



# Center Connections

FEBRUARY 2013

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## Director's Note:

Five months since arriving at CSU and I am just now catching my breath! Last semester the Executive Board and I met monthly to envision what the Center might become. Board members enthusiastically shared ideas about possible collaborations and projects we can funnel through the Center. The new year of 2013 began with increases in enrollments for the minor and Graduate Certificate, and we have two new student workers and an office assistant.

In January I spent three weeks in Ghana, West Africa where I met with my counterpart at the University of Ghana, Dr. Akosua Darkwah, the new director of the Center for Gender Studies and Advocacy (CEGENSA). We discussed possibilities for research and advocacy exchanges between our centers, the mentoring of African and Ghanaian feminist scholars, and presentations by CEGENSA for CSU students on gender and sexuality in Ghana. While much of our discussions were preliminary and future-oriented in nature, I left Ghana excited about the possibilities for transnational feminist collaborations.

Returning from Ghana, the world seemed ablaze with women's and gender issues in Pakistan, Egypt, India, China, and North America. U.S. elections last fall demonstrated that although we have made some electoral gains around specific issues, there is much work to do before we can confidently talk sustained social change around gender and sexuality in this country or around the world. As we move the Center forward, an international lens drawing on transnational feminism becomes imperative.

Meanwhile, the Center's staff continues to work on the efficient coordination of office matters. This semester, Roe Bubar and Karina Cespedes begin facilitation of the Teaching, Curriculum, and Scholarship Project promoting the theme of intersectionality. We have two colloquia speakers scheduled for March and one for April. And I am still enjoying the challenges of organizing, coordinating, and engaging with the Fort Collins and CSU's women's and gender community. Beginning with smaller goals and working towards some more ambitious ones including transnational work and supporting more gender issues and research, we look forward to continued stability and growth throughout 2013. Enjoy our newsletter and stay tuned.

## Staff At The Center



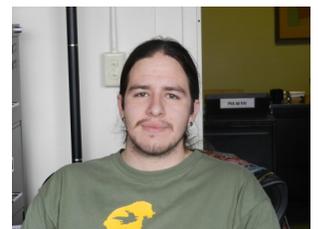
**Afia Antwi**

Afia, a first-year student and student assistant at The Center, is majoring in Ecosystems and Sustainability. When she isn't at school, Afia likes to dance. She is also passionate about children and spends time doing community service with them.



**Aynadis Alemayehu**

Aynadis, also known as Addis, is a student assistant at The Center. Originally transferring from the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs, This is her second semester as a CSU student. Addis is majoring in Business with a concentration in Finance and minoring in Women's Studies.



**Elliott Housman-Turrubiate**

Elliott is a coordinator at The Center who graduated from CSU in the fall of 2012 with degrees in both Ethnic Studies and English Literature. He is passionate about issues facing undocumented communities and Indigenous peoples.

# Gender In Focus



Women in China protest invasive gynecology exams.



Above: Drummers/singers lead Idle No More “flash” round-dance.

Below: Women hold candles to protest brutal gang rape of woman on New Delhi bus.



## Asian Women’s Activism

U.S. coverage of media censorship and ongoing labor protests around the country eclipse protests over gender justice in China. Since March 2012, Chinese women have staged multiple small-scale protests and written hundreds of letters protesting required invasive gynecology exams for female applicants applying to civil service jobs, higher admission standards for women university students, larger quotas for male admissions, and companies that only allow men to apply. Many of the protests took place in the capital of Beijing and the southern city of Guangzhou, although such protests were common across the country.

## Idle No More

In December of 2012, the Canadian government passed legislation known as Bill C-45 that effectively eliminated environmental protections for Canada’s lakes and rivers, many of which are located on First Nations lands. Fed up with infringements on First Nation sovereignty and the unjust conditions in which many Indigenous communities must live, Indigenous peoples across Canada, the United States, and globally organized protests, marches, rallies, blockades, and “flash” round-dances to bring light to the issues of environmental racism, colonial violence, and erosions of tribal sovereignty which Indigenous communities face. Indigenous women, in particular, are at the forefront leading this movement, continuing long-standing cultural traditions of female leadership and organizing. While these protests are considered by some to be the largest mass mobilization of Indigenous people in recent history, one must remember that Idle No More stands as only one moment in an entire 500 year-plus history of continued Indigenous resistance.



