

# GeNder Studies Announcements February 15, 2011

## The Hysterical Alphabet

Wednesday, February 16, 2011

8 pm

Browning Cinema, DeBartolo Performing Arts Center

Free, but ticketed event

For tickets phone 574-631-2800 or visit [performingarts.nd.edu](http://performingarts.nd.edu)

Co-sponsored by Gender Studies Program

The ABCs are seized by a convulsive fit in Terri Kapsalis' *The Hysterical Alphabet*, each letter introducing an episode direct from the annals of medical lore.

"...wickedly funny, surprisingly heart-wrenching and not to be missed.

-Valerie Jean Johnson, New City

Backed by Danny Thompson's disquieting film collages and John Corbett's vinyl manipulations, *The Hysterical Alphabet* explores a 4,000 year history that deeply inflects our contemporary ideas about gender and illness.

26 Letters of the alphabet  
Episodes from the history of hysteria  
Short films with live sound track

### THE HYSTERICAL ALPHABET

A Live Audio-Visual Performance

produced by Theater Oobleck

*"The Hysterical Alphabet is a beautifully nuanced mixture of historical treatise, medical discourse and poetic archive, chronicling the sometimes hilarious, often horrifying saga of the 'female malady' that is hysteria throughout the centuries. . .The trio packs an astounding amount of information into little more than an hour's time – delivering a lesson that is wickedly funny, surprisingly heart-wrenching and not to be missed."*

-Valerie Jean Johnson, New City

Hysterical historia. Historical hysteria. The ABCs are seized by a convulsive fit in Terri Kapsalis' *The Hysterical Alphabet*, each letter introducing an episode direct from the annals of medical lore. Backed by Danny Thompson's disquieting film collages and John Corbett's vinyl manipulations, *The Hysterical Alphabet* tracks centuries of female malady, disproving the theory that time heals all wombs.

Hysteria has an under-recognized (and under-appreciated!) four-thousand-year history that deeply inflects our contemporary ideas about gender and illness. The ancient Greek myth of the traveling uterus, shrieking Clytemnestra, Freud's Dora, the French-Victorian electromechanical vibrator, the films of John Waters—one doesn't have to look far to see the manifestation of hysteria as a cultural symptom. Drawn from primary medical writings from ancient Egypt to the present, *The Hysterical Alphabet* is an abecedary offering condensed history of hysteria with levity, playfulness, and critical insight.

*The Hysterical Alphabet* performance (ca. 70 min.) premiered at the Gene Siskel Film Center in Chicago as part of the 2007 Outer Ear Festival of Sound. Since that premiere, there have been four additional performances in

Chicago and Milwaukee followed by performances at Bates College and the University of Illinois - Champaign/Urbana.

*The Hysterical Alphabet* (White Walls/distributed by U of Chicago Press, \$15) is a book as well, with drawings by Gina Litherland. An event at Woodland Pattern Book Center in Milwaukee combined an exhibition of Litherland's original drawings and Kapsalis' one sentence captions with the *Hysterical Alphabet* live performance by Corbett, Kapsalis, and Thompson.

**PERFORMER'S BIOS:**

John Corbett (**sound**) is a writer, sound-artist, and curator. He teaches at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and is the co-director of the art gallery Corbett vs. Dempsey. In 2002, Corbett served as Artistic Director of JazzFest Berlin, and he co-curated the Empty Bottle Festival of Jazz & Improvised Music for nine years. He is the producer of the Unheard Music Series, an archival program dedicated to creative music issues and re-issues, and he is the author of *Extended Play: Sounding Off from John Cage to Dr. Funkenstein* (Duke, 1994). Corbett can be heard on a number of CDs including *I'm Sick About My Hat* and has brought his sound skills to two previous Theater Oobleck productions.

Terri Kapsalis' (**voice/sound**) recent fiction, "Most Beautiful Experiments," was published in *Parakeet* and nominated for a Pushcart. Other writings have appeared in such publications as *Short Fiction*, *The Baffler*, *Denver Quarterly*, *new formations*, *Public*, and *Lusitania*. She is the author of *Public Privates: Performing Gynecology from Both Ends of the Speculum* (Duke University Press) which Kapsalis imagines is the only book ever to have been reviewed by the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *The Village Voice*, and *The Amateur Gynecologist* (a medical fetishist website). As an improvising violinist, Kapsalis has a discography that includes work with Tony Conrad, David Grubbs, and Mats Gustafsson. She is a founding member of Theater Oobleck and has performed in 15 Oobleck productions. She teaches at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Danny Thompson (**video/voice**) is a founding member of Theater Oobleck, for which he has written too many plays, including "Necessity," "The Complete Lost Works of Samuel Beckett as Found in an Envelope (Partially Burned) in a Dustbin in Paris Labeled "Never to be Performed. Never. Ever. Ever. Or I'll Sue! I'll Sue from the Grave!!!," and "Big Tooth High-Tech Megatron vs. the Sockpuppet of Procrastination." In addition he has appeared in twenty-five Theater Oobleck shows. "The Complete Lost Works . . ." was given the "Comedy Excellence Award" at the 2000 New York Fringe Festival, "Top Ten of the Fest" at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland, and extensively toured the United Kingdom. He currently lives in Worcester, MA, home of the monkey wrench, the rickshaw, the steam calliope, the first perfect pitched game of Major League Baseball (1880), Robert Benchley, Abbie Hoffman, Sam Fuller, and the yellow smiley face.

