Dear Alumni, Friends, and Allies:

I am grateful for this opportunity to look back at the highlights and accomplishments of the 2022-2023 school year.

Our faculty have been busy contributing research and study to the field of WGST. Recently Prof Sarah Bloesch published the article “Flesh” for the Critical Theory for Political Theology Series. In addition, last fall Davidson College hosted a retrospective of Prof Susan Harbage Page’s work entitled “Embodied Cartography in Territorial Disputes.” Finally, Prof Tanya Shields worked alongside students and professional actors at Northwestern University to understand how the notion of “rehearsal” played out in their training in SoulWork (a method developed by Dr. Cristal Truscott). These creative and scholarly endeavors illustrate how women’s and gender studies work connects with a wide swath of disciplinary concerns and can be encountered in a variety of contexts.

I want to take a moment to recognize a recent departure from our faculty. In December 2022, Professor Michele Tracy Berger left UNC to become the Eric and Jane Nord Family Professor and Director of the Baker-Nord Center at Case Western Reserve University. Prof Berger devoted two decades of her career to UNC and made indelible marks on the Department of Women’s and Gender Studies and the Institute for the Arts and Humanities (where she served as the Director of the Faculty Fellows Program for several years). I can honestly say that we would not be the Department we are today without her care and vision, and she is sorely missed.

As we gear up for a new academic year – full of teaching, research, and collaboration - I hope you will consider making a gift in recognition of our work.

With gratitude,

Ariana E. Vigil
Druscilla French Distinguished Professor and Chair
This Spring 2023, we had 16 majors, 34 minors, and 6 certificate students graduate from the Department! The students celebrated on May 3 in the Stone Center where they heard from Dr. Jessica Cabrera (BA, 2015)
In Fall 2023, we are pleased to offer the new course WGST 330: Women’s Health Activism in Twentieth Century America taught by Dr. Jillian M. Hinderliter.

This course traces the development of several women’s health movements and causes in the twentieth century United States including the birth control movement, eugenics, the feminist women’s health movement, the reproductive rights and reproductive justice movements, pro-life activism, breast cancer activism, HIV/AIDS activism, and more. Throughout the semester, we will take an interdisciplinary approach to contextualizing the evolution of women’s health activism, health activists’ tactics and rhetoric, and the complex dynamic between lay activists and medical professionals. We will consider how race, gender, ethnicity, region, religion, sexuality, and more influenced patients’ experiences, medical care, and conceptualizations of health advocacy.

Course materials and discussions will help us examine how Americans’ relationship to and expectations of the medical profession changed over time. We will also study how patients experienced and navigated the power imbalance between lay people, medical practitioners, and health care institutions. We will explore how beliefs about traditional gender roles, authority, and power influenced the practice of medicine and physicians’ position in American society. This course is meant to serve as an introduction to the many voices and perspectives in the history of women’s health and prepare students to engage with the historical roots of contemporary debates in medicine, health policy, public health, and activism. We will use an inclusive understanding of women’s health activism throughout the course and study women in many roles including their work as physicians, midwives, lay activists, caretakers, and patients’ rights strategists.
MARY TURNER LANE AWARD WINNER: EMILY ORLAND

This award honors a senior, from any discipline, judged by the faculty in the Department of Women’s and Gender Studies to have made an outstanding contribution through original scholarship and/or creative production on gender and feminist issues. Its purpose is to further academic research in the expanding field of Women’s and Gender Studies, which was established on campus in 1978 by Mary Turner Lane, a tireless feminist, advocate, and educator.

This year’s recipient was Emily Orland, who describes her work below:

"My paper is titled "'You have to work within to make a change': The American Friends Service Committee’s Organizational Reckoning," and it charts how an antiwar organization took strides to address internal racism and sexism in the 1970s. This paper was the third chapter of an honors thesis that examined how women in the anti-Vietnam War movement responded to women’s liberation. A group of pacifist Quakers established the American Friends Service Committee in 1917, and it is one of the nation’s oldest peace organizations. While the AFSC spent decades working to de-escalate and prevent international conflict and became a major force in the U.S. antiwar movement, the organization had several flaws. Women and employees of color were excluded from leadership positions and faced frequent discrimination in an organization that branded itself as a harbinger of peace and equality. My paper argues the swell of social movements in the late 1960s and early 1970s—especially the Black Power and Women’s Liberation movements—empowered women on staff to bring about organizational change. Women at the AFSC led new coalitions and developed programs that promoted racial and gender equality within the organization. The Gay Liberation movement also empowered AFSC employees to make it a more inclusive workplace for queer individuals. In doing so, I argue women at the AFSC challenged white, male leaders to acknowledge the importance of blending anti-racism, anti-sexism, and anti-imperialism in the pursuit of social change."
Two courses that were critical in shaping my perspectives and understanding of race and gender were Theorizing Black Feminisms by Dr. Michele Berger and Feminist Theory by Dr. Karen Booth. Both these courses and the readings therein helped me in strengthening my perspective and, ultimately, in shaping my research. These courses also gave me a wonderful opportunity to interact with Dr. Berger and Dr. Booth, both of whom went on to become important mentors in my academic life. I also had the opportunity of serving as a Teaching Assistant for the Introduction to Women’s Studies course at the department. This course gave me the valuable experience of teaching feminist theory to young minds.

In Fall, I will be joining the Department of Geography, University of Hawai’i Manoa as Faculty Instructor. At UH Manoa, I am excited to bring feminist principles into the classroom and mentor the next generation of feminist scholars and practitioners.
ANNEGRET FAUSER RETIREMENT

I am sure that many of you reading this brief tribute are already aware of Annegret Fauser’s numerous contributions to the Department of Women’s and Gender Studies. As a member of the department’s Advisory Board and an Adjunct Professor of Women’s and Gender Studies, her work on behalf of women has been profound; Annegret’s work on women in music has meaningfully and permanently changed the ways that musicologists understand music and culture and the ways in which we, as citizens, understand the world. Her award-winning scholarship is the model to which we should all aspire as scholars; her work as an advisor is likewise unparalleled. Annegret is unmatched in her ability to spot the potential in an idea just barely sketched, to distinguish an original from a derivative, and to carefully guide the hand of hopeful protégés. Those of us who have been fortunate enough to study with and learn from Annegret have taken with us innumerable gifts, and we wish her, in her retirement, the same joy that she so freely shared with us.

-Jennifer Walker (UNC, Ph.D. in Musicology, 2019)

TERRI PHOENIX RETIREMENT

We are sad to announce Terri Phoenix's retirement from serving as the director for the LGBTQ Center at UNC Chapel Hill. Over the years, as director, Terry has:

- Provided training to 20,000 people since 2005
- Added gender identity and gender expression to the nondiscriminatory policy
- Received the University Award for the Advancement of Women, the University Diversity Award, and been inducted into the Order of the Golden Fleece
- Created the LGBTQ Emergency Student Fund
- Created a University-maintained list of gender neutral restrooms
- Standardized the process of adding affirmed names to their diploma

And much more. Please join us in thanking Terri for their service!
NEW DEPARTMENT LOUNGE!

The Department is pleased to announce a new student lounge! Located in 310 Smith, the lounge features group and individual study seating, snacks, drinks, and a WGST library!

Stop by Monday through Thursday 8-4!

WGST WELCOMES OLIVIA KIRBY AS BUSINESS OFFICER!

The department is eager to welcome Olivia Kirby as the new Business Officer! Olivia is an NC native who has been working in the Communication Department for the past three and a half years in multiple roles. She started out as COMM's administrative support associate where she provided support to their former business officer and then transitioned to the position graduate student services specialist. She is excited to start this new role as a business officer in both Women's and Gender Studies and Linguistics. She has a master's in American Studies and a bachelor's in Art History and English. When she's not at work, she likes to make pottery, bake, and travel.
Sarah Bloesch is a Teaching Assistant Professor of Women’s and Gender Studies. Her courses include “Gender and Film,” “Gender and Spirituality,” “Gender and Popular Culture,” and an Honor's First Year Seminar, “Sexuality and Salvation.” She also quite enjoys teaching each of the department’s required courses. Sarah trained in religious studies, and her research revolves around contemporary Christianity and in the United States and cultural theory. Specifically, she is intrigued by how different groups use ideas about salvation and the afterlife to interpret, produce, and reinforce racially gendered, sexual, and national identities of themselves and others. Investigating the interactions of religious and secular power dynamics, she incorporates various and disparate resources: theorists such as Hortense Spillers and Judith Butler, seventh-century Byzantine monk Maximus the Confessor (d. 662 CE), early twentieth-century novelist Pauline Hopkins (d. 1930), and physical spaces such as monuments and prisons. She has explored these themes in her published articles in the journals *Culture and Religion* and *Theology and Sexuality*.

