



**Margaret Stevenson Center for Women's Studies  
Point Loma Nazarene University**

Annual Report 2013-2014  
Linda Beail, Director

**University Mission:**

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service becomes an expression of faith. Being Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

**Center Mission:**

The Margaret Stevenson Center for Women's Studies, located in Clara Colt Hall, offers Point Loma Nazarene University students and faculty an opportunity to engage in interdisciplinary study of women's status and contribution to the world. The Center is rooted in the Wesleyan tradition's affirmation of women's calling and leadership within the Christian community, and embodies this commitment to gender equality by addressing gender issues in the curriculum and on the campus. It provides a central place for resources and knowledge by and for women to be gathered and shared. The center aims to combine both theory and praxis regarding gender. It encourages multicultural, cooperative, inclusive and relational ways of learning consistent with the mission of the university.

**Goals:**

- To create an interdisciplinary curriculum focused on gender issues, which places women at the center both substantively and theoretically, through the women's studies minor.
- To transform the liberal arts curriculum to include the concerns and perspectives of women through speakers, events and forums that raise awareness about gender issues for both students and faculty.
- To provide resources about women and women's issues, and make them accessible to the campus community.
- To foster support for the goals and achievements of women students and faculty.
- To encourage scholarship and pedagogy that are inclusive of women.
- To address gender-based concerns in the university community.

## **Women's Studies Minor:**

The women's studies minor offers students a chance to explore gender issues through an interdisciplinary curriculum which focuses on women both substantively and theoretically. The 17-unit minor has several components: a required introductory course, a series of electives in several disciplines, internship opportunities, and a required capstone course in gender theory. They include:

- POL 190 (4) The Politics of Race, Class and Gender (also meets General Education Requirement for "The Social World")
- POL 330 (4) Development of Feminist Thought
- Nine or more units from the following:
  - COM 312 (3) Gender and Communication
  - ECO 440 (3) The Economics of Race, Class and Gender
  - FCS 340 (2) Nutrition in Women's Wellbeing
  - HIS 475 (4) Topics in Women's History
  - LIN 404 (3) Language and Gender
  - LIT 437 (3) Women Writers
  - NSG 445 (3) Health of Women in a Multicultural World
  - NSG 445 (3) Family Violence
  - POL 415 (4) Women and Politics
  - THE 310 (3) Women in Christianity

Students may also do a two-unit internship through an academic department, supervised by the Director of Women's Studies, as part of their women's studies minor electives.

### **During the 2013-2014 academic year, the following women's studies courses were offered:**

**POL 190 Politics of Race, Class and Gender (4 units) – Required for WS minor; counts for GE in "Social World"**

MWF 8:30-9:35 am, Linda Beail – 37 enrolled

**FCS 340 Nutrition in Women's Wellbeing (2 units)**

Margaret Wing-Peterson

**POL 415 Women and Politics (4 units)**

MWF 11:05 am - 12:15 pm, Linda Beail -- 18 enrolled

**HIS 475 Topics in Women's History (4 units)**

Kelli McCoy – 22 enrolled

**POL 330 Development of Feminist Thought (4 units) – Required for WS minor**

MWF 11 am – 12:05 pm, Linda Beail – 13 enrolled

**FCS 340 Nutrition in Women's Wellbeing (2 units)**

Margaret Wing-Peterson – 11 enrolled

**LIT 437 Women Writers (3 units)**

Carol Blessing – 12 enrolled

## **NSG 446 Health of Women in a Multicultural World (3 units)**

M 12:15-1:55 pm – 7 enrolled

### **Current WS minors:**

Kendra Peterson  
Derek Kim  
Jenny Householter  
Bree Burris  
Jessica King  
Kasey Graves  
Becca Aguilera  
Denise Rodriguez  
Jordan Ligonis  
Rachel Guthro  
Bethany Rudd  
Maddie Ulrich  
Stephanie Perez  
Casey Cromwell  
Amanda Lira  
Jill Riewald  
Anna Ramirez

In 2013-2014, seventeen students were working toward a Women's Studies minor at graduation.

Appendix A includes a list of the 31 alumni who have graduated with a women's studies minor over the past decade. At least five of these have gone on to do graduate work in women's studies. Three have completed honors projects in women's studies (Kristina Ringold, Katie Manning, and Randi Moore). At the 2010 "Changing Faces" conference on gender issues in Christian higher education at Abilene Christian University, three women's studies minors (Kimberlee Kreusi, Jennifer Luong and Alison Waters) presented a paper together, demonstrating their own collaborative research as well as how WS strives to involve students in scholarship.

Women's studies courses often feature service learning components, embodying the university's core value of service as an expression of faith. This year Women's Studies students presented a campus-wide event, "I Need Feminism Because. . ." to raise awareness and give information about issues such as human trafficking, racism and body image, gender in Christianity, and violence against women. In fall 2013, all students in the introductory women's studies course (POL 190) volunteered to help with the city-wide "Project Homeless Connect" in downtown San Diego as a service learning project, and then reflected on that experience in a writing assignment.

