Welcome back! It’s another exciting semester at The Institute for Women’s Studies. Our eagerness for the sensational upcoming year is buoyed by the addition of our newest faculty member, Dr. Malissa Clark who has a joint appointment with the Department of Psychology.

Whether you look back at the previous academic year or ahead to 2013-2014, you’ll notice a consistent theme, enthusiasm on the part of our students, faculty, and staff. Women’s Studies at the University of Georgia is an intellectually inspiring and dynamic space.

During the Spring 2013 semester, we celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Friday Speaker Series. We are pleased that for one-quarter of a century, the Friday lunch hour has meant an opportunity to hear lively, thought provoking, and often challenging research presentations by faculty, students, and community members. Other highlights of our year included a brilliant Women’s History Month keynote address by Professor Alondra Nelson, and a STEM panel, where prominent UGA women scientists, including Mandy Joye, Angela Birkes-Grier, and Patricia Yager, discussed the place and importance of women in science, technology, engineering and math disciplines.

If you missed these wonderful events, don’t despair. Simply join us this academic year. We’ll kick things off on Friday, August 30th with our traditional celebratory Fall Reception for new and returning women faculty. And on October 19th IWS will host the 5th Women and Girls in Georgia Conference (WAGG), and celebrate the Arts with exciting lectures, spoken word recitations and dance performances.

Please join us. We’ll save you a seat!
Malissa Clark, Psychology & Women's Studies
Chris Cuomo, Philosophy & Women's Studies
Kelly Happe, Communication Studies & Women's Studies
Cecilia Herles, Assistant Director
Women's Studies
Juanita Johnson-Bailey, Director
Adult Education & Women's Studies
Bethany Moreton, History & Women's Studies
Patricia Richards, Sociology & Women's Studies
Susan Thomas, Music & Women's Studies
Beth Tobin, English & Women's Studies

Chris J. Cuomo was awarded the University of Georgia Creative Research Medal in April 2013 for her work on the epistemological and ethical dimensions of global climate change. She presented the talk “Art as a Political Weapon” to the Emory University Department of Philosophy and the UGA Undergraduate Philosophy Conference, gave lectures at Appalachian State University, Clemson University, and DePauw University, and served on a panel on cultural wisdom about environmental changes hosted by the Brooklyn Arts Council. She also curated the art show Climate Change: Conveying Realities. Cuomo was a co-author on the recent articles, “Contrasting Historical and Recent Breakup Styles on the Meade River of Arctic Alaska in the Context of a Warming Climate,” in the American Journal of Climate Change; “Environmental, Cultural, and Social Change in Arctic Alaska as Observed by Iñupiat Elders Over Their Lifetimes: A GIS Synthesis,” in Polar Geography; and “Producing an Indigenous Knowledge Web GIS for Arctic Alaska Communities: Challenges, Successes, and Lessons Learned,” published in Transactions in GIS.

Juanita Johnson-Bailey traveled to Johannesburg and Cape Town, South Africa in May 2013, where she continued her research on women leaders in contemporary social movements. As part of her research, she met with Winnie Mandela at the South African activist’s home in Johannesburg. During her visit, she spent time with faculty from the University of the Witwatersrand and also presented a class lecture, “Shadowed and Misrepresented: Women of the Struggle.” In April 2013, she delivered the keynote address, “Pivotal Positions & Promising Perspectives: How Women and Women’s Studies Shape Our World,” at the 5th Annual ASU Women Studies Symposium at Albany State College.

Bethany Moreton gave invited lectures at Northwestern University in April 2013 and Vanderbilt University in January 2013, and participated in conferences at the University of Toronto and Boston University. She spoke on “The Corporation in American Life” on the plenary panel at the annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians in San Francisco in April 2013 and presented new research on religion in the Cold War at the American Historical Association annual meeting in January 2013. She served on the program committee for the annual meeting of the American Studies Association, was named to the Historians Working Group of the AFL-CIO, and named a contributing editor to the scholarly journal Labor: Studies in the Working-Class History of the Americas. Her work on the History of Capitalism was profiled in a front-page article in the New York Times. She published a chapter in the edited collection Labor Rising (New Press, 2012) and an entry on service workers in The Encyclopedia of Southern Culture (UNC Press, 2012).

Beth Tobin organized and chaired a panel on “Writing Women’s Biography” at the annual conference for the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies in April 2013. She organized and chaired a panel in July 2013 on “Women and Science” at a conference celebrating the 10th anniversary of the founding of Chawton House Library, a center for research in women’s writing, 1660-1830. She also presented a paper entitled “Taxidermy and Women’s Decorative Arts” at this conference.


