



Women's & Gender Studies

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES • UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Spring 2011

2011 Women's & Gender Studies Conference a Success

WGST branched out in a new direction this year. To launch its 24th Annual Conference, "Recovering Voices/Constructing Identities," we collaborated with the School of Music (SOM) The Carolina Institute for Leadership and Engagement in Music, (CILEM) to premier the Core Ensemble's new chamber music theater work, *Mona Lisa Speaks: Bemused by the Folly of Men*. In 1911 the Mona Lisa was stolen from the Louvre by an itinerant Italian worker named Vincenzo Perugia and held "captive" in the closet of his squalid Paris apartment before being "released" in Florence in 1913. The show takes place in Perugia's apartment during the captivity as Mona Lisa comes to life – revealing her feelings and perspectives on the men who have possessed her and obsessed over her for hundreds of years. Within the confines of Perugia's "jail" she comes "out of the closet" and gives voice to issues and experiences that are universally compelling and meaningful.



The musicians, Tahirah Whittington, cello, Hugh Hinton, piano and Michael Parola, percussion were excellent and the actress, Dara Seitzman, who played the part of Mona Lisa, as well as other persons and paintings in the life of the Mona Lisa, was simply stunning! The event was held in the SOM recital hall and thanks to the tireless efforts of Gary Beckman, Visiting Professor, and many others from School of Music, went off without a hitch.

It set the tone for the rest of a very successful conference. The talk by the Awards Luncheon speaker, Frederica K. Clementi, English and Jewish Studies "Entr'actes: Sarah Kofman's Art Of Memory," perfectly complemented the performance of the previous evening. Thanks to all who participated! A special thanks to Annie Boiter Jolley, our capable and enthusiastic graduate student for her invaluable help in organizing the event. Thanks also to our student assistants, Crystal, Alia, and Lauren for their enthusiasm and help. And as always, thank to Paulette Jimenez, WGST Program Coordinator and Jacqueline McClary, WGST Administrative Assistant, for their assistance. Hope to see you next year!

WGST Instructors Win Prestigious Teaching Awards

Mary Baskin-Waters Receives Awards for Service-Learning



This Spring, Dr. Mary Baskin-Waters, WGST affiliate, received the Lee Davinroy Excellence in Teaching Award given by the Women's and Gender Studies Program. Additionally, she received the 2011 USC Outstanding Service-Learning Award from the Leadership and Community Service Programs. This award honors a faculty member who has thoughtfully integrated service-learning into an academic course. One of her students from that class, Marcus Yancy, also earned the Outstanding Student Volunteer Award from the same organization. They were honored on Thursday, April 14, 2011 at 4:00 P.M. in the Russell House Ballroom at the Leadership and Service Awards Ceremony.

Rebecca Collier wins an Excellence in Teaching from the Mortar Board Society



Rebecca Collier, WGST affiliate, has won an Excellence in Teaching Award from the Mortar Board Honor Society. The award was presented at the Board's signature event ceremony on November 18th, 2010. The Mortar Board is a national honor society composed of seniors selected on the basis of their outstanding leadership, scholarship, and service to the Carolina community. Since 1988, the Mortar Board has recognized and acknowledged professors who have contributed to their success at the University. These faculty are recognized for their motivation to educate, enlighten and inspire their students.



Letter from the Graduate Director: Kate Adams

This has been a busy year for the Graduate Certificate in Women's and Gender Studies at USC, and once again I want to begin with a special thanks to Paulette Jimenez, WGST Program Coordinator, and Jacqueline McClary, WGST Administrative Assistant. It is largely due to their extraordinary work that the WGST graduate program accomplishes everything it does. I would also like to thank the WGST Graduate Committee – Dr. Drucilla Barker, Dr. Deborah Billings, Dr. Greg Forter, Dr. Daniela Friedman, and Dr. Darcy Freedman – for their service and excellent collegiality.

In AY 2010-11 the program has continued to grow in numbers and in scope. We now have more than fifty students enrolled as candidates for the graduate certificate, and applications

continue to arrive in my inbox nearly every week. Half of these students are pursuing the certificate as a stand-alone credential, often holding down full-time jobs at the same time. The other half are concurrently enrolled in other USC graduate programs, representing a broad range of disciplines and nearly every college on campus. We salute our four most recent WGST graduates, Lisa Duggan, Beth Fadeley, Catharina Wuetig, and Sherietta Murrell, who received their certificates in December; and we look forward to celebrating again in May with six more students on track to graduate this spring.