## Violence Against Women Act

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) is up for renewal this year and may be shot down because of provisions that specifically protect LGBTQ, immigrant, and American Indian women. Indigenous women experience the *highest rates of violence out of any other group*, the majority of that violence at the hands of non-Native men. Undocumented women also experience increasingly high rates of domestic and sexual violence due to the particularly vulnerable position in which their immigration status places them. VAWA would strengthen the ability of tribal courts to prosecute non-Natives perpetrating against Native women on tribal land and would provide services for victims of violence regardless of their sexual orientation or immigration status.

## Protests In India

Last December, a young female paramedic student, finishing up her degree so she could begin a master’s program in physiotherapy, was brutally raped and beaten alongside a male friend on a bus in Delhi. She died 13 days later, yet the case spurred spontaneous national and international protests. Activist and laypeople alike found the incident a rallying cry to demand a wide-ranging educational campaign along with an overhaul of the police, judicial, and political “old boys” network in India. Protesters focused on stronger laws and greater protection for women.

## Staff Spotlight: Vicki Gillis



Vicki Gillis is both a current employee and recent alumna of Colorado State University. Originally, attending CSU where she earned a 2-year certificate, Vicki came back to school almost three decades later to complete the degree that she never got the chance to finish. Vicki graduated this past Fall 2012 and earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with a double concentration in Graphic Design and Photography, along with two minors in Women's Studies and in English. Regarding the challenges she's faced, Vicki says "The most intensive challenge to returning to school as an adult learner for me is definitely financial!" Her greatest rewards have been the relationships with faculty, staff, and students who have accepted her and enriched her journey. Vicki selected her Women's Studies minor after realizing that she'd already taken most of the courses. She acknowledges that she "had an interest in this area of study and was excited to complete the minor and continue along the same vein." Regarding the importance of Women's Studies, Vicki points out that "It is so important to learn how to think: think about the diversity of individuals who make up this student body; think about the experiences of others – possibly traumatic – when in conversation; think about not making assumptions and judgments."

*"It is so important to learn how to think: think about the diversity of individuals who make up this student body; think about the experiences of others"*

## Student Spotlight: Haley Ruybal

Haley Ruybal is a talented and accomplished metal smith who utilizes her craft as a means of making issues of social inequality accessible to a broad audience. Haley's family is originally from the San Luis Valley in southern Colorado, but she grew up in Denver with her parents and two older siblings. Haley comes from a "family of artists"—including her father, grandfather, and aunt—and can remember trips to numerous art galleries and museums from an early age. Because of this, Haley's childhood was one imbued in artistic creativity and expression. While her upbringing made the choice to become an artist a relatively easy one, it was not until a high school jewelry class that Haley discovered her passion and began honing her skills with metal. Haley says, "I want my art to mean something that's beyond just me as a person. And, I don't just want my work to speak to those who already understand it. I want it to spark a [larger] conversation."



For Haley, coursework in Ethnic Studies and Women's Studies has been very empowering, yet she feels that those critiques are not necessarily accessible [to people outside of the academe]. This is why Haley is intentional with her craft, using her specialized expertise to communicate how systems of oppression operate to a generalized audience. As a passionate advocate for Native communities, she says her activism is particularly difficult because, even as a full-blood Indigenous woman, both she and her brother (Oglala Lakota, Diné, Catawba, and Apache) are unable to be recognized by their respective tribes because their blood quantum are too low. Nonetheless, Haley employs her skill as an artist to intentionally advocate for her communities. Metal as a medium speaks to Haley because, as she puts it, "metal is one of the reasons why [indigenous] lands were stolen. Metal's history not only carries with it connotations of colonization, but also those of imprisonment and slavery." Haley chooses to work with metal specifically because of this history of oppression. In this way, she brilliantly combines intentionality with skill to transform her craft into a space of reclamation for Indigenous people—a taking back of the colonizer's tools to challenge the colonial master narrative and honor all those who had to sacrifice so much because of it.

Haley is looking to attend law school after graduation. Even though she feels tenuous about what the future holds, she is unwavering about her ultimate vision. "I honestly don't know what the future holds, there's a lot I want to do. What I really want is to be able to bring to light the issues that people don't want to see. I know that I will continue my education, whatever that means, and I will continue to do what I can to make a better world." Haley continues, "I know that is a lofty dream, but I think it's one everyone should share." Haley Ruybal graduates from CSU this Spring with a Bachelor of Fine Arts and a minor in Ethnic Studies.

## Alumna Spotlight: InVinity

InVinity is both a spoken word artist and emerging filmmaker. She is an alumna of CSU as of spring 2012.

