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## Women's & Gender Studies Academic Program

WGS offers undergraduate major and minor and MA degree programs and a graduate certificate. Our interdisciplinary major and minor emphasize excellent intellectual training and community engagement and are flexible enough to work in tandem with many other majors. The MA program offers three concentrations (leadership, health, individualized) and two tracks (thesis or internship) and equips students with skills needed for work in many professions, including public service, health care, and not-for-profit management, and for further professional and academic education. The graduate certificate, usually taken along with an MA or PhD in another field, provides an additional credential for those interested in teaching and research.

See [WGS.uncg.edu](http://wgs.uncg.edu) for more information.



**2012-2013 WGS Office Staff**

Back Row: Marla Sutherland, April Parker, Isabell Moore  
 Front Row: Lauren Pereira, Desi Self, Marissa McMinn

<http://wgs.uncg.edu>

### I would like to join the Friends of Women's & Gender Studies.

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Contributions in any amount entitle you to be a Friend of Women's & Gender Studies, to receive our mailing and newsletter, and to be invited to programs. Matching tax deductible gifts from your employer are also welcome. Make checks payable to UNCG's Annual Fund and specify WGS on the memo line. This can also be done on-line at Annual Fund.

# WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES



UNCG

Newsletter  
 2012-13

## Isabell Moore: New Program Administrator

Isabell Moore, new Program Administrator for Women's and Gender Studies, has made significant contributions to WGS through initiatives in media, programming, and community engagement. A 2009 graduate of the WGS Master of Arts program, she taught WGS 250: Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies for a number of years. Her educational background also includes a BA in History and Sociology from Columbia University. According to Dr. Gwen Hunnicutt, WGS Director of Graduate Studies, "We hit the jackpot when we hired Isabell Moore. She knows WGS programs from multiple vantage points: as a former student, as a teacher, and now as our Program Administrator. She is clearly invested in student and program success, and deeply committed to Women's and Gender Studies."

Thanks to Moore's supervision and guidance, important changes and transitions have been gracefully executed over the past academic year. Building from the work of past Program Administrator, Carole Lindsey-Potter, Moore finalized WGS's move from the Foust Building to the Curry Building, established the WGS library and conference room, and incorporated visual art from UNCG alums into our spaces. She implemented new social media tactics to market WGS events as well as the Program at large, was a driving force behind our new webpage, and improved the WGS Facebook page. Moore says that "I've really been enjoying my time in the job so far. I've been lucky to learn from Carole, who has stayed involved through the Friends, and I've gotten to build on the foundation she left for me. Ann, Beth, Danielle, and Sarah have all been so welcoming and supportive, and I appreciate the enthusiasm and commitment of our stellar student staff. I feel lucky to have joined such a wonderful team!"

Moore is the Internship Coordinator for WGS. In that role, she works with Dr. Lisa Levenstein, who teaches the new graduate-level internship course, to find new internship opportunities for students and strengthen established relationships. Moore has been involved in social justice causes for many years and has brought new connections with groups like Southerners on New Ground, American Friends Service Committee, Stone Circles, and the War Resisters' League. WGS Director, Ann Dils, believes that "Isabell is the perfect person to further WGS's community engagement and to transform this work into community engaged scholarship."

Moore is in charge of WGS programming, the primary contact for community groups co-operating with WGS on projects, and on the administrative team planning the 2013 Southeastern Women's Studies Association Conference, to be held at UNCG in April. She facilitates the work of the WGS Friends and supervises WGS student staff and interns. Desi Self, WGS graduate assistant, believes that Moore's "intuitive nature helps foster a comfortable and welcoming environment for student staff."



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

SEWSA 2013 .....	2	Love Your Body Week; <i>Fatal Promises</i> .....	7
WGS Leadership Changes .....	3	WGS at NWSA .....	7
New MA Student Profile Quotes .....	4	WGS Salons .....	7
Sally & Alan Cone Awards .....	4	WGS Faculty Updates .....	8
Innovative MA Research Projects .....	4	Alumni Updates; LGBTQ Alumni Affinity Group..	9
Happy Birthday WGS MA Program .....	5	April Parker and Judith Abraham WGS Library..	10
Local Activist and Musician: Laila Nur .....	5	Jackie White; Elizabeth Chiseri-Strater .....	10
Undergraduate Community Engagement...	6	MORE at UNCG .....	10
Colonna teaches <i>The Hunger Games</i> .....	6	Hepsie Roskelly and Janine Jones Interview...	11
Girls Inc and EqualityNC Conferences ....	6	Academic Program, WGS Office Staff .....	12

Editor - Lauren Pereira

Be the Change



# Outrage!

## Discourses, Practices, and Politics of Protest and Social Transformation



The Women's and Gender Studies Program is proud to present *Outrage!: Discourses, Practices, and Politics of Protest and Social Transformation*, the 2013 conference of the Southeastern Women's Studies Association. The conference is being held on UNCG's campus, April 18, 19, and 20.

