

# WOMEN'S STUDIES NEWSLETTER

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## Inside this issue:

### Page 1:

Comedy at UTC

### Page 2:

Student Spotlight:

Rachel Hofer

Alumni Spotlight:

Anne Brettell

### Page 3:

A Day of Service

### Page 4:

New Course for  
Fall 2018

## Dr. Chris Kilmartin Brings Comedy to UTC on March 21

By Rene Sleeman

In celebration of Women's History Month, **Dr. Chris Kilmartin** is appearing at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga with his one-man comedy show, *Crimes Against Nature*. Admission is free, and the show will take



place in the Raccoon Mountain Room in the University Center at 5:30 PM on Wednesday March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018. Everyone on campus and from the community is welcome to attend. Dr. Kilmartin's show is a captivating sixty-minute performance about gender roles; he offers a perspective and narrative on the subject that is both entertaining and insightful through a handful of characters that he acts out himself. Dr. Kilmartin recently retired from the University of Mary Washington as a professor of psychology; in

1999, he was Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Gender Studies at the University of Klagenfurt in Austria. He is the author of *The Masculine Self*; *Men's Violence against Women: Theory, Research, and Activism*; *Overcoming Masculine Depression: The Pain behind the Mask*; and *Sexual Assault in College: Teaching College Men about Gender*. Dr. Kilmartin is also a professional stand-up comedian. *Crimes Against Nature* has been performed over 220 times on 150 different college campuses. This solo theatre performance is filled with heartfelt stories about the ups and downs of growing up with ridiculous gendered expectations about masculinity that are filled with lighthearted humor and wit. Dr. Kilmartin uses his personal childhood stories to point out the consequences of these gender roles in society and make the audience think about how gender roles have affected them. **Dr. Alexandra Zelin**, Assistant Professor of Psychology, states that, "Dr. Chris Kilmartin was one of my undergraduate professors at the University of Mary Washington. His passion for investigating and trying to put an end to society's inequities towards both men and women is inspiring. As Dr. Kilmartin was a stand-up comedian in his previous life, the integration of his humor with the insanity of society's gender roles will be sure to have you laughing, crying, and laughing-crying throughout his *Crimes Against Nature* theatre performance. But, most importantly, his performance will leave you thinking about how society has molded us and how absurd our gendered expectations can be." Dr. Kilmartin will also be giving a talk, "Gendered Fictions: The Challenge of Cultural Change," on Tuesday, March 20 at 5:30 p.m. in the Signal Mountain Room in UTC's University Center. Dr. Kilmartin's visit is co-sponsored by the Women's Studies Program and the departments of English, Psychology, and Performing Arts.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: RACHEL HOFER

By Marcia Noe



A Brock Scholar, **Rachel Hofer**, a double major in Women's Studies and Chemistry, has been active this year with UTC's Center for Women and Gender Equity. Last semester she organized a book club discussion of Roxane Gay's memoir *Hunger* as part of the Center's Love Your Body Week, and this year Rachel is a member of the Center's W.I.S.E. Board, serving as its Wellness Chair. Rachel recently inaugurated the Stitch and Bitch Program, a group that does cross stitch and listens to feminist podcasts. This semester, as part of her WSTU Senior Seminar requirements, she is engaged in a service learning project with the SHE program of the Partnership for Families, Children, and Adults, which provides sexual health education for girls who have been in state custody; one of Rachel's goals is to expand the reach of the program. Of the Women's Studies classes Rachel has taken, she especially enjoyed working on Lemonade Week with students in her Women's Rhetoric class.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: ANNE BRETTELL

By Marcia Noe and Hayley Southerland

**Anne Marie Brettell**, a 2010 summa cum laude graduate in English and Women's Studies and the first WSTU major to graduate from UTC, is now a full-time instructor in the Department of English at the University of Alabama. At UTC, Anne won an Outstanding Senior award in both English and Women's Studies, and in 2014 she earned an MFA in Creative Writing, as well as a Master's of Library and Information Science degree from the University of Alabama. In 2016, she married Ian Adams; the couple settled in Tuscaloosa, where Anne teaches courses in creative writing, 20th century American literature, and composition. An excerpt from her first book, a novel in verse about a mechanical baby in the post-apocalyptic Midwest, was published as a chapbook by Dancing Girl Press in 2016.



# Women's Studies Gives the Partnership a Day of Service

By Rene Sleeman



Pictured are **Chris Suttle**, **Samala Sinclair**, and other classmates painting during the service learning project at the Rape Crisis Center.



On November 19<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017, a group of 25 to 30 UTC students who were enrolled in the Introduction to Women's Studies classes, along with instructors **Spring Kurtz** and **Sheena Monds**, paired with the Partnership for Families, Children and Adults and their Rape Crisis Center on East 8<sup>th</sup> Street to work on a service learning project. The project included re-

painting the offices of the staff who have dedicated their careers to offering counsel and refuge to women and children in need. The group of volunteers spent two long days sanding and repainting the walls to look more pleasing to the hard workers who spend their lives supporting and rehabilitating the victims of rape and abuse. The students described the service project as insightful and personally rewarding because they felt that they were giving back to the workers who have given so much to the community. The instructors recently received a High Impact Practices grant to continue working with their students at the Rape Crisis Center this semester on other potential projects such as re-

painting some of the living quarters, repairing and replacing broken furniture, and retiling floors. If you would like to help further support the Rape Crisis Center and the victims living there, you can donate online at <https://www.partnershipfca.com/www/donate>.



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## Women's Studies Offers a New Course for Fall 2018:

### From *Twilight* On: Gender in Contemporary Adolescent Literature

By Hayley Southerland

Next fall Women's Studies is offering Gender in Contemporary Adolescent Literature for students who are interested in re-examining the

initial reaction to the *Twilight* series. Visiting Assistant Professor of English **Elizabeth Pearce** is originally from Texas

where she obtained a BA in English, a minor in History,

and an MA in Literature at Texas State University, San

Marcos. Upon receiving a Ph.D. in English studies at Illinois State University, she moved to Chattanooga where she

has resided for two years. Dr. Pearce hopes to see this

course fulfill the focus of adolescent literature, gender,

class, and, of course, sexuality. To break things up, a graphic



ic novel and a movie will be studied throughout the fall semester. Books for the course include *Twilight*, *The Hunger Games*, and *The Hate U Give*.

Editorial information: The Women's Studies Newsletter appears at least once a semester.

For more information please contact Dr. Noe at (423) 425-4692 (office) or (423) 266-

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