



WOMEN'S, GENDER & SEXUALITY STUDIES PROGRAM NEWS



Left. Students during WGSS winter study in Uganda. Right. Class screening of *M. Butterfly* for Queer of Critique seminar.

Dear WGSS friends--

It has been a busy and full spring semester here in Williamstown. Thirteen senior majors are on track to graduate in June, and ten junior majors are in the process of pre-registering for their final fall semester. Professor Kieran Honderich took students on yet another wonderful Winter Study class to Uganda (see page 2). Award-winning playwright Tarell Alvin McCraney wowed students and faculty alike on April 22nd, and there is a great deal of excitement brewing for the "Worlds of Wonder: The Queerness of Childhood" conference to be held May 3-5, with keynote speaker Judith Jack Halberstam. And our WGSS podcast is set to debut soon.

We were delighted by the alumni response from our first issue of the newsletter. We really enjoyed reading about the truly amazing things our alums are doing, and are happy to be able to provide this information to our students, particularly when they are trying to answer the common parental question "What exactly do you think you can do with a major in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies?"

We first became a program at Williams in 1983. The program has evolved a great deal since then - from Women's Studies to Women's and Gender Studies to Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies; and from a concentration to a major. We have graduated 286 students to date, and based

on the response to our first newsletter, it seems like our alums are enthusiastic about the program and eager to reconnect. We have decided to celebrate our 30th Anniversary with a WGSS Alumni Celebration/Reunion, to be held here in Williamstown on October 25-26th, 2013. Please mark your calendars - more details will arrive soon.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer.

Best wishes,
Lucie Schmidt



SAVE THE DATE
WGSS 30th Anniversary Alumni
Celebration
October 25-26, 2013



Inside this issue...

- Our WGSS Alumni – Where are they now?
- WGSS launches a new podcast featuring interviews, book reviews and more!
- A look at students' work bringing computer training to HIV+ youth in Uganda



WGSS Winter Travel Course Brings Williams Students and Computer Training to HIV+ Youth in Uganda

Professors Kieran Honderich and Jonathan Morgan-Leamon led a group of Williams students along with Toni Kraeva ('09) and a Williamstown High School student in giving computer trainings to a group of HIV+ youth activists in the capital, Kampala, then traveled with them out to Kamwenge, a small town in the west of Uganda, to support them in training the local youth for a week. The trip was a great success. "We saw large numbers of youth coming for the trains, with everyone wanting email accounts and Facebook pages," said Professor Honderich. "Since their training the Kamwenge youth, with the support of the Williams group and the Kampala activists, have created an internet/computer training/HIV/AIDS resource center." The group worked hard, but had little downtime to enjoy Kampala and Kamwenge nightlife. They did, however, finish off with a few days of travel with their Kampala colleagues, visiting wildlife parks, crater lakes, hot springs, and seeing some of Uganda's stunning countryside.

Kushatha Fanikiso (Computer Science/Mathematics '13) found his experience on the trip valuable. "Uganda is easily the most beautiful country in the world. What I appreciated most about our project was that we were working side by side with grassroots activists to combat the HIV pandemic in Uganda as opposed to working with in place NGOs with the fancy white SUVs and the corruption... I really think what we established there will be self-sustaining and help to combat the stigma and discrimination surround the disease in Uganda."

Professor Honderich agreed and hopes to see similar work continue. "We hope that some of the group will return to continue working with the Kampala and Kamwenge youth, and we have started fundraising for the internet café – (see

<http://kacoypa.wordpress.com>). [Jonathan, justin, and I] plan to bring another winter study program to Uganda next year to work with other activists, possibly including a group of transgender activists in Northern Uganda and/or a group of young mothers."

WORLDS OF WONDER: THE QUEERNESS OF CHILDHOOD

May 3 - 5. Williams hosts **WORLDS OF WONDER: THE QUEERNESS OF CHILDHOOD**, a conference featuring keynote speaker, **Judith Jack Halberstam** and a host of international scholars. The event is organized by Professor Anna Fishzon.



FIVE QUESTIONS WITH PROFESSOR MITCHELL

1.) As a new faculty member, how are you liking Williamstown? What's your favorite thing so far?

