

WOMEN'S DUKE STUDIES

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WOMEN'S DUKE STUDIES

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Fall 2004 Newsletter

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WOMEN'S DUKE STUDIES

Director's Column

Dear Friends,

I write to you as I begin a long-awaited semester leave. While I work on my book *Being in Time with Feminism*, Associate Professor Tina Campt will serve as Women's Studies' interim Director this fall. With Ranji Khanna, she will also continue to organize the Feminism, Transnationalism, and the International faculty seminar, now in its third year, and she will oversee all aspects of the program's daily management. It is my selfish hope that she will love this experience!

Since my last letter to you, we have witnessed a number of significant changes: we have hired a new faculty member who studies genomics and solidified plans for a whole new slate of courses and events for the coming year. Our greatest challenge has been to orient ourselves toward a transformation initiated by former Duke President Nannerl Keohane and former Dean of Arts and Sciences William Chafe that entails disbanding our Council on Women's Studies, the program's alumnae organization since 1986.

As they explained it to me, during the final months of their retirements, President Keohane and Dean Chafe reflected carefully on the legacy they would leave Duke concerning the growth of Women's Studies as an academic unit. They took pride in the fact that under their administrations, the program had gained tenure lines, conducted major national searches, built innovative interdisciplinary curricula, and established itself as one of the most cutting edge programs in the nation. In short, Women's Studies had matured into a unit on both intellectual and institutional par with other academic units. As such, they felt that the time had come to incorporate the program's fundraising and friend raising practices more fully within the structures of the university. This issue of the newsletter

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Kenyan Women's Studies Director Visits Duke

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Fall 2004 Newsletter

An Internship in New York
by Rachael Weeks — page 6.

"We hoped it would be part of the fabric of the university, like physics, philosophy or any other field. Women's Studies at Duke and as a field is more in the warp and woof of the university now than it was ten years ago and that's exactly what we want!"

Eleanor Elliott — from Meeting it's Goals, Council on Women's Studies Disbands — page 3.

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reviews the history of the Council and honors the enormous contribution that its members have made to the development of Women's Studies at Duke.

I am very proud to have been able to lead the Council for the past three years and proud as well of the history of support that our alumnae provide, not just to this program but to Women's Studies as a field. Many fledgling programs look to the model established by the Council to find inspiration as they seek to make the arguments, which Jean O'Barr so successfully did in the 1980s, about the legitimacy and vitality of Women's Studies as a field. In this sense, the Council will live on, both in our memories and as a strategy for other programs.

I hope that members of the Council will be proud of their accomplishments and confident about the future of the program they have so devotedly supported over the years with their ideas, volunteer work, financial contributions, and general commitment. I know that many alumnae will continue to show their support of the program by attending our events, spreading enthusiasm about our work, and contributing to our ongoing mission to provide students at Duke with scholarship on women.

We especially hope to see Council members at the March 4-5, 2005 Jean Fox O'Barr Symposium in Women's Studies on the theme of Gender and Ethnic Conflict, where, in addition to a strong line-up of scholarly panels and discussion groups, we plan to celebrate the legacy of the Council. Laura Muglia, a Council member from 2002-2004, has been a major donor to our symposia through the Laura Ellen and Robert Muglia Family Foundation, for which we are most grateful. Claudia Koonz (Professor, History and Women's Studies) will coordinate both the symposium and this fall's Ford Seminar on the same topic for faculty and graduate students. The seminar will feature lectures by visiting scholars in the area of gender and ethnic conflict. You can read more about this great project in the newsletter.

Also included in this issue are updates on the program's faculty, focusing this time on affiliated faculty member Deborah Thomas (Assistant Professor, Cultural Anthropology). Her work with Tina Campt promises to enrich both feminist scholarship on African Diaspora and transnational feminist scholarship. We also welcome in this issue our newest faculty member, Assistant Research Professor Jenny Reardon, who comes to us as a recent fellow with the Center for Genome Ethics, Law and Policy at Duke. Her expertise in Science and Technology Studies adds to the program's concentration on feminist science studies.

Additionally, we offer a variety of articles by or about our students. Kelly Coogan (T'02), the first Duke Women's Studies major to pursue a Ph.D. in Women's Studies, writes about her Ph.D. program at Rutgers University. Two articles by undergraduates describe their internships: Duke senior Christopher Scoville

writes about his studies in South Africa and sophomore Rachel Weeks describes working at BUST magazine in New York.

In our Student Travel section, Kartina Amin, a Ph.D. candidate in Romance Studies, is among those who received grants from the program to attend conferences. She writes about attending the Back to the Future: Generations of Feminism conference sponsored by The Center for Gender Studies at the University of Chicago. This year, Program grants will also allow students and faculty to travel to a second conference at Harvard Law School co sponsored by Women's Studies at Duke and Harvard's Program on Law and Social Thought.

You will note a short article in this issue by recent Duke graduate Michele Lanham who, through a Kenan Institute for Ethics Research Service-Learning Grant, worked at Egerton University in Kenya with Dr. Rose Odhiambo, the founder of the first Kenyan Women's Studies department. In our conversation with Dr. Odhiambo during her visit here at Duke last spring, we were reminded of the developmental stages Women's Studies programs traverse, the hard and usually volunteer labor that people invest in establishing them, the social justice movements that inspire them and the promise they represent both for unknown but possibly better futures on the social front, and for ever more liberation for the scholarly imagination, which is always political, too. I am engaged in ongoing conversation with Dr. Odhiambo about possible collaborations with her department in Kenya.

I have recently returned from New Zealand and Australia where I met with numerous groups of Women's Studies scholars. Programs there, while typically emerging much later than in the United States (usually the late 1980's and 1990's) are nonetheless facing many of the same issues familiar here: about internationalizing the curriculum; linking gender to race; incorporating science studies; and securing their place in university organizations of knowledge. As here, these issues both link Women's Studies to a variety of campus projects- student life, athletics, health care- and differentiate it from them through academic emphasis on research and teaching. It is one of the great pleasures of the Margaret Taylor Smith Directorship that I have the opportunity both to represent Duke in these international venues and to learn about how Women's Studies as a field travels to reshape the world.

Women's Studies students, faculty, alumnae and friends have contributed in numerous ways to the evolution of Women's Studies at Duke as a rigorous, cutting edge program. We appreciate the continuing support that enables us to internationalize the program, deepen its intersectional focus, and extend its interdisciplinary reach. And I look forward to seeing all of you at the many program events your support has made possible.

Best Regards,

Robyn Wiegman
 Margaret Taylor Smith Director of Women's Studies

Meeting its Goals, COUNCIL ON WOMEN'S STUDIES DISBANDS

When Eleanor Elliott, a former member of the Council on Women's Studies at Duke and past Chair of the Board of Trustees at Barnard College, asked Barnard's president to establish Women's Studies there twenty years ago, even the head of a historically all women's college asked "why?" The argument then, as now, remains the same: because, in Elliott's words, "Women's Studies is important to the evolution of equality for women."

She continues,

"We hoped it would be part of the fabric of the university, like physics, philosophy or any other field. Women's Studies at Duke and as a field is more in the warp and woof of the university now than it was ten years ago and that's exactly what we want!"



Eleanor Elliott received an honorary doctorate from Duke in 2002.

Elliott's comments came in response to last June's announcement by then President Nannerl Keohane and Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences William Chafe that Duke University's Council on Women's Studies would be dissolved after nearly eighteen years of service. The Council was established in 1986 to provide alumni support for the development of Women's Studies at Duke. The first of its kind in the U.S., the

Council raised both friends and funds for Women's Studies, and its members contributed their expertise, in professional as well as personal life, to the enhancement of women and women's issues at Duke more generally.

In their letter to one hundred twenty eight past and current members of the Council, President Keohane and Dean Chafe thanked alumni for their

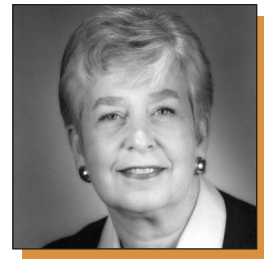


Dean Karla Holloway, President Nannerl Keohane, Council member Laura Ellen Muglia and Margaret Taylor Smith Director of Women's Studies Robyn Wiegman.

commitments to Women's Studies and the university, and congratulated them on helping to generate a nationally recognized program of excellence in research and teaching. "Consistent with the growth and present maturity of Women's Studies at Duke," they wrote, "it is appropriate for the program to be placed on the same footing as other established departments. This includes disbanding the Council on Women's Studies, which has played such a key role in this growth and development." On the occasion of the end of the Council's work in its present form, this article reflects on the history of the Council, its contributions, and the insights of some of its members.

Jean Fox O'Barr, Founding Director of Women's Studies and Distinguished University Service Professor, established the Council

to generate greater visibility for Women's Studies and for issues affecting women more broadly. She worked at the outset with Judy Woodruff, CNN Prime Anchor and Senior Correspondent, who served as the inaugural Council Chair from 1986-1987. Asked about the impact of the Council on the university, O'Barr said, "When the Council began in the 1980s, some ten years after the merger of the undergraduate colleges, women and women's issues were on the margin. Over the twenty years of the Council's activities, it encouraged dialogue on questions of women and gender by holding symposia, encouraging women's involvement, and increasing women's giving that in turn promoted academic goals. Nan Keohane's first visit to Duke University, before being appointed President, came under Council auspices."



Founding Director of Women's Studies Jean Fox O'Barr.

In 2001, in a national search that was the fulfillment of the Council's vision to institutionalize Women's Studies by giving it permanent faculty, Robyn Wiegman was named Margaret Taylor Smith Director of Women's Studies. For Wiegman, "the importance of the Council cannot be overstated. It originated in the desire to give foundational support to a then nascent intellectual project on the study of women. Its work culminated in the program's transition to a tenure-holding unit, complete with its own undergraduate major and graduate certificate, new faculty and the explicit imprimatur of the university. The dissolution of the Council carries a sense of loss with it, but this development is also, perhaps paradoxically, a measure of both its and the Program's success."

For O'Barr, the Council's goals have been achieved. "[A]lumnae learned of the new scholarship on women and gender; they took those understandings into their everyday lives and made a difference; faculty took advantage of the opportunity to think through their issues with other professional women, as well as, to identify topics for research and teaching; students linked with networks of faculty and alumnae that advised and assisted them; and all of us became more sensitive to the ways in which what we research and teach plays out in larger worlds."

The conferences, symposia and lectures the Council co sponsored with Women's Studies reflected timely political aspirations and social concerns of women within and outside the university. These events included "Educating Women for Leadership" and "Becoming Visible: Placing Women in History (1987); "Becoming: the Process of Empowerment" (1988); "The Changing Patterns of Our Lives: Women's Education and Women's Studies" (1989), followed in the fall by Council member Ellie Smeal, then president of NOW and currently Feminist Majority Foundation President, speaking on "Challenging the Public Agenda." Meetings continued in 1990, 1991 and 1994 on the themes of "Back to the Classroom," "Women's Lives and Friendships," and "Women's Options and Actions." In 1998, the Council co sponsored the series "Locating Feminism," followed in 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2003 by four conferences: "24/7: Rest and Unrest" about women and work; "Women Imagine Change," a conference held in New York; "Women and Power," in Washington

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Council on Women's Studies continued from page 3



Stacey Gray, Council member, with her mother at the 2003 Symposium.

D.C.; and a symposium in February 2003, "Race and Gender in Global Perspective," held on the Duke campus.

This symposium, the last Council and Program collaboration, reflected both the Council membership's interest in globalization and the academic Program's international and intersec-

tional direction. It featured Women's Studies

faculty, along with colleagues across the disciplines at Duke and invited scholars with expertise on globalization. It also served as a celebration of Jean O'Barr's years of program leadership while formally introducing Robyn Wiegman to the alumnae and university communities.

Joanne Mazurki, the Council's Chair from 2003-04, currently works on the Advisory Board of the Duke School of Nursing, formerly sat on the Executive Committee of the Duke Annual Fund and is a board member of Bridges, a New Jersey-based outreach organization for the homeless. For Mazurki, the driving motivation behind Council membership has always been each alumna's continuing relationship to Duke and to lifelong learning. "It's about what we give to Duke, not what Duke gives to us. Council members were exposed to scholarship at Duke, but they also used their experience to do important work inside and beyond Duke."

Council member Judith Maynes takes a similar view. Maynes, who served two terms on the Council, in 1990-93 and 2003-04, and has been on the board of the National Women's Law Center since 1988, recently retired from her position as Vice President, International Law, at AT&T. She says she was unable to be as active as she would have liked on the Council during her first term. But she stresses, "I was an early funder of Women's Studies, because of my active work in the field of women's rights and education. It seemed to me, Women's Studies could make an internal and external impact by educating people about women's issues, changing the students themselves who would then change others beyond Duke, and making change institutionally."

Lisa Yun Lee is a former Council member who exemplifies the combined interest in intellectual discourse and social activism that has characterized the Council on Women's Studies. She served on the Council (2001-03) and on the Trinity College Board of Visitors (2000-02) and is a founding member of The Public Square, an organization in Chicago that fosters dialogue about cultural and political issues and social justice, with an emphasis on the importance of academic scholarship. Lee, who earned her Ph.D. from Duke in 1999 in German Studies, is completing a book on Theodor Adorno for Routledge. She comments, "...making the production of knowledge subordinate to how useful and practical it can be is extremely short-sighted... Even as we need to have marches on Washington, develop grassroots strategies for coalition building and push for policy reform, we also need conceptual tools to battle sexism and oppression." Last spring, Lee invited Women's Studies Director Robyn Wiegman, along

with Council and Duke alumna Ellie Smeal, to participate in a colloquium on the issue of academics and activism at The Public Square.

During and after her formal term on the Council from 1988 to 1991, Duke Trustee, Kimberly Jenkins (T '76, M.Ed. '77, Ph.D. '80), was a catalyst for developing support for Women's Studies and women's issues, speaking to regional groups, as well as, on campus. Jenkins, who is past president of the Internet Policy Institute and currently on the Advisory Committee on the Future of Information Technology in Teaching and Research, writes, "My first connection to Duke, years after I graduated, was through the Women's Studies Council. I believed in the needs that the Council addressed and I cherished my interactions with the other women on the Council. My experience with the Council inspired me to give both my time and my financial resources to further the Women's Studies programs...[T]he relationships and insights I gained through my work with the Council and the Women's Initiative have contributed in significant ways to my personal and professional life outside of the university."

Some Council members have translated their experience at Duke in very direct ways. In 2000, Council alumnae Besty Hansen (2002-04) and Lee Wilder (1992-1997) were instrumental in establishing The Oglethorpe Women's Network (OWN), at Oglethorpe University in Atlanta. It was modeled explicitly on Duke's Council on Women's Studies. One of their projects was "Hear My Story," about women in the Civil Rights Movement. Hansen, who recently published her first novel, *Portals* (Wings, April 2003), says the talented women she met on the Council inspired her to focus on positive social change. She notes, "Jean O'Barr laid the foundation that moved us into the future with a director like Robyn Wiegman, who can take it to the next step. We've gone through all the struggles of growth and we're ready to reap the rewards."

