From the Director

The spring 2014 semester is off to a productive (and frigid) start! The annual WGS conference will be here before we know it. So mark your calendars for March 19th – 21st! The conference will kick off with the keynote address on March 19th at 7pm at Kings College (see page 2 for more details). Individual conference sessions will take place March 20th and 21st at Wilkes University.

Have you written a paper or conducted a project that incorporated gender? Consider presenting your work at the conference. Want to share your experiences with a service agency that works to empower others or helps fight for gender inequality? Presenting at the conference is just the venue. Proposals are due February 14th. (See page 2.)

WGS students are also keeping busy conducting gender-related research projects. Learn more about how one such student examined gendered discrimination faced by single parents on page 3.

March is Women’s History Month! This year’s theme is “Celebrating Women of Character, Courage, and Commitment.” Learn about one Luzerne County women who embodies these ideals on page 4. Curious about why we need a Women’s History Month? Check out page 5.

 Did you know that feminism is good for your health? Read page 6 and learn the truth about feminism and why the world needs more feminists.

Get involved! Learn more about WGS-related events on pages 5. Check out a club that is working to fight discrimination and harassment based on sexual orientation and identity on page 8.

And this Valentines’ Day, join the global movement to end violence against women and girls by attending a performance of the Vagina Monologues (see page 7). Keep up to date on WGS events and news by liking us on Facebook!

Dr. Jennifer Thomas

Revolutionary Women
Conference Update...............PG. 2
WGS Student Research
Views of single mothers ...... PG. 3
Ellen Webster Palmer
Friend of the working boy..... PG. 4
Women’s History Month
Why is it important? .......... PG. 5
Feminists
Challenging the stereotypes ..PG. 6
Empowering campus event
The Vagina Monologues ...... PG. 7
Achieving Equality on Campus
The important role of GSA.... PG. 8
WGS Conference Poster....PG. 9

Contact WGS
Dr. Jennifer Thomas
Director of Women’s & Gender Studies
jennifer.thomas@wilkes.edu
Annual WGS Conference March 20th and 21st
“Revolutionary Women”
Submit your proposal on-line today!

Written a paper or conducted a project that incorporated gender?

Looking to gain experiences that will help your resume or graduate school application stand out from the rest?

Like to share ideas with others?

If you answered “yes” to any of the above questions, you should **consider presenting your work at this year’s Women’s and Gender Studies conference!**

When will the conference take place?
Thursday, March 20th and Friday, March 21st

Where will the conference take place?
Wilkes University

When are proposals due?
Friday, February 14, 2014

How do I submit a proposal?
Go to [www.wilkes.wdu/wgsproposals](http://www.wilkes.wdu/wgsproposals)

Include the:
- Title of your presentation
- Author/s names and contact information
- Type of presentation (e.g., research talk, performance art)
- Multimedia equipment needed (e.g., computer)
- A 150 word abstract of your intended presentation
- Times you are NOT available to present on March 20th and 21st

Who can participate?
Anyone! If you have written a gender-related paper or project, wish to engage in performance art (e.g., poetry slam, dance, dramatic performance), and/or would like to raise awareness about a WGS issue, you are welcome to present.

Students, faculty, staff, and members of the community are invited to share their work and attend all sessions free of charge.

Questions? Contact Dr. Jennifer Thomas, Director of Women’s and Gender Studies, at jennifer.thomas@wilkes.edu

WGS Keynote Address March 19th at 7pm
"Revolution Needed: The Ongoing Wrong of Sexual Violence on College Campuses"

It is with great excitement that we announce **Melinda Henneberger, a reporter for the Washington Post and anchor of the paper’s She the People blog, will provide the keynote address at this year’s conference. The title of the address will be, "Revolution Needed: The Ongoing Wrong of Sexual Violence on College Campuses."** The talk will focus on "sexual violence on college campuses: the culture that permits it; the under-reporting of numbers; the typical failure of colleges to respond adequately to the needs of victims (instead responding only with attention to legal matters); and the fact that, if colleges report very low numbers, that indicates a grave problem, not a success."

