Welcome back, WGS!

Women and Gender Studies at USM has always offered students the opportunity to study the lives, ideas, and actions of women throughout history, to explore new ways of thinking about gender, and to participate meaningfully in the Greater Portland community of scholars, writers, artists, health workers, politicians, and activists. A signature program at USM—the first and still the most robust Women’s Studies program in the state—we pride ourselves both on our scholarly excellence and on our contemporary relevance: as a capstone project, students either write a thesis supervised by a team of interdisciplinary scholars, or spend a semester working with one of our many community partners, of which we have over fifty. You can see who these partners are by viewing our “WGS ENGAGED” flier on the back page of the newsletter. This year, in line with changing priorities at USM, we will be expanding our already healthy list of internship possibilities. But remain assured that USM WGS students will still have the benefit of a first-rate education by active, publishing scholars with connections to a wide academic network, along with access to regional and statewide businesses and non-profit organizations.

Along those lines, visitors to 94 Bedford Street might see some new faces this semester. We have hired Samaa Abdurraqib (PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison) to teach one of our Intro classes. Samaa, who comes to us from Bowdoin, is currently serving as the Reproductive Freedom Organizer for the ACLU of Maine.

In keeping with the theme of engagement, we’re also beginning to develop an exciting programming schedule. Let us know how we can help make your reentry go smoothly. Lauren and I are here to help. And you know we have tea.

All the best,
Lucinda Cole
Director, Women and Gender Studies
Associate Professor, Department of English
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR AND THE MINOR

14 courses are required for the WGS major:

6 core courses:
- WGS 101i Intro to Women and Gender Studies
- or
- EYE 109 Gender, Representation and Resistance
- and
- WGS 201 Women, Knowledge and Power
- WGS 380 Politics of Difference
- WGS 390 Contemporary Feminist Theories
- WGS 490 Capstone Experience
- WGS 485 Internship
- or
- WGS 486 Thesis
- and
- 2 WGS topics courses from among these categories:
  - Science, Technology and Health
  - Culture and the Arts
  - History and Resistance
  - Gender and Institutions
- and
- 6 approved gender-related elective courses
  - a list is available at
    www.usm.maine.edu/wgs/courses

6 courses are required for the WGS minor:

1 core course at the 100-level:
- WGS 101i Intro to Women and Gender Studies
- or
- EYE 109 Gender, Representation and Resistance
- and
- 1 core course at the 200-level:
- WGS 201 Women, Knowledge and Power
- 1 core course at the 300-level:
- WGS 380 Politics of Difference
- or
- WGS 390 Contemporary Feminist Theories
- and
- 3 approved gender-related elective courses:
  - a list is available at:
    www.usm.maine.edu/wgs/courses

Entry Year Experience:

EYE 109 "Gender, Representation, and Resistance"

EYE 109 "Gender, Representation, and Resistance" Drawing on many disciplines, EYE 109 asks, what is gender and how is it represented historically and cross-culturally? Students consider the impact of mass media, education and political discourse on gender construction, and explore the liberating power of pleasure. Books assigned for this course may include: Gender by R.W. Connell, Women at Point Zero by Nawal El Saadawi, and Guerrilla Girls Bedside Companion to the History of Western Art by the Guerrilla Girls.

Socio-Cultural Analysis:

WGS 101 “Introduction to Women and Gender Studies”

WGS 101 “Introduction to Women and Gender Studies” This course considers the economic, political, and social status of women and men and how ideas about femininity/masculinity and feminism are promoted through the media and other vehicles of culture. Books used by this course have included: The Creation of Feminist Consciousness by Gerda Lerner, A Room of One's Own by Virginia Woolf, Handmaid’s Tale by Margaret Atwood, and Black Feminist Thought by Patricia Hill Collins.

