



May 2021

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

First and most importantly, congratulations to the graduates of the class of 2021!!! That includes Gender & Women's Studies majors, GWS certificates, LGBTQ+ certificates, and Masters students. Completing a degree and graduating from UW is always a major accomplishment, but it is much more so this year. Not only did these students successfully complete all of their courses, but they did it despite the many obstacles created by Covid and pivots to online instruction. This group is a very special graduating class.

In other news, this semester the faculty voted to add the word "Sexuality" to the Department's name, so we will become the Department of Gender, Women's and Sexuality Studies. This change is meant to recognize and honor the major role that LGBTQ+ Studies plays in the Department, including both the certificate for undergraduates and the research commitments of many faculty.

We will remember this time as the era of America's racial reckoning. As GWS alums, your understanding of the issues is deeper than the great majority of Americans. In some ways, this understanding may be painful for you, but your studies in GWS have also given you the tools to do something about race issues. Let us know if you've taken on race issues wherever you are – we'd love to hear about it!

I have been serving a one-year, interim term as chair of the department, until other faculty could free up their time to serve. I am excited to announce that I will hand the baton to Professor Judith Houck in August. Professor Houck is highly experienced, having served a previous term as chair, and it feels good leaving the department in her very capable hands.

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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