Kirsten Delegard

I am something of a cynic when it comes to what I see as fads in higher education. I don’t read from yellowing lecture notes but I do eschew elaborate web sites and complicated multi-media presentations. With apologies to the techno-savvy out there, I like to keep things simple. I don’t want to be distracted from my central pedagogical mission: teaching students to think critically, especially on issues of gender, race, class and sexuality. So I was cautious when both the staffs at the Kenan Institute for Ethics and the Women’s Studies Program encouraged me to incorporate service learning into my class on “Women and the Political Process” in the fall of 2002.

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I’m particularly pleased about the progress we are making in our feminist science studies initiative. In the past two years, Women’s Studies has initiated a number of projects that seek to link its intellectual concerns with the relationship between race and gender to issues in the biological and medical sciences. Priscilla Wald, Associate Professor of English and Women’s Studies, is in the forefront of these endeavors and is featured in a special article here.

In other news, our new faculty member Tina Campt has agreed to serve as the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) for a two year term, during which she hopes to develop greater interdisciplinary reach in our graduate course offerings and to work with students in our Graduate Scholars program to revive a graduate symposium to showcase the intellectual diversity and organizing savvy of graduate students at Duke. This is the first time in the history of the Program that the DGS position is filled by someone other than the director: just another sign of the importance of faculty growth!

I am happy to report as well that Women’s Studies was able to retain Charlotte Pierce-Baker, Associate Research Professor, who had an outstanding offer from the University of Illinois-Chicago last year. Charlotte is an intellectual activist who has worked to generate new public spaces for survivors of sexual trauma to speak, and she has done a great deal at Duke to transform the culture of the university to address the intersections among race, sexuality, and gender. We are proud that her commitments to Duke were too strong for her to be persuaded away!

This issue also forecasts many of the exciting speakers and research projects that are underway for the coming year. As you will see, some of these events are in collaboration with other academic units at Duke while others are expansive projects that link our efforts to institutions in the U.S. and abroad (UNC, Harvard, Barnard, the University of Washington, the London School of Economics). The growing range of our affiliations and the many projects that connect our intellectual work to scholars elsewhere invigorates our teaching and research and continues the well established tradition of collaboration and rigor that is a hallmark of Women’s Studies at Duke.

In November, the Council on Women’s Studies will meet here in Durham to plan the next steps in its internal reorganization and to learn more from the Program’s growing faculty about our teaching and research. I continue to travel to meet with alumnas and to learn more about how important feminist knowledge is to them, which works to inspire all our efforts on campus.

And finally, our new website is up and running. Many thanks to Designer Molly Renda, Web Developer Blyth Morrell, and Administrative Coordinator Lillian Spiller for giving us a sophisticated and well organized new look. Check us out: www.duke.edu/womstud.

All my best,
Robyn Wiegman

WOMEN’S INITIATIVE UPDATE

On Aug 11, Duke President Nannerl O. Keohane announced a new parental leave benefit for staff, as part of the Women’s Initiative efforts. Under the previous policy, Duke University and Health System employees had to use vacation, sick time or PTO to receive pay while on leave for the birth or adoption of a child. The new policy provides three weeks of full pay to eligible staff, either female or male, who are considered the primary caregiver in their families. This new benefit will be effective Sept. 1, 2003.

President Keohane states, “I am proud that Duke is one of the few academic institutions to offer such a broad paid parental leave... Parental Leave is an important element of our overall efforts to create an inclusive, respectful and supportive environment for all members of the Duke community. It supports other efforts that we have already begun, including the expansion of Duke’s child care center, and both an enhanced parental leave policy and a new tenure-relief policy for faculty.” A full report on the Women’s Initiative is expected in September 2003. Full coverage of the final report on the Women’s Initiative will appear in the Spring newsletter.
Feminist scholars with primary appointments outside Women’s Studies at Duke are making exciting contributions through formal association with the Program. In addition to its six core faculty members, ten associate and adjunct faculty scholars have been appointed to the Program in the past two years, and nearly sixty scholars from other university departments are designated affiliates. The net effect is an actively engaged and growing community of scholars with commitments to the vision and mission of Women’s Studies at Duke.