After 10 years in Chicago, Williamstown is a pretty big shift for me! But I also grow up in a small, rural community, and Williamstown offers all of the benefits of living in a closely knit community while also being a progressive, accepting and educated community... so for me it's all of the benefits with none of the drawbacks. After a lifetime in the cornfields of the Midwest, I am loving going running in the hills and forests. I recently went hiking a few days up in the Adirondack High Peaks and can't wait to go back again. Being able to see stars again here has been a nice perk, too!

2.) You're teaching a new seminar on *Queer of Color Criticism*. How did you develop that?

The Dively Committee invited me last year to their anniversary celebration and the students indicated that this was a real need at Williams. It wasn't a course I had initially planned to teach, but it was an area of emphasis in my research and studies at Northwestern so I decided to develop it. I'm especially excited because have a truly diverse array of guests appearing every week or two

via Skype not so much to guest lecture, but to actively participate in discussions about their work in the field, which we will be reading in class. In this way, the authors can speak for themselves and students can directly engage them rather than rely on my authority and interpretation as professor. I've been calling in an awful lot of favors for this, but I think it will be worth it in the end!

3.) You're teaching a class next semester on *Performing Global Masculinities*. What kinds of things will you be covering?

Oh, all sorts! It's an introductory look at what masculinity means in different cultures around the globe, both ethnographically and in popular cultural contexts: boy bands in the US and Asia; hip hop masculinities; changing ideals in pornography; 18th c. fads for eunuch opera singers; performances by drag kings and butch-identified women, and the weird blend of chastity and homoeroticism that constitutes masculinity in the contemporary vampire craze, just for starters. And we'll talk about how masculinity is enmeshed with consumerism and selling everything from beer to cigarettes. So it's a world survey in the political economy of masculinity... but made reasonably accessible.



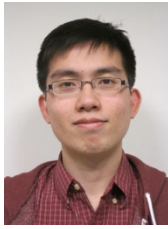
4.) Hmm... vampire masculinity, eh? Does this mean you'll be screening the *Twilight* series?

Let's not get carried away.

5.) What else do you hope to teach in the future?

I'd like to do a research seminar on "Sex in the Berkshires" and I plan to try this out over winter study. The Berkshires is a historically rich area, yet I wonder how many feminist and queer lives are hidden in local archives. As a recent transplant, this is new to me, but I hope to gather students in January and go exploring the sex lives of our famous residents. I mean, someone as delightfully subversive as Edith Wharton must have left some good stories in her wake, to say nothing of Cole Porter, whose gay bacchanals were infamous in Paris so what he had going on in the Berks is yet to be discovered. And who can pass up Melville's "bromance" with Hawthorne? If the winter goes well, I'd like to use it as a methods class.

CONGRATULATIONS TO WGSS SENIOR CHENG CHAI CHIANG ('13)



RECIPIENT OF THE HERSCHEL SMITH FELLOWSHIP

Cheng Chai, you're one of five students to receive this award to undertake graduate study at Cambridge. What will you do there?

At Cambridge, I intend to pursue two MPhil degrees: one in Criticism and Culture, and another in Screen Media and Culture. The former will allow me to continue developing my interest in literary and cultural theory, while the latter will afford a comprehensive introduction to the theories and methodologies that shape film studies today. For my MPhil dissertation, I hope to build on the work of my senior thesis, which draws upon and engages burgeoning theorizations of 'queer temporalities' by way of comic theory to argue for a queer ethos immanent in the plays of the contemporary British playwright Tom Stoppard, which are characterized by jokes that enact themselves across temporal differentials. More specifically, my thesis seeks to intervene in theoretical debates over the possibilities of queer community (especially when it is conceived in terms of cross-temporal affiliations) by elaborating jokes as formal paradigms, if not corollaries, of queer desires for cross-temporal identifications, through which fantasies of historical belonging, felt to be impossible in one's historical moment, are articulated. I have to admit that there is something laughably anomalous about proposing and pursuing a research project at the intersection of comic and queer theory at Cambridge, since both fields of inquiry have yet to really gain a foothold in its English department. That said, having studied in the UK last year and experienced the exhilarating array of academic resources and opportunities it had to offer, I am confident that my time at Cambridge will be prove intellectually generative - when I am not indulging my passion for the London theatre scene!