Patricia Richards’s second book, Race and the Chilean Miracle: Neoliberalism, Democracy and Indigenous Rights was released in June 2013 with the University of Pittsburgh Press.

Kelly Happe’s book, Material Gene: Gender, Race, and Heredity After the Human Genome Project was published in May 2013 with New York University Press. Her essay, “The Body of Race: Toward a Rhetorical Understanding of Racial Ideology” was the lead essay in the journal Quarterly Journal of Speech. Her essay “Genetic testing, cancer risk, and Angelina Jolie’s Choice” was published in the NYU Press Blog, From the Square. She received a Provost Summer Research Grant to conduct research on the project “Biomonitoring and its Relationship to Health and Health Policy.” She presented “The Problem of Race in Medicine: Why We Need Bodies Without Biology” at the University of North Texas in 2012.

The Institute for Women’s Studies fosters interdisciplinary study of women and gender, and critical investigations of the complex ways knowledge, experience, and social systems are shaped by gendered norms and assumptions. Our teaching and research emphasize race, ethnicity, nationality, class, age, sexuality, and different abilities as categories of analysis. The Institute for Women’s Studies offers an undergraduate major and minor, and a graduate certificate for M.A. and Ph.D. students in any discipline.
Meet Our New Core Faculty Member

Malissa Clark graduated from the University of Michigan with a bachelor’s degree in Organizational Psychology in 2002. She earned a master’s degree and a Ph.D. in Industrial/Organizational Psychology from Wayne State University in 2007 and 2010, respectively. Dr. Clark will begin her joint appointment as assistant professor of Women’s Studies and Psychology at the University of Georgia in the 2013-2014 academic year.

Before joining the University of Georgia faculty, she was an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology at Auburn University.

Clark’s main research interests are in the areas of mood and emotions in the workplace, work-family conflict, and empathy and organizational behavior. She is also interested in researching what it means to be a workaholic, and the antecedents and outcomes of workaholism. Within the area of affect/emotions and organizational behavior, she is interested in how a person’s dispositional affect, mood state, and levels of empathy influence various workplace factors such as counterproductive work behaviors and performance ratings.

Her work has appeared in the Journal of Applied Psychology, the Journal of Vocational Behavior, and the Journal of Organizational Behavior.

Women’s Studies director, Juanita Johnson-Bailey says, “We are very excited to have Dr. Clark join the Institute. Her scholarship on the workplace, as well as the Psychology of Gender course that she will teach will significantly enrich our curriculum and add an important component to our students’ perspective on the place of women in contemporary society.”

Malissa Clark will also be presenting a Friday Speaker Series lecture in the Spring 2014 semester. Join us on March 28th to hear about how her research relates to gender and women’s studies.

IWS Affiliate Faculty and Instructor Highlights


George Contini presented his one person show “Put It In the Scrapbook” at the Chicago Fringe Festival for two weeks from Aug. 27- Sept. 7, 2012, after receiving a Summer Research Grant from the Provost’s Office. The show is about the life and career of early 20th century female impersonator Julian Eltinge. The Chicago Tribune noted “Contini pulls Eltinge’s long forgotten career from the cobwebs of time to reveal the strange and fascinating life… (he) brings an energy to the man’s story that I found hard to shake off.”

Patricia Del Rey was selected as this year’s faculty recipient of the Unsung Heroine Award sponsored by the Emory University Center for Women. The Awards honor faculty and others who have demonstrated extraordinary dedication to issues that affect women at Emory or in the larger community.

Freda Scott Giles was conferred the Love of Learning Award by Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society at its induction ceremony on April 17, 2013.

Daleah Goodwin presented “NACW Presidency of HQB, 1920-1924” at the Association for the Study of African American Life and History conference in September 2012. She also presented “‘A dumb statue to the black mammy’: Hallie Quinn Brown, the National Association of Colored Women, and the Construction of Black Womanhood” at the Georgia Association of Historians conference in February 2013. She was awarded University of Georgia Graduate School Outstanding Graduate Student for 2012-2013 and the University of Georgia Diversity Research Scholarship for Graduate Students in 2012. She participated in the University of Georgia Graduate School Emerging Leaders Program in 2012.


