**Women’s and Gender Studies**

at Wake Forest University

News & Notes

No. 42/ Spring- Summer 2009

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**News from the Director**

Wanda Balzano

The 2008-2009 academic year has been one of many “firsts,” as we have made many innovations in our program. For the first time we have filled the titled position of an Activist in Residence (a position that is becoming ever more frequent in the most cutting-edge universities in the country); for the first time we have [Director](#) (Continued on page 7)

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**Gloria Steinem Talks About “The Longest Revolution”**

Matt Trippett (‘09) & Gabby Retta (‘08)

The first time Katie Porter (‘12) (right) heard Gloria Steinem (left) speak was at Katie’s Chattanooga high school.

On Wednesday, October 1, 2008, Gloria Steinem, an American feminist activist, organizer, lecturer and writer who has worked for women’s equality for 40 years, spoke to a packed house at Salem College. Here are comments from Matt Trippett and Gabby Retta who attended the talk:

“As she spoke, I sat in fascination and enjoyed hearing her so calmly present to the crowd her years of experience.”

Gloria Steinem (Continued on page 12)

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**WGS Minors Attend Conferences in Washington, DC**

Gabby Retta (‘08) & Carlos Maza (‘10)

Activist in Residence Pat Willis accompanied students to conferences in Washington, DC, in the fall of 2008 and in the spring of 2009. Gabby Retta (‘08) and Carlos Maza (‘10) attended the “Prosecuting Sexual and Gender-Based Crimes Before International/ized Criminal Courts” conference at American University Law School in October 2008. Here are their reflections.

“The conference was very informative. I was greatly pleased to have been a part of this.”

Conferences (Continued on page 17)

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**Everyday Pornography**

David Fyten

This article was written by David Fyten after attending the Porn Wars Series, sponsored by WGS in the fall of 2008. Pornography, long tucked away in society’s closet, has been brought out into our collective living room and onto our television, computer, and coffee table for everyday consumption by the entire family. Not just the filthy stuff—the abundance of sexualized images in the mainstream media, often of women as objects or in subservient or otherwise degrading roles.

Pornography (Continued on page 8)

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**Remembering Dr. Elizabeth Phillips**

Nancy Cotton (Professor Emerita of English)

These are the reflections that Nancy Cotton, English Professor Emerita and long-time friend, shared at the Celebration of the Life of Elizabeth Phillips in Brendle Hall, Wake Forest University, September 3, 2008.

Elizabeth Phillips, my mentor and friend for 31 years, joined the Wake Forest English faculty in 1957 and rose to be a full professor and chair of her department. Those of us who were young women trying to be independent in the 50’s, 60’s, and 70’s know the magnitude of that achievement in our very bones. So I was deeply grateful when I arrived here.

Elizabeth Phillips (Continued on page 18)

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**The Word is Women**: Angela Davis

Shamiso Magume (‘09)

The annual Kenan Writers’ Encounters series at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts offers the community and region a unique opportunity to see and hear some of the most renowned authors of the day.

Angela Davis (Continued on page 3)

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**Students Celebrate Love Your Body Day**

Love Your Body Day was celebrated by students and faculty on October 15, 2008, by gathering in DeTamble Auditorium and viewing _Killing Us Softly 3: Advertising’s Image of Women_, followed by pizza and film discussion.

Connie Miller (‘10) is shown here with the t-shirt designed/printed for this occasion. The message on the back is “My Sum is Greater than my Parts.” T-shirts are still available ($10) from the WGS office.

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**WGS and AES Welcome Teacher-Scholar Postdoctoral Fellow**

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Sherri Lawson Clark will be the new Teacher-Scholar Postdoctoral Fellow, based both in American Ethnic Studies and Women’s and Gender Studies for the spring 2009 semester.

Sherri Clark (Continued on page 12)

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**Women and Militarism Speaker Series**

One of the highlights of the spring 2009 semester was the Women and Militarism Speaker Series. In February, legendary feminist jurist and University of Michigan Elizabeth A. Long MacKinnon has pioneered feminist ju-

Militarism (Continued on page 14)
Fifteen Wake Forest students traveled to London last fall to live at Worrell House, to explore Europe, and to take courses in Theatre, Art History and Economics. I had the pleasure of being the faculty director for the semester, conducting courses on trade and financial matters and on the economic roles of gender and other forms of diversity in UK and Europe. It was a delightful and exciting fall, with many opportunities for analyzing questions of diversity and equality from new perspectives.

London offered a great chance to present my existing WGS-listed course, *Economics for a Multicultural Future*. We focused on the economic challenges and opportunities associated with growing diversity outside the US, and also on the sometimes differing policy approaches to questions of gender, sexuality, race and religion across Europe. For example, a first set of student papers included detailed empirical work on topics such as: Norwegian affirmative action policies that have boosted women’s representation on corporate boards to more than forty percent; efforts to raise the number of low-income students at British universities; and the economic impact of rising immigration flows into UK and other countries in the region. As we approached the semester’s end, student papers took on a more theoretical slant. Some students planned to explore the relationships among feminist, Marxist and neoclassical economic theories; some were considering the economic efficiency of British and European policies such as state childcare subsidies, generous parental leave programs, and comparable worth legislation designed to boost the wages of women; and some hoped to investigate the gendered impacts of globalization.

Among the highlights of the semester were visits from British researchers and practitioners. Fiona Carmichael (University of Birmingham) and Claire Hulme (U. of Leeds) presented their recent work on the relationship between unpaid caring labor and the ability to work in paid market-sector employment. Paul Campanile, an official who heads up the Mayor of London’s department called “Diversity Works for London,” presented the case for an array of government-encouraged forms of diversity consultation and training aimed at the London business community.

The city of London itself gave us all a vast range of opportunities relevant to diversity issues. Most of us traveled to the Notting Hill Carnival, a huge street festival designed to highlight the contributions of London’s Caribbean and African residents. Theatre course events included a very modern version of *Taming of the Shrew* that focused vividly on issues of domestic violence, and a modern dance/text piece called *To Be Straight with You*, that portrayed the relationship between gay people and religious communities in London. Many of the students attended *Billy Elliot: the Musical*, a show that explores class and sexuality issues as well as the UK miners’ strikes of the Thatcher era. We also happily gathered for a “pub talk” in our Hampstead neighborhood to chat with WFU alumna Whitney Thomas (’95) on themes ranging from gender issues in London banks to the ongoing credit crisis to new “ethical banking” corporations designed both to make profits and to have a favorable impact on social and environmental issues. A few students even found the time for a bit of volunteer work with the nearby Somers Town Community Association, and helped that organization design better ways of providing the community with day care, elder care and assistance for recent immigrants.

All in all, we had a delightful and productive semester in London, and can confirm that London remains a grand venue for study, reflection, and the occasional pint! We are all most grateful to those at Wake Forest and in London who made these opportunities possible.

**Thank You**

- **M. Campbell Cawood** (Key West, FL) for your gift in memory of Dr. Elizabeth Phillips.
- **Anjali Garg** (’05 BA with a minor in WGS) for your contribution toward the ongoing support of Women’s and Gender Studies.
- **Trayonna Floyd** (’09 BA with a minor in WGS) for your gift in support of Women’s and Gender Studies.

**Constitution Day 2008**

On Wednesday, September 17, 2008, faculty, staff, and students of the Wake Forest community gathered in DeTamble Auditorium to hear Shannon Gilreath, professor for interdisciplinary study at Wake Forest University School of Law, talk about “The Sexual Politics of the First Amendment.” Gilreath teaches WGS 380: Sexuality and the Law for our program, and is also the author of *Sexual Politics and Sexual Identity Law in Context*. His work has been nominated for several national awards, including the LAMBDA Literary Foundation Award and the American Library Association’s Stonewall Prize for Nonfiction. A reception in the lobby followed his talk.
On January 19, 2009, WGS minor Trayonna Floyd (‘09) (left) received the WFU/WSU MLK Building the Dream Award at Wake Forest. The annual award recognizes one professor/administrator and one student from each of the two universities for their efforts to promote racial diversity and harmony. Recipients are nominated by faculty, staff and students at their respective universities and are selected by a committee of faculty, staff and student representatives from each school. Floyd, a senior from Gastonia, NC, is a Sociology major with a minor in Women’s and Gender Studies. A dean’s list student, she was honored not only for her leadership in both campus and community activities, but also for her strong faith and family values. As a president’s aide in the Office of the President, Floyd works as an ambassador at major university events and as a liaison between the student body and the university’s president and board of trustees.

Trayonna was recognized for numerous other activities, including representing the state of North Carolina in an annual program for The Children’s Defense Fund; co-leading a Wake Forest Alternative Spring Break service trip to Stephens, Arkansas, where she and 14 other students mentored and encouraged local high school students to apply to college; working as a research assistant at the Darryl Hunt Project for Freedom and Justice; and working with the Twin-City Leadership Committee to promote leadership, community involvement and collegiate unity among three local universities.

An aspiring lawyer, Floyd also interned at The Children’s Law Center of Winston-Salem where she served as Guardian Ad Litem for children in domestic violence and high conflict custody cases. During her internship, she wrote a grant for $20,000 which was awarded to the agency.

The recipient of the other WFU campus award was Harold Holmes, Associate Vice President and Dean of Student Services, who was recognized for his long-time, behind-the-scenes efforts as an advocate for diversity and

**Congratulations and Thanks to Lauren Pressley, ZSR Librarian**

Instructional Design Librarian and WGS library liaison Lauren Pressley was named by Library Journal to its 2009 list of “Movers and Shakers.” Lauren is one of 51 librarians, vendors, and others who were selected for their roles in “shaping the future of libraries.”

Also, thanks to Lauren, this year a presidential grant was awarded to the library to increase its holdings in films about men’s studies and audio recordings of women poets. In 2006, WFU President Nathan Hatch created the Presidential Trust for Faculty Excellence to support faculty and research. The Library is fortunate to receive 10% of the funds raised in this initiative. Through the generosity of the Wake Forest Community, the library has purchased valuable resources and funded a series of “Presidential Grants” used to support diverse collection development projects.

