

WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES

2016 NEWSLETTER



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

My first year as director has been immensely rewarding, and I'm very proud of what we've accomplished, including updating the terms of cross-appointment to increase the scope of faculty participation in the program, launching a two-year fundraising campaign, creating a 100-level course to help students find WGS earlier in their college careers, and organizing a series of very well-attended events that have helped us make additional connections within and beyond the university. In addition, we now have more students enrolled than ever before.

We've also reached a milestone this year with Sarah Cervenak's achievement of tenure and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor. Dr. Cervenak has been a key part of the success of WGS over the past seven years, and her joint-appointment with African American and African Diaspora Studies has contributed to strengthening the relationship between the two programs.

At the end of this year, we'll be saying goodbye to Isabell Moore. As Program Administrator, she has been invaluable, not simply keeping everything on track but providing keen insight and advice that has helped us maintain focus on the program's core mission. We wish her immense success in her pursuit of a PhD in History at UNC Chapel Hill, and she will be sorely missed.

Finally, in light of recent events in the state and the nation, the importance of WGS to the public role and mission of the university has never been clearer. Our role in highlighting the dynamism of gender identity, exploring feminist analyses and organizing, and seeking to increase understanding of the dynamics of power and privilege in all their complexity is particularly critical at this moment in time.

Thanks to students, faculty, allies, and Friends for your continuing work to support and strengthen the program.

Sincerely,
Mark Rifkin



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OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The central focus of the Women's and Gender Studies Program is to explain how gender is produced within social institutions and how these institutions affect individual lives and to analyze the mutual constitution of gender, race, ethnicity, class, sexuality, nationality, and religion. The program addresses issues of neglect, omission, and bias in curricula while honing critical thinking skills vital to a liberal education. Faculty in Women's and Gender Studies are expected to further this vision through their teaching, research, and service.



New Cross-Appointment Procedures Aim to Increase Faculty Engagement with the WGS Program

In October 2015, the WGS Faculty voted to adopt new Procedures for WGS Cross-Appointment that encourages cross-appointed faculty to develop more of their own WGS courses and take on more leadership in committees and the administration of the program.

The policy change seeks to clarify the expectations for everyone involved in the program and to provide more support and recognition for faculty members' work in WGS from their home departments. The WGS program will benefit from more predictability and more cross-appointed faculty teaching WGS courses, rather than only courses in other programs and departments with WGS markers.

This new policy defines the terms of each faculty member's cross-appointment to Women's and Gender Studies through a Memorandum of Understanding between the head of the faculty member's tenure-home department/program and the director of WGS. Faculty members are cross-appointed for four year terms, and during that time, they take part in making decisions about the program (in terms of curriculum, hiring, and tenure/promotion), teach WGS courses, serve on program committees, and work with WGS MA students.

Our cross-appointed faculty members' widely varied areas of expertise in teaching and research complement and expand upon those of our wonderful standing faculty within WGS. This new approach to involving cross-appointed faculty with WGS and to connecting WGS to programs and departments across the university is sure to benefit both the WGS program and the wider UNCG community.

Thriving WGS Internship Program Expands

The WGS Program is expanding our internship program so that students have more opportunities to connect their academic coursework with "real world" experiences. To further this goal, we have also added a new faculty Internship Coordinator position, which will be filled by Dr. Lisa Levenstein beginning in Fall of 2016. Dr. Levenstein is "excited to work closely with internship students to help them think critically about how social change happens."

Internships are semester-long, supervised placements in a variety of settings, usually local agencies or businesses, where students learn and apply practical skills while contributing to the agency's ongoing efforts. An internship can be a valuable and rewarding experience that can help focus or refine career goals. (Continued on pg. 3)



(Continued from pg. 2) WGS Internships must be planned and requested at least one semester prior to the placement. Planning includes identifying a potential placement, making the initial contact/inquiries, and consulting with the WGS Internship Coordinator.

Mark Rifkin, Director of the WGS program, explained "We're very excited to have this new position. It will help bring to the undergraduate internship experience the intellectual rigor, ethical questions, and more robust connections to coursework that Dr. Levenstein has so successfully implemented for internships at the graduate level. Also, having an Internship Coordinator will enable a better integration of undergraduate and graduate internships within the pedagogical and program aims of WGS as a whole."

