

Michael Kimmel continued

The symposium was also sponsored by the History Department, Sociology and Anthropology Department, Multiethnic Cultural and Co-curricular Programming Advisory Committee (MECCPAC), and Dean of Students Office diversity initiative, College of Arts and Sciences, Office of the President, and Office of the Provost/Sage Trust.

WGS welcomes new faculty member

The program is happy to welcome Dawn Rae Davis to campus. Davis will be an instructional assistant professor starting in the fall.

In addition to teaching two sections of the popular Women, Gender, and Society class, she will be teaching a WGS seminar on Gender, Hunger, and Food Politics. The course is designed to explore the tensions between the fact that women around the world bear primary responsibility for ensuring that families are fed and the fact that one in five children in the U.S. struggles to have enough to eat.

Davis comes to Illinois State from the Department of Gender Studies at Indiana University. She has additional teaching interests in feminist and queer theory, transnational and global feminisms, popular culture, postcolonial studies, critical race studies, politics of the body, politics of love, feminist film studies, sex radical history, and gender and incarceration.

Art! Art! Art! Challenge to Your Balance and Conglomerates

The following M.F.A. students held shows during the 2012-2013 school year in Rachel Cooper.

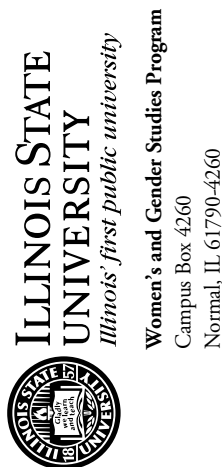


Marissa Webb's photography exhibit focuses on her 19-year old sister, Kaitlin, who has Rett syndrome, a disorder that affects the nervous system and can lead to developmental digression. Webb's project, *Challenge to Your Balance*, consists of a series of photographs that capture aspects of Kaitlin's daily life. In particular Webb turns her lens on Kaitlin's relationships to her family members, her constant need for care, and the objects over which she has total control and possession. The artist has slowly expanded her project to focus on the relationships her sister has within the family. These images not only reveal the psychological dimensions of family dynamic, but also raise questions about love and normalcy.

Megan Kathol Bersett, M.F.A. '13, created the painting series *Conglomerates*, which resulted from a project she did in southeastern Utah last summer. Her six watercolor and gouache works are based on observational drawings of the desert. These abstracted images visualize how landscape is seen as an object available for consumption instead of a space or a scape.

Join ISU WGS on Facebook

The WGS program has moved its alumni page to a general Illinois State University WGS group on Facebook. Keep in touch by liking us at [Facebook.com/ISUWGS](https://www.facebook.com/ISUWGS).



A bulletin of Illinois State University's women's and gender studies program

WGS ALUMNI MATTER

SUMMER 2013

From the director

Congratulations to our recent graduates and welcome to our new alumni! I continue to be humbled and amazed at the stories I hear from our alums about the differences you are making in your communities, families, and workplaces.

You are raising a new generation, fundraising for domestic violence shelters, mentoring girls, becoming lawyers, training for roller derby, lobbying legislators and policymakers, practicing the healing arts, entering the academy as lecturers and professors, directing youth theater groups, joining the Peace Corps, advocating for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) causes, caring for your elders, teaching in our high schools, writing novels and poetry, creating art, co-editing new journals, finishing doctorates, writing blogs, singing, administering, and starting your own businesses. You are amazing! You are inspiring!

The women's and gender studies (WGS) program continues to grow and change in new and positive ways. This year Tom Gerschick took over as our acting advisor. The number of minors and certificate students has grown. We have welcomed seven new affiliated faculty members: Shelly Clevenger (Criminal Justice Sciences), Jennifer Howell (Languages, Literatures, and Cultures), Jakeet Singh (Politics and Government), Diane Dean (Educational Administration and Foundations), K. Megan Hopper '02, M.S. '06 (Communication), Sudipa Topdar (History), and Reecia Orzeck (Geography-Geology).

This fall Dawn Rae Davis will be joining us as our new instructional assistant professor. We're already excited about her new seminar on gender, poverty, and food politics.

This year our 18th annual symposium featured presentations by 21 students on topics such as jealousy and attraction on Facebook, global indigenous feminisms, new perspectives on women in the classical world, historical perspectives on technical communication, gender identity, vulnerability and female embodiment, transnational feminism, and feminism in pop culture. Michael Kimmel delivered the keynote address, "Guyland: The Perilous World Where Boys Become Men," to an audience of more than 235 people.

I enjoy hearing from you and hope that you'll let me know if you are ever in town!

In solidarity,
Alison Bailey

Alumni news

Liz Sawyer '00 and her spouse, Abby, welcomed a new addition to their family! Benjamin Mark Sawyer-McCarren was born at 4:50 p.m. Friday, September 7, 2012. He weighed 7 pounds, 11 ounces and was 21 inches tall.

Stephanie Braun '05, M.S. '07, continues to work at Joliet Junior College, managing the Academic Skills Center. Her big news is that in late May she is expecting twin boys. She has two sons, Xander (age 4) and Sebastian (age 2). Her husband, Andrew '06, finished nursing school and is currently working at Riverside Hospital.

Ryan Rademacher '05, M.A. '07, continues as faculty advisor to Northland Pioneer College's Phi Theta Kappa chapter. This year its charity volleyball tournament raised \$750 for the White Mountain S.A.F.E. House, a women's shelter.

Jenna Goldsmith '09 has recently passed her qualifying exams in the doctoral program in writing, rhetoric, and digital media at the University of Kentucky.

Jason Wilkins '10 just graduated from Northern Illinois University School of Law.

Delphine Fongang, Ph.D. '10, accepted a lecturer position in the Department of Languages and Literatures at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater last year. She has completed her first year of teaching.