**Angela Davis (Continued from page 1)**

world’s renowned authors in an intimate setting. On Thursday, March 26, a group of Wake Forest students and faculty attended a public lecture, reception, and book signing by Angela Davis, radical Black activist, philosopher, and educator. This is what Shamiso Magume (‘09) (left) had to say about this event:

“Though Wake Forest has provided me with opportunities to attend many speaking engagements by celebrated authors, filmmakers, and politicians, this was the first time I had the chance to hear a civil rights activist speak. I had heard about Dr. Angela Davis in high school when my English teacher briefly highlighted some of her accomplishments. I was familiar with the FBI warrant, her involvement with the Black Panther Movement, and the public outcry over her arrest, but I was unfamiliar with her work. These were all motivations for me to attend. The entire theater was filled with people of all ages, races, and sexes ready to hear Dr. Davis speak.

Davis highlighted the recent history of the feminist movement, including the United Nation’s declaration of the Decade for Women, and its implications. I found this particularly interesting, because we had studied this topic in our WGS 221 class. She provided us with a brief autobiographical account of her fascinating life story. The topic that I found most significant, however, was her position on the theory of the “prison industrial complex.” She equated the prison system to slavery, citing the disproportionate number of blacks behind bars as a justification for that statement. Blacks have been relocated from the plantation to the prisons. Private companies exploit prisoners for their own profit, so the prison system becomes an economic industry rather than a place for rehabilitation dedicated to reducing crime rates and keeping people out of prison. Though I was aware of the racial demographics of prisoners, I was enlightened by Davis’ views concerning the prison industrial complex. Instead of just viewing prison as a form of punishment, I agree that efforts should be made to increase the education of prisoners, provide them with options when they leave prison that will prevent them from returning, and to find ways for them to reform their lives so that they would have learned something from the crimes they committed.

Davis made a controversial yet considerable point about the fact that the death penalty is not an effective mechanism for mourners to seek retribution for the loss of their loved one, because it won’t bring that person back. She talked about Amy Biehl, a white American college student, dedicated to the fight against apartheid, who was viciously murdered by a group of young black South Africans. Rather than express contempt towards the boys, her parents reached out to their daughter’s murderers and created an organization dedicated to multiracial cooperation for the advancement of young people in South Africa. This remarkable story demonstrates that prison reform through education could yield constructive improvements in behavior, which could reduce crime rates significantly if we would allow it.”

**Lecture by Amanda Elam**

On Thursday, November 20, 2008, Amanda Elam, Visiting Scholar at the Arthur M. Blank Center for Entrepreneurship at Babson College, Babson Park, MA, talked about “Business Start-Ups by Women: Cross-National Patterns and Institutional Influences.” The lecture was sponsored by Entrepreneurship and Social Enterprise, Women’s and Gender Studies, and BB&T Center for the Study of Capitalism.
Dr. Ana Wahl (Sociology) co-authored with Tamela McNulty Eitle (Sociology, Montana State U) an article, “Gender, Acculturation and Alcohol Use Among Latina/o Adolescents: A Multi-Ethnic Comparison,” in the September 2008 *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*.

Professor Jennifer Collins (Law School) was selected by the third-year class to receive the Wake Forest University School of Law Student Bar Association’s 2009 Jurist Excellence in Teaching Award. Collins joined the law school faculty in 2003 and was recently promoted to full professor. Her book, *Privilege or Punish? Criminal Justice and The Challenge of Family Ties*, co-authored with Dan Markel and Ethan Lieb, was recently published by Oxford University Press.

Dr. Susan Borwick’s (Music) original composition “And Ain’t I A Woman!,” SSA/bass/piano, based on the spirit of Sojourner Truth’s speech at the 1851 Ohio Women’s Rights Convention, was selected by peer review for the treble choir reading sessions at the 50th anniversary convention of the American Choral Directors Association, and also for performance by the California All-State Honors Chorus under the direction of Iris Levine in March 2009. The piece was published by Treble Clef Music Press in 2008. *Borwick*’s article on the contemporary Czech composer Olga Ježková (b.1956) and four of her major works (*Yellow-Red Poster*, *String Quartet “Blue,” David the Sheperd [sic]*, and *Missa in honorem sancti Adalberti*) was published in *International Alliance for Women in Music Journal* 14/2 (December 2008). Borwick’s article on the mid-20th century German-American modernist composer Johanna Beyer (1888-1944) and her “sticky melodies” was published in *Journal of the Society for American Music* 3/1 (February 2009).


Dr. Mary M. Dalton (Communication) is a guest editor of Vol. 61 No. 2 *Journal of Film and Video* (Summer 2009), a special issue devoted to primetime animated sitcoms. She has also been elected to the Board of Directors of the University Film and Video Association. Founded in 1947 as the University Film Producers Association, the UFVA has developed into an organization of almost 800 professionals and institutions involved in the production and study of film, video, and other media arts.


Dr. Anne Boyle (English/WGS) presented a talk at Thursdays at Starling, “Writing to Learn at Northwest Middle School and Wake Forest University.” She was also invited to make a presentation, “Innovative Designed and Structures for 21st Century Writing Programs,” at the Symposium for Writing across the Curriculum and Speaking across the Curriculum, North and South Carolina Writing Program Director’s Conference, Greensboro, North Carolina, on April 18, 2009.

Dr. Michaelle Browers (Political Science/WGS) has written a new book, *Political Ideology in the Arab World: Accommodation and Transformation* (Cambridge University Press, 2009). Browers will direct the study abroad program at the Flow House in Vienna during the Spring 2010 semester, and one of the courses she will teach has been approved for WGS credit, POL 269: The Politics of Identity in Central Europe. Applications are still being taken for students who would like to study with Dr. Browers in Vienna.


Dr. Earl Smith, Rubin Professor of American Ethnic Studies, Director of American Ethnic Studies Program and Professor of Sociology, spent the 2008-2009 academic year at Colgate University in Hamilton, New York. Smith’s appointment was as the Arnold A. Sio Distinguished Professor of Community and Diversity in Sociology and Anthropology. During the year Smith taught four courses: Urban Sociology, Sociology of Deviance, Gender, Power and Violence (w/Dr. Angela J. Hattery) and Sociology of Sport. The urban sociology course, partnering with the Mohawk Valley Refugee Center, completed a community housing survey in the city of Utica, New York. One highlight of the year was a three-day symposium organized by Smith on the topic of The Wrongfully Convicted. Panels included lawyers, ex-prisoners who spent an average of 15 years incarcerated for crimes they did not commit, and parents of men who served time for crimes they did not commit. There was also a luncheon sponsored by the New York State Bar Association at which several of the wrongfully convicted spoke about their experiences to judges, prosecutors, lawyers and law school students. The keynote address by Dr. Smith was entitled “Race, Wrongful Convictions and Exoneration.”

During the year Smith completed a number of research projects, including editing a book, Sociology of Sport and Social Theory, (2009); co-authoring with Angela J. Hattery, Interracial Intimacies: An Examination of Powerful Men and Their Relationships across the Color Line, (2009); editing with Angela J. Hattery, Interracial Relationships in the 21st Century, (2009), and updating and expanding the 2nd edition of Race, Sport and the American Dream, (2009). Upon returning to WFU in the fall 2009 semester, Smith will teach a First Year Seminar entitled “The American Dream” and a course on deviance. He will soon complete a book (with Angela J. Hattery) entitled: Prisoner Re-entry and Social Capital.

Dr. Angela Hattery had a new book published, Intimate Partner Violence (Rowman & Littlefield, October 2008). Hattery was invited to give a keynote address, "Intimate Partner Violence: New Approaches," at Moravian College, Bethlehem, PA (March 2009). As part of her 2008-2009 appointment as the A. Lindsey O’Connor Distinguished Professor in American Institutions at Colgate University, Hattery gave a public lecture on "Intimate Partner Violence: Where Do We Go From Here?" (March 2009). She was also nominated for a teaching award while at Colgate.

By invitation, on September 27, 2008, Dr. Wanda Balzano (WGS) participated in a conference hosted by the Watson- Brown Foundation/Institute for Southern Studies, Thomson, Georgia. Her paper was titled “Irishwomen and the American South.” Balzano has also been working (with Jefferson Holdridge, English) on a book of translations of Eugenio Montale’s poetry. Three translated poems were included in the recent volume Como Inglese: An Anthology of Eugenio Montale’s Poetry in English Translation, edited by Marco Sonzogni for Joker, Novi Ligure. The volume was launched by Nobel Prize winner Seamus Heaney on June 24, 2009 at the Italian Cultural Institute in Dublin. Balzano is presently writing an essay on Abigail Child’s film-making entitled “Abigail Child’s Mirror World: Feminist Reflections,” and preparing another on Irish women’s fiction for The South Carolina Review.

Dr. Mary DeShazer has been working on a book tentatively entitled Contemporary Breast Cancer Narratives, Autobiography, Photography, and Public Memory.
The Women’s Forum held its annual spring meeting at the home of Dr. Patricia Adams, Professor of Internal Medicine-Nephrology, Chief of Professional Services, on April 8, 2009. Women faculty and key administrators were invited to an evening of professional and social exchange. In addition to the introduction of Jacque Fetrow, Dean of the College of Arts & Science (WFU) and Cheryl Locke, Vice President & Chief Human Resources Officer (WFUBMC), the Forum hosted media relations experts from the Public Relations and Marketing Department (WFUBMC) who reviewed the basics of media training, gave tips for media interviews, and answered questions about how best to represent the work we do to the media.

On May 11, the Women’s Forum Work/Life Balance task force hosted an event titled, “Time Sickness: Is There a Cure?” at the Hawthorne Inn. Lunch was provided and a talk given by Susan R. Johnson, MD, MS, and Associate Provost for Faculty, University of Iowa Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Epidemiology. Dr. Johnson addressed issues concerning ‘right sizing’ workloads, and core time management techniques.