For more information, contact the WGS Program Administrator at wgs@uncg.edu or Lisa Levenstein at l_levens@uncg.edu



MEET OUR INTERNS



Savannah Behrent

Placement: Durham Jail Investigation Team
Internship Project: Workshop Development and Outreach



Savannah is currently finishing her Master's Degree in the WGS Program. Her academic interests include post-9/11 humanism, postcolonial theory, and critical race theory, among many others. She is currently interning with the Durham Jail Investigation Team, an organization made up of concerned Durham community members seeking to lead a community investigation of the Durham Jail where a host of human rights abuses have taken place. Her work with the organization includes creating and delivering workshops to present to community organizations in hopes that they will publicly support the Durham Jail Investigation Team's efforts. The goal of this project has been to get members of these organizations to endorse our public statement and to assign a contact person to begin cultivating a relationship so that the DJI team can count on community members to come out to actions and demonstrations. Savannah writes "I have learned a tremendous amount during my internship, especially the importance and power of grassroots organizing and resisting professionalization in activist spaces." In her increasingly limited free time, she enjoys watching Shark Tank with her partner and making delicious baked goods, which her partner never eats.



Brianna Taylor

Placement: The Dance Project
Internship Project: Outreach Coordinator

Brianna is currently pursuing a Certificate in Women's and Gender Studies at UNCG, is an adjunct professor of dance and yoga at UNCG, Elon University, and Salem College, and teaches yoga at various studios in the Greensboro community. Brianna's internship is through the Dance Project, but her focus is on connecting with community organizations to hopefully facilitate movement workshops in these settings. Through the project she is also working with the Sherri Denese Jackson Foundation for the prevention of Domestic Violence, the Interactive Resource Center, and the Creative Aging Network of North Carolina. Brianna is passionate about sharing movement experiences with individuals outside of the professional dance realm, and believes wholeheartedly in the power of movement to bring positive change and empowerment. She believes that creative movement and expression has the potential to build self-esteem and self-actualization through positive embodiment and creative choice making, along with a greater feeling of overall health and well-being.

MEET OUR INTERNS



Sibyl Kemp

Placement: YWCA

Internship

Project: Organizer of "Stand Against Racism" Event

Sibyl is a double major in Women's and Gender Studies and Communication studies, and is graduating in May 2016. She is currently interning at the YWCA and has primarily been attending, observing, and participating in their after school programs like Young Women in Charge, YWORLD, and Making Proud Choices, which is their sexual health education sessions for high school and middle school students. Largely, her role has been to assist in organizing and promoting their Stand Against Racism event, which will take place on Friday, April 29th from 5-7 p.m. and involves a human chain down Wendover Avenue, as well as games, activities and prizes to follow. This purpose of this event is to help incorporate Stand Against Racism with existing program curriculum, and doing community outreach to get more of Greensboro involved in the event.

Melanie Pringle

Placement: Planned Parenthood South Atlantic (Greensboro)

Internship Project: Resource Generation and Community Outreach



Melanie Pringle is a pescatarian, animal-lover, singer, runner, and supporter of feminist causes.

She is currently finishing her MA in Women's and Gender Studies at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and plans to graduate in May 2016. She has been the Graduate Assistant for the Center for Women's Health and Wellness for three years and helped to plan and facilitate the BFIC for each of those years, which she says has been "a formative experience." She is currently an intern with the Director of Philanthropy at Planned Parenthood in Greensboro, where she has been reaching out to past donors and potential donors to remind them that their contributions to the reproductive health movement are important and necessary. Likewise, she has been involved in helping to organize volunteer groups (also called "Community Councils") in an effort to generate greater youth involvement in the reproductive health movement. Melanie writes that she is "looking forward to a lifetime of work in reproductive justice and women's reproductive health."

OUR STUDENTS



Thinking critically.
Understanding power and
privilege.
Imagining social change.
Creating a more livable
world.

This is what we do.

NEW MA STUDENTS



Taylor Chapman

received her B.A. in both Women's and Gender Studies and English from UNCG in May 2015. Although immediately heading to graduate school has been daunting at times, she feels both thankful and excited to be in a program that so closely aligns with her feminist politics and praxis. Taylor is especially interested in finding ways to translate feminist theory into real-world

action, and she is currently involved with community organizing around the empowerment of girls, women, and their families. Her research interests include body politics, fat politics & fat positivity, class theory, and women of color feminisms. In her spare time, Taylor loves to write, attempt Pinterest tutorials, and watch re-runs of Criminal Minds. She blogs about feminism and her personal life, and is passionate about using the Internet and social media as tools for social change. She loves thunderstorms, and says that to describe her collection of lipstick as "excessive" would be an understatement at best.