This year, the Program welcomes four new faculty: Associates Ranjana Khanna (Assistant Professor, English), Diane Nelson (Associate Professor, Cultural Anthropology), and Laura Edwards (Associate Professor, History), and Adjunct Kara Keeling (Communication Studies, University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill). They join Associates Wahneema H. Lubiano (Literature), Priscilla Wald (English), Claudia Koonz (History) and Susan Roth (Social and Health Sciences) and adjuncts Karen Krahulik (Program Director, Center for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Life). Donna Lisker (Director, The Women’s Center) and Judith White (Assistant Vice President and Director, Residential Program Review).

With their greater interdisciplinary reach, Associate and Adjunct faculty are contributing to the Program’s teaching and research inquiries into gender, sexuality, and race; providing international perspectives on the history of feminism and of women; and exploring the social and psychological implications of gender.

Wahneema Lubiano, Laura Edwards and Kara Keeling build on the work of core faculty to emphasize gender’s relationship to race in their research and teaching. Lubiano’s current research includes African-American literature, African-American popular culture and film, black intellectual history, and nationalism. Edwards’ courses on women, gender, and law focus on the 19th century U.S. South and the status of white women and both enslaved women and men. Keeling produces scholarly work in media and visual cultural theory, with an emphasis on African American popular culture and sexuality.

Ranjana Khanna, Claudia Koonz and Diane Nelson extend the Program’s international perspective. Khanna focuses on transnational feminism, psychoanalysis, and postcolonial theory; Duke University Press published her new book, Dark Continents: Psychoanalysis and Colonialism, in April 2003. Koonz, like Tina Campt, centers her research on twentieth century German history, while Nelson has expertise in Guatemalan civil war and the indigenous cultural rights movement.

Susan Roth’s work on sexual trauma brings an important psychological perspective to the Program and contributes, along with Nelson, Koonz, and Edwards to our social science emphasis.

Additionally, Priscilla Wald is working with Assistant Professor Anne Lyerly of Duke University Medical Center to forward the Program’s interdisciplinary commitments to feminist health, medicine and science studies. Please see this issue’s Faculty Update and Faculty Focus columns for more information on our faculty’s work.

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Wade. She continues to direct the first year living/learning program, FOCUS: Forging Social Ideals, with five faculty colleagues.

Kathy Rudy
(Associate Professor, Women’s Studies) received two course development grants last year: the Chapel Grant on Vocation, and the GELP grant for feminist based genetic research. This summer, Rudy completed her book, A Good Enough Mother, on adoption and particularly gay adoption, which she says will appeal to a broad and general readership. In August, she appeared on the television show "WRAL Sunday Morning with David Crabtree" commenting on the appointment of Reverend Gene Robinson, a gay Episcopal Bishop.

Kathi Weeks (Associate Professor, Women’s Studies) attended the January 2003 World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil, a meeting of civic groups, NGO’s, and social movements from around the world committed to exploring alternatives to the contemporary global order. She continues to work on her book project on the wages-for-housework movement.

Robyn Wiegman (Director and Associate Professor, Women’s Studies) recently completed an essay on feminism and sexuality for a special issue of the Duke University Journal of Gender, Law, and Policy. Two other essays appeared in publication this spring: “Feminism’s Broken English” in Just Being Difficult: Academic Writing in the Public Arena (eds. Jonathan Culler and Kevin Lamb, Stanford University Press), which is a defense of theoretical writing; and “Intimate Publics: Race, Property, and Personhood” in Race, Nature, and the Politics of Difference (eds. Donald Moore, Jake Kosek, and Anand Pandian, Duke University Press), which talks about race in the context of new reproductive technologies.

Priscilla Wald, Women’s Studies associate faculty and Associate Professor of English, received a $70,000 grant last year from the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences in Berkeley, California. The grant funded a course on Religion and Genetics in Popular Culture, which Dr. Wald taught for both graduate students and undergraduates. The grant also supported a series of workshops on science for middle school students and a conference held at Duke on genetics and popular culture that gathered scholars from law, biological sciences, women’s studies, philosophy, literature, and history.

