

IWS News

A publication of the Institute for Women's Studies

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Women and Girls in Georgia Conference

This year marks our 7th 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 **Justice and Resistance**.

In civil rights movements, in immigrant youth activism, in the Movement for Black Lives, and in the multi-issue Women's Marches, women and girls are vital actors in struggles for social change, education and all forms of justice. The work and successes happening in Georgia are a microcosm of justice struggles across the nation and the world.

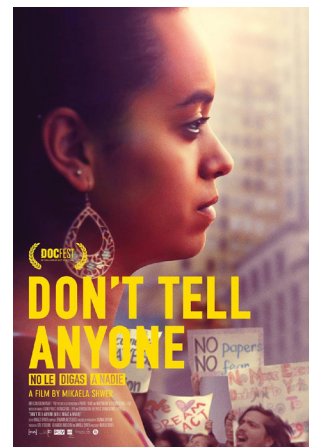
During this unique one-day conference, attendees and experts will delve into this year's theme, which will explore social movements, social control, social institutions, and grassroots resistance, especially as they involve and are engaged in by women and girls in our diverse, important state. The conference focuses on coalition-building, movements for justice, and feminist strategies to address the pressing challenges of our times.

The conference will be held on **Saturday, November 11** where attendees will enjoy a keynote address by activist Angy Rivera (*pictured above*), co-director at the New York State Youth Leadership Council, an undocumented youth-

led organization fighting for immigrant justice through leadership development and community organizing. Angy was also the subject of Mikaela Shwer's documentary, *No Le Digas A Nadie (Don't Tell Anyone)*, which navigates the difficult reality and double silence Rivera experiences as an undocumented immigrant and survivor of sexual assault.

In addition to the keynote, conference goers will attend a roundtable discussion on intersectional activism in Georgia; sessions on various topics such as educational inequalities, feminist activism and organizing, women and the justice system, art, theatre, and self-care as forms of resistance; and more.

Registration is required for all attendees. Visit <http://wagg.uga.edu> for up-to-date details and information on how to register.



2017 Conference Theme:
Justice & Resistance

November 11, 2017
REGISTER TODAY

Director's Note



The Institute for Women's Studies is happy to welcome in the academic year 2017 – 2018. We are so proud to celebrate the beginning of our 40th year on the campus of the University of Georgia. Please join us on Friday, September 22 at 11:30 a.m. in the Tate Center Reception Hall for our annual Women Faculty Reception to welcome new women faculty to the University and honor all women faculty. The reception will also offer us all the occasion to catch up with colleagues and friends.

At this year's reception we will honor our Affiliate Faculty member, Wanda Wilcox, academic advisor in Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, and beloved instructor of Women's Studies and Religion courses, with our annual Women's Studies Faculty Award. Since receiving one of the first Graduate Certificates in Women's Studies in 1994, Wanda has gone on to be an invaluable ally to Women's Studies, demonstrating extraordinary dedication and service to our Unit.

As we look back on this past year, there was much to celebrate. One of the most notable events last year was our dedication of the Patricia Del Rey Seminar Room and the

Heather S. Kleiner Conference Room in Gilbert Hall. The dedication was in tribute to their role as the founding Director and founding Assistant Director of the Institute, respectively. The Institute for Women's Studies is indebted to Del Rey and Kleiner for leading the Institute for nearly two decades, for infusing their feminist vision into the fabric of this Institute and for living their social justice beliefs and goals by establishing a cutting-edge diverse curriculum, named lecture series, and Friday Speaker Series.

This past March we hosted a month of programming in commemoration of Women's History Month and featured two outstanding lectures, one presented by Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, the Victor S. Thomas Professor of History and of African and African American Studies at Harvard University, and our keynote lecture presented by Christine Williams, Professor of Sociology and the Elsie and Stanley E. Adams, Sr. Centennial Professor in Liberal Arts at the University of Texas at Austin.

I hope to see you at our many programs this year, including our 7th Women and Girls in Georgia Conference on *Justice & Resistance*, and our numerous Friday Speaker Series lectures throughout the Fall and Spring. Also, consider becoming Affiliated Faculty if gender is one of your research or interest areas, because ours is an exciting and joyous collective of scholars who are making change and making our disciplines and our community better spaces.

