**Director’s Note**

Welcome Back! It’s Fall 2021. It’s been a long time since we were together on campus and although I saw so many of you on Zoom, this is much better.

First, we want to pause and commemorate one of the Institute’s founding mothers, Louise McBee (1924–2021), who passed on March 2, 2021. We are forever indebted to McBee for her efforts to establish Women’s Studies at UGA as a degree granting academic program while serving as the Vice President for Academic Affairs. You can hear her discuss the emerging field of Women’s Studies during a 1976 interview on the “University Almanac” radio show, via the Brown Media Archives and Peabody Awards Collection.

While this past year has been challenging, the IWS community has been phenomenal in making adjustments. I am so proud of the different ways that our faculty, graduate teaching assistants, students, and staff carried on despite pandemic restrictions. Our community masked up, socially distanced, and made a way.

These astounding efforts resulted in our ability to offer our full programming and maintain the posted course schedule. For example, Terri Hatfield, our Program Coordinator, immediately transitioned our many special events and programs to virtual formats (read more on pg. 10).

Similarly, though the pandemic kept the Women’s Studies Student Organization (WSSO) from holding the annual Take Back the Night event in-person this past April, under the direction of Assistant Director, Dr. Cecilia Herles, the undergraduate students created a virtual version of the event while also spearheading a fundraising drive for the Cottage Sexual Assault and Children’s Advocacy Center. For the fundraiser, WSSO encouraged students to donate to the Cottage, and those who made donations of $15 or more received a “feminist care package,” which included tampons, granola bars, pens, buttons, stickers, hand sanitizer and a feminist zine.

Additionally, our instructors were innovative in finding ways to give our students an enriching class experience. Dr. Herles was able to continue the WMST 4170/6170: Environment, Gender, Race, Class field trips to UGArden during the pandemic. Students were happy to mask up while harvesting, composting, and washing produce, and bagging food for Campus Kitchen deliveries (pictured right).

One of our graduate teaching assistants, CJ Komp, held his WMST 1110: Multicultural Perspectives of Women in the U.S. classes simultaneously over Zoom and in-person to accommodate students who could not attend face-to-face classes. He was brilliant in his approach by also creating space in the schedule to explore and learn through other mediums. On “Virtual Fridays,” students visited a curated list of virtual exhibits and archives, listened to well-researched podcasts and recorded interviews, or streamed documentaries, all related to that week’s class readings. He provided specific guidelines and questions to structure the student’s own exploration, giving them a way to find agency in their own pursuits of understanding. These activities allowed students to apply the feminist questions of power, representation, and agency from their course readings to their analyses of real materials and stories.

As we begin the new Academic Year 2021-22, we’re looking forward to our signature programming (read more on page 11) and we’re excited for students to begin taking classes as part of our newly added LGBTQ Studies Certificate for undergraduates (read more on page 5). We hope to see you all back in our space, in our classes, and at our events because we sure have missed you.

**Dr. Juanita Johnson-Bailey**
Professor and Director, Women’s Studies
In academic year 2020-2021 Juanita Johnson-Bailey delivered two keynote addresses, A Kitchen Table Dialogue: Writing and Researching Race and Racism in Adult and Higher Education (Cleveland State University) and Race Matters: The Place and Importance of Diversity in Higher Education (University of Tennessee at Knoxville) and a lecture, Transformative Experiences of a Black Faculty Member in White Academia (George Washington University). In addition, she presented a paper, The Perspectives of Global Women Leaders, and participated in a panel presentation, Women of Color Pushing the Edges at Predominantly White Institutions, at the International Leadership Association’s Annual Conference.

In celebration of Women’s History Month, she was interviewed on Lunch with Gwen on WXAG and presented the segment, Why Celebrate Women’s History Month?. Together with UGA faculty, Drs. Rosemary Phelps, Nichole Ray, and Kecia Thomas she published a book chapter, A Seat at the Table: Black Women Administrators’ Narratives of Struggle and Support in the Ivory Tower in the book Mentoring as Critical Engaged Praxis: Storying the Lives and Contributions of Black Women Administrators.

In 2021 Joselyn K. Leimbach received the Founders Award for service to the LGBT Community at UGA from the LGBT Resource Center for her work revamping and digitizing the Safe Space (now called Dawg Ally) curriculum. The Founders Award is presented to faculty, staff, or community members who have contributed to making a “significant and lasting contribution to the UGA LGBTQ community.” Also, Dr. Leimbach’s essay “Queering Cristina Yang: Childfree Women, Disrupting Heteronormativity, and Success in ‘Failed Femininity’ was published in the anthology The Truth about (M)otherhood: Choosing to be Childfree by Demeter Press (2021).

Rumya S. Putcha won two grants this year. The first was awarded by Franklin College’s Multicultural Innovation Program, which supports faculty in course development. Dr. Putcha received support from Franklin to develop a course tentatively titled “Racialization and Importance of Diversity in Higher Education (University of Tennessee at Knoxville) and a lecture, Transformative Experiences of a Black Faculty Member in White Academia (George Washington University). In addition, she presented a paper, The Perspectives of Global Women Leaders, and participated in a panel presentation, Women of Color Pushing the Edges at Predominantly White Institutions, at the International Leadership Association’s Annual Conference.

In celebration of Women’s History Month, she was interviewed on Lunch with Gwen on WXAG and presented the segment, Why Celebrate Women’s History Month?. Together with UGA faculty, Drs. Rosemary Phelps, Nichole Ray, and Kecia Thomas she published a book chapter, A Seat at the Table: Black Women Administrators’ Narratives of Struggle and Support in the Ivory Tower in the book Mentoring as Critical Engaged Praxis: Storying the Lives and Contributions of Black Women Administrators.

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Patricia Richards published numerous articles this year, including “Acosadas en terreno: El género, la raza, la nación y la construcción del conocimiento etnográfico” with Rebecca Hanson, in Polis: Revista Latinoamericana, and “Feeling rules in the marriage equality movement: Public protest, social media and the management of emotion” with Women’s Studies Graduate Certificate alum, Arialle K. Crabtree, in Queer Studies in Media & Popular Culture.
Dr. Rumya S. Putcha, Assistant Professor in the Institute for Women's Studies and the Hugh Hodgson School of Music, was selected to participate in the 2021 Special Collections Fellows Program, a collaboration between the UGA Libraries and the Center for Teaching and Learning.

Fourteen UGA faculty members make up the sixth cohort of the Fellows Program. These faculty fellows collaborate with UGA Libraries archivists to design learning opportunities for students using historical materials. For her fellowship, Dr. Putcha will be developing a critical gender and race methods course that examines the way archives and archival practices attached to land-grant universities reproduce legacies of settler colonialism and white supremacy.

The new cohort met in May 2021 and began their fellowship with a hands-on introduction to archives-centered learning, and a behind-the-scenes tour of the Libraries' three special collections units: the Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library, the Russell Library for Political Research and Studies and the Walter J. Brown Media Archives and Peabody Awards Collection.

Throughout the month, they participated in a series of workshops and seminars that introduced the tools and resources of TeachArchives.org, a pedagogical guide developed by the Brooklyn Historical Society.

The program concluded with a three-day institute where fellows presented their course designs and gathered feedback from their cohort peers and the fellowship instructional team.

Meet our new faculty | Dr. Ingie Hovland

Dr. Ingie Hovland is a limited-term Assistant Professor in the Institute for Women's Studies and in the Department of Religion. She is interested in the many perspectives within, and effects of, religion in the world.

She received her Ph.D. in cultural anthropology from the University of London in 2006, and her first book, Mission Station Christianity, asked how nineteenth-century Protestant missionaries in Southern Africa shifted from being skeptical of colonization to becoming theological cheerleaders for Empire, resulting in new race and gender relations. Her second book project explores the problematic connections between “women” and “words” in Christianity by describing the language-use of the “mission feminists,” a network of women in Lutheran mission organizations in early-twentieth-century Norway who were inspired by the women’s rights movement to change how they used words.

More about Dr. Hovland:

- She spent half her childhood on the rural campus of a theological college in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, during the last years of the apartheid regime. This is probably why she is so interested in religion and how people relate to each other in the world.
- When she was an undergraduate in England she was given the opportunity to do a research project. She spent a week in the Mission Archive on the western coast of Norway and fell in love with the archive dust and the old letters. That is why she began doing archival research.
- She married an American and is happy this is why she is now in Athens, GA.
- She has two wonderful daughters as well as two cats.

Selected recent publications:

- “Value Moves in Multiple Ways: Ethical Values, the Anthropology of Christianity, and an Example of Women and Movement” in Anthropological Theory (2021) (early online publication).

Dr. Hovland is teaching RELI 4105/6105 Women in Christian History this Fall 2021.
Adrienne Baldwin-White published several journal articles this year, including Influence of Social Media Use on How College Students Perceive Healthy Relationships and Consent, in *Journal of American College Health*, in 2021, and Centering Minoritized Students in Campus Interpersonal Violence Research, in *Journal of Family Violence*, in 2020; with more in press, including Hamilton: A pedagogy of social justice and revolution in social work education, in *Journal of Social Work Education* and Harnessing Technology to Prevent Sexual Assault on College Campuses, in *Journal of American College Health*, co-authored with Dr. Gabrielle Darville and others. She also gave several presentations in 2020: “Exploring the Role of Snapchat Use in Predicting Alcohol Consumption” at the Society for Social Work and Research; and “Innovation in BSW Curriculum” and “The Reality of Being an Academic Mom” for the Council on Social Work Education Annual Meeting.

Lisa Bayer was named president of the Association of University Presses.

Professor Emerita Dawn Bennett-Alexander was celebrated with the creation of a new award in her honor, the Dawn D. Bennett-Alexander Inclusive Community Award. In commemoration of her 33 years of work to advance diversity at the University of Georgia, the award will be given to a UGA faculty member who has "contributed extensive efforts to promoting diversity, equity and inclusiveness at UGA."

J. Maria Bermudez’s book *Intersectionality and Context across the Lifespan: Readings for Human Development* was published in 2021. She also published numerous other journal articles with others, including “No queremos quedar mal”: Boundary setting training with Latina community health workers in *Journal of Latina Psychology*, in 2020; Narratives of generativity and resilience among LGBT older adults: Leaving positive legacies despite social stigma and collective trauma in *Journal of Homosexuality*, in 2021 (2019 online); A Decade in Review: Intersectionality within family studies and family therapy journals from 2010-2020, in *Journal of Family Theory & Review*, in 2020; and Funhouse mirror reflections: Resisting internalized sexism in family therapy and building a women-affirming practice in *Journal of Feminist Family Therapy* in 2020.

Maryann Gallagher became the Director of the Center for International Trade and Security’s undergraduate Security Leadership Program in August 2020. This is a selective program for students interested in careers in national, international, and human security. She was the recipient of the School of Public and International Affairs inaugural non-tenure track award for excellence in teaching. Dr. Gallagher was promoted to Senior Lecturer starting in August 2021.

Vanessa Golin has been selected as a UGA Lilly Teaching Fellow. She also received a grant from the UGA Franklin College of Arts and Sciences to support the creation of a new course she is developing, SOCI/AFAM/WMST 3650: “Colorism and Hairism in Communities of Color,” which will be offered starting Spring 2022. The development of this course has been covered by local media, including the Red & Black and *Athens News Matters on WUGA*.

Sujata Iyengar held a Folger Library fellowship during 2020-21 to work on her manuscript “Shakespeare and Adaptation Theory,” also winning the Shakespeare Association of America Folger Shakespeare Library award through a separate, peer-reviewed process. She was able to complete several articles, including “Race Thinking in Margaret Cavendish’s Drama,” forthcoming in a special issue of *Criticism* 63.1-2 (Spring 2021) on “The Future(s) of Early Modern Women Writers,” and “Journal of a Plague Year: Six Voices from American Universities,” which appeared in *Archiv für das Studium der neueren Sprachen und Literaturen* (2020).

As part of her ongoing project to broaden access to Shakespeare Studies, Iyengar (with PhD student Mikaela Warner as co-investigator) hosted an American Sign Language (ASL)-interpreted and fully-captioned live, remote presentation about Shakespeare and ASL Poetics from theatre historian Dr. Jill Bradbury, thanks to awards from Georgia Humanities and the Willson Center. Willson awards also supported remote visits from Dr. Marion Wynne-Davies, who discussed place-based historical scholarship in light of feminism and of illness studies.

