

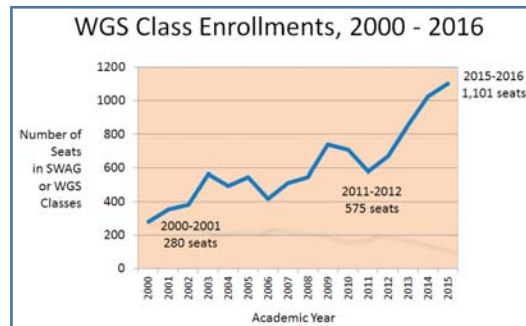


Women, Gender & Sexuality

Fall Newsletter 2016

WGS Adds Faculty Members as Enrollments Soar

More and more students want to enroll in WGS classes. To meet this increased demand, Ian Baucom, Buckner W. Clay Dean of UVA's College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, has allowed WGS to add faculty members. As this has happened, WGS course enrollments have almost doubled in just five years (see graph below).



In connection with this growth, WGS is excited to welcome Lanice Avery, Corinne Field, and Bonnie Hagerman to the full-time faculty at the WGS Program. Both Dr. Field and Dr. Hagerman

have been teaching in different capacities at WGS, so they are already familiar faces to many WGS students. As of Fall 2016, they will be both be in fulltime positions, and Dr. Hagerman will serve as Director of Undergraduate Studies. In addition, Dr. Lanice Avery, an expert in African-American women's sexuality, joins us from the University of Michigan. WGS is delighted to welcome all three to the faculty.

Once a small interdisciplinary program at UVA, WGS has grown in a dramatic way. During 2000-2001, 280 students were enrolled in WGS classes. By 2011-2012, 575 students were enrolled, and by 2015-2016, more than 1,100 students were enrolled. In other words, enrollment doubled in approximately ten years from 2000-2001 to 2011-2012; and has almost doubled again in the five years since 2011. As we look ahead to the coming year, the new faculty members will be important contributors to growth of the WGS Program.

WGS Moves to Levering Hall

In July 2016, the Women, Gender & Sexuality (WGS) Program moved out of its longtime offices in Minor Hall, and into its new home in Levering Hall.

Levering Hall is an historic building adjacent to the Pavilion X Gardens, at the end of the East Range that is closest to Cabell Hall. Its high ceilings and generously proportioned rooms have been newly renovated to accommodate the WGS Program. The location of Levering Hall, near UVA's historic Lawn, is shown in the picture at right.

"I am pleased that the WGS offices in Levering Hall will provide additional space for our growing numbers of students and faculty", WGS Director Charlotte J. Patterson commented. In addition to offices for faculty and staff, Levering will also

house the WGS Library in an attractive space with comfortable chairs and other furnishings. Will this become a favorite spot for WGS students to read or study between classes? Please stop by soon and let us know what you think of our new home.



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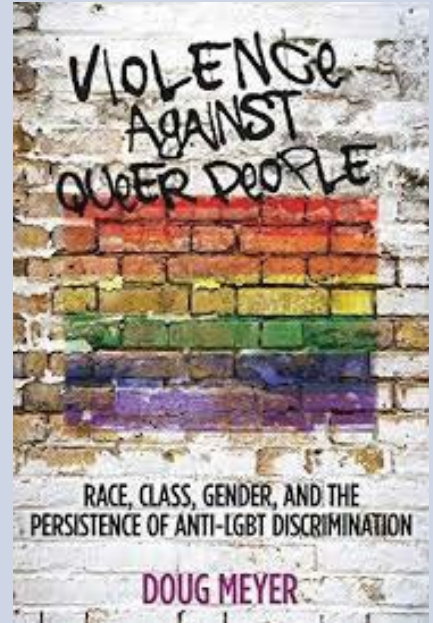
LGBTQ Studies at the WGS Program

Did you know that WGS is offering courses on LGBTQ Studies? These include, among others:

- WGS 3105 Issues in LGBTQ Studies
- WGS 3409 LGBTQ Issues in the Media
- WGS 3800 Queer Theory
- WGS 3559 Queer American History
- WGS 4110 Gender Non-Conformity in the Media

When completing a WGS major or minor, students can now choose a Sexuality Studies concentration, which involves WGS courses that focus on sexual orientation and gender diversity issues across the curriculum. Courses in LGBTQ Studies expose students to the burgeoning scholarship on sexualities, and they allow an in-depth exploration of LGBTQ lives, identities, and experiences.