By Juanita Johnson-Bailey

Josiah Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professor
Director, Institute for Women's Studies

IWS Room Naming Dedication



On Wednesday, November 16, 2016 the Institute for Women's Studies faculty, staff, current and former students, and friends gathered to honor and celebrate the work and dedication of our founding director and assistant director. On this date we unveiled the Patricia Del Rey Seminar Room and the Heather S. Kleiner Conference Room in our Gilbert Hall space (pictured left; photo credit: Mary Killen).



Faculty who were heavily involved in the establishment and growth of the program in the 1980s and 90s, Marjanne Goozé, Linda Grant, and

Pat and Heather and the impact that Women Studies at UGA has had on their lives. Other colleagues and former students who were unable to attend sent kind words and well wishes:

"I was so lucky to be a graduate student at UGA when Dr. Del Rey was head of the program. I learned so much from her and she was an integral part of my development as a feminist teacher and scholar."

-Chris Mitchell, Interim Associate Dean, College of Arts and Humanities, and Professor of Theatre Arts, Eastern Illinois University

Nichole Ray provided tours of the two rooms before Patricia Richards led attendees in a toast to our guests of honor.

If you would like to honor this history by making a donation to the Del Rey/Kleiner Fund, visit <https://gail.uga.edu/DelReyandKleiner>



Above: Chris Cuomo, Patricia Del Rey, Heather Kleiner, and Juanita Johnson-Bailey (photo credit: Mary Killen)

Sharon Price, as well as former student, Erin Richman, spoke to the celebrating crowd about their experiences working with

Chris Cuomo, *Professor*
Philosophy & Women's Studies

Kelly Happe, *Associate Professor*
Communication Studies & Women's Studies

Cecilia Herles, *Assistant Director*
Women's Studies

Juanita Johnson-Bailey, *Director*
Lifelong Education, Administration and Policy & Women's Studies

Joselyn Leimbach, *Lecturer*
Women's Studies

Nichole Ray, *Senior Lecturer*
Women's Studies

Patricia Richards, *Professor*
Sociology & Women's Studies

Susan Thomas, *Professor*
Music & Women's Studies

Beth Tobin, *Professor*
English & Women's Studies

Patricia Del Rey taught *Introduction to Women's Studies* to women prisoners at Lee Arendale Maximum Security State Prison in Spring 2017.

Kelly Happe serves as Graduate Coordinator in the Department of Communication Studies. Dr. Happe was a plenary speaker at the biennial Public Address Conference at Syracuse University. The essay on which her talk was based, "Speech, Biopolitics, and the Possibility of Address: Towards a Theory of the Utopian Gesture," will be published by Michigan State Press. Several other essays are forthcoming, including "Communication, Methodology and Race," and "Epigenetics and the Biocitizen: Bodily Temporality and Political Agency in the Post-Genomic Age." In addition, she presented papers at the annual National Communication Association Convention and the Biennial Rhetoric Society of America Conference. Dr. Happe has been awarded a Study in a Second Discipline Fellowship for 2017-2018 in the field of genetics. She currently serves as President of the social justice advocacy group *Athens for Everyone* and has been named book editor for the journal *Philosophy and Rhetoric*.

Cecilia Herles presented "Women and Girls: Struggles for Gender Equality" at the International Symposium on Gender Studies, "Crossing Borders: Gender, Sexuality, Culture," in London in March 2017. She also presented "Standing with

Ecofeminism: Why It Matters More than Ever" in February 2017 to the Women's Studies Student Organization (WSSO).

Juanita Johnson-Bailey published "Adult Basic Education and the cyber classroom" in the *Journal of Research and Practice for Adult Literacy, Secondary, and Basic Education* in 2016. She presented the keynote address, "A change is gonna come: The struggle for social justice in the changing academic landscape" at the Annual Graduate Research Symposium for the College of Education and Human Development at Texas A&M University in February 2017. She presented the keynote address, "Transnational migration and higher education: Issues of gender and race" at the Canadian International Conference on Global Issues in Education and Research at the University of Toronto in June 2016. Dr. Johnson-Bailey also presented numerous conference presentations this year, including "The Path to Professor: Research on the Career Experiences of African American Women Full Professors in the Academy" at the Hawaii International Conference on Education in January 2017, "Stories of resistance and social justice struggles in on-line classrooms" at the 65th American Association of Adult and Continuing Education Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico in November 2016, and "Discussant, Marginalized women, learning, and the struggle for new lives: Findings from three interview-based studies" at the Standing Conference on University Teaching and Research in the Education of Adults at the University of Leicester in Leicester, England in July 2016.

