussion offered provocative challenges to the capacity of that name, or any name, to capture the diverse intellectual, political and cultural investments our program represents.

Now, as the academic year comes to an end, we just hosted another celebration: our annual year-end event. The focus of that afternoon is to honor our cherished undergraduate majors and minors; but we also toasted two important scholars who together reflect the intellectual diversity of our program. One is historian Alexandra Owen, the most senior of our core faculty members, who has been awarded a coveted distinguished teaching grant to our undergraduates for summer research. The other will fund research projects that address women’s, feminist, or gender issues; the other will fund research projects that address LGBT or sexuality issues. (We hope to receive many applications from students with projects that qualify as both!)

We need your help to fund this initiative, which is entirely supported by donations from our friends, family and alumni. Gifts of any amount are appreciated; please help support one of our wonderful students next summer. Substantial or recurring donations may result in a named award.

The Gender and Sexuality Studies Program is pleased to announce a new fund-raising initiative. We are establishing two new programs to provide small grants to our undergraduates for summer research. One will fund research projects that address women’s, feminist, or gender issues; the other will fund research projects that address LGBT or sexuality issues. (We hope to receive many applications from students with projects that qualify as both!)

The Gender and Sexuality Studies Advisory Committee
Nicola Beisel (Gender & Sexuality Studies and Sociology)
Hector Carrillo (Gender & Sexuality Studies and Sociology)
Mary Copeiland (Art History)
Nicholas Davis (Gender & Sexuality Studies and English)
Mary G. Dietz (Gender & Sexuality Studies and Political Science)
Jillana Enteen (Gender & Sexuality Studies)
Kasey Evans (English)
Lane Fenrich (Gender & Sexuality Studies)
E. Patrick Johnson (Performance Studies and African American Studies)
Tessie Liu (Gender & Sexuality Studies and History)
Jeffrey Masten (Gender & Sexuality Studies and English)
Michelle Molina (Religious Studies)
Alexandra Owen (Gender & Sexuality Studies and History)
Amy Partridge (Gender & Sexuality Studies)
Janice Racway (Communication Studies)
Laurie Shannon (English)
Helen Thompson (English)
Mary Weismantel (Anthropology)
Michelle Wright (African American Studies)

The Gender & Sexuality Studies Program at Northwestern is an interdisciplinary program, with faculty affiliates drawn from more than 25 departments across four of the University’s schools.

Kresge Hall 2-321 1880 Campus Drive Evanston, IL 60208-2211.
Phone: 847.491.5871 Email: gender@northwestern.edu
Web: www.genderstudies.northwestern.edu/
Director: Mary Weismantel
Associate Director/DUS: Amy Partridge
Program Assistant: Emily Gilbert
Newsletter Design: Jeffrey Cattell

The Gender & Sexuality Studies Advisory Committee
Nicola Beisel (Gender & Sexuality Studies and Sociology)
Hector Carrillo (Gender & Sexuality Studies and Sociology)
Mary Copeiland (Art History)
Nicholas Davis (Gender & Sexuality Studies and English)
Mary G. Dietz (Gender & Sexuality Studies and Political Science)
Jillana Enteen (Gender & Sexuality Studies)
Kasey Evans (English)
Lane Fenrich (Gender & Sexuality Studies)
E. Patrick Johnson (Performance Studies and African American Studies)
Tessie Liu (Gender & Sexuality Studies and History)
Jeffrey Masten (Gender & Sexuality Studies and English)
Michelle Molina (Religious Studies)
Alexandra Owen (Gender & Sexuality Studies and History)
Amy Partridge (Gender & Sexuality Studies)
Janice Racway (Communication Studies)
Laurie Shannon (English)
Helen Thompson (English)
Mary Weismantel (Anthropology)
Michelle Wright (African American Studies)
Radical Pasts, Unknown Futures
Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Today

By Teri Chettiar (PhD History)

On February 14, the Gender and Sexuality Studies Program hosted a panel of three very thought-provoking papers by Roderick Ferguson (University of Minnesota), Inderpal Grewal (Yale University), and Robyn Wiegman (Duke University) entitling “Radical Pasts, Unknown Futures: Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Today.” Ferguson opened the panel with a meditation on the formation of the Third World Gay Revolution by Black and Latino members of the Gay Liberation Front in the summer of 1970. Taking us back to the radical past, he drew our attention to how the deeply transformative anti-capitalist, anti-sexist and anti-racist future orientation of the movement was especially important for having produced new globally conscious and politically motivated “minoritized subjects.”

Moving the conversation to the postcolonial transnational present, Grewal discussed media presentations of “honor killings” in India and abroad, paying particular attention to the ways in which violence against women in the global south has been interpreted in the West as a lamentable outcome of the absence of Western aspirations of “honor killings” in India and abroad, paying particular attention to the ways in which violence against women in the global south has been interpreted in the West as a lamentable outcome of the absence of Western aspirations

Program remembers the late Rae Arlene Moses

We were saddened this year by the loss of one of our own, Emerita Professor Rae Arlene Moses. The Department of Linguistics and the Gender and Sexuality Studies Program held a memorial event for Rae on May 15th in Guild Hall, at which Profs. Tessie Liu and Alex Owen spoke, as did Emerita Fran Paden. We note with pride and sorrow that Rae – like Tessie, Alex and Fran – is an ex-director of the program, and we remain grateful for the gift from Rae and her husband that allows us to give the Rae Moses Award each spring to one of our outstanding graduating seniors.

Rae was instrumental in the creation of the Organization of Women Faculty, and co-founded the Women’s Studies Program with the late Professor of Sociology Arlene Daniels. As Director of the Women’s Studies Program, Rae worked with a remarkable group of Northwestern women faculty to petition for two new appointments in Women’s Studies. This initiative brought Professors Alex Owen (History) and Micaela di Leonardo (Anthropology) to Northwestern as joint appointments in the Program. Rae is remembered for her good humor, energy, and undiminished enthusiasm for women’s causes and gender equality both on campus and elsewhere. It was wonderful to have Rae with us at the Gender and Sexuality Studies Program’s end-of-year celebrations in 2012, and share the moment as she presented the Rae Arlene Moses Leadership Award. The award was created in honor of her career-long dedication to women at Northwestern. We remember her and all that she did with great pleasure and admiration.
Faculty Updates

Héctor Carrillo (Sociology and Gender & Sexuality Studies), was a fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard during 2012-13, where he worked on his novel, which takes up issues of sexual migration, transnationalism/globalization, and cross-cultural relations. During this past year, he also finished collecting data for his study of the identities and sexualities of non-gay-identified men who are sexually attracted to both women and men.

