

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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PROFESSOR KENDALL THOMAS TO DELIVER THE INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES 11TH ANNUAL COLEY LECTURE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

ATHENS, Ga. February 2, 2005 — Professor Kendall Thomas, noted scholar of U.S. and comparative constitutional law, human rights, legal philosophy, feminist legal theory, critical race theory, and law and sexuality, will deliver the Eleventh Annual Andrea Carson Coley Lecture at the University of Georgia Chapel on Friday, April 1, at 11:00 am. Professor Thomas is the Nash Professor of Law and founding Co-Director of the Center for the Study of Law and Culture at Columbia University in New York City. He also has been a Visiting Professor at Stanford and in American Studies and Afro-American Studies at Princeton University.

The lecture, entitled "Condoleezza Rice and Wanda Jean Allen," will discuss the role of race in the trial of Wanda Jean Allen, a black lesbian executed by Oklahoma in 2001 after being convicted of murdering her girlfriend. Professor Thomas' talk addresses racial justice, homophobia, violence by and against women, and capital punishment.

The Andrea Carson Coley Lecture was endowed by a donation by Andrew and Kathy Coley in memory of their daughter Andrea Carson Coley (1972-1993), who was a certificate candidate in the UGA Women's Studies Program. Each year, the Andrea Carson Coley Lecture brings preeminent scholars in the field of lesbian and gay studies to the University.

Professor Thomas' writings have appeared in several academic journals and volumes of collected essays. He is a co-editor of *Critical Race Theory: The Key Writings that Founded the Movement* (The New Press, 1996). Professor Thomas also co-edited *What's Left of Theory?* (Routledge Press, 2000) with Judith Butler and John Guillory. Thomas was an inaugural recipient of the Berlin Prize Fellowship of the American Academy in Berlin, Germany and a member of the Special Committee of the American Center in Paris, France. He has also served as the past chair of the Jurisprudence and Law & Humanities sections of the Association of American Law Schools and was a founding member of the Majority Action Caucus of the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, Sex Panic! and the AIDS Prevention Action League. Dr. Thomas is also a former member and Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of Gay Men's Health Crisis.

Women's Studies is honored to have Professor Kendall Thomas as our 2005 Andrea Carson Coley Lecturer. For more information please visit www.uga.edu/wsp or contact Jene' Baclawski at 706-542-2846.