

# WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES AT LSU

## at Louisiana State University



**Director's Notes  
with  
Michelle Massé**

Before writing my last Director's Note for Women's and Gender Studies, I re-read those from the last five semesters. My tallies are usually those of an impatient person, marked by noting tasks not done, projects still to be accomplished. As I read over these notes, however, what most struck me was how much we have achieved, and what a distance we have traveled over the last three years.

The distance from Himes 238 to 118 wasn't great, but the change it marked was enormous. What seemed to be the luxuriously empty rooms we walked through three years ago are already Alice-in-Wonderland too small in 2011. The junior colleagues whose arrival we celebrated then are now the established central figures whose successful tenure we anticipate. And the promise of the just-inaugurated Graduate Minor program has come to fruition with over forty students from across the campus enrolled by this fall.

More bittersweet is tracing our undergraduate program. At the end of my first year, I noted that we had tripled the number of majors and minors from 9 to 33, and called for recruitment as our key focus. With each low-completer review announcement, though, our numbers dwindled rather than grew as students sensibly withdrew from a program they thought at risk.

Our future trajectory is decidedly upward, however. Our return to a concentration under the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts promises a stable platform from which we can recruit students. The approval of WGS 1001, "Evolution of Sex and Gender," as a Natural Sciences general education course, as well as our having designed two new courses, "Gender and Popular Culture" (WGS 2200) and "Gender and Health" (WGS 2300) will provide appealing options for students, and I anticipate healthy and rapid growth. Our students, however, are always what make me the most certain about the next stage of WGS's journey. Their plans—whether as social workers, lawyers, or Peace Corps members—mark them as agents of change in the world whose paths have been chosen in part because of working with WGS.

As Women's and Gender Studies enters its twentieth year of official existence in fall of 2011, I look forward to the milestones of the next twenty years.

Cheers,

Michelle Massé

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## Currents in WGS on Campus & in the Community

### LSU WGS/The Red Shoes Community Connections Group Focuses on Community Involvement

This semester, members of the LSU WGS/The Red Shoes Community Connections Group made community involvement a central focus. The group held monthly meetings to discuss Greg Mortenson's *Three Cups of Tea* and used the text as a springboard for identifying volunteer opportunities in the local community.

Inspired by the efforts of women and girls in remote areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan to embrace education and enable building schools in their communities, members were quick to respond when they discovered some students at Glasgow Middle do not attend school because they lack feminine hygiene products. Further discussion with Judy O'Dell, the school's principal, revealed students were also in need of other toiletry items such as deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and soap as well as paper and pencils. As a result, the school was adopted and LSU WGS/The Red Shoes Community Connections began collecting needed items in the WGS office. You can bring donations to Himes 118.

In April, the group also responded to a call for volunteers from Patti Fox, a social worker at Glasgow Middle. Fox, in conjunction with the Rape Crisis Center for Prevention, needed help facilitating small group discussion for a program entitled Healthy Masculinity I and II scheduled for Tuesday, April 18, and Thursday, April 20, during LSU's Spring Break. Several LSU students, including Wendy Braun and other students with WGS connections, participated with members of the Baton Rouge community in the program. Excited about the number of students who volunteered their time during Spring Break, Brenda Macon, LSU WGS/The Red Shoes Community Connections Chair, explained, "I am so very grateful for their presence at the school. These young women gave selflessly of their time during their own spring break to reach out to children in the community. These children were reached in part because LSU students cared enough to show up and talk with them." More than 90 children attended the program and received information about preventing domestic violence and sexual assault.

Such experiences have encouraged more group activism. At the group's April 28 meeting, Angela Louis, from the Capital Area Family Violence Intervention Center (CAFVIC), spoke about domestic violence and her agency's need for volunteers. At the May 26 meeting, Racheal Hebert, who is the training coordinator for the Rape Crisis Center with a WGS B.A., discussed training and volunteer opportunities with her organization. To help meet the needs of these agencies, group members attended CAFVIC volunteer interest meetings in May. In addition, the group has planned to host a dinner for CAFVIC shelter residents on June 29 and, spearheaded by Sarah Becker, a WGS and Sociology professor, will serve produce purchased from the Old South Baton Rouge Community Garden, which sells fresh fruits and vegetables planted by LSU and McKinley High students. Volunteers are needed to prepare and deliver meals to CAFVIC.

