



WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES NEWS

Spring, 2017

Volume 27, Number 2

You may like to know that...

- **Save the date!**
The fourth "Charged Up for Change! EXPO" will return to UAH on Wednesday, March 28, 2018!
- Thanks to support from generous WGS friends, we were able to refurbish our resource center this spring. Come check it out!

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Interfaith Conversations on Women's Spirituality

The Women's and Gender Studies Program presents a new event series, "Interfaith Conversations on Women's Spirituality." This series is a way to showcase women's voices, honor the role spirituality plays in women's lives, contemplate the complexity of women's experiences of spirituality, and celebrate the religious diversity of Huntsville and North Alabama. All events are free and open to the public, but reservations are required for the "Interfaith Panel and Community Conversation."

Keynote Lecture & Coffeehouse

Our series begins with the visit of Dr. Judith Plaskow and Dr. Carol Christ, traveling to UAH as eminent scholars with the support of the UAH Humanities Center.

In addition to visiting several classes, Plaskow and Christ will give a keynote lecture, "Goddess and God in the World: Conversations on Women's Spirituality," on

Tuesday, March 28, at 7:30

p.m., in Chan Auditorium of the Business Administration Building. They will also hold a Coffeehouse event, "Conversations about the Divine in the Modern World," on

Wednesday, March 29,

10-11:30 a.m., in Wilson Hall

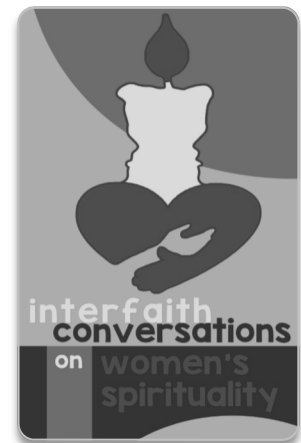
Art Gallery, allowing for informal interaction and conversation.

Plaskow and Christ are leading theologians in feminist spirituality and particularly examine the continuities between their own very different faith traditions: Plaskow's Judaism and Christ's goddess-centered spiritual practice. They have recently co-written their third book together, *Goddess and God in the World: Conversations in Embodied Theology* (2016), from which their UAH lectures will be drawn. Plaskow is Professor Emerita of Religious Studies, Manhattan College, and Christ was a tenured full professor at San Jose State University, before moving to Greece to direct the Ariadne Institute for the Study of Myth and Ritual. Plaskow and Christ met and began their scholarly collaborations as Ph.D. students at Yale University in the 1970s.

Concert

The Huntsville Feminist Chorus (HFC) annual spring concert also explores women's spirituality. The concert, titled "All of Us," will be on **Saturday, April 1, at 7:30 p.m.** in Roberts Recital Hall (a different venue than the past several HFC concerts at UAH).

This program explores how the uniqueness of every human being can be brought together in shared aspirations to create something



bigger and spiritually deeper than any one individual. Through a diverse array of musical expressions HFC engages the audience in conversations of the soul.

This will be the 22nd spring concert at UAH. HFC was formed in 1993. Its mission is to "open hearts and minds through song."

Interfaith Panel & Community Conversation

Our event series concludes with an Interfaith Panel and Community Conversation, co-sponsored by the UAH Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs. This event, which will focus on "Experience, Identity, and Action" in women's spirituality, will be on **Tuesday, April 4, 6-8 p.m.**, in UAH's Exhibit Hall in the Conference Training Center (formerly known as the University Center).

The panel will feature local women of diverse faith traditions

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WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES NEWS

Message from the Director



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

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

In this spring's newsletter, you can read about our coming event series, "Interfaith Conversations on Women's Spirituality." We also profile our newest Program Advisory Committee member Katie Baldwin, celebrate two students who recently completed their capstone portfolios, and showcase photos from our recent Week of Welcome event. You can also learn about several upcoming events organized by UAH

Student Affairs and the UAH Counseling Center.

The Women's and Gender Studies Program expresses our enormous gratitude to George Preussel (who was a WGS minor at UAH) and Tera Preussel, who recently do-

nated furnishings and a coffee maker to help make our Resource Center a more effective student space. Below, you can see a photo of George helping assemble our new coffee table. The generosity of George and Tera will help provide WGS minors and other UAH students a wonderful place to hang out and enjoy resources related to women and gender.

Special thanks to those of you who made contributions to the Women's and Gender Studies 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.

See the photo below of Carey Snowden, the newest recipient of the Rose Norman Award, at his celebratory luncheon with Women's and Gender Studies faculty and staff. Carey was profiled in the Fall 2016 Women's and Gender Studies newsletter.

For the fifth year, the UAH Women's and Gender Studies Program participated in the "Soaring for Social Justice" kite festival, sponsored by Asha Kiran and the City of Huntsville, at John Hunt Park on Saturday, March 4. We are always pleased to support this terrific community event!

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 fall! You can also sign up for our Online Newsletter at <http://www.uah.edu/la/departments/womens-studies/news/subscribe>. We also invite you to visit our WGS display at the Madison County Courthouse downtown Huntsville for the month of March.

