From the Director:
Greetings from Women's & Gender Studies!

By: Margaret Jacobs, WGS Director

This fall, we welcome several new people to our program. First, we are delighted to introduce our new Core Faculty member, Dr. Basuli Deb, who is jointly appointed in English and Women's and Gender Studies. Dr. Deb is a specialist in Transnational Feminism and is currently teaching the Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies with that focus. We also welcome ten new Program Faculty members: Kathy Krone, Kristen Lucas, Alexandra Basolo, Waskar Ari, Rhonda Garelick, Patrice McMahon, Donna Woudenber, Isabel Velázquez, Joy Castro, and Shari Stenberg. For the diverse array of backgrounds and interests among our new Program Faculty members, see page 5. We also are fortunate to have two new staff members in the WGS office: our graduate assistant Catherine Medici-Thiemann, an M.A. student in History, and our Work/Study student Lori Weier, an Inclusive Education major.

In other news, the College of Arts and Sciences authorized us to conduct a search for a specialist in LGBTQ Studies to be jointly appointed with Sociology. Thanks to three of our faculty members – Barbara DiBernard, Helen Moore, and John Raible – for serving on the search committee for this important new addition to our program.

Finally, we want to let you know about the progress we've made with our Kelly Grant to internationalize the curriculum. We will be offering a team-taught Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies with a focus on Transnational Feminism in spring 2010. Faculty members Chantal Kalisa and Julia Schleck will be the primary teachers in the class. We have also sponsored the Fall 2009 Feminism Without Borders Colloquium Series and will help to bring the keynote speaker, Dr. Obioma Nnaemeka, to the No Limits Conference in Spring 2010. To further the mission of the grant, Chantal Kalisa took a group of students to Rwanda in the summer of 2009 and plans to return with another group of students in summer 2010.

Thanks to all of our faculty and students for participating in and supporting our program.

Coming this March!
“Global Issues, Local Voices: No Limits 2010”
University of Nebraska–Lincoln, March 5-6
Keynote Speaker: Obioma Nnaemeka
Submission Deadline: January 22nd, 2010
See page 5 for more information.
Lesson #1: Always ask about prostitution in a war. Lesson #2: Pay attention to the widows and mothers affected by war. Lesson #3: Mothers, widows, hairdressers, prostitutes: these women are often one and the same, their words essential for us all to hear. Dr. Cynthia Enloe, Professor of International Development and Women's Studies at Clark University, shared these lessons and more with the large audience gathered in the Union. Dr. Enloe's provocative discussion kicked off the Fall 2009 Women's and Gender Studies Colloquium series by engaging her audience with narratives centering on the role of women living in nations affected by war.

Ranging from Iraq to the United States, Dr. Enloe's talk described the stories of two women whose lives, though geographically distant, have both been indelibly imprinted by war. Dr. Enloe opened with the story of Maha Hashim, a middle class woman from the Sadiya neighborhood of Baghdad, whose life was changed forever when her police officer husband was assassinated. Hashim and her children were uprooted to Syria and lived there as refugees before returning to Iraq a few years later, no longer recognizing the nation that once was home. Thousands of miles away in Berlin, Wisconsin, Charlene Cain witnessed another side of war when her son, Michael, was injured. Her strength bound the family together and sustained Michael's arduous journey toward rehabilitation. Both women were mothers, both women's stories echoed what Dr. Enloe called “the true cost of war.” It is our responsibility, Dr. Enloe suggested, to rethink women's roles during any war, to rethink the experiences of these women and others like them, so that we no longer underestimate the power held within their stories -- a power that renders the invisible visible and denies those who would presume to speak for them.

WGS Colloquium Series:
“Picking up the Pieces: When is a War Really ‘Over’ in Women’s Lives”
- Dr. Cynthia Enloe
Aimee M. Allard Assistant Faculty Coordinator, WHT Scholars Learning Community
Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of English

Rwanda Summer Program
WGS Core Faculty member Chantal Kalisa led a study abroad course on post-conflict issues.
Chantal Kalisa, Assistant Professor of Modern Languages and Literature and Women's and Gender Studies

This course was an interdisciplinary study of genocide and questions around its aftermath, using the 1994 genocide of Tutsi in Rwanda as the case study. We were hosted by the Interdisciplinary Genocide Studies Center, in Kigali, which I helped found. We spent two weeks in Rwanda, meeting and interacting with various governmental and non-governmental officials and attending lectures by academic and professional guests who work in or on Rwanda.

