



You may like to know that...

WGS is planning many exciting spring events!

- ▶ A three-week series on “Women’s Spiritualities: Experience, Identity, Action.”
- ▶ An event promoting heart health for women in collaboration with the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs and the College of Nursing.
- ▶ The Huntsville Feminist Chorus annual spring concert at UAH.

Inside this issue:

Message from the Director	2
WGS Minors: Student News	3
Student Awards and Scholarships	4
WGS Student Profile: Roxie Brookshire	5



THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE

WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES NEWS

Fall, 2016

Volume 27, Number 1

Johns Hopkins University Professor to Give Workshop on Administering the Danger Assessment

The UAH Women’s and Gender Studies Program will co-sponsor the October 13 and 14 visit of Jacquelyn Campbell, PhD, RN, FAAN, and Anna D. Wolf Chair and Professor at the Johns Hopkins University, School of Nursing. The primary sponsors and organizers of her visit are the UAH College of Nursing and Crisis Services of North Alabama (CSNA).

On **Thursday, October 13**, Campbell will conduct a free day-long workshop (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.) instructing participants on administering the Danger Assessment to victims/survivors of domestic violence. The workshop will be in the

UAH Nursing Building, room 205. Participants will receive instruction on the weighted scoring of the Danger Assessment, the resulting levels of Danger, what types of safety strategies might be recommended at each level, and how to obtain certification. Workshop registration is free. Registration, due October 7, may be completed online at www.csna.org/danger-assessment-workshop, by email at csna@csna.org, or by phone at (256) 716-4052. Participants who wish to receive CEU credit may pay \$10 at the door.

On **Friday, October 14**, the College of Nursing and CSNA will



host a performance of “She Got Flowers Today,” followed by a panel discussion, 8:30 to 11 a.m., in the Nursing Building room 113.

For further information, email csna@csna.org or call (256) 716-4052.

Carey Snowden, Newest Recipient of the Rose Norman Award

The Women’s and Gender Studies Program congratulates Carey Snowden, the newest recipient of the Rose Norman Women’s Studies Award for Scholarship in Action, established in 2010 in honor of program co-founder Rose Norman’s retirement. Snowden is the Outreach and Events Coordinator for the College of Science (CoS) at UAH. He received his BS in Biology from The University of Alabama and MS in Genetics from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

As Outreach and Events Coordinator, he is responsible for science student recruitment and retention and for the college’s outreach events. Beginning in 2012, he has coordinated CoS participation in annual outreach events such as the annual North Alabama Science Olympiad and the Alabama Science and Engineering Fair. He also oversees the CoS website and social media, electronic communications, and recruitment materials and events. He has also formed a partnership with HudsonAlpha



Educational Outreach, allowing CoS students to participate in its APPLE program. Through this program, UAH student volunteers go out to local high schools and help the outreach group with AP Biology lab sessions.

What most impressed the award selection committee is Snowden’s work to create (cont. page 3)

WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES NEWS



**Dr. Molly Johnson,
Women's and Gender
Studies Director**

Message from the Director

Greetings from the Women's and Gender Studies Program at UAH!

In this newsletter, you can read about the visit of Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell to UAH to direct a workshop on administering the Danger Assessment. We also

feature the most recent recipient of the Rose Norman Women's Studies Award for Scholarship in Action. You can also learn more about our student worker and

celebrate WGS minors and other UAH students for their activities and achievements related to the study of women and gender.

We are currently planning several initiatives for spring 2017, including a series on "Women's Spiritualities: Experience, Identity, Action," and an event promoting heart health for women in collaboration with the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs and the College of Nursing.

On this page, you can see photos from our spring 2016 events, including the performance of the Huntsville Feminist Chorus and the workshop, "Creating

Pathways for Change and Recovery: Responding to Domestic Violence in the African-American Community" (organized by Asha Kiran and co-sponsored with the UAH Office of Diversity, Crisis Services of North Alabama, and Wellstone Behavioral Health Center). You can also see a photo from our recent fall Week of Welcome Event and a photo of me representing our program at the Community Awareness for Youth (C.A.F.Y.) Back to School Event at John Hunt Park on July 30 (sponsored by the City of Huntsville, City of Madison, and Madison County).