PROF. GUTSCHOW OFFERS NEW TUTORIAL WGSS / REL / ANTH / ASST 246 (D)



India's Identities: Religion, Gender & Sexuality

This course considers India's contradictory legacy as a booming Asian democracy and fragile society built upon deep and enduring divisions. India's booming populace and landscape is often described in terms of multiple identities or fragmenting oppositions: Hindu/Muslim, male/female, rich/poor, high caste/outcaste, and so forth. This course deconstructs the historic roots and ongoing causal factors that produce structural violence against women and religious minorities in modern India. It highlights the social practices that have produced critical axes of difference around the themes of religion, gender, and sexuality using key moments or regions of India as points of departure. It contrasts the explosive effects of religion, gender, and caste during the tragedy of Partition with the ongoing production of communal and gender-based violence in India today, using Kashmir and New Delhi as microcosms for our study. It illuminates the ways that multiple subjectivities and polarized identities intersect with individual agency to produce a social landscape of hierarchy and conflict across India today. It is as interested in the socio-cultural forces that reproduce or shore up these binaries as it is in the third terms or middle paths that attempt to transcend or diffuse them. For instance, we will explore the ways that Buddhism is and is not a middle way between Hindu/Muslim conflict in Indian Kashmir and how the notion of a third sex is and is not a middle term that transcends the gender binary of male/female. Course resources include ethnographic and sociological analyses, oral histories, and popular media that complicate our understanding India's diverse and fragmented society.

CHANGES TO WGSS 101

I'm a Feminist,

now what?



WGSS is excited to announce that the instructors of WGSS 101 have been working on some changes to our core course, Introduction to Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies. Beginning this Fall, we will begin to use a partial team-teaching format. We will keep our writing intensive focus and small seminar size, but we will also combine sections throughout the semester for some exciting, interactive lectures co-taught by our faculty members. In this way, students will get to see scholars from different fields collaborate and learn how WGSS research plays out in different disciplines, methodologies, and areas of inquiry. We've also added new content to include more transnational perspectives, cutting edge research in sexuality studies, and contemporary debates in society.

WGSS PODCAST, *THE CRITICAL LEDE*, DEBUTS IN MAY!

This May WGSS debuts its own podcast (available for free in iTunes) featuring interviews with authors, roundtable forums, and reviews of articles. It's the work of Professor Mitchell and three WGSS student hosts, Izzy Griffin-Smith ('13), Madeline Vuong ('14) and Isy Abraham-Raveson ('15) with producer Iman Lipumba (Religion, '14). Early guests in the lineup include some notable figures in the field, including: Lauren Berlant (U Chicago, *Love/Desire*), Jennifer Tyburchy (U South Carolina, *Sex Museums*), E. Patrick Johnson (Northwestern, *Sweet Tea: Black Gay Men of the South*) and Hanna Rosin (*The Atlantic*; *Slate*, author of *The End of Men*.)

Professor Mitchell explains that they had already begun work on a pilot season of the podcast this semester when they learned that *The Critical Lede*, a qualitative research podcast with a strength in queer theory, was closing down. "The original hosts were looking for someone to take over and the timing is perfect," he said. "We're moving into an even more explicit focus on gender and sexuality issues and we will feature student hosts, which will be a shift for some of the audience used to hosts being just faculty. There are perhaps 700 to 1,000 professors and graduate students from week to week who rely on the work the creators, Ben Myers and Desiree Rowe at University of South Carolina, did in order to keep up to date on the field. They also have a core segment of their audience interested in education and pedagogy as well as research, so I think it's great to have students involved and to host it at a liberal arts college." Co-host Madeline Vuong added that the learning experience was valuable. "Interviewing theorists is more fun than just reading their books because you can directly ask them all the questions you have in your head that would otherwise go unanswered." Professor Mitchell noted that by continuing *The Critical Lede* at Williams, the College has a great opportunity. "Faculty across disciplines use this podcast as a teaching supplement so hosting this puts WGSS at the center of a lot of dialogues in gender and sexuality research, and it allows our students to visibly contribute directly to those discourses and to shape the field that they are studying here at Williams."



OUR ALUMNI

Where Are They Now?

