



2008-2009 WGS Office Staff
Carole Lindsey-Potter, Beth Walker, Noelle Avina,
Kimber Heinz, Liz McDaniel, Kameelah Williams

<http://wgs.uncg.edu>

Save the Dates

"Silent Choices"
January 22, 7:00 pm
EUC Auditorium

"The Vagina Monologues"
February 13-14 - 7:30 pm
EUC Auditorium

Women's History Month Programs
Multicultural Resource Center
Lecture, March 19, 4:00 pm
"Women's Roles Around the World"

Breastfeeding & Feminism Symposium
"From Birthplace to Workplace"
March 26 and 27

The Carlisle Research Grant Lecture
Dr. Michelle Dowd
April 15 -4:00 pm
Claxton Room, EUC

WGS Annual Awards Luncheon
Wednesday, May 6 - 12:00 noon
Alexander Room, EUC

International Biennial Conference on
Feminist Theory & Music
May 27-31

Be the Change

UNCG WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES BE THE CHANGE

FALL 2008

wgs

IN
THIS
ISSUE

Marisa Fuentes Speaks at UNCG

Women's and Gender Studies, African American Studies, and the Office of Multicultural Affairs welcomed Dr. Marisa Fuentes as the signature speaker for the fall 2008 Co-Curricular Lecture Series. In her presentation "Silenced Histories: Enslaved Women, the Archive, and Power in the Urban Atlantic World," Fuentes discussed the silences in the records around female slavery and the ways in which some historians of female slavery have overlooked how the nature of the archive prevents us from articulating the many facets of enslaved women's lives. Specific attention was given to slave societies in Bridgetown, Barbados and Charleston, South Carolina.



Dr. Marisa J. Fuentes

Fuentes is a Post Doctoral Research Associate in the Curriculum in Women's Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill. She received her Ph.D. in the Department of African American Studies from UC-Berkeley. Fuentes' work brings together critical historiography, historical geography, anthropology, and black feminist theory to analyze enslaved women in the urban Atlantic.

Feminist Theory and Music 10: Improvising and Galvanizing

The tenth meeting of the international, biennial conference Feminist Theory and Music will take place at UNCG May 27-31, 2009. Because FTM is the most prestigious regularly occurring conference dedicated to music and its intersection with feminism, gender, and sexuality, it draws accomplished scholars and provides a crucible for innovative research. Not only does such a conference serve UNCG's research mission, it also honors our history as a womens college. The planned line-up includes an onstage interview with the Darlinettes, Greensboro's all-girl group of the WWII era; Yolanda Broyles-Gonzalez, author of *Lydia Mendoza's Life in the Music*; Tammy Kernodle, author of *Soul on Soul*, a biography of composer and pianist Mary Lou Williams; and a panel on Title IX, Music, and Academic Careers.

Together with paper presentations, musical performances, and lecture-recitals, attendees will have the opportunity to participate in a workshop on feminist ethnography/oral history with the Darlinettes, led by Sherrie Tucker. An exhibition on feminist visual art will also be on display at UNCG's Weatherspoon Art Museum.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Keathley, Associate Professor in Historical Musicology and WGS, at elkeathl@uncg.edu.

<http://wgs.uncg.edu>

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Message From the Directors

Greetings to our alumni, long-time supporters and friends of Women's and Gender Studies at UNCG. It is an interesting time in which we write this collaborative greeting. With the help of our new colleague, Dr. Tara Green, Director of African American Studies, we are once again searching for a jointly appointed faculty colleague who will help advance the aim of WGS to offer courses and scholarly exchanges that articulate the ongoing links between race, gender, social class, and sexuality especially within a transnational awareness. To aid this new colleague in all facets of this work, 27 faculty from 16 different departments were appointed to the WGS faculty this year. These appointments formally recognize the important work that faculty from across the university have contributed to the WGS program over the years. As well, during spring semester, we were fortunate to have Dr. Delia Douglas spend 6 weeks with us as a visiting scholar in both WGS and AFS; Dr. Sabrina Ross accepted an appointment as visiting assistant professor for the 2008-09 academic year; and Dr. Nadine Ehler's wrapped up her 1 year appointment with WGS and moved onto a faculty position at Georgetown University.

Clearly, we have been fortunate that the College of Arts and Sciences was able to fund the presence of so many fine scholars in WGS this year. This infusion of varied scholarly interests and expertise highlights the need to establish a regular Visiting Scholar appointment in WGS. Given current budget conditions, a development initiative for such an appointment may be coming soon. Do let us know if you'd like to participate in such a campaign – there are many roles to play in such an initiative, including simply helping us to increase interactions between faculty, students, and off-campus community members.