In last year's letter I described plans to expand the WGST Graduate Program in ways that can serve – and help constitute – a wider community of feminist scholars and activists. This effort began in fall 2009 with a welcoming reception for WGST graduate students, faculty, and friends, and continued in spring of 2010 with a potluck at the home of core faculty member, Dr. Laura Woliver. In AY 2010-11 we hosted the same events with the same results – large, happy, well-fed gatherings of graduate students, faculty, and staff from all over campus – which means both the reception and the potluck are now official WGST traditions! We also inaugurated the WGST Graduate Forum Series with two wonderful panels. In October, a panel on "How to Survive and Thrive in Graduate School as a Woman of Color" offered practical and experience-based

insights from Dr. Miriam Torres from the School of Public Health, Dr. Tawanda Greer from the Department of Psychology, and Dr. Folashade Alao from the Department of English. The March 2011 panel on "Graduate Research Funding: When, Where, How, and Why to Pursue It" comprised presentations by Research Development Manager, Beth Herron; Assistant Professor of HPEB, Heather Brandt; and Professor of History, Kay Edwards. Both panels attracted large audiences and concluded with lively discussions among presenters and attendees. Stay tuned for next year's continuation of the Forum Series, and send in your suggestions for topics!

The final event of AY 2010-2011 for the WGST Graduate Program was "Students Creating New Knowledge" – an afternoon devoted to WGST Graduate Student Research. The event began with short presentations by three of our certificate students, Annie Boiter-Jolley, Jessica Knuff, and Debbie Herman outlining their current research projects on women and politics. We also recognized this year's winners of the Harriott Hampton Faucett Research Grant, and the Emily Thompson Prize for research on Women's Health (see the list of winners and research topics in this newsletter). The event concluded with a sumptuous reception, to congratulate each other and ourselves, and celebrate the conclusion of another great year!

Kudos

Katherine Adams, Associate Professor of English and Graduate Director of WGST, published (2010) a special issue of *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*, "U.S. Women Writing Race" that includes her introductory essay. She also published a critical review of Laura Laffrado's *Uncommon Women: Gender and Representation in Nineteenth-Century U.S. Women's Writing* and presented work at meetings for the American Studies Association and the American Literature Association. Her co-curated exhibit of rare books by nineteenth-century U.S. Women Writers, *Beyond Domesticity*, opened in January at Hollings Special Collections Library.

Drucilla K. Barker, Director of WGST and her co-author, **Susan F. Feiner**, Professor of Women's Studies and Economics at the University of Southern Maine published (2010) "As the World Turns: Globalization, Consumption, and the Feminization of Work," *Rethinking Marxism*, Vol. 22, No. 2, pages 246 - 252. Dr. Barker also presented "Caregivers and other Dangerous Strangers: Rethinking the

Paradox of Caring Labor" at an invited session, "Gendered Economies of Carework: Global and Local Dimensions of Theory and Practice," at the American Anthropology Association Meeting. **Deborah Billings**, Assistant Professor of Public Health & WGST, was invited by Argentina's Ministry of Health (National Program of Sexual Health) to present her work on Latin American health systems' provision of services to survivors of sexual violence at the International Seminar, Sexual and Reproductive Health, Human Rights and Gender Perspectives: Advances and Challenges, April 5, 2011, in Buenos Aires. The seminar was followed by a one-day national meeting with Ministry of Health personnel from the provinces to discuss strategies for incorporating and evaluating services for sexual violence survivors into hospitals and clinics. The grant, "Rise Above It," submitted by **Heather Eaddy**, WWBI Coordinator, for the WWBI was funded. **Ed Madden**, Associate Professor of English & WGST, published his essay on Opus Dei and Irish Cultural Response in *GL Review of Poetry*. **Deborah Parra-Medina**, Epidemiology & Biostatistics at the UT Health Center in San

Antonio, TX and **DeAnne K. Hilfinger Messias**, Professor of Nursing & WGST, published (2010) "Promotion of physical activity among Mexican-origin women in Texas and South Carolina: An examination of social, cultural, economic, and environmental factors," *Quest*, 63, 100-117. **Liz McDowell**, **DeAnne K. Hilfinger Messias** and **Robin Estrada**, WGST Graduate Certificate Student, published (2011) "The work of language interpretation in health care: Complex, challenging, exhausting, and often invisible." *Journal of Transcultural Nursing*, 22(2), 137-147. **Dr. Messias** also published (2011) "An Introduction to Community Activism in In D. J. Mason, J. K. Leavitt & M. W. Chaffee (Eds.) *Policy and Politics in Nursing and Healthcare* (6th Ed.), pp.659-666. Philadelphia: Saunders/Elsevier. **Laura R. Woliver**, Political Science & WGST, received a second grant from the Centennial Center of the American Political Science Association for a resident scholar position for 6 weeks this summer in D.C. Additionally awarded a Marguerite Ross Barnett Research Grant for research expenses. All related to her book project on "The American Women's Movement's National Coalition: Lobbying for Gender Justice."

