



COLORADO COLLEGE

Feminist & Gender Studies

(719) 389-6909

14 E. Cache La Poudre St.
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

1 December 2020

DEAR FEMINIST & GENDER STUDIES ALUMNI, PARENTS, AND DONORS:

Welcome to the second annual Feminist & Gender Studies Program newsletter! I have lots of exciting news to share on behalf of our students and faculty!

First and foremost, though, I want to wish you all well as you and your loved ones respond to the challenges we are all facing (albeit uniquely) due to COVID-19. Further, I want to extend additional support and encouragement to those of you navigating these obstacles alongside those continually posed by racism, sexism, xenophobia, and other related forms of violence. Indeed, these are trying times, and my hope is this newsletter will provide you with at least a bit of joy.



The officers of our Delta Mu Chapter of the Iota Iota Iota (Triota) National Honor Society at the 2019 National Women's Studies Association annual conference (l to r): Vice President Mekael Daniel (Feminist & Gender Studies '20), Administrator Zivia Berkowitz (Feminist & Gender Studies '21), President Judy Fisher (Feminist & Gender Studies '20), and spring 2019 Administrator Hailey Corkery (Feminist & Gender Studies '20).

On that note, we are very proud to know our amazing alumni, who continue to illustrate the significance of a Feminist & Gender Studies degree in their professional lives, including, but not limited to, **Natalie Dupille (Feminist & Gender Studies '13)**, who recently published [*In Spite of Ourselves*](#), a full watercolor comic that follows Natalie and her partner Allie through a 140-mile bike trip through central Oregon; **Melissa L. Barnes (Feminist & Gender Studies and Psychology '15)**, a Ph.D. student in Psychology at the University of Oregon, who recently earned the inaugural [Graduate Writing Fellowship](#) from the Center for the Study of Women in Society to support her work examining gendered and racialized police violence toward the Black community; **Dr. Petra Jans Pederson (Biochemistry major and Feminist & Gender Studies minor '15)**, who recently earned a [Ph.D. from UT Health San Antonio](#), where she studied Integrated Biomedical Sciences on the Physiology & Pharmacology track; **Atiya Harvey (Feminist & Gender Studies '18)**, who recently

joined the [Center for Children and Young Adults](#) in Marietta, GA as an Assistant Educational Instructor; and **Spencer Spotts (Feminist & Gender Studies '17)**, who recently joined [ETR](#) as the Marketing Coordinator responsible for creating and coordinating science-based, forward-thinking, and inclusive marketing content.



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Regarding our current students, you may remember we made some significant changes to the team responsible for creating and publishing *The Monthly Rag*, our student-produced newsletter that has been published each block since 2002. More specifically, **Eileen Huang (Feminist & Gender Studies '22)** was slated to be promoted to Editor this fall, continuing to work with our new Content Creators, **Sage Reynolds (Feminist & Gender Studies '22)** and **Anya Quesnel ('23)**. However, given the unprecedented nature of COVID-19, which resulted in some team members not returning to campus for short and long periods of time, we decided to publish *The Rag* entirely online this year and to feature two of our **9 majors** and **7 minors** in each edition. Please check out past and future editions on my *FemGeniuses* website by clicking [here](#).

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The Feminist & Gender Studies faculty during a panel in my fall 2019 Feminist Theory course (l to r): Professor Rushaan Kumar, Professor Nadia Guessous, and me.



edxi betts and me following their September 2019 presentation "Art & Resistance: Wake Up Dystopia & Resist."

We also have exciting news regarding our core faculty. More specifically, I recently joined the Reviewer Board for the *Journal of Hip Hop Studies*; **Professor Nadia Guessous (Assistant Professor)** was awarded the Lloyd E. Worner Teacher of the Year Award at the spring 2020 Honors Convocation, and her article "Postcolonial Attunements: Decolonizing the Anthropology of Morocco" will be published in a fall 2020 special issue of *Hesperis-Tamuda*; and **Professor Rushaan Kumar (Assistant Professor)** has recently joined the Board for the Society for Queer Asian Studies. Additionally, we are honored to be hosting **edxi betts**, our 2020-2021 Mellon Foundation Artist-in-Residence. edxi is a Black/Blackfoot, Filipinx, Trans Femme,

insurrectionary artist, autonomous organizer, and cultural producer attempting to bring direct support to communities and oppressed people. They will be hosting several virtual events this fall (and hopefully in-person events this spring) for various members of the campus and local communities.



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Finally, to keep up with our news and events, please follow our [Colorado College](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) pages, and contact our Staff Assistant [Linda Inzer](#) to join our “Friends of Feminist & Gender Studies” list serv. Please also check out our new “[Alumni, Parents & Donors](#)” page. In the “Alumni Spotlight” section this year, we are featuring **Briana Kerstein Bergeron**, Development Associate at the Western Organization of Resource Councils, and graduate of the inaugural class of Feminist & Gender Studies majors in 1998.

Until we meet again, please allow me to thank you sincerely for all you’ve done to make Feminist & Gender Studies an exciting intellectual space for more than 30 years!

Sincerely,

HEIDI R. LEWIS, Ph.D.
Director & Associate Professor