As to the core of the WGS program, our curriculum, the Undergraduate Studies Committee is reviewing and revising the program's student learning goals. Last year, exit interviews with graduating students and peer teaching observations highlighted our program's many successes. Notably, students consistently reported that WGS presented them with intellectual and political challenges not often found in their other courses, and highlighted the many ways instructors continue to expand the boundaries of the kind of work possible in WGS. In the coming year we plan to rearticulate student learning outcome goals to more fully include intersectional analyses, critical transnationalisms, theories of social construction, and an integrated application of queer theories, theories of racial formation, and feminist theories.

At the graduate level, we continue to surpass projected enrollments in the MA program, as we prepare to recognize our second graduating class in May 2009. Both the MA and Post-Baccalaureate Certificate continue to serve graduate students well, especially as new courses, like Social Entrepreneurship and Feminist Praxis (Dr. Channelle James, Bryan School of Business) and Queerness, Race, and Empire in the US Context (Dr. Mark Rifkin, English) are offered by our faculty affiliates across campus. As a reminder to all of our readers, one does not need to be enrolled in a degree program to complete the PBC in WGS – it is a stand-alone program and may be especially attractive to those who wish they could have majored in WGS "back in the day".

Finally, as we draft these comments, we sit one week beyond the 2008 US presidential election in which a young vote, grassroots organizing, and democratic practice (not just voting) made change possible. It was also an election in which we were asked by the media to separate race and gender, as if Hillary is not located in a racial hierarchy and Barack is not located in a gender hierarchy – both live at the intersections of inherited conditions of race, gender, social class, and sexuality, as do we all. Throughout the campaign season deep divisions in feminisms coupled with not-so-subtle expressions of racism (e.g., calling Obama a terrorist) sought to reduce feminisms to "lifestyle" choices, rather than the personally and politically powerful social movements around anti-sexism, anti-racism, anti-capitalism, and anti-imperialism that constitute what we call feminist praxis (bringing theory and practice together into strategic action). Through the work of our faculty, students, staff, and friends, WGS continues to advance a more complicated understanding of gender as it shapes access to health care, choices in leadership, local and global policies on immigration, citizenship, and legal unions. We hope you will continue to find ways to stay in the struggle in your own communities, families, work settings, and participate with WGS in our efforts to advance and enact intellectual movements for social justice.

Sincerely,
Katherine M. Jamieson, Program Director
Danielle Bouchard, Undergraduate Program Director
Leila Villaverde, Graduate Program Director

2008–2009 Sally and Alan Cone Awards, Grants, and Scholarships

WGS Course scholarships

- Nolan Belk
- Alicia Sowisdral
- Sarah Hamrick
- Brittany Spears
- Kim Heinz
- Sunny Yarborough

WGS Major Scholarship

- Erin Andrews

Student Grants for Special Projects:

- Angela Robbins, a PhD student in History
- Sarah Colonna, a MA student in WGS
- Danielle Durham, student, Department of Public Health

Outstanding Work Award:

- Jasmine Modoor, MA graduate from the WGS Program

Faculty Research and Publications

Bone Creek screened the weekend of October 25, 2008 at the Carousel Theater in Greensboro. This narrative feature film portrays how an aspiring photographer, while photographing the beauty of rural North Carolina, becomes lost in an alternate state. **Emily Edwards**, Associate Professor of Broadcasting and Cinema is writer, director and editor of the film, and **Logie Meachum**, performer and part-time African American Studies faculty member, stars in the film.

C.P. Gause's latest publication is entitled *Integration Matters: Navigating Identity, Culture, and Resistance* (Peter Lang, 2008). Gause's book "conceptually integrates queer legal theory, the tenets of critical spirituality, and notions of collaborative activism to construct a blueprint for realizing academic achievement and academic success for all students." (Pub. notes, 2008)

Mary Ellis Gibson presented her research this past summer in Ghent, Belgium at the EuropaEuropa conference on European Avant-Gardes and Modernism. In November she presented at the North American Victorian Studies Association conference at Yale University. Gibson, Professor of English, is former director of the Women's and Gender Studies Program.

Diane Gill, Professor in the Department of Exercise & Sport Science, recently completed two chapters relating to gender and cultural diversity within sport and exercise psychology. The chapters include

Tracy Nichols, Associate Professor of Public Health Education, is currently involved with BRIGHT (Building Relationships Involves Growing Healthy Together) and M4M (Mothers for Mothers). BRIGHT encourages mothers and their adolescent daughters to

share and support their individual health goals with each other. Held at the Women's Resource Center in Greensboro, BRIGHT interventions include print materials, workshops with group and individual tasks, and a mother-daughter website. These interventions hope to increase the time mothers and daughters spend together in healthy practices and to strengthen mother-daughter bonds through these transitional years. The purpose of the M4M group is to provide a venue in which mothers can meet with other mothers to share resources and coping strategies in an effort to build a social support network that is conducive to relieving daily and chronic stress experienced by mothers. Activities include formulating a vision statement, creating a mother-friendly resource guide, conducting walking groups, positive affirmation therapy with

"Cultural Diversity in Applied Sport Psychology" and "Gender and Cultural Diversity". Gill co-authored with Cindra Kamphoff, a former UNCG student who received her PhD in ESS and graduate certificate in WGS.