Dr. Iyengar also participated in a set of climate interventions hosted by Shakespeare’s Globe, at which she spoke about Shakespeare, maternity, and “climate grief”; you can watch that recording here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U4fE43ggPNg

Iyengar accepted remote invitations to discuss and model methods of “decolonizing” (or “re-indigenizing”) the curriculum for undergraduate students and early-career researchers at the Renaissance Society of America and in the Folger Institute’s ongoing “Pivot” series for early-career researchers, but the highlight of her year was her virtual presentation to UGA’s Women’s Studies program in Fall 2020 on “Feminist Afro-Futurist World-Making Through Live Performance,” about the 2019 all-Black performance of Much Ado About Nothing in Central Park and the June 2020 Justice for Black Lives rally in Athens, GA.

Stephanie Jones was a guest on NPR’s On Point about public education and the covid-19 pandemic, October 6, 2020. She was invited to give presentations on feminisms, education, and society this year, including Feminisms for Georgia Gwinnett College’s Women’s History Month 2021, and Gender, Social Class, Race, and Language for Humboldt State University, California, in 2020. Dr. Jones published several journal articles and newspaper editorials: The everyday traumas of neoliberalism in women teachers’ bodies: Lived experiences of the teacher who is never good enough. *Power and Education*, 2021; Facing change and changing schools: Education for today and tomorrow. *Seattle’s Child*, 2020; Repeat after me: Mi-sog-y-ny. *Belittling and controlling women and teachers. The everyday traumas of neoliberalism in women teachers’ bodies*. Lived experiences of the teacher who is never good enough.

Thomas E. Kadri published three articles during this academic year: Networks of Empathy, 2020 Utah Law Review (2020); Digital Gatekeepers, 99 Texas Law Review (2021); and Platforms as Blackacres, 68 UCLA Law Review (2021). He also published a book chapter called *Cy Près Settlements in Privacy Class Actions*, co-authored with Ignacio Cofone, in *Class Actions in Privacy Law* (Routledge 2020). Outside of his research, Kadri received his Ph.D. in Law from Yale University in December 2020 and was awarded an Affordable Materials Grant from the Provost’s Office to create a free and open-access coursepack and website for his students this year.

Barbara McCaskill received a $1,000,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation with co-P.I. Nicholas Allen for the multi-year project "Culture and Community at the Penn Center National Historic Landmark." She published an essay on Black women’s life writing for the Cambridge History of African American Autobiography edited by Joycelyn Moody, and has an essay forthcoming in The Cambridge Companion to the Civil War and Reconstruction. She joined the editorial team developing an annotated, scholarly, print and online edition of Harriet Beecher Stowe’s novel Dred: A Tale of the Great Dismal Swamp for Oxford University Press’s thirty-three volume Collected Works of Harriet Beecher Stowe. She was interviewed about William and Ellen Craft for Escape: The Underground Railroad, the companion podcast produced in conjunction with Amazon Prime’s Underground Railroad series directed by Barry Jenkins. She was awarded a 2021-22 Faculty Research Fellowship and the 2021 Virginia Mary Macagnoni Prize for Innovative Research from the Willson Center. From the Graduate School, she earned the 2021 Graduate Mentoring Award in the Humanities/Fine Arts category.

Carolyn Medine’s article on her mentor and teacher, Charles H. Long was chosen as the open access essay for American Religion. The editors said they were “inspired by the insight and intellectual challenge” in the piece. You can read it for free at: http://bit.ly/AME_Free.

Cassia Roth received a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for the Academic Year 2021-2022.

Emily Sahakian received a 2021 Russell Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, which recognizes outstanding instruction by faculty members early in their academic careers.

Elizabeth E. Saylor published Breaking the “Bronze Ceiling”: Investigating a Monumental Inequality, co-authored with Mardi Schmeichel, in Social Studies and the Young Learner in 2020. Dr. Saylor was also the 2021 recipient of the First Year Odyssey Seminar Program Teaching Award for her course: HERstory.

LGBTQ Studies | New Undergraduate Certificate in IWS

We are pleased to announce that the Institute for Women’s Studies is now offering an undergraduate certificate in LGBTQ Studies! The certificate was overwhelmingly approved by the University Council on Wednesday, April 21, 2021. Students can begin taking courses towards the completion of this certificate this Fall 2021, and courses filled up quickly, as Dr. Cecilia Herles, assistant director of the Institute and undergraduate student advisor, told Alan Flurry for the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences blog earlier this year.

The goal of this undergraduate certificate is to provide students with an understanding of the interdisciplinary scholarship and teaching on the role of sexuality in culture and politics. This certificate will foster theoretical reflection on the history of social difference and how it connects to sexuality, gender, race, ethnicity, and class. The 17 hours of coursework will prepare students to expand their knowledge of cultures and to respectfully engage with diverse populations as they enter fields such as law, healthcare, and counseling.

The program of study requires 17 hours of coursework, including:

11 credit hours of required coursework:
- WMST 1000, Seminars on Women’s Studies and Gender (1 hour)
- WMST 2300, Introduction to LGBTQ Studies (3 hours)
- WMST 3100, Diversity in LGBTQ Politics (3 hours)
- WMST 4100/6100, Queer Theory (3 hours)
- WMST 4910, Research and Methods in LGBTQ Studies (1 hour)

Plus 6 credit hours of elective coursework chosen with the approval of the certificate director.

The Institute has many alumni who have gone on to do related work in the field, whether it is students pursuing law with a focus on protecting rights for LGBTQ individuals, or as activists, therapists, or in the non-profit sector. “Many former students do this work and really generate a lot of what they do based on the classes they’ve taken at UGA,” Dr. Herles said.

“The certificate has applicability in all kinds of facets and careers. The connections are endless because these issues relate to our everyday lives,” says Dr. Herles.

Workplace implications of being able to understand and respect others arise from an ability to create open spaces in our classrooms where people feel comfortable talking about these issues.

“That level of engagement is important, so that our students are better prepared when they go out into the workforce to deal with diverse populations and have confidence using the correct terminologies, having an understanding of the sense of histories, translates into flourishing careers in every field,” Herles said.

We are grateful to the Franklin College Senate and the members of the University Council who recognized the need for this program at the University of Georgia.

The Institute is grateful for Drs. Chris Cuomo, Cecilia Herles, and Josie Leinbach for their dedication to the proposal and creation of this certificate. In addition, we recognize Dr. Andrew and Kathy Coley, whose endowment of the Andrea Carson Coley LGBT Lecture series in 1994, certainly laid the foundation for this Certificate.

To learn more about this certificate, contact Dr. Cecilia Herles at cherles@uga.edu or visit our website. You can also learn more at our upcoming Info Session on the new LGBTQ undergraduate certificate at our Virtual Friday Speaker Series on Friday, September 17 at 12:40pm via Zoom. Contact TLHAT@uga.edu for the link.
THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES
We, the faculty and staff of the Institute for Women’s Studies at UGA, strongly denounce recent acts of violence against people of Asian descent in the US and abroad, especially the tragic murders that occurred in Atlanta this week, and the alarming numbers of attacks that have occurred in Georgia in recent months.

We are also very concerned about the scapegoating of Asian American Pacific Islander communities during the Covid-19 pandemic, and how notions of the ‘perpetual foreigner’ feed racism by evoking phantoms of fear and intolerance. Stereotypes and fear-mongering undermine the health and well-being of our students, our colleagues, and all members of the campus community.

Aware of how multiple forms of oppression impact the lives of AAPI women in particular, we condemn the intersecting anti-Asian racism and misogyny that is evident in these atrocities. There is a history of xenophobia, harmful rhetoric and violence that must be fully addressed as we work to build a more democratic multicultural society and a better world for all. We honor the leadership of Asian-American Pacific Islander women who have brought critical attention to these matters, and we stand together in solidarity with those impacted by racial and sexist violence of all kinds.

**Well-Being Resources**

- If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care and Outreach in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-7774 or visit https://sco.uga.edu. They will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services.
- UGA has several resources for a student seeking mental health services (https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga) or crisis support (https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies).
- If you need help managing stress anxiety, relationships, etc., please visit BeWellUGA (https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga) for a list of FREE workshops, classes, mentoring, and health coaching led by licensed clinicians and health educators in the University Health Center.
Dr. Daleah Goodwin (she/her/hers) is a historian of 19th and 20th century Black women's history. She serves as Professor of History and Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Initiatives at Warren Wilson College, just outside of Asheville, North Carolina. She attended The Florida A&M University for undergraduate and graduate study and completed her Ph.D. in History with a specialization in Women and Gender Studies and African American History at The University of Georgia. Daleah is working on a book entitled Sisterly Affections: The Work of Miss Hallie Quinn Brown, which examines spirituality, education, and organizational activism of 19th and 20th century Black women.

Daleah was very involved in IWS while a graduate student. She served as GTA and coordinated the annual Student Research Symposium in 2008 and 2009. Additionally, she earned numerous teaching awards from the Department of History (Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award, 2007 and Teaching Encouragement Award, 2008), and the Institute for Women’s Studies and the Graduate School (Excellence in Teaching Award, 2009). The University of Georgia Graduate School presented her with Presidential Honors and the “Outstanding Graduate Student Award” in 2013 as formal recognition of her campus and community leadership and service. This year, she will accept the 2021 “Distinguished Service Award” from Warren Wilson College.

Q: What’s next for you?

I am working on my book entitled Sisterly Affections: The Work of Miss Hallie Quinn Brown, which examines spirituality, education, and organizational activism of nineteenth and twentieth century Black women.

Q: How have your experiences in Women’s Studies influenced you professionally or personally?

Women’s Studies helped me to find the language to articulate my experiences. It helped me to develop professional and personal compassion, understand the intersections of love, activism, and justice, and most importantly, it helped to restore my hope in the world.

Q: Any favorite memories from your time in Women’s Studies at UGA?

Funnel Cake Friday! When I was a GTA, some of us GTAs, along with Dr. Nichole Ray and Terri, would get together on Friday nights and discuss feminist issues, teaching strategies, course readings, journal articles, etc. while eating homemade funnel cakes. We had a great time together!

Q: Any advice for those just beginning the Women’s Studies graduate certificate?

My advice to those beginning the certificate program would be two-fold. One—take advantage of the opportunity to integrate your research and interests into your course work. Two—meet and get to know your classmates. Not only will you be able to share and collaborate with your research, teaching, and work, but it is highly likely that you will also develop life-long friendships with your fellow IWS graduate certificate classmates…I did! :)

Q: What have you been up to since graduating from UGA?

Since graduating from UGA, I accepted a position at Warren Wilson College, just outside of Asheville, North Carolina, as Professor of History. I teach courses in U.S. History, African American History, and Women’s History. Even while at UGA, and currently as one of the few faculty of color at a predominately white college, I stand as an advocate of diversity, equity, inclusion and justice work.

Above: Dr. Goodwin teaching WMST 2010: Introduction to Women’s Studies in the Miller Learning Center at UGA, Spring 2014.
Dr. Jieun Lee is an Assistant Professor of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Wake Forest University where she teaches courses on transnational Asian and Asian American feminist theory and practice. She is currently working on her book manuscript tentatively entitled Flipping the Script: Korean Transnational Adoption in Contemporary Theater and Performance. Jieun is a volunteer translator for the South Korean Feminist Journal ILDA – and a dog lover. She completed her Ph.D. in Theater and Performance Studies at the University of Georgia in 2018.

Q: What have you been up to since graduating from UGA?

I accepted an assistant professor position in the Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department at Wake Forest University. I have enjoyed creating and teaching new courses such as Gender and Sexuality in Contemporary Korea, Feminism and Theater, and Asian American Feminisms. I also co-organized Artivism@Wake, a new series that presents performances, interdisciplinary panel discussions, and workshops by artists, activists, and scholars committed to bridging the gap between art and activism, particularly around issues pertaining to religion, social justice, feminism, and queer experiences. I also participated in conferences and published articles and book chapters about Asian American theater and feminist performance. It has been busy but very stimulating so far.

Q: What’s next for you?

I just finished my Junior Research Leave, conducting interviews, archival, performance, and site observation in Europe and South Korea. Now, I plan to finalize my first academic book tentatively entitled Flipping the Script: Korean Transnational Adoption in Contemporary Theater and Performance. In this book, I examine contemporary theater and performance works from South Korea, the United States, the United Kingdom, Belgium, and Denmark that reimagine Korean transnational adoption on and offstage through the representations of Korean adoptees. One of the main goals of this book is to bridge Theater and Performance Studies with Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and Critical Adoption Studies.

Q: How have your experiences in Women’s Studies influenced you professionally or personally?

Learning about Women’s Studies was the single most significant event in my life. Having spent the first phase of my life in South Korea, I wasn’t even aware of its highly patriarchal structure. Women’s Studies at UGA opened my eyes to my background and gave me the knowledge and language to account for past and present systems of oppression that do not only keep women in a position of subjugation, but also any persons or groups considered to be “other” by the dominant power. Women’s Studies taught me to stand against the injustices of racism, classism, sexism, heterosexism, violence against LGBTQI, disability discrimination. Also, thanks to my teaching experience at IWS, I was able to initiate my professional career as a Women’s Studies teacher. The guidance and support I received from all the IWS faculty members were priceless and unforgettable. The IWS professors for my graduate certificate became my role models and I strive to emulate them on both professional and personal levels.