# Gender Studies Program

Presents

Theresa Ricke-Kiely, EdD

## “Nonprofit Careers and Volunteer Opportunities”

Thursday, February 17, 2011

5pm

119 O’Shaughnessy



Theresa Ricke-Kiely, EdD

Associate Director of Planning and Development, Concurrent Professor of Management,  
Nonprofit Professional Development

**The Gender Relations Center cordially invites you to attend:**

### **A TIME TO HEAL DINNER**

Tuesday, February 22

6pm - 8pm; Doors Open 5:30pm

Legends

Free and open to all members of the community, this dinner during [Sexual Assault Awareness Week](#) at Notre Dame features students, faculty and staff speaking about healing from sexual assault.

RSVP required by February 17th at [grc.nd.edu](http://grc.nd.edu)

Business casual attire is recommended.

#### Speakers:

- \* Rev. Thomas P. Doyle, C.S.C., Vice President for Student Affairs
- \* Jessica Wroblewski, Ph.D., Visiting Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Saint Mary’s College
- \* Margaret Morgan, Third-Year M.Div. Student
- \* Andrew Dolan, Undergraduate Student
- \* Mariah McGrogan, Undergraduate Student

Please forward this invitation to colleagues, students, family and friends!

Ecclesiastes 3: 1 - 8

There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens. A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant. A time to kill, and **a time to heal**; a time to tear down, and a time to build. A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance. A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them; a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces. A time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away. A time to rend, and a time to sew; **a time to be silent, and a time to speak**. A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

## Research Workshop—Spring 2011

In order to advance the program's commitment to inter-disciplinary research and inquiry into the subject of gender, the Gender Studies Program is pleased to announce an upcoming series of research workshops. The events will include presentations by advanced undergraduates majoring in Gender Studies as well as graduate students and faculty members from a variety of departments who work in the area of gender and sexuality. The workshop will begin with the week's presenter giving a brief lecture on his or her current research in the field, followed by a seminar-style discussion.

**February 25, 2011** – Noon in 339 O'Shaughnessy

Jim Sterba, Professor of Philosophy

### **“An Argument from Rationality to Equality: A Tool for Feminists”**

Contemporary feminists no longer need not be impeded by postmodern relativism when trying to defend their egalitarian agenda. Happily, the resources of contemporary analytical philosophy can now provide the rational and moral foundation for the egalitarian agenda that feminists want to defend and more.

James P. Sterba is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Notre Dame. His previous publications include *Affirmative Action for the Future* (Oxford, 2009), *Does Feminism Discriminate Against Men? – A Debate* (Oxford, 2008 – co-authored with Warren Farrell), *The Triumph of Practice over Theory in Ethics* (Oxford, 2005) and *Terrorism and International Justice* (Oxford, 2002) and *Justice for Here and Now* (Cambridge, 1998). He is past president of the American Philosophical Association (Central Division) and several other organizations.

For additional Research Workshop information, please go to: [Gender Studies Program](#)



**gender studies**  
*t-shirt design contest*

the  
**gender studies program**

is looking for a new  
t-shirt design that promotes the  
importance of gender studies  
and we want  
**YOU** to create it

images, color, and smart slogans  
are encouraged

gift card prize for the winner

mail PDF entries to  
gender@nd.edu by  
noon on February 28th

**Virginia Scharff – “The Women Jefferson Loved**

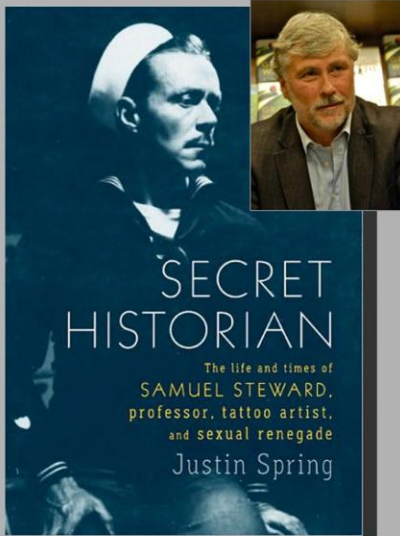
Please join Virginia Scharff, Professor of History and Director of the Center for the Southwest at the University of New Mexico, for a reading and discussion of her new book, *The Women Jefferson Loved*. The event will take place **Tuesday, March 1 at 5:30 p.m. in McKenna Auditorium**. A reception and book signing will follow.

