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Department Changes



The Department has undergone a name change! We are no longer Women's Studies, but instead are now Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. The change allows the department to be more inclusive and better represent the material and work majors and minors study while taking classes for this degree. The new abbreviation for the department is WGSS, but within the course catalog it will remain WSTU until further notice.

For the Fall 2019– Spring 2020 school year Marcia Noe is on sabbatical. Because of this, Talia Welsh is taking over as the interim Director for the department during this time. See Page 2 for more information about Dr. Welsh.

“Revolt. She said. Revolt Again.” Directed by Blake Harris

Revolt. She said. Revolt Again, a play by Alice Birch, was put on at UTC from August 22nd-August 25th and was directed by Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies alumnus Blake Harris. This play commemorated the 30th anniversary of the WGSS department. The play itself was a cosponsored production by the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies department and the Theatre department and the proceeds went back to help both departments.

Covering a vast array of topics, the play “refuses to be defined or categorized because the playwright intentionally structures it so that at the beginning you think you understand what is happening, but you learn that not to be true,” says Blake. He compares the play to the show *Saturday Night Live* because it is set up in sketches of different scenarios. The play poses the question: what if women said no to what society expected to them? Through very experimental theatrical aspects the play, the play attempts to answer this question and shows a reality where women say no. “The whole point of the play in my opinion is to think about what it feels like to revolt against the systemic oppression. We never sought for an experience that made sense because systemic oppression does not make sense to those who are experiencing it,” said Blake.

Blake graduated in 2011 with a Women's Studies major and Theatre minor. He went on to work as a coordinator at the Women's Fund of Greater Chattanooga while he and his colleagues also founded a theatre in town where they put on experimental work wherever they could. After three years in Chattanooga, Blake moved for graduate school at California Institute of the Arts for theatre directing. Feeling drawn back to Chattanooga to represent experimental theatre art in the city, Blake came back to UTC originally just to direct *Revolt. She said. Revolt Again*. However with the department needing assistance teaching some courses, Blake stayed in Chattanooga to teach. He hopes to continue directing around Chattanooga and for UTC and is excited for to combine his theatre and women's studies background in future classrooms.





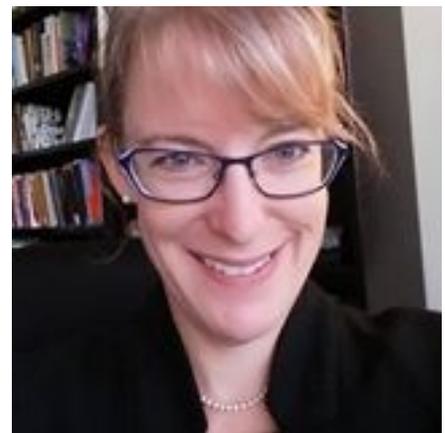
Student Spotlight: Brittany Dillman

By: Anna Grace Inman

Brittany Dillman is a senior here at UTC and she is majoring in Women's Studies and minoring in Communications. Brittany has received the Felicia Sturzer Scholarship for Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Majors for the 2019-2020 academic year. Brittany started off as a Communications major, but after taking an Introduction to Women's Studies class with Sheena Monds, she started to realize her passion for the subject matter. Sheena's class inspired her to take more Women's Studies classes and she changed her major to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Her favorite Women's Studies course thus far is Women and Textiles with Ann Buggey. She said, "The majority of the time we are doing workshops and learning hands-on things, such as felting and sewing." Taking this class she said, "has changed her perspective on textiles" She added, "The art and the history of textiles is very empowering especially relating to women." Some hobbies of Brittany's include reading, exercising, writing, and traveling. During her travels, she has experienced firsthand how underprivileged women are in underdeveloped countries, but also how strong they are even though they live in oppression. She was able to go to Cape Town, South Africa and work in a daycare alongside a teacher. The teacher she said, "was one of the most amazing women she has ever met." She is so dedicated to teaching the kids in the daycare, most of whom seemed to come from hard home lives and may lack true parental guidance. Brittany also traveled to Bali, Indonesia and taught English to a class of 6th graders. She said, "The girls would come back every day and were eager to learn English versus most of the boys who just played around." In addition to her travels, she was able to intern at Disney. While working there she noticed that her managers were primarily women; she said that "they worked their way up from internship positions and were able to make it high up in the chain of command at Disney." Over the summer she sometimes volunteers in Knoxville, TN at YWCA- their goal is to eliminate racism and help empower women. Brittany would help with events for YWCA such as support groups and help with the daycare for the ladies in the support groups. Brittany is also an RA on campus and to her surprise, she has been able to use her major to teach lessons about intersectionality and this has been a unique outlet for her to share her passion about Women's Studies. Brittany is passionate about her major and enjoys talking about it. She hopes to attend law school after graduation and become a civil rights lawyer in the future. Congrats, Brittany, for all your hard work and your involvement with Women's Studies!

Interim Director: Talia Welsh

Talia Welsh is a UC Foundation Professor of Philosophy and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at UTC. She did her Ph.D. at Stony Brook University and Universität-Gesamthochschule Wuppertal where she wrote about the importance of developmental psychology for the philosopher Maurice Merleau-Ponty. She translated Merleau-Ponty's lectures in child psychology and pedagogy in the volume *Child Psychology & Pedagogy: Maurice Merleau-Ponty at the Sorbonne* (Northwestern University Press, 2010) and wrote a book on Merleau-Ponty entitled *The Child as Natural Phenomenologist: Primal and Primary Experience in Merleau-Ponty's Psychology* (Northwestern University Press, 2013). Her current book *Fat, Drunk, Smokers: An existential examination of the good health imperative* is under consideration at Columbia University Press. She has also published extensively in feminist theory, particularly on parenting, pregnancy, and the way in which female bodies are normalized in health care practices. Two publications appearing this year are—"The Affirmative Culture of Healthy Self-Care: A Feminist Critique of the Good Health Imperative" in *IJFAB: International Journal of Feminist Approaches to Bioethics* and the chapter "Broken Pregnancies" in *Phenomenology of the Broken Body*, Eds. Espen Dahl, Cassandra Falke, Thor Eirik Ericksen, Routledge. She's delighted to be the interim director of WGSS this year and to help support all the amazing work faculty and students are doing.



Women's History Month 2019

Clockwise from far left top: WSTU instructor Sheena Monds shows the Ruth Bader Ginsburg documentary; Women's History Challenge Interactive Board Game participants show off their prize Tshirts; two good friends at the Women's History Challenge; WSTU major Natalie Holbrook runs the Women's History Challenge; and Tocco Johnson, Daniela Peterson, Sania Khan, Raquel Hidalgo, and Veronica Herrera at the Intersectional Women's Leadership panel.





Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies

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**MARCH 1, 2020
THE APPLICATION DEADLINE IS**

Scholarship application forms may be obtained from the Women's Studies website.

teaching at UTC.

Felicia Sturzer who retired after 35 years of the UTC's Women's Studies Program, Dr.

has been named for the founding coordinator of the 2020-2021 academic year. The scholarship of Women's Studies courses will be awarded for Studies courses who have taken at least 15 hours a 3.0 overall GPA and a 3.5 GPA in Women's A scholarship for Women's Studies majors with

**Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Scholarship opportunity**

College of Arts and Sciences Celebration of the 100th Year Anniversary of the 19th Amendment, times and events TBD.

When: Monday, March 2nd, Time/Location TBD

Speaker: Kelly Oliver, W. Alton Jones Professor of Philosophy at Vanderbilt University
Lecture: "The Special Plight of Women Refugees"

Spring 2020

Presents

Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies