Director’s Note

“The Institute for Women’s Studies at the University of Georgia rocks,” according to a tweet from a former student. Who am I to disagree with an astute educated young woman? Women’s Studies rocks. We have wonderful faculty, great staff, and awesome students, which constitutes a state of Rock-dom.

If you doubt the statement, please see the subsequent newsletter pages which offer data that list the accomplishments of our faculty, most notably Dr. Patricia Richards, a 2018 Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professor. And let us not forget our outstanding alumni. This year’s spotlight is on Alex Laughlin, a 2014 Women’s Studies major, who works as an audio producer for BuzzFeed News. She asserts that her success as a journalist is due in large part to Women’s Studies, explaining, “Learning to read, argue, and write critically is one of the most significant lessons I learned in Women’s Studies.” She continues, “I try to take what I’ve learned and use it to make my coverage more equitable and accurate...”

Last year was a stellar year for the Institute, with record attendance at our signature lectures and 7th Women and Girls in Georgia Conference. Andrea Ritchie, Researcher in Residence on Race, Gender, Sexuality, and Criminalization at Barnard Center for Research on Women, lectured on her best-selling book, Invisible No More: Police Violence Against Black Women and Women of Color. A second keynote was provided by legendary Civil Rights educator, Dr. Peggy McIntosh (pictured above with Kecia Thomas, Rosemary Phelps, Tricia Lootens, and Johnson-Bailey), Wellesley Centers for Women, who stated that she chose UGA as the forum where she would unveil her new work, Pondering White Privilege (mostly unconscious) and White Supremacy (mostly intentional): The Importance of Seeing that they are Not the Same in their Origins and Outcomes, because she has always found UGA to be “an accepting and progressive environment” regarding issues of diversity. In April, our Andrea Carson Coley lecture in LGBTQ Studies by Dr. Bettina Love was standing room only. This dynamic young COE scholar’s lecture, Get Free: Creativity, Queer Identity, Hip Hop Civics Ed, Intersectionality, & Black Joy, received a well-deserved standing ovation.

As we move into AY 2018-2019, we welcome a new faculty member Xin Xin, a digital media artist, who is jointly appointed with the School of Art. This will mark an exciting new collaboration with Art that will produce more cross-listed courses.

IWS begins the school year with our annual Women Faculty Reception on Friday, September 21, at 11:30 a.m. in Tate Reception Hall. This year we’ll celebrate 100 years of women on campus by featuring the College of Family and Consumer Sciences for leading the way by enrolling the first women undergraduate students at UGA in 1918. IWS will also award the Women’s Studies Faculty Award to Dr. Kecia Thomas, Senior Associate Dean in Franklin College, for her scholarship, leadership and service to promoting diversity on campus and nationally. So, join us this year as we kick off AY 2018-2019 because after all WE ROCK!

Juanita Johnson-Bailey
Director and Professor, Women’s Studies
**Xin Xin** is an interdisciplinary artist and educator working at the intersection of technology, labor, and identity. Xin co-founded **voidLab**, a LA-based intersectional feminist collective dedicated to women, trans, and queer folks. They initiated the School of Otherness which seeks to empower marginalized communities through storytelling, forums, and workshops that process experiences of the other. Their work has been exhibited at Ars Electronica, the Hammer Museum, Gene Siskel Film Center, Tiger Strikes Asteroid and Machine Project. They recently completed an art residency at Plug In ICA in Winnipeg, Canada and served as the Director and Lead Organizer for Processing Community Day, a worldwide initiative celebrating art, code, and diversity. Xin received their M.F.A from UCLA Design Media Arts and teaches at the University of Georgia as the Assistant Professor of Media Design and Women’s Studies. Their areas of research include the future of labor, bio-politics, design biases, decentralized networks, and open-source software and hardware.

**Personal anecdotes:**

- Xin goes by gender pronouns they / them.
- Xin was born in Taiwan. Immigrated to the States when they were 14 and lived in Boston, Chicago, New York and Los Angeles before finding their home in Athens.
- They had two careers during their twenties. They were a filmmaker for six years, working on indie films all over East Asia and the States before changing path to become a teacher.
- They love traveling, learning about new cultures, and a good beer!
- They’re currently reading **Testo Junkie**, the **Xenofeminist Manifesto**, and **The Time Complex. Post-Contemporary**.

Xin has a solo exhibition, **Labor in a Single Shot**, opening at The Margie West Gallery in the Lamar Dodd School of Art in Athens, Georgia on October 12, 2018. You can also learn more about their new research at their upcoming Friday Speaker Series lecture on October 19 (see pg. 7 for more info).


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The scene opens with 12 women being escorted to the chancellor’s office at the University of Georgia.

It was September, 1918. After a long and contentious struggle, women had finally earned the right to enroll at the university in the newly created division of home economics.

Among the women in the office of Chancellor David Barrow that day was Mary Creswell, who later became the first female to receive an undergraduate degree from the university and founding dean of what would become the College of Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS).

FACS dean and professor emerita Sharon Nickols, with co-author and FACS graduate Gina Peek, recounts the scene in an engaging article about Creswell and the “protracted struggle” women faced to gain admission to the university entitled “The Opening Wedge: Mary E. Creswell, Home Economics, and the University of Georgia.”

The article appeared in the June 2017 issue of the Family and Consumer Sciences Research Journal. Peek, who received her Ph.D. in housing and consumer economics in 2009, is now an associate professor at Oklahoma State University.

The title of the article was inspired by a quote from Creswell in a 1951 Atlanta Journal piece:

> “Young women of today,” she wrote, “with their easy acceptance of many privileges another generation had to fight and brave ridicule to win, simply cannot understand that not only the men students, but many mature men of influence, were absolutely rigid and rockbound in their opposition toward swinging the University gates wide to women. Wide, did I say? We were to be the opening wedge!”

To read more about this fascinating story, purchase the recently-released pictorial history book “100 Years Enriching Lives: Family and Consumer Sciences at UGA,” available via UGA Press at [http://www.ugapress.org/index.php/books/100_years_enriching_lives/](http://www.ugapress.org/index.php/books/100_years_enriching_lives/).

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**Linda Kirk Fox**
Dean, College of Family and Consumer Sciences
Chris Cuomo, Professor
Philosophy & Women’s Studies

Kelly Happe, Associate Professor
Communication Studies & Women’s Studies

Cecilia Herles, Assistant Director
Women’s Studies

Juanita Johnson-Bailey, Director and Professor
Lifelong Education, Administration and Policy & Women’s Studies

Joselyn Leimbach, Lecturer
Women’s Studies

Nichole Ray, Senior Lecturer
Women’s Studies

Patricia Richards, Professor
Sociology & Women’s Studies

Beth Tobin, Professor
English & Women’s Studies

Xin Xin, Assistant Professor
Art & Women’s Studies

Chris Cuomo presented “Anthropocene: An Ethical Crisis, Not a Geological Epoch” and showed her film Conversations of the North Slope of Alaska at the 2017 meetings of the European Geosciences Union in Vienna, Austria. She was a guest faculty member for the Environmental Protection Agency’s Environmental Justice Academy, and served on the 2017 Women and Girls in Georgia Conference organizing committee. Cuomo published essays in Earth Magazine and Biogeoecosystem Technique examining the ethical implications of declaring a new epoch, and presented lectures at UC Santa Cruz, Princeton University, Sydney University, Murdoch University, and the Conservation Council of Western Australia. She was an invited speaker for Colgate University’s Feminist Pedagogical Arts Workshop at NWSA in November 2017. Her second book, a co-edited volume titled Biocitizenship: The Politics of Bodies, Governance, and Power, was published by NYU Press in August 2018.

Kelly Happe completed a Study in a Second Discipline Fellowship in the Department of Genetics; presented an invited paper at the biennial Conference on Rhetorical Theory at the University of South Carolina; was the plenary speaker at the annual Spring Symposium of the UGA Lifelong Learning Association (UGALLA), the student organization for the Department of Lifelong Education, Administration, and Policy; and served as book review editor of the journal Philosophy and Rhetoric. Her second book, a co-edited volume titled Biocitizenship: The Politics of Bodies, Governance, and Power, was published by NYU Press in August 2018.


Juanita Johnson-Bailey was honored with the title of University Professor, an award that is bestowed on faculty at the University of Georgia who have had a significant impact on the university in addition to fulfilling their normal academic responsibilities. She delivered keynote addresses during Women’s History Month 2018 at the University of the Pacific and at East Carolina University. She also presented at three national and two international conferences. Of special note, Johnson-Bailey and IWS colleague, Nichole Ray, presented a paper, “African American women faculty: Transforming, teaching and learning through feminist pedagogy,” at the International Conference on Researching Work and Learning, Rhodes University in South Africa; and she co-presented a paper, “Strategies and techniques that facilitate transformational learning in study abroad participants,” with Norvella P. Carter, Texas A&M, at the Standing Conference on University Teaching and Research in the Education of Adults, at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.


Patricia Richards was honored with the University of Georgia’s highest recognition for excellence in instruction, the Josiah Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professorship in 2018.

Beth Tobin’s essay “John Abbot: Early Georgia’s Naturalist Artist” was published in Folk and Folks: Variations on the Vernacular (2018), a collection of essays based on talks given in 2016 at the Georgia Museum of Art’s Green Symposium of the Decorative Arts. Another essay, “Collecting John Abbot’s Natural History Notes and Drawings,” is to be published as a book chapter in After Print: Manuscript Studies and Eighteenth-Century Literature (UPenn Press). Her research on Abbot’s entomological art and insect collecting has led to a collaboration with Elizabeth Kowaleski Wallace, Boston College, on a project that employs new materialist and feminist ecocultural frameworks to reexamine the human-insect interconnection. A conference and collection of essays on the insect-human assemblage are in the planning stages. In Fall 2017 Tobin taught for the first time WMST 4250: Women in the Environment.

The Institute for Women’s Studies fosters interdisciplinary study of women and gender, and critical investigations of the complex ways knowledge, experience, and social systems are shaped by gendered norms and assumptions. Our teaching and research emphasize race, ethnicity, nationality, class, age, sexuality, and different abilities as categories of analysis. The Institute for Women’s Studies offers an undergraduate major and minor, and a graduate certificate for M.A. and Ph.D. students in any discipline.
Dawn D. Bennett-Alexander completed the manuscript for her Contemporary Contracts e-book in May 2018; Dr. Bennett-Alexander also did keynote presentations on Diversity & Inclusion for the University of St. Joseph’s in CT, The Motley Fool headquarters and the National Security Agency, and is scheduled to do so for the state of CT Judicial Branch in October 2018. The 9th edition of Employment Law for Business, by Dawn D. Bennett-Alexander and Laura Hartman was released in January 2018.

J. Maria Bermudez’s co-authored book Socioculturally Attuned Family Therapy: Guidelines for Equitable Theory and Practice was published by Routledge/Taylor & Francis in 2018. Other 2017-2018 publications in peer-reviewed journals include Is the closet a closet? Decolonizing the coming out process with Latin@ adolescents and families, in Journal of Feminist Family Therapy; Reexamining marital satisfaction and conflict resolution among Latino couples: Using the actor-partner interdependence model, in Family Journal; and Polyamory: Experiences of Power from Without, from Within, and in Between, in Journal of Couple & Relationship Therapy; among others.

Marla Carlson’s book Affect, Animals, and Autists: Feeling Around the Edges of the Human in Performance was published by University of Michigan Press in May 2018. Characterizing it as “provocative, timely, and well-written,” Kirsty Johnston (University of British Columbia) says that it “raises challenging questions that will be of interest to affect theorists as well as a broad complement of interdisciplinary scholars working in disability, performance, theatre, and/or animal studies.” Laura Cull Ó Maoléarca (University of Surrey) calls it “a timely, exciting and important book that is evidently the manifestation of years of in-depth research and reflection. The evaluation of performances is admirably measured, whilst not underestimating the risks of perpetuating conventional paradigms of animals or autism by influential ‘hits’ like War Horse or Curious Incident.” In July, Dr. Carlson presented “Pig, Pussy, and Public Sphere: Ann Liv Young’s Elektra,” to the Feminist Research Working Group of the International Federation for Theatre Research in Belgrade, Serbia.

Gabrielle Darville was inducted into the Hall of Fame at the University of Florida as an Outstanding Young Alumni (OYA). The OYA Award recognizes alumni who have graduated within the past ten years, are leaders in their profession and community and possess an unmistakable tradition of achievement. Dr. Darville also received a grant from the Georgia Department of Public Health to complete a Fall 2018 project, Someone You Love Documentary: Using HPV Narratives in Media to Increase HPV Vaccine Uptake among College Students. Dr. Darville also presented at numerous conferences in 2017-2018 and published mHealth Technology Use and Implications in Historically Underserved and Minority Populations in the United States: Systematic Literature Review, in JMIR mHealth uHealth in 2018.