This year, with support from the Provost’s Common Fund, Professor Wald, along with a faculty group drawn from Arts and Sciences, will again organize the Race, Gender, Sexuality and Cultural Study of Medicine Faculty Seminar, sponsored by Women’s Studies. The faculty group will engage in regular seminar meetings and sponsor a distinguished lecture series and two interdisciplinary symposia. The first symposium, on race and the genome sciences, is co sponsored by The Center for Genome Ethics, Law and Policy (GELP) and will be held on October 31. Featured speakers are: Spencer Wells (Oxford University), Laura Alword (Dartmouth College), Jennifer Reardon (Brown University) and Troy Duster (University of California–Berkeley). A second symposium is in the planning stages for next spring. The lecture series will include Joyce Chaplin (Historian of Science, Harvard University) and Carl Elliott (University of Minnesota).

In addition, discussion is underway for a feminist science studies symposium to be held in 2004, and the Common Fund project includes course development as one of its long-term outcomes. Women’s Studies will benefit from this initiative by housing newly developed courses in the areas of race, gender, sexuality and the cultural study of medicine.

Dr. Wald is currently writing two books, one on the connection between contagion and culture, tentatively entitled, "Cultures and Carriers," and another on genetics and pop culture, entitled Clones and Chimeras and Other Creatures of the Biological Revolution: Essays in Genetics and Popular Culture.

TRAVEL GRANT SUPPORTS TANZANIAN AIDS WORK

Vijay Varma

At the end of the spring semester of my sophomore year, I was lucky enough to attain a small grant from the Women’s Studies Program to fund my volunteer internship in Moshi, Tanzania. For two months, I worked with KIWAKKUKI, an all women’s organization founded around the global theme of women and AIDS. I worked almost exclusively with the Home Based Care Project, which provides at home health care support to HIV/AIDS patients discharged from various hospitals all over the region. Specifically I created a proposal to supply 300 PLHAs (people living with HIV/AIDS) with basic material supplies. The proposal is currently under evaluation and will hopefully be submitted to the MacArthur Foundation for funding. I also created a proposal to sustain the Centre of Hope, which works to battle the stigma associated with HIV. Finally I created a system to manage the huge volume of patients served and health care providers employed by KIWAKKUKI’s HBCP. This fall, I am collaborating with a UNC student to raise money to support the vocational training of select handicapped children in another NGO in Moshi, Tanzania.

Vijay Varma is an English and African American Studies double major, class of 2005.
Any doubts I had were erased over the course of the semester. I was exhilarated by the way hands-on work in local political organizations enriched the more traditional reading and writing assignments. Moreover, the challenge of putting theory to work in the community prompted students to reflect on the complex challenges of sustaining political commitments and seeking social justice. The result was the most exciting intellectual growth I’ve seen in my teaching career.

The fall of 2002 appeared to be a perfect time to straddle the world of political theory and practice in North Carolina. In the race for U.S. Senate alone, four women were competing for nominations from the major parties, bringing new attention to gender, women and politics. The front-runner for that race was Elizabeth Dole, a Duke graduate and one of the best-known female politicians in the country.

I decided to use this high-profile race as a jumping off point. I structured the class around assignments that were designed to illuminate its gender dynamics. Students were also given the chance to complete their twenty hours of service learning work with the Dole campaign. This well-funded federal campaign, which operated in the world of national politics, stood in sharp contrast with the Durham Affordable Housing Coalition, the second group I selected for student workers. The DAHC is a small, grassroots Durham group run largely by women and serving mostly women. I hoped that the two groups would provide a provocative introduction to a range of women’s political activism. Most students chose to work with the DAHC but three of the students in the class worked on the Dole campaign.

Students mastered a range of sophisticated academic models as they worked to interpret the experiences they had in the Dole campaign headquarters or in the cramped quarters of the DAHC. Their final papers examined everything from the leadership styles of female grassroots leaders in Durham to the way the Dole campaign made female campaign workers feel disempowered. They used the material we read all semester like true scholars, drawing on examples from Mississippi during the Civil Rights movement and comparing the women they encountered in Durham with the activists who exposed the environmental disaster in Love Canal, New York.

Last fall, I was most conscious of what service learning did for my students. Yet the ultimate goal of service learning is to put the resources of research universities at the disposal of the communities in which they are located. I’m looking forward to being part of this effort, which has the potential to both revolutionize teaching and scholarship, returning academic humanities to the core of American social inquiry.

