### Department Mission Statement

The Department of Gender and Race Studies is committed to examining and producing knowledge that promotes social justice approaches to gender and race inequities by recognizing the intersections of categories of difference and the operations of social hierarchies, and by providing a forum for interdisciplinary research, teaching, and service that facilitates the critical investigation of the status and roles of women, African Americans and other people of color locally, nationally and globally.

### From the Chair... (cont. pg. 6)

Welcome to the 2009-2010 edition of the Department of Gender and Race Studies (GRS) newsletter. In our inaugural year, GRS is experiencing an exciting period of growth and development.

In November 2009, The University of Alabama Board of Trustees approved our proposal to rename the Department of Women’s Studies to Gender and Race Studies. Our department has been restructured to blend African American Studies (AAST) and Women’s Studies (WS) into one unit. Rather than merging these areas, GRS blends two entities together that have their own separate identities. One rationale for this act is based on the premise that there is strength in numbers: that is, a union of this sort can offer strength and security to small departments and programs that are marginalized and underfunded by their institutions. Because faculty members often have similar intellectual concerns, as one unit we combine resources to support faculty and students. Additionally, the combined unit creates a visible critical mass of faculty and students interested in social justice and issues that challenge the hegemony of race, gender, class, and sexuality domination. The University of Alabama is one of the few institutions around the nation that has joined African American Studies and Women’s Studies departments and programs in this manner. Thus we are at the forefront of what many faculty and administrators have come to recognize as an institutional act with the potential to profoundly impact the theoretical and applied approaches in these disciplines.

Along with a new name, the department has a new mission statement that more accurately reflects the breadth of our scholarly interests and consciousness. While the missions of the programs have not changed, this mission statement encompasses the scholarship, teaching, service projects and initiatives of faculty and students in both programs. The department now offers an undergraduate major and minor in African American Studies, and an undergraduate minor and master’s degree in Women’s Studies.

This is also the first year of our shared B. A. degree program in African American Studies with The University of Alabama. In March 2008 the Alabama Commission on Higher Education met to discuss our shared degree proposal, a meeting at which the proposal was approved. The shared degree allows students at The University of Alabama and The University of Alabama at Birmingham to complete the bachelor's degree in African American Studies. These students can take courses at either institution to fulfill the degree requirements. To date the African American Studies program at UA has had 16 declared majors and 40 declared minors. Our first AAST major to graduate, Heather Shambray, double majored in Food and Nutrition and African American Studies. She studied with Dr. Pamela Payne-Foster for her senior capstone course and completed the requirements to graduate in December 2009. Although these numbers are small, we anticipate their growth with each successive year.

(Continued on page 6)
Conferences

Southeastern Women’s Studies Association Annual conference: Women and Environments: The Ecology of Feminism and the Feminism of Ecology
Boone, NC, April 2009
Presenters and attendees:
Scarlett Cunningham, Melanie DeMaeyer, Jami Harris, Jennifer Purvis, Lena Tudor, Rachel Watts

Luce irigaray Symposium
Atlanta, GA, February 2009
Presenters and attendee:
Jennifer Purvis

philosophia: A Feminist Society, 3rd Annual Conference
John Jay College/Fordham University, NY, May 2009
Presenter and attendee:
Jennifer Purvis

Luce Irigaray Circle
New York, NY, September 2009
Attendee/Moderator
Jennifer Purvis

Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence Governor’s Conference
Montgomery, AL, October 2009
Attendee:
Maria-Victoria Perez

SPEP: Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy
Arlington, VA, October 2009
Attendee/Moderator
Jennifer Purvis

30th Annual National Women’s Studies Association Conference 2009: Difficult Dialogues
Atlanta, GA, November 2009
Keynote Speaker: Angela Y. Davis

Presenters and attendees:
Brittney Cooper, Scarlett Cunningham, Melanie DeMaeyer, DoVeanna S. Fulton Minor, Jami Harris, Maha Marouan, Tammy Owens, Jennifer Purvis, Emily Unnasch, Rachel Watts

Diversity Research Initiative Conference: Understanding Differences that Matter
Auburn, AL, March 2010

Presenters and attendees:
Scarlett Cunningham, Lena Tudor

Attendee:
South East Women’s Studies Association
Columbia, SC, March 2010
Conference presenters and attendees:
Brittney Cooper, Maigen Sullivan, Jennifer Purvis

Sarah Lawrence Women’s History Month Conference
Bronxville, NY, March 2010
Presenters and attendees:
Brittney Cooper, Tammy Owens, Maigen Sullivan, Emily Unnasch

National Council of Black Studies
New Orleans, LA, March 2010
Presenter and attendee:
Brittney Cooper

College Language Association
Brooklyn, NY, April 2010

Presenters and attendees:
Brittney Cooper, DoVeanna S. Fulton Minor, Maha Marouan

Feminist Ethics and Renewing Women’s Studies
DePauw University, June 2010

Attendee
Jennifer Purvis

Laura Freixas presented “Souls in Purgatory, or How I Became a Writer Thanks to My Mother, Franco, and Simone de Beauvoir” on October 29, 2009.

