"...With Liberty & Justice for all."
Women's studies programs first emerged, in the 1970s, as shoestring operations, created by professors who wanted to merge their professional lives with their passions. So all shared the desire to transform the university into a place more hospitable to women, in policies and curricula. They began a “long march across the disciplines;” in feminist scholar Rachel Blau DuPlessis’ provocative phrase; her allusion to Mao’s famous march from Canton to Xian province, long before he would complete his communist revolution in China, suggests that making universities more feminist would require a similar mix of endurance, commitment, and daring, one that could not be achieved in days or weeks but would require years. Though the reality was much less dramatic, women studies pioneers emphasized feminist modes of inquiry that questioned standard assumptions about scope, methodology, and appropriate boundaries. Women's studies ranged across the disciplines, moving from theory to practice to theory, and insisting on interdisciplinary inquiry that challenged foundational assumptions.

Much has changed, including the evolution of women's studies programs into gender and sexuality studies and the investment of most universities in gender studies departments. Certainly, institutional status has been important for the longevity of gender studies as it has evolved into a stand-alone discipline. But something has also been lost—not only disruptive conversations between scholars of different disciplines about questions of gender and sexuality, but collaborations between gender studies programs and women's centers, where programming and advocacy inform teaching and scholarship.

The University of Mississippi never invested in its gender studies program as other universities did in the 1970s and 1980s; unlike many of our SEC peers, we have no tenure track faculty in gender studies, no separate women's center and gender studies program, and very little infrastructure and institutional support. This is an ongoing challenge for the Sarah Isom Center, make no mistake. And yet, perhaps because of this, we remain closer to the original disruptive vision of gender studies as an interdisciplinary venture, one that brings the energy, expertise, and enthusiasm of scholars and activists from a number of disciplines, experiences, nationalities, ethnicities, and sexualities to create innovative scholarship and programming.

Our evolving research partnerships—with Dr. Lainy Day and Dr. Kate Kellum on gender and sexual diversity in biology and gender studies, and with Dr. Mary Thurlkill on religion and diversity—grow out of our affiliates’ research questions, and they combine education, research, and activism that challenge bedrock assumptions. Our Isom fellow program, inaugurated with Dr. Carrie Smith in Psychology and new rhetoric courses in development (see inside for details), will continue to build our interdisciplinary partnerships across campus. Our growing online course offerings are developed by Ph.D.s in English, film, and education. Our lectures and educational experiences—LGBT history month to women's history month, the Radical South, our arts and music festival, and Oxford Pride—are built in partnership with departments, centers, and regional nonprofits. Our core graduate course, GST 600, structures its exploration of feminist methodology in partnership with affiliates from across departments and schools.

All of which is to say that our commitment to gender studies as an interdisciplinary adventure, not a disciplinary norm, is not just accidental but intentional. We continue to be informed and challenged by findings and assumptions from different fields. As we build infrastructure and academic programs, we will continue to be guided by that vision. We invite you to reinvent gender studies anew with us, as teachers, scholars, fellows, and fellow travelers. Gender studies continues to be important for the questions it raises, the seemingly unchangeable assumptions it challenges, and the coalitions it makes possible, and we create gender studies as an interdisciplinary inquiry, not a rigid dogma, together.
I am excited about the amazing events that the Sarah Isom Center has lined up for the fall and this upcoming spring semester. This year’s program theme is LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL. Together with our sponsors we have charted a multidisciplinary, artistic journey for students, the UM community, and Oxonians. We want to thank the Student Union, Living Music Resource, the Special Collections and Archives Department at the J.D. Williams Library, UM Museum and Historic Houses, OutOxford, the Center for Inclusion and Cross Cultural Engagement, The Powerhouse Community Arts Center, Oxford Film Festival, Mississippi Public Radio’s HWY 61, Thacker Mountain Radio, and student groups FEMISS and the Department of Theater Arts, Ghostlight productions for making our fall schedule of events possible with their time, creativity, and artistic vision.

We are rolling out our third Sarahfest. I invite you to take a look at our calendar and to turn out for a movie screening, an evening concert with Sharde Thomas and the Rising Star Fife and Drum Band or go listen to Cecil Price Walden as performs his original compositions, make a trip to the UM Museum to see an exhibit. There are so many possibilities. All Sarahfest events are free and open to the public. A month long art exhibit at the Powerhouse Community Arts Center curated by OutOxford founders and UM alums Jonathan Kent Adams and Blake Summers kicks things off on September 6th.

