

A Season, Reason, *and Lifetime

Dr. Wentling

My mother always says that change is constant. My late friend, Daryl Leigh Miller, and I were talking about relationships—relationships of all kinds—and wondering why some people come into our lives. He believed they did so for “a season, reason, or lifetime.” Lately, I have been thinking about Daryl’s philosophy and replacing the “or” conjunction with “and.” We meet people during a particular sequence and time in our life—and I believe we are constantly changing, developing both consciously and unconsciously. As a sociologist, I know we meet people not by chance but because of larger patterns of structural access: we studied together; worked together; rode the bus together; shopped at the same bodega; even, danced at the same club. Maybe our relationship inspired learning (more) about trust, loss, happiness, sadness, obstacles, problem solving, success, failure, joy, integrity, spirituality. Whatever the reason, it was always during a season. I have said many “see you later” in my lifetime and while some of those will never be realized, the significance of the reason and timing of that season remain in my body-mind-spirit.

This issue of goWEST celebrates the change of a season and the many reasons that we do what we do. Congratulations to our graduates, who will go beyond WEST and hopefully apply WEST values over their lifetime. Congratulations to Dr. Stephany Rose, as well, for following her reason. We wish her all the best in her next season!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 Congratulations Graduates!
- 3-4 Words from our Faculty
- 5 Photo Gallery
- 5 End of the Year Celebration
- 6 WEST Beyond UCCS
- 6 Staying Informed
- 7 WEST Capstone Presentations
- 7 WEST Certificates

Newsletter Editor

DR. TRE WENTLING

Feminist Club Marches for Women’s Rights

Gabriela Madrigal

On Sunday March 13, 2022, I drove down to city hall to join the UCCS Feminists club in their second annual women’s march. The club provided posters and chants for the group. After a brief introduction from the club’s leaders and Professor Ilaheva Tuaone, the group began to March through the downtown area. As a woman, I feel comfort in this small, but significant, stance on women’s rights. With a smaller protest like this, some may think that we had no effect on any kind of



change. This simply is not true. While we marched downtown chanting and making ourselves heard, we received support from the locals that were gathered as well as the locals that were driving by. Along with the praise, we received criticism being thrown out way. Despite those that did not share in our pride for women’s rights, I found comfort in knowing that small acts of protest could have impacted any of the many people that witnessed our display.

Congratulations Majors and Minors!!

Claudine “CC” Goodman

I plan to continue to work and pursue any HR roles or Diversity and Inclusivity roles with my current employer.

My favorite WEST class is a tie between Peepshow: Sexuality in Popular Culture and Spiked: Spike Lee’s Cinema. So much of the content I learned in these classes have stuck with me over the past few years and impacted the way I perceive media!



Hillari Garnica (Winter 2021)

My post-graduation plans included a solid month of relaxing. No work or school for the first time since I was 15 years old! It was great, but now I’m ready to get back into the swing of things as I am applying for jobs within the state of Colorado.

My favorite/best memory from my experience in the WEST program was in April 2019 at CU Boulder. We were invited to attend a symposium, “Intersectional Insurgencies: Unsettling

White Supremacy and (Neo) Colonial Hetero-Patriarchies.”

Not only was the raw discourse enlightening, but I felt a genuine sense of community driving back with my professor and classmates.



Brianna Leyva (Winter 2021)

“El Conejo Malo: How Bad Bunny Embodies Decoloniality in Performance”

My research explores how Bad Bunny has come to embody decolonial performance in his music and identity and I do this through looking into the history of reggaetón, performance of perreo, and the theory Ricanness which explores Puerto Rican decolonial performance.

After leaving UCCS, I will go back home which is Summit County, Colorado. I accepted a position working for the Summit County Pre-Collegiate program, which is a non-profit organization that works with student’s 6th through 12th grade to connect them to post-secondary education opportunities. We help students figure out what they would like to do with their lives after high school and set them up with the tools to reach their goals. I work for the Middle School as the programs coordinator, which also includes parent outreach.