The conference topic was chosen in the wake of Arab Spring and Occupy Wall Street and anticipating dialogue regarding interrelationships among women's, gender, and sexuality studies and social change. Interest in the topic has been fueled anew by activism around the May 2012 passage of Amendment One to North Carolina's Constitution (banning same-sex marriages and civil unions); the June 2012 silencing of two Michigan Congresswomen, one for using the word "vagina" in floor debates about an abortion bill; and the news that in Ciudad Juárez more women have been killed in 2012 than in any other year of the "femicide era."

### Keynote speakers include:

**Caitlin Breedlove**, Co-Director of Southerners on New Ground (SONG), is a Queer, Femme, 2nd generation Eastern European immigrant who has been in the South her whole adult life. Before her time with SONG, she was Coordinator of the Intern Program at the Historic Highlander Research and Education Center in Tennessee. She has been on the funding panel for the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice, and is an occasional contributor to the Bilerico Project blog.

**Kai Lumumba Barrow** is SONG's Senior Strategist. She is a black radical, queer, femmenist, commie, painter and installation artist, brand new yoga practitioner, renewed altar-maker, long-time mother, lover, mentor, mvmt-builder, facilitator, schemer, dreamer, pic abolitionist, campaign strategist, and funky fashionista who has lived, loved and struggled in Chicago, Atlanta, Jersey, NYC, Durham, and New Orleans. She has worked with Critical Resistance, FIERCE! the Student Liberation Action Movement (SLAM), Black Panther newspaper collective, New Afrikan Independence Movement and numerous coalitions, defense committees, and tasks forces.

**Wahneema Lubiano** is Associate Professor and Associate Chair of African and African American Studies at Duke University. According to *Black Cultural Studies*, "Her rich cultural criticism insists on reading African-American literature and Black popular cultural production not just as a series of texts, but as living instances of Black expressive techniques forged in African diasporic, post-slavery cultures. Her interrogation of Black Studies and cultural studies as fields of knowledge results in a criticism that explores the tension between strategic essentialism and its foes.

**Victoria Marks** creates dances for the stage, for film, and in community settings. Marks' recent work considers the politics of citizenship, as well as the representation of both virtuosity and disability. These themes are part of her ongoing commitment to locating dance-making within the sphere of political meaning. Marks is a Professor of choreography in the Department of World Arts and Cultures at UCLA where she has been teaching since 1995. She is a 2005 Guggenheim Fellow and has received recent grants from the Irvine Foundation, the NEA, and the Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Council.

**Andrea Smith** is co-founder of Incite! Women of Color Against Violence and the Boarding School Healing Project. She is the author of *Conquest: Sexual Violence and American Indian Genocide* (South End Press), and *Native Americans and the Christian Right: The Gendered Politics of Unlikely Alliances* (Duke). She is also co-editor of *The Color of Violence: The Incite! Anthology* and editor of the *Revolution Will Not Be Funded: Beyond the Non-Profit*

*Industrial Complex* (Both South End Press). She is Associate Professor of Media and Cultural Studies at UC Riverside, and is finishing her last year of law school at UC Irvine.



## INTERVIEW WITH HEPSIE ROSKELLY AND JANINE JONES

Jones, Associate Professor of Philosophy and WGS, and Roskelly, Professor of English and WGS, interviewed each other on January 17, 2013.

### How did you get into WGS?

**Janine:** Well, to tell you the truth there's no grand narrative behind the event. I just liked Hepsie. That's all, but a pretty big *all!* I wanted to be where she was and do things she was doing.

**Hepsie:** For me it was pretty much the same. No big story. I liked Mary Ellis and the director of the program at the time, Katherine Mille. I was new to the university. I wanted to be able to have more conversations with people I knew I admired and liked. For both of us it was about the people, not about the idea of the program. WGS has always been about expanding the community, and how to think about it and make it work for us. That's what led us to be participants. Once we found ourselves part of the program, we started getting involved in making the community work, serving on committees, and making ourselves available.

### What do you think about the progression of WGS at UNCG and about WGS generally?

**Hepsie:** The program has changed a lot since I became a part of it. It has changed its name to reflect its bigger mission. It's gotten two tenure track people, who are committed specifically to Women's and Gender Studies. But I think those changes reflect the mission as it's always been: to make the community wider and bigger.

**Janine:** I agree with Hepsie about the ways in which the program has changed. I would like it to be more expansive. That is, in the way that I entered because of Hepsie's presence, I would like for some new people, new types of people, students from backgrounds that we may not normally see in WGS—I would like to see some of those people come in because they are attracted to the people in WGS. I think they would help expand the program in ways that we cannot foresee.