Cultural Interpretations:

WGS 201 “Women, Knowledge and Power”

WGS 201 “Women, Knowledge and Power” examines the relationship between gender, assumptions about truth, and the ways both affect how we experience the world. Books from past sections of the course have included: How Does It Feel to Be a Problem by Moustafa Bayoumi, Hatreds by Zillah Eisenstein and Iran Awakening by Shireen Ebadi.

Ethical Inquiry, Social Responsibility & Citizenship:

WGS 380 “Politics of Difference”

WGS 380 “Politics of Difference” explores some of the consequences of using such identity categories as race, nationality, religion, and sex to shape culture and gender relations within it. Books assigned for this course have included: Gender Outlaw by Kate Bornstein, How Does It Feel to be a Problem by Moustafa Bayoumi, Hatreds by Zillah Eisenstein and Iran Awakening by Shireen Ebadi.

Diversity:

WGS 201: Women, Knowledge and Power

AND

WGS 390 “Contemporary Feminist Theories”

WGS 390 “Contemporary Feminist Theories” introduces students to such feminist theoretical approaches as post-structuralism, Marxism, psychoanalysis, critical race theory, and post-colonialism. The focus of the course is the intimate relationships between feminist theories and feminist practices, locally and globally.

In addition, many WGS courses also satisfy the International requirement and a WGS minor satisfies the “Cluster” requirement.

Visit: http://www.usm.maine.edu/wgs/course-list
On both the Portland and Gorham campuses, The Well – USM’s Community Wellness Centers (151 Upton Hall, Gorham and 143A Woodbury Campus Center, Portland) is a hub of student support, connection and engagement. The Well also helps students connect to the Campus Safety Project, a university-wide initiative that promotes healthy relationships at USM by providing prevention education and response training on sexual assault, stalking, and relationship abuse for students, faculty, and staff. It also coordinates campus and community-based programs and services.

Diversity continues to be a strong component of student life at USM, and the Woodbury Campus Center houses centers and offices devoted to extending this education and support across the university: Center for Sexualities and Gender Diversity, Multicultural Student Affairs, Religious and Spiritual Life, and the Veterans Resource Center.

The Well - http://www.usm.maine.edu/studentlife/thewell
Campus Safety Project - http://usm.maine.edu/campussafetyproject
Center for Sexualities and Gender Diversity - http://www.usm.maine.edu/csgd
Multicultural Student Affairs - http://www.usm.maine.edu/mcsa
Religious and Spiritual Life - http://www.usm.maine.edu/interfaith
Veterans Resource Center - http://www.usm.maine.edu/veterans/veterans-resource-center

The Gender Studies Student Organization is a group for students who are interested in gender and feminist politics. We are anti-racist, queer friendly, and open to all students! We organize panel discussions, workshops and other events that examine contemporary social issues through a gender-conscious lens. This semester, we are collaborating with a variety of groups on and off campus, including the Center for Sexuality and Gender Diversity, Maine Educationalists for Sexual Harmony (MESH) in Portland, and College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor. Our first event will be a collaborative sex positive event with MESH, and a trip to the Translating Identity Conference in Burlington, VT! Our meetings are Mondays from 2-3pm in the Women and Gender Studies House on the Portland campus, with rotating meetings in Gorham (location TBD). Contact Jules Purnell for details: jules.purnell@maine.edu
Answering the Question:  
“What can you do with a degree in Women and Gender Studies?”

**Sue Aden ('05)** has recently changed jobs and now works at Professional Disability Associates as a Claims Assistant and Compliance Support Specialist, all while loving being a grandmother of a four-year-old girl. She has been thinking a lot about women and aging and finding it quite delightful to grow older with confidence, grace, and a certain lack of filters!

**Paige Barker (WGS/SOC '14)** is serving as an Americorps VISTA Volunteer in Waterville, ME. The primary focus of her service is building capacity for a local Community Action Program, which strives to alleviate poverty. When she isn’t networking, coalition building, and promoting poverty competency, Paige likes to hang out with her cat, dream of graduate school and sneak down to Portland for the occasional dance party.

