This year marks our 6th biennial Women and Girls in Georgia (WAGG) Conference where we celebrate and highlight the research and advocacy by, for, and about women and girls in our state and region. This year’s conference theme is **Sustainability**.

During this unique two-day conference, attendees and experts will delve into this year’s theme, which will explore the intersections of social, economic, and environmental challenges as they relate to women and girls. Georgia represents an extensive laboratory for investigating these issues with a wide range of ecological biomes from the mountains to the coast, and social and economic diversity. From garden clubs to world-class scientists, women have made and continue to make important contributions in the practice and research of local, regional, national, and global sustainability.

This year’s conference will recognize the need for solutions to the many challenges facing women and girls and the interconnection between environmental limits, human values and well-being. It will highlight the work being done towards these solutions, and explore current opportunities.

The conference will begin on **Friday, October 9** with an opening night keynote address presented by Dr. Carolyn Sachs, professor of Rural Sociology and head of Women’s Studies at Pennsylvania State University (pictured below).

The conference will continue on **Saturday, October 10** where attendees will enjoy a keynote address by Dr. Lauret Savoy, professor of Environmental Studies at Mount Holyoke College (pictured above), a roundtable discussion on women’s leadership in Georgia’s eco-activism, sessions on various topics such as environmental justice, climate change, local food, food security, recycling and conserving on college campuses, protecting Georgia’s bee population, various workshops, film screenings, tours, and exhibits.

Registration is required for all attendees. Visit [http://wagg.uga.edu](http://wagg.uga.edu) for up-to-date details and information on how to register.
Welcome back. I began writing this note in late June during the long drive from Arusha, Tanzania to the Kilimanjaro Airport. I’m headed home to Georgia and UGA is very much on my mind. First, I’m looking forward to getting back because this Academic Year 2015-2016 is going to be an extraordinary year for the Institute for Women’s Studies. But I’m especially thinking of UGA because as we were driving away from the Jane Olevolos Orphanage one of the students pointed out a young Tanzania man on the side of the road who was wearing a UGA Bulldog Jersey. It made me smile and think of home, a wonderfully exciting, intellectual environment that you especially appreciate when you are away.

During this Fall 2015 Semester, the Willson Center for Humanities and Arts will host the Pulitzer Prize-winning author Alice Walker as the inaugural Delta Visiting Chair for Global Understanding. The IWS faculty, who have long included Walker’s books as an established part of the Women’s Studies curriculum, have designed three new curriculum modules and a dedicated course on Walker’s work.

This year also marks the 6th Women and Girls in Georgia (WAGG) Conference. This conference, a gathering of academics, activists, and community leaders, encourages knowledge sharing and community building while promoting feminist research, education, and advocacy. The 2015 theme for this event’s celebration of the diversity of women and girls is “Sustainability.” (Read more about this year’s WAGG Conference on page 1)

Additionally, in March the Institute will hold a month long celebration of Women’s History Month, organized around the 2016 national theme, Working to Form a More Perfect Union: Honoring Women in Public Service and Government. This observance will include a film festival, two keynote speeches, and a panel discussion.

Please join us this year as the Institute of Women’s Studies begins our 38th year at the University of Georgia as the academic unit dedicated to the study and celebration of women’s knowledge, contributions, and scholarship. A good place to begin is by coming to our annual Women’s Faculty Reception, held this year on Friday, August 28th at 11:30 a.m. in the Tate Center Grand Hall. It’s our way of welcoming new and honoring women faculty at UGA. I hope to see you there.

By Juanita Johnson-Bailey
Josiah Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professor
Director, Institute for Women’s Studies

Juanita Johnson-Bailey honored by AAUW

Juanita Johnson-Bailey, director of the Institute for Women’s Studies at the University of Georgia, was this year’s recipient of the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Award, an honor given by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) for outstanding contributions to equality and education for women and girls.