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.

**Women’s and Gender Studies Honors Graduating Minors**

The Wake Forest University Honors and Awards Ceremony for Undergraduates takes place each year in May, on the Sunday afternoon prior to graduation exercises on Monday. Since 1995, Women’s and Gender Studies has recognized graduating WGS minors at this event.

The **Academic Award for Outstanding Senior in WGS** is given to the 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 2009 recipient of this award is Matthew R. Tripplett.

“Matt’s scholarship in the interdisciplinary field of women’s and gender studies is marked by excellence in terms of breadth and depth, spanning from such topics as Women, Race, and Poverty, and Beyond Virgin and Prostitute—Feminist Reconstructions of the Mother of Jesus and Mary Magdalene. His leadership within Student Government and the newly formed Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance, his volunteer and service work in his years at Wake Forest University combined the high ethical standards of his academic and activist work, as well as great appreciation and compassion for a wide range of people in need.”

The **Leadership Award for Outstanding Senior in WGS** is given to the student who best exemplifies the qualities of leadership, service and professionalism, who has excellent academic records and 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. This year’s recipient is Velvet E. Bryant.

“Not only has Velvet been one of the most engaged minors in the Women’s and Gender Studies Program, but she has also devoted herself to serving communities locally—as a participant scholar of the Women’s Fund of Winston-Salem, and as an intern with programs such as those selected by the Pro Humanitate Center at Wake Forest—and globally as a participant in the Mission of Good Hope service trip to South Africa. Similarly, her participation in national and international conferences with a focus on feminist activism — ‘From Campus to Congress: Women of Color Creating Change’ at Bennett College and the World Social Forum in Atlanta—clearly shows her leadership and strong commitment to the advancement of feminism and women’s and gender studies.”

A reception for students, families, friends, and faculty followed the ceremony in the main lobby of Tribble Hall.

**Women’s and Gender Studies Welcomes New Minors!**

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Director (Continued from page 1) have offered a course that is cross-listed with the Law School and team taught by faculty in the Law School and WGS (WGS 377E: Pornography: A Discussion of Equality, Speech, and Harm), in which undergraduate and graduate students were enrolled in equal numbers; this year we had the largest class of graduating minors (16 students have left the WFU and WGS nests in the spring/summer); we sponsored the highest number of cultural events in our history, collaborating with the largest number of units ever at Wake Forest.

The point is not so much to accrue trophies for the sake of it but it is, instead, to recognize that our program is steadily growing in size and academic strength. Every year we have a new and diverse body of faculty who eagerly join our vibrant community. We welcome this new energy and these new colleagues with open arms, while continuing to recognize and value the generous contributions of the veterans of the Women’s and Gender Studies program. If I were to pick one adjective that best characterizes our WGS community, well, I would choose two: I would choose “dedication” and “commitment.” It is, in fact, through the collective dedication and commitment of our core and affiliated faculty, our committees’ members, our staff, and our students that a consistent range of very diverse courses are offered, numerous relevant meetings are held and decisions are made, many cultural and social initiatives take place. In other words, our program is in good health thanks to the indefatigable work of enthusiastic individuals who believe in the interdisciplinary mission of WGS and in its wider applications.

It is also important to recognize the support of the administration in the development of our program. Both the Provost’s and the Dean’s Office have been of assistance. We have worked well with Dean Paul Ribisl in the fall, and have welcomed Dean Jacque Fetrow in the spring. Our meeting with her in May was full of promise. In the months ahead we are looking forward to further communication and collaboration with the administration in order to continue to implement our program’s strategic goals.

One of our strategic goals will be achieved in 2009-2010, with the creation of the Teacher-Scholar Postdoctoral Fellowship, based both in American Ethnic Studies and Women’s and Gender Studies. Dr. Sherri Clark will fill this position for the next two years. The ongoing dialogue with Program Director of American Ethnic Studies Dr. Earl Smith has proven fruitful, and we are grateful to Dean Herman Eure for facilitating the outcome of this productive collaboration.

Another feather in the cap this year has been the presence of Dr. Patricia Willis (left), Activist in Residence in Women’s and Gender Studies. With unflagging energy she has been the motor behind many of this year’s happenings in WGS, both on and off campus. She has spearheaded the organization of three major series of academic events, each hosting internationally known speakers: in the fall the Porn Wars Series with a symposium and lectures, and in the spring the Women and Militarism Speaker Series, and the Human Rights Film Festival. In addition to these major accomplishments, she has facilitated the creation of a Wake Forest branch of the FMLA (Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance), motivating many students to action. She also escorted a good number of students to conferences in Greensboro (the Women of Color Conference was held at Bennett College in November) and Washington (the “Prosecuting Sexual and Gender Based Crimes in Internationalized Criminal Courts” conference was held at American University’s Women and International Law Program in October, and the Young Women’s Leadership Conference in March).

As the dominant theme for this column has been to express appreciation for the good work conducted this year in the name and on behalf of Women’s and Gender Studies, I cannot omit to mention what a stellar job WGS coordinator Linda Mecum (left) performed in the WGS Senior Roundtable Discussion and dedication of our reading room to the memory of one of our generous donors, Sylva Billue. The WGS advisory board decided that the best way to commemorate our late friend Sylva was to celebrate, at the end of the year, the exciting scholarship and outstanding service of our minors. Professors Sharon Andrews (Theatre) and Sally Barbour (Romance Languages and WGS), who are co-chairs of the WGS Campus Connections Committee, facilitated the roundtable discussion after Professor Emerita of English Nancy Cotton shared her reflections on the rich life of creativity and activism of her friend Sylva Billue. We all enjoyed the evening, and everyone had a chance to see our remodeled room—the Sylva Billue Reading Room—featuring the conference table that Sylva had made for us and that woodworker Wayne Raab completed after her premature death two years ago. The table has an inset of ceramic tiles made by artist Cynthia Bringle, with the names of influential women in the Wake Forest community. The central pages of our newsletter are dedicated to this special event.

As I am writing this, right outside our office, Tribble Hall is being—rather noisily!—renovated. There is a new Shorty’s overlooking the Manchester quad, and construction for a new dorm is under way off Jasper Memory Lane. Wake Forest is changing, and we are determined and excited to keep up with the university at large. New students will come in the fall, and new work will begin. We are ready to move on. We are ready for major progress.

POSTCARDS FROM CRETE
Cave of Eileithyia, Goddess of Childbirth

Hard green figs at the entrance. Belly-rock with well-marked omphalos and smoothed by many hands. We leave our gift of honey, once sent from Knossos, in amber streams, impatient to go deeper to the altar of stalagmites in female form. A seated Demeter, her head axed off by Christians as Kore stood watching. We light beeswax tapers, tell our separate stories of estranged mothers, straying husbands, lost sons, weep for the single pair. Perhaps She’ll ease us now, our mothers dead, children gone. At the rear wall, a hollow of clear water. We wash our hands and faces in the bright pool, as if a fractured mirror all at once remembered itself whole. 6/3/94

[from Aphrodite’s Daughter, collection of poems by Becky Gould Gibson (left), winner of the 2006 J.K. Kennedy Poetry Prize. Gibson presented a combined lecture and poetry reading in Tribble Hall on Tuesday, October 7, 2008. She teaches English and Women’s Studies at Guilford College in Greensboro, NC.]
Pornography (Continued from page 1)

If the twelve-year-old boy in the house is typical, he has already downloaded hardcore porn from the Internet, with its salacious depictions of perverse sex and the domination and debasement of women. He likely has played “adult” video games like Grand Theft Auto, in which characters can rejuvenate their “health” by having sex with prostitutes and can beat or kill them if they don’t want to pay them. Perhaps he has perused “lad” magazines, a genre dedicated to sports, alcohol, and the sexual objectification of women that provides step-by-step guidelines for manipulating women into thinking one is a caring and sensitive person so they will have sex with him. Or maybe he has visited web sites that have enabled him to be a voyeuristic spider in the shower or a moth in the bedroom, or to digitally create his ideal woman and place her in sexual situations. From these amusements he is learning to associate manhood with self-absorption, invulnerability, desensitization, control, and the will to hurt, and womanhood with submissiveness and the insatiable and indiscriminate desire for deviant sex.

If the household’s prepubescent girl is average, she has begun to dress and act provocatively, for she knows, from the magazines she reads, the web sites she visits, and the television shows she watches, that she has two options: sexual seductiveness or social irrelevancy. From her female role models—celebrities like Paris Hilton, Lindsey Lohan, Brittney Spears, and Pamela Anderson—she assimilates that hedonism, materialism, profanity, promiscuity, clothing that reveals the breasts, drug and alcohol use, and outrageous speech and behavior have no apparent negative consequences and attract attention. From viewing models with bodies that not one in a thousand women actually have, perhaps she has started to hate her own body and to attack it by engaging clandestinely in an eating disorder.

The man of the house might be a compulsive consumer of pornography, like the thousands of men who are in therapy for sex addiction and the hundreds of thousands of other men who are not but are addicts nonetheless. He might find it difficult to be vulnerable, intimate, or sexually interested in his spouse. Perhaps he becomes angry or even violent if he thinks his wife and daughters are not suitably dutiful. Even if none of these describe him, what might be the cumulative impact of years of viewing advertising images of women who are bound, gagged, hung up, dismembered, or decapitated; or groveling at the feet of a man; or lying prone and submissive on a floor or bed; or with a seductive look that invites sex; or helpless on the ground and hovering over by a gang of men subtly but unmistakably poised to rape her; or draped with animal skins, face painted with tribal markings, and caged; or clad in leather in the position of dominatrix; or dumped, naked, in a garbage can; or cut in half, her severed legs pitching stockings; or performing suggestive acts on bottles of perfume or alcohol?

And what of the effects on their mother and spouse, who have been told and shown since girlhood that she is unworthy of respect, better seen than heard, defined by her body, and subject to the wills and wants of men?

“We have allowed pornographers to hijack our culture. What kind of world are we creating for our children.”

