



WORDS FROM THE DIRECTOR



My first semester as Director was a busy one, and fall looks to be filled with many more excellent events. Spring was a semester filled with outstanding WGST activities, including the esteemed Justice Sears's visit to campus, the successful Vagina Monologues production, a Read-In for Women's History month, and student research at the ACS-WGS conference in Memphis.

In fall 2009, WGST along with several GSU departments, will be hosting Dr. Enver Roshi from Albania, who does research in human rights and public health issues. WGST will also be sponsoring Dorothy Allison in November, an acclaimed author and outspoken advocate for GLBT issues. In addition to these exciting events, I am looking forward guiding the WGST Program into the future. Michael Smith, the new CLASS Dean, is committed to the continued success of our Program. Though the budget crises at the local, state, and national level have curbed our ability to build the Program, with the continued support of our exemplary WGST faculty, we will, nevertheless, be able to sustain the growth we have accomplished and begin to envision new directions.

I look forward to working with you all this fall.

Dr. Lisa Costello

UPCOMING EVENTS

IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH: VIOLENCE, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND THE DEVELOPING WORLD



Dr. Roshi, Head of the Department of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine, University of Tirana, Albania will be discussing **domestic violence, sexual and reproductive health, and morbidity and mortality as human rights and development** issues. Presenting findings from research he has conducted over the last decade in Albania, Dr. Roshi's lecture will be of particular interest to faculty and students working in **international relations, globalization (including political science, sociology, archeology/anthropology), development (including business/economics, human rights, and public health), war and peace studies, and gender studies.**

- **Networking Lunch:** Tuesday Aug. 25, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m., Talon's Grill
- **Public Lecture:** Wednesday Aug. 26, 7:00 p.m., College of Nursing Room 1207. **Reception to Follow**
- **Collaborations Happy Hour:** Thursday Aug. 27, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m., Mellow Mushroom

DOROTHY ALLISON TO READ AT GEORGIA SOUTHERN

Dorothy Allison will be reading her work and meeting



with students Thursday, November 5th at 7:00 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center. Allison is the author of well-known works such as *Bastard out of Carolina* and *Skin: Talking about Sex, Class, and Literature*. She is also an outspoken advocate for GLBT issues.

**NOVEMBER 5, 7:00 P.M.
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**



SPRING HIGHLIGHTS

WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES AND GSU NOW PRESENT AT AMERICAN CULTURAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

With the help of travel funds from SGA and CLASS, GSU-NOW Vice President and Secretary, Reuben Hayslett and Emily Haymans, along with Vagina Monologues cast members Kadia Scott and Molly Scott, presented a panel for the ACS Women's and Gender Studies Conference this March at Rhodes College in Memphis, TN. Their presentation focused on how GSU-NOW's organization plans and executes the highly successful charity benefit performance of The Vagina Monologues in a rural Southern environment. Hayslett, Haymans, Scott and Scott networked with other Women's and Gender Studies programs across the country and had the amazing opportunity to hear Angela Davis deliver a speech about feminism in the twenty-first century.



The students learned a lot about the WGS discipline in general at the conference, such as the issues WGS faces in filling seats across the nation and the lack of knowledge universities have about WGS programs overall. The students started their own brand of activism, helping students at Rhodes College to build a bigger production and helping students at Bethel College start a VM production of their own.

APRIL 2009: JUSTICE SEARS SPEAKS AT GEORGIA SOUTHERN



Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme court Leah Ward Sears and her bodyguard arrived by helicopter on the afternoon of the speech in time for a brief reception with selected students, during which she answered questions and discussed preparation for careers in the field of Law. Her formal presentation consisted of a brief speech outlining her views on leadership, in which the idea of leadership as a service to others was a theme. A greater amount of her time was spent in a lively question-and-answer period, during which, among other topics, the Chief Justice described her life experiences. She has worked very hard to get to her present position in life; she is knowledgeable on many topics and quite articulate, as well as being dynamic and inspiring.

