The new academic year and WAGS’ newsletter are starting up at the same time. It appears as if all of our faculty spent the now-ended summer squinting into computer screens – and to good ends. Lots of writing and publication was done, was honored, and continues on. The American Political Science Association awarded Kristin Bumiller’s recent book, *In an Abusive State: How Neoliberalism Appropriated the Feminist Movement against Sexual Violence* (Duke, 2008) the Victoria Schuck Award. In addition, she edited (with Anna Marie Smith and Molly Shanley) a special issue of *Signs* on reproductive and genetic technology (vol 34, no. 4) which includes her own article, “The Geneticization of Autism: From New Reproductive Technologies to the Conception of Genetic.”

Advance copies of Margaret Hunt’s latest book, *Women in Eighteenth-Century Europe*, Longman-Pearson Publisher, have arrived; a book party is promised some time in the fall. In October Professor Hunt will give a paper at the North American Conference on British Studies (meeting this year in Lafayette, Kentucky) on “Women and the State in Early Modern England.” And Amrita Basu has just completed editing an anthology on women’s movements for Westview Press, *Women’s Movements in a Global Era: The Power of Local Feminisms*. This publication is a successor to her 1995 book, *The Challenge of Local Feminisms* and will be published this spring. In addition, Professor Basu has a forthcoming article on Martha Nussbaum’s human capabilities approach: “Who Secures Women’s Capabilities in Martha Nussbaum’s Quest for Social Justice” appearing in the *Columbia University Law School Journal of Gender and Law*. Professor Basu continues as Associate Dean of the Faculty, organizing teaching and advising projects. She facilitates faculty lunches and workshops, arranges activities for and about transfer students, and continues to serve on the committee for academic support.

And – just when you wondered if it really mattered if you wrote or write a senior thesis....we can give you evidence that it can. Rose Olver and Kelly King ’08 completed their manuscript this summer: “Confronting the Male Gaze: Objectification Theory and Flow in Female Athletes.” Based on Kelly’s honors thesis work, Olver and King argue that attaining flow (the optimal experience in athletics of total involvement in the activity) is facilitated when women athletes reject the societal thinness ideal and instead describe larger, more muscular bodies as desirable and attractive.

Manuela Picq has published two articles, both related to the rights of indigenous women in Ecuador: In 2009, “La Violencia como factor de exclusion politica: mujeres indigenas en Chimborazo,” in Adrea Pequeno, ed., *Participacion y politicas de...*

This semester, she will teach Global Politics of Gender (WAGS 02) and Gender and Ethnicity in Latin America (WAGS 03).

Two of us returned from sabbaticals this year: Rick Griffiths spent AY 2008-09 as a recovering Associate Dean of the Faculty and working on Greek-language poetry from Hellenistic Egypt (3rd century BCE). He is interested in how that international culture redefined gender roles in relation to monstrous knowledge (witches, centaurs, sirens, snake-men, Egyptians). He is looking forward to returning to the WAGS classroom to teach Greek Drama (WAGS 38) and Queer Canons (WAGS 31). And Martha Saxton had a wonderful year on a Cullman Fellowship at the New York Public Library. Professor Saxton continued her work on a biography of Mary Ball Washington, George’s mother, about whom little is known but much has been opined.

Professor Saxton, along with Professor Bumiller will be teaching The Cross-Cultural Construction of Gender this semester (WAGS 11).

Paola Zamperini will cross-list two courses in WAGS this semester: Fashion Matters: Clothes, Bodies, and Consumption in East Asia (WAGS 13) and Flowers in the Mirror: Writing Women in Chinese Literature (WAGS 40).

Michele Barale’s essay, “Of Hyacinths,” appears in the most recent volume of the Irish journal, Lesbian Studies. Contrary to the title’s promise, no horticultural information can be found therein. The title is taken from an Adrienne Rich poem, and the essay argues for the importance of cross-reading among scholars of the broadest possible array of Queer Studies. Along with Professor Jyl Gentzler, Professor Barale is now co-director of the Amherst College Writing Center; although she is sad to give up half of her classes to do this new job, she is happy as a clam at high tide to be working with student writing.

Amy Ford spent her summer learning to play guitar (sort of), singing, and heading for the ocean every chance she got, as she loves ocean swimming. During the ’09 spring semester she participated in The Vagina Monologues and had a wonderful time getting to know the women of Amherst; their enthusiasm for the project was infectious. This fall, when she is not busy keeping WAGS in shape, she’ll be teaching an introductory course in addiction studies at Holyoke Community College.

We had visits from a couple of alums this summer. Tony Jack ’08 was on campus and living in the area for
several months while he studied for his qualifying exams in Sociology at Harvard. Tony was a WAGS/Religion major while at Amherst. And Catherine Cugell Rombeau ’98 spent a week in Frost Library. She is currently at work on a biography of Anna Roosevelt Halsted, the oldest of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt’s five children and their only daughter. Although widely considered FDR’s most politically astute child (as well as his favorite), Anna Roosevelt never nurtured any political ambitions of her own. As for Catherine’s ambitions, after teaching English in Greece and graduating law school in New York, she now practices labor and employment law in Philadelphia, where she lives with her husband and two very vocal beagles.

Sarah Kooperkamp ’05 is “getting closer” to becoming an Episcopal priest, having finished Seminary a little over a year ago. This past year she has been assistant college Chaplain at NYU, and hopes to continue work with students once she becomes a priest.

Alicia Ellis ’98 is finishing the last chapter of her dissertation in the German Department at Yale and sees an end – and her Ph.D. – in sight. Alicia is now beginning her second year as an Assistant Professor at Hampshire College; in 2007 - 08, Alicia was a Visiting Professor here in WAGS.

Francesca Purcell ’89 is the Associate Director for Academic Policy at the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education. She graduated from the Boston College higher education administration doctoral program in May 2004 with a dissertation focused on the organizational development of women’s colleges in the Philippines. Her publications include Coming of Age: Women’s Colleges in the Philippines during the Post-Marcos Era (2005) and Women’s Universities and Colleges: An International Handbook (2004) with Robin Matross Helms and Laura Rumbley.

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Courses for Fall, 2009
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WAGS-02 Global Politics of Gender
Manuela Picq (Section 01)

WAGS-03 Gender and Ethnicity in Latin America
Manuela Picq (Section 01)

WAGS-11 The Cross-Cultural Construction of Gender
Kristin Bumiller (Section 01)
Martha Saxton (Section 01)

WAGS-13 Fashion Matters: Clothes, Bodies and Consumption in East Asia
Paola Zamperini (Section 01)
WAGS-38 Greek Drama
Frederick T. Griffiths (Section 01)

WAGS-40 Flowers in the Mirror: Writing
Women in Chinese Literature
Paola Zamperini (Section 01)