For more information about the LSU WGS/The Red Shoes Community Connections Group or volunteering to prepare and deliver meals to CAFVIC, contact Brenda Macon ([bmacon@lsu.edu](mailto:bmacon@lsu.edu)).

Also, the LSU WGS/The Red Shoes Community Connections Group now has a Facebook group page. Join at [http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk-group\\_170254456361157&ap=1](http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk-group_170254456361157&ap=1) or search "Community Connections Book Group" in Facebook.

# Interviews with Graduating WGS Seniors



## HOLLIS CARTER

WGS Major  
Political Science Minor

**Future Plans:** Hollis plans to join the United States Peace Corps and work with an HIV/AIDS related project.

**Thoughts about WGS:** Hollis thinks WGS is the best degree program offered at LSU. With classes like Queer Theory, Sex, Gender and Policy and Strong Women in Literature, she believes LSU students really can't get much better. Throughout her time here at LSU, she has been able to apply what she learned in WGS courses to nearly every other class she has taken in meaningful ways. She really feels that it should be mandatory to take a WGS course, or minority-oriented course, to complete an undergraduate degree. These classes help to promote difference and acceptance and open up a lot of people to ideas that would otherwise remain foreign.

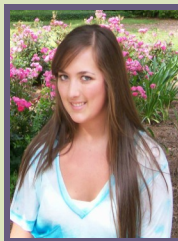
**Views about Feminism:** Hollis's views about feminism are complex. While she loves to see women succeed, she feels what is most important is equality across the board, regardless of gender, sex, race, religion, or any other identity factor one can create. Hollis has learned that the differences between men and women are profound, yet she believes both men and women who support feminism have a common goal of creating an equal playing field for all humans, to have the same opportunities for success as the next person. It's an awfully idealistic view but it's what helps her sleep.

**WGS-related Extracurricular Activities:** Hollis has worked with at-risk youth through VOA (Volunteers of America), helped at Connections for Life, and been a member of SPECTRUM at LSU.

## ALEXANDRA SMITH

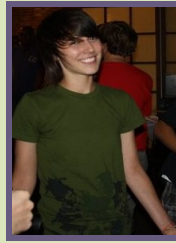
Mass Communications Major  
WGS Minor

**Future Plans:** Alexandra hopes to one day work for *Ms. Magazine*.



**Thoughts about WGS:** Alexandra believes WGS is a great program of which she is so proud to be a part. When she first came to LSU, she had no idea WGS existed. After taking the 2500 course, she decided she wanted it to be her minor. Alexandra thinks WGS 2500 should be a required course for everyone. To her, it was the first step in opening her eyes to so many issues of which she was not aware.

**Views about Feminism:** According to Alexandra, the term "feminism" can mean various things to different people. She believes that feminism deals with gender equality. In order to work toward gender equality, she thinks it is necessary to also look at the problems men face so that we can truly liberate both men and women from traditional cultural roles.



## KATHRYN BARRY

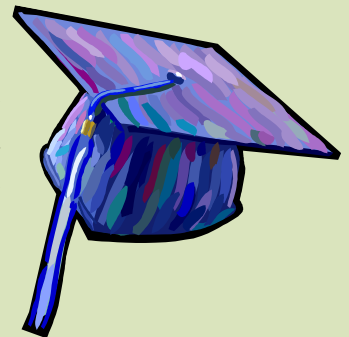
English (Writing and Culture) Major  
WGS Minor

**Future Plans:** After graduation, Kathryn wants to work in the field of queer activism in Louisiana and save money for graduate school. She'll either go to grad school for nonprofit administration or law. Either way, she wishes to become a leader in the queer movement and would love to be an executive director of a national organization.