Nick Davis (English and Gender & Sexuality Studies), was awarded tenure this spring and is now an Associate Professor of English and Gender & Sexuality Studies. His book The Desiring-Image: Gilles Deleuze and Contemporary Queer Cinema comes out this summer (Oxford University Press). He also has an article about Julie Dash’s black feminist classic illusions forthcoming in Camera Obscura and contributed an article about the queer Mexican road-trip comedy Yaramam también to the collection Reading the Bromance.

Penelope Deutscher (Philosophy), received a Humboldt Research Fellowship award for summer 2013 and will be Marie Jahoda Gastprofessorin at the University of Bochum in Fall 2013. This year she has published articles in Theory in Context, Feminism, Radical Philosophy, in the Routledge Companion to Social and Political Philosophy, and the International Encyclopedia of Ethics. She is also currently completing her book manuscript, Foucault’s Children: Biopolitics and the Death of Reproductive Futurism.

Jillana Enteen (Gender & Sexuality Studies), received a SPAN faculty research grant to support her research on “Medical Tourism to Thailand Reconstructed: From ‘Create Your Own Surgery’ to One-Click SRS.” Her article “Transitoning Online: Cosmetic Surgery Tourism in Thailand” is forthcoming in Television & New Media and her book Import / Export: English Language Genders and Sexes in Thai will be published in Fall 2013 (Oryx Press). This year she also codirected the Kaplan Institute’s Newsmakers University Digital Humanities Lab (NUDH), a faculty and graduate workshop that meets monthly to discuss digital humanities, and has presented at NUDHL, the Sears Center, Penn State, the Chicago Digital Humanities Annex, and a two-day workshop as part of the “Imagined Geographies” conference, co-facilitated a paper entitled “Performing Precarity in the Restructured University: Reimagining Labor and Reclaiming Knowledge as a Commons,” at the Performance Studies International Conference, organized a Roundtable entitled “What is to be done? Feminist, Queer, and Radical Responses to University Restructuring” at the National Women’s Studies Association conference, co-facilitated a workshop focusing on the “unknown future” at Dartmouth College’s Leslie Center for the Humanities. She was also awarded an ACLS New Faculty Fellowship, which she will take up at Columbia University in Fall 2013. In addition, her article, “Performations of the Third Sex: Sex, Sexology, Subjectivity and Anti-Materialist Feminism at the Turn of the Twentieth Century,” was accepted for publication in Signs and she will contribute to a research project on the history of post-WWII transnational sexualities, funded by the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Steven Epstein (Sociology and Humanities) has spent the 2013-14 academic year as a visiting scholar at Harvard University with funding from a Guggenheim fellow-ship. His current research examines the origins and uses of the modern concept of sexual health. He recently published a review essay in GLQ (v. 19, no. 2) called “Re-framing AIDS, Re-tooling Scholarship,” and he discussed three recent books on the AIDS epidemic.

Bonnie Honig (Political Science), published Antigone, Interrupted (Cambridge, 2013) and is featured in a special issue of Minnesota Review this fall, which includes interviews with women in the social sciences about their relationship with feminism.


Kirsten Leng (SPAN post-doctoral fellow), received a Faculty Research Grant from Northwestern University and a visiting postdoctoral fellowship from the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin in Summer 2012. This summer, she will participate in a workshop on “Global Histories of Sexology” at Dartmouth College’s Leslie Center for the Humanities. She was also awarded an ACLS New Faculty Fellowship, which she will take up at Columbia University in Fall 2013. In addition, her article, “Permutations of the Third Sex: Sex, Sexology, Subjectivity and Anti-Materialist Feminism at the Turn of the Twentieth Century,” was accepted for publication in Signs and she will contribute to a research project on the history of post-WWII transnational sexualities, funded by the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Jeffrey Masten (English and Gender & Sexuality Studies), published an essay on the role of the history of sexuality in his discovery of a previously unknown copy of Christopher Marlowe’s 1594 tragedy Edward II in the Times Literary Supplement (Dec. 2012). He has given lectures on queering the history of the book at the University of Michigan, the Newberry Library, and the University of California at Davis, and moderated a roundtable panel discussion entitled “Queer and Now” at the Shake- speare Association of America conference in Toronto. His book, Queer Philoologies: Language, Sex, and Affect in Shakespeare’s Time, is forthcoming (University of Penn- sylvania Press, 2014).

Amy Partridge (Gender & Sexuality Studies), presented a paper entitled “Performing Precarity in the Restruc- tured University: Reimagining Labor and Reclaiming Knowledge as a Commons,” at the Performance Studies International Conference, organized a Roundtable entitled “What is to be done? Feminist, Queer, and Radical Responses to University Restructuring” at the National Women’s Studies Association conference, co-facilitated a two-day workshop as part of the “Imagined Geographies” conference, co-facilitated a paper entitled “Reenactments of Everyday Life Under Siege: IVAW’s Reenactments Of the Occupation and ‘Coming Out’ as Undocumented,” at the upcoming Performance Studies International Conference. As an organizing com- mittee member of the Chicago Torture Justice Memorials Project, she co-curated the exhibition “Opening the Black Box: The Crime is Torture,” at The Sullivan Galleries at SAIC and is presenting on the project at the upcoming Critical Ethnic Studies Conference.


Deborah Siegel (Visiting Scholar, Gender & Sexuality Studies), published “Genderfiction Starts Here” in Where We Were Free to Be: Looking Back on a Children’s Classic and the Difference It Made (University of North Carolina Press, 2012) – She recently gave a TEDxWindyCity talk enti- tled “Born That Way?” (http://youtu.be/M-PPtwuHEQ8), spoke on Women Employed’s 40th Anniversary Kickoff Panel, and presented The OpEd Project to the Council on Foundations and at DePaul University. She is currently working on a graphic memoir about the gendering of early childhood.

