

Elizabeth Bridges (Rhodes College)

As a very recently tenured colleague who got involved with WiG in 2003, I've been accompanied and nurtured by this organization through all phases of my career – as a graduate student, as a visiting assistant professor on three different contracts over the course of five years, as junior faculty, and now as a tenured colleague. I have attended all but two WiG conferences in the last 13 years and have remained actively involved with the organization throughout my time as a member.

Most recently I served as the main editor of the WiG Newsletter from 2012 to 2015, which entailed close work with the Steering Committee. This included attendance at SC meetings as an ex-officio member and inclusion in discussion on the WiG Business e-mail list between conferences. This work gave me extensive experience with the SC and an in-depth knowledge of its role in our organization. My main accomplishment during my term as editor was to see to the Newsletter's smooth transition from our old website to the new one, to help upgrade its distribution method, and conduct a survey of members to determine future developments with the NL. I also instituted the advice column by WiGsy Wiggington. Along with Jennifer Askey, I'm also a founder-administrator of the WiG Facebook page, which was an outgrowth of our increased online presence.

You may also remember me from my banana costume and/or numerous WiG cabaret portrayals of such characters as Ted Cruz and Paul Ryan, but please do not see my performances as endorsements of any kind. I just happen to have a penchant for neckties and bowties.

In terms of scholarly involvement, I've presented papers on seven different WiG or WiG-sponsored panels over the years – from Thursday night career-related presentations to scholarly talks as part of the pre-20th-century panel, and several in between. I have given two WiG workshops, one on job market strategies and one on LGBT inclusion in the classroom. I have also organized, moderated and/or commented on five panels at WiG or on WiG-sponsored panels at other conferences such as the GSA and the MLA.

Participation in WiG has had an immeasurable impact on my career thus far. My very first professional conference presentation was on German feminist electronic music at WiG in 2003, and my first-ever professional publication, also on that topic, came out in the *Yearbook* in 2005. Beyond these “on paper” considerations, however, WiG has provided me with significant mentorship and support – from that first welcome handshake from Jeanette Clausen at my first WiG when I showed up at dinner as an uncertain grad student, to the now familiar WiG faces in the crowds at GSA and other conferences, to the many opportunities for other collaborations that WiG has given me. My ongoing work with Lynn Kutch on German graphic novels and my long-term projects with Corinna Kahnke regarding LGBT inclusion in the classroom were both facilitated by WiG. I've been invited to give lectures and conduct workshops thanks to professional connections developed through WiG. Beyond all this, WiG has allowed me to develop a network of long-term personal friendships with a group of clever, hilarious colleagues spread across North America. Honestly, WiG has been the single most important source of professional connections and collaborations at every phase of my career.

Despite all these connections and opportunities, by far the most rewarding experience WiG has given me is the chance to offer our grad student and NTT/junior members the same support I received. Alongside the aforementioned workshop on job market strategies, I've always shared teaching and job materials with anyone who asked. Younger members have come to me often for advice over the years, and it's been a joy to support these younger colleagues as they make their way into the profession.

WiG is unique in its commitment to offering scholarly and leadership opportunities to grad students in our field, and as VP I want to continue and add to those efforts, while still maintaining our growing reputation as a source of top-notch scholarship. Now, more than ever, as career opportunities and publication venues seem to be shrinking, WiG can play a vital role in supporting and improving the conditions and opportunities for our junior members, especially for grad students and those in NTT positions. We owe it to them and to the vitality of the profession at large to offer tangible support to our members in precarious job situations. Furthermore, WiG can play a role in helping our members explore opportunities beyond the traditional academic career path, and I will use my position as VP to help explore opportunities through which we can make greater contributions in this area.

As VP of WiG, I can leverage more than a decade of experience and professional relationships developed within and through our organization to continue the trajectory of our recent VPs and Presidents in raising WiG's profile within the profession. I will do this by maintaining and facilitating relationships with other academic organizations to allow for continued and growing WiG representation through panels, roundtables, and seminars at larger conferences. Our last several executive officers have made great strides in establishing WiG as a larger and more influential presence in the profession as a whole, and I wish to continue in those efforts.

I thank Amy Young for the honor of this nomination, and I wish the best to my two other nominated colleagues. Thanks for giving me the chance to give back to the organization that has given me so much over the years. Simply put, I love WiG, and I appreciate your consideration of my candidacy.

