



WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES

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WGST to Celebrate 40 Years at USC in March!

Social Justice Luminaries to be honored

The USC Women's & Gender Studies Program will celebrate 40 years at the university with a gala event on Tuesday, March 24, 6-9 pm, at the Stone River events venue in West Columbia. At the event, WGST will honor three Social Justice Luminaries, women who have made a difference in our community for gender equity, LGBT rights, racial equality, and social justice: attorney **Sarah Leverette**, social work professor **Marjorie Hammock**, and attorney **Harriet Hancock**. These three women have made a difference in our community for gender equity, racial equality, and social justice.

The event will include live music, heavy hors d'oeuvres, and displays of the program's community impact work, as well as recognition of the Social Justice Luminaries.

All proceeds from the event will go toward WGST community outreach and engagement programs, such as the juvenile justice intervention programs coordinated by the Women's Well-Being Initiative (WWBI). The WWBI conceives "well-being" as broadly including mental and physical health, social, economic, and spiritual well-being. Among our most recent programs are arts and media based classes for adolescent girls who are first-time offenders in juvenile arbitration programs, and similar workshops for at-risk girls and boys in our Second Chance juvenile behavioral intervention program. Research has documented a significantly lower recidivism rate among those in our programs compared to those in similar intervention programs.

The event is hosted by the WGST Partnership Council, a board of community and university partners for the program, which serves as a link between the program and the community. Through this anniversary year, the Council has been working to build financial support for the Women's Well Being Initiative and other programs aimed at community engagement and impact.

Tickets are \$40. The Council also welcomes corporate and individual sponsors. For more information about the event, contact Director Ed Madden at maddene@mailbox.sc.edu or Partnership Council President Sally Boyd at sallyb@mailbox.sc.edu.



The faculty and staff of Women's & Gender Studies would like to extend our sympathy to the family of Isiah "Tom" Thomas McClary, the father of Jacquelyn McClary, who passed away on October 12.

Notes from the Director: Ed Madden

A Dinner Party

It was one of those meals.

It was after a lecture on campus, a table filled with old colleagues and new. The time passed so quickly, and there we were, closing down the restaurant, no one left but us. I thought of that scene in Virginia Woolf's *A Room of One's Own*, the luncheon she describes at the men's college:

Meanwhile the wineglasses had flushed yellow and flushed crimson; had been emptied; had been filled. And thus by degrees was lit, half-way down the spine, which is the seat of the soul, not that hard little electric light which we call brilliance, as it pops in and out upon our lips, but the more profound, subtle and subterranean glow which is the rich yellow flame of rational intercourse. No need to hurry. No need to sparkle. No need to be anybody but oneself. We are all going to heaven and Vandyck is of the company—in other words, how good life seemed, how sweet its rewards, how trivial this grudge or that grievance, how admirable friendship and the society's of one's kind.

The conversation was lively, smart. There was disagreement, but also genuine interest in why and how we disagreed. I had typed into my phone things to follow up on, book titles, a blog. I love such meals, rich in fellowship and good food, but even more so moments of rich intellectual sustenance and substance.

Of course, Woolf moves on in the essay to dinner at a women's college that lacks the funding of the men's college. Even her language changes, as if to emphasize that material conditions enable writing and thinking:

Dinner was ready. Here was the soup. It was a plain gravy soup. There was nothing to stir the fancy in that. One could have seen through the transparent liquid any pattern that there might have been on the plate itself. But there was no pattern. The plate was plain.

She reminds us to think about the material conditions of our work—how it is funded, and why. She asks us to remember who is at the table—and who isn't.

This has been a busy fall, but one during which we as a program have been thinking a lot about the table—the material conditions of our work and the pleasures and possibilities and also the precarity of our intellectual work together. In part, we have been mindful of these issues because it's our 40th anniversary on campus, and we're thinking about where we are and how we got here. In part, because the program had an external review, which made us mindful of what we do well and what we can do in the future. But in part it's because we've had a busy semester, and lots of time spent around conference or dinner tables, listening to and learning from others.

We started the semester off cosponsoring a Transgender Forum in September—a table of representatives and activists from the transgender community, diverse in age and identification, before a packed auditorium. A rich discussion, but also one that made clear that transgender students are still not fully included in the life of the university, sometimes in very material ways. (Dear university: change all single occupancy bathrooms to gender neutral status.) Later that month, Dr. Lisa Johnson from USC Upstate addressed our affiliate faculty retreat, reading from her forthcoming essay, which situates the recent history of legislative attacks at USC Upstate in a larger context of institutional and academic politics. A lively discussion about gender studies and academic freedom around a big U-shaped table. We also hosted a group of Serbian journalists (see story on page 8).

In October, it was a pleasure to sit and chat with the two visiting scholars in Social Work. Dr. M. N. Parmar and Dr. Bhavna Mehta from the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda in Gujarat, India. Then the Freeman lecture by Dr. Cathy Cohen (see story on page 4), which filled the Law School Auditorium. In November, working with Anthropology and the McKissick, we co-hosted screenings of *The Cherokee Word for Water*, a fascinating film about community work, based on the life of Wilma Mankiller—a great pleasure to have here during our 40th anniversary year, since Mankiller was the speaker at our 30th anniversary celebration in 2004.