Kimberly “InVinity” is a recent alumna of Colorado State University who graduated with degrees in Ethnic Studies and Women’s Studies in the spring of 2012. During her time at CSU, InVinity was highly involved in the campus community through her art and social justice activism. InVinity is an eloquent and dynamic spoken word artist and an emerging filmmaker who uses “film, narrative, and performance to build bridges instead of increasing the gap of misinformation and miscommunication, striving to learn how to heal through human connections even after they have broken us.”



The artist name, “InVinity,” developed over the course of a few years. Originally going by the name “Infinity” to represent forever being dedicated to the struggle [against oppression], the name InVinity finally emerged in the fall of 2011 from the idea that every Voice is Valid. Therefore, through her name and her art, InVinity encourages everyone to share their story and remember its importance as a tool in community building and healing. InVinity is currently in the process of filming and producing her third documentary entitled, “The Universal Goddess Project.”

### The Universal Goddess Project

The Universal Goddess Project is a film that draws you into the lives of three women activists—three goddesses—whose existence moves towards community, empowerment, and healing. In the film each goddess speaks her truth, her life, and her hopes for future generations. In a time where young children grow up with images that objectify women, it is especially important to create images of women beyond those represented in magazines, television, and other media. The stories of these goddesses will inspire, heal, and uplift the human spirit.

This unique project uses a collaborative framework where the lives of the goddesses are told from their perspective instead of being told for them. This style of production allows women to share equally about what is important to them, using their voices to unleash the goddess within.

“Love. Love deep. Love hard. Love uncontrollably and unconditionally. Love past the pain. Love till you heal. Love like it’s your last breath. Love till all you see when you look into the faces of humans is your universal family. Love till you break. Then love till you are put back together. Make love. Cultivate love. Dream love. Be love. Love. Love till there is nothing left. Love until you can’t see straight. Love till your drunk from the essence of holiness. Love until that’s all you’re made of. Love past the fear. Root yourself in love. Bathe in love. Bask in love. Promote love. Live love. Love. Love. Love.”

-Lady Speech, quote from one of the Goddesses

Currently, InVinity seeks financial support to cover the travel costs, equipment costs, and post-production costs of the film. In March 2013, she expects to launch a large fundraiser via [www.kickstarter.com](http://www.kickstarter.com) to finish the film. For a recent interview with InVinity about The Universal Goddess Project go to: <http://jazznation.wordpress.com/2013/01/19/an-encouraging-journey-my-interview-with-the-remarkable-invinity/>. To learn more about The Goddess Project, to meet the goddesses, and to donate visit: <http://www.invinityproductions.com>



*InVinity*



## Community Feature: Northern Colorado AIDS Project

*“NCAP strives to offer culturally responsive services to all clients seeking assistance”*

Northern Colorado AIDS Project (NCAP) is a 501(c)3 organization celebrating its 26th year of work in the Northern Colorado community. NCAP’s mission is to improve the quality of life for people living with HIV and AIDS and to help reduce the spread and stigma of the disease. The organization offers case management services to people living with HIV/AIDS in the eight northeast counties of Colorado, which helps connect people to vital medical care, an in-house food bank, mental health and substance use treatment, and emergency financial support. NCAP also provides preventive services including rapid HIV and Hepatitis C testing, condoms and other safe sex supplies, a syringe access program for people who inject drugs in the community, and educational outreach to various community organizations, schools, and nonprofits. NCAP strives to offer culturally responsive services to all clients seeking assistance and continues to seek out trainings to improve client services. Volunteers and interns are vital to all of NCAP’s services and are particularly helpful in greeting clients in our offices, driving clients to medical appointments, and assisting at outreach events. This support helps us to meet our mission and continue providing necessary services in our community. To get involved at NCAP, please visit [www.ncaids.org](http://www.ncaids.org) and fill out our volunteer application, or call 970-484-4469.

## Patsy Boyer Lecture & Scholarship



This year’s Harriet “Patsy” Boyer lecture was presented by Ethnic Studies/ School of Social Work professor, Roe Bubar. Professor Bubar’s presentation entitled, “Deconstructing Colonial Legacies in a Mixed Method Study: Indigenous Women, Intersectionality, and Sexual Violence” focused on her most recent research regarding the kinds of sexual violence experience by indigenous women in their communities as a result of colonial legacies. Several students were honored at this event with Boyer scholarships and include Kate Pray, Jamie Puntenny, Claudia Rosty, and Amanda Watson. We are glad to continue the legacy of feminist and gender research by Dr. Boyer through this lecture and scholarship awards.