Brown Bag Schedule

Fall 2009

September 2: “Cottey College and Other Ways the P.E.O. Promotes Education for Women” by Gayle Howell

October 7: “As Many Hours as it Takes!: Women, Craft, and Labor in the Book Arts” by Amy Brock-Reed and Annie Herlocker

November 4: “Disclosing Child Sexual Abuse: Lifting a Burden from a Teen’s Heart?” by Debra Nelson-Gardell

December 2: “Achieving Masculinity through Sexual Predation: The Case of Hogging” by Ariane Prohaska

Spring 2010

January 13: "Reducing Women's Imprisonment in Alabama" by Catherine Roden-Jones

February 3: "Singing the Sexual/Textual Blues: Black Female Sexuality and Cultural Resistance" by Bebe Barefoot

March 3: "'Ladies is Pimps Too': Examining Black Female Masculinities within Hip Hop culture" by Jami Harris

April 7: "Womb With Legs: What Happens When the Pregnant Woman Falls Out of the Picture" by Melanie DeMaeyer, "Disruptive Creole Bodies in Kate Chopin's & Alice Dunbar-Nelson's Short Stories" by Rachel Watts
Recovering Black Women’s Voices and Lives Symposium

On November 19, 2009, Gender and Race Studies, American Studies, and other university affiliates hosted the Recovering Black Women’s Voices and Lives Symposium. Exploring the politics and process of textual and historical recovery of lives, writings, and experiences of African American women, the Recovering Black Women’s Voices and Lives Symposium focused on research questions around these issues.

Opening remarks were given by Dr. Samory Pruitt and Dr. DoVeeanna Fulton Minor. Dr. P. Gabrielle Forman, professor of English and American Studies at Occidental College, delivered the keynote address, “On Buri- als and Exhumations: Hidden Women, Public Lives.”

Symposium presentations focused on recovered texts gleaned from genealogical research, literary histories, and newspaper archives, and spotlights on specific women and texts, such as African American female preachers and early abolitionists and women’s rights advocates. The presentations explored the politics and process of textual and historical recovery of lives, writings, and experiences of African American women.

In addition to sessions presenting scholarly research, there was an archival research: best practices, best resources workshop where participants met in an internet ready room ready to show and share resources led by Dr. Kimberly Blockett and Jennifer McClure.

As part of our outreach mission, Gender and Race Studies faculty organized and conducted reading groups with residents of Tuscaloosa. Partnering with members of Plum Grove Baptist Church, we distributed copies of Our Nig to residents and held a book discussion group led by Dr. Foreman the evening before the symposium. Many of these participants attended the symposium the following day.

Presenters included Cecile Coquet-Mokoko, Kim Gallon, Alice Kracke, DoVeeanna Fulton Minor, Katharine Rodier, and Patricia Young.

The symposium fostered discussion and exposed university students and surrounding communities to diverse intellectual and creative approaches that address historical and literary research on African American women.

The department has voted to hold this symposium annually. The Second Annual Recovering Black Women’s Voices and Lives Symposium is scheduled for October 7, 2010. This year’s topic is Black Women as Public Intellectuals.

Students Host Inaugural Black Feminist Thought Conference

Dr. Brittney Cooper, as well as graduate and upper-level undergraduate students from Women’s Studies, African American Studies, and the English Department hosted the Inaugural Black Feminist Thought Conference at The University of Alabama, on Wednesday, April 28, 2010. The conference lasted from 10am to 5pm.

Issues of importance at the conference included Black feminist thought across art, music, media, the sphere of motherhood, education, literature, and love relationships.

The panels were as follows: “The ‘Spottieottiedopaliscious Angel’ Breaks Free: Combating Controlling Images of Black Women,” “Black Women at the Center: Art, Music, and Performance,” “They Dykin’, She Hatin’: Everyday Challenges and Contemporary Issues,” “Breaking Down the Schoolhouse Door: Demanding Transformative Educational Spaces,” and “Challenging History and Voicing our Concerns: Re-imagining African American Women’s Literature and Theory.”