**Carolyn Cunningham ('94)** is in her 4th year as Assistant Professor in the M.A. Program in Communication and Leadership Studies at Gonzaga University where she teaches and researches on gender and media. In 2014, she was awarded the Exemplary Faculty Award. In the summer of 2014, she taught digital storytelling in Cagli, Italy. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the Northwest Alliance for Responsible Media.

**Kelsea Dunham (WGS/BUS '14)** has found exactly the job she always wanted. She is working at The Opportunity Alliance, as the Coordinator of Development and Communications. As such, she organizes the agency’s in-kind donations, helps plan fundraising events, and handles social media. When she’s not at work, she’s busy consuming all the pop culture she missed out on during her time at USM.

**Jenny Glanville ('12)** graduated with a degree in Media Studies and a minor in Women & Gender Studies. Over the past year and a half she has delved into the world of television, starting out as a production assistant, the low rung where everyone gets their foot in the door. She was promoted to Production Coordinator of the show Wahlburgers, and again for the next season she was promoted to Associate Producer. She is hoping one day this media platform will put her in such a position that she will be able to make an impact on the fight for equality. Jenny enjoys photography, and when time allows she shoots weddings and portraits on the side. She currently lives with her partner, Ben, in the greater Boston area and together they enjoy film festivals, reading, and cooking.

**Lis Janes ('07)** since graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts with a minor in Women and Gender Studies, Lis completed her Master of Fine Arts at SUNY New Paltz, taught college courses professionally and most recently has become a Certified Nursing Assistant at Maine Medical Center, where she discovered a passion for nursing. This fall she began prerequisite coursework for a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and is excited for this new adventure. Lis keeps an artistic practice involving both the creation of objects and academic research. She owes a debt of gratitude she can never repay to the fabulous community she found at the Women’s and Gender Studies program at USM.

**Lauren Webster LaFrance ('02)** continues to run the WGS Program in her capacity as Assistant to the Director. Her recent volunteer exploits have included helping to found the Victoria Mansion’s new philanthropic social club, The Gaslight League, hosting WGS Alumnae/i happy hours and extreme-novice gardening.

**Michelle Anais Morgan ('03)** lives in New Haven, CT, and is a PhD candidate at Yale University in the American Studies program. She is currently working on her dissertation, Material Possessions: Producing Race & Empire in the United States, 1820-1917, and is teaching Yale’s junior seminar in American Studies, a course she designed, entitled Visual Cultures of U.S. Imperialism. She completed a Qualification in Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies as part of her training at Yale and emphasizes race, gender, class, and sexuality in both her scholarly and teaching work. Her son just began high school at Windham High School, and she comes home to Maine several times a month.
Olivia Loneman ('14) was accepted into the Center for Human Sexuality Studies graduate program at Widener University in Chester, PA, thanks to the support of the WGS program and her beloved professors. She and her husband moved to Philadelphia over the summer, and are eagerly awaiting the birth of their daughter Roxy in December. She is currently pursing a Masters of Education degree and expects to graduate in 2016; however she is also considering continuing on to a Ph.D.

Hilary Manuel ('09) has been keeping busy with her role as an inventory buyer at LL Bean, specializing in Signature Apparel. In her free time, Hilary volunteers with the Junior League of Portland, serving as the media liaison and PR specialist, and has started studying Shakespeare with fellow Bard enthusiasts in Portland. She has just returned from a London sojourn.

Grace Mueller just began her last year as a student in the Post-Baccalaureate Premedical Program at Washington University in Saint Louis and will begin applying to medical school in June 2015. She compiles data for a psychiatrist at the Midwest Alcoholism Research Center, works as a physics tutor, and goes dancing whenever she can.

Caroline O'Connor ('14) lives in Portland and was hired as the Portland Phoenix's staff writer after graduating from USM in May. She spends most of her time reading and writing about feminist and queer theory, auditioning for various theatrical shows around Southern Maine, and online shopping.

