WHAT IS THE FULBRIGHT STUDENT PROGRAM?

If you have been in our office during the past few semesters, you may have heard some discussions about the great pride and joy that we have taken in our recent welcoming of Fulbright students within the WGS graduate program! The Fulbright Foreign Student Program offers graduate students, young professionals, and artists from more than 160 countries to study and carry out research in the United States. Each year, more than 4,000 international students are granted a Fulbright Scholarship. Within the 2019/2020 academic year, the Women's and Gender Studies Program at the University of Northern Iowa welcomed three new Fulbright students who arrived with great enthusiasm from their home countries. We also had one returning Fulbright student and one graduate in May of 2019! (continued on p. 2)
The Fulbright Student Program (continued from front page) With the increasing number of Fulbright presence in WGS comes the responsibility to provide faculty and staff with training to accommodate students from different cultural backgrounds in their classes and programs. The interdisciplinary nature of our program ensures that our faculty are equipped to handle multiculturalism in their classes. Phales Milimo, a new Fulbright grantee who comes to us from Zambia says, "My professors have been very supportive, I have talked to many of them about my career goals and they have been able to guide me in choosing the right courses and connecting me to people with similar interests on and off campus." A student from Afghanistan also praised the effort WGS makes to help international students feel at home saying, "The education system is different than what I am used to, but with the support of the professors, I am adapting quite well." Similarly, Rifat Siddiqui from Bangladesh adds, "[My] professors are truly supportive. Whenever I have problems, I can talk to them and get suggestions. They are aware of the difficulties an international student might have in an environment so they are doing their best to help us." Ahlam Laouar, who is a second year student and plans to graduate in May, expresses how WGS has become a home for her: "What added to my amazing Fulbright journey was being part of WGS. I never feel I'm thousands of miles away from my home." Interestingly, U.S. citizens are also eligible to apply for the Fulbright U.S. Student Program. Such funding is granted for individually designed study, research projects, or for English Teaching Assistant Programs. U.S. grantees will thus complete a one year academic program in a host country outside the U.S. During their experiences inside and outside the U.S., Fulbrighters work, study, and connect with people from their host countries and learn from them, thereby promoting mutual understanding and openness. We are extremely grateful for the perspectives and joy that our Fulbright students bring to us, and we are happy to have them!
The Clothesline Project

This October, we once again hosted The Clothesline Project at UNI, an interactive event that aims to raise awareness on issues of relationship violence and abuse, rape, and sexual assault. We appreciate the members of the campus community who chose to share their stories by decorating shirts and letting us display them on campus on our Day of Bearing Witness. We look forward to hosting the Clothesline Project once again next fall!

SWAG (Sexuality, Women, and Gender) Forum

This Fall, WGS was proud to continue with their monthly research presentation series, now called SWAG (Sexuality, Women, and Gender) Forum, formally known as CROW!

We kicked off the semester in October with a presentation by Dr. Susan Hill (Head of Department of Philosophy and World Religions), delivering her research titled "Are All Gluttons Fat?: Moralities of Eating in the Ancient World."

In November, Dr. Jennifer McNabb (Head of History Department) presented "Material Girls: Women and Clothing in Renaissance Europe."

Finally, in December, WGS was proud to include a student panel for our final SWAG Forum of the semester, where WGS graduate students told their stories of adapting to UNI's campus culture, and expressed their take on the #UNIisnotanAlly campaign.

SWAG Forums present unique opportunities for UNI to learn about ongoing research and work from different academic fields, and we look forward to continuing our monthly forums. Join us in the spring!
During the weekend of November 14th, our director Dr. Wendy Hoofnagle and four of our second-year cohort students traveled to San Francisco, California to participate in the annual National Women's Studies Association conference! Students Alia Afzal, Sara Naughton, Elena Golosova, and Lamis Laouar were privileged to be able to attend several sessions of academic and activist content, and see big name scholars like Dr. Angela Davis and Dr. Rabab Abdulhadi, as well as up-and-coming scholars!

We are also proud of our student Alia Afzal (pictured top right) for presenting her paper titled "Human and Nonhuman Reconciliation in Amitav Ghosh’s *The Hungry Tide*" during a Sunday session titled "Interspecies Intimacies." NWSA is a competitive conference. Congratulations, Alia!

