

Sept. 27, 2012

Women's Studies professor wins Livingston honor

This year's recipient of the John C. Livingston award is Rita Cameron Wedding, who directs the Department of Women's Studies and is a professor of Women's Studies and Ethnic Studies.

Cameron Wedding will present at the annual John C. Livingston Faculty Lecture "A Challenge to Colorblindness: Racial Inequality in the 21st Century," at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 6, in the University Union Ballroom. A reception will be held immediately following the lecture.

The annual Livingston Lecture celebrates the academic life and legacy of the late Dr. Livingston, professor of Government at Sac State from 1954 to 1981. Its purpose is to honor a distinguished faculty member who has played an active role in the life of the University.

Cameron Wedding's academic specialty is race, gender and social class disparities in institutions such as child welfare, education, and juvenile justice. She teaches courses and develops curricula that address implicit racial bias, and her studies have been used nationally through her involvement with the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

Cameron Wedding has done work on gender, diversity and social justice in Africa, Costa Rica, China and the Middle East. As a Fulbright Scholar, she conducted research in Tanzania and South Africa. She has spoken on a South African national talk radio show in Johannesburg and Cape Town addressing the issue of affirmative action.

In 2004 she received the Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award for the College of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies. She served two terms as a governor's appointee to the California Commission on the Status of Women. As the first vice chair for the commission, she and her colleagues reviewed and recommended legislation to the Legislature and the governor regarding women's issues.

Cameron Wedding was appointed to the California Board of Behavioral Sciences in 2007. Two years later she was awarded a grant from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to assist California public schools in reducing biases in decision-making that could contribute to poor school outcomes such as suspensions,

expulsions and contact with juvenile justice. In January she will head to Tennessee at the invitation of the U.S. Department of Justice to discuss a federal investigation of racial discrimination in Shelby County Tennessee.

For media assistance, contact Sacramento State's Public Affairs office at (916) 278-6156.

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