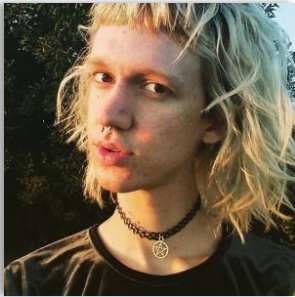
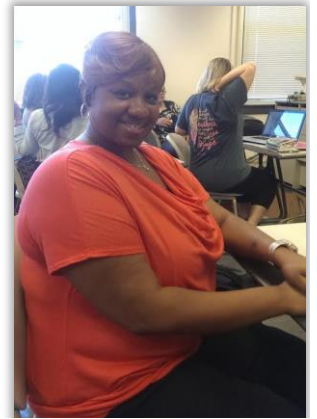
Tabitha Machia

received a B.S. in Public Health Education with a minor in Sociology in 2013. After graduation she jumped into the role of full time mom before returning to graduate school.

Her research interests include globalizing birth politics, women's health, body empowerment, community building, ecofeminism and transnational feminism. She has been involved with various health literacy and health education projects in the local refugee population and seeks to continue working with diverse communities. In addition to motherhood and school, she also makes time for roller derby where she skates on the all-star travel team, is captain for her home team and helps train new recruits of women to conquer their fears and find their strengths. Roller derby has taught her about building a community that empowers women to own their bodies, take up space, to fight and stop apologizing for being strong.

Undergraduate and Alumni Profiles

Nekia Whitaker is currently pursuing her second bachelor's degree in Women's and Gender Studies after taking a break from academia to pursue her passions within the realm of mental health. When asked how WGS will benefit her career Nekia said, "A WGS degree will pull everything I have experienced together. It has definitely allowed me to draw connections between the mental health sector and its entrance into the realms of race, class, and gender." Nekia also said "I consider myself more well-rounded and aware because of WGS. I am forever thankful to WGS for helping me to break barriers and create conversations within my own spaces."



Avery Everhart graduated from the Women's and Gender Studies program in 2014.

She was awarded the Student Excellence award and the WGS Sally Cone Major Scholarship in 2013. After graduating, Avery was accepted into the Master's program in Gender Studies at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario in Canada.

She says that she would "definitely recommend other students major or minor in WGS, or at the very least take a WGS cross-listed course."

She goes on to say "[What's important about WGS] isn't simply learning about gender or even the category women. It also isn't even just about the mainstream cisgender white feminist methods of engaging with questions of women's issues or gender-based oppression. The program is also deeply engaged in how our world is shaped by simultaneous and interlocking systems of oppression and privilege vis-a-vis race, sexuality, class, ability and geography in ways that many people feel and know, but that they may not be able to put into words. WGS gives you those tools and the language to put words to a lot of people's experiences who might otherwise continue to consider them "simply the way things are."



Sika Wheeler graduated with a Women's and Gender Studies minor in 2012. Directly after graduation, she began working with Planned Parenthood in the Greensboro/North Carolina area during the presidential election season. After that, she worked for two years at a news station before leaving NC for graduate school at Penn State University. Sika is currently in the second year of her master's program in the College of Communications with a graduate minor in Women's Studies. Her research deals with celebrity culture, the intersections of race and gender, and online communities.

When asked how WGS helped prepare her for "the real world" she answered:

"The number one thing is the amount of writing and discussion I had to do in my WGS minor at UNCG gave me a huge advantage for graduate school in particular. Without it, I would have done mostly film production in undergrad and it would have been a huge shock to deal with the amount of work in grad school. Also, I think we underestimate how important it is to develop who you are as just a human being when you're entering the "real world." WGS classes were instrumental for allowing me to work through and understand aspects of my identity that I maybe would not have thought about from a broad perspective before. That has been hugely helpful in terms of confidence, being able to deal with conflict/discrimination in the settings I'm in, and the ability to explain myself to people from different backgrounds than me. My interest is in social justice and media so it seems to be a very natural fit in terms of developing skill sets but I think the WGS program is a huge benefit to anyone that takes even one class; it's something that I take for granted, but those discussions we had in classes and the classmates I interacted with were some of the most important ones in terms of understanding myself as a dynamic person."



OUR FACULTY

INTRODUCTIONS



Get to Know Dr. Elizabeth Keathley, WGS Director of Graduate Studies

Elizabeth L. Keathley, Associate Professor of Historical Musicology and WGS, is a native of California and earned her MA and PhD in Music, as well as an Advanced Certificate in Women's Studies from Stony Brook University in New York. Dr. Keathley was appointed the Director of Graduate Studies in WGS in fall 2016. We are so excited to welcome Dr. Keathley and look forward to working with her!