**Hepsie:** Me too. There's so much still to do. We have become maybe more able to expand our program as women's and gender studies as a field has become more respectable in the academy. In part, it's because the field has become more explicitly theorized and so more interestingly complex. Those things are good--all about progress and growth--but we don't want to lose the human connection, the thing that brought Janine and me to WGS to begin with.

**Janine:** Yes. WGS has a particular standpoint. It privileges certain values. Arguably, WGS has adopted the view of standpoint feminism. That is to say, it endorses particular ethical and political commitments over others. To borrow from Kristen Intemann in "25 Years of Feminist Empiricism and Standpoint Theory: Where Are We Now?," I would say that like standpoint theory, WGS "presupposes that oppression is unjust, revealing gender is valuable, and that hierarchical power structures ought to be abolished. In this way, certain ethical and political values are intrinsically valuable to the achievement of standpoints and scientific objectivity" (*Hypatia*, Fall 2010, 25: 4, p. 793).

**Hepsie:** If that's so then it underscores the activist roots of women's and gender studies. If you believe that oppression is unjust you have to do more than talk about it.

### What is your focus within WGS and how does your research, writing, and teaching reflect WGS themes?

**Janine:** I'm not sure I have a focus. Some of my current research includes examining what kind of claims are made when so-called intersectional analyses exclude race and focus only on gender. I'm also interested in various aspects of what is sometimes called the epistemology of ignorance. So, for example, I argue in one piece that although Simone de Beauvoir possessed a great deal of knowledge about the structure of racism (a knowledge that may be described as Fanonian in its depth and detail) she did not use this knowledge to theorize about women and the Other. How does this relate to women's and gender studies? Well, I think that, arguably, women's and gender studies, and not just our program, seeks to enact the point of view of feminist standpoint theorists. Like standpoint theorists, I believe that revealing gender is valuable. But given the *inextricable* link between gender and race, it cannot be valuable to reveal the one—gender—without revealing the other. Indeed, arguably, the one will not be revealed without revealing the other. However, I believe that some wgs programs operate as though it were possible and preferable to proceed in such a manner. Thus, my research seeks to reinforce the point that theory suffers when one seeks to reveal gender as valuable while positioning it as separate from race. Hopefully, one of the intended consequences of a genuine acknowledgement and acceptance of the idea that at least since a certain point in history the two cannot be easily divorced, will be more inclusivity to women's and gender studies, as women other than those who comprise the norm in many programs or departments will see that it has the intellectual resources to provide a home for them too. Moreover, I believe that being anti epistemology of ignorance is or should be one of the political and ethical goals of women's and gender studies. My research on race, gender, and how some feminist theories seek to elaborate views on gender while excising race, can be viewed as my *active* engagement in an anti epistemology of ignorance movement.

**Hepsie:** Oh, I feel that too. I see knowledge as dynamic; I believe in the possibility of change. Is that a focus? I write about women's writing and recovering women's voices; I'm interested in the history of women's education and how teachers make a difference in creating equal spaces for students. A lot of my research has to do with the power of language and the value of experience in making meaning. As a teacher, my goals are about creating possibilities, much like what WGS's goals are: opening up to more diverse voices, building community, making space for people's ideas and experiences.



## April Parker and the WGS Library

April Parker, WGS Library Coordinator, has made our library and conference space into a resource center for faculty and students and established groundwork for our space as a library of the future. Parker, a community activist, ACE Scholar, and May 2013 candidate for a Masters degree in Library and Information Studies, catalogued our books, created a borrowing system, and developed a strategic plan for our space. She envisions it as a progressive library sharing resources with similar libraries in the state, including one at Guilford College.

Parker's professional objectives center on the "accessibility and visibility of all marginalized groups and hidden literature." The Reading OUTloud exhibit, her recent project, co-sponsored by WGS and the Multicultural Center, consists of "still frames of queer couples reading to each other" and is "an opportunity to combine activism, books, and identity through art." Photographers, curator, and participants identify as LGBTQ. The installation will be shown at the Multicultural Center, March 8-May 10, 2013, and at SEWSA 2013.



April Parker

## Judith Abraham and the WGS Library

WGS Friend Judith Abraham made the WGS Library and Conference Room more complete in Fall 2012. In conjunction with the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro, Abraham provided funds to expand the online catalog for the library. Her donation will help make the books accessible to students. Abraham's gracious contribution is an invaluable addition to the budding library and conference room.

## Former WGS Director, Dr. Jackie White, now Catherine Acuff Congressional Fellow

After 41 years with UNCG, Dr. Jackie White retired and is now in Washington, DC working with Congress as the Catherine Acuff Congressional Fellow. The Fellowship is through the American Psychological Association and allows her to participate in federal government on the staff of a member of congress or congressional committee. Its aim is to bring about more effective use of psychological knowledge within the federal government. White plans to build on her research on gender issues, aggression, and intimate partner violence.