Henneberger recently drew attention to the problem of sexual assault on college campuses by writing about the University of Notre Dame’s attempts to bury reports of sexual assault perpetrated by its football players. You may recall that last winter the media focused its attention on a fictitious woman a Notre Dame football player was "dating." Unfortunately, the suicide of an actual young woman after being sexually assaulted by one of the university’s football players was effectively ignored.

Ms. Henneberger has had an extensive career as a political writer. Prior to her position at the *Post*, she was a reporter for *The New York Times*, where she worked for 10 years as a Washington correspondent and as the Rome bureau chief. Henneberger was also the editor-in-chief of *PoliticsDaily.com* and has written a weekly column for *Newsweek.com*. She has contributed pieces for numerous publications including *The New York Times Magazine*, *GQ*, *The Huffington Post*, *Slate*, and *Reader’s Digest*. 

When: Wednesday, March 19th at 7pm
Where: King’s College in the Burke Auditorium in McGowan Hall
Spotlight on Student Research:
Senior Capstone Project Investigates Parenting Stereotypes

By: Julia Cikota

When you think of a single father, what characteristics come to mind? How about when you think of a single mother? Are the characteristics the same as the ones you came up with when considering the single father? If you are like most individuals, you probably thought of a different set of characteristics based on the sex of the single parent. Even worse, one set of characteristics – most likely, those of the single mother – probably had negative connotations, especially when compared to those of the single father. A negative bias concerning single mothers is common and has many harmful consequences, particularly in terms of employment and education opportunities.

For a long time, I have been intrigued by the discrimination shown toward single mothers, and I saw my psychology Senior Capstone project as the ideal outlet to further my knowledge of the issue in a scientific way. I based my project on the theory of Mother Blaming, which holds that mothers are held to a higher level of responsibility than fathers are when something goes wrong within a family. Mothers often receive an unfair amount of blame for family issues, leaving them as scapegoats for circumstances that are oftentimes beyond their control. The 62 students who participated in my project read a vignette about either a single mother or single father. Everything in the vignettes was the same, with the exception of the name of the single parent and the related gendered pronouns. Next, they completed a few survey measures that allowed me to gain better insight into their opinions concerning the personality of the parent featured in the vignette they were given, as well as their opinions of that parent’s ability as a worker and parent. I also attempted to determine if the students blamed one sex more than the other for the single parenthood status.

The results of my study showed partial support for the theory of Mother Blaming. Indeed, the students did rate the father’s personality to be significantly more favorable than the mother’s personality (see Table 1, FIQ score); however, there was no significant difference in how students viewed the parents’ abilities as workers and parents (see Table 1, AWSP score). That lack of significance may have occurred because students are more likely to view mothers as parents and fathers as workers, in general. If the measure had asked students to rate the parents as only workers or parents – or if the measure was separated into two components – the results may very well have been significantly different. Although students blamed the mother more frequently for the single parenthood status, the results were not statistically significant (see Figure 1).

While I was pleased that my findings were significant, I was disappointed to find that young people today really do think poorly of single mothers while single fathers are perceived in an almost heroic fashion. I am left to ponder why those differences exist. By turning to the literature regarding the theory of Mother Blaming, as well as research done on various types of family structures, I have found that consider mothers to be “in charge” of family life. It is as if the family is somehow the special project of the mother. She is held responsible for ensuring that the family stays intact and that the children grow up to be responsible adults. While those things are indeed the job of the mother, they are also equally the job of the father. However, we as a society do not generally hold fathers responsible for their families and their children, at least not to level we do for mothers. Thus, when we perceive single fathers, we view them as exceptional heroes because they are fulfilling a role that society does not expect them to. Likewise, we view single mothers so harshly since we perceive that they were unable to keep their families together. The results of my study are even more disturbing when one considers that the number of single mothers has grown significantly in recent years and will likely continue to increase. If we are discounting such a large proportion of families in our current society, how much harm are we doing to the children of those families? Will they face discrimination in school if teachers discover they have single mothers? Will they have a hard time keeping friends once their friends’ parents find out about their family situation? So many possibilities exist for future study in this area, especially regarding the children of single parent families.