I think I'm also conscious of the table because our Partnership Council chose **The Dinner Party** as the name for our fundraising drive. A name for the donors and friends whose support nourishes and sustains our program, it's an homage to feminist artist Judy Chicago's massive artwork devoted to women's history—where the plates, *pace* Woolf, are anything but plain. (See www.judychicago.com). But it's also a way of naming our *community*, suggesting that we're all at the same table, sustained by one another, organizing, planning, arguing, and working together to change the world around us. If you didn't get an invitation to join us at this fabulous fictional dinner party, let me know. We want you there, too.



Ed Madden

CALL FOR PAPERS

Bodies of Knowledge in the Academy: *Embodied Knowledges and Academic Freedom*

2015 USC Women's & Gender Studies Conference

April 23-24, Columbia, SC

“Academic freedom is . . . an ideal, not a fact of nature. It must be put into practice for it to have any meaningful effects.”

Cary Nelson, *Academic Keywords*

The 28th Annual University of South Carolina Women's & Gender Studies Conference will focus on Bodies of Knowledge in the Academy.

As USC's Women's & Gender Studies Program celebrates its 40th anniversary on the Columbia campus, we are conscious of the unprecedented attacks on gender and sexuality studies in this region—including legislative attacks on common reading texts at College of Charleston and at USC Upstate, and legislative and institutional attacks on gender and sexuality studies programming at USC Upstate. This seems a perfect time to think about gender studies and embodied knowledges in the academy (and in our region).

We take **Bodies of Knowledge** as our conference title to honor and acknowledge the important sexuality studies conference founded by Dr. Lisa Johnson at USC Upstate in 2008. Intended to bring a greater knowledge of about sexuality to the region, the conference began, in part, as a response to the 2007 death of Sean Kennedy, victim of an anti-gay assault in Greenville.

While all abstracts on gender and sexuality studies are welcome, we are particularly interested in papers that explore gendered bodies and knowledges. Suggested topics include:

- bodies of knowledge, disciplinary bodies and disciplinary boundaries
- academic freedom and academic responsibility, gender/sexuality studies and academic freedom
- embodied knowledge, queer bodies, trans bodies, black women's bodies, fat bodies, girls' bodies
- feminist knowledge, hip hop feminist knowledge
- vernacular forms and situated knowledge
- subjugated knowledge
- disciplinary violence, actual violence, anti-violence work



Please send 200-word abstracts to WGST Program Coordinator Anna Sykes at ESYKES@mailbox.sc.edu with the subject line WGST conference proposal.

Proposal deadline: January 30.

Cathy Cohen delivers the 2014 Adrenée Glover Freeman Lecture

University of Chicago political science professor Dr. Cathy Cohen delivered the annual Adrenée Glover Freeman Memorial Lecture on Oct. 9 at the USC Law School Auditorium. The lecture was also part of the WGST program's yearlong celebration of 40 years at the University of South Carolina.

Cohen's lecture, "The Politics of Black Love and the Need for a Black Feminist Intervention: From Barack Obama to Ray Rice," focused on intimacy and family life in American culture. Her wide-ranging and powerful lecture included both statistical analysis of family life and a wide-ranging survey of representations of black families and relationships in popular culture—including Tyler Perry movies and media representations of President Barack and Michelle Obama.

She pushed the audience to think about the disjuncture between our images of black families and the reality of black families. As she told the *Free Times* in an advance interview: "If we only used a very traditional understanding of black love, where there's a man and a woman, and a nuclear family, then we really are missing the ways in which black people — and I would argue people in the United States more generally — [live]. Fifty percent of white children are now born to single mothers. If we can't wake up to that reality then we're going to miss an opportunity to frame our policies and our politics in a way that can really support those families. And in the end, that's what we hold most dear."

Dr. Todd Shaw of USC's African American Studies Program said, "Dr. Cathy Cohen gave an absolutely brilliant presentation about the strictures of the traditional conceptions of marriage," said Dr. Todd Shaw of USC's African American Studies Program, "especially as relevant to women of color, African Americans, and LGBT communities of color. I could see over my shoulder that students, faculty, and community persons alike were all at the edges of our seats as she explained the commonly unforeseen but wholly possible problems of hetero-normative assumptions regarding families and marriage."

Chair of the Department of Political Science at the University of Chicago, Cohen is the author of two books: *Democracy Remixed: Black Youth and the Future of American Politics* (Oxford 2010) and *The Boundaries of Blackness: AIDS and the Breakdown of Black Politics* (Chicago 1999). With Kathleen Jones and Joan Tronto, Cohen is co-editor of *Women Transforming Politics: An Alternative Reader*. She is the principal researcher with The Black Youth Project (www.blackyouthproject.com).

USC's Freeman lecture was established in 1993 in memory of Adrenée Glover Freeman, a Columbia lawyer who was active in civic affairs and served on the Community Advisory Board of the Women's and Gender Studies Program. The lecture is sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences and its Women's and Gender Studies Program and the African American Studies Program.



Dr. Cathy Cohen

WGST 598: Service Learning and Social Justice: The Art of Grant Writing

WGST 598: Service Learning and Social Justice: The Art of Grant Writing was taught in the Spring 2014 by Dr. Christine Sixta Rinehart (Palmetto College) and will again be offered in Spring 2015 on Tuesdays 6-8:30. The class was a great success with 10 students both at the undergraduate and graduate levels from various degree programs. Each student wrote at least 2 grants and approximately half of the grants that were written for the class were either given to non-profits or were submitted by the students. One student found employment at a non-profit as a result of her recently acquired grant writing expertise. Dr. Sixta Rinehart has submitted an article on the course to a special issue of *Atlantis: Critical Studies in Gender, Culture & Social Justice*, which is currently under review. Please contact her at sixta@mailbox.sc.edu if you have any questions about the course.