Please remember Pride Weekend, May 3-6, and our annual Pride Parade, which is an important weekend for our LGBTQ students, our queer alumni, & Oxonians. Show your support, be a sponsor, build a float, volunteer as an organizer, come walk with us. We need friends in these roles and more importantly we need allies on the sidewalks of the Square to cheer our marchers on with love and goodwill.

Affiliates and faculty - please remember to encourage your students to submit paper and panels proposals for the Isom Student Gender Conference (ISGC). When you read that student paper that excites you, because it opens up an important conversation about gender or sexuality, remember our conference. Perhaps you can chair a panel with students from your fall semester class. Champion not only our students accomplishments, but the value of interdisciplinary scholarship, and the Isom Center.

I want to ask our diverse UM Departments, students, faculty, and larger Oxford family to bring your ideas to the planning table. We welcome all - social sciences, humanities, the arts. By traversing such a multifaceted terrains we learn to ask new and exciting questions that push ourselves, our students, and each other to step out of our comfort zone. Looking through different analytical lenses enables one to overcome stasis and to grow.

This year, for the first time, we have a VISTA volunteer working with the Isom Center. We already don’t know how we ever lived without her. Ellis introduces herself and reflects on her time with the Center below.

It is an honor to work for the Isom Center, and an even bigger honor to be asked to write this piece. Ten months ago, when I had no idea what direction my life was taking, I could never have guessed I would wind up working with the most incredible, heartfelt, and creative team I have ever known. The team at the Isom Center has taught me more than how to navigate bureaucracy and the secret queer network of Mississippi, more even than the skills to use digital creative programs which I will employ for years to come. Most importantly, being in the Isom Center every day has taught me what the impact of invisible work, done for the sake of others, can have in a community like Oxford.

As I look forward to my next six months of service, I am excited to help bring Sarahfest to you in the fall, as well as a debut movie series hosted by the Isom Center. As always, Pride is on our minds, and I hope my efforts will make our third annual celebration the best so far. I am also thrilled to be working with Kate Teague of Thacker Mountain Radio and Scott Caradine of Proud Larry’s to create a Women’s History Month music festival to honor women in the male-dominated music industry.

As a VISTA, my goal is to work myself out of my position, but I can’t help but want to stay and work with this incredible team of world-changers.
Sarahfest first began as a twinkle in a student’s eye in the early 2000s. What started as a pitch in an Isom Center student planning meeting grew into a benefit concert, which exploded into a week of events officially branded as “Sarahfest”. Music, art, activism, and community came together to express a variety of ideas of gender and creativity in the South. This year, we are expanding Sarahfest from a week of events to incorporate the entire fall semester. In coordination with partners both on campus and in our community, we hope to offer a variety of accessible programming for all ages. With partnerships with UM Museums and the Special Collections and Archives of the JD Williams Library, we seek to connect with our shared history, embrace our diversity, and celebrate the creativity living in our state. Our events and presenters are highlighted below:

September 5th - 30th ~ Big Gay Art Show

This year at Sarahfest, we welcome the Big Gay Art Show. The show will focus on queer experiences in the American South. How does one proudly claim their queer identity in the age of Trump? How do queer bodies respond when their existence is denied or ignored? Viewers will experience installation, poetry, performance art, ceramics, and two-dimensional art. The art show is curated by Blake Summers and Jonathan Kent Adams. The duo reached out to local artists and artists within the southern United States. The two artists hope to give the Oxford community glimpses of what it’s like to be here and queer.

October - December
Department of Archives and Special Collections and University Museums Special Exhibits

The history of Mississippi is rich with women and minorities who may not always make it to the history textbooks. Sarahfest gives us an opportunity to highlight these figures by partnering with Archives and Special Collections in the J.D. Williams Library as well as with the University of Mississippi Museums. All semester long, students and community members will have a chance to explore the rich, living texts of Mississippi writers, artists, and changemakers. Take a self-guided tour of the UM Museum with help from special Gallery Cards which give background on female artists featured in the collection. Visit the Seymour Lawrence Room on the third floor of the JD Williams Library to explore “Diversity and Inclusion in Mississippi Narratives,” featuring primary texts from Mississippi authors and activists. These exhibits will be open all semester long.

October 7th ~ Highway 61 Radio

Highway 61 Radio is glad to once again partner with Sarahfest through producing a show built around the theme of this year’s event, as well as to participate in an event with Sharde Thomas, a conscious advocate and outstanding performer of the rich North Mississippi Hill Country tradition. As writers such as Angela Davis have noted blues lyrics provide a rich body of material for understanding gender roles, and performance of the music provided a rare platform for articulating and reinforcing performers notions of their self-identity, often vis-à-vis topics of relationship troubles.