For more information about LGBTQ/Sexuality Studies courses, or to declare a WGS major or minor, with a concentration in Sexuality Studies, contact Dr. Bonnie Hagerman, Director of Undergraduate Studies at WGS, bmh9m@virginia.edu.



Five Years, Two Degrees, and Now a Great Job: Spotlight on WGS Alumna Michelle Cho



WGS Alumna Michelle Cho

What do WGS students learn at UVA, and what do they do after graduation? Michelle Cho was a WGS major, graduating with her BA in 2015. She then earned a Master's degree from the Batten School in 2016, becoming a "Double Hoo", on her way to a job that excites her. Here is a small slice of her story:

While an undergraduate student, Michelle majored in WGS and in Media Studies. She also volunteered at the Charlottesville Office of Human Rights, was an intern one summer at the U.S. Agency for International Development, and worked another summer as a minority rights intern at the White House. These experiences got Michelle excited about policy issues, so she applied to UVA's Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy.

While earning her Master's degree at the Batten School, Michelle worked to expand assistance to local non-profits as the executive director of the school's student-run, pro bono consulting group, FCG Consulting. In recognition of her extraordinary dedication to public service, Michelle won the Batten School's 2016 Pilot Award.

What came next for this amazing Double Hoo? She moved to Northern Virginia this past summer to begin work as a consultant for Deloitte in their federal practice. After five years in Charlottesville, Michelle said that she was looking forward to starting work, living near her family, and eating Korean food again on a regular basis.

Did her experience as a student in the WGS Program have any impact on her trajectory? Cho says that contact with the faculty at WGS "revolutionized the way I interpret how power and oppression affect and create a social order", and has "taught me to never stop asking questions". In fact, Cho says, WGS classes "helped me to realize that policy is that path for me to make the changes I would like to see in society".

Credits: Photo by Dan Addison. Story condensed from one by Katie McNally from UVA Today.

WGS Student and Faculty Activities and Awards



Student Laura Widener (left) with WGS faculty member Lisa Speidel (right)

The Elizabeth Cady Stanton Award for best undergraduate essay of the year on women, gender & sexuality was awarded to Laura Widener, WGS major and CLAS '16, for her essay, "Women over tradition: The interaction between invented pasts and rape culture at the University of Virginia". Congratulations to Laura!

Geeta Patel, a faculty member in MESALC and WGS, was co-editor of a special issue of the journal GLQ, entitled "Area Impossible: The Geopolitics of Queer Studies". In addition, she served as the founding director of UVA in India, an international study program for UVA students.



Professor Geeta Patel in class

Andre Cavalcante, Assistant Professor of WGS and Media Studies, won the top paper award at the 2016 conference of the International Communication Association (ICA), for his presentation entitled, "Queerly ordinary: Transgender audiences, media culture, and the negotiation of boundaries and binaries". In recognition of his fine teaching at UVA, Cavalcante was also named a Mead Honored Faculty Awardee for 2015-2016.

Doug Meyer, Lecturer in WGS, published a book, *Violence Against Queer People: Race, Class, Gender and the Persistence of Anti-LGBTQ Discrimination* (Rutgers University Press, 2015), which received a Stonewall Honor Book Award for 2016, from the American Library Association.



Professor Farzaneh Milani

Farzaneh Milani, Raymond J. Nelson Professor of MESALC and WGS, won UVA's Elizabeth Zintl Leadership Award for 2015. This award, given annually by UVA's Maxine Platzer Lynn Women's Center, honors the professionalism, creativity, and commitment of a woman leader at the University, and was awarded to Milani in a ceremony at UVA's Harrison Small Auditorium in October 2015.



Student Connor Roessler

Connor Roessler, WGS Minor and CLAS '16, was awarded the UVA Serpentine Society's 2016 Reider Otis Scholarship, to honor his commitment to the LGBTQ community at the University. Congratulations!

Many Thanks to our Generous Donors!!!

[includes gifts received September 2015 – August 2016; please send any corrections to WGS]

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How Can You Support WGS at UVA?

Partner With Us – Together, We'll Make a Difference

There are many ways in which you can partner with us to support WGS:

- Are you an expert in some specific area? Meet with students to discuss it.
- Have you published a book or article? Visit UVA, give a reading, and sign books.
- Could you mentor a student intern? Contact WGS to become an alumni mentor.
- Send us your ideas about how we can work together to benefit UVA students.