Q: Any favorite memories from your time in Women’s Studies at UGA?

The great food during the graduate lunch meetings (LOL)! Joking aside, there are too many favorite memories of IWS but one of them is organizing the Annual Women’s Studies Student Research Symposium with other GTAs. This experience and event inculcated in me the spirit to become a builder of communities through sharing feminist thoughts and practices. Ultimately, my favorite memories are about the people that are part of the wonderful faculty, staff, students, and our discussions of issues that affected us all. If I had to sum it all up, my favorite memory would be the time spent in our IWS community. I felt accepted and became a better person—a woman who advocates feminisms—because I found belonging and purpose.

Q: Any advice for our Women’s Studies graduate certificate students about to hit the job market?

Absolutely! I recommend networking at the National Women’s Studies Association’s conference (or any feminist network in your specific field of research). Find colleagues within and beyond UGA and build a support group to enhance each other’s scholarship and teaching of feminisms. Feminists get stronger together! Also, when seeking employment don’t give up and keep an open mind about career paths or jobs. If the opportunity is not exactly what you are looking for, it might still be worth a try, and do it with passion! Career, as life, does not always follow a straight line, but the experience gained may be worth the sometimes-winding road.
As did many others, IWS quickly canceled our remaining Spring 2020 events once we all began sheltering-in-place after the COVID-19 pandemic hit our campus in March 2020. However, we had to reconsider how to adapt our special events and programming for the Academic Year 2020-21.

We decided to switch our traditional first-of-the-semester event, the Women Faculty Reception, to a Virtual Open House for faculty. At this Virtual Open House, attendees joined IWS Director, Dr. Juanita Johnson-Bailey, along with Dr. Patricia Richards, Dr. Cecilia Herles, and Terri Hatfield on Zoom. These hosts discussed our fabulous program and the various ways faculty can get involved with IWS. To kick-off a new, albeit strange, academic year, it was a success.

We transitioned our weekly Friday Speaker Series to a virtual format and saw an increase in attendance. The use of Zoom allowed for the inclusion of international speakers, such as UGA alum, Dr. Hyungjoo Yoon from Korea National Open University, who presented a timely feminist discussion of gender and the body in cyberspace. Additionally, faculty and students who might not normally be able to make it across campus were able to tune in virtually in-between classes.

Similarly, we found national and global audiences for our other virtually transitioned signature events, such as our Andrea Carson Coley Lectures in LGBTQ Studies. Dr. Ann Pellegrini, Professor of Performance Studies and Social & Cultural Analysis at New York University, presented our 2020 lecture, which was postponed from April to October 2020 (pictured right, above). We heard from a number of alums who shared their glee at being able to attend one of these lectures again despite not having been back on campus in years. For 2021’s Coley Lecture, we enjoyed a cyber visit with our beloved former faculty member, Dr. Susan Thomas, who is now Director of the American Music Research Center at the University of Colorado Boulder. She introduced our speaker and her colleague, Dr. Kristie Soares, Assistant Professor of Women and Gender Studies at the University of Colorado Boulder, who presented over Zoom a dynamic and theoretically savvy lecture on Celia Cruz, grief, and survival in queer communities of color (pictured right, below).

Our virtual lectures continued into March for Women’s History Month 2021, but we also typically host a number of film screenings as part of these celebrations. The films focus on or are related to the national theme for Women’s History Month. To adapt these screenings for cyberspace, we provided a new film each week for attendees to stream at their own convenience via a “Virtual Watch Page” linked from our website.

Although we are grateful for the modern conveniences that allowed us to transition virtually to keep us safe during this time, we do miss the energy, connection, and community provided at our in-person events. We are looking forward to a time when we can see each other in-person once again!
Amy Bonnaffons (Class of 2021) and Christina Hylton (Class of 2019) co-facilitated “Writing into the Wild: Blossoming into Creativity with the Four Elements,” a writing workshop featuring guided meditations, guided writing exercises, sensory activities, nature connections, and fire storytelling, in July 2021.