Welcome, Dr. Michelle Powell

Dr. Powell is an alumni of UNCG and recently joined the WGS program as a Lecturer after having taught at Indiana University. Dr. Powell hopes that the WGS program remains strong in light of budget cuts and recent legislation affecting LGBTQ+ rights. As a professor, Dr. Powell enjoys interacting with her students and in her free time enjoys spending time with her cats.

FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Dr. Danielle Bouchard Approved for Research Assignment

Dr. Danielle Bouchard, Associate Professor in WGS, received an internal UNCG research assignment which will allow her to take a research leave from UNCG during Spring 2016. She will be using the grant and time off to continue work on her monograph *Ruins of the Human: Humanitarianism and Visual Cultures of Destruction*. In it, she seeks to understand the way hegemonic humanitarian discourses define the “human” in ways that assume the absence and death of people of color. Dr. Bouchard is extremely excited to have time to fully devote herself to this research and to continue exploring important questions about the ways humanitarianism is implicated in the ongoing histories of imperialism and colonialism.



Congratulations, Dr. Sarah Cervenak

Dr. Sarah Cervenak, Assistant Professor in WGS and African American and African Diaspora Studies, received the “Humanities Futures” grant from the Franklin Humanities Institute (FHI) housed at Duke University. Dr. Cervenak won this prize along with her colleague Dr. J. Kameron Carter, Associate Professor of Theology and Black Church Studies at Duke Divinity School. The prize will fund a series of talks throughout the 2016-2017 academic year titled “The Black Outdoors: Humanities Futures After Property and Possession,” and will feature scholars and authors at FHI on the topic of “the intersections of race, sexuality, self-possession and legitimate American personhood and citizenship.” Drs. Cervenak and Carter found that the theme of self-possession as an idealized political goal was coming up in both of their new works, and were inspired to propose the series which will produce a “white paper” on “Humanities Futures After Property and Possession.” They believe that their collaborative paper will benefit from the seminar conversations, working groups, and roundtable conversations made possible by receiving this prestigious award.



A Selection of Recent WGS Cross-Appointed Faculty

Publications and Honors



Risa Applegarth - Department of English

Received UNCG's 2016 Mary Settle Sharp Award for Teaching Excellence, UNCG's 2016 College of Arts and Sciences Senior Teaching Excellence Award, and the Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC)'s 2016 Outstanding Book Award for her book *Rhetoric in American Anthropology: Gender, Genre, and Science* (Pittsburgh 2014).



Elizabeth Keathley - Director of Graduate Studies, Women's and Gender Studies and School of Music

Received a Faculty First grant, with which she completed the translations of the correspondence between music patron Alma Mahler and modernist composer Arnold Schoenberg for a book forthcoming from Oxford University Press.

Keathley also gave papers from her research on female performers of early 20th-century modernist music at conferences in London (Music in Paris 1900–1950), Madison, Wisconsin (Feminist Theory and Music 13), Washington D.C. (German Studies Association), Vienna (Arnold Schoenberg Center), and Columbia, South Carolina (USC Music Colloquium Series), culminating in her Work-in-Process talk for WGS. The research was funded in part by an earlier Linda Arnold Carlisle research award and an NEH fellowship, and it will be part of her book on the ways that women librettists, performers, patrons, and writers shaped musical modernism in the early 20th century.



Mark Rifkin - Director, Women's and Gender Studies and Department of English

Rifkin's book *Beyond Settler Time: Temporal Sovereignty and Indigenous Self-Determination* (forthcoming for January 2017) has been accepted for Duke University Press publication.



Derek Krueger - Department of Religious Studies

Krueger received fellowships from the Israel Institute for Advanced Studies and the European Institutes for Advanced Study (EURIAS) and has been on leave in Jerusalem this year. He co-directed a project on "The Poetics of Christian Performance: Prayer, Liturgy, and their Environments in East and West (5th to 11th Century)." Recent scholarly essay topics include *Of Semen and Tears: Senses, Substances, and the Boundaries of the Body in the Gnostic Chapters of Niketas Stethatos*, *Beyond Eden: Placing Adam, Eve, and Humanity in Byzantine Hymns*, and *Scripture and Liturgy in the Life of Mary of Egypt*.

A Selection of Recent WGS Cross-Appointed Faculty

Publications and Honors



Susanne Rinner - Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

Rinner will be on research leave during the 2016-2017 school year in order to complete a book-length study with the title *Heroic Rebels: Representations of Radical Identities in Contemporary German Culture*.