Erin Frost, M.A. '09, Ph.D. '13, defended her dissertation and accepted a tenure-track position at East Carolina University. She will continue her work on reproductive rights and hopes to facilitate connections between the Department of English and the women's studies program.

Charlotte Adams '11, M.S. '13, served as the WGS graduate assistant for two years. She has just graduated with her master's in communication studies. She plans to return to Chicago and find an activist niche in the city while she finds her calling in the professional world.

Rebecca Sack '13 served as WGS's first social media coordinator. She is responsible for updating the program's new Web page, starting WGS's revised Facebook page, and helping the program with outreach. She plans to take these skills and apply them to a career in communication at a women's nonprofit organization. She graduated magna cum laude and received the Women's and Gender Studies Achievement Award.

WGS program celebrates scholarship recipients at 18th annual research symposium

Every year the WGS program honors four scholarship recipients at the student research symposium. Recognition of recipients' scholarly accomplishments and contributions to the community reflect the program's efforts to publicly recognize and celebrate its outstanding undergraduate and graduate students.

This year the Luellen Laurenti Scholarship was awarded to Chelsea Gulbransen, a theatre major who wants to use her talents to combine creative and artistic outlets with social change.

The Anne Semlak Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Mallie Feltner, a political science major minoring in women's and gender studies. Feltner has volunteered as a peer educator through Planned Parenthood's Teen Awareness Group (TAG), an educational outreach program educating teens about sexuality, reproductive health, and healthy relationships. She is also active as an executive board member in the on-campus Feminist Led Activist Movement to Empower (F.L.A.M.E.).



Chelsea Gulbransen and Mallie Feltner

The Dorothy E. Lee Scholarship is awarded to promising nontraditional female students who are driven to attain a higher education. Alicia Atkins was this year's awardee.

Each year the WGS Excellence Award recognizes one student for her or his academic excellence and outstanding contributions to the women's and gender studies program. This year we were happy to present the award to Rebecca Sack, who majored in organizational and leadership communication. Sack worked as the program's communication intern. She plans to dedicate her life to empowering women through employment with women's nonprofit organizations.

Dorothy E. Lee remembered

Women's and gender studies lost a good friend, colleague, philanthropist, and activist this year. Dorothy E. Lee, 84, passed away October 2, 2012, in Fort Myers, Florida.

I can't begin to tell you the positive impact Lee's good works have had on the lives of our students. Every year the WGS scholarship committee sifts through dozens of scholarship and grant applications submitted by nontraditional students who are either starting their education or returning to Illinois State University to complete it. Lee understood the needs and challenges these women would face and had the foresight to establish support fund. We are indeed honored to help keep Lee's memory and good works alive through these opportunities.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Dorothy E. Lee Endowment for Nontraditional Women Students in care of the Illinois State University Foundation, Campus Box 8000, Normal, IL, 61790.

Susan Bordo returns to campus to launch new book on Anne Boleyn

I wonder how many of you remember Susan Bordo's WGS symposium keynote talk on visual representations of Anne Boleyn and the Tudors? It was just about three years ago that she came to campus to give her talk on "Anne Boleyn: Lessons for Modern Culture" to a standing room only crowd in the University Galleries. This February, Bordo returned to launch her book *The*



Creation of Anne Boleyn: A New Look at England's Most Notorious Queen. The goal of this engaging cultural biography is to "find the 'real' Anne Boleyn and rescue her from the pile of mythology that had built up around her" even before her beheading in 1536. Fans of Showtime's *The Tudors* were out in full force for the occasion!

Michael Kimmel gives 'Guyland' keynote speech at WGS symposium



It has been at least 20 years since Michael Kimmel came to Illinois State University's campus to talk about his research on masculinity, and this year, due to weather in Chicago, he arrived literally five minutes before his talk at the WGS symposium began!

His keynote address, "Guyland: The Perilous World Where Boys Become Men," packed the house. His lecture focused primarily on recent patterns in male psychosocial development. In the 1950s most American boys had completed the transition from

adolescence to adulthood by age 21. Many of these young men graduated from college, found work, got married, and settled down to start families. Today, this transition starts almost 10 years later. What is this new pattern of development?

Guyland, according to Kimmel, is a new adolescent state of limbo inhabited by a very specific type of guy. He is always a boy or a guy, but never a man. He is between the ages of 16 and 26. He is insecure. He is a conformist and looking for ways to be accepted as one of the guys. He is usually white, intelligent, and middle-class, although versions of Guyland exist in communities of color as well. He spends lots of time drinking, risk taking, hooking up, and playing video games.

Guyland has a culture of silence, a culture of protection, and a culture of entitlement. The guys in Guyland have a profound sense of feeling as though they should have first pick at everything in life because they are white males. To illustrate this point, Kimmel shared a conversation he had with three other men on a New York talk show. The theme was "A Black Woman Took My Job." Each panelist told his story about how affirmative action was to blame for a less qualified woman of color getting a position that was supposed to be "his." When it came to Kimmel, he said: "I want to talk about the title of this panel. Why wasn't it called 'A Black Woman Got the Job'? Why do you suppose that this was your job?" Male entitlement, he argued, was so invisible to them that they just assumed that the position was theirs for the taking with or without merit.

Guyland is a heteronormative mostly male-only space. No sissy stuff happens here. Kimmel said: "Guyland revolves almost exclusively around other guys. It is a social space as well as a time zone ... Just about every guy knows this. He knows that his 'brothers' are his real soul mates, his real life partners." Girls (not women) who are permitted to cross the threshold of Guyland to hang out have two roles available to them: bitches (the women who won't sleep with you) and whores (women who sleep with everyone but you).

Continued on back