Leila Villaverde, WGS Graduate Program Director and Associate Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Cultural Foundations has published *Feminist Theories and Education*, a primer which introduces varied perspectives of feminist theories, covering a chronology of over five centuries in feminist work and theorizing.

Karen Weyler, Associate Professor of American Literature, was awarded a 2008-09 research fellowship to the Library Company of Philadelphia and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. While on research leave in Philadelphia, she is working on how Phyllis Wheatley used broadside publications to establish her reputation as a poet.

Dr. Jacquelyn White has collaborated with Dr. Jen Read as a co-investigator at the University of Buffalo on a National Institute of Drug Abuse funded project on Trauma, Trauma Sequelae and Substance Use. Preliminary results suggest substance use is associated with traumatic stress, but vary for women and men because females are at an increased risk for exposure to traumatic experiences. As a result of her findings, she is calling for a new feminist-informed discourse on female binge drinking and its consequences.

journal keeping, and discussions on parent-child communication. M4M groups meet every other Tuesday at the Women's Resource Center.

In the fall of 2007, **Jill Green**, Associate Professor Department of Dance, with Laurie Wideman, Associate Professor of Exercise and Sport Science, began a six week long Kinetic Awareness™ study on the UNCG campus. The project aimed to identify if participation in a Kinetic Awareness™ would reduce fatigue and improve sleep and quality of life for breast cancer survivors. The system, comprised of body-mind awareness and movement that includes ball work, enhances the understanding of the language that the body uses to communicate with ourselves. Breast cancer survivors who participated did experience fatigue, but breathing techniques and ball work provided low physical activity that helped to increase energy levels. KA also produced a calming effect for breast cancer survivors, and overall, the women felt more in control of their lives and health in general.

Alumni Alumni Alumni Alumni Alumni

Cristen Bullock, who graduated in 2008 with a double major in Spanish and Women's and Gender Studies, currently teaches Spanish at Eastern Guilford High School. She is working on her K-12 teaching licensure through NC Teach and hopes to start working on a Masters of Education in the spring.

Kia Davis graduated in 2008 with a double major in Social Work and Women's and Gender Studies. She is an administrative assistant for the Hope Project, a youth gang prevention program that operates out of the City of Greensboro Parks and Recreation Department. She is also working on a graduate certificate at UNCG in Nonprofit Management through the Political Science Department.

Suzanne E. Degges-White received her WGS graduate certificate and PhD in Counseling and Counselor Education in 2003. She works as an Associate Professor at Purdue University, Calumet campus, where she received tenure in May 2007. Suzanne also works as a licensed mental health counselor and has a small private practice that works with adolescent girls and adult women.

Jessica Eads received her WGS graduate certificate in 2003 and her PhD in Educational Leadership and Cultural Foundations in 2004. She recently took the position as Director of Women's and Children's Services at California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco, California.

Rachel Goldstein completed the graduate certificate program in 2005 and is currently working on an MFA in Photography at Savannah College of Art and Design. She still enjoys drinking out of her WGS coffee mug.

Christy Hyman, a 2008 WGS graduate complicates racialized and gendered histories in her work as an historic interpreter at Somerset Place Historic Site. In this work she facilitates educational programs that may help to advance public understanding of the links between colonialism, race, gender, and conditions of enslaved peoples lives.

After graduating from the MA program in May 2008, **Damie Jackson-Diop** was contracted by North Carolina Families United to develop and implement a leadership program geared to girls currently in foster care. She initiated a person-centered curriculum and assembled a planning committee consisting of youths who had successfully transitioned out of the Foster Care system. Damie then accepted the position of Youth Transition Program Director with North Carolina Families United Inc. (NCFU), a statewide organization that seeks to link families and/or caregivers of children and youth with serious emotional, behavioral, and/or mental health challenges with the supports that are needed to keep their children healthy and in their homes.

Rachel Bailey Jones graduated in 2007 with a PhD in Cultural Studies in Education and a graduate certificate in WGS. She is currently an Assistant Professor in Social and Psychological Foundations of Education at Nazareth College in Rochester, New York; she serves on the Women's Studies committee and is involved in issues of gender and sexuality on campus.