On August 22, feminist faculty, affiliated scholars, WGS students and alums gathered at the Bayside Bowl, 58 Alder St, in Portland to collaborate, celebrate and network. It was the 6th Feminist Happy Hour Takeover this year.

The next USM WGS Alum Networking Happy Hour is: Tuesday, Nov. 18th from 4:30-7:00 at LKF, 188 State St # A, Portland, Maine 04101. We’ll meet prior to SPACE Gallery’s showing of Kate Bornstein’s Film, KATE BORNSTEIN IS A QUEER AND PLEASANT DANGER.

FMI on the Happy Hour: https://www.facebook.com/events/515288531907501/

FMI on the film: http://www.space538.org/events/kate-bornstein-queer-and-pleasant-danger

About the WGSAA

Founded in 2009, the USM’s Women and Gender Studies Alumnae/i Association (WGSAA) was created to provide a continuous learning community for graduates of the program. The association works to reunite graduates, faculty, and friends (both locally and afar) through a range of social and educational activities and events, as well as through our Facebook Group page (USM's Women and Gender Studies Alumnae Association) and e-mail listserv (wgsalum-L@usm.maine.edu) The association is also intended to shed light on the wonderful work alumni are doing post-graduation and to help build stronger networks within the University and greater community. The Association works to represent our degree program, playing an integral part in supporting WGS and encouraging current and incoming students. Find us at: https://www.facebook.com/groups/274494746441/
This is going to be an exciting and extremely varied course! Your weekly work will involve seeing an African film, youtube lectures/TED talks, looking at images of Art, reading theoretical and fictional material.

This course challenges the binary heterosexual norm of European science, law, and philosophy in profound ways. In many African cultures there is gender fluidity: women can become men and take a wife. Children born to the wife are the female husband’s children. There can be male daughters. So although we will look at issues common in gender studies in America and Europe, the very idea of gender will be new in these contexts. We will examine issues involving sustainability, war, children, marriage that range over men and women’s lives.

Intellectual, cinematic and literary movements have had profound impacts on generations of thinkers in West, East, and Southern African. Important recent controversies in gender and post colonial philosophy emerge as we explore African theory, fiction, and visual culture.

Satisfies core requirement for International/Diversity/Ethical Inquiry. Satisfies WGS Non-Western Requirement.

**Women & Gender Studies SPRING 2015 Course Listings**

**WGS 101: Introduction of Women & Gender Studies**
- **Gotham** M/W 11:00AM-12:15PM Prof. Sarah Lockridge
- **Portland** M/W 10:15-11:30AM Prof. Lorraine Carroll
- **Portland** M/W 2:45-4:00PM Prof. Samaa Abdurraqib
- **Online** Prof. Sarah Lockridge
- **Online** Prof. Kim Simmons

This course explores from a variety of perspectives the following inter-related themes and topics: the economic, political, and social status of women as a group and in discrete cultural contexts; the politics of representation, or how ideas about femininity and feminism are promoted throughout the media and other vehicles of culture; the construction of “consciousness;” both through the media and through feminist tactics; women and collective action in the past, present, and future. Students are expected to practice their writing skills through formal essays. Satisfies core requirement for socio-cultural analysis. 3 credits

**WGS 201: Women, Knowledge & Power**
- **Portland** T/TH 2:45-4:00PM Prof. Susan Feiner

This course examines the ways in which the politics of knowledge production shape culture and gender relations. It explores the ways women have historically resisted, subverted, appropriated and reformed traditional bodies of thought. Prerequisites: WGS 101, EYE 109 or permission of instructor. Satisfies core requirement for cultural interpretations. 3 credits