Learning to Become Beyoncé: The Greatest Lesson of Soapbox Inc.'s Feminist Working Weekend

USC WGST is happy to have helped sponsor Caitlan Wyatt's participation in the Feminist Working Weekend, as part of our commitment to the professional development of our students.

Over this past summer I had the wonderful opportunity to attend Soapbox Inc.'s Feminist Camp. I spent a week indulging in many thought-provoking decisions and workshops surrounding feminism, learning from Amy Richards and Jennifer Baumgardner and even getting to spend an evening in the legendary Gloria Steinem's home. In October I was able to go back to New York and attend Soapbox Inc.'s first follow-up weekend workshop, the Feminist Working Weekend. It was a weekend spent learning how to be a successful feminist in the real world, reflecting on the progress I have made as a woman who defines herself as a feminist, and taking advice on developing and maintaining professional relationships, the importance of branding, the economic power of women, and how to navigate higher education.



Caitlyn Wyatt

Here are my top eight takeaways from the weekend:

1. *Always go out of your way to be professional! Always sit at the table or walk into a room with a sense of authority—just be Beyoncé! Do not make your age or being a woman an issue—make yourself just as important as everyone else at the table.*
2. *Build authentic relationships with those who mentor you and those who you network with—do not burn bridges.*
3. *Why is self branding important? Telling stories is the way to be successful. Be good at owning and being in front of your story. It is crucial to be a good storyteller. People do not think in singular facts, and the way to change someone's mind is to change their association with facts. This is done through storytelling.*
4. *When telling your story, be real. Do not be afraid to get dark or disclose information that could make you look bad. This is what makes us human. It is also why Roxanne Gay and Lena Dunham are so successful.*
5. *When making financial goals, make sure your goals are smart. Be specific, have goals that are measurable, make goals that are attainable, be reasonable with your goals and have goals that are timely.*
6. *Think not only about the gender wage gap but also the gender wealth gap. 70% of women see themselves as savers but only 30% of women see themselves as investors. This is a huge problem. Why? In the United States, women control an estimated 11.2 trillion dollars. This means women need to have the power to decide how money is being used. Having this power will allow women to influence change in their communities and societies.*
7. *When going into grad school it is a good idea to have an idea of what you want to do. Do not use grad school as a time to tread water. Obtaining several master's degrees is not always the best idea—it can be a waste of resources and can make you appear indecisive to employers.*
8. *The general take away from the weekend was to treat your professional life in the same manner that Beyoncé would. Be in control, be fierce. Take on the difficult subjects in an ongoing and relentless basis, and be yourself.*

by Caitlyn Wyatt

WGST HOSTS RESTAGING OF "WE ARE... WOMEN"

Imagine Abigail Adams, Margaret Atwood, Emily Dickinson, Nora Ephron, Susan Griffin, Cherrie Moraga, and Rosetta Wakeman, all on stage together....

On Friday, March 20, WGST will host an anniversary staging of *We Are... Women* in the Law School Auditorium. *We Are... Women* is a reader's theatre performance first staged on campus in 1995 as part of Women's History Month and in conjunction with the 8th Annual Women's Studies Conference.

The performance on March 31, 1995, included faculty, students, and community partners of the program. This commemorative performance 20 years later will include members of the collective who annually stage *The Vagina Monologues*, coordinated by Alexis Stratton, a WGST certificate graduate and now Education & Outreach Coordinator for South Carolina Equality.

This performance is scheduled as part of the program's 40th anniversary celebration. The event will be free and open to the public.

Undergraduate Director's Report: Leah McClimans

Serious Women Doing Serious Work



Irie Eargle shows off her work for WWBI



Arianna Houston interned with Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands

Stay tuned for information about our Spring Research Drop-In. Details coming soon!



Interning at the Housing Authority: Teneasha Boyd

As I write this we are almost finished with autumn advisement, which means that I am almost finished with my first ever stint of advising. As I've been sitting across from our WGST majors two thoughts keep recurring. First: with two different core curriculum still in play and all the rules, exceptions and fine print respective to both combined with the many (variously) trained advisors strewn across the College how do any of the students graduate on time? Or maybe more to the point: does Dawn Hiller have a doppelganger? She should.

The second thing that I keep thinking is how, at the age of thirty-seven, after two kids and tenure I am still unused to my own authority? Here is what has been happening. A WGST major comes into my office—quite rightly—looking for advisement. I sit across the desk from her (they have all been hers) with my advising book, list of classes and advisement forms. She is sincere and expectant and I put on the face of someone who knows what they are doing. But inside I feel a little bit scared because I don't really believe that I know what I am doing.

The second thing that I keep thinking is how, at the age of thirty-seven, after two kids and tenure I am still unused to my own authority?

Dear readers please do not send Ed Madden a flurry of emails asking him to replace me—I like this job and what I am describing is not unique to advising our majors. I hardly ever feel like I know what I am doing (but maybe this is not reassuring you). I suppose over the years I've gotten more comfortable with the fact that I always feel like I am pretending, this said, I am rarely without the incredulity in the back of my head. My point is: I don't think I am alone.

In the recent debate over whether women should Lean In (Sheryl Sandberg) or "Recline!" (Rosa Brooks) what has become clear (to me) is that women and girls need to take themselves more seriously. Last March Anne-Marie Slaughter gave the following advice in an interview with *The Guardian*, "People will take you as seriously as you take yourself. If you think you should be at a meeting, if you think you should be in a position of leadership then people will treat you accordingly. Self doubt is our worst enemy."

I look forward to this autumn's WGST Drop-In (5 November, 11-1pm Russell House Ballroom A) I hope that this lesson is one that our seniors will take away from the experience. They are serious women who have spent the semester doing serious work. This Drop-In is a time for us as a community to acknowledge their contribution and take them seriously.



Leah McClimans



Ashley Taylor smiles for the camera



WGST Partnership Council members Sally Boyd, Becky Collier, and Sheryl McAlister, attend the WGST Drop-In



Jim Paczynski, graduate student extraordinaire and AV wizard helped make this Drop-In a success

Dr. Lisa Johnson speaks at the September 26 WGST Affiliate Faculty Retreat in Columbia. Johnson read from a forthcoming essay, "Lez Be Honest: Queer Feelings about Women's Studies at a Public Regional University in the Southeastern United States." In her presentation, she recounted recent legislative and administrative pressures to close the Women's and Gender Studies Center at USC Upstate in order to reflect on the place of lesbians in the corporate university in general and women's studies programs more specifically. "Defending academic freedom is important," she said, "but not to the exclusion of defending the LGBT population as a valid and meaningful part of the human community and its academic inquiry."



Spring 2015 Calendar of Events

January 26 – Beyond Ferguson: A Poetic Call for Justice

6:30-8 pm, Booker T. Washington Auditorium, 1400 Wheat Street
Poets and spoken word artists speak out against racist policing and injustice. Sponsored by African American Studies with USC NAACP Chapter and the Institute for Southern Studies.

February 19 – Remembering Malcolm: Observing the 50th Anniversary of the Death of Malcolm X.

evening, Booker T. Washington Auditorium, 1400 Wheat Street
Sponsored by African American Studies with the Association of African American Students

March 1-3 – USC Comparative Literature Conference: Women and the Holocaust

New analytical perspectives on the experiences of Jewish women during the Holocaust, as well as on women's cultural and academic contributions to a deeper understanding of the events and their effects on contemporary socio-political and intellectual discourses. Keynote address by Sarah Horowitz cosponsored by WGST.

March 4 – Inaugural Mary Baskin Waters Lecture in Women's & Gender Studies: Dr. Mary Margaret Fonow, Director of the School of Social Transformation, Arizona State University

6 pm, Law School Auditorium, USC
This will be the inaugural lecture for this annual lecture series, named in honor of benefactor, community partner, and service learning advocate, Dr. Mary Baskin Waters. Free and open to the public.

March 20 – We Are... Women! An Anniversary Performance

7 pm, Law School Auditorium, USC
An anniversary restaging of a feminist readers' theatre project, first performed at the annual USC WGST conference in 1995. Sponsored by WGST to celebrate our 40th anniversary at USC.

March 24 – WGST 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

6-9 pm, Stone River event venue, West Columbia
Join us for a celebration of the Women's & Gender Studies 40th Anniversary and a recognition of our Social Justice Luminaries!

March 26 – Annual Robert Smalls Lecture in African American Studies

evening, Booker T. Washington Auditorium, 1400 Wheat Street
Invited speaker: Dr. Freeman Hbrowski, President, University of Maryland Baltimore County.

April 2 & 3 – NC Native American Blues Artists Darkwater Rising & Purafé

In collaboration with the McKissick, WGST will be hosting a lecture and performances by these Native American blues artists.

April 23-24 – Bodies of Knowledge in the Academy: Embodied Knowledges and Academic Freedom

The annual USC WGST conference will focus on the theme Bodies of Knowledge in the Academy, in part to continue the work of the Bodies of Knowledge symposium founded at USC Upstate in 2008, in part to focus on the theme of gender studies and academic freedom. Events both on USC campus and at the Columbia Marriott.

WGST HOSTS FORUM ON LGBTQ ISSUES FOR VISITING SERBIAN JOURNALISTS

USC's Women's & Gender Studies Program hosted a group of visiting Serbian journalists on Sept. 17 for a forum on LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer) issues. Based in Charlotte, the group of journalists were visiting the US Sept 10-20 as part of the Open World program, coordinated locally by Harry Moorachian. Open World is an exchange program sponsored by the U.S. Congress that seeks to develop professional relationships and cooperation between the U.S. and leaders from the former Soviet Union. In Columbia, the journalists were guests of WGST and of the Walker Institute for International Studies.

The purpose of the visit was to explore how journalists and public leaders address LGBTQ issues. South Carolina was selected for the visit because the general cultural worldview is roughly analogous: a conservative mainstream consensus, strong conservative religious influences, and a need for leaders to negotiate public positions and privately held beliefs. To join the European Union, Serbia must have values consistent with EU values, including what one organizer has called a "free and unfettered press." The forum focused on exploring best practices employed by journalists and public leaders in addressing controversial issues, especially LGBTQ issues.

