TOPIC SUMMARY
00:00  Sarah McLaughlin
What led you to become a Women’s Studies major? Finished English requirements and took a WOMS course to see what it was like and enjoyed it so decided to become a WOMS major.
How do people react to your major? Varies. Because I was an English major I often respond with that. Sometimes people ask me what that is but have never had a negative response, mostly curiosity.
How do you think your woms training will influence your post graduate plans? Going to graduate school for Human Resource management and one thing that influenced that was taking “Women and Work”. It talked about work place policy. I thought it might be interesting to make sure that was in place and employees are treated fairly and policies are actually being enforced.
What is the most important thing you are taking away from your WOMS major? Women’s Studies is very interdisciplinary and I think that it gives you kind of the opportunity to see things from a lot of different perspectives. Instead of having just one concrete area of study like chemistry, I have taken classes that are cross-
listed with English, courses that are sociology courses, I just feel better educated and I fell I have a more valuable education because it can apply to so many different things.

2:39 Do you think women’s studies continues to be relevant today? Yeah definitely. We have spent entire class periods talking about issues with birth control. Just the fact that we have this Program still here and we are able to shape an entire semester around issues proves that they are still there and they still need to be addressed. I definitely think it’s important to still have women’s studies.

How do you think WOMS has changed you as a person? I think I look at things a lot differently, for instance my capstone research paper is about gender stereotypes in sitcoms, something I would never have even thought about before. I feel I am more critical of what I look at and I examine things more closely and I see things completely differently. I think it’s definitely changed me a lot just in the way that I look at everything around me.

One comment to sum the impact of women’s studies on you? It makes me more aware of equality and more passionate about achieving equality. It makes me more angry about things that are going on that I was completely ignorant to before. I am more concerned with the equalities of society.

Anything else? No that’s it.

04:38 Sara Mann

What lead you to become a Women’s Studies major?
I took a bunch of women’s studies classes my freshman year I randomly signed up for it I fell in love with it. I liked that you could talk about sex and the city in class and have a test with questions about sex and the city so I just kept taking women studies class form then on and eventually made it a major

How do people react to you when you mention you’re a Women’s Studies major?
Most people will say and what are you going to do with that. I also get that because I’m a history major as well so both of them they just don’t get it. A couple of people have acted interestingly my grandparents don’t get it very much. But then there’s been people my age who don’t understand why I’m a women’s studies major too.

What’s your response to them?
Normally I say I’m very interested in women’s history because I have taken every class offered at Delaware about women’s history. But I also say there are plenty of women’s issues to talk about that aren’t covered in many of the other disciplines.

How will your women’s studies training influence your post graduation plans?
So far I don’t know what I’m doing yet but I think wherever I end up I will be conscious of women’s issues watching the news staying informed but also in the workplace knowing that there are problems out there and how to work around things like that.

What is the most important thing you’re taking away from Women’s Studies?
I think I’m more conscious of the problems that are around and things like that. I think most people don’t realize women are paid less than men. There is still discrimination out there and I think taking that away is important because just being aware of the fact makes me a better person in general.

Do you think that Women’s Studies continues to be relevant today?
Yes I think Women’s Studies is extremely relevant I think it is not covered in the other disciplines as much as it should be especially the hard sciences I don’t feel like there’s a presence of women’s studies at all. I’m waiting for the day when a regular history class talks about women as much as they talk about men because women were doing things back in history too just like men were but we don’t get written about. It is still relevant because it’s opened my eyes to so many more things that are outside the disciplines I have taken.

How has Women’s Studies changed you as a person?
I think Women’s Studies has made me more vocal about my ideas. I feel like back in high school before I came to college a women’s studies hot topic would come up that I don’t necessarily agree with and I would keep my
mouth shut whereas now I do know how to formulate an argument and I can explain what I’m thinking and I think its ok that I don’t necessarily agree with other people.

If you had to sum up overall the effect of Women’s Studies on you
I’m very glad I took Women’s Studies. It helped me become the person I am. It made me more secure with what I think and how I see the world and I think it has opened my eyes to many other problems that exist that many other people don’t realize.

9:29  Sarah Foster

What lead you to become a Women’s Studies major?
Well I took women’s history my senior year in high school and I just really liked learning about women. It was information I had never heard before. So when I came to Delaware, I took intro to women’s studies my first semester and I just fell in love with it, and then I took fem theory and I was like, I am going to become a major, this is for me.

How do people react when you say you are a Women’s Studies major?
10:25 Usually “what is that?” A lot of people, especially older men, ask me what it is and then everyone asks what are you going to do with that? Usually shocked, ignorance of what it is and also kind of like – oh you are one of those kind of women.

How will your Women’s Studies training influence your post graduation plans?
10:45 I am looking into studying women’s studies in graduate school. I am taking a year off but I think that is what I am going to do or work for a nonprofit women’s organization.

What is the most important thing you’re taking away from Women’s Studies?
11:02 I think the concept that impacted me the most was gender socialization. So with Women’s Studies I am taking away all that learning information for when I am a parent but also when I am looking at my family and what’s happening to my nieces and nephews, and just the whole critical approach to society. When you look at a commercials like Dr Pepper commercials that say not for women. I just take that whole critique everywhere with me - I can’t get way from it.

Do you think that Women’s Studies continues to be relevant today 40 years after it was created?
11:47 – Definitely. I definitely think it is relevant, I think it will continue to be relevant as long as there are inequalities in our society. whether that’s between women and men or between people of different classes, races. Women’s Studies applies to more than just women and it will be relevant, it is relevant forever.

How has Women’s Studies changed you as a person?
11:49 I think Women’s Studies has brought me into my own. I was just a carbon copy of my parents basically and I came to college and I learned on my own and became independent. It has definitely changed how I see everything and who I am. I can’t get away from it. I am a feminist whether I am watching TV or talking with someone.

Overall how would you sum up the effect of women’s studies on you?
12:45 Positive. I guess it’s just been a really amazing experience. I wouldn’t trade it for anything the world. I am so glad I came here and was Women’s Studies major. I can’t image studying anything else. I did study English but it hasn’t had the same impact on me and like who I am that Women’s Studies had.