# Faculty Highlights



**Roe Bubar, J.D.**  
Department of Ethnic  
Studies

**Professor Roe Bubar** (Ethnic Studies Dept.) recently published an article addressing the limited ways in which professional power is studied and perceived in social work practice among second year MSW students. Social constructivism and symbolic interactionism perspectives guide this inquiry. Documents such as student papers on professional power were analyzed and compared. Emergent themes included operationalizing power and conceptualizing professional power along with understanding the importance of taking responsibility for power dynamics endemic to social work relationships.

Bundy-Fazioli, K., Quijano, L. M., & Bubar, R. (2013). Graduate students' perceptions of professional power in Social Work practice. *Journal of Social Work*, 49, 108-121.

**Dr. Silvia Canetto** (Dept. of Psychology) edited, with Anne Cleary of the University College of Dublin, Ireland, a 2012 international, special issue on men, masculinities and suicidal behavior for *The Journal of Social Science & Medicine*. Silvia Sara Canetto was also invited to serve on the review panel for the Research on Gender in Science and Engineering Program of the National Science Foundation. Furthermore, she was appointed as co-Chair of the Committee on Global/International Perspectives on the Psychology of Women of the Society for the Psychology of Women, American Psychological Association (APA). Finally, she was elected by APA Council of Representatives to serve as a member of APA Committee on International Relations in Psychology.

**Grants, Awards & Honors**

**Dr. Antonette Aragon** (School of Education), 2012, received an Internal Funded Grant as a member of a research team. SoGES Case Study Research & Development of critical and controversial educational topics, \$6000.00.

**Dr. Karrin Vasby Anderson** (Dept. of Communication Studies) received the 2012 Michael Pfau Outstanding Article Award in Political Communication from the Political Communication Division of the National Communication Association for her publication:

Anderson, K.V. (2011). 'Rhymes with blunt': 'Pornification' and U.S. political culture. *Rhetoric & Public Affairs*, 14, 327-368.

**Dr. Antonette Aragon** received the 2012 El Centro Outstanding Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching, Research and Advising. Dr. Aragon was also nominated for the 2012 Best Teacher Award sponsored by Colorado State University.

**Professor Roe Bubar** was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship for March 2013 in order to work at the University of Regina at Regina and at Saskatoon to present a series of lectures on violence against Indigenous women, research in tribal communities and law and policy regarding Indigenous peoples.

**Dr. Amber Krummel** received a \$5 million grant from BP covering five years to study mechanisms involved with technology for oil recovery. Krummel is leading the project with collaborator Chuck Henry, professor of chemistry at CSU. This research could eventually be applied to a wide variety of use.



**Dr. Silvia Canetto**  
Department of Psychology



**Dr. Antonette Aragon**  
School of Education



**Dr. Karrin Vasby Anderson**  
Department of Communication Studies



**Dr. Amber Krummel**  
Department of Chemistry

# ARTivism: Alexis Rae Kealoha deFries

## Untitled by Alexis Rae Kealoha deFries

Aloha e ko'u mau `ohana ma ka hikina. `O Kealoha ko'u inoa.  
No Papakolea mai au. He kanaka au.

Though the sounds are foreign to you  
The story is the same  
They are the words of my people  
People who have struggled  
And have seen their paradise lost

We fight our way out of the grips  
Of constant colonization  
Ha'ole, Pake, Kepani, Pilipino  
We fight and kick and scream  
And still we are forgotten

Our flesh replaced  
By beaches, by palm trees  
It is replaced by a government  
Who instead of educating children  
Puts money into lying to the visitors

Ko'u mau `ohana ma ka hikina  
My family from the east.  
I need you not to forget us  
To not replace us  
That when you talk about indigenous rights  
Of continental America and Alaska  
That you look west  
And remember na kanaka  
The people of Hawaii



Alexis is currently a Sophomore majoring in Biological Sciences with a minor in Ethnic Studies. A self-identified Native Hawaiian, much of Alexis' poetry is influenced by the lack of recognition given to Native Hawaiians, particularly by those who are "designated" to represent them. After she graduates from CSU, Alexis wants to work with Indigenous communities around issues of health and wellness. Alexis says, "I'm still solidifying a path to that but I believe that it is my place to support my people physically and mentally because we need to be healthy and plentiful to continue the good fight."

When she is not hustlin' for justice, Alexis enjoys cooking, playing video games, and having a friends over until 3 a.m. in the morning watching "American Horror Story".