Alexandra Merley Hill (University of Portland)

Women in German is a coalition of smart, interesting people, whose vibrant synergy creates a climate for provocation, collaboration, humor, productive anger, political activism, and feminist and queer change. WiG is an organization I believe in passionately, and it is an honor and a privilege to stand as VP/President-elect of the Coalition of Women in German.

I first attended a WiG conference as a graduate student in 2005, and I have since worked with WiG leadership in a variety of ways: as Steering Committee member, Book Review Editor, Web Editor, Zantop application reader, panel co-chair, and presenter. (Since 2005, I have missed the annual WiG conference only due to illness!) This would not be my first experience with leading a large initiative. I am the co-director (and co-founder) of the Gender and Women's Studies Minor at the University of Portland, a Catholic institution where I am Associate Professor of German, and I have been appointed director of our thriving German program. Organized, thorough, and good at

getting things done, I delight in the various aspects of my job at UP—but I draw inspiration and life-energy from feminist scholarship and the collaboration with like- and unlike-minds that I find through WiG.

WiG and its members are proven agents of change, both within academia and without. Individually and together, we have brought feminist and queer scholarship to German Studies, we have supported each other in our professional development, we have campaigned for pay equity, job security, freedom of choice, the environment, and marriage equality. My vision for WiG builds on this history of activism as well as recent initiatives and conversations taking place within the organization, including:

- Sustaining graduate student involvement in WiG, which has seen a welcome boost in recent years, and mentoring graduate students as they face an ever-changing job market.
- Continuing initiatives to support contingent and adjunct faculty in the neoliberal academy.
- Building on recent conversations of inclusion, both in making WiG more welcoming to non-white members and by supporting diversity in academia.
- Devoting energy to feminist and queer activism, both within the academy and in the wider world.

In today's world, I see the humanities—regularly under attack at universities increasingly operating according to a business model—to be the locus of humanity: our humanity, our students' humanity, and the means of connecting with the humanity of others. Thus, the work that we do as scholars and teachers of language, literature, and culture is of vital importance. In my mind it is inseparable from activism, and this is embodied by our organization. WiG is a role model in standing up to the patriarchal, neoliberal academy, bringing politics into the classroom, and setting an example of activism in academe.

The initiatives and actions should come from WiG's members, not from me, but I would be glad and proud to represent Women in German and facilitate the realization of our scholarly and activist aspirations.

Margarete Lamb-Faffelberger (Lafayette College)

It is a privilege to be nominated for the position of Vice President of WiG, and I would be honored to work together with Beth Muellner, the Steering Committee, the other officers, and the membership in representing the organization in North America and abroad.

The Women in German Coalition has played an important role throughout my career. Already in graduate school, I had the great fortune that my dissertation advisor was a founding WIG member who inspired me to focus on feminist and gender studies. As a newly minted assistant professor in a small German department, where feminist approaches were novel, WiG provided me with the professional backing to continue my research on feminist avantgarde art. During my years of growth as a teacher/scholar, I regularly read the WiG Yearbook and sought guidance from the editors because I admired their feminist commitment and democratic values, as well as their courage to

challenge assumptions and develop new theories and new pedagogies on diverse feminisms and intersectionalities. In other words, throughout my career I have benefited from the mentorship and support of fellow WiGGies and the organization as a whole.

Therefore during the past decade, I wanted to give back and was elected to serve in several leadership positions: as member of the steering committee, as Yearbook coeditor, and as organizer of the WiG conference. This work allowed me to develop rewarding professional and personal connections to WiGGies – experienced and new –, and, more importantly, I gained valuable insights into the inner workings of the organization. I also learned to appreciate the hard work it takes to secure the organization's successes – great and small – and the challenges WiG will face in the future.

As Vice President/President Elect, I will represent WiG's values of democracy, inclusivity, and tolerance by fostering critical self-awareness. I will continue to be a mentor to and build bridges between generations and across disciplines and institutions with a strong focus on forging international connections. To this end, I will encourage the use of communication technologies to bridge the US, Europe, and other parts of the world, where WiG members work (i.e., to the SAGV, Germanistenverband im Südlichen Afrika). Moreover, I will advocate collaborative teaching and research to overcome the intellectual isolation that many colleagues experience. At this stage in my career, I will be able to devote the necessary time and energy to the advocacy for WiG that the position of Vice President/President Elect demands.