Mary Weissmantel (Anthropology and Gender & Sexu- ality Studies), published several articles this year, includ- ing one in the second volume of the Transgender Stud- ies Reader, edited by Susan Stryker (Routledge, 2013). She also participated in several conferences, including the American Ethnological Societies Annual Meetings in Chicago, where she was a commentator on a panel on queer families co-chaired by Evelyn Blackwood and Ellen Lewin.
Northwestern renews SPAN through 2018

Provost Daniel Linzer has renewed funding for the Sexualities Project at Northwestern (SPAN) for the next five years, drawing on a university endowment dedicated to sexuality studies. From September 2013 through August 2018, SPAN will continue to support a wide range of educational and research activities, including faculty research, graduate student summer research, graduate students’ presentations of sexuality-related work at academic conferences, a yearly faculty/graduate student reading group, and a yearly sexuality-studies workshop.

In collaboration with The Graduate School, SPAN will also sponsor three quarters per year of dissertation fellowships in sexuality studies as well as cluster fellowships for new doctoral students admitted into the Gender & Sexuality Studies cluster. And now that the first two SPAN postdoctoral fellows—Evren Savci and Kirsten Leng—are completing their two-year terms at Northwestern, we will issue a call for applications in Fall 2013 for a new cohort of postdocs whom we expect to arrive in Fall 2014.

On the 2013-14 academic year begins, please keep an eye out for calls for applications and event announcements at the SPAN website: http://www.sexualities.northwestern.edu. If you would like to receive SPAN announcements by email, please email sexualities@northwestern.edu.

SPAN is a project of the Gender and Sexuality Studies Program in collaboration with the Science in Human Culture Program (SHC) and Cells to Society (C2S) – The Center on Social Disparities and Health at the Institute for Policy Research.

Inaugural SPAN postdocs offered new academic positions

Kirsten Leng to begin postdoc at Columbia University

Kirsten Leng will take up an ACLS New Faculty Fellowship with the Department of History and Institute for Research on Women, Gender and Sexuality at Columbia University beginning in September 2013. Her goal during this time is to complete her book manuscript. Provisionally entitled Sexual Knowledge/Sexual Politics: Contesting Truth and Power in the Early 20th Century, the book recasts the emergence of sexology in Europe at the turn of the twentieth century, and argues that sexology as a distinctive scientific field of inquiry developed in tandem with, and as a result of, the growth of sex reform movements in metropoles such as Berlin, Vienna, London, Amsterdam, and Stockholm around 1900.

Through her work, she aims to show that sexology was a field constituted by a variety of “expert” and “non-expert” voices; that sexological knowledge was produced by women; and that sexology’s emergence was inseparable from the broader cultural ferment surrounding changing gender and sexual roles and identities. In addition to her book manuscript, Kirsten plans to begin her new project, which examines the lives of German and Austrian sexologists.

Evren Savci to teach at San Francisco State University

Evren Savci will be starting as Assistant Professor of Women and Gender Studies at San Francisco State University in August 2013, where she will be teaching courses in Feminist Research Methods, Muslim Feminisms, and Feminist Pedagogies among others. At SF State, Savci will also be completing her book manuscript Queer in Translation: Paradoxes of Westernization and Sexual Others in the Turkish Nation. Based on Savci’s ethnographic dissertation work, the book traces the travel and translation of Western terms surrounding non-normative genders and sexualities, such as gender identity, sexual orientation, LGBT rights, outness, and hate crimes, in the context of Turkish Republic, and the political discussions they open up, and dialogues they foreclose.

Savci will also continue the research for her second book project that she started while at Northwestern tentatively entitled Failures of Westernization: Islamic Matrimony, Relative Marriage and Polygamy in Contempo¬rarily Turkey, in which Savci examines the contemporary practices of those (“hetero”)sexualities openly deemed backwards and uncivilized by the Turkish Republic. Savci (continued on page 10)

Duke professor asks ‘What is human now?’

By Kirsten Leng (Postdoctoral Fellow, SPAN)

On March 7, 2013, Professor Priscilla Wald offered an intriguing and wide-ranging talk that addressed the question, “What is Human Now?” The Science Fiction of Henrietta Lacks and Other Tales from the Lab.” Priscilla Wald is Professor of English and Women’s Studies at Duke University. Her talk was part of a larger book project entitled Human Being After Genocide. Proceeding from the now-famous case of Henrietta Lacks (the subject of last year’s “One Book One Northwestern” selection), Wald pointed out the ways in which the new biotechnologies emerging after the Second World War challenged understandings of what it meant to be human as did social thought in the wake of the Holocaust and as part of processes of de-colonization.

Wald argued that the definition of what it means to be human—that is, whether it should be understood in terms of the individual, as a species, or through distinctive so¬cial populations—was very much “up for grabs” during the post-war period. During this same period, for example, science fiction blossomed as a genre to provide new cre¬ation narratives for humanity.

Ultimately, Wald’s talk illuminated the numerous ways in which contesting definitions of the human have had, and continue to have, profound implications not only for bioethics, but also for social and economic justice.

Dean Spade talks “Normative Life”

By Beth Corzo-Duchardt

(PhD Candidate, Screen Cultures)

Questioning the “limits of the law” as a site for transformative political action has a long history in gender and sexual¬ity studies. But Dean Spade’s experience as a lawyer representing gender noncon¬forming people caught up in the prison in¬dustrial complex has given him a unique vantage point from which to level a cri¬tique of the current focus of mainstream LGBT activism and to propose alternative strategies. Spade’s impassioned talk on May 2nd before an audience of NU gen¬der and sexuality studies regulars and members of the broader Chicago com¬munity presented a vision for a “critical trans politics” that would work beyond the law toward a future in which every person can self-determine their gender identity and expression.

Toward this end, Spade articulated a three-pronged approach for political action: first, engage in survival work like finding people safe places to live; second work toward dismantling the prison industrial complex; and third build community-based alternatives that help address trans¬phobia and violence without recourse to further criminal¬ization. Spade’s talk prompted a lively discussion. When questions turned towards the feasibility of his goals, Spade’s response, “anything worth fighting for has been labeled impossible,” was an inspiring reminder.
Kirsten Leng to begin post-doc at Columbia University

(continued from page 8)
gists forced into exile by the Nazis, and investigates how they contributed to the formation of sexual knowledges, sexual cultures, and sexual politics in their adopted communities.