Sujata Iyengar published a short essay, “Strangeness: Early Modern European Women and the Invention of Whiteness” as the Afterword to a special issue of the journal Early Modern Literary Studies on “European Women in Early Modern English Drama,” edited by Edel Seemple and Ema Vyrabalouva. Her co-edited special issue of the Journal for Early Modern Cultural Studies, with Cristina Malcolmson, on “Race and Skin Marking in Early Modern Culture,” is forthcoming in Fall 2018. She won a Public Impact grant from the Willson Center to host a roundtable in the first week of November for scholars, community members, and students to discuss the late Gloria Naylor’s novel Mama Day, including its relationship to Shakespeare’s The Tempest and to other post-colonial responses to that play.

Stephanie Jones presented numerous invited scholar keynote lectures in 2018, including “Childhood Play Spaces as What-If Worlds: The Uncertainties of Misogyny, Racism, and Classroom” at the University of Waterloo; “Social Classed Literacies: Perceiving and Responding to Social Class Difference” for the 2nd International Conference on Poverty and Education in Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile, Villarica. Dr. Jones won the Distinguished Article of the Year Award from the National Council of Teachers of English Language Arts for “Becoming Unstuck: Racism and Misogyny as Traumas Diffused in the Ordinary” in 2017; and Outstanding Book Awards from the Society of Professors of Education and from the American Educational Research Association Qualitative Research SIG for On Mutant Pedagogies: Seeking Justice and Drawing Change in Teacher Education in 2017; Dr. Jones also had multiple publications in 2017-2018, including The Tempest among others.

Sherell McArthur published Institutional violence: The assault on Black girls in schools in Journal of Language and Literacy Education in 2018; and “‘My Sister, Myself: Why the Miseducation of Black Girls requires Spaces and Places for their Healing” in B. Love and B. Sankofa’s (Eds.) Lauryn Hill Reader. Dr. McArthur has also been selected as a keynote speaker for the 2019 International Critical Media Literacy Conference.

Barbara McCaskill completed two essays on the fugitive slaves and transatlantic abolitionists William and Ellen Craft. A chapter on Ellen Craft’s photograph album is forthcoming in African American Literature in Transition, 1850-65, edited by Teresa C. Zackodnik (Cambridge UP). A chapter on the 1861 edition of the Crafts’ Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom has been accepted by Kathleen Diffley and Benjamin Fagan for Picturing Eloquence: The Civil War in Word and Image (UGA Press). She presented an invited talk on memoirs by the Crafts and Rev. Peter Thomas Stanford at Emory University’s James Weldon Johnson Institute for the Study of Race and Difference and was interviewed about the Crafts for April’s UGA Press blog.

Emily Sahakian received the Michael F. Adams Early Career Scholar Award in 2018 and published “Eliza’s French Fathers: Race, Gender, and Transatlantic Paternalism in French Stage Adaptations of Uncle Tom’s Cabin,” in Uncle Tom’s Cabins: The Transnational History of America’s Most Mutable Book.
Alex Laughlin is an audio producer for BuzzFeed News. Before that, she was a social media editor at The Washington Post, where she produced “Other: Mixed Race in America,” a miniseries podcast about multiracial identity. She is on the board of advisors for “From Here,” a narrative podcast in development about Asian identity in the United States. She graduated from UGA in 2014 with a major in Women’s Studies and a minor in English. For “The News,” I built an SMS bot that guides users through podcast episodes to learn a little more about what they’re hearing. I also built a feature into the bot that allows listeners to send in questions they have about the news that they might be embarrassed to ask. I remember being a freshman in college and picking up a free copy of The New York Times and trying desperately to decipher the front page. I don’t like that it’s so difficult to understand what’s happening, and I’m trying to make it a little bit easier however I can.

**Q:** How has/does your degree in Women’s Studies shape your career interests and goals?

Learning to read, argue, and write critically is one of the most significant lessons I learned in Women’s Studies. It sounds like a basic skill, but it’s really tough to develop. So much of what I do is reading what’s happening in the news — in the White House or in big corporations or anywhere in between — and filter those actions through the biases, motivations, and historical precedents that should be taken into account.

I also learned a lot about power in my time in Women’s Studies — how it’s misused, and how groups can be negatively affected by that in ways you don’t often see right in front of you. My job isn’t to advocate for causes or political action, but I try to take what I’ve learned and use it to make my coverage more equitable and accurate to what is happening in the world.

Finally, Women’s Studies taught me a lot about empathy. As a journalist in a turbulent political time like this, it’s so important to be able to see the humanity in people with different worldviews.

**Q:** What were your favorite experiences as a student in Women’s Studies at UGA? What were your favorite courses, professors, extra curriculars?