In addition to serving as Director of Women's and Gender Studies, White was Professor of Psychology and Associate Dean for Research in the College of Arts and Sciences. She received the 2011 Sue Rosenberg Zalk Award for distinguished leadership from the Society for the Psychology of Women.



Dr. Jackie White

## Elizabeth Chiseri-Strater, WGS Faculty Member and Editor, *The Greensboro Voice*



Dr. Elizabeth Chiseri-Strater

Elizabeth Chiseri-Strater has been a prominent member of the Women and Gender Studies community for over 20 years. Once the Graduate Program Director for WGS, she is now the 685 Feminist Rhetoric professor. As she goes through her three year phased retirement process, Chiseri-Strater spends more of her time and talent with the Greensboro community, particularly through *The Greensboro Voice*. This monthly newspaper about homelessness and poverty seeks to raise awareness about these important social issues, featuring the writing and art work of Greensboro's homeless population. *The Greensboro Voice* can be read online at <http://greensborovoice.org> or at local libraries and coffee shops. We wish her the best as she retires and shares her passions for literacy and writing with the community.

## MORE at UNCG

Mentoring Ourselves, Raising Each other (MORE) is a Mentor Collective of LGBTQ and allied students, faculty, and staff committed to intergenerational community building and promoting conversations across the intersections of race, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, and gender identity. The collective seeks to meet the needs of the 14% of UNCG's students who identify as LGBTQ (or Questioning). For more information see <https://sites.google.com/a/uncg.edu/lgbt-mentor/home>.

## WGS Leadership Changes

The WGS Program is sad to see **Ann Dils'** term as Director come to an end, but feels lucky to have had such an amazing person fill this important role. During Ann's time as Director, 2010-2013, she advanced the Program as an academic unit and center for interdisciplinary scholarship and community engagement. Under her supervision, WGS successfully underwent program review, implemented a new approach to the MA internship requirement, and revised key administrative policies and documents. She oversaw WGS's first promotion and tenure review, in which Dr. Danielle Bouchard was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. Ann played a leading role in bringing SEWSA to UNCG for spring 2013 and co-chaired the 2011 The ART of Public Memory conference. According to Isabell Moore, WGS Program Administrator, "Conferences bring visitors from around the region and around the world to our campus, raising the profile of the WGS Program outside of Greensboro. I hope we continue to host conferences, as Ann as encouraged us to do!"



Dr. Ann Dils

Ann's work as a dance historian and dance professor at UNCG has increased connections between WGS and the arts, bringing new students into WGS courses and creating new interdisciplinary synergies. According to Dr. Gwen Hunnicutt, WGS Director of Graduate Studies, "Ann practices a calm, inclusive, democratic style of leadership. She is easy to approach, open to new ideas, graceful, and community-oriented."

Professor of English and WGS and former Linda Arnold Carlisle Distinguished Excellence Professor **Hepsie Roskelly** will direct WGS during 2013-2014. In 2012, she won the University of North Carolina's Board of Governor's Teaching Award.



Dr. Hepsie Roskelly

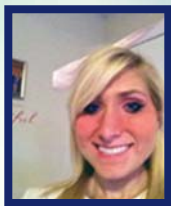
**Deana Coble**, President of WGS Friends, has stepped down. Working with the Friends, Deana carefully advised WGS faculty and administrators during academic program review and helped secure our space in the Curry Building. She has been instrumental in linking WGS to important community groups. A filmmaker, Deana, advised students as they made a promotional film for WGS, and presented her own work to the WGS community. Coble's documentary *Kings and Queens* will be presented at the upcoming SEWSA conference. WGS Director Ann Dils says that, "Deana's savvy, community connections, boldness, and generosity, make her a tremendous ally for WGS."

**Rebecca Mann** was recently elected as the new President of the Friends. She is a 2008 MA graduate of the Program. She was interviewed in the Fall 2012 issue of *Ms Magazine* for her experience in the UNCG WGS Program as well as her understanding of the future of women's and gender studies as an area of study. She has worked as an advocate and organizer with Equality North Carolina, the YWCA of High Point, and Planned Parenthood Health Systems, and in the communications departments of IntraHealth International and Ipas. She has also volunteered with the Guilford Coalition on Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention, the North Carolina and local boards of NOW, and North Carolina Women United. She currently serves on the board of the Triad Health Project and is board chair of NARAL Pro-Choice North Carolina. **Carole Lindsey-Potter** is the Friends' new secretary.

