The Southwest Institute for Research on Women (SIROW) Regional Network includes gender and women's studies programs from throughout the US Southwest and the US–Mexico border region. The SIROW regional network has three complimentary goals: (1) to disseminate information about its members via SIROW’s website, regional newsletters, and annual meetings, (2) to support the advancement of scholarship and research in gender and women's studies across the region, and (3) to sustain and broaden a network of gender and women's studies scholars and researchers – solidifying a supportive relationship between students, scholars, researchers and other feminist professionals.
We send this newsletter with congratulations on another semester in the books and warm wishes for the upcoming holiday season!

As you know, our annual regional partner meeting will take place on **April 11th-12th, 2019** in **Tucson, Arizona**. While we have traditionally met at the end of January, this year's meeting is specifically scheduled to coincide with SIROW's 40th Anniversary festivities!

We are thrilled to welcome the regional partners back to Tucson to help us celebrate 40 years of supporting research and action on issues of importance to women, families, and the community. We are excited that our regional partners will get to meet SIROW's local supporters and collaborators as well as SIROW staff and campus affiliates. It will be a great opportunity to make new connections.

In this contemporary political climate, there are many pressing issues we continue to face as gender and women's studies programs located throughout the US Southwest. To name just a few:

- Proposed changes to Title IX protections against gender-based discrimination and sexual harassment
- Federal attempts to redefine the category of "sex" so as to exclude the transgender identified people
- Increasing militarization of the US-Mexico border and associated anti-migrant rhetoric

These issues impact our institutions, our faculty, staff, and the students we serve. While these developments pose challenges, as gender and sexuality scholars working in the Southwestern region, we are well situated to advocate for the diversity and equity that has long guided the vision and mission of the field of gender and women's studies.

This annual meeting presents the opportunity for regional dialogue on the challenges we face as well as the successes we have enjoyed in the past year. We look forward to discussing:

- Program updates
- Best practices in mentoring and teaching
- Strategies for institutional sustainability and growth
- Collective and collaborative future projects
- Other issues of timely importance to the regional partners

We look forward to the annual meeting where we can come together to benefit from the many years of experience and leadership shared across our membership.

But for now, we celebrate the end of another semester and look forward to what 2019 will bring!

Wishing you a very happy and healthy holiday season,

Jo Korchmaros, Director
Claudia Powell, Associate Director
Stephanie Murphy, Assistant Research Social Scientist and Regional Voice Editor
Program Spotlight:

The mission of The Gender Institute for Teaching and Advocacy (GITA) at Metropolitan State University of Denver is to serve as a hub for transformative education, programming, and advocacy on issues of gender equity and social inclusion. GITA aims to provide academic and holistic support for students targeted by sexism and other intersecting oppressions.

https://msudenver.edu/gita/

Fall Updates from GITA

Formerly called the Institute of Women's Studies and Services, The Gender Institute for Teaching and Advocacy (GITA) serves as hub for gender equity and social justice issues at Metropolitan State University of Denver. The institute provides both direct student services and houses the Gender, Women, and Sexualities Studies Department which offers one major and two minors in the field of gender and sexuality studies. In addition to faculty members, a number of professional staff work to support students.

Former Director, Dr. Arlene Sgoutas
GITA is currently in the midst of some exciting transitions. In addition to a recent name change, GITA said goodbye to former director Dr. Arlene Sgoutas who was recently appointed interim Dean of the College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences. A big thank you to Dr. Sgoutas for all her hard work over the years! GITA welcomed new interim director and department head, Dr. Kat Martinez, this fall. A big welcome to Dr. Martinez!

In addition to these personnel changes, GITA will soon say goodbye to its stylish but small Victorian Era campus house. This Fall, the institute plans to upgrade and move to a new space in the Boulder Creek building which will feature a larger floor plan for added event and study space as well as greater accessibility for students with disabilities.
On September 26th, GITA hosted its annual Community Awards ceremony and fundraiser, which celebrates individuals who have enhanced the campus community with their outstanding contributions. The event also helps to raise funds for four GITA scholarships: the Pamela McIntyre-Marcum Memorial Scholarship, the Activist Scholarship, the Nueva Esperanza Scholarship, and the Meredith Wetzel Scholarship. These scholarships aim to support students affected by interpersonal violence, social activists, students with a migrant farmworker background, and those that have dealt with a life-threatening illness or injury.

