



23RD ANNUAL

Notable Women

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Dr. Dottie Greene (L) & Melissa Shafer, MFA (R)

This is our favorite time of the year, when we get to honor and celebrate two women who have worked passionately within and beyond our university. This year's ceremony was held in the East Tennessee Room in the Culp Center, where Melissa and Dottie received their awards and each shared stories about their lives, accomplishments, hurdles they overcame, and commitment to their respective fields.

Melissa Shafer started us off, regaling us with tales of growing up with pilots for parents. She flew a plane before she got her drivers license! Shafer is a professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance at ETSU and teaches courses in Design and Production. The night of the ceremony was also the opening night of the production she directed this semester, "Cabaret." When asked what her favorite play is, she answered, "It's always the one I'm working on!" Her colleagues commented on her commitment to mentorship and continually going the extra mile for her students, staff, and colleagues.

Dr. Dottie Greene is an Associate Professor in the Department of Social Work and the Executive Director of the Johnson City Recovery Center (JCRC). Greene has begun to transform our region with peer support access for addiction, and reducing stigma associated with substance use disorders. She has nearly 40 years working in the field of addiction. Though her work is hard, her passion for it can light up any room, even when in a dinosaur costume (she likes to dress up for Halloween). The audience learned of her personal growth, commitment to training students, and impact in the community.

Nominate a notable woman in your life!
Email application to wgss@etsu.edu

WGS On Wednesday

Women, Gender, and Sexuality On Wednesday



SEPTEMBER 4TH

"SELF-CARE: ARE YOU BREATHING?"

During this presentation, attendees gained a deeper understanding of what self-care is, how to implement it for themselves, as well as an introduction to 5 different types of "imposter syndrome" and a brief talk about boundaries.

Khia Hudgins-Smith, LPC

NOVEMBER 6TH

**HAPPINESS, HOPE, & DESPAIR: THE ROLE
OF EDUCATION AFTER THE ELECTION**

This semester brought the November 2024 US Presidential Election. This presentation was held the day after the election and addressed feelings of happiness and despair as indicative of care and the role of education. Dr. Swindle guided discussion and provided time for attendees to process thoughts and feelings in community.



Dr. Jean Swindle

SPECIAL NOTICE: HURRICANE HELENE

Due to the unforeseen catastrophic effects of Hurricane Helene on our area and surrounding counties, our October WGS on Wednesday speaker was rescheduled for the Spring 2025 semester. If you are in need of assistance or if you are wanting to assist in relief efforts, please follow this link for resources: <https://www.etsu.edu/response/default.php#ways-to-get-help>

**Join us in Spring 2025 for another season of WGS on Wednesday!
Lectures are held in the East Tennessee Room on the first Wednesday of
every month at noon during the academic year.**

Faculty Event Feature

BOOK CLUB

“SIDE AFFECTS: ON BEING TRANS AND FEELING BAD”

Hil Malatino

Hosted by WGSS, Dr. Mickey White led a book club to encourage thoughtful conversation, reflection, and deeper understanding of the trans experience, for transgender and cisgender persons alike. Dr. White explains that attendees made connections to their own experiences and increased compassion and understanding for the trans folk in their lives.

The book’s author, Dr. Hil Malantino, is an Associate Professor of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies & Philosophy at Penn State. He is also the Acting Director & Senior Research Associate for the Rock Ethics Institute. Hil served as former Assistant Director & lecturer for our very own WGSS Program. His aim has been to open new conversations about trans experiences, acknowledging and centering unloved feelings.

“I think the book club was a positive experience, and it sparked some excellent conversation around challenging the current narratives of trans experience as either a euphoric journey to authenticity that heals all wounds or an escape from dysphoria and a future of discrimination. We were able to talk about the nuance of trans experiences through the lenses of emotions often left on the margins: fatigue, rage, envy, burnout, and numbness; followed by what 'real' self-care may mean for trans people.”



Dr. Mickey White
Department of Health Sciences

Email ideas for next semester! wgss@etsu.edu

Tri-lota Induction Ceremony

On November 20th, we inducted the largest cohort of Tri-lota honors students in years! We are grateful for these students and look forward to working with them in coming semesters.



From left to right:

Dr. Stacey Williams, Chukwufumnanya Aninyei, Katherine Rains, Allison Monroe, Halle Nix, Suzi Peter, Heidi Nantz, Emma Ledford

Students: Are you looking for a way to become engaged in Academic Excellence and Social Justice?



***lota lota lota
Tri-lota***

National Women's Studies Honor Society



Apply Today!
wgss2@etsu.edu

Student Event Feature

Tri-Iota Honor Society was chosen among 30 student organizations to paint the new Pridewalk.

“The hills have shaped us, molded us into strong fearless women.”

Our members chose to feature this quote from “Hill Women,” by Cassie Chambers. Chambers is a lawyer who was raised in Kentucky by her mother, aunt, and grandmother, instilling “Hill Women” values in her.

