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CENTER FOR WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES

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Embrey Women's Human Rights Initiative
Kristen Hogan - Project Director

Performing Justice Project
Dr. Megan Alrutz, Theatre and Dance
Lynn Hoare, MFA, Voices against Violence
Victoria Dominguez, CWGS
Emily Freeman, Theatre and Dance

Inspire Facilitators
Juan Portillo
Jennifer Sapio
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Cover Photos: Clockwise from top: Participants of the NEW Leadership™ Texas summer institute, Photo by Andrea Zarate; CWGS Performing Justice Project at the Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders, AISD; Dr. Radhika Balakrishnan, Executive Director of the Center for Women's Global Leadership at Rutgers University, as part of the CWGS EWHRI Speakers Series and the CWGS Graduate Student Conference Keynote; CWGS Graduate Student EWHRI International Scholars: Namita Kohli, Ece Saltan, Danielle Yu Wang, and Juan Portillo, Photo by Megan Jackson; WGS Faculty Affiliates: Dr. Pauline Strong, Dr. Dana Cloud, Dr. Christine Williams, and Dr. González-López. Photo by Megan Jackson; 2012 Graduating Class, Photo by Ryan Miller, Courtesy of LAITS;
STUDENT AND ACADEMIC NEWS

ENROLLMENT
- Undergraduate Majors - 52
- Master’s Program - 19
- Portfolio Program - 50 (estimate)

GRADUATES
- 16 Undergraduates received their Bachelor’s of Arts
- 8 Masters Students received their Master of Arts
- 2 Dual Degree Students received their Master of Arts/Master of Information Science

NEW COURSES
- Gender Development, Media, and Human Rights, Fall 2011 Faculty: Becky Bigler, Psychology
- Sex and the Russian City, Spring 2012 Faculty: Tatiana Kuzmic. Slavic Studies, and Jennifer Beer, Psychology
- Women for Sale? The Economic, Social, and Political Proposition of Human Trafficking, Spring 2012 Faculty: Noël Busch-Armendariz, Laurie Cook Heffron, Social Work, and Bruce Kellison, Business

FACULTY AFFILIATES
306 faculty from various schools and colleges

CWGS STUDENT ORGANIZATION
The CWGS student organization is open to both undergraduates and graduates. The goal is to create community and resources for those studying or interested in WGS. The organization plans socials, networking, honor society implementation and interest building, relation with the center, service opportunities, get to know others in the program and find advice on classes and paths.

HONORS SOCIETY
Although not active at this time, the national honor society, Iota Iota Iota is open to students in WGS or any student with a strong interest in Women’s and Gender Studies that meet the academic standards (3.0 GPA).

EVENTS
-Faculty Development Program Participants presented 6 lectures throughout the Fall.
-Sponsored or co-sponsored 9 film screenings or plays throughout the year
-Sponsored or co-sponsored 5 book presentations
-Sponsored or co-sponsored 40 talks, lectures, presentations and art exhibits from UT and the community
-Sponsored or co-Sponsored Conferences/Symposia including:
  - 8th Annual Conference on Comparative Literature and Literacy Studies (English)
  - Workshop on Slavery and Sexuality in the US and Caribbean (GSA)
  - (Dis)Locating Justice, CWGS’s 19th Annual Emerging Scholarship Conference
  - English Department Symposium: “Surface Symptom and the State of Critique”
  - Gender Symposium (History)
  - The State of Lesbian Feminist Social Justice
  - NEW Leadership™ Texas (CWGS)
  - Women’s Human Rights: Performing Justice Project @ Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders (CWGS)

Panel discussion

POLITICS BECOMES PERSONAL:
The Fight for Women’s Health in Texas

CWGS FACULTY AND STUDENT SUPPORT EVENTS
-The Rape, Abuse and Incest Network (RAINN) Day Event (Sept.)
-Promotion and Tenure Panel (April)
-CAB Meetings (Fall and Spring)
-Steering Committee (Fall and Spring)
-CWGS Spring Reception (May)
Congratulations, Class of 2012!