Emily Edwards - Media Studies

Edwards received the screenwriting award from University Film and Video Association for her fanciful script and animation storyboard, *A Bite*, in which a young woman combats sexual harassment in a whimsical way.

Edward's forthcoming book *Bars, Blues and Booze: Stories from the Drink House* includes some stories that focus on gender, in particular one on Michele Seidman's work with Women in Blues, which supports female musicians in a male dominated music genre. The book is forthcoming May 1, 2016 from University Press of Mississippi.



Anne Parsons - History

Parsons received a Soros Justice Media Fellowship and during that time worked on her book *From Asylum to Prison: Deinstitutionalization and the Rise of Incarceration*. She is also working with graduate students to bring the exhibit *States of Incarceration* to the International Civil Rights Center and Museum from November 8-December 15, 2016.

Wishing **Isabell Moore** the Best for her Future



Isabell Moore has served as the WGS Program Administrator for the past 4 years and is moving on from WGS to pursue her PhD in History at UNC Chapel Hill in August. Everyone at WGS is deeply sad to see her go. She won the College of Arts and Sciences Staff Excellence Award in April of this year for her outstanding service to WGS. Isabell ushered WGS through several difficult transitions while meeting the needs of the WGS faculty and students and continuing to produce outstanding work. Mark Rifkin, Director of WGS, wrote this about Isabell in his letter recommending her for the Staff Excellence Award:

"Not only has she managed the program and the office with immense diligence and grace, it would not be an exaggeration to say that she is the soul of the program. Having received an MA in WGS prior to becoming a staff member, Isabell is well-versed in the intellectual, political, and ethical questions and commitments at play in doing work in Women's and Gender Studies, and she brings all of that knowledge, compassion, rigor, and principled engagement to bear every single day.

Her influences on the program are both numerous and difficult to enumerate due to the ways her intelligence and influence are woven into so many aspects of the program. Her many contributions and innovations include the following:

- creating criteria and processes for sponsoring and organizing co-curricular programming in order to have those events convey a clear sense of the program's aims and for them to play a clear role in helping develop and strengthen the program;
- overseeing the undergraduate internships in order to pair students with local groups, using her extensive local connections with advocacy and other organizations to help place students and to guide them to experiences that will be the most educationally fulfilling;
- helping develop socially-responsible internship practices (that neither simply exploit student labor nor presume the university is a space on-high rewarding organizations with its beneficence);
- not simply overseeing the student workers (undergraduate and graduate) but facilitating them playing a central role in WGS programming and developing their own WGS-related media projects;
- serving as a liaison to the Friends of WGS, an alumni and supporter group that keeps WGS in contact with the community;
- changing the funding process for WGS-awarded student scholarships so that students with fewer means would not be expected to pay out-of-pocket for scholarship-related expenses.

Isabell continually keeps us focused on what matters – maneuvering through the minutiae and the distractions so that we're not just putting out fires or trying to keep on keepin' on, but rather are working toward the intellectual and political goals that animate the work of Women's and Gender Studies as an interdiscipline.

In all these ways, Isabell's work in the program has been above and beyond, and I strongly believe that she deserves an award for her excellence."

We wish her luck on her next great adventure. We can't wait to see her succeed in earning her PhD and making her mark on the world!

WGS EVENTS



3rd Annual Research Symposium

This year the WGS program held *Assemblages: Anti-Oppression Works* on Saturday, February 27th in the EUC. The symposium explored systems of oppression and methods for responding to them. Presentations examined the relationships among various kinds of identity (such as race, sexuality, gender, class, and ability), considering the complex ways they intersect and the power dynamics at play in those processes. Some of the social spaces addressed included education, the prison industrial complex, the mental health industry, activism, and more.

The event was organized by WGS Graduate Assistants Savannah Behrent and Taylor Chapman. In addition to students and staff from UNCG, we had presenters from NC State, Central, and activists from the Durham Jail Investigation team who all gave presentations that offered valuable contributions in considering the scope, character, difficulties, and possibilities of anti-oppression work. The day featured a host of important interventions regarding various different forms of oppression and how we might work to dismantle privilege and marginalization, including those in virtual spaces, through performance, knowledge production, museum exhibits, and more. In coming together as a group of scholars, activists, and artists committed to anti-oppression work, presenters and attendees created a space building community through academic discussion and performance.