Council members have always played multiple roles at Duke and their service will continue in numerous ways. Last spring, Council members Joanne Mazurki, Kathy Zeno, Michelle Swenson, Kimberly Jenkins, and Laura Meyer Wellman were selected to sit on an alumnae committee for Duke's Women's Initiative. Alumnae continue to be a crucial part of the Women's Studies Program, as well. In 1988, The Friends of Women's Studies was established to provide support for projects and programs for students, faculty and alumni. Working together with then director O'Barr, the Council's enthusiasm and effort helped to successfully complete a \$1.4 million endowment campaign. Council members served as ambassadors for the Women's Studies program at meetings of Friends of Women's Studies in New York, Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Chicago, Seattle, Boston and Dallas, as well as, on the Duke campus. Today, about 5000 people have formally become Friends of Women's Studies nationally and internationally. The Friends of Women's Studies group is the active legacy of the Council on Women's Studies, which continues to support the Program's outreach to the community. You can join it at

<http://www.duke.edu/womstud/aftergrad/contributing.html>.



Sarah Arciszewski Rosen, former Council Chair.

Thank you

*for your many commitments to Women's Studies
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By Rachel Weeks

Moving to New York City for the summer at the age of 19 was a little more difficult in reality than I imagined in my freshman year fantasies. When I received an internship at BUST Magazine in October 2003 I was smitten with the prospect of moving to a place I'd seen on a few wide-eyed visits with family, working for a magazine I'd read since the age of 14. I thought I was dreaming.

Within one week in May I was writing final papers at Duke and then sitting in an apartment in the East Village of New York City suffering from culture shock. I'll never forget, however, my third night at the premiere of an episode of MTV Made with rapper Princess Superstar. A couple of drinks had me dizzy amongst the posh New York crowd in a hip Tribeca hotel. Antonia, a 28 year-old intern from Berlin, leaned over and yelled above the crowd in her thick German accent, "Rachel, don't you worry! I know just how you feel, and I think you are smart and beautiful and will fall in love with this place as I did!"



Editor Laurie Henzel, Advertising Director Maggie Tam Clark, and Rachel Weeks.

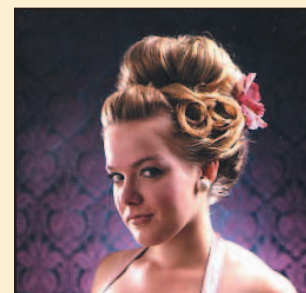
I should never have doubted her. While I've adapted and learned from my social experiences here, my job at BUST is where I know I will leave my New York legacy, and what I will carry with me when I leave.

The BUST office occupies the fifth floor of a Fifth Avenue building near Union Square. Five full-time employees and two or three interns run the ship on a daily basis, in one enormous room that constitutes the BUST office. My first week was filled with typical intern tasks: taking out the trash, getting the mail, doing dishes, and running errands. When I heard that a story meeting was coming up for our fall issue and that interns were allowed to pitch ideas, I was thrilled but stumped. If I had nothing to bring to the table, I thought, at least I would learn from watching it all take shape.

During the meeting, I somehow spit out that I loved fixing hair and imitating retro hairstyles from the past. The editors loved it, and assigned me to write a piece about how to create your own beehive hairstyle. I was also told to write an article about abortion options not yet assigned to one of the freelance writers.

As I rifled through pictures of beehives and information about the morning after pill, I knew that BUST embodied my brand of feminism. I was home. Ever since my older sister introduced me to feminism in the seventh grade, I'd felt a contradiction between my girly interests in 1950s pop culture and my radically feminist political leanings. When I found BUST, I realized there was no need to feel conflicted. Like me, BUST thought outside of the box, both in terms of feminism and pop culture.

In the name of research I walked the streets of New York and came to work with my practice beehives, feeling self-assured when people smiled and didn't sneer. When I was finished, my BUSTy bosses assigned me to assist our Advertising and Marketing Director with the Summer Issue Release party, securing venues, obtaining alcohol sponsors, organizing an RSVP list, and hostessing at the party, attended by BUST cover girl and SNL star Tina Fey, among a few of the stellar invitees.



Rachel Weeks with her Bee-Hive.

My next project evolved from my work as a Field Rep for Righteous Babe Records in high school; it occurred to me that BUST could benefit from similar grassroots guerrilla marketing. The editors wanted to increase BUST's subscribers, and I suggested that we develop a Street Team on college campuses to promote BUST. The BUST grrrl scouts would earn rewards for their hard work and they'd be doing their part to support one of the only independent, woman-run, woman-owned publications around. They said yes. A month later, I've received applications from loyal BUSTies all over the country, and the fact that this project has become a reality is almost more than I can believe. But it sure feels good.

Working at BUST has confirmed a long-held belief; that I don't have to work a job I hate; that passionate, motivated people will always succeed, and that there is real, self-affirming work waiting for me. I've honed skills at BUST I never even knew I had, from events management and marketing to salon-quality hairdressing, and I've had the time of my life doing it.

As much as New York has made me itch to get out of college, I know I'm far from finished with my work at Duke. I'll be back—better, smarter, and a lot more BUSTy.

Rachel Weeks is a rising sophomore at Duke, has not yet declared a major, but is considering a Women's Studies Major.

“Like me, BUST thought outside of the box, both in terms of feminism and pop culture.”

Rainbow Nation

By Christopher Scoville

South Africa is the only country in the world whose constitution offers explicit protection from discrimination based on sexual orientation. While spending spring 2004 semester at the University of Cape Town and continuing my internship work from summer 2003 at Triangle Project, I witnessed firsthand the effect this policy has on the political and cultural environment for sexual minorities in Cape Town. The work of Triangle Project—an LGBT service and advocacy organization—is lent weight and legitimacy by the backing of the constitution. As an American having to maneuver inane policies and politics regarding “gay issues,” I found the climate for sexual minorities enlightening and invigorating.



Christopher and friends.

When I first stepped off the plane in Cape Town for my first visit in May 2003, I quickly ran outside for a breath of fresh air. After my blood began to circulate again, I slowly turned around and witnessed the beauty of the South African landscape for the first time. The sun was bright; the air was affectionate. As any tourist will note, South Africa is a strikingly gorgeous country. While I appreciate this beauty, the energy and potential South Africa exudes was the most arresting aspect of my stay in Cape Town.

Returning to South Africa for an entire semester ten years after the fall of apartheid has afforded me a unique perspective of race relations in the United States. The USA and South Africa are strikingly similar as “post apartheid” nations. The States may not have townships (the forcibly segregated areas for non-whites), but it certainly has the more politically correct “urban areas” or “black neighborhoods.” The lingering tensions between races in the States mirror those of South Africa. Surprisingly or not, the States’ “separate but equal” philosophy ended in the 1960’s, while South Africa has had only ten years of progression as a democratic country. In many ways, South Africa has outshone the States and the rest of the world in transitioning so quickly from a forcibly segregated society to the Rainbow Nation. The US still negotiates protracted racist and separatist attitudes decades after political change. I am certain that South Africa will dash past the rest of the world as a paragon for social change.

