

# WOMEN'S STUDIES NEWSLETTER

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Edited by Michelle Suarez

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## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH WILL FEATURE ACTIVIST-ENHANCED CLASSROOM

Women's Studies recently received a grant to implement an Activist-Enhanced Classroom offering sexual assault hotline training for students enrolled in the three sections of Introduction to Women's Studies.

The grant was proposed in a collaborative effort by all three Introduction to Women's Studies professors: **Spring Kurtz, Sheena Monds, and Tracye Pool**. The project seeks to help students to gain a better understanding of sexual assault as well as the impact it has on individuals.

The grant will support an eight-hour workshop in March 2017, in which **Regina McDevitt** of the Partnership for Families, Children, and Adults, will train 30 students as sexual assault hotline volunteers. The training consists of various steps, including a posttest and evaluation conducted by McDevitt, as well as additional online training to achieve approval as Partnership Hot Line Volunteers.

The workshop will be tied back to the classroom through an assignment which will relate some of the semester's readings to the students' new experience with the Partnership Hot Line Training.

McDevitt is currently on the board of the Tennessee Coalition against Domestic and Sexual Violence and is the chief operating officer of the Partnership for Families, Children, and Adults, Inc.— an organization she has worked for since 1996.

McDevitt has over 25 years of experience training students in grades K-12, as well as social service professionals, mental health professionals, university employees, and more. She is also a consultant with the Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center, a peer reviewer for the National Council on Accreditation, and has worked internationally with Slovakia as a consultant for domestic violence shelters.



From left to right: Sheena Monds, Tracye Pool, and Spring Kurtz.

## Student Spotlight: Courtney Jackson



**Courtney Jackson** is currently a senior Women's Studies major at UTC. Courtney balances schoolwork with a full-time job at Days Inn Chattanooga. Outside of work, Courtney enjoys doing volunteer work when he has the chance. Recently, Courtney volunteered with

Habitat for Humanity to build a home for a single mother who had lost her husband. He says he was happy to engage in this type of volunteer work so that they could relieve this family from life in a shelter and give them a home of their own again.

Courtney also participates in a group called Chattanooga Connected. This group is run by Franklin McCallie and consists of a racially diverse group of people from within our community who meet to discuss race-related issues and social injustice within our community and our country.

Courtney says his favorite class was Introduction to Women's Studies with Sheena Monds. He says, "There was nothing off limits, nothing too taboo to talk about."

After graduation, Courtney plans to take a year off before heading for law school. He would like to work as an attorney for four to five years, and then become a Title IX coordinator after achieving an adequate amount of experience. He says he would like to become a Title IX coordinator because he has witnessed the flaws of the justice system within universities firsthand. He believes that women need strong defense and representation on the collegiate level, and that campus issues such as sexual assault cannot continue to be swept under the rug as they are today.

Courtney plans to graduate in May of 2017 and will begin his next step on his journey!

## Alumni Spotlight: Kaitlin Cottle and Fendall Fulton



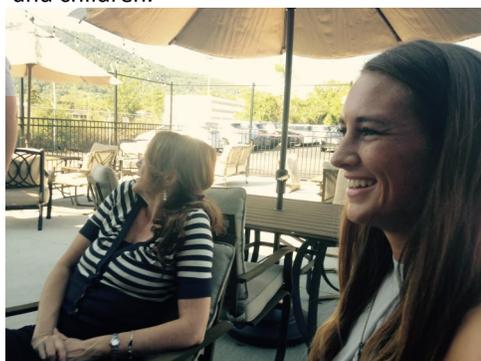
Women's Studies alumnae **Kaitlin Cottle** ('15) and **Fendall Fulton** ('14) are authors! "The Tea Gown in Edith Wharton's "The Other Two,"" an article that they wrote with Dr. Marcia Noe, has been published in the winter 2016 issue of the *Explicator*. Fendall, a double major in English and Women's Studies at UTC, is now office manager of the

James A. Henry YMCA here in Chattanooga. She is especially happy to be working at this YMCA because it offers programs for undeserved communities, such as after-school tutoring, early learning readiness, and Bold and Gold, an outdoor wilderness program. Fendall is also on the board of Tennessee Valley Pride and recently served as vendor coordinator for Chattanooga Pride. "Jumping in and organizing 50 vendors was a real learning experience," she said. At home Fendall enjoys spending time with her dog Scander and her cat Pearl.