My favorite WEST course would have to be Media and Consumption with Dr. Wentling. I am definitely a popular culture scholar and this class let me dive into this area of study that I love. It’s also the course where I met my lifelong best friend and that’s something I hold so dear to my heart.

My favorite WEST memory would have to be pre-COVID when we were hiring new professors. Professors and WEST students would go to Clyde’s and we would just be like a small little family eating and enjoying each other’s company, having important conversations, and just learning from one another. I love those moments so much.



Noelle Hays

After graduation I plan to take a gap year before applying to grad school and work on building my portfolio.

Though I loved all of my WEST classes, my favorite was Dr. Stephen Suh’s (Gender and Sexuality, and Asian American Communities). Even though we were online he made class interactive and fun, which was much appreciated through the pandemic!



Bry’ona Johns Renfroe

My favorite WEST course was Peep Show: Sexuality in Popular Culture! This class was not only the starting point of my passion for sex and sexuality studies, but it also connected me to some of the most influential and supportive people I know.

After graduation, I’ll move back to Denver for a gap year. In that year I hope to start providing basic level counseling at a hospital. From there, my goal is to start graduate school to become a sex therapist.





Dr. Abby Ferber

Dr. Abby Ferber

Linda Smith and I spent spring break in Montgomery, AL with students in Ferber's WEST 4480: Racial Storytelling: Montgomery Travel Course. A powerfully emotional experience, we examined the history of white supremacy in this town that was designed around the transport and sales of enslaved people.

We visited the First White House of the Confederacy, the Dexter Ave. King Memorial Baptist Church and parsonage, the Rosa Parks Museum, The Legacy Museum and Memorial for Peace and Justice, and concluded

the week by traveling the route of the Selma to Montgomery march for voting rights, ending at the foot of the Capitol building where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his powerful speech asking "How long? Not long", just feet from the steps where Jefferson Davis, who owned over 70 enslaved people, was inaugurated as the first President of the Confederate States of America. In between sights we enjoyed incredible Southern soul food. Check out some of our photos later in this issue (pg. 5).



Dr. Andrea Herrera

Dr. Andrea Herrera

We are excited to share the news that WEST 3380: Caribbean Literature, History & Theory will be offered virtually (via a remote synchronous mode) during the fall 2022 semester. The course meets on Wednesdays from 1:40-4:05, and will be co-taught by Dr. Andrea Herrera, WEST, and Dr. Cerian Gibbes, GES. We will use a multi-disciplinary lens to study place, history, identity, and the environment in Caribbean literature, art and music. Students will engage with a range of work from Caribbean authors, artists and musicians. The course will include virtual guest visits from Caribbean artists and provide an

opportunity for students to produce an original creative work or project. WEST 3380 is cross-listed with GES 4700: Geographic Issues and satisfies LAS Global Awareness requirements as well as the Inclusion and Explore requirements of the Compass Curriculum.



Dr. Stephen Suh

Dr. Stephen Suh

I'm struggling to find something intelligible to write given the circumstances related to our apparently ever-troubled world. Just as the Covid-19 pandemic seems to have loosened its stranglehold on us, the unlawful invasion of sovereign Ukraine by the Russian military has upended any hope of global calm and normalcy. During times like these, it's easy to fall into a death spiral of hopelessness and despair. But we must resist this temptation! Feeling something in response to these events is good, but also incredibly overwhelming. Please don't feel like you have to work through these complicated emotions alone. Staff at the Wellness Center, as well as faculty in WEST are here to work through these

issues with you.

Looking ahead, April 29, 2022 marks the 30th anniversary of the 1992 Los Angeles Uprising. In remembrance of this important date, I will be hosting a series of events between April 27-29 that engage with legacy of the Uprising from different, yet complimentary, perspectives. The series will conclude with a screening and discussion of Justin Chon's film, *gook*, on Friday, April 29 at 5pm. While the screening will be open to everyone, it will be targeted toward students. I hope you will join us to share a difficult but much needed discussion about race in America in the past and present. More details will be available soon.

