Director’s Note:

Welcome back to a new semester! I have completed a wonderfully busy year, full of challenges and promise. This new academic year brings us new board members and new projects. On September 22nd, we launch our new website that beautifully details the evolution of the Center’s work. The new website includes a tab called “Resources” which we hope becomes an important space for consolidating information both on and off campus. The Staff has worked with Andrea Israel, our resident technical guru and master of all things web, to produce a lovely new site that will be easier to navigate and more aesthetically pleasing. It also reflects our vision of the Center as both an academic program and a site for research, advocacy and community projects with a central mission of intellectual and activist work about women and the organization of gender relations in society.

Seeking to enhance our relationship with the greater Fort Collins community, this summer our Staff met with various agencies, organizations, and individuals working on gender and/or sexuality issues. We sought out opportunities for volunteering and internships, and also asked community organizations to affiliate with us like faculty do. Find our community affiliates under our new “Community” tab and see how to become involved in community life. One last new tab is called “Alumni” that is under construction throughout this next year. We believe that a strong alumni base will enhance the Center in ways that strengthen and expand us.

Colloquia planning is under way. This year we co-host a speaker series with the School of Global Environmental Sustainability (SoGES) working group on Women, Population and the Environment under the direction of new board member Dr. Gillian Bowser. Another colloquia will invite MA certificate and PhD students to discuss current and ongoing research. More information about these are forthcoming. Finally, plans are underway for a study abroad trip to Ghana, West Africa. The Center is partnering with the Black/African America Cultural Center to offer a Dec. 2014-Jan. 2015 winter intercession of learning and service focused on Ghanaian Arts, Culture, and Society that includes a strong gender component. Our upcoming Boyer Lecture and Reception (See Page 8, Community Calendar/Announcements) will host a talk on the role of feminist presses in the Women’s Movement and honor this year’s Boyer Scholarship recipients. Our program includes some music and poetry and we hope you join us for this event.

From Russian laws to the Olympics to transphobic rants among U.S. radical feminists, LGBTQ issues have made national and international headlines. We have received requests for training for youth programs and area teachers around transgender issues, and regarding gender and sexuality for service providers throughout the region. One important goal this year is to disseminate information about LGBTQ issues and concerns, and the curriculum infusion project will specifically target these in its call for proposals. A call for proposals is forthcoming in October for the next curriculum project. I remain inspired by the students who took the Spring undergraduate WS 472 seminar and WS 692 graduate seminar in Women’s Studies. They reminded me about why I do the work I do and why I love to do it. I hope you all have a wonderful semester, full of challenges, surprises, and promise. See you at the Boyer Reception!
Gender In Focus

Coy Mathis
Coy Mathis is a 6-year old transgender little girl who lives in CO with her parents and four other siblings. In mid-December 2012, Coy’s parents were informed by her school that she could no longer use the “girls’ bathroom” and would instead be required to use either the boys’, the staff, or the nurse’s restrooms. Flustered, Coy’s parents brought her case to the Colorado Civil Rights Division in February. Ultimately, the Colorado Rights Division ruled in favor of Coy Mathis and her right to access restrooms that aligned with her gender identity. The Mathis’ case was the first to challenge restrictions on a transgender person’s bathroom use under Colorado’s anti-discrimination laws.

Feminist Transphobia of Deep Green Resistance
The directors of environmental organization Deep Green Resistance (DGR), Lierre Keith and Derrick Jensen, recently put forth what they deemed a “radical feminist” position on gender in justifying the exclusion of and lack of protections for trans people in their organization. DGR’s “radical feminist” discourse argues that transwomen are inherently socialized as men and receive male privilege absolutely throughout their lifetime and thus do not experience the marginalization of “real” cis-gender women. DGR’s vision of gender narrowly understands concepts of oppression, power, and privilege to center cis-women’s marginalization, while ignoring difference (i.e. race, class, sexuality, etc). In this way, DGR’s “radical feminist” discourse constructs women’s lives as being homogenous in their oppression and thus erases examination around the ways in which the social locations of white cis-women, middle to upper-class cis-women, and settler cis-women operate to marginalize, silence, and colonize transfolks, communities of color, poor/working-class people, and Indigenous/Native communities. For more background information see: http://www.decolonizingyoga.com/how-derrick-jensens-deep-green-resistance-supports-transphobia/

