From the Director’s Desk

It has been an exciting journey to see the transformation of CGIS with the assistance of a dedicated group of faculty, staff, and students for the past three years. CGIS and Women’s Studies organized two major conferences, and a third one is being planned. Due to administrative reasons, the CGIS Board decided to postpone the conference, Race, Reason, and Resistance, to October 21-23, 2012. Check out CGIS’s website for further updates. Submissions of proposals will be due in Spring 2012. We welcome Susan Stout as the CGIS office manager and Dr. Gigi Peterson (History) as the Latino and Latin American Studies Coordinator. Many thanks to Corrina Harvey and Susan Peterson (Modern Languages) for their tireless work on behalf of CGIS and LLAS.

This Spring Semester we have set up two new oversight committees: a Budgetary Council co-chaired by Dr. Wendy Hurley (Kinesiology) and Dr. Kathy Russell (Philosophy) and a By-laws & Nominations Committee chaired by Dr. Lynn Couturier (Physical Education). Finally, our newly formed Advisory Board of Cortland alumni and Cortland community residents will meet for the first time, June 25, 2011.

If you are an alumna or alumnus who would like to join our board, please contact me at Mecke.Nagel@cortland.edu or mng@cortland.edu. We look forward to have engaged alumni helping us to strengthen our vision and support our diverse projects and programming efforts.

Many thanks to Julie Gorman, our very capable work-study student, and to Susan Stout and Dr. Sheila Cohen (Emerita Associate Professor of Literacy) for assisting with the production of this newsletter.

About the Center for Gender and Intercultural Studies

With a board of 27 faculty members and 8 committees drawing about 90 faculty and staff members, CGIS has recast itself with a strong academic and scholarly mission. Within the last year, board members published seven books, received external grants, college research awards and have served as diversity trainers for faculty at SUNY Oneonta and SUNY New Paltz. CGIS is grateful for major financial support from the Office of the Provost, the ASC Corporation, the SUNY Office of Diversity & Educational Equity, as well as individual pledges and contributions through the Cortland Campaign.

The Environmental Justice Committee of Center for Gender and Intercultural Studies (CGIS/EJC) was organized to fulfill the core mission of the Center, i.e. “…to foster and develop equity and respect for social, ethnic, cultural, economic, gender and environmental justice and diversity within the campus and larger community.” Our work intersects with that of the Native American and Women’s Studies Committees. The committee is currently examining concerns about shale gas extraction and the ways in which communities across the United States and worldwide are challenging this imposition. For background, readers can examine recent NY Times articles on drilling. Readers may also wish to join the committee. Membership is open to faculty and staff as well as alumni and community members.

To that end, we will host a screening of My Name is Allegany County, a film that chronicles how residents confronted the siting of a low level radioactive waste dump in that county. Two Cortland residents who participated in Cortland’s resistance will provide background. Information will be available about how residents are currently confronting concerns about gas drilling. There will also be a demonstration from Sustainable Tompkins on how to take the Finger Lakes Environmental Challenge.

-Sue Stout

About CGIS

The Center for Gender and Intercultural Studies (CGIS) is a SUNY Cortland academic unit organized to fulfill the core mission of fostering diversity and equity. CGIS is interdisciplinary in approach and draws faculty from a broad spectrum of academic disciplines, including but not limited to Africana Studies, Anarchist Studies Initiative, CGIS Interdisciplinary Minor, Center for Disabilities Studies, African American, Latino, and Native American Studies, Latin American Studies, Gay & Lesbian Studies, Women’s Studies, American Studies, African Studies, and Gender Studies. The Center is affiliated with departments in all four colleges of the SUNY Cortland Campus and with the P.A.S.S. (Pathways to Access to Superior Scholarship) initiative.

About the Work Study Program

The Work Study Program is an auxiliary program that provides employment opportunities for SUNY Cortland students. Students earn a small hourly wage and have the opportunity to work in a variety of positions, including administrative, academic, and service positions. Work Study is a federal government program that provides employment opportunities for undergraduate students who meet certain eligibility criteria.

SUNY Cortland

SUNY Cortland is a public liberal arts college located in Cortland, New York. It is a member of the State University of New York (SUNY) system and offers a wide range of undergraduate and graduate degree programs. The university is dedicated to providing a high-quality education to all students, regardless of their background or circumstances. SUNY Cortland is known for its strong academic programs and commitment to community service, which is reflected in the college’s mission to foster social, cultural, and economic diversity among its students and the communities they serve.

Contact Information

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SUNY Cortland

Newest CGIS Committee – Environmental Justice

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-Sheila Cohen, Chair, Environmental Justice Committee
Bullying, from simple forms of intimidation to extensive oppressive actions with the intent to harm, come in all different forms and target many different types of people. Each type of bullying has two very powerful influences in common: the growth of ignorance and hatred.

We all know this is a problem; but what can each of us do about it?

We can come together with the common goal of both educating about the importance of understanding differences, and reducing (if not eliminating) hatred.

The first step towards this movement is to agree that it is a problem and be willing, on an individual level, to accept the challenge of standing up for someone or a group who is being bullied.

We all know that by doing nothing, we become part of the problem. In an effort to initiate being part of the solution, we have designed a sticker campaign representing a commitment to learning more about diversity and fostering an intolerance for actions and words of hatred. For those of you who are willing to take a stand against bullying and to demonstrate intolerance toward hatred, we encourage you to place this sticker on your door and educationally confront individuals who actively engage in bullying behavior.

-The rainbow flag is a cultural symbol of diversity and inclusiveness around the world.

LGBTQ Committee – I Don’t Tolerate Hate!

Make a Gift to CGIS

To make a financial gift to CGIS, please visit www.cortland.edu/giving or call the Cortland College Foundation office at (607) 753-5572.