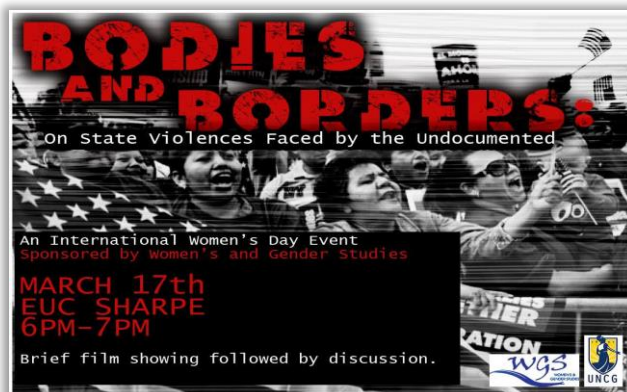
The co-organizers were hopeful that in trying to bring together as much of the community outside of UNCG as possible, we would make connections with people who are also invested in resisting oppression and begin to build community and solidarity alongside them. Overall, the event was quite well attended, and WGS is very excited about the work that *Assemblages* has already accomplished and continues to make possible by sparking difficult yet necessary conversations.



International Women's Day

Bodies and Borders Event for International Women's Day Sparks Conversation

On March 17th, 2016, the Women's and Gender Studies program hosted an event that complicated conventional ideas about the purpose International Women's Day. After watching the film, *Señorita Extraviada*, event facilitators and WGS majors Haillee Mason and Jasmine Harcum urged the community members, UNCG students, and faculty members present to question how Western nations create conditions in developing countries that economically exploit women, putting them in physical and sexual danger. Students in International and Global Studies and Peace and Conflict Studies raised questions about how the rhetoric of war and terrorism is used when discussing undocumented Mexican people's migration to America. Attendees learned that Mexican women are abused at the border by government officials and that they are often left to fend for themselves because they are invisible to the law. The Women's and Gender Studies program is grateful of all of those who came to explore these important and often undiscussed topics with us!



Equal Pay Day Bake Sale

WGS Hosts an Equal Pay Day Bake Sale to Highlight Wage Inequities

On Wednesday, April 13th, 2016, WGS students organized an Equal Pay Day Bake Sale in recognition of this year's Equal Pay Day national awareness day. The date symbolizes how far into the year women must work to earn what men earned in the previous year.

WGS student workers Haillee Mason and Jasmine Harcum, as well as volunteer WGS majors and minors, tabled in the Elliot University Center atrium. Customers paid prices that reflected their own self-identified wage gap demographic for an assortment of sweet treats. The "bake sale" draws on statistics about differences in pay while creating a performance art inversion to draw attention to this form of inequality. Participants wrote on a poster board and on feedback forms to explore how they felt about the inequitable charges, mirroring the reality of unequal wages based on race, gender, ability, and sexuality. While in everyday life it may seem like everyone pays the same price for a given good or service, the fact of uneven pay based on people's identities mean that the effective cost of things (in terms of people's actually purchasing power) varies greatly. (continued on pg. 12)

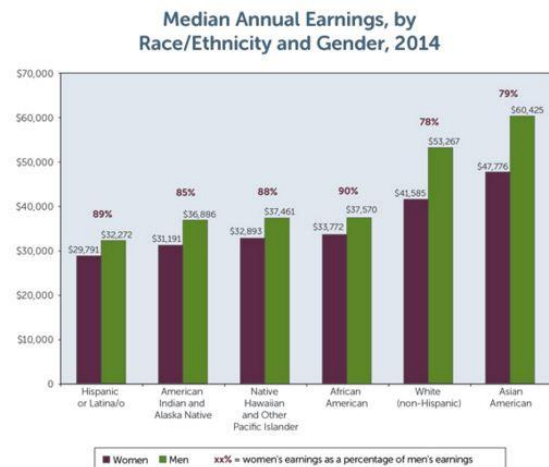
Equal Pay Day Bake Sale

Participants also explored how labor statistics are gathered, what demographic groups were not represented, and how these wage issues relate to transgender, queer, and disabled people.

The National Committee on Pay Equity (NCPE) initiated Equal Pay Day in 1996 as a public awareness event to illustrate the gap between men's and women's wages. In addition to bringing light to the disparity in wages between cisgender women and cisgender men, organizers of the event at UNCG included statistics that considered racial disparities and labor issues impacting disabled, trans*, and lesbian, gay, and bisexual people.

For example, event participants learned that after controlling for factors like education levels, transwomen make, on average, 32% less after transition. Transmen, on the other hand, earn an average of 1.5% more (Catherine Price, 2008). Gay men earn 10-32% less than straight men with similar productive capacities. On average, lesbian and bisexual women earn equitable or sometimes more wages than straight women, yet they still earn significantly less than both gay and straight men (Joshua Garcia, 2012).