For more information on the scholarships or how to donate to the scholarship funds, please visit: https://msudenver.edu/gita/scholarships/

GITA Hosts 29th Annual Bridge Speaker!
GITA's Bridge Speaker event celebrates influential African-American women whose work speaks to social justice. This event serves as a "bridge" between Black History Month in February and Women's History Month in March. Now in its 29th year, this long-standing tradition serves as a forum to educate the campus on the experiences and contributions of African American women. It also addresses diversity initiatives like fostering social awareness, academic enrichment, and increasing multicultural competencies on campus. Previous speakers have included Janet Mock, Melissa Harris Perry, Wagatwe Wanjuki, and Suzi Q. Smith, among others. The 2018 selected speaker was Symone Sanders, former national press secretary for Bernie Sanders' 2016 Democratic presidential campaign. Sanders currently works as a strategist, communications consultant, CNN Political Commentator and served as Resident Fellow at Harvard’s Institute of Politics at the Kennedy School in Spring 2018. The upcoming 2019 speaker will be chosen soon!

By: J. Bishop, GITA student staff member
The Need for Men

The Masculinity Symposium, sponsored by MSU Denver's GITA and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, was held on October 19th. The event offers students an opportunity and space to explore and discuss masculinity and the need for men in the fight against gender oppression and violence. The conference includes workshops, discussion, and keynote presentations. This year, Dr. Steve Rissman, the creator of the Men's Health minor at MSU Denver, delivered the keynote.

Women of Color History Course Offered at Denver Area High School

MSU Denver works with local public high schools to offer college credit for a variety of courses. Thomas Jefferson High School has partnered with GITA to offer a new high school class titled, Women of Color. The course highlights women of color throughout history and allows students to build critical thinking and analysis skills applied to their own lives. It is taught by MSU Denver Gender, Women, and Sexualities Studies adjunct professor Angell Perez. According to junior student Bella Williams, "The class has shown that I have a lot more power than I thought and taught me to stand in that power."

For more on the Women of Color class, click here.

To connect with MSU Denver GITA on social media, click on any of the icons below:
See below for recent news and announcements:

Texas Tech To Host 35th Annual Women’s Conference

Women’s & Gender Studies at Texas Tech University (TTU) proudly announces a call for proposals for the 35th Annual Conference on the Advancement of Women, which will take place on their campus, April 25-27, 2019. TTU invites papers and panel proposals that explore the manifold meanings of movement and change as connected to, created by, and/or caught up in the presence of women's, gender, and identity issues, in both contemporary and historical frameworks. Interdisciplinary proposals, as well as those from disciplines and specialty subject areas are also encouraged to submit. Submit an 250-word abstract including the proposal title, name, affiliation and contact information for all author(s) on or before March 1, 2019. For more information, click here.

SIROW’s U-MATTER – A New Project to Address the Opioid Epidemic

https://us14.admin.mailchimp.com/campaigns/show?id=730011
SIROW and partners were recently awarded a 1.47 million dollar grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The U-MATTER (Unified Medication Assisted Treatment Targeted Engagement Response) project is a coordinated effort of Pima County, Tucson Police Department, CODAC Health, Recovery, and Wellness, Inc., and SIROW. This innovative project is focused on identifying, engaging, and retaining individuals with opioid use disorder in comprehensive medication assisted treatment and recovery support services and facilitating these individuals’ long-term recovery. You can read more about the project here and here. Please contact Josephine Korchmaros for more information.

**SIROW Awarded 2 Million Dollar SAMHSA Grant to Address LGBTQ+ Youth Homelessness**

SIROW was also awarded approximately 2 million dollars to address youth homelessness by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, SAMHSA. The Lighthouse Project is a collaboration between two community based agencies, the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation and Our Family Services, to provide wrap-around services to LGBTQ+ identified youth who are unstably housed or homeless. This project aims to eradicate youth homelessness by linking homeless, transitional age youth and young adults to a trauma-informed system of care that includes permanent supportive housing and primary health care, case management services, substance abuse and mental health treatment and a wide array of recovery support services. Please contact Claudia Powell for more information.

**SIROW Associate Director Claudia Powell Named OpEd Project Fellow**

Congratulations to SIROW’s Claudia Powell for being selected as an OpEd Project: Tucson Public Voices Fellow. The OpEd Project is a partnership between The University of Arizona, the Women’s Foundation of Southern Arizona and The OpEd Project. This intense year-long fellowship provides a unique professional and leadership development opportunity. The goal is to increase the influence of women and minority thought leaders by changing who narrates our world through contributions to key commentary forums. See Claudia’s first published OpEd here.
Anniversary.

Please save the date to celebrate with us on April 11, 2019 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Invitation to follow

Please contact Nikole Justvig with any questions:
520-621-3839 or njustvig@email.arizona.edu

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