**Thoughts about WGS:** About the program, Kathryn states, "I love WGS! There is really no other way to say it. Everyone has a few things that they are very, very passionate about. In all honesty, WGS is one of those things for me." Not surprisingly, she cannot be more devoted to seeing the program thrive, especially in a place like Baton Rouge, where feminist voices—young feminist voices at that—must play an important role in shaping its future. If Kathryn could point to a guiding force that changed her entire college career, she explains that it was the day she walked into her first WGS class. In fact, she credits WGS with altering the lens through which she encounters the world. WGS courses empowered her to make her university experience her own—one that would count for something more than football culture and the typical things it means to be an LSU Tiger. It was the start of her career as a young activist, which has now shaped all of her future plans.

**Views about Feminism:** Kathryn's relationship with feminism is a complicated one. She loves to read and study theory. In fact, feminist theory has guided much of her course work outside of WGS as she enjoys applying it to other subjects, especially English. Kathryn also participates in Women Organizing Women (WOW), the feminist organization on campus, and loves to educate other young people about feminism and contemporary issues such as reproductive justice that go along with it. However, Kathryn admits that it can be frustrating when the solutions to many contemporary problems aren't found in all of the theory she has read. While feminism has made the most amazing strides throughout history, she feels that her generation may be dropping the ball. She wants to see more young feminists acting on theory and to see theory addressing more than just problems of male privilege. According to Kathryn, feminism needs to critique itself in some ways and suggests those interested in feminism use the great potential it has to continue changing the world for the better.

**WGS-related Extracurricular Activities:** Kathryn has participated in WOW and Spectrum, a LGBTQ group at LSU. She has also been a WGS Student Ambassador and a co-organizer for WGS pizza socials, WGSGO projects, and the WGS t-shirt drive. In fact, Kathryn created the design for the WGS t-shirt.



## Interviews, continued



### ANTOINETTE FERRERA

Mass Communication (Public Relations) Major  
WGS and Business Minor

**Future Plans:** Antoinette plans to attend the University of New Orleans (UNO) to pursue a master's in education. She also wants to donate public relations services to a local non-profit organization in either the New Orleans or Baton Rouge area.

Rouge area.

**Thoughts about WGS:** Antoinette has really enjoyed each and every one of her WGS classes. Taking these courses has really changed her outlook on life and the entire world, and she would recommend the program to anyone, man and woman.

**Views about Feminism:** Before college and taking WGS courses, Antoinette's views about feminism were very different. But now that she actually knows what feminism is and what it has to offer, she defines herself as a feminist. She doesn't think feminism is about women who dislike men and want only women to be in power. Feminism, for her, is about equality for all races, genders, sexual orientations, etc. According to Antoinette, "feminism is about human rights, not just rights for one sector of the population."

**WGS-related Extracurricular Activities:** Throughout her college experience, Antoinette has taken several service learning courses which involved students working with a community partner or doing something to benefit the local Baton Rouge community. In her WGS 4500 class with Dr. Sarah Becker, which focused on mass incarceration within America, she learned about the incarceration problems within Baton Rouge. For Antoinette's final project, she researched the correlation between the high school dropout rate in East Baton Rouge Parish and the number of incarcerated parents. She also conducted an interview with someone who had been incarcerated. Antoinette's project and those of her classmates helped the class and others see the effects incarceration has on an entire family. Antoinette also visited Nichols State University to see *The Vagina Monologues*, a play in which two of her good friends starred. She thought it was both inspirational and extremely amusing and found hearing the characters' funny and sad stories an amazing experience.

### KIMBERLY BROWN

Political Science Major  
WGS Minor

**Future Plans:** Kimberly is waiting on medical clearance to enter the Peace Corps for a health extension project in Sub-Saharan Africa in October 2011.

**Thoughts about WGS:** She loves the program. Through WGS courses she has gained the ability to understand and empathize with perspectives far and vastly different from her own. Without the ability to see issues on a broader scale, relating viewpoints to



those of circumstances and backgrounds different from her own, she feels she would be a much less rounded person.

**Views about Feminism:** Feminism is a passé term to her - the issues do not only relate to women's issues, but to equality amongst all groups in society (economic classes, race and ethnicity, sexual orientation, geography, education, age, etc). Feminism in Third Wave efforts are, thankfully, reaching out to be more inclusive on a broader level with issues relatable to any suppressed or undervalued group within society.

**WGS-related Extracurricular Activities:** Kimberly has been lucky enough to have experienced two different service-learning components in her work within the WGS field, from working with Connections For Life to the Old South Baton Rouge Garden Project. Independently, she has worked as a volunteer at a free health clinic focused primarily on sexual awareness and health - issues that often affect women with histories of relationship abuse and/or those who are raising families disproportionately.

## Congratulations to our seniors!

### Join W.O.W.!

Women Organizing Women (W.O.W.) is the feminist undergraduate organization here at LSU. We organize and participate in general meetings, social events, service projects, Vagina Monologues, and other empowering activities in conjunction with the LSU Women's Center, the department of Women's and Gender Studies, the WGS Graduate Organization, Spectrum, and other progressive groups on campus. We are open to everyone!

This semester we participated in a community service project with the LSU Women's Center at the Battered Women's Shelter, the Clothesline Project organized by WSGSO, and in LSU's Vagina Monologues.

For more information about W.O.W., contact Laurel Keys (lkeys2@tigers.lsu.edu) or Joan Broussard (jbrou83@tigers.lsu.edu.)



## Out of the Classroom

### WGS Engendering Scholarship Spring 2011 Lecture Series



Jaime Cantrell



Martha Pitts



Lauren Coats

This year, WGS brought the scholarship of WGS graduate minors and faculty to the university community through three lectures organized by Dana Berkowitz, a WGS and Sociology professor. Jaime Cantrell, WGS Graduate Minor and English Doctoral Student, kicked off the series with “What is a Southern Queer but Deviance Multiplied?: Regional Elisions in Queer Theory.” Jaime’s lecture focused on understanding identity, politics, and rurality as endemic nodes paramount to navigating same-sex desire in the South. She discussed what it means to be queer in the South, a region conceptually displaced from the U.S. nation and largely posited as unimportant or simply backward in relation to more “metropolitan” queers and contexts. Jaime was joined by Martha Pitts, who is also a WGS Graduate Minor and English Doctoral Student. In a lecture titled “Teaching Girls’ Studies in the Composition Classroom,” Martha examined how, as an African-American feminist graduate assistant, she developed and promoted an interdisciplinary gender course while placing the experiences of African-Americans at the center of analysis and simultaneously maintaining its relevance to all students. She highlighted the ways in which the course’s title, perspective, structure, and assignments were developed to attract students in the social sciences, humanities, and women’s studies departments. Lauren Coats, Assistant Professor of English, completed the series with “American Discovery and Exploration: A Sentimental Story.” Contending that Susanna Rowson’s novel, *Reuben and Rachel* (1799), casts Christopher Columbus’s “discovery” of the Americas not as a patriarchal origin story, but as a sentimental, multi-national and multi-racial family history, Lauren highlighted the ways in which the early American author revised the narrative of New World discovery.

**Look forward to an exciting Fall 2011 Engendering Scholarship series!**

## WGS Retreat

Twenty-two faculty and graduate students gathered at lovely Hemingbough, 20 miles north of Baton Rouge, for the Annual WGS Spring Retreat. The day began with introductions and a session on “The Joys and Challenges of Mentoring and Advising Graduate Students.” Research clusters were the focus of the afternoon session. Participants considered current clusters and suggested new ones. They also met in small groups to discuss projects and what they hope to gain from clusters in the future. Reporting to the larger group followed small group discussion, which involved groups sharing ideas for future activities on which clusters will focus. In addition to dynamic discussion and the generation of great ideas, traipsing around the serene property, admiring beautiful peacocks, and discussion over dinner at Oxbow were also highlights of the weekend.



