Dear Colleagues,

During the 2010-2011 academic year, WGS Director Wanda Balzano was on parental leave during the fall semester and on research leave in the spring. Anne Boyle, Mary DeShazer and David Phillips shared the responsibility for directing WGS in the fall, and I had the distinct pleasure to serve as interim director in the spring.

Working in this position has given me a more immediate and an even stronger sense of the energy of WGS faculty and associates, students and staff, as well as of the vital importance of Women’s and Gender Studies for Wake Forest. Looking over the annual report for the year, I wanted to share with you some of the highlights in teaching and program planning.

Window on Women’s and Gender Studies and RAD: Rape Aggression Defense for Women continue to be extremely well-subscribed and much appreciated by our students. Due to student demand, RAD instructors added four sections each semester in 2010-11. Sherri Clark served a second year as a jointly-appointed Teacher-Scholar Postdoctoral Fellow in WGS and the American Ethnic Studies Program. In addition to teaching a research seminar on the topic of women and the American Ethnic Studies Program, in addition to teaching a research seminar on the relationship between femininity and feminism. This article discusses, based on the focus groups I held, how we can define feminism in a multicultural way.

Would you call yourself a feminist? When the word ‘feminism’ was brought up during my focus group interviews, often the atmosphere changed almost immediately. Laughter and yelling were in many cases an important part of the response. Some women instantly confirmed they were feminists, others opposed to using the term. Especially the different interpretations of feminism and emancipation were important to many women in the focus groups. In the focus group with Al Nisa for example, there was a discussion about calling yourself a feminist or not. All the women in the study identified as feminist.

(For my Ph.D. dissertation on feminism and multiculturalism, I analysed various discourses in the Netherlands on the relationship between these concepts. I investigated both the discussions in the media and the debates among women involved in grass-roots organizations. The background of my project is the growing amount of statements, both in academia and in popular debates, about the so-called tensions between multiculturalism and feminism. This article discusses, based on the focus groups I held, how we can define feminism in a multicultural way.)

Feminism (Continued on page 4)

Academic Consultants Report on Their Visit to Women’s and Gender Studies at Wake Forest University

Dr. Jill M. Bystydzienski (Humanities, Ohio State University)
Dr. Frances Smith Foster (Emory University)

Site Visit: October 13-15, 2010

The State of U.S. Women’s and Gender Studies Programs

As an academic field, Women’s Studies has developed dramatically since its founding in the 1970s. It is especially impressive that a large number of universities have fully developed major or minor undergraduate programs and graduate curricula. According to the National Women’s Studies Association (NWSA) there are more than 900 women’s and gender studies programs at community colleges, colleges, and universities in the United States. As of 2007, 44% of all WGS programs offered a free standing major and 86% offered the minor (NORC 2007). Moreover, about 50% of all programs offer graduate curricula; most of these have a graduate minor or certificate, but more than 100 offer a Master’s degree. While the Ph.D. in Women’s Studies began almost twenty years ago, within the past decade the number has increased to 15 doctoral programs and more in process. The phenomenon of WGS departments also is a growing national trend, with more than 20% of all WGS units currently holding department status.

(Continued on page 5)

Towards a More Inclusive Feminism

Eva Midden

Getting to Know Dr. Ayla Samli

Kristin Thorkelson ’11

It has been evident early in my discussion with Professor Ayla Samli that she is passionate about sharing her knowledge of gender studies with students. As a student in her Gender and Islam course in the spring of 2011, I was delighted to be asked to interview Dr. Samli and write an article for the WGS newsletter. Ayla Samli spent her undergraduate years at New College of Florida, an honors college, where she studied British and American Literature as well as Gender Studies. After her undergraduate studies, Professor Samli earned a Master’s degree and a Ph.D. in

Ayla Samli (Continued on page 7)

Angela Mazaris has been selected to establish a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Questioning (LGBTQ) Center on the Reynolda Campus. Mazaris, who holds a Ph.D. in American Civilization from Brown University, will be responsible for establishing the center as a source of educational programming, support and advocacy for the entire campus community. Wake Forest joins its peer institutions among top-25 colleges and

LGBTQ Center (Continued on page 11)
Ana León-Távora (Romance Languages) developed a new independent study course for spring 2011, SPN 397: Latin American Writers and the Process of Transculturation. She has just accepted a tenure-track position at Salem College. Congratulations, Ana!

