



November 23, 2020

Dear alumni and friends of the UW Department of Gender & Women's Studies,

Greetings to all of you! I am serving as chair of the Department of Gender & Women's Studies this year, taking the reins from Professor Aili Tripp, who served as chair for the last 3 years.

Even in the midst of the twin pandemics of COVID and racism, there is much good news to report. This Fall, we welcomed 5 new faculty, which is an all-time record! They are [Dr. Ruth Goldstein](#) (hired for a new position in gender and the environment), [Dr. Benjamin Mier-Cruz](#) (a joint hire with German, Nordic, and Slavic Studies), [Dr. Jess Waggoner](#) (a hire made possible through the Disability Studies initiative), [Dr. Kate Walsh](#) (the head of the Sexual Violence Research Initiative and a joint hire with Psychology), and [Dr. Kelly Ward](#) (a joint hire with Sociology as part of the Reproductive Equity initiative). These new faculty members will offer fabulous, innovative new courses for our students. For example, Professor Jess Waggoner will offer a course on Race, Gender, and Disabled Lives, and Professor Ruth Goldstein is creating a new course, Environment of the Womb: Epigenetics and Maternal/Fetal Health.

Like all departments in all universities this Fall, we have struggled to maintain our superb teaching while dealing with the challenges of COVID. Some instructors began with physically distanced, masked, in-person teaching and then had to switch to remote instruction when the campus was locked down because of surging COVID cases. All of the faculty and lecturers who have taught this semester are heroes and I commend them for their leadership and commitment. In Spring, all faculty and lecturers have chosen a remote, synchronous modality for their courses, a modality that is preferred by students when they can't have in-person classes.

Keep in touch! I would love to hear from you. jshyde@wisc.edu

Best wishes to you and your loved ones,

Janet S. Hyde
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