Kirsten Delegard is a 1999 Duke PhD in History and Women’s Studies Certificate holder. The "Women and the Political Process" course is funded by the Ruth Carr Endowment. Delegard also received the Betsy Alden Service Award for her work with students taking this course.
FEATURED GRADUATES

By Kat Turner

My years as an undergraduate Duke Women’s Studies certificate earner were formative ones. For my graduation ceremony, I wrote, “Women’s Studies has introduced me to the previously silent people of history and the overlooked events of the past and present. It has filled out an education that would otherwise have been incomplete and largely unrelated to my life as a woman. I will continue to work to create a world I can claim as my own.” Since that time, I have tried to do exactly that. I counseled women seeking abortions, educated callers to the National Sexually Transmitted Diseases Hotline, trained villagers to prevent guinea worm, unwanted pregnancy, HIV and other health problems as a Peace Corps volunteer in Togo, West Africa, earned my master of public health degree at UNC-Chapel Hill, founded a grassroots lesbian health organization and managed community-based health education initiatives in Durham County and North Carolina. I have also conducted numerous training events and written articles on a broad array of health topics, especially those of women’s and lesbians. I have continued to participate in Women’s Studies seminars and programs for students and alums. I often tell students that Women’s Studies helps to develop critical thinking and analytical skills, a healthy wariness of so-called objective science and media stories and a deeper understanding of themselves in a gendered social, sexual and political context. If they are prepared to have the blinders lifted and really experience themselves and the world, then they are ready for Women’s Studies.

For the past two years I have worked as training and services advisor at Ipas, an international nonprofit organization celebrating its thirtieth year working to increase women’s ability to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights and reduce abortion-related deaths and injuries around the globe. I was drawn to Ipas’s woman-centered mission, organizational integrity, international scope and preponderance of females in leadership positions. When the current anti-choice U.S. administration re-instituted the restrictive policy known as the Global Gag Rule, Ipas declined USAID funding rather than sign an agreement that endangered women’s health and lives. I lead global initiatives at Ipas such as developing a network of reproductive health trainers around the world and building the training capacity of staff and lead trainers in seven countries. I develop training curricula and service delivery improvement tools to enhance health care providers’ performance and improve services for women all over the world. In my role as technical advisor, I assist country teams in Africa and other regions in planning, implementing and evaluating their training and service delivery improvement programs. Some of my proudest accomplishments include authoring a comprehensive curriculum on effective training in reproductive health, facilitating a training capacity building workshop for over forty staff from eight countries, leading a training in Albania for Ob-Gyns from six European countries and developing a global network of nearly one hundred clinical trainers from all regions of the world. I look forward to a long career enhancing women’s health and lives all over the world – a career that was shaped by my personal development in the Duke Women’s Studies program.

Katherine (Kat) Turner graduated from Duke in 1990 with a B.A. in psychology and a certificate and honor’s thesis in Women’s Studies. You can contact Kat directly at turnerk@ipas.org. For more information on Ipas programs and publications, please email ipas@ipas.org or visit their website at www.ipas.org.
My interest in documentary work and women’s studies began in high school when I produced a documentary video called *Women in the Wings: Pittsburgh’s WWII Workers*, about women from Pittsburgh, who constructed glider wings in the Heinz ketchup factory during World War II. The work was kept secret during the war, and by documenting the women’s testimonies I was able to preserve an important piece of women’s history. At Duke, I continued to pursue my interests in documentary work and women’s studies through my participation in Summer Opportunities of Leadership (SOL), which included an internship in Honduras producing a video on the impact of Hurricane Mitch on its communities.

With the help of CDIMA, a small nonprofit organization founded by four Bolivian women, I did research in the Comanche, a rural community three hours from LaPaz, where few families have electricity and there is no running water. To better understand the lives of indigenous women in Bolivia and how they become leaders, I interviewed three women: Sabina Mamani, a member of the city council, Martha Tancara, the president of the sewing cooperative and Lurdes Choque, the director of local radio station. I lived with them like a daughter, attended their meetings, and observed how they managed their organizations.