## **Campus Activities:**

The Center for Women's Studies enhances the liberal arts curriculum by including the concerns and perspectives of women through speakers, events and forums that raise awareness about gender issues. It provides resources about women and women's issues to our community, and fosters support for the goals and achievements of women students and faculty. The Center also exists to encourage scholarship and pedagogy that is inclusive of women across racial, class, and cultural lines.

The Center regularly sponsors faculty research talks, highlighting the scholarship of our own PLNU faculty in a public forum that gives faculty a chance to present and refine their work, and students an opportunity to engage with professors' research as junior colleagues. Over the years several of these – including work by Karl Martin, Maxine Walker, Rick Kennedy, Brad Kelle, and Bettina Tate Pedersen – have resulted in publication as journal articles and book chapters.

The Center for Women's Studies has been a model of interdisciplinary cooperation across academic departments, and of collaboration between curricular and co-curricular areas of the university. The synergy between different offices on campus has led to greater variety of programming to address a wide range of gender issues, as well as higher visibility and impact across campus and wiser stewardship of our modest resources. We have regularly co-sponsored film forums with Discipleship Ministries, co-sponsored poetry readings by women authors with the Literature, Journalism and Modern Languages department, co-sponsored conferences with the Wesleyan Center for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Studies, sponsored a student to attend the "Come to the Water" Wesleyan-Holiness Women Clergy conference with Spiritual Development, and co-sponsored the university's annual Women's History Month lecture with the History and Political Science Department. This year, the Center also collaborated with the LJML department in hosting Katie Manning for their annual poetry day, including a public interview with her and a lunch with Women's Studies students. We also collaborated with the Study Abroad office for a standing-room-only showing of the documentary "Girl Rising," and with the student honor society Pi Sigma Alpha to show "The Invisible War." And we provided significant support to bring Jeannette Walls as featured author to the Writers by the Sea symposium in the spring. Our director also provided an external program review to the gender studies program at Trinity Western University in May 2014.

The Center for Women's Studies has had an especially fruitful partnership with Discipleship Ministries in developing "Results May Vary," a program for young women preparing to graduate from PLNU. For ten years, we have brought together faculty, staff and alumni to share with young women about life after college on the topics of friendship, dating, marriage, money, health and sexuality, ambition and ongoing spiritual formation. In January 2014 we had 60 seniors (maximum we could host) join us for a weekend at Camp Stevens, with an overwhelmingly positive response. Thanks to the Wesleyan Center for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Studies, we were able to gift each student at the retreat a copy of *Results May Vary* (2013, Wipf and

Stock/Point Loma Press), the book which grew out of the decade of developing and presenting this event.

As an extension of “Results May Vary,” WS partnered with Student Development Residential Life Staff to offer a one-night forum, “Enough,” to encourage and support sophomore women in the particular challenges and opportunities they face. It was very well-received and we plan to make this an ongoing event as well.

### **Women’s Studies Public Events 2013-2014:**

Thursday Sept. 23, 7 pm, Crill Performance Hall

***Conversations about Faith, Gender and Poetry* with Katie Manning, author of *The Gospel of the Bleeding Woman***

100 in attendance

Tuesday October 29, 7 pm

**Documentary Screening of *The Invisible War***

Followed by discussion of sexual assault in the military

Co-sponsored with Pi Sigma Alpha, political science honor society

91 attended

Monday November 18

6:30 pm, Boney Hall 1

**Screening and Discussion of documentary film *Girl Rising***

Co-sponsored with Study Abroad Office

180 attended

Tuesday December 3, 3:30 pm

**“Meet the Authors” Celebration and Discussion**

***Results May Vary: Christian Women Reflect on Post-College Life***

60 in attendance

### **SPRING 2014**

January 17-19

**Results May Vary: Women’s Forum Retreat** for graduating senior women, Camp Stevens – 60 students, 12 faculty/staff

(co-sponsored with Discipleship Ministries)

Sunday February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2 pm

Women's Studies and the Arts presents:

**The Who and the What** by Pulitzer Prize winner for drama Ayad Akhtar

World premiere, La Jolla Playhouse – 22 students, faculty and staff attended

Wednesday February 26, 3:30-5 pm

**Conversation with Jeannette Walls**, author of *Silver Star* and *The Glass Castle*

Co-sponsored with Writers' Symposium by the Sea

Thursday February 27 – Shauna Niequist event with the Junia Project in Azusa, CA

10 students and faculty attended

Monday March 24 – **Annual Women's History Month Lecture**

"Coming of Age on the Bosnian Frontier: Jelica Belovic in Bosnia, 1896-1906"

Dr. Diana Cordileone

74 in attendance

Thursday March 27 – **Enough: Sophomore Women's Event**

8-10 pm, Fermanian Conference Center – co-sponsored with Residence Life

50 in attendance

April 23 – **"I need feminism because. . ."**

Feminist Activism event put on by POL330 students at cafeteria, on social media, and with dessert debriefing (attended by two dozen students, faculty and staff). Over 50 people participated by wearing special "I need feminism because" shirts for the day, and over 40 had pictures taken completing that sentence and posted to social media.

