

# NEWSLETTER

THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES



## **Cherrie Moraga**

WAS THIS YEAR'S AUERBACH LECTURER.

Moraga was the featured Auerbach Lecturer for Spring 2019. This lecture was brought to us by The Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and was co sponsored by The Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, The Commonwealth Center for Humanities and Society, The LGBTQ Center at University of Louisville.



For over twenty years, Maestra Moraga served as an Artist in Residence in the Department of Theater and Performance Studies at Stanford University. There she mentored a full generation of now published writers and professional playwrights who credit Moraga as one of their most influential teachers. In 2017, la Maestra began her tenure as a Professor in the

Department of English at the University of California, Santa Barbara with her artistic partner, Celia Herrera Rodriguez, she has instituted Las Maestras: Center for Chicana and Indigenous Thought and Art Practice. Her most recent work, *Native Country of the Heart*, a memoir, is forthcoming from Farrar, Straus and Giroux in 2019.



CHERRIE MORAGA IS A CO-AUTHOR OF ACCLAIMED BOOK *A BRIDGE CALLED MY BACK*

movements. Her talk asked us to question how intergenerational communication is best facilitated in order to bridge the gap between feminists. She claimed that intergenerational communication rests on the ability to actually talk to one another.

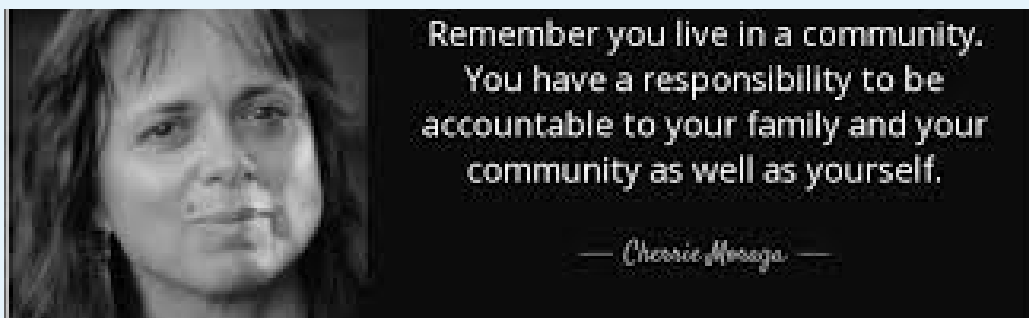
This may seem to be straightforward, but it is not. Moraga shared her first hand account of her struggles with



CHERRIE MORAGA

Maestra Moraga is a poet, activist, mother, creator, and teacher. She is a featured poet of the Poetry Foundation which is a foundation based in Chicago, Illinois that awards grants, scholarships and other accolades to exceptional poets around the country.

Maestra Moraga delivered a powerful speech entitled '*Man Up: Queer Identities in The Spirit of Radical Dissonance*' that touched on many important issues within feminist



communicating with younger feminists who are engaging in movement building around queer identities. She divulged that she has difficulty having her voice heard by her younger, and usually White, comrades because they often get caught up in the semantics of pronouns use.

It is so important to note that she shared her frustration in the spirit of understanding.



She does not explicitly disprove of the evolution of the English language to include gender non-conforming pronouns. She only suggested that we allow for ideas to be shared using the tools--in her case folx who are part of the baby boomer generation--that they know how to use first.

Moraga also provided powerful critiques of feminism as it stands within academia. She duly notes that academic feminism has been indoctrinated with and guided by the interest of white feminists, who often act in the interest of preserving white supremacy and the patriarchal institution of the American University and Collegiate system. She argues that there has been no room made for queer feminists of color who are often at the forefront of the radical feminist movements. As a result, voices



FLYER FROM THE LAST AUERBACH LECTURE HELD MARCH 4TH, 2019

of students and researchers of color alike are silenced within academic circles. She posits that really feminist work is done outside of collegiate wall, so there is no need to invest time and radical attention to scholarly pursuits--unless a person chooses to do so out of their own volition.