Patricia Richards has two articles forthcoming, both co-written with graduate students: "Sexual Harassment and the Construction of Ethnographic Knowledge" with Becca Hanson in *Sociological Forum* and "The Spatiality of Boundary Work: Political-Administrative Borders and Maya-Mam Collective Identification" with Jeffrey A. Gardner in *Social Problems*. Dr. Richards and Becca Hanson have also co-authored a book, entitled *Ethnographic Fixations: What Sexual Harassment Can Teach Us about the Construction of Knowledge*, under contract with the University of California Press.

Beth Tobin gave two talks this past spring on eighteenth-century British and American natural history artists and their contribution to scientific inquiry, one at a conference held at the National Gallery in London and the other at the American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies' annual conference held this year in Minneapolis. Dr. Tobin is scheduled to speak on the eighteenth-century global exchange of insect specimens this fall at the Royal Society in London. In Spring 2017 Dr. Tobin was awarded a Special Collections Fellowship from UGA's library to develop an archives-based Women's Studies course on women and Georgia's environmental history.

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.

IWS Affiliate Faculty Highlights

Marla Carlson's chapter, "Mapping Abramović: From Affect to Emotion," has been published in *Performance, Feminism, Affect and Activism in Neoliberal Times*, edited by Elin Diamond, Denise Varney, and Candice Amich (Palgrave, 2017). This volume was a three-year project of the Feminist Research Working Group of the International Federation for Theatre Research. In November 2016, she co-convoked the Transspecies Performance Working Group for the American Society for Theatre Research and presented "What does transspecies performance have to do with non-human animals? Or, is becoming-animal anything other than a human transformation?" She will participate in a roundtable session on graduate education for the Association for Theatre in Higher Education in August, and her monograph, *Affect, Animals, and Autists: Feeling Around the Edges of the Human in Performance* is forthcoming from the University of Michigan Press in Spring 2018.



Shira Chess' book, *Ready Player Two: Women Gamers and Designed Identity*, is forthcoming by the University of Minnesota Press, October 2017.

Marjanne Goozé published an essay on the memoirs of Henriette Herz (1764-1848) (in German) for a volume on the Berliner Saloniere Henriette Herz. She also gave an invited talk on Herz and the

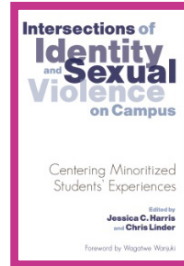
philosopher Friedrich Schleiermacher at a conference in Krakow, Poland last March. In addition, she presented work on the contemporary former Soviet Jewish Women Writers writing in German: Katja Petrowskaja, Julia Rabinowich, and Olga Grijsnowa. She also contributed to Dorothy Figuera's conference at UGA with a paper on Ruth Kluger's Holocaust memoir, *Still Alive*.

Sujata Iyengar co-presented with **Lesley Feracho** a co-authored paper on race-conscious casting and womanist performance in the 2016 Royal Shakespeare Company's *Hamlet* for the seminar "Ira Aldridge at 210 and 150: Race in European Theatrical Cultures." The seminar took place at the biennial meeting of the European Shakespeare Research Association in July 2017 at the Gdansk Shakespeare Theatre in Poland. Dr. Iyengar also secured, with Professor Nathalie Vienne-Guerrin of the Université Paul Valéry Montpellier III, France (UPVM), a three-year international cost-sharing grant from the Partner University Fund and the French-American Cultural Foundation to develop a partnership between UGA and UPVM. The partnership enables graduate students and faculty from both institutions to organize and participate in joint conferences, symposia, and festivals and to publish their resulting work in peer-reviewed transatlantic scholarly venues.