Robin Simon (Sociology) presented a paper, “Are the Emotional Benefits of Marriage Greater, Fewer, or the Same for Physically Limited and Non-Limited Adults?” at the XII International Conference on Social Street Research, Portsmouth, NH (November 2010). She presented “The Relationship Between Menopause and Emotional Well-Being: Explanations, Patterns and Variations” at the Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association (ASA) in Atlanta, GA (August 2010), and at a mini-conference on Gender and Health at Columbia University, NY (July 2010). Professor Simon also presented “Non-Marital Romantic Relationships and Mental Health in Early Adulthood: Does the Association Differ for Women and Men?” at Duke University in February 2010, at the University of Georgia- Athens in September 2010, and Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH, in November 2010. Articles published were Simon, Robin W. and Kathryn J. Lively. “Sex, Anger, and Depression.” Social Forces 88: 2010. 1543-1568, and Simon, Robin W. and Anne Barrett. “Non-Marital Romantic Relationships and Mental Health in Early Adulthood: Does the Association Differ for Women and Men?” Journal of Health and Social Behavior 51: 2010. 168-182. Professor Simon will receive the ASA’s award for the best paper on mental health at the 2011 national meeting for her “Sex, Anger, and Depression” essay. Professor Simon has developed a new sociology seminar for spring 2012: The Individual and Society. She received a National Science Foundation Grant (Collaborative project with PI Jennifer Glass), for: “A Comparative Analysis of the Impact of Children on Parents’ Well-Being” ($103,000), 2010-2011. She was also inducted into the Sociological Research Association in 2010.


Shannon Gilreath (Law School) has a new book that will be published in October 2011, The End of Straight Supremacy: Realizing Gay Liberation (Cambridge University Press).

Simone M. Caron (History) attended the Social Science History Association Conference in Chicago, IL, in November 2010, where she presented “Unwed Mothers and Abortion, 1960-1974: The Case of the Sophia Little Home.” She also attended the Southern Association for the History of Medicine Conference in Rhode Island, March 2011, where she presented “Illegitimacy and Abortion in Rhode Island, 1960-1974.”

In June 2011, Sarah Barbour (Romance Languages/WGS) was invited to serve as panel moderator (“Historical Trauma and the Literary Imagination: Marie Vieux-Chauvet, Margaret Cezair-Thompson, Edwidge Danticat”) at the 5th International Conference on Caribbean Women Writers, “Comparative Critical Conversations,” organized by the Centre for Caribbean Studies at Goldsmiths College, University of London. She was also co-convenor of the first of four conferences on Diasporas and Cultures of Migration that took place at Université Paul Valéry 3, Montpellier, France. Her review of Myriam J. A. Chancy’s latest novel, The Loneliness of Angels, appeared in The Caribbean Writer, Vol. 25 (July 2011), University of the Virgin Islands.


Faculty and Staff Congratulations (Continued on page 7)
Celebrating Our Graduating WGS Minors

On Thursday, April 28, 2011, faculty, students, staff, family, and friends gathered in the Autumn Room of Reynolda Hall for dinner and to celebrate WGS minors graduating in May. Dr. Sally Barbour (Acting Director of WGS for Spring 2011) welcomed everyone and made opening remarks. She was followed by Shelley Graves Szemore (Coordinator of the Campus Kitchen and Co-Chair of WGS Campus Connections Committee) who introduced the nine graduating minors. The students talked about their experiences at Wake Forest and in Women’s and Gender Studies.

Cate Berenato - “Building Bridges at Home and Abroad”
Bianca Faison - “My Internship at Crisis Control Ministry”
Ashley Gedraitis - “Adrienne Rich’s Concept of Compulsory Heterosexuality in Jane Austen’s Emma”
Katie Koone - “How WGS Classes Impacted My Internship at The Rawlings Law Firm”
Hope Nardini - “My Richter Scholarship Project: Refugee Policy in Ecuador”
Chelsea Raab - “Love and Knowledge: Emotion in Feminist Epistemology”
Kennedy Wolfe - “Feminist and Feminine Characters in Two Isabel Allende Novels”

Women’s Forum Update

The Work-Life Balance Task Force of the Women’s Forum hosted its 4th annual luncheon on Wednesday, May 18, 2011, at the Deacon Tower. Women from the academic and medical campuses gathered to hear Joan Williams, JD, Distinguished Professor of Law, 1066 Foundation Chair, founding Director of the Center for WorkLife Law at the University of California, Hastings College of Law, and Co-Director of the Project on Attorney Retention (PAR), speak on the topic “Can I Have a Life and a Career? Work-Life Balance in Academia.” According to The New York Times, “Williams has something approaching rock-star status” among work/life advocates. She won the Gustavus Myers Outstanding Book Award for Unbending Gender: Why Family and Work Conflict and What to Do About it (Oxford University Press, 2000). She has authored or co-authored seventy academic articles and chapters and five books, most recently Reshaping the Work-Family Debate: Men and Class Matter (Harvard Univ. Press, 2010). In 2006, Williams received the American Bar Association’s Margaret Brent Award for Women Lawyers of Achievement.

The Women’s Forum is an organization of women faculty and key administrators at Wake Forest University, working to: encourage collegiality across all schools of the university; create change in policies and practices at WFU; and promote and sustain a healthy and stimulating working environment in which the contributions and needs of women are fully acknowledged.

Interim Director (Continued from page 1)

Women, Race and Poverty and a Special Topics course on Race, Gender and Housing Disparities, Dr. Clark developed a WGS internship course by seeking out new community partners. She has built strong and reliable relationships that will continue to support this popular and important course. In the spring, WGS also benefited from the teaching and mentoring of Ayla Samli, who taught Gender and Islam. Another popular course in 2010-11 was Feminist Philosophy, offered for the second time by Stavroula Glezakos, and students benefited from two new cross-listed courses: The Politics of Women’s Bodies (DeShazer, English) and Men, Women and Pornography (Gilreath, Law School).

On campus, WGS regularly co-sponsors and sponsors a number of events. In the fall, WGS organized a campus visit by Barbara Smith, African-American lesbian feminist activist. Smith gave an evening lecture and joined faculty and students for a luncheon discussion hosted by Dean Fetrow on the WFU campus. Thanks to the QEP Funds for International Scholars awarded to Wanda Balzano and Nelly Van Doorn-Harder (Religion), WGS also hosted a two-week campus visit by the international feminist scholar Eva Midden (Lecturer, Gender Programme, Utrecht University, Holland). In addition to giving a public lecture, “Towards a More Inclusive Feminism: Rethinking Multiculturalism and Feminism,” and meeting with a number of constituents on campus, Dr. Midden was guest lecturer in a variety of classes. At a dinner organized at her home by Wanda Balzano, a group of students and religious figures on campus discussed with Dr. Midden the conflicts that arise when multiculturalism and religion clash. As part of the Phyllis Tribble Lecture Series in the spring, Mary DeShazer organized a luncheon program for students, faculty and friends of WGS and the Divinity School. The program featured remarks by WFF Director of Sustainability Dedee DeLongpre Johnston who shared her vision for making the campus sustainable, as well as readings of women’s environmental poems by students from Dr. DeShazer’s special topics course on U.S. Women Poets. Also during spring, DeShazer organized the WGS symposium entitled “Beyond Slavery: Overcoming its Religious and Sexual Legacies” and featuring lectures and a faculty luncheon and panel discussion with visiting scholars Dr. Frances Smith Foster (Charles Howard Candler Professor of English and Women’s Studies, Emory University) and Dr. Bernadette Brooten (Robert and Myra Kraft and Jacob Hlatt Professor of Christian Studies and Professor of Women’s and Gender Studies, Brandeis University). In the spring, the WGS Research, Development and Advancement Committee Colloquium Series featured nine lectures presented by teacher-scholars from across the university as well as by visiting scholars.

WGS is committed to collaborating with area schools and community organizations to co-sponsor events, and the Advisory Board invites ideas for future planning from all of you. Barbara Smith’s visit in the fall was co-hosted by WGS and Winston-Salem State University, where she led a workshop attended by WFU faculty. WSSU scholar in African women writers, Rose Sakeyfio, lectured to faculty and students as part of the WGS RDA Colloquium; Dr. Sakeyfio, in turn, invited WGS to co-host a visit to Winston-Salem by the Nigerian based feminist writer-scholar-activist Akachi Adimora Ezeigbo, who also lectured in the series. Along with WSSU, Salem College and other units on the WFU campus, WGS also co-sponsored and helped organize a visit to Winston-Salem by four veterans of the Student Non-violent
the group were interested in Islam and emancipation (those were also the central themes of their organisation), but the term feminism lead to a rather heated debate. ‘What is a feminist’ was their main question. The first woman, who tried to answer the question, argued that if there were any term she would like to use to describe herself, it would be ‘Muslim woman’ (Al Nisa, 30 min.). In her view, this word automatically entails all the other things that are important in life. The argument is that as a Muslim you are already committing to constant learning and developing the self and hence to emancipation. This means that she does not just argue that emancipation and Islam are compatible or that Islam inspires her in her struggle for emancipation, but that Islam is emancipation. This interesting perspective could have consequences for how we look at the relationship between culture/religion and emancipation/feminism.

Moreover, it appeared that many women associated feminism with the standpoints of secular second-wave feminists, and for that reason do not call themselves feminists (Al Nisa, 37 min.). Feminism, in this view, is too much based on the male norm:

“They want women to become ‘less female’ and that goes against my views on the relationship between men and women. And also within Islam you can’t work on feminism and emancipation this way. (…) You should actually stay close to the people that are close to you.” (Al Nisa, 37 min.)

As becomes clear from this quote, it is almost impossible to discuss the relationship between feminism and emancipation without addressing the negative associations many Muslim women have with (mainstream, secular) feminism. These women are interested in a feminist struggle, but not as it is interpreted by certain western feminists at this moment.

“Jumping Generations”

When the women of SCALA discussed the problematic associations with the word feminism and asked themselves whether ‘feminists’ should for that reason come up with a new term, it was argued that this would be disrespectful to the generations before us who had achieved so much already in respect to women’s rights (SCALA, 50 min.). Quickly after agreeing on having respect for previous generations, however, the tensions between these different generations turned up again. Especially with the women from SCALA and ZAMI, the discussions on this subject showed very explicitly how we have to find a middle ground between respecting the achievements of previous generations and at the same time accept the fact that different circumstances can lead to new feminist analyses.

A ‘younger’ woman from SCALA makes the following argument: “Second-wave feminists made it possible for us to make our own choices, but are now also stopping us from making choices that they don’t like” (SCALA, 55 min.). Besides the issue of making your own choices, also other points of criticism on ‘Second-Wave’ feminism were mentioned in the focus groups. In the ZAMI group for example it was argued that they focus too much on gender alone in their analyses and neglect to pay attention to other axes of difference, such as culture or religion (ZAMI, 17 min.). This causes them to investigate only certain issues and to make limited analyses of problems and solutions. These different views that are (partly) related to generational differences are very apparent and need to be theorized further, also in the context of multiculturalism and feminism.

In her work on epistemology of different generations of feminism, Iris van der Tuin investigates how we can capture generational change (Van der Tuin, 2009). She proposes a methodology of ‘jumping generations’, in order to use and implement parts of ‘Second-Wave’ feminism, where it is useful for current generations, without falling into the trap of linear thinking. We should both not idealise previous feminist generations nor reject them completely. This is exactly how I read the remarks of one of the women in SCALA: she did not want to let go of the word feminism, but would like to start from the struggles that previous generations have fought and think how we can conceptualise feminism from there, taking into account changes in our societies. One of these changes, I would argue, is that religion has become such an important issue that also secular feminists have to take it into account in their analyses. Or, as Rosi Braidotti put it, “feminists cannot be simply secular, or be secular in a simple or self-evident sense. More complexity is needed” (Braidotti, 2008, p 4). Moreover, a woman from SCALA argues that feminism has to connect more to what women want: “if you want to make the new wave a vibrant one, you have to create a situation where women can be themselves, where women (…) can choose to do what they want at this moment” (ZAMI, 57 min.). In this context she proposes to think through connections instead of all working on our own ‘little corners’.

Back to the Basics?

An issue that was discussed in many of the interviews was the question: how do we frame the subjects that we are fighting for? One can for instance focus on something like circumcision, but another possibility would be to concentrate on broader issues that can connect more people; violence against women for example. This vision seems to correspond to the remarks described above where a woman proposes to think through connections instead of “working on our own little corners.” The women emphasize the importance of not focusing on specific issues connected to specific groups of women, but to build alliances and join struggles between women. One of the ways to achieve this is to work on broader themes that prevent women to be divided into oppressed and emancipated, but make space for more dynamic cooperation. Furthermore, more attention should be given to the different interpretations of emancipation. For most of the women in the focus groups this term is first of all about making your own choices. A woman in Daral Ar-quam explained very clearly that, in her opinion, emancipation should not be confused with self-centeredness.
What accounts for this growth of WGS programs on U.S. university and college campuses? Women’s Studies as an interdisciplinary field has its origins in the women’s movements of the 1960s and continues to attract the attention of women and (increasingly) men. However, over the years the field has grown and established its academic legitimacy as a virtual explosion of research and scholarship on women and gender has taken place. Thus, introductory courses often attract the curious, but their intellectual rigor and demonstrated feminist pedagogy attract an increasing number of women and men into its scholarship. A large number of academics today teach courses, conduct research and publish on topics and in areas that broadly encompass both disciplinary and interdisciplinary feminist scholarship and choose to organize their work in and around WGS programs and departments. Sometimes they choose this by default. Even though more (especially women) faculty working within traditional disciplines are focusing their teaching and scholarship on topics and issues of women and gender, this work is not always welcome or well understood in their departments. Hence, these faculty members often turn to WGS programs where they find colleagues who do similar work. But increasingly, especially as the growing number of Ph.D.s in Women’s Studies demonstrates, scholars are being trained in and prefer to work in the interdisciplinarity that characterizes Women’s Studies. The growth of WGS programs and departments, in turn, serves to facilitate the further development of women’s and gender studies as an inter-discipline (Kitch 2007).

WGS programs also serve an additionally valuable function in institutions of higher learning. Strong and visible programs typically are sites of intellectual community building for students, faculty and staff, both women and (increasingly) men. Universities with vibrant and visible programs are more likely to attract women and minority scholars. One frequent factor is the diversity of many programs. According to the NORC report of 2007, 30.4% of women’s studies faculty are faculty of color (compared with 19% faculty of color nationally). WGS programs and departments are potential places where diverse faculty and students can find sustenance and support. Hence, active and visible WGS programs help in recruitment and retention of a more diverse faculty and student body.

WFU’s Women’s and Gender Studies Program

The WGS Program has been in existence since 1983. It has had a minor for 27 years. Since 1987, WGS has had a joint appointment and with the recent hiring of a director, the program now has 1.5 positions. While faculty members from a variety of departments have taught courses for the minor, it was finally in 2006 that the Program developed a model of rotating core faculty, comprised of six faculty members, with a portion of each of their time dedicated to WGS for a period of three years. The Program is recognized on the WFU campus for the great commitment of its faculty and for being an exemplary model of interdisciplinarity.

After a program review in 2004 recommended that WGS develop a major, a revitalized WGS faculty has been working towards that possibility. The new rotating faculty model and a full line in the Program are changes that took place since that review. At this point in its history, the WGS Program is well positioned to go forward and ready to take the next step in its evolution, as many of its counterparts have done nationally: to launch a major and become a department.