Women’s & Gender Studies, Bachelors of Arts Degree:
May 2012
- Teri Joanna Adams
- Jacqueline Marie Artis
- Julie Diane Bolanos
- Arturo A. Chapa III
- Lauren Renee Cozart
- Victoria Rose Haring
- Erica G. Hernandez
- Megan Elizabeth Jackson
- Alexandra Autumn Messenger
- Wanjira Murimi
- Megan Ann Susong
- Riley Edward Toliver
- Andrea Zarate

August 2012
- Mary Louann Murphy
- Farah Nawaz Shalwani
- Keeshia Reyes Sison

Women’s & Gender Studies, Masters of Arts Degree
May 2012
- Katherine Briggs
- Amelia Koford
- Lorena Siller
- Danielle Yu Wang

August 2012
- Lydia Crafts Putnam
- Kristin Krenz
- Jennifer Morris
- Juan Portillo
- Tynisha Scott
- Beck Wise

AWARDS

The 2012 Annual Spring Awards reception was held on May 8 in GEB 4th floor Conference Room. Awards and our award recipients were:
- The Undergraduate Cynthia Walker Peña Scholarship: Julie Bolanos
- The Lora Romero Memorial Undergraduate Award for Interdisciplinary Research in Race, Ethnicity, and Gender: Wanjira Murimi, “The Construction of the ‘Disposable’ in the Disposable Woman”
- The Ellen Clarke Temple Graduate Award: Lizeth Elizondo, “Till Death Do Us Part?: Cohabitation and Broken Brothals in the Northern Spanish Colonial Borderlands 1680-1778”
- The Dissertation Fellowship Award: Lynn Selby, “The Collective Dimensions of the Ethic of Care: Women’s Political Subject-Making in Martissant, Haiti”
- CWGS MA Thesis Awards:
  - Amelia Koford, “Strong Views About What You Call Things: How Disability Studies Scholars Interact with Information Classification Systems”
  - Lorena Siller Urtega, “Ni Domesticas Ni Putas: Sexual Harassment in the Lives of Female Household Workers in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon”
- The Lucia, John, and Melissa Gilbert Teaching Excellence Award: Gloria González-López, Associate Professor of Sociology and CWGS Affiliate Faculty.
- Contributor of the Year Award: Edmund “Ted” Gordon, Chair of the Department of African and African Diaspora Studies.
CWGS MA STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS
Ece Salton
Tynisha Scott
Rebecca Wise

STAFF AWARD
Alma Jackie Salcedo received recognition from the UT Graduate Coordinator Network (GCN); she received the GCN Scholarship to attend the National Association of Graduate Admission Professionals Conference.

FACULTY AFFILIATE AWARDS
- Dr. Christine Williams, Chair of the Department of Sociology, received Distinguished Feminist Lecturer Award from SWS (Sociologists for Women in Society).
- Dr. Rebecca Rossen, Department of Theatre and Dance, received $6,000 NEH summer research grant.
- Dr. Noël Busch-Armendariz, Director of the UT Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, School of Social Work, is appointed co-editor-in-chief of AFFILIA: Journal of Women and Social Work.
- Shane Whalley, Education Coordinator at the UT Gender and Sexuality Center, won the Texas Exes Teaching Award for the School of Social Work.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AWARDS
Texas Women's History Foundation, a CWGS Community Partner, was honored for its “Texas Women's History Moments” (which aired on KUT) by the National Council on Public History (NCPH) for its “Outstanding Public History Project Award,” and The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) for a Leadership in History Award of Merit.
From Left: Structural oppression diagram created by members of the Project Group on Teaching Critical Approaches to Women’s Human Rights; Dr. Radhika Balakrishnan, Executive Director of the Center for Women’s Global Leadership at Rutgers, in our Speakers Series in connection with the CWGS Graduate Student Conference; Dr. Megan Alrutz, Theatre and Dance, and Lynn Hoare, MFA, Voices Against Violence, creators of the Performing Justice Project; Dr. Nicole Guidotti-Hernández, American Studies, and Dr. Christen Smith, Anthropology, engage in the Faculty Dialogues series.