Brandi Ledesma, a 2005 WGS graduate, lives in New York City and works as a Canadian Accreditation Coordinator

for the Council on Accreditation, a non-profit human service accrediting body. She will return to UNCG next year to begin work on her MA in WGS

Rebecca Mann completed the Master's program in May 2008 and is also a former WGS graduate assistant. She now works as a community organizer for Equality NC, a statewide LGBT advocacy organization. The Greensboro edition of Skirt! magazine featured Rebecca in their October 2008 "Women to Watch" profiles.

Lilit (Rae) Marcus currently lives in New York City where she is the co-founder and editor-in-chief of the website www.savetheassistants.com. On this site, any assistant from any profession can anonymously submit horror stories, get advice, and share experiences. Lilit graduated in 2004 with a WGS minor.

Casey Barrio Minton graduated in 2005 with a Ph.D. in Counseling and Counselor Education and a graduate certificate in WGS. She currently teaches at the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas as an Assistant Professor where her teaching areas include diversity, diagnosis, and community agency counseling.

Jamesa Bitting McGriff completed a double major in African American Studies and Women's and Gender Studies in 2005. She now works with the non-profit organization Defined Destiny Leadership Enrichment, a faith based program that focuses on young men and women ages 10-19 becoming leaders through skill building, education and career choices, community service, and networking.

Jasmine Modoor was our first MA graduate in 2007. She is a student at the Howard University School of Law and was recently named a Womble Carlyle Scholar. Through this award, Jasmine will receive a scholarship as well as an offer of summer employment.

Donyell Roseboro graduated in May 2005 with a PhD in Curriculum & Teaching/Cultural Studies and with a graduate certificate in WGS. She currently lives with her husband and twin daughters in Wilmington, NC where she teaches at UNC-Wilmington. Donyell also has a new book out entitled *Jacques Lacan and Education: A Critical Introduction*.

Anne Silberman currently lives in Seattle and works as an assistant producer for the national overnight radio program "Coast to Coast AM." She researches books and authors and finds guests to visit the program. Anne underwent open heart surgery in the spring of 2007 and, after a successful recovery, now has a spirit and physical energy that had been lacking in her life. During her hospital visit, she was able to tell others of her WGS degree and how she uses it everyday of her life.

Lynn W. Zimmerman teaches diversity and multicultural education in the School of Education at Purdue University Calumet in Hammond, Indiana. She was awarded a Teaching Fulbright for spring 2009 and will be teaching in the English department at the University of Wroclaw in Wroclaw, Poland. Lynn graduated from UNCG in 2002 with a PhD in Curriculum and Teaching and a WGS graduate certificate.

The Women's World 2008 Congress

by Keri Graham, WGS MA Student

During the summer of 2008 I had the opportunity to travel with students from both Saint Martin's University and SUNY Plattsburgh to Madrid, Spain for the Women's World 2008 Congress. The theme of the conference was "Equality is not a Utopia," an idea that was discussed throughout the conference. It was amazing to see the variety of women from all over the world discussing topics like: sex trafficking, religion, masculinity, and health. The conference was held from July 3rd-9th and offered over 100 semi-plenary sessions. The most exciting session was hearing Nawal El Saadawi speak on Islam and women's rights and authority. With over 3,000 attendees of the conference, Madrid was buzzing with feminists. Woman's World was an incredible experience, and I hope to attend the next one in Toronto.

STUDENTS

UNCG VOX: Voices for Planned Parenthood Urges "Get Her Out to Vote!"

VOX welcomed Patrice Guillory from the Feminist Majority Foundation to their October meeting. She spoke about women's issues in this year's presidential election and the importance of voting. VOX is seeing their membership increase as the VOX message resonates with more and more students. Over 25 students attended the meeting and voiced their opinions on election issues.

VOX also has enjoyed a joint meeting with the Guilford College VOX.

The group has many exciting programs planned this year including films and guest speakers



WGS Student Goes Down Under: Undergrad Sarah Hamrick Shares Her Study Abroad Experience

If there is one experience every student should have during their university career, studying abroad is definitely it! The semester I spent studying abroad offered some of the most challenging, rewarding, and fun months of my life, during which I learned a lot about myself. I was also able to examine Women's and Gender Studies from a different cultural perspective, which was both interesting and enlightening.

I spent my spring 2008 semester in Sydney, Australia at Macquarie University, an innovative institution with about 30,000 students. I learned so much about myself and Australian culture while living and studying in Sydney. Adapting to a new culture was very difficult initially, but I found that keeping an open mind and pushing myself



Sarah meets some new friends "Down Under"

to make new friends and try new things was very rewarding. I quickly fell in love with my new surroundings and Australian culture! Some of my favorite experiences in Australia include feeding kangaroos, running a marathon along the Great Ocean road, traveling to Tasmania, and exploring the beaches along the southern coast.