References


The Academic Award for Outstanding Senior in WGS recognizes a student who has shown initiative and motivation throughout her/his tenure at Wake Forest, who has excelled in a variety of academic disciplines and special projects, and who has maintained a high scholastic average and demonstrated aptitude for further study. The 2011 co-recipients of this award are Ashley Elizabeth Gedraitis and Kennedy Cook Wolfe.

“With so many titles, awards and a publication, Ashley is clearly at the top. She did not even list her Fulbright scholarship in her CV! Ashley is this year’s ‘would-have-been major’ in WGS, having accrued 27 credits, and we are very proud of that. She will go far, and worthily. In addition to her academic record, Ashley’s leadership, service, and professionalism are also outstanding. She has made a significant contribution to the betterment of society through community service, at Wake Forest and beyond.”

“Kennedy has the highest GPA in the WGS minor of all of our seniors this year—a 4.0!, and her excellent scholarship in the interdisciplinary field of Women’s and Gender Studies is both broad and deep. With an outstanding GPA in both her Spanish major and her Chemistry minor, with a concentration in pre-med, she has consistently been on the Dean’s list and is set to graduate from Wake Forest University Magna Cum Laude. Kennedy has achieved much, and she will be missed.”

The Leadership Award for Outstanding Senior in WGS recognizes a student who best exemplifies the qualities of leadership, service and professionalism, who has made a significant contribution to the betterment of society through community service and/or humanitarian undertakings, and who has promoted the educational value of racial, cultural and gender diversity. The 2011 recipient of this award is Hope Krista Nardini.

“Not only has Hope been an engaged minor in both the Women’s and Gender Studies Program and in Latin American Studies, but she has also devoted herself to serving communities locally—offering medical translation services and designing an outreach project to translate website copy and public relations materials into Spanish for Community Care Center of Forsyth County, the largest free healthcare clinic in North Carolina, and globally—developing and teaching computer workshops for rural primary schools in the Ancash region of Peru as an intern for One Laptop Per Child. Hope was awarded a $5,000 Richter Scholarship in the summer of 2010 and wrote a 30-page comparative analysis on immigration policy and refugee rights in Ecuador and the United States.”

A reception for WGS minors, families, friends and faculty in the main lobby of Tribble Hall followed the awards ceremony.
Cultural Anthropology from Rice University in Houston, Texas, along with a certificate in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies.

Professor Samli brings a fresh viewpoint and expertise to the Women's and Gender Studies program because of her social-scientific oriented understanding of gender, especially in the Middle East. Professor Samli is set apart as well because of the field work she conducted in Turkey throughout 2006 and 2008. Turkey is a place close to Professor Samli's heart as her father emigrated from Turkey to the United States and still has family who reside in the country. Professor Samli described doing field work as a sort of "homecoming" because she got to spend time with her father's family and learn more about the culture from personal experience. While in Turkey, Professor Samli studied the importance of the hope chest which, historically, is a collection of items handcrafted by mothers for their daughters beginning at the time of their birth. The hope chest evolves as the daughter moves into her married life. The hope chest is of particular interest to Professor Samli because her maternal grandmother, who is American, also carried on this same tradition. Looking at hope chests allowed Professor Samli to connect her Turkish and American heritage and to think about the subjectivity of how people register family as well as national identity through material items.

What is also interesting about Professor Samli is that her mother and uncles, as well as cousins, are Wake Forest alumni. Wake Forest has always been on her radar screen and intriguing to her because of her family ties to the school. Now that Professor Samli can experience Wake Forest as a professor, she and her mother have another connection. Certainly Wake Forest has changed a lot since her mother attended, but she says that it is interesting to see how the school differs, especially in terms of gender relationships. When her mother attended Wake Forest, dancing was not allowed! She also thinks it speaks well of Wake Forest, a school with historically rigid rules, that there are now classes offered about gender as well as Islam.

Professor Samli has greatly enjoyed her experience at Wake Forest, describing it as tremendous, and especially within the WGS program. She describes the WGS faculty as very supportive and enjoys the program's accommodating structure. Professor Samli described the students in WGS, and in general at WFU, as open and driven workers. She also likes how there are students in her class who are not WGS minors, as it brings diversity to the discussion, making class much more interesting. Professor Samli also compliments WGS's diverse course offerings as well as the variety of speakers the department hosts.

Next fall Professor Samli will teach at UNC-Chapel Hill, but will come back to Wake Forest in the spring of 2012 to teach Gender and Islam. We are looking forward to having her back.

Faculty and Staff (Continued from page 2)

Margaret Bender (Anthropology) attended the Cherokee Language Symposium, co-sponsored by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and Western Carolina University on June 23, 2011, at which she presented “From the Global to the Indigenous: What Forces Will Affect Cherokee Language Revitalization in the Twenty-Teens and Beyond?” Professor Bender began a new research project in the summer of 2011 on the relationship between women’s language and women’s health in the Snowbird Cherokee community in Western North Carolina. She attended the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association in New Orleans (November 2010), at which she was a discussant of “Life and Work of Willard Walker.”

