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Women's Studies & Gender Studies Program
Loyola University Chicago

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A NEW YEAR, A NEW EDITOR, A NEW DESIGN.

All About WSGS

SPECIAL THEMED ISSUE ON:
The Women’s Studies/Gender Studies Program at Loyola

QUICK RESOURCE LINKS

EVENTS: WSGS | Campus | Local
OPPORTUNITIES: Internships | Volunteer | Academic Funding | Careers
ACADEMICS: Learning | Conferences | Calls for Papers
WELCOME

to the continually revamped digital Digest magazine.

Utilize our INTERACTIVE design by clicking on subjects to jump!

The WSGS Mission:

Founded in 1979, Loyola’s Women’s Studies Program is the first women’s studies program at a Jesuit institution and has served as a model for women’s studies programs at other Jesuit and Catholic universities. Our mission is to introduce students to feminist scholarship across the disciplines and the professional schools; to provide innovative, challenging, and thoughtful approaches to learning; and to promote social justice.

The DIGEST Mission:

Since 2007, the WSGS weekly digest has grown from a listing of upcoming events, grant opportunities, and other announcements to an interactive digital publication in the style of a feminist zine. The Digest’s mission is to connect the WSGS program with communities of students, faculty, and staff at Loyola and beyond, continuing and extending the program’s mission. We provide space and support for a variety of voices while bridging communities of scholars, artists, and activists. Our editorial mission is to provoke thought and debate in an open forum characterized by respect and civility.

Click here to CONTRIBUTE (guidelines)!

We encourage Loyola students and staff, and ALL readers, to share with us, small or large, simple or complex.
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Dear readers,

When I proudly declared Women’s Studies Gender Studies as my second major last year, I quickly asked the program director Dr. Hemenway if I could be of any assistance to the program. My firm belief is that if I want to be an asset to the world and use my academic talents wisely, I have to get my hands dirty. Dr. Hemenway referred me to Curtis Main, the WSGS grad assistant at the time. The WSGS Weekly Digest was his baby, an innovative approach to sharing WSGS resources in a way that is inclusive of the voices of students, staff, and community. Curtis and I had an interview immediately, and he found out that I love film, writing, editing, and so many other things that could potentially be advantageous to The Digest.

He brought me on as a columnist and coaxed me to tailor my own feminist film column, Screen/Play, which has ever since been a near-weekly contribution to the magazine. But we didn’t stop there. Curtis wanted my opinion on the Digest as a whole, and I loved sitting in his office with him editing, designing, and critiquing the magazine. He brought me on as a junior editor, and then eventually as an editor-in-training for when he finished his Masters. The entire time, Curtis was one of the most encouraging, honest, friendly, and dedicated people I have ever met. Because of his title, I called him “boss,” but it was more of a joke than anything; Curtis is anything but controlling. He welcomes constructive criticism, and truly embodies a feminist consciousness by seeking to include multiplicities of views.

Curtis and I haven’t agreed on every last detail, mind you. His vision is of a ‘90s zine-style magazine, possibly speaking to the riot grrrl movement that inspired young women to become feminists by rocking out and sharing hand-written manifestos in xeroxed pamphlets. I want to continue that vision by doing what I can to be inclusive of as many voices as there are people interested in sharing them. (As we have found out, this can take more arm twisting than simply waiting by the computer for the submissions to roll in on their own.)

Yet I want to take this incredible opportunity Curtis has given me to be editor and put my own aesthetic spin on it. I am going for a clean, Helvetica-based look in order to promote readability and consistency. This decrease in usage of colors, funky fonts, and the like is why I earned the nickname “white space” early on from Curtis. I was always ready with the critique that there was too much on a page. I hope that the new starkness of the magazine promotes more sharing of photos, images, videos, etc. by those readers who want to fill that dreaded white space. And I hope too that those who, like me, prefer a little more room on the page find the magazine a calmer retreat to a feminist forum.

Like Curtis, I want to welcome your critiques and your voices. If there is anything you would ever like to share, whether it be a poem, an image, an event, a column, etc., please let us know. If you dislike any of my changes, I encourage you to let me know. I am always looking for graphic designers to help me make a more beautiful magazine. I want The Digest to be a space deserving of its readership and its function as an asset to the WSGS program at Loyola.

I’m looking forward to hearing from you.

Brandie Rae Madrid
bmadrid@luc.edu

P.S. Thanks, Curtis! You are the best “boss” anyone could hope for.
“For what reasons would I suggest being a brazen advocate for women’s rights and gender equality? Because sexism limits you and people you care about. “

“There are social service trainings that I feel like lack diversity training. Yes, I would love to be a part of that. And doing that with women’s and gender studies courses that are grounded in feminist theory. And also that a feminist perspective is typically welcomed in the social work classroom.”
What is your relation to WSGS here? What are you not doing in WSGS and why?
I am a graduate assistant for the women’s studies and gender studies program and a master’s level student here at Loyola. I earned my B.A. in Women’s Studies from Hollins University (in Roanoke, Virginia) in 2005. My undergraduate education was totally transformative and changed the way I saw myself, my relationships, and the world. Women’s Studies challenged me to look at how I experience privilege as well as oppression in my daily life. Today in graduate school I strive to gain the skills and credentials I need for a career working to further social justice.

What is your academic track? What are you focused on?
I am a dual-degree student in women’s & gender studies and social work. I enjoy working with college students, so both of my internship placements are in higher education. Last year I interned at Loyola’s Department for Student Diversity, and this year I am a counseling intern at the City Colleges of Chicago. In my coursework, I have placed an emphasis on learning about issues of race and ethnicity. In addition, I am also interested in social work with groups as one way to help develop more healthy and just communities.

Why are you at Loyola? What were your alternate plans? Why did you choose private and not public?
I am at Loyola for the dual-degree program, which is one of the few of its kind in the country. I always planned to get a Master’s in Women’s and Gender Studies. To make a long story short, during a job search I observed that many of the positions I was most interested in sought a candidate with an MSW. The combination of the two has been a great fit for me.

What do you like most about Loyola?
Not to be redundant, but the dual-degree has been awesome. I love that there is a place to talk about social work in women’s and gender studies courses that are grounded in feminist theory, and also that a feminist perspective is typically welcomed in the social work classroom. In addition, the internships have been a really excellent opportunity to put classroom learning into practice in a professional setting.

So... why are you (not) a feminist?
I am a feminist because I am a strong advocate for women’s rights and gender equality, and I think that embracing and de-stigmatizing this label is one effective way to make change. I also think I became a feminist because at key points in my life I have experienced feminism as deeply healing. The fact that I am a woman, that I am white, and that I grew up middle-class is significant since feminist theory has traditionally represented issues that are important to my personal liberation. In addition, I identify as Queer and/or lesbian and deal with discrimination due to my gender-expression. I have not usually felt stereotyped by feminist communities, which has been a relief. However, I understand systems of oppression are still at play within feminist spaces and not everyone shares my experience. At this point, I feel responsibility as a feminist to help make feminism more accessible and inclusive of a diverse range of people.

Why should others (not) be feminists?
I would definitely not say that others should be a “feminist” per say, since I think that there lots of different people in the world and a variety of ways to make social change. I especially respect the labels that women-of-color has used as an alternative to “feminism,” in part to challenge systems of racism. For what reasons would I suggest being a brazen advocate for women’s rights and gender equality? Because sexism limits you and people you care about. I think that whether you are privileged or oppressed by a given system of oppression, in this case sexism, it has a serious cost to society as a whole. And unlike a lot of marginalized groups which can be largely segregated by dominant groups, women are a really important part of all people’s lives.
this week:  *Transcendent Man* (2009)

The most frightening part about *Transcendent Man*—the documentary about futurist Ray Kurzweil—is not that he’s crazy, ridiculous, or too fabulous, but that he may be more right than wrong. As the self-proclaimed “story of the destiny of the human-machine civilization,” the film is more a meditation on Kurzweil’s inability to deal with death. At the age of 17 Kurzweil started a fantastic life as part brilliant scientist and part technology psychic. Some of the things that he predicts about nanomachines, biology, and technology are astonishing, and over time many have proven true.

Kurzweil firmly believes that in the not-so-distant future humans will be a “hybrid of biological and non-biological intelligence.” He bases this theory on his most reliable point of reference that the rate of technological progress is exponential. This skyrockets the speed in which we obtain information. From this Kurzweil creates all of his hypothesis about technology and information technology.