Maestra Moraga left us with so much to unpack. She asked us to look inward and

## A QUOTE BY: CHERRIE MORAGA

"Oppression does not make for hearts as big as all outdoors. Oppression makes us big and small. Expressive and silenced. Deep and dead."

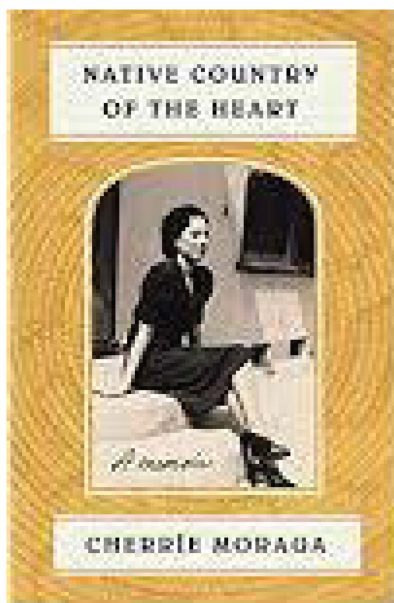
Cherrie Moraga (b. 1952), Hispanic American lesbian feminist author. As quoted in *Yours in Struggle*, part 2, by Barbara Smith (1984).



reflect on our role in the larger feminist movement.

What was particularly wonderful about Moraga's presentation is that she was able to do something so radically feminist. She was about to speak from her own experience as a Butch Lesbian Chicana who is building community while simultaneously appealing to both young and old audience members alike. This is not easy feat. Moraga graced us by helping facilitate a truly radical experience.

Review writetn by *Jerika Jones*,  
MA student



THIS IS THE LATEST NOVEL FROM  
MORAGA



## More From Moraga

### NATIVE COUNTRY OF THE HEART

Interested in reading some of Moraga's work? if so, check out her newest book entitles, *Native Country of the Heart*. This book was published April 2nd, 2019.

A reviewer for Goodreads writes: "**From the celebrated editor of *This Bridge Called My Back*, Cherrie Moraga charts her own coming-of-age alongside her mother's decline, and also tells the larger story of the Mexican American diaspora.**

*Native Country of the Heart: A Memoir* is, at its core, a mother-daughter story. The mother, Elvira, was hired out as a child, along with her siblings, by their own father to pick cotton in California's Imperial Valley. The daughter, Cherrie Moraga, is a brilliant, pioneering, queer Latina feminist. The story of these two women, and of their people, is woven together in an intimate memoir of critical reflection and deep personal revelation.

As a young woman, Elvira left California to work as a cigarette girl in glamorous late-1920s Tijuana, where an ambiguous relationship with a wealthy white man taught her life lessons about power, sex, and opportunity. As Moraga charts her mother's journey--from impressionable young girl to battle-tested matriarch to, later on, an old woman suffering under the yoke of Alzheimer's--she traces her own self-discovery of her gender-queer body and Lesbian identity, as well as her passion for activism and the history of her pueblo. As her mother's memory fails, Moraga is driven to unearth forgotten remnants of a U.S. Mexican diaspora, its indigenous origins, and an American story of cultural loss.

Poetically wrought and filled with insight into intergenerational trauma, *Native Country of the Heart* is a reckoning with white American history and a piercing love letter from a fearless daughter to the mother she will never

For the source of this and many more reviews, check out this link:

[www.goodreads.com/book/show/40121960-native-country-of-the-heart](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/40121960-native-country-of-the-heart)



"My most recent research focuses on medicine as a gendered practice and on the relationship between medical practitioners and patients in the nineteenth century. I am particularly interested in the impact of medical ideology and practices on women's experience of embodiment."

