



Women, Gender & Sexuality

Fall Newsletter 2019

WGS Offers International Study Opportunities in Siena

Would you like to study in Italy next summer? WGS students have always had options to study abroad. Starting in the summer of 2020, however, WGS students will have an attractive new opportunity. Thanks to Dr. Francesca Calamita, of the UVA Department of Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese, who is the Director of UVA in Siena, and to Dr. Bonnie Hagerman, Director of Undergraduate Programs at WGS, students will be able to enroll in WGS courses in Siena this coming summer.



Piazza del Campo, Siena

At the UVA in Siena campus, students live in the historic city center, and take UVA courses, such as Italian language classes or the one on Global Perspectives on Gender and Sport, to be offered by Dr. Bonnie Hagerman. Because these are UVA courses, they apply toward the WGS Major or Minor, as well as toward other graduation requirements in the College of Arts & Sciences. Located in the heart of Tuscany, Siena will afford students a wonderful home base from which they can explore and experience life in one of the most beautiful regions of Italy. This first-ever opportunity for WGS students will run from May 28 to July 25, 2020; WGS courses will also be offered in Siena during the fall and spring semesters, and scholarships are available. To explore this idea, students have only to contact Dr. Bonnie Hagerman, the WGS Director of Undergraduate Programs, or pick up brochures for UVA in Siena in the WGS Library.



Geeta Patel

Geeta Patel Wins Fulbright Research Fellowship

WGS is proud to announce that longtime WGS faculty member Geeta Patel has won a Fulbright-Nehru Academic and Professional Excellence Award for Research. This award will support Dr. Patel's research in India for a 9-month period beginning in December 2019. While in India, Professor Patel will be working on a research project, entitled "Financing Selves: Pensionary Promises,

Pensionary Failures", and her academic affiliation will be with the University of Delhi. Funded by the United States-India Educational Foundation, Fulbright research awards are highly competitive. The project builds on earlier work done by Dr. Patel, also in as reported in her recent book, *Risky Bodies & Techno-Intimacy: Reflections on Media, Science* (University of Washington Press, 2016).

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UVA is now a Top School for LGBTQ students



UVA is now ranked #7 in the nation among the best colleges or universities for LGBTQ students, in the latest rankings announced by the Campus Pride Index, an independent national scorecard of best practices. This is a dramatic jump for the University of Virginia, which was ranked at #38 last year, and even lower in previous years. Campus Pride Index rated such things as LGBTQ policy inclusion, support and institutional support, student life, and academic life. The WGS Department, which offers classes and also a concentration in LGBTQ/Sexuality Studies, and organizes

speakers and other events relevant to LGBTQ issues, was one of several units whose efforts were responsible for the University's rise in the rankings. As University President Jim Ryan commented, "This is great news... There's always more work to be done, but kudos to everyone at UVA who contributed to this terrific distinction.

WGS Chair Charlotte J. Patterson Heads National Study of LGBTQI Health and Wellbeing

Charlotte J. Patterson, Chair of the WGS Department, is serving as Co-Chair of a National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine Committee on Understanding the Status and Well-being of Sexual and Gender Diverse Populations. The committee, made up of renowned scholars from many disciplines, has been tasked with reviewing the scientific literature on health and well-being among lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex populations in the United States today. This project builds on the work of an earlier National Academies committee, on which Patterson also served, whose influential report, *Health of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People*, was published in 2011. The current project will update information about health among sexual and gender minority individuals, and also address a broader array of topics, including economic and social wellbeing, civic engagement, and other topics. The committee report is due out in late 2020.