**WGS 245/PHI 221: Philosophy of Film**
- **Portland** W 4:10-6:40PM Prof. Kate Wininger

Philosophy of Film will consider films in a variety of genres: comedy, melodrama, psychological thriller, and drama. Issues which pertain to gender, ‘race’ and class will be employed in order to understand the meaning in comedic films coming from Hollywood in the 30s and 40s to contemporary independent, Experimental and Commercial productions. The meaning of the films will be viewed in a social and historical context. Filmmakers owe debts to the major theoretical forces of our times. They are indebted to psychoanalysis, pragmatism, feminist theory, historical materialism, & deconstruction. We will read philosophers of film indebted to these and other frameworks. Viewers engage in a process of reconstructing meaning - thinking about perception, memory, images, and about the use of social stereotypes. 3 credits

- **Portland** M/W 2:45-4:00PM Prof. Lucinda Cole

This section of Earlier Women Writers explores seventeenth- and eighteenth-century women writers in the context of the international slave, gold, and ivory trades. Using Aphra Behn’s Oroonoko; or, The Royal Slave [1688] as a starting point, we examine how, in early modern travel writing, Africa appeared for Europeans not only as a source of labor power, but as a land of infinite animal and mineral riches, there for the taking. In this writing and in the novels it inspired, gender, race, and species are inextricably linked. The purpose of this course is to discover how. Why, for instance, does it matter that slaves and elephant teeth (ivory) were transported not only through the same routes, but sometimes on the same ships? What is the role of women in the demand for both? How did women respond to early abolition and animal welfare movements? How, in the past three hundred years, have the arguments against exploitation changed? We will read texts by both women and men, English and African, written during the period 1660-1830, along with some contemporary analyses. We will also discuss several films about the period. 3 credits
The flapper was a new type of woman. She bobbed her hair, wore makeup, smoked, drank, danced, and she was a staple character in American fiction by the 1920s. She often appeared, as in The Great Gatsby, as a foil for male characters negotiating shifts away from conventional Victorian gender roles, but she also appeared as the heroine (or anti-heroine) in fiction by women such as Anita Loos, who wrote the less-remembered but enormously popular Gentleman Prefer Blondes. This course will explore gender in 1920s through a reading of American modernist novels. In conjunction with gender, we will explore intersections of race, ethnicity, class and sexuality, and topics such as literary reputation, canon formation, aesthetic innovation, literary subgenres, and popular vs. high culture. 3 credits

What does your mom do for a living? What about your dad? Chances are that your mom works with other women and your dad works with other men. Chances are also good that your dad’s personal income is greater than your mom’s. Why? More specifically, how do the gender, race, and ethnicity of workers propel certain types of people into certain types of work? What role do location and space play in shaping and sustaining such divisions in the workforce? How can a geographic understanding of gender, race, ethnicity, and class help explain the current restructuring of the economy? How effective have women been in organizing to improve their economic and social status? What role do place, space, and location play in the success of such strategies for change? These are among the questions we will tackle in this course by focusing on urban industrialized settings in the United States. In examining these questions, we shall pay particular attention to how people have identified and defined problems about gender and work; how they have gone about analyzing these problems; how they have assembles evidence; and how they have drawn their conclusions. 3 credits

This course will introduce students to a range of feminist theoretical approaches. Its particular focus will be recent theories concerning the prison industrial complex and its relation to women and families as well as on the work of the abolition movement to reimagine and reshape the prison system. In general, the course examines the intimate relationships between feminist theories and feminist practices, locally and globally. Prerequisites: WGS 101l or EYE 109, WGS 201 or permission of the instructor. 3 credits

This course provides junior and senior students with the opportunity to pursue a project independently, concentrate on a particular subject of concern, or conduct individually arranged reading or research studies under the advice and direction of a faculty member. Prerequisite: junior or senior standing and permission of the director. 1-4 credits

The internship requires students to work closely with a group, business, or organization for one semester, and to conduct research on a related topic to be presented at the annual undergraduate research conference “Thinking Matters.” Prerequisites: senior standing and Women & Gender Studies major or minor. 4-6 credits