## Selected Faculty & Graduate Student Accomplishments

WGS colleague **Nina Asher**, who holds the J. Franklin Bayhi Endowed Professorship in the College of Education, is the recipient of the 2011 College of Education Advocate for Diversity Award. The award recognizes her significant contributions in "improving diversity" and "understanding of diverse cultures" through her teaching, research, and service. The College of Education honored award recipients at an awards banquet in April. Three of the five award recipients were WGS faculty members: Nina, Denise Egéa Kuehne (CoE Distinguished Faculty Teaching Award), and Jennifer Jolly (CoE Partnership Award).

**Andrea Berringer** hosted a Skype interview with Duane Baughman, the producer of the official Sundance Film Selection *Bhutto*, in her WGS 2900 class. For details, see <http://www.lsureveille.com/news/director-discusses-documentary-with-class-via-skype-1.2557989>.

**Wendy Braun** received an award for service at LSU and was honored at the Leadership & Involvement Awards reception.

**Stephanie Elwood**, WGS undergraduate minor, won the 2010-2011 Undergraduate Social Action Award from SWS (Sociologists for Women in Society) for a paper she wrote about her work with Marguerite Green, her co-founder and also an LSU student, with the Old South Baton Rouge Garden Project. Competition for the award was national/international, which says a great deal about the work Stephanie and Margee are doing.

**Dorota Heneghan's** ATLAS proposal for 2011-12, "Fashion, Gender, and Modernity in Galdós, Pardo Bazán, and Picón," was the top-ranked proposal in the state.

**Kate Jensen** published her book, *Uneasy Possessions: The Mother-Daughter Dilemma in French Women's Writings, 1671-1928* (University of Delaware Press and Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, 2011).

**Benjy Kahan** has been awarded the Early Career Fellowship to the Humanities Center at the University of Pittsburgh for the academic year 2011-2012. He also has been offered the ATLAS grant.

**John Larkin** is on sabbatical at the University of Strasbourg, France, conducting research in plant cell division. A paper from the dissertation work of Dr. Larkin's former student, Dr. Remmy Kasili, has been accepted for publication in *Development*, a top developmental biology journal: Kasili R., Walker J.D., Simmons L.A., Zhou, J., Faulk, C., Huang, C., Hülskamp M., and Larkin, J.C. "Branchless Trichomes: Links Cell Shape and Cell Cycle Control in Arabidopsis Trichomes."

**Michelle Linschoten**, WGS undergraduate major, was accepted by five of the six social work programs to which she applied, which included all of the schools ranked as the top five in the country. Michelle's goals include designing a high-school curriculum that addresses LGBTQ issues.

**Elaine Maccio** and a student attended the annual Society for Social Work and Research conference to present their co-authored poster, "Perspective Differences on Politics and Social Policy Between Older and Younger LGBT Adults." For details, see [http://www.sswr.org/SSWR%202011%20Program%20Book\\_FINAL12.17.2010.pdf](http://www.sswr.org/SSWR%202011%20Program%20Book_FINAL12.17.2010.pdf).

**Laura Helen Marks**, WGS Graduate Minor, won the English department's annual Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award.

**Michelle Massé** has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Association for the Psychoanalysis of Culture and Society. She is also currently serving as Second Vice-President of MLA's Age Studies Discussion Group and is incoming chair of the Women's Caucus in the Modern Languages. "Tips for Service," co-authored by her and Katie Hogan, appeared in MLA's *Profession 2010*. A panel Michelle organized, "Narrating Professional Lives: The Stories We Tell About Academia," and one at which she presented a paper, "The End of the Story: Narrating (Later) Lives," were selected as part of this year's Presidential Forum theme, "Narrating Lives." Michelle has also been invited to speak on "Generating Service" at a symposium at the University of Pittsburgh.