She will begin this project as part of a working group on transnational queer community formation following the Second World War, which recently received funding from the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada. Kirsten would like to express her thanks to SPAN and the Gender and Sexuality Studies Program and community for their support and inspiration over the past few years. Her time at Northwestern has truly helped her grow and develop as a scholar. While she is extremely sad to leave, she incredibly grateful for the experience she has had.

Evren Savci to teach at San Francisco State University

(continued from page 8)

is deeply thankful for the invaluable opportunity to have learned and grown as a SPAN postdoctoral fellow and as part of the larger intellectual community of Gender and Sexuality Studies. Héctor Carrillo and Steve Epstein have set perhaps unreachable standards for what kind of a mentor Savci would like to be with her own students, but one that she is very much inspired by every day.

Doctoral candidate returns to research site in India with SPAN funding

By Jeff Catell (Journalism and Gender & Sexuality Studies '13)

Kareem Khubchandani is a PhD candidate in performance studies whose dissertation work focuses on LGBT nightlife in India and the South Asian diaspora. He received a grant this fall from the Sexualities Project at Northwestern (SPAN) that allowed him to return to India to complete additional ethnographic research. Next year, Khubchandani will be one of the teaching assistants in the Gender and Sexuality Studies Program.

Can you explain the goals of your dissertation research on LGBT nightlife in south Asia?

My work focuses on dance as a nonverbal communication practice that’s rooted in pleasure making, activism and community building. In other words, my dissertation works to demonstrate how queer south Asians make space for themselves through dance.

How have you conducted your research? It’s mostly ethnographic research. I’ve spent about a year and a half in the field. My two research sites are Chicago and Bangalore. I’ve done extensive interviews with party organizers, club promoters, bar owners, drag queens and the people who attend those spaces. In Bangalore, I started a dance group called the Pink Divas, which performed at the Pride festival and a queer film festival. The interviews that came out of that experience were really informative in terms of how people came to dance, what dance has to do with their body, and how they understand their sexuality through dance.

What did the SPAN funding for fall quarter allow you to do?

It allowed me to visit these club spaces in India and attend a second Pride as well as conduct follow-up interviews. The party scene in India changes very quickly. There’s a lot of legislation that closes down bars, so the gay-friendly bars keep moving around. Being able to go back and trace these shifts was really important. Also, when I returned to India, I had already gained the trust of my interlocutors, so they often were like, “Oh, you have to hear about this.” Returning to India also enabled me to think about sexual orientation more deeply. I think bisexuality (and biphobia) has a very specific personality in India where the pressure to marry is so high. People who identify as bisexual are often going to opt for heterosexual relationships in the long run, but that doesn’t completely rule out the possibility of being married and still continuing a relationship with someone of the same gender.

Annual faculty/graduate student reading group

By Kasey Evans (Professor, English)

Under the direction of Prof. Kasey Evans, the Gender and Sexuality Studies Reading Group combined forces with the Sexualities Project at Northwestern to sponsor an ambitious schedule of seven meetings during the 2012–13 academic year, all coordinated with the Gender & Sexuality Studies Program’s robust program of visiting speakers.

In the fall quarter, a discussion of marriage equality considered recent work by Mary Anne Case of the University of Chicago, Andrew Koppelman of Northwestern, Nancy N. Polikoff of the American University Washington College of Law, and George Chauncey of Yale University. The meeting preceded a fascinating presentation by Case and Koppelman, an event chronicled in The Chicago Phoenix (http://bit.ly/1aj2grd).


SPAN Award Recipients ‘12–13

- Michelle Birkett and Brian Mustanski (Medical Social Sciences): “Understanding the Social Context of Online Relationships for LGBT Youth, and Implications for Intervention”
- Leigh Goldstein (PhD Candidate, RTVF & Gender & Sexuality Studies Certificate): “Special for Women: Tele- vision and Feminist Activism in the Postwar US”
- Elizabeth Rodriguez (PhD Candidate, English): “Con- sensual Relations: Sexual and Political Subjectivity in England, 1550-1700”
- Ari Shaw (PhD Candidate, Political Science): “Claiming International Rights: Human Rights Mobilization and Do- mestic Change”

(continued from page 11)

KAREEM KHUBCHANDANI
GSS announces grad assistants for next school year

Kareem Khubchandani is a PhD candidate in Performance Studies, and is also pursuing a Certificate in Gender and Sexuality Studies. His dissertation examines the development of the major LGBT legal organizations and their role in a broader social movement. This research is supported by grants from the National Science Foundation, the Sexuality Project at Northwestern, and The Graduate School at Northwestern. Jeff blogs at queeringlaw.wordpress.com and has recently published in the William and Mary Journal of Women and the Law and in an edited volume, The Marrying Kind?

Elias Krell is a PhD candidate in Performance Studies, and is also pursuing a Certificate in Gender and Sexuality Studies as well as in Critical Theory. He is working on a dissertation on bodily integrity that brings case studies of drug smuggling by human mules, organ trade, and surrogacy in conversation with the work of John Locke, Karl Marx, and Michel Foucault.

Recent doctoral graduate reflects on gender and sexuality studies

(continued from page 12)

of my friends and I dropped out because we wanted to form an underground university with a non-hierarchical structure that applied the principles of these theories to learning—learning in a non-traditional, non-patriarchal fashion. The idea did not get off the ground because none of us really understood what we were going to do or what space we were going to use, but we did have various professors who were interested and supportive and wanted to come and teach classes unpaid. When I went back to school, I realized that graduate school actually offers the kind of flexibility and openness to choose your own research topics that I was looking for then.

What has been your involvement in the program this year as one of the TAs for Gender and Sexuality Studies?

I was a TA for Lane Fenrich’s "Sexual Subjects" class in the fall and spent the winter working on the program’s new website. This spring I was able to teach a seminar class that looked at gender, sexuality and medicine. I love teaching in Gender and Sexuality Studies. The students are so motivated and so thoughtful, and they like to talk and share their opinions.