The bake sale event was a success and was well attended by faculty, staff and students at UNCG, as well as some community members. Participants reported that they learned about the wage disparities between cisgender men and cisgender women and also were able to question how race, ability, and nonbinary gender identities relate to wage disparities and labor issues. According to one of the students, it felt awkward to be charged differently based on their race and gender, but they were glad to have attention focused on the issue. Another student says, "it is very disheartening that race and gender - rather than job qualifications - are privileged in the job recruitment process. Individuals are so much more than their race and gender and it is irritating that this kind of discrimination exists in the workforce." The bake sale is projected to return next spring with the help of feedback received from participants!



Note: Based on median annual earnings of full-time, year-round workers, ages 16 and older

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Sarah Deer Lecture on "Sovereignty of the Soul: Native American Women and Sexual Violence"



Sarah Deer, legal scholar, advocate, and MacArthur Fellow visited UNCG on March 22, 2016. During her visit, she gave a talk titled "Sovereignty of the Soul: Native American Women and Sexual Violence" in which she discussed the history of violences that Native American peoples have been subjected to as a result of white supremacy and settler colonialism. She observed that sexual violence is not inherent to Native American cultures, but rather has been introduced through the ongoing colonial occupation of Native lands and assertion of authority over Native nations. She further noted that sexual violence committed against Native peoples is most often perpetrated by whites and other non-natives. Mark Rifkin, the Director of the Women's and Gender Studies Program, described her visit as "an incredibly important moment for educating UNCG faculty, students, and staff about the circumstances faced by Native women and Native nations and for building relationships between WGS and local Native people."

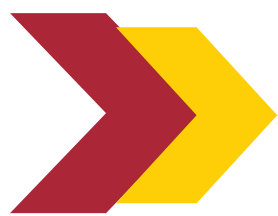
Professor Deer was formally welcomed and presented gifts by Native people from the area, including Nora Dial-Stanley, an enrolled member of the Lumbee Nation who advises the Native American Student Association, and Vivette Jeffries-Logan of the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation.

During her lecture, Professor Deer talked about how she leverages her deep understanding of tribal and federal law to develop policies and legislation that empower tribal nations to protect Native American women from the pervasive problem of sexual and domestic violence.

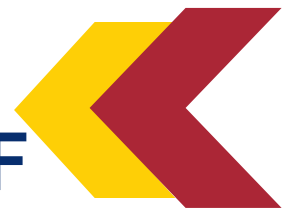
Professor Sarah Deer's advocacy for victims of crime has been instrumental in reforming federal law to protect Native women from sexual violence by empowering tribal nations and developing coalitions to improve federal and tribal cooperation. She closed her lecture by saying that she hoped her talk would move audience members to join the movement to advocate for the prevention of sexual assault against Native American people.

This event was very well attended and was co-sponsored by [the Office of Intercultural Engagement](#) and [Sexual Violence Campus Advocacy](#).

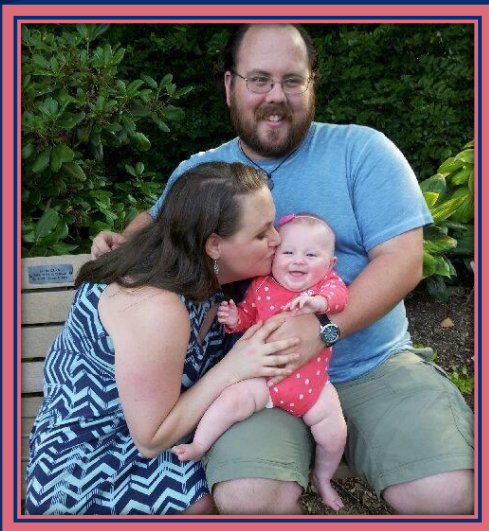




2015-2016 WGS OFFICE STAFF



Congratulations and Good Luck, Sarah Hamrick!



Starting in January 2015, Women's & Gender Studies temporarily turned the Program Administrator position into a job-share with duties fulfilled by two part-time employees. We were incredibly lucky to convince Sarah Hamrick to return to the WGS office after Isabell Moore's first job-share partner, Sadie Kniedel, moved to the mountains for a position at the Arthur Morgan School. Sarah and Isabell have shared program administration responsibilities since August 2015.

Sarah graduated from UNCG as a Women's and Gender Studies and English major in 2009. While an undergraduate, she worked in the WGS office and was the recipient of the Sally and Alan Cone Course Scholarship and the WGS Major Scholarship. After graduating, she spent five years as the Program Manager for the College of Arts and Sciences Advising (CASA) Office at UNCG. Sarah is an active volunteer who has skated in and planned events for the local Roller Derby league, served as a mentor for the UNCG Guarantee program, and currently works with young children in the foster care system through the Guardian Ad Litem program.