He believes that over time technological progress has superseded biological evolution, and soon we’ll be able to program biology away from disease and aging. Our genes are a “machine with a sequence of data” that evolved millions of years ago. We are reaching the point when we have the technology to reprogram our biology and artificially supplement our intelligence. Eventually artificial intelligence will surpass human intelligence, and it will be able to solve problems more easily than humans can with our current intelligence. This will happen in about 20 years according to Kurzweil.

> I’ve seen many times where people have put great thought into the gender of their online avatars, and in Kurzweil’s future, that thought is all that will define our gender, if we choose to define it.

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While all of this seems impossibly fantastic, sometimes it’s more interesting to read between the lines. Kurzweil frequently uses videogames as the proof of the exponential speed in which technology grows. His future has humans living within a virtual reality, passing thoughts over the Internet, and feeling sensations from halfway across the world. His idea is that, rather than occasionally spend some time in virtual realities like we do right now, we will spend almost all our time in them. This gives way to his thoughts on gender and even more dramatically on physicality.

When in a virtual reality that he sees us spending most of our time, “you can be someone else, you don’t have to pick the same boring body every time. You can be different people in different situations. Over time our biological bodies will become obsolete. You’ll have many bodies and look back at the idea of having one body and being dependent on this one biological body [...] as a very primitive time.”

When thinking about that statement we can easily relate it to our ability to currently decide our gender at the start of a videogame. It’s a thought that some people put a lot of effort into, while others just haphazardly click on. When that decision defines you inside a virtual space it changes the weight you place on your decision. I’ve seen many times where people have put great thought into the gender of their online avatars, and in Kurzweil’s future, that thought is all that will define our gender, if we choose to define it.

But Kurzweil is also portrayed as a hypochondriac obsessed with death. Perhaps this advance in technology he predicts is just a way to help a genius sleep at night. What makes Kurzweil crazy is not that he’s wrong in his thoughts, but that he’s willing to think above and beyond what the average or normal person is willing to indulge in. Sitting at a dinner party he doesn’t wonder what perfume the nearby party-goer is wearing, but what nanotechnology would be required to replicate the sensation of that smell… or something just as unlikely for a “normal” person to consider or ponder. He is crazy enough that it scares people, and has shown them believing in bold-faced lies.

Whether or not any of this comes to fruition won’t change Kurzweil’s ambition and the inspiration that he’s given to all the technology experts designing the future he’s living in. *Transcendent Man* gives the viewer all they need to decide about his level of sanity, and I feel gives us all the capacity to put faith in a magical future with technology.

**Rewatchability:** His thoughts about our future in relation to biology, technology, and the merging of the two creates an interesting film that is well worth a viewing.

**Where to Find It:** Available Instantly through Netflix and on DVD at Specialty Video on Broadway and Facets Multimedia on Fullerton.
MA Student in WSGS
Graduate Assistant to WSGS
Interview via Email

Character at a Glance:

age: I am 27 and only just recently feel like I have sort of, maybe, possibly, figured out what I want to do with my life.
birthplace: Grew up in Northwest Indiana.
fave flower: I LOVE Tulips so Chicago in the Spring is amazing in my view. There are literally Tulips everywhere.
preferred grocery store: I’m officially in love with TJ. And by TJ naturally I mean Trader Joe’s.
preferred drinks (alcoholic, non): If I’m just having drinks with friends I like wine. If I’m watching a game it’s beer. If I get crazy…screw drivers and it usually doesn’t end well. I’m getting old.
favorite feminist word? Favorite word (although not feminist or related in any way): Brackish
most annoying/loathed word? (I hate it and it makes me cringe): Episiotomy…yep just squeezed my thighs together and had a shiver run up my back.
what can you not get enough of? My favorite sensation is having the wind in my hair. I drive with the windows down until frostbite sets in.
affordable restaurants you recommend? Butterfly Sushi. Amazing and reasonable. It definitely caters to Midwesterners. There is cream cheese in quite a few of their rolls. But the quality of the fish is great.
raised catholic? I’m a retired Catholic.
Song most likely to make you move? I was a dancer for a lot of years so lots and lots of music makes me want to move. In fact, it’s my only rule for music. In order for me to like it, it has to make me want to move my body. Genre is irrelevant.

What’s your middle name? Do you like it?
My name is Sara Caitlin Rogan and I go by Cait.

Tell me about yourself; give me an introduction to you.
Went to college in LA at the University of Southern California. Majored in International Relations. I knew for a fact in college that I would never want to go to Grad School and now I am applying for PhD programs for Fall 2012. My parents are still saying “I told you so.” And they are loving it.
My primary interests are masculinity and violence, human trafficking, and corporate social responsibility. But I find a new topic that interests me every other week.
I have been improvising here in Chicago for the last three years.
I have studied abroad in London and Verona, Italy. I am considering returning to London for my PhD. After being a life long blonde, I switched to brunette a couple years ago. Strangely, having brown hair makes me feel less compelled to constantly prove my intelligence.

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**Favorite WSGS Experience**

I started my Master's in January and my first WSGS course was 402 Research Methodologies. A good portion of the class knew each other from the previous semester’s classes and you might think this would create an exclusionary environment. However, the complete opposite was true. As this was our first class we went around the room introducing ourselves to everyone else and one of my classmates said something that stuck with me. She said she was so happy to be back from Christmas break and to be surrounded by people interested in the same things she was once again. Another member of the class agreed saying how it was such a relief to be back with people that you weren’t constantly explaining yourself and your ideas to. I knew immediately that I had finally managed to find a place where I would be around other people who appreciate my ideas and attitudes.

I think that is the really amazing thing about this program. You come in, you aren’t really sure what your ideas are or how to articulate them effectively, but you know you see the world a little differently than the larger population. You think about inequality, you encounter people in your life that encourage sexism, racism, and all the other –isms, it pisses you off, but you don’t have the knowledge or vocabulary to effectively challenge their ideas. That is what this program gives you. You have a place where you can come and, even if it is only for a few hours a week, when you enter the door you can breathe a sigh of relief. You have a space in which your ideas and attitudes can develop and you learn how to articulate them. It is challenging and can induce an identity crisis (I think I had about four in the first few months of my program) but this knowledge is worth it. This program gives you the chance to learn and try on new ideas in a safe space and then you can go out into the world and be prepared to challenge all the –isms around you effectively.

**How it has changed me:**

I think I am better able to understand others’ perspectives and how people may have developed their ideas. I was always interested in interactions between women and men, but this program and feminism in general has opened my eyes to so many other power struggles throughout the world. I have a much better understanding of how race, class, ethnicity, religion, culture, gender, sexuality, and sex can impact how people experience the world and how larger society has a much greater effect on individual lives than I previously thought. None of us develop or experience the world in the same way and as such we cannot make assumptions and apply ideas to everyone uniformly in an attempt to create “equality.” We must learn to embrace difference while ensuring it does not become a means of discrimination. This program has taught me to value difference rather than see it as an obstacle.
“If being a woman is more accurately conceived as a state which fluctuates for the individual, depending on what she and/or others consider to characterize it, then there are always different densities of sexed being in operation, and the historical aspects are in play here.”

- Denise Riley, Feminist Historian

From: Mundelein College Photograph Collection

“Students Studying in Piper Hall”

In this photograph:

Students studying in a former bedroom on the second floor of Piper Hall.

• The room pictured above has recently been reappropriated for a similar function. Now both graduate and undergraduate students can use the room for studying and project purposes. Computers, laptops, desks, a larger table, and comfortable chairs can currently be found there.

The above photo is part of WLA’s special digital photo collection from Mundelein College. In 1991, Loyola University Chicago incorporated the last remaining women’s college of Illinois, Mundelein. Join us in reanimating photos like this one from the past for glimpses into what made the present and influences the future.

The Women & Leadership Archives (WLA) collects, preserves, organizes, describes, and makes available materials of enduring value to researchers studying women’s leadership activities. The WLA strives to promote knowledge and understanding of women’s many diverse and important contributions to society through active collection development, research, and the facilitation of learning about women’s history. The Women & Leadership Archives functions as a public facility in addition to serving the Loyola University Chicago community.

Click here to CONTRIBUTE (guidelines)! We encourage ALL readers to share with us, small or large, simple or complex.
Tell me about yourself; give me an introduction to you.
I am the director of Women's Studies & Gender Studies here at Loyola, which means that I oversee all WSGS courses and programming. I also advise our majors and minors and students who are considering becoming majors or minors. My academic appointment is in the History department, so I teach Global History in the core, as well as courses in Soviet history, women's history, and historical methodologies. In addition, I often teach WSGS classes, such as Introduction to WSGS or Feminist Methodologies. This semester I am teaching History of Feminist Thought for our graduate students.

