



# WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES

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## WGST Celebrates 40th Anniversary, Honors Social Justice Advocates

**What a stunning evening it was!** The Women's and Gender Studies program marked 40 years at the university with a celebration on March 24 at the Stone River events venue in West Columbia. Over 150 attended the event, where WGST also honored three women who have changed the culture of our state.

Dean Mary Anne Fitzpatrick of the College of Arts and Sciences congratulated the program on "four decades of rigorous interdisciplinary teaching and research, rich and provocative programming, and exemplary civic engagement and community service." In his congratulatory remarks, USC President Harris Pastides said, "The Women's and Gender Studies program helps to remind me of where my moral compass is," adding, "You all have taught me about social issues that I was unaware of before."

The honored guests, who received awards as Social Justice Luminaries, were: social work professor Marjorie Hammock, attorney Harriet Hancock, and attorney Sarah Leverette. Their awards were designed by Columbia artist Ellen Emerson Yaghjian.



*Harriet Hancock holding her luminary award.*

The event included a display of the program's community impact work through the Women's Well-Being Initiative (WWBI). Also on display was *The Beginning of Women's Lib*, a large oil painting by Columbia artist Edmund Yaghjian, graciously donated by Candy Waites and now on permanent display in the WGST office suite in Jones 109 (see page 13.)

All proceeds from this event are going toward WGST community impact programming, such as the juvenile justice arbitration work coordinated by the WWBI. 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.

The event was 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, chaired by Sally Boyd. Deepest thanks to the Council for all of their hard work on this successful event!

## Notes from the Director: Ed Madden

### Marriage and the Middle School Students: A Different Future

The students, all young writers, pulled out their phones when we broke for lunch. A few exclamations, and then the group erupted in cheers, hugs. A couple of the girls, eighth graders I think, were crying.

It was a summer camp for creative writing, one of the university's many summer camps in the Carolina Master Scholars series. They had written poems with Ray McManus from USC Sumter about their spirit animals (after reading Carlos Drummond de Andrade's "The Elephant"). They had written headline and secret stories with the editor of *Frank Martin Review*, Darien Cavanaugh. They had learned how to work a room and tell their own stories with local spoken word artist Kendal Turner.

Earlier that week, as the heat had finally broken and rain fell, the governor had announced that the Confederate battle flag must be moved—and the legislative negotiations had proceeded, as each day these young writers learned about metaphor and pacing and how and why their own stories mattered.

And now on the last day of the camp, we were practicing for the final performance for their parents and grandparents. And we broke for lunch. And they erupted in cheers as their phones and Facebook feeds went all rainbow. The Supreme Court had just ruled: same-sex marriage was legal across the nation. It was 48 years after *Loving v. Virginia*, the Supreme Court decision that struck down laws against interracial marriage. It was exactly 12 years to the day after the *Lawrence v. Texas* decision, which struck down sodomy laws. These decisions set the precedents that made possible *Obergefell v. Hodges*, the same-sex marriage ruling that asserted the fundamental dignity of lesbian and gay people and their relationships.

As the students waited for lunch, they chattered excitedly and checked their phones. One announced that Ruby Rose had just tweeted about it. I asked who Ruby Rose is. She told me "an up and coming actress who is gender fluid." One of their counselors, a USC student, asked, "What does gender fluid mean?" She explained. The other counselor smiled: "They know more than we do."

Last spring, we thought a lot about history as the USC Women's and Gender Studies Program celebrated 40 years on campus. This summer, I think many of us have continued to think rigorously and regularly about the past—and the future—as our state experienced historic change: the legalization of same-sex marriages across the nation and the removal of the Confederate flag from the statehouse grounds here at home.

*(We have included in this issue of the newsletter a column written by then director Lynn Weber about the 2000 compromise that brought the flag off the dome. See pages 6 & 7.)*

If the flag battle occasioned lots of serious (and sometimes misguided) interrogation of Southern history in media and social media, the marriage decision felt like the national culmination of local activism. Back in 2003, when the South Carolina legislature started blustering about a constitutional amendment, early news coverage ignored lesbian and gay couples here, even though the last census documented our presence in every county in the state. Marriage was a problem elsewhere and other. SC activists started applying for marriage licenses in Columbia in 2004, changing the conversation if not the law. I still remember that brave outreach at the SC State Fair in 2005 and 2006, when we learned how to tell our stories to complete strangers. Then the constitutional amendment passed in 2006. Then the lawsuits began, and then that amazing moment last fall when the Fourth Circuit Court decision made marriage possible here. Amazing. Not because we couldn't imagine it – we clearly imagined it in our activism—but because we didn't think it would happen so soon, so close, here and now.

I will remember President Barack Obama saying this decision was "the consequence of the countless small acts of courage of millions of people across decades who stood up, who came out."

And I will always remember a room full of kids, erupting in cheers for a different future.



Ed Madden

## WGST News

### Lisa Johnson wins WGST Teaching Award

**Dr. Lisa Johnson** of USC Upstate was selected as the winner for the 2015 WGST Teaching Award. The award recognizes her extraordinary work as a teacher and advocate for her students, citing in particular her "rich, engaged, and excellent record as a teacher."

We note her commitment to the courses required for the WGST minor at Upstate, as well as the broad range of courses she has developed and taught. We also note her ability to engage students by putting canonical and theoretical work into dialogue or context with popular discourse and culture. We are especially delighted by her service-learning course in Girls Studies. This course is an excellent example of connecting the classroom to the community and of the value of integrated learning. Dr. Johnson also started the first Triota women's studies honors chapter in the USC system.