After trying on big cities, Cassie came back to Appalachia to serve women where she was raised.



Nominate Students for our awards and apply for scholarships!

Graduate Feminist Activist Award

Undergraduate Feminist Activist Award

Karen L. Cajka Memorial Scholarship (WGSS/LILA)

Barbra Murphy Brooks WGSS Scholarship

wgss@etsu.edu for more information

Looking Ahead to Spring 2025!



Speaking Queerly

Our Speaking Queerly Event was rescheduled to Wednesday, February 12, 7-9pm in the East TN Room. This event aims to lift up queer voices!

WGS ON Wednesday Speakers



Cerrone Foster, Ph.D.
February, 5th @ Noon



Trena Paulus, Ph.D.
February, 26th @ Noon



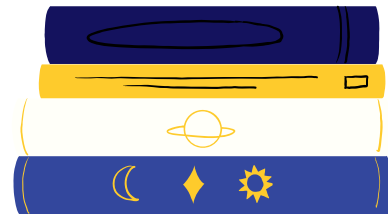
Senta Scarborough, MFA
March, 5th @ Noon



Roya Farzaneh, Ph.D.
April, 2nd @ Noon



More book clubs!



Contact wgss@etsu.edu for more information

WGSS Spotlight

Graduate Spotlight: Emma Ledford

Emma is our tuition scholar at WGSS! She is a Master's student in the Counseling Program and a Care Coordinator at Health Connect America in Johnson City. She works with about 40 clients all over the Tri-Cities area! Emma likes playing guitar, binge-watching shows, reading, and traveling. She's also an avid thrifter and a plant parent! One fun fact about her is that she studied abroad in the Czech Republic in 2022. We are very excited to get to work with her at WGSS!



Undergraduate Spotlight: Halle Nix

Halle is our Tri-lota president and a senior studying Clinical Psychology with a minor in WGSS and Social Work! She also works in the Sexuality Trauma and Reproductive Health Lab (STARH) on campus. When she is not working, in her free time Halle likes to read fiction. ANYTHING fiction! She loves to write and plans on writing a book after she finishes her education. When she's not cozied up with a book, she likes to go outside and hike, travel, or spend time with friends and family. Halle is a great addition to our community and we are so thankful to have you as our Tri-lota President!



STAFF SPOTLIGHT: Dr. Jamie Branam Brown

Jamie is retiring this year after serving WGSS consistently since 1998. Dr. Brown has been a key developer of our curriculum and even used to teach our internship course! She helped change our name from Women's Studies to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. We wouldn't be the program we are without her. Jamie is a joy to be around and we will miss her greatly in the coming years. When asked about her accomplishments with WGSS, Dr. Brown replied:



"I hope above anything else, that I have been an advocate for our students at the university and in the community."

WGSS FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Publications:

Reyes, A., White, M., and Lindo, N. (2024). Integrating Spirituality in Counseling with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Queer Clients. *Counseling and Values*.

Tolley, R (Mar 2025) [forthcoming] [Review of the book *The virtues of underwear*, by Edwards, Nina] *Choice Vol. 62, Issue 7*.

Tolley, R (Sept 2024) [Review of the book *Big rural*, by Cook Marshall, Crystal] *Choice Vol. 62, Issue 1*.

Tolley, R (May 2024) [Review of the book "Happy eating" and food addiction in American advertising, by Danowski, Debby] *Choice Vol. 61, Issue 9*

Wilkins, B. T., & Mann, F. A., (2023). "Growing up in a rural area, social support, and internalized transphobia: understanding Appalachian transgender mental and physical health." *Stigma and Health*. <https://doi.org/10.1037/sah0000425>.

Williams, S. L., Van Leuven, E. G., Wilkins, B., & Mann, A. (accepted). A moderated mediation model of minority stress in Appalachian transgender and nonbinary individuals. *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*.

Presentations:

Branam-Brown J.; Langenbrunner M.; Brooks-Taylor T. Supporting Families on Their Journey with the Judicial System : Voices of Family Sciences Court Advocates (in press - National Council on Family Relations "Network")

Brown, J.B. "Social justice & policy, equity vs equality, and the impacts of structural barriers on marginalized groups" ETSU Diversity Educator's Workshop.

Brown, J.B., "Trauma Informed Workshop for Mentor Artists Engaged in Summer Youth Internships," ARTScapes project funded by the East Tennessee Foundation Youth Endowment.

Brooks-Taylor, T.; Branam-Brown J. Importance of Impactful Community Connections Research Paper accepted for presentation at the Family Science Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico (June 2024)

Leroy-Frazier, J. (June 2024). "'Everything Bore the Weight of Everything Else:' Reconstructing Southern Literature in Yaa Gyasi's *Homegoing*"-- accepted for presentation at the Society for the Study of Southern Literature biennial conference, Gulfport, MS.