I chose to study at Macquarie because the university offers a strong Women's Studies program and degree. I had the opportunity to take a course in the Women's Studies program entitled "Family Values" in the 21st Century. In the course, we examined women's changing roles within the family over the past century. I was particularly interested in the things we examined in relation to connecting feminist values with "family" values. We also studied feminist theory and spent a few classes discussing Australian masculinity, which was one of my favorite topics within the course. I definitely see myself as a more well rounded student and citizen of the world as a result of my study abroad experience.

What Can You Do With Your WGS 650 Paper?

by Sarah Colonna

I went into WGS 650 in the fall of 2006 unsure of my writing and somewhat intimidated by the thought of the final paper. I ended up writing "Feminism and Systems Theory, Then What?" It is an analysis of feminism within systems of language, the academy, and heterosexuality that, for me, seemed foundational, but when interrogated I found ways to offer my critique to these areas. As 650 ended, I could not get these ideas, or this paper, out of my head. I kept coming back to the concepts in other things that I was reading, and papers seemed to somehow shadow the systems that I had written about. After having conversations with Dr. Danielle Bouchard and others, I decided that presenting at a conference would be a good way to revisit this paper. I was able to make some changes and condense it for presentation. In April 2008, I presented the paper at the Southeastern Women's Studies Association (SEWSA) conference in Charlotte, and in October 2008 I presented it at the 17th Annual Women and Society conference at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY.

Sarah Colonna will complete her WGS M.A. in December. She also currently teaches a section of WGS 250: Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies.

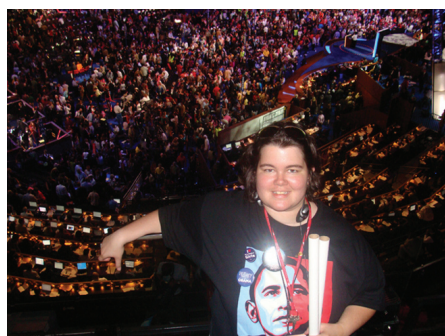


History in the Making 2008 Democratic National Convention

by Samantha Korb

Throughout the week in Denver, I was taken back from the welcomes we received from residents and businesses. I was greeted wherever I went with smiles, hugs and prayers because not only was I in their city supporting their economy, but because the excitement they felt about changing their city and our nation was so prevalent among the Denver residents. The amount of political discourse was so high, and I felt like I was home.

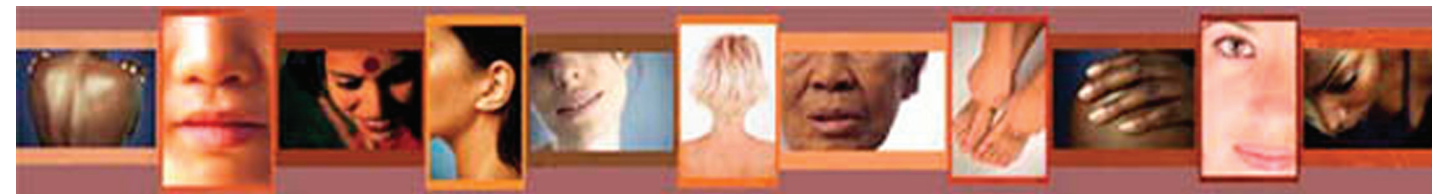
As I sat high up in Invesco Field at Mile High, the speakers were small as ants in my eye that final night of the convention, but the feeling there did not change. I was completely convinced it was time to elect Obama to expand my rights as a LGBT American, secure women's rights, make healthcare more affordable, end the Iraq war, and fix the economic crisis we are currently in.



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What does it mean to build community on a university campus? The WGS Salon series poses this question and others to students, staff and faculty at UNCG and the answers look different each time we meet. WGS Salon emerged last winter as an informal lunchtime discussion series that brings together members of the UNCG community as well as those of the broader Greensboro community who do academic, activist or professional work related to Women's and Gender Studies. So far, WGS has hosted Salons on Feminist Pedagogy, Transnational Feminisms, WGS Grad Student projects, directions for the future and, most recently, "Masculinities." These discussions have opened up space for people who do work or have interest in these areas to meet and connect with one another in an always unique gathering of voices at the intersections of various disciplines, backgrounds and passions. We invite you to come join us for our next Salon! Also, if you live in Greensboro and have an idea or suggestion for a possible Salon topic, please contact the WGS office at (336)334-5673.