## Friends of Women's and Gender Studies Board

Rebecca Mann, President  
Carole Lindsey-Potter, Secretary  
Judith Abraham  
Linda Carlisle  
Deana Coble  
Sally Cone  
Donna Fairfield  
Carolyn Flowers  
Ann May  
Donna Reichman  
Liz Seymour  
Emily Smith  
Ernestine Taylor





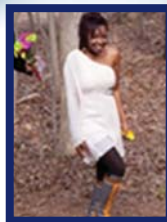
**Sara Forcella**

"Our prime purpose in life is to help others and if you can't help them at least don't hurt them"  
— The Dalai Lama



**Melissa Frick**

"It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see."  
— Henry David Thoreau



**Desi Self**

"In itself, homosexuality is as limiting as heterosexuality: the ideal should be to be capable of loving a woman or a man; either, a human being, without feeling fear, restraint, or obligation."  
— Simone de Beauvoir



**Marla Sutherland**

"The world owes us nothing; we owe each other the world."  
— Ani DiFranco



**Hannah Luedtke**

"What is remembered is not a deed in stone but a metaphor. Meta = above. Pherein = to carry. That which is carried above the literalness of life. A way of thinking that avoids the problems of gravity."  
— *Art and Lies* by Jeanette Winterson

### **Innovative MA Research Projects: Tara Holmes and Lauren Pereira**

WGS Master of Arts student Tara Holmes is currently working on her thesis, which is on the representation of lesbians in two films, *Black Swan* and *The Kids Are All Right*. In her analysis, she focuses on what it means and how it is to be "lesbian," and questions whether or not it is possible for cinema to accurately "represent" something so elusive and nuanced as human sexuality. Holmes is working closely with thesis advisor, Dr. Danielle Bouchard.

Tara Holmes is also working closely with Lauren Pereira, who is also a second year MA student. They are researching queer space as it exists through visibility in queer bars. They argue that "while bars in general can be viewed as spaces specifically for entertainment and consumerism, queer bars are a point of resistance to heteronormative society."

### **Sally and Alan Cone Awards 2012-2013**

#### **Major Scholarship**

John Everhart  
Morgan Joyce

**Fall 2012  
Course Scholarships**  
Laura Drewicz Ewing

**Spring 2013 Course  
Scholarships**  
Amanda Murray  
Lauren Pereira  
Valerie Snell

#### **Special Projects Award**

Elizabeth Weiss was awarded a 2013 WomenNC Fellowship for travel to New York for the March United Nation's 57th Commission on the Status of Women Conference. She will present her research on rape culture and the media.

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#### **Brittney Anderson, MA '12**

Brittney is working in Greenville, SC for the Department of Social Services, giving back to families and communities through the food assistance program. She also worked as a field interviewer collecting research on a study of teen pregnancy prevention initiatives in Spartanburg, SC for the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

#### **Casey Buss, MA '12**

Casey is working on her PhD in Kinesiology with a concentration in sociohistorical studies of sport and physical activity at UNCG. Dr. Kathy Jamieson is her primary advisor. Casey's work focuses on intersections of gender, fatness, dis/ability, and physical activity.

#### **Yasmeen Chism, BA '12**

Yasmeen works freelance as a pundit for Policy Mic, writing articles on a variety of topics. She also works for pjur group, a personal lubricant company, which focuses on sexual health and wellness while insuring sexual pleasure at any age. She states that it is awesome to work for a company that embraces her double major (African American Studies and Women's and Gender Studies). She states that "adjusting to life after college has been difficult. I am waiting to get back in school, and grateful to all the professors who allowed her to grow in WGS." She plans to attend graduate school in Fall 2013 for Black feminist theory and performance and sexuality studies.

#### **Lauren Guy, BA'08**

Lauren recently earned her credential as an international board certified lactation consultant (IBCLC). After graduating in 2008, she trained as a birth doula and later co-founded the Spectrum Doula Collective, a project that provides support to people experiencing the full spectrum of pregnancy outcomes. She credits WGS with her early education on reproductive justice as it relates to choices in birth and barriers to maternal health.

#### **Carrie Hart, MA '11**

Carrie is currently pursuing doctoral studies in Educational and Cultural Studies at UNCG, coordinating a group for LGBTQIA youth in the Greensboro/Guilford community, and co-producing a web-based documentary series about queerness titled *Keepin It Queer*. For more information about this series visit: [keepinitqueer.com](http://keepinitqueer.com)

#### **Khristian Jones, BA Minor '10**

Khristian is a medical receptionist/medical assistant at Arthritis & Pain Associates of PG County in Maryland. She is currently planning her May 2013 destination wedding in Puerto Rico. After the wedding she plans to relocate to the RTP North Carolina area. She states that WGS has helped her get to this place because it gave her the strength to consider relocating to a new area.

#### **Meg Scott Phipps, MA '12**

Meg is presently in the PhD program in Educational Leadership and Cultural Foundations with a concentration in Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies at UNCG. Her goal is to teach, write, and ponder in a college setting preferably in the mountains of North Carolina.