Kaitlin, originally from the Nashville area, was also a double major in English and Women's Studies. She is now manager of Blues Skies in North Chattanooga and also volunteers at Cinerama, Chattanooga's independent art house theatre that features independent films. Kaitlin graduated summa cum laude from UTC and was the SGA Outstanding Senior for both English Literature and Women's Studies, and also won the Sally B. Young critical writing award. She was also one of two initial recipients of the Felicia Sturzer Scholarship that honors academic achievement in women's studies. Kaitlin recently took the LSAT and plans to attend law school next year. Like Fendall, she loves animals and cherishes the time she has at home with her cat Oliver.

## Women's Studies Students and Faculty attend Voices Luncheon

We love to see our Women's Studies students and faculty getting engaged outside the classroom! This past October, **Dr. Heather Palmer, Dr. James Arnett, and Dr. Marcia Noe**, along with WSTU majors and minors **Michelle Suarez, Olivia Brown, Hannah Grant, Mackenzie Butera, and Kaitlunn Wilkerson**, attended Voices, the Women's Fund of Greater Chattanooga's (WFGC) 4th Annual Luncheon. WFGC hosted Cindy Dyer, a former sexual and domestic violence prosecutor, as keynote speaker. The Women's Fund raised an incredible \$15,000 from the luncheon, which will be used to support Women's Fund initiatives, which include legislative advocacy, and work in the community that benefits women and children.



## UTC TO HOLD SERIES OF EVENTS ON BEYONCÉ'S "LEMONADE"



UTC's own **James Arnett, Jordan Amirkhani, Tracye Pool, Sheena Monds, Heather Palmer, Sarah Einstein, Tiffany Mitchell, She-wanee Howard-Baptiste, Susan Eckelman, Marcia Noe, Katie Hargrave, Immaculate Kizza, Gaye Jeffers, and Carrie Meadows** will gather this April to hold a series of events— a project that will be known as "Beyoncé Week."

Last spring, Arnett and Amirkhani's "Formation" presentation drew

a full crowd, which inspired them to plan another program upon Beyoncé's next album release.

The week will comprise a number of events, beginning with "We are all/ Are we all feminists?" on Monday, April 3. This will be a roundtable event focused on Black feminisms and Africana Womanisms, hosted by Immaculate Kizza.

The next event to take place will be "Lemonade: The Lecture" on Tuesday, April 4 in Dethrick Hall. There will be a panel of 12 UTC professors who will provide a viewing of Beyoncé's visual album "Lemonade," followed by a discussion of the intersectional issues presented in the album.

The series of events will continue Wednesday, April 5, with The Night of Black Women Writers, which will be hosted by Carrie Meadows and Sarah Einstein.

The last event will be held by Jennifer Danos in collaboration with Arts.Black, a regional non-profit that promotes African Americans within the visual arts.

Arnett believes that these events will allow professors to "meet students on the grounds of something they're already familiar with."

The events will be co-sponsored by the Women's Studies program and the Art, Theater, English, Exercise Science, and History departments.



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**WOMEN'S STUDIES HAS MOVED! COME VISIT OUR NEW OFFICE  
AND ENJOY A LIGHT LUNCH ON FEBRUARY 14**

Women's Studies has relocated to Room 260 of the Chattanooga State Office Building on the corner of Houston and McCallie Ave. Join us this Valentine's Day (Tuesday, February 14) from 10 a.m.—2p.m. for a light lunch and get acquainted with our new location.  
We hope to see you there!