All the best,

Molly Wilkinson Johnson
Associate Professor of History
Director of Women's and Gender Studies



WGS Minors Complete Capstone Portfolio

From the top: WGS minors Madison Butler (with Lumpy) (left) and Tessia Needham at WOW event in January; Emma Donnelly-Bullington (left) and Melissa Anderson, student representatives from URGE; WGS alum George Preussel assembling our new furniture; (left to right) Erin Reid, Carey Snowden, Molly Johnson, Rose Norman, and Nancy Finley, celebrating Snowden as recipient of the Rose Norman Award.

The Women's and Gender Studies Program celebrates Danyelle Ledesma and Quintin Walton, who completed their Capstone Portfolios for the WGS minor in the fall. Danyelle graduated with a History and Sociology double major and WGS minor in December and recently began the Master of Arts program in History at UAH. Quintin will graduate next fall with an English major and

WGS minor. The centerpiece of Danyelle's portfolio was her history senior seminar paper, "The God of Providence Will Enable Her": Phoebe Palmer as a Conservative Feminist." The centerpiece of Quintin's portfolio was his paper, "Antonio's Lament: 'Mightily Abused' in *Twelfth Night*," which was published in *Perpetua*, UAH's first undergraduate research journal.



The WGS Capstone Portfolio requires students to discuss how their academic work for several different classes addresses the student learning objectives of the WGS minor.

Women's and Gender Studies Featured Faculty: Katie Baldwin

Katie Baldwin is an Assistant Professor in Printmaking and Book Arts in the UAH College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. Baldwin teaches a variety of print classes that include letterpress, screenprint, woodblock, etching, lithography, monoprint, and book arts. These courses are part of the B.A. and B.F.A. programs in the Art, Art History, and Design Department. Teaching students to synthesize technical skills, Baldwin encourages students to develop their individual creative voice, think critically, and communicate ideas through sophisticated aesthetic modes.

Beyond the classroom, Baldwin challenges her students through collaborative projects with visiting artists, attending conferences, and travelling to a broad range of museums. In 2016 and 2017 students

attended Southern Graphics Council International, College Book Arts Association, and the Kerry James Marshall Exhibition at the Art Institute of Chicago Museum. Collaborative artist book projects with artists Judith Baumann and Jessica Peterson were developed and completed on Rocket Press, a Chandler and Price Press from 1892, with student assistance.

Baldwin's research explores methods of abstraction and composition in Japanese prints for a new body of work, using the traditional Japanese woodblock printing technique called *mokuhanga*. She is creating a series of prints in which each printed image employs abstraction and representation. Recognizable subjects of rivers, mountains and gardens are deconstructed utilizing color, pattern, shape

and form. The interior and exterior of these natural environments will be abstracted. In contrast, architecture, tools and objects will remain specific. The comingling of these two visual approaches will create a sense of place where memory time and space is both expansive and fleeting. In series, the images will complete each other, depicting a familiar, yet imagined world.

This summer, Baldwin will be one of five resident artists attending the MI-LAB Advanced Mokuhanga Program in Tokyo, Japan. This four-week residency focuses on advanced study of *mokuhanga*. Alongside a select group of international artists exploring contemporary concepts with this ancient technique, she will develop a body of new work.



Katie Baldwin joined the WGS Program Advisory Committee as our newest member this year.

Upcoming UAH Spring Events

The Clothesline Project will be **Monday, April 3, to Wednesday, April 5, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**, in UAH's Charger Union, sponsored by UAH Student Affairs.

The Clothesline Project is a visual display that calls attention to sexual and physical violence. The project displays shirts designed by survivors of violence and those who support and care for them. The shirts hang side-by-side to "break the silence" and bring awareness to these terrible acts. T-shirts and fabric markers will be available for students to make their own t-shirts for display. Contact T.J. Brecciaroli at tjb0020@uah.edu for information.

The UAH Counseling Center is sponsoring Fresh Check Day on **Wednesday, April 5, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** This program raises awareness of mental health resources and educates students about healthy coping strategies, stress management, suicide prevention initiatives, warning signs, and helping a friend. Contact brittany.holland@uah.edu for details.

UAH Student Affairs, with Alabama A&M University, Oakwood University, and Crisis Services of North Alabama, are organizing a Take Back the Night March, on **Monday, April 10, at 6 p.m.** outside Charger Union. Contact tjb0020@uah.edu for information.

Front Page (Cont.)

(cont.) sharing their experiences of how their spirituality shapes their lives. Guests will engage in group conversations on topics including Reconciling Religious Identities and Experiences, Practicing Religion in a Secular World, Faith and Social Action, Spirituality Outside the Boxes, Religious Tradition in an Interfaith Community, and Gender, Sexuality, and Religion. The event includes vegetarian heavy hors d'oeuvres. It is free and open to the public, but reservations are required by March 28 at www.uah.edu/wgs.

For information on this event or the entire series contact the WGS office at (256) 824-6190.

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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. \$

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