Recent doctoral graduate reflects on gender and sexuality studies

(continued on page 13)
Hundreds of students attend annual Sex Week

By Kyra Jones (Theatre and Gender & Sexuality Studies ’14)

This year Northwestern Sex Week featured fifteen events intended to encourage a campus-wide conversation about sex and sexuality, each of which attracted a diverse mix of students from across the campus. One of the most notable events was a lecture on healthy relationships given by sex educator and You Tube sensation Laci Green. It attracted over 200 audience members, making it the week’s most successful event. Another popular event was a panel discussion entitled “Bad Ass MCs and Big Body Beauties,” which focused on the role of women in the hip hop industry and featured Professors Nitasha Sharma and Alexander Wellek in the African-American Studies Department as well as local female MCs Rilla J and FM Supreme. Other events included a drag queen make-up tutorial, a presentation by feminist pornographer Madison Young, and lectures about the role of sex in Christianity and Judaism.

Undergraduate Student Updates

Sarah Daoud (Journalism and Gender & Sexuality Studies ’13) interned at the Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health through the Chicago Field Studies public health program and won the NUGALA scholarship this spring. In 2014-15 she will be teaching high school English in Hawaii, through Teach for America.

Leah Grodinsky (Psychology Major, Gender & Sexuality Studies and Spanish Minor ’14) studied abroad in Mendoza, Argentina during fall quarter and interned at the Institute for Therapy Through the Arts through the Chicago Field Studies program in public health this spring. She was awarded a WCAS Summer Undergraduate Research Grant to begin research in preparation for her senior thesis in psychology on the benefits of play on cognitive wellness.

Melina Sherman (Communication Studies Major, and English and Gender & Sexuality Studies Minor ’13) completed a senior honors thesis entitled “Dancing Alone, Together: Gendered and Sexual Politics of Visibility inside a ‘Music Scene for Bros’” and presented this research at two conferences this spring. In Fall 2013 she will begin (continued on page 18)

Alumnae’s PhD work focuses on cultural studies, queer theory and film

By Jeff Cattel (Journalism and Gender & Sexuality Studies ’13)

As an undergraduate at Northwestern, Jessie Mathiason wrote an honors thesis titled “Trans Hollywood Blockbusters and the Genital Reveal.” Four years later, Mathiason is a fourth-year PhD student at the University of Minnesota studying cultural studies, queer theory and film. Find out how Mathiason’s undergraduate work at Northwestern has impacted her academic trajectory below.

Can you bring us up to date on what you’ve done since graduating from Northwestern?

When I was at Northwestern, I knew I wanted to go into academia. I’m currently in a PhD program at the University of Minnesota in Comparative Studies in Discourse and Society. People rarely know what that means. It’s basically a combination of cultural studies, queer theory and film. I just finished my fourth year, so I also just wrapped up my preliminary exams. Last year, I presented a paper at the Gender, Bodies and Technology Conference called “Strapping on Second Life.”

(continued on page 18)

Graduate Student Updates

Lisa Biggs (PhD Performance Studies, Gender & Sexuality Studies Certificate) defended her dissertation, “Acting Right: The Role of Performance in Black Women’s Community Organizing From Behind Bars,” which was recognized by the Zeta Phi Beta National Communications Fraternity. She accepted a tenure-track position as an Assistant Professor at Michigan State University (MSU) for Fall 2013, where she will offer courses in performance and performance studies, with a particular focus on courses about race, class, gender, and punishment.

Terry Chettiar (PhD History) accepted a three-year postdoctoral fellowship with the newly launched Berlin Center for the History of Knowledge, a collaboration between Humboldt University, the Technische Universität, and the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science.


Jeffrey Kosbie (JD/PhD Candidate, Sociology & School of Law) was awarded a National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant and a Northwestern University Graduate Research Grant to support his dissertation research on organizational change and development at several major LGBT legal organizations. His article, “(No) Role Interests in Regulating Gender: How Suppression of Gender Nonconformity Violates Freedom of Speech,” was recently published in the William and Mary Journal of Women and the Law.

Rae Langes (PhD Candidate, Performance Studies, Gender & Sexuality Studies Cluster Fellow) directed the NU Queer Pride Graduate Student Association’s 3rd annual “Queergasm!” at Defibrillator Gallery in Chicago last spring and co-produced the 4th annual “Queergasm!” at the Alvin Krause Studio on campus this spring. Rae also performed a solo work titled Ruminations on the Lower Strata for the event “So Very Alive: Performing Feminist and Queer Utopias, Futures and Dreams” in Chicago at Rumble Arts and presented a paper titled “Re-writing Trauma, Touching Pleasure: Shape-shifting Across the African Diaspora” at the University of North Carolina at Asheville’s graduate student conference “Queering Spaces, Queering Borders” in Spring 2013.

Sarah Mann-O’Donnell (PhD Candidate Comparative Literary Studies and French) was awarded the LGBTQQA Vincent McCoy Campus Award for Honorary Leadership, the inaugural Graduate Student Award for Diversity, and Honorable Mention for NU Graduate Student of the Year, in recognition of her work with the Queer Pride Graduate Student Association and for her queer activism and advocacy on campus. She recently presented a paper, “When Time Loves: Queering Convalescence in Proust’s Recherche,” at the American Comparative Literary Association conference.

Sarah Forstie (PhD Candidate, Sociology, Gender & Sexuality Studies Certificate) performed a solo work titled “Performativity” at Defibrillator Gallery in Chicago last spring and made several performances in the Engendering Change: Graduate Gender and Sexuality Cluster Fellowship (PhD Candidate, Sociology, Gender & Sexuality Studies Certificate). Rae Langes

Ruminations on the Lower Strata for the event “So Very Alive: Performing Feminist and Queer Utopias, Futures and Dreams” in Chicago at Rumble Arts and presented a paper titled “Re-writing Trauma, Touching Pleasure: Shape-shifting Across the African Diaspora” at the University of North Carolina at Asheville’s graduate student conference “Queering Spaces, Queering Borders” in Spring 2013.

Sarah Mann-O’Donnell (PhD Candidate Comparative Literary Studies and French) was awarded the LGBTQQA Vincent McCoy Campus Award for Honorary Leadership, the inaugural Graduate Student Award for Diversity, and Honorable Mention for NU Graduate Student of the Year, in recognition of her work with the Queer Pride Graduate Student Association and for her queer activism and advocacy on campus. She recently presented a paper, “When Time Loves: Queering Convalescence in Proust’s Recherche,” at the American Comparative Literary Association conference.