Gail Dines

women’s studies at Wheelock College in Boston and a nationally known author and speaker on the subject. “What kind of world are we creating for our children?”

The “pornography of everyday life,” as one presenter called it, was the topic of a weeklong series of programs conducted at Wake Forest in October under the auspices of the Women’s and Gender Studies Program and fellow sponsoring organizations. The disturbing nature of the images that were displayed—even those drawn from mainstream media—prompted gaze-aversion among those who attended. But ultimately, what was shown and discussed raised eyebrows and opened eyes.

“34% of all children aged 10 to 17 experience unwanted exposure to pornography while on the Internet.”

Matt Ezzell

Matt Ezzell, a graduate student at UNC-Chapel Hill who is active in the Stop Porn Culture movement, provided context with a compendium of statistics. The pornography industry accumulates annual revenues of $12 billion in the United States and $97 billion worldwide—more than Microsoft, Google, eBay, Amazon, Yahoo!, Apple, Netflix, and EarthLink combined. An average of two hardcore videos are made every hour. Thirty-four percent of all children aged ten to seventeen experience unwanted exposure to pornography while on the Internet. Ninety percent of thirteen- and fourteen-year-old boys report having accessed sexually explicit material on the Internet at least once in the previous year, and 35 percent say they have viewed pornographic internet content “too many times to count.” The average age of first exposure is eleven-and-a-half.

Citing various experts on the topic, Ezzell listed the three principal themes of hardcore porn: 1) All women at all times want sex from all men; 2) Women like all the sexual acts that men perform or demand; and 3) Any woman who does not realize this at first can be readily persuaded with a little force. (This is rarely necessary, he observed, as most of the women in porn are men’s classic fantasy of the nymphomaniac.) Given that over three decades of studies have established the deleterious effect of violent and prurient material on children and that youth’s principal source of sex education is the media, one can safely deduce the unwholesome attitudes children are forming toward women and sex through pornography. “Where are the parents who refuse to talk to their children about sex but allow them to have internet access in their bedrooms?” Ezzell asked.

As consumers have become, through overexposure, increasingly inured to all but the most deviant of sexual behavior, Ezzell said, pornography’s purveyors have begun to transgress the last taboo: sex with children. Although scenes of actual sex with minors are illegal and carry harsh penalties, courts have ruled that adults in porn films can pose as children. Videos featuring actresses who are barely eighteen—in pigtails, clothed in childish dresses, with shaved pubic areas, and cuddling stuffed animals in cribs—are flooding the market to huge demand as a result. “The barriers to men raping children are gradually ebbing away,” said Dines.

Ezzell, whose father, Brewer (’70), and sister, Aimee (’95), are Wake Forest grads, cited equally disturbing statistics related to the $26.5 billion-a-year video game industry.

Pornography (Continued on page 15)
Welcome everyone. I direct the Women's and Gender Studies program at Wake Forest University, and this is an exciting time for all of us. Classes ended yesterday, and we are all working intently on the goal of bringing the semester to a successful end. The senior colloquium is one of my favorite events we host in the Women’s and Gender Studies Program, as faculty, staff, students, and parents come together to celebrate the achievements of our graduating minors. This year we have a double celebration, as we decided to use this occasion to honor our late friend Sylva Billue through the feminist scholarship and leadership of our committed students. Today we are also officially dedicating to Sylva Billue the Women’s and Gender Studies Reading Room that our minors and our faculty enjoy. After this roundtable discussion with minors we will have a reception outside, in the hall, and you are invited to tour the new room that features a beautiful table originally designed by Sylva Billue, and handsomely completed by Wayne Raab and the students of Haywood Community College. The table features an inset of tiles commissioned by Sylva to her friend Cynthia Bringle, a very imaginative potter based in the North Carolina mountains. The tiles feature the names of all those inspiring women who meant so much to Sylva and to her vision of remarkable feminist leadership at Wake Forest (the engraved names are of Nancy Cotton, Anne Boyle, Mary DeShazer, Gillian Overing, Phyllis Tribe, Maya Angelou, Sally Shumaker, Gale Sigal, Sarah Watts, and Dolly McPherson). Sylva Billue also made the card tables that students have already been using for their studies in these intense days of exam preparation and essay writing. I can still vividly remember Sylva, swiftly moving from one corner of the room to another, with the measuring tape, pencil and paper, and a large set of scrolls with her designs, so excited to begin her woodwork for that space.

If it is true that students benefit from the inspiring example of exceptional role models, it is also true that remarkable leaders draw their energy and enthusiasm from empowering others, especially young people. Our friend Sylva Billue’s enthusiasm and dedication to the cause of women’s advancement and to issues of gender education and equality was passionate and unrelenting. Even though I came to Wake Forest more recently than some of my colleagues in WGS who had the good fortune to know Sylva for a long time, I had the pleasure of working with her on the executive board of the Phyllis Tribe Lecture Series, and I met with her on various occasions to discuss how to empower young women, both at Wake Forest and in the larger community of Winston-Salem. Whenever there was an event in our community directly connected to feminist activism, I was sure to hear from her. She would contact me to offer to pay the way for our minors, or any other student who would like to attend feminist events—whether it was a GLBT conference in Durham, or a workshop on women’s leadership in our community, or Eve Ensler’s Vagina Monologues, and The Good Body as, in her words (she wrote this in an email to me), “you all know me, I really think it is important for those wonderful young women at Wake to have the opportunity to experience a performance as powerful as Eve Ensler delivers.” Sylva was larger than life, and she gave, and gave, and gave. After her sudden death, in the fall of 2007, we all grieved over her, and, once more, we experienced her kindness first hand. We learned that she had established a generous fund to benefit our program and to help it grow. This fund will significantly help further women’s and gender studies at Wake Forest, and will help strengthen our community. Sylva’s legacy to us will be radically enwined with our best feminist scholarship and activism. Feminist work is activist work that addresses inequalities of class, gender, and race, among other power structures, and so many of our minors take the Pro Humanitate work very seriously. After all, addressing inequalities is a question of ethics. I am always impressed to hear about our students’ service trips abroad, or even in the US, about their experiences as volunteers in philanthropies dedicated to the needs of the disempowered, mainly women and children, and their advocacy for programs to stop violence against women. Their accomplishments as young scholars trained in the interdisciplinary field of women’s and gender studies are equally impressive. It is through these students’ enthusiasm, their excellent scholarship, and their commitment that we, as a program, have been thriving. They infuse renewed energy and creativity into our classes, and our faculty and affiliated faculty have been exemplary in guiding their steps, carefully, generously. Our faculty deserves to be thanked for their bighearted dedication. We make a good team, and we are growing. In the last three years the number of minors has consistently increased, and we now have 35 minors. This year we have the largest group of students to ever graduate from our program. We will have 16 students leaving the Wake Forest nest, and we will miss them greatly. I look forward to hearing about their experiences in WGS, and how they have developed during this time with us. Before we hear from them, though, I would like to introduce to you Nancy Cotton, Professor Emerita of English, who will pay a tribute to Sylva as she was her devoted friend, as well as our friend and colleague.

When I asked Nancy to tell me of Sylva’s preferred music, which we wanted to play as you view the room and the conference table, she told me that Sylva’s favorite music was opera, and her favorite piece of all time was Giacomo Puccini’s Tosca. I was not surprised to
hear this, as I have always associated opera with humor, buoyancy, and joie de vivre (or love of life, even in its most tragic moments), and Sylva must have been a delight to go to an opera with. Nancy Cotton, together with Diane Lipssett (Chair of the Trible Lecture Series Executive Board), have given me a number of inspiring quotations that Sylva used to place at the end of her e-mail messages. We have made a compilation of some of them and you will see them in the Powerpoint presentation downstairs. They are also on the bookmarks that you are welcome to take with you. I also asked Nancy if she had pictures of Sylva, and she gave me one that we framed and placed in the reading room. She also promised me a portrait that was made of Sylva, and this is what she gave me (“Red Hot Mama,” right).

I was a bit perplexed when I saw it at first, but then Nancy proceeded to tell me that this was a symbolic portrait of Sylva, with the daffodils symbolizing spring and renewal, with the little tractor that reminded her of her native Texas, the bowl of pomegranate seeds as a symbol of generosity and abundance and the apples that are reminiscent of Eve’s first transgression and love of knowledge. As I was curious to know the title and the author of the work, I then opened the frame and pulled the image out. On the back, the artist, Patrick Gordon, had chosen an intriguing title….. “Red Hot Mama”. Again, Sylva’s humor and love of life come back to offer us a message. As she said of her woodwork, “The work requires patience, focus and a good sense of humor.” I think we can take Sylva’s words as a lesson to us all, for our feminist work but not only. As you, WGS graduating minors, are going out into the world, take heed of this compelling message. Your work, too, will require patience, focus and a good sense of humor.

My thanks go to:
Nancy Cotton, our graduating WGS minors,
the woodworker Wayne Raab and his students,
the tile artist Cynthia Bringle,
Leah Metz (Children’s Home), who was so kind to store the card tables for us until the room was ready,
our stellar administrative assistant Linda Mecum for coordinating the logistics of this event and the renovation of the Sylva Billue Reading Room with much patience and expertise,
our student intern, Connie Miller, for creating the Powerpoint presentations (one celebrating Sylva Billue and the other celebrating the WGS minors),

The Sylva Billue Fund
Students in the Women’s and Gender Studies Program will have greater opportunities in the coming years because of a major gift by Sylva Billue, our late friend and donor for at least two decades, who died unexpectedly in the fall of 2007. In line with Sylva’s wishes, the fund will be used to assist Women’s and Gender Studies in its growth, promoting student as well as faculty involvement in the program. The fund will help us to secure a successful future for WGS. A set of guidelines for this fund will soon be publicized.