Denise Walsh Chosen to Co-Edit Prominent Political Science Journal



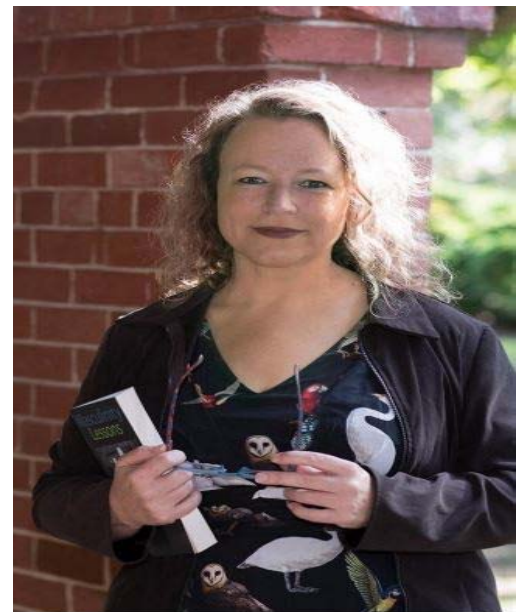
Denise Walsh

WGS faculty member Denise Walsh has been selected to co-edit the *American Political Science Review*, the highly regarded flagship journal of the American Political Science Association. As a member of the journal's first all-female editorial team, Walsh will be aiming to preserve the journal's strong reputation while also broadening its pool of authors, methods, and topics. The editorial team also plans to maintain a commitment to research ethics as well as editorial transparency, and put in place a system of checks and balances in the peer review process. By carrying out their plans, Walsh and her colleagues hope to make the journal more representative of the field of political science while also making it more inclusive. The team's editorial term begins on July 1, 2020 and concludes on May 31, 2024. Walsh, who is Associate Professor of Women, Gender & Sexuality and of Politics at the University of Virginia, is an expert on comparative democratic transitions, women's rights, and

and multiculturalism; she is the author of *Women's Rights in Democratizing States*, which was published by Cambridge University Press in 2011, as well as of numerous articles and chapters.

Lisa Speidel Earns AASECT Certification

Lisa Speidel has become a Certified Sexuality Educator through the American Association of Sexuality Educators (AASECT). As part of her work as a WGS faculty member, Speidel teaches a course on Human Sexualities that has been very popular among students, and this experience is what motivated her to undertake this certification. Training for the certificate involves work with nationally renowned sexuality educators that includes new perspectives on sexual attitudes among people of color. To maintain certification, Speidel must continue to complete continuing education credits over the coming years, which may involve attending additional trainings and/or conference sessions designed to keep her current with new findings and trends in the field. Speidel's new book, *The Edge of Sex: Navigating a Sexually Confusing Culture from the Margins*, is slated for publication in December of 2019.



Lisa Speidel

Many Thanks to our Generous Donors!

(includes gifts received September 2018 – August 2019; please send any correction to WGS)

Principal Underwriters (\$10,000 and above)

Serpentine Society
Susan Sarnoff Bram, CLAS '85 & Jonathan D. Bram
Todd Yancey MD, CLAS '81 & David Denniston

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Stephen Brinkley, CLAS '88 & Jennings Duncan III
Glenn A. Dickson, CLAS '81 & Justin D. Dickson
Todd Yancey MD, CLAS '81 & David Denniston

How Will You Support WGS at UVA?

Many opportunities:

- Would you enjoy sharing interests or hobbies with WGS students?
- Have you created a recent book or movie that you could read or screen at UVA?
- Would you be willing to talk with WGS students about the work that you do?
- Give us your ideas about how best to reach out to WGS alumni

If you can make a donation, please consider:

- Gifts can support lectures and events in areas of high student/faculty interest
- Donations can contribute to student/faculty research projects and collaborations
- Bequests and other larger gifts can help to create new faculty positions
- Please let us know what matters most to you

Contact WGS, Make a Donation

To make a donation, visit our website at WGS.VIRGINIA.EDU and click on the "Give Online" button, or write a check to "The College Foundation of the University of Virginia" and put "WGS Department" in the memo line. Send to WGS Department, University of Virginia, P.O. Box 400172, Charlottesville, VA 22904 (Attention: Charlotte J. Patterson, Chair).

Congratulations to the WGS Class of 2019

Congratulations to all the WGS majors and minors who graduated in the past year! Many students have a second major, so not all were able to attend our ceremony, but many students and their families attended the 2018 WGS Diploma Ceremony (see photo). WGS was honored to have Dr. Abby Palko, who is the Director of the Maxine Platzer Lynn Women’s Center, as our graduation speaker. Following the ceremony, a light lunch was served together with many congratulations. The complete list of the 2018 graduating class of WGS Majors and Minors is shown below.



