

Note from the Editor

I am thrilled to launch this second edition of *Dissenting Voices*, a student engineered e-Journal collaboratively designed, authored, and published by undergraduate Women and Gender Studies majors as an extension of their Women and Gender Studies Senior Seminar at the College at Brockport.

Dissenting Voices grows out of a course learning structure where Women and Gender Studies students reflect upon their undergraduate experience in the discipline, and through engagement, activism, and synthesis of acquired knowledge, establish a theoretical foundation to inform future feminist practices. Course readings comprise students' discipline-specific interests, enabling an intellectual forum in which students dialogue on a women and gender focused topic. This work culminates in a meaningful capstone project grounded in contemporary and emerging feminist scholarship.

This second volume of *Dissenting Voices* captures an array of topics important to the Women and Gender Studies discipline as examined by diverse student voices. Authors employ traditional essay format but also play with poetry and images in ways that infuse texture and dimension into the volume. The opening essay, an empirical interrogation of community within Women and Gender Studies, concludes with a poem that the author performed as part of our 2/14 V-Day, One Billion Rising movement. Four additional submissions include a study on abortion and women's voice that opens with a provocative zine cover, an examination of body image and media that integrates poetic narrative, an analysis of media objectification and sexual assault that mixes images with text, and a feminist theoretical reading of Chilean poet Gabriella Mistral's treatment of motherhood.

Intersecting our semester long coursework and writings, students staged a series of activist projects including a One Billion Rising Stop Violence Against Women flash mob and open-mic poetry reading, and two information tables, one advocating transgender equality and one promoting awareness on ways to stop street harassment. The volume concludes with a photo essay that documents this activist work and also embeds a video link to our powerful One Billion rising installation.

Bridging praxis with theory, essays comprising this second volume overlay topics intrinsic to college and surrounding communities. Authors draw on tenets of feminist thought as they contest gender equity borders and margins reproduced in structures of person, place, and institution. Collectively, and in the spirit of feminist collaboration, students' activism and writing embody the impassioned resolve that is women and gender studies. *Dissenting Voices* preserves the authenticity of student voice, sanctioning

a wide range of ability and talent as engendered within students' senior seminar coursework.

In my early role as Brockport's Women and Gender Studies Director and faculty developing a new Women and Gender Studies senior capstone course, I had what seemed a pipedream in conceptualizing a student journal. Semesters of dynamic student activism and thought inspired me to imagine a women and gender studies publication that would bring to light undergraduate creative agency realized on the cusp of feminist knowledge.

Dissenting Voices, as named and populated by its 2012 student founders, now pioneered onward by this 2013 class, is this dream forward.

Barbara LeSavoy, PhD
Director, Women and Gender Studies
Executive Editor, *Dissenting Voices*



We dedicate this issue of

Dissenting Voices

to

AK

and all victims of gender-based violence.

We Rise

and

Dissent in Voice

for all those who cannot.