Dr. 'Ilaheva Tua'one

"Feeding Two with Birds with One Seed"

In Fall 2022, I am reviving WEST 2070: Foundations in Native American Studies, a course not taught since the passing of my predecessor, Dr. Janice Gould. Honoring Dr. Gould's memory, I will be using the structure and content of her syllabi while adding in some new material that reflects the global impact of colonization and theories of decoloniality. This course is designed to give students a foundation in the discipline of Native American Studies, providing needed historical and political background and basic historical knowledge about the problematic nature of Native American and White relations in the

United States. Students will explore concepts such as world view, Native American sovereignty, and Native epistemologies, such as Traditional Ecological Knowledge.

WEST 2070 is a core course required to complete the Native American and Indigenous Studies Certificate.

Enrolling in WEST 2070 will feed many birds with one seed: it offers three undergraduate flags (the LAS Humanities requirement, the Compass Sustainability, and the Compass Explore-Arts, Humanities, and Cultures). Fulfill all your dreams, or just a few Flags, and take WEST 2070.



Dr. 'Ilaheva Tua'one

Dr. Julie Torres

One of the highlights of Spring 2022 was finally being able to get together in-person for our WEST Social Hour this past March. I enjoyed seeing so many of you there! The event was a reminder not only of the significance of WEST and the work that we do at UCCS, but also, more importantly, of the spirit, dedication, and overall awesomeness of our students.

I have been keeping busy this semester. In addition to teaching three courses, I presented my research as part of the Global Intercultural Research Center (GLINT) Talk Series, as well as Latinx Day hosted by the University of Rzeszów. I am also pleased to share that my article, "We are Orlando: Silences, Resistance, and the Intersections of Mass Violence,"

was accepted for publication by the journal *Meridians: feminism, race, transnationalism*. Looking ahead to next semester, I will be teaching WEST 3400 Theory and Methods in WEST and WEST 3100 Women of Color: Image and Voice. I hope you will consider enrolling!

Lastly, I would like to congratulate all of the graduates! Just a few short months ago, I finally got the opportunity to walk across the stage myself, after having my doctoral hooding ceremony cancelled back in 2020 due to the pandemic. Cherish this well-deserved moment and I look forward to celebrating all of your accomplishments at our end-of-year celebration on May 5th!



Dr. Julie Torres

Dr. Tre Wentling

I am collaborating on The Colorado Springs LGBTQ+ Oral History Project with Dr. Rushaan Kumar, a Feminist and Gender Studies professor at Colorado College. Both CC and UCCS students are interviewing long-time residents of Colorado Springs.

In 1992, 53% of Colorado voters passed the infamous "Amendment 2," which prevented state and local governments from creating antidiscrimination laws for sexual orientation. The initiative was drafted and supported by the group, Colorado for Family Values, which was led by the late conservative evangelical business owner, Will Perkins. Colorado became

nicknamed "the Hate State" and Colorado Springs, "the city of hate." In 1996, the U.S. Supreme Court, declared Amendment 2 a violation of the 14th Amendment.

Two students in WEST 3080 Trans* Studies conducted an oral history interview with Regina DiPadova—the founder of Inside Out Youth Services. WEST 3090 Peep Show students have recorded 10 more interviews with social justice advocates, K-12 educators, small business owners, UCCS alumni, and simply "everyday" people. The Project archives LGBTQ+ life, resistance, resilience, and survival in Colorado Springs.