LOVE YOUR BODY WEEK

by Kimber Heinz

Love Your Body Day is an annual campaign originally created and nationally sponsored by the National Organization for Women (NOW), a historic advocacy organization for women's rights. Each year US communities and classrooms are put to the challenge of hosting events that help foster engaged dialogue, learning opportunities and community building around what it means to be embodied as a woman in our culture. Classically, these events have critically examined beauty standards and the ways in which women and girls have learned to have unrealistic expectations for their bodies based on images of the "ideal woman" projected by the media and in advertising. At UNCG, Love Your Body Day turned into Love Your Body



Liz McDaniel and Masia Nallo

Week, and for the third year in a row WGS hosted this event series on our campus with renewed energy and a broader focus. This focus pushed the boundaries of the original NOW campaign to include critical discussions about different kinds of embodiment and the ways in which our bodies are situated in and constituted by history and community and the ways we have learned to think about ourselves and others.

Love Your Body week was co-sponsored by the UNCG Student Health Center and WGS. VOX (Voices of Planned Parenthood) and Student Health spent all week in the Elliot University Center, handing out Love Your Body Week 'zines and flyers to passers-by, along with condoms, lube and literature of all kinds. The Counseling and Testing Center hosted the "Burial of Hauntings" project, which had people bring in items from home that reminded them of something negative about their bodies that they wanted to retire. People who came up to the table made tombstones for their object of choice or about the negative ideas that they were working through, for anonymous display on the outside walkway of the EUC.

On Monday evening, WGS hosted the first film of the week, *Killing Us Softly 3*, Jean Kilbourne's film that looks at gender representation in advertising, with a discussion led by PhD student and WGS instructor Sabrina Boyer. On Tuesday, WGS hosted our second Salon of the year, a discussion on Masculinities with the help of David Rogers, our facilitator and a PhD candidate in the English department, and a panel of six featured guests who do work in Masculinities as students, educators, activists, counselors and administrators. This lunchtime discussion posed the question, "Why have a discussion about Masculinities during LYB Week?" This was followed on Tuesday evening with a showing of *NO! The Rape Documentary*, a film by Aishah Shahida Simmons about sexual assault in the African American community, from the perspective of Black women survivors and at the intersections of race, gender and sexuality. This film screening was followed by a discussion led by Lori Hinsley from the Counseling and Testing Center.

Student Health hosted a discussion on "Sex, Stereotypes and Beauty" on Wednesday, which was the perfect segue into Thursday's Self-Care day event! All about letting UNCG students love their bodies, Self-Care day brought in various self-care focused providers from the Greensboro community to provide students with free massages, holistic health counseling, facials, hand and foot scrubs and affirmation therapy. Our featured health service providers included Kammaleathahh Livingstone and Miriam Biber from Sustainable Health Choices, representatives from BeutiControl Greensboro, and Natasha Edwards, MA candidate in WGS. Thanks to all of our providers and everyone who came out for a fun afternoon! Thursday night's film was *XXY*, by Argentinian filmmaker Lucía Puenzo about the coming of age experiences of an intersex teen struggling to negotiate identity outside of the male/female gender binary, followed by a discussion led by Kimber Heinz, MA candidate in WGS. Friday was the last day of LYB Week and was led by Dr. Jill Green and Dr. Kerrie Jean-Hudson from the Dance Department, who took students through movement based body awareness exercises and connected these activities to discussions of body image.

This year's Love Your Body Week was a whirlwind of activity and it challenged students to think about their bodies both in terms of self-care and self-love and in terms of embodiment as coextensive with histories of oppression based on race, gender, class, sexuality and ability in the US. Borrowing from NOW's legacy of activism, we took up Love Your Body Week in an attempt to make space on our campus for all kinds of bodies, challenging ourselves to broaden the scope of our thinking and discussions and reinventing the campaign in a "uniquely WGS" way.



Kimber Heinz and Noelle Avina

The Vagina Monologues 2007

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VDAY

by Noelle Avina

The Vagina Monologues - February 2008

For the second year in a row, under the direction of Alicia Sowisdral, the UNCG production of The Vagina Monologues offered two nights of critical, funny, and poignant stagings of Eve Ensler's original work. Not only did the production entertain and raise awareness about physical and rhetorical violence targeting women's bodies, it also garnered donations totaling \$2,700, for The Clara House of Greensboro. Noelle Avina made the trek to the V-Day celebration in New Orleans. Below is a brief, but powerful description of her journey.

Director Alicia Sowisdral and WGS Cast Members



Alicia Sowisdral
WGS MA
Director

Beth Walker
WGS Faculty

Anne Marie Taber
WGS Alumna
UNCG Staff

Melody Heath
WGS Major

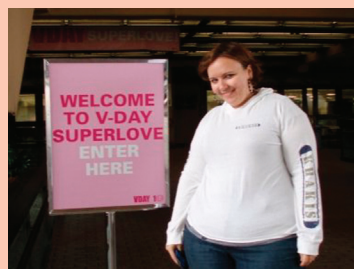
Annette Van
WGS Program
Faculty

Samantha Korb
WGS Minor

Natasha Edwards
WGS MA

Avina on the Road, V to the Tenth:

Driving into New Orleans was an emotional experience. It had been three years since hurricane Katrina, and the first time I had returned since the storm. Trying to keep my eyes on the road, I drove by buildings and houses with roofs blown off and shattered windows. Of those who survived, many poor and homeless remain in a tent city below I-10. I had come down for two reasons, 1. Because New Orleans has always felt like home and 2. This year's spotlight for the 10th anniversary of The Vagina Monologues (V to the Tenth) was being held here to help celebrate Katrina Warriors, the remarkably strong women of New Orleans who survived the devastation of one of America's greatest cities. For two days, the superdome was turned into "SuperLove." For those days, while art, performance and bonding occurred, you could readily feel the uneasy ghosts of trauma that had taken place in that very building. But now the superdome was about love and healing. A new monologue performed by Liz Mikel, "Hey Miss Pat," an account of one woman's struggle after hurricane Katrina took everyone's breath away at the end of the night. The evening was magical.



Noelle Avina at the Superdome

Highlight on New Courses

WGS 250: Intro to WGS, Masculinities
Professor: David Rogers

This section of WGS 250 explores the contours of American masculinity through a variety of media, including literature, television, film, and theory. It studies the social phenomena that we often take for granted, masculinities, and examines through an interdisciplinary lens how it shapes our understanding of what it means to be American. The idea of multiple masculinities seen through the concept of hegemonic and marginalized masculinities, examines the ways in which men (and women) sustain and recreate masculinities in the face of their fragility and discuss the ways in which a rigorous critique of masculinities can help shape new directions for women's and gender studies.

One of the highlights of my semester has been teaching a special topics course, which I have entitled "Cinemas of Empire." We have been watching a wide variety of films, taking them not just as objects to be analyzed but as texts which themselves actively produce theory and cultural meaning, and thus allow us to engage in feminist, anti-racist, and queer thought. We examine the complicity of cinema, colonialism, and racial and sexual formation, juxtaposing a study of colonial cinema industries with a consideration of filmmakers who have grappled with what it means to see oneself as an "other" and in doing so have presented challenges to dominant ways of looking.

WGS 450: Special Topics "Cinemas of Empire"
Professor: Danielle Bouchard

WGS Welcomes New Visiting Assistant Professor

by Liz McDaniel

Women's and Gender Studies welcomes Dr. Sabrina Ross as Visiting Assistant Professor to our program and to African American Studies. Ross received her undergraduate and graduate degrees from UNCG, which include a Ph.D. in Cultural Studies from the School of Education.

She currently teaches two sections of WGS 333, Gendered Worlds, and one section of AFS 201, Introduction to African American Studies. In the spring, Ross will continue to teach a section of WGS 333 in addition to WGS 651, Feminist Research Analysis, and a course she developed entitled Postmodern Blackness.

Most of her research focuses on the history and thought of African American women. According to Ross, her research broadly explores the understanding of oppression and "the ways in which groups that experience oppression can be motivated by those experiences to work for social justice or to reproduce/perpetuate structures of oppression and domination." She recently completed work on a research project with the Center for Youth, Families, and Community Partnerships and is currently working on sections for two books, one being a piece on genital mutilation for the Encyclopedia of Feminist Thought and the other addressing social theory as a means to teach about race.



Dr. Sabrina Ross

On her experience thus far in WGS, Ross is appreciative of all the support extended to her from WGS faculty, staff, and friends. She is especially excited about the diversity of experiences and understandings that has emerged in her classes. Ross notes, "I believe that honoring and attending to these differences help to prepare students and faculty for participation in our increasingly global society. I am glad that my presence in the WGS program is contributing to increased diversity in these courses."

2008-2009 Linda Arnold Carlisle Research Grant

Dr. Michelle Dowd, Assistant Professor of English, is the 2008 recipient of the Linda Carlisle Research Grant, an award given to a UNCG faculty member to



Dr. Michelle Dowd

support research or creative activity related to women's and gender studies. This past summer, Dowd traveled to the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C. to consult several early printed texts and manuscripts that she is editing for her project entitled *Early Modern Women on the Fall: An Anthology*. The project is intended for both the undergraduate and graduate classroom, of seventeenth-century Englishwomen's literary depictions of the Fall from Genesis. Dowd and her co-editor hope to secure a contract for publication by the end of this academic year. She will present her research at UNCG in April 2009.

WGS Grad Student Association

Last spring, a group of Women's and Gender Studies graduate students decided that it was time to form a Women's and Gender Studies grad student association. As we moved into our third year as a Master's program, WGS students came together to brainstorm new ways to create community and build relationships with students and faculty from other programs and departments. The WGS GSA hosts regular events for our current students and alums and is currently working on creating a mentorship program to connect incoming grad students to WGS alums and to Greensboro community members who do work in their areas of interest. Another goal of the GSA is to maintain an organized body of WGS students to have a voice in WGS decision-making, including in the WGS/AFS (African-American Studies) joint-appointment faculty hiring decision to be made this school year. We hope to build more members and on-campus support for the GSA as we discover our collective interests and continue to grow!