Clearly, discrimination against single mothers has far-reaching negative consequences that affect both the mother and her children. Yet, at the same time, this discrimination also affects single fathers. Many single fathers are offended when people are shocked that they are taking care of their household and their children without the help of a woman. Why should we be shocked, after all? Like single mothers, these fathers are just doing their most important job – being a parent. Being a single parent is a tough job that comes with great responsibility. We need to push aside our personal opinions of single mothers and fathers and instead support and respect these incredibly selfless and hardworking individuals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex of Parent</th>
<th>Number of Times Parent was Blamed</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mother</td>
<td>177.37</td>
<td>4.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father</td>
<td>192.53</td>
<td>4.45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: The Scores on the FIQ and AWSP as a Function of Sex of Single Parent

Figure 1. Assignment of Blame for Single Parenthood as a Function of Sex of Single Parents
Ellen Webster Palmer: A Woman of Character, Courage, and Commitment
Who made a Lasting Impact on Luzerne County

By Alysha Bixler

March is Women’s History month! And this year’s theme is “Celebrating Women of Character, Courage, and Commitment.” Coincidentally, this fits in nicely with the theme of this the 2014 Wilkes-King’s WGS conference, “Revolutionary Women.” Our conference is held in March to honor Women’s History Month and to celebrate the innumerable contributions women have made toward achieving social justice and the creation of a world where individuals are judged on their character and abilities instead of their chromosomes! Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Sojourner Truth, Alice Paul, and Chipeta are just a few of the ambitious women who have led the way for other women and girls to accomplish their aspirations; they encourage all of us to respect diversity. Women’s History month is a time to remember and honor their legacy. Luzerne County’s own Ellen Webster Palmer is another such woman whose contributions and legacy have helped shape our history.

Ellen Webster Palmer epitomizes the theme of this year’s Women’s History Month. As you will see, she is a true woman of “Character, Courage, and Commitment.” She was not a native of the Northeastern Pennsylvania. Born in Plattsburg, New York on October 20th, 1839, she moved to Luzerne County when her husband was admitted to the Luzerne County Bar Association and was appointed Attorney General in 1879. Mrs. Palmer and her family lived in Wilkes-Barre. In fact, until last spring, Wilkes University owned her home which was located on 247 South Franklin Street (the University decided to tear down the building). She was a teacher, mother to eight children, a child welfare reformer, and as if that was not enough responsibility already, Mrs. Palmer took on another task: Working with young boys who were employed as slate-pickers in the mine. The majority of these boys were only 8- and 9-years-old, however some were as young as 6-years-old! They had the dangerous job of sorting coal in the breakers and were referred to as “breaker boys.” Their work days often involved sitting on wooden planks in poorly vented channels sorting coal from rock. It was not uncommon for boys to accidentally fall into the sorting machine, leaving them with horrible injuries that often resulted in amputation. They were exploited by the mines as a cheap supply of labor. Imagine working 10 hours a day, six days a week in the hazardous condition described above for only 45 cents! Breaker boys came from poor families who relied on their children’s income to help make ends meet.

As a woman of character and conviction, Ellen Webster Palmer did not sit idly by as children were exploited, stripped of their childhood, and denied an education. She decided to take action! Mrs. Palmer provided the breaker boys with an education. In the evenings, once their days in the mines were over, Mrs. Palmer taught the boys to read, write, and perform mathematical computations. Before long, interest in her classes exploded, and her evening tutorials developed into a program known as the Boys Industrial Association (BIA). The type of activities provided also expanded. The boys learned to sing, were taught to play musical instruments, and became part of a band. Under Mrs. Palmer’s leadership the BIA provided opportunities for breaker boys to prepare for life outside of the mines. Those who participated were given a chance to improve the quality of their lives.