One student wrote of her: "her students genuinely appreciate her ability to introduce complicated ideas in a playful and effective manner, to expose students to revolutionary cultural perspectives, and to partner with students in a joint commitment to public service." Another praised her commitment and mentorship of first-generation and working-class college students: "Her enthusiasm, kindness, and brilliance have made her my favorite professor and the best teacher I've had throughout my academic career. Her desire to . . . open up worlds for lower income students like myself is a rare gift in academia." WGST congratulates Dr. Lisa Johnson!

### WWBI Spring 2015 Update

Last spring, the **Women's Well-Being Initiative** (WWBI) wrapped up its 28th community youth intervention program utilizing arts-based workshops. Eleven girls successfully completed this program for female juvenile offenders in the Lexington County Juvenile Arbitration Program. The girls created poetry, abstract paintings, photographs, and collages images. The next workshop is scheduled for June. Collaborating with community partners, we offered our sixth session of the Second Chance-School Restorative Justice Program to six students from Brookland-Cayce High School.

Last spring, WWBI also collaborated with the International Women's Advocacy Alliance to offer the International Women's Wellness Series, a three-part lecture focusing on international women's health and well-being.

Throughout the spring semester, our graduate students and staff continued to collect evaluation data of these ongoing community collaborations with at-risk youth. Using these data, WWBI submitted a grant proposal to the Nord Family Foundation to further expand the WWBI arts-based model throughout South Carolina.

Additionally, WWBI staff and faculty presented on our youth model at the 2015 USC's Women's and Gender Studies Conference: Bodies of Knowledge in the Academy, the Richland County Youth Arbitration arbitrator training workshop, the Eleventh International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry Conference at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and for the Lexington School District Four and Swansea High School administrative staffs. A WWBI exhibit was also featured at the Women's and Gender Studies 40-year anniversary gala.

Check us out on the web: <http://artsandsciences.sc.edu/wwbi/>

Want to get involved? Email [wwbiusc@gmail.com](mailto:wwbiusc@gmail.com)

### Spring 2015 WGST Award Winners

**Arney Robinson Childs Award for Outstanding WGST student:** Denisha Kriven

**Josephine Abney Faculty Fellowship Award:** Emily Mann, "Reproductive Counseling to Young Women Seeking Family Planning Services"

The Women's & Gender Studies Program would like to offer congratulations to our newest WGST graduates of 2015: **Madison K. Bourne, Michelle E. Deming, Marc Demont, Emily J. Goebel, Jennifer L. Karash-Eastman, Casey C. Lutz, Diane B. Valle, Krystal L. Starks and Travis L. Wagner.** Go Gamecocks!

## Claudia Rankine to deliver the 2015 Adrenée Glover Freeman Lecture Oct 12

Acclaimed poet **Claudia Rankine** will deliver the 2015 Adrenée Glover Freeman Lecture on Monday, Oct 12, at 7 p.m. in the Law School Auditorium. She will also appear as part of the Thomas Cooper Library's Fall Literary series on Tuesday, Oct 13.

Of her work, the *New York Times* noted: "The challenge of making racism relevant, or even evident, to those who do not bear the brunt of its ill effects is tricky. Rankine brilliantly pushes poetry's forms to disarm readers and circumvent our carefully constructed defense mechanisms against the hint of possibly being racist ourselves."

Born in Jamaica and educated at Williams College and Columbia University, Rankine is the author of five collections of poetry, a play, numerous video collaborations, and she is the editor of several anthologies. Whether writing about intimacy or alienation, Rankine's voice is one of unflinching and unrelenting candor, and her poetry is some of the most innovative and thoughtful work to emerge in recent years. Her work often crosses genres as it tracks wild and precise movements of mind.

Rankine's critically acclaimed book, *Citizen: An American Lyric* (Graywolf, 2014), uses poetry, essay, cultural criticism, and visual images, to explore what it means to be an American citizen in a "post-racial" society. A defining text for our time, *Citizen* was the winner of the PEN Open Book Award and National Book Critics Circle Award for Poetry. *Citizen* also won the NAACP Image Award and the *LA Times* Book Award for poetry, as well as being shortlisted for the 2015 Forward Prize for Best Collection and nominated for the Hurston/Wright 2015 Legacy Award. A finalist for the National Book Award, *Citizen* also holds the distinction of being the only poetry book to be a *New York Times* bestseller in the nonfiction category, and it was selected as an NPR Best Book of 2014: "Though Claudia Rankine's poetry, by turns lyrical and narrative, is always stunning in its ability to speak to the present American moment, *Citizen* feels especially necessary. This collection examines everyday encounters with racism in the second person, forcing the reader—regardless of identity—to engage a narrative haunted by the deaths of Michael Brown, Trayvon Martin, and Renisha McBride."

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.

For more on Claudia Rankine, see: <http://claudiarankine.com>.

**Read and listen to "You are in the dark, in the car..."** from *Citizen* at: <http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poetrymagazine/poem/247344>.



Claudia Rankine



## WGST fellowships support innovative faculty research

**Over the past year** data has been collected on the Women's and Gender Studies research and fellowship awards with the hopes of better understanding what role they have played in the advancement of faculty research. Though initially aimed at clearly defining the financial output from the department regarding each award, the study proved illuminating, showing both the breadth of knowledge created with the aid of the fellowships, as well as the inherent interdisciplinary nature of many of the projects undertaken by the recipients over the past 25 years.

The two main awards surveyed were the Josephine Abney Faculty Research Fellowship and the Carol Jones Carlisle Research Award. The Abney Fellowship, which began in 1987, provides professors with up to \$5,000 for works of substantial research, often allowing them to complete manuscripts or lengthy field work. Begun in 1991, the Carlisle Award offers faculty up to \$1,000 for research that is often much more exploratory in nature. Between the two awards over \$200,000 has been given out with clear products that aid in the mission and goals of the WGST program, as well as the work of gender studies at large.