The journalists were interested in meeting with other journalists, politicians and clergy—especially those who might hold progressive views but must nuance public positions. The group met with legislators that morning at the Statehouse and toured the grounds. Doyle Stevick, Director of European Studies for the Walker Institute, and Charles Bierbauer, Dean of the College of Mass Communication and Information Studies met with the journalists over lunch, where they also heard from longtime local activist and attorney Harriet Hancock, who spoke about her work with PFLAG (Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays).

The afternoon included forums with local journalists, clergy, and activists. Among those discussing journalism issues were Meg Kinnard of the Associated Press, former *State* columnist Claudia Smith Brinson, WLTX news anchor Darci Strickland, and William Rogers, executive director of the SC Press Association. Belgrade journalist Milan Prelic gave a presentation to the combined group of Serbian and American journalists on the history of LGBT rights in Serbia. The country's gay pride march has been cancelled every year since 2010 due to security concerns, and at the time of the forum, participants worried it would be cancelled again in 2014.

The large group of clergy who met with the visiting journalists included Candace Chellew-Hodge of Jubilee Circle and author of *Bulletproof Faith*, Rev. Dr. Robin Dease of the United Methodist Church, Rev. Dr. Carl Evans of the United Methodist Church, Rev. Sally Johnston of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields Episcopal Church, Rev. Dr. Tom Summers of the United Methodist Church and a longtime advocate for LGBT rights, and others. The day was rounded out with a discussion with local activists Ryan Wilson, a senior regional field organizer for the Human Rights Campaign, and Alexis Stratton of SC Equality. Hub City Press donated copies *Out Loud: The Best of Rainbow Radio* to the participants. *Out Loud* is a collection of radio essays edited by Ed Madden that was attacked by conservative legislators when used as a common reading at USC Upstate last year.

Of the many publications that resulted from their visit (as well as their extensive participation in the coverage of Belgrade Pride), local Open World coordinator Harry Moorachian said, "These articles are evidence that our efforts to bring the American experience on LGBTQ issues to Serbia have succeeded and should help that nation to move towards a stronger standard for minority rights."

While in the area, the journalists were able to attend Upstate Pride in Spartanburg, where they were able to shadow local journalists and meet with local organizers. In Charlotte, they met with Matt Comer, editor of the regional LGBT newspaper *QNotes*. They published stories in Serbian outlets about Upstate Pride, about gay and lesbian issues in the southeastern U.S., and about the relation of churches to LGBT people. (Though in Serbian, WGST affiliates might be interested to see their coverage of the local events at: <http://www.kurir.rs/planeta/kurir-na-paradi-ponosa-u-sad-hriscani-gresnici-gorecete-u-paklu-gejevi-vernici-mi-vas-volimo-clanak-1554473>.)

Belgrade Pride was held Sept. 28, 2014. (For more on Belgrade Pride, see: <http://abcnews.go.com/International/belgrade-gay-pride-parade-cops-outnumber-marchers/story?id=25818361>.)



Serbian Journalists in front of Thomas Cooper Library with Ed Madden (center) Open World coordinator Harry Moorachian (front right) and HRC organizer Ryan Wilson (back right)

Dissecting the Detectives

Grace Gardner considers herself an "SVU junkie," one of the many people who binge watch rerun marathons of the popular television show "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit," spending nights cuddled up with Detectives Stabler and Benson on Netflix.

Fortunately, Annie Boiter-Jolley, a doctoral student instructor and a fan of the show, wanted to bring Benson and Stabler to campus. This semester Boiter-Jolley launched a class all about the popular show and how it addresses women and gender issues.

"I got into watching SVU and became – I don't want to say obsessed – but really into it a couple of years ago. When I watched reruns as I was prepping for another women's and gender studies class, I knew exactly what piece I would assign to go with an episode," says Boiter-Jolley.

Starting a class all about the show was a chance to expose more students to women's and gender studies, she says.

"I was hoping that students who were already fans of the 'SVU' and who had never taken a women's and gender studies class would sign up and then realize how much more there is to it and be exposed to gender studies scholarship that they might not have been otherwise," she says.

Students in the class watch the episodes together and talk about the show in relation to various readings and the issues each episode tackles. Boiter-Jolley keeps the format open, letting the students open up and talk about the issues, like rape, domestic violence and gay rights.

"It's very discussion based. Instead of just listening to someone talk, we're able to be involved in the discussion and we hear other people's opinions and stories," says Madison Bourne, a fifth-year women's studies senior. "In this class, you need to hear these girls' opinions. There are girls in sororities and girls in sports and they are all so different. Having all these girls with different opinions, it's really important to hear everyone's view on it and make your own critical argument."

It's not just about watching the show. Students will have to prepare an activism project for the end of the semester and each meeting is based around news articles or scholarly journals.

"In addition to not just watching television, it's really important to me that we're critical of the show itself," Boiter-Jolley says. "I hope they will take away from it the desire and inclination to approach other television shows and pop culture with the same kind of criticism and the same kind of questions. I hope it makes them more inquisitive and more thoughtfully engaged with television and all kinds of media."

And the students love the class so far. The class is the perfect fit for college students who don't want to sit in another lecture-style course, says Gardner, a junior international studies and women's and gender studies double major.