Tell me about your childhood.
I am the oldest of four siblings (two girls and two boys). We grew up in a suburb of Boston next to a dairy farm and spent most summers at the beach. I liked to read and was a good student, but I also was very active as a kid. I skied, played sports in high school, and rode my bike everywhere. My sister and I are close in age and were often mistaken for twins when we were younger. This tended to cause a lot of tension between us when we were young, but now we are really good friends. She lives in Montana, not so close by, but we try to see each other at least once a year.

While we had a very comfortable life, my parents were also very practical and not super extravagant. They instilled in me a strong appreciation for education and expected me to complete college, if not graduate school, and pursue a career. Even though they probably wouldn't call themselves feminists, they have always encouraged me just as much as my brothers and have supported my choices in life. I feel extremely lucky to have had such a strong foundation in my family.

Why are you at Loyola? What were your alternate plans? Why did you choose private and not public?
Loyola was not originally part of my plan. I began my career at Xavier University of Louisiana in New Orleans and taught there for several years. After Hurricane Katrina in 2005, I was able to retain my teaching position, but life in New Orleans was much more challenging. I had two adolescent sons and was concerned that they didn’t have a very stable environment. So when the opportunity arose at Loyola, we moved to Chicago.

I really enjoy working here. The students are bright and involved in the community; my colleagues are great; and the university has a lot of resources to support the things we want to do. I especially love working in Piper Hall, where we have a very tightly-knit group of women and men working together who are also connected in multiple ways with the rest of the university.
CHICAGO PREMIER

A Question of Habit
Screening and Discussion

Film Directed by
Dr. Bren
Ortega Murphy
School of Communication,
Loyola University Chicago

Narrated by
Susan Sarandon
Academy Award Winning Actress

Wednesday, September 14, 2011
Klarchek Information Commons, 4th Floor

3:00 PM  FILM SCREENING

4:30 PM  PANEL DISCUSSION
Dr. Bren Ortega Murphy, School of Communication, LUC
Dr. Suellen Hoy, Guest Professor of History at the University of Notre Dame
Dr. Robert Orsi, Grace Craddock Nagle Chair in Catholic Studies at Northwestern University
Cheryl Reed, Director of Strategic Communications at the University of Chicago Medical Center

5:45 PM  RECEPTION

A Question of Habit is an award-winning documentary exploring the profusion of “nun images”
that have flooded the American marketplace since the 1950s. It contrasts those images with the
remarkable contribution of actual sisters and nuns in American society.

CCIH
Crown Center #116
catheritgage@luc.edu
773.508.3820
Character at a Glance:

age: 27
birthplace: North Carolina
Loyola: WSGS MA Alum, Administrative Assistant to the Office of Student Development, Digest magazine.
fave color: Black; especially as it relates to night, darkness, and the unknown.
fave scent: The breath, skin, and hair of my partner; peppermint; fresh laundry; I have a really sensitive nose so this list can go on and on!
fave season: Fall, because of the crispness of the air, the cool temperatures, and the vivid colors everywhere.
fave flower: Mimosa tree flower. It has wicked style.
fave 80’s show: A tie between The X-Files and Living Single; each represent a side to my personality!
what did you have for breakfast? Berry Captain Crunch cereal. Don’t get me started on my love of cereals.
morning or night person? Night person; there is so much stillness, blackness, and quiet. It’s like a secret time. I find it thrilling.
favorite cartoon: A tie between The Boondocks and Tom and Jerry.
preferred inside temp: 66; my mother has to keep the house cool because her body constantly aches, so I sweat above 72 if I move! It’s a curse. I do love to cuddle in the cold.
preferred outside temp: 75 with a light breeze.
coffee: The way I drink coffee relates to the way I approach life: I am always trying new ways and flavors and often overindulge and overdo something I can enjoy stripped of additions.
preferred grocery store: Stanley’s; you can spend $15 yet leave with 20 pounds of fruits and veggies.
preferred drinks (alcoholic, non): Salted, strong margarita or AfterShock cinnamon liquor; Green tea with peppermint.
feminist? Couldn’t you tell? Oh yes.
favorite feminist word? white heteropatriarchy; it just sounds like we have some shit figured out when we speak this!
most annoying/loathed word? PROBLEMATIC- ugh, it is so overused. So is pedagogy, hegemony, and moreover.
what can you not get enough of? Energy, especially from others; I adore the energy that flows through us all; all life. Chocolate, hugs, laughs, and personal growth, too.
affordable restaurants you recommend? Sultan’s Market and New China Buffet. I worked in restaurants for years yet I like and trust just these two somehow.
raised catholic? I was barely raised any religion; I was raised to have a good time by my dad and to be a good, hard-working person by my mom.
your dream job? Working at a university helping people grow, learn, and communicate.
song most likely to make you move? “Pass that Dutch” by Missy Elliott (for the bass, not the lyrics) and “American Boy” by Estelle.

What’s your middle name? Do you like it?
A derivative of “courteous,” or Curtis, which I have grown to love. I do not like my first name much, often because people pronounce it “germy.” Also, my middle name is less common, and is often held by black men, which I joke is a way to remember me... “white Curtis.”

tell me about yourself; give me an introduction to you.
First and foremost, I am eccentric and energetic. As long as I can remember, I do too much, sleep too little, and have a mind running overtime in hundreds of places. I do not see well, hear well, or have the most able body, but my senses of smell and touch are strong (which I enjoy) as is my emotional, sensitive state. I feel and think A LOT. I love people; I like to help, I like to watch others, and I enjoy basic human connection. I can be obsessive sometimes, carefree others.

(continued on next page)
Tell me about your childhood.
I am able to look back on my childhood with appreciation and warmth. I grew up in North Carolina. I was fortunate and lucky to have a big family with a balanced mix of parenting. Though there were always warnings and dips in our finances, my parents did not ever have money problems that greatly affected us. My father makes very bad decisions with money, so while we had way too many toys (my father’s toys) and distractions, lunch money, clothes, and shoes were always a sore subject. My father spends in the moment, with nary an eye for the future or his well-being.

What do(es) your parent(s) do? What kind of environment did you grow up around?
My mother was a challenging but excellent public school teacher until she became seriously sick when I was 5, at which point she could not work. She eventually went on to join my father in his small insurance company he started in his bedroom. I had a unique experience growing up in that my parents not only worked together, but they were often the ONLY ones at work, not to mention they worked in a small space above our garage or just down the street. When they came home from work, they were not happy to see each other. I do not know how to this day how my mother managed to work as an employee for my father, but always knew she was running the show. My father can sell sunglasses to a blind man. Sometimes, especially as I get older, I am not sure if he is simply conversating with me or trying to sell/convince of something... even the weather!

My parents are quite different. My father needs taking care of, and my mother literally took care of 6-7 people. She is incredible at taking care of others, sometimes sacrificing herself in the process. She is strict, he is a big kid; she works endlessly, he hates working and taking orders; I am their true mixture. I am the fourth of five children spanning 20 years and 4 parents. My siblings really shaped who I became. We are outgoing, friendly people. And like my parents, we are all quite different in ways. I have two sisters and two brothers. My brother, Jason, two years older than me, was my idol and best bud ALL of my life until I was in high school. He is so chill. Holly, my younger sister, seemed to learn from her 4 older siblings a well-balances approach to life. Andy and Heather, my two oldest siblings, have faced some hardships in their lives. Andy is a youth minister who is warm and sincere. Heather is training to be a chiropractor and has a sense of humor I have always admired.

What is your relation to WSGS here? What are you not doing in WSGS and why?
I just finished my MA in WSGS upon completion of my thesis just last week (though I still need to turn the monster in). I also worked as a graduate assistant to the program, which gave me the chance to work "behind the scenes" with Prue, Betsy, and Bren. Now that I am an alum but working at Loyola and with Digest magazine, I am a supporter of WSGS where possible.

(continued on next page)
What is your academic track? What are you focused on?

Since my academic track never seems to end (because I enjoy learning so much), there is no end in a way. I have always taken online and night classes while working. My main interest is social justice and what I call “minority studies,” as in African-American Studies, WOmen’s Studies, Sexuality Studies, etc. I also enjoy learning more sociology, computer softwares, and hard sciences (especially biology and zoology).

Why are you at Loyola? What were your alternate plans? Why did you choose private and not public?

