

# WOMEN'S STUDIES NEWSLETTER

Volume 23 Issue 2

Spring 2019

Edited by Anna Grace Inman & Elise Bartram



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UTC's Women's Studies Program welcomes four new professors; two are currently teaching Women's Studies courses and the other two will be teaching Women's Studies courses this fall. First is Dr. Jessica Freeman, an assistant professor in the Communication Department. She received her PhD from the University of Missouri's School of Journalism. She is originally from Fort Worth, TX, where she got her undergraduate degree. Jessica's dissertation is called "Tuning In To Hooking Up: An Analysis of Television's Influence On Thoughts of Hook-Ups and Commitment." Her current research looks at communication dynamics in grand families/grandparent-headed households, which stems from her personal experience of being raised by her grandmother. She also has an interest in online social support and is currently working on a study on Endometriosis. Jessica is currently teaching COM/WSTU 3240

(Gender, Race, and Media). Dr. Freeman has taken inspiration from Dr. Elizabeth Gailey, who has taught the course in the past. Furthermore, Dr. Freeman is teaching a class in the fall called Sex and Violence in the Media for the Honors College. Her hope for these courses is to, "have very open conversations and dialogue about media literate consumers, look at the media and the current issues like politics and look at/discuss current gender and racial issues in society." She said that, "it has been a really neat opportunity to be a part of Women's Studies, especially because of very timely issues like, Time's Up and #MeToo," adding that "there's a lot to deconstruct in our current climate that surrounds gender and race."



Dr. Elisabeth Sheff-Stefanik is an adjunct professor in the Social, Cultural, and Justice Studies Department. She received her PhD from the University of Colorado at Boulder and is originally from Denver, Colorado. Her dissertation was on Polyamorous relationships. Her doctoral work turned into a longitudinal study where she started her first wave of data information in 1996 and she is now about 2/3rds into her 4th round of data collection. She told me that, "it's been really interesting to watch the kids [in the study] grow up; they have known me now long enough that they are comfortable with me and they tell me what's on their minds." Elisabeth got to teach a class on Polyamory at The University of Zurich in Switzerland for a semester. In the fall she will teach SOC/WSTU 3070 (Gender and Society). The class is an overview of the importance of gender and how it influences people's interactions in society, how society views men, women, non-binary people, and transgender bodies.

What sparked her interest in Women's Studies was being raised by her mother who was a Second Wave Feminist/Gender and Peace Activist. She said, "from my earliest memories I was going to protests and marches and this is what shaped my thoughts and values from the beginning."

Dr. Carey McCormack is a lecturer in the Department of History. She earned her PhD from Washington State University in Vancouver and she is originally from San Diego, California. Carey's dissertation was on the Collection and Discovery of Plant Exchanges and Indigenous Plant Knowledge in South and Southeast Asia. She also looked at the contributions to botanical knowledge of colonial women who were brought from Britain to colonies in that area. She is currently working on a collection of essays on the verge of being published, *The Patriarchal Structure of Botanical Gardens and their Management Through the Botanic Gardens at Kew*. This fall she will be teaching Gender and Empire and looking how imperial expansion and colonial law essentially determined where everyone was supposed to fit within their specific empire based on gender, race, and class and how that was, "an epic failure." She said that, "trying to define everyone's place within these colonies gave these people a chance to contest that categorization." She became interested in Women's Studies while getting her bachelor's degree; during this time she took a course, Women in Southeast Asian History, which dealt with egalitarian societies in Southeast Asia. She learned how Britain tried to

conquer and shape their society but couldn't get the women to step down from their positions in society. "Girl Power," she said.

Please welcome Dr. Courtney Crittenden, Dr. Jessica Freeman, Dr. Elisabeth Sheff-Stefanik and Dr. Carey McCormack to our program this year!

Written by Anna Grace Inman



### Student Spotlight: Victoria White

*By Anna Grace Inman*

Victoria White is a senior this year and will be graduating this May with a Women and Gender Studies Major and a Sociology Minor. Victoria is from Smyrna, TN which is in the Nashville area. After taking an Intro to Women's Studies class with Sheena Monds her sophomore year, Victoria knew she had to change her major to Women and Gender Studies. Her class with Ms. Monds touched her personally in her beliefs such as the inequalities minorities and women face. Ms. Monds was also her inspiration to pursue this new path. Victoria connected with Women Studies in her own life due to childhood hardships. In addition to her Women and Gender Studies Major, Victoria is choosing to pair her major with a Sociology Minor. Learning about human interactions, social problems, and development of humans can help her help others in her career down the road. In addition to her Intro to Women's Studies class, Victoria favored a class with Ms. Ann Bugey called Women and Textiles. She got to learn through the class lectures and the interactive workshops which helped her develop more life skills and craft skills such as embroidery. She found that embroidery helped her express herself through what she was able to create and it was very stress relieving. She has been able to take part in peaceful protests such as the one after President Trump's inauguration, where she was able to interact with people with views similar to hers and learned to stand up for what she believes in and what she is passionate for. Since she was a freshman she has participated in Take Back the Night which is an international event and non-profit organization with the mission of ending sexual, relationship, and domestic violence in all forms. In Victoria's free time she enjoys hanging with friends, loving on her cat, relaxing after work, watching TV, being outside, and going on hikes. Her dream job, using her major and minor, would be going to speak to middle schoolers and high schoolers and teaching them self-love, what healthy relationships look like, and empowering them to stand up for what they believe and to believe in themselves. These are some of the things that she has focused on during her college journey and plans to continue to work on throughout her life.