Have you heard of Ellen Webster Palmer? She was instrumental in the fight for the protection and education of boys who worked in the coal mines. If you grew up in Luzerne, Lackawanna, or any of the neighboring counties you’ve probably had a tour of the Lackawanna Coal Mine. (If you haven’t been there, you need to check it out!) You may even have decedents who worked in the coal mines. This was backbreaking work. Hours were long, working conditions were dangerous (to say the least), and compensation was low. While most of us are aware of the treacherous nature of life as a coal miner, it is likely you know little of the woman who worked tirelessly to improve the lives of young boys who found themselves working the area’s mines.

While many social reformers did exist during the 19th century, few were as devoted to children as Ellen Webster Palmer. Her activism resulted in the passage of important child labor laws. Specifically, in 1902 Pennsylvania state legislation made it illegal to employ children under the age of 16 to work inside the mines. Thanks to Mrs. Palmer’s advocacy, boys as young as 6-years-old would no longer have to sort coal in the dark for 10-hours at a time. Even greater social reforms followed a year later when the National Child Labor Committee, a group composed mostly of middle-class women, launched a campaign to eliminate child labor and provide free education to all children. Their activism and tireless campaigning resulted in the passage of the Fair Labor Standards Act in 1938. This act is responsible for regulations that protect workers including a maximum 44-hour, seven day workweek, having a minimum wage, payment of overtime for certain jobs, and most importantly to these female reformers, it prohibited employment of minors.

As a tribute to the legacy of Ellen Webster Palmer, our community had a statue in her likeness commissioned. It once stood overlooking the River Commons in Wilkes-Barre. Sadly, it was accidently damaged by construction workers as they revitalized the River Commons. The Flood Authority of Wilkes-Barre now has possession of the statue. They have since sent it to a mason to be repaired with the intention of one day returning it to its original location. With her house and statue no longer standing, we must be proactive in spreading her story to ensure this selfless woman is never forgotten.
March is Women’s History Month
Why do we NEED a Women’s History Month?

By Alysha Bixler

Think of an important historical figure. Who comes to mind? George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr.? Did any of you envision Ellen Webster Palmer, Chipeta, Susan B. Anthony, or Anna Julia Cooper? Unfortunately, when we think of important historical figures, all too often images of important men and their accomplishments come to mind. This is due in part to the fact that throughout much of recorded history men were the ones who were afforded the education and opportunity to write history. Thus, they determined who was remembered. All too often women, their accomplishments, their voices, and their perspectives have been overlooked, lost, and forgotten.

Thankfully, in 1982, Congress passed a law which designated the entire month of March as “Women’s History Month.” It corresponds with International Women’s Day which is celebrated on March 8th, and has been observed around the world since 1910.

Women’s History month highlights the contributions of women and the important events involving women in history and contemporary society. This month is celebrated in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia. The idea to create this type of celebration developed in the 1970’s when researchers began to recover women’s “lost” stories. Gender imbalances in history books are glaringly obvious. For instance, references to men and their historical accomplishments and place in history consistently outnumber references to women. In fact, women are rarely mentioned at all! Historians and others who were interested in women’s perspectives soon began to wonder “But, what were the women doing?” Surely nations and civilizations prospered because of the work of both men and women!

Designating an entire month to Women’s History is one solution to combat the lack of representation women have had in not only our history books but also in the remembering, recovering, and retelling of the accomplishments of our country. The purpose of Women’s History month is not to rewrite history. Instead it is meant to draw attention to women, and to offer individuals the chance to consider different perspectives about what is historically significant. By taking the focus off political, military, and economic leaders and events – areas which have virtually excluded women - and focusing on both leaders and ordinary citizens, we can become more educated on the contributions women have made. Only by recognizing the accomplishments of both men and women can we truly appreciate the rich diversity and complexity that is our history.