I am still a bit amazed I am at a private, Catholic university. I have always been in public school systems, and really appreciate the people in them. Private schools sometimes lack diversity and “realness,” and may be expensive. Loyola was my top choice our of six schools, private and public. Not only did Loyola’s WSGS program shine in comparison to others, but it is in Chicago. Of course, too, my significant other expressed interest in coming here and that was a MAJOR influence. Oh, and meeting Prudence Moylan was incredible. We both came here for a campus visit on a trip from NC and met Prue. She spent two hours with us. When we left, we both wanted to spend more time with her! But now that I have completed a degree at Loyola, am on the board of an upcoming conference at Loyola, and work here, I cannot begin to express the many positive aspects of Loyola that I am grateful to have access to. I have intersected with many incredible people and am looking forward to the relationships developing further.

“My whiteness has not only afforded me special passes to resources barred to others, but has allowed me an insider view of the ills and issues with white racism. When you are white in America, other white people often automatically assume your share their “love” of all things white, along with their fear and hatred of things not white.”

What do you like most about Loyola?

Up to this point, I like several aspects. It is affordable as a private university. Loyola has concerns for social justice and diversity. The Women’s Studies and Gender Studies program is stellar. The graduate assistantships are unbelievable opportunities. The location (Chicago, Lake Michigan) is gorgeous and rich. Many of the people are outstanding.

What do you like least about Loyola?

Though the social justice and diversity concern is there, the actuality of it is not yet realized. For instance, when I first came to Loyola after having been at UNC- Chapel Hill, Loyola was a bit overwhelmingly white, Catholic, and middle to upper class for my experiences. Yet as a private Catholic university, this made sense. My presence does not help, though I hope my outlook and passion make up for it. I wish Loyola were closer to home and downtown, also.

Were you raised Catholic? How was that? Would you raise your children the same?

No. I was sparsely forced to attend a 3 hour long worship at various Lutheran/Protestant churches. However, my father would just go tell us to play on the playground because we would get so bored. As for children, I would raise them knowing about Catholicism and many other belief systems. I would not force them to go to church or to believe in certain practices.

So... why are you (not) a feminist?

I am a feminist because it just makes sense to me. Whether it’s sexism, racism, classism, etc., the separation and stratification of humans into harmful and minimizing categories with subsequent denials of necessary access to various resources is a bunch of BS. Feminism looks at these issues in a radical (root) way, and I appreciate this.

(continued on next page)
Why should others (not) be feminists?
Others should be feminists because it just makes sense. Hating yourself and/or others is regressive and isolating. We are all here, we are all special and capable of helping ourselves and others. This should be our focus.

Digest: What have you heard about WSGS from others on campus?
Not too much, really. As a graduate student you often engage other students less than undergraduate students. But those who were a part of WSGS reflected positive insights and changes into their personal and professional lives due to WSGS.

What is your dream job?
Owning a farm with my partner and getting to support ourselves through cultivating the earth. I love animals, plants, and people. I especially enjoy gardening and woodworking, so I do these on the side.

“You guys” or “y’all”? Why?
Ya’ll, for sure. I cannot stand hearing “you guys.” It sounds like someone is addressing a fraternity, sports team, or military group. I prefer ya’ll because it is a short version of “you all” and is gender-neutral. Yet as soon as you speak “ya’ll” outside the South, you get looks of disdain from northerners and westerners who hate on not only the South, but efforts to incorporate gender-neutral language.

What do you like about Chicago? Anything in particular you enjoy here; any rituals?
Oh, yes, Chicago is home sweet home. I would say, beyond the fact that Devon is here, I thoroughly enjoy comedy (Whoopi Goldberg and Susan Messing) and improv, restaurants (Sultan’s), the numerous musicians who come through here (Lauryn Hill, for real!?), the universities, the lakeshore and parks, downtown, the El, the grocery stores, the festivals, the snow, and some of the warmth from people that reminds me of the South. I miss my two cats, Ashy and Onyx, very much!

Are you white? Do you pass as white?
I am white- pale actually, with blue eyes and blond hair. My ancestors are of German and British descent, which I suppose means I unfortunately come from an ethnic background known for imperialism and war. I try to be cognizant of my whiteness and white privilege when possible, and joke about it often.

How has that influenced your life?
My whiteness, white family, and white affluence have, well, contributed to further affluence. My whiteness has not only afforded me special passes to resources barred to others, but has allowed me an insider view of the ills and issues with white racism. When you are white in America, other white people often automatically assume your share their “love” of all things white, along with their fear and hatred of things not white. I am assumed an insider, then I have to reveal myself as an outsider who is far from content with this privilege and injustice. To speak bluntly, it’s annoying and frustrating. For instance, when you date and befriend others outside your race, you are labeled by friends and family as having “special interests.” This has come from my parents, close friends, and coworkers in my own life. Yet when you befriend and form relationships with people in your race, you are seldomly questioned.

Curtis with his siblings

(continued on next page)
What are(is) your parent(s) like in regards to race?  
They have changed tremendously since I was a little 5-year-old. I say it is karma. My mom was a closet racist and my father an open one. But living in Greensboro, NC, and raising 5 children offers many challenges to white racism. Greensboro’s black population, for instance, is 40%. My siblings and I were raised to be racist in ways, but our friends, classmates, teachers, and even television spoke otherwise. And my parents changed, especially with us challenging them. They have come a long way since I was young, and we talk about it sometimes. Their children are in interracial relationships and have nonwhite children, which at first they were somewhat uncomfortable with, but have since expressed satisfaction in coming to terms with overcoming racism (to the extent they have).

Have you been in an interracial relationship? If you have been or might be, how would your parents react?  
Yes, more than one. See above.

Any race particular races; why?  
My father had to confront his own fear and dislike of immigrants. As did my mother. They both have been challenged in many ways concerning their upbringings that influenced them to fear and dislike black people. When you are white in the US, it is easy to ignore nonwhite people, even as they demonstrate connection and positivity where the greater society does not. But when your own children and their family members challenge you (as parents), it is much harder to deny.

What does your mother and/or father think of Women’s Studies and/or feminism?  
At first they were uncertain to the utility and depth of feminism, especially my mother. Again, they were raised in a society that devalues people on a number of levels, be it gender, age, etc. As they have grown with their children, and I have shared feminism with them, they have realized on many occasions that feminism is useful, even for them. As they are aging and facing issues with discrimination, we talk about social stratification and so on.

What really made the biggest difference was the WSGS end-of-year celebration and capstone. They came here for my May 2011 graduation. They were so thrilled and impressed by the 6 MA students talking about their journeys and hopes for the world. It made much more sense to them. They really found inspiration with Janet Sisler and Prudence Moylan. I believe this was a turning point for them. Especially with my father, he has since started trying to sell me his “ideas” about fixing various facets of US injustice. I’m proud.

Curtis with parents, Prudence Moylan, and Devon
Thesis Adventures

Just one week ago, I finally defended my thesis. “Finally” sounds like I had been anticipating this day, perhaps even waiting a bit impatiently. This is true. Yet some might argue that “finally” ought to be replaced with “quickly.” This is true also. Though I was advised against it, I did my thesis in 3 months. And the worst or best part is... I did not even have to do it.

I approach tasks and challenges in my life with a positive, enthusiastic attitude. Even if something scares and intimidates me, and I might not do so well, I still find that believing in myself and motivation in the end gets me further in life than being scared and worried. Some might call this a big ego, or a lack of knowledge concerning limitations. I like to think of it as a method of survival. Concerning my thesis, it saved me.

“Stories of horror and hardship seem to trail those who have done a thesis. If so many people were not socialized to believe a thesis is not possible with their skills, maybe more people would feel able and competent and take on the challenge.”

Even the word “thesis” sounds intimidating. Up to this point in my life there have been few if any positive and breezy comments made about theses and dissertations. Stories of horror and hardship seem to trail those who have done a thesis. And as much as I would like to say I was able to complete mine free of some deeper challenges, I cannot. After all, my thesis’ nickname, “monster,” felt well-deserved. So why did I decide to do a thesis and delay graduating several months when I could have just completed my degree in May?

Several reasons. First, I like challenges. For instance, had I not tackled Adobe InDesign over a year ago in spite of my insecurities of learning such a massive, complex program, Digest magazine would not have progressed in its current format and developments. Often times, the hype and adversity surrounding aspects of life sometimes serve no real purpose but to maintain an elite group of insiders who are “able” compared to outsiders. If so many people were not socialized to believe a thesis is not possible with their skills, maybe more people would feel able and competent and take on the challenge.