Special thanks to those of you who made contributions to the WGS Program and to the Rose Norman Women's Studies Award for Scholarship in Action this past year. Your contributions help us support diverse and creative events that bring greater understanding of women's and gender issues to our community and celebrate individuals who promote gender equality.

Please remember to check out our website at uah.edu/wgs and to "like" "Women's and Gender Studies at UAH" on Facebook to keep up to date with us before the next newsletter goes out in the spring! You can also sign up for our online newsletter at www.uah.edu/ahs/departments/womens-and-gender-studies/news/ subscribe.

*All the best,
Molly Wilkinson Johnson
Associate Professor of History
Director of Women's and Gender Studies*



**BE
THE
VOICE
THAT
SPEAKS UP
AGAINST
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE**

**October 10-11
9-11 a.m.**

Charger Union Lobby

UAH

Contact

morgana@uah.edu



**From top:
Huntsville Feminist Chorus
spring concert 2016 (photo by
Marylyn Coffey); student members
of URGE, including three WGS
minors, at the Week of Welcome
event; Molly Johnson, WGS Director,
at C.A.F.Y. event; speaker Karma
Cottmann at the "Creating Pathways"
event.**

WGS Minors: Student News

Madison Butler (Sociology) and Mia Milne (Sociology, Psychology) attended the Unite for Reproductive and Gender Equity (URGE) national conference in Washington DC in the summer. They lobbied for the Real Education for Healthy Youth Act, a bill for comprehensive sex education in schools.

Kenya Carter (Nursing) finished the WGS minor last year and also was the first student to complete our new Capstone Portfolio requirement. She is now pursuing her Nursing major.

Leandra Caywood (Chemical Engineering) won first prize in the Undergraduate Academic Lower Division category of the Kathryn L. Harris Women's and Gender

Studies Writing Competition for her paper, "(In)Equality in Early Islam," written for *World History to 1500*.

Danielle Hill (Sociology) was selected as a WEDC Foundation Scholar for 2016-2017 by the Women's Economic Development Council.

Quintin Walton (English) is completing his WGS minor this semester. Over the summer, he collaborated with Dr. Chad Thomas (English) on a project on why the initial domestic partnership depicted in *Twelfth Night* between Antonio and Sebastian had to be jettisoned in order for inevitable heteronormativity to prevail.



From top: URGE attendees, Madison Butler (first row, last on right), Mia Milne (second row, first on left), Erik Hyska, UAH Sociology major (third row, first on left); Kenya Carter; Leandra Caywood; Danielle Hill (with her mentor Dianne Ferrans); Quintin Walton.

Carey Snowden Receives Rose Norman Award, continued

(cont.) mentoring networks for students. With the help of the CoS Associate Dean Dr. Emanuel Waddell, Snowden has made cohort-specific challenges of under-represented minority-, female-, and LGBTQ-students in STEM fields a top priority. His goal is to research and implement published best practices and track (and increase) program efficacy through metrics, particularly focusing on mentorship programs for under-represented students.

Most recently, Snowden formed oSTEM, a partnership with Marshall Space Flight Center's LGBT Committee to begin an LGBTQ mentorship program for science and engineering students at UAH. Dr. Andrew Molthan, a research meteorologist at MSFC who is working with Snowden, said,

"Students in the LGBTQ and allied community share common and unique experiences within their academic community and discipline area. They should be supported by effective mentoring and networking opportunities to keep them aware of opportunities in their community for internships, professional development, and ways that they can find support from other LGBTQ professionals that have worked in the career areas of their interests." He explained that mentoring benefits the wider community by offering a "diverse and inclusive environment" which ensures the region can draw outstanding students, faculty, and business partners.

Snowden sees participation in student organizations as a key component to student success.

He helped re-start the Gay-Straight Alliance in 2013 and the Biology Society in 2015. In 2016, he is working to re-start the Computer Science club and to begin a mentorship and education program for science students pursuing careers in research.

In his non-UAH life, Snowden is an advocate for alcohol and drug addiction recovery and a certified Peer Support Specialist in Alabama. He has also been a youth advisor and coordinator at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Huntsville for five years. He is a facilitator for the *Our Whole Lives* curriculum, a comprehensive sexual health and well-being program. When he's not working, he likes to hike and camp. He is a modern architecture enthusiast, as well as an avid horror fan.