She is an outstanding role model in the great tradition of Eleanor Roosevelt.”

-Gloria L. Blackwell, vice president of fellowships, grants & global programs at AAUW

Johnson-Bailey accepted the award at the AAUW national convention in San Diego in June 2015 (pictured right).

The Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Award was established in 1989 and is given for a broad range of activities including classroom teaching, research and educational contributions, and legal and legislative work in equity for women and girls.

Above: Dr. Johnson-Bailey accepting the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Award at the AAUW national convention in June 2015 (photo credit: Brandice Bailey)
Chris Cuomo, Philosophy & Women's Studies
Kelly Happe, Communication Studies & Women's Studies
Cecilia Herles, Assistant Director Women's Studies
Juanita Johnson-Bailey, Director Lifelong Education, Administration and Policy & Women's Studies
Patricia Richards, Sociology & Women's Studies
Susan Thomas, Music & Women's Studies
Beth Tobin, English & Women's Studies

Chris Cuomo spent the 2014-2015 academic year as a Study in a Second Discipline Fellow, taking courses in digital video production, art history, painting and criticism with faculty in the Lamar Dodd School of Art. She also presented the lecture “Who is the ‘Anthro’ in the Anthropocene?” for a UGA Biological Sciences public lecture series, and participated in a workshop on new venues for publishing interdisciplinary research at the National Women's Studies Association conference in Puerto Rico. She traveled to Analtuq, Alaska to discuss landscape changes and environmental concerns with Inupiaq elders for her ongoing research project on indigenous environmental knowledge on the Arctic.

Kelly Happe was awarded the 2014 Diamond Anniversary Book Award by the National Communication Association for her book The Material Gene: Gender, Race, and Heredity After the Human Genome Project. She was awarded the 2014 Golden Anniversary Monograph Award for the essay “The Body of Race: Toward a Rhetorical Theory of Racial Ideology,” by the National Communication Association for the best essay published in Communication Studies. She published three essays: “Kristeva, Revolutionary Speech, and the Disturbation of Argument” (with Jeremy Grossman), “Parrhésia, Biopolitics, and Occupy,” and “Capital, Gender, and Politics: Toward a Marxist Feminist Theory of Bioconvergence.” Her book review of Ruptures of American Capital: Women of Color Feminism and the Culture of Immigrant Labor was featured in the Quarterly Journal of Speech. She was an invited distinguished faculty leader for the National Communication Association Doctoral Honors Seminar held at the University of Maryland and presented a series of bioethics lectures to participants in the 2014 NSF-sponsored Research Experience for Undergraduates in the Department of Genetics. She gave invited lectures to the Global Education Forum at UGA and to the Department of Health and Behavioral Sciences, University of Colorado, Denver. In May 2015, she was an invited delegate at the “BEINGS 2015” international bioethics summit in Atlanta. She was promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure and appointed Graduate Coordinator in the Department of Communication Studies in 2015.

Cecilia Herles presented two papers, “Love and Labor in Food: Examining Paradoxical Food Ways” and “Justice in the Classroom: Shaping Pedagogy and Praxis” at the National Women's Studies Association conference in Puerto Rico in November 2014. She was a panelist at the Willson Center documentary screening of Food Chains in January 2015. She was invited to present North American Asian Feminisms and Queer Politics at Lambda Alliance on Queer Asian Identities, and to present on Intersectionality at the UGA Roosevelt Conference, Who Runs the World? A Conversation about Gender in Policy in March 2015. She was a panelist at the national Food Waste and Hunger Summit at the University of Georgia in April 2015. She was invited to present at the Office of Sustainability’s Sustainability Across the Curriculum Faculty Development workshop in May 2015, and she received the Innovation in the Franklin Multicultural Curriculum award in 2015.

