Looking Back

At Women's Studies, we are keenly aware that we have arrived at the present moment in our history through the vision, hard work, sacrifices, and struggles of many people. Over the past 39 years, since the first women's studies courses were offered at UD, we have made steady progress toward becoming a department. That we have arrived at our goal is a testament to our wonderful, curious, inspiring students; our dedicated faculty and staff; and, certainly not least, the determination of all of our directors, past and present.

Several of our former directors have shared their perspectives on our history and our current place in the academy as well as news about their current work. Some of you will remember them as your teachers or your colleagues.

Dr. Bonnie Kime Scott, Chair of the Department of Women's Studies, San Diego State University; Director of Women's Studies at UD from 1980-1981

I was director at a critical point when we needed to redefine the administrative structure, having had two directors as outside hires at the junior level — a design conducive to burnout, we later realized. We worked together on a report that year [that] won some new resources. I also negotiated our way out of a house and onto campus, in the offices in the space formerly occupied by the Art History slide collection. At the time this was a real gain for our visibility on campus.

The [structure of Women's Studies] was still too dependent upon faculty having their primary assignments in existing disciplines. The retreats where we first organized, then reorganized the program structure were amazing as a combination of the personal and the political. [We sat] cross-legged on the floor of the motel's conference room, learning how to relax from stress. Learning from [former UD faculty member] Lindy Geis about ways that position at the head of a table tends to convey authority, and then insisting on circular arrangements whenever possible. This moves over into pedagogy, something much more often discussed with Women's Studies colleagues than in conventional departments. Strategizing for new hires in those regular departments was fun, if often discouraging, but we did begin to make new gains in faculty. Growing intellectually into interseccional thinking that included race and sexuality alongside gender as co-concerns in teaching and research. Celebrating one another's achievements — the emerging scholarship was impressive!

As I think many of you are aware, I moved to the Department of Women's Studies at San Diego State University in 2001 and have chaired the department for 5 years. It's the oldest and one of the largest programs in the nation, and we've been having a year-long celebration of that 40-year milestone. Lots of social activism, community engagement, and interdisciplinarity on offer. The department is well respected by the administration, though the [California] state budget crisis has put a damper on hiring in the last few years. [T] enjoy our highly diverse set of students, both undergrad and M.A. (I do miss the Ph.D students from Delaware!) I continue to publish in the field of gender and modernism ... including Gender in Modernism: New Geographies, Complex Intersections, published by Illinois in 2007. Quite a nice and affordable text that includes dance, art, and journalism, among other thematic sections that go well beyond literary selections. I also did a 4 volume series for Routledge on Gender and

Dr. Bonnie Kime Scott and a wild Australian King parrot in the Bunya Mountains

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Dear Alumni and Friends:

2010 is a banner year for Women’s Studies for we finally achieved departmental status! Yes! Department of Women’s Studies! For more than a decade, Women’s Studies has actively worked toward this goal and, as the series of exclamation marks indicates, we regard this as an extraordinary success which we just relish! The move from program to department means that the administration of the University of Delaware recognizes and validates the program’s accomplishments in teaching, research, and service, and officially acknowledges Women’s Studies as an equal player among the many other departments on campus. Looking back to the beginning of Women’s Studies in the early seventies, starting out with one single course and a few engaged faculty and students pressing for more teaching and resources, illustrates how far Women’s Studies has come and how powerful the collective efforts of faculty, administrators, donors as well as students and staff can be. Now that we have reached this landmark, we’ll be gearing up for the next challenge, the development of a graduate program.

Yet, there is even more to celebrate! In May 2010, Margaret Stetz, Mae and Robert C. Carter Professor of Women’s Studies won the 2010 College of Arts and Sciences Advisement Award. Mind you, this is the second College Award Dr. Stetz has won: In 2008, she was honored with the College Teaching Award. By the way, Dean Watson had barely announced the award in front of Dr. Stetz’s students when he found himself leaving her classroom because Dr. Stetz did not want to waste precious class time with praise of her performance.

Congratulations also to Dr. Alvina Quintana, the Principal Investigator on an Arts and Sciences College Grant for the interdisciplinary research cluster “Hemispheric Dialogues,” an exciting new initiative which engages a number of UD faculty, including Dr. Pascha Bueno-Hansen. You may recall that Dr. Bueno-Hansen joined us last September, nor even a year ago, yet we could not imagine 34 West Delaware without her, and we so enjoy her enthusiasm and dedication. Congratulations to Dr. Jeannie Pfaelzer, who won a Senior Fulbright Award. Finally, I’d like to acknowledge Jessica Schiffman, Assistant Director; this spring, she successfully defended her thesis and we love addressing her as Dr. Schiffman! What else is new in Women’s Studies? Best to check our website (www.udel.edu/WomensStudies) for updates. You’ll find the new course on Adolescent Girls in Multicultural Perspective that Dr. Kathy Turkel developed and taught to great

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The work I did as Director was a time when we returned from our 1980 retreat feeling very much like a duck, but we were called a sparrow.” Finally, we are recognized as a duck! During my tenure as Director, we moved from our windowless—and some might say airless—quarters in 335 Smith to a suite of offices in Ewing Hall. This was definitely a big improvement in our housing. However, the year after I departed as Director, the women in our department were so eager to move into a spacious home on Delaware Ave. During my tenure as Director, Mac and Robert Carter endowed a Chair in Women’s Studies, and we were very fortunate to be able to hire Margaret Stetz. [Also during that time] I served as Chair of the committee that made the D’Arcy McKnight Policy Research to develop the report on “The Status of Women in Delaware.” The Women’s Studies faculty has continued to develop conferenc...
We love to hear from you!

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Amy Gallicchio (2008) is continuing her studies at Hamline University’s School of Law.

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