Sarah has also co-edited Cultural Approaches to Studying Religion: An Introduction to Theories and Methods (2018) along with an accompanying primary source reader. It is the first textbook in religious studies that focuses on the methodological contributions of ten theorists who have shaped the field in the last fifty years yet are systematically omitted from classroom engagement because of gender, race, and sexuality. A second edition of the textbook will be available in 2023. Related to her research and teaching interests, Sarah is co-chair of the Lesbian-Feminisms and Religion Unit at the national level of the American Academy of Religion.

Karen Booth is an Associate Professor of Women’s and Gender Studies. In her work, she applies methods and theories from cultural studies, political sociology, and critical science studies to feminist analysis of the politics of HIV and reproductive justice. Recently, she has written about debates over HIV testing and treatment in relation to pregnant women in the U.S. and globally and the contradictory ways in which gay-identified news media and activists represented and responded to feminist concerns about reproductive justice, especially abortion, before and during the HIV/AIDS crisis. She has also published research on both international and US domestic battles over research, clinical, ethical, and journalistic interventions in women’s reproductive and sexual health. She is currently collaborating on an analysis of social media and the feminist “identity work” of college students.
Her teaching reflects these research and advocacy interests. Her favorite course is the “International Politics of Sexual and Reproductive Health,” in which students and she examine the differences and the sometimes surprising similarities across debates over eugenics in mid-twentieth century North Carolina, female circumcision, abortion, and sexually transmitted infections in colonial and post-colonial Kenya, HIV/AIDS treatment and vasectomies in Mexico today, and the commercial surrogacy industry in India. She also loves teaching classes on “Introduction to Sexuality Studies” and “Comparative Queer Politics,” and courses on feminist theory and methods. She recently taught a new advanced undergraduate course in feminist theory in the Fall of 2021. She is the faculty advisor for Feminist Students United, serves as the director of the Sexuality Studies Program and the University-wide Commission on the Status of Women, and is the secretary/treasurer of the UNC-CH chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP).

Nicole M. Else-Quest is a feminist psychologist, Associate Professor of Women’s and Gender Studies, and Associate Chair of the Department. A first-generation college student, Dr. Else-Quest earned her Ph.D. in developmental psychology at the University of Wisconsin—Madison in 2006, specializing in women’s health and gender development. In addition to her training in psychological science, she also trained as a childbirth doula to work with adolescent mothers and incarcerated mothers.

Dr. Else-Quest uses a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods to understand psychological gender differences—in particular, how large are those differences and how do they develop? Many of her projects challenge widely believed but problematic gender stereotypes and provide new insights about gender that extend our knowledge about diverse groups.

For example, her meta-analytic and longitudinal research projects have examined psychological gender differences and similarities in childhood temperament (Else-Quest et al., 2006), attitudes, affect, and achievement in math (Else-Quest et al., 2010; Else-Quest et al., 2013), and self-conscious emotional experience (Else-Quest et al., 2012).

Building on that work and going beyond analysis of gender, Dr. Else-Quest has sought to expand feminist psychology’s methodological toolkit to incorporate intersectional and transnational feminist approaches. She has written extensively on implementing intersectionality within psychological research (e.g., Else-Quest et al., in press) and adapting quantitative (Else-Quest & Hyde, 2016, 2020) as well as qualitative methods (Abrams et al., 2020) to do so. Another set of papers (Else-Quest & Grabe, 2012; Grabe & Else-Quest, 2012; Else-Quest & Hamilton, 2018) focuses on the quantitative assessment and analysis of macro-level gender equity and equality as a context for girls’ development.
Current projects in Dr. Else-Quest's lab are focused on developing and implementing interventions to improve girls’ and women’s participation and persistence in STEM education from elementary school through doctoral training. These interdisciplinary and collaborative projects are funded by the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. Undergraduate and graduate students play an active and crucial role on these projects within her lab, co-authoring papers and conducting independent projects.