Of the Abney fellowship recipients interviewed, the respondents overwhelmingly stated that the award served as the crucial source of aid in completing a large project. The Carlisle recipients contacted noted that the money helped create or open up new avenues of research previously only considered. Awards have helped to fund book publications ranging from a book of women's representations in sixties American literature to a text on the role popular balladry played in creating a gendering of danger in 17th century England. The awards have also led to many art exhibits, at least one film, and multiple works of poetry and creative writing. The award has, in fact, been so far reaching that it has provided financial support in research that has resulted in at least one report on the status of Mexican immigrants in South Carolina and another on the specific implications of Title IX to gender and athletics at USC. In many cases, the research resulted in work being the first of its kind, whether it be a work on previously unchronicled Canadian female explorer Mary Jobe Akeley or an intensive overhauling of legal statutes addressing intersectionality and access in domestic violence shelters throughout South Carolina.

The survey has made it clear that both the Abney and Carlisle Awards have resulted in both far reaching and deeply localized endeavors. Those interested in the requirements and deadlines for either award are invited to view the following link: <http://artsandsciences.sc.edu/wgst/awards-scholarships>

## 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. Applications are due by 5:00 PM on November 6, 2015.

For more information and a copy of the application form, go to: [http://artsandsciences.sc.edu/wgst/awards\\_scholarships](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. 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.

Applications are due by 5:00 PM on February 15, 2016.

For more information and a copy of the application form, go to: [http://artsandsciences.sc.edu/wgst/awards\\_scholarships](http://artsandsciences.sc.edu/wgst/awards_scholarships).

This comment on the Confederate battle flag was originally published in the USC WGST newsletter in Fall 2000. As Lynn Weber retires, and as we move on from the flag controversy of the summer, we thought it appropriate to look back at Dr. Weber's comments about the 2000 compromise.

## Director's Comments

### Raising the Confederate Flag

To those of us who live in South Carolina, the very mention of "The Flag" makes us cringe. PLEASE, no more articles about The Flag! No one could possibly have anything else to say about it. We have spent the last year threatening to boycott, boycotting, organizing marches, reading hundreds of articles and letters to the editor, and listening to just as many talks and speeches. To my friends in South Carolina, forgive me. But we—unlike the rest of the nation—

a symbol representing the historically embedded power hierarchies in the state—White, patriarchal, heterosexual, and capitalist. And it would have taken a coalition capable of changing that historical power structure to bring down that symbol, that flag. If that coalition had won on this issue, power would have shifted in the state. The struggle was about so much more than a flag. This struggle clearly demonstrated perhaps the central principle undergirding

the hierarchies of race, class, gender, and sexuality—they are intersecting systems of power relationships. As Lani Guinier summarized in her keynote address at the National Women's Studies Association meetings in June, power has three faces:

- Who makes the rules
- Who wins the game
- Who gets to interpret who won the game, the spin.

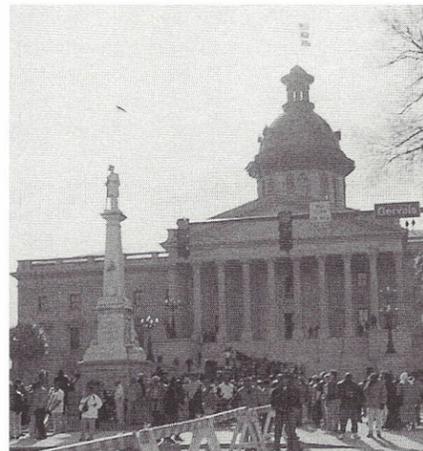
This struggle was not about a symbol divorced from other material realities of people's lives; it was about who

makes the rules that we are expected to live by. Throughout the debate, for example, historians (professionally trained and amateur) kept trying to clarify the history of this particular piece of cloth, this flag, noting that it:

- was never a sovereign flag, was one of many battle flags and flown briefly as a naval jack
- gained acceptance as the leading symbol of the Confederacy only after it appeared as the sole flag in the scene of Confederate soldier devastation in Gone with the Wind, circa 1939 (my personal favorite new fact)
- was raised over the capitol in 1962—never before
- was a symbol of slavery—revisionist history to the contrary—the leaders of the Confederacy made it absolutely clear that they fought the war in defense of the system of slavery on which the South had become economically, socially, and politically dependent.

Those who sought to clarify the historical record hoped that some flag supporters would change their position when they knew what this particular symbol represented. But the leaders of the movement to continue to fly the flag responded that it is about "heritage," not racism. What heritage? The heritage of ruling. And what was at stake was far more than moving a piece of cloth. It was about who wins the game and continues to make the rules in a state where race, gender, and class inequality are among the highest in the nation.

Many people here—feminists, environmentalists, labor unions, religious groups, students—coalesced, marched, campaigned, and lobbied in progressive coalition with the NAACP and other organizations to bring down the flag. If these forces had won, those coalitions



The flag was moved from the capitol dome (seen here) to the confederate soldier monument on July 1, 2000

would be emboldened in our struggles to make change on issues that matter to the majority of the citizens of the state. But we lost.

And we know we lost in part because the balance of power did not shift. And to the victor went the spoils—the power to publicly interpret who won the game, to create the spin on the

See "Flag" on page 5



Women's Studies' friends gather for the flag rally near the capital grounds.

also know the sad truth. On July 1, 2000, the flag was raised, not lowered.