13:30  Colleen Dougherty

What lead you to become a Women’s Studies major?
I started out originally as anthropology major, I still am – double major Anthropology and Women’s Studies. When I started looking for a minor, my advisor in the Anthropology department Dr Ackerman just kind of told me to follow your passions. I took a few classes here and there and I took a Women’s Studies class and then another one and other one and another one and I ended up being a Gender and Sexualities minor and then I just realized just major – it’s something I love, it’s a big passion of mine so it just made sense to take the double major.
How do people react when you say you are Women’s Studies major?
14:15 The best reactions are Oh that’s great, the people that actually know what it is get really excited and burst into so many different conversations and that is great. And people want to talk about it. And then there are some people that react like – Oh what are you going to do with that? And it’s like alright sassy. Sometimes it’s really positive and exciting and people want to talk about it and sometimes I just have to go into that convincing conversation well I can do this and this and this and this is what I am actually going to do with it so there you go and then they are like Oh I didn’t know you could do that. It’s always interesting to say the least.

How will your Women’s Studies training influence your post graduation plans?
12:00 I originally had intended on going into graduate school in the fall and unfortunately those plans fell through but in some ways it actually worked out a lot better because now I am able to really sit down and think about what I want to do. Originally, I was just going to go right into higher ed administration masters program. Which I still intend on doing and now I have the opportunity to really sit down and plan out everything that I want to So I am still looking into that masters program but I am also looking at colleges that have women’s studies departments where I can potentially get a certificate in Women’s Studies. So we are starting one here and I am also applying here to grad school; so hopefully I can come here in the following fall. That would be great. It’s definitely going to influence it a lot more that I had originally thought. In some ways I hadn’t planned on doing women’s studies in my master’s work to that degree. It was always going to impact it because eventually I would like to work with the LGBT community on college campuses after I get my masters and once I get a job. That is what I really want to do. So in that way it was always going to affect my career path and my career goals. But now it’s being more solidified and I am really happy and grateful for that.

What is the most important thing you’re taking away from Women’s Studies?
16:45 What is unimportant? There are so many things – so many important things I am taking away with my women’s studies degree. Just a different way of thinking and looking at my own life, and the way that I affect others and the way others affect me. And just the way that I can work and the way that I live and see my personal life but also how I work professionally. In a lot of ways my Women’s Studies degree is the most important thing for me. And is the thing that really affected me the most. I feel like in some ways, actually most ways, my Women’s Studies degree is the most important and the most valuable to me. Because it’s the thing that led me to what I want to do and what I will be going. There is so many important things about it I wish I could articulate it better. In the department currently there is really a sense of community which fosters and amazing, amazing, amazing place of learning. With my Anthropology degree, I love the Anthropology Department – they are amazing people. But over there, for me anyway, it’s just a going to classes and writing papers and getting everything in and done. Within Women’s Studies it’s those things and more. I value the relationships I have with the professors and my class mates and I value the things that they teach me, not only in class, in my education but also in the way we speak to each other, and we learn from each other and our own experiences. Learning is not just what you read in a text book, it’s also your life experiences, personal life experiences as well as professional and that helps me in so many more ways than people could even imagine.

Do you think that Women’s Studies continues to be relevant today 40 years after it was created?
19:10 Absolutely. People can argue until they are blue in the face about how they think that Women’s Studies in irrelevant and they are just completely wrong. I came into the University not even knowing that we had a Women’s Studies program and when I found out we had one I was like, oh that’s interesting and didn’t even think about it, until I took a class and then it was like – hit me in the face. People don’t understand how relevant and important it is until that take a Women’s studies class. I get a little angry when people say Women’s Studies is irrelevant.

How has Women’s Studies changed you as a person?
20:00 Mentally – completely and mentally – Thanking back to when I was a freshmen, I was such a different person back then. In a lot of ways it wasn’t just Women’s Studies, it was all my experiences in college obviously. But even over the last two years. I declared my major last year and declared a minor two years ago. Even over the
last two years I have grown so much, in so many ways, especially academically and I definitely owe the Women’s Studies Department that. All the professors I had really focus on their students. They want us to do our best. Other classes in other departments they want you to do your best but I have always just felt that the women’s studies department has really put the most effort into the education of their students.

Overall how would you sum up the effect of Women’s Studies on you?

21:05 Sometimes I want to be able to summarize it into words and in a very succinct sentence but it’s kind of impossible. Women’s Studies has done so much for me. I am so so glad that I ended up taking the minor and then the major. The theme of my personal narrative for the capstone was “what if”…What if I hadn’t declared my major. I wouldn’t be the person I am today

21:54 Kathryn (Kiki) Evinger

What lead you to become a Women’s Studies major?

I started college undeclared I thought I wanted to be a vet and then I took chem. 103 and I learned I can’t do science so I went to my undergraduate undeclared advisor. I was already a poli sci major by that point and I was like wow I’m going to finish my degree in two years what am I going to do with the rest of my time here? She said I had a student take a Women’s Studies class and maybe take it and became a Women’s Studies major and loved it. I said ok I’ll take it I have nothing better to do. So I took WOMS 201 with Dr. Cherrin my sophomore year. And the reason I became a Women’s Studies major was because it was the first time I found that this was something really applicable and real life. And I like things that kind of blow my mind and make me see things in a different way which is why I like politics sometimes more than others and it’s also why I like Women’s Studies.

The world is the same around me I was still living in the same place but I perceived it differently and that just made me so excited. I found a sense of community in the Women’s Studies program that I did not have in poli sci at all. I’m one of 50 kids in a class and I go talk to the professor and he doesn’t know my name he doesn’t really care. But in Women’s Studies you find a sense of community when you’re here and it’s really nice and I liked it.

24:07 How do people react when you say you are a Women’s Studies major?

Well my mother when I told her on the phone that I was thinking about it she was very distraught. She said does this mean you’re dropping poli sci how are you going to make a living you’re never going to find a job what are you going to do with that. I said I don’t know I can’t answer these questions and so I freaked out too. But I think people don’t realize that its applicable in so many ways. Whether I decide to become a Women’s Studies professor or if I grow a science gene and become a vet then its applicable there too just not as obvious. People react usually poorly which is why I like the Women’s Studies community because they don’t react poorly. It’s usually an oh you’re one of them wasn’t that a thing way back when? You have a female secretary of state wasn’t that enough for you? No it wasn’t. Sometimes I’m pleasantly surprised and people ask oh what is that what do you do? But most of the time it’s like I’m scared don’t yell at me for being a man or a housewife or something because I think people don’t understand what Women’s Studies is. I educate them.