Of special interest to women's studies, we visited and heard testimonials from women who are survivors of genocide. The specific ways in which they were victimized makes Rwandan women's situation unique. However, we also learned about the different ways in which women are contributing to the reconstruction and the efforts of reconciliation. Most importantly, we noted women's increasing presence in important leadership positions. I am planning to do the course again next summer.
On October 29th, Women’s and Gender Studies co-hosted its second event of the Fall 2009 Colloquium Series, “Feminism Without Borders,” which it held in conjunction with the first annual University of Nebraska-Lincoln Human Trafficking Conference. The colloquium’s lecture, “Lifting as We Climb: Global Feminist Revolution for Women’s Human Rights,” was given by Dr. Leslie Wolfe, President of the Center for Women’s Policy Studies.

Wolfe discussed the ongoing struggle towards acknowledgement and respect of women’s human rights. She argued that existing international agreements have created a framework from which to establish respect of said rights so long as activists and allies continue to build upon that framework. Further, by looking at the impact of policies on women with a focus on poverty, HIV/AIDS, trafficking, reproductive rights and violence, she emphasized the importance of women-centered policies to ensure respect for women’s human rights. Such a commitment to change, Dr. Wolfe stressed, demands enhanced local and global partnerships.

As the second speaker in our colloquium devoted to transnational feminism, Leslie Wolfe also spoke to the Transnational Feminism Kelly Fund Group.

The last presentation in the Fall 2009 colloquium series was given by Carrie Walker. In it she described her experiences in New York City at the Commission on the Status of Women where she served as a representative for WGS’s Transnational Feminism Group. The purpose of this conference was to bring together women from around the world in order to share resources and information about issues affecting women today.

Of particular interest to Walker was how women are adapting to climate change. Although many of us understand the dangers of climate change and try our best to reduce our carbon footprint, we often don’t realize that women around the world are already having to deal with its effects. To illustrate her point, Walker showed clips from a short documentary video, “Sisters on the Planet.” There we saw one woman from Bangladesh who talked about her village’s struggle with rising flood levels, prompting her to become a community educator on how best to prepare for seasonal floods and, should it become necessary, how best to evacuate. Embedded in her story was another simple lesson: that, despite the initial opposition she faced from her husband and family, she is now a spokesperson and educator upon whom her community depends.

Michelle Peacock, English major; History and LGBTQ/ Sexuality Studies minor

WGS Colloquium Series:
- Carrie Walker

Jalele Defa, PhD student in Political Science
Laura Roost, PhD student in Political Science
**Faculty/Staff Achievements**

**Grace Bauer** (English) recently guest edited the Fall 2009 issue of *Prairie Schooner*, which was a special “baby boomer” edition. Her poems also appeared in recent issues of *Natural Bridge*, *Paperstreet* and *PIF Magazine*.

**Susan Belasco** (English) published *Stowe in Her Own Time: A Biographical Chronicle of Her Life, Drawn from Recollections, Interviews, and Memoirs by Family, Friends and Associates*.


**Joy Castro** (English) had her flash creative nonfiction piece, “Grip” appear in the journal *Fourth Genre*. This appeared along with an invited essay, “Getting ‘Grip,’” about the process of its composition.

**Sidnie White Crawford** (Classics & Religious Studies) was awarded a Willa Cather Professorship.

**Jan Deeds** (Women’s Center) received her PhD in Educational Studies with a specialization in Educational Leadership in Higher Education. Because of her still in publication work, *Creating Rosie the Riveter* (1984), *Maureen Honey* (English) was interviewed by CNN’s “News Room” and USA Today regarding her thoughts on women’s new majority status in the labor force, a first in American history.

**Marie-Chantal Kalisa** (Modern Languages) published her book, *Francophone African and Caribbean Women’s Literature*, this fall.

**Margaret Jacobs** (WGS Director, History) published *White Mother to a Dark Race: Settler Colonialism, Maternalism, and the Removal of Indigenous Children in the American West and Australia, 1880-1940* with the University of Nebraska Press. She was also promoted to full professor in the Department of History.

**Jeannette Jones** (History) was recognized as a College of Arts and Sciences Academic Star in October 2009 for her work *In Search of Brightest Africa*, which critiques early representations of Africa in America.

**Kristen Lucas** (Department of Communication Studies) and PhD candidate Sarah Steimel published “Creating and responding to the gen(d)eralized other: Women miners’ community-constructed identities,” *Women’s Studies in Communication* (Fall 2009).

**Ann Mari May** (Economics) was promoted to Professor of Economics at UNL in 2009. She is the first woman to be promoted to full professor in the history of the Department of Economics at UNL.


**Victoria Smith** (History) published her book, *Captive Arizona, 1850-1900*, in October with the University of Nebraska Press.

**Jocelyn Bosley**, (2001 Undergraduate Major) is currently working on her Doctoral Dissertation in science history at the University of Wisconsin. A revised version of her master’s thesis will appear in the Spring 2010 issue of *WGS*.