The Women’s and Gender Studies Program meant a great deal to Sylva, as it has to so many students and faculty. Such support at this time is especially important to us. Our gratitude to Sylva is as great as the space that she has left behind. She was larger than life. Her creativity and enthusiasm, her dedicated activism and visionary leadership in philanthropy, her generous spirit and her colorful humor will be much missed. We will do our best to ensure that her gift fulfills its intended purposes.
This summer, I sat down with Dr. Abeer Dababneh, assistant professor of law and head of the academic department of the Center for Women’s Studies at the University of Jordan. I knew a little about the center from what I had read of its participation in conferences and from its publication of several research reports. As a core faculty member of WGS, I often think about how our program compares to others in the United States, but I was also curious about how our successes and challenges compared to those of my colleagues abroad, particularly those in the Arab region in which I conduct so much of my own research.

The University of Jordan program was founded in 1998 under the patronage of Princess Basma, the only sister of the late King Hussein. Princess Basma is an impressive individual in her own right, having completed a doctorate at Oxford University with a study of the role of local and international factors in Jordan’s development. Clearly the program has benefitted in many respects from having such a high profile sponsor. The program soon became a department and then, in 2006, was designated a center of study and research. Today the Center gives the University of Jordan the distinction of being the first and only public university to offer a master’s degree in women’s studies in the Arab region.

While most of the students are from Jordan and other Arab countries, the Center receives researchers from around the world, including Fulbright scholars from the United States. The focus of the program is on graduate studies, with course offerings that provide a range of interdisciplinary conceptual, theoretical and methodological approaches to women’s studies. Students can choose from an MA thesis degree, which requires the completion and defense of a significant research paper or an MA non-thesis degree that requires passing an area examination administered by a program committee. However, the Center plans to offer an introductory course on women’s studies as an elective for first-year undergraduate students.

According to its mission statement, the Center “seeks to empower women and community members to become strong advocates for gender equity and social justice, and to embrace the responsibilities of leadership in the advancement and celebration of Jordanian women in particular and Arab women in general.” Among the Center’s greatest successes, in Dr. Dababneh’s view, is graduating students who have gone on to play important roles in governmental and non-governmental organizations and in the media. Many of the Center’s graduates also go on to complete Ph.D.s and Dr. Dababneh is working to provide scholarships from the University to support doctoral work abroad in those areas in which there is a need, specifically in the areas of women in economics and women and health. The aim of such assistance is to train future faculty who would return to contribute the University of Jordan as well as the Center.

When asked about the challenges the program faces, Dr. Dababneh immediately responded that the biggest limitation was a lack of resources. The Center’s literature lists specific needs such as computers, printers, scanners, tables and chairs, and a video camera. While this program’s infrastructural needs may be more basic than some, lack of resources is hardly unique to women’s studies in Jordan. Other aspects of challenges she discussed seemed more particular to the historical and cultural context of Jordan.

Dr. Dababneh was clear that the discourse of the university’s program is more liberal than radical. The focus of teaching remains on women’s equality and lack of opportunity—problems rooted in the social structure. Like many institutions I encounter in my research in Jordan, there is a comfort among elites with the language of liberalism: rights, toleration, and laissez-faire. While women’s studies is likely to always face criticism and resistance from conservative and reactionary sectors of society, so long as they remain within a liberal framework, Dr. Dababneh states, they are able to teach women’s empowerment and participation and leadership in public spheres in a way that is not rejected by “official” society.

According to Dr. Dababneh, one of her main aims is to “get people to believe that the women’s cause is a human rights cause and that we are not thinking or intending to change the social structure in a way that destroys society. Actually, we are looking to build a greater society.” Using the body as an analogy, she noted that even if the upper body is very strong, so long as the lower body remains weak and undernourished one cannot step forward. This, she says, is the case of men and women: until women in Jordanian society are empowered society will not move forward. “This,” she asserted, “is our cause.”

In reaching this aim, Dr. Dababneh noted that there are few topics that are not taboo per se, but with which one must take particular care when broaching, using particular language and keeping the discussion within particular limits. She used the example of sexuality, a topic often deemed off limits in Jordan’s conservative society. “One can discuss homosexuality if one remains within the framework of science. The main issue is to make clear that you are not talking about sexual freedom, but that you are talking about having social status.”

Audre Lorde famously worried that “the master’s tools will never dismantle the master’s house”—that is, whether operating within a patriarchal system to try to create change will only perpetuate rather than challenge the inherent biases and flaws of the system. An alternative view, found in literature on “self-limiting movements,” Gramsci’s concept of a “war of position,” and what Cynthia MacLeod, in her work on veiling, has referred to as “accommodating protest,” recognizes the necessity of working with existing “tools” in order to expand one’s sphere of action to achieve one’s aims. As she offered her assessment of the challenges facing a women’s studies program in Jordan I had no doubt that Dr. Dababneh was fully aware of how her work was situated in the context of these competing concerns and strategies.
experience and knowledge on a subject and movement which many in the United States prefer to characterize as no longer needed. Steinem’s passion for feminist activism and her wealth of knowledge of the continued oppression of women reveals, however, that the feminist movement in the United States—and the world over—is far from dead; it is thriving today and is in need of the commitment of a new generation of thinkers and leaders in order that the feminist revolution—the longest revolution—might continue to work for the advancement of all.

As she ended her talk, I felt as though Steinem’s enthusiasm and passion for pursuing socio-political change was imparted to the audience in a very inspiring way. She described each of us in the audience as an imaginal cell, capable of transforming society into a beautiful creature of equality, just as such cells alter the physical body of a caterpillar and cause it to morph into a butterfly. Steinem encouraged me to “do something radical every day” to prove to myself and the world that patriarchy is not a necessary—or desirable—means of existence.”

**Matt Tripplett** (’09)

“Ms. Steinem is an admirable woman who has fought for decades for the social equality of women. Her message was quite insightful and powerful. She fought for decades for the social equality of women. With concrete examples that the issues being discussed were not myths but actual societal realities that affect the lives of both women and men across social, class, racial and cultural lines.”

**Gabby Retta** (Dec ‘08)

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**WGS Thanks Affiliated Faculty**

We would like to thank the following for teaching these courses in our minor in 2008-2009:

- **Elizabeth Evans**—Visiting Assistant Professor, English; WGS 101: Window on Women’s and Gender Studies and WGS 221: Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies
- **Maureen Eggert**—Associate Director of Research and Instruction, and Instructor of Legal Research, Law School; WGS 377: Women and the Law
- **Sandya Hewamanne**—Assistant Professor, Anthropology; ANT 329: Feminist Anthropology
- **James Bryant**—Visiting Assistant Professor, American Ethnic Studies; AES 151: Race and Ethnic Diversity in America
- **J. Michael Raley**—Visiting Assistant Professor, History; HST 311: Women in Medieval Society
- **Stavroula Glezakos**—Assistant Professor, Philosophy; PHI 385: Feminist Philosophy
- **Tanisha Ramachandran**—Assistant Professor, Religion; REL 388: South Asian Women - Religion, Culture, and Politics

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**Meet Our WGS Student Assistants**

**Connie Miller** (l) is a senior from Lexington, NC. She is an English major and WGS minor, and is active in the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance.

**Katie Porter** (r) is a sophomore from Chattanooga, TN. She plans to minor in Women’s and Gender Studies, and is active in the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance.

**Sherri Clark** (Continued from page 1)

the next two years. Dr. Clark holds a doctorate in Cultural Anthropology from American University, with a dissertation titled: “Policies, Perceptions, and Place: An Ethnography of the Complexities of Implementing a Federal Housing Program.” Her published research on housing policies in urban and rural contexts carefully explores issues of poverty, gender, and race. Last spring Dr. Clark taught a successful seminar for WGS on Women, Race, and Poverty that was cross-listed with American Ethnic Studies and Education, and also offered credit in Anthropology. In the fall of 2009 she will teach a First Year Seminar, Poverty Across Race, Gender, and Space, as well as AES 151/WGS 116: Race and Ethnic Diversity in America. We are very grateful to Dr. **Earl Smith** (AES), Dean **Jacque Fetrow**, Associate Dean **Herman Eure**, and Provost **Jill Tiefenthaler** for making this joint appointment possible.

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**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.

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**Congratulations to the 2009 Award Recipients**

(Undergraduate)

**Christine Cooluris ’09**


Nominated by Dr. **Simone Caron**, History

(Undergraduate)

**Ashley Gedraitis ’11**

“**Tess of the d’Urbervilles**: The Modern Date Rape Case Study”

Nominated by Dr. **Melissa Jenkins**, English

(Graduate)

**Audrey Golden ’09**

“Rape in War: Genocide, Torture, and the Need for a New International Definition”

Nominated by **Jennifer Collins**, Law
Rebecca “Becca” Adams received a B.A. in History and a minor in WGS. She is from Kernersville, NC, and will be attending culinary school.

Joshua Anders received a B.A. in English and minors in Philosophy and WGS. Josh is from Pfafftown, NC, and will be teaching high school English this fall.

Velvet Bryant received a B.A. in Psychology and a minor in WGS. She is from Greensboro, NC. Velvet was awarded an internship through the WFU Fellows Program and will be working in the Provost’s Office next year, after which she plans to pursue a Master’s degree in public administration.

Melissa Council received a B.A. in Sociology and a minor in WGS. Melissa is from Cary, NC.

Brady Everett received a B.A. in Psychology and a minor in WGS. Brady is from Pitman, NJ, and will be returning to Wake Forest in the fall to pursue a Master’s degree in General Psychology.

Trayonna Floyd received a B.A. in Sociology and a minor in WGS. She is from Gastonia, NC. Trayonna received a one-year internship through the WFU Fellows Program and will be working in Student Life at Wake Forest.

Alexandra “Allie” Levison received a B.A. in Psychology and minors in Entrepreneurship & Social Enterprise and WGS. Allie is from Greenwich, CT, and will be returning there to work at CitationShares as a marketing coordinator.

Mary Ripple received a B.A. in Sociology and a minor in WGS. Mary is from Charlotte, NC, and will be spending a service year in Boston with the Match Corps.

Nicole Russo received a B.A. in English and minors in Art History and WGS. She is from Long Island, NY, and will be moving back to look for a job in NYC.