Show your support for Women’s History Month! Go to these websites:

- Read a biography or memoir of a woman (http://www.biographyonline.net/people/famous/100-women.html),
- Watch a documentary such as Makers: Women Who Make America (http://www.pbs.org/makers/home/)
- Come to a session at the annual WGS Conference in March!

Get Involved!

- February 14th: Last Day to submit a Proposal for WGS conference (submit at www.wilkes.edu/wgsproposals)
- February 14th & 15th: Vagina Monologues Presentation (Henry Student Center Ballroom, 7pm)
- March: Women’s History Month
- March 8th: International Women’s Day
- March 19th: WGS Keynote Address: “Revolution Needed: The Ongoing Wrong of Sexual Violence on College Campuses” by Melinda Henneberger’s (7pm, King’s College, Burke Auditorium)
- March 20th & 21st: Annual Wilkes University and King’s College WGS Conference (Wilkes University)
- April 2nd: Victim Resource Center’s Mock Rape Trial (6pm, King’s Student Center)
- April 9th: Victim Resource Center’s Annual Take Back The Night Rally(5:30pm, Wilkes Student Center)
The World Needs More Feminists

By Alysha Bixler

What does it mean to be a feminist and why should you become one? Well, if you are convinced that our society is fine the way it is, if you are comfortable knowing that women are paid significantly less than men for doing the exact same work, and if you can sleep at night knowing that every minute a woman in the world dies giving birth, then I would say to you: Do not bother identifying yourself as a feminist. However, if you believe that women are worth more than that, if you believe in social justice and want to be part of the change necessary for equality, then you should take the time to read this article. You will see that there is much more to feminism than the negative stereotypes that surround it. Not only do feminist make the world a more just place, research has shown that identifying oneself as a feminist has many individual benefits. Feminists have higher self-esteem, greater belief in their ability to affect change, greater self-acceptance, more empowerment, and greater involvement in activism compared to those who do not identify as feminists.

Before I delve into a discussion about the benefits of identifying as a feminist, it is important to explain exactly what this term means. A feminist is an individual who advocates against sexism and sexual oppression. Feminists strive for the social, political, legal, and economic rights of women so that women have the same rights afforded to men. With substantial evidence showing that women’s political, legal, and economic rights are not yet equal to men, it seems logical to identify oneself as a feminist. Yet, when individuals do gain the courage to admit to others that they are in fact a feminist, they are often met with negative responses. When I google searched “What is a feminist?” the responses I found were: “Individuals who believe in the radical notion that women can and will”, “A bitch”, “A sexist idea that women should be the dominant gender in the species”, “Someone who absolutely loathes and hates men”, and “A radical hate-based organization that promotes double-standards and female privileges.” These responses are clearly incorrect and misguided. The do not match the definition provided above. And as someone who proudly identifies as a feminist, I was appalled by these responses; however, I know change cannot happen without awareness. That being said, the remainder of this article is dedicated to accurately representing feminism and will detail evidence that shows various benefits associated with identifying oneself as a feminist.

Understanding feminism and learning about gender-related issues has many benefits. First, gender and sexism color all aspects of our lives, and educating oneself on these issues allows you to answer to questions that are rarely discussed. For example, “Why are women so underrepresented in politics?” By learning the answers to questions such as these, one can adopt new perspectives that can be used to become more proactive in one’s career, relationships, and various other aspects of life. Another great thing about feminism is that it is not just about “women’s issues;” it is about human rights. Feminism and Women’s and Gender Studies (WGS) classes force you to think more about your own identity and explore how racism, sexism, ageism, and other types of discrimination are related to the development of your identity. One of the first terms you learn in WGS classes is intersectionality which is a theory that examines how different forms of identity such as race, gender, and sexuality all intersect and interact. Feminist advocate for the rights of various minority groups, not just women, and allow individuals to challenge a variety of forms of discrimination and oppression. Lastly, by becoming a feminist or taking WGS classes you become more than another bystander. You become an agent for change and assist in bringing our society one step closer to equality, allowing individual’s to reach their full potential.