Dr. Cooper gave the keynote speech, while Tammy Owens delivered the closing remarks.
On April 20, 2010, in observance of National Poetry and National Jazz months, the Department of Gender and Race Studies presented “Ask Your Mama: 12 Moods for Jazz: The Langston Hughes Project,” a multimedia concert performance of Langston Hughes’ kaleidoscopic jazz poem suite featuring a jazz quartet, spoken-word, and images from the Harlem Renaissance. “Ask Your Mama” is Hughes’ homage in verse and music to the struggle for artistic and social freedom at home and abroad at the beginning of the 1960s. It is a twelve-part epic poem that Hughes scored with musical cues drawn from blues and Dixieland, gospel songs, boogie woogie, bebop and progressive jazz, Latin “cha cha” and Afro-Cuban mambo music, German lieder, Jewish liturgy, West Indian calypso, and African drumming – a creative masterwork left unperformed at his death.

Originally, Langston Hughes created “Ask Your Mama” in the aftermath of his participation as an official for the five-day Newport Jazz Festival of July 1960, where he shared the stage with such luminaries as Louis Armstrong; Dizzy Gillespie; Horace Silver; Dakota Staton; Oscar Peterson; Lambert, Hendricks & Ross; Otis Spann; Ray Charles; and Muddy Waters. The musical scoring of the poem was designed to serve not as mere background for the words but to forge a conversation and a commentary with the music.
Core Faculty, cont. from 4

Race and Displacement, and waiting to hear from Virginia University Press about her manuscript entitled Divine Interventions: African Diaspora Religions and Female Spirituality in Contemporary Women’s Fiction.

DoVeanna S. Fulton Minor is Chair and Associate Professor of the Gender and Race Studies department, which includes African American Studies and Women’s Studies at The University of Alabama. She earned her doctorate in American Studies at the University of Minnesota. Before joining the faculty at The University of Alabama, she was a faculty member at Arizona State University, the University of Memphis, Rochester Institute of Technology, and Jimma University in Jimma, Ethiopia. Her research interests are Black feminist criticism and African American oral traditions. Her research concentrates on Black women’s discursive practices in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Her books, Speaking Power: Black Feminist Oality in Women’s Narratives of Slavery, (2006) and Speaking Lives, Authoring Texts: Three African American Women’s Oral Slave Narratives (2009) examine written and oral traditions in African American women’s life narratives. She has published articles in such distinguished journals as Legacy: A Journal of American Women Writers and the Journal of American Folklore. In addition to lecturing throughout the United States, Dr. Minor has presented her work in many countries: England, Canada, France, Spain, Germany, and Mexico. Her current research project, Radical Prohibition: African Americans Writing Race and the Anti-Drink Movement, 1860-1919, is on African American activism in the Temperance Movement. Throughout the 2009-2010 academic year, Dr. Minor was a Fellow in The University of Alabama Leadership Academy, whose mission is to identify, develop, prepare, and advance University faculty and staff for senior leadership positions at The University and other flagship universities. Of the cohort of Fellows for 2009-2010, Dr. Minor was one of only three selected as a South Eastern Conference Academic Consortium Academic Leadership Development Program Fellow.

Carol Pierman has retired. She served as Director of Graduate Studies for all but two of the MAs graduated in Women’s Studies (and continues to serve as Chair of two thesis committees). Trading the ivory tower for the writer’s garret, Pierman intends to read and write for pleasure.

After 20.5 years at The University of Alabama and 5 years at Southern Illinois University, Dr. Pierman mentored scores of students and faculty.

Jennifer Purvis is an Associate Professor of Feminist Theory and Philosophy in the Department of Gender and Race Studies. Core faculty in Women’s Studies since 2002, she has a Joint Ph.D. in English and Philosophy and a Graduate Minor in Women’s Studies from Purdue University (2002). She specializes in feminist theory and contemporary feminist philosophy; queer theory; intergenerational feminisms; feminist approaches to gender, the body, and sexualities; and French, psychoanalytic feminist theory—with an emphasis on the work of Simone de Beauvoir, Luce Irigaray, and Julia Kristeva. Dr. Purvis is currently working on the topic of queer feminist futurity, an interest that began with her treatment of alternative temporalities and the concept of intergenerationality in her article, “Grrls and Women Together in the Third Wave: Embracing the Challenges of Intergenerational Feminism(s),” published in the National Women’s Studies Association Journal in the fall of 2004. Recently, Dr. Purvis presented “Queer Horizons for Sexual Difference in the work of Luce Irigaray” at the annual conference of philoSOPHIA: A Feminist Society in New York, NY, and she published a review of Kelly Oliver’s Women as Weapons of War: Iraq, Sex, and the Media in The Journal of Speculative Philosophy. Dr. Purvis has contributed a book chapter to the forthcoming anthology, Locating Women’s Studies: Critical Genealogies in the Discipline, edited by Catherine Orr, Ann Braithwaite, and Diane Lichtenstein. Her NWSA conference presentation, “Queer Disorientation and the Future of Women’s Studies,” in Atlanta, GA in November 2009 was based on her critical genealogy of the term, queer, the focus of her chapter in this upcoming collection. Just back from a semester’s sabbatical, Dr. Purvis continues work on her book manuscript, Queer Feminist Futurity.