**Monica Miller's** article "A Loa in these Hills: Voudou and the Ineffable in Lee Smith's *On Agate Hill* was published in the *Journal of Appalachian Studies*. This semester, she also presented papers at four conferences: "Reading as Initiation: Ceremonial Metanarratives in Mayra Montero's *The Messenger*," College English Association Conference (Tampa, FL); "What Mountains Move: Magical Realism in Appalachian Literature," Mildred Haun Conference (Morristown, TN); "The Relocation of the Southern Imaginary in Donna Tartt's *The Little Friend*," Southern American Studies Association (Atlanta, GA); and "Vengeance in Time: Quentin Compson's Sense of Southern Victimhood," LSU Mardi Gras Conference.

**Laura Mullen's** sixth book, *Dark Archive*, has been published by University of California Press. Recent work has been published or is forthcoming in *The Fairy Tale Review*, *New American Writing*, and *Action Yes!* She has been elected as the special delegate in creative writing for the Modern Language Association.

## Accomplishments (continued)

**Le'Brian Patrick**, WGS Graduate Minor, was selected to receive the Charles Harrington Outstanding Graduate Student Award by the LSU Black Faculty and Staff Caucus. He also received acceptance notification for his third publication: "Vagrant Frontiers: Black Gay Masculinity and a Quest for Community" to be published by Paradigm Publishers in the co-edited book titled *Hyper Sexual-Hyper Masculine?: Deconstructing Masculine, Sexual, and Racial Identity Formation among Contemporary Black Men*.

**Martha Pitts**, WGS Graduate Minor, is one of 25 fellows chosen to participate in a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute. Martha will participate in "The Role of Place in African American Biography," sponsored by Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, Williams College, and the Upper Housatonic Valley African Ameri-

can Heritage Trail. The four-week institute will examine recent research and scholarship on the experiences of African Americans in New England from colonial days to the early twentieth century.

## MILESTONES

Congratulations to **Margaret Parker** who is retiring.

Best wishes to **Robin Roberts** and **Nina Asher** on their new jobs.

Congratulations to **Challen Nicklen**, **Shannon Lewis**, **Stephanie Alexander**, **Rachel Hall**, **Laura Moyer**, and **Laura Choate** on the arrivals of their new babies.

## WGS Awards Ceremony

WGS students, faculty, friends, and family gathered at the home of Solimar Otero to celebrate the many accomplishments of 2010-11!



Award for Outstanding Major  
*Robin Toler*



Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Minor  
*Kathryn Barry*



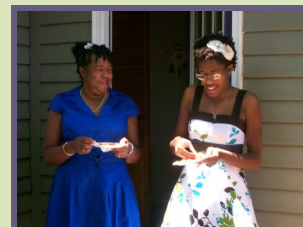
Award for Outstanding Graduate Minor  
*Wendy Braun*



Award for Outstanding  
WGS Graduate Teaching Assistant  
*Cara Jones*



Annette Massé and Beatrice Remillard Award  
for Outstanding Returning Student  
*Yvette Hyde*



Ann Veronica Simon Dissertation Award  
*Rachel Spear*



Award for Outstanding Feminist Activist  
*Karen Quebedeaux*



Outstanding Faculty Contribution to WGS  
*Daphne Cain*

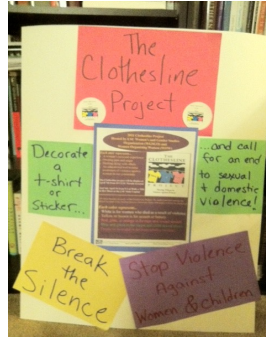
Outstanding Contribution to  
WGS by a Non-Faculty Member  
*Laura Marks*  
*Wendy Herschmann*



## WGSGO Celebrates Another Successful Semester

Along with monthly socials and a strong presence at the WGS retreat, WGSGO maintained its commitment to professional development and community activism.

**The Clothesline Project.** Led by Natasha Bingham and Wendy Braun, WGSGO's major Spring initiative was The Clothesline Project co-hosted with W.O.W. The Clothesline Project (<http://www.clotheslineproject.org/index.htm>) raises awareness for female victims of violence. It is a vehicle for women affected by violence to express their emotions by decorating a shirt. They then hang the shirt on a clothesline to be viewed by others as testimony to the problem of violence against women. The shirts were displayed twice-April 7 on the Parade Grounds along with a drum circle led by Robin Toler and again April 16 at The Baton Rouge Rape Crisis Center's "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" (a march to stop rape, sexual assault and gender violence) at the State Capital Building.