#### **Katie Rose Guest Pryal, Graduate Certificate '07**

Katie is a Clinical Assistant Professor at the UNC School of Law. She graduated from UNCG with a PhD in Rhetoric and Composition and a Certificate in WGS in 2007. She states that her WGS experience makes her a better teacher and lawyer because it taught her about the intersections of gender, race, sexuality, disability, and power, intersections that play out in the legal field every day. She feels better equipped to guide her students through the process of becoming empathetic and sensitive lawyers and public leaders.

#### **Jennifer L. Smith, BA'98**

Jennifer Smith is currently working in the library at Elon University. She has been a member of the Advisory Board for the Women's and Gender Studies Minor at Elon since 2004. They have an active program with several events throughout the year and many dedicated students, faculty, and staff members.

### **LGBTQ Alumni Affinity Group**

The LGBTQ Affinity Group is made up of alumni of Women's College and UNCG who are allies of or identify as LGBTQ. Chesley Kennedy, an active member of the affinity group states, "The group is designed to bring alumni who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and allies together to encourage the advancement of UNCG as a progressive, diverse, and welcoming institution. During homecoming, the group hosted a panel discussion with alumni from every decade since 1950! We discovered similarities and differences in all of our stories. We hope to further these conversations with current students and alumni." The LGBTQ Affinity Group meets regularly at the Alumni House on the UNCG campus.



## WGS: A Center for Interdisciplinary Research



Dr. Danielle Bouchard

Assistant Professor of Women's and Gender Studies, **Danielle Bouchard**'s 2012 book, *A Community of Disagreement: Feminism in the University*, has gained the attention of scholarly communities. A group of professors at area campuses is starting a reading group around her book and Bouchard is invited to give an open book talk at her alma mater, the University of Minnesota, in April. Bouchard is very excited to have people using her book in academic circles. Her hope for the book is that it will create a new way for scholars within the discipline to think about women's and gender studies and its work within the academy. Bouchard's advice to aspiring scholarly writers includes, "Write what you're burning to write, not what you think others want to see from you." Bouchard emphasizes that aspiring scholarly writers not worry about whether or not what they are drawn to write happens to be a topic that has been discussed before, as each scholarly writer brings a new and unique perspective to the discourse.

Assistant Professor of Women's and Gender Studies and African American Studies, **Sarah Cervenak**'s book, tentatively titled *Wandering: Philosophical Performances of Racial and Sexual Freedom*, is forthcoming from Duke University Press. Cervenak investigates the role that wandering (physical and mental acts of roaming) plays in Enlightenment and post-Enlightenment theories of the ideal citizen-subject. She argues that the idealized subject—seen as white, heterosexual, male, and able-bodied—has had the right to move off the beaten path. Historically, this might include imperialist exploration and in the twenty first century, armed neighborhood patrols. Cervenak states that "such movement has been constitutive of modernity's violence and conspires in the paradoxical immobilization of black people. Against state constraint, black people have found other ways of moving through the world. The spirit of wandering has been at the heart of such resistance."



Dr. Sarah Cervenak



Dr. Mark Rifkin

**Mark Rifkin**, Associate Professor of English and Women's and Gender Studies is the recipient of the 2012 John Hope Franklin Prize for best book in American Studies for *When Did Indians Become Straight?: Kinship, The History of Sexuality, and Native Sovereignty*. He is also the author of *The Erotics of Sovereignty: Queer Native Writing in the Era of Self-Determination*. The first of the two books, *When Did Indians Become Straight?...* traces the history of the imposition of United States discourses of sexuality onto Native Americans. Rifkin regards the process of writing it as a source of comfort in his life at the time. He noted that there was a lot of support for his book in the fields in which he works, particularly Native Studies. His book has been reviewed and cited in various scholarly journals and is being taught in universities around the country. Rifkin notes that *The Erotics of Sovereignty...* extends the work of his prior book, focusing on what the legacy of imposing Euramerican forms of social life on Indigenous peoples means for contemporary queer Native writers. Rifkin offers words of inspiration for aspiring scholarly writers: "Your ideas are your own [and] your process is your own."

**Derek Krueger** (Religious Studies and Women's and Gender Studies) is currently working on a book entitled, *Liturgical Subjects: Christian Ritual and the Formation of Identity in Byzantium, Sixth to Ninth Centuries*.

**Eugene Rogers** (Religious Studies and Women's and Gender Studies) is working on a book to be published in 2013 entitled, *Aquinas and the Supreme Court: Race, Gender, and the Failure of Natural Law in Thomas's Biblical Commentaries*.

**Carisa Showden** (Political Science and Women's and Gender Studies) is co-authoring a book entitled, *Conjuring Worlds: A Queer Phenomenology of the Miniature*.

**Karen Weyler** (English and Women's and Gender Studies) is working on a book entitled, *Empowering Words: Outsiders and Authorships in Early America, 1760-1815*.