As a student researcher at Triangle Project while attending the University of Cape Town, I became acutely aware of the space for queer liberation within this framework of changing race relations and democratic processes. Although some queer South Africans are cognizant of the power of the non-discrimination clause in the constitution, it appears that work must still be done to educate the general population about their rights in this new structure. The United States might be the “land of the free” or the EU might adhere to the Convention on Human Rights, but South Africa is the true forerunner of civil rights for all citizens—gay or straight, black or white, man or woman, Muslim or Christian. Sodomy was only decriminalized in the United States in 2003!



Christopher and fellow student.

The remarkable political landscape of South Africa is indicative of the overall sense of hope I perceived from Capetonians. South Africa is far from a utopia, but South Africans are aware of the potential the country possesses for legitimate equality and justice. As a youthful country, South Africa does not have to limit itself to the models of North America and Europe. Innovation in politics, culture, and society is encouraged and celebrated. South Africans are aware they don’t know all the answers, and they support a marketplace of ideas to address the nation’s problems. This pervasive optimism for the future was intoxicating at Triangle Project in its work on behalf of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities of Cape Town. The South African potential exceeds the burned-out, exhausted energies of “the old world.” The Rainbow Nation doesn’t have to look abroad for all of the answers. After eight months of residency, I’m quite certain that most of them are right there.

Christopher Scoville is a Public Policy Studies Major, Women’s Studies Minor, and Sexualities Studies Certificate holder. At the University of Cape Town (UCT), he took two Women’s Studies courses: “Women in Religion” in the Religious Studies Department and “Theories, Politics, and Action” in the African Gender Institute. The latter was a course on feminism in theory and practice, focusing on the West and the ‘rest.’ Christopher received the highest mark in a class of fifty. At Triangle Project, he worked to revamp safer-sex messaging for MSM’s (men who have sex with men), to incorporate in current messaging race, class, place, and other parameters.

GENERATIONS of FEMINISM

By Kartina Amin

On February 28, 2004, a Duke Women's Studies travel grant enabled me to accompany students from Robyn Weigman's Foundations in Feminist Theory graduate seminar to a conference at the University of Chicago entitled "Back to the Future: Generations of Feminism" which sought to bring together "feminist scholars and activists of different generations and with different disciplinary and political investments to reflect upon the past and future of feminism".

The first panel set the tone, introducing generational tensions that would animate the rest of the conference. Aihwa Ong and Kate Millet both contrasted the global political engagement of seventies feminism with what Ong termed the "narrowing" and domestic focus of contemporary feminism. Millet's passionate and poetic plea that we (presumably western feminists) both identify with and liberate women all over the world drew enthusiastic applause. By contrast, Judith Halberstam critiqued the Oedipal paradigm of feminist transmission implicit in these calls for a return to seventies feminism, arguing that the mother-daughter generational model of feminism might act as a heteroreproductive "regulatory system," confining the daughter to the options of reproduction or rejection. Dorian the clownfish from Finding Nemo, she suggested, might represent an alternative model of generationality, standing for the subversive potential of short-term memory loss, disjunctive temporality, non-familial cooperation, and gender crossing.

Halberstam's talk led to a debate on generationality within feminist pedagogy, with Ong and Millet desiring a more continuous transmission of past fervor and feminist engagement to the reputedly apolitical students of today and Halberstam questioning this division between the personal and the political and insisting on the vitality of students' concern with sexuality, sub-cultures, and popular culture. Within the audience, young queers signaled their dissent by applauding loudly at Halberstam's interrogation of which subjects feminism represented.

During the final panel, Gayatri Spivak offered a fascinating if uncharacteristically personal account of her experiences with gendered imperialism, discussing poverty and resistance within her family, her history of political engagement, and her status as a "consensus breaker" within academia. Author Dorothy Allison's dramatic reading drew cheers and a standing ovation as she outlined her trajectory from her experiences of hardship and oppression as a poor white Southern lesbian to her subsequent "religious conversion" to the utopian ideals of seventies feminism. During the final round table discussion, Robyn Wiegman commented on the strong response to Allison's reading, challenging the audience to reflect critically on our investment in the "animation of the origin" of our engagement with feminism and on how it might obscure more "traumatic," non-linear feminist trajectories.

In the end, the conference was less a civilized conversation than it was a dramatic performance of the debates, the divisions, and the passionate engagements within feminism today. Even Michelle-Faith Wallace's enigmatic decision to present a slide-show of family photographs rather than a conference paper acted as a subversive challenge, confronting the audience with silent images of black women that subtly interrogated claims of feminist inclusiveness. However, as Wiegman and Halberstam suggested, trauma and disjuncture can in themselves be productive; hence, it was precisely these moments of misunderstanding and failed communication that best revealed the competing voices and temporalities within feminism today.

Kartina Amin is a PhD candidate in Romance Studies and is pursuing a Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies.

"...the conference was less a civilized conversation than it was a dramatic performance of the debates, the divisions, and the passionate engagements within feminism today."

DUKE HARVARD COLLABORATION

Graduate Students: Apply to attend the November 2004 Duke-Harvard Conference!

Graduate students are invited to apply for Women's Studies grants to attend a conference co sponsored by Women's Studies at Duke and the Harvard Program on Law and Social Thought. The conference will be held in Cambridge, Massachusetts November 19-20, 2004. The topic this year will be "Dignity and Shame: An Inquiry into the State of our Art on Sex, Sexuality, Gender and the Family." As with the 2003 conference on "Injury and Distribution," several conversations are planned that "take a break" from the explicit topic to explore theoretical and practical domains related to it. Women's Studies will provide travel and lodging expense for two student applicants.

Contact Pat Hoffman (919-684-3655 or phoffman@duke.edu) for more information or to apply.

Faculty Update



Tina Campt (Associate Professor, Women's Studies) is serving as interim Director of Women's Studies while Director Robyn Wiegman is on leave during the fall 2004 semester. Dr. Campt will again lead the Women's Studies Graduate Scholars group, which she hopes to transform into a gender and feminist studies graduate colloquium with fellowship support for selected graduate students. This year, she also begins collaborating with Deborah Thomas (Assistant Professor, Cultural Anthropology and Women's Studies)

on a three-year scholarly and pedagogical project designed to facilitate communication between those doing transnational feminist research and feminist scholars of African Diaspora. The project includes a symposium, faculty workshop, lecture series, and a graduate-faculty seminar planned to begin in spring 2005. In September, Campt will be attending the opening of a multi-media cultural project on which she has been collaborating for the last year with the House of World Cultures in Berlin. Together with Paul Gilroy and Fatima el Tayeb, she is one of three guest curators for the project "The Black Atlantic: Traveling Cultures, Counter-Histories, Networking Identities," an eight week series of lecture, symposia, readings, performances and exhibitions scheduled for September 16 to November 11, 2004. She is co editor (with Paul Gilroy) of the companion volume to the exhibit (together with Paul Gilroy), *The Black Atlantic*, which contains her essay "Schwarze Deutsche Gegenerinnerungen: Der Black Atlantic als gegenhistoriographischer Praxis" (September 2004). Campt's upcoming publications include "Diaspora Space, Ethnographic Space - Writing History Between the Lines" in *Globalization Race and Cultural Production* (forthcoming 2005) and "Converging Spectres of An Other Within: Race and Gender in Prewar Afro-German History" in *Not So Plain as Black and White: Afro-German History and Culture from 1890-2000* (forthcoming in 2005).