Second, US academics and workforces are competitive. I was born into our increasingly capitalist world, and though in many ways I am able to fend off its hungry jaws in my personal life, we all have to play the game in some ways at some points in our lives. Before I started graduate school, I worked as a bartender and server for several years, which was often physically and socially exhausting. I picked up extra shifts constantly. My goal was to work until many of my debts were cleared from undergraduate school in order to save for graduate school. And that is what I did. I busted my ass, so to speak, debilitating my body in ways to excel and save money for graduate school.
Thus, my mentality for graduate school was to continue busting my ass. Graduate school was my endeavor, personally and financially. But to do well in graduate school somewhat requires being competitive; not in your program per se, but overall. I figured if I wanted to move on to careers or doctoral programs that would want me as a candidate, and pay me well, I would need to shine in graduate school. Do a thesis or not? I decided it certainly could not hurt me personally or socially, and I was right.

Third, the research I had begun really needs attention, from me, from anyone, from everyone. After taking Prudence Moylan’s Feminist methodologies course and after interviewing Beth Myers, the Director of the Women and Leadership Archives, I came across a troubling pattern: at-risk (marginalized) US groups continue to be missing and displaced in archives and histories, such that evidence of their struggles, experiences, and insights is more difficult to find (especially when compared to dominant groups in control).

A notable example of this occurs with transgender and gender-variant populations. What I found (which I had researched before) was that a marginalized group like transgender is often excluded to varying degrees in official and even unofficial aspects of society, such as law, psychology, family, religion, and punk rock. This lack of inclusion in various societal aspects compounds the likelihood of this group, or any like it, of also being excluded in archives and history. After all, whether or not a group, desire, experience, or identity existed is not the deciding factor, but everyone involved that collects then “reflects” human experiences (history). I needed evidence for why this might be happening to transgender (as a concept, desire, identity, experience, action, etc.) beyond simply blaming archivists. After all, archivists often receive donations from people and organizations, sometimes having almost no influence on what happened to the materials along the way.

What I found is not surprising for feminists and social justice advocates: the massive binary systems of sex, gender, and sexuality (based upon the first two) are upheld and renegotiated in our society. Everyone has some influence upon these systems. They have proven time and again to be false, minimizing, exclusionary, and harmful, with transgender exclusion being evidence of their failure. Yet where these three binary systems are upheld, whether in one person or in groups, transgender must be “othered” and silenced, which often leads to lack of archives, ultimately.

Fourth, a thesis was my chance to write a paper (or fifteen 10-page papers) and do research that was under intense scrutiny by others, not just up for some grade for coursework. A little after the first version was turned in to my two advisors, I realized one very important thing about doing a thesis...

(to be continued...)
Character at a Glance:

- What’s your middle name? Do you like it?
  Leeann. It’s a mixture of two of my grandparents’ names that have passed away, so it is very special to me.

- Tell me about yourself; give me an introduction to you.
  I am very opinionated and passionate about politics, racial issues…actually just very opinionated about everything. I’m sure that will come in the columns that I write. I love my family and friends—I consider myself to be very fortunate in that I have a great support system in them. I love all kinds of music—discovering an awesome new band/artist is like Christmas wrapped in a chocolate covered orgasm…maybe not that dramatic, but close to it. I love to laugh and debate different topics with my family and friends—I love learning and there’s always something new to learn from them.

- Tell me about your childhood.
  Rather atypical in a lot of ways—raised in a very religious household within a church that was out of the norm. We were always mistaken for Seventh Day Adventists or Jewish kids, as we had to leave the room anytime there were ANY kind of holiday parties. There were a lot of things that we did not participate in growing up, but it was very interesting to grow up that way and I wouldn’t change it for the world. My childhood was very happy and stable.

- What do(es) your parent(s) do? What kind of environment did you grow up around?
  My father owns his own business and my mother works in the education system. I grew up in a strict but fun-loving and happy environment. My mother was a stay at home mom for the majority of my childhood.

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Were you raised Catholic? How was that? Would you raise your children the same?
I was not raised Catholic—I do not know what denomination in which they will be raised, but they will grow up going to church.

So... why are you (not) a feminist?
That’s a good question—I’ve honestly never thought about it. I feel like being a feminist is something inherent in my nature. I always want to defend people that are treated as second class citizens, and that is always the case for women and minorities.

Why should others (not) be feminists?
Injustice is injustice—period. No matter whom it may be against or where it happens. People seem to believe that discrimination has decreased or prejudice no longer exists since it is not as blatant as it used to be (excluding the overt racism against President Obama, of course). If people will fight against racism, they should fight for the rights of women as well.

What is your dream job?
A writer or professional lottery winner

“you guys” or “y’al”? Why?
Y’all or you all depending on the situation—I’m a serious Southerner

Are you white? Do you pass as white?
Uh, no. Far from it! I probably sound like I am on the phone, though…

How has that influenced your life?
Greatly—race influences every single aspect of my life

What are(is) your parent(s) like in regards to race?
Very liberal and open-minded

Have you been in an interracial relationship? If you have been or might be, how would your parents react?
Not since 7th grade…they would not care one bit. Our family is very mixed racially so it would not be a big deal at all.

Excerpts from previous Color Contacts columns by Nlw:

“I was under the apparently mistaken impression that diversity was more than just white people and black people. What about gender, sexuality and God forbid, Hispanics, Asians and other races?”

“Television spares no race or gender, and provides us all with stereotypes on which to base our views. It’s so important to have positive media portrayals of our races, genders and sexualities, as many people will use that portrayal as a way to pre-judge us.”
The Influence of Piper Hall
by Mia Gutsell

I have written some pieces for the WSGS magazine, but I think this week’s topic has made me the most introspective about my perceptions of feminism, the feminist movement, and how I define the theory of feminism for myself.

During my time at Loyola, I found a safe place for thoughtful dialogue about feminism at Piper Hall. When I was in high school, I had no outlet to express my dissatisfaction with what I saw as patriarchal norms. I was very angry, and a determined individual who would point out all the sexist aspects of any topic, if probed by others a bit too much. There are times even today where I still feel great frustration with certain aspects of society. Sometimes, I start discussing my dissatisfaction with others, and instead of proving my point, I merely end up proving why they do not like hearing the notions of a feminist; not because my message is controversial, although it can be, but because I was presenting it in an overly heated manner.

Piper Hall, the individuals who work there and the entire Women’s Studies and Gender Studies Department have helped me to channel my frustration into actual work, which could have a positive impact on others. By encountering various other individuals in this department, I have been able to temper myself. The message of feminism is important, but it will not be heard if I instantly become filled with anger, and cannot clarify my thoughts. Not to say that anger as an emotion should not be expressed; it just simply should not be the only emotion I express in my writings. I was able to come to this understanding because of the many wonderful professors, and my peers who I have encountered during my WSGS classes both in and outside of Piper Hall.

As such, I have to thank my peers, professors, and the other faculty and staff, who have helped me to come to realize that various forms of feminism exist, and can be expressed respectfully. Most importantly, they have helped me understand that my arguments are not always necessarily right. When I look back at some of the other pieces I have contributed to the WSGS magazine, I can see my anger, and confusion in how to use my feminist perspective in a constructive manner. I do not hold all of the same views that I did in my original writings, but the core of feminism still stays strong in my mind. In essence, both the magazine, and Piper Hall have seen my growth as a feminist. The one place that will always symbolize that change that has occurred in my heart will always be Piper Hall. I am eternally grateful for that building and the people that make it so special.
GS Undergraduate
Digest Magazine Editor, Columnist, Writer
Interview via Email

Character at a Glance:

age: 30
birthdate: Elmhurst, IL
Loyola: WSGS and English Literature majors.
WSGS Weekly Digest Senior Editor, Loyola Community Literacy Center tutor. Honors English,
Phi Theta Kappa, and Golden Key member
fave color: orange
fave scent: coffee beans, verbena, fresh lilacs
fave season: whenever it’s about 70. otherwise i enjoy fall, except i get sad that it’s going to get colder and colder
fave flower: Stargazers, wildflowers, fields of tulips, lilacs
fave 90’s show: Clarissa Explains It All
what did you have for breakfast? granola, half a banana, coffee
morning or night person? night, but i sort of love the whole day
favourite cartoon: I love Hayao Miyazaki’s animation, though I wouldn’t call it a cartoon.
preferred inside temp: 77
preferred outside temp: 70s and lightly breezy
coffee: homemade French press Indo-Pacifics or a soy cappuccino from Peet’s
preferred grocery store: I shop at a combination of natural grocers, discount stores, and filler stores, but I like Newleaf Natural Grocer on Loyola Ave.
preferred drinks (alcoholic, non): coffee, LaCroix, dirty martini, red Belgians
feminist? hell yes
favourite feminist word? slut
most annoying/thought word? I found out that I really hate being called a hegemon, so I try to avoid that incarnation of the word.
what can you not get enough of? healthy, delicious food; moving music; time with loved ones; flirtation; books; learning
affordable restaurants you recommend? Chicago Diner, Siam Noodle and Rice, Ba Le, Pasta Bowl
raised catholic? yep
Your dream job? Queer Theory professor
Song most likely to make you move? something funky, blueesy, or gorgeously electronic

What’s your middle name? Do you like it?
Rae. It works well as a whole: Brandie Rae Madrid. Growing up my dad called me Baby Rae. And my mom says I’m her Rae of sunshine.