Highway 61 airs at 10 PM Saturdays on Mississippi Public Radio

October 8th - 9th ~ Shard Thomas and the Rising Star Fife and Drum Band

Sharde Thomas was born in North Mississippi in 1990 and is the granddaughter of the North Mississippi Fife and Drum Master, the late Otha Turner. Sharde was her grandfather's heir of the mastery of the fife and drum at a very young age. Sharde is the lead vocalist and plays the fife in the Rising Star Fife and Drum Band. The Rising Star Fife and Drum Band has traveled around the world performing a mixture of folk music, blues, gospel, and pop.


October 12th ~ Queer Studies Lecture and Thacker Mountain Radio

See page 8
Artists’ connections to their work are very intimate and often specifically correlates to personal experiences. Composer Price Walden embarks on this journey regularly as he creates new musical works for soloists and ensembles. Join us on October 24th at 7:30 PM in Nutt Auditorium as UM Music Professor Nancy Maria Balach interviews Price and explores his quest as a composer to create profound musical experiences that evoke individual emotions and interpretations from each audience member. Then, on October 27th at 7:30 PM in Nutt Auditorium, take a personal journey of meditation and love through the exquisite musical offerings of Price Walden and other outstanding musicians.

Cecil Price Walden (b. 1991) is a composer and pianist based in Oxford, MS. Walden frequently writes works based in his experiences growing up in the South. In October 2011, his cantata, “Leaves of Greens” was premiered at the Lyric Theatre in Oxford, which led *Southern Living* to name him one of their first ever “Heroes of the New South” (March 2012) Notable performances include the premiere of “hydrogen jukebox” by the University of Mississippi Wind Ensemble at the 2010 CBDNA Southern Regional and a performance of “Leaves of Greens” at the Atlanta Food & Wine Festival by the Atlanta Opera. His song cycle, “Abide with Me: 5 songs of love” has been heard around the country, and was recorded by Jos Milton for Albany Records. 2017 sees the premiere of his first opera, The Contract Player, with librettist Lane Williamson, and a new piece for Bruce Levingston, commissioned for the Mississippi Bicentennial.

In addition to composition and his work as a solo performer, Price also frequently performs as a collaborative pianist and vocal coach. He has been music director for the University of Mississippi Theatre Department since 2011 and was previously the music director for Ghostlight Repertory Theatre. He also frequently works as a freelance performer, and has appeared with the Memphis Symphony's Opus One Ensemble. Price studied Music and English at the University of Mississippi and is a piano student of Stacy Rodgers. In his extremely rare spare time, Cecil Price buys and intends to read books and goes on adventures with his miniature schnauzer, Orlo.

The Importance of Sarahfest

Thacker Mountain Radio Hour has had the honor and privilege to serve as a partner of the Sarah Isom Center. For the past two years, we have created a special edition of our show in conjunction with the Isom Center on the grounds of the historic Rowan Oak and have showcased many female talents including Amy Ray, Kelly Hogan (pictured), Marcella Simien and Maggie Koerner. To have a Thacker Mountain Radio Hour show solely dedicated to honoring women artists has been so invigorating for our program and for me on a personal level. In addition to working with the Sarah Isom Center to produce Thacker’s SarahFest show in the fall, I have been working with Ellis Starkey to celebrate Women’s History Month in March.

Being a woman in the music industry, there are many times when your talents and hard worked are underrepresented and underappreciated. There are also times where you are belittled, or taken advantage of, under the false pretense that your offerings are less than those of a man. This special edition of Thacker, Sarahfest, and Women’s History Month allows our community the opportunity to showcase just how powerful women artists are and to reveal the incredibly integral ways in which they have contributed to music and the arts. The Sarah Isom Center has been such an amazing asset to our community. Thacker is a proud partner supporter of their work, and so am I.

Kate Teague
Executive Director/Producer
Thacker Mountain Radio Hour
The Sarah Isom Center for Women and Gender Studies is fortunate to have strong partners across campus and in the Oxford Community. Thacker Mountain Radio is one of them. Meet some of our other partners below.

The Yoknapatawpha Arts Council is a proud partner in the Sarah Isom Center’s Sarahfest. The annual event provides the arts council with insight into programming that connects the varied elements of the University and broader community. Through this partnership our organizations are able to address topics in a respectful and thoughtful manner, building bridges of understanding.

The Arts provide the chance to share stories that enable people to connect. Sarahfest brings the community together by working with resident visual, performing, literary and new media artists inviting audiences to step away from personal paradigms to understand perspectives on a topics that shape our cultural dialogue. This annual program extends the educational boundaries of the Sarah Isom center into our community. Through their leadership the variety of voices that comprise Lafayette County become a chorus working to build unity.