Julie Schwartz received a B.A. in Sociology and minors in Communication and WGS. Julie is from Atlanta, GA, and will be attending Georgia State University in the fall, pursuing a Master’s degree in social work.

Sara Smith received a B.A. in Sociology and minors in Political Science and WGS. She is from High Point, NC. Sara will be working one year with Girls Inc as part of AmeriCorps, after which she plans to attend American University and pursue a career in women’s international law.

Kelly Stroud received a B.A. in Elementary Education and a minor in WGS. She is from Vienna, VA. Kelly will be teaching elementary school in the DC area for a few years, after which she hopes to either teach abroad or go to graduate school.

Corinne Sweeney received a B.A. in Psychology and a minor in WGS. Corinne is from Kennett Square, PA, and will be pursuing an M.A. in Psychology at New York University, after which she hopes to attend a Clinical Ph.D. program to ultimately work on women’s issues in a clinical setting while still conducting research.

Tara Tedrow received a B.A. in Communication, a minor in WGS, with a Communication Science concentration. Tara is from Winter Park, FL.

Matthew “Matt” Triplett received a B.A. in Political Science and minors in Religion and WGS. He is from Wilkesboro, NC. Matt was awarded a one-year internship through the WFU Fellows Program and will be working in the WFU Provost Office.

Heather Weygant will be graduating in August with a B.A. in Psychology and a minor in WGS. Heather is from Hickory, NC, and will be taking a year off to work.
Christina Soriano Speaks at WGS Faculty/Student Research Colloquium

On Monday, November 24, 2008, faculty and students gathered to hear Christina Tsoules Soriano, new Assistant Professor of Dance at WFU, talk about “Movement for Men,” relating her experiences developing a very popular course by the same title in which “ideas of what masculinity is and how gender is a performed idea became pivotal topics in this studio-based dance class.” Before coming to Wake, Soriano taught at Providence College (Rhode Island), Salve Regina University, Providence Ballet, and Festival Ballet. She also taught and created new works for the Theatre and Dance departments of Amherst College, Trinity College and Rhode Island College. Soriano received her BA from Trinity College (CT) and her MFA in dance from Smith College.

Vagina Monologues
March 20-21, 2009
Brendle Recital Hall

This year’s benefit performance of Eve Ensler’s play to raise money and awareness for ending violence against women and girls was directed by Shelley Graves (MA ‘09) and Erin Robinson (‘09). This year’s event raised $1,265.

Want to Get Involved in a Student Group That Can Make a Difference to You and to Others?

The Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance (FMLA) is a recently formed student group at WFU. FMLA is a feminist activist organization. Feminism is the belief in political, social, and economic equality for all people, regardless of gender, race, or sexual orientation.

2009-2010 Officers
Presidents: Connie Miller (‘10), Grant Livesay (‘11), and Jessica Armstrong (‘10)
Recordkeeper: Katie Porter (‘12)
Treasurer: James Blair (‘10)
Public Relations/Communication: Antonina Whaples (‘10)

Contact Antonina Whaples at whapaj6@wfu.edu for information about FMLA, membership, and meetings.

Militarism (Continued from page 1)
risprudential theory and practice on theories of the state, on pornography, on women and militarism, and rape as a war crime. She is the author of numerous books including Feminism Unmodified, Sex Equality, and Only Words. Together with the late Andrea Dworkin, MacKinnon authored an anti-pornography ordinance that would establish pornography as a harm-based civil suit rather than the traditional obscenity-based model. U.S. Army Master Sergeant (Retired) Stan Goff (left) spoke on April 2, in DeTamble Auditorium. Drawing both on his experiences in the military and on his reading of feminist writers such as Patricia Williams, bell hooks, and Chandra Mohanty—and as the father of a son stationed in Iraq—Stan Goff journeyed through wars, ideologies, and cultures, revealing the transformation of men into killers. His story encompassed not just the battlefield and the book, but the Swift Boat Veterans controversy, pornography, the Taliban, and gays and lesbians in the military. Goff’s remarkable ability to connect his own personal experiences to contemporary feminist criticism made for a provocative discussion of war and masculinity. Stan Goff is author of a number of books, including Sex and War (2006). U.S. Army Colonel (Retired) Ann Wright (shown here with Wanda Balzano) spoke on April 22 on “Camouflaged Rapes: U.S. Military Cover-ups.” Colonel Wright has been researching the rapes by U.S. military men of U.S. military women in Iraq and Afghanistan for the past five years. She served thirteen years in active military duty and sixteen additional years in the U.S. Army Reserves. She worked at the U.S. State Department from 1987 until 2003. Her leadership on exposing rape in military settings is helping to define how the U.S. government will address military sexual abuse, harassment, and gender.

WGS would like to thank the following sponsors of the Women in Militarism Speaker Series:
Office of the Provost (Fund for Ethics, Leadership and Civic Responsibility)
Office of Multicultural Affairs
Sociology Department
Political Science Department
CARE (Center for Awareness, Response and Education)

WGS Minors Receive 2009 Pro Humanitate Center Non-Profit Summer Internships

Three WGS minors received 2009 summer internships designed to give undergraduate students the opportunity to work in a field of service they are considering as a career, while receiving personal, spiritual and financial support. Weekly vocational reflection meetings, with one another and mentors, are central to the program. Jessica Armstrong (‘10) was at Crisis Control Ministry, Heather Bolt (‘10) was at the Women’s Leadership Council of the United Way, and Benjellica Leslie-Jones (‘11) was at First Baptist Church- Highland Avenue.
Caputi, who followed Ezzell to the podium, screened her documentary The Pornography of Everyday Life, which is full of examples of negative imagery of women in advertising. “When a woman is stripped, the men around her keep their clothes on,” she said. “Silencing women is a central preoccupation of pornography and it regularly gags them, as do ads for all kinds of products. In an ad for a motorcycle, a woman’s body is the chassis; something to ride or drive.

“Pornography is a habitual mode of thinking—one that makes us see a man possessing, overpowering, threatening, using, and humiliating a woman as not only manly, but also sexy,” she said. “Porn is supposedly all about arousal. But because it objectifies—turns another person into some ‘thing’ to use and exploit—it really ends up being about desensitization and dehumanization.”

Feminine is not the only gender that is objectified by everyday pornography, Caputi observed. “Men are dehumanized as objects of violence, control, and invulnerability,” she stated. “We’re sending a terrible message. We’re saying that the average man must become so hard and self-absorbed that he becomes utterly incapable of connection except with a machine such as his car or iPod.”

Caputi rejected accusations that those opposed to pornography are moralizing suppressors of free speech. “People assume that if you’re opposed to porn, you are anti-sex, or are some kind of a moralist,” she said. “But pornography in its everyday form is really not about sexual freedom—it is about keeping women in their place. And it is not about men loving women—it is more often about men hating and degrading women.”

In her presentation, Gail Dines did not disguise her contempt for what she calls the “Stepford Sluts”—a play on the title The Stepford Wives of a book and movie from the seventies about a group of affluent suburban men who replace their wives with fawning, submissive robots. She coined the term to describe glamorous celebrities like Madonna, Lohan, Anderson, Spears, and the late Anna Nicole Smith, who dress provocatively, behave outrageously, and flaunt an air of promiscuity. “Today, a porn star like Jenna Jameson can go mainstream,” she said. “Even [respected actress] Nicole Kidman, who’s in her forties, has been forced to conform to the slut culture.”

“Women are still on their hands and knees,” she observed, “but they’re not scrubbing the floor any more.”

Dines, a recipient of the Myers Center Award for the Study of Human Rights, said today’s models have strictly profiled measurements that only one in ten thousand women actually have. “The abnormal has become the normal, and normal women have become abnormal,” she noted. “Most women are at war with their bodies—and the less worthy you feel, the more you’ll allow men to mistreat you.”

Dines said girls are especially at risk in the slut culture. “Even in your pre- or early teens, you’re either f---kable or invisible,” she stated. “What hope do we have for our young girls growing up?”

So what if anything can be done to stem the tide of everyday pornography? Legal avenues are severely constricted by standards governing pornography established decades ago by the U.S. Supreme Court. To be deemed unlawful, prurient content must violate prevailing community standards, be “patently offensive,” and lack serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value. “So when morality is the issue,” noted legal scholar Ann Scales in summarizing the conundrum confronting pornography opponents, “who decides?”

Ann Scales, a Duke University law professor who received her degree from Harvard Law School, sees promise in a movement to define pornography as sex discrimination on the grounds that porn portrays acts that dehumanize or

Pornography (Continued from page 8)

Seventy percent of nine- to sixteen-year-olds have played “M”-rated games intended for players aged seventeen and older. Almost half bought the games themselves, and 25 percent bought the games with a parent present. M-rated games are saturated with sex and violence. Ezzell shared this quote from a review of “Playboy: the Mansion,” a game that enables players to wander the mansion and score all the sex they want with the beautiful and randy women they meet. “In the past hour I’ve had sex with four different women on every piece of soft furniture available. It’s not too hard to do it, either, as long as you master the art of conversation and give plenty of compliments.”

Among the conclusions Ezzell has drawn from various studies are these from the 2007 Report of the American Psychological Association Task Force on the Sexualization of Girls: impaired performance in mental activity; undermined confidence in one’s own body; disordered eating; low self-esteem; depression; decreased condom use; stronger endorsement of sexual stereotypes that depict women as sexual objects; and increased placement of physical attractiveness at the core of a woman’s values. The effects on men include objectifying women outside of pornography as well as in; desensitization; habituation; pressuring partners to try positions and practices seen in pornography; viewing sex with partners as boring; dependence on mental images derived from pornography to sustain an erection during sex with one’s partner; and feelings of guilt, lack of control, or depression.

It is not hardcore porn that disturbs Jane Caputi as much as what she calls the “everyday” variety—the scenes of the eroticized domination and humiliation of women that saturate the mainstream media. “Pornography is not a deviant genre, but something we view every day,” said Caputi, a professor of women’s studies and communications at Florida Atlantic University and prolific writer on the subject. “Pornographic themes and images pervade our culture.”