Tell me about yourself; give me an introduction to you.
I’m an adult returning to school after a long, hard journey to get here. I am a singer, a gamer, a proud queer, and an avid reader. School and my intentional family are very important to me.

Tell me about your childhood.
I was scared of monsters, death, and water as a kid. My dad treated me like an androgynous adult and my mom taught me to never rely on anyone else: be with someone for love.

What do(es) your parent(s) do? What kind of environment did you grow up around?
My father is a consultant for federal building contracts. My mother is going back to school for horticulture after her day job. She was laid off after almost 30 years of working for the same company, and I feel this is her chance to do something she really loves to do. I grew up in the suburbs of Chicago, moving almost every year. I hated the carbon copy whiteness of the suburbs and fled to Chicago as soon as possible.

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What is your relation to WSGS here? What are you not doing in WSGS and why?
I am in WSGS as a second major, even though I love it more than my first major of English Literature. I am now the editor of the WSGS Weekly Digest, a huge challenge and honor. I wish I could take more classes in the field, but I’m all booked up for the rest of my time here at Loyola.

What is your academic track? What are you focused on?
My plan is to become a professor. I hope to get into a PhD program as soon as I graduate here. I would also like to be in editing or non-profit work if that doesn’t go as planned.

Why are you at Loyola? What were your alternate plans? Why did you choose private and not public?
I actually tried to go to UIC and Sarah Lawrence. UIC lost my information twice, so I gave up on them. Sarah Lawrence was a long shot, and I didn’t make it. Many of my best (and smartest) friends had gone to Loyola years ago, and they all seemed happy with their education and lives, so I went for it. I didn’t really have an alternate plan at that point.

What do you like most about Loyola?
I like the open-mindedness of most of the faculty and staff at Loyola. My professors have almost all been enthusiastic, encouraging, and intelligent. They come from a variety of backgrounds and are open to differences of opinion and religious beliefs.

What do you like least about Loyola?
I have seen and heard of some discrimination in terms of physical and mental healthcare at the Wellness Center based on the religious beliefs of the staff and the school as a whole, and that is hard for me. Luckily, my WSGS capstone will allow me to question the Wellness Center’s practices, and I hope to utilize that opportunity to improve relations with the WC.

Were you raised Catholic? How was that? Would you raise your children the same?
I was raised Catholic. I was very devout as a young girl, even moreso than my parents. But around the age of 11, I lost my faith and came out as agnostic or atheist. My parents were devastated, but they eventually accepted it. I notice that many people who were raised Catholic feel a strange connection, often having to do with guilt and skepticism. I would never raise my children with any religion, but then again I would never raise children.

So... why are you (not) a feminist?
I am a feminist because I know that sex and gender are still used to discriminate against many people and ideas. I want to use my feminist background to smash oppression of all minorities.

Why should others (not) be feminists?
I don’t necessarily need others to be feminists, because that is a label with a mixed history. It is more important that a person recognizes oppression and seeks to change it.

What have you heard about WSGS from others on campus?
I have found that many men love WSGS, because it clicks on a light for them that wasn’t completely on before. And because they see how it also pertains to males, the queer community, and other minorities. Many people have loved Queer Theory, a class offered through WSGS, and that makes me very happy!

What is your dream job?
My dream job is to be a professor in Gender Studies and to research all things queer, polyamorous, and counter-hegemonic.

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"You guys" or "y'all"? Why?
"Folks" is what I prefer. I also call groups of people "kiddos," "lovelies," etc. Sometimes I say "you guys" because I think at this point "guy" is not as gendered as it once was. I'll always remember an anecdote from Ani DiFranco where she was at the Michigan Women's Fest and said "you guys" to a room full of women. They freaked out at her, and she realized that it was no longer about women being themselves but about policing each other without compassion.

What do you like about Chicago? Anything in particular you enjoy here; any rituals?
I love Chicago because I have so many good memories here. Warm Weather Chicago is enthusiastic: people are celebrating their good luck at being able to run, bike, swim, and cook out. Cold Weather Chicago is festive and cuddly.

Are you white? Do you pass as white?
I go back and forth about whether or not I am white. I certainly pass as white. Many people think I am Italian, Greek, Jewish, etc. I am Mexican and Czech, what I call Czexican.

How has that influenced your life?
I wasn't raised with a strong ethnic background, but I feel a close kinship with Latin Americans and other racial or ethnic minorities. I was definitely raised with white privilege, and both WSGS and my former editor Curtis Main help me remember that. I am upset by white privilege, especially my own, and I try to remind people of their privilege so that we may fight both visible and invisible racism and privilege.

What are(is) your parent(s) like in regards to race?
My mom and dad both seem to harbor a lot of old world racial tension. I catch them saying or sharing things all the time that are very racist, when it is more likely that they are talking about class or xenophobia. It is strange to me that they carry so much tension against other races seeing as how my mother has married two Latino men, one of whom is my father.

Have you been in an interracial relationship? If you have been or might be, how would your parents react?
I suppose all of my relationship were interracial, because I am multiple races and have never dated anyone else who was white and Latino/a. I have dated men and women of a variety of races/ethnicities/backgrounds: Asian, Indian, African American, Latino/a, Caucasian, etc. My parents have been fairly accepting of everyone that I have dated.

Any race particular races; why?
I'm not sure what this question means exactly, but I suppose it may be asking if I have a preference for a particular race. I don't think that I have a preference for any criteria in particular. I suppose I tend to love dark hair and features, but I find a variety of people to be attractive and interesting.

What does your mother and/or father think of Women’s Studies and/or feminism?
My mother and father have not said much about my involvement in WSGS or my position as the editor of a feminist magazine. They are supportive, but we don’t talk about details much. They know I have strong opinions about gender, marriage, children, etc. and we leave it at that generally.
Screening of “A Question of Habit”
September 14, 2011 3:00pm  |  Karchek Information Commons, 4th Floor
Dr. Bren Ortega Murphy, a faculty member in communication studies and women and gender studies, will discuss and present her film that examines the wide variety of visual images of Catholic nuns and sisters used in contemporary U.S. popular culture and contrasts these images with the lives of actual women religious, both historical and current.

Organization for the Study of Communication, Language, & Gender Annual Conference
October 13-15
Theme: “Performing Gender” Call for volunteers--Opportunity for Practicum credit
We are currently interested in Loyola undergraduate and graduate students signing up as volunteers for the upcoming October conference, taking place at the Orrington Hotel in Evanston and in Piper Hall at Loyola University Chicago. Students may also sign up for practicum credit for either Communication or Women’s Studies and Gender Studies, in which a learning project will be formed with Dr. Bren Ortega Murphy, WSGS Internship Director and Director of this year’s conference. Please contact Dr. Murphy for further information and details at bmurphy@luc.edu.

Chris Garofalo, Uberzootany
Friday, September 2, 2011 to Saturday, October 8, 2011  |  Fine Arts Annex, 1131 W. Sheridan Ave.
Ceramicist Chris Garofalo opens the season with an installation of exquisite organic life forms unlike any that we have ever known. Drawing from nature in her backyard, from underwater creatures, and even from under the microscope, Garofalo imagines what the world might look like had there been some slight changes in early evolutionary events. Chris herself has evolved from printmaker and graphic designer and has been living in Chicago since 1980.

Student Leadership Development Information Session
Thursday, September 8, 2011, from 4:30 - 5:30  |  Terry Student Center, Room 303
The Student Leadership Development staff members believe everyone has the potential to engage in the leadership process and that each individual has unique talents, skills and gifts to contribute. We understand leadership to be a values-based, inclusive process in which people work collaboratively to accomplish common goals promoting positive social change.