Sarah Forstie (PhD Candidate, Sociology, Gender & Sexuality Studies Certificate) performed a solo work titled “Performativity” at Defibrillator Gallery in Chicago last spring and made several performances in the Engendering Change: Graduate Gender and Sexuality Cluster Fellowship (PhD Candidate, Sociology, Gender & Sexuality Studies Certificate). Rae Langes

Ruminations on the Lower Strata for the event “So Very Alive: Performing Feminist and Queer Utopias, Futures and Dreams” in Chicago at Rumble Arts and presented a paper titled “Re-writing Trauma, Touching Pleasure: Shape-shifting Across the African Diaspora” at the University of North Carolina at Asheville’s graduate student conference “Queering Spaces, Queering Borders” in Spring 2013.

Sarah Mann-O’Donnell (PhD Candidate Comparative Literary Studies and French) was awarded the LGBTQQA Vincent McCoy Campus Award for Honorary Leadership, the inaugural Graduate Student Award for Diversity, and Honorable Mention for NU Graduate Student of the Year, in recognition of her work with the Queer Pride Graduate Student Association and for her queer activism and advocacy on campus. She recently presented a paper, “When Time Loves: Queering Convalescence in Proust’s Recherche,” at the American Comparative Literary Association conference.

Sarah Forstie (PhD Candidate, Sociology, Gender & Sexuality Studies Certificate) performed a solo work titled “Performativity” at Defibrillator Gallery in Chicago last spring and made several performances in the Engendering Change: Graduate Gender and Sexuality Cluster Fellowship (PhD Candidate, Sociology, Gender & Sexuality Studies Certificate). Rae Langes

Ruminations on the Lower Strata for the event “So Very Alive: Performing Feminist and Queer Utopias, Futures and Dreams” in Chicago at Rumble Arts and presented a paper titled “Re-writing Trauma, Touching Pleasure: Shape-shifting Across the African Diaspora” at the University of North Carolina at Asheville’s graduate student conference “Queering Spaces, Queering Borders” in Spring 2013.

Sarah Mann-O’Donnell (PhD Candidate Comparative Literary Studies and French) was awarded the LGBTQQA Vincent McCoy Campus Award for Honorary Leadership, the inaugural Graduate Student Award for Diversity, and Honorable Mention for NU Graduate Student of the Year, in recognition of her work with the Queer Pride Graduate Student Association and for her queer activism and advocacy on campus. She recently presented a paper, “When Time Loves: Queering Convalescence in Proust’s Recherche,” at the American Comparative Literary Association conference.

Sarah Forstie (PhD Candidate, Sociology, Gender & Sexuality Studies Certificate) performed a solo work titled “Performativity” at Defibrillator Gallery in Chicago last spring and made several performances in the Engendering Change: Graduate Gender and Sexuality Cluster Fellowship (PhD Candidate, Sociology, Gender & Sexuality Studies Certificate). Rae Langes

Ruminations on the Lower Strata for the event “So Very Alive: Performing Feminist and Queer Utopias, Futures and Dreams” in Chicago at Rumble Arts and presented a paper titled “Re-writing Trauma, Touching Pleasure: Shape-shifting Across the African Diaspora” at the University of North Carolina at Asheville’s graduate student conference “Queering Spaces, Queering Borders” in Spring 2013.

Sarah Mann-O’Donnell (PhD Candidate Comparative Literary Studies and French) was awarded the LGBTQQA Vincent McCoy Campus Award for Honorary Leadership, the inaugural Graduate Student Award for Diversity, and Honorable Mention for NU Graduate Student of the Year, in recognition of her work with the Queer Pride Graduate Student Association and for her queer activism and advocacy on campus. She recently presented a paper, “When Time Loves: Queering Convalescence in Proust’s Recherche,” at the American Comparative Literary Association conference.

Sarah Forstie (PhD Candidate, Sociology, Gender & Sexuality Studies Certificate) performed a solo work titled “Performativity” at Defibrillator Gallery in Chicago last spring and made several performances in the Engendering Change: Graduate Gender and Sexuality Cluster Fellowship (PhD Candidate, Sociology, Gender & Sexuality Studies Certificate). Rae Langes

Ruminations on the Lower Strata for the event “So Very Alive: Performing Feminist and Queer Utopias, Futures and Dreams” in Chicago at Rumble Arts and presented a paper titled “Re-writing Trauma, Touching Pleasure: Shape-shifting Across the African Diaspora” at the University of North Carolina at Asheville’s graduate student conference “Queering Spaces, Queering Borders” in Spring 2013.
Three seniors complete theses

Pride and Politics:
The Sociopolitical Implications of Gay Pride Parades

“Pride and Politics: The Sociopolitical Implications of Gay Pride Parades” analyzes the political and social messages conveyed through gay pride parades from 1970 to present day. Scholarship on the historical significance of parades emphasizes their role in building minority community groups, while contemporary queer theory considers the intuited, performative, and distinctive elements of gay, queer, and otherwise nonconforming gender and sexual identities. My work examines the overlap between these two fields of study to explain how pride parades are deliberately tailored to disseminate specific information about LGBT communities.

I identify three major goals of gay pride parades—the formation of a collective identity, claims of distinctiveness, and public protest through disruption—and analyze the ways in which different contingents of a pride parade meet or fail to meet these goals. Research for this thesis is divided into three main parts: academic scholarship, media coverage of modern gay pride parades, and archival research from San Francisco’s GLBT Historical Society, and firsthand observations at San Diego’s 2012 gay pride parade. I contribute to existing scholarship by considering gay pride parades in the context of a more progressive political and social environment for LGBT people and analyzing both historical and contemporary parades for their intended and perceived messages.

—Camille Beredjick (Journalism and GSS ’13)

Gay YouTube

Gay Appropriation of Queer Identity on Campus

This project updates existing queer media scholarship to account for the emergence of new media and its effects on queer identity at Northwestern. First, it examines the context of traditional media coverage by exploring the history of gays and lesbians in mainstream news media. It then examines queer presence on YouTube through 10 interviews conducted with Northwestern undergraduates. The two central findings of this project are 1) that existing tropes and assumptions about sexual minorities outlined by traditional media have carried over into new media, and 2) that as new media raises awareness of “queer” as an identity label on Northwestern’s campus, the word itself is being assimilated with “gay.” As a result, gay men at Northwestern have assimilated both labels, have applied the label “queer” to themselves, and have become the most visible representatives of “queerness” on campus.