In addition to attending sessions and panels, Sara, Alia, Elena, Lamis, and Dr. Hoofnagle participated in the MA/PhD Reception where they passed out UNI WGS swag and information about our graduate MA and certificate programs to interested students (pictured middle right)! The tabling session was a great networking event that allowed for us to share the great successes of our program to potential students of the future!

When there was downtime at the conference, the students were grateful to have the opportunity to explore the city of San Francisco in beautiful California weather. Elena, Sara, Lamis and Alia spent time on Baker Beach admiring the Golden Gate Bridge and Pacific Ocean (pictured bottom right), as well as exploring the Fisherman’s Wharf and Pier 39.

We look forward to having next fall’s second-year cohort experience NWSA for themselves, which will take place November 12-15th, 2020 in Minneapolis, Minnesota!
AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS
Take a look at these award opportunities open to our minors and graduate students!

Agathon Fellowship
This fellowship supports students, (graduate and undergraduate) who have demonstrated a strong commitment to, and have had active roles in, supporting the LGBTQ+ community. Preference given to WGS MA students. Applicants must have a 3.0 GPA and will be full time at UNI in the 2020-2021 academic school year.
Deadline: March 1st, 2020

Francis L. Webster Scholarship
The Francis L. Webster Scholarship seeks to support any declared WGS graduate student or Sexuality, Women and Gender (SWAG) minor who has completed or is completing at least six hours of Women’s and Gender Studies required courses, and who will not graduate before December 2020. Applicants must have six completed hours of WGS or cross listed courses by the end of spring 2020 semester.
Deadline: March 1st, 2020

Outstanding Graduate Paper Award
This annual competition is designed to encourage and reward graduate scholars (within or outside of the WGS program) on their research in the area of gender issues. The prize includes a $100 cash award and being spotlighted as our final SWAG Forum presenter for the academic year. Applicants must submit a paper, identified as but not limited to the following: a chapter from a graduate thesis; a paper submitted for a course at UNI as a graduate student; a conference paper; or a creative project focusing on any of gender identity intersections. *Author of the winning paper must be willing and available to present at the SWAG Forum on Monday 6th, 2020*
Deadline: February 15, 2020

Yang Travel Award
This fund is to be used to provide travel support for undergraduate and graduate students of the Women's and Gender Studies Program. The award is to be used for study and research in China and is to be awarded annually. The recipient(s) must have a GPA of 2.5 or above, and will be used during the 2020-2021 academic school year. The amount of the award is to be determined, and financial need shall be a consideration.
Deadline: April 15, 2020

For more information on any applying for any of these awards, please e-mail wgs@uni.edu or visit https://csbs.uni.edu/womenstudies/scholarships-and-awards
Meet our Fall 2019 Cohort

Phales Milimo
she/her/hers

Hometown: Lusaka, Zambia | Thesis Track Student
Phales holds a BA in Education from the University of Zambia, and a MS in Project Management from the University of Lusaka. This semester, she is currently working as a graduate assistant in the Center for Violence Prevention.
Phales is the first Zambian to be awarded the Atlas Corps Fellowship in 2016 with which she was honored at World Vision International in Washington DC. She is also a recipient of the prestigious Barbara Bush’s Global Health Corps Fellowship award as a fellow in 2014.

“
I am interested in women and adolescent girls’ health and envision myself as an influence in transformative change in the lives of vulnerable populations in my country and community.
”

Eli Williams
he/him/his

Hometown: Ottumwa, Iowa | Thesis Track Student
This past spring, Eli graduated with his bachelor’s degree in Psychology with a certificate in Industrial and Organizational Psychology. This year, Eli is the Graduate Assistant with Gender and Sexuality Services, which is located in Maucker Union.
During his time as an undergrad at UNI, Eli was the president of Northern Iowa Feminists during the 2018-2019 academic year, and has been an active member of UNI Proud since 2017.