Want to watch on your own? Here are a few of Boiter-Jolley's favorite episodes and reading to get you started:

- "Girl Dishonored," season 14; with readings "18 Questions to Ask About Your School's Sexual Assault Policy" and "Law & Order: SVU Rips Story From Dozens of Campus Rape Headlines"
- "Persona," season 8; with reading "Till Death Do Us Part"
- "Legitimate Rape," season 14; with reading "The Legitimate Children of Rape"

Article by Liz McCarthy
Originally posted in @UofSC on: 10/2/2014



LEARNING FROM POP CULTURE: This semester a women's and gender studies class is delving into serious issues through the popular television show "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit." Photos courtesy of NBC Universal.

"I don't learn well in lecture-only classes and this class is a really unique opportunity to get out of a class like that," she says. "And of course, there was the huge appeal of getting to watch one of my favorite TV shows and get class credit for it. That's an opportunity I just couldn't pass up."

Boiter-Jolley says the students have been the most engaged group she has taught.

"In some classes, you'll have the four or five people who are always talking. In this class, there's a lot more people talking," she says. "And they don't always agree with each other and it seems like they feel comfortable enough to voice those disagreements."

Students say the class has changed the way they watch the show and other things in popular culture.

"I can't watch anything on TV now without criticizing it," says Bourne. "The new season just started and I didn't watch it. I feel like if I watch it, I'm going to be so analytical of it."

Since the course is in its first semester, Boiter-Jolley hopes to teach the class again and she's already taking notes on the new season in preparation.

Becky Lewis reflects on Women's Studies at USC

As we celebrate 40 years of Women's and Gender Studies at USC, we have been included reflections on our history in the newsletter. In this issue, Becky Lewis offers her thoughts on the certificate program. If you have a story you would like to tell—an experience, a memory, an encounter from our early years—please contact Ed Madden at maddene@mailbox.sc.edu.

In 1994 I walked in the May USC graduation ceremony proudly wearing a special stole to receive my Women's Studies Certificate. A talented person had sewn together colorful cloth remnants chosen by the WOST Affiliates. In fact I had selected the tiny brown and white check for the ranking member, my husband.

The WOST certificate represented a heady and liberating time for me while taking the required courses under the direction of two intellectual amazons and rollerblading beacons of light, Professors Judith James and Mary Crawford!

I was part of an interdisciplinary and diverse cohort of scholars. We met together, men and women sitting in a circle to discuss challenging writers and thinkers-- Bell Hooks, Susan Griffin, Julia Kristeva, Simone de Beauvoir, Patricia Ann Collins, Nancy Chodorow . . .

We attended speaking engagements by Mary Daly, Gloria Steinem, and Maya Angelou.

On Sunday afternoons, we came together at 817 Gervais Street, that radical Bluestocking Bookstore [now a Starbucks], which promised "A Celebration of Women Writers!" and a place to listen to and discuss our colleagues' research.

And we listened to our teachers as they carefully explained and outlined the feminist agenda, its theory and methodology, its long history with its brave feminist mothers. For me the most profound learning was being given permission to read as a woman as well as learning how to read as a woman—to see women as more than nags and spinsters and lesser than men; to value women and their work; to find their voices.

And here at some point my husband, the ranking member of the WOST Affiliates, and I had an ongoing discussion. So why isn't a poem about Washing Day as universal as a poem about War? Can the domestic sphere be equal to the male sphere? Can the quotidian be as powerful as the political? And can the world be a just place where women and men come together as equals to be good human beings.

Certainly attaining the Women's Studies Certificate represented a transformative experience for me and Kevin!

THOSE WERE NOT TROUBLES: THIRTY LINES for WOST at THIRTY

As we celebrate 40 years of WGST at USC, we're finding lots of gems in the files. Below is a poem written by longtime WGST affiliate Kevin Lewis for the 30th anniversary. The poem was printed and distributed at the 30th anniversary donor reception, 30 Sept 2004, which featured a keynote by Wilma Mankiller. Lewis was a co-teacher of the very first women's studies course at USC.

Those were not troubles Pandora set free --

Power tells that story the way it will.
Now it's men as well as women who need
To read again that myth to see it clear.

A woman's curiosity can bring
Disaster? -- well, or as it were, to men?
To male formations of the universe?

Pandora, great aunt of women's studies,
I salute, to mark what colleagues have done
And still will do at USC to spring
All women from the boxed-in roles in which
Old politics and convenience keep them.

Imagine a man imagining *her*,
What takes her eye and ear, and what she feels.
Imagine exploring the construction
Of the differences to learn mo' better
The use of privilege against itself,
To rehabilitate the paradigm,
Leaving kinder, gentler the way we live.

Pioneer Pandora, open the box,
Let out all the otherness: gender, class,
Race, age, desire, country -- let it fly
To trouble the waking slumber of those
Not yet explorers of the brave new world
Envisioned with your curiosity.

Curiouser, curiouser we would grow:
Women's Studies with so much more to do.
Thanks, Pandora, whom we would read for true.
Teach us: reversals line the paths we take,
The paths we all would travel to be free.

Kevin Lewis



WWBI Spring 2014 Update

In November the Women's Well-Being Initiative offered another round (our 27th over the past nine years) of the Arts-Based Workshop for eight girls enrolled in the Lexington County Juvenile Arbitration Program. We also collaborated with community partners in offering the Second Chance Program to 6 students from Brookland-Cayce and Airport High Schools. Throughout the fall semester our WWBI graduate students and staff also have been busy collecting evaluation data of these ongoing community collaborations with at-risk youth. These data will form the basis for future interdisciplinary grant proposals to further expand and evaluate the WWBI arts-based model throughout the state of South Carolina. The WWBI Program Coordinator, Andrenette Hudley, presented the key-note address at the Juvenile Arbitration Award Banquet on November 24, 2014.