Yes, the flag was moved from the top of the capitol dome—where it was barely visible—to the front entrance of the capitol grounds, next to the already powerful statue of a Confederate soldier. It waves on a 30-foot pole, lit at night, on the busiest intersection in the capitol area. In our faces. We lost. Those of us here know what happened—we were trumped. Only four of 26 Black representatives voted for the supposed "compromise" that took the flag off the capitol and put it in a more, not less visible spot. In the final analysis we were told in no uncertain terms by the powerful forces in the state that this flag will still fly, that the balance of power will not change in the state no matter what the forces of change from outside or inside the state might be.

Because this struggle was not about a flag. People who thought so missed the point. This was a struggle to remove



## When We're Told We'll Never Understand

Written in response to the Charleston Massacre, June 2015

Someone says a drug-related incident,  
 someone says he was quiet, he mostly kept to himself,  
 someone says mental illness,  
 someone says a hateful and deranged mind,  
 someone says he was a loner, he wasn't bullied,  
 someone says his sister was getting married in four days,  
 a newsman says an attack on faith,  
 a relative says his mother never raised him to be like this,  
 a friend says he had that kind of Southern pride, strong conservative beliefs,  
 someone says he made a lot of racist jokes, but you don't really take them seriously like that you don't really think of it like that,  
 someone says he wanted to start a civil war,  
 he said he was there to kill black people,  
 the governor says we'll never understand.

He is not a lone wolf,  
 he is not alien,  
 he is not inexplicable,  
 he is not just one sick individual,  
 he is one of us,  
 he is from here,  
 he grew up here,  
 he went to school here,  
 he wore his jacket with its white supremacist patches here,  
 he told racist jokes here,  
 he got his gun here,  
 he learned his racism here,

his license plate sported a confederate flag here,  
 the confederate flag flies at the state capitol here,  
 he had that kind of Southern pride,  
 this is not isolated this is not a drug incident,  
 this is not unspeakable (we should speak,  
 this is not unthinkable (we should think),  
 this is not inexplicable (we must explain it),  
 he is not a symbol he is a symptom,  
 he is not a cipher he is a reminder,  
 his actions are beyond our imagining,  
 but his motivation is not beyond our understanding  
 no he didn't get those ideas from nowhere.

mental illness is a way to not say racism  
 drug-related is a way to not say hate  
 loner is a way to not say one of us  
 we'll never understand is a way to not say look at our history

Look away, look away, look away [to be sung]

by Ed Madden

### Flag from page 2

game itself. Now the national media has told the story—the flag came down, a compromise was reached, and by implication we mitigated the evil forces of racism in the state. To the contrary, the power did not shift. And the pressures to change have receded. The NAACP and others will continue the boycott, but many within the state and without will not know why.

Many feminist and race scholars write about racism and sexism as ideologies—as ideas, or symbols, performed like roles in a play—and by implication just as easily changed as costumes or lines. They miss the connection between power and ideology—between setting the rules, winning the game, and interpreting the outcome. To miss this connection is to miss the point.

## Sex education is overdue - Ann Ramsdell (in *The State*)

COLUMBIA, SC — I teach at the USC School of Medicine and the Women's and Gender Studies program, and I have been appalled by the lack of sex education even among students pursuing careers in the medical field. In my introductory level undergraduate course in women's health, I often find myself teaching basic sex education because of all of the misinformation my students had before they reached my classroom.

Most of my students grew up in South Carolina, and it is concerning that so many of them are beginning college without being able to name parts of their own bodies or how they function. As health-care consumers, how can they possibly make good choices, either preventive or therapeutic, without a firm grasp on the fundamentals?

Just last semester, I taught introductory embryology to first-year medical students. These presumably are students who have had substantial biology courses in their backgrounds, yet only one out of my 100 students had ever been taught how a woman's menstrual cycle works. Imagine having to teach medical students such basics about how the body works. And these students are on the path to careers in medicine.

**How could students who are otherwise well-versed in biology and human anatomy be so woefully undereducated on the subject of reproductive health?**

A 2013 report by the New Morning Foundation, "A Sterling Opportunity: 25 Years After the Comprehensive Health Education Act," suggested one reason: The majority of South Carolina's school districts were not in compliance with the reproductive health education requirements of the 1988 Comprehensive Health Education Act.

Multiple studies suggest that a lack of appropriate sex education and constrained access to sexual health services are key contributing factors of unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS. In addition to South Carolina's high rates of teen pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections, inadequate sex education also takes a hefty economic toll on all citizens. In 2010, births to teen mothers cost South Carolina taxpayers \$166 million; public spending on all unplanned pregnancies totaled an estimated \$411 million.

Tell Them, a nonpartisan advocacy network of more than 18,000 reproductive health advocates, is working to change this. Tell Them supports age-appropriate, medically accurate health education in our public schools and increased access to high-quality reproductive health counseling and services.

H.3447 would update South Carolina's 27-year-old sex education law, requiring students to receive age-appropriate, medically accurate information about pregnancy prevention and sexually transmitted disease protection.

Tell Them recently launched a campaign designed to urge lawmakers to consider the impact on real South Carolinians of extremist beliefs designed to limit women's (continued on page 12)



Cynthia Beavin and Anne Ramsdell



Anne Ramsdell, Jackie Foster, Catherine Ortmann, Marcus Van Der Hoek, and Katy Hallman. WGST 113 students participate in lobbying for Sex Education Reform (H.3447) at the SC State House on March 25, 2015 with others from Tell Them

## Dr. DeAnne K. Hilfinger Messias appointed Emily Myrtle Smith Professor of Community Nursing

The College of Nursing is excited to announce that Dr. DeAnne K. Hilfinger Messias has been appointed the Emily Myrtle Smith Professor of Community Nursing for a five-year term, beginning August 15, 2015. Miss Emily Myrtle Smith was an innovative leader in community and occupational health nursing, serving as an officer of the US Public Health Services from 1945 to 1965. She was also a pioneer in international nursing education initiatives in Taiwan and Japan. In recognition of her many close ties to the USC College of Nursing, in 1974 Miss Smith was awarded an Honorary Alumni Membership to the College.

