

# Women's & Gender Studies

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES • UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Fall 2011

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**September 29, 2011, 3:30 pm,**  
Sumwalt 213

**Readings with Cathryn Hankla,**  
author of eleven poetry and fiction titles,  
professor of English, & Director of the  
creative writing MFA program at Hollins  
University

**Adrenée Glover Freeman Memorial  
Lecture in African American Women's  
Studies**

**October 20, 2011 at 4:00 p.m.**

USC Law Center Auditorium

**Anita Hill: "Finding Home: In Search of  
a 21st Century Vision of Equality"**

**A Feminist Brown Bag Series**

**November 9, 2011, 12-1:30 pm**

Hollings Special Collections Library

Thomas Cooper Library

**Lynn Weber: *Teaching the Intersec-  
tional Approach***

**November 17, 2011, 6 pm,** Lumpkin  
Auditorium, 8th floor, Darla Moore School  
of Business

**Kiran Asher, Clark University**

***Beyond Victims and Guardian Angels:  
Postcolonial Feminisms and Develop-  
ment***

**A Feminist Brown Bag Series**

**February 9th, 2012 12-1:30 pm**

Hollings Special Collections Library

Thomas Cooper Library

**Ed Madden: *Teaching and Social Justice***

**MARCH 2012 - Women's History Month**

**March 15-17, 2012 Women's & Gender  
Studies Conference, Daniel Manage-  
ment Center, USC-Columbia**

***"New Currents in Critical Southern  
Legacies"***

**A Feminist Brown Bag Series**

**April 11, 2012, 12-1:30 pm**

Hollings Special Collections Library

Thomas Cooper Library

**Drucilla K. Barker: *The Inter/Multidisci-  
plinary Classroom***

## Anita Hill guest lecturer at 2011 Adrenée Glover Freeman Lecture



Anita Hill is the Adrenée Glover Freeman Lecture in African American Women's Studies on Thursday, October 20 4 p.m. in the School of Law auditorium. Her talk is titled "Finding Home: In Search of a 21st Century Vision of Equality." Hill is Professor of Law, Public Policy and Women's Studies Heller Graduate School of Policy and Management at Brandeis University. This marks the 20th anniversary of her historic testimony before the U.S. Senate during the confirmation hearings for U.S. Supreme Court Judge Clarence Thomas. Her testimony in 1991 brought public awareness to the problem of sexual harassment in the workplace.

After the hearing, she began speaking to audiences throughout the United States as well as around the world about social and political problems facing us. Despite a demanding speaking schedule, Hill continues her teaching and research. She believes that the combination of popular and scholarly work keeps her ideas fresh and grounded in both the latest research and in real life experiences.

We owe a special thanks to the women who have gathered in Columbia for the annual "I Believe Anita Hill" celebration every year since 1992. Professor Hill attended the party in 1997 to promote

her first book, *Speaking Truth to Power*. She joins us again to mark the anniversary and promote her new book, *Reimagining Equality: Stories of Gender, Race and Finding Home*, just released by Beacon Press. Copies of the book will be available for sale at the party.

*Reimagining Equality* takes the reader inside the subprime mortgage meltdown and the resulting devastation of so many families, so many communities and even cities. It exposes its deep roots in race and gender inequities that continue to haunt the country and imperil every American's ability to achieve the American Dream. Building on the great strides of the women's and civil rights struggles, Hill presents concrete proposals, which encourage us to broaden our thinking about home and to reimagine equality for America's future.

The Freeman Lecture was established in 1993 in memory of Adrenée Glover Freeman, a Columbia attorney who was active in civic affairs and served on the Community Advisory Board of the Women's and Gender Studies Program.

The Freeman Lecture is co-sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences and the African American Studies Program. The lecture is free and open to the public. Contributions to the Freeman lecture fund may be made to the Women's and Gender Studies Endowment Fund, USC Educational Foundation, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208.

Published biannually by Women's and Gender Studies at the University of South Carolina

Dr. Drucilla K. Barker  
Director of Women's & Gender Studies

Dr. Catherine J. Castner, Undergraduate Director  
Dr. Katherine Adams, Graduate Director



**Notes from the Director:**

**Drucilla K. Barker**

"S.C. 7th in Rate of Women Killed by Men," read the headline in the Metro Section of *The State* on September 22. It served as a painful reminder of the recent tragedy, the senseless murder of Professor Jennifer Lee Wilson. What happened to Dr. Wilson shocked and saddened the University community, and I can only imagine the horrible pain and suffering her family and friends continue to feel.

Dr. Wilson is being honored by the "The Jennifer L. Wilson Memorial Scholarship," created by the College of Education. Her memory was also honored in a moving memorial service at the Russell House.