Gillian Overing (English) attended the International Medieval Congress in Leeds, UK, in July, where she presented two papers: “A Case for/against Place-Based Feminist Pedagogy in Medieval Studies” and “Women and the Origins of English Literature.” Her essay, “Beowulf on Gender,” was also published in July in New Medieval Literatures 12 (2010).

An essay by Wanda Balzano (WGS), entitled "Abigail Child's Mirror World: Feminist Reflections" was published in Millennium Film Journal, 'Migration/Dislocations,' No. 53, Fall 2010/Winter 2011. Balzano has also written an essay on Samuel Beckett and human rights that will soon appear in a book published by Rodopi Press. She is currently in the process of editing a special issue of the interdisciplinary journal Anglistica on 'Women and Exile.' Among recent conferences she participated in are the following: ACIS (American Conference for Irish Studies) at Georgia Southern University in Savannah, Symposium Cumanum hosted by the Vergilian Society and Brandeis University at Cumae, Italy, SAML (South Atlantic Modern Language Association) in Atlanta and the NWSA (National Women’s Studies Association) in Atlanta, GA.
Coordinating Committee (SNCC)—one of whom was songwriter-activist-scholar Bernice Johnson Reagon—to celebrate and promote the publication of the anthology *Hands on the Freedom Plow: Personal Accounts by Women in SNCC*. Members of the WFU community attended a song talk and lecture by Reagon at WSSU and a panel discussion with Reagon and three other SNCC veterans the following day at Salem College. In response to an invitation from the *Women's Fund of Winston-Salem*, and in conjunction with the WFU Institute for Public Engagement, Mary DeShazer organized a panel discussion in the spring led by WFU colleagues in WGS (Sherri Clark and Ana Wahl) on the Women's Fund report entitled “Through a Gender Lens: The Economic Security of Women and Girls in Forsyth County.” The discussion was open to the public and took place at the Community Café in downtown Winston-Salem. Faculty in WGS look forward to continued collaboration with this important community group.

Many heartfelt thanks to Linda Mecum, Wanda Balzano, Anne Boyle, and Mary DeShazer for their guidance and support during my time as interim director in Spring 2011, as well as to Dean Jacqueline Petrow, Associate Dean Randy Rogan, former Provost Jill Tiefenthaler and their staffs for their enduring support of WGS. To modify a familiar adage, running WGS takes a village, and WGS is one. Stay in touch, and I hope to see you around campus this fall.

---

**Elizabeth Phillips Award for Best Essay Written in Women’s and Gender Studies**

This award pays tribute to the late Elizabeth Phillips, Professor Emerita of English, for her exceptional scholarly commitment to the advancement of women’s and gender studies.

**Congratulations to the 2011 Award Recipient**

**Caitlin Cheyenne Williams '12**

“Anna: A Story of Mothers, Daughters, Institutional Failures and Weapons of the Weak”

Nominated by Dr. Sandya Hewamanne (Anthropology)

---

Many thanks to the 2011 Elizabeth Phillips Award Committee:

- **Catherine Harnois** (Sociology), Chair
- **Sherri Lawson Clark** (WGS and American Ethnic Studies)
- **Sandya Hewamanne** (Anthropology)
- **Ronald Neal** (Religion)
Catherine C. “Cate Berenato” ('11) is from Blacksburg, VA, and graduated with a major in English and minors in Women's and Gender Studies and Environmental Studies. Cate plans to work for Peacework Development Fund, Inc., a non-profit that organizes volunteer trips to serve in third-world countries. During her time at WFU, Cate ran varsity cross country and track, was treasurer of Student Environmental Action Coalition, and was chosen as a 2011 Founder’s Day Convocation Senior Orator.

Adrienne Elizabeth Coronado ('11) is from Maryville, TN, and graduated with honors in Sociology, and minors in Women's and Gender Studies and Communication. Adrienne will be attending Vanderbilt University Law School in the fall as a Vanderbilt Law Scholar with full tuition for three years, plus a yearly stipend. She was the 2011 recipient of the American Sociological Association’s Departmental Prize for Outstanding Sociology Student for Wake Forest University. While at WFU, Adrienne was recipient of a Guy T. CarswellMerit Scholarship, member of Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Honors Society, co-leader of Presbyterian Student Fellowship, 2010-2011 administrative intern at the City of Winston-Salem Human Relations Department, staff columnist for The Old Gold & Black student newspaper, pre-ministerial intern at Prodigals Community and St. Philips Moravian Church, student research assistant for National Science Foundation study, and LSAT teacher/tutor for Kaplan Test Prep.

Bianca Samone Faison ('11) is from Whiteville, NC, and graduated with a major in Sociology and a minor in Women's and Gender Studies. Bianca will be pursuing an M.Ed. in Student Personnel Administration in Higher Education at UNC-G this fall. She will also be working as an assistant coordinator in UNC-G’s office of Housing and Residence Life. While at WFU, Bianca was the 2011 president of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. (a public service sorority), a resident adviser, a member of the National Residence Hall Honorary (an organization that brings the top 1% of university residence hall student leaders together to provide an opportunity to grow in leadership by recognizing others who have contributed to campus life as well as providing volunteer services to worthy causes within the community surrounding Wake Forest University), and a member of Black Student Alliance. Bianca, a 2010-2011 Richter Scholar, presented her research at Southern Silences Conference in November 2010. This spring she served an internship at Crisis Control Ministry (a Christian-based ministry whose mission is to assist people in crisis to meet essential life needs and to become self-sufficient) and volunteered at the House of Service.