### Alumni Spotlight: Colleen Mahn

*By Marcia Noe*



Those far-away places with strange-sounding names have been calling to Colleen Mahn. After graduating in 2015 with a double major in English and Women's Studies, Colleen moved to Busan, South Korea, where she taught English at a private academy. Colleen found the South Korea culture to be very community-driven and welcoming. Her colleagues frequently invited her out to explore the city and dine. "South Korea is one of the wealthiest and most developed countries in Asia," said Colleen. "They are starting to offer women's studies courses and have been talking about feminist issues for the past two or three years." Colleen is now teaching English in Hanoi, Vietnam, a city of 8 million people, 5,000,000 of them foreigners. "There is a growth mindset in Hanoi," said Colleen. "The economy is on the rise." Vietnam is not as progressive, though, with respect to gender issues as is South Korea. "By and large, the men work and the women stay home," said Colleen. "There is a huge problem with sexual assault in Hanoi, with little help in combatting it from the government or embassies." Colleen is looking forward to graduate school in Abu Dhabi; after graduate school, she wants to return to Korea and teach at the university level. She believes that her Women's Studies major has prepared her well to challenge students to understand their place in the world and why they believe what they do.

### New to Women's Studies Continued...

*By Anna Grace Inman*



Dr. Courtney Crittenden is an Assistant Professor in the Social, Cultural, and Justice Studies Department. She received her PhD from the University of South Carolina in Criminology and Criminal Justice, her B.S. from Tennessee Wesleyan University, and her M.S. in Criminal Justice here at UTC. She wrote her dissertation on "Gender and Programming: A Comparison of Program Availability and Participation in U.S. Prisons for Men and Women." She is currently continuing her intersectional research with colleagues and students and "exploring if criminologists have heeded the call to be conducting intersectional research through a content analysis of four prominent journals in our discipline." In addition, she is also working on a project that examines attitudes toward consensual sexual relationships between faculty and students on college campuses. Courtney is currently teaching Violence Against Women; she originally took this course when she was a master's student here at UTC from Dr. Helen Eigenberg. Her hope for this course is to, "illuminate how the crimes that typically fall under the umbrella of violence against women affect all members of society."

## Women's Studies Alumni Update

**Catherine Connor Anderson** earned an MA in counseling with an emphasis in human sexuality and is a Licensed Mental Health Therapist for Presbyterian Medical Services at Valley Community Health in Espanola, New Mexico.

**Erin Ashton** is working as a Victim Advocate near Raleigh, NC and plans to go to law school in the fall of 2019.

**Anne Brettell** earned an MFA in creative writing and an MA in Library and Information Science from the University of Alabama in 2014 and is a full-time instructor there in the Department of English.

**Olivia Brown** is a leasing consultant for Hamilton Place Apartments, focusing on marketing and event planning.

**Megan Coleman** is a Public Services Specialist for the UTC Library.

**Kaitlin Cottle** is a second-year law student at the University of Virginia. During the summer of 2018, she worked in Washington, DC, for the American Bar Association's Rule of Law Initiative, focusing on international human rights efforts for women and the LGBTQ community.

**Rachel Davis** is a second-year doctoral student in sociology at the University of Kentucky. Her research is focused on sugar arrangements, i.e., romantic relationships that young women enter into with men in exchange for money and/or gifts.

**Karla Evans** is an Academic Records Specialist in UTC's Records Office.

**Chassey Foster** is an English Language Arts 7 and Agricultural Science teacher at Ivy Academy in Hamilton County, Tennessee.

**Carla Fulgham** earned an MA in Library and Information Science from the University of Mississippi in 2018 and is working as a librarian there.

**Fendall Fulton** moved to New Hampshire and loves it! She is enrolled full time in the Toulouse Graduate School's Library Science program and volunteers for UpReach, an equine-assisted therapy program.

**Christina Gaines** is a Patient Services Specialist at US HealthWorks, an occupational health and urgent care clinic in Nashville. She lives with her boyfriend of two years and their two pets.

**Blake Harris** earned an MFA in Theatre Direction from the California Institute of the Art in 2017. He is now a free lance theatre director in Los Angeles and an instructor at the Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute there.

**Emily Hurst** is teaching eighth grade literature at Soddy-Daisy Middle School in Hamilton County, Tennessee. Future plans include graduate school in Children's Literature.

**Sania Khan** is a Baby University Specialist at Baby University in Chattanooga and serves on the Justice and Education Committees of the Mayor's Council for Women.

**Colleen Mahn** taught English for two years outside of Busan, South Korea, and is now teaching English in Hanoi, Vietnam. Future plans include graduate school in English or Education in Abu Dhabi.

**Emily Quinn** is Associate Director of UTC's Disability Resource Center.

**Jennifer Sika** is teaching seventh and eighth grade social studies at an inner city school in New Orleans. She plans to attend law school in the fall of 2019.

**Michelle Suarez** lives in Knoxville and works for EdFinancial.



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## UTC Women's Studies Presents:

**All Organizing Is Science Fiction: An  
Evening With Walidah Imarisha**

Date: March 28th, 2019

Time: 6 P.M.

Location: Grote 129

Speaker: Walidah Imarisha

**Take the Lead! A Panel on Intersec-  
tional Women's Leadership**

Date: March 5th, 2019

Time: 12:15 P.M.-1:30 P.M.

Location: Multicultural Center

Guest panelists: Raquel Hidalgo, Sania  
Khan, Toccara Johnson, Janelle Drake,  
Veronica Herrera, Daniela Peterson, and  
Donyel Scruggs.

Editorial Information: The Women's Studies Newsletter appears at least once a semester.  
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