The thesis allows students to pursue guided research on a topic of their choosing. The minimum length for a thesis is 30 pages and includes a substantial bibliography. Thesis students should choose three readers, including an advisor whose interests and scholarship are in line with their own. Thesis research will be presented at the annual undergraduate research conference “Thinking Matters.” Prerequisites: senior standing and Women & Gender Studies major or minor. Offered in the spring semester only. 4 credits

All students enrolled in either the internship or thesis option are required to participate in a capstone seminar. Students are expected to co-enroll in WST 490 and WST 485 or 486. 2 credits
Women & Gender Studies

**Maine Women's Studies Consortium**

- **Maine Children's Film Festival**
- **University of Maine Libra Professorship**
- **Campus Safety Project**
- **UNE/Addverb Production**
- **Boys to Men**
- **Family Crisis Center**
- **United Way Portland**
- **Maine Women's Fund**
- **The Telling Room**
- **Hardy Girls Healthy Women**
- **SMCC Gender Equity Committee**
- **Portland Museum of Art**
- **The Bluestocking Film Series**

Maine's first and still most robust Women's Studies program, WGS at USM offers students the opportunity to study the lives, ideas, and actions of women throughout history, to explore new ways of thinking about gender, and to participate meaningfully in the Greater Portland community of scholars, writers, artists, health workers, politicians, and activists. A signature program at USM, Women and Gender Studies prides itself on both its scholarly excellence and on its contemporary relevance; our students may write a thesis supervised by an interdisciplinary committee or, as part of their capstone experience, they may spend a semester working with one of our many community partners (left and below). In either case, USM students have the benefit of a first-rate education by active, publishing scholars with connections to a wide academic network, along with access to regional and statewide businesses and non-profit organizations.

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**Recent Event Programming Partners**

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<tr>
<th>WGS Internship Partners</th>
<th>Recent Event Programming Partners</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animal Refuge League</td>
<td>Maine Humanities Council</td>
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<td>The Art Department</td>
<td>Planned Parenthood of Northern New England</td>
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<td>Big Brothers, Big Sisters</td>
<td>Maine Choice Coalition</td>
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<td>Caring Unlimited</td>
<td>USM ADVANCE Catalyst grant devoted to the role of women in the sciences</td>
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<td>The Center for Grieving Children</td>
<td>Southworth Planetarium</td>
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<td>Coastal Studies for Girls</td>
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<td>Community Mentoring</td>
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<td>East End Children's Workshop</td>
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<td>Edmund S. Muskie</td>
<td>Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center</td>
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<td>School of Public Service</td>
<td>Maine Women's Policy Center</td>
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<td>Environment Maine</td>
<td>Sampson Diversity Center</td>
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<td>Equality Maine</td>
<td>Maine National Association for the Advancement of Colored People</td>
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<td>Family Crisis Services</td>
<td>Recent graduates have continued their education at:</td>
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<td>Frannie Peabody Center</td>
<td>Northeastern University School of Law</td>
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<td>Youth Alternatives - Ingramah Heritage House</td>
<td>San Francisco State University</td>
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<td>Kids First Center</td>
<td>Simmons College</td>
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<td>League of Women Voters of Maine</td>
<td>Northwestern University</td>
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<td>Learning Works</td>
<td>University of Texas at Austin</td>
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<td>Long Creek Youth Development Center</td>
<td>New York University</td>
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<td>Local Self-Reliance - New Rules Project</td>
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<td>McAuley Residence</td>
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<td>Maine Civil Liberties Union</td>
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<td>Maine Humanities</td>
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<td>Maine People's Alliance</td>
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Local WGS Alumni Employers include:

- Family Crisis Services
- Planned Parenthood
- Frannie Peabody Center
- Gay-Straight Alliance Network
- Americorps
- L L Bean
- Maine Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness
- The Opportunity Alliance

Recent graduates have continued their education at:

- Northeastern University School of Law
- San Francisco State University
- Simmons College
- Northwestern University
- University of Texas at Austin
- New York University
- Washington University Pre-Med