“Pornography in its everyday form is really not about sexual freedom—it is about keeping women in their place. And it is not about men loving women—it is more often about men hating and degrading women.”

Jane Caputi

It is not about what offends mom and pop. It is about the actual harms done to men, women, and children.”

Ann Scales

Pornography (Continued on page 16)
Pornography (Continued from page 15)
degrade women and sometimes injure the women participating in it. “It is not about what offends mom and pop,” she said. “It is about the actual harms done to men, women, and children.” She is the daughter of the late Ralph Scales, who served as president of Wake Forest from 1967 to 1983.

Possible legal remedies notwithstanding, ridding our living room of everyday pornography ultimately will depend on each member of our collective family accepting personal responsibility for his or her role in accommodating it. Men have a particular duty, according to Ezzell. “Stop consuming women,” he said. “Feel guilty. Be uncomfortable and uncertain about it. Never stop the process of critical self-reflection. Hold ourselves and other men accountable. And stop being ‘men’ and start being human beings.”

WGS would like to thank the following for their support of the Porn Wars Series:
Office of the Provost (Fund for Academic Excellence)
CARE (Community Awareness through Response and Education)
CHAMPS (Challenging Athlete Minds for Personal Success)
Communication Department
Psychology Department
Sociology Department
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
Greek Life
Office of the Chaplain
Office of Multicultural Affairs
PREPARE (Policy Group on Rape Education, Prevention and Response)
Student Health Services
University Counseling Center
University Police
School of Law
School of Medicine - Women’s Health Center of Excellence for Research, Leadership and Education

WGS Activist in Residence and Professor of Music Collaborate on Human Rights Event

What began as a casual conversation between Patricia Dixon, Professor of Music, and Patricia Willis, WGS Activist in Residence, resulted in a project highlighting human rights, torture, women’s liberation, and the longing for justice using theater and film as the media. Knowing that Pat Dixon was Chilean, Willis asked if she would like to be involved in a production of Death and the Maiden, the play about one woman’s liberation from her torturer’s decades-long power over her under the Pinochet regime. (Paulina, the woman, believes that a stranger who comes to her home is the man who tortured and raped her many years before under the military dictatorship.) The play was written by Chilean exile Ariel Dorfman, a professor at Duke University. Thanks to Sharon Andrews in the Theatre Department, the two Pats discovered that WFU’s student theater group, the Anthony Aston Players, already had plans to mount a production of the play.

Dixon then introduced Willis to Special Circumstances, an award-winning film by filmmaker, torture survivor, and exile of the Pinochet regime, Hector Salgado. The documentary is about Salgado’s return to Chile after nearly 40 years of exile to confront his torturers. Right away they knew the film should be shown to the Wake Forest community in conjunction with Death and the Maiden. (Willis seized the opportunity to make this film part of the WGS Human Rights Film Festival that her Feminist Activism students were planning for the spring semester.)

On February 4, Special Circumstances was shown in Carswell Auditorium, followed by a discussion led by Hector Salgado. Death and the Maiden was presented in the Ring Theatre of Scales Fine Arts Theatre on February 5-7.

“The women of Hector Salgado’s story played a huge role. His mother and the mothers of other political prisoners took important steps in ending the dictatorship and freeing their children. They were the first to protest. If they hadn’t rallied for the liberation of political prisoners in Chile and Argentina, the end to this dictatorship may not have occurred.”

Cortney Fallen (’11)

Award Winning Filmmaker Aishah Simmons Visits Wake Forest

On March 5, 2009 (as part of the Human Rights Film Festival), NO! The Rape Documentary, was shown in Carswell Auditorium. Produced and directed over a period of eleven years by Aishah Simmons, NO! is an internationally acclaimed, award-winning, feature-length documentary that unveils the reality of rape, other forms of sexual violence and healing. Winner of the “Audience Award” and “Juried Award” at the 2006 San Diego Women’s Film Festival and the 2008 “Best Documentary Award” at the India International Women’s Film Festival, NO! also explores how rape is used as a weapon of homophobia. The documentary has been screened extensively at film festivals, colleges and universities, rape crisis centers, battered women’s shelters, conferences, and correctional facilities throughout North America, across Europe, and in numerous countries in Africa and Latin America. The showing was followed by a discussion with filmmaker Simmons.

“The documentary included several men who are working to end sexual assault. This was really refreshing because I truly believe that rape cannot simply be looked at as a woman’s issue. Men have to take a stand against it as well.”

Heather Weygant (Aug’09)

Many thanks to the following for their support of the Human Rights Film Festival:
Office of the Provost (Fund for Academic Initiatives)
Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance
Latin American Studies
Office of Multicultural Affairs
Sociology Department
Film Studies
American Ethnic Studies
PREPARE

Scotty Michaelsen is captured as he films the WGS Senior Roundtable Discussion and Dedication of the Sylva Billue Reading Room, April 30, DeTamble Hall.

Thanks, Scotty, for all the many things you do for WGS and our students!
Conference (Continued from page 1)

be attending this conference because I knew these professional women who are movers and shakers in the human rights arena would be quite inspirational. On a personal note, as an African native, the topics of genocide and sexual crimes were issues I had grown up to see, hear about, and live through. We had judges and lawyers who spoke on behalf of the international criminal courts as well as the victims. Justice Teresa Doherty of the Special Court for Sierra Leone herself admitted the limitations that she faces during court proceedings due to the lack of legislations that prosecute sexual and gender-based crimes. This point was further illustrated when Maxine Marcus from the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) gave her speech. According to Marcus, women are permitted to come and testify against the assailants as long as their testimony excludes their experiences of rape, sexual abuse and violence. After overcoming fear of the perpetrators and any form of societal condemnation, rather than being viewed as the heroes that they are, these women and their experiences of pain and injustice are ignored. It seems to send the message that it is only worthy to prosecute mass murders and massacres while the world ignores the fact that women are raped, beaten, enslaved, mutilated, abused and emotionally broken by these men. The key question that the conference tried to address was ‘Are these crimes not worth considering and prosecuting by the International Criminal Courts?’

How are judges and justices to provide a fair and just ruling if they are lacking statutes that are comprehensive of all the crimes that person may have committed? Genocide is not merely ethnic or racial annihilation. The statutes that define the term “genocide” in the International Courts need to encompass that, beyond mass and ethnic executions, genocide can also be targeted towards gender. Marcus, who is actively involved in prosecuting violators in the ICTY, provided realistic examples from cases she had worked on previously. It was evident that the hands of the lawyers were effectively tied from prosecuting all forms of gender-based crimes, and this needed to change.

As Susana SaCouto, the director of the War Crimes Research Office of Washington School of Law remarked in closing, the responsibility of holding violators accountable for all their crimes should not be left solely to the lawyers, judges or the legal teams. Everyone should consider this a human rights issue and demand that such statutes be included in the law books. It is not only our responsibility; it is our obligation to protect the principles of life, liberty, equality and the pursuit of happiness that we preach about internationally. These are the wars we need to be fighting; these are the issues we need to spend billions on.” Gabby Retta (Dec’08)

“Attending the “Prosecuting Sexual and Gender-Based Crimes Before International/ized Criminal Courts” conference was an incredibly enlightening experience. As one of the few undergraduate students in attendance, I felt privileged and honored to be able to learn about the experiences and struggles of actual participants in the post-conflict attempts to prosecute gender-based violence in the former Yugoslavia and Sierra Leone. The conference provided me with a unique perspective on women’s rights in the international legal arena while also exposing me to a highly technical and specialized debate over how to most effectively deal with attempts to stifle the development of human rights norms.

The conference was extremely informative from a purely historical standpoint. The speakers included several women who had been directly involved in the carrying out of post-conflict prosecutions, including Justice Teresa Doherty, who served on The Special Court for Sierra Leone, and Maxine Marcus, whose work focused on the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. Though some of their legal jargon was, at times, difficult to decipher, they made clear that the work was more than cut out for feminist activists seeking to seriously alter and improve the current framework for human rights adopted by the international community. While a good portion of the testimony provided at the conference could be interpreted as pessimistic, it was also invaluable in providing guidance about where feminist efforts should be directed. Focusing on the procedural barriers that are consistently used to block effective gender-based crime litigation is one way to positively advance women’s rights in the international legal arena. The historical examples discussed by the speakers allowed context to meld with theory to provide a clear and powerful view of current international norms when approaching gender-based violence.

The conference also provided us with insight into the current efforts of international feminist activists. The keynote address, given by Patricia Viseur Sellers, former Legal Advisor for Gender and Trial Attorney at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and independent gender expert, taught us about the inter-workings of U.N. agencies devoted to women’s rights. Her analysis of the challenges facing globally-minded feminists was both thorough and inspiring. Though the obstacles that obstruct the path to true gender awareness and women’s liberation are plentiful, her address demonstrated that progress could and indeed had been made, and that the enthusiastic pursuit of feminist activism could significantly alter the intolerable status quo.

This conference was important not only because of its educational value, but because of its ability to demonstrate how abstract feminist theory could be critically applied to real-world situations in order to advance the feminist agenda. While studying feminist theory might be valuable in academic circles, successful feminist activism requires that students understand that theory is insufficient on its own to meet the demands of people suffering around the world from gender-based violence. Feminist theory is truly most powerful when it is being used to guide concrete political action and respond to real threats to women’s rights and well-being. By combining a historical analysis with a focus on current problems, the conference served as a starting point for renewed feminist activism.” Carlos Maza (’10)

Students who attended the Young Women’s Leadership Conference in Washington, DC, March 19-21, eagerly presented the ideas as to which they were exposed at a colloquium in DeTamble Auditorium on April 2. Shown here (l to r) are Jessica Armstrong (’10), Sanjay Talluri (’09), Lacey Robinson (’09), Antonina Whaples (’10), Grant Livesay (’11), Connie Miller (’10), and Harrison St. Germain (’09).
Elizabeth Phillips (Continued from page 1)

here in 1977 and Elizabeth took me into her care. She invited me, introduced me, treated me as a real colleague. I was always delighted when she suggested we have lunch in the Magnolia Room. “Generous” was a word of high praise with her, and generous is what she was. I was not the only assistant professor she looked after—she made a point of caring for as many of the new professors as she could. And she was always a loyal friend.