Despite the harsh climate and difficult living conditions, taking care of one’s family and community is fundamental to the Amyaran culture. They have created local organizations, educating one another and helping other women recognize their own potential, despite the fact that many girls and young women from the countryside lack access to proper health care facilities, are often denied the right to an education and suffer from domestic violence.

I am currently developing a multimedia display with photos and objects gathered during her investigation, which she hopes to share with a wider audience. More than anything, my interviewees, Sabina, Martha and Lurdes, have taught me a valuable lesson—the desire to create change must come from within. Without inner drive and perseverance, it’s impossible to create change.

*Julia Love, (Public Policy Studies, Women’s Studies Minor, 2002) received a Fulbright Scholarship to investigate and document how women in Bolivia have overcome discrimination, lack of formal education and few economic resources to become leaders in their communities.*
INTER-INSTITUTIONAL COLLABORATIONS

DUKE-HARVARD

Women’s Studies at Duke University will co-sponsor a mini-conference, “Sexuality and Regulation,” at Harvard Law School on November 21-22, 2003. Coordinators of the conference are Robyn Wiegman (Director, Women’s Studies at Duke), Libby Adler (Associate Professor of Law, Northeastern University) and Janet Halley (Professor of Law, Harvard University). Robyn Wiegman and Janet Halley will also make a presentation entitled “Taking a Break from Feminism” on November 20 in an event organized by the Gender and Sexualities Seminar of the Harvard Humanities Center.

DUKE-BARNARD

Women’s Studies at Duke has been collaborating with the Center for the Study of Women at Barnard College on a multi-year project that brings together academics, activists, and artists to consider issues of sexual freedom, state regulation, and cultural practices for justice. The group hopes to facilitate artistic and activist projects that further scholarly and organizational understandings of gender, race, sexuality, and class. Meetings are planned for fall and spring. Deborah Thomas (Women’s Studies affiliate and Assistant Professor, Anthropology) and Robyn Wiegman attended the July meeting.

“FUTURE MATTERS” COLLABORATION: DUKE-CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Eden Osucha

Last spring, Women’s Studies co-sponsored "Future Matters: Technoscience, Global Politics, and Cultural Criticism," an April 10–11 symposium at the Graduate Center of City University of New York (CUNY). The symposium brought together a diverse group of feminist scholars to examine the impact of pervasive scientific, technological, and economic transformations on the present political moment and to sketch some of its possible futures. Over the course of two days and five panels, symposium participants addressed such "future matters" as the political and ethical implications of the rise of global capital in hand with the dominance of information technologies, the mutually transformative relationship of science studies and cultural criticism, and the possibilities for feminist knowledge production and social change in the wake of the new economic and social arrangements that have accompanied the new technologies. In describing some of the many ways in which these historical convergences continue to reorganize the social, scholars also addressed how the very conceptual tools we use to organize our thinking about the social have been affected—throwing into productive crisis the boundary distinctions that constitute such basic categories as race, gender, and nature, and even what it means to be "human," what we conceive as "the world."

Another major theme of the Future Matters symposium was the imperative to theorize and create conditions for cross-disciplinary and inter-institutional scholarly collaboration. It was widely observed during the closing discussion that this is a matter of political as well as intellectual necessity. The symposium itself represented a major achievement in terms of these ideals and their integration into feminist knowledge practices today, and also demonstrated Duke Women’s Studies’ position at the forefront of the field in this respect. The symposium co-sponsored included Women’s Studies programs and feminist centers of research from CUNY, Columbia University, Barnard College, New York University, and Rutgers University—each of which is itself, like Women’s Studies at Duke, multiply transected by diverse disciplines and theoretical traditions. Panelists and participants represented a wide range of American and European institutions and an even broader range of disciplines, including anthropology, mechanical engineering, literary criticism, critical science studies, sociology, theoretical physics, film and performance studies, cognitive science, biology, religion, and psychoanalysis.