“This program allows me to research, make connections, and discover more about this taboo subject [gendered violence] to help my community. My favorite thing [so far] about the program is that I feel a sense of belonging and comradery.”
Meet our Fall 2019 Cohort

Rifat Rezowana Siddiqui
she/her/hers

Home country: Dhaka, Bangladesh | Thesis Track Student
Rifat is a 2019 Fulbright grantee who completed her MA and BA from the Department of English at Jahangirnagar University, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Rifat is working as a research assistant for Dr. Jolene Zigarovich. While working as a teacher in her home country, she participated in several national and international conferences and published an article related to subaltern studies. She also carried out field work-based research in the area of minority studies and gender and sexuality studies.

"Through my enthusiastic participation in academia, I want to contribute to the global community and that is why I am pursuing my MA in Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Northern Iowa!"
Meet our Fall 2019 Cohort

Melody Kosobucki
she/her/hers

Hometown: Solon Springs, Wisconsin | Applied Track Student
Melody graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Superior with a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance, and also earned her Master of Music degree in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from UNI! Melody is a Graduate Programming Assistant for WGS, and also works as a GA in the library. Melody is a dedicated social justice advocate who has volunteered for the Center Against Sexual and Domestic Assault in Superior, Wisconsin. She is the current president of the Black Hawk County chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW).

“After completing the pro-seminar course in fall of 2018, I knew I had found the program that was right for me. I appreciate the rigor of the program that is accompanied by a supportive and friendly department.”

Keep up with our second year cohort on our social media accounts!

Facebook: UNI Women's & Gender Studies
Instagram: @uniwgs
Twitter: @uniWGS
Meet our SWAG Minors

Sydney Atwood
she/her/hers

Sydney is a senior Political Science major with Music and SWAG minors. During her time at UNI, she has served on the Honors Student Advisory Board, and has been a member of UNI Proud, the Women’s Chorus, Concert Chorale, and the Panther Marching Band. As a presidential scholar, Sydney worked with eight other students to create a program in which they paired an after-school program with a long-term care facility, in an attempt to fight geriatric depression. Currently, Sydney is working on her Honors Senior thesis, in which she works to prove that domestic violence is possible in same-sex relationships. Eventually, she hopes to build off that research and start a shelter for LGBT+ victims of abuse.

Fun Fact: 🌟

In seventh grade, I wrote a song about Iowa history, and there was an article about it published in the Iowa History Journal!

"I originally chose to add a SWAG minor to my plan of study because I knew it would be helpful to me in any career path; now, I know that it is helpful in any life paths. Knowing and understanding different kinds of people is one of the greatest skills a person can have."

Katelyn Brockmeyer
she/her/hers

Katelyn is a junior Art History major with a Museum Studies certificate, a Certified Nonprofit Professional Credential, and a WGS minor. She is an AmeriCorps member for Imagining America at UNI, which is a community dedicated to civic and community engagement in the Cedar Valley through arts, humanities, and design. She is also highly involved with the UNI Nonprofit Leadership Alliance, where she serves as the Director of Resource Development. Katelyn also serves as the student representative for the UNI Foundation Board, is part of the Honors Program, a volunteer at the NEIA Food Bank and for UNI for Warren. Her professional goals include working at a nonprofit art center to create exhibitions that will bring together communities of all people. Katelyn hopes to create conversations and a place of action revolving around social justice, political action, women’s rights, and many more topics through art.

Fun Fact: 🌟

I can make my tongue into a clover!

"I chose to add the WGS minor after taking Dr. Sutton’s Intro to WGS, which completely transformed my life. I came into college with completely different political views and morals but through that course my eyes were opened to the injustice and the inequality that so many people face....Dr. Sutton showed me the course list for WGS and I was hooked!"
Meet our Adjunct Professors

Belinda Creighton-Smith
she/her/hers

Belinda is one of our two adjunct professors this semester teaching WGS 1040. She has an undergraduate degree in Psychology from UNI, along with a Master’s of Divinity with honors from Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City. Currently, she is looking forward to graduating with a Doctorate in Education from UNI Allied Health, Recreation and Community Services in December 2019! Her professional goals beyond teaching include consulting with Academic Institutions across the county who desire a more diverse learning and teaching experience, one that provides a more culturally and racially responsive and inclusive environment for all students, faculty, and administration. Belinda enjoys teaching for WGS because she can bring her life experiences to the table, and she is afforded the fringe benefits of interfacing with great students and leaders.