Father Roger Schmit Speaks on The Laramie Project, Catholicism, and Homosexuality
Tuesday, September 13th  |  Simpson MPR
In 1998 Matthew Shepard was killed at the University of Wyoming for his sexual orientation. Father Roger Schmit, OSB was the director of Campus Ministry at the Newman Center and held a vigil for the mourning community. He then reached out to the Shepard Family when no one would by presiding over the funeral liturgy. Today he advocates for human dignity above all else because we are “all created in God’s image and likeness.” He comes to Loyola University Chicago on Tuesday September 13th at 8pm in Simpson MPR. He will share his experiences and talk about Catholicism and homosexuality.

Fall 2011 Study Abroad Fair
Thursday, September 15th, 11am-2pm  |  Information Commons, 4th Floor, Lake Shore Campus
The OIP will sponsor a Study Abroad Fair on the Lake Shore Campus during the fall. The fair is for students and others interested in learning more about Loyola study abroad programs. At the fair, you can talk with past participants, see amazing photos from around the world, talk with OIP staff members and program representatives, and pick up program literature.

Take a Deep Breath - Weekly Mindfulness Meditation
TBD
Learn how to meditate and incorporate it into your daily life! Sessions are ongoing, newcomers are always welcome. See why this group has been running since 2002! Contact Dianna at 508-2544 for more information or join us any Monday at the Wellness Center.
THE CONVERT:
A Tale of Exile and Extremism
with author
Deborah Baker

Margaret Marcus (self-portrait) / Maryam Jameelah (Pakistan)

Tuesday September 20, 2011 4 PM
Crown Center 530

Author Deborah Baker will discuss her recent biography of Maryam Jameelah, a work that unravels the remarkable and complex life of an American Jewish woman who converted to Islam, migrated to Pakistan in the 1960s, and became a prolific writer and commentator as a spokesperson for Mawdudi’s Jamaati Islamic movement and an active voice of Islamic revivalism in the 20th century. Issues raised by Jameelah’s life and writings, in which she heavily criticizes “The West”, provide fascinating insights into the fraught relationship between America and the Muslim world. This book is also an important literary achievement in which Baker, previously nominated for a Pulitzer prize, interpolates her own thoughts and feelings as she explores Jameelah’s story.

Sponsored by English, Islamic World Studies, Theology, Women’s Studies and Gender Studies
For information contact Joyce Wexler jwexler@luc.edu

Preparing people to lead extraordinary lives.
LOCAL EVENTS

Chicago Fringe Festival One-Woman Show: No Gender Left Behind

September 1st-11th, showtimes vary

The show explores Rebecca Kling’s experiences as a transgender woman after being discharged from a teaching position in the Fall of 2010 for being trans. The experience left her wondering what America is teaching its children – and its adults – about gender, conformity, and being just a little bit different. All regular performances will be at the HumanThread Center: 645 W. 18th Street, Chicago, IL 60616, running until Sunday, September 11th. Tickets are a $10 suggested donation. For more information go to www.RebeccaKling.com

Ground Shifters: Stories from Unseen Worlds and of the Women Warriors who are Changing Them

Tune in: September 12-16th, during the 12:00-1:00pm CST “Worldview” program

Chicago Public Media WBEZ 91.5 www.wbez.org

The Ellen Stone Belic Institute for the Study of Women and Gender in the Arts and Media is pleased to announce a new radio series, an ongoing collaboration between the Institute and WBEZ, entitled: Gender, Human Rights, Leadership and Media. The Institute works closely developing projects with journalists, artists, human rights workers and activists across the world to investigate global issues as part of this initiative.

Seeking Volunteer Advocates for Loyola Sexual Assault Advocacy line

Deadline for Applications: September 30th

The Wellness Center is leading a 3-year grant project through the U.S. Dept. of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women. A major goal of this project is to increase the reporting rates of sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, and stalking on campus. We wish to increase our ability to respond to students as immediately as possible. Graduate students in social science, social services, higher education, and other related fields are being sought as volunteer advocates to help increase our response to survivors of sexual assault at LUC. Volunteer advocates will be expected to complete 56 hours of training through Rape Victim Advocates in downtown Chicago. For more information or an application, please contact Stephanie Atella at satella@luc.edu.

“I have not transgressed gender; it has transgressed me. There is no such thing as gender in the first place. We may have different genitalia but gender is a social construction meant to control society.”

- Kevin via Lori B. Girshik

Click here to CONTRIBUTE (guidelines)! We encourage ALL readers to share with us, small or large, simple or complex.
CONFERENCES

‘Globalizing cultures, identities and lifestyles’ The Global Studies Association
Eleventh Annual Conference

September 7 to 9, 2011  
Manchester Metropolitan University, United Kingdom

Recent research and theory have expanded our understanding of globalizing and global practices that increasingly shape the way we conduct our lives, construct our identities and affiliations and pursue our hopes and aspirations. Nowhere is this more evident than in the fields of leisure and the construction of our everyday personas and lifestyles. Here, innumerable fragments of other people’s cultures flow into our lives through the Internet, films, music, art genres, travel and holidays, health and sport practices, TV, magazines and newspapers, advertising, branding and consumerism, fashion, foods and gastronomic repertoires – among others. Sometimes they empower individuals to seek other worlds and identities. At others, they generate resources with which to construct our preferred individual life biographies. The possibilities for transforming the lives of individuals, groups or entire communities in these ways are endless. Please send your abstracts to Paul Kennedy: p.kennedy@mmu.ac.uk To register and pay for the conference visit MMU’s ‘On-line store’ and look for the GSA conference box: www.fin.mmu.ac.uk

LEARNING

Ministry Seeks Alternative Break Immersion (ABI) Companions

ABI Companions should have been on a previous ABI trip. They will: be primary ambassadors for the program on campus, attend various leader meetings [up to 8] before and after their ABIs, conduct peer to peer interviews during the application process, research information on their immersion destination, build community amongst trip participants and with the host organization, facilitate pre-trip meetings, group reflection and other elements of an immersion, share the responsibility of driving a university van across the country or through nearby states (if on a domestic ABI), coordinate follow-up activities, perform some logistical work, and have fun! If you are familiar with immigrant justice concerns and would like more information about this opportunity, contact Patrick Eccles at peccles@luc.edu

INTERNSHIPS

Organizing Internship

Restaurant Opportunities Center of Chicago, The Voices and Faces Project

ROC-Chicago is seeking part-time and full-time intern labor organizers who want to develop organizing skills from the low-wage worker center model. This position is ideal for individuals interested in labor justice, worker advocacy, leadership development, base building, organizational development, public policy and campaign organizing. Training will be provided.

Responsibilities include: field outreach to restaurant workers, developing a base of restaurant workers in various Chicago neighborhoods/communities, following up and turning out phone calls to members and worker contacts, campaign organizing, helping with worker enrollment in job training classes and affordable healthcare plan, and helping with office and administrative needs.

Qualifications: good communication skills, passionate about worker and immigrant rights, and previous experience in the restaurant industry is preferred but not required. Submit resumes and cover letter to veronica@rocunited.org

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Charles A. Ryskamp Research Fellowships

**Deadline for Applications:** no later than 9 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time, September 28, 2011.

ACLS invites applications for the Charles A. Ryskamp Research Fellowships, generously funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in memory of Charles A. Ryskamp, literary scholar, distinguished library and museum director, and long-serving trustee of the Foundation. These fellowships support advanced assistant professors and untenured associate professors in the humanities and related social sciences whose scholarly contributions have advanced their fields and who have well-designed and carefully developed plans for new research. The fellowships are intended to provide time and resources to enable these faculty members to conduct their research under optimal conditions. The ultimate goal of the project should be a major piece of scholarly work by the applicant.

**Amount:** $64,000, plus $2,500 for research and travel, and the possibility of an additional summer’s support

**Tenure:** one academic year, plus one summer if justified by a persuasive case. Eligibility Guidelines: The Ryskamp Fellowship Program is open to tenure-track assistant professors and untenured associate professors who by September 28, 2011 will have successfully completed their institution’s last reappointment review before tenure review, (2) and whose tenure review will not be complete before March 1, 2012.