25:41 How will your women’s studies training influence your post graduation plans?

I just accepted an offer from a master’s program at the national university of Ireland in Galway. I’ll be getting my masters in gender globalization and human rights program. I’m planning on probably working hopefully either in a non profit or the government. My focus is generally on violence against women I don’t know if I want to do domestic or internationally but I like having a legislative solution to a lot of the challenges facing women today and violence against women in particular. I hope to find some sort of government post working for the UN the state department or the state government and doing something like that using my woms training.

26:42 What is the most important thing you’re taking away from Women’s Studies?

I think that one of the greatest thing Women’s Studies has given me besides this new Women’s Studies perspective is really a sense of confidence. Sometimes you get a lot of flak for being a Women’s Studies major and I think what its taught me is that I can stand up for what I believe in though I don’t always have my Women’s Studies people around me I know there are people who think like me and see the problems with society I see. And
if I want to stand up for that stupid abortion ultrasound bill in Virginia or whatever it was then I have the right to. It really gave me much more sense of confidence. I can do whatever I want. Sky is my limit type thing.

27:44  Do you think that Women’s Studies continues to be relevant today 40 years after it was created?

Yes yes yes yes god what would I have done without woms I do not know. I absolutely think it’s especially prevalent as a poli sci major looking at the republican war on women. All of these bills. Clearly people do not understand women’s health. There’s men without medical background making these crazy laws and it really just shows that people think that second wave feminism is over women can vote we should be happy. Clearly people still have these misconceptions about what women should be doing and who should have control over women’s decisions about their health childcare all these different sorts of things. I think it’s important to have this feminist women’s studies base to give us the internal strength there’s other people like me here it’s not just me out her being a loon that if I keep pushing I have people behind me and women’s studies really taught me that.

28:57  How has Women’s Studies changed you as a person?

I feel a lot more confident. I think it’s given me more of an awareness of what’s going on around me. I went to take back the night sexual assault awareness month different events for that last month. It really just opened my eyes to there are people all around us dealing with these issues I was not aware of. Once people tell you about it you see it everywhere and it blew my mind. I couldn’t believe it’s still happening just in the numbers that it is. It just made me angry and inspired me to pursue my future career.

29:52  Overall how would you sum up the effect of Women’s Studies on you?

I think it’s made me a much better person. I think I’m a lot more receptive to different types of belief. I come from a very conservative southern family so they have a lot of misconceptions about race class and gender and people’s roles in society and it’s given me the confidence and the ammo to step back from that and say that’s not right. I stand up more for what I believe in its given me more confidence. I feel a little bit calmer too because there’s always this woms thing in you and then you realize what it is and there’s other people like me. It made me a better person and im incredible grateful for the woms department.

Lindsay Brown

31:08  What lead you to become a Women’s Studies major?

I started out at the University of Delaware as a fashion design and merchandising major. And for my first two years I went through all my fashion classes and I realized through talking with my friends that my classes weren’t really fulfilling for me. I could go through the motions and learn what I had to learn but I didn’t feel like I was really benefitting from the classes. Two of my friends were taking a lot of Women’s Studies classes and ended up being Women’s Studies majors and listening to what they were learning in class it really piqued my interest. I took an intro to Women’s Studies course in spring of my sophomore year and from there I decided to pick it up as my major.

32:18  How do people react when you say you are a Women’s Studies major?

I try to put a very I know that some people may have negative reactions to it so I try to just say it very positively and follow up with exactly what I want to do with it. Usually it’s generally a good reaction I have had negative reactions and usually I just try to stay positive and explain why I chose to be a women’s studies major.

32:55  How will your Women’s Studies training influence your post graduation plans?

I hope to work with individuals with eating disorders just different treatment programs maybe develop different treatment programs and prevention programs. I have a unique perspective on the why of eating disorders. As a psychology major it’s very by the book if you have these symptoms you have an eating disorder. Often the surrounding issues aren’t analyzed so I think my Women’s Studies classes have opened my eyes to maybe some of the patriarchal influences which could contribute to eating disorders so I think I have a unique perspective in trying to prevent eating disorders.

33:35  What is the most important thing you’re taking away from Women’s Studies?

Just a very open mind. I feel like when presented with a variety of issues I’m very open minded about them. I’m able to see the roots of the issues that others may not see. I think that Women’s Studies at the University
of Delaware you get to choose your path you get to choose which classes you take. So I don’t think there’s a certain knowledge set but more of a mindset in a way of viewing the world which I think is really important to be able to effectively challenge issues.

34:21 Do you think that women’s studies continues to be relevant today 40 years after it was created?

Absolutely and unfortunately. I don’t think women have achieved equality which is one of the main things were working for. Even today with the republican war on women we are seeing areas where women still have rights to be gained. I think there are class issues and race issues that were still dealing with. I think that Women’s Studies equips new feminists with the tools they need to be able to look at these issues and I think forty years ago there was a very specific set of issues we were dealing with and today there are still these issues and new feminist come up with new questions and I think a lot of girls come to the Women’s Studies major because they are discontented but they don’t know how or why and I think Women’s Studies is really important for that reason.

35:26 How has Women’s Studies changed you as a person?

I think I’m not as contented as I was before. I think I see problems where I didn’t necessarily see them before. A lot of things I accepted unquestioningly just growing up and throughout high school and throughout some of my college career. I think now I’m more apt to question things around me instead of just let them be and I think that’s a good thing.

36:10 Overall how would you sum up the effect of Women’s Studies on you

Well positively. I think it really did help shape what I want to do with the rest of my life. Coming into college I thought I wanted to be a fashion designer. I think it really allows me to think more critically and more analytically than I would have even as a psychology major.

36:45 Jaiara Boskett

37:08 what lead you to be a Women’s Studies major?

At the time I was definitely struggling with a lot of different things I was a bio major. One of my counselors that I talked to kind of pushed me into Women’s Studies but as I continued and went along with it I really really loved it. I had taken a couple courses before and it was fun I liked it but she pushed me to become a Women’s Studies major. As I really got involved I’m glad I made this decision it’s the Best decision I’ve ever made.

37:45 how do people react when you mention you’re a Women’s Studies major?