Juanita Johnson-Bailey was the 2015 recipient of the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Award from the American Association of University Women. She gave several presentations and invited talks, including a keynote panel at the Adult Education Hall of Fame, and presentations at the World Academy of Science, Engineering & Technology, the 63rd American Association of Adult and Continuing Education conference, the National Women's Studies Association conference and the American Education Research Association conference. She published numerous book chapters and articles this year, and was invited to write the essay “Women's Studies: Don't you mean Gender Studies?” for Amplifying Women’s Voices, the Women’s Media Center blog.

Patricia Richards was promoted to the rank of full professor in 2015.

Susan Thomas was awarded the Greenleaf Scholar-in-Residence fellowship at the Stone Center for Latin American Studies at Tulane University for 2015-2016.

Beth Tobin was awarded a Willson Center Research Fellowship for Fall 2015 to work on a book on John Abbot, a Georgia naturalist artist. She published a book chapter, “Bluestockings and the Cultures of Natural History,” about 18th-century women’s engagement with the natural world through decorative arts.

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.
Dawn Bennett-Alexander was invited by TEDxUGA to present “PrACTical DiversITy: Taking Diversity From Theory to Practice: Act It!” in March 2015. She published Employment Law for Business 8e, McGraw-Hill. She presented “My Hair is Not Like Yours: Workplace Hair Grooming Policies for Black Women as Racial Stereotyping in Violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964” with Linda F. Harrison at the Southeastern Academy of Legal Studies in Business in 2014. She was inducted as an honorary member of the UGA Alpha Chapter of the National Residence Hall Honorary, and recognized by the UGA Center for Teaching and Learning as “Teacher of the Week,” and nominated for the UGA Office of Student Affairs Friend of Student Affairs Staff Award in April 2015.

Maria Bermúdez became a Research Scientist Member of the National Hispanic Science Network in 2014. She received the University of Georgia Summer Research Support grant in 2014. She had 4 publications including Afro-Caribbean mothers in the US: An exploratory study from a transnational feminist perspective in Women & Therapy. She was invited to present Empezando un Camino Nuevo: Co-Creando Narrativas Preferidas con el uso del Arte y las Expresiones Creativas (Starting a New Path: Co-Creating Preferred Narratives with the Use of Art and Creative Expressions) at the 3º Congreso Internacional Juconi, Puebla, Mexico.

Cynthia Turner Camp has published her first book, Anglo-Saxon Saints’ Lives as History Writing in Late Medieval England, with the UK press Boydell and Brewer. The monograph examines, in part, the ways that female saints’ bodies and genealogies enabled robust polytemporal connections between late medieval England and its wished-for past.

Sujata Iyengar delivered papers at the biennial International Shakespeare Conference in Stratford-on-Avon, the South-Atlantic Modern Language Association conference, the State Botanical Gardens of Georgia and the Shakespeare Association of America annual meeting in Vancouver, Canada. This year she co-authored the textbook “Not Like an Old Play”: Shakespeare’s Love’s Labour’s Lost (Paris: Fahrenheit Editions, 2014) with Frédérique Fouassier-Tate, and an essay in the collection Outerspeares from the University of Toronto Press. With Christy Desmet, she co-authored the journal article “Adaptation, Appropriation, or What You Will,” in the journal Shakespeare, and continues to co-edit the award-winning online scholarly journal Borrowers and Lenders: The Journal of Shakespeare and Appropriation, which celebrates its tenth anniversary this November with a conference on “Appropriation in an Age of Global Shakespeare.”

Corey Johnson has accepted a full professor position at the University of Waterloo, Ontario in the department of Recreation and Leisure Studies.


Stephanie Jones received the 2015 First-Year Odyssey Teaching Award for her Working-Class Matters seminar. She was the invited keynote speaker for the International Conference on Poverty and Education, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Villarica. She had numerous publications including What they say about poor girls in Class Lives: Stories from Across the Economic Divide. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press in 2014.