During the 2015-2016 academic year, Sarah contributed immensely to WGS. Her knowledge of undergraduate advising informed the development of a new undergraduate course and curriculum changes. Her experience with UNCG's myriad administrative systems allowed her to hit the ground running. Sarah's good humor has made the WGS offices more light-hearted and fun even during crunch times!

Beginning in Fall 2016, Sarah will pursue a Master's degree in Social Work in order to become a therapist who specializes in postpartum mental health and trauma. After much deliberation, she declined a spot in UNC's MSW program so she could focus on clinical practice through UNCG and NC A&T's joint MSW program.

Women's & Gender Studies will miss Sarah, but we are so glad she will continue to be part of the UNCG community! WGS Director Mark Rifkin says, "Sarah has been such a wonderful presence in the program. Her dedication and excellence has allowed us to do all the things we've done this year, and she will be sorely missed."

2015-2016 WGS STUDENT STAFF

**Savannah
Behrent**



**Taylor
Chapman**



**Jasmine
Harcum**



**Haillee
Mason**



STUDENT STAFF

Our WGS Student Staff is made up of Graduate and Undergraduate students who are especially passionate about Women's and Gender Studies. Our student workers have a multi-faceted role when it comes to the WGS program, from planning and staffing events, getting students more involved with WGS in and outside of the classroom, promoting the program via our website and social media, assisting WGS faculty, and more. Our student workers bring us the unique perspective of helping to shape the program inside the office, and being shaped by the program inside their classes.

You can read about each of our student workers on our website here:

<https://wgs.uncg.edu/people/student-staff/>

Thinking critically.
Understanding power and privilege.
Imagining social change.
Creating a more livable world.
This is what we do.



INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES

The Women's and Gender Studies program started a fundraising campaign, and we need your help!

In light of recent attacks on WGS programs, gender-nonconforming people, and sexual minorities across the state, we know that fundraising to strengthen our program is crucial. The challenges that programs have faced include the demotion of NC State University's WGS program, public statements made by our current governor presenting gender studies education as frivolous and undeserving of state funds, and the passage of the deeply harmful HB2 bill.

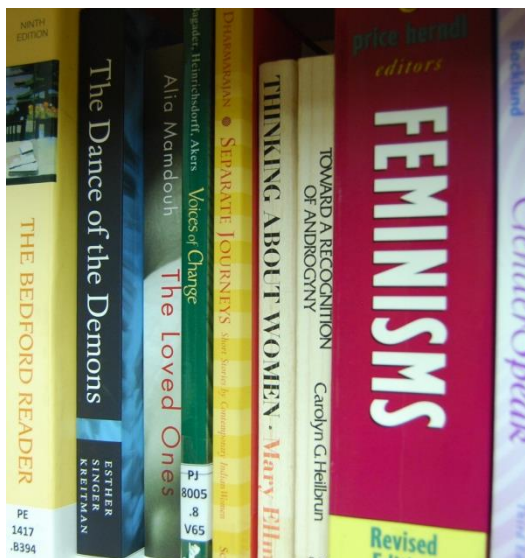
Your contribution would go toward having cross-appointed professors teaching more core courses, which would allow tenure-line faculty within WGS the time they need to create the new, innovative courses that are essential to a strong and vibrant program. Many courses taught by cross-appointed faculty involve fees paid back to home departments, which means that increased involvement on the part of these professors requires increased funds.

We have also been told by a number of prospective WGS master's students that they would love to enroll in our program, but that it isn't feasible without the type of support that other programs offer. We currently have only two graduate assistantships to offer, meaning that our program continually loses qualified and enthusiastic students.

We are so excited for the opportunity to get community members involved in helping us to strengthen the WGS program. We are hoping to raise \$20,000 by April 30, 2017. If you would like to give, please refer to the directions below:

Go to this link: <https://goo.gl/HBvGPI>

Simply enter your preferred pledge in the "Women's & Gender Studies Enrichment Fund" box. To divide your gift into monthly, quarterly, yearly, or twice yearly payments, check "I would like to make a pledge with scheduled payments."



Become a Friend of WGS!

By contributing you will be invited to our programs and events, and be supporting one of the oldest WGS programs in the country.

Visit WGS.uncg.edu for more information.

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 for more information

UNCG



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Women's and Gender Studies

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