In 1965, Miss Smith and her family created this endowed professorship fund, with the goal of supporting nursing initiatives that promote community health and wellness. Previous appointments to the Emily Myrtle Smith Chair include Dr. Faye G. Abdellah (1990-1991), Dr. Cheryl C. Cox (1992), Dr. Ora Strickland (1994), Dr. Elizabeth T. Anderson (1996) and Dr. Beverly Flynn (1997).

Dr. Messias has dedicated her career in international community health nursing, research, and education to improving the health and well-being of vulnerable women, their families, and communities. In the 1980s, as Director of Community Health for the Função Esperança she trained and supervised village health workers serving in their remote communities along the Brazilian Amazon River. She has taught community health and women's health nursing at the undergraduate and graduate levels in Brazil and the US. Since coming to USC in 2000, Dr. Messias has conducted community-engaged research and implemented and evaluated community-based programs aimed at improving immigrants' access to culturally and linguistically appropriate health services and promoting the health of immigrant women and their families. Her extensive scholarship has examined women's employment transitions, domestic work, volunteer work, HIV/AIDS peer counseling work, and the work of pregnancy.



Dr. Deanne Messias

## LISA DUGGAN delivered the 2015 WGST Conference Keynote

Over 100 people attended "Bodies of Knowledge in the Academy: Embodied Knowledges and Academic Freedom," the 2015 USC WGST conference, which was held April 23-24 in Columbia. Lisa Johnson of USC Upstate delivered the opening keynote, "Dykes to Watch Out For; or, Alison Bechdel Got a Genuis Grant and All I Got Was This Lousy Diversity Task Force," an incisive analysis of recent controversies related to women's and sexuality studies at USC Upstate. Lisa Duggan of NYU delivered the conference plenary address, "Beyond Academic Freedom: Toward Queer Feminist Futures." Other highlights of the conference included a featured panel on the Women's Well-Being Initiative and their arts and new media interventions with girls in juvenile arbitration; and "Perspectives from the Frontlines: USC Upstate Talks Back, a panel on which six faculty from Upstate offered personal and disciplinary perspectives on campus activism and the Center for Women's and Gender Studies at USC Upstate.

## WGST Funds Student Travel To Denver

In February, the BGLSA Board of Directors was fortunate enough to receive funding from Women's and Gender Studies to travel to Denver, Colorado for the 27th annual Creating Change Conference on LGBT Equality. We joined almost 4,000 other activists to attend workshops, network, and learn how to become better student leaders. Creating Change offers an atmosphere that cannot be recreated: one of inclusivity, awareness, and the desire to affect positive change.

Each of the Directors attended a workshop unique to their responsibilities within BGLSA. We also attended student leadership sessions as a group, including "How To: Building an Inclusive LGBTQI Student Group". This session inspired all of us to actively analyze what we, as an organization, can do to be more inclusive of students, faculty, and staff of all sexualities and gender identities. We realized that we could not reflect the inclusivity that we wanted to without first changing our name. We decided on IRIS, Individuals Respecting Identities and Sexualities and the Greek goddess of the rainbow and we are extremely excited to assume this new name starting at the end of this semester.

The most striking and impactful experience that we shared at Creating Change occurred when a group of over 100 trans Latina activists stormed the stage at the first plenary session and demanded a louder voice and more support from the community. Continuing in the same vein, a group of trans POC activists, many who were actively involved in the Ferguson protests, took the stage the next day to demand action. The activists were able to effectively call out not only the Task Force, but the LGBTQ community in general on its complacency towards trans issues. They also called out the Task Force on inviting the Mayor of Denver to speak in the city known for the second-highest rate of police gun deaths in the country, which resulted in his being disinvited from speaking.



*Latina activists take the stage*

Our week in Denver for Creating Change has changed all of us for the better. We are more aware, more inspired, and more prepared to lead IRIS into the future. By participating in workshop and networking sessions led and attended by some of the best and brightest leaders in our movement and by bearing witness to the calls to action from members of our community who have not been given an equal spot at the table, we are excited and eager to create change right here at USC.

*Devon Sherrell  
President, IRIS*



*Devon Sherrell, Ashley Queen,  
Logan Hood, Caleb Coker,  
Kyler Hall*

## Students Attend National Young Feminist Leadership Conference

**[Editor's note: WGST was happy to help sponsor student travel for this important conference.]**

A few weeks ago I had the opportunity to attend the National Young Feminist Leadership Conference in Washington DC for the second time as a member of the Feminist Collective at USC, and for the second year in a row it was one of the most amazing experiences of my school year. While it was amazing for innumerable reasons the main one that I will discuss here is the fact that I got to see how my feminism can affect feminism on a larger scale.

The feminism most commonly adopted by younger feminists is usually intersectional, or in other words addresses the fact that just because people are women does not mean that they all have the same experiences or opinions on topics and that every aspect of a person's identity (including race, sexuality, religion and socioeconomic status) plays a key role in their experiences as well. As feminists we need to recognize that fact and when we address problems we need to look at them in every way they affect people, not just in the way that they affect white women. So while the conference last year was an incredible experience it did have its problems, and a lot of them stemmed from the fact that it was not intersectional; in many instances it was very heteronormative (focusing on straight problems and viewing straight relationships as the norm rather than just one possible relationship), very white focused, and not very transinclusive. As younger feminists we saw these problems and we took to twitter to voice our complaints and suggestions, such as putting a spot for your preferred pronouns on the name tags and having younger panelists, and we also all left suggestions and comments on the post-conference evaluations.

