Midwifery in Latin America with a Guatemalan Case Example
By: Roselyn Costantino, Ph.D.

**Date:** Thursday, February 18, 2010

**Time:** noon to 1:00 pm

**Location:** 1200 E Clay Street, Suite 1002
(Old Richmond Academy of Medicine Building – across from the White House of the Confederacy)

The free event is co-sponsored by the VCU Institute for Women’s Health, the VCU LA MILPA: Guatemala Interest Group and the Highland Support Project.

**About the presentation:**
Development of midwifery practice in Latin America will be explored, including current integration of this health care approach into formalized policy and planning for maternal and child health. Costantino has worked extensively on women’s issues and cultural production in Mexico, Guatemala, and Latin America in general. She will present on these cultural contexts of the Latin American experience, including variations in beliefs, approaches, and practices. Highlighted will be the case of Guatemala, specifically that of the Regional Director of Traditional Midwives of Quetzaltenango (CODECOT) and their amazing progress since 2004 in developing midwifery services in the Western Highlands. They have been successful securing national recognition of and support for midwives as providers of medical care. Also discussed will be what this success reveals about the fundamental social, economic, and political transformations in which Guatemalan women are precipitating.

**About the presenter:**
Dr. Roselyn Costantino received her M.A. from Montclair State University (1988) in Spanish Peninsular Literature with a focus on 19th-century Spanish and Latin American narrative and her Ph.D. from Arizona State University (1992) in Spanish with specialization in Latin American theatre and narrative; Latin American Studies; and Women's Studies. Her areas of specialization include Latin American Writers, Playwrights, and Performance Artists; Latin American and Latina Women; Performance Studies; Feminist Theory; Latino and Latin American Studies. She is completing a manuscript, “There are many ways to kill a woman”: Structural Deformities, Femicide, and Transformative Collaboration in Guatemala’s Narrative of Extreme Gendered Violence. Within this text, she explores midwifery and the current issues in Guatemala, including the strengths of this model in developing practical solutions for women and health. She is a member of the Pennsylvania State University, Altoona College Arts and Humanities faculty; Women’s Studies Faculty; and the University Graduate faculty.

For more information call, 827-1200 or visit www.womenshealth.vcu.edu
No pre-registration is required