Day of Silence and Robyn Ochs Lecture and Workshop

On April 13, 2010, many students, faculty and staff in the UA community observed the Day of Silence. Founded in 1996, the Day of Silence was created to draw attention to the discrimination against LGBTQ students and their allies.

This year’s Day of Silence included a lecture by activist Robyn Ochs who presented “Imagining Our Lives” in Gorgas Library. Ochs also led the workshop, “Beyond Binaries: Identity and the Sexuality Spectrum,” where participants explored the relationship between experience and self-identity; between self-identity and the way others see us; different experience of identity and the complexity of attraction.
The Women’s Resource Center maximizes the learning experience of every UA student and the greater UA community through outreach, services and advocacy to empower women and encourage their active and equal participation.

Each month, the WRC offers a lunch time speaker, movie, or activity, on a variety of topics of primary interest to faculty and staff, though students are also welcome to attend.


The Women’s Resource center is located on the 3rd floor of Russell Hall. Its hours are 8-5, Monday-Friday. The phone number is (305) 348-5040.

Our graduate program in Women’s Studies continues to grow healthy and strong. This year’s cohort comprises eight students with research interests ranging from nineteenth century advertising by Black businesswomen to heteronormativity and Hip Hop. In March 2010, Jami Harris became our first student to complete the master’s degree choosing the non-thesis option. There was a consensus among faculty that Jami’s oral defense of her three-paper portfolio was exceptionally argued and presented. She has set the bar high for future students.

GRS completed two successful faculty searches for assistant professors this year. Dr. Derek Bryan is the first tenure-track faculty in African American Studies hired at the University of Alabama. He completed his doctorate in sociology at The Ohio State University. His research interests are gender and Black masculinity, particularly as experienced in families. Dr. Jennifer Shoaff fills our position in transnational feminisms. She has her doctorate in anthropology from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. She conducts research with Haitian women immigrants in the Dominican Republic. We are also delighted to welcome Dr. Maha Marouan as an advanced assistant professor. Dr. Marouan’s tenure home is moving from Religious Studies to GRS. Her research is on African Diaspora religions and women’s spirituality. We are excited to receive these new faculty and look forward to their arrival. Dr. Marouan will also assume the position of Director of African American Studies.

With these developments and changes, Gender and Race Studies is poised for growth and a successful future. Because of our faculty interests, GRS offers a concentration of research and teaching in Africana women’s studies.

We appreciate your support and hope you continue to contribute to one of the most innovative and exciting departments on The University of Alabama campus and in the fields of African American Studies and Women’s Studies.
Women Involved in Leadership and Learning (WILL) Program

The WILL program, an academic and leadership program, started fall 2005. The program was open to all undergraduate women who were freshmen, sophomores, and first semester juniors at The University of Alabama. In fall 2008 the directors of the WILL program were Dr. Ida Johnson (WS) and Holly Morris (WRC). The WILL student organization advisors during the fall 2008 academic year were Ida Johnson (WS); Holly Morris (WRC); and Melanie DeMaeyer (a graduate student in Women’s Studies). Unfortunately, because of the small size of Women’s Studies faculty, Women’s Studies could not commit faculty to administer the program. For this reason the WILL program has become inactive. Hopefully, in the future the department can support the program so that it can once again become active.

Alabama in Ghana Study Abroad

Gender and Race Studies is committed to educating students with global consciousness. Dr. Seth Appiah-Opoku directs the Alabama in Ghana study abroad program in which African American Studies students are strongly encouraged to participate. It has become increasingly clear that intra and inter-territorial studies help prepare students of all nations for entry into a diversified world full of complex challenges and opportunities. A well educated citizen in the contemporary world must have sensitivity to international issues and a working familiarity with international affairs. The course offers students a unique opportunity to not only study in an African culture but also get involved with African communities in a tangible way by integrating service projects with classroom learning. In July 2010 Dr. DoVeanna Fulton Minor will travel with students and co-teach the study abroad.