Leroy-Frazier, J. (March 2024). "Ecofeminism and Appalachian Literature: Local, Regional, Global" (pre-arranged panel, co-presented with Dr. Deedee Abbott, Georgia State University, and Mandi Aubrey, East Tennessee State University); individual paper presentation: "the need and strength of roots:' Ecofeminist Ethics in Wilma Dykeman's *The Far Family*"--Appalachian Studies Association annual conference, Western Carolina University.

LeRoy-Frazier, J. (2024) 'the need and strength of roots:' Ecofeminist Ethics in Wilma Dykeman's *The Far Family* [Conference presentation]. Appalachian Studies Association Annual Conference, Western Carolina University.

LeRoy-Frazier, J., Adeusi, T., Chukwuma, J. (2024) Narratives of Belonging and Community: Local, Regional, and Transnational Identities [Conference presentation]. The Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture, University of Louisville.

Presentations (continued):

McKinney, R., Pinto, S., White, M. E., & Akers, W. P. (October, 2024). From competencies to guidelines: Upcoming changes from SAIGE taskforces. Presentation delivered at the Society for Sexual, Affectional, Intersex, and Gender Expansive Identities conference, Golden, CO.

Pusateri, C., Rogers, D., Brooks-Taylor, T., Brown J.B., & Langenbrunner, M. (12-14 April, 2023). "Service Learning through Historical Context: Building on Wisdom and Community Needs," [workshop presentation], Gulf-South Summit on Service Learning & Community Engagement, Athens, GA.

Rogers, D., Pusateri, C., Brooks-Taylor, T., Brown J.B., & Langenbrunner, M. (12-14 April, 2023). "The Critical Role of Service Learning in Academia," [workshop presentation], Gulf-South Summit on Service Learning & Community Engagement, Athens, GA.

Russell, K. (2024, March 29) *Unsentimental Natures: Anti-Mothers in Spleen and Chouette*. [conference presentation]. Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies South Annual Conference.

Thompson, P. (2024, March 30) *Feminist Teaching: Centering Care, not Compromise*. [conference presentation]. Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies South Annual Conference.

Tolley, R (September, 2024) *Pretend librarian: The universality of imposter syndrome* [Conference presentation]. Tennessee State Library & Archives, Public Library Management Institute. Fall Creek Calls, TN.

White, M. E. (October, 2024). *Trans self-disclosure in CES: Navigating safety and support across roles*. Presentation delivered at the Society for Sexual, Affectional, Intersex, and Gender Expansive Identities conference, Golden, CO.

Williams, S. L. (September, 2024). *Strategies to improve DEI in student and faculty research*. Presentation at the Equity and Inclusion Conference, ETSU.

Williams, S. L., et al. (June, 2024). *Building a writing community to support DEI passion projects*. Round table discussion held at the annual meeting of the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues. Philadelphia, PA.

Williams, S. L. (June, 2024). *Building a psychology of PCOS: Mobilizing social issues researchers*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues. Philadelphia, PA.

Grants, Courses, & Other Activities:

Jamie Branam-Brown:

HSRV 5200 Ethics & Social Justice

Co-author with executive director Patty Williams grants from state, federal and foundation sources in excess of \$250,000 annually to fund the 4th Judicial District Court Recover Services work in Cocke, Granger, Jefferson & Sevier Counties.

Founding Board member and Volunteer family support/parenting specialist for the 4th Judicial District Court Recovery Services Director Newport Theatre Guild and Cast & Crew Youth Theatre

Listed rule 31 Family Mediator Tennessee Administrative Offices of the Courts.

Jill LeRoy-Frazier:

CDST 5/4017 Ecofeminism (Spring 2024)
MALS 5200 Travelers, Expats, Migrants, Diaspora, and Transnational Identity (Fall 2023)
MALS 5900 Nigerian Women Writing Diaspora (Spring 2023)
MALS 5300 Intersectionality and Social Justice (Fall 2022)

ETSU Presidential Grant-in-Aid, to attend the Leitner Center for Law and Justice Summer Human Rights Institute at Fordham Law School, New York City, \$5000, AY 2022-23.

Rebecca Tolley:

July 2024, second year to teach trauma informed library leadership at Harvard Graduate School of Education's Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians.

Mickey White:

White, M. E. (Producer). (2024, August 23). *Mastering the dynamics of kink-aware counseling* (No. 280) [Audio Podcast]. *The Thoughtful Counselor*. Concept Professional Training.

White, M. (Producer). (2024, May 24). *Generations of resilience: Counseling LGBTQ+ older adults* (No. 273) [Audio Podcast]. *The Thoughtful Counselor*.

White, M. (2024). Summer Research Assignment (Funded) Clemmer College Internal Research Advisory Council (ETSU); primary investigator. Project: Grant Development for Community-Engaged LGBTQ+ Support & Training Support for Rural Mental Health Trainees

Stacey Williams:

Awarded Distinguished Publication Award from the Association for Women in Psychology

Appointed incoming editor of the book series for Division 35 (Psychology of Women) of the American Psychological Association