Belinda is a pastor at a wonderful congregation in Waterloo (Faith Temple American Baptist Church USA) and she is an unpretentious veteran. Her MOS was 95 Bravo!

Molly Cormaney
she/her/hers

Molly is also one of our adjunct professors teaching WGS 1040. She has a B.A. in English/Political Science and an M.A. in English, both of which were earned at UNI! In addition to teaching part-time, Molly works for Cedar Falls Utilities. She has been employed there for 25 years and hopes to retire in about 10 (or so) years.

Molly says that while teaching for WGS, she has learned SO much about a variety of issues related to the field. She’s also come to realize many things are not just about gender. Everything is connected, so one has to consider ethnicity, socio-economic background, language, culture, education -- it’s all in the mix. She enjoys learning along with the students.

Molly spent a month in South Korea on a group study exchange for the Rotary Club. It was an amazing experience!
Meet our Work Study Students and Secretary

Eva Haub
she/her/hers

Eva is one of our three work study students in the WGS office this fall! She is a first-year student pursuing a major in English Teaching. Currently, she is a member of UNI Navigators, a religious organization on campus. Her professional goals include becoming a high school English teacher upon graduation; specifically, she wants to teach freshman students because she strongly believes they are full of potential and loves working with them.

Staycie Lyman
she/her/hers

Staycie is our beloved secretary who keeps our program running! She has worked for the UNI WGS program since January of 2016. She moved to Iowa with her family that previous summer. Prior to UNI, Staycie worked as a sales administrative assistant for 10 years. She graduated from Ohio University, located in picturesque Athens, Ohio with a BA in Accounting. After graduation, she worked for TRW as a corporate trainer where she trained at the company's manufacturing units in PeopleSoft, SAP, a Travel and Expense Reporting system, and Microsoft. During her tenure at TRW, she traveled to 10 states and 3 different countries. Staycie loves working in the WGS office because she feeds her inner desire to interact with people on a daily basis. She enjoys working with students from vast backgrounds and ethnicities and believes that the WGS program is so fortunate to have a wealth of domestic and international richness. She loves that she has truly become friends with many students.

When she travels to Ohio with her family, there are 2 adults, 2 teenagers, 2 dogs and 4 cats in the SUV! It's one hairball of fun to travel with the whole family!
ALUMNI UPDATES
Keep up with some of our WGS alumni from 2011-2018!

2019

Joyceline Amoako
Joyceline is one of our most recent graduates of the WGS MA program, having received her diploma in May 2019. Joyceline is now attending the University of Waterloo in Canada, where she is a Ph.D. student in the School of Public Health and Health Systems. Her educational and career goals focus on improving the overall health of underprivileged women and bridging the health disparities they face. Currently, her research explores the occupational health challenges of pregnant and postpartum women in the informal economy.

Joyceline says, "My background in Women’s and Gender Studies broadened my understanding of women’s issues and equipped me with the right skills to approach women’s issues from a feminist perspective as it seeks to promote equity across all spheres of life."

At the University of Waterloo, Joyceline is a Teaching Assistant for a Health Policy class of over 90 students.

Great work, Joyceline!

2011

Johnanna Ganz
As a follow up to our update on alum Johnanna from our previous newsletter, we wanted to provide a link to the wonderful TedxTalk she recently presented titled, "When It's More Than 'Just a Job'". You can find the video here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QqtN76kdXyo.

Johnanna graduated with her Ph.D. in 2015 from Bowling Green State University in Ohio. A piece of advice that she offers for future WGS graduates: "Work must be only one part of your identity. Cultivate interests, hobbies, relationships, and self-compassion now. Take the time to do nothing, disengage with technology, and just observe the world around you. Learn what being whole feels like for you outside of productivity. It’s how we can survive and thrive in late-stage capitalism."

We look forward to seeing what else you accomplish, Johnanna!
Save the Date!

Cedar Valley Women's March
Saturday January 25th, 10:00am
Contact kosobucm@uni.edu for more information

Warrior Women Documentary Showing and Q+A with Madonna Thunderhawk
Monday February 24th, 7:30pm

Women's History Month Keynote
Speaker: Gabby Rivera
Thursday March 26th, 7:00pm