They’re pretty shocked because I was so into science. They usually look at me and say what’s Women’s Studies so it’s a mix. Sometimes they’re shocked and other people just don’t know what it is. They say oh what’s that and I explain it to them but I haven’t had any negative reactions.

38:12 how will your Women’s Studies training influence your post graduation plans?

It’s definitely going to give me that critical mindset. A lot of the things I really want to do I want to write a lot about feminist issues that’s exactly what I want to write about. I also want to go into counseling with kids so that critical mindset and helping understanding what intersectionality is will really help with that.

38:35 What is the most important thing you’re taking away from Women’s Studies?

I think just including everyone, that intersectionality is one of the main points for me. Just respecting everyone. I love that critical thinking that I have because of it. I think differently about everything I see different gender interactions I see so much. I like the critical thinking and intersectionality of it.

39:08 do you think Women’s Studies continues to be relevant 40 years after it was created?

Yes. I think Women’s Studies will always be relevant. As long as there are women on this planet and men, yes. If we had one gender then no but we have two so it will always be relevant.

39:27 how has Women’s Studies changed you as a person?

It’s definitely made me more vocal. I speak up a lot especially when I know that something is a problem it’s because I am a female. So that has definitely helped me voice my opinion and become more of an activist actually so I’m very happy about that.

39:48 Overall how would you sum up the impact of your Women’s Studies experiences?
I would definitely say it built me as a person actually because I felt like I found my voice and who I am and I can really stand up for what I believe in, it’s just helped me as a person so much and I’m so grateful for it.

40:13 Sara Kucker
40:33 What lead you to become a Women’s Studies major?
My freshman year I was a business major at Pace University which was mostly male major at Pace. They put me in a Women’s Studies class I was pretty upset about it because I thought it sounded stupid and it was called men and masculinity why do I have to learn about it. And it changed my life. I knew I wanted to switch to gender or Women’s Studies. I didn’t know exactly what I wanted to do with it but I knew that feeling that passionate about something I had to go with it and I would figure the rest out later. And then I transferred here as a Women’s Studies major.
41:13 How do people react when you mention you’re a Women’s Studies major?
I found that it’s really all about the way you say it. When you say oh I’m a Women’s Studies major people will always ask what will you do with that? But when you sound really confident about it they say oh that’s really cool what’s that about?
41:38 How will your Women’s Studies training influence your post graduation plans?
I really want to go into sex therapy. I work at a really classy sex store for women now and understanding gender is really important for understanding all the realms of sexuality and what roles people play in the bedroom and respect in the bedroom. I mean the store that I work at it was the first sex store for women. It was a direct product of the second wave and it comes from very strong feminist roots. And the woman that started the store she’s retired but it’s cool that we still have people who are still passionate about feminism to empower women in their sexuality.
42:41 What do you think is the most important thing you’re taking away from Women’s Studies?
I have this new respect for myself. Being a Women’s Studies major as a person because before let say in high school boys are being offensive and saying sexist things I would be offended but I wouldn’t say anything. Now I’m not scared to stand up for something that I’m passionate about. It’s cool not a lot of people have something that they feel so strongly about. I have more respect for myself and I can definitely see how it changes other people. This year I was the president of V day and we put on the vagina monologues which I’ve been involved with for a couple of years. It’s so cool to see the immediate effects becoming a feminist has on so many women. Being in the monologues and being in V day it’s a really close circle of women and we all help each other become empowered. I’ve definitely seen girls join and talk to us about how they found the strength to leave a boyfriend who was being emotionally abusive because they gained more respect for themselves through feminism. It has such a positive impact on people.
44:20 do you think Women’s Studies continues to be relevant 40 years after it was created?
I think that we need it more than ever. It’s absolutely relevant because the positive effect it has on women. I’m all for men being more involved in Women’s Studies and more women being involved in Women’s Studies and learning how to respect themselves more. I think it should be mandatory for everyone to take Women’s Studies classes.
44:58 how has Women’s Studies changed you as a person?
I am much more passionate about my beliefs and I’m not afraid to stand up for what I believe in. I’m definitely more confident.
45:21 overall how would you sum up your Women’s Studies experiences?
Oh it’s changed my life for the better. I’m just a different person from it. Most majors don’t really change you the way Women’s Studies does and makes you a better person. I have a better understanding of different issues even ones that don’t affect me. After becoming a Women’s Studies major I’m definitely very aware of not to offend people because you have no idea of what other people are going through and that is a really important thing that not a lot of people seem to get. Definitely get a better understanding of more than gender issues like all different types of issues.
Colleen Allen

What lead you to become a Women’s Studies major?

There’s quite a few things. But I think that I took Women’s Studies just as a breadth requirement when I was signing up for classes. I really wanted to take a class my aunt actually teaches Women’s Studies at a private school in Baltimore so I knew what Women’s Studies was so I kind of wanted to take it to have something to talk about with her. So then I had you for my freshman year Women’s Studies class. I just don’t think it was what I was expected. I remember we read Egalia’s Daughters and I was like what is this, this is crazy. I think that a lot of it was it was so much knowledge at once and it kind of scared me it reframed how I think I learned and how I thought. I just had all this information that never was talked about in my high school. I think one time we had an economics class and that was like the most different class they offered there so I had never been exposed to it. I took a break from it after that because I think it was a lot for me. I always came back to it there was always a curiosity like once I took it and it sparked and I knew it was out there I always came back to it. I took a year off from it my second semester freshman year. But then my sophomore year I went back to it I took a class with Dr. Ferguson and Dr. Q and I started taking more and more classes and realized how many different aspect of Women’s Studies there are. There’s so much reading and writing and women’s history and women’s activism and women and violence and there’s so many aspects to it and I never got bored of it. So there was always something I wanted to take. I realized everything I was electing to take was Women’s Studies. And I was like this is what I really love these are the classes I’m seeking out. Every time there was a hole in my schedule I wondered what Women’s Studies class can I take. So I really think it was something I gained momentum with. I stumbled on it and then it just kept drawing me in. so now I’m here. And it’s my favorite major. My mom always says she’s psychology and Women’s Studies but she really likes the women’s studies. I don’t know it’s the better major.

How do people react when you mention you’re a Women’s Studies major?