Ashley Elizabeth Gedraitis ('11) is from Peru, IL, and graduated summa cum laude with honors in English and minors in Women's and Gender Studies and Sociology. Ashley received a Fulbright grant to teach English in Poland next year, after which she will be a Human Capital Consultant with Deloitte in Washington, DC. She was co-recipient of the 2011 Academic Award for Outstanding Senior in Women’s and Gender Studies and was chosen as a 2011 Founder’s Day Convocation Senior Orator. While at WFU, Ashley was a 2010-2011 student member of the Board of Trustees, a 2009-2010 Presidential Aide, a 2010 H. Broadus Jones English Award recipient, an upper level Carswell Scholar, a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Omicron Delta Kappa, and recipient of the 2009 Elizabeth Phillips Undergraduate Award for Best Essay in Women's and Gender Studies. Ashley served two editorial internships with Simon & Schuster Publishing—one in London and one in Manhattan.

Katherine R. “Katie” Koone ('11) is from Rutherfordton, NC, and graduated with a major in Communication with a Concentration in Communication Science and minors in Women’s and Gender Studies and Sociology. Katie will be attending law school in the fall and plans to practice estate planning and trust law. While at WFU, Katie was a varsity cheerleader for three years, a member of Lambda Pi Eta National Communication Honor Society, a member and officer of Kappa Gamma Sigma Sorority, an intern for three years at the Rawlings Law Firm, nanny for twin 9-year old boys and a 12-year old girl for three years, publishing/marketing coordinator for Living Shells (a nationally released book), tutor at North Hills Elementary School, and ESPN-U Campus Connections Reporter.

Hope Krista Nardini ('11) is from Southington, CT, and graduated cum laude with a major in Philosophy and minors in Women’s and Gender Studies and Latin American Studies. Hope will be working at an advertising agency in Pittsburgh during the summer, after which she will be traveling to Central America to work on a three-month project. Hope was recipient of the 2011 Leadership Award for Outstanding Senior in Women’s and Gender Studies. While at WFU, Hope was a member of the Women’s Ultimate Frisbee Club and a Spanish interpreter at the Community Care Medical Center.

Kara Anne Peruccio ('11) is from Manchester, CT, and graduated magna cum laude with honors in History and minors in Italian and Women’s and Gender Studies. Kara will be taking a year off before pursuing a Ph.D. in 20th Century U.S. Women’s History. As a WFU junior, Kara wrote her history honors thesis, “Big Screen, Little Boxes: Hollywood Representations of the Suburban Housewife, 1960-1975,” presented it at the Culturing the Popular Conference in October 2010, and had it accepted for publication in the
Spring 2011 issue of *History Matters*, Appalachian State University’s undergraduate historical research journal. Also while at WFU, Kara presented “An Undue Indulgence: Design, Power and Culture in the Harem Hamam of the Topkapi Saray Palace, 1453-1880” at the March 2011 Tennessee Regional Phi Alpha Theta Conference at East Tennessee State University and received an award for one of the best undergraduate papers at the conference. Kara was co-president of Phi Alpha Theta History Honors Society, a writer for the Old Gold & Black student newspaper, and auditioned twice for the Jeopardy College Championships.

**Chelsea Danielle Raab** ('11) is from Bethesda, MD, and graduated with a major in Communication and minors in Philosophy and Women’s and Gender Studies. Chelsea will be taking a couple of years off from school to go before going to law school. She has been hired as an account associate at WeddingWire, a business that matches 21st century brides-to-be on-the-go with various wedding vendors across the country. Chelsea ultimately hopes to be a criminal defense attorney.

**Kennedy Cook Wolfe** ('11) is from Hillsborough, NC, and graduated summa cum laude with honors in Spanish and minors in Chemistry and Women’s and Gender Studies. Through a program of the Spanish government called North American Teaching Assistantship, Kennedy will be teaching English in Murcia, Spain, from October 2011 through May 2012, after which she hopes to attend medical school. Kennedy was co-recipient of the 2011 Academic Award for Outstanding Senior in Women’s and Gender Studies. While at WFU, she was co-captain of Women’s Ultimate Frisbee Club (playing all four years), volunteered at the Community Care Medical Center as an interpreter for doctors and patients, and was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society as a senior.

