

## Women's and Gender Studies Awards Ceremony Draws a Diverse Audience

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A standing-room-only crowd of friends, parents, siblings, instructors, and other well-wishers congratulated the winners of the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Women's and Gender Studies awards contests on March 15 at the Hefter Conference Center. The ceremony featured winners of the UWM Undergraduate and Graduate Student Paper and Project Contest, the Milwaukee Public Schools' *Wisconsin Women Making History* contest, and, for the first time this year, the Casey O'Brien Outstanding Activist Award. Winners of the Rachel Skalitzky Award for Undergraduate Research included Amanda Lawrence (1<sup>st</sup>), Bailey Flannery (2<sup>nd</sup>), and Grace Amelia Kreuser (3<sup>rd</sup>), and for Undergraduate Project, Emily Fitzgerald (1<sup>st</sup>), Emma Mae Weber (2<sup>nd</sup>) and Katie Maedke-Hall, with honorable mentions going to Olivia Dimmer, Eleanor Clement, and Grace Amelia Kreuser. Winners of the Eliana Berg Award for Graduate Research included Jill Hoffman (1<sup>st</sup>), Megan Orcholski (2<sup>nd</sup>) and Rose Hennessy (3<sup>rd</sup>). The Casey O'Brien Award—given in honor of former WGS instructor and mentor Casey O'Brien in recognition of student activism and leadership within the areas of women's issues, gender and sexual equality, and social or racial justice—went to WGS major Nataley Neuman, the organizer and president of PASA (Panthers Against Sexual Assault).

Winners of the MPS *Wisconsin Women Making History* contest included, at the high school level, Gepsaida Fernandez (1<sup>st</sup>), Quincy Noakes (2<sup>nd</sup>) and Jazlyn Molton (3<sup>rd</sup>), all from Golda Meir High School. At the middle school level, winners were Cloey Knapp (1<sup>st</sup>) and Nicole Sarenac (2<sup>nd</sup>), both from Fernwood Montessori School, with a third-place joint award to nine students from Ms. Erin Sivek's class at the International Newcomer Center, part of the Milwaukee Academy of Chinese Language (MACL): Aisha Ramzan Ali, Jamilah Abu Bakar, Saidah Dolah, Asma Osman, Moo Ah Tier, Putri Muhammad Ali, Tuwahidah Muhammad Ali, Nur Khadijah Abdul Gafur, and Suhur Hassen. Each of these students wrote about their mothers' incredible journeys to America as they became Wisconsin women, and their mothers and other family members were among those at the ceremony. Quincy Noakes' essay also focused on a contemporary Wisconsin woman, UWM History Professor Chia Vang, who joined the crowd congratulating Quincy and the other winners. Each year this ceremony brings to the UWM campus middle- and high-school students and their families who may have never been on a college campus before, where they mingle with some of the best UWM undergraduate and graduate students.



1. Nataley Neuman and Casey O'Brien



2. Chia Vang and Quincy Noakes



3. Student winners from MACL and their mothers