Dr. Tre Wentling



WEST 4480 Racial Storytelling: Montgomery Travel course



WEST 4480 Rosa Parks Museum, Montgomery, Alabama



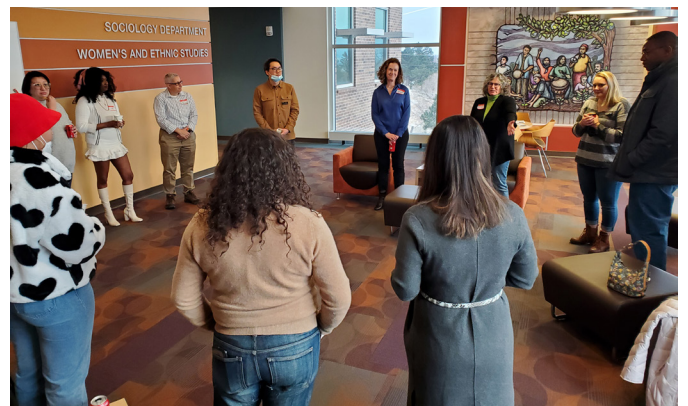
WEST 4480 Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church
Montgomery, Alabama



WEST 4480 The Edmund Pettus Bridge, Selma, Alabama



After two years, a group of WEST students and faculty gathered in-person for conversation, connection, and refreshments. WEST's Social Hour was a reunion for some and a first-time, in-person meeting for others. We thank everyone who joined us, including Dean Vidler and Vice Chancellor Hanna! We look forward to the next time we are all together again.



WEST Beyond UCCS

Bri Leyva '21

When choosing WEST, it felt like the perfect match. From WEST 1010 to Capstone, I can't recall a time when I didn't leave a class "mind blown" or uninspired to think of new ways to view systems of power. Before graduating, I knew I would be moving back to my hometown of Silverthorne, Colorado in Summit County where there had been push back in the school district about Critical Race Theory and other things labeled "liberal studies." I took this as a message that my degree was under attack, especially by some parents. The foundation of everything I had studied seemed to be on the table to be censored—and that was scary as I stepped onto the job market! A true fear was that I would not be able to find a job with my degree.

Within three months of leaving UCCS, I had the opportunity to interview for the Pre-Collegiate Middle School Student and Parent Coordinator position in Summit County. Pre-Collegiate is a non-profit program within the Summit School District that

is designed to help first generation students in grades 6th-12th. They help students figure out what they would like to do once graduating from high school and give them resources to be successful in their post-secondary goals.

During my interview process, I talked about what I studied in my time as a WEST student and how I planned to introduce that into my job with students. I even brought up how my own research might be seen by students, and how it could inspire them to bring their own everyday passions into the work that they seek to do while in college. Because Pre-Collegiate works with mostly marginalized students, I shared how important it is to always create spaces for them within systems of education and encourage them to take-up space in institutions that were not initially built to include their presence. I really stressed my belief in equity and justice work, especially in education. I felt that it was important

to include my involvement with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion office during my undergrad and how WEST professors, like Dr. Herrera and Dr. Rose, pushed for my involvement in these conversations and the process of creating equity policies, which would help me greatly as I began to get involved with the equity task force here in the Summit County School District.

I got the job! It is validating to be offered this job and to have the opportunity to work with wonderful first-generation students. I intend to incorporate WEST principles within my work for as long as I am in this position.

I was part of Pre-Collegiate when I was growing up in Summit County. When they reached out, and were excited to offer me this job, it felt like a message. I can practice everything that I studied in WEST and continue to create a pathway for students to join programs like WEST as they start their own undergraduate journeys.

Staying Informed and Staying Strong in Our Values

Jessica Rodriguez '22

My name is Jessica (she/her). I am an undergraduate student at UCCS and approaching graduation in December as a Psychology/Philosophy double major. I took WEST 1010 in the Fall 2021 semester, and I realized how passionate I am about WEST.

I find it difficult to balance staying aware of everything that's going on in the world with my own peace of mind. Even to consider a few of the modern events is a lot to take in. I think it's important for us to know our limits, like what triggers us within ourselves and with others when we discuss them. If you're feeling weary, that's because there is a lot happening, and it's normal to feel upset.

We are still living through the Covid-19 pandemic. There have been over 6 million deaths related to Covid. I think of the disproportionate impact this has had on communities of color, immunocompromised people, those with long-Covid, and the many families who have lost their loved ones.