Now my question is, what can we, as a community of feminist scholars and activists, do to stop this from happening? How can we change the culture of violence that is so pervasive in our university, our city, our state, our nation, and our world? What can we do to actively and effectively resist crimes motivated by hate, the hatred of women, of ethnic and racial minorities, and of sexual diversity.

I do not have the answer. But collectively we can begin to find it. Many resources are already in place. Our virtual women's center, Advance South Carolina Women, has links to the organizations already

working on this issue. Visit it at [http://advancescwomen.org/?page\\_id=28](http://advancescwomen.org/?page_id=28). This page is now called Family and Relationship Resources. I realize now that we need a separate page devoted just to intimate partner violence and the reduction of all acts characterized by power-based violence. Look for this change in the near future. We will also be working on a Facebook Group devoted to this issue in the Midlands.

The Spring newsletter will also devote a section to suggestions and thoughts about combating power based violence. Our colleague, Dr. Suzanne Swan, Psychology and WGST, has collected some important data about gender-based violence at USC that she will share with us. She will also share an initiative that would make sense for us to adopt as well. Stay tuned.

Other things to stay tuned for: you will all be receiving a survey regarding how well the Family Friendly Policies are working to help USC faculty, both women and men, negotiate work/family balance. This survey is part of a larger initiative, funded by the NSF, to advance women in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields. It is, however, extremely important that all faculty fill it out, regardless of your discipline. The Policies were designed to meet the needs of our entire faculty. Second, the WGST Partnership Council will be embarking on a fund-raising campaign to create a special endowment for the Adrenée Glover Freeman Lecture in African American Women's Studies. We need to assure that this important lecture, which honors Adrenée and bridges so many differences and borders, remains a fixture of the WGST program even in the face of the severe budget cutbacks.

**2011 -12 Awards Application Deadlines:**

For more information go to: [www.cas.sc.edu/wost/awards/awards](http://www.cas.sc.edu/wost/awards/awards)  
**\*\*\* Fall 2011 \*\*\***

Harriott Hampton Faucette  
(Graduate Student Award)  
Deadline: Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Josephine Abney  
(Faculty Award)  
Deadline: Friday, November 1, 2011

**\*\*\* Spring 2012 \*\*\***

Carol Jones Carlisle  
(Faculty Award)  
Deadline: Thursday, February 15, 2012

WGST Teaching Awards  
(Faculty, Adjunct, Graduate Student)  
Deadline: Thursday, February 15, 2012

Harriott Hampton Faucette  
(Graduate Student Award)  
Deadline: February 15, 2012

Emily Thompson  
(Graduate Student Award)  
Deadline: February 20, 2012

**Women's & Gender Studies 2012 Conference**

**"New Currents in Critical Southern Legacies"**

March 15-17, 2012

To commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Women's & Gender Studies Conference at the University of South Carolina, we are happy to announce collaboration with the Institute for Southern Studies. The notion of legacy plays a central role in the American South, and while some legacies are to be celebrated, others reflect troubled histories of racism, classism, and sexism. Uncovering, examining, and interrogating these legacies in the South will be the focus of this conference. Catherine Fosl, Director of the Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research, will deliver the keynote address, "From Popular Front to Intersectionality: Three Generations of Southern Dissent." The call for papers is posted on our website at: <http://www.cas.sc.edu/wost/conferences/conf12/cfp12.html>



**Letter from the Undergraduate Director:  
Catherine J. Castner**

When I arrived as Undergraduate Director a year ago, one of the aspects of the WGST program that most impressed me was the WGST 499 course, Community Service Internship. The students in WGST 499 conduct 12 hours a week of work for community organizations, projects, and agencies.

Our WGST majors are helping the community on issues like domestic violence, breast cancer awareness, and legislation in favor of women's issues. In addition to community activism, the aspect of integration enters the course in their writing assignments, as they are required to submit journals or

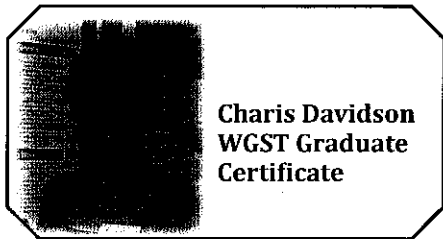
papers that integrate their community activism experience with the knowledge of feminist theory and intersectional analysis they have acquired in courses like WGST 304, Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality. In this way, our students are actively connecting theory and practice.

The five WGST majors who have committed their time and energy to the community practicum in the fall 2011 semester will engage in a wide variety of activities including working with the Women's Well-Being Initiative which aims to improve the overall well-being of South Carolina's women and girls by promoting an interdisciplinary, community-focused program of research, education, and action; assisting the "Be brave-be pink" breast cancer awareness initiative at the Otis Spunkmeyer plant in Columbia; working with both the Geography Initiative and the Contraceptive Initiative, combining awareness of the importance of place with trends in contraceptive practice; providing guidance and mentoring to at-risk youth through the Boys and Girls Club; and assisting at the Free Clinic.

Last year, our interns worked with Senator Phil Leventis' office on legislative initiatives to help women; the Free Clinic to provide medical services to the poor; the Sexual Trauma Services for the Midlands, and Sistercare. The mission of Sistercare has recently emerged all too tragically into the public spotlight, with 23 women in South Carolina having been killed by domestic partners so far this year.

What WGST has always recognized as a valuable experience combining theory and practice, providing the opportunity to work for the things that students believe in, and leading to fulfilling careers, has recently been validated university-wide by USC's Quality Enhancement Plan, Carolina Connect. This university-wide initiative focuses on integrating knowledge learned within the classroom with experience beyond the classroom. Supporters of the WGST program will be interested and gratified to see how we have always realized this integration and worked to make it a reality for our students.

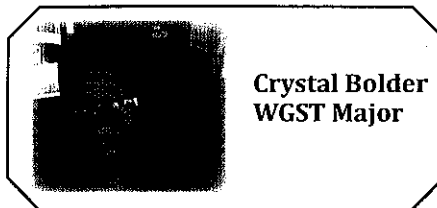
**Women's & Gender Studies Student Corner**



**Charis Davidson  
WGST Graduate  
Certificate**

Charis recently completed her Graduate Certificate in Women's & Gender Studies and Masters of Public Health. She is now a first year Dr.P.H. (Doctor of Public Health) student in the Department of Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior at the University of South Carolina. In May of 2011, she was inducted into USC's chapter of Delta Omega -the national public health honor society. For her masters' practicum project, Davidson traveled to San Ignacio, Belize, where she explored community and individual perspectives on family planning and worked to identify family planning resources available to local women and couples. This study was funded by the Harriott Hampton Faucette award, and she hopes to be able to continue conducting research on family planning in Belize. When asked to describe her experiences with the Women's and Gender studies program, Davidson says

"I'm grateful that the program gave me the opportunity to learn about the lives of women, both here locally and abroad. I appreciate the opportunities I've been given to make a difference, both through working on AdvanceSCWomen.org, and other projects, and through my own research. My women's and gender studies courses allowed me to engage with students and faculty from outside my discipline, and to learn how they approach research questions. This has made me a much more thoughtful and thorough scholar."



**Crystal Bolder  
WGST Major**

Crystal graduated from USC in 2011 with a major in Women and Gender Studies and a minor in Public Health. Since 2007, she has been a United States Army Reservist stationed at Fort Jackson, SC, serving as a dental assistant in a medical support unit. While a full-time student at USC, she volunteered at Thomas Student Health Center (USC). As a sexual health intern, she called

on her passion for women's health issues and public health to develop campus events centered on sexual health education. She is pursuing a Masters in Public Health at Mercer University School of Medicine in Macon, GA. Sexual health education, women's health, reproductive rights, access, quality and affordable healthcare are at the heart of her professional goals. The faculty is so proud of her!

**Congratulations to our Graduates!**

*Graduate Certificate*

- Tabitha Epperson
- Traci Hefner
- Alyssa Hesse
- Uma Kandasamy
- Amanda Lawson-Huggins
- Sherietta Murrell
- Anna Walton

*Bachelor of Arts*

- Crystal Bolder
- Keema Davis-Harley
- Jessica Hunter
- Merrill Walker
- Kathryn Witzke

**Mission Statement:**

Women's and Gender Studies at the University of South Carolina promotes an understanding of the experiences of women and other underrepresented groups through a complete program of teaching, research, and service to the University, the local community, the state, the nation, and the global community. Through its teaching mission, Women's and Gender Studies shares this knowledge with students so that they learn to think critically, to communicate effectively, to solve problems, and to interpret human experience. Through its research mission, Women's and Gender Studies reconceptualizes existing knowledge and creates new knowledge through the lens of gender and the prism of diversity. Emerging from an activist tradition, Women's and Gender Studies serves University, local, state, national, and global communities by acting as a resource and guide for issues related to women and gender.

Our teaching, research, and service missions interweave as we create, share, and apply knowledge, skills, and values that promote the full participation of women and other underrepresented groups in society. At the core of the work of Women's and Gender Studies teaching and research at the University of South Carolina are broad but fundamental questions that drive examinations of the intersections of race, gender, ethnicity and other dimensions of inequality.

**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:

Women's Studies Endowment \$ \_\_\_\_\_       Initiative for Women's Well-Being \$ \_\_\_\_\_       Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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 Add my name to the mailing list.

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