“I imagine a just world without stereotypes, sexism, or racism. Where everyone is equal, but is also different. A just world isn’t perfect, but it does have many communities that help each other through everything. My role in the creation of a just world is raising awareness. Speaking up, not stepping down.”
- High School Student in CWGS Performing Justice Project @ The Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders, 2012

This year the CWGS Embrey Women’s Human Rights Initiative (EWHRI) continued to foster an educational culture for gender and racial justice. Active CWGS EWHRI projects during 2011-12 include:

**International Conference:** 5-6 October 2012 we bring you Rethinking Power & Resistance: Gender & Human Rights from Texas to the Transnational. Organized by activist scholars and community organizers across Austin, this international, dual-language conference will create new partnerships for gender and racial justice work.

http://powerandresistance2012.wordpress.com/ (& Facebook)

**Performing Justice Project:** This year we expanded the influence of the Performing Justice Project by creating a new partnership. We worked with 13 students at The Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders, AISD. Megan Alrutz (Assistant Professor, Theatre & Dance), Lynn Hoare (Theatre for Dialogue Specialist, UT Voices Against Violence), and Kristen Hogan (Project Director, CWGS Embrey Women’s Human Rights Initiative) sustained the leadership of this project, facilitated the development of the graduate students as teachers, and are weaving what we have learned this semester into the model for next year.

After creating their performance, the students convinced the Principal and Associate Principals to schedule the performance for a school assembly with all of the more than 600 students at the school. The students would like to take the performance around to other schools; we are working to build this into the curriculum and to share with the young women strategies for continuing this work on their own.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7iOugSQeyS4&feature=plcp

**Signature Courses:** We recruit faculty to develop and teach new UT first-year Signature Courses on gender and racial justice. In 2011-12 our faculty developed and taught 3 new courses; each of the courses enrolled the maximum, 30 students. This year, a total of 90 first-year students took courses on gender and racial justice.

- **Gender Development, Media, and Human Rights, Fall 2011**
  Faculty: Becky Bigler, Psychology
- **Sex and the Russian City, Spring 2012**
  Faculty: Tatiana Kuzmic, Slavic Studies, and Jennifer Beer, Psychology
Women for Sale? The Economic, Social, and Political Proposition of Human Trafficking, Spring 2012
Faculty: Noël Busch-Armendariz, Laurie Cook Heffron, Social Work, and Bruce Kellison, Business
Our faculty are currently developing 8 additional new Signature Courses on women’s human rights.

Speaker Series: We coordinate and collaborate with other centers and departments on speakers series to develop a vocabulary for education and advocacy for gender and racial justice. In 2011-12, we brought in J. Bob Alotta, Executive Director of the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice, and Dr. Radhika Balakrishnan, Executive Director of the Center for Women’s Global Leadership at Rutgers University. In collaboration with the Department of African and African Diaspora Studies and the Warfield Center for African and African American Studies, we also coordinated a series of three interdisciplinary faculty conversations.

Curriculum Development: During 2011-12 we recruited faculty to participate in a Project Group on Teaching Critical Approaches to Women’s Human Rights. The Project Group met four times over the course of the year. Faculty in the Project Group worked together to create 3 new courses, substantially revise 4 ongoing courses, and generate classroom exercises on gender and racial justice. The course titles include:
- Black Feminist Theory
- Feminist Theories of Community Building (New)
- Performance, Feminist Practice, and Social Change (New)
- Poetry and Performance as Witness (New)
- Sexual Violence across Mexican Cultures
- Theatre for Social Justice
- Voices against Violence

International Graduate Student Scholars: The first round of Embrey Women’s Human Rights International Scholars met regularly throughout the year. This year there were 3 scholars funded through the CWGS EWHRI and 1 scholar with a Fulbright Fellowship who participated as an EWHR International Scholar without EWHRI funding:
- Namita Kohli, India (Fulbright Fellow)
- Juan Portillo, El Salvador
- Ece Saltan, Turkey
- Danielle Yu Wang, China

The group shared resources for international students and in support of each others’ research and advocacy for women’s human rights.

The two graduating scholars completed their degrees with a commitment to continue this work: Juan Portillo was admitted into the PhD program in Sociology at UT Austin. Danielle Yu Wang was waitlisted at Emory and will return to work and research in China and apply to PhD programs again next year.

The two scholars entering their second year in the program both achieved substantial scholarly successes early in their careers: Namita Kohli received a summer Social Justice Research Fellowship from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement to conduct research in India this summer. Ece Saltan presented her work at a Transgender Studies conference in California this spring.