Check us out on the web: <http://artsandsciences.sc.edu/wwbi/>
Want to get involved? Email wwbiusc@gmail.com

Apply for a WGST Faculty Research Award!

Josephine Abney Faculty Fellowship Award

Designed to encourage cutting edge research that is solidly grounded in women's and gender studies perspectives. Proposals are invited which are consistent with the research mission of Women's and Gender Studies to reconceptualize knowledge, create new knowledge, and/or reinterpret existing knowledge about women and other underrepresented groups and their experiences through the lens of gender and the prism of diversity. The research should be interdisciplinary in nature or have interdisciplinary implications and should reflect a commitment to improving the status of women and other underrepresented groups.

This fellowship is open to any full-time, permanent faculty or professional staff member within the USC system. The \$5,000 award may be received as salary or used for research expenses. The recipient will be expected to give an oral presentation of the results at the Women's and Gender Studies system-wide conference in spring 2015 following the award. Any publications that result from this work should contain an acknowledgment.

Proposals should include a narrative description of the research and its relevance to Women's and Gender Studies that addresses items 1-9 of the application form (six-page maximum), a proposed project budget (one-page), and a curriculum vita/resume (three-page maximum) that includes current and previous grant support. Please merge all documents into a single PDF file and submit electronically to Anna Sykes at esykes@mailbox.sc.edu. Indicate "Abney Award" in the subject line.

Applications are due by 5:00 PM on January 9, 2015.

For more information and a copy of the application form, go to: http://artsandsciences.sc.edu/wgst/awards_scholarships.

Carol Jones Carlisle Faculty Award

The Carol Jones Carlisle Award in Women's Studies was created by friends, colleagues, family, and students of Dr. Carlisle who taught at USC for nearly 40 years. She was an English Professor Emeritus and internationally known as an important Shakespeare scholar. Dr. Carlisle was one of the first women at USC to achieve the rank of full professor, and she was the first faculty member in the history of the English Department to achieve that rank. She passed away after a brief illness on Dec. 17, 2012.

This award is designed to assist faculty and professional staff in the conduct of women-centered research, which is consistent with the research mission of Women's and Gender Studies to reconceptualize knowledge, create new knowledge, and/or reinterpret existing knowledge about women and their experiences through the lens of gender and the prism of diversity. This fellowship is open to any full-time, permanent faculty or professional staff member within the USC system. The \$1,000 award can be used for travel, software, books, supplies, and/or equipment. Funds must be spent by the end of the fiscal year following receipt of award, and must follow university policy.

Proposals should include a five-page description of the research and its relationship to the mission of Women's and Gender Studies. An itemized budget of expenses this award will cover must also be submitted (this is not part of the five page limit), and a one-page curriculum vita/resume. Please merge all documents into one pdf file. Submit an electronic copy (put "Carlisle Award" in the subject line) to: Anna Sykes at esykes@mailbox.sc.edu.

Applications are due by 5:00 PM on April 25, 2015.

For more information and a copy of the application form, go to: http://artsandsciences.sc.edu/wgst/awards_scholarships.

Kudos!

Drucilla K. Barker (ANTH and WGST) has published: "Feminist Critique of Economics," in *Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Gender and Sexuality Studies*, Nancy Naples, Editor in Chief (2014) and "Gender, Class and Location in the Global Economy," with her coauthor Edith Kuiper, in *The SAGE Handbook of Feminist Theory* (2015).

WGST affiliate faculty **Julia Elliott** has just published *The Wilds*, her debut short story collection. Published by Tin House Books, the work has already received rave reviews in the *New York Times* and elsewhere. *Publisher's Weekly* noted, "Elliott's gift of vernacular is remarkable, and her dark, modern spin on Southern Gothic creates tales that surprise, shock, and sharply depict vice and virtue." She will follow up with *The New and Improved Romie Futch*, her debut novel about a fictional South Carolina taxidermist, to be published next year. Both Elliott and **Alexis Stratton**, a WGST certificate graduate and adjunct faculty, were finalists for the 2014 Jasper Literary Artists of the Year.

Erica Gibson, Anthropology and WGST, published "Women's expectations and experiences with labour pain in medical and midwifery models of birth in the United States" in *Women and Birth*. She also presented her work on "Perinatal Care Access Among Mexican Women in Sending and Receiving Communities" at the International Council of Women's Health Issues Conference in Cape Town, South Africa, in November.

Ed Madden, English and WGST, published "Transnationalism, Sexuality, and Irish Gay Poetry: Frank McGuinness, Cathal Ó Searcaigh, Pdraig Rooney" this fall in *Where Motley Is Worn: Transnational Irish Literatures* (Cork UP, 2014). He was a keynote at the SC Library Association Conference in Columbia in October, speaking "On dangerous books." He presented papers at the Ireland in Psychoanalysis conference in Halifax in August and the Ireland and Ecocriticism conference in Cork in June.

Emmaling Campbell, a student working with WGST undergraduate director **Leah McClimans**, Philosophy, has just received a Magellan Scholar grant to work with McClimans on the research project "Developing Quality Standards in Clinical Ethics." In October she presented

"Place of Birth: Ethics and Evidence" at the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities.