So when I found out I was getting a double major I said to my dad guess what you’re getting two for the price of one! But he said so what does this mean. I said I’m picking up a Women’s Studies major. He was relieved he said good that’s great I think that will make you more rounded you’re getting more out of your education. So I’ve been really lucky with my family being really receptive to it. Like I said my aunt teaches Women’s Studies my cousin I think she was a Women’s Studies major as well and my sisters have both been involved in taking Women’s Studies classes. It does get a reaction. I’ll never forget one time somebody was coming around door to door and I think he was trying to get money for something and he was trying to make small talk and he said what’s your major. I typically say women’s studies even though I have two. I say women’s studies because that’s the major I’m the most proud of so that’s what I like to associate with myself. So he said what do you do just hate on men? And I got mad and I shut the door and locked it. I said we’re done and shut the door. I think that I have that reaction because a lot of people do react like that. I have seen a difference in people who I’m closer to now they know I’m a women’s studies major. They’ll joke around and say things like that’s the women’s studies in you. And I don’t mind that as much because I know they’re seeing it in a more positive light that it is something valid that it is something that can help define a person and help a person make decisions. I think that form people who I’m close to they react very positively to it and they’re always asking me about it which I think is great thing. Two of my roommates one is a finance major and one is neuroscience and they have no idea what we do and they’ll always ask me about it what are you doing what are you reading what are you writing about it and I think they respond very positively to it. but you do definitely get a negative like what are you going to do with that sort of response from people. If I think they’re worth my time I’ll explain it and most of the time people say oh that’s interesting. But some people can’t be helped so I leave it at that.

How will your Women’s Studies training impact your post graduation plans?

So this is huge for me and I think the women and violence class was a very defining moment in my life. I work currently in the ER with crisis patients and domestic violence patients. I always knew I wanted to work with people in that sort of aspect. I’ve always felt I could help women more and Women’s Studies has shown me
different ways why I can connect to women and why I feel how I do and why I feel I can help them more than men. And in my job I feel and I know women’s studies not just about helping women but I think it has shown me the importance of women for other women and it has shown me that community. and in my job now when I’m working with patients I feel like I can connect with women on a different level and I can understand what they’re going through and not understand all the time but put myself in that place because I think Women’s Studies has provided this worldview that even though women are so different no matter where they are and were not all the same at a level we can kind of get where the other one is mentally we can kind of think I understand where you’re coming from. Not even saying I’ve been there I’ve done that but we all kind of suffer from some of the same things. It really has affected my career who I want to work with and what population and its really influenced my work with the domestic violence program at the hospital where I work I just gotten so involved with that and I’m passionate about it. It’s great because I feel like I’m actually getting involved and doing something that is going to be a career for me. I know it was headed by Women’s Studies and by my women and violence class. It has really affected me I mean if I look at what I wanted to do my freshman year to now it’s like I’m two totally different people so I think that’s the biggest testament to how it’s influenced me.

54:49 What’s the biggest thing you’re taking away from Women’s Studies?

I think one thing that nobody else who is here at Delaware is getting is there is a community that goes along with it. obviously it’s the class the capstone course we were in there is a really huge sense of community we have that facebook group and just being able to say this happened to me today and it’s not ok because of this and seeing there are other women out there who understand and get it and who you can talk to and vent to. I think I’m understanding there are people out there who do want to see a change who do want to make change who recognize there are things that need to be fixed. And something that I never thought I would feel is I really feel like one day I want to be in a position where I want to be teaching in a Women’s Studies capacity so I can be relaying this knowledge back to people that I’ve was given that I have. I feel like I’m leaving college with this whole new way to think. I read things differently I write differently I can’t watch TV anymore without criticizing so much. Certain music you can’t listen to anymore. It’s not that it’s a negative thing I feel like I have this knowledge now of being critical of certain things and looking at things even the setting in which I work a psychological setting you would never think in a hospital I know a lot of people don’t believe Women’s Studies has a place in the hard sciences but just applying that way to think and the feminist lens to my job and to what I’m doing and how I’m learning things and the facts that I’m like are they really facts or are they just this way because of the society were in. it’s really more a critical person. It’s made me a thinking person for sure. I don’t just accept things anymore which I’m really grateful for because I don’t think everyone has that at all.

57:17 Do you think Women’s Studies is relevant still 40 years after its creation?

Oh my god yes. And we talked about this so much in the capstone course about I feel like every time we would read something about how it’s not relevant anymore and it needs to be mixed in with other disciplines we would get angry. We’d be like no it’s still serving a purpose. I think it’s always going to be evolving I don’t think Women’s Studies is what it was forty years ago. I think that it’s very different because obviously society is evolving and I mean forty years ago what was going on is now history for us so even history is evolving and changing. I think it’s so important I think it was created for a reason. I feel like saying let’s eliminate Women’s Studies would be like saying let’s get rid of English because all the authors are dead. I don’t see any reason why we wouldn’t need it still.

58:17 how has Women’s Studies changed or shaped you as a person?

I mean obviously you should never define yourself by just one thing but at my job people know how I feel about certain things. And I’m kind of flattered about this but if there’s a domestic violence situation people come and find me because they know that that’s what I’m interested in that that’s what I want to be eventually trained to do and who I want to be trained to work with. I think it’s kind of how I carry myself. It was funny Sarah had those pins I heart equal pay at the equal pay day booth and I had it on my jacket this weekend when I was running the half marathon and people were responding to it. I love that. I think it makes people talk. I didn’t used to be like
that I used to hide in the back and be like one person can’t really do anything but I think even just wearing a button and people saying oh that’s really interesting you’re doing something you’re making someone think about something. I think it’s really shown me that the way I live my life can really affect how other people live their lives and what they think about on a day to day basis. Even wearing a pin that says I heart equal pay is going to make somebody think wow that’s an issue and then they’re going to talk about it and its going to perpetuate and that’s how things get changed that’s how awareness gets raised. That’s the biggest thing for me. I’m not afraid to talk about things I’m not afraid to tell people where I stand on issues. It’s also made me want to learn more. I never I was sort of like when I’m done with school I’m don’t with school but I don’t feel that way about Women’s Studies. I feel like I’m going to want to keep learning in whatever capacity I can. I’m going to miss classes I’m really stressed about that.

60:38 Overall how would you sum up the impact of your Women’s Studies experience?