From Left: High school students at The Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders perform their work during the CWGS Performing Justice Project (PJP); Graduate student facilitators developed a Wordle of the issues important to Ann Richards School high school students in PJP; Garza High School students perform their work during the PJP; Faculty facilitators devise the performance during PJP.
INSPIRE: EMPOWERING TEXAS WOMEN LEADERS

Since 2009, the Inspire program has served as UT’s signature leadership program for women undergraduates. Inspire is a three-year program (sophomore to senior).

We have three cohorts simultaneously developing skills necessary to become leaders so that they will achieve the highest levels of attainment in their chosen fields. By bringing students together from different schools, areas of interest, ethnicity, and life experiences, they explore the value of diversity and how to successfully communicate across cultures. Inspire allows young women to experience the freedom of working together in a female-friendly environment that supports their needs while also learning the skills needed to succeed in co-educational situations.

Opportunities that the program offers are:
- Community service/leadership development
- Mentoring and networking
- Internship/career assistance
- Attending leadership conferences

The program inspires and supports students in the classroom, on campus, and in community leadership roles. Students will develop skills applicable to diverse social settings: critical thinking, public presentation, group motivation, and negotiation. The participants build leadership skills by engaging in community service, and working with other young women in supportive and interdisciplinary environments. Moreover, they learn directly from the experiences of successful female mentors drawn from both the academy and the community.

Sophomores

As the cohorts before them, the sophomores attended and participated in the six-week improvisational course. During improv the students learned to go beyond their comfort zones and explore their creative talents in building relationships, interact with others, think quickly on their feet, engage in team-building, public speaking, and develop fast-paced problem-solving skills. During our bimonthly meetings we invited Drucilla Tigner from Planned Parenthood to talk about female health and sexuality as well as SafePlace representatives, professors, and attorneys. For the group project this year they composed and illustrated a book, Inspiring Stories, a collection of personal and original stories meant for middle school girls.

Juniors

Each student in this cohort was provided with extensive training, advising, and guidance to write a scholarly paper for presentation at an academic conference. Conference paper topics include, The Resourcefulness of Single Mexican American Mothers Who send their Children to College: An Oral History; The Fluidity of Gender And Questions About Race: A case study of Storm, the “Gender Neutral” Canadian Baby; Unraveling the Gendered Nature of Fan Fiction; Identity Construction Of Mixed-Race College Students. We encouraged and assisted the students to find mentors and they were able to meet with professors who guided them through the research process.

Seniors

Congratulations to our first graduating class of Inspire! This graduating cohort of seniors was the first class of students to complete all three years of the Inspire program. For this reason, they shaped much of the curriculum. The seniors began working with freshman mentees, and the idea of paying it forward and sharing what they’ve learned with potential future Inspire students really seemed to resonate with them. The workshops they put together, including “Surviving College 101” and a “Diversity Round Table” discussion, were incredibly well thought out and well executed. The senior project was a collaborative journal they created ended up being a wonderful vehicle to commemorate their experience, and to share their experiences in Inspire with other students.
Group Activities
The Fall Retreat at Zilker Park
The Rape, Abuse and Incest Network (RAINN Day) Event
Two weekend workshops with topics on Professional Development and Healthy Relationships
Co-hosted with CWGS the screening of the HBO documentary “Gloria: In Her Own Words”.
Had breakfast for legendary women’s basketball coach, Jody Conradt.
Our end-of-year party was hosted by Community Advisory Board member Linda Aaker at her home.

Conferences
2012 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, College Park, Maryland and Washington, DC
2012 Diversity and Leadership Conference, Dallas, TX

Jenni, Caroline, Danielle, and Christine at the 2012 Diversity and Leadership Conference in Dallas.

Jennifer, Asmani, Veronica, and Jessica at the 2012 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, College Park, Maryland and Washington, DC
The NEW Leadership™ Texas summer institute was held from June 17-22, 2012. The institute included nearly 50 speakers and the venues included 9 different buildings on campus, as well as a field trip to the Texas State Capitol and City Hall.

The NEW Leadership™ Texas program offers students an opportunity to develop the skills necessary to become effective political leaders and establish networks with like-minded peers and successful political women. During the six-day residential program, students learn from educators in the field of women and politics, are mentored by women public leaders with a variety of roles in politics and policy-making, and participate in hands-on skills building workshops. NEW Leadership™ Texas encourages participants to embrace their own leadership abilities and to consider politics and the public sector as they plan their careers.