For Women’s Studies at Duke, this symposium was especially timely as it extended and refined many of the conversations about globalization and global feminisms that occurred at the Jean Fox O’Barr Symposium on Race and Gender in Global Perspective conference held at Duke this past February. In general, the timeliness and salience of the Future Matters symposium could be observed in the extent to which participants invoked the events of 9/11 and subsequent wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, particularly in addressing themes of information versus meaning, technology and power, and citizenship and mass media. An undercurrent of these conversations was the aspiration for new technologies—meaning not only the products of technoscientific discovery but also changes in the ways and means of knowing that structure the humanities and social sciences—to be directed toward the creation of a future radically different from the one indicated by the present global crisis. As the remarks of one panelist suggested, this desire might be articulated in terms of a call for demilitarized and decentralized uses of technology, in the creation of what one panelist termed "weapons of mass instruction" to counter the dangerous effects of a political culture riveted by the specter of weapons of mass destruction.

Eden Osucha, a graduate student in English and African American Studies, traveled to the 2003 Future Matters Conference with Women’s Studies faculty members, Robyn Wiegman and Priscilla Wald.

DUKE-GENDER INSTITUTE, LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

As part of its agenda to internationalize its curriculum, Women’s Studies begins a three-year research collaboration this January with faculty of the Gender Institute at the London School of Economics. Teams of faculty from each institution will meet to explore the impact of globalization and transnational feminism on Women’s Studies as a field.
CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

THE UNC-DUKE ANNUAL LECTURE IN WOMEN’S STUDIES

Dorothy Roberts (Kirkland and Ellis Professor, Northwestern University Law School Professor, Department of Sociology (courtesy), Faculty Fellow, Institute for Policy Research) is the invited speaker for the second annual UNC-Duke Lecture in Women’s Studies, which will take place on the Duke campus April 5-6, 2004. Roberts is a frequent speaker and prolific scholar on issues related to race, gender, and the law and has published more than 50 articles in law reviews and books. She is the author of Shattered Bonds: The Color of Child Welfare; Killing the Black Body: Race, Reproduction, and the Meaning of Liberty; Mary Joe Frug’s Women and the Law (with Greenberg and Minow). She will speak on “Reproductive Rights, Nationalism and Women’s Equality in Trinidad.”

JENKINS TO SPEAK AT 2004 GRADUATION

Kimberly Jenkins, Duke University Trustee and former member of the Council on Women’s Studies, will be the featured speaker at the Women’s Studies Commencement Celebration May 7, 2004. Jenkins earned undergraduate, master’s, and doctoral degrees in education from Duke, and currently serves on the university’s Washington Regional Campaign Council, Trinity College Board of Visitors, and the Advisory Committee on the Future of Information Technology in Teaching and Research. She is former president of the Internet Policy Institute.

20/40—CELEBRATING A LEGACY OF STRUGGLE AND EXCELLENCE AT DUKE

The Mary Lou Williams Center for Black Culture’s 20/40 program recognizes three anniversaries in 2003: the Center’s twentieth year; the forty years since Duke University desegregated the undergraduate population with the first five African American students in the 1963 entering class; and the centennial anniversary of the publication of W.E.B. DuBois’ The Souls of Black Folk. Events include September 17-19 master classes and presentations by pianist Geri Allen and Father Peter O’Brien. On September 21, “A Prayer for Peace”, Mary Lou Williams’ Mass, will be performed in the Duke University Chapel by the Geri Allen Trio, featuring Carmen Lundy and supported by the Vocal Arts Ensemble under the direction of Dr. Rodney. For more information on these and other programs please contact center director Leon L. Dunkley, (919) 684-3814.

African and African American Studies at Duke will sponsor two events connected with the anniversary of the publication of The Souls of Black Folk. Professor Vijay Prashad (International Studies, Trinity College, Connecticut), author of The Karma of Brown Folk, will speak in the Duke Multicultural Center on November 10 at 4 PM. Brent Edwards, (English, Rutgers University) will give a public lecture on November 12 at 4 PM at the Franklin Center. His lecture is jointly sponsored by the Duke English Department and the John Hope Franklin Center. For more information on African and African American Studies events, please contact Maurice Wallace at (919) 684-3939, 684-9939 or mwallace@duke.edu.