I think that it just was a very gradual thing and I know this is different for everyone because I know some people like Sam she knew she was born a feminist which is great but for me it was a very gradual thing that I was getting involved with and I didn’t know it and once I realized it it was over. It was like I was down the hill. I started to go slowly and then I was just there. It was great. I feel like there was before Women’s Studies and after Women’s Studies in my life. I think about things I used to think and things I used to do. I’ll never forget being in high school and being like god I would never be a stay at home mom and thinking I was such a feminist because that’s what made me a feminist because I knew wanted to be a woman who worked. And then I remember sitting in feminist theory and having this whole debate about how we need feminism to empower women to stay at home and who want to be in the workplace. The impact on me is literally before my Women’s Studies and after my Women’s Studies. I’m a different person but in a good way. I know my mom sees it and my sister sees it and they comment on it all the time. And I’m just so proud of it. I really am. It’s the best thing in college for me and it’s the best thing. It’s my most proud accomplishment of college and pretty much of my life because I haven’t really done many things. Not yet.

Amanda Longacre

Sound doesn’t work til 63:29

63:29 Why did you decide to become a Women’s Studies major?

I decided to become a Women’s Studies major because I have two very feminist parents and I grew up in an activist background and I believe firmly that everything has a reason and Women’s Studies looks at the intersectionalities between a bunch of different issues that are happening and have happened. And I’m also a History major it works pretty well there because history doesn’t really look into women’s history and the different issues women have had to face across race, class and gender.

65:02 interruption someone comes in

65:09 How do people react to you when you say you’re a Women’s Studies major?

Generally it’s good when I add the domestic violence concentration to it. When I say just Women’s Studies they say oh what are you going to do with that? I say there’s a lot of things you can do with that degree because it teaches you to respect others, it teaches you to go back to history and figure out the different issues facing many different types of people. And it just helps with a bunch of different jobs and generally I haven’t had too much bad feedback but there are people out there who have said yeah that’s great. And I’m like yep I am I’m a feminist.

66:05 How will your Women’s Studies background influence your post graduation plans?

I plan on going to law school and I want to work with female victims and offenders. I want to work with both because I think they’re both intersected with crimes and family law. I work in the courthouse and I’m in civil court but so much of the domestic violence cases tie into civil and criminal because they have a lot of criminal charges pending with the batterer. And they have two kinds of no contact orders. So I specifically want to work
with women not just in the domestic violence area but also sex trafficking, prostitution, different things like that. So I guess I want to go into some kind of women’s rights law or some type of human rights law. But specifically dealing with women. Not like a have a problem with men but I feel like women don’t get attorneys as much as men do and it’s harder for them to afford attorneys. And I read a lot of articles about that so I definitely want to push forward for that type of activism among women who don’t have the opportunity to have that type of advocacy.

67:18  What is the most important thing you will take away from Women’s Studies?

That’s a really hard question. I could say everything that would be a cop out. I would say the most important thing is that and I don’t know if this ties in but I will always have a community and I’ve never felt that way about any group of women before. And I feel like women’s studies has that type of community and you can bring in so many different issues and talk about these issues with other women who are facing the same problems as you and I just think that’s the most important thing I’m always going to take away is I know I can always come back to the Women’s Studies department or talk to other women’s studies majors and I’ll always know I have that.

67:54  Do you think Women’s Studies is still relevant forty years after its creation?

Uh yeah. Absolutely. Especially because are we allowed to talk about the republican war on women? Especially because there are so many things going on today - the republican war on women. And reproductive rights and dealing with women’s bodies seems like a relevant issue today in the political arena. It’s like why do we have to talk about this why is that even important when number one it’s the right to privacy and number two why are you discriminating against a certain group of people which they are in a lot of different policies. I read somewhere a reverend said that women’s right to vote was the biggest mistake ever in history men could have made. And its just like why are we still having these conversations women are relevant and I feel like they’re not as valued as men still. In politics we still don’t have as many women leaders. In fortune 500 companies I think it’s what 5% run those companies? So I think Women’s Studies is extremely relevant because women still are not of equal standing and you could even go into a bunch of ranges as to why we don’t get paid as much as men, why we don’t have the same reproductive freedoms as men do in a lot of cases, and even in the court systems we don’t have the same rights. People want to live blindly I think and they like to think of a utopia where there’s equality but in reality it’s not at all.

69:32  How has Women’s Studies changed or shaped you as a person?

Before I came here I think I was kind of I knew I wanted to take Women’s Studies but I didn’t realize how many problems there were still to fix and I also didn’t know that in the past they were fighting about the same things we want to have now. I think as a person it’s made me I was already vocal but even more vocal and it taught me how to be an activist instead of just talking. It taught me how to be a political person but how to get my point across and to care about the issues and bring them forward to the right people and also the community in the right way. Being in the domestic violence concentration has definitely opened me up to a whole new world of victims and batterers and that whole world too. I think it’s made me a better person because I’m not just fighting for myself I’m fighting for women too. And I feel like it’s a whole sisterhood and we’re all fighting together even though it doesn’t seem like it sometimes.

70:48  Overall how would you sum up the impact of your Women’s Studies experience?

I have loved it. This is the group of people I’ve been friends with for four years, I’ve met great people throughout these four years at the university. I’ve learned a lot not just about what’s affecting me specifically but other groups of women as well. And I think that it’s definitely made me look at the world differently and I really like that because then I can challenge it. And I have tons of resources and information to back me up so that’s good. But mainly I like the sense of community here and the fact that I know I have some type of sisterhood and I can always come back and email or call any of the girls I had relationships with and even girls I haven’t had relationships with because it’s like you have that type of bond so I like it.

71:48  Shelah Balakhani

72:06  What lead you to become a Women’s Studies major?
The first introduction I had to Women’s Studies here was probably through SOS. I wanted to elaborate or expand on my work as a crisis advocate so I took the women and violence course and the rest is kind of history. And I really enjoyed that class and the introduction to Women’s Studies so I just found them to greatly enhance my life and my studies. It’s something that I had never had before in college so I went all in after that.

73:17 How do people react when you say you’re a Women’s Studies major?
Well mostly ignorance and confusion. Recently I met a guy that I was volunteering for and he asked me what I was graduating with and I told him Women’s Studies and he said oh that’s something I don’t need to hear about or I have a wife so I don’t need to study women anymore or something really rude like that. So I usually have to explain what Women’s Studies is to people. Even Bill Cosby though made a comment to me oh so you study a bunch of women. I just think that most people associate with just that so a lot of explaining.

