

## ***Ending Sexual Assault***

**Presented by The University of Houston Friends of Women's Studies**

**The Barbara Karkabi Living Archives Series**

**February 23, 2016**

**Panel Biographies**



**Tom Herman** was named head coach at the University of Houston on Dec. 16, 2014, just one week after being named the Broyles Award winner, presented to the nation's top assistant coach. In his first season as a head coach, Herman became just the fourth head coach in NCAA history with at least 13 wins in a rookie season, joining Chris Petersen (Boise State - 2006), George Woodruff (Penn - 1892) and Walter Camp (Yale - 1888), and just the fifth head coach in NCAA history to win the first 10 games of his career, joining Petersen, Larry Coker (Miami - 2001), Woodruff and Camp in accomplishing the feat. Led Houston to its first New Year's Bowl in 30 years, its second 13-win season in program history and its 11th conference championship in program history by claiming the inaugural American Athletic Conference Championship. He led all FBS coaches in their first year with a program with 13 wins as Houston finished third nationally with a 92.9 winning percentage at 13-1.



**Jessica Luther** is an independent journalist and writer whose work has appeared in *Sports Illustrated*, *Bleacher Report*, *Vice Sports*, *Guardian Sport*, and in the *Texas Observer*. Her work gained national attention in August 2015 when writing for *Texas Monthly*, Dan Solomon and she broke open the story about a Baylor football player on trial for sexual assault, a case known by only a few in the community and not reported in the media for nearly two years. Her first book, *Unsportsmanlike Conduct: College Football and the Politics of Rape* will be published by Akashic Books in fall 2016.



**Laura J. McGuire** joined the UH Wellness team in December 2015 as the Sexual Violence Prevention and Education Program Manager. In November 2015 she successfully defended her doctoral dissertation for her degree in Educational Leadership for Change from Fielding Graduate University. Her dissertation was entitled "Seen but Not Heard: Pathways to Improve Inclusion of LGBT Persons and Sexual Trauma Survivors in Sexual Health Education." She earned her Bachelor of Arts from Thomas Edison University in Social Sciences in 2012 and her GED in 2011. She is also a certified doula, childbirth educator, vinyasa yoga instructor, and fusion belly dancer.

Laura previously worked as a middle and high school social studies and health teacher in Florida. Laura worked with at-promise (vs at-risk) teen girls who were her greatest life teachers. She went on to be a training specialist and enjoys teaching and training on issues concerning sexual

health, trauma-informed pedagogy, cultural competency, queer competency, holistic alternative education, and feminist theory to name a few. She loves any job that allows her to empower through education, whether it be while attending a birth or training a team. Laura lives in Texas with her son and daughter and their adopted dog. She loves to read nonfiction books, perform in *The Vagina Monologues*, watch Rachel Maddow, listen to NPR, drink tea, and decorate her world with rainbows.



**Beverly McPhail** is a feminist social worker, academic, writer, wife, and mother. She earned her BSN from the University of Florida in 1979, her MSW at the University of Houston in 1989, and her PhD in Social Work at the University of Texas at Austin in 2002. She is the coauthor of *Confronting Violence Against Women: A Challenge for Social Work* (Longman, 1998) as well as author of numerous academic journal articles on violence against women, gender-bias hate crimes, feminist policy analysis, and teaching women's issues. Over the years she has written many opinion-editorial pieces for the *Houston Chronicle* and the former *Houston Post* on a range of women's issues. She was Director of the Women's Resource Center at the University of Houston for eight years, which serves students, staff, and faculty with information and referral, gender programming, and anti-violence initiatives. Beverly currently is an independent scholar doing contract work and serving as an expert witness in the area of sexual assault, domestic violence, and human trafficking. She teaches women's issues as an adjunct faculty member at

the Graduate College of Social Work as well as in the Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies Program at the University of Houston.



**Richard Anthony Baker's** career in diversity and equal opportunity in higher education spans more than 15 years. He is currently the Assistant Vice Chancellor and Vice President for Equal Opportunity Services for the University of Houston. Specifically, Dr. Baker is responsible for managing the University's anti-discrimination efforts, including providing administrative guidance, conducting formal investigations of complaints as well as providing prevention training for nearly 80,000 faculty, staff and students. He is also the UH Title IX Coordinator. In addition to those responsibilities, Dr. Baker is a Board Member and Region VI Director for the American Association for Access, Equity, and Diversity, a national not-for-profit association of professionals working in the areas of affirmative action, equal opportunity, and diversity. Dr. Baker is also a frequent conference speaker and trainer in the area of discrimination and harassment. Through his efforts, Dr. Baker has been honored with numerous awards including the 2015 President's Award for Leadership and Service from the AAAED and 2013 Difference Makers Award by the University Commission on Women for his effort to support and contribute to women's advancement or opportunity on the University campus. Dr. Baker has the distinction of being the first

African-American to graduate from Texas Tech University with a doctorate of jurisprudence, and holds graduate degrees in Public Administration (M.P.A.) and Higher Education (Ph.D.). Dr. Baker is the proud father of Nia (10) and Nigel (5) and has been married to his wife Tiffany for 11 years.