Stephanie Jones's book, *On Mutant Pedagogies: Seeking Justice and Drawing Change in Teacher Education*, received the 2017 Outstanding Book Award from the Society of Professors in Education, and the 2017 Outstanding Book Award from the American Educational Research Association Qualitative Research SIG. She also published several articles in 2016, including "Changing the place of teacher education: Feminism, fear, and pedagogical paradoxes" in *Harvard*

Educational Review and "Becoming unstuck: Traumas of racism and misogyny diffused in the ordinary" in *Language Arts*.

Betina Kaplan was awarded the University of Georgia Graduate School Outstanding Mentoring Award in the Humanities in 2017.

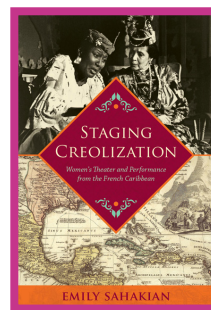


Chris Linder presented numerous keynote lectures and invited talks related to campus sexual violence in 2016-2017. Her book, *Intersections of Identity and Sexual Violence on Campus*, was published in February 2017.

Barbara McCaskill was invited by Georgia College, Georgia's designated public liberal arts university, to present the 14th annual Begemann Gordon Lecture in Women's Studies. She discussed the activist productions of abolitionist Ellen Craft (c. 1826-91) and author Toni Cade Bambara (1939-95). She talked about Ellen and her husband William Craft for the national podcast shows *Criminal* and *Shabam! Kids in Science*, and gave invited presentations on the couple at Tuskegee and Auburn Universities. She has accepted an invitation to join the editorial board of *Legacy: The Journal of American Women Writers*, and has been elected to serve as a member-at-large on the executive committee of C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists.

Carolyn Medine received the Louisville Institute Sabbatical Grant for Researchers for 2017-2018. She also received a Willson Center Fellowship.

Jennifer Palmer was awarded the Boucher Book Prize from the French Colonial Historical Society for her book *Intimate Bonds: Family and Slavery in the French Atlantic*.

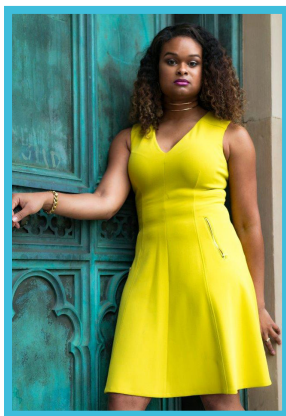


Emily Sahakian's book, *Staging Creolization: Women's Theater and Performance from the French Caribbean*, was published with the New World Studies Series of the University of Virginia Press in June 2017. A reviewer wrote, "This work is extremely original and contributes significantly to francophone scholarship and theater studies. Sahakian takes to task the rigid, patriarchal constructions of women's

identity in the Caribbean as portrayed in literature and movements (such as Negritude) that have been traditionally articulated solely by men."

Sarah Shannon won the Sandy Beaver Excellence in Teaching Award from the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences for 2017. She published several peer-reviewed articles and her research on monetary sanctions was featured in news stories in the AJC, WABE, and GPB. Dr. Shannon also launched UGA's first-ever "Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program" course in partnership with the Athens-Clarke County Jail in Spring 2017.

Alumni Spotlight: Raquel Willis ('12)



Raquel Willis is a Black queer transgender activist, writer and media maven dedicated to inspiring and elevating marginalized individuals, particularly transgender women of color. She is a National Organizer for Transgender Law Center, the largest organization in the U.S. advocating on behalf of transgender and gender nonconforming people. She is part of Echoing Ida, a national Black women's writing collective, and Channel Black, a media organizing and training arm of the Movement for Black Lives. Raquel is also the host of Black Girl Dangerous Media's

BGD Podcast, discussing pop culture and current events from an intersectional lens. Her writing has been featured in VICE, Quartz, BuzzFeed, The Root, OUT and more.

Q: Tell us about your activist work, as well as your writing and public speaking? What do you do? What are your victories? What have been some challenges?