Justin Lavner had numerous publications this year including Marital satisfaction change over newlywed years in Encyclopedia of Quality of Life Research, Relationship problems over the early years of marriage: Stability or change? in Journal of Family Psychology, and Parent adjustment over time in gay, lesbian, and heterosexual parent families adopting from foster care in American Journal of Orthopsychiatry.

Chris Linder had numerous presentations including College women navigating campus environments at the annual meeting of the American College Personnel Association in March 2015, and Social media as a counter-space for sexual assault activism at the National Women’s Studies Association conference in Puerto Rico in November 2014. She published Problematizing the role of men in sexual violence prevention movements in Journal of Critical Thought and Praxis in 2015.

Barbara Mccaskill’s book, Love Liberation, and Escaping Slavery: William and Ellen Craft in Cultural Memory, was published in May 2015, by the UGA Press. She is a founding member of the Anna Julia Cooper Society, which launched at the American Literature Association annual conference, and she chaired panels and presented a paper at the national MELUS meeting held this year at UGA. She has been invited to join the national advisory board of the Morehouse College King Collection Series on Civil and Human Rights. She is working on two book projects: an annotated edition of Twice Sold, Twice Ransomed, the 1926 memoir of the street evangelists Emma and Lloyd P. Ray for WVU Press; and a collection of essays on written and oral productions from 1865 to 1880, co-edited with Prof. Eric Gardner, for Cambridge University Press.

Inheritance could not be possible without a rich lineage of women’s autobiographical storytelling which actively creates space for new stories and new modes of expression to emerge, stories and modes that have otherwise been occluded in the historical records. While making Inheritance, I was influenced by the films of Rea Tajiri, Mona Hatoum, and Chantal Akerman, filmmakers who infused their works with self as a means of outlining the contours of political subjectivity.

Though Inheritance appears rather personal, it is actually a film concerned with structures of power and how these structures affect people’s lives. This is a concern that undergirds all my work. For example, in Inheritance, I’m asking how the gender politics imposed or at least accentuated by the Revolution shaped interpersonal dynamics within my family and how those dynamics continue to leave an imprint on our lives today, even thousands of miles away. In my film responding to the Cyrus Cylinder, Us In Pieces, I’m inquiring into how narrative itself becomes a system of power that influences people’s sense of themselves.

Q: Tell us about your experience as a graduate student at UGA. What were your favorite courses and professors?

I often say that my education at UGA was the very best education I have ever received. It is true on so many levels, not only because of the outstanding faculty and resources, or the deeply enriching intellectual community, but also because it was there that I learned so viscerally why and how stories matter. It was in Judith Ortiz Cofer’s Creative Writing workshops that I awakened a voice that could tell those important stories. Before, I’d always known that I was a skilled writer, but in my family of aspirational immigrants, writing is a useful skill, not a pursuit. In our first conversation, Judith brilliantly gave me permission to see myself as an artist, as a person whose profession can be to create. Both Judith and Barbara not only taught me the techniques of their particular disciplines, but they taught me how to lead with my voice and vision, how to commit to and pursue the vital work of storytelling.

I built on this commitment in 2005 when I was privileged to be selected as a researcher for the Civil Rights Digital Library Initiative. Working with UGA Library researchers and archivists, and under the exceptional mentorship of the visionary Dr. Barbara McCaskill, we digitized raw news footage of Civil Rights Movement activities in the south and developed a pedagogical website to share unheard stories of the Movement with K-12 students and teachers. It was here that I saw first-hand the power of storytelling as a tool for social change, consciousness-raising, and community building.

It was in Judith Ortiz Cofer’s Creative Writing workshops that I awakened a voice that could tell those important stories. Before, I’d always known that I was a skilled writer, but in my family of aspirational immigrants, writing is a useful skill, not a pursuit. In our first conversation, Judith brilliantly gave me permission to see myself as an artist, as a person whose profession can be to create. Both Judith and Barbara not only taught me the techniques of their particular disciplines, but they taught me how to lead with my voice and vision, how to commit to and pursue the vital work of storytelling.