Ranjana Khanna (Associate Professor, English and Women's Studies) became tenured this year at Duke. She was a visiting scholar in July at the Cornell School of Criticism and Theory, conducting a seminar on postcolonial studies, entitled "Disposability," as part of Cornell's summer campus program for professors and advanced graduate students of literature and related social sciences. The program is intended to explore literature's relationship with history, art, anthropology, and the law; examining its role in ideological and cultural movements; and reassessing theoretical approaches that have emerged over the last fifty years.



Donna Lisker (Director, Duke Women's Center and Adjunct Professor, Women's Studies) was an ex-officio member of the Council on Women's Studies (2001-04) and has been appointed the Chair of the President's Commission on the Status of Women at Duke, which will implement the Women's Initiative recommendations and advise the President on women's issues. She is also co director of the Baldwin Scholars, a new four-year program for undergraduate women at Duke. Baldwin Scholars is a cooperative effort of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs that offers women students a combination of academic programs, leadership training and mentoring.



Charlotte Pierce-Baker has been named Research Professor in Women's Studies. The Women's Center also recently awarded her the Eve Ensler "Vagina Monologue Warrior Award" for Faculty Service to Women on Campus.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS!

The Duke Graduate School awards two full fellowships to Women's Studies each year. The intent of these awards is to "buy time" for a doctoral candidate who is past course work and engaged in the early stages of dissertation research. As the fellowships are in Women's Studies, it is assumed that fellowship recipients will devote the year to deepening their knowledge of feminist theory and methods, and exploring interdisciplinary angles on the topics being researched.

This year's recipients are **Jaya N. Kasibhatla** (English) and **Margot D. Weiss** (Cultural Anthropology). They have both completed the Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies and will each receive a \$15,000 stipend.

Jaya Kasibhatla's dissertation is entitled: *Occupied Territories: Post-Colonial Critique and the Problem of Ethics*. Her many research interests include Postcolonial Literature and Theory; Political Theory; Feminist Theory; British Modernism and African-American Literature. She has a B.A. in English (*cum laude*) from Yale University.

Margot Weiss' dissertation title is: *Techniques of Pleasure, Scenes of Play: SM in the San Francisco Bay Area*. Her research interests include Gender, Race and Sexuality; Feminist Anthropology; Queer Theory; Urban and Postmodern Geographies; Popular and Consumer Culture; Technology and Culture and Performance studies. She has a B.A. (honors) in Psychology from the University of Chicago.

Faculty Update continued from page 9



Jenny Reardon (Assistant Research Professor, Women's Studies) is the Program's newest faculty member. Dr. Reardon received her Ph.D. from Cornell University in 2002. She was a fellow at the Center for Genome Ethics, Law and Policy at Duke before coming to Women's Studies and is the author of *Race to the Finish: Identity and Governance in*

an Age of Genomics (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University, Fall, forthcoming Fall, 2004) and "The Human Genome Diversity Project: A Case Study in Co production" (Social Studies of Science 31:3 (2001): 357-388).

Susan Roth (Professor, Psychology: Social and Health Sciences and secondary appointment in Women's Studies) has been named the new Dean of the Social Sciences at Duke University.

Priscilla Wald (Professor, English and secondary in Women's Studies) has received a grant from Vanderbilt University for a project entitled "Genetics in Literature, Film, and Popular Culture."

Judith White (Adjunct Professor of the Practice and Assistant Vice President and Director, Residential Program Review) was a member of the Council on Women's Studies and is currently a member of the President's Commission on the Status of Women at Duke

and Chair of the Administrative Women's Network. She is also a member of the Board and Program Planning Committee of BRIDGES, a leadership program for women in North Carolina higher education. Dr. White is also Chair of the National Advisory Board of CampusWomenLead, a national initiative for women in higher education, mobilizing women's leadership in support of inclusive excellence on our campuses, sponsored by the Association of American Colleges and Universities Office of Diversity, Equity and Global Initiatives. She is also a member of the Facilities Planning Committee of the Support Foundation for the Asian University for Women.

Robyn Wiegman (Margaret Taylor Smith Director of Women's Studies at Duke) was the keynote speaker in July at the 40th Anniversary **Australian and New Zealand American Studies Association Conference** in Auckland. The conference, whose theme was 'Borders and Boundaries,' examined U.S. society and culture within a global framework. Traveling on a Fulbright Fellowship, Dr. Wiegman led a faculty and graduate student seminar with Women's Studies at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch and a seminar and talk with the Centre for Cultural Studies at the University of Auckland. In Sydney, she discussed institutional connections with Elspeth Probyn and the Gender Studies faculty at the University of Sydney, as well as, with visitors from the UK, Sara Ahmed Women's Studies of the University of Lancaster and Sarah Franklin of the London School of Economics. Dr. Wiegman will also speak this year at Yale, Harvard School of Law and the University of California at Davis.

MORE TRAVEL GRANTS

Genevieve Abravanel (Ph.D. in English and Women's Studies Graduate Certificate holder) received a Women's Studies travel award in 2004, "Syncopating Bloomsbury: Clive Bell, Virginia Woolf, and the Trouble with Jazz," at the academic conference, Back to Bloomsbury: Fourteenth Annual International Conference on Virginia Woolf, at the University of London, UK to present a paper and to conduct further research at the British Library.

Gwendolyn Wright, a Ph.D. candidate in Higher Education Administration, North Carolina State University and Women's Studies Graduate Certificate holder, received a Women's Studies travel grant to attend a dissertation writing workshop in Steamboat Springs, Colorado June 7-14, 2004. Gwen's research is an analysis of race, class and gender in higher education focused on African American women presidents at four-year colleges and universities.

Cybelle McFadden Wilkens, Ph.D. candidate in Romance Studies and Graduate Certificate holder in Women's Studies, presented a paper, "Filmmaking, Gleaning, and Painting: Agnès Varda's Meditation on Art," at the Diversity and Difference in France and the Francophone World conference at the Florida State University in Tallahassee, FL.

Brooke Lenz, a Ph.D. candidate in English from UNC and a Duke Women's Studies certificate in 2002, received a travel award from Women's Studies at Duke to participate in the Oxford Round Table, Women's Leadership Conference in Oxford in August. The "think tank" event is by invitation only and encourages communication across several disciplines, nations, and areas of interest, fostering the development of respect and understanding for the rights of women in diverse social, political, educational, and economic settings.

Pavia Vesela, a Ph.D. candidate in the Literature Program, received a Women's Studies grant to attend a conference in Szeged, Hungary to present a paper on the work of Elizabeth Bishop. The Conference is a part of the series that focuses on Women's Writing in English, the topic being "She's Leaving Home."

FACULTY *focus* Deborah Thomas

Deborah Thomas (Assistant Professor, Cultural Anthropology) earned her Ph.D. from New York University in 2000. She became an affiliated faculty member in Women's Studies in 2002.

Dr. Thomas is a Caribbeanist whose research focuses on the changing relationships among the political and cultural dimensions of nationalism, globalization, and popular culture. She is interested in the ways a changing global political economy structures and restructures how people of African descent think about, experience, represent, and mobilize around racial, class, national, gender, and generational identities. Her book, *Modern Blackness: Nationalism, Globalization, and the Politics of Culture in Jamaica*, will be published by Duke University Press in November 2004. Prior to her life as an academic, she was a professional dancer with the New York-based Urban Bush Women. She has also been a Program Director with the National Council for Research on Women, an international working alliance of women's research and policy centers whose mission is to enhance the connections among research, policy analysis, advocacy, and innovative programming on behalf of women and girls.