My work is a mixed bag and though I am interested in the liberation of all people, I make a conscious effort to center Black transgender women. There are very few people working at this exact intersection of identities, so I think it's even more important for me to do work in the service of my people. My activism actually started at UGA and the LGBTQ groups on campus. I was the Executive Director of Lambda Alliance, a member of Ally Outreach and on the LGBT Resource Center Programming Board. These groups afforded me rich experiences in connecting with my community. At UGA, I was the only openly Black trans person that I knew of and when I left I decided to look for my people. My first job as a reporter at a small newspaper in Monroe, Ga. called for me to be private about my identity and experiences. After a year, I decided I don't want to live in the dark. I moved to Atlanta and found community. I worked with a group called Solutions Not Punishments Coalition and worked on behalf of incarcerated trans women of color. We successfully passed a pre-arrest diversion program in hopes that it would lead to greater law enforcement reform in ATL. From there I decided to use social media and journalism to elevate the narratives of my community. I've written several personal essays and articles on various trans experiences like dating, finding community, activism, and more. The challenges I continue to face include all aspects of oppression from anti-Blackness to queerphobia to transmisogyny. There's historic and consistent erasure of trans narratives from the fights within feminism, civil rights and the larger queer community. Like everyone else, I continuously have to stake my claim to exist in the world.

Q: What was your experience speaking at the March on Washington earlier this year?

Speaking at the National Women's March on Washington was the experience of a lifetime. It was empowering to be able to have that platform to represent the many communities that I'm a part of.

When I wrote my speech, "A Vision of Liberation," I wanted people to make a commitment to intersectionality and I wanted to signal to the many types of women who don't usually get a chance to speak that I see them. Not only was I representing Black, queer and trans women but also Indigenous women, other women of color, disabled women, Muslim women, and more.

I must acknowledge that I was conflicted initially about agreeing to be on that stage. We all know that initial plans for the March weren't as intersectional as they later were and many folks in the trans community and communities of color were turned off. If Linda Sarsour, a respected activist and friend, hadn't asked for me to be there - it would have been a different story. However, I trusted her - as my Muslim sister in the struggle - and saw this as an opportunity to discuss how this current Movement of Resistance and Liberation has to be intentional about inclusion.

Q: How does your degree in Women's Studies shape your work and interests?

In undergrad, I was really trying to figure out what I wanted to do with my journalism degree and in media. I took my first Women's Studies course just out of a basic interest, but it grew to something more. I began to see how much of the world is actually set up to be the way it is and how those forces - patriarchy, anti-Blackness, transmisogyny and more - are all connected. After making Women's Studies my minor and committing to being a life-long feminist, I decided to use media and culture to shift how the world treated the most marginalized. I lost interest in just reporting any old news and decided I wanted to actively engage with creating a fuller picture of experiences of women, people of color and queer and transgender people.

Women's Studies also deepened my understanding of how interconnected all systems of oppression are. Now, as a national organizer for the Transgender Law Center, I am able to work with people who have different experiences with empathy and respect. I really believe that the lessons learned in Women's Studies should be required for all students. Understanding how the world operates is the first step to actually making lasting change.

Q: What was your favorite thing about your experience as a student in Women's Studies at UGA? What were your favorite courses, professors, extra curriculars, etc.?

Women's Studies at UGA is a goldmine when it comes to professors who inspired me to dig deeper and strengthened my commitment to feminism. Dr. Ray's classes were so engaging on a personal level. UGA is largely a very white, cisgender, heterosexual space, so it was powerful to finally have a Black female teacher who could see and articulate the ways of the world that I had always experienced. Her Black Feminist Thought course allowed me to find a road map to intersectionality that I hadn't necessarily seen in my other classes. Blaise Parker's class was the first academic space where I felt free enough to discuss my transgender identity, but also one where queerness was centered and elevated. Lastly, Bethany Morton pushed me to think outside of middle class upbringing to understand how that privilege both allowed me to have access to education, but was also starkly different from a white, middle class person's experience.

Did you receive a degree or certificate in Women's Studies at the University of Georgia? We'd love to hear from you! Send us your updates to WSPINFO@uga.edu or TLHAT@uga.edu.

2016-2017 Photo Gallery



1. Heather Kleiner, Nancy Fullbright, and Patricia Del Rey present a Fall 2016 OLLI lecture about IWS in the 90s; 2-3. Dawn Bennett-Alexander is presented with the Faculty Award at the annual Women Faculty Reception in 2016; 4-5. Evelyn Higginbotham presents a lecture for Women's History Month 2017; Higginbotham with Juanita Johnson-Bailey and Nichole Ray; 6-7. Christine Williams presents our 2017 Women's History Month Keynote Lecture; 8. Senior Linzi Machini (Class of '17) presents at the 2017 Women's Studies Student Symposium; 9. The Coley family and faculty welcome Siobhan Somerville to campus; 10. Siobhan Somerville presents the 23rd annual Andrea Carson Coley Lecture in LGBT Studies in April 2017.