*Nancy Theriot*



### **Nancy Theriot , Ph.D. is the recipient of the Tachau Gender Equity Award from the Commission of the Status Of Women for 2019**

The Commission of the Status of Women serves as the President's chief policy advisory group. COSW awards faculty, staff, and students who have contributed significantly to women's issues on campus, within Louisville, and outside our city. Nancy Theriot, core faculty and tenured professor of the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, received the prestigious Tachau Award from The Commission of the Status of Women for her work promoting gender equity across the University of Louisville.

Through more than thirty years of service at UofL, Professor Theriot has been a tireless advocate for gender equity for women, gender non-conforming people, and members of the LGBT community at UofL. As founding chairperson of the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department; founding committee member and current chairperson of UofL Faculty & Staff for Human Rights; and member of the Advisory Committee of the Office

Dr. Theriot has been a leading force in creating institutional



LGBT Services, Dr. Theriot has been a leading force in creating institutional change to enhance gender equity. She has consistently and often courageously used her institutional position on behalf of women and LGBTQ people.

Dr. Theriot built the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department from the ground up. She led the development of the major, the Master's degree program, as well as the three minors, including the Minor in LGBTQ Studies, the first such program in Kentucky. As chairperson of WGST, she developed innovative initiatives such as the dual Master's degree in



Women's and Gender Studies and Social Work, still one of only a handful of such program in the country, and raised the funds to establish the Audre Lorde Endowed Chair in Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, the first faculty chair of its kind in the nation.

Dr. Theriot has had an extraordinary impact on the university, and the results of her efforts will continue to improve the lives of faculty, staff, and students at UofL for generations to come.



### **Interested in pursuing a degree in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality studies?**

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies is an interdisciplinary major that draws its questions and approaches from the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and arts. It helps students to develop theoretical, empirical, and methodological perspectives for studying gender as a crucial category for understanding the world.

The WGS Department offers both a BA, and BS degree, and a 100% B.A. degree. In addition, an accelerated degree program is open to students who wish to begin graduate work in WGS as they complete the B.A. in WGS.

The Department also offers three minors: a minor in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies; a minor in Race and Gender Studies, offered in Cooperation with The Department of Pan African Studies; and a minor in LGBTQ Studies.

The College of Arts & Sciences and the Louis D. Brandeis School of Law have joined forces to create 3+3 Accelerated Law programs that allows eligible students in the College of Arts & Sciences to begin law school in their senior year of undergraduate study. Students substitute undergraduate major requirements with the first 30 hours of law school, earning an undergraduate degree after their first year of law school and a Juris Doctor (JD) degree two years later. Completion of this degree requires work to be submitted for the department's Learning Outcomes Measurement. For details, contact the department.





## STUDENT HIGHLIGHT: MCCLAIN OWEN

### A Letter of Appreciation

The Department of Women's, Gender and Sexuality studies supports our students both academically and financially. The department was able to help support McClain Owens, who is a budding feminist activist-scholar by funding her trip to a feminist training camp in NYC. This is her letter of gratitude:

"My name is McClain Owens and I



### MCCLAIN OWENS AND FELLOW ACTIVISTS

recently made my trip to Feminist Camp! I just wanted to give you all a brief update as to what I did, who I met with, and what I learned from my experience.

I traveled all over New York City meeting with different organizations and activists. I was worried that the camp would be white-washed but I was surprised to see that the attendees, speakers and subject matter were

with organizations that combat the mass incarceration and criminalization of women (particularly women of color), Dressing Room 8, NAPW, Feminist Press, Reproductive Health Access Project (where we learned how to conduct an abortion on a Papaya!), Viacom (MTV), UNICEF, artists, Girls Write Now, Bulletin, Democracy Now!, an employment discrimination lawyer, listened to Nobel Prize winner Malala Yousafzai speak, met a naturopath, and so so so so much more! I was able to hear the missions of so many organizations and all of the work they are doing is outstanding—and definitely needed in Kentucky. It was rejuvenating to be around these powerful womxn with such ambition and know how; sometimes it is hard to keep my passion for social justice sustained when there lacks a push for organization and mobilization both on campus and in the Louisville community.