Prospective WGSS students and their families sometimes ask, "What do you do with a WGSS major?" At Williams, our alumni work in a variety of areas and continue doing some amazing things. Whether attending medical school at Harvard, making real progress in politics, founding NGOs, writing books, or helping to effect social change through activism, our alumni continue paving the way for current students and leading by example.



Dawn Biehler ('97) I am Assistant Professor of Geography and Environmental Studies at University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and Affiliate Faculty in the Program in Gender and Women's Studies. My book about the history of domestic pest control as a public health and environmental justice issue will be published in Fall of 2013. I live in Washington, DC, with my spouse, Nathaniel Day '97, and our daughter, Alice.



Anna (Annie) Coe ('11) I completed the six-week Publishing Course at Columbia's Journalism School. For the past year and a half, I have been working in the development department at the Brennan Center for Justice, a law and policy institute that focuses on reforming systems of democracy and justice in the United States. It's an exciting and interesting place to be, and I enjoy development work. I've been living in Brooklyn (my hometown) since graduation, and just adopted a cat.

Lisa Cohan ('02) began her career focused on gender, development, and humanitarian aid in the field (East Africa) and is now a consultant at Mission Measurement - www.missionmeasurement.com - helping NGOs and Foundations create social change (with a continued focus on gender initiatives.)



Rachel Davis ('06) After graduating, I spent six years teaching 6th grade science in inner-city Louisville, Kentucky. During my first two years of teaching, I was part of a program called Teach Kentucky, which I learned about through the OCC, so I was learning to teach and getting my Master's while I was teaching. While there, I started up a "buddy program" with my high school back in Maine, and we had a pen pal program and a week-long summer camp that included some of my kids and some of the "Berwick Buddies" from my high school. On two occasions, that meant I was able to take some of my students on a trip from Kentucky to Maine/New Hampshire/Massachusetts. Most of my kids had never been on a plane, never seen the ocean, some had never left the state, and one had never even left the

city of Louisville. It was pretty amazing to be able to get them all these new opportunities. It was a very challenging but very rewarding six years. However, during my 6th year of teaching, I went to an international school job fair at the University of Northern Iowa, and now I am teaching 7th and 8th grade science at the American School Foundation of Monterrey in Monterrey, Mexico. It is amazing. I've been on my toes learning the new curriculum, but I've really enjoyed it. The kids are great, my colleagues are great, Mexico is great - I am so lucky. There is a group of teachers that go rock climbing in the canyon behind our school every Friday, so I've been learning to rock climb, and over Thanksgiving break, I was able to travel to the "Mayan Rivera" with some other teachers and see Chicken Itza, Tulum, and Playa del Carmen. The life of an international school teacher is very different from that of an inner city school teacher in the states, and I am enjoying this new adventure.

Amy Dworsky ('90) I am a Senior Researcher at Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. I worked with pregnant and parenting teens for several years before getting my PhD in Social Welfare at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2002. I have been at Chapin Hall since then. My research focuses on youth aging out of foster care, homeless youth, pregnant and parenting teens in foster care and pregnancy prevention.



Colleen Farrell ('10) After graduating, Colleen Farrell worked as a research assistant at The Hastings Center, a nonprofit, nonpartisan bioethics research institute, for two years. There she was involved with projects on multiple births following assisted reproduction, healthcare for undocumented immigrants under the Affordable Care Act, and others. Colleen is now a first-year medical student at Harvard. She will soon be editing a theme issue of *Virtual Mentor*, a bioethics journal published by the American Medical Association, which will address intersections between motherhood and medicine. She frequently contributes essays on feminism, HIV/AIDS, and medical education to *Bioethics Forum*, the blog of *The Hastings Report* (<http://bit.ly/UDM9dP>). While she loves medical school, she also really misses WGSS seminars and is trying to recreate the experience by reading Foucault, Marx and other theorists with her medical school classmates.

Josh Goldberg ('09) found himself on a flight to Portland, Oregon after graduating with a double major in Political Science and Women's and Gender Studies. He currently works as a Policy Analyst for Oregon Secretary of State Kate Brown, who also serves as Lt. Governor and the highest-ranking LGBTQ elected state official in the US. He is perhaps most passionate about working to make voting as accessible as possible. In September, he managed the fourth largest single-day voter registration drive in the country as part of Secretary Brown's work with Rock the Vote to get youth engaged in the political process and create lifelong voters. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the Bus Project, a Portland-base non-profit which promotes civic engagement, youth leadership development, and public policy that serves the public's interest.