Much of what I have discussed so far may be seen by some to be highly opinionated. However, there is empirical evidence to support the claims I have made and to show there are many benefits to becoming a feminist and taking WGS classes. Research conducted on college students has shown that feminist and WGS students report more positive changes in their lives, including clarity in their career goals, than non-feminists and students who do not take WGS courses. Experiences in WGS classes are often described as positive and as leading to greater feelings of empowerment. Self-identified feminists report higher self-efficacy, the feeling that one has the ability to accomplish goals and important tasks, and self-esteem, than do individuals who do not identify as feminist. Other research indicates that feminists are less homophobic and more accepting of homosexuality and bisexuality compared to non-feminists. There is also a strong relationship between feminist identify and activism: Feminists are more likely to be actively engaged in issues pertaining to social justice than are non-feminists. In other words, when feminists see an injustice, they are empowered to become the change necessary to end oppression, and WGS classes help students understand feminism and become agents of change. For instance, students enrolled in WGS classes show increases in their endorsement of feminism, feelings of self-efficacy and empowerment, and activism over the course of the semester. This is not true for students enrolled in non-WGS classes.

These findings suggest that the world truly does need more feminists. We should encourage individuals to adopt a feminist identify, to renounce the negative stereotypes surrounding feminists, and to embrace the title and all the benefits that come with it!
Campus Happenings

Come out for the Vagina Monologues
A Global Movement to End Violence against Women & Girls Worldwide

By Miranda Baur

The Vagina Monologues is a theatrical production written by Eve Ensler based on interviews she conducted with women around the world. The show is both humorous and dramatic, and it intends to raise awareness about domestic violence towards women and girls. Voices of the monologues range from an old woman in the Bronx to a six-year-old girl. The purpose of the show is to have attendees celebrate and spread knowledge about V-Day (February 14th), as a day to both support women and end domestic violence.

A great way to find out more about V-Day is to visit www.vday.org where visitors can make donations and learn more about other projects of Eve Ensler, such as the City of Joy in the Congo. In the City of Joy, women have the opportunity to heal from traumatic experiences and gain life skills to become strong leaders in their communities. V-Day’s national organization also runs a variety of other programs that can be explored through the website.

“...to speak of them out loud, to speak of their hunger and pain and loneliness and humor, to make them visible so that cannot be ravaged in the dark without great consequence.”
-Eve Ensler

All of the proceeds raised through the production go to the national V-Day organization, as well as Wilkes-Barre’s Domestic Violence Service Center, Victims Resource Center, Planned Parenthood, and the Magnolia Project. Representatives from all of these organizations will be present at the show with information on how to get involved and about the services they provide.

Last year’s performance raised close to $3000 which was divided among the beneficiaries, and nearly 200 students attended! Dr. Mischelle Anthony was honored as the Vagina Warrior, an outstanding member of the community actively promoting an end to domestic violence through positive actions. Each year, a different member of the Wilkes community is awarded. Similarly, each year has a different theme, suggested through a spotlight monologue at the end of the show. Last year’s theme was to encourage members of the audience to join the One Billion Rising campaign where individuals could pledge their supportive efforts against domestic violence online, building a community of supportive members. This year, the monologues include a new spotlight about joining One Billion Rising, and another semi-autobiographical monologue from the point of view of Eve Ensler and her relationship with her father.

Performances will be on February 14th and 15th at 7 pm in the ballroom of the Henry Student Center. Tickets can be purchased at the door on the night of the event and will be free for Wilkes students, five dollars for all other students with student identification, and ten dollars for general admission. Student Government, Dean Baldino, and Dean Allen sponsor The Vagina Monologues. Feel free to email the student director, Miranda Baur, with questions at miranda.baur@wilkes.edu.