The Arts Council appreciates the opportunity to partner through this program to expand the quality, range, scope and uniqueness of programming that enriches every residents.

-- Wayne Andrews
Director, Yoknapatawpha Arts Council

I believe that endeavors with new and sometimes unexpected educational partners lead to a more cohesive society, and a rediscovery of humanity can occur through the universal language of music. The interdisciplinary collaborations between the Sarah Isom Center and LMR™ are achieving these efforts through innovative educational events that foster human connection, empathy, education, and understanding both on and off campus.

--Nancy Maria Balach
Associate Professor of Music and Living Music Resource™ Creator
The University of Mississippi Museum and its historic house Rowan Oak are deeply committed to our relationship with the Sarah Isom Center for Women and Gender Studies. We have been exceptionally proud to have partnered with the Isom Center on the occasion of two consecutive SarahFest events, and we eagerly look forward to extending our partnership in Fall, 2017 – and in all future opportunities for mutual support and collaboration.

The Museum and the Isom Center are entirely mission-aligned units of the University in our focus respectively on education, research, inclusion, and empowerment of our campus and public communities. By dropping all admission fees in 2013 to become an income-barrier free museum, the Museum celebrates inclusion, diversity, and access. In all of the Museum’s and Rowan Oak’s programming and exhibition determinations, matters of gender equity and representation are at the forefront of our considerations.

Because our visitor demographics track the diversity of our broader north Mississippi community in metrics of race, income, gender, and sexual orientation the University of Mississippi Museum has great allegiance with the Sarah Isom Center – and we anticipate a future of continuing collegiality and working closely together across a wide spectrum of service and research initiatives.

-- Robert Saarnio
Director, University Museum & Historic Houses

Proud Larry's is thrilled to continue building our partnership with The Isom Center at Ole Miss. With great guidance from Theresa and the Isom staff, we have been working together on projects like Sarahfest, to help promote gender equality through the arts, as well as co-promoting events with OutOxford, and student groups like The UM Pride Network. Through events like Code Pink Dance Parties and Pride Weekend, we help foster the idea of inclusiveness for all members of Oxford’s LGBTQ community, and we hope to see not only gates opened, but fences be completely removed.

-- Scott Caradine
Owner, Proud Larry’s
We are excited to announce that Charlie Jane Anders will be delivering this year’s Queer Studies Lecture on October 12th at 4 PM in 126 Lamar Hall and will appear on Thacker Mountain Radio that evening.

About Charlie Jane Anders

Anders is the former editor-in-chief of io9.com, the extraordinarily popular Gawker Media site devoted to science fiction and fantasy. Her debut novel, the mainstream *Choir Boy*, won the 2006 Lambda Literary Award and was shortlisted for the Edmund White Award. Her Tor.com story "Six Months, Three Days" won the 2013 Hugo Award and was subsequently picked up for development into a NBC television series. Her speculative fiction novel *All the Birds in the Sky* won the 2017 Nebula Award and was in *Time*’s top novels of the year. She has also had fiction published by *McSweeney’s* and written pieces of journalism which have appeared in *Salon*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *Mother Jones*, and many other outlets.

Pair of Photographic Exhibitions Come to the Campus Galleries this Fall

This coming October-December, two photographic exhibitions will be on campus featuring photographic work selected from the Do Good Fund collection. The exhibitions are curated by Brooke White, associate professor of Art, and David Wharton, director of Documentary Studies at the Center for the Study of Southern Culture. Based out of Columbus, Georgia, the Do Good Fund is a contemporary photography collection that focuses on building a museum quality collection of photographs made in the American South since World War II. Artists represented in this collection include past Guggenheim Fellows as well as regionally, nationally and internationally recognized photographers. The two exhibitions, "NOW: Contemporary Southern Photography" and "Southern People, Southern Places," will be open to the public and advertised through the Department of Art & Art History and the Center for the Study of Southern Culture. These two separate exhibitions, consisting of over fifty works, will be held in Department of Art & Art History in Gallery 130, Meek Hall and the Center for Southern Culture in the Gammill Gallery, Barnard Observatory.