Barbara McCaskill published an essay titled “The Profits and Perils of Partnership in the ‘Thrilling’ Saga of William and Ellen Craft” in a themed issue of MELUS journal focused on cross-racial and cross-ethnic collaboration (38.1 [Spring 2013]: 76-97). Two essays have been accepted for publication this Fall 2013: in The Oxford Handbook of the African American Slave Narrative and in Protest and Propaganda: W. E. B. Du Bois and The Crisis in American History. For the 10th Biennial Conference of the Collegium for African American Research (April 2013), she presented “Place and Political Engagement in 21st-Century Literature by Women of Color.”

(continued on page 5)
New Publications from Our Core Faculty

The Material Gene: Gender, Race, and Heredity After the Human Genome Project, written by Kelly Happe, assistant professor of Communication Studies and Women’s Studies, and released by New York University Press in May 2013, explores the cultural and social dimensions of our understandings of genomics, using this emerging field to examine the physical manifestation of social relations.

In 2000, the National Human Genome Research Institute announced the completion of a “draft” of the human genome, the sequence information of nearly all 3 billion base pairs of DNA. Since then, interest in the hereditary basis of disease has increased considerably.

In her book, Happe considers the broad implications of this development by treating “heredity” as both a scientific and political concept. Delving into the discrete and often obscure epistemologies and discursive practices of genomic scientists, Happe maps the ways in which the hereditary body, one that is also normatively gendered and racialized, is the new site whereby economic injustice, environmental pollution, racism, and sexism are implicitly reinterpreted as pathologies of genes and by extension, the bodies they inhabit. (via NYUpress.org)

Race and the Chilean Miracle: Neoliberalism, Democracy, and Indigenous Rights is the new book from the University of Pittsburgh Press by Patricia Richards, associate professor of Sociology and Women’s Studies, released in June 2013. The economic reforms imposed by Augusto Pinochet’s regime (1973–1990) are often credited with transforming Chile into a global economy and setting the stage for a peaceful transition to democracy, individual liberty, and the recognition of cultural diversity. Economist Milton Friedman would later describe the transition as the “Miracle of Chile.” Yet, as Richards reveals, beneath this veneer of progress lies a reality of social conflict and inequity that has been perpetuated by many of the same neoliberal programs.

Richards examines conflicts between Mapuche indigenous people and state and private actors over natural resources, territorial claims, and collective rights in the Araucanía region. Through ground-level fieldwork, extensive interviews with local Mapuche and Chileans, and analysis of contemporary race and governance theory, Richards exposes the ways that local, regional, and transnational realities are shaped by systemic racism in the context of neoliberal multiculturalism.

In her study, Richards traces systemic racism that follows both a top-down path (global, state, and regional) as well as a bottom-up one (local agencies and actors), detailing their historic roots. She also describes potential positive outcomes in the form of intercultural coalitions or indigenous autonomy. Her compelling analysis offers new perspectives on indigenous rights, race, and neoliberal multiculturalism in Latin America and globally. (via upress.pitt.edu)

Exhibiting Eco Feminist Art with Professor Chris Cuomo and the Women’s Studies Capstone Students

With the impetus of a grant from Ideas in Creative Exploration (ICE), Professor Chris Cuomo set up a pop-up art gallery in downtown Athens in the Spring of 2013 to increase the visibility of the problem of climate change, to promote popular education and conversation about the issue, and to showcase the creations of contemporary artists working the intersections of science, art and ethics.

The eco*art*lab, which resided in the Bottleworks Complex on Prince Avenue from January through April 2013, hosted classes and discussion groups, a kids’ Earth art event, a poetry night co-sponsored with Athens’ own Word of Mouth open poetry series, an Earth Day Happy Hour for UGA scientists (with the Initiative for Climate and Society), and an opening party for its main exhibition, Climate Change: Conveying Realities. Curated by Dr. Cuomo and featuring the work of an international group of over thirty artists and scientists, Flagpole Magazine called the exhibit a “worldly wonder.” When asked if she expects the eco*art*lab to pop up somewhere again, Cuomo replied, “Absolutely.” The project also continues online at ecoartlab.wordpress.com, and through the recently released exhibition catalogue.

Dr. Cuomo invited and involved UGA students and colleagues, especially the members of the Spring 2013 WMST 4900 Capstone Seminar, into many steps in the process. The class engaged the space and the art show as an experiment in community education and as a venue for blending critical learning about climate change and social justice with power of the aesthetic experiences of art.

“I absolutely loved being in the space. Being involved in the eco art lab was a great way to think about feminist praxis outside the classroom while also feeling involved in a larger conversation about climate change,” said WMST 4900 student Savannah Downing.

