The VCU Institute for Women’s Health
Presents
A brown-bag seminar focused on women’s health
Midwifery in Latin America:
A Guatemalan Example

Special Guest: Roselyn Costantino, Ph.D.

**Date:** Thursday, February 18, 2010  
**Time:** 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.  
**Location:** 1200 E Clay Street, Suite 1002  
(across from the White House of the Confederacy)

**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 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. The speaker will discuss what this success reveals about the fundamental social, economic, and political transformations in which Guatemalan women are precipitating.

**About the Speaker:**  
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. 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.

**Fees:** None — free to all. No pre-registration required.  
**For more information:** Visit www.womenshealth@vcu.edu or call 804-827-1200.  
**Co-Sponsors:** VCU, LA MILPA: Guatemala Interest Group and the Highland Support Project.