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SALLIE BINGHAM CENTER COMMEMORATES TWO ANNIVERSARIES

In 2003, the Sallie Bingham Center for Women’s History and Culture will mark its fifteenth year and the thirtieth anniversary of Roe v. Wade. In 1988, Ann Firor Scott (Associate Professor, History) facilitated the connection between Sallie Bingham and the Duke University library, resulting in the donation of Bingham’s papers and creating an endowment for a position dedicated to women’s collections. Sallie Bingham will preside over the celebration in the Rare Book Room, Perkins Library on October 30, 2003 at 7 PM.

The celebration will also open a symposium on “Abortion: Research, Ethics and Activism.” The center has one of the most extensive collections of published and unpublished materials, including abortion clinic records, documenting the history of reproductive rights. The conference sessions will take place on October 31, 2003 from 9:00-4:00 and November 1, 2003 from 9:00-noon. Merle Hoffman, founder of Choices Women’s Medical Center in New York City will give the opening keynote address. A second plenary focuses on abortion provision 1973 to the present. Faculty, staff and students from across Duke University and Duke University Hospital will also speak.

LGBT UPDATE

Women’s Studies will be one of the co sponsors of Trans Figurations: Exploring, Exposing, Explicating LGBTQ Life. This program will analyze visual representations and other imaginings of LGBTQ cultures, communities, histories, politics and identities. Scheduled speakers include Tim Miller, Loren Cameron, Amy Villarejo, Pratibha Parmar, and David Roman. Please see the Women’s Studies website calendar (http://www.duke.edu/womstud/calendar/) and LGBT website (http://lgbt.studentaffairs.duke.edu) for information on the series.

THE DUKE CENTER OF MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

The Duke University Black Alumni Collective (DUBAC) and The Black Collective at Duke (BCD) co sponsored a welcoming reception for the fortieth class of incoming African American freshmen and their families on August 20 at the Duke University Art Museum. A program focusing on ‘thriving at Duke’ followed with an address by President Keohane. For more information about this and other DCMC events contact Linda Capers (919) 684-6756 or lfc@duke.edu or go to http://mcc.studentaffairs.duke.edu/.

RELIGION AND SEXUALITY

Women’s Studies, the Gender, Culture and Religion working group, and the Divinity School will co sponsor a lecture series on Homosexuality and Christianity in spring and fall 2004. The series will include four events addressing such issues as same sex unions in the history of the Church; comparative gay and lesbian theologies; the moral issues of inclusivity; and race, sexuality, and the church. Speakers include Mark Jordan (The Invention of Sodomy and The Ethics of Sex), Maurice Wallace (Constructing the Black Masculine), Randy Styers (forthcoming book on “Magic and Sexuality”), and Women’s Studies Associate Professor Kathy Rudy (Sex and the Church). Contact Mary McClintock Fulkerson at (919) 660-3458 for dates, times and locations.

ROMANCING THE HUMANITIES

Women’s Studies will co sponsor with Romance Studies a talk by Geraldine Heng (Medieval Studies, University of Texas, Austin), as part of the Romancing the Humanities Lecture Series. Heng, author of Medieval Romance and the Politics of Cultural Fantasy, will speak under the series’ rubric “Queer Families: Race, Sexuality and National Bodies.” For further information and related events, call (919) 660-3100 or visit http://www.romancestudies.aas.duke.edu/.

ASIAN PACIFIC STUDIES INSTITUTE

Women’s Studies and the Asian Pacific Studies Institute will co sponsor a talk by Ann Anagnost (Anthropology, University of Washington) at 4 PM on January 30, 2004. Dr. Anagnost specializes in peasant society in China, mass culture, nationalism, anthropology of the body and childhood. Go to http://www.duke.edu/APSI/ for this and other upcoming APSI events.

THE YEAR OF ALGERIA

In conjunction with the Department of Romance Languages and the Center for French and Francophone Studies, Women’s Studies will co sponsor a program celebrating 2003 as “The Year of Algeria” in France. The program, to be held October 8 is interdisciplinary and will feature Algerian art, the writer Assia Djebar and Islamic women in Europe. Contact Linda Orr at (919) 660-3127 or 660-3100 or go to http://www.duke.edu/web/cffs/2.html.

