

# Women's and Gender Studies Newsletter

## WGS Student Highlight: Lisa Brandos

Lisa Brandos will graduate in May 2016 with a BA in Psychology, a Women's Studies minor, and a certificate in Leadership Development.

She is a non-traditional student who is passionate about helping other people. This is apparent through her volunteering in organizations such as "The Project of Primary Healthcare" and her leadership in a community interest group in Des Moines to save a landmark theater.

One of her main accomplishments is working on a media presentation in Dr. Barbara Hass' creative non-fiction class that *"was a commentary on the language that surrounds gender, the social*

*construction of gender, and the violence that runs rampant in the trans community."* She also recently published a piece titled *"Healthy Mind, Healthy Body"* on Girl Body Pride.

When asked to share some advice for other students in the WGS program, Lisa recommended that classmates or future students utilize faculty members' expertise and not be afraid to ask for help. One great starting point to find resources on campus, she said, is the Sloss House. Also, be involved with fellow students and professors!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Lectures and Activities

#### WGS Brown Bag Lunch

Panel on Women in Leadership

Amy Slagell, Jo Anne Powell-Coffman and Lisa Larson

Nov. 12, 12:10-1:00

#208 Carver Hall

#### Catt Center Public Lecture

"The Global Tide of Women Rising"

Kathleen Parker

Nov. 12, 7:30 pm

Benton Auditorium, Scheman

"The Plight of Homeless LGBTQ+ Youth"

Ryan Berg

Nov. 9, 8:00 pm

Great Hall, Memorial Union

Iowa Caucus Education Workshop

Mon., Nov. 9, 4:00 p.m.

Sun Room, Memorial Union

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## Message from the Director – Dr. Ann Oberhauser

Every university has cycles that mark different stages of activity during the semester. At Iowa State University, students and faculty are preparing for end-of-term papers, assignments, and other projects. The spring semester is also looming with registration for classes and student advising. One sign of the vitality of Women's and Gender Studies at ISU is the exciting course offerings in this program.

The interdisciplinary nature of Women's and Gender Studies is a definite strength and provides great opportunities for students to experience the breadth of this field. Some of the diverse courses being offered next semester are Gender Justice, Lesbian Studies, Ecofeminism, Women in Leadership, Gender in Sports, and Asian American Women.

Outstanding faculty, lecturers, and graduate students with years of experience teach these courses. We also have numerous online courses that are increasingly popular among students (and faculty). The cross-listed courses with departments such as psychology, English, history, journalism and art highlight the diverse topics from which students can choose.

Thanks to all of you who contribute to the Women's and Gender Studies curriculum and to the program as a whole. Please contact me at [annoberh@iastate.edu](mailto:annoberh@iastate.edu) or 515.294.9283 with questions or comments. I look forward to meeting more of you in the coming months.

## Reflections on Campus Events: Women in the Arts Roundtable



Pictured above (l-r):  
Dr. Michèle A. Schaal, Stephanie Burnia, Letitia Kenemer,  
Larassa Kabel, and Priscilla Kepner

(Nancy Gebhart, Program Coordinator for the University Museums, shared these comments about the Women in the Arts Roundtable.)

The event was organized to discuss the question - what is the current state of women and women multicultural artists? Four panelists, with a wide range of life and artistic experiences, came together to share their personal experiences and question the stereotypes and binary labels attached to the art they create. Words often used to describe art by women are felt, by these artists, as belittling.

Stephanie Brunia, a photographer, talked about how her art is almost instantly described as domestic while the art of Priscilla Sage, a textile sculptor, is called craft. These artists, separated by nearly 50 years of age, have very relatable experiences. Sage, an active participant in the feminist art movement and equality protests in the 1960s and 70s, identified the need for women to support women as one of the most impactful ways to institute change in the perceptions and dialogue surrounding women artists.

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## Faculty Achievements: Stacey Weber-Fève



Associate Professor of French,  
World Languages and  
Cultures (WLC) Department

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Dr. Weber- Fève was recently acknowledged in the [Iowa State Daily](#) for receiving the Nelson Brooks Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Culture. This is a national award given by the ACTFL that recognizes her long-term impact on student achievement through the use of curriculum and pedagogical innovations in her foreign language classroom.

She originally came to ISU because her position offered a *"specialization (French Cultural Studies) and [she] was drawn to the support, opportunities, and encouragement ISU provides its faculty to grow into a 'scholar-teacher.'"*

With her involvement in WLC, teaching in the World Film Studies Program, and WGS, she stated that she *"enjoy[s] taking on the challenges of teaching and striving to make . . .*

*meaningful experiences for [her] students."*

As a specialist in French and Francophone Cinema, she is currently focusing on Marjane Satrapi's works and a new book about the intersectionality of contemporary French cinematic comic and gender discourses.

Her knowledge and teaching experience have led to collaborations with faculty at other institutions in designing and delivering various teacher-training workshops and publications.