Women's and Gender Studies Program

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WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES NEWS

Harris Paper Contest Rewards Academic and Creative Writing



Women's and Gender Studies will sponsor the 17th annual Kathryn L. Harris Women's and Gender Studies Writing Competition, which awards cash prizes for undergraduate or graduate written work that deals substantially with women, women's issues, or the study of gender. The contest accepts academic and creative submissions from students at UAH. The winners are honored at the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Honors Day.

Last year's winner in the undergraduate academic lower division category was **Leandra Caywood**, "(In)Equality in Early Islam" for the course *World History to 1500*. The winner in the undergraduate academic upper division category was **Russell Nelson**, "Looking Out and Looking In: Tennyson's Medusa in 'The Lady of Shalott'" for the course *Poetry and Poetics*. The winner in the graduate academic category was **Ashley Coates**, "Strange Ties:

Plantation Mistresses and Paternalism in the Old South" for the course *The Old South*. The winner of the creative category was **Leslie Leonard**, "Louisiana Baby" for *Advanced Fiction Writing*. Entries for this year's contest are due by February 1 to Erin Reid, WGS Program, 344 Morton Hall, reide@uah.edu.

For more information, contact molly.johnson@uah.edu or visit www.uah.edu/wgs.



Women's and Gender Studies Students Receive Honors and Awards



The Women's and Gender Studies Program awarded the 2016 Outstanding Undergraduate Achievement Award to **Danielle Hill**, a Sociology major and WGS minor. Hill was recognized for exemplary achievement Women's and Gender Studies classes, and for dedicated community service.

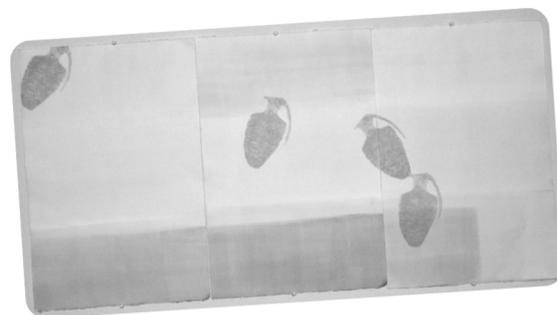
print and collagraph, three panels. The award of \$100 recognizes and supports emerging women artists who show exceptional work.

my childhood memories of growing up in a military household. Grenades and teddy bears brought together are interesting to me."

For more award information, contact molly.johnson@uah.edu.

The 2016 WGS Outstanding Emerging Woman Artist Award, presented at the UAH Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition, went to Art major **Aoife McDonnell** for "Inert," mono-

McDonnell says, "My work explores themes from my childhood within an ambiguous format that allows the viewer to participate in the work. The two pieces, 'Inert' and 'His Chair I,' are unique prints that investigate



From the top: Harris Competition winners (left to right) Leslie Leonard, Ashley Coates, Russell Nelson, Leandra Caywood (pictured on previous page); Outstanding Undergraduate Danielle Hill (left) with WGS Director Molly Johnson at Honors Day; Outstanding Emerging Woman Artist Aoife McDonnell; McDonnell's winning piece, "Inert" (inset); NCCWSL Leadership Scholarship recipient Autumn Brooks.

Scholarships for Women and Women's and Gender Studies Students

The Kathryn L. Harris Scholarship in Women's and Gender Studies is awarded annually to a WGS minor with demonstrated academic performance. Other considerations include participation in WGS activities and clubs or in community activities that benefit women and girls.

The 2016 Harris Scholarship went to **Danielle Hill**, a Sociology major and Women's and Gender Studies minor. The award is approximately \$700 each year. Application deadline for the upcoming year is December 1.

The annual **NCCWSL Leadership Scholarship** aids student

travel to AAUW's national leadership conference with generous travel support from AAUW-Huntsville. **Autumn Brooks**, Psychology and Political Science major, received the 2016 scholarship. For more information on both scholarships and on AAUW, contact molly.johnson@uah.edu or www.uah.edu/wgs.

Women's and Gender Studies Student Profile: Q & A with Roxie Brookshire

Why did you decide to minor in WGS?