View and Chat Film Series

The Department of Gender and Race Studies continued to sponsor the View and Chat Film Series, originated by the African American Studies program. In its third year, View and Chat invites members of the UA community to view films (feature, documentary, foreign language) pertinent to African American Studies. Following the film, viewers are encouraged to informally discuss it. Some of the films screened were: Black Girl, Meet Mary Pleasant, City of God; Miracle at St. Anna; and Precious. More than fifty students and faculty attended the screening of Precious on April 15, 2010, where a vigorous discussion of representations of race and gender in film and music followed.

Graduate Theses


Laura Page, (August 2009) “Queering Sex/Queering Gender: Eradicating Female Sexual Dysfunction.”

Kristen Payne, (August 2009) “A Critical Content Analysis of Race, Gender and Sexuality in Clinical Psychology Textbooks.”


Amy Brock-Reed, (May 2010) “As Many Hours as it Takes!: Women, Craft, and Labor in the Book Arts.”

Scarlett Cunningham, (August 2010) “Interventions in Woman as Spectacle: The Political Economy of Desire in Late Capitalist Societies.”

Melanie DeMaeyer, (May 2010) “Living Incubators: Arguing for Pregnant Women’s Autonomy and Bodily Integrity in an Age of Ever-increasing Reproductive Technologies.”

Jami Harris, (May 2010) “Performing Subversive Blackness through Transgression, Articulation, and Expression.” (non-thesis)


Women's Studies Paper Competition


Melanie J. DeMaeyer, (2010 Elizabeth Meese Award in Feminist Research) “Living Incubator, Fetal Container, or a “Womb with Legs”? Considering Fetal Personhood and Maternal Subjectivity in Reproductive Images and Technologies.”

Jami L. Harris, (2010 Stephen Karatheodoris Memorial Award) “Ladies is Pimps Too: Examining Black Female Masculinities within Hip Hop Culture.”
Graduate Students

Jennifer Barnett is from Valley Head, Alabama and is 34 years old. She recently graduated from The University of Alabama with a B.A. in History and Political Science. Currently in the Race and Gender graduate program, working toward a M.A. in Women's Studies, she plans to pursue a career in Social Justice in the future.

Scarlett Cunningham is a second year graduate student in Women’s Studies. She graduated with a B.A. in English Literature at The University of Maine. Her research interests include the sexual empowerment of women and formulating a feminist sexual ethics. She is interested in masquerade theory, with a particular focus on to what degree women functioning as spectacles can be transformative of patriarchy. Her current thesis project is a discussion between materialist feminists and poststructuralist feminists to better understand Third World critiques of western sex radical movements as well as the tension regarding where the economic and the discursive belong in politics of revolt. To this end, her project engages feminist discussions concerning the tensions between sexual freedom and sexual justice. She has been accepted to the Ph.D. program in American Studies at The University of Kansas. Other alternatives for future graduate study include graduate work in English with a focus in literary theory. Scarlett teaches Introduction to Women’s Studies and will be offering a special course called “Sexual Empowerment in the Third Wave” for interim semester 2010.

Melanie DeMaeyer is a second year graduate student in the Women’s Studies program. She hails from Atlanta, Georgia and prior to entering UA for graduate school she worked as an advocate for women and children fleeing domestic violence. While in graduate school her research interests have focused on violence against women, reproductive justice, technological interventions in pregnancy and birth, and the resurgence of a feminist DIY culture. She was honored to receive the Stephen Karatheodoris Memorial Award and have the opportunity to present at the Southeastern Women’s Studies Association Conference. She is currently teaching Introduction to Women’s Studies and is at work on her thesis “Living Incubators: Arguing for Pregnant Women’s Autonomy and Bodily Integrity in an Age of Ever-increasing Reproductive Technologies.” She is still deciding what she will do after graduation, but she will remain committed to the work of feminist activism and Women’s Studies.