On October 5, 2017, there will be a panel featuring four photographers with works in the Collection, including Jill Frank, Jerry Siegel, David Wharton, and Brooke White, along with Alan Rothschild, Director of the Do Good Fund. This panel will discuss the role of photography in the South and provide an open platform for each photographer to discuss his or her work. All of the events are free and open to the public and will be advertised through the Department of Art & Art History, Southern Studies, the Center for the Study of Southern Culture, and the University Museum using social media, exhibition cards and posters. Jill Frank will also participate in studio visits with undergraduate and graduate students in the Department of Art & Art History, while Jerry Siegel will visit with Southern Studies students.

--Brooke White
Assistant Chair & Associate Professor of Art-Imaging Arts
The Inaugural Sarah Isom Fellow Talks Research, Asking Questions, and the Psychology of Greek Life
Dr. Carrie V. Smith is currently an Instructional Associate Professor at the University of Mississippi in the Department of Psychology. She earned her Ph.D. in Social Psychology from the University of Houston in 2004. Prior to obtaining her current position at the University of Mississippi, she was held positions at the University of Delaware, Rowan University, and Drexel University. Dr. Smith's research interests include the influence of sex, gender, and ambivalent sexism on social perception, social interaction, and personal and professional well-being. She has 26 peer-reviewed publications to her credit. Dr. Smith also has authored instructional materials for three textbooks.

Below is an excerpt of an interview with VISTA Ellis Starkey and Dr. Carrie Smith:

Ellis Starkey: Congratulations! Can you tell me a bit about what brought you into the field of Psychology?

Carrie Smith: It was a complete accident... What happened with psychology is that all the things I cared about as a “human”, I just didn’t know you could study. If you trace back to the things I thought were interesting when I was 12, like relationships, that’s what I do now. These are the questions I’ve always been interested in.

ES: What did you see in the application that drew you to the position?

CS: I was excited for a few reasons, but one was the idea of helping out the Isom Center, contributing to the Center in terms of research, scholarship, and service, because it is underserved. It doesn’t have faculty, other than Jaime and Theresa, so it’s hard to get momentum. I there are a lot of people doing gender [work] on this campus, but you don’t see it. So it’s exciting to be someone who’s doing research that Isom gets to claim as its own. The things I’m researching now keep taking me in a gender way, so it’s a good time for me to work with Isom and make them more visible on campus. I’m hoping it’s a good partnership, and people see my productivity as tied to Isom’s productivity.

People on this campus are doing gender research, but because it doesn’t all look the same, it doesn’t get seen the same way.

ES: Can you talk more about your research, both what you have been doing and how that may change as you approach it with a specifically gendered lens?

CS: I study interpersonal relationships and sexuality, so it’s perfectly in line with what Isom does. For whatever reason, the undergraduates I have working with me are interested in gender and sexuality. Because they’re interested and I’ve always been interested [in these issues], it’s been coalescing nicely.

ES: Your research in the Greek system has culminated in a class, Gender and Greek Life.

CS: Absolutely, it’s been nice, [building] my own ideas plus the ideas of students. One of the things that I like about gender studies and the Isom Center is that it allows you to question the things that you see all around you. Lots of students don’t know what gender studies is. [They think] it’s man-hating or burning your bras, but what they don’t understand is that it’s just a way of looking at things. Like the Greek system. It’s interesting that in 2017 we have these sex-segregated institutions, which is fine enough. It’s interesting that you see them rise in popularity across the country at the same time that [the popularity of] same-sex institutions are decreasing. It’s just fascinating. Once you join, are they sources of female empowerment or male support? No. They are actually trading in traditional gender roles. It’s not good or bad, but it is a really fertile place to look and to study. The freedom to go question “What does this look like?” is exactly what gender studies is to me - it’s not good or bad, just questioning. It’s the same when I study sexuality.

For me, the Isom Center is a place of questioning and asking things that haven’t been asked before. I think that’s interesting and underappreciated on campus.

ES: In addition to Gender and Greek Life, what other classes are you interested in developing?
Center Announces the Sarah Isom Fellows Program

Because the Sarah Isom Center only has one core instructor of gender studies and no joint appointments, we are constantly looking for creative ways to expand our course offerings and engage with our affiliated faculty. One new initiative is the Sarah Isom Fellow program. Isom Fellows are faculty from other departments which will work with the Isom Center for two years, teaching one class a semester for the gender studies program and doing research in gender and/or sexuality. The Sarah Isom Center is committed to working with chairs to find constructive ways to free up faculty for this commitment. We see this as an opportunity to build collaborative, fruitful partnerships across the disciplines. Such relationships create transformative learning opportunities for UM students and our Gender Studies minors.

We are happy to announce our first Sarah Isom fellow is Dr. Carrie Smith, from the department of psychology. We are also working with two instructors in the Department of Writing and Rhetoric, Dr. Claire Mischker and instructor Michelle Bright, to develop new crosslisted courses with the gender studies program. Please see below for more details on each of these initiatives.