### New Cross-Appointed Faculty



Dr. Jennifer Feather

Dr. Jennifer Feather is the newest WGS cross-appointed faculty member. Her home department is English and her research explores how violence impacts shifting notions of embodiment and aristocratic male identity, especially in 15th and 16th century British historical writing. Recent works include *Writing Combat and the Self in Early Modern English Literature: The Pen and the Sword* (Palgrave 2011) and the forthcoming, "O blood, blood, blood": Violence and Identity in *Othello* in *Medieval and Renaissance Drama in England*.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY WGS MA PROGRAM!

The Master of Arts program in Women's and Gender Studies graduated its fifth class of MA students at the end of the 2011-2012 academic year, a good time to remember the program's history, celebrate its successes, and look to its future.

The first students enrolled in our MA program in 2006, but the work of establishing the program and determining its direction came years before. Mary Ellis Gibson, current Rosenthal Excellence Professor of English and Women's and Gender Studies, and Beth Walker, lecturer in Women's and Gender Studies were part of the committee who established the program. Gibson was then Director of Women's and Gender Studies and Walker, a consultant hired to construct the data needed to support the committee's application to establish a new program. Walker remembers that she went out into Greensboro and other North Carolina communities to ask employers in health care, human services, and not-for profits, what possibilities they saw for women's and gender studies as a knowledge-base for existing and new employees. She asked questions such as "How do you imagine employees with increased skills in critical thinking, writing, and dialog, especially surrounding issues of gender, sexuality, race, and class, might improve your work with the community and your workplace?" and "Would you be interested in this education yourself?" The data Walker gathered attracted a 2003-2004 grant from the Council of Graduate Schools and Ford Foundation (\$5,382.00) to fund a feasibility study. That led, in 2005-2006, to a Council of Graduate Schools and Ford Foundation grant (\$25,000.00) to fund the program. Walker remembers personally calling schools across the country to establish the first class, entering in 2006.

Our graduates have met with success. Sarah Colonna, a nurse when she entered our MA, is now a doctoral candidate in Educational and Cultural Studies at UNCG and teaches in our program. Isabell Moore has taught at Guilford Technical Community College and is now our Program Administrator. Damie Jackson-Diop is the YouthTransition Program Director of North Carolina Families United, the statewide chapter of the Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health. Other students have gone on to law school, to licensure in psychotherapy, and to doctoral programs at UNCG and across the country.

As the program has developed, especially as new faculty have joined in Women's and Gender Studies, the focus has expanded to include more academic training in feminist theory and performance and sexuality studies, a move that has sent more and more students in search of doctoral programs after leaving UNCG.

### Local Activist and Musician: Laila Nur

Laila Nur, originally a New Yorker, is a local Greensboro artist. She is a self-taught singer, songwriter, and guitarist. Raised Muslim and now openly Queer, she applies her life journey to her music which she coins Revolutionary Love Music. Her solo show will make you fall in love with her acoustic melodies, unique voice and noteworthy lyrics. She performs regularly in the Triad, and performed for the WGS open house last Fall. She was recently featured on NPR. To listen to Laila's music or to learn more about her work visit [www.WhoIsLailaNur.com](http://www.WhoIsLailaNur.com)



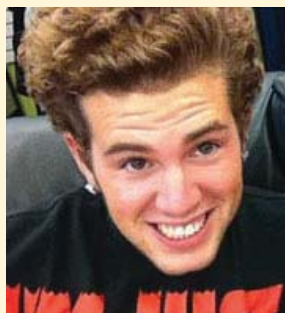


## Community Engagement: Projects by Undergraduates Jennifer Lutz and Wooten Gough



In her final year at UNCG, WGS intern **Jennifer Lutz** has undertaken a project that connects undergraduate students with the program. Throughout Fall 2013, she held meetings during which undergraduates provided feedback to the WGS Program and discussed plans for future events. Lutz found a common desire among people in the undergraduate program to have a strong WGS community and the means to make it happen.

After participating in immigrant rights organizations across the country, undergraduate **Wooten Gough** has brought his community organizing savvy to UNCG. Gough has accomplished much in a short amount of time. He founded El Cambio (<http://elcambio.webs.com/>) in 2010. According to its website, El Cambio is “a



grassroots organization based in Yadkin County dedicated and committed to the establishment of an immigrant and minorities’ rights movement in the state of North Carolina that upholds the values of education, justice, and equality for all people.” The organization began with only six people; by the first meeting, there were seventy-two. El Cambio strongly advocated for the DREAM Act and took a supportive stance for the LGBT community during the Amendment One vote. Gough plans to continue his work with undocumented communities at UNCG and in Greensboro at to research stories of queer identities among immigrant communities.

