

Dr. Catherine Kerrison, Associate Professor of History, received the History of Education Society's Outstanding Book Award for 2007 for her book, *Claiming the Pen: Women and Intellectual Life in the Early American South*. One reviewer writes, "Just as the 'new political history' expands our understanding of the meaning of politics, so Kerrison's book expands the scope of intellectual history. It argues that southern women, like their northern counterparts, were able to participate in the process of shaping their own identity. They faced limits to their power, of course, but they were not passive victims of a male-dominated culture."

Dr. Kerrison received her Ph.D. in American History from The College of William and Mary and began teaching at Villanova in 1999. She is Co-Director of the Women's Studies Program and teaches *Colonial America, Revolutionary and Federalist America, Investigating U.S. History I & II*, and *History of American Women*.

Dr. Kerrison enjoys her work as an academic advisor: "While I love my role in the classroom, I particularly relish the one-on-one conversations with students that allow me to get to know them better and lead them through a process of self-discovery. Because I am not their instructor responsible for grading them, advising offers a unique way to share my own passion for the life of the mind and to show students how integral their academic pursuits are to a full, balanced, and happy life. It is incredibly satisfying to watch my advisees begin to take charge of shaping their own educational experience, as they sort out their interests and skill; become excited about ideas and possibilities; and begin to understand the full value of a liberal arts education. I count as success those students who leave my office, not with all the answers, but with a plan of action that encourages them to savor the journey, while they work towards realizing a goal."