Plan B
In late April 2013, the FDA allowed Plan B one-step emergency contraceptive to be accessible to all women with child-bearing potential without any age or point-of-sale barriers. Plan B is a single-dose pill that reduces the chance of an unwanted/unplanned pregnancy. The FDA’s decision to make Plan B more accessible is controversial to some including, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service (HHS), Kathleen Sibelius, who believes that girls who are as young as 15 should not be able to make the decision of using Plan B without the approval of a doctor. She argues that “[i]t is common knowledge that there are significant cognitive and behavioral differences between older adolescent girls and the youngest girls of reproductive age.” The decision ultimately came down to the fact that age barriers and required identification made Plan B drastically more difficult for some women to access. Nancy Northup, President/CEO of the Center for Reproductive Rights states, “Lowering the age restriction to 15 for over-the-counter access...may reduce delays for some young women—but it does nothing to address the significant barriers that far too many women of all ages will still find if they arrive at the drugstore without identification or after the pharmacy gates have been closed for the night or weekend.”

“Rape In The Fields”
Recently, the PBS television network aired a documentary illuminating the rampant culture of sexual violence towards undocumented women working in agriculture and agribusiness nationwide. Undocumented women are at a high risk of experiencing violence in the workplace because of the system of “illegality” that positions them as low-wage workers unable to access legal protections for fear of losing their jobs or being deported. Despite the numerous women that have come forward in spite of the ramifications, agribusinesses remain unaccountable for the ways in which their cultures of worker exploitation construct environments that are violently hostile towards brown undocumented women. The Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) is organizing and demanding that agribusinesses address the issues of sexual violence and worker exploitation in their workplaces. The CIW’s Fair Food Program targets corporate buyers like McDonalds, Chipotle, and Whole Foods and pressures them to deincentivize agribusinesses that do not provide a certain minimum wage, just working conditions, and protections for their workers. To watch “Rape In The Fields” visit PBS Frontlines at: http://www.pbs.org. For more information on the CIW and their Fair Food campaign visit: http://ciw-online.org/
Message from the GLBTQ²A Resource Center

The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, and Ally Resource Center was established in August, 1998. Originally, our office was located in the basement of the Lory Student Center. Our center seeks to affirm and support the diverse identities of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, Two Spirit, same gender loving, and questioning individuals and communities, and the people that support them.

We offer educational opportunities throughout the year, as well as chances to connect. Kelli Dunham – genderqueer nurse, comic and ex-nun – will visit campus in September with more special guests coming to campus in October. We’re turning 15 years old this year, and we invite you to come be a part of GLBTQ History Month in October, participate in the GLBTQ and Ally Student Leadership Retreat, or even become a volunteer speaker in our Visible Voices Program. Our library is one of the best stocked film and print libraries around! The Coming Out Group – Sexuality offers people an opportunity to learn more about their sexual orientation and what it means to be part of the GLBTQ communities.

Visit our website at www.glbtrc.colostate.edu, or our office at LSC West (located in the Rec Center)!

Student Spotlight: Angel Smith

Angel Smith is currently in her fourth year at Colorado State University majoring in Political Science and International Studies with minors in Arabic, International Development, Ethnic Studies, Women’s Studies and Global Environmental Sustainability. Angel says, “All of the fields that I study are things that I am interested in. At the heart of every one of these subjects there is a take away that speaks to the differences in our society or in us as a people… I want to learn as much as I can about why people interact the way they do with each other and our environment.” Angel believes that at the heart of all her interests and areas of study exist issues of equality and equal access, which is why she was eventually drawn to Ethnic Studies and Women’s Studies. Angel describes this process of discovery for herself by explaining, “I realized that behind policy are people and I started to become more interested in the ‘behind the scenes’ side of decision making. However, even when you study people, the dominant frames used are through a hetero-Anglo view. I wanted to understand more how political decisions affect those whose accounts are often overlooked.”

Even though Angel is highly involved both in her studies and in the community, she is nonetheless humble. When asked about the main lessons she has taken away from her Women’s Studies and Ethnic Studies courses, Angel responds, “For one, I don’t know everything! It sounds obvious but I think that it was really easy for me to forget that. Being a woman of color, I figured that I would know a lot about these subjects, but it turned out that I didn’t. Once I understood that it was way easier for me to start to truly understand.” Angel emphasizes the need to stay grounded and humble and to recognize just how much one does not know. Angel also articulates a second lesson: “Nothing is ever only what you see. It’s like we are zoomed in to one particular spec, but if you take a step back, zoom out, there are so many other things that are happening that affect the way a certain situation turned out. I think that it is easy to look at a situation from one lens, the challenge is to remember that it is not the only one!”