#### **Other Women's Studies Activities 2013-2014:**

- Bi-monthly Women's Faculty/Professional Staff Lunches (attended by 14-20). These luncheons, supported by the Provost's office, give faculty and professional staff women the opportunity to develop relationships and address gender issues on campus. It has been especially helpful for connecting new faculty and staff to the campus community. This year, we have read and discussed articles about the persistent low numbers of women in science, Debra Spar's new book *Wonder Women*, a New York Times report on women in law, and other news articles on gender.
- Women's Studies presenting one session on gender in First Year Experience Wednesday afternoon lectures during fall semester.
- Women's Studies Center participated in study of university centers by FBEI, through multiple interviews, providing extensive documentation, answering questions in writing, and eliciting external support from other universities, alumni and faculty.
- Women's Studies Center participated in prioritization process, writing extensive report which was collaborated on by members of the steering committee and director.
- Women's Studies director was asked to do external review of the Gender Studies program at Trinity Western University, completed in April 2014.

- Four WS faculty from PLNU, along with WS faculty from Goshen College, Gordon College and Trinity Western University (Canada), were accepted to present a roundtable session entitled “**The Feminist Faithful: Connecting Faith with Feminism through Transgression and Justice**” at the National Women’s Studies Association annual meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico, November 13-16, 2014, organized by PLNU WS director.

**Women’s Studies Steering Committee Members 2013-2014:**

Linda Beail, History and Political Science

Carol Blessing, Literature, Journalism and Modern Languages

Melissa Burt-Gracik, Student Development

Becky Havens, School of Business

Kara Lyons-Pardue, School of Theology

Kelli McCoy, History and Political Science

## **Appendix A: Women's Studies Minors -- Alumni**

\*Rebecca Bowman - 1999  
Danielle Cervantes – 2000  
Haven Johnston White -- 2000  
Don-nae Layton - 2001  
\*Kristina Ringold – 2002  
Breanna Fisher Black- 2003  
Valerie Lee -2003  
Kelly Robinson Williams- 2003  
Melinda Garrison Bixby - 2004  
Chelsea Hettrick – 2004  
Gwen Rohrer

LeAnn Wiley -- 2005  
Jill Hibma -- 2005  
Lisa Dewey – 2005  
Meghan O'Brien -- 2005  
\*Katie Manning -- 2005

Kirsti Peters -- 2006  
Danielle Cadieux – 2006

\*Randi Moore -- 2007  
\*Jennifer Lopez Mason– 2007  
Casey Davis Groff– 2007

\*Kara Kennedy- 2008  
Jamie Pierce - 2008

Nancy Pryor - 2009

Jennifer Luong – 2011  
Kimberlee Kreusi – 2011  
Alison Waters – 2011  
Brittany Taylor - 2011

Jenney Heffel – 2012  
Katrin Cardona – 2012

Natalie Preston – 2013  
Kelly Kennedy - 2013

\* gone on to do graduate work in women's studies



## **Appendix B: Annual Women's History Lectures**

Each March, in commemoration of national Women's History Month, the Center for Women's Studies and the History/Political Science Department invite a scholar of gender and history to campus to give a public lecture, and to have a mentoring lunch or dinner with students in women's studies and/or history. Our lecturers have included internationally recognized historians from major research universities, scholars working on issues of gender in local history and politics, and Christian college colleagues bringing their faith to bear on topics of gender, history and faith.

2014 – Dr. Diana Cordileone, Point Loma Nazarene University

“Coming of Age on the Bosnian Frontier: Jelica Belovic in Bosnia, 1896-1906”

2013 – Screening and student/faculty panel discussion of documentary film “Half the Sky”

2012 - Dr. Margaret Bendroth, Executive Director, Congregational Library, Boston

“American Evangelicals and Gender: How Are We Doing So Far?”

2011 - Dr. Rebecca Jo Plante, Associate Professor of History, University of California, San Diego

“Motherhood and Apple Pie: Gender and Patriotism from World War I to World War II”

2010 - Dr. Kristin Hill Maher, Associate Professor of Political Science, San Diego State University

“The Gendered Migrations of Sex Workers, Domestic Workers, and Correspondence Brides: Limits of the Trafficking Paradigm”

2009 - Kelli McCoy (Ph.D. candidate at the University of California, San Diego and PLNU alumna)

“When Protection Becomes Control: White Slavery and the Legislation of Morality in the US, 1900-1930”

2008 - Kathryn Long, Associate Professor of History, Wheaton College

“Martyrs, Ladies, and Ordinary People: Gender and Mission in Amazonian Ecuador”

2007 - Marianne Lemmond-Robins, Professor of History, Westmont University

"Let's Get Some Chicks: Christian Visions of Dancing and Gender in Early Modern France"

2006 - Eileen Boris, Professor of Women's Studies, History, and Law, University of California, Santa Barbara

"Invisible No More: The History of Carework"

2005 - Elaine Tyler May, Professor of American Studies, University of Minnesota

"Explosive Issues: Sex, Women, and the Bomb in Cold War America"

**Appendix C: Women's Studies Expenses 2013-14**