THE WOMEN’S CENTER AT DUKE

The Women’s Center will sponsor a presentation of “The Vagina Monologues” on February 13-14, 2004. For this and other Women’s Center events, call (919) 684-3897; contact womenctr@duke.edu ; or go to http://wc.studentaffairs.duke.edu/. Sexual Assault Support Services, located in the Duke Women’s Center, will provide Self Defense Workshops for women on Tuesday September 23 and October 21, 2003 from 6-9pm, in the GA Down Under on east campus. Peer educators are also being recruited. For more information about sexual assault support, contact Jean M. Leonard, jean.leonard@duke.edu.
At our special events, like the Jean Fox O’Barr Symposium on Women’s Studies in February 2003, and our regional gatherings, most recently held in Washington DC, New York, and Dallas, members of the Council on Women’s Studies are frequently asked how others can support the program. The External Affairs Committee was formed to answer just that question.

The committee works with the Program Director Robyn Wiegman to design and implement fund raising and friend raising activities. Both are required resources for Women’s Studies to grow as an academic program and to contribute the perspective of feminist scholarship to intellectual life on Duke’s campus and indeed on campuses worldwide.

So we know what we need to do, and we need your help to do it! Please consult the Women’s Studies web site (click on “After Graduation” and go to “Make a Gift”) or contact phoffman@duke.edu if:

- you want to learn more about the program as you consider making an unrestricted gift to the Friends of Women’s Studies or a leadership gift to one of the program’s endowments or special events.
- you would be willing to host or help us publicize a Women’s Studies reception for alumnae in your city or region.
- you would like to attend a Women’s Studies event in your city or region.
- you would like to participate in a Women’s Studies mini-course during your class reunion or have an idea for a mini-course topic.

We look forward to the achievement of our committee’s goals and the chance for all of us to meet many new friends. We hope that will include you!

Editor’s Note: This is the second in a series of article written by members of the Council on Women’s Studies, representing each of its committees—Communications, Development, Diversity, Executive, and University Relations. For more than 15 years, this volunteer board has worked toward the development of resources and greater visibility for Women’s Studies, both on campus and nationally.

Judy Abrams Maynes is a 1968 graduate of the Women’s College and is Chair of the External Affairs Committee.

COUNCIL NEWS

The executive committee of the Council has devoted itself this year to creating a new organizational structure. Five committees have been created: Communications, Diversity, Executive, External Affairs, and University Relations.

The next Council business meeting is scheduled for November 14-16, 2003 at the Washington Duke Inn. The spring meeting will be held March 19-21, 2004 at Graylyn Conference Center in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Kathryn Woodbury Zeno, a 1987 Duke MBA and 2003 member of the Council on Women’s Studies, has accepted an appointment on the Trinity Board of Visitors.

Colleen Owen, a Robertson Scholar and student representative on the Council on Women’s Studies, is doing research in Bolivia and Cuba this year, studying the role of gender in daily life. Colleen reports, “I am learning so much! We had a very stimulating discussion with a Duke grad student who is doing her gender-oriented cultural anthropology research here. [Cuba] is a rich place and I think that gender dynamics are especially intriguing and, interestingly, very in-your-face transparent. We will see what kind of climate La Paz offers.”

PEOPLE

Lorna Collingridge, a visiting scholar at Duke University’s Divinity School and recent Ph.D. recipient received a Women’s Studies travel award to attend the June 19-22 National Women’s Studies Association 2003 Conference, “Southern Discomforts,” in New Orleans. The conference featured subjects ranging from trafficking in sex to domestic violence, and from women’s spirituality to drag king performance. Collingridge’s paper on Hildegard’s music, “Transgressive Singing: Sighing, Groaning, and Remembering,” was presented to the Medieval and Early Modern Women’s Interest Group whose work, Collingridge reports, “brings a sharper light to issues of gender, class and ethnicity.”

Peggy Shaw and Lois Weaver will perform on November 4 in The Reynolds Theater in Duke’s Bryan Center. The Split Britches Company co-founders will each perform a one-person work: Shaw’s solo tour de force, Menopausal Gentleman, and a brand new work by Weaver, Faith and Dancing, based on her growing up in Roanoke Virginia. Get ready for a provocative evening of femme–butch performance that explodes gender stereotypes—by turns funny, moving, and revelatory. Women’s Studies will co sponsor this event with Duke’s Institute of the Arts.
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