We want this program to grow over the coming years. If you are interested in being an Isom Fellow or developing new crosslisted courses with the gender studies program, please contact Dr. Jaime Harker (jlharker@olemiss.edu).

Doing Gender and Rhetoric

Claire Mischker and Michelle Bright are developing classes for the new rhetoric minor. Dr. Mischker’s class will focus on feminist rhetoric. “Feminist rhetoric,” she explains, “developed as a reaction to the predominantly patriarchal perspective of discourse communities in both public and private spheres, specifically because that patriarchal perspective operated in order to oppress women.” She will look both at the history of feminist rhetoric, from Sappho to Margery Kempe to Margaret Fuller, and explore the feminist rhetoric of contemporary writers, including bell hooks, Andrea Lunsford, and Roxane Gay. The class will also analyze popular culture, such as social media articles/posts/adsvertisements, etc., television shows or movies, and other relevant online sources.

Michelle Bright’s course focuses on queer rhetoric. Ms. Bright explains that the course investigates “how bodies are controlled and how body-centric identities seek to undermine those powers that seek to control bodies.” The course will analyze queer texts from activism, coming out stories, social media posts, and drag shows, to observe how gender and sexuality are performed. Students will apply this analysis to our lived environment, considering, for example, window displays at shops on the Oxford Square, tailgate parties in the Grove, inside or on the sidewalk outside local bars and nightclubs, and fraternity and sorority events. After studying these various rhetorical practices, students will also participate in queer rhetoric by creating service learning projects for the queer community.

CS: In spring, we are are going to teach for the first time a class on interpersonal relationships. It will be cross-listed with gender studies and the psychology department, and it’s the first time it’s been offered. We spend a lot of time in relationships. For the most part, we are born into a relationship called the family, and then as you grow, you transition to friendships, and then eventually, statistically speaking, most of us will couple. Some of us will stay with that couple forever, some won’t, and some of us will have multiple couples. The idea of looking at a class like that is really exciting to me.

ES: It’s obvious to me just sitting with you that you are very passionate about questioning things, which makes you a great fit for the Isom Center. How do you think your role as the Isom Fellow will change the way you look at things over the next two years and what do you hope to bring to the fellowship?

CS: I will say it’s a little bit of pressure to be the first one because I don’t want to be bad at it.

ES: You’ll be the best we’ve ever had!

CS: I will! There will have never have been an Isom Fellow as good as me. I’m hoping that being an Isom Fellow will give me a little bit more time to think more programatically about my research and to look for the overarching themes of my research. I am also hoping to bring some visibility to gender studies. I will work with the Isom Center to do a campus-wide survey about what people actually know about gender studies and how interested are they in a major or a minor. What kind of false assumptions are they [operating] under? For example, I guarantee you there are men on this campus who have these questions, who are interested in ideas like toxic masculinity or equality in the workplace. Gender studies sounds like the idea of looking at a class like that is really exciting to me.

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Keynote Speakers Announced for the 18th Annual Isom Student Gender Conference

The Sarah Isom Center is happy to announce keynote speakers for the 18th Annual Isom Student Gender Conference taking place the first week of April 2018: Dr. Laura Otis and Dr. Molly Zuckerman.

When thinking about a keynote for this year’s conference, we wanted to feature someone who specialized in interdisciplinary research. Dr. Laura Otis was one of the first names that came to mind. Otis is a Professor of English at Emory University who uses her scientific background to think about the way different fields intersect. Trained as a neuroscientist and literary scholar, she researches and compares the ways that scientific and literary writers describe identity, memory, communication, emotion, and thought. Otis received her BS in Biochemistry from Yale University in 1983, her MA in Neuroscience from the University of California at San Francisco in 1988, her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from Cornell University in 1991, and her MFA in Fiction from Warren Wilson College in 2017. She now teaches at Emory University, where her interdisciplinary courses focus on literature, neuroscience, cognitive science, and medicine.

Otis’s career is a testament to interdisciplinary research and teaching, goals which the Isom Center and our affiliates share. This is why we are excited grateful for the opportunity to bring this scholar to you in the coming year.

Because the Isom Center is also built on partnerships, both local and on a wider scale, we reached out to Dr. Molly Zuckerman, associate professor, from Mississippi State University’s Department of Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures to present at the Isom Student Gender Conference. The Isom Center is providing travel grants for Zuckerman’s students to attend and present at the conference as well.