**Alexandra Hollifield** ('13) was chosen to represent Wake Forest at the 2011 ACC Leadership Conference in February where students from all ACC schools collaborated on social entrepreneurship in gender equality issues. Alex’s paper on Susan Bordo’s “Unbearable Weight” was selected for presentation at the Associated Colleges of the South’s Women’s and Gender Studies conference at the University of Richmond, on April 1-2, 2011. In November 2010, Alex chaired “Class of the Finest,” the annual senior tailgate, in an effort to end the Senior Fifth tradition and to promote a safe and memorable final home football game for the Class of 2011. There were 500 WFU seniors in attendance. As Vice President of the Wake Forest chapter of Amnesty International, Alex chaired a committee that sponsored a Poverty Banquet attended by over 40 students to raise awareness of global and local poverty. In the spring of 2011, Alex began volunteering as a coach with “Girls on the Run” at Bolton Elementary School in Winston-Salem. “Girls on the Run” is a national program that promotes confidence and positive self-image in girls ages eight to thirteen through training for a 5K race. Alex has been accepted for Arcadia University’s Capacity Building and Human Rights study abroad program in Arusha, Tanzania, in the summer of 2011.

**Sung Min Kim** ('12) is a member of the Golden Key International Honor Society and a student advisor. Her volunteer activities include Campus Kitchen (a food recycling program at Wake that uses cooked but never served food from the campus dining hall to make healthy meals for the needy in the community), Wake Saturdays (a student outreach group that serves a meal at Samaritan Ministries on Saturdays), W.A.A.S.P. (Winston-Salem Adapted Arts and Sports Program, a student run program for children of all ages with both cognitive and physical disabilities to spend time in a fun and safe social environment, working on gross and fine motor skills), Student Health Advisory Committee (a student organization that represents students’ interests in Student Health Services), and in the psych ward and the acute brain injury rehabilitation center at WFU Baptist Medical Center (advocating for patients and helping them to cope with long stay in the hospital). In her spare time, Sung enjoys tennis, tutoring, and playing the piano. Her other interests are medicine, health care in rural areas, and cooking. In the summer of 2011, Sung will be going to Lima, Peru, to study parasites.

**Kelly Russo** ('12) will spend eight weeks this summer as an intern at the South African Media and Gender Institute (SAMGI) in Cape Town, South Africa. SAMGI’s mission is to “promote human rights by increasing the range of voices heard in Southern Africa through participatory education, advocacy, lobbying and media production to improve the status of women.” Kelly will work closely with attorneys and magistrates to ensure the basic human rights of the citizens in court by monitoring court cases and documenting/assisting with the defense of hate crimes against women. She will also be helping with the day-to-day entrepreneurial management of SAMGI, specifically funding for their worthy cause. Kelly says, “My Wake Forest WGS education has prepared me well to take on this endeavor, and I am excited to share my experiences when I return!”

**WGS Core Faculty News**

The Women’s and Gender Studies Program is delighted to announce that **David Phillips** (Associate Professor, Humanities) and **Mary Dalton** (Associate Professor, Communication) have joined WGS as members of the core faculty.
“Emancipation is about making your own choices, but everybody makes those choices within a certain framework. For me this means that I am emancipated because I most of the time choose to do what I want, but I also take into account the needs and wishes of my husband and children.”

(Daral Arquam, 17 min.)

If we bring these remarks about emancipation together with the above, we can conclude that the women in the focus groups are constantly emphasising the importance of broadening and contextualising the debates and struggles for emancipation: work with broader themes to enhance solidarity, work with broader definitions to include more women’s perspectives and adjust your analysis to current and local situations.

Conclusion: Towards a More Inclusive Feminism

Feminism was a rather contested term among the participants of the focus groups; often they referred to interpretations of feminism that either completely ignored culture and religion in their analyses or had a very different perspective on what sexual difference is. For many women in the focus groups the term emancipation was more appealing than feminism. Moreover, the women emphasised a clear difference in thinking about emancipation and feminism between the different generations. Some mentioned the fact that many ‘second-wave’ feminists ignore religion and culture in their feminist analyses. But the women also offered important ideas for a multicultural feminism. In several groups the women theorised what a third wave should look like; welcoming and inclusive was the general outcome of these discussions. Other conclusions that came out of the interviews were related to the issues at stake and the approaches to take towards them. Several women warned against fighting for ‘your own little corners’ and instead proposed to frame problems in a larger context in order to make it possible for women to connect on these issues. Finally, they argued for a contextualised and intersectional approach towards feminism.

Bibliography

Become a Friend of Women's and Gender Studies

Your contribution to WGS will help us strengthen the important work in which Women’s and Gender Studies is involved. We would be very grateful for any contributions you might make, so that the program can build on its considerable teaching and research strengths and maintain its academic excellence and community programming.

To make a tax-deductible contribution, go to http://www.wfu.edu/alumni/giving, then select “Make A Gift Online”; complete the form; in Section 3 select “other” and, in the comments field, enter Women’s and Gender Studies. If you prefer to mail your gift, our address is: Women’s and Gender Studies, Wake Forest University, PO Box 7365, Winston-Salem, NC 27109.

Recognizing March as Women’s History Month, the lectures make feminist concerns more visible through dialogue with some of today’s foremost feminist thinkers. The Series is a valuable resource for all students, particularly for those in seminaries, divinity schools and departments of religion. For additional information and registration, visit www.wfu.edu/divinity