**Interdisciplinary Seed Grant**

Women’s and Gender Studies was awarded a seed grant from the College of Arts and Sciences to help strengthen our emerging emphasis area in Women, Gender and Science. We plan to use the grant to create an intellectual community of scientists and humanists to read, study and discuss women, gender and science across disciplinary boundaries, develop WGS curriculum that addresses topics related to Women, Gender and Science, draft a hiring plan for a jointly appointed professor in WGS who specializes in Women, Gender and Science, and develop a speaker series which will bring in speakers whose work bridges the gap between the humanities and sciences. We will also establish links and partnerships with other programs, including Humanities in Medicine and the ADVANCE grant team.

**Student/Alumni Achievements**

**Interdisciplinary**
Welcome to our Faculty!

Waskar Ari, Assistant Professor of History and Ethnic Studies. At present, Ari is working on three different books regarding race, gender, sexuality, and nationalism in Bolivia and South America.

Alexandra Basolo, Professor of Biological Sciences. Her current research projects include laboratory and field work focusing on aspects of how natural and sexual selection contribute to the evolution of morphological, physiological, and behavioral traits.

Joy Castro, Associate Professor of English and Ethnic Studies. An award-winning teacher, Castro publishes articles on innovative strategies for the post-secondary classroom, and her literary scholarship focuses on experimental women writers of the twentieth century.

Basuli Deb, Assistant Professor, English and Women's and Gender Studies. As a specialist in Transnational Feminism, Deb studies postcolonial narratives depicting human rights violations against women in conflict zones.

Rhonda Garelick, Director, Interdisciplinary Arts Symposium; Professor of English. Garelick is a critic of performance, literature, fashion, and cultural politics.

Kathy Krone, Professor of Communication Studies. Krone's research specialty is Organizational Communication. Her current projects include “Framing Intercultural Conflict in Sino-American Joint Ventures” and “Stakeholder Turning Points in Community Consensus-Building.”

Kristen Lucas, Assistant Professor of Communication Studies. Lucas’ research specialties are Organizational Communication, Career- and Work-Related Discourses and Blue-Collar Organizations.

Patrice McMahon, Associate Professor of Political Science. McMahon’s research interests include the causes and effects of ethnic identity on international relations, transnational determinants of domestic policy, democracy promotion, and human rights.

Shari Stenberg, Associate Professor in English and Faculty Leadership for Writing Initiative Coordinator. Stenberg explores how rhetorical practices can shape the classroom, our discipline, and our culture.

Isabel Velázquez, Assistant Professor of Spanish. Velázquez’s areas of research include: sociolinguistic variation, Hispanic linguistics, bilingualism and language acquisition, heritage speaker pedagogy, language contact on the U.S./Mexico border, and the role of language in identity formations of US Latina/os.

Donna Woudenberg, Post Doctorate Drought Management Specialist. Woudenberg is interested in how humans relate to the natural environment, and how they are affected by, and affect, the natural environment.

No Limits 2010

“Global Issues, Local Voices: No Limits 2010”
University of Nebraska–Lincoln, March 5-6

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln will host No Limits 2010. The keynote speaker will be Professor Obioma Nnaemeka, a transnational feminist scholar and associate professor of French, Women's Studies, and African American Studies at Indiana University-Indianapolis. Additionally, the conference will also feature a panel of former WGS students now working in local community agencies.

“No Limits” is an annual student conference dedicated to crossing boundaries between disciplines and exploring a wide range of women's and gender issues. We invite proposals from undergraduates, graduate students, and recent graduates on any topic from any discipline related to women's issues, lives, histories or cultures; feminism; or women's and gender studies. Creative writing, visual arts, film, music, performances, and academic papers are all welcome. Proposals for individual presentations or pre-made panels are accepted.

Proposals and questions regarding the conference should be submitted to: no limits@unl.edu
Deadline for submissions is Friday, January 22nd, 2010.

Spring 2010 Women and Gender Studies Colloquium

Keep an eye out for information about our Spring Colloquium speakers, including Obioma Nnaemeka and Lindsay Kerns.

Summer Courses

WMNS 101- Intro to Women's and Gender Studies
WMNS 215- Intro to Women's Literature
WMNS 315B- Women in Pop Culture
WMNS 385- Women, Gender and Science
WMNS 498- Special Topics: Women and Hip-Hop Culture

For course info, go to www.unl.edu/womenssp/summer.shtml
For registration information, go to summer.unl.edu.

For news, events, & info, go to:
http://www.unl.edu/womenssp
If you would like to contribute to the Women's and Gender Studies Development Fund, please cut out the above contribution card and mail it to: University of Nebraska Foundation, P.O. Box. 82555, Lincoln, NE 68501-2555.

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