Students met with speakers such as State Representative Senfronia Thompson, State Senator Letitia Van de Putte, Mayor Annise Parker of Houston, City of Austin officials, such as Fire Chief Rhoda Mae Kerr and Police Monitor Margo Frazier. They attended workshops including public speaking, diversity, and leadership styles.

These students were exposed to women in a variety of roles in the public sphere, learned about women's political participation, explored ideas about leadership and politics, and participated in hands-on skills building exercises. The residential nature of the program creates an intensive learning experience that cannot be replicated with a series of one-day programs. Students, staff and resident faculty (women political leaders who stay for the entire program) lived together in dormitory rooms during the NEW Leadership™ Texas program.
NEW Leadership™ Texas Demographics
Twenty-seven students attended from 13 universities and colleges across Texas. Ages ranged from 18 – 41 years old.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race and Ethnicity</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Colleges Represented</th>
<th>Students</th>
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<tr>
<td>Asian and Pacific Islander</td>
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<td>Baylor University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black</td>
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<td>Houston Community College</td>
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<td>Prairie View A&amp;M University</td>
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<td>Native American</td>
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<td>Texas A&amp;M University</td>
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<td>Texas State University</td>
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<td>University of Mary (ND)</td>
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<td>UNT Dallas</td>
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<td>UT Austin</td>
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<td>UT Brownsville</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>UT San Antonio</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Applying to the 2013 NEW Leadership™ Texas
At NEW Leadership™ Texas, you will:
• Meet successful women leaders;
• Develop leadership skills;
• Learn how to make change through politics;
• Network with diverse, dynamic women.

Who should apply?
• Undergraduate women enrolled in any Texas college or university for 2012-2013, or are graduating in May 2013;
• Texas residents attending out-of-state schools;
• All majors are welcome;
• Women of color and non-traditional students are encouraged to apply.

NEW Leadership™ Texas is a partner with the NEW Leadership™ Development Network (NLDN) based at the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) at Rutgers University. NLDN is a national partnership dedicated to expanding political knowledge and participation among college women.

The Development Network is CAWP’s initiative to establish NEW Leadership™ programs at colleges and universities across the United States. Since 1999, CAWP has been working with educational institutions across the country to help them plan and initiate NEW Leadership™ programs on their home campuses.

The Development Network currently includes 21 colleges and universities serving women in 25 states. To date, more than 3500 college women have participated in regional NEW Leadership™ programs.
FUND RAISING

Grants Awarded
• Reynolds Foundation awarded two-year grant
• Embrey Family Foundation continued grant support for the Embrey Women’s Human Rights Initiative and NEW Leadership™ Texas.

Endowment
• Continued fund raising for the Jody Conradt Excellence Fund in Equity and Leadership

Donations received from:
• UT Department for Diversity and Community Engagement
• Individual
• Businesses and Corporations

OUR FALL 2012 M.A. COHORT

Patena Key received her B.A. in English Literature with a minor in French Studies from Dartmouth College. During her undergraduate career she compared traditional canonical literature against the narratives of marginalized groups within the United States and France. While studying these narratives, Patena also learned more about ex-patriotism, exile, and compartmentalization within pre-Civil Rights era society and also noticed the same patterns within more contemporary literature. This interest sparked her to research the effects of travel and migration on race, gender, sexuality and identity within the American Micro-Narrative through the analysis of works by James Baldwin, Toni Morrison and Ruth Ozeki. Patena also spent her time at Dartmouth writing short stories and commentaries for Untamed, a feminist paper, and volunteered as a panelist for Women of Dartmouth, a yearly women’s tribute. She also studied and served as an assistant at L’Université Lumière Lyon II in Lyon, France. Currently, she is an active member at Cathedral of Hope (UCC) in Dallas and volunteers as a secretary for a multi-cultural faith group called Coat of Colours. Patena is enthusiastic to continue dissecting the cross-sections between race, gender, class and sexuality at the University of Texas. In her spare time, she cooks, crochets and drives fast. She enjoys all of these endeavors with a loving partner, dog and cat.