I decided to minor in WGS when I took the Introduction to WGS class. When an issue was raised about how gender shapes our lived experiences, I felt a sense of solidarity. One person would share their story and around the room there were nods of assent and muttered agreements. Too often in a culture which dismisses the experiences of women, people of color, LGBTQ folks, the poor, and other marginalized people, we are dismissed and our voices are not heard. This gets into our heads. "Was it sexist? Did that person mean to be racist? Am I just being over-sensitive?" For the first time in my living memory I felt I wasn't "crazy," "hysterical," or "blowing things out of proportion." Even when my classmates and I didn't agree we could still make connections between our experiences. All our struggles and all our hopes for a better future were facets of the same jewel.

Why do you believe WGS is an important field of academic study?

A recurring theme of WGS is the idea of a multiplicity within a unity. Women are not a monolith and have all the variability that any other sample of half the population has, but there is a certain quality—even if it is just the socially constructed label of "woman"—which makes our experiences connected. Similarly, academic disciplines are a multiplicity within a unity. If you ask a chemistry person about water they will tell you about hydrogen and oxygen. If you ask someone in the English

department they will likely tell you about the meanings of water in a given text. These are (obviously) very different answers about *the same thing*. So wrapping your mind around the idea that component parts of a single phenomenon are all related is helpful.

On a less abstract level, WGS helps scholars be accountable for issues in diversity. There is (probably) not a cadre of malicious privileged people sitting around a table scheming about excluding, marginalizing, or oppressing people. Yet, somehow, as if by accident this still occurs. While women make up the majority of college graduates at every level in most disciplines, there are still some holdouts. Moreover, when you look at issues such as first authorship on journal articles, membership in professional organizations, and panels at conferences, you still see too often these patterns of exclusion and discrimination exist.

How has WGS influenced your life?

WGS has made me more confident and empowered me. We often use words like "confidence" and "empowerment" as a warm fuzzy catchall without a discussion about what these terms actually mean. When I came back to school after having a family and working in a variety of retail and hospitality jobs, I had accepted that the way society is arranged may not be just but was all that was possible. The people who would listen had no power to make changes and the people with power to change things would

never listen. The best I could do was to be conciliatory, patient, and passively hopeful. WGS showed me that there is not only a more just world waiting to be uncovered but also that I can and must be part of the necessary changes. This program has crystallized a mission in my mind to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable every single day.

What is your favorite part of working in the WGS Resource Center?

My favorite part of working in the Resource Center is the amazing feeling of giving someone exactly what they need for research—whether the person is a faculty member or a student. I have a lot of empathy for when research is coming right along but there are just one or two key sources that you still need to tie everything together or shed new light on what you have. So that's always a great feeling.

I also love going through the holdings and donations and seeing the evolution of the cultural role of women more generally. At some point I unearthed a copy of a book called *Fascinating Womanhood* and carried it upstairs to share with some other students. It's hard to put a word to that sense of community and solidarity you get when sexism happens in an absurd way and you just meet the eyes of one of your colleagues and know that you are both having the thought "Did they *really* just say that?!" I've often observed that a powerful way to take the menace out of systems of oppression is to highlight how ridiculous they are.



Roxie Brookshire joined the Women's and Gender Studies team in 2015 as the student assistant, overseeing the Women's and Gender Studies Resource Center. She is a Sociology major and WGS minor.



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Become a Friend of Women's and Gender Studies!

Friends of Women's and Gender Studies (FWGS) is an organization of people who support the UAH Women's and Gender Studies Program. The goals of FWGS include:

- Supporting community involvement in Women's and Gender Studies events
- Sponsoring cultural activities and events that honor and empower women
- Supporting women scholars, artists, and performers
- Fostering discussion of issues affecting women's lives

Annual Contribution (October 1 – September 30)

- \$10-24 Individual \$25-49 Family \$50-99 Matron \$100-249 Sponsor
 \$250-\$499 Sustaining \$500 Lifetime Contributor \$1000 Benefactor

- I would like to contribute to the "Rose Norman Women's Studies Award for Scholarship in Action." \$
 I would like to contribute to scholarships and travel for Women's and Gender Studies students. \$

Your Name Phone
Mailing Address
 Email

Gifts are entirely tax-deductible. Make your check payable to UAH Women's and Gender Studies.
Mail to: Women's and Gender Studies, 344 Morton Hall, The University of Alabama in Huntsville, Huntsville, AL 35899