Along with teaching, Dr. Weber-Fève continues to coordinate internships, work with the Study Abroad Center, and create a summer study abroad program with her husband, Sébastien Fève.

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## Alumni: WGS Degrees at Work

Leah Wilson received her Masters degree at Iowa State University in English with a minor in Women's Studies last spring. Leah's thesis, "Finding the Erotic, Embracing Ambiguity, and Escaping Extremes: Unearthing the Queer Experience in Dorothy Allison's *Cavedweller*," focused on the intersection of class, sexuality, and gender in the rural South of the United States. Her research is currently being turned into an article.

One of her best memories in the program was *"the amazing amount of support and encouragement [she] received from the faculty, such as [her] major professor, Michèle Schaal, and thesis committee member, Gloria Jones-Johnson."* Along with beneficial classes, she credits her positive experience at ISU to the WGS community and the student and faculty relationships she developed.

Leah is currently a lecturer in WGS and teaches WS 201 online. Her long-term goal is to acquire a Ph.D. in English and WGS. Congratulations Leah and good luck with your future goals!



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## Campus Highlight: LGBTSS Center

The LGBTSS Center, located at 1064 in the Student Services Building, is open from 8-5 during the week. Their mission states that, *“With a foundation of social justice, the LGBTSS Center provides programs, services, and resources focused on sexual orientation and gender identity/expression for students at Iowa State University. Our staff advocates for individuals and groups by providing support, referrals, community, and programming.”*

Along with providing a safe space for students, LGBTSS provides scholarships and awards, educational resources—including information about coming out and becoming an ally—and supports affiliated campus groups, such as the LGBTQA Alliance, One Iowa at Iowa State University, and the Queer Graduate Student Association. LGBTSS also helps students connect to various student interest groups.

Getting involved with the LGBTSS could also include becoming a part of their VIP program, which involves volunteer, internship, and practicum opportunities based on the available time and interests of students.

Additionally, LGBTSS provides Safe Zone training (for faculty, staff, and graduate assistants), which *“strives to eliminate homophobia, transphobia, and heterosexism on the Iowa State University campus by creating and encouraging safe and secure environments for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer or Questioning, and Ally (LGBTIQA) students, faculty, and staff.”*

Events are organized throughout the school year to raise awareness and create community involvement, such as the National Trans\* Day of Remembrance (7-8:30 on Nov. 18 at location TBA). Along with these events, information about conferences are listed on their website, including the Creating Change Conference (Chicago in January) and the MBLGTACC (Purdue University in February).

For more information about these events and various resources, please visit the center, contact their team ([lgbtsscenter@iastate.edu](mailto:lgbtsscenter@iastate.edu)), or visit their website at <http://www.lgbtss.dso.iastate.edu/>

## UNDERGRADUATE RESOURCES

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Contact Dr. Lisa Oakes, Greenlee School of Journalism, about a new student affiliate chapter of the Association for Women in Communications on campus. <http://www.womcom.org/wp/>

Connect with your major through affiliated programs such as the Program for Women in Science and Engineering (WISE). <http://www.wise.iastate.edu/oncampus.html>

**Vagina Monologues Auditions:** Nov. 11th 5-7pm, November 12th 11am-1pm, and November 13th 5-7pm  
All people who identify as women are eligible to audition. The Vagina Monologues is made up of a varying number of monologues read by a varying number of women. Those who audition must be available to perform during early to mid-February 2016.

As you prepare your spring course schedule, please consider the following courses:

WS 201H (MWF 2:10-3:00) This Honors section of Introduction to Women's Studies examines the diversity and similarities of women's experiences around the world.

WS 360X: Asian American Women (T/H 9:30-10:45)

Explores historical and cultural experiences of Asian-American women in a diverse, changing society.

WS 450: Gender and Consumer Culture (T/H 12:40-2:00)

Students will investigate the ways commodities & consumer behavior shape gender identities, and influence how these identities are presented to the world."

CLS PS/WS 488: Research on Women and Leadership (T/H 3:40-5:00)

Following an overview of quantitative and qualitative methods and critical analyses of scholarship on women and leadership, students will work in groups to research, write, and present papers.

## GRADUATE RESOURCES

Numerous organizations on campus focus on graduate students at ISU. Check out the GradSWE (Graduate Society of Women Engineers) who are hosting an upcoming panel discussion.

### "Light at the End of the Tunnel: Industry, Academia, and Beyond"

Tues., Nov. 17th at 6:00 PM in 3306 Elings Hall

Panelists: Prof. Laura Jarboe (Chemical and Biological Engineering), Prof. Kristen Constant (Material Science Engineering), and Dr. Helen Colvin (Software Development, Wells Fargo, Des Moines)

For more information, please visit the WGS website - <https://womensstudies.las.iastate.edu/>  
or contact Dr. Ann Oberhauser, Program Director - [annober@iastate.edu](mailto:annober@iastate.edu) or 515-294-9283

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