Photo credit: Peter Fray
Elizabeth Whittenburg Ozment is a Ph.D. candidate in Musicology/ Ethnomusicology with graduate certificates in Women’s Studies and Interdisciplinary University Teaching. She treasures her teaching experiences and bases her teaching philosophy on the belief that critical thinking is the most important life skill. She aims to develop inclusive and engaging learning communities that place course content in historical and philosophical contexts and encourages students to relate that knowledge to their daily lives.

She has a strong record of involvement in professional activities at the local and national level. Among her accomplishments at The University of Georgia, she has served on the planning committee for the IWS Student Research Symposium, co-founded the Southern Graduate Music Research Symposium, and was president of the Musicology/Ethnomusicology Student Association. Her teaching and service have been recognized at UGA by the Outstanding Teaching Award, Emerging Leader Award, and induction into the Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honor Society.

Her research specializes in music and cultural memory, and her dissertation focuses on commemorative music of the U.S. Civil War. This study explores the ways music constructs heritage, and links contemporary values to real or imagined pasts. Commemorative music constitutes raced, classed, and gendered visions of nationhood. Such musical acts make history meaningful, define individual and community identities, and evidence contending ideas about historical value that influence what is remembered or forgotten. Elizabeth has presented her research to the Society for Ethnomusicology, the International Society for the Study of Popular Music, the American Studies Association, the Southeastern Women’s Studies Association, and will present to the National Women’s Studies Association this fall.

Elizabeth loves Women’s Studies because it challenges her to look closer and to question the things that are supposed to be taken as natural. “The field has given me tools to read life critically, to see the politics in the everyday, and to take an active role in demystifying those mechanisms,” she says. “This not only impacts my personal life, but also my teaching and research. A women’s studies approach reveals trends and conflicts that more traditional forms of analysis may not recognize. Its models and solutions can solve the world’s most pressing problems. A women’s studies education is transformative and empowering. It helps me work through life’s contradictions, and fills me with hope.”

IWS Affiliate Faculty and Instructor Highlights cont.’d

Pamela Orpinas published numerous articles including “Trajectories of physical dating violence from middle to high school: Association with relationship quality and acceptability of aggression” in the Journal of Youth & Adolescence in 2013. She also presented several papers including “Evaluation of Familias Fuentes in three countries in Latin America” at the 141st Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association and other conferences in 2013.

Nichole Ray presented “Teaching transformation: Critical perspectives on race and gender in the classroom” at the biannual Keeping Our Faculties of Color Symposium in Minneapolis, MN in April 2013. Her book review on the Handbook of Adult Education was published in the Adult Learning journal. In 2012, she gave a keynote presentation at the annual Women’s Studies Student Symposium at Oxford College at Emory, entitled “Resisting Representation: Feminist perspectives on African American women in music videos.” She was also the keynote speaker at the Abenefooku Honor Society induction ceremony and spoke on scholarship, leadership and service among African American undergraduates at UGA. In November 2013, she will present a paper at the National Women’s Studies Association conference entitled, “I am interested in how to help people today: Black women faculty reconstructing the academic career development narrative.”


Leland G. Spencer graduated with a Ph.D. in Communication Studies and a graduate certificate in Women’s Studies in May 2013. He accepted a position as assistant professor of communication at Miami University in Ohio, beginning fall 2013. His article (co-authored with Joshua Trey Barnett), “Touring Homophobia: Understanding the Soulforce Equality Ride as Toxic Tour,” appeared in the Southern Communication Journal in February 2013. This fall, he will present a chapter from his dissertation at the 99th annual meeting of the National Communication Association in Washington, DC.

Kecia Thomas won the Psi Chi Graduate Teaching Award, the Rich Marsh Award for Graduate Research Mentoring, and the Industrial-Organizational Psychology Faculty Citizenship Award. Thomas was interviewed on Minnesota Public Radio regarding networking and career development in March 2013. In May 2013, she presented an invited lecture at the Institute for Women’s Policy Research conference on Women of Color in STEM.
The Women and Girls in Georgia Conference was established in 2007 to encourage and highlight research by, for, and about women and girls in Georgia, in all their diversity. Hosted by the Institute for Women's Studies at the University of Georgia, the conference brings together academics, activists, and community members to share expertise, strengthen networks, and strategize for positive social change in Georgia and beyond. Each conference is centered on a different theme and the impact women and girls are making in our state within that theme, with the 2013 conference focusing on the Arts.