The year 2021 was marked as the worst for anti-LGBTQ state legislation, including attacks against trans children. In 2022, there have been a record shattering 238 anti-LGBTQ bills filed, so far. In at least five states, anti-abortion legislation has been introduced. Although abortion is healthcare, people with uterus are being discriminated against by politicians in power.

Police continue to murder and abuse Black people and People of Color globally. Yet, the U.S. government has discussed increasing police budgets, which feels like a slap in the face to the Black Lives Matter movement as it calls to defund the police. In Canada, over 1100 unmarked graves of indigenous children have been discovered from residential schools. Canada has supported Coastal Gaslink's building a pipeline through the Wet'suwet'en indigenous nation (British Columbia in colonizer terms) without their consent, which is illegal. For months, the Wet'suwet'en people have fought this without support

from the Canadian Government.

Political unrest is tangible as war looms over our heads, however this is nothing new for Yemen, Palestine, Somalia, or Armenia. Ask yourself why you feel comfortable speaking out about the invasion of a European country, but not about Joe Biden bombing Somalia the same day the Ukraine was invaded? When victims are white, white people take on refugees and express outrage. Yet non-white, non-European countries are completely ignored.

We can't convince people who don't want to learn or work towards collective change, but we can plant seeds and keep our own peace by having boundaries with ourselves and others. Not all hope is lost, don't forget there are so many others with values just like you who want to protect the vulnerable and disrupt the system in this country. It's important to do what I can to be the best advocate, and to keep my mental peace to keep fighting injustices globally.

CAPSTONE PRESENTATIONS

At the end of every spring semester, WEST host its annual Capstone Presentations--and this year we are happy to invite you to join us in-person.

We are excited to promote research completed by our five WEST majors: Irina Amouzou, Courtney Cowling, Chloë Cross,

Leann Fremont, and Celina Jones. Their research topics range from a focus on pleasure and BDSM experiences among self-identified black people, necropolitics and people of transgender experience, K-Pop fandom among lesbians, birthing experiences among black pregnant women, and cultural

competance in medical education and continuing professional development.

Meet us on the 4th floor of the Academic Office Building on Thursday, May 5, 2022 at 10:50 a.m. This space is one of the best kept secrets on the campus and the presentations will be engaging, too!

END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2022 · 4:30 PM MST

Awards ceremony, games, prizes, and much more
with your favorite WEST friends and faculty!
4th Floor Academic Office Building

- FALL 2022 COURSES -

WEST 1010

Intro to Social Justice Studies

WEST 2070

Foundations in Native
American Studies

WEST 2500

Social Justice through Film

WEST 3100

Women of Color: Image & Voice

WEST 3280

The Asian American Community

WEST 3310 Soc of the Family

WEST 3380 Caribbean Literature,
History, & Theory

WEST 3400

Cont. Theory & Methods

WEST 3490 Youth Gangs

WEST 3580 Immigrant Histories

WEST 4030 Bodies, Genders,
Sexualities

WEST 4040 Gender & Sexuality

WEST 4380 Globalization &
Development

WEST 4530

Advanced Privilege Studies

WEST 4680 Inequality USA

WEST 4780 Global Migration

UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATES

Civics in WEST & SOC

Advances critical thinking about dynamic relationships between the U.S. Government & marginalized populations in American society.

Disability Studies

Develops understanding of the interdisciplinary field of disability studies.

Gender & Sexualities Studies

Examines gender and sexuality as social phenomenon, social processes, social constructs, formation of identities, roles, and performances.

Global Studies

Approaches the study of global social phenomena as a complex and dynamic product of multiple regional, ethnic, and institutional identities from a transnational perspective.



Dr. Stephen Suh

Latino/a Studies

Designed to highlight the diverse experiences of Latino/a communities in the U.S. and abroad.

Native American & Indigenous Studies

Investigates American Indian issues and concepts of Indigenous knowledge worldwide; emphasis on Indian Nations within the United States, First Nations in Canada, and Pacific Islanders.

west
women's + ethnic studies