And I remember a particular Women’s Studies course with Dr. Pat Bell-Scott in which we read memoirs and journals written by African American women. It was here that I learned that personal expression is (or at least can be) an act of political resistance.
Students in Dr. Nichole Ray’s WMST 4060/6060 course on Black Feminism examine the ideas and practices of black feminists and womanists.

Students survey the historical and contemporary debates of black women in the United States, including black womanhood, sexual mythologies and vulnerabilities, class distinctions, and the origins of black feminist thought. Upon completing the course, students understand the relationship between historical notions of black womanhood (particularly the legacy of slavery and racial-sexual violence) and contemporary concerns of black feminists and womanists.

Briana Benjamin, a student in Dr. Ray’s Spring 2015 offering, said of her experience, “As a young Black woman, investing myself in a course that explores a history that I consider my own, that addresses the emotions and thoughts I have experienced, and has provided answers (and even more questions) to issues [sic] I face, has been nothing short of a fulfilling experience.”

Such an experience is due to the teaching of Dr. Ray, who assigns readings by Beverly Guy-Sheftall, Patricia Hill-Collins, Audre Lorde, Octavia Butler, Ntozake Shange, Alice Walker, bell hooks and more, and encourages her students to engage in active discourse with each other.

Another student in the Spring 2015 course, Shayla Robinson, said of Dr. Ray, “She is an amazing teacher who really cares about the personal and academic growth of her students.”

Ray says of the course, “Black feminism is a very important intellectual contribution to women’s and gender studies. I am deeply honored and humbled to continue the legacy of black feminist educators through teaching and sharing with my students.”

Dr. Ray has been an active participant in the life of the Institute for Women’s Studies at the University of Georgia since 1996, when she was a freshman in Dr. Johnson-Bailey’s Multicultural Perspectives of Women in the U.S. course. Ray now teaches several courses for Women’s Studies, including Multicultural Perspectives of Women in the U.S., Critical Feminist Readings, Black Women’s Narratives, and a new course debuting this Spring focusing on the work of bell hooks.

It challenged my ideas and engagement with black feminist and womanist theories.”

-Shayla Robinson, Women’s Studies major (Class of ‘15)

Above: Dr. Nichole Ray and students from WMST 4060/6060: Black Feminism, Spring 2015

KUDOS to our Graduate Students

Angela Hall’s short play, Magnolia Blossoms, will run as part of the New Play Festival during UGA’s 2015-2016 theatre season in March 2016. The show will be held in the Cellar Theatre, directed by assistant professor of Dramatic Writing, Dr. John Bray.

Ashleigh McKinzie, who holds a graduate certificate in Women’s Studies and is pursuing a Ph.D. in Sociology at UGA, has been awarded the prestigious National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Award.

Jamie Palmer was awarded the Summer Doctoral Research Fellowship from the UGA Graduate School and received a Latin American Studies Association Travel Grant in 2015, and a Summer Research Grant from the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Tinker Foundation in 2014. She presented at the Latin American Studies Association conference in May 2015 and has been selected to participate in the UGA Graduate School Emerging Leaders Program.

Stephanie Anne Shelton was awarded the 2015 Student Diversity Engagement Award from the UGA Graduate School. She had numerous publications in 2014-2015 including A narrative analysis of the sociocultural factors that limit a novice teacher’s LGBT activism in Teaching Education, and Aren’t there any poor gay people besides me?: Teaching LGBT issues in the rural South in Rethinking Schools, and Narrative interviewing: Teachers’ experiences with LGBTQ issues in education in SAGE Research Methods Cases.