74:40 How will your Women’s Studies training influence your post graduation plans?
It basically has become a big part of my life so anywhere I go I have my education and Women’s Studies following. I want whatever I do to enhance women’s lives and make a difference in the world for women. Whether it has to do with law or politics or if there’s some way I can get my voice out through writing I want to always be an advocate for women.

75:29 What is the most important thing you’re taking away from Women’s Studies?
I would say a lot of strength I’ve changed a lot since I’ve become a Women’s Studies major. I’m more confident. I know I have a definite place in the world and I don’t need to be silent or submissive as a woman which I feel like in elementary school and high school you’re kind of taught that too, to be more quiet and your education might not be as valuable as a man’s. So that has been the most important thing to me that I’m just more confident and I know all the myths and falsities of gender roles and stereotypes so I feel like I can better be myself and better be a woman for my family and future generations.

76:65 Do you think Women’s Studies continues to be relevant today 40 years after it was founded?
Yes. I definitely do. I wish that everyone had to take women’s studies and some point because there are still pretty rigid gender roles and limitations on women today. I feel like it’s definitely important considering the political climate of today. Just continuing to infiltrate women into places of power in society. It’s still not equal. I think it’s more important today because a lot people think we are post feminism or we are all equal now when it’s really not true.

77:78 How do you think Women’s Studies has changed or shaped you as a person?
It’s definitely made me a stronger person, a more vocal person, confident and its made me more of an advocate. I think that it’s just made me a much better person, more empathetic and understanding of people in general.

79:06 So how would you sum up the impact of your Women’s Studies experiences?
It’s so extensive. Its impacted my relationships with others, counseling other people. Its impacted the way I see the world and how I want to make it a better place.

79:51 Deanna Quinn

80:02 What lead you to become a Women’s Studies major?
At first I think it was a matter of convenience. It was a topic I had taken a one credit class so I kind of knew what Women’s Studies was about and I figured it wouldn’t be as scary if I switched into it in the middle of my junior year and trying to graduate on time. It started as that but I really enjoyed my classes and I kind of just fell into the domestic violence prevention services major and it’s become a topic I’m really passionate about. All the principles of Women’s Studies fit into what I want to do with my life, my goals and my aspirations.

80:56 How do people react when you say you’re a Women’s Studies major?
My parents were not surprised at all. They’ve always been supportive of what I do as long as I’m happy. Other people were a little surprised like my roommates and friends were like you haven’t taken a Women’s Studies class why are you going to be a Women’s Studies major? I got a lot of what are you going to do with that? I
think overall the reaction has been positive because I’m the type of person who defends myself and my choices until the bitter end. Once I’ve explained it to people that were not all bra burning crazy feminists that they understand a little bit more why I chose it.

81:44  How will your Women’s Studies training influence your post graduation plans?
     I can’t think of a place in my life where Women’s Studies isn’t going to affect me. I’m going to nursing school after graduation. I am hoping to become a sexual assault nurse examiner and I will be finishing my domestic violence specialist certification. And all the principles I’ve learned in Women’s Studies I think have helped me on those pathways but they’re also going to help me in the ways I choose to live my life as far as relationships and raising children. I think the values I’ve learned like feminist values and equality and working for women’s rights are definitely going to be shaping how I live my life for the rest of my time here.
82:54  What’s the most important thing you’re taking away from Women’s Studies major?
     That’s a tough question. The most important thing I’m taking away from my Women’s Studies major is self confidence. I’ve gotten that from a lot of places in my internship and my major have taught me that I am capable of doing good work I’m not just a kid anymore people do take me seriously. It’s also taking feminist theory and other classes like that have given me the confidence not to sit around and wait for something to happen. It’s made me more active. I’ve tried to shy away from politics for a lot of my life and Women’s Studies has taught me that’s not a bad thing. So I think self confidence is definitely one of the best things that could have happened to me.
83:53  Do you think Women’s Studies is still relevant today 40 years after its creation?
     Yes I absolutely do. I think it’s changed a lot but I think that the reason its changed is because of the way its shaped the people who study it. I think it will continually be growing and I hope it will always be relevant. I think the value has been more accepted by society in general. I think it’s grown to be seen as more a legitimate field and now we’re starting to look back at the history of the movement and see where we came from and I think all the people studying it now can say were really proud of it and its definitely relevant to me.
84:41  How do you think Women’s Studies has changed or shaped you as person?
     It gave me a lot more confidence to not just sit by and watch things happening. I feel like I’ve learned so much in the past year it’s really hard to describe it I’ve only been a Women’s Studies major for a year. I’ve made new friends and new connections for after college. Its changed everything its changed my outlook on life in general how I view other people how I treat other people how I treat myself so it’s been a life makeover I guess.
85:36  Overall how would you sum up the impact of Women’s Studies?
     Life changing. And I’m very thankful that I kind of fell into this major I really stumbled into it and I am very thankful was given the opportunities I was given through the Women’s Studies major.

85:57  Samantha Withrow
86:07  What lead you to be a Women’s Studies major?
     I fell into it. My advisor assigned me to a Women’s Studies class when I came so she assigned me to Women’s Studies and I think it’s because she picked up on it in our general conversation. I had the person who assigned me to my classes during freshmen registration as a professor later for psych because she’s the chair of the psych department Dr. Morling and she hinted at it that it would be a good fit for me later in classes that I had with her that she kind of knew I would become a Women’s Studies major anyway. She kind of made me take Women’s Studies 201 as a class. I had Professor Cherrin and she did the Haven panel so all the Haven students came in and gave their coming out stories and how they experienced that and so I was like oh my god we can talk about this in school not just dates about the revolutionary war. And so when I realized how open the field really was to talking about real life issues it blew my mind. And I kind of realized it fit with how I was identifying anyway so I became a women’s studies major.
87:38  How do people react when you say you’re a Women’s Studies major?
They either laugh because they think I’m joking or get really uncomfortable and run away. It’s one of those oh you’re a Women’s Studies major I mean are you gay? They either think I’m a lesbian just a really smart one or they don’t think it’s real they’re like you can do that. Yeah it’s crazy but people care about women. I know you wouldn’t know it by the political climate but they do. It’s one of those reactions.

88:20 How will your Women’s Studies training influence your post graduation plans?

I guess I’m lucky because I knew pretty early on that I wanted to focus on violence against women issues.