For the first time in one volume, Scharff brings together the stories of these diverse women separated by race but related by blood, including his mother Jane Randolph; his wife, Martha, and her half sister, Sally Hemings, his slave mistress; his daughters; and his granddaughters. "Their lives, their Revolutions, their vulnerabilities shaped the choices Jefferson made, from the selection of words and ideas in his Declaration, to the endless building of his mountaintop mansion, to the vision of a great agrarian nation that powered his Louisiana Purchase," Scharff writes. Based on a wealth of sources including family letters, and written with empathy and great insight, *The Women Jefferson Loved* is a welcome new look at this legendary American that offers a fresh twist on American history itself.

Scharff's academic honors include being named Beinecke Research Fellow in the Lamar Center for Frontiers and Borders at Yale University (2008-9), Women of the West Chair at the Autry National Center in Los Angeles, and a Fellow of the Society of American Historians. She was President of the Western History Association in 2008, and is considered one of the foremost historians of women in the American West writing today.

Her scholarly publications include *Twenty Thousand Roads: Women, Movement, and the West*; *Taking the Wheel: Women and the Coming of the Motor Age*; the edited volume, *Seeing Nature Through Gender*; and two

textbooks, Present Tense: The United States Since 1945; and Coming of Age: America in the Twentieth Century.



Justin Spring is a writer and curator specializing in twentieth-century American art and culture and the author of many monographs, catalogs, museum publications, and books, including *Fairfield Porter: A Life in Art* and *Paul Cadmus: The Male Nude*.

*Gender Studies Program presents*

**Justin Spring**

*a multimedia presentation of his archival research  
for the biography Secret Historian*

**March 2, 2011**

**126 DeBartolo Hall**

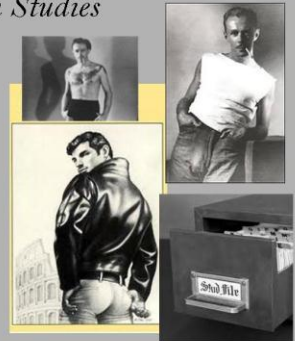
**5:00 pm**

*Co-sponsored by Department of American Studies*

"A true page-turner—and a memorable act of historical reclamation. Sammy Steward is all but unknown except by a handful of historians, but Justin Spring's lively biography—which is full of important new information about pre-Stonewall gay life—should put Sammy on the map, which is where he decidedly belongs." —Martin Duberman, author of *Cures: A Gay Man's Odyssey*

"Secret Historian is a startlingly, unforgettably vivid glimpse into a life—and a world—that few of us can imagine." —Terry Teachout, author of *Pops: A Life of Louis Armstrong*

"I just read Justin Spring's *Secret Historian* about Samuel Steward and let me say that that's my new favorite book...It's really good!" -- Film Director John Waters, *Baltimore OUTloud*





# Annual Gender Studies Undergraduate Thesis Prize

**DEADLINE  
EXTENDED**

**TO  
MARCH 25**

“GENEVIEVE D. WILLIS  
THESIS PRIZE”  
\$150

Awarded for the best thesis written by any Notre Dame undergraduate on a topic related to Gender Studies. This prize is named in honor of Genevieve D. Willis, whose family has provided an endowment for excellence for the Gender Studies Program.

**Any Undergraduate student** in the University may submit a senior thesis written during this academic year (2010-2011) or last Spring (2010)

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Submit theses to: [gender@nd.edu](mailto:gender@nd.edu)

Due **MARCH 25, 2011 @ Noon**

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For additional information please go to:  
[genderstudies.nd.edu/undergraduate-program/writing-prizes](http://genderstudies.nd.edu/undergraduate-program/writing-prizes)

## 2011 Undergraduate Library Research Award

<http://guides.library.nd.edu/subject-guide/77-2011-Undergraduate-Library-Research-Award>

This year's submission deadline is **5 p.m. on Friday, April 8, 2011.**

## The Mother-Daughter Project at Notre Dame

Are you the mother of a daughter who is either a 7th, 8th, 10th or 11th grader? If so, ND Psychology Department researchers are looking for your help. Participation in the Mother-Daughter Project involves you and your daughter completing separate, confidential questionnaires at your convenience from anywhere with

internet access. Mother and daughter each are paid \$10 for participating. If you are interested, please contact Jamie Serrano at [jhaynes3@nd.edu](mailto:jhaynes3@nd.edu)<<mailto:jhaynes3@nd.edu>>.

**Join our group on Facebook: [GeNDeR Studies Program at University of Notre Dame!](#)**

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To view complete copies of previous Announcements for current semester, please go to: [GS Announcements](#)

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