Join us for performances of The Vagina Monologues
February 14th and 15th at 7 pm
in the Henry Student Center ballroom
For more information on V-Day go to: www.vday.org
The Wilkes University Gay-Straight Alliance & Safe Space: Taking on Discrimination - Making Wilkes a More Just and Equitable Place

By Peter Tuzzo

Interested in social justice issues? Want to be part of an organization whose mission is to foster tolerance and combat oppression based on sexual orientation and identity? The Wilkes University Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA), is a club whose purpose is to create a safe place for students to support each other and to learn about homophobia, transphobia, and other forms of oppression based on one’s sexual orientation. The club also looks to educate the Wilkes community about gender and sexual identity issues while fighting to end discrimination and harassment on our campus.

GSA has taken an active role in combating homophobia and increasing sensitivity to issues faced by those in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, and asexual (LGBTQA) community by partnering with the Wilkes’ Safe Space program. Safe Space is used to indicate that anti-LGBTQA violence or harassment will not be tolerated. Designated safe spaces are meant to be places of openness and acceptance where anyone is free to fully express him or herself without fear of being made to feel uncomfortable, unwelcome, or unsafe. This judgment-free-zone encourages individuals to look past one’s sex, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, mental ability, and other personal classification categories and to treat others with respect and openness. Those who support this safe space are known as allies.

You can help combat homophobia and insensitivity toward issues associated with sexual orientation and identity by becoming an ally. To do so you must go through a half-day training session conducted by trained Safe Space faculty and staff. The training involves both informative sessions and experiential activities. At these sessions participants will receive a Safe Space Ally Handbook which explains important education resources and a “Resource Guide” which contains valuable online and text resources. At the conclusion of the training, those who decide to become allies will receive a Safe Space decal to place in their window, on to their door, or in their office (you may have seen many of these decals hanging up around campus).

Anybody in the Wilkes community can go through the Safe Space training and become an ally. Being an ally is a commitment and requires that you educate yourself and others about issues that the LGBTQA face and speak out against statements and jokes that attack these individuals. The Safe Space program is important because it allows for people who are in the coming out process to have a person to go to and an area of acceptance when they are at pivotal moment in their life.

Besides encouraging faculty, staff, and student to become allies, the Wilkes GSA also spreads awareness throughout the Wilkes community by sponsoring different events. The club also works with the Pennsylvania Student Equality Coalition in order to promote equality at Wilkes.

Want to learn more about the club?
Contacts Club President Brittany Budman at brittany.budman@wilkes.edu or Club Advisor Dr. Helen Davis at helen.davis@wilkes.edu

Join the Facebook Group: Wilkes GSA
Attend a Meeting: Tuesdays in Kirby Hall @ 12:00 p.m.

Sweet Success!

By Alysha Bixler

Thanks to all who helped make our She’s the First Bake sale a big hit! In December, WGS and Psi-Chi, the psychology honors society, held a tie-dye bake sale to raise money for She’s the First, a non-profit organization designed to help fund the education of girls in various third world countries. With your help we raised $264! In some countries, as little as $300 funds the education of a girl for an entire school year. Thanks to all who helped make this event a success, especially those who generously donated their time to bake these unique cupcakes.

We hope this will be an annual event! So keep a look out for these fun and beneficial cupcakes in the years to come.

Left: Our beautifully decorated tie-dye cupcakes before we sold out!
Right: Psi Chi Members Whitney Dartnell and Leanna Brisson at the bake sale
REVOLUTIONARY WOMEN

WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES CONFERENCE

MARCH 20 & 21, 2014

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT DR. JENNIFER THOMAS AT JENNIFER.THOMAS@WILKES.EDU OR DR. ROBIN FIELD AT ROBINFIELD@KINGS.EDU

WILKES UNIVERSITY