Jillian Hernandez, assistant professor of Ethnic Studies and Critical Gender Studies at the University of California San Diego, will present the keynote lecture for the 5th biennial Women and Girls in Georgia Conference. The conference, where Hernandez will present “Critical Excesses: Women Artists and Girls of Color Crafting Sexual Bodies” will be held on Saturday, October 19, 2013 in the Zell B. Miller Learning Center on the University of Georgia campus in Athens, Georgia.

In addition to Hernandez’s keynote lecture, the conference will include a plenary roundtable discussion on the patronage and support of organizations and businesses in local and regional arts scenes. The roundtable will feature women leaders in community arts activities and will be moderated by Wanda Wilcox, adjunct faculty in Women’s Studies and Religion. Wilcox says the goal of the roundtable is to discuss both how participating in and enjoying the arts gives voice and enriches us, and also, how one would sustain and support these organizations and their outreach.

Paper presentations on topics varying from women artists in the Georgia Music Hall of Fame to art as a tool for women’s healing, workshops on writing poetry, performing hip hop, and making feminist zines, as well as various musical and dance performances, and photography and art exhibits will round out the day.

Information on how to register for the 2013 Women and Girls in Georgia Conference can be found at http://wagg.uga.edu/registration2013.html. Registration will include entrance to all sessions, keynote, roundtable, lunch and conference materials.

Congratulations to the Women’s Studies Class of 2012-’13

The largest class of undergraduate Women’s Studies majors completed their degrees at the University of Georgia in the 2012-2013 academic year. We are proud of our fabulous students! Congratulations!

Tawniah Beard
Carolyn Bethany
Abigail Blasdell
Paula Bryant
Chelsey Cain
Sasha Daniels
Katie Faulkner
Ashley Finch
Brittany Hall
Emily Jones
Julia Jones
Jenn Lee
Christina Lengyel
Katie Beth Lusk
Mariette Marano
Samantha Meyer
Lindsay Michaels
Lisa Park
Sara Phillips
Nicole Powell
Margie Quinn
Jaimie Richards
Jasman Ware
Olivia Shellman
Tiffany Stevens
Jess Wise

Above: Brittany Hall won the senior award for academics in Women’s Studies

Below, left to right: Samantha Meyer, Katie Faulkner, Julia Jones, Katie Beth Lusk, Jasman Ware, Chelsey Cain, Jess Wise, Katie Bridges, Nicole Powell, and Margie Quinn
To stay updated on IWS events, visit http://iws.uga.edu/events

Below: (1) Franklin College of Arts and Sciences Dean Alan Dorsey gives remarks at the Women Faculty Reception in September 2012; (2) Former Arts and Sciences Dean Wyatt Anderson and his wife Margaret Anderson chat with former Women’s Studies director Patricia Del Rey at the Women Faculty Reception in September 2012; (3) Professor Chris Cuomo moderates a Women’s History Month panel on women in STEM at UGA featuring Patricia Yager, Mandy Joye, Jenna Jambeck, Angela Birkes-Grier, and Robin Shelton in March 2013

Above, from the top: (1) Women’s Studies faculty and staff including Kelly Happe, Lauren Chambers, Patricia Richards, Juanita Johnson-Bailey, Nichole Ray and Cicely Robinson-Jones enjoy lunch with Women’s History Month keynote speaker Alondra Nelson; (2) Alondra Nelson presents the keynote lecture for Women’s History Month in March 2013; (3) the Coley family chat with speaker Janet Jakobsen at the 19th annual Andrea Carson Coley lecture reception in April 2013
Join Our Listserv and be the first to know about IWS events and announcements! Send an email to Cecilia Herles at cherles@uga.edu including your name and email address with the subject line “add me to the listserv.”

Become a Friend of Women’s Studies

Your gift to the Institute builds on thirty years of excellence in feminist teaching, research, and outreach in Women’s Studies at the University of Georgia. Our conferences, lectures, and events would not be possible without our supporters, so please consider giving to Women’s Studies today, via credit card or check!

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Gifts by Check
Gifts by check can be made out to The University of Georgia Foundation (write Women's Studies in the “for” line) and mailed to: The Institute for Women’s Studies, University of Georgia, Gilbert Hall, 210 Herty Dr., Athens, GA 30602-1802.

Gifts by Credit Card
Gifts by credit card can be made through the secure on-line gift site for the Georgia Fund annual giving campaign: http://www.externalaffairs.uga.edu/os/makegift. From there you must select “Franklin College of Arts & Sciences” as the unit, “Women’s Studies” as the department, and “Inst for Women’s Studies” as the fund.