Jami Harris is a second year graduate student in the department. She received her Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science, with a minor in Gender and Ethnic Studies from Capital University in Columbus, Ohio. She is currently teaching two sections of Introduction to Women’s Studies as a Graduate Teaching Assistant. During her time here at UA, her research interests have been Black masculinity and femininity, sexuality and silence, as well as the potentiality of queer within the Black community. Some of her accomplishments since beginning in this department include: receiving the Stephen Karatheodoris Memorial Award for her research paper entitled, Re-Scripting the Closet: Black Masculinity and the Down Low Subculture for the 2008-2009 academic year. She also received the Elizabeth Meese Award in Feminist Research for the 2009-2010 academic year for her research paper entitled, “Ladies is Pimps Too: Examining Black Female Masculinities within Hip Hop Culture. She has or will be presenting her research at several conferences and speaking engagements including; the 2009 South Eastern Women’s Studies Association Conference, the 2010 Diversity Research Initiative Conference, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc’s Forum: “What’s the Delio?” The Progression of Women, and the Spring 2010 Brown Bag Lecture Series. Following graduation, Jami plans to relocate back to her hometown of Cleveland, Ohio and pursue a career in social justice community organizing surrounding sexual assault awareness and prevention within inner city communities of color.

Maria-Victoria Perez-Fisher is in her first year as a Women’s Studies graduate student. She has a BA in Theatre (Performance) and has been awarded many awards for her excellence in theatre. She is a first generation student who is extremely excited (not as excited as her father) to belong to the UA Department of Gender and Race Studies. She currently works as the Peer Education Coordinator for the Women’s Resource Center on campus.

Rashonda Smith, 26, is from Kansas City, Missouri. She is a first year graduate student in the Gender and Race Studies department. Her focus is African American women and how they portray their intersectionality through their art work. She is very excited about the program.

Jessica Trull is a first year, first semester graduate student and GTA. She is from Carrollton, Alabama. She graduated from UA in December with a BA in English. She says that she is excited to be a part of the Gender and Race Department and the Women’s Studies community of professors and students.

Lena Tudor is a second year graduate student in Women’s Studies. Originally from West...
Virginia, she attended Marshall University and achieved her B.A. in Sociology. Her research interests include what Ariel Levy calls “raunch feminism,” generational tensions between second and third wave feminists, gamer studies, and so-called “French” feminist theorists. Her thesis project is a participant-observation exploration of live-action role playing games, engaging play theory, identity management paradigms, gamer theory, and feminist theory in order to understand this unique and innovative form of entertainment. In the department, she teaches Introduction to Women’s Studies and works on the Spring 2010 departmental newsletter. She is applying to history and sociology Ph.D. programs, and on achieving a Ph.D. in one of these fields, will spend the rest of her life dividing her time between the “ivory tower” of academe and writing feminist romance novels.

Emily Unnasch is a first-year graduate student in Women’s Studies. She recently graduated with a B.A. in English from Emory University in 2009. In addition to her academic pursuits, Emily also served as the Youth Program Development Intern for Refugee Family Services of Stone Mountain, Georgia. In this position, she had the opportunity to work closely with and learn about the experiences of refugee women and children. Her work at RFS further fueled her desire to ultimately work in civil and human rights law. Emily is honored to have received UA’s Graduate Council Fellowship for the 2009-2010 school year.

Nicole Amare is an Associate Professor of English at the University of South Alabama. Rachel McWhorter is a second year doctoral student in English at the University of Minnesota.

Jenny Butterworth is working on her M.A. in Egyptology at the University of Memphis, Tennessee. She has interned at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo and at the Tomb of Harwa in Luxor.

Jaime Cantrell began her doctoral studies in English at Louisiana State University with a specialization in Women’s and Gender Studies, Southern Studies, and Print Culture. This spring she plans to present original research titled "Telling Storyville: Empire, Sexual Geography, and the Politics of Print in Early 20th century New Orleans" at The Louisiana Conference on Language and Literature and The American Comparative Literature Association Conference.

Ashley Cox is a victim advocate for Jefferson Co., Missouri’s Domestic Violence Enhanced Response Team. She helped to start a volunteer-based Sexual Assault Response Team in Crystal City, MO.

Jennifer Crook Moore is a Certified Professional midwife living in Alabama and working with the Alabama Birth Coalition to change Alabama’s existing midwifery laws.

Shara Crookston graduated with her Ph.D. in Higher Education and is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Women’s And Gender Studies at the University of Toledo, Ohio.

Brandy Harris-Wallace completed her Ph.D. in Sociology at Florida State University in 2006. She is a senior researcher with the Center for Aging Studies at the University of Maryland, Baltimore Co.

Etta F. Morgan received her M.S. in Criminal Justice and Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Studies with concentrations in Women’s Studies and Criminal Justice. She serves as the Interim Coordinator of CJ at Jackson State University in Mississippi.

Nicole K. Nieto is preparing for her Ph.D. exams in Women’s Studies and Folklore at The Ohio State University. She works at the Multicultural Center at OSU.