Alexa Holleran ('05) I was married this past fall in a lovely outdoor ceremony performed by the wonderful Rick Spalding. I'm now living in Norwich, VT -- back in the stomping grounds of my upbringing -- where I'm working as a potter and a farmer. This coming fall, I hope to return to midwifery school locally, having left a program in Philly when I met my would-be wife, who was already settled in this area with a Dartmouth research appointment.

Mireya Hurtado ('97) Since graduating from Williams, I returned to my native Chicago and began what has become a twelve year career in government. I have been fortunate to find forums in which to pursue my passions- public service, advocacy and policy and constantly call upon my experiences and the academic preparation I received at Williams. I first served in Congressman Luis V. Gutierrez' district office as a Congressional Aide and was promoted to District Director. I handled the Congressman's schedule, coordinated constituent services with a focus on immigration issues, managed staff, and served as a liaison to the community as well



as local government and elected officials. In 2005, I became the Director of Latino Affairs for the Illinois Department of Human Services, focusing on language access, workforce and program development for Latino and immigrant communities. In 2007, I became the highest ranked Latina in state government as the Governor's Deputy Chief of Staff for Labor and Regulatory Agencies. In addition to working with state agency leaders, community partners and elected officials on labor, commerce and regulatory issues, I was also involved with the Governor's Office of New Americans Advocacy and Policy. This office has a mandate to support and foster immigrant integration and its unprecedented work has garnered national recognition and continues to serve as a model for public-private collaboration. Currently, I am an Administrative Law Judge with the Illinois Department of Public Health and work primarily with long term care facilities.

(Hurtado cont'd) I also work on grants policy, strategic planning, and inter-agency program evaluations and initiatives for the Department. I am a third year law student at Chicago-Kent College of Law and hope to have my J.D. and Public Interest Certificate in 2014. Finally, my partner Monica Henao and I recently celebrated our 15th anniversary! We eagerly await the passage of marriage equality in Illinois, and were one of thirty couples to enter into a civil union in a Millennium Park celebration with our Governor and City of Chicago Mayor in June 2011, when the civil union law took effect.



Sarah Taub ('88), Ph.D., is a social change activist whose passion is creating events where people transform their own lives and the society they live in. She teaches the skills that help create peaceful, sustainable community – self-awareness, honesty, clear boundaries – and facilitates group processes that allow businesses, non-profits, community-based organizations, and private groups to function effectively and harmoniously. Her practice includes on-site presentations and facilitation, ongoing classes, and multi-day retreats. These combine a wide array of human technologies, including ZEGG Forum (www.zegg-forum.org/), Nonviolent Communication, consensus decision-making, sociometry, Appreciative Inquiry, and other conflict resolution techniques.

Sarah co-founded the first cohousing community in Washington, DC in 1998, and in 2002 co-founded Chrysalis, a small urban intentional community in Arlington, VA whose mission is to support activists and healers (www.chrysalis-va.org). Since 2004, she has been a major organizer of Network for a New Culture's East Coast Summer Camp (www.nfnc.org, www.cfnc.us) and other events aimed at creating a culture based on awareness, compassion, and freedom rather than on

fear and judgment. In 2006, she left her tenured professorship in Cognitive Linguistics at Gallaudet University to focus full-time on personal growth events, community-building, and cultural change. Since 2011, she has been the Program Director for Abrams Creek Center (www.abramscreekcenter.com), a retreat center and community in the mountains of West Virginia. Sarah's current koan: only when you let go of urgency can you be truly effective.