—Zach Wichter (Journalism and GSS ’13)

Seeing Ellen in Frank Ocean
Assessing the Legibility of Celebrity Comings Out

“Seeing Ellen in Frank Ocean: Assessing the Legibility of Celebrity Comings Out” explores celebrity comings out from Ellen DeGeneres’s infamous “Yep, I’m Gay” magazine cover in 1997 to the present. Existing scholarship in the fields of queer theory and media and communications studies focuses on these moments from the perspective of the speaker—the one doing the performance. My work contributes to existing scholarship by addressing questions of the legibility of celebrity comings out from the perspective of the audience.

I identify three strands of celebrity comings out: carefully orchestrated and loudly broadcast declarations; matter-of-fact and offhand statements that suggest a preexisting outness; and refusals to identify with recognizable labels of sexual identity. I examine specific media moments that exemplify each strand with particular attention paid to the role of the audience in each instance. Research for this thesis is rooted in existing scholarship in the fields of queer theory and media and communications studies as well as popular media discourse and media text analyses of various celebrity comings out.

—Jeff Cattel (Journalism and GSS ’13)

Communications senior focuses on reproductive rights activism

By Jeff Cattel (Journalism and Gender & Sexuality Studies ’13)

Senior D’Laney Gielow, double major in communications and political science, has made reproductive rights a central focus during her time at Northwestern. A member of Sexual Health and Assault Peer Educators (SHAPE) and College Feminists, Gielow also blogs regularly about abortion rights. This year, she completed a thesis in communications studies that looked at the feminist discourse employed in the purity movement. Find out how Gielow got her start in gender-related activism and her plans for the future below.

What kind of gender and sexuality-related causes have you been involved with in college?

I’ve been a part of SHAPE and College Feminists since sophomore year and I’ve also had internships at Planned Parenthood and the National Women’s Law Center. For the past few years, I’ve been really engaged in fighting abortion restrictions and writing about it for a blog run by Advocates for Youth, an NGO focused on responsible sexual decisions and reproductive health, and PolicyMic, a website that attempts to engage millennials in debate on a variety of issues.

How has the Gender and Sexuality Studies (GSS) Program fit into your academic trajectory at Northwestern?

Last year, I took my first Gender and Sexuality Studies class taught by Amy Partridge about female pleasure. There was a research paper component, and I ended up focusing on how evangelicals have reframed abstinence-only education in terms of a sex-positive purity movement. The movement’s rhetoric is super homonormative, but the way they use these ‘you go girl’ kind of feminist messages to sell the movement is fascinating to me. I ended up continuing to research the topic for my thesis project for the School of Communication.

What have you learned through your research on the purity movement?

I started off thinking that the movement was uniformly patriarchal. I used to think, “Oh, those poor women.” I never really thought I could read the rhetoric and be moved by it. The fact that I was comfortable going to a movie when I was a little scary, but I realized they were using this feminist framing to sell a pro-feminist message that even resonated with someone like me—and I think I’m very cynical about these things.

How has the GSS program affected your work on gender and sexuality outside of the classroom?

It’s helped me understand on a very theoretical level the way that all of these things are connected. Todd Akin’s use of the phrase “legitimate rape” and North Dakota laws requiring you to have an ultrasound and jump through these other hoops in order to get to the one abortion clinic in the state are both connected to efforts to roll back women’s rights broadly, but in subversive ways that people don’t necessarily pick up on. To have the awareness that this is all part of one big system, and being able to articulate that when I’m writing, has helped when I’m putting together my blog posts for mass consumption.

What is your plan after graduation?

I just took a job in Washington, D.C. as a paralegal at Sanford Heisler, a law firm with a focus on employment discrimination law and litigation. I don’t know much about employment law. So far, I’ve focused pretty narrowly on reproductive health, so I’m excited to see if employment discrimination is as compelling to me as reproductive rights activism.

Undergrad board sponsors Sex Week documentary screening

By William Morrison (MMSS ’15)

As part of Sex Week, the Gender and Sexuality Studies Undergraduate Advisory Board co-sponsored a screening of the Oscar-nominated documentary, The Invisible War. This film catalogues the high rates of sexual assault in the U.S. military and examines the role of this institution in fostering a system that makes “reporting the rape more traumatizing than the rape itself.” After the screening, Iraq veteran Sabrina Waller addressed the shock and disgust of audience members who had no prior knowledge of this issue. She also discussed the institutional flaws of the military’s sexual assault reporting system, arguing that policy reform is a necessary next step to fighting this epidemic.
Alumni Updates

Blaine Bockey (’03), works as the Associate Director and Staff Attorney at the Center for Gender and Refugee Studies based at UC Hastings College of Law in San Francisco, which has been involved in several U.S. federal court cases to ensure the recognition of gender-based persecution (e.g. domestic violence, forced marriage, and trafficking) as a basis for asylum protection in the U.S.

Megan Chawansky (’19), works as a Lecturer at the University of Brighton in the UK. Her research examines the use of sport for international development purposes and focuses in particular on those programs that aim to empower girls and women through sport.

Derrick Clifton (’12), completed a yearlong internship at ComEd’s corporate communications department this spring. In Fall 2013, he will return to Northwestern to begin the Medill Master of Science in Journalism program.

Erica Futterman (’06) has worked at Rolling Stone Online and the Huffington Post.

(continued from page 15)

Alumnae’s PhD work focuses on cultural studies, queer theory and film

Blaine Bockey (’03), works as the Associate Director and Staff Attorney at the Center for Gender and Refugee Studies based at UC Hastings College of Law in San Francisco, which has been involved in several U.S. federal court cases to ensure the recognition of gender-based persecution (e.g. domestic violence, forced marriage, and trafficking) as a basis for asylum protection in the U.S.

Megan Chawansky (’19), works as a Lecturer at the University of Brighton in the UK. Her research examines the use of sport for international development purposes and focuses in particular on those programs that aim to empower girls and women through sport.

