



**COLORADO
COLLEGE**

FEMINIST & GENDER STUDIES PROGRAM

(719) 389-6909

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

3 January 2022

Dear Feminist & Gender Studies Program Alumni, Parents, and Donors,

Welcome to the third annual Feminist & Gender Studies Program newsletter in which we have many exciting updates to share on behalf of our alumni, staff, and faculty! Our fall semester was a bit hectic as we returned to in-person instruction after spending almost the entirety of 2020 on Zoom. Still, massive efforts from the College's COVID-19 Policy and Implementation Committee have resulted in efficient, prompt responses to any outbreaks in the student population, and the campus's enviably high vaccination rate has allowed most classes to proceed without issue. We hope we can continue to successfully navigate the pandemic and return to some form of normalcy, and we hope all of you will continue to remain safe as we journey into this new, unprecedented year. That "said," let's get to the news!



Me (far right) at the official launch In Audre's Footsteps: Transnational Kitchen Table Talk in Berlin with contributors (l to r): Mona El Omari, Josephine Apraku, Prof. Dr. Maisha Auma, Co-Editor Jazlyn Andrews (Feminist & Gender Studies '17), and Series Editor Sharon Dodua Otoo.
[Photo Credit: Wamilika Mawakha]

Our [Alumni Spotlight](#) this year features **Jazlyn Andrews** (Feminist & Gender Studies '17), a freelance writer living in Denver, CO. To learn more about Jazlyn, including her incredible work co-editing [In Audre's Footsteps: Transnational Kitchen Table Talk](#) with me and Dana Maria Asbury, make sure you check out her spotlight in the "Alumni, Parents, & Donors" section of our website. On that note, the "News & Events" section, as well as our [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) pages, will allow keep up with *all* our alumni, who continue to graciously share their life events with us, such as **Christie Ma** ('19), who was featured in a [PBS documentary](#) in collaboration with the Asian Mental Health Project; **Savanah McDaniel** ('18), who was accepted into the MA in Leadership Program at the [University of Colorado in Colorado Springs](#); **Saluja Siwakoti** (Minor '21), who was awarded a Public Interest Fellowship (PIFP) at the [Colorado](#)

[Coalition for the Homeless](#); **Susanna Penfield** ('20), who was accepted into an MSc program in Gender, Media and Culture at the [London School of Economics and Political Science](#); **Sally Hedderman** (Minor '21), who was awarded a PIFP fellowship at the [Denver Scholarship Foundation](#); **Spencer Spotts** ('17), who has enrolled in the MA program in Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program at the [University of Colorado Denver](#); and **Desirae Martinez** (Minor '12), who earned her MD from the [University of Colorado School of Medicine](#) and is in



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residency at the University of Wisconsin—just to name a few. We urge all alumni to share your personal and professional accomplishments with us so we can celebrate by clicking [here!](#)

Regarding our faculty, Professor Nadia Guessous was elected to serve on the Faculty Executive Committee and was appointed Associate Director of the program. She was also invited to join the editorial board of the [AGITATE! Unsettling Knowledges](#) collective, an online anti-disciplinary journal and a non-hierarchical platform that seeks to intervene in, and transform, the dominant ethics, aesthetics, and politics of authoring and claiming expertise. As a member of the board, Dr. Guessous will be providing feedback on the content, direction, and publicity of the journal, and making suggestions for new visions and approaches to agitating modes of writing, thinking, and being that dominate professionalized fields in academia, arts, and activism. She was also invited to become one of the founding members of a transnational and interdisciplinary research collective provisionally entitled “Thinking the Decolonial in North Africa,” composed of scholars, writers, and artists based in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Europe, and North America who want to become more conversant with decolonial thought and think about decolonization as an epistemology for the study of the Maghrib. The collective will be working on multiple projects, including an edited volume, workshops, and conference on decolonizing the Maghrib.

Professor Rushaan Kumar also continues to demonstrate his commitment to collective work, successfully launched his [LGBTQ+ Oral History Project](#) (OHP) with a live event in October co-hosted by the Colorado College Fine Arts Center and Colorado College Mobile Arts. The event featured live performances by artists and project participants and was a resounding success. Of note, OHP was created in collaboration with students in his Senior Seminar course, who found the project inspiring due to their experiences working with the community, better understanding the methods and impact oral histories have in traditional archives, and reflecting on the ways notions of ‘LGBTQ’ and ‘community’ have changed over the last few decades. For his work, Dr. Kumar received the “[Exemplary Achievement in Community-Engaged Research](#)” award from the Colorado College Collaborative for Community Engagement. Additionally, we are so excited to announce he was recently appointed Senior Fellow at the [Center for Applied Transgender Studies!](#)



Dr. Rushaan Kumar at the LGBTQ+ Oral History Project Launch. [Photo Credit: Me]

As for me, I published my first book, [In Audre's Footsteps: Transnational Kitchen Table Talk](#), the 7th edition of Ingeborg-Bachmann prize-winner Sharon Dodua Otoo's Witnessed Series (Edition Assemblage). Just prior, I was elected Secretary of the [National Women's Studies Association](#), I was elected to the Colorado College Faculty Executive Committee, and I was appointed inaugural Chair of the [Community Safety Accountability Committee](#) by President L.



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Song Richardson. As you can see, this has been and will continue to be a particularly busy year for me, but I remain excited about and honored to do the work I've been trusted with by members of my professional communities. On that note, I've decided the time has come for me to step down as Director of Feminist & Gender Studies. While I will sincerely miss sitting in the director's chair, I am eager for Professor Guessous to step into the role, and I hope you all will give her lots of support and encouragement as she takes the program in new, exciting directions.

Until next time, dear readers, please contact our new Academic Administrative Assistant [Michael Krugly](#) to join our "Friends of Feminist & Gender Studies" list serv so you can stay in touch. Thank you *all* for your continued support, as you all share equal responsibility for the program's continued success.

Happy new year!

Sincerely,

Heidi R. Lewis, Ph.D.
Director & Associate Professor