In addition to her scholarly work, Dr. Else-Quest is co-author of the undergraduate textbook, *Psychology of Women and Gender: Half the Human Experience* (Sage, 2022). At UNC she has taught psychology of women and gender, women in science, and introduction to women’s and gender studies.

Dr. Else-Quest is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association via Division 35 (Society for the Psychology of Women) and a member of Division 44 (Society for the Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity). She is Associate Editor of Stigma and Health and faculty advisor for UNC’s chapter of Alpha Alpha Alpha, the national honors society for first generation college students.

**Susan Harbage Page**’s commitment to research excellence is expressed through creative activity and explores the making of borders and nations and how they affect individuals and their mobility. Harbage Page has produced work about the U.S.–Mexico Border since 2007, which explores why certain people’s access to geographical locations are contested due to race, status (refugee vs. migrant or citizen) and personal histories (culture/birthplace/social/marriage). Her work reveals how prescribed roles determine one’s access to safety, work, and privilege. It examines how social and political contexts of race, class, gender, and sex determine how an individual experiences bordering practices and the challenges of pursuing basic human rights. Page’s research calls attention to how a passport becomes a marker of belonging that only functions if it is respected and understood by other nations. Her work explores the positionality and personal history of the researcher/artist and the role these play in representation and their influence on research and artistic production. The discussion of borders through her work embodies the roles that are projected onto people and the ways in which borders variously serve to protect, exclude, and contain.

Highlights of Susan Harbage Page’s recent research include the following: a solo exhibition and catalogue at the Gregg Museum of Art, Raleigh, Borderlands: Evidence from the Rio Grande (2019); videos produced for Meredith Monk’s opera Atlas with UNC-Opera presented at the Crossing
Boundaries Process Series (2021); publication of the refereed article My Gold-Leafed Passport, Geopolitics Journal (Routledge: Taylor & Francis Group, 2021); six museums have collected her work since 2019 including the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale Di Roma, Italy; Museum of Art, University of Oregon; Davidson College Art Galleries, NC; Weatherspoon Museum of Art, NC; Gibbes Museum of Art, SC.

One of the most rewarding activities for Harbage Page this year was serving on the final selection committee for the Fulbright Fellowships for Italian Citizens. It was a pleasure to see the high level of scholarship and research being done by young Italian Scholars and an important opportunity to give back to an organization which honored her with a Fulbright Grant in the early stages of her career.

Harbage Page is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Women’s and Gender Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill where she teaches a curriculum that combines hands-on artmaking process with feminist thought and social justice activism. She lives and works in Chapel Hill, NC and Spello, Italy.

**Jillian M. Hinderliter** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Women’s and Gender Studies and the Moses M. and Hannah L. Malkin Fellow in Jewish History and Culture. She is also an affiliate of the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies and the Department of American Studies. Her research and teaching interests include twentieth century American women’s and gender history, Jewish Studies, the history of medicine and health care in the United States, public history, and oral history. In 2023-2024, Dr. Hinderliter will teach WGST/AMST/JWST "A Social History of Jewish Women in America" and WGST "Women’s Health Activism in Twentieth Century America," a new course she developed at UNC-Chapel Hill.

In 2021, Dr. Hinderliter earned her Ph.D. in History at the University of South Carolina. While at the University of South Carolina, she taught courses in American history and Southern Studies. She also holds a master’s degree in public history from Northeastern University and a graduate certificate in Women’s and Gender Studies from the University of South Carolina. Before pursuing her doctorate, she worked for several libraries and museums in New England, where she specialized in museum interpretation and youth and family programming.
Dr. Hinderliter’s current book project explores how American Jewish women contributed to the feminist critique of modern medicine and worked to reform American health care from the late 1960s through the 1980s. Using organizational records, personal papers, and oral histories, she argues that Jewish activists helped found and sustain the women’s health movement at national, regional, and local levels. Throughout her work, Dr. Hinderliter contends that the women’s health movement did not have to be an expressly “Jewish” movement to be shaped by Jewish religious, cultural, and political traditions.

Dr. Hinderliter has published in the journal American Jewish History. She is a contributor to Jewish Women’s Archive’s Shalvi/Hyman Encyclopedia of Jewish Women and the Jewish Women, Amplified blog. She has also worked on several public history projects and digital exhibits related to twentieth century women’s history, oral history, and social movements.