Derrick Clifton (’12), completed a yearlong internship at ComEd’s corporate communications department this spring. In Fall 2013, he will return to Northwestern to begin the Medill Master of Science in Journalism program. Since graduating, he has also worked as a freelance journalist and blogger and contributed content to various publications on issues of gender and sexuality, including The Huffington Post.

Erica Futterman (’06) has worked at Rolling Stone Online.

Alumnae’s PhD work focuses on cultural studies, queer theory and film

(continued from page 15)

Does that refer to the online virtual world Second Life? Yes. I specifically looked at genital attachments. The way it works in Second Life is that your character doesn’t come into the world having any genital parts, so it’s up to you if you want to purchase them on the open market. It’s interesting to see this transition from Freud where anatomy is destiny to this idea in Second Life where anatomy is an accessory.

This idea of recombination with respect to bodies and gender and sexuality is something I plan to take into my dissertation.

Do you think you’ve noticed the interesting implications of genitals in Second Life because of your background in gender studies?

I think because of my involvement with gender studies, the connections are certainly more obvious, but everyone knows that these parts are available, whether or not they choose to use them or whether they choose to use them to create heteronormative bodies.

Has your undergraduate degree in gender studies helped you in graduate school?

It’s exposed me to so many different ideas and theories. I’ve also learned by both studying and teaching at the University of Minnesota really how good Northwestern’s undergraduate program is in terms of how much time we get to spend with our professors and how much introduction we get to critical theory. I think that I really benefited from getting to “one-on-one” with my professors at Northwestern and getting the chance to develop my own projects.

Have you had the opportunity to act as a teaching assistant?

I’ve actually designed and taught two of my own courses. In the fall, I’m teaching another course that I designed, an introductory film theory course that introduces students to feminist and queer film theory. I’m teaching films like Paris is Burning and The Crying Game.

Megan Chawansky (’19), works as a Lecturer at the University of Brighton in the UK. Her research examines the use of sport for international development purposes and focuses in particular on those programs that aim to empower girls and women through sport.

Derrick Clifton (’12), completed a yearlong internship at ComEd’s corporate communications department this spring. In Fall 2013, he will return to Northwestern to begin the Medill Master of Science in Journalism program.

Erica Futterman (’06) has worked at Rolling Stone Online.

Alumnae’s PhD work focuses on cultural studies, queer theory and film

(continued from page 15)

Does that refer to the online virtual world Second Life? Yes. I specifically looked at genital attachments. The way it works in Second Life is that your character doesn’t come into the world having any genital parts, so it’s up to you if you want to purchase them on the open market. It’s interesting to see this transition from Freud where anatomy is destiny to this idea in Second Life where anatomy is an accessory.

This idea of recombination with respect to bodies and gender and sexuality is something I plan to take into my dissertation.

Do you think you’ve noticed the interesting implications of genitals in Second Life because of your background in gender studies?

I think because of my involvement with gender studies, the connections are certainly more obvious, but everyone knows that these parts are available, whether or not they choose to use them or whether they choose to use them to create heteronormative bodies.

Has your undergraduate degree in gender studies helped you in graduate school?

It’s exposed me to so many different ideas and theories. I’ve also learned by both studying and teaching at the University of Minnesota really how good Northwestern’s undergraduate program is in terms of how much time we get to spend with our professors and how much introduction we get to critical theory. I think that I really benefited from getting to “one-on-one” with my professors at Northwestern and getting the chance to develop my own projects.

Have you had the opportunity to act as a teaching assistant?

I’ve actually designed and taught two of my own courses. In the fall, I’m teaching another course that I designed, an introductory film theory course that introduces students to feminist and queer film theory. I’m teaching films like Paris is Burning and The Crying Game.

Program recognizes undergraduates with trio of awards

This year we asked the Gender & Sexuality Studies faculty to identify “outstanding” freshmen, sophomores and juniors in the program based on their work in our classes, on independent research projects, or in projects outside of the classroom that address issues of gender and sexuality.

Outstanding Freshman Award:

Lucy Blumberg (Gender & Sexuality Studies ’16)

Outstanding Sophomore Award:

Jennifer Katz (Social Policy and Gender & Sexuality Studies ’15)

Elizabeth Bohl (Psychology and Gender & Sexuality Studies ’15)

Outstanding Junior Award:

Natalie Houchins (Theater and Gender & Sexuality Studies ’14)

Kyla Jones (Theater and Gender & Sexuality Studies ’14)

Samantha Sainsbury (Sociology and Gender & Sexuality Studies ’14)

The George C. Casey Prize awards $300 for the best undergraduate essay on any topic relating to gender, sexuality and society written in a Gender and Sexuality Studies course in the past year.

George C. Casey Prize:

Elyssa Cherney (Journalism and Gender & Sexuality Studies ’14)

Title: “Thinking without Acting: Feminism’s Fixation of with Questions of Subject Prior to Politics”

Honorable Mention:

Lauren Elizabeth Cichock (Social Policy and Gender & Sexuality Studies ’14)

Title: “Violence and Sexuality: the Conflict of Community Formation and Spectator Sport”

The Rae Arlene Moses Leadership Award is presented to a graduating senior who has fostered initiatives and demonstrated leadership, within the classroom, in co-curricular activities sponsored by the Gender & Sexuality Studies program, and/or in projects on or off campus.

Rae Arlene Moses Award:

Camille Beredjick (Journalism and Gender & Sexuality Studies ’13)

Tritan Powell (Theater and Gender & Sexuality Studies ’13)

ShoutOUT organizes panel on LGBT youth health disparities

Project ShoutOUT is an outreach student organization at Northwestern modeled on the national “It Gets Better Project.” The organization’s main purpose is to deliver a message of hope to LGBTQ youth in need of support. Ultimately, Project ShoutOUT hopes to provide secondary students with the opportunity to enter into personal dialogue with NU students who have overcome bullying, to demonstrate through personal testimonies and peer mentoring, that life can and will improve for these students.

In addition to this work, Project ShoutOUT hosted a panel discussion on “LGBT Youth Health Disparities” at Northwestern on March 12th featuring Lou Bigelow (IMPACT), Lawrence Carter (Illinois Safe Schools Alliance), Danielle Ruys (Translife Center Chicago House) and Bonnie Wade (Translife Center & LGBTQ Host Home Program).