Applicants must hold the Ph.D. (or equivalent) and be employed in tenure-track positions (3) at degree-granting academic institutions in the United States, remaining so for the duration of the fellowship. U.S. citizenship or permanent residency is not required, and previous supported research leaves do not affect eligibility for the Ryskamp Fellowship. For more information visit http://www.acls.org/programs/ryskamp/

### Lecturer, Women’s and Gender Studies, Eastern Washington University

**Review of applications will begin after 8/19/2011**

Eastern Washington University Women’s and Gender Studies Program invites applications for a full-time lecturer position in the Women’s and Gender Studies Program beginning in mid September 2011. The position is for one year with possible renewal based on staffing needs. Master’s degree in Women’s Studies, Gender Studies, or other relevant discipline in the Humanities or Social Sciences is required. Candidates must demonstrate ability to teach courses that focus on intersectionality between gender, race, ethnicity and sexuality including intro to women’s studies courses, sex and gender, and feminist theory. Applicants should be able to demonstrate teaching effectiveness and have a successful record of teaching at the college level. A strong commitment to the liberal arts, interdisciplinary education, and diversity or ethnic studies is also required. Areas of expertise preferred include: Transnational Feminism, Critical Race Theory, and/or Interpersonal/Domestic violence. To be considered for this opportunity, please submit your application materials through our online faculty application portal located here: https://jobs.hr.ewu.edu. Submittals must include a letter of application which addresses each of the key responsibilities and qualifications of the position; curriculum vitae including a list of three references with addresses, email and phone numbers; evidence of your teaching experience, and a sample syllabi. You will also be asked to complete a short candidate profile form as part of the online process. Applications will not be accepted via email or regular mail.

### Administrative Professor of Women’s Leadership, Tulane University

**Review of Applications begins on September 30th**

Newcomb College Institute is searching for an Administrative Professor of Women’s Leadership, rank open. This is a permanent, full-time position that is renewable every three years. We are looking for someone whose scholarly research and teaching interests are on women’s leadership, broadly defined, with a Ph.D. in political science, sociology, history, American studies, communication studies, psychology, business or management, women and gender studies, or other related field. We are particularly interested in someone whose research is intersectional (examining race, class, and sexuality) and whose work is on women and politics, women’s organizations, women’s higher education, the sociology of work and the professions, the psychology of work and implicit bias, or women in business. To apply, please send an email to the search committee at newcomb@tulane.edu. Include the following attached as Microsoft Word or PDF files: letter of interest, curriculum vitae, and names and contact information for three references. Review of applications will begin on September 30, 2011 and continue until the position is filled. Questions about the position or application should be addressed to Katherine Corbett at kcorbett@tulane.edu. For additional information about Newcomb College Institute, go to http://tulane.edu/newcomb.
CALLS FOR PAPERS

Gender, Bodies & Technology: (Dis)Integrating Frames

Sponsored by the Women’s and Gender Studies Program at Virginia Tech
We invite proposals from scholars in the humanities, social and natural sciences, visual and performing arts, engineering and technology for papers, panels, new media art and performance pieces that explore the intersections of gender, bodies and technology in contexts ranging from classrooms to workplaces to the internet. In keeping with the conference theme, we are asking contributors to include specific reference to the ways in which their own particular disciplinary frameworks shape their approach to their sites of research.

As an assemblage of people and technologies we see the conference itself as enacting the conference theme. We welcome innovative uses of technology and creative session formats, including performance and interactive presentations, as well as traditional paper presentations. We are committed to the integration of scholarship from the Arts as well as more traditional forms of scholarship and we welcome early contact by email if space and/or technology requirements might present logistical challenges.

Proposals will be reviewed and notification of the outcome will be made by October 15, 2011. We are pursuing publication outlets for selected papers from the conference. Final drafts of papers received before April 26, 2012 will be eligible for consideration. The Gender, Bodies & Technology website, online submission form, as well as the full program from the 2010 conference can be viewed at: http://www.cpe.vt.edu/htub/

For more information or questions please contact: Sharon Elber, GBT Coordinator, Women’s and Gender Studies Program, Department of Sociology at Virginia Tech, selber@vt.edu

Mothers and History: Histories of Motherhood
Deadline for abstracts: September 15th, 2011 I Conference Dates: May 10-12, 2012, Toronto, ON, Canada

This conference will explore the nature, status and experience of mothers and motherhood in various historical, cultural and literary contexts, and examine the many ways in which mothers in different historical periods have been affected by, viewed, and/or challenged contemporary cultural norms and dominant ideologies regarding their role.

Topics may include but are not restricted to:
Normative & disruptive discourses about mothers and motherhood in any historical period, including but not limited to the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, the Enlightenment; the Victorian era; mothers/motherhood and early feminism(s); mothering bodies: mothers and childbirth/lactation and maternal health in any historical period; mothers & midwifery; mothers and education in any historical period; mothers and sons/daughters in any historical period; mothers of color, teen mothers, First Nation/aboriginal/Native American mothers, low-income mothers in any historical period; “good” and/or “bad” mothers in history; mothers and paid/unpaid work in history; mothers and infertility in history; adoptive motherhood/adoptive in any historical period; wet-nursing, and surrogate motherhood in any historical period

If you are interested in being considered as a presenter, please send a 250 word abstract and a 50-word bio by September 15th, 2011 to info@motherhoodinitiative.org

** To submit an abstract for this conference, one must be a member of MIRCI: http://www.motherhoodinitiative.org/membership.html

“As a working framework, I propose that sexuality itself can be thought of as a combination of three identifying elements: It’s whom you sleep with (one’s sexual practices), whom you set up a home with (one’s everyday life), and how you identify yourself (one’s labels).”

-Jennifer Baumgardner, author of Look Both Ways

Click here to CONTRIBUTE (guidelines)! We encourage ALL readers to share with us, small or large, simple or complex.
We want you to Submit!

Digest Contributor Guidelines

Principles

i) Feminist Consciousness:
(a) recognizes all voices and experiences as important, and not in a hierarchical form.
(b) takes responsibility for the self and does not assume false objectivity.
(c) is not absolutist or detached, but rather, is more inclusive and sensitive to others.

ii) Accessibility:
(a) means utilizing accessible language, theory, knowledge, and structure in your writing.
(b) maintains a connection with your diverse audience by not using unfamiliar/obscure words, overly long sentences, or abstraction.
(c) does not assume a specific audience, for example, white 20-year-old college students.

iii) Jesuit Social Justice Education & Effort:
(a) promotes justice in openhanded and generous ways to ensure freedom of inquiry, the pursuit of truth and care for others.
(b) is made possible through value-based leadership that ensures a consistent focus on personal integrity, ethical behavior, and the appropriate balance between justice and fairness.
(c) focuses on global awareness by demonstrating an understanding that the world’s people and societies are interrelated and interdependent.

Expectations and Specifics

• You may request to identify yourself by name, alias, or as “anonymous” for publication in the digest. For reasons of accountability, the staff must know who you are, first and last name plus email address.

• We promote accountability of our contributors, and prefer your real name and your preferred title (i.e., Maruka Hernandez, CTA Operations Director, 34 years old, mother of 4; or J. Curtis Main, Loyola graduate student in WSGS, white, 27 years old), but understand, in terms of safety, privacy, and controversy, if you desire limitations. We are happy to publish imagery of you along with your submission, at our discretion.

• We gladly accept submission of varying length- from a quick comment to several pages. Comments may be reserved for a special “feedback” section. In order to process and include a submission for a particular issue, please send your submission at least two days prior to the desired publication date.

• Please include a short statement of context when submitting imagery, audio, and video.

• We appreciate various styles of scholarship; the best work reveals thoughtfulness, insight, and fresh perspectives.

• Such submissions should be clear, concise, and impactful. We aim to be socially conscious and inclusive of various cultures, identities, opinions, and lifestyles.

• As a product of the support and resources of Loyola University and its Women Studies and Gender Studies department, all contributors must be respectful of the origin of the magazine; this can be accomplished in part by ensuring that each article is part of an open discourse rather than an exclusive manifesto.

• All articles must have some clear connection to the mission of the magazine. It may be helpful to provide a sentence or two describing how your article fits into the magazine as a whole.

• The writing must be the original work of the author and may be personal, theoretical, or a combination of the two. When quoting or using the ideas of others, it must be properly quoted and annotated. Please fact-check your work and double-check any quotes, allusions and references. When referencing members of Loyola and the surrounding community, an effort should be made to allow each person to review the section of the article that involves them to allow for fairness and accuracy.

• Gratuitous use of expletives and other inflammatory or degrading words and imagery may be censored if it does not fit with the overall message of the article or magazine. We do not wish to edit content, but if we feel we must insist on changes other than fixing typos and grammar, we will do so with the intent that it does not compromise the author’s original message. If no compromise can be made, the editor reserves the right not to publish an article.

• All articles are assumed to be the opinion of the contributor and not necessarily a reflection of the views of Loyola University and the WSGS program.

We very much look forward to your submissions and your contribution to our overall mission. Please send your submissions to Brandie: bmadrid@luc.edu.