She was a splendid teacher, perhaps partly because she was such a thoughtful listener. A friend who had Elizabeth many years ago for sophomore English wrote me: “She was a joy. Her love of learning was inspiring. She was a rare character with great integrity.” He told me of turning in an essay that he described as “worse than awful.” Elizabeth’s comment: “This essay is an example of the highest form of mediocrity.” He got the joke, and, as he said, “grinned all the way back to the dorm.”

When Elizabeth was caught by the then rule requiring retirement at 70—she hated to give up teaching. Fortunately she was able to return from time to time to fill in as director of Women’s Studies and to teach in the Master of Liberal Arts program. When the MALS program hosted an outside evaluator, I took her to Elizabeth’s class, knowing that it would be superb, and it was. She was teaching Wallace Stevens’ “Sunday Morning,” a difficult poem, and in teaching that poem she was also teaching her students how to read difficult poetry. A few years later, her final class was a poetry class for MALS. On the first evening, according to a student, she announced that (1) she had quit smoking and therefore could be ornery and impatient, and (2) she was almost 80 and was no longer as feisty as she used to be. Her 80th birthday occurred on one of the evenings of the class. The students presented her with a cake inscribed “Still feisty after all these years.”

She was the only professor I ever met who began publishing books in her sixties: on Edgar Allan Poe (1979), Marianne Moore (1982), and in 1988, when she was nearly 70, her book on Emily Dickinson, the product of a lifetime of reading and teaching Dickinson. This is the age when humanity professors ought to publish, of course, but I believe that as Wake began its change to a research university, she felt that it was incumbent upon her to do what was now being asked of the junior faculty.

I could spend hours telling you of all my happy memories of Elizabeth. To be invited to dinner with her was to be invited to real conversation. To be invited to a birthday party was to be invited for poems, speeches, and songs. I still remember a 70th birthday dinner at which, instead of receiving gifts, she gave each of the guests a thoughtfully chosen present. She loved an old-fashioned and a coconut cake (not at the same time of course), and took great delight in her new neighbors across the street, Mindy and Bill. And I remember the time, during one of our chronic spats in the English Department, she came to my Halloween costume party dressed as a witch, complete with broom and tall pointy hat, a wry joke. In fact, Elizabeth loved a fight, which made the English Department a congenial place for her.

She was always a champion of women. We made a comic statement for equality when she and Eva accepted our invitation to be the ushers at our wedding.

After 9/11 they read the Koran from cover to cover, just one example of their intellectual curiosity combined with rigor.

Elizabeth is always present to my mind’s eye—and more, to my mind’s ear—I hear her voice every day—all that splendid talk and those provocative questions. She was a gift to us. Up to the day she died she was “still feisty after all these years.”

WGS Core Faculty News

Congratulations to Dr. Perry Patterson (Economics/WGS) for his new appointment as Associate Dean for Academic Advising. He will step down from his core faculty position in WGS. We will miss you, Perry.

While on leave during the 2008-2009 academic year, Dr. Angela Hattery (Sociology/WGS) was named A. Lindsey O’Connor Distinguished Professor in American Institutions at Colgate University. Dr. Mary DeShazer (English/WGS) and Dr. Michael Bowers (Political Science/WGS) were also away, having been awarded Reynolds Research Leave during the 2008-2009 academic year. Welcome back!

Fall 2009 Courses

Offered for Women’s and Gender Studies

Interdisciplinary Minor Credit

Women’s and Gender Studies provides an opportunity for study and dialogue on a broad range of topics related not only to feminist contributions to the fundamental fields of human knowledge and achievement, but also to interdisciplinary studies of feminisms, masculinity, sex, gender and sexuality. The interdisciplinary minor in WGS must include WGS 221 and WGS 321, and a minimum of 12 additional hours, for a total of 18 hours. Visit our website at www.wfu.edu/wgs for complete minor requirements.

Courses Offered by WGS (open to all students)

WGS 101 Window on Women’s and Gender Studies (1 hr)
WGS 116 Race and Ethnic Diversity in America (3 hr)
WGS 221* Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies (3 hr)
WGS 321A* ResSem: Women and Reproduction (3 hr)
WGS 321B* ResSem: Gay and Lesbian Film and Culture (3 hr)
WGS 321C ResSem: Feminist Political Thought (3 hr)
WGS 377A* SpTp: U.S. Women Poets (3 hr)
WGS 380A Sexuality and the Law (3 hr)
WGS 396* Independent Study (1-3 hr)
WGS 100 RAD: Rape Aggression Defense for Women (1 hr)
A 8/31-10/12, Mon B 10/19-11/30, Mon C 9/1-10/13, Tue
D 10/20-12/1, Tue E 8/26-10/7, Wed F 10/21-12/2, Wed
G 8/27-10/8, Thu H 10/22-12/3, Thu

Courses Offered by other Departments

AES 151 Race and Ethnic Diversity in America (3 hr)
ART 351 Women and Art (3 hr)
CLA 252 Women in Antiquity (3 hr)
COM 340 American Rhetorical Movements to 1900 (3 hr)
COM 370C SpTp: Culture and the Sitcom (3 hr)
COM 370D SpTp: Gay and Lesbian Film and Culture (3 hr)
ENG 302A Studies in African American Literature (3 hr)
ENG 387A Slavery in the 20th and 21st Century Black Imagination (3 hr)
POL 277 Feminist Political Thought (3 hr)
PSY 265 Human Sexuality (3 hr)
SOC 153 Sociology of Contemporary Families (3 hr)
SOC 305 Gender in Society (3 hr)

First Year Seminar Endorsed by WGS

Poverty Across Race, Gender, and Space

* Also offered as a graduate level course
How a Female Journalist Challenged Power—and Succeeded

Wednesday
February 25, 2009
4:30 p.m.
DeTamble Auditorium
(Reception and book signing)

Lecture by Anna Rubino, scholar and journalist with an extensive background in covering the international oil industry from New York and Brussels. During a reporting career of over two decades, she interviewed at length with OPEC oil ministers, senior government officials, and leading oil company executives. While reporting for Petroleum Intelligence Weekly, she traveled with Wanda Jablonski and visited oil installations abroad. Rubino is author of Queen of the Oil Club: The Intrepid Wanda Jablonski and the Power of Information. She holds degrees from Yale, Vassar, and U. of Paris.

Sponsors: Political Science Department, Journalism Program, Babcock Women in Business, and WGS

Stand Up, Stand Out!

Tuesday
April 21, 2009
6:00 p.m.
Wait Chapel

A forum held to inspire the women of Wake Forest to develop as leaders with speakers Patricia Willis (r), Women’s and Gender Studies Activist in Residence, and Mary Martin Niepold (l), Professor of English and founder of the Nyanya Project.

Sponsored by Kappa Delta Sorority

“(Grandmothers raising their grandchildren orphaned by AIDS in Kenya and Tanzania are learning skills and developing economic self-reliance thanks to the Nyanya Project.)

Inside Out: Psychoanalysis, Gender and Irish Studies

Monday
March 2, 2009
4:30 p.m.
Tribble A107

Dr. Moynagh Sullivan, Fulbright Scholar in Irish Literature and Cultural Studies at UC-Berkeley, talks about her research.

The Effects of Incarceration on American Families

Saturday
February 21, 2009
2:00 p.m.
Wait Chapel


Sponsors: Mothers for Justice, Wake Forest School of Divinity, WGS

Ash Theft: Untouchability, Ritual, and Politics in an Indian Village

Wednesday, April 8, 2009
4:30 p.m.
Museum of Anthropology

Dr. Diane Mines is a cultural anthropologist who researches and publishes on gender, religion, and aesthetics in South Asia, especially India.

She is the author of FIERCE GODS: Inequality, Ritual and Politics of Dignity in a South Indian Village (IUP, 2005).
Two of Ireland’s Most Esteemed Poets to Read at WFU
Thursday, November 5, 2009
7:00 p.m.
Carswell Hall’s Annenberg Forum

"Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin’s clean, uncluttered lines sing out from the page. Their simplicity is altogether de-
ceptive, however; her propositions are enigmatic, and from her earliest poems we are invited into a fairytale world of ransoms and mysterious tasks….There is an unease beneath every moonlit silence."

"There is an erotic charge to much of Paula Meehan’s work which, to borrow a phrase, ‘lays beneath the surface of conventional sexuality like a reef below water.’ Her poems are sensual both in her handling of ideas and in her handling of the words which convey those ideas."

Attention Graduate Students
We welcome you to take WGS graduate level courses
(See page 18 for a list of WGS)

Announcing
Eighth Annual Phyllis Trible Lecture Series
March 2-3, 2010
Wait Chapel, Wake Forest University
“The Body In Sickness and In Health: Feminist Perspectives”

Guest Speakers
Christine Gudorf
Professor of Religious Ethics, Modern Christianity, Feminism and Development, Florida International University

Margaret Miles
Professor and Dean Emerita
Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley

Gail O’Day
A.H. Shatford Professor of Preaching and New Testament
Candler School of Theology, Emory University

Ann Belford Ulanov
Christiane Brooks Johnson Memorial Professor of Psychiatry and Religion, Union Theological Seminary, New York City

News and Notes reports on Women’s and Gender Studies developments, including course offerings, WGS student, alumnae/i and faculty activities, and short feature news articles. We welcome comments, suggestions, and address changes from all our readers. We particularly value our alumnae/i and encourage you to send news and/ or articles. Please send your information to wgs@wfu.edu.

For news of upcoming events, visit our Women’s and Gender Studies website at http://www.wfu.edu/wgs/news/calendar.htm