**Tanya Shields** is the Bowman and Gordon Gray Distinguished Professor of Women’s and Gender Studies, an adjunct associate professor in the department of African, African American and Diaspora Studies, a Carlyle Sitterson Freshman Teaching Awardee, and Director of Carolina Seminars, which supports faculty curiosity and collaboration, and a past fellow of the Carolina Women’s Center Faculty Fellowship program, the Institute of Arts and Humanities Faculty Fellowship seminar and a fellow of their Academic Leadership program. She was the Faculty Liaison for Women ADVANCE Leadership, which is a mentoring program for mid-career women faculty interested in leadership. Despite what often seems like a deepening dystopic world (Dobbs decision, anti-trans legislation, book banning, limiting academic freedom, wars, climate chaos, and more), she was invited, for a second year, to participate in the SoulWork Institute at the Kennedy Center as part of their Social Impact Programming. Dr. Cristal Truscott developed SoulWork and describes it as a theatrical method based on African American performance traditions. Professor Truscott, a theatre innovator, will lead participants in a week guided by the themes of ritual, repetition, and rehearsal some of which were drawn from Shields' book, Bodies and Bones: Feminist Rehearsal and Imagining Caribbean Belonging (2014). The book examines the ways in which rehearsing historical events and archetypal characters shapes belonging to the region using feminist rehearsal as a methodology. She is excited to be part of this intensive as it renewed her hope in possibility in dark times.

Many publications that she has worked on will see print this year including two special issues--one for the journal Women, Gender and Families of Color, which uses the twenty-fifth anniversary of Cheryl Dunye's film The Watermelon Woman as a springboard to discuss Black queer subjectivity and its representations across geographies and disciplines, co-edited with Belinda Deneen Wallace. The
second special issue is a Caribbean Quarterly festschrift with Isis Semaj-Hall honoring artist, activist, professor, and mentor Merle Collins. She is delighted that both these special issues will be published this year—the festschrift in June 2023 and the other issue in the Fall. Additionally, her book chapter, “The Devil’s Wanga,” which is on 1930s race films and the depiction of Black female plantation owners will be published in December in the volume, Intersecting Aesthetics. Also seeing the light of day in 2023 are two book reviews on recent works by feminist scholars, one review is on Grotesque Touch and the other is on Class Interruptions.

She enjoyed her Spring 2023 sabbatical which was provided by the Bowman and Gordan Gray teaching award, and which allowed her to focus on her second monograph, “Gendering the Manager: Sex, Race, and Power on Female Owned Plantations,” a comparative study of women who owned plantations in the Caribbean and U.S. South. She traveled to Guadeloupe to learn more about women owners there and also learned about the Desbassayns Family led by Madame Desbassayns. Though outside her geographic focus, it was interesting to learn how this figure shared similar values and tactics with women in the Americas. She has published on the topic of women owners and plantation dynamics in a number of venues including the journals Souls and Cultural Dynamics. Recent publications include “Writing and the Responsibility to Memory: The Role of White Female Planters in Contemporary Caribbean Novels” (2020) in Caribbean Literature in Transition, vol. 3, “Hell and Grace: Palimpsestic Belonging in The True History of Paradise and Crossing the Mangrove (2018) and “Magnolia Longing: The Plantation Tour as Palimpsest” (2017).

**Ariana Vigil** is Druscilla French Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department. Her teaching and research focus on U.S. Latinx literature and culture. In particular, she examines how gender, race, sexuality, and class are deployed in various national and transnational contexts. She is the author of three books: War Echoes: Gender and Militarization in U.S. Latina/o Cultural Production, (Rutgers University Press, 2014), Understanding Francisco Goldman (University of South Carolina Press, 2018), and Public Negotiations: Gender and Journalism in Contemporary US Latina/o Literature (Ohio State University Press, 2019). This past year she co-authored (with Rebeca Hey-Colón) an updated bibliography of the work of Chicana poet, writer and theorist Gloria Anzaldúa as well as an analysis of Cristina Henríquez’s novel The World in Half (in the journal Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the United States). She is currently working on one co-authored article on Latinx war narratives from the early nineteenth century through the early 21st century and is also beginning work on a new book that examines questions of loss alongside considerations of climate change and ecological destruction in contemporary Latinx fiction and literature.
Please keep in touch with us!

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