Zuckerman’s research centers on the bio-social determinants of health inequalities among past populations, with a particular focus on social identity and gender, and on the evolution of infectious disease, with a focus on syphilis and the treponematoses. She is associated with ongoing bioarcheological research projects in the UK, Mongolia, and St. Croix. She earned BA degrees in Anthropology and Women’s Studies at The Pennsylvania State University (2004), and an MA (2009) and PhD (2010) in Anthropology and a graduate certificate (2010) in Gender Studies from Emory University. She completed postdoctoral training at the University of South Carolina. Originally from Pittsburgh PA, she lives outside of Starkville, MS with her husband, an archaeologist, their four year old daughter, and too many pets.

The Isom Center looks forward to hosting these two interdisciplinary scholars for our 18th Annual Isom Student Gender Conference and exploring and sharing the research of our undergraduate, graduate, and visiting student scholars.

Visit isomstudentgenderconference.org for more information.
18th Annual Isom Student Gender Conference
The University of Mississippi
April 4-6, 2018

Liberty and Justice for All

The Sarah Isom Center for Women and Gender Studies at the University of Mississippi is pleased to announce its 18th Annual Isom Student Gender Conference (ISGC) in the spring of 2018. The ISGC is scheduled for Wednesday, April 4th through Friday, April 6th on the campus of the University of Mississippi in Oxford, Mississippi. This Call for Papers invites both undergraduate and graduate student scholars, writers, and activists to participate.

The 2018 conference theme is Liberty and Justice for All. We invite participants to interrogate issues of equity, equality, respect, dignity, visibility, and freedom in their disciplines of study, society, and personal experience. What aspects of gender and sexuality are marginalized in our communities, both public and private? What structural frameworks impede access to social, cultural, and judicial equity? What forces combine to produce inequalities institutionally, locally, regionally, nationally, and on a global level? What means of resistance have been invented to combat such forces of inequality? All these questions inform our theme of Liberty and Justice for All.

Students are welcome to submit papers from all disciplines, along with creative writing projects such as fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. Additionally, proposals for roundtable discussions that center on community building, advocacy, and social change both on and off the campus through the arts, social media, and student engagement with broader communities are encouraged.

A small number of domestic travel grants will be made available to non-UM students.

Please submit a three hundred word abstract by February 16th, 2017 to:

For additional information or questions, feel free to contact us at isomctr@olemiss.edu or call (662) 915-5916.
Looking Ahead to Pride

Two and a half years ago, a student came to us with a dream and a permit for the first annual Oxford Pride Parade. In little over a month, we rallied support from university departments and individuals, campus and city police departments, business owners, organizers, and our community to celebrate diversity and equality in our corner of the state.

Last year’s Pride Weekend was an even bigger success, bringing to town Big Freedia and drag performers from Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, together for the first time since the tragic and fatal 2016 shooting.

This year, we hope to expand Oxford Pride Weekend and include new generations in our celebration. As always, a special Pride edition of Code Pink, hosted by Proud Larry’s and produced by OutOxford, will kick off the weekend of events. Coordinating with the Ole Miss Alumni Association, we are planning to make the first weekend in May an LGBTQ+ Alumni Reunion, featuring discussions and networking events. We are also happy to be bringing Todd Shaffer and a bevy of drag queens from New Orleans to host “Let’s Make a Wheel of Bingo,” which will serve as a fundraiser for the Isom Center as well as a chance to win fabulous prizes from local establishments.

Most importantly, we need your support to make the Pride Parade as magical as it has been in years past. The theme for next year’s parade is “Can’t Stop the Beat,” and we want to see all your floats, signs, and friends marching up Lamar or waving from a balcony on the Square. Registration for the parade will open soon, so like our Facebook page to keep to date on information.

Isom Film Series

The Associate (1996)
September 7th

The Associate stars Whoopi Goldberg as Laurel Ayres, who must learn what it takes to make it on Wall Street. When she learns that one of her male trainees has been promoted over her, Laurel starts from scratch - a new company, a new name, and a new race and gender! As Robert S. Cutty, an older white man, Laurel finally finds the recognition she deserves.

Pride (2014)
October 5th

Pride recreates the true story of two unlikely groups standing up for each other. Set in Britain in the 1980’s Pride follows a group of gay men and lesbians who provide support for small-town miner’s who are striking in order to unionize. Tensions are high at first, until they realize they have much larger enemies than each other.

The Legend of Billie Jean (1985)
November 2nd

The Legend of Billie Jean follows a Texas high-school girl who sparks action in her small town after a rape attempt ends with the man in the hospital. When the police get involved, things only escalate, until Billie makes a video of demands where she showcases her new cropped hair. Billie is a classic teen icon of sexual freedom and rebellion.