When we got to conference this year and checked in early Saturday morning and started going through our program materials the first thing many of us noticed was that there was a spot under name and school for preferred gender pronouns on the nametags. While this may not seem important to many people, it is very important in creating a transinclusive environment because it helps prevent people from misgendering someone or using the wrong pronouns for them. And the changes kept happening. At the very beginning of the first full conference panel they announced where the gender neutral bathrooms were, rather than having them hidden on a map in the middle of the program. Many of the panelists directly addressed the intersectional aspects of their topics and to top it off we had Kimberlé Crenshaw, who is the academic who coined the term intersectionality, speak during one of the town halls.

This was amazing on two levels. The first is simply on the immediate surface level this conscious intersectionality and actively addressing different communities' problems meant that everyone who attended the conference got to hear and think about the problems as they fully are, rather than just one facet of the problem. The other reason this was so important to me is because it was the first time that I have seen that the way I do my feminism, and the way my friends do their feminism, and the way my generation does their feminism, can actually affect the larger feminist movement. Older generations are always telling us that we are the next generation of whatever movement we're in, but this was the first time I have ever actually seen that play out and seen the older generations listen to us.

*Maxine Todd, USC Feminist Collective*



## Ramsdell (continued from page 9)

(continued) abilities to plan their families through in vitro fertilization and access to birth control, and to limit our students from receiving the education necessary to help them understand how their bodies work and to protect themselves from sexually transmitted infections and unintended pregnancies.

I've seen the consequences of misinformation in my classroom, and I share Tell Them's belief that medical fact, not politically minded rhetoric, should guide classroom discussion of reproductive health. That's why I am a member of this organization. If you believe S.C. students deserve to know how their bodies work, please visit [tellthemsc.org](http://tellthemsc.org) and join me in Tell Them's movement to put people before politics. It's high time our legislators come to understand the importance of responsible reproductive health policy for all.

Dr. Ramsdell is an associate professor in the USC School of Medicine and program in Women's and Gender Studies.

Published in *The State* March 22, 2015.



Please stop by Jones PSC, Suite 109, to see *The Beginning of Women's Lib*, a painting by Columbia artist Edmund Yaghjian, donated by the artist's daughter, Candy Waites, in conjunction with our 40th anniversary celebration.

## Southeastern Women's Studies Association (SEWSA) Conference

March 31-April 2, 2016

Women's and Gender Studies Program, Department of Interdisciplinary Studies

Winthrop University - Rock Hill, SC

40th Anniversary Conference Theme

*"Intersectionality in the New Millenium: An Assessment of Culture, Power, and Society"*

**Keynote Speaker: Dr. Ange-Marie Hancock, Associate Professor of Political Science and Gender Studies, University of Southern California**

It has been more than twenty-five years since Kimberlé Crenshaw coined the term intersectionality to capture how race, class, and gender, among other identity variables, interconnect to create the multiple oppressions that Black feminists and feminists of color had been describing for at least one hundred and thirty years since Sojourner Truth gave her famous 'Ain't I a Woman?' speech in Akron, Ohio in 1851. In her groundbreaking 1989 article, Crenshaw focused specifically on the intersection of race and sex in anti-discrimination cases in the lives of Black women. Since then, a wide range of theoretical and empirical work has emerged in Critical Race, Feminist, Post-Colonial, Queer, and Women's and Gender Studies, utilizing intersectional approaches to understand how interlocking systems of oppression based on categories of race, class, sex, gender, sexuality, nation, ethnicity, coloniality, (dis)ability, etc. shape the possibilities and limitations in people's lives.

How far have we come in truly integrating inclusive, intersectional approaches in our lives and in our work? We welcome proposals from across the academic disciplines, from social justice activists and practitioners in domestic and international contexts, and from undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty. Suggested topics for paper and panel proposals include:

- the rhetoric of intersectionality: how the rhetorical, linguistic lens of intersectionality helps us analyze and interpret language that is used to limit women's lives.
- how the conceptual and/or methodological framework of intersectionality can help us address some of the most difficult issues of our time.
- how gender, race, class, sexuality, etc. is portrayed in social media
- the difficulties and limitations of doing intersectional research
- illustrative examples of intersectional research
- intersections of race, class, gender, sexuality, etc. in art and culture
- how intersectionality impacts research in the sciences

For more information visit: <http://www.winthrop.edu/womensstudies/>

### BODIES OF KNOWLEDGE 7: ONE QUEER MOTHER

**The Center for Women's and Gender Studies at USC Upstate** is pleased to announce plans for the 7th Biennial Bodies of Knowledge Symposium are underway. Please save the dates: March 17-18, 2016. Michelle Tea, a truly prolific author and queer cultural icon, is confirmed as the headliner for this event, which will focus on the theme of queer mothering. A call for paper proposals was circulated on the WGST listservs earlier this fall.

#### Speaker Bio

Tea is an incredibly accomplished figure in the contemporary literary world, having published four memoirs, including the award-winning *Valencia*, recently adapted into a feature-length film shot by twenty-one independent filmmakers as an epic, collaborative film-art project. She has also published a novel (*Rose of No Man's Land*) and one book of poetry (*The Beautiful*), as well as an important anthology about working-class experience (*Without a Net*). In addition to this prolific and wide-ranging career as an author, Tea is also an important figure in the world of spoken word poetry as the founder and director of RADAR Productions since 2003, and as the founder and director of Sister Spit all-female open mics from 1994-2000. Most recently, Tea has reached an entirely new audience through her extremely compelling columns for the webzine *xojane*, where she documented her efforts to become pregnant and start a family with her genderqueer partner. Her talk at Upstate will focus on the topic of queer motherhood and LGBT family life.