DeAnne K. Hilfinger Messias, Nursing and WGST, was elected Co-Chair of the American Academy of Nursing Expert Panel on Global Nursing and Health at the AAN annual meeting in Washington DC in October 2014. With Elizabeth Fore (Idaho State), she presented "The *Navegantes para Salud* Model: Improving Access to Maternal Child Health Care for Hispanic Women and their Children in South Carolina USA" at the International Council of Women's Health Issues Conference in Cape Town, South Africa, in November. With **Robin Dawson Estrada** (Nursing, WGST graduate alumni and affiliate), presented "An Analysis Interpreter-Mediated Primary Care Encounters: Implications for Improving Transcultural Nursing Practice at the Transcultural Nursing Society 40th Annual Conference" in Charleston in October.

Stephanie Y. Mitchem, Religious Studies and WGST, published three articles: "Embodiment in African American Theological Scholarship," in *The Oxford Handbook of African American Theology*, edited by Katie Geneva Cannon and Anthony Pinn. (Oxford 2014); "Gendered Politics of Religious Intimacies," in *Religion, Gender, and the Public Sphere*, edited by Niamh Reilly and Stacey Scriver (Routledge, 2014); and "The Politics of Public Piety," in *Crosscurrents* (64.3, Sept 2014). She also edited that issue of *Crosscurrents* and wrote the corresponding editorial. Continuing her research into women and religion and focusing on women in Africa and the Diaspora, she took a study tour to Morocco in May.

Ann Ramsdell, School of Medicine and WGST, received a Genomics Pilot Project grant award, for her research on "Epigenetic regulation of mammary stem cell laterality." Ann will be speaking at Columbia's 2015 TedX event. For more information about TedXColumbiaSC, see: <http://www.tedx.columbiasc.com>. **Jacquelyne P. Robichaux**, a PhD candidate in her lab, was selected as a Southern Regional Education Board Scholar (www.SREB.org). This award provides stipend support, a research allowance, and professional development support, including expenses associated with attending the annual Compact for

Faculty Diversity Institute on Teaching and Mentoring.

Susan Schramm-Pate, WGST graduate director, presented at the University of New Mexico Mentoring Conference her paper titled, "Girls for Tomorrow (GiFT): The Development of a Feminist Cross-Cultural Mentoring Model," in October 2014. She also guest-edited a special themed issue of the *Journal of School Public Relations* entitled "Doctoral Education Today" (vol 35, 2014),

We congratulate **Suzanne Swan**, Psychology and WGST, who was awarded the College of Arts & Sciences Associate Professor Professional Development Award this fall. The research award is given annually to an associate professor with a significant record of service. The \$5000 award will help to fund her current research project, "The Social Milieu of Druggings."

With support from the Carol Jones Carlisle Award, **Laura Woliver**, Political Science and WGST, spent two months of her fall sabbatical conducting final fieldwork in Washington, DC, on women's rights coalitions activism. While in Washington researching the history of feminist organizations she spoke to the Clearinghouse on Women's Issues. You can read her comments on "What Helps Progressive Feminist Organizations Survive and Thrive" (see link on page 14.) Her research was also supported by the Marguerite Ross Barnett Fund of the American Political Science Association.

Lynn Weber, Psychology and WGST, has been awarded a grant from the Consortium for Research on Race, Gender, and Ethnicity at the University of Maryland to analyze national survey data and write reports for the project "Diversify the Faculty, Transform the Institution: Learning from the Work-Life Experience of African American, Latina/o and Native American Faculty," funded by the Anne E. Casey Foundation. She has also been invited to present her research on inequities in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in two plenary sessions at the Southern Sociological Society meetings in March, highlighting the 10 year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina.

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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WGST on the Web:

WGST website at <http://artsandsciences.sc.edu/wgst>

WWBI website at <http://artsandsciences.sc.edu/wwbi/>

"LGBT Inequality in Serbia" – Ryan Wilson, HRC Senior Field Organizer, on meeting with Serbian journalists hosted by USC WGST in September: <http://www.hrc.org/blog/entry/lgbt-inequality-in-serbia>

"Stop the Hate," by WGST faculty member Dr. Suzanne Swan (Psychology and WGST) and WGST graduate student Andrew Schramm in the *Free Times*: <http://www.free-times.com/news/stop-the-hate-052814>

"What we talk about when we talk about black love" - Freeman lecturer Cathy Cohen interviewed in the *Free Times*: <http://www.free-times.com/news/what-we-talk-about-when-we-talk-about-black-love-100814>

"On being married, legally" – Ed Madden on the legalization of same-sex marriage in SC in the *Free Times*: <http://www.free-times.com/news/on-being-married-legally-112514>

"Outside," Ed Madden's poem on marriage at The Good Men Project: <http://goodmenproject.com/featured-content/chb-outside>

WGST UG Director on medical ethics and leadership: http://www.sc.edu/uofsc/stories/2013/12_leah_mcclimans_teaching_next_medical_leaders.php#VidXiF7F_nc

Laura Woliver speaks to the Clearinghouse on Women's Issues in Sept (see pp 5-7): http://www.womensclearinghouse.org/files/6514/1049/2289/CWI_Sept_2014_9-11-14_Newsletter.pdf

"We need to take time to remember our angels" – WGST Partnership Council member Tameika Isaac Devine speaks up about the silent grief of miscarriages in *The State*: http://www.thestate.com/2014/10/08/3730315_devine-we-need-to-take-time-to.html