For more information about the GSA, contact the WGS office at (336)334-5673.

LINDA ARNOLD CARLISLE PROFESSORSHIP HELPS CONNECT UNCG TO WIDER UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY



WWI students at Woman's College canning food (literally in cans); tomatoes and beans were most common



Bennett students picketed the National Theatre in downtown Greensboro at the showing of Tobacco Road during the early 1960's.

The UNCG Friends of Women's and Gender Studies launched the Linda Arnold Carlisle Professorship in 2002 as a means to enhance the academic and co-curricular programs of the Women's and Gender Studies Program. The professorship rewards the most promising faculty research agendas while using that selected research focus to build energy throughout the WGS Program and the campus community. Jackie White, Professor of Psychology, served as the first Professor from 2002-2004. She conducted work on girls and violence, which led to other grants and projects and informed her work as editor of *Psychology of Women Quarterly*. White was succeeded by Paige Hall Smith, director of the Center for Women's Health and Wellness at UNCG, who served from 2004-2006. Through the Professorship, Smith launched the First Annual Breastfeeding and Feminism Symposium in 2005. Smith's work on breastfeeding and the workplace continues to develop and remain relevant as evident in the annual symposiums which have grown to national forums. The fourth annual symposium will return to the UNCG campus in March. After the Professorship began to receive state matching funds, its title changed to the Linda Arnold Carlisle Distinguished Excellence Professorship in Women's and Gender Studies. Dr. Hephzibah Roskelly, Professor of English, is the current and first Distinguished Excellence Professor in an interdisciplinary program at UNCG.

Professor Roskelly's original research as the Linda Arnold Carlisle Professor brings together the social activism of Ida B. Wells and Jane Addams in post Civil War America. Roskelly's lecture in the fall of 2007 explored connections between the civil rights activist and the social settlement director, showing how these two women worked together and wrote about methods to achieve social justice. The lecture argued that Wells and Addams learned lessons in their humanitarian and feminist work that teachers and theorists interested in social activism, cosmopolitanism, and pragmatic philosophy can make use of today. Addams called the process of connection, collaboration and change she was invested in "affectionate interpretation," and the lecture suggested that affectionate interpretation can become a methodology for bridging

the divides created by inequities in society. The process of what she also called "social amelioration" acknowledges difference, asserts humility in relationships between self and other, and insists on the possibility of change through principled action. Taking its ideas from the pragmatic philosophy of John Dewey, William James and C. S. Peirce, the feminist pragmatic approach of Addams and Wells invites new voices to become part of the cultural dialogue and locates new ways to listen to and act on the messages those voices deliver. The lecture will become a cornerstone of the book Roskelly is writing on women, pragmatism, and feminism, *Certain About Uncertainty: Feminist Rhetoric and the Hope for Peace*.

Her research on the interconnectedness of Wells' and Addams' work inspired Roskelly in planning an event that connects the WGS program to the wider university community. What evolved is a Symposium with Bennett College that investigates the history of how women from Bennett and UNCG, formerly Woman's College, have worked together towards social justice. The Symposium will address not only the history of the relationships between students at Bennett and Women's College, but also the institutional and intellectual challenges of Women's Studies programs in general, and new possibilities for connections between these two historically strong programs.

Specifically, Bennett and UNCG students are engaging in archival research to prepare for the event, and they will facilitate discussions around their findings, sharing information and ideas about the work of female college students in Greensboro from the early days of women's education in the city through the 20th century. According to Roskelly, "Presentations, readings, and stories will help recover the history of education for white women and women of color in the city and draw connections between the two groups that might lead to new collaborations in the 21st century." The Symposium, entitled *Affectionate Interpretation: The Parallel Histories of Civic Engagement by Students at Bennett College and UNCG*, will be held at the Greensboro Central Public Library from 2:00-5:00 p.m. on December 5, 2008.



The Bennett College Quartet listens to their favorite numbers. Date unknown.



A suffrage booth on the Woman's College campus around 1918/1919



WWII Woman's College students rolling bandages; girl standing is Mary McLean, class of '45



Bennett College women participate in a community vigil during the Million Man March on Washington



Suffrage at Woman's College - 1918/1919
Top row, second from the right is Harriet Elliott, a social studies teacher actively involved in the suffrage movement



WWII students practicing first aid at Woman's College



Founded in 1873, largely through the inspiration of newly emancipated enslaved people, Bennett College began its history from the basement of Warnersville Methodist Episcopal Church North.