Kristen Payne is completing an internship at the Milwaukee VA Hospital in Milwaukee, WI, for her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from The University of Alabama. She is considering post-doctoral fellowships at the Houston VA, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in NYC, the Portland VA in Oregon, and the Milwaukee VA.

Carla Pomeroy has been teaching Women’s and Gender Studies, English Composition, and College Reading at Ohio University, Lancaster Branch and Pickerington Center.

Margaret Purcell completed her Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration in 1999. She created the AAUW Women’s Studies Special Projects Fund at The University of Alabama. She is currently employed at UA.

Ana Self Schuber is teaching for the Gender and Race Studies at The University of Alabama. She is the Program Manager for the New College External Degree Program.

Lonette M. Williams is currently serving as an International Foundation for Education and Self-Help (IFESH) Fellow in the Republic of Liberia, West Africa. She also devotes a considerable amount of time as a volunteer at the Foundation for Women Liberia, a local micro-credit institution. At the conclusion of her IFESH Fellowship, Lonette will return to The University of Alabama in fall 2010 to pursue a PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies.

In October 2008, acclaimed cultural critic and public intellectual, Cornel West visited The University of Alabama. Coming at the height of the 2008 presidential election, Dr. West held discussion sessions with students and faculty who posed questions and comments ranging from Barak Obama’s potential to effect social change to the state of race and intellectualism in America. That evening Dr. West spoke to an overflowing audience in the auditorium of Morgan Hall. Attendees came from locations through Alabama and as far away as Atlanta.
Awards, Publications, and Prizes


Editor of Doing Bad All by Ourselves: Contemporary Representations of African American Women in Film.  Special Journal Issue of Black Women, Gender, and Families.  Forthcoming.


Received Research Grants Committee grant for “Race Women: The Tradition of Black Women Public Intellectuals, 1830-Present.”

Nominated for the 2010 Leadership Board Faculty Fellowship.


Received College Academy for Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity grant and Research Grants Committee grant for “Rethinking Moroccan History and Identities through Women’s Narratives.”

Nominated for the 2010 Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award.


Recently served as an officer of the National Women’s Studies Association (Southeastern Region Co-Chair), and was invited to serve on the advisory board of philoSOPHIA: A Feminist Society.
Affiliated Faculty and Instructors

The Department of Gender and Race Studies is committed to interdisciplinary scholarship and teaching. We maintain interdepartmental ties through Affiliated Faculty who have teaching and or research interests in African or African American Studies and/or Women’s Studies and hold continuous appointments as professors, associate professors, assistant professors, and instructors in the College of Arts & Sciences or other Colleges or Schools at The University of Alabama. Affiliated Faculty contribute to the department by cross-listing courses that have a significant focus on African Americans or women and gender.

There are thirty-three Affiliated Faculty in African American Studies areas: Dr. Seth Appiah-Opoku (Geography & Director of the Alabama in Ghana Program); Dr. David T. Belto (History); Dr. Jason Black (Communications Studies); Dr. Rebecca Boyd (Criminal Justice); Dr. Robin Boylorn (Communications Studies); Dr. Karen Starks Canada (Social Work); Dr. Cornelius Carter (Theatre and Dance and Director of the Alabama Repertory Dance Theatre); Dr. Martha Crowther (Psychology); Dr. Priscilla N. Davis (Communicative Disorders); Dr. Andrew Dewar (Music and New College); Dr. Lisa Dorr (History); Dr. William Dressier (Anthropology); Dr. Kari Frederickson (History and Director of the Summersell Center for the Study of the South); Dr. John Gigge (History); Dr. James Hall (New College); Dr. Michael Innis-Jimenez (American Studies); Dr. Ida Johnson (Criminal Justice); Dr. Jennifer Kopelson (History); Dr. Yolanda Manora (English); Dr. Shadi S. Martin (Social Work); Dr. Utz L. McKnight (Political Science); Dr. Stacy Morgan (American Studies); Dr. Kathryn S. Oths (Anthropology); Dr. Rachel Raimist (Telecommunications and Film); Dr. Joshua Rothman (History); Dr. Cassandra E. Simon (Social Work); Dr. Norman Singer (Law and Anthropology); Dr. Jenny Shaw (History); Dr. Ellen Spears (American Studies and New College); Dr. Eric Weisbard (American Studies); and Dr. Jimmy J. Williams (Criminal Justice and Associate Dean for Multicultural Affairs); and Dr. Bobby M. Wilson (Geography).