If you have the ability to make a donation, please consider:

- Short-term needs such as purchase of magazines, journals, and films for use in classes.
- Funds to support visiting artists and scholars who specialize in gender and/or sexuality.
- Support for joint faculty-student research projects.

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 Program" in the memo line. Send to WGS Program, University of Virginia, P O Box 400172, Charlottesville VA 22904 (attention: Charlotte J. Patterson, WGS Director).

Congratulations to the WGS Class of 2016

Congratulations to all the WGS majors and minors who graduated in the past year. We are proud of the 31 students who graduated with a Major or Minor in WGS. Many students have a second major, so not all were able to attend our ceremony, but 20 students and their families attended the 2016 WGS Diploma Ceremony (see photo below). WGS was honored to have Professor Anne Coughlin, who is the Lewis F. Powell, Jr. Professor of Law at the UVA School of Law, as our graduation speaker. Following the ceremonies, a light lunch was served together with many congratulations. The complete list of the 2016 graduating class of WGS Majors and Minors is shown below.



Students and Faculty at 2016 WGS Diploma Ceremony



Paige St. Clair, CLAS '16

WGS Majors, CLAS '16

Gabrielle Abebe
 Emily Campbell
 Sami Charron
 Gwen Hua
 Hannah Huston
 Mariatu Mansaray
 Chandler Moison
 Shamia Moore
 Madison Mundy
 Suka Nguyen
 Rachel Park
 Amelia Peacock
 Melissa Picon
 Faith Randolph
 Gretchen Roberts
 Alexia Sabogal

Aleks Schmidt
 Paige St. Clair
 Sara Surface
 Mary Margaret Watkins
 Kristina Whitener
 Laura Widener
 Carla Williams
 Sara Wooten

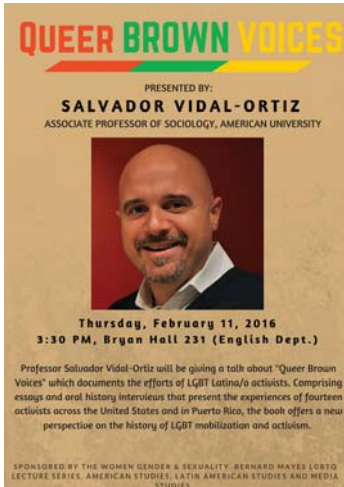
WGS Minors, CLAS '16

Morgan Clough
 Sumedha Deshmukh
 Dora Illei
 Lindsay Mottola
 Connor Roessler
 Danielle Stephens
 Sami Thurber



Mariatu Mansaray, CLAS '16 with WGS Professor Andre Cavalcante

Highlights of Events Sponsored and Co-Sponsored by WGS During 2015-2016



Screening of *The Mask You Live In*, a film by Jennifer Siebel Newsom, about boys and the impact of cultural representation of masculinity.

"In the Shadow of Sexuality – Social Histories and Social Support of LGBT African American Elders", a lecture by Mignon Moore, Barnard College (Columbia University).

Career Paths in Women Gender & Sexuality – a workshop with the UVA Career Center, together with an opportunity to sign up with the Virginia Alumni Mentoring program (UVA WGS alumnae who volunteer to serve as mentors for current UVA WGS students)

Crimes Against Nature, original solo theater performance written and performed by Christopher Kilmartin, University of Mary Washington, focusing on contradictions of growing up male today.

WGS Student Social, a gathering of WGS students at UVA, to enjoy coffee, refreshments, and conversation with faculty and staff.

It Gets Bitter, a hybrid mixture of art and activism, poetry and polemic, giggles and gasps, by Dark Matter, a South Asian queer performance duo.

"Feminism, Free Speech, and the Internet", a lecture and discussion by writer/critic/activist, Soraya Chemaly.

"Male or Female? A Liberal Argument Against Sex-Marked Identity Documents", lecture by Heath Fogg Davis, Temple University.

Abraham.In.Motion, Dance presentation by Kyle Abraham, McArthur Prize-winning dancer and activist.

"Queer Brown Voices", a reading and discussion of new book on queer Latino/a activism by Salvador Vidal-Ortiz, American University.

"Enough: The Good-Enough Woman", lecture and discussion about women's roles in the United States today, by Amy Richards, Soapbox Inc.



Students at the 'Career Paths in WGS' Event



Professor Heath Fogg Davis (right) and Professor Andre Cavalcante (left)



Amy Richards



Kyle Abraham/Abraham.In.Motion performance



Feminist Writer Soraya Chemaly with students