Dr. Ange-Marie Hancock is Associate Professor of Political Science and Gender Studies at the University of Southern California. She is considered one of the primary scholarly authorities on Intersectionality. With Dr. Nira Yuval-Davis, Dr. Hancock is the co-editor of the book series, *The Politics of Intersectionality*

Because of the proximity of SEWSA and our desire to support both SEWSA and Bodies of Knowledge at USC Upstate, USC WGST will not be hosting a conference this spring.

Please plan to attend SEWSA and Bodies of Knowledge!

# Calendar of Events WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES

## FALL 2015

- September 15 – WGST Affiliate Meeting**  
4 pm, Russell House, Room 302  
Refreshments will be served
- October 12 – Claudia Rankine, Adrenée Glover Freeman Memorial Lecture**  
7 pm, Law School Auditorium, USC  
Free and open to the public
- October 13 – Reading by Claudia Rankine at the Fall Literary Festival 2015**  
6 pm, Hollings Special Collections Library, Program Room  
Free and open to the public
- October 14 – Deadline to apply for the \$500 Harriott Hampton Faucette Graduate Student Award (Fall)**  
Application at <http://artsandsciences.sc.edu/wgst/awards-scholarships>
- November 2015 – WGST Student Research drop-in**  
Date - TBA
- November 6 – Deadline to apply for the \$5000 Josephine Abney Faculty Fellowship**  
Application at <http://artsandsciences.sc.edu/wgst/awards-scholarships>

## SPRING 2016

- February 15 – Deadline to apply for the \$1000 Carol Carlisle Faculty Award**  
Application at <http://artsandsciences.sc.edu/wgst/awards-scholarships>
- February 15 – Deadline to apply for the \$500 Harriott Hampton Faucette Graduate Student Award (Spring)**  
Application at <http://artsandsciences.sc.edu/wgst/awards-scholarships>
- February 16 – Deadline to apply for the \$1000 WGST Teaching Award (open to faculty, staff, and adjuncts.)**  
Application at <http://artsandsciences.sc.edu/wgst/awards-scholarships>
- February 16 – Deadline to apply for the \$250 WGST GA Teaching Award**  
Application at <http://artsandsciences.sc.edu/wgst/awards-scholarships>
- March 16-17 – Pre-conference workshop for WGST administrators and faculty**  
Marriott Spartanburg, Spartanburg, SC  
For more information contact Ed Madden at [maddene@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:maddene@mailbox.sc.edu)
- March 17-18 – Bodies of Knowledge 7: One Queer Mother**  
Conference Location: USC Upstate, Spartanburg, SC  
Guest speaker: Michelle Tea  
<https://www.uscupstate.edu/bodiesofknowledge/>
- March 24 – Mary Baskin Waters Lecture Series with Kirby Dick (The Hunting Ground)**
- March 31-April 2 – SEWSA 2016: Intersectionality in the New Millennium: An Assessment of Culture, Power, and Society**  
Conference Location: Winthrop University, Rock Hill, SC  
<http://sewsaonline.org/conferences/sewsa-2016/>
- (Please Note - Because of the proximity of SEWSA and our desire to support both SEWSA and Bodies of Knowledge at USC Upstate, USC WGST will not be hosting a conference this spring.)
- March 2016 – Annual Robert Smalls Lecture in African American Studies**  
Guest speaker: TBA
- April 2016 – WGST Student Research drop-in**  
Date - TBA
- April 14-16 – International Comic Arts Forum (ICAF 2016)**  
The Inn at USC  
April 15, WGST co-sponsored keynote: Howard Cruse
- Date TBA – WGST Affiliate Retreat, Spring 2016**



# Kudos!

**Drucilla K. Barker**, WGST and ANTH, has three forthcoming publications: “Unstable Feminisms: A New Marxian Class Analysis of Domestic Labor,” in *Rethinking Marxism*; “The Gender Division of Labor,” in the *Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Gender and Sexuality Studies*; and “Feminist Economics,” in the *Handbook on Gender in International Relations*. She was also the plenary chair and conference moderator at the *Sex, Money and Power: Feminism and Economics Conference* at SUNY New Paltz, April 2015.

WGST Affiate **Julie Elliott’s** debut novel *The New and Improved Romie Futch* will appear in March, though an exclusive early edition is available at: <http://www.mysubscriptionaddiction.com/2015/04/powells-books-indispensable-vol-52.htm>.

WGST Affiliate **Olga Ivashkevich**, Art Education and an instructor with the Women’s Well Being Initiative, received the 2015 Mary J. Rouse Award from the National Art Education Association’s Women’s Caucus.

**Kathryn Luchok**, adjunct faculty in WGST and ANTH, completed the first Getting Started Teaching Online at USC Course conducted by Aisha Haynes of the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE). Along with her certification in online teaching, Dr. Luchok received a \$750 grant from CTE to use for technology that will enhance her future online teaching.

**Ed Madden**, English and WGST, was awarded the inaugural fellowship from the Maynooth University Library in Ireland for work in the newly opened archive of poet Pearse Hutchinson. He presented the keynote at the inaugural Pearse Hutchinson conference in May. His essay “*Even the animals in the fields: Animals, Queers, Violence*” was published this summer in *Animals in Irish Literature and Culture*. In January, he was named Poet Laureate for the City of Columbia, a four-year post created by the City of Columbia with One Columbia for Arts and History.

**Leah McClimans**, Philosophy and the 2014-2015 WGST undergraduate director, worked with Magellan Scholar Emmaling Campbell in the spring, her project a Delphi Study designed to consensus on the objectives and outcomes of Clinical Ethics Services in the US. Also her student Megan Grogan was named the SC American Association of University Women’s recipient for the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders.