I loved the Women’s Studies program was so small. UGA is a huge school and I often felt lost in a sea of people I didn’t fit into. Riding the Milledge Avenue bus to class certainly didn’t help. But I always felt like I was among my people by the time I settled into my women’s studies class. It was the most diverse, empathetic, and kind-hearted group of people I found at UGA.

I loved Dr. Herles’s classes, of course. I think I took a course with her every semester for two years straight. I also took a class with Dr. Bethany Moreton during my sophomore year that was a game-changer for me — it was the first time I felt confident in a Women’s Studies class, and I became much more academically confident after that.

Finally, I was super involved with the Red & Black throughout my years at UGA, and I was part of the group of editors who walked out in protest in 2012. That was an exciting week, and thankfully the issue was resolved quickly. I’m glad to know that the student editors have retained editorial independence. I wasn’t a journalism major, so that paper is responsible for so much of what I know about how to be a journalist. I’m still close friends with several women I worked with there, and I love getting to know current reporters and editors at the paper.

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1. Women’s Studies Class of 2018; 2. 2018 Senior Award Winners, from left - Chloe Schrader, Katie Peterson, Heather Street; 3. Students at SEWSA 2018, from left - Alexandra Travis, Brittany McLeod, Jamie Palmer

• **Jieun Lee** successfully defended her dissertation in Theatre and Performance Studies and has accepted a position as Assistant Professor in Women and Gender Studies at Wake Forest University. Congrats to Dr. Lee!

• **Jamie Palmer** successfully defended her dissertation in Sociology and has accepted a position as Lecturer II with the Gender, Race, and Identity Program at the University of Nevada Reno. Congrats to Dr. Palmer!

• **Tierra Sanford’s** essay “Applying a Black Feminist Framework to Explain Black Women’s Health Disparities” appeared in *The Classic*, the Writing Intensive Program’s journal of undergraduate writing and research.

• **Jennifer Whitley** won the George Hugh Boyd Memorial Scholarship, awarded to students with high academic standards and a philosophy of giving back to the community.

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**UPCOMING iws programming**

**Women Faculty Reception**
September 21st, 11:30am, Tate Reception Hall
Dr. Kecia Thomas will receive the annual Women’s Studies Faculty Award.

**Friday Speaker Series - Fall 2018**

September 14th, 12:20pm, Miller Learning Center 214
*If This Were Important I Would Have Learned About it in IR: Gender-mainstreaming Introduction to International Relations*
Maryann Gallagher - International Affairs

September 28th, 12:20pm, Miller Learning Center 214
*Great (Gendered) Expectations: Analyzing Christian Sex Advice Books*
Jodie Lyon - Religion

October 5th, 12:20pm, Miller Learning Center 214
*Hypervisible Invisibility: Centering Black Girls in Educational Research*
Sherell McArthur - Educational Theory & Practice

October 12th, 12:20pm, Miller Learning Center 214
*Cultivating Land and Community: Using an Ecowomanist Methodology*
Christina Hylton - Women’s Studies and Educational Theory & Practice

October 19th, 12:20pm, Miller Learning Center 214
*What is Southern Futurism: Reimagine Automation through DIY Hacktivism and Open-sourced Distribution Methods*
Xin Xin - Women’s Studies and Art

November 2nd, 12:20pm, Miller Learning Center 214
*A Murdering, if Penitent, Philandress: Queen Elfthryth’s Reputation at Wherwell Abbey*
Cynthia Turner Camp - English

November 9th, 12:20pm, Miller Learning Center 214
*Playing for the Vote: Suffrage Games and the British Women’s Suffrage Movement*
Elise Robinson, Women’s Studies and Theatre & Performance Studies

November 30th, 12:20pm, Miller Learning Center 214
*Breaking In and Having It All: Black Women and the Hollywood Jim Crow*
Maryann Erigha - Sociology and African American Studies

Stay updated on the Spring 2019 Friday Speaker Series schedule, Women’s History Month, the 25th Annual Andrea Carson Coley Lecture in LGBTQ Studies and other programs by visiting [http://iws.uga.edu](http://iws.uga.edu)
Support Women’s Studies

Please consider giving to Women’s Studies today. Your gift to the Institute builds on over 40 years of excellence in feminist teaching, research, and outreach in Women’s Studies at the University of Georgia. We need your support!

- Enhance scholarship about women and gender
- Fund travel grants so that our students can attend conferences
- Bring feminist thinkers, writers, and researchers to campus to share their work

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