Gina Abelkop and **Ginger Ko** participated in a panel, *Emotional Labor and Backlash: Callout Culture and Navigating Accountability in Online Communities*, with Caroline Crew, Carrie Lorig, and Raquel Salas-Rivera at the Southeastern Women's Studies Association Conference in March 2017.

Gina Abelkop and **Ginger Ko** also participated in a panel, *Wombthink: Reclaiming Knowledges & Redefining Interiors*, with Claire Cronin, Bridget G. Dooley, and Jacqueline Kari at the New Orleans Poetry Festival in April 2017.

Gina Abelkop also published interviews with novelist Gabrielle Lucille Fuentes on the website *Weird Sister*, and with artist Ciriza on the website *Entropy*.

Jamie Palmer received the University of Georgia Outstanding Teaching Award in 2017 and her article "Ineffective Masculinity: Intersection of Masculinity and Nationhood in Portraits of Cuban Men from *Time* and *Newsweek*, 1959-2010" was published in the *Journal of Men and Masculinities* in March 2017.



Above: Megan Asadian, Emma Wakeman, and Juhi Varshney, Women's Studies Students of the Year for 2016-2017 (photo credit: Cecilia Herles)

Upcoming IWS Programming

Women Faculty Reception

September 22nd, 11:30am, Tate Reception Hall

Wanda Wilcox will receive the annual Women's Studies Faculty Award.

Friday Speaker Series - Fall 2017

September 8th, 12:20pm, Miller Learning Center 213

Closing the Confidence Gap: Articulating Your Value in the Workplace

Samantha Meyer - UGA Career Center

September 15th, 12:20pm, Miller Learning Center 213

Women Read: English PhD Students Read Their Creative Work
Gina Abelkop, Amy Bonnaffons, and Ginger Ko - Women's Studies and English

September 29th, 12:20pm, Miller Learning Center 213

Feeding Hunger, Reducing Waste: Reflections on Women's Studies, Civic Engagement, and Teaching/Learning about Food
Cecilia Herles - Women's Studies

October 6th, 12:20pm, Miller Learning Center 213

Women of the Garden: Cultivating Land and Community Using a Feminist Framework
Christina Hylton - Women's Studies and Educational Theory and Practice

October 13th, 12:20pm, Miller Learning Center 213

Women's Bodies and the Slave Trade in Barry Unsworth's Sacred Hunger
Carolyn Medine - Religion

October 20th, 12:20pm, Georgia Museum of Art

Conversations on Muses: The Mickalene Thomas Exhibition
Juanita Johnson-Bailey - Women's Studies and Lifelong Education, Administration, and Policy

November 3rd, 12:20pm, Miller Learning Center 213

The Maternal Voice and Horror: Stevie Nicks and Soundtrack in American Horror Story's "Coven"
Joshua Bedford - Women's Studies and Music

December 1st, 12:20pm, Miller Learning Center 213

Poverty and the Consequences of Non-Payment of Monetary Sanctions for Women in Georgia
Sarah Shannon - Sociology

7th Women and Girls in Georgia Conference

Theme: Justice and Resistance

November 11th, 8:00am-5:30pm, Athens, Georgia

Various Sessions; Workshops; Keynote Address presented by Angy Rivera, activist and co-director at the New York State Youth Leadership Council; Roundtable on feminist activism in Georgia; Lunch and Networking
(Registration required; Visit <http://wagg.uga.edu> for more information)

Stay updated on the Spring 2018 Friday Speaker Series schedule, Women's History Month, the 24th Annual Andrea Carson Coley Lecture in LGBTQ Studies and other Spring 2018 programs by visiting <http://iws.uga.edu>

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Support Women's Studies

Please consider giving to Women's Studies today. Your gift to the Institute builds on 40 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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For more information about giving to the Institute for Women's Studies, please contact the Franklin College Office of Development at (706) 542-4658

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