**DeAnne K. Hilfinger Messias**, Nursing and WGST, was awarded the 2015 Carolina Trustee

Professorship in Public Health, Engineering, Medical Sciences, and Sciences (see related story in this newsletter), as well as the College of Nursing’s 2015 Faculty Research Mentor Award. She published three coauthored articles in *Nursing Outlook*: “Undocumented Migration in the United States: An Overview of Historical and Current Policy Contexts” with M.M. McEwen and J.S. Boyle; also with McEwen and Boyle, “Undocumentedness Policy: The Impact on Communities, Individuals and Families along the Arizona/Sonora Border”; and “The Impact and Implications of Undocumented Immigration on Individual and Collective Health in the United States,” with M.M. McEwen and L. Clark.

**Stephanie Y. Mitchem**, Religious Studies and WGST, was on sabbatical in spring 2015, during which she focused on fieldwork on race, social class and religion across the US. She also presented a paper at a meeting of the Society for the Study of Black Religion, moderated a panel at a meeting of the African Diaspora Religious Studies Association, and was an invited participant to the Ninth Religion and Foreign Policy Forum at the Council on Foreign Relations.

**Carla Pfeffer**, WGST and SOCY, who joins our faculty this fall, received the 2015 Distinguished Article Award from the ASA Sociology of Sexualities section and Honorable Mention for the ASA Section on Sex and Gender Distinguished Article Award for her 2014 *American Journal of Sociology* article, “I Don’t Like Passing as a Straight Woman’: Queer Negotiations of Identity and Social Group Membership.” This article was recently excerpted/reprinted in the textbook: Ferguson, Susan J. (Ed.). 2016. *Race, gender, sexuality, & social class (second edition)*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications.

In February **Ann Ramsdell**, USC School of Medicine and WGST, gave an invited presentation, “Left-Right Differences in Breast Ducts,” at the 8th International Symposium of the Breast: Using Next Generation Science to Understand the Normal Breast and the Development of Breast Cancer in Santa Monica, CA. She also presented “Left-right difference in breast cancer inspires new research” at TedXColumbiaSC in January. Jacquelyne Robichaux, a Ph.D. candidate in Ramsdell’s lab, graduated from MUSC on May 15, and she was a co-recipient of the 2015 MUSC College of Graduate Studies Distinguished Graduate Award. The award carries a \$500 honorarium that will be presented when she delivers the Liz Chesterman Memorial Lecture in August, 2015 to the incoming graduate students.

Shruti Patel and Ross Lordo, two rising USC sophomores, were each awarded a SC Honors College Science Undergraduate Research Fellowship in the amount of \$3000 to support their summer research projects on mammary gland laterality in Dr. Ramsdell’s lab.

In spring 2015, **Susan Schramm-Pate**, WGST graduate director, presented “Innovative Research and Doctoral Education” at the American Education Research Association’s (AERA) annual conference. She also published “The Relationship Between Middle School Instructional Scheduling & Social Studies Achievement” in *Journal of School Public Relations* with co-authors K. Vogler and A. Allan. With Vogler she published “A Retrospective of Keeping Track: How Schools Structure Inequality” in *Regenerating the Philosophy of Education*.

**Suzanne Swan**, Psychology and WGST, published four papers this year, including two papers with Dr. Christopher Allen, WGST graduate and faculty member at the University of Massachusetts Lowell: “Comprehension of sexual consent as a key factor in the perpetration of sexual aggression among college men” and “College students’ beliefs regarding help seeking for male and female sexual assault survivors: Even less support for male survivors”, both in the *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*.

**Laura Woliver**, Political Science and WGST, published “Dissent is Patriotic: Disobedient Founders, Narratives, and Street Battles” in the *Tulsa Law Review*.

**Lynn Weber**, Psychology and WGST, was 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 was also invited to present her research on inequities in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in two plenary sessions—“Gender Inequities and Disasters in the 21st Century: An Intersectional Approach” and “The Uses of Ethnography: Being Displaced”—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.

\$25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please use my gift for the following:**

- Carol Jones Carlisle Faculty Award \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Initiative for Women's Well-Being \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Josephine Abney Faculty Fellowship Award \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Women's Studies Endowment \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO USC  
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION.**

**Please return to:**

**University of South Carolina  
Women's and Gender Studies Program  
712 Main Street  
Jones PSC, Room109  
Columbia, SC 29208**

### **WGST on the Web:**

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

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

I am Advocacy: Ann Ramsdell, "How much do you know about your body?"  
[http://www.tellthemsc.org/i\\_am\\_advocacy\\_ann\\_ramsdell](http://www.tellthemsc.org/i_am_advocacy_ann_ramsdell)

I am Advocacy: Heather Brandt - "If you don't use your voice, who will?"  
[http://www.tellthemsc.org/i\\_am\\_advocacy\\_heather\\_brandt](http://www.tellthemsc.org/i_am_advocacy_heather_brandt)

WGST affiliate Dawn Campbell on the value of WGST in *The Gamecock*  
<http://www.dailygamecock.com/article/2015/01/dawn-campbell-guest-column>

WGST 40th anniversary in *The State*: "A party and a poem to celebrate USC Women's Studies"  
<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/education/article16315073.html>

2015 Mary Baskin Waters lecture: Dr. Mary M. Fonow, *Whose Time? Our Time!* March 4, 2015  
<http://artsandsciences.sc.edu/wgst/wgst-videos>

Ann Ramsdell's Ted X talk, "Left-right difference in breast cancer inspires new research."  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SVjJt984PIU>

Ann Ramsdell in *The State*: "Sex education is overdue; just ask my med students."  
<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/article15551390.html>

Ed Madden's poem on the Confederate flag in a short film by Brian Harmon.  
<https://vimeo.com/133670708>