Shara Cherniak (Class of 2020) accepted a position of Lecturer at the University of Wisconsin - Green Bay in August 2020.

Christina Crespo received the Center for Teaching and Learning’s 2021 Excellence in Teaching Award.

Grace Gerely, Marianna Hiles, and Roberto Ortiz had their essays published in the Spring 2021 issue of The Classic, the UGA Writing Intensive Program’s journal of undergraduate writing and research.

Angela Hall developed and conceived an original multimedia work entitled “Breathe.” It was directed by Professor Emerita Dr. Freda Scott Giles and presented by the UGA Theatre in November 2020. Through tweets, news articles, poetry, and song, “Breathe” attempts to contend with our current American moment – focusing on social issues, the current political landscape, and the ongoing pandemic.

Dr. Jaleesa Reed (Class of 2021) accepted a tenure-track position of Assistant Research Professor in the department of Fiber Science and Apparel Design at Cornell University, starting Fall 2021.

Dr. Jaimie Richards (Class of 2014) successfully defended her dissertation in Genetics at The University of Alabama at Birmingham, titled “The Psychological, Social, and Bioinformatic Considerations for the Return of Continental Genetic Ancestry Estimates and Other Secondary Sequencing Results.”

Elise Robinson is the 2021 recipient of the Center for Teaching and Learning’s Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award.

Dr. Kristyl D. Tift (Class of 2016) was awarded an Innovative Teaching Award from the College of Arts and Science at Vanderbilt University. Credited as Kristyl Dawn Tift, she narrated two books—Mob Rule in New Orleans and Southern Horrors & The Red Record by Ida B. Wells-Barnett—for Brilliance Audio. Tift recently wrote, produced, and starred in a virtual reading of No Further..., a play about eating disorder and substance abuse recovery. Her article, “Flyin’ High in Flyin’ West: Representing Nineteenth-Century African American Women in Performance,” was recently published in a special issue on Black Performance in Frontiers: A Women’s Studies Journal.

Juhi Varshney (Class of 2017) graduated from medical school at the University of California San Francisco and is now M.D. Varshney. She began her residency at Jackson Memorial hospital in Miami, FL.

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**Upcoming | IWS Events & Programming**

**Virtual Open House for Faculty**
October 20th, 11:30am, via Zoom
All faculty are invited to attend a virtual open house to learn more about IWS. Contact TLHAT@uga.edu for more information.

**Virtual Friday Speaker Series - Fall 2021**
Contact Terri at TLHAT@uga.edu for links or more info.

- **September 17th, 12:40pm, via Zoom**
  Introducing the New Undergraduate Certificate in LGBTQ Studies: Information, Updates, and Opportunities
  Drs. Chris Cuomo, Cecilia Herles, and Josie Leimbach, Women’s Studies

- **September 24th, 12:40pm, via Zoom**
  New Findings & Responses To Anti-Abortion, Anti-Contraception Crisis Pregnancy Centers
  Dr. Andrea Swartzendruber, Public Health

- **October 1st, 12:40pm, via Zoom**
  How Gender Creates Community in Let’s Plays: The tension between assumed audience and actual audience
  Erin McDermott, Theater & Film Studies and Women’s Studies

- **October 8th, 12:40pm, via Zoom**
  “Beware; for I am fearless, and therefore powerful”: Frankenstein as Object-Oriented Feminist Manifesto
  Katie Hurlock, English and Women’s Studies

- **October 15th, 12:40pm, via Zoom**
  Hell with a Knife: Troublemaking & Affect Alienation in Nella Larsen’s Quicksand and Lynda Barry’s Cruddy
  Gina Abelkop, English & Women’s Studies

- **October 22nd, 12:40pm, via Zoom**
  “Our Girls”: Imagining Community and Personhood in a Rare Disease
  Dr. Usree Bhattacharya, Language & Literacy Education

- **November 5th, 12:40pm, via Zoom**
  Women and the Holy City: The Struggle over Jerusalem’s Sacred Space
  Dr. Lihi Ben Shitrit, International Affairs

- **November 12th, 12:40pm, via Zoom**
  “M(i/e)nding the Gaps in Mental Health Among Black Americans”
  Dr. Rosalyn Denise Campbell, Social Work

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we attempt to safely navigate programming during a pandemic. Stay updated on Spring 2022 events by visiting http://iws.uga.edu or by following us on Twitter @UGAWMST
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