Currently, Dr. Thomas is working on a new project focusing on a contract labor program, developed by the Jamaican Ministry of Labour, that sponsors the seasonal migration of Jamaican women for work in hotels throughout the United States. She is also working on collaborative projects with Women's Studies faculty. Dr. Thomas and Robyn Wiegman are working with the Center for the Study of Women at Barnard College on a multi-year project bringing 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. "As someone who became involved in both research and activism through my work in the arts, I'm always interested in finding better ways to link the three fields," Thomas said. "The project with Barnard is one way of doing this, but there are also other folk in and around Durham working in this way. Ultimately, I'm interested in bringing these different groups of people together to see if we can generate some innovative solutions to the problems we're all working on."

Another current collaboration with Tina Campt called "Diasporic Hegemonies," is a three-year scholarly and pedagogical project designed to facilitate communication between those doing transnational feminist research

and feminist scholars of African Diaspora. The project includes a symposium, faculty workshop, lecture series, and a graduate-faculty seminar planned to begin in spring 2005. They have developed this project in order to study with other scholars the ways transnational feminist scholarship might benefit from a more engaged dialogue with those who work on the African diaspora, and how the study of diaspora and diasporic communities might be transformed through a more directed engagement with feminist transnationalism, and particularly the work of feminists theorizing other models of diaspora (for example, South Asian or Asian American diasporas).

"An extended conversation of this sort would lead us to challenge invocations of diaspora that privilege liberation and similarity in the service of solidarity among Afro-diasporic populations," Campt said. "We are particularly interested in foregrounding difference as central to diasporic formations." Campt and Thomas believe a gendered transnational analysis of the relations of Diaspora could ultimately transform the ways scholars, students, and policy-makers conceptualize current processes of globalization, and could therefore help to undergird critically engaged responses to these processes.



CONGRATULATIONS 2004 MERIT AWARDS WINNERS!

Undergraduate and graduate students are encouraged to apply for annual Women's Studies awards generously supported by donors and granted in the spring each year. The following are winners of the Spring 2004 Women's Studies merit awards.

The Ernestine Friedl Research Award for advanced graduate students working on the cultural, social, and biological constructions of gender: Elizabeth Flowers (G'07, Religion), Marie Hicks (G'08 History), Linda Rupert (G'10 History) and Jennifer L. Welsh (G'08 History).

The Gender and Race Research Award for undergrad and graduate students doing work at the intersection of race and gender: Mora J. Beauchamp Byrd (G'08, Art), Reena N. Goldthree (G'10 History), Giles Harrison-Conwill (G'10, Cultural Anthropology), Emily LaDue (T'06, Literature), Bianca Robinson (G'09 Cultural Anthropology), and Netta Van Vliet (G'09 Cultural Anthropology).

The Dora Anne Little Award Winners for undergraduate or graduate students, who excel in service to the campus and community: Margaret Andrews (T'06 Program II, Social Justice and Civic Participation), Heather Dean (G'06 Neurobiology), Emily LaDue (T'06, Literature), and Yuan Yuan (G' Religion).

The Anne McDougall Memorial Award for Duke women undergraduate or graduate students doing human service in psychology and related fields: Phyllis Laney Bryant (G'06 MALS) and Gloria Winston Holloway (G'06 Divinity).

The Anne Firor Scott Award for undergraduates or graduate students doing research in women's history: Elizabeth H. Flowers (G'07 Religion), Amy Johnson (G'06 History), Kelly Kennington (G'09 History), Cynthia Yee (T'05 History), Lauren Williams (T'05 History).

LIFE AFTER DUKE

Genevieve Abravanel, 2004 Ph.D. in English and Women's Studies Graduate Certificate Holder, has accepted the position of Assistant Professor of English (tenure-track) at Franklin and Marshall College, a liberal arts college in Lancaster, PA. She says, "I am deeply grateful to the Women's Studies Program for enriching my intellectual and professional development. I will continue to rely on what I've learned in Women's Studies long after leaving Duke."

Janelle Blankenship, Ph.D. in German Studies and Women's Studies Graduate Certificate Holder, has accepted a postdoctoral fellowship at Brown University with the Pembroke Center for Research and Teaching on Women (interdisciplinary seminar on "The Orders of Time" with Rey Chow). Janelle reports that the fellowship provides time and resources to work on her book project.

Maria Park Bobroff, 2003 Duke Ph.D. in Romance Studies and Women's Studies Graduate Certificate holder, has a new one-year position as a visiting Assistant Professor of French at Guilford College in Greensboro, NC, starting in fall 2004.

Karla Bohmbach, 1996 Ph.D. in Religion and Women's Studies Certificate holder, is now Associate Professor of Religion in the Department of Philosophy, Religion, and Classical Studies at Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania. She became Coordinator of the Women's Studies Program there in 2003.

Katherine Frank, 1999 Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology and Women's Studies Graduate Certificate holder, is currently an SSRC Sexuality Research Fellow in the Department of Sociology at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Wilda Gafney, earned her Women's Studies Graduate Certificate in 2000 and is completing her dissertation in the Religion Department of Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, where she holds a tenure track position as Assistant Professor of Hebrew Scripture and Homiletics.

Lisa Hazirjian, 2004 Ph.D. in History and Women's Studies Graduate Certificate holder, is now a Visiting Assistant Professor in History at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. Lisa says she's "happy to be moving to a swing state!"

Betsy Keever (T'00, English) writes that she was influenced to take the Introduction to Women's Studies course at Duke by her strong and active mother, Patsy Keever, a 1969 Duke graduate and equal rights advocate. "The class made me scrutinize my notions of gender roles in our culture and the multitude of ways that this plays out in every day life. What was most interesting to me was the practical element of the theories I was learning... from the magazines available in the checkout aisle to the imbalance in Congressional representation." Today Betsy manages her mother Patsy Keever's campaign for the 11th Congressional District seat. Betsy says she is thrilled that Emily's List, the large Democratic women's political network, officially has endorsed Patsy

Keever's candidacy. "It has been a truly amazing experience to stand next to my mom and watch people's passions ignite as she talks with them about change that we can all make if we work together."

Daniella Kostroun, 2000 Ph.D. in History and Women's Studies Graduate Certificate holder, is a tenure track Assistant Professor of History at Stonehill College in North Easton, MA.

Ian Lekus, 2003 Ph.D. in History and Women's Studies Graduate Certificate holder, has accepted a Franklin Postdoctoral Teaching Fellowship and Temporary Assistant Professorship in History at the University of Georgia and has applied for affiliate status as Women's Studies faculty at UGA.

Tracy Nayer graduated in 1993 with distinction with a BA in Cultural Anthropology and an undergraduate certificate in Women's Studies, and was a member of the Council on Women's Studies (1998-2003). She assisted in the development of the "Women and Leadership" project with Dr. Jean O'Barr and, with her, co authored an article on leadership. Tracy was recently accepted to UNC-Chapel Hill School of Law.

Greta Ai-Yu Niu, 1998 Ph.D. in English and Women's Studies Graduate Certificate Holder, is now Assistant Professor of English, in Media Studies at University of Rochester, New York. She resigned her position as Assistant Professor of English at State University of New York College at Brockport, where she taught for five years and was Director of Film Studies this past year.

Megan Sweeney, 2002 Ph.D. in Literature and Women's Studies Graduate Certificate Holder, has accepted a joint appointment with English and the Center for Afroamerican and African Studies at the University of Michigan. "The intellectual, emotional, and financial support that I received from Women's Studies at Duke—through coursework, the [Graduate] Scholars program, the Dora Anne Little Award, and the Women's Studies Interdisciplinary Research Fellowship—significantly impacted my development as an interdisciplinary scholar. I'm very grateful for the many ways in which I have benefited from participating in Women's Studies at Duke."