Tracey Vitchers ('10) is currently working and living in New York City. After graduation from Williams, Tracey moved to The Netherlands to complete her MA in Comparative Women's Studies in Culture and Politics at the University of Utrecht and to work for the Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights in Amsterdam. In 2011, Tracey co-founded The 9/12 Generation Project, which is a national youth service-learning organization that educates middle and high school age youth about natural and man-made disasters and, in turn, activates students in hands-on service-learning projects that help disaster-affected communities to recover. Tracey currently serves as National Project Director for The 9/12 Generation Project and works as an independent consultant for numerous nonprofit organizations nationwide. Most recently, Tracey joined the board of SAFER (Students Active For Ending Rape), which is a national rape and sexual assault prevention organization that provides resources and activist training opportunities for college students looking to positively change their university's rape and sexual assault prevention policies and procedures. Tracey has also been volunteering numerous hours to the Sandy recovery projects throughout the 5 boroughs since November. (The photo was taken when I was helping to clean out homes in Staten Island affected by Super Storm Sandy.)



Ashley Weeks Cart ('05) received her Masters in Curatorial Practices in the Public Sphere from the University of Southern California in 2010. She's worked at Goucher College as a Community Life Coordinator, for the city of Ventura as a Public Arts coordinator, and for USC as a teaching assistant in the Cultural Studies department. In 2010, she moved back to the Purple Valley with her Williams spouse and fellow classmate and has since worked for the Williams College Office of Alumni Relations as the Director of Classes, Reunions and Undergraduate Engagement. Outside of her 9-5 routine, Ashley is mother to two young daughters and lives on a small farm in Southern Vermont. She has been blogging about her experiences parenting since her eldest daughter's birth in 2009 over at Blog a la Cart: <http://blogalacart.com>. The blog was an outlet during her struggles with post-partum depression and very much born out of learning that was done her senior year at Williams in the WGST Senior Seminar: The Politics of the Family taught by Professor Katie Kent.

(Cart cont'd) Her blog is her primary creative outlet, providing a space for her to make public so many experiences that are universal to humanity (childbirth, breastfeeding, sex, parenting) and yet still remain so privatized in our society. She recently launched a project called The Beauty of Being Born (<http://thebeautyofbeingborn.com>) with a local mother and doula as a space for people to gather and share birth stories, to again help make public an otherwise "privatized" experience. She would like to thank Katie Kent for prompting her to explore the stories of childbirth during that Senior Seminar course, as that was her first experience diving into the nature of birth in America, and has since become a crucial point of interest and engagement in Ashley's life. Her Master's thesis was titled: (M)other Work: Feminist, Maternal, Performance Art, again, born out of her experiences as a mother/artist/cultural producer and the various barriers and boundaries she confronted in that work.

Kathryn V. White ('88) I am in the midst of writing and then self-publishing a book that I hope will be used globally. This book is a compilation of writings I did when I attended an intense women's workshop in the late 1990s. Taking the workshop was part of my journey to heal my own wounds from abuse as well as from the vast array of disempowering societal messages regarding female perfection. I believe that the many layers of this negative messaging has shaped the female psyche in such a way that it becomes very difficult to love one's body and have high self-esteem. This leads to all sorts of societal ills including abuse, anorexia, bullying, and depression. (Please note I know that men and boys have been touched by these issues as well.) My vision is that by releasing this book for wider readership it can help women and girls look more closely at how they are treating themselves and others (often in very brutal ways) and thus make empowering changes in their thinking and behavior. In this way, person by person, we can move from creating so much suffering to creating much more joy. This deeper healing is really needed on a global level if we are going to move successfully through the crises that now exist worldwide.



Victoria (Williams) Stanton ('09) I spent my first three years after graduation working (for money!) as a community educator at Safe Voices, a domestic violence resource center in Lewiston, Maine. At Safe Voices, I was able to put both my WGSS and English majors to full use while learning how to create sustainable community-based responses to domestic violence. Now I am back in the NESCAC world as an Advancement Writer in the Bates College communications office. I continue to volunteer with Safe Voices as a member of its board of directors and am looking forward to helping strengthen the agency - and by extension our community in the years to come.

Johannes Wilson ('11) is currently working at Massachusetts General Hospital on research studies examining the psychosocial aspects of HIV treatment and prevention. When not in his office, he is actively involved in queer activist groups such as Black and Pink and ACT UP, working on abolishing the prison industrial complex and ending the AIDS crisis in the context of gender, sexual, racial, and economic liberation. He has also been building community and volunteering with LGBTQ community organizations geared toward people of color. In the near future, he hopes to enroll in an MSW program or a Clinical/Community Psychology PhD program to continue community-based clinical work and political organizing with queer people of color.