Monica Lozano was born and raised in San Jose, CA. Monica spent her undergraduate career attending the University of California at Davis, where she received her Bachelor of Arts in Women and Gender Studies, minor in Religious Studies. While in her undergraduate career Monica was involved in Mujeres Ayudando la Raza, a women’s support group and community service based organization for Chicanas/Latinas at UC Davis. Here she discovered her passion for working with diverse populations and giving back to her community. Monica organized a full day event for local migrant farm workers that included food, clothing, hygiene products and education on supporting their children in school. Since graduating from UC Davis, Monica has focused her work with children and families in crisis. At her current employment Monica has created multiple trainings on topics such as a father’s role in child rearing, trauma in infants and reflective practice. She is also currently leading a team that organizes and audits charts to be in compliance with Medical protocol for the county. Monica will be receiving a dual degree in Women and Gender Studies and Information Science while
attending the University of Texas at Austin. She is interested on how culture, gender, and immigration status affect immigrant populations and their access to local libraries. In her spare time, Monica practices Therapeutic Yoga and Krav Maga, as well as enjoys hikes and reading books by the ocean.

Nicole Murphy grew up in Chicago raised by her single mother. She was the first person in her family to go to college and she attended Beloit College, a small liberal arts school in southern Wisconsin, graduating in 2010 with a B.A. in Women's Studies. She is an alumnus of Student Support Services, a federally funded TRIO program for first generation, low income or minority students aimed at student retention. After graduating, Nicole worked for Beloit College Upward Bound, another federally funded TRIO program. Her research is invested in and grounded by her background as a first generation and low income student, her work in the field of Women's Studies and her work for pre-college TRIO programs. Nicole's work focuses on the education system in the United States and its failure to address the needs of our country's students using a feminist lens, understanding of identities and international scope. She believes the malleability and critical self-reflecting eye of Women and Gender Studies combined with an examination of successful international empowerment models could offer viable solutions to the education crisis in our country.

Austin Rodenbiker was raised in the suburbs of Omaha, Nebraska. His high school was surrounded on three sides by corn fields. After high school, he moved to Milwaukee to pursue a bachelor's degree at Marquette University. Austin took a somewhat nonlinear path in his undergraduate education, starting in civil engineering and graduating with a double major in Women's and Gender Studies and Writing-Intensive English. His four years at Marquette found him active in creative communities, participating in feminist and queer events in and out of school, and collaborating with faculty and administrators to establish a gender resource center on campus. These years instilled in him a desire for trans- and interdisciplinary scholarship, as well as a slight appreciation of cheap beer.

Austin's plans for academic inquiry focus on the questions: What are the hermeneutics we can apply to queer bodies? What spaces can queer bodies act upon? Or within? Particularly, he is interested in acts of visibility/invisibility among LGBT-identifying people. These acts center around the closet, public performativity, and secret keeping. He is excited to explore how queer bodies create and maneuver spaces through these acts.

Austin loves Toni Morrison and strong coffee. His Netflix account says he enjoys “Witty TV Shows Featuring a Strong Female Lead,” which he supposes is relatively accurate. He's pretty jazzed to be living in a city that has the same name as him.

Alana Varner is pursuing a dual Master's in Women's and Gender Studies and Information Studies. She received a Bachelor's degree in Political Science with a minor in Gender and Women's Studies from the University of Arizona. As an undergraduate, she worked as a librarian's assistant in the University of Arizona's Special Collections Library and served as an executive officer in the school's VOX: Voices for Planned Parenthood chapter. After graduation, she moved to Los Angeles to work at Ms. magazine where, among other things, she helped to organize a digital database for the magazine's archive. Alana's academic interests include transnational feminisms, critical race studies, chicana/o studies, latina/o studies, indigenous studies, and borderlands history. She would like to do more in-depth research on state-sanctioned violence, its aftermath and treatment in historical records, and the roles that race, class, gender and sexuality play in the curation of archival materials. Alana believes that in order to bridge the gap between practice and theory, active engagement in community issues is necessary. She has been an activist with various groups in Arizona and California that focus on immigrant rights, reproductive health, and Ethnic Studies. She is excited to be a part of the academic community at UT Austin, and to learn about the historical and social issues that affect the city of Austin.