## Sarah Colonna Teaches *The Hunger Games*

During Fall 2012, Sarah Colonna taught WGS 250: Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies, focusing on the book and film phenomena *The Hunger Games*. Colonna is a graduate of the WGSMA program, doctoral student of Educational and Cultural Studies, and the official LGBTQ Advocacy and Outreach Coordinator on campus. She says of the course, “the book, enriched by scholarly articles, speeches, tumbler, blogs, and videos, provides a rich foundation through which to explore ideas important to women’s and gender studies like power, oppression, ‘isms, hunger, fashion, sex, and politics. By weaving them into *The Hunger Games*, I was able to catch people’s attention and connect strongly to the world around us.” This was the second time Colonna offered the course, and she was able to make some changes, especially adding discussions about fashion, gender, and class. She asked students to embody something about the book as part of a class that fell near Halloween. A costume contest was “an optional



Sarah Colonna

guerrilla assignment for students to connect seemingly disparate ideas about power, privilege, and fashion.” The students competed for titles including, “Most likely to be dressed by Cinna” and “Most likely a Capitol citizen,” and were judged by four WGS faculty members.

## Girls Inc and Equality NC Conferences Held at UNCG

Women’s and Gender Studies was proud to host the Girls Inc annual conference on Saturday, September 29, 2012. Girls Inc is a nonprofit organization dedicated to inspiring girls to be strong, smart, and bold. With a national status since 1945, Girls Inc helps women and young girls through research-based programs and public education efforts. To learn more about Girls Inc of Guilford County visit [www.girlsincgc.org](http://www.girlsincgc.org).

WGS hosted Equality NC Foundation’s sixth annual Equality Conference and Gala on Saturday, November 17, 2012, at UNCG. This statewide event brought LGBT North Carolinians and allies together for a day of cutting-edge policy discussions and activist skills training, followed by an evening gala at the Empire Room in downtown Greensboro. Visit [www.equalitync.org](http://www.equalitync.org) for more information.



## Love Your Body Week/ *Fatal Promises*

Women’s and Gender Studies sponsored UNCG’s Love Your Body Week during October 22-26, 2012. This included four separate events. The first event, *That’s What Activists Do*, was a presentation by Jill Moffett, PhD, about breast cancer activism. While breast cancer activism is often associated with “runs for the cure” and products with pink ribbons, activists more importantly engage in complex work that seeks to transform how cancer research is conducted and to overhaul the American healthcare system. The second event was a film showing of and discussion about *Southern Comfort*, a documentary about the life of Robert Eads, a 52-year-old female to male trans-identified human who struggled with ovarian cancer. WGS also sponsored an information table in the Elliot University Center on the last day of Love Your Body Week.

The most attended event was an October 24 showing of the documentary *Fatal Promises*, which discusses the very disturbing world of human trafficking. On this evening, WGS collaborated with the Departments of English and Political Science, The American Association of University Women (AAUW), and the Human Rights Film Series. A lively discussion with director Kat Rohrer and producer Anneliese Rohrer followed.

## WGS Salons

Women’s and Gender Studies Salons for the Fall 2012 semester were driven by the 2012 presidential election. Our bipartisan political conversations pertained to gender, sexuality, and women in politics. Deconstructing First Lady Michelle Obama with discussant Dr. Kathleen Smith from Wake Forest was our first salon of the year on October 4, 2012. Dr. Smith discussed what it means to be a “Good First Lady” from historical, social, and media driven standpoints. Our second WGS salon, held November 15, 2012, was entitled, *What Happens After the Election? Lift Every Voice...* with guest speaker Bishop Donagrat McCluney. McCluney is the North Carolina Field Organizer of Southerners on New Ground (SONG), a group whose mission is to “build a multi-issue southern justice movement that unites us across class, age, race, ability, gender, immigration status, and sexuality; a movement in which LGBTQ people – poor and working class, immigrant, people of color, rural – take our rightful place as leaders shaping our region’s legacy and future.” McCluney spoke about these intersecting identities and how they pertain to social justice and current politics.

## WGS at NWSA

Director Ann Dils, Program Administrator Isabell Moore, and MA alum and current Kinesiology PhD student Casey Buss attended Feminism Unbound: *Imagining a Feminist Future*, the National Women’s Studies Association (NWSA) conference in Oakland, CA from November 8-11. It was an exciting and busy week: they passed out hundreds of cards about the upcoming SEWSA conference, networked with other women’s studies faculty and staff, and attended panels of scholars presenting cutting edge work in women’s, gender, and sexuality studies. Casey Buss moderated a panel titled *Decolonizing Health and the Fat Body*, and presented as part of a roundtable titled *Expanding Landscapes of Coalition and Homeplaces: Activist and Academic Networks in the 21st Century*. Ann and Isabell attended panels on Southern Baptist feminists, prison abolition and feminisms, diversity initiatives within universities, feminist leadership in administering academic programs, internships, and service learning. The keynote speech by Patricia Hill Collin was especially thought-provoking; she spoke about intersectionality and creating social change. Next year’s NWSA conference *Negotiating Points of Encounter* will be held November 7-10, 2013 in Cincinnati, Ohio.