Currently, there are twenty-five Women’s Studies area Affiliated Faculty: Dr. Natalie Adams (Educational Leadership, Policy, and Technology and Assistant Dean in the Graduate School); Dr. Lynn Adrian (American Studies); Dr. Patricia Bauch (Educational Leadership, Policy, and Technology Studies); Dr. Robin Boylorn (Communications Studies); Dr. Lucy Curzon (Art and Art History); Dr. Lisa Dorr (History); Dr. Jennifer Drouin (English); Dr. Janis Edwards (Communications Studies); Dr. Nirmala Erevelles (Educational Leadership, Policy, and Technology Studies); Dr. Amy Holmes-Tagchungdarpa (History); Dr. Jolene Hubbs (American Studies); Dr. Ida Johnson (Criminal Justice); Dr. Heather Kopelson (History); Dr. Simanti Lahiri (Political Science); Dr. Bronwen Lichtenstein (Criminal Justice); Dr. Yolanda Manora (English); Dr. Elaine Martin (Modern Languages); Dr. Debra Nelson-Gardell (Social Work); Dr. Sharon O’Dair (English); Dr. Kathryn Oths (Anthropology); Dr. Ariane Prohaska (Criminal Justice); Dr. Rachel Raimist (Telecommunications and Film); Dr. Catherine Roach (New College); Dr. Ellen Spears (American Studies and New College); and Dr. Deborah Weiss (English).

Dr. Samantha Briggs contributed to the AAST and WS curricula in teaching Social Inequality (AAST352/WS352) and Introduction to Women’s Studies (WS200). Dr. Briggs’s students attended and participated in the AAST View and Chat screening of the motion picture Precious as part of their discussion of the novel Push and exploration of issues of race, gender and class inequities.

Dr. Cecile Coquet-Mokoko, an Associate Professor visiting from the University of Tours, was a Full-Time Teaching Instructor for GRS. She contributed to the AAST curriculum by teaching large (99 students) sections of Introduction to African American Studies (AAST201), sections of African American Literature (AAST249/EN249), Social Inequality (AAST352/WS352), and a special topics course titled Black Nationalisms in the USA and the World (AAST495/AMS402). Dr. Mokoko has one book accepted for publication, Crafting Identities, Remapping Nationalities: The English Speaking World in the Age of Globalization, co-authored with Trevor Harris and Dr. Utz McKnight. She published one article, “The Construction of a Mystical Body for an Empowered Black Community During the American Civil rights Movement in Rev. C.L. Franklin’s Sermons,” and submitted two articles for publication. She presented four papers at conferences and meetings. On April 11, 2010, Dr. Mokoko was the recipient of the Outstanding Faculty Member Award, presented by The University of Alabama Chapter of the N.A.A.C.P.

Ms. Dorothy Franklin teaches courses in the WS curriculum (WS200, WS205, and WS430). The success of Ms. Franklin’s courses is demonstrated by the fact that a former Women’s Autobiographies (WS 205) student continued writing after taking the class and now has finished a book. It is in the editing stage being readied for publication. She is to come read in Ms. Franklin’s Fall 2010 and talk about the process of publishing.

Ms. Ana Schuber teaches courses in the WS curriculum (WS200, WS310) as well as courses for the External Degree Program (“Iran: Religion Women in Revolution” and “Women, Folk Art & American Culture”). In addition to teaching, Ms. Schuber performs valuable service that contributes to the department’s relationships with other organizations. On behalf the West Alabama Quilters Guild she sponsored the Women’s Resource Center’s Lunafest. She was a guest speaker on at the Roundtable on Violence for UA African American sororities. She presented a sermon, “Medea: The Art of Letting Go,” to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Tuscaloosa (UUCT) as well as presented The Red Tent to the UUCT Book Club.

Dr. Rose Marie Stutts was an instructor in 2009-2010. Dr. Stutts taught Social Inequalities (AAST352/WS352) in Fall 2009 and Spring 2010. She created a dynamic syllabus that featured guest speakers and required students to engage diverse cultures throughout Tuscaloosa.

Ms. Kristen Massimo held the position of Office Associate II for the department until April 2010, at which time Ms. Massimo left the university.

Mrs. Stephanie Grimes began her appointment as Administrative Secretary in May 2010. In addition to her experience in office assistance, Mrs. Grimes has experience as a web designer and administrator. These skills will greatly contribute to the department’s need to develop and update its websites.
The Department of Gender and Race Studies wants to hear from you. Please feel free to contact us with your comments or suggestions. We ask alumni to keep us informed on events and developments in your professional and personal lives. Information and pictures may be published in the next issue of *Engaged*. 

http://web.as.ua.edu/aast/
http://www.as.ua.edu/ws/