# Community Calendar and Announcements

- **Patsy Boyer Memorial Scholarship– deadline March 1, 2013**

The Patsy Boyer Memorial Scholarship is available to all full time students who are pursuing a graduate certificate, undergraduate concentration, or minor in Women's Studies. The deadline to apply for this scholarship is March 1, 2013. Be sure to read all the criteria for this award, by going to the following site: <http://central.colostate.edu/scholarships/>. To apply for this scholarship, log into RamWeb using your eID. Then go to "financial" information" in the right-hand column. Select the CSUSA link and fill in the form. If you have problems with this process please contact Jeanne Snyder at 491-2599 or email her at [Jeanne.Snyder@colostate.edu](mailto:Jeanne.Snyder@colostate.edu).

- **Ethnic Studies Scholarship– deadline March 1, 2013**

Ethnic Studies Undergraduate Scholarship is available to all full-time Ethnic Studies undergraduate students. The deadline to apply for this scholarship is March 1, 2013. Be sure to read all the criteria for this award, by going to the following site: <http://central.colostate.edu/scholarships/>. To apply for this scholarship, log into RamWeb using your eID. Then go to "financial" information" in the right-hand column. Select the CSUSA link and fill in the form. Note: Make sure that you answer the Ethnic Studies essay! Your application for this scholarship will not be considered without the completed essay questions. You can save your responses if you get interrupted and then return to them later. However, if you click my "CSUSA is done" at the very end, you will not be able to change the application. If you have problems with this process please contact Jeanne Snyder at 491-2599 or [Jeanne.Snyder@colostate.edu](mailto:Jeanne.Snyder@colostate.edu).

- **Women's Studies Colloquia**

- **"Navigating Borders: Inclusive Approaches to Combating Violence" by Dr. Celeste Montoya–Wednesday, March 6, 2013 from 3:30-5:30 pm. in Clark Hall, A101.**

Dr. Celeste Montoya is an assistant professor of Women's Studies at the University of Boulder. While violence against women occurs across all borders, both geographic and social, women feel its impact differently. Dr. Montoya will discuss the importance of balancing universal framings of violence against women with intersectional analyses and solutions.

- **"Does Poverty Wear a Woman's Face?" by Dr. Alison Jaggar–Thursday, March 7, 2013 from 3:30-5:30 pm. in Lory Student Center, Room 214-216.**

Dr. Jaggar will focus on the feminist point-of-view for measuring poverty worldwide.

- **"Negros da Terra, Negros da Guiné: Indigeneity and the Future of Black Labour" by Dr. Shona N. Jackson–Monday, March 11, 2013 at 3pm in Lory Student Center, Rooms 214-216**

Born in Guyana, Dr. Shona N. Jackson is an associate professor of English at Texas A&M University where she teaches courses in Caribbean and Black Diaspora Studies and Postcolonial theory. Dr. Jackson's talk focuses on the delinking of black and native identity under postcolonial nationalism. Her work looks at the difficult issue of how formerly enslaved peoples in the Americas extend colonial subordination to Indigenous Peoples through the very ways in which they claim their own humanity and cultural and political sovereignty. Using the work of Black American artists, Dr. Jackson locates a critique of coloniality, empire, and capitalism in possible alternative futures for black/indigeneity.

- **Women's Studies & Ethnic Studies Graduation Ceremony– Friday, May 17, 2013 from 11:30am-1:30pm in Lory Student Center North Ballroom**

The graduation ceremony for both The Center for Women's Studies & Gender Research and The Department of Ethnic Studies is a combined event that will be held on Friday, May 17 at 11:30am in the North Ballroom of the Lory Student Center. Please note that this ceremony is separate from the larger College of Liberal Arts Commencement that will be held the following day, Saturday, May 18.

The combined ceremony is open to all those who graduated in the Fall 2012 or will graduate in Spring 2013/Summer 2013 with a major, minor, or graduate certificate in either Women's Studies or Ethnic Studies. Guests of graduates are welcome to attend, please RSVP to Lynn Stutheit at (970) 491-2418 or [Lynn.Stutheit@colostate.edu](mailto:Lynn.Stutheit@colostate.edu). For more information or questions, call (970) 491-2418 or email [Lynn.Stutheit@colostate.edu](mailto:Lynn.Stutheit@colostate.edu).

- **College of Liberal Arts Commencement Ceremony– Saturday, May 18, 2013 at 6:30pm in Moby Arena**

The commencement ceremony for the Departments of Art, Music, Theater, and Dance within the College of Liberal Arts will begin at 4pm in the Student Recreational Center on Saturday, May 18. All other departments within the CLA (including The Center for Women's Studies & Gender Research and the Ethnic Studies Department) will be held in Moby Arena starting at 6:30pm.