The Chief Justice is from a military family, having been born in Germany and then spending her teenage years in nearby Savannah, where she was a high-school cheerleader, one of the few "sporting" activities available to female students at the time. After law school, Sears worked at a large legal firm, prior to embarking on her career in public service and becoming one of the youngest Justices and then Chief Justices in the United States. She mentioned some of the challenges of her career. For example, when first appointed to the Supreme Court in Georgia, as a young female minority, it took her a while to earn the respect of her colleagues. Additionally, she continues to find it challenging when the court must take a position with which she does not personally agree.



4TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY READ-IN



The event drew over 175 spectators throughout the day and 25 student and faculty readers.

5TH ANNUAL BENEFIT PRODUCTION OF *THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES*

The 5th Annual Benefit Production of *The Vagina Monologues* was a resounding success this year. As evidence of the popularity of the continuing production of the Monologues on the GSU campus, the production sold out the Performing Arts Center. The event raised over four thousand dollars for the Statesboro Regional Sexual Assault Center; a check was presented to Jodi Caldwell and Deb Blackburn at a post-event party at Gnat's Landing hosted by SRSAC.



FACULTY CORNER



Barbara Hendry, Sociology and Anthropology, worked with Alexandria Dunford this summer, who did a DIS/Internship with the Southeast Georgia Communities project. She directed the DIS (Fieldwork in Medical Anthropology)

and Ms. Barbara Bruno (medical anthropologist) directed her in the internship. Alexandria conducted interviews with area migrant women about prenatal care experiences as part of a grant project that Ms. Bruno is working on. Alexandria will continue this work in the Fall.

Elizabeth Buttefield, Literature and Philosophy, delivered a paper "Existential Reflections on Authentic Feminist Mothering" At the "Philosophical Inquiries into Pregnancy, Childbirth, and Mothering," in Eugene, Oregon in May. She is currently finishing a chapter for a forthcoming collection called "Motherhood and Philosophy."



Lois Duke Whitaker, Political Science, published an edited book in 2008 with the University of Illinois Press entitled *Voting the Gender Gap*. The book concentrates on the gender gap in voting--the difference in the

proportion of women and men voting for the same candidate. Evident in every presidential election since 1980, this polling phenomenon reached a high of eleven percentage points in the 1996 election. The contributors discuss the history, complexity, and ways of analyzing the gender gap; the gender gap in relation to partisanship; motherhood, ethnicity, and the impact of parental involving female candidates. *Voting the Gender Gap* analyzes trends in voting while probing how women's political empowerment and gender affect American politics and the electoral process.



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In June 2009, **Jonathan Harwell**, WGST Liaison from Henderson Library and MASS student, and **Julie Harwell**, MPA student, visited with Dr. Lori Amy, Associate Professor of Writing & Linguistics and former Director of WGST, in Albania. They enjoyed meeting with public health and Fulbright students, staff, and faculty from the University of

Tirana, along with others interested in a development plan that Dr. Amy is coordinating in Albania. Dr. Amy, along with the Tresa family in Tirana, provided the Harwells with generous hospitality, which has been the central element of Albanian culture for centuries.

Jonathan, who was a teacher in Albania in 1994-1996, has been assisting Dr. Amy with information resources and cultural advice, in support of her work in the Fulbright program at the University of Tirana. Dr. Ardian Greca, Yamacraw Associate Professor of Computer Sciences, also provided helpful advice as Dr. Amy prepared to move to his home country of Albania.

Anastatia Hodgens Sims, History, contributed the chapter "Juliette Gordon Low: Late-Blooming Daisy" in Ann Short Chirhart and Betty S. Wood, eds. *Georgia Women: Their Lives and Times* vol. 1. University of Georgia Press, 2009. The book will be out the end of this month.

Lori E. Amy, Writing and Linguists/Women's and Gender Studies, spent her spring 2009 sabbatical in Tirana, Albania, where she worked with the Department of Public Health, University of Tirana, and the Non Governmental



Organizations Medica Tirana and Gender Alliance for Development Center. She will continue her research on gender violence and globalization with Fulbright funding for the 2009 – 2010 year, during which time she will be working with university and community partners in Albania, Kosovo, Bulgaria, and Turkey, where she will be giving guest lectures on structural and gender based violence as well as working with her partners in the ongoing development of research projects. This research follows from her first book, *The Wars We Inherit: The After Life of Violence in Hearts, Minds, and Homes* (forthcoming with Temple University Press).



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