This academic year Angel will be travelling to Amman with a study abroad program at the University of Jordan. She will be staying with a host family during here time there and hopes to gain a better understanding of the world by learning about it within the context of another culture. She says, “I hope to learn how closely connected and similar human beings are even if they are a world away.” If you want to know more about Angel’s travels this next year, she encourages you to contact her by email at asmith10@rams.colostate.edu.

“[We] affirm and support the diverse identities of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, Two Spirit, same gender loving, and questioning individuals and communities, and the people that support them.”
Lauren Shulman graduated from CSU in spring 2010 with a B.S. in Human Development & Family Studies, a minor in Spanish, and a certificate in Women’s Studies. Lauren says that she began pursuing a Women’s Studies certificate because of a trip she took with the Alternative Spring Break program that explored the femicides that are occurring in Juarez, Mexico. Lauren talks about being “so blown away not only by the things I learned on the trip and how connected I felt to the issue, but also by my fellow participants, many of whom were already pursuing a certificate.” Lauren highlights the lessons she has learned from Women’s Studies and most importantly the people who have taught her those lessons, “I found ‘my people’ in Women’s Studies at CSU. By that, I mean I found people who understood exactly how I could be so outraged by the protesters at Planned Parenthood, for example, but who would also help me understand how to be compassionate and caring toward people who defied everything in which I believed. Because of that, I’ve learned to always find ‘my people’, the people that bring me up and make me better and call me out when I say things I shouldn’t. In short, I learned about the value of community. I can’t say enough about how much this has positively impacted my professional work.”

After graduation, Lauren began working at the Northern Colorado AIDS Project (NCAP) serving in multiple capacities as a case manager for people living with HIV, a prevention specialist, and health educator. Lauren has always been a passionate advocate for reproductive justice and accessible health care. Particularly, Lauren is most concerned with the importance of mental health care and how it is devalued and overlooked in our current systems. Lauren emphasizes the link between access to mental health care and the goals of Women’s Studies rooted in social justice. She says that “[t]oo many people have experienced traumas that have been left to the corners of our brains, and those things inevitably show up to impact our ability to make a difference. I do my best advocacy in terms of social justice when my mental health is in good shape. In turn, the two are inextricably linked.”

Currently, Lauren is in the process of relocating to Missoula, Montana with her partner who will be attending law school in the fall. She plans on pursuing a Master’s of Social Work degree in 2014.
Community Feature: Sexual Assault Victim Advocate Center

The Sexual Assault Victim Advocate (SAVA) Center is a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to providing crisis intervention, advocacy, and counseling for all those affected by sexual violence and to provide community education, outreach, and prevention programs in Northern Colorado. We envision a cultural change that results in the end of sexual violence. SAVA now serves as the only rape crisis center in Larimer and Weld Counties dedicated exclusively to serving the needs of sexual assault survivors. We provide a hotline, individual and group therapy, and 5 prevention and outreach programs to the community. Each year, SAVA provides confidential support to over 600 victims of sexual assault and provides education to over 1,000 community members and 4,000 public school students. SAVA’s goal is to provide quality prevention, intervention, advocacy and counseling for all individuals affected by sexual violence. SAVA is a member of Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN), the Colorado Organization of Victim’s Assistance (COVA), and the Colorado Coalition against Sexual Assault (CCASA). Volunteers and interns are absolutely crucial to SAVA operations and services including the 24-hour hotline, walk-in center, mentoring programs, and outreach and fundraising events. To become involved with SAVA, visit www.savacenter.org and fill out a volunteer application, or call 970-472-4204.

Community Member Spotlight: Flora Terán

Flora Terán begrudgingly left her home and her job as an adult education teacher in Bolivia 37 years ago to come to the United States with her husband and their two young boys, while her husband earned his MS in water resources at CSU. Neither Flora nor her children spoke any English upon their arrival in Fort Collins. Shortly after arriving in the United States, Flora gave birth to a baby girl. The mother of three learned to speak English from her boys who were quickly absorbing it at school. This language gap did not stop Flora from meeting people and being active, she taught Spanish to faculty wives at CSU where she built great friendships. She also volunteered at the International Office at CSU.

When Flora moved to Fort Collins, she thought it would be for a period of two years, but after that time passed her husband wanted to stay, and so the family remained in Fort Collins. After her children had grown up, Flora went back to school and renewed her teaching license and taught Spanish for five years at Front Range Community College. Then, at the age of 45, she earned a MA in Spanish literature from the University of Northern Colorado and proceeded to teach Spanish there. Before retiring, she worked with the first Spanish speaking preschool class in the Poudre School District helping them transition to English. “This was very, very satisfying work. I had a student who said to me after several months, ‘Maestra, you have an accent when you speak English.’ and to me that showed that I did it, the kids were learning English.” Flora has also been a local activist for many years, raising her voice for underrepresented individuals and groups in Fort Collins and fighting to protect the environment.