Catherine Taylor, 1998 Ph.D. in English, is Assistant Professor in English at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. Since publishing her book *Giving Birth: A Journey into the World of Mothers and Midwives* (Penguin Putnam, 2002), Catherine has been writing and researching in South Africa on truth-telling and reconciliation and on racial politics in nations and families.

Kristina Tourino, 2000 Ph.D. in Literature and Women's Studies Graduate Certificate holder, is now an Assistant Professor of English at St. John's University in Collegeville, MN. She teaches multicultural literatures of the US, Comparative American Literatures, and Feminist theory.

Life After Duke Featured Graduate: **Kelly Coogan**

Kelly Coogan graduated from Duke with a Major in Women's Studies in 2002 and was a student representative on the Council on Women's Studies from 2001-02. Kelly is the first Duke Women's Studies major to pursue a Ph.D. in the field. She says she was inspired to pursue a Ph.D. in Women's Studies after she took Robyn Wiegman's graduate course, Feminist Knowledge and Social Change, as a junior in spring 2001. According to Kelly "Dr. Wiegman was so enthusiastic about Women's Studies and its distinctness from other disciplines. The course inspired in me a love for knowledge politicized through feminist lenses." The following is her description of the Ph.D. program in Women's and Gender Studies at Rutgers.



"I hope to disinter diverse histories of Women's Studies and feminism, histories that, as we know, risk undeserved erasure."

In the last decade and a half, the post-college options for Women's Studies majors expanded considerably with a Ph.D. in Women's Studies, and Rutgers University is home to one of these path-breaking departments offering a Ph.D. Perhaps the largest in the country, Rutgers' Women's and Gender Studies has over thirty core faculty, including such eminent scholars as Elizabeth Grosz (philosophy) and Drucilla Cornell (political science and law), and eighty affiliate faculty. Officially granted Ph.D. status in 2001, the department currently has nine Ph.D. students, not including the entering class of Fall 2004.

My Fall 2003 cohort contains four students, each with unique scholarly interests. One student, who ran a non-profit feminist bookstore prior to entering grad school, studies the relevance and effects of transnational feminism on local Iranian feminist organizing. Arriving with a Cultural Studies major, another student is interested in the relationship of embodiment to masculinity. Transferring from a Ph.D. program in political science at the University of Michigan, a different student's research is concerned with how African-American women configure politics across time and in different spaces. I came to Rutgers hoping to eventually to author various genealogies of Women's Studies as a field and feminist scholarship as a body of knowledge. Considered a history of the "present," genealogy is a method that calls into question the idea that historians can provide faithful accounts of the past. Genealogists highlight past and present contingencies, accidents, coincidences, lacunae, and discontinuities. I hope to disinter diverse histories of Women's Studies and feminism, histories that, as we know, risk undeserved erasure.

At Rutgers, each entering student selects one interdisciplinary concentration, among three, through which to organize her coursework: "Agency, Subjectivity, and Social Change," "Technologies and Poetics of Gender and Sexuality," and "Gendered Borders/Changing Boundaries." In the first, "Agency, Subjectivity, and Social Change," students are required to know the diverse history of women's groups and organizations, which seek to transform social and political institutions. Students following this track must become versed in ways feminism shifts dominant discourses on agency, subjectivity, culture, politics, and society. In the second, "Technologies and Poetics of Gender and Sexuality," students investigate how normative discourses on gender and sexuality produce cultural differences hierarchically. In the final one, "Gendered Borders/Changing Boundaries," students learn how feminist scholarship elucidates contests

over a range of parameters, including national borders, sovereignty, displacement, immigration, Diaspora, global economies and flows of capital, international and transnational feminist networks.

My delineation of these concentrations makes scholarship emerging from Women's and Gender Studies at Rutgers appear neatly unfolding and ever provocative at the risk of erasing real struggles that go into its production. Being in a graduate classroom with students who are highly trained in their respective disciplines is far more difficult than it may seem. While students are constantly learning from one another, they are forced incessantly to translate from their areas of study to something more universal. Contests over language use, comprehension, and translation are the inherent struggles of an interdiscipline.

All of my classes have placed lived "reality" and "experience" within differing theoretical frameworks to discern how to best understand sexual and racial violence, poverty, sexualities, and other pressing feminist issues. Sometimes the profound political investment students have in our topics demands more considered discussion and a more deliberative learning process in the classroom. Students' gender, racial, ethnic, class, or sexual identities also can add a personal dimension to conversations. I have gradually realized that the most productive part of being a student of Women's and Gender Studies is precisely this: incessantly having one's core intellectual and political beliefs shaken and reformulated.

Despite these challenges, I couldn't imagine being a professional student in any other field than Women's Studies. Women's Studies departments are forming and growing exponentially, many faculty feel increasingly honored to be associated with its intellectual project, and students are receiving doctorates to ensure the field's future. I am still uncertain about many things, but I am sure about the intellectual and political vigor Women's Studies has breathed into the academy and the enormous contributions to university life it has made on many levels. And because of the emergent generation of Women's Studies scholars, I think this will be returned tenfold!

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

March 4-5, 2005

Jean Fox O'Barr Symposium in Women's Studies on "Gender and Ethnic Conflict"

This spring's Jean Fox O'Barr Symposium is one of several Women's Studies projects this year that challenge traditional international relations theories by examining the role of gender in the sources, conditions and consequences of ethnic conflict. Linked to the symposium is a faculty and graduate seminar in the fall, a spring undergraduate course, and lecture series. According to Claudia Koonz (History and Women's Studies, Duke) who will lead the seminar and coordinate the symposium, "When feminists confront conventional theories about ethnic conflict, they disrupt comfortable assumptions about women as only passive victims and they revise our notions about 'naturally' violent men."

On Friday, March 4, the symposium's keynote address will be delivered by Amrita Basu (Director of the Five Colleges Research Center, Amherst, MA), a leader in South Asian studies and in the broader framework of global activism. Invited international scholars will frame panels on Saturday, March 5, and audience participation will be encouraged. The panel themes are "Gender and Ethnic Consciousness," "Women Activists for Ethnic Reconciliation in Israel/Palestine," and "Gender in Ethnic War Zones." The symposium's closing keynote speaker will be Cynthia Enloe (Research Professor, Government and Women's Studies, Clark University). Dr. Enloe, a popular lecturer and author, explores the links among militarization, gender, and globalization.

The symposium is tied to Women's Studies' fall Ford Interdisciplinary Debates Seminar on Gender and Ethnic Conflict, offered to graduate students and faculty. The seminar seeks to understand the ways gender and ethnicity reinforce each other in

recent civil conflicts and addresses the discipline-specific ways that historians, literary scholars, and policy makers have approached the relationship between gender and ethnic identity in conflict situations on three fronts: Europe (Northern Ireland and Bosnia); South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Rwanda's Gacaca; and the Palestine/Israel conflict.

Duke's Center for International Studies and the Women's Studies Program offer a lecture series to complement the fall seminar. Speakers in the series include: (September 27) Roberta Ann Dunbar (African and Afro-American Studies, UNC-Chapel Hill) who specializes in Muslim Women in Sub-Saharan Africa; (October 18) Gerdien Jonker (History of Religion, Philipps University of Marburg, Germany), who discusses how traditional religious organizations led by women have been more effective in achieving ethnic understanding in Northern Ireland, Bosnia, and Germany than secular institutions and NGOs; (October 19) Susannah Heschel (Religion and Eli Black Chair in Jewish Studies, Dartmouth College) who focuses on modern Jewish thought, feminist theology and German Protestantism and whose interest in comparing histories of victimhood includes post-zionist historiography; and (November 1) Deborah Weissman (UNC-Chapel Hill, School of Law) whose work on human rights challenges the assumption that globalization facilitates gender equality and other liberal values. A spring 2005 course on "Women, Culture and Human Rights" will provide an important undergraduate link to the graduate seminar and the symposium.