All Films: 7 PM - Lamar 327
Behind the Page: Kevin Cozart

- Three locations
- Three academic degrees
- Three directors
- One new associate director
- The creation of the Graduate Minor in Gender Studies
- One AAUW Grant
- Three Chancellors
- And the creation of mobile technology and social media as we know it …

Above are just some of the “metrics” that mark my first ten years with the Isom Center. When I started the job, one of the first things I realized is that the Center needed a “consistent brand identity.” That process began with small steps such as a standard font for all materials and color coding for “Center” vs “academic” materials. It later expanded to a more up-to-date web presence that fit with the university. One of the last phases has been the creation of The Isom Report, our news-zine, The Isom Weekly, our “weekly” news email, and our first comprehensive brochure.

As I move into my second decade with the Center (at least Jaime hopes it is a second decade), I look forward to the challenges and opportunities ahead. One of these will be hosting the Southeastern Women’s Studies Association (SEWSA) annual conference in March 2019. We’ve selected the theme “Envisioning a Feminist and Queer South.” We will be asking all of you for help in the months and years to come as we host the prestigious conference.

One thing is for sure: we will continue to get sh!t done and I’ll be here behind the pages (and scenes) helping make it happen.

-- Kevin Cozart
Operations Manager and Adjunct Instructor of Gender Studies

About the Sarah Isom Center:

The Sarah Isom Center for Women and Gender Studies was established at The University of Mississippi in 1981 to address the changing roles and expectations of women students, faculty, and staff.

The University has provided educational opportunities for women longer than any other state university in the South. When UM opened its doors to women in 1882, eleven women registered for classes. Today, women constitute half the student body.

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About the newsletter:
- All articles were written by Isom Center staff, with biographies supplied by guest speakers, artists, or their representatives.

Layout and graphic design work by Kevin Cozart.

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**2017 - 2018 Calendar**

**September**
5th - 30th ~ Powerhouse
The Big Gay Art Show
Curated by Blake Summers and Jonathan Kent Adams

7th @ 6pm ~ Lamar Room 327
Isom Film Series: The Associate

11th - 13th ~ Sextravaganza
Contact Office of Health Promotions for schedule.
Healthpromotion.olemiss.edu

21st @ 9pm ~ Proud Larry’s
Code Pink: Welcome Back Bash
an LGBTQ dance party, 18+, $10 cover

23rd @ 6pm ~ Local's
Film Screening: Crimes of the Heart
Screening and Q&A presented by Oxford Film Fest and FEMISS

26th @ 6pm ~ Powerhouse
The Big Gay Art Show Reception as part of Art Crawl

**October**
2nd @ 6pm ~ Lamar Room 327
Isom Film Series: Pride

5th @ Gallery 130
NOW: Contemporary Southern Photography and Southern People, Southern Places
3-4 : Panel with the artists
5-6: Reception

8th @ 5pm ~ Nutt Auditorium
Free Concert: Sharde Thomas and the Rising Star Fife and Drum Band

9th @ 1pm ~ Nutt Auditorium
Living Music Resource Interview with Sharde Thomas and Scott Barretta

12th @ 4pm ~ Lamar Room 126
Queer Studies Lecture by Charlie Jane Anders

12th @ 6pm ~ Off Square Books
Charlie Jane Anders on Thacker Mountain Radio

17th @ 9pm ~ Powerhouse
Cabaret by Ghostlight Repertory Theater

24th @ 7:30 pm ~ Nutt Auditorium
Nancy Maria Balach interviews Cecil Price Walden for Living Music Resource

27th @ 7:30 pm ~ Nutt Auditorium
"A Song of Songs" written and performed by Cecil Price Walden

31st @ 9pm ~ Proud Larry’s
Code Pink: The Halloween Edition, a LGBTQ dance and costume party

**November**
2nd @ 6pm ~ Lamar Room 327
Isom Film Series:
The Legend of Billie Jean

30th @ 7pm ~ Powerhouse
Film Screening: Deep South

**January**
18th ~ Time/Location TBD
Affiliated Faculty Retreat

**February**
TBA
Affordable Housing is a Feminist Issue Panel

**March**
Women’s History Month
8th - International Women’s Day

**April**
3rd - 5th - Location TBD
2018 Isom Student Gender Conference

**May**
3rd-6th
Oxford Pride Weekend

4th - 6th
LGBTQ Alumni Reunion Weekend

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**Famished Feminist Fridays**
11 AM, Rebel Market
3rd Friday of Each Month