Though she likes Fort Collins and loves being close to her children, she still misses Bolivia, and is happy to share information about that country with others. She has been working hard to create a show titled Legacy of the Andes at the Global Village Museum of Arts and Cultures. The show opens September 6 and runs through November 23. Flora hopes this exhibit will provide attendees with a better understanding of the gifts the Andes region has given people around the world. Flora gave her own gift of time to help plant the seeds for the Global Village Museum where she is now a board member. Though the current museum opened in 2010, Flora worked with her friend, Jeanne Nash, over 15 years ago to locate a building to house Nash’s private collection of 21 miniature houses, small scale scene replicas and hundreds of international folk dolls. This collection, which became known as Mundoville, was inspiration for the creation of what would become the Global Village Museum of Arts and Cultures. Today, Mundoville Gallery is one part of a larger museum of exhibits, but it continues to educate visitors about people and cultures of the world. “I am glad to share my culture and learn about other cultures, that is why the idea of the museum attracted me tremendously. I think it is important to realize that all individuals have value and talents that should be used to help and educate others.” Flora said.

Admission to the Global Village Museum, 200 W. Mountain Avenue, is $5 for adults, $3 for seniors and students and $1 for children. The museum is open Tuesday-Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information call (970) 221-4600 or visit www.globalvillagemuseum.org.
Practicing Red Tent Action

Last month I attended a screening of a documentary titled, “Things We Don’t Talk About: Women’s Stories from the Red Tent.” Filmmaker Isadora Gabrielle Leidenfrost, Ph.D., was present to introduce the movie and to answer questions afterwards. The film examines the increasingly popular Red Tent or Red Temple gatherings for women. Leidenfrost’s work is the result of several years and hundreds of hours of filming Red Tent participants. Leidenfrost writes that her film is not affiliated in any way with Anita Diamont’s best selling book (The Red Tent, 1997), but that the Red Tent as a space and a practice is partially inspired by the menstrual hut that the women in the book used. These women only gathering spaces are designed to create a safe place that honors and celebrates women and encourages them to talk about the things they don’t normally speak of in other venues of their lives. Red Tents encourage an atmosphere where women can laugh, cry, play, sing, dance, talk, listen, exchange information, and empower themselves.

In Boulder women host a monthly Red Tent. These women took the Red Tent space to a local domestic abuse shelter where the women were predominantly Spanish speaking to offer them a safe space to talk and heal. A Red Tent is in the process of forming in Fort Collins as a result of the film screening.

Since viewing the movie, a reoccurring thought occupies my mind. Imagine the world if we all applied the Red Tent principles to our daily life. Think of the great things women in Colorado and around the country could do if we embraced the informal precepts of the Red Tent movement by applying what I call Red Tent action every day. The simple basics of Red Tent action are interacting in a supportive, caring, and respectful way to other women. This can be demonstrated by something as simple as talking to your elderly neighbor and asking her if she needs help with anything, or saying something nice to the checker at the grocery store. Or, it could be assisting someone with her job search or just taking the time to listen to someone’s stories. Red Tent action can be appreciating and acknowledging someone’s gifts or talents, or volunteering to help other women. During my 55 years of life, I have found that often women do not always support each other, but seek to tear one another down for personal gain and security. Imagine if this negative action was replaced by Red Tent action. Imagine all women standing up for one another when they witness inequitable treatment. Imagine us all applying the Red Tent philosophy that celebrates our differences and encourages us all to be honest and accepting. Imagine how Red Tent action will empower women as individuals, and as a community. Whether women decide to become a part of an actual Red Tent group or not, I hope they will manifest Red Tent action daily. As Mother Teresa said, “Do not wait for leaders; do it alone, person to person.”