Students and Faculty at 2019 WGS Diploma Ceremony; photos by Kelley Van Dilla

WGS Majors, CLAS '19

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Danya Abutaleb | Sierra Loudermilk |
| Kpakpando Adaobi Anyanwu | Christie McDaniel |
| Peyton Baldwin | Stephanie Alexis |
| Casey Bowler | Montoya Redlich |
| Jaterra Brown | Dana Needham |
| Baily Bush | Jessica Maya Neupane |
| Jasmine Chen | Amanda Lim Patton |
| Vanessa Cushing | Kaylyn Peacher |
| Augusta Durham | Breanna Marie Raymond |
| Brianna Eaddy | Hannah Elizabeth Repke |
| Ameenah Naomi Elam | Kiara Samuels |
| Deborah Marie Finney | Rachel Sands |
| Shiann Gardner | Triston Smith |
| Rahiel Gebre | Madeline Elizabeth Speirs |
| Maeve Hayden | Emma Teitgen |
| Hannah Herron | Sara Tmimi |
| Golda Houndoh | Josefina Waquin |
| Jasmine Jones | Kevin Westfield |
| Katie Keese | Deja Wortham |
| AJ Levy | Cecilia Zavarse |
| | Areei Zulfiaar |

WGS Minors, CLAS '19

- Anna Lerner Bostwick
- Ananda Maia de Almeida
- Meg Foster
- Corinne Johnson
- Lucy Levinson
- Heather MacRae
- Collette Marcellin
- Sofia Nies
- Jasmine Pauldurai
- Diane Johnston Tyson
- Sydney Ward
- Diana Wilson



WGS Students receiving diplomas



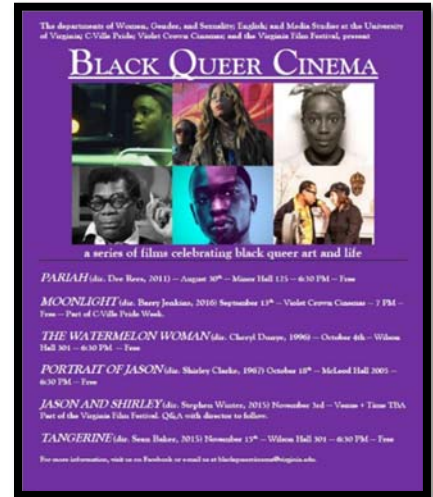
Graduates Jasmine Chen and Ameenah Elam

A Sampling of WGS Events



Black Queer Cinema: A Series of Films on Black Queer Art and Life. Including *Pariah*, *Moonlight*, *the Watermelon Woman*, *Portrait of Jason*, *Jason and Shirley*, and *Tangerine*.

Contemporary Women’s Visions from Spain, Italy and Latin America, a Film Series. Including *La novia del desierto* (Argentina and Chile), *Era d’estate* (Italy), *Los adioses* (Mexico), *El olivo* (Spain), and *Como noses pais* (Brazil); all with subtitles in English.



Reducing Sexual Harassment at the University of Virginia, a day of discussion.

Brittany Cooper, Rutgers University, on “Eloquent Rage”.

Amaka Okechukwu, George Mason University, “The end of affirmative action?”.

Susan Baca in Concert, Afro-Peruvian musician and Latin American Grammy Award winner.



Festival of the Book panels, *Understanding Love – LGBTQI Fiction*, and *Diverse Desires – LGBTQI Voices in Romance Writing*.

Feminist Digital Humanities: Intersectionality and Doing Justice with Data, daylong conference.

Celebrating the Music of Judith Shatin, University of Virginia, a symposium and concert.



Kate Bornstein, author, “Gender: What’s Your Truth?”

Kristina Olson, University of Washington, on “Transgender Children - New Evidence”

Cathy Cohen, University of Chicago, on Race, Gender and Vulnerability.

Peter Shinkle, CLAS ‘83, “Ike’s Mystery Man, the Secret Lives of Robert Cutler”

E. Patrick Johnson, Northwestern University, on Black Queer Women of the South.