It was rejuvenating to be around these powerful womxn with such ambition and know how; sometimes it is hard to keep my passion for social justice sustained when there lacks a push for organization and mobilization both on campus and in the Louisville community.

I also have some other good news! There were two organizations specifically that I enjoyed (Feminist Press and NAPW) and they offer internship programs. I was able to talk to the program directors one on one, and am hopeful about applying and connecting back with them. I am also applying to a graduate program at NYU for this fall. Being exposed to paid internships within activist work and within NYC is huge! It makes a dream of living/studying in NYC tangible or more likely financially.

I would not have been able to even consider going without the collaborative efforts from the Sociology department and Women's and Gender Studies. It was amazing and full of personal growth and professional enrichment. If other students are seeking ways in which to gain some career direction with their Sociology or WGST majors, I recommend this opportunity. They do about two or three camps a year in Seattle, NYC and Zambia, Africa.

*A 'Thank You' Letter*

*Written by: McClain Owens*

## MADDOX PRIZE WINNERS

The Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at the University of Louisville awards three prizes for outstanding papers in the name of its donor Carolyne Maddox. This year's recipients are Noah Smith, who is an undergraduate student with a minor in LGBTQ studies; Shaina Khan who is a MA student in the Department of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies; and Robert Eric Shoemaker, who is a PH.D. student in the Humanities Department.

The Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies wants to extend a warm congratulations to all three Maddox Prize winners! For more information on awards that the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies offers, please visit our website at : <http://louisville.edu/wgs/scholarships-and-awards>

Learn more about Shaina Khan , who is featured in our Graduate Student Highlight section!



# Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research



There are many radical things happening on campus. The Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research helps support student and community groups and activists in Louisville, Kentucky and throughout the United States. According to the Anne Braden Institute's website, the mission of the center is "to bridge the gap between academic research and community activism for racial and social justice. To do so, we stimulate and support initiatives and programs that cultivate dialogue and cooperation between scholarship and activism. Inspired by the work of longtime racial justice organizer, educator and journalist Anne Braden, we focus on the modern African American freedom movement, other modern peace and social justice movements, and the intersections among racial, economic, gender, and wider

Because the institute's work grows out of U.S. history of white supremacy, the institute sees race/racism as central elements in all aspects of social justice in the United States. Their work aims at uncovering those connections and at the successful bridging of racial divides, with a special focus on the Louisville community and the U.S. South. The vision for this institute is that scholarship and activism inform and strengthen each other and sustain social justice locally, regionally, nationally and globally.

The ABI supports students and their endeavors. Please stop by the Anne Braden Institute, located on the Second Floor of Ekstrom Library Rm. 259 to see how the Anne Braden can support your radical ideas!

For more information on the Anne Braden Institute and the source of the information contained within this article, please visit:  
<https://louisville.edu/braden/about/mission>



*"My WGST education has given me a solid foundation that I'll rely on for understanding a wide variety of student needs and perspectives, as well as recognizing the institutional barriers that students from marginalized communities may be facing..."*



### **Student Spotlight: Emma Radulski**

The Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies has many amazing students. In this section we introduce Emma Radulski, who will receive her BA in May 2019. With her BA in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality, she has already secured a job working for the University of Louisville. We have asked her to share her story about her journey through school and how her Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies degree has helped her achieve her career goals. This is what Emma had to say:

I'm a senior Women's and Gender, and Sexuality Studies major with a minor in Sociology. I'm happy to share that I recently accepted a job offer for the Academic Coordinator position in the University Honors Program, a role I'll step into after graduation! In addition to maintaining student records, managing the team of student workers, and assisting Honors advisors in running the Program, I will be responsible for representing the Program on social media, writing and editing for the Honors newsletter, *The Current*, and providing graphic design work. I've been a member of the Honors community since my first year on campus, when I participated in the Service Living Learning Community. Since then I've served as Secretary on Honors Student Council and as student editor of *The Current* and *The White Squirrel Literary and Arts Magazine*. I know Honors to be a fantastic group of faculty, staff, and students, so I'm thrilled to continue being a part of it! While the Academic Coordinator position might not seem explicitly tied to Gender Studies, it's one that involves daily interaction with a vibrant community of people who all have different experiences and identities, including LGBTQ identities. My WGS education has given me a solid foundation that I'll rely on for understanding a wide variety of student needs and perspectives, as well as recognizing the institutional barriers that students from marginalized communities may be facing. WGS has enabled me to think critically about how the representation of and within the Program impacts University students and how to communicate effectively and responsibly. As a queer woman and WGS graduate in the position of Academic Coordinator, I hope that my work in the Program will demonstrate a commitment to social justice within the institution of higher education. I'm excited to complete my WGS degree and begin!





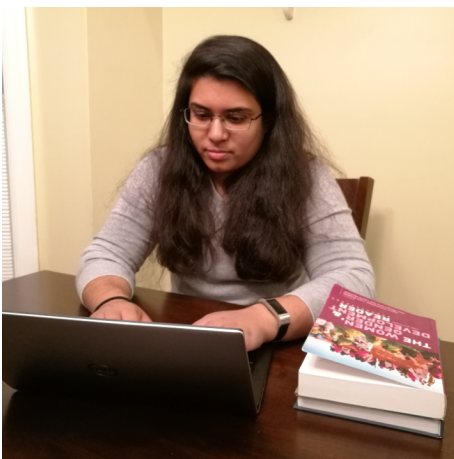
## GRADUATE STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

### SHAINA KHAN, PE

Shana Khan is a first-year student in the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Master's program. Khan won the 2019 Carolyn Maddox prize for best paper by a MA student. Her paper, entitled "Between Two Cultures: LGBTQ South Asian-Americans' Difficulties in Coming Out," explores reasons that



South Asians are underrepresented in the American LGBTQ population. As an openly queer South Asian-American, Shaina wants to help build an community in which LGBTQ South Asians and their families can thrive. She was happily surprised to win the Maddox prize, and she is looking forward to presenting her paper to the UofL community.



#### Fun Fun about Shaina Khan:

- Before becoming a Master's Student in the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, she worked as a professional Environmental Engineer
- She has a funny bone! She enjoys comedy, particularly queer comedian and political satirist Cameron Esposito.
- She is a connoisseur of South East Asian Film!



*Professional  
Black Girl*  
KAILA



# Strange Fruit



*Are you #teamstrangefruit ?*

*The Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Department's Dr. Kaila Story and Community Advocate Jaison Ashley Gardner host a innovative, captivating, provocative, and down right fun weekly podcast. Join these two as they muse on politics, pop culture and black gay life!*

*Tune in weekly for your dose of life on Apple Podcasts| Google Podcasts| NPR| Spotify| Stitcher| RadioPublic.*





# Resources for Students

## **The Cardinal Cupboard:**

This is a FREE food pantry that is open to all University of Louisville students. Come and get awesome food items like day old Einstein Bro. bagels, Starbucks pastries, and more!

W303 SAC M,W,F 9-8pm and T,Th 11-8pm

## **Health Promotion:**

This center provides workshops in health and insurance literacy; sexual health and relationship; food, nutrition, and cooking; sleeping and napping; fitness and movement; alcohol and substance resilience; stress resilience, and more!

**The Free Store**, which is open to all students, faculty, and staff to "shop" for free clothing, shoes, electronics, small appliances, household items, bath & beauty supplies, books, school & art supplies, non-perishable food and more!

This is located in the Basement of the Unitas Tower.

## **· Student Emergency Fund**

This fund is specifically for students who need to receive emergency funds for rent, medical bills, and more. please check out the link below for more information on how to receive the funds. (<http://louisville.edu/dos/help/studentemergencyfund>)