The symposium is supported in part by the Laura Ellen and Robert Muglia Family Foundation, Women's Studies and other units at Duke. The Ford Motor Company Fund generously funds the fall seminar.

Save The Date!

Correction: In the spring 2004 issue of the newsletter, we neglected to mention the valued service of Jane Edgerton, who retired from the Council on Women's Studies after serving from 1998-2003.

Kenyan Women's Studies Director Visits Duke

by Michele Lanham

Dr. Rose Odhiambo is equally the most humbling and most inspiring woman I have met. As Director for the Institute for Women's Studies and Gender Analysis at Egerton University in Njoro, Kenya, she along with others at Egerton have put gender issues in the spotlight—an impressive feat in a student body that is two-thirds male. The Women's Center, which was recently upgraded to an Institute with the capacity to grant degrees, has increased awareness and discussion about gender issues through its course offering, Coffee Hours, and library. The Center is the first project of any kind related to gender in Kenya. There are only two other programs on gender in Africa, one in Uganda and another in South Africa.



Courtney Crosson and Kenyan student.

Dr. Odhiambo helps support a group of girls who started the Girl Child Fund, which helps keep young Kenyan girls in school when their families cannot afford to do so and a student mothers group to support female students who are often encouraged/forced to leave school once they become pregnant. She and a team of professors have pioneered a course on HIV/AIDS, which is taught to a large percentage of undergraduates and equips them to make more informed decisions about their own behavior and to help educate others.

Thanks to a Research Service-Learning grant we received from Duke's Kenan Institute for Ethics, Courtney Crosson and I traveled last summer to Kenya with Duke Biology Professor Sheryl Broverman to begin our collaboration to create a textbook for Dr. Odhiambo's HIV/AIDS course. Last spring, Dr. Odhiambo met with a number of groups on the Duke campus, including the Women's Studies Program.



Michele Lanham, Dr. Sheryl Broverman, Dr. Rose Odhiambo, and Courtney Crosson.

During Dr. Odhiambo's visit to Duke, she said she was impressed by the ease with which we accomplish projects, start initiatives, and access resources in the United States. During our visit to Kenya, she and other Kenyan women were surprised by the forthrightness and confidence of women from Duke. She called us "mountain movers", and though we were flattered to say the least, we had to laugh. She has accomplished more against greater odds than we could ever imagine. We look forward to further collaboration with her in the development of the HIV/AIDS course and the establishment of the Institute for Women's Studies and Gender Analysis.

Michele Lanham, (*T'04, Comparative Area Studies*) is now Senior Dissemination Coordinator at Family Health International, an international public health nonprofit. She plans to pursue a Masters in Public Health soon.

Upcoming Campus Events

We thank the many sponsors of the Interdisciplinary Research Initiatives in Women's Studies. Our special appreciation goes to the *Duke University Center for International Studies* for its ongoing and generous partnership in all our research endeavors.

The Feminist Studies Across the Disciplines Lecture Series continues this year with the following events:

- **TBD:** Judith Halberstam (Professor, Literary and Cultural Studies, UC San Diego)
- **TBD:** Gayle Rubin (Assistant Professor, Anthropology, University of Michigan)
- **September 27:** Roberta Ann Dunbar (Associate Professor, African and Afro-American Studies, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill)
- **October 18:** Donna Haraway (Professor, History of Consciousness, University of California, Santa Cruz)
- **October 19:** Susannah Heschel (Professor, Religion, Dartmouth College)
- **October 18:** Gerdien Jonker (Professor, History of Religion, Phillips University, Marburg, Germany)
- **November 1:** Deborah Weissman (Assistant Professor, Director of Clinical and Externship Programs, School of Law, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill)
- **November 8-10:** Anna May Wong film series
- **November 29:** MadCat Women's International Film Festival
- **February 23-27:** Judith Butler (Professor Rhetoric and Comparative Literature, UC Berkeley)
- **February 25:** Linda Austern (Associate Professor, Music)
- **January 25:** Jennifer Finney Boylan, transgendered novelist, screenwriter, memoirist, and teacher (with the Duke LGBT Center)
- **February 25-March 2:** French Actor and Director, Dominique Cabrera
- **March 9:** Joan Wallach Scott (Professor, School of Social Science, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton); Women's History Month Lecture
- **March 12:** Heidi Tinsman (Assistant Professor, History, University of California, Irvine); Women's History Month Lecture

Thank you **Feminist Studies Across the Disciplines Series Sponsors:** Art & Art History, Duke Law School, Franklin Humanities Institute, Judaic Studies, Literature Program, Philosophy Department, Religion Department, Romance Studies, Sociology, The University Scholars Program, Vice Provost for Interdisciplinary Studies

The Feminism, Transnationalism and the International Seminar, normally reserved for faculty, will coordinate some of its meetings with public lectures on campus around the themes of "Biopolitics and Sovereignty," "Religion and Globality," "The International," and "Labor and Migration."

Thanks to **FTI Seminar sponsors:** Art & Art History, Duke Law School, Franklin Humanities Institute, Literature Program, Romance Studies, Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy, Vice Provost for Interdisciplinary Studies

Diasporic Hegemonies, a project beginning in spring 2005 led by Women's Studies Associate Professor and Interim Director, Tina Campt, and Assistant Professor of Cultural Anthropology, Deborah Thomas, will include a graduate seminar and public lecture series composed of three dialogues between feminist scholars of diaspora and transnationalism. The scheduled speakers are:

- **January 24:** Saidiya Hartman (Associate Professor, English, University of California, Berkeley) and Bayo Holsey (Assistant Professor, African and African American Studies, Duke)
- **March 28:** Priti Ramamurthy (Associate Professor, Women's Studies, University of Washington) and Kesha Fikes (Assistant Professor, Anthropology, University of Chicago)
- **April 11:** Maureen Mahon (Assistant Professor, Anthropology, UCLA) and Lena Sawyer (Assistant Professor, International and Intercultural Social Work, Mid-Sweden University)

Diasporic Hegemonies sponsors are: Art & Art History, Duke Center for European Studies, Duke Law School, Franklin Humanities Institute, Romance Studies, Vice Provost for Interdisciplinary Studies

March 4-5, 2004 **Jean Fox O'Barr Symposium in Women's Studies on "Gender and Ethnic Conflict"** and the ongoing **Fall Ford Interdisciplinary Faculty Graduate Seminar** thanks sponsors: Laura Ellen and Robert Muglia Family Foundation, Ford Motor Company Fund, Art & Art History, Duke Center for European Studies, Duke Law School, Franklin Humanities Institute, Romance Studies, Vice Provost for Interdisciplinary Studies

Duke Women's Studies-Harvard Law November 19-20, 2004 **Conference on Dignity and Shame: An Inquiry into the State of our Art on Sex, Sexuality, Gender and the Family** thanks its sponsors: Art & Art History, Duke Law School, Franklin Humanities Institute, Philosophy Department, Romance Studies, Vice Provost for Interdisciplinary Studies

Check our web site <http://www.duke.edu/womstud/calendar/> for more events in this series.