Kristyl Tift was honored by the UGA Center for Teaching and Learning with the 2015 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award. In April 2015, she presented a keynote lecture at Oxford College of Emory University for the 8th Annual Women Studies Student Symposium. In May 2014, Theatre Journal published her review of Ramón H. Rivera-Servera’s book, Performing Queer Latinidad.
KUDOS to our Undergraduates and Alumni

Julia Jones (class of ’13) completed the Master of Social Work (MSW) with a certificate in Nonprofit Organization Management from the University of Georgia in 2015.

Minh Nguyen (class of ’15) has been accepted into the Linguistics Ph.D. program at Georgetown University.

In Spring 2015, Minh Nguyen was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, the oldest of all American honor societies.

Allayna Pinkston (class of ’10) graduated with a Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology in 2015.

Jaimie Richards (class of ’14) has been accepted into the Ph.D. program in Genetics at the University of Alabama.

Jennifer Yoo (class of ’07) has been accepted into the master’s program for Professional School Counseling in the College of Education at the University of Georgia.

Above: Lauren Bridgers and Minh Nguyen, Women’s Studies Students of the Year for 2014-2015 (photo credit: Cecilia Herles)

Upcoming IWS Events

Women Faculty Reception
August 28th, 11:30am, Tate Center Grand Hall
Sue Lawrence will receive the annual Women Studies Faculty Award

Friday Speaker Series - Fall 2015
September 11th, 12:20pm, Miller Learning Center 150
The New Paradox of Women’s Citizenship: Ellen Johnson Sirleaf’s Postconflict Presidential Rhetoric
Belinda Stillion Southard, Communication Studies

September 18th, 12:20pm, Miller Learning Center 150
Critical Sexuality Education Topics from a Queer-Affirming, Sex-Positive Pedagogy
Katy Janousek, University Health Center

September 25th, 12:20pm, Miller Learning Center 150
A Real Life ‘Scandal’: Black Women Writers, Images, and Representation in Hollywood
Kristyl Tift, Women’s Studies and Theatre & Film Studies

October 2nd, 12:20pm, Miller Learning Center 150
Debt and the Safety Net
Mary Caplan, School of Social Work

October 16th, 12:20pm, Miller Learning Center 150
Women as the Barometers of Newlyweds’ Relationship Outcomes
Justin Lavner, Psychology

October 23rd, 12:20pm, Miller Learning Center 150
Love’s Reasons
Melissa Seymour Fahmy, Philosophy

November 6th, 12:20pm, Miller Learning Center 150
Show Me the Money: Salary Negotiation for Women
Katelyn Kivett and Kate Templeton, UGA Career Center

November 13th, 12:20pm, Miller Learning Center 150
Reconceptualizing LGBTQ Allyhood, and Why Feminism Matters in Queer Research
Stephanie Anne Shelton, Women’s Studies and Language and Literacy Education

6th Women and Girls in Georgia Conference
Theme: Sustainability
October 9th, 6:30pm, Athens, Georgia
Opening Night Keynote Address presented by Dr. Carolyn Sachs, professor of Rural Sociology and head of Women’s Studies at Pennsylvania State University; reception to follow
October 10th, 8:00am-5:00pm, Athens, Georgia
Various Sessions, Workshops, Keynote Address presented by Dr. Lauret Savoy, professor of Environmental Studies at Mount Holyoke College, Roundtable, Films, Tours, Exhibits, Lunch and Breakouts
(Registration required; Visit http://wagg.uga.edu for more information)

Stay updated on the Spring 2016 Friday Speaker Series schedule, Women’s History Month, the 22nd Annual Andrea Carson Coley Lecture on LGBTQ Studies and other Spring 2016 events by visiting http://iws.uga.edu
Become a Friend of Women’s Studies

Please consider giving to Women’s Studies today! Your gift to the Institute builds on 38 years of excellence in feminist teaching, research, and outreach in Women’s Studies at the University of Georgia. We need your support!

- Enhance scholarship about women and gender
- Fund travel grants so that our students can attend conferences
- Bring feminist thinkers, writers, and researchers to campus to share their work

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