For more information on the Red Tent forming in Fort Collins email Katherine Skaggs at katherine@katherineskaggs.com. To find out more about the film go to: http://www.redtentmovie.com

Article by Lynn Stutheit

Clockwise from top right: filmmaker Isadore Gabrielle Leidenfrost; décor of a red tent location; women circled for red tent gathering.
I was young and we were poor-
When my teeth were flies and my eyes both mud
there was that evil in my blood, that hate in my skin
itching and pressing with hot palms and sharp knees
against, against every movement and I was sick.
I was sick with the sick in my bones and my mother
loved me more than the desert and my
father loved the desert more than me
and everyone tried to tell me this mattered
more than it ever did, more than
the wickedness of growing up with a tight belly
and bare feet by the sea rather than up against
trailers and red sand and skinny mad dogs
they said it was wickedness with the wrong type of poverty
the mango trees and fleas and swearwords in a foreign tongue
and when I was older and the flies fell out white and small
and the mud dripped, stains marking each year further down
we came to the desert
and my feet bled
and that hate in my skin
glowed dark at night and I steamed in the sun and
there was beauty found in the stars spilled on the night sky
like salt on a tablecloth, in the breads and cans we'd gather from the
church drives, in the stiff white shoes and blisters resulting, there was beauty
and eventually you learn to no longer be young and tight bellied and greasy
haired
eventually you learn that love in a place can mean more
than children and the way they breathe after crying
eventually you learn your blood and your bones and skin
house more than insects and dirt and all that hate and all that sick
leave yourself out in the sun to cure
the dead's voices will come with the wind and say
"I had it worse"
"I had it worse"
"I had it worse"

What would you like people to know about you or this piece?
"Childhood" was a very interesting piece to create because it addressed
some issues I had with heritage vs. environment vs. expectations that I
had never really explored in-depth before in my work. I am half Navajo
and Danish and was raised on the island of Oahu. It is difficult for me to
explicitly decide which culture I identify with the most, without aban-
doning one for the other. "Childhood" is a reflection of the anger and
that hurt of never being enough of one thing. This confusion growing up
that still persists, and the poverty I lived through, created a childhood
that still is not any excuse for weakness.
CO Disability Pridefest—Saturday, September 7th from 12pm-6pm at CSU Lagoon

The Colorado Disability Pride Festival will be a day filled with music, pride, parades and numerous other activities. See http://calendar.colostate.edu/ for more info.

Chili Festival at Museo de las Tres Colonias—Saturday, September 14th from 12pm-5pm

Neighborhood block party, live music, folkloric dancers, food, children’s crafts, chili roasting and more! The address of the Museo is 425 10th Street, Fort Collins, CO. There will be FREE PARKING at Streets Facility (625 9th Street).

Diversity Symposium—Tuesday, September 17th-Thursday, September 19th, Lory Student Center

The Office of the Vice President for Diversity is pleased to announce 13th Annual Diversity Symposium to be held Sept 17-19 in Lory Student Center & the University Center for the Arts. This year’s theme "Experiencing & Understanding Diversity through Culture and the Arts" seeks to explore and to celebrate how diversity can be expressed through the visual & performing arts.

Dr. Linda Tuhiwai Smith: “Decolonizing Research Methodologies: Shared Communities & Practice”—Thursday, October 3rd, 12pm-1pm (Lecture); 1pm-2pm (Book Signing) at Lory Student Center Room 230

Dr. Linda Tuhiwai Smith (Ngāti Awa and Ngāti Porou) is a Professor of Education and Māori Development and Pro Vice Chancellor Māori at The University of Waikato/Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato. Professor Tuhiwai Smith is known internationally as a researcher, educator and public speaker on issues related to Indigenous education, development and research methodology. Her critically acclaimed book, Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples, transformed the fields of educational research and critical epistemology.

Northern Colorado Domestic Violence Summit feat. Lundy Bancroft—Thursday, October 3rd, 8am-5pm at Embassy Suites, Canyon Maple Room (4705 Clydesdal Parkway, Loveland, CO 80538.)

Lundy Bancroft is an author, workshop leader, and consultant on domestic abuse and child maltreatment. Lundy has twenty years of experience specializing in interventions for abusive men and their families. Lundy offers dramatically new ways to understand the behavior of abusers and strategies for holding them accountable. He also brings fresh insight into the emotional injuries that trauma and abuse cause, their lasting effects, and how best to get ourselves free. For more information and registration: www.youniquecounseling.wildapricot.org or contact Meghann Shaffer at 970.482.3535 ext. 209

Boyer Lecture and Scholarship Reception—Thursday, October 24th at 4pm in Grey Rock Room, Lory Student Center

The Harriet Patsy Boyer Scholarship is dedicated to increasing opportunities for students to participate in scholarly activities that promote new understanding of women in culture and society. The 2013 scholarship recipients will be honored at the 13th Annual Harriet Patsy Boyer Scholarship reception. Kayann Short, Ph.D., will present “Out into the World: The Print Evolution of Feminist Revolution”.

Course Withdrawal Period Ends—October 21, 2013

Fall 2013 Commencement Ceremony (Liberal Arts)—Saturday, December 21, 2013 in Moby Arena at 5pm