WGST Award Winners

Emily Thompson Prize for Research on Women's Health

Alexis Koskan, WGST Graduate Certificate student: "Program Planners' Conceptualization of Sustainability for Promotoraled Health Outreach with Women and Families: A Qualitative Analysis"

Harriot Hampton Faucette Award for Graduate Student Research

Fall 2010

Christy Kollath, WGST Graduate Certificate student: "Reinterpreting Reproduction: An Ethnography on Discourses, Ideologies, and Practices among Midwifery Participants in South Carolina"

Susan Ryan, WGST Graduate Certificate student: "Breaking Silence and Questioning Disorder"

Spring 2011

Alexis Stratton, WGST Graduate Certificate student, short story collection focusing on relationships among gender, sexuality, embodiment, and belonging in South Korea

Sasikumar Balasundaram, WGST Graduate Certificate student: "Collaborating With Refugee Women: Theorizing Gendered Violence in an Indian Refugee Camp through a Collaborative Project"

Arney Robinson Childs Award:

Crystal Marie Bolder,
Undergraduate WGST major

WGST Rising Senior Award:

Amanda Jennings, Undergraduate
WGST major

Josephine Abney Award:

Gretchen Woertendyke, Ph.D., WGST Affiliate and English, chapter four of manuscript, "Novel to Romance in Early America." In "Bucaneers and Girl Pirates: Cuba, Periódicos, and the Popular Romance,"

Carol Jones Carlisle Award:

Lucy Annang, Ph.D., WGST Affiliate and Health Promotion, Education, & Behavior, "Using the Nominal Group Technique to Understand How Daughters and Mothers Communicate about Cervical Cancer Health in the African American Family"

Laura Kissel, Ph.D., WGST Affiliate and Art, "Cotton Road"

Lee Davinroy Graduate Teaching Award:
Michelle Deming, Graduate Certificate student

Lee Davinroy Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award:

Mary Baskin Waters, Ph.D., WGST Affiliate

Guest Speakers

Dr. Michael Kimmel

Dr. Michael Kimmel, Department of Suny at Stony Brook, NY presented a talk titled "Mars and Venus" or Planet Earth?" In his enlightening and amusing presentation Dr. Kimmel dispelled the myth that women and men are from different places. Indeed, he showed that we are all Earthlings. Men are, can be allies with women. Gender equality is not a zero-sum game. This event was co-sponsored with the office of Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention and Prevention.

Karen Ranzi

In collaboration with the Mothers Acting Up Midlands Chapter and the USC Green Quad, WGST co-sponsored a talk by Karen Ranzi entitled "Creating Healthy Children Through Attachment Parenting and Raw Foods" on February 10, 2011. Ms. Ranzi is an author, speaker and consultant on the raw foods lifestyle. She coordinates the New Jersey Raw Food Support Network and has been interviewed on TV and radio on the topics of vegetarian and raw food parenting. Ms. Ranzi has been teaching her class Creating Healthy Children all over the United States for ten years, and recently published her book, Creating Healthy Children: Through Attachment Parenting and Raw Foods.

Verónica Cruz Sánchez

Verónica Cruz Sánchez, Executive Director of Centro Las Libres, Guanajuato, Mexico, kicked off Women's History Month on March 1 with a talk entitled, "Reproductive Rights and Justice in Mexico," which focused on Las Libres' activism that helped to set free nine women imprisoned for miscarriage in Guanajuato. Her presentation was co-sponsored by USC's Walker Institute of International and Area Studies and WGST. She spent the week meeting with students as well as training Latino/a "community ambassadors" from the PASOs' Puentes program in sexual and reproductive rights.

Centro Las Libres (www.laslibres.org.mx) was founded in 2000. It is a non-governmental organization (NGO) dedicated to promoting and defending women's sexual and reproductive rights through advocacy efforts, youth promoter trainings, and ongoing educational activities for providers in the medical, legal, and public health sectors.

The work of Las Libres has had state, national and global impact. Their groundbreaking approaches to exposing human rights abuses related to denying women health and legal services related to sexual violence and abortion in Guanajuato was featured in the Human Rights Watch report, "The Second Assault - Obstructing Access to Legal Abortion after Rape in Mexico." In 2006, Human Rights Watch honored Ms. Cruz Sánchez for her tireless work in promoting and protecting women's reproductive rights in the state of Guanajuato. Only three activists worldwide are presented with this award each year.



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Mission Statement:

Women's and Gender Studies at the University of South Carolina promotes an understanding of the experiences of women and other underrepresented groups through a complete program of teaching, research, and service to the University, the local community, the state, the nation, and the global community. Through its teaching mission, Women's and Gender Studies shares this knowledge with students so that they learn to think critically, to communicate effectively, to solve problems, and to interpret human experience. Through its research mission, Women's and Gender Studies reconceptualizes existing knowledge and creates new knowledge through the lens of gender and the prism of diversity. Emerging from an activist tradition, Women's and Gender Studies serves University, local, state, national, and global communities by acting as a resource and guide for issues related to women and gender.

Our teaching, research, and service missions interweave as we create, share, and apply knowledge, skills, and values that promote the full participation of women and other underrepresented groups in society. At the core of the work of Women's and Gender Studies teaching and research at the University of South Carolina are broad but fundamental questions that drive examinations of the intersections of race, gender, ethnicity and other dimensions of inequality.

Support USC Women's and Gender Studies and the Women's Well-Being Initiative

The Women's and Gender Studies Program is growing. We invite you to join our efforts to promote the understanding essential to improving the lives of women and other underrepresented groups by becoming a Friend of Women's and Gender Studies.

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