Pat Griffin is Professor Emeritus in the Social Justice Education Program at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and former Director of It Takes a Team! Education Campaign for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Issues in Sport, an initiative of the Women's Sports Foundation. In 1998, Griffin wrote the groundbreaking book, Strong Women, Deep Closets: Lesbians and Homophobia in Sports. Griffin's research and advocacy focus on heterosexism/homophobia in educational settings as well as homophobic structures and beliefs in athletics. She is widely acknowledged as one of the pioneers in addressing LGBT issues in sports.

Mary Jo Kane is a Professor in the School of Kinesiology and Director of the Tucker Center for Research on Girls & Women in Sport. She is an internationally recognized scholar who has published extensively on media representations of athletic females and is one of the nation’s leading experts on the social and political implications of Title IX. In 1996, Professor Kane was awarded the first Endowed Chair related to women in sport: The Dorothy McNeill Tucker Chair for Women in Exercise Science and Sport. In 2014, Professor Kane was named one of the 100 Most Influential Sports Educators by the Institute for International Sport.

**About the Lecture:** The summer of 2015 saw many ground-breaking achievements by female athletes and women leaders in sports ranging from the U.S women’s soccer team winning the World Cup to Becky Hammon being named an Assistant Coach in the NBA. Such milestones prompted many to ask: Have we reached a tipping point in women’s sports? To examine this important question, two seminal and internationally known sport and gender scholars—Professors Pat Griffin and Mary Jo Kane—will engage in a Great Conversation for the Tucker Center’s Fall Distinguished Lecture. Kane and Griffin’s work as pioneering researchers and advocates will provide insightful, thought-provoking and instructive lessons that will help us understand the current landscape as well as the future of women’s sports.

**About the Panelists**

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