So my post graduation plans are well I’m going to grad school for social work but I want to work specifically in violence against women issues in gender based crime. I’m working with a nonprofit in Baltimore city to deconstruct their client services department to make it more empowerment focused. I’m taking a lot of the lessons I learned here in our Women’s Studies department about problems that traditional agencies that work with violence against women face and I’m combining the lessons I’ve learned with those agencies to make a better agency out of the one I’m currently working in. And it’s not without its own unique challenges but I think I’ve gotten a lot of experiences working with student clubs here on campus and students who have similar interests who are also from the Women’s Studies department and then I hope to take those lessons from the agency I’m currently working at to go to graduate school far far away from Delaware. And also take those lessons from our Women’s Studies department because I’ve had just great mentors here.

89:53 What’s the most important thing you’re taking away from the Women’s Studies major?

I think as a professional now working with clients I think the most important thing I’m taking away is the importance of empowerment. And that may sound like a cliché if you work with victims of violent crime but at the same time a lot of the traditional measures that are in place to work with victims are more case management based. They’re very you don’t have this you don’t have that you’re in a really bad situation and its very violent and you need to do the following seven things. Which are understandable because you want the victim to get out of violent crime or out of the dangerous situation but they take away agency and autonomy from victims and I think a lot of the literature and class focus I’ve had here at UD has focused on changing the structure of that when working with victims of violent crime and teaching potential advocates or students like myself to do more empowerment focused work. Teaching them they do have the right to make decisions that are best for themselves regardless of someone on the outside like myself thinks.

91:34 Do you think Women’s Studies continues to be relevant forty years after it was created?

Yes absolutely I think it’s in a lot of ways I think it’s relevant in the same areas but I think it’s grown and it’s relevant in different ways. We talk a lot in class and you know my personal opinions that we are in this fourth wave it’s just had this cyber boom and it’s just a different wave because we have technology now in ways that we’ve never had it in the past. So a lot of this internet feminism that second wavers could never have even conceived because technology did not exist so I think that it’s absolutely relevant now just maybe in different ways. but still in the same ways because we still have take back the night. It’s maybe not as big as it used to be because we do have internet blogging that takes the place of some face to face interaction unfortunately but I think it still absolutely relevant.

92:37 How has Women’s Studies shaped or changed you as a person?

It’s become my identity. Women’s Studies is feminism. If you take WOMS 201 or if you take WOMS 202 and you only take one class or two classes maybe you’re not as likely to identify as feminist and that’s fine or maybe you do identify with feminism and that’s awesome. I think if you declare a major and say ok I’m a women’s studies major the likelihood that you identify as a feminist is pretty high and so with that being said I’m absolutely a feminist I think I was 100% a feminist before I declared my women’s studies major but it gave me a label and it gave my identity a label and it gave it a name and it gave me this world lens and I know it sounds cliché and I know all the people who have been in this project have probably said the same thing but I don’t care. It gave me a lens and I can’t take it off and its directing the actions and choices I make in my life and I’m proud to say that it is because if it wasn’t I would be like I would be making some of the other decisions that people don’t have this consciousness and I can’t even imagine not having this knowledge about gender race class and all the other
intersections. And I spread it to everyone else and I annoy them with it all the time but I can’t even imagine not being the pusher of constant gender consciousness knowledge.

94:27 Overall how would you sum up the impact of you’re Women’s Studies experiences?

It's been a blessing and a curse. That saying ignorance is bliss it’s true. It’s kind of like the butterfly coming out of the cocoon but it’s painful to come out of the cocoon because when you come into maybe not so much my own social location or my own privilege because I had a pretty good grip on that before I did the exercises to realize it but understanding the extent to which privilege is exercised in society outside of my own community and the unfortunate and often deadly violence that is exercised against women and people of other classes and racial backgrounds. To learn some of the unfortunate incidents going on in the world through women’s studies and maybe the helplessness that I do experience or the powerlessness of the world in general about some of those situations through women’s studies has been very frustrating. Or the social response more than anything especially in issues within my own community has made me want to road rage within my body. That has been the most frustrating like tearing out of my own skin but at the same time empowering because now that I have that knowledge I am motivated to do something about it.

96:28 Jessica Eicholz

96:41 What lead you to become a Women’s Studies major?

I took intro to feminist theory and really liked the class and declared it as a minor and then I took intro to Women’s Studies with Dr. Cherrin and loved the class so much I realized I had room enough in my schedule to add it as a major.

97:05 how do people react to you when you mention you’re a women’s studies major?

It depends on the person, mostly confused because some people who aren’t in the university don’t know that that’s an actual major. People often ask what you study as a Women’s Studies major but I’ve mostly gotten positive reactions once I explain it.

97:26 How will your Women’s Studies training influence your post graduation plans?

I’m going to be attending Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine to get my masters in counseling and clinical psychology. I’m also a psychology major. I’m using my classes and education I gained in the domestic violence concentration here to combine it with psychology and become a domestic violence and sexual assault counselor.

97:53 What is the most important thing you’re taking away from your Women’s Studies experiences?

I would now say the connections I’ve made with other Women’s Studies majors in my class and with the professors. They are a breadth of role models and connections into expanding into different careers and different educational fields and they’ve really really enriched my time spent at the University of Delaware.

98:26 Do you think Women’s Studies continues to be relevant forty years after its creation?

I absolutely do think Women’s Studies continues to be relevant. In the political climate we are in today we’ve noticed there’s been a backlash against feminism and trying to cut off some of the rights Women’s Studies has fought to gain over the last forty years and without education as Women’s Studies this would fall by the wayside and I think Women’s Studies gives feminist a voice and an academic realm to kind of give them an outlet to be educated about these issues and push them to act to fixing them.

99:04 How do you think Women’s Studies has changed or shaped you as person?

Women’s Studies has definitely given me a background to not only speak about the things I feel are right in my feelings but in education and research to backup why I feel the way I feel. It has strengthened my voice and given me confidence in any situation that I encounter that has to deal with sexism or anything in daily life.

99:37 Overall how would you sum up the impact of your Women’s Studies experience?

It’s been really gratifying and it’s been really strengthening. It gives you a foundation for your personal belief system and it gives you a way to act on it and I’m going to be using my Women’s Studies education for the rest of my life so it’s really formed who I am and who I’m going to be.