### Pedagogy Roundtable Series.

Led by Cara Jones, WGSGO hosted three successful meetings of the Pedagogy Roundtable Series. The first one was held March 1 and included a screening and discussion of *Dreamworlds 3* (<http://www.mediaed.org/cgi-bin/commerce.cgi?preadd=action&key=223>). The second was held April 5 and included a screening and discussion of *Red Moon* (<http://www.mediaed.org/cgi-bin/commerce.cgi?display=user1>). The third meeting was held April 12 and focused on graduate concerns about classes, the advisor/advisee relationship, ideas for WGS graduate teaching awards and mentoring partnerships, and a catalog of resources for dissertating students.

**Film Screenings.** Led by Laura Helen Marks, WGSGO hosted a film screening and discussion of *Wrangler: Anatomy of an Icon* on March 30 (<http://www.wranglermovie.com/movie.php>). This film and the subsequent discussion critically analyzed gay/straight gender norms in 70s pornography. Along with WGS and the Department of Anthropology, WGSGO also co-hosted a film screening of *The Legend of Pancho Barnes* and the *Happy Bottom Riding Club* on April 29. This award-winning documentary is about Pancho Barnes, one of the most colorful women pilots of the early 20th century. The screening was followed by a Q&A session with the film's associate producer, Dr. Dydia DeLyser, LSU Department of Geography and Anthropology. For more about the film, visit <http://www.legendofpanchobarnes.com/film/index.php>.

**New Website.** WGSGO successfully launched their new website on the LSU server (<http://www.lsu.edu/studentorgs/wgsgo/wgsgo.html>) and created assorted feminist stickers that were very popular among LSU students. These stickers include messages like "I <3 WGS" and "This is what a feminist looks like" and will continue to be distributed at WGS functions to raise support and awareness of the program and its message.

**BRRCC Advocacy.** WGSGO co-organizer Karen Quebedeux became a Rape Crisis Advocate for the Baton Rouge Rape Crisis Center (BRRCC). In an effort to create prolonged forms of service, Karen

volunteered as a representative of WGSGO and agreed to use her role to channel more volunteers into BRRCC. As an advocate, Karen went through 40 hours of training in order to be on-call to assist rape and sexual assault victims through potentially triggering events: the collection of the rape kit, reporting, and clarifying of blame/guilt so that survivors do not blame themselves.

**Interview with Duane Baughman.** Andrea Berringer hosted a Skype interview with Duane Baughman, the producer of the official Sundance Film Selection *Bhutto* on May 2nd in her WGS 2900 class. As a WGSGO representative, Andrea invited faculty and students from several departments to speak to the producer about Benazir Bhutto's influential force in Pakistani politics. More about the film and producers can be found at <http://www.bhuttothefilm.com/index.html>.

**WGSGO President Joins Student Government.** Wendy Braun served as President of WGSGO in 2010-2011 and parlayed this experience into a position serving the Student Government as Graduate School President for the 2011-2012 academic year. Although she will remain an active member of WGSGO, she is excited to see what new and innovative co-organizers can do for the organization.

## WGSGO Seeks Co-organizers

WGSGO is looking for graduate students to act as organizers for the 2011-2012 academic year. WGSGO's mission is to provide graduate students with an opportunity for professional development, activism projects, and social events for those with gender-based interests. WGSGO's organizers work collaboratively with a dehierarchized structure to brainstorm and create events/projects that address the needs and interests of its members. If you or someone you know is interested in feminist activism, research, and pedagogy, please submit names to current point person Wendy Braun ([wbraun1@tigers.lsu.edu](mailto:wbraun1@tigers.lsu.edu)).

Please join the Facebook Group: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2601515843>