**Have an Alumni, Faculty or Student Update for Our Next Issue?
We Want to Hear from You!**

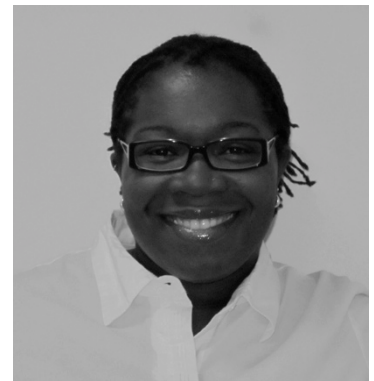
**Send Your Blurb to
Professor Mitchell at gcm1@williams.edu**

FACULTY UPDATES



contemporary Latina popular music stars offered by young women in Queens, New York.

Rhon Manigault-Bryant recently published an article for *Fat Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Body Weight and Society* (Volume 2, Issue 1, January 2013). In "Fat Spirit: Obesity, Religion and Sapphommabel in Contemporary Black Film," she introduces "sapphommabel," the composite character of sapphire, mammy, and jezebel featured in popular films from 2000-2009, where black male comedians don intricately designed fat suits to portray 'overweight' black women. In addition to serving on the advisory committee, she is currently teaching the capstone seminar Dangerous Bodies: Black Womanhood, Sexuality, and Popular Culture, which is being offered as a part of the Gaudino Danger Initiative.



Professor **Gregory Mitchell** received an advance book contract from the University of Chicago Press for his forthcoming ethnography, *Tourist Attractions: Performing Race and Masculinity in Brazil's Sex Industry*. In April, he presented his new research on the rhetoric of sex trafficking and the Brazilian World Cup and Olympic Games for the CUNY Homonationalism and Pinkwashing Conference.

Professor **Mecca Sullivan** was recently awarded a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship to spend time at the Hambidge Creative Arts Center this summer, working on her fiction and scholarship. She was also thrilled to be invited to present a lecture at Barnard College's two-day conference, "The Wor[l]ds of Ntozake Shange." Her lecture, "walkin on the edges of the galaxy: Shange's Queer Choreopoetic Legacies in the African Diaspora," examined traces of Shange's "choreopoem" form in the writings and visual art of new LGBTQ Afrodiasporic artists. A version of the essay will be published in *The Scholar and Feminist* later this semester. She was also named to the admissions board of the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, a historic gathering of writers that takes place every summer in Middlebury, VT. Professor Sullivan is also having a fantastic time teaching "Writing Love in the African Diaspora"! She and her students are looking forward to welcoming acclaimed playwright Tarell Alvin McCraney!



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W G S S F A L L 2 0 1 3 C O U R S E S

101: Intro to Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies	Honderich/Mitchell	TR 11:20-12:35
202: Intro to Sexuality Studies	Cowden	MR 2:35-3:50
230: Global HIV/AIDS	Honderich	TF 1:10-2:25
237: Gender and Desire 1200-1600	Knopp	MR 1:10-2:25
240: Performing Masculinity in Global Popular Culture	Mitchell	W 1:10-3:50
246: India's Identities: Religion, Gender & Sexuality	Gutschow	TBD
311: Theorizing Shakespeare	Pye	W 1:10-3:50
319: Gender and Family Chinese History	Reinhardt	TR 11:120-12:35
322: Critical Theory	Sawicki	TBD
339: Stereotypes, Prejudice & Discrimination	Fein	WR 1:10-3:50
343: Racial-Sexual Violence	James	TBD
353: Gender & Psychopathology	Sockol	MR 2:35-3:50 /W 1:10-3:50
383: Whiteness & Race in US History	Brown	TR 11:20-12:35
426: Pictures That Rocked the Nation	Ockman	T 1:10-3:50
449: Poses and Gestures in the 17 th c.	Filipczak	R 1:10-3:50

SAVE the DATE!

An Invitation To All Alumni of the Program or Those Shaped By It
OCTOBER 25th and 26th

WGSS will celebrate our 30th anniversary as a formal program. Join us in Williamstown - reconnecting with friends as well as meeting other alumni, faculty, and the current students who are inspired by your work.