

# Connections

Department of Women's Studies



A Publication of the Department of Women's Studies ..... Fall 2010



Drs. Margaret Andersen, Marian Palley, Jessica Schiffman, Barbara Gates, Beth Haslett, and Monika Shafi

## 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 and a wild Australian King parrot in the Bunya Mountains

**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 intersectional 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. [I] 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

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## Greetings from the Chair

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, not 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](http://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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Dr. Carla Guerrón-Montero

## Welcome Interim Chair of Women's Studies

We welcome Dr. Carla Guerrón-Montero as Interim Chair of Women's Studies for the 2010-2011 academic year. She has a primary appointment in Anthropology with joint appointments in Women's Studies and Latin American Studies.

LOOKING BACK  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Modernism; it is meant for research libraries, but it is nice to be declared a "field." I hope my next book, *Virginia Woolf and Modernist Uses of Nature: "in the hollow of the wave"* will soon be set with a publisher. Last spring [I was in Australia at the University of Queensland] as George Watson Visiting Professor of Women's Studies and that opened up a whole new trajectory of transnational feminist interests.

Congratulations on departmental status and, yes, I know how much effort that must have involved.

**Dr. Margaret Andersen**, *Acting Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Edwin and Elizabeth Goodman Rosenberg Professor of Sociology and Professor of Women's Studies, University of Delaware; Director of Women's Studies at UD from 1981-1985*

I am still actively writing (*Thinking about Women* now going into its 9th edition!) and am currently back in an administrative role. I remember [returning] from our 1980 retreat feeling charged up about Women's Studies and its future. The work I did as Director was a time when we were trying to make Women's Studies a program that was perceived as having academic legitimacy. Many thought of it as just a fad, though scholarship in the field was bursting out all over. It was liberating to me intellectually and personally to have the chance to work with people from across the campus in so many different fields, all of us linked together through our interests in promoting knowledge and social justice for women. Sometimes I miss the thrill of those early days, though it is much better having Women's Studies secured as an academic discipline.

**Dr. Sandra Harding**, *Professor of Education, Women's Studies, and Philosophy, University of Southern California; Director of Women's Studies at UD from 1985-1989 and 1990-1992.*

I directed the UCLA Center for the Study of Women (a research institute) 1995-2000, and then co-edited *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* from 2000-2005. So that completed close to 20 years of administering Women's Studies Programs, which must put me in a category with a very small number of scholars! I continue to research and write on feminist epistemology, methodology, and philosophy of science, and since the early 1980's have also been writing on postcolonial science and technology studies. My last book was *Sciences From Below: Feminisms, Postcolonialities, and Modernities* (2008, Duke), and a recent article entitled "Feminist and Postcolonial Philosophies of Science: Convergences and Disconnections" appeared in *Postcolonial Studies* 12:4, Dec. 2009.

Congratulations to you all for getting [the departmentalization]! About time.

**Dr. Barbara Gates**, *Emeritus Alumni Distinguished Professor of English and Women's Studies; Director of UD Women's Studies Spring/Summer 1992*

I am proud of all of you and Monika for persisting and getting the departmental status at this crucial time in University history. I know these changes take work. Speaking of which, I will never forget coming into that office every day and feeling the powerful and kind support [of the staff] as we worked together on all manner of matters. It was a heady time.

As you know, I have now been retired for five years, which is hard for me to believe. My work in teaching continues, but with older adults, both where I live and in the city of Tucson. And, the research forges on as well, though not at the same feverish pace. I gave lectures this spring at the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, DC, and at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, which was a gorgeous setting for the post-talk reception. And, right now, I am writing a new essay on the Brontës and natural history.

My best to all the Women's Studies students, past and present, and to [the staff], along with my congratulations.



Dr. Kate Conway-Turner

**Dr. Kate Conway-Turner**, *Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Hood College; Director of UD Women's Studies 1993-1996*

How wonderful to hear that Women's Studies is now a department — congrats!

Women's Studies has provided a critical intellectual base for faculty members and students over the years [and] can boast to have elevated the understanding of how gender impacts the world for so many. I remember the

Delaware Women's Studies community so fondly and I still feel very connected. I look forward to hearing more of Women's Studies' journey as it moves toward greater heights.

**Dr. Marian Palley**, *Professor of Political Science and International Relations and Women's Studies at University of Delaware; Director of Women's Studies at UD from 1989-1990 and 1999-2005*

When I was Director of Women's Studies the Program began to grow and when I completed my 6 years as Director we had 5 full time faculty members. In many ways we were treated as a department and I was treated as a department chair. I used to joke that we "walked like a duck and talked 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 333 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 program moved into its current spacious home on Delaware Ave. During my tenure as Director, Mae 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 worked with the Institute for Women's Policy Research to develop the report on "The Status of Women in Delaware." The Women's Studies Program sponsored a conference and then a press conference to highlight the results of this study. Women's Studies also cosponsored, along with the American Political Science Association, a small conference of Japanese and American scholars of women and politics.

I am currently working on articles and papers that focus on women's health care in the United States and in global perspective. My most recent book is *Women of the World: Women and Politics in Comparative Perspective* (2 volumes), ABC-CLIO, 2009 (co-editor).

## Dr. Jeannie Pfaelzer is a Fulbright Scholar

In Spring 2011 **Dr. Pfaelzer** (English and Women's Studies with a joint appointment in Asian Studies) will be at the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands as a Senior Fulbright Scholar in American Studies. The award is a tremendous honor and it will give Dr. Pfaelzer an opportunity to conduct research in Dutch archives on rebellions by enslaved Chinese aboard Dutch, English, and Portuguese ships bound for sugar plantations in Cuba and guano islands in Peru.

Dr. Pfaelzer will also teach an undergrad course in feminism and utopianism and a graduate seminar in Asian American history and culture.



Meredith Ambrose, Mae Carter, and Meghan Wallace

## Two Women's Studies Students Receive Carter Awards

The Office of Equity and Inclusion-Women's Affairs selected **Meredith Ambrose** and **Meghan Wallace** as recipients of this year's Mae Carter Scholarship. Named in honor of former Assistant Provost for Women's Affairs and Executive Director of the Commission on the Status of Women, the scholarship honors an undergraduate woman student who carries the values that Mae Carter has represented to the University community. Usually only one award is given. This year the committee decided to give two awards in recognition of the outstanding achievements of two nominees. The recipients were honored at a luncheon attended by Mae Carter.

## Rosenberry Writing Awards for Two Women's Studies Students

**Sarah Robins**, a Women's Studies major and 2010 graduate, received the Edward H. Rosenberry Undergraduate Writing Award, second prize, for her paper entitled "Quinceañeras and Bat-Mitzvahs and Ritu Kalas ... Oh My! A Cross-Cultural Comparison of Female Coming of Age Rituals." **Gretchen Spencer**, a minor in Women's Studies, was also awarded a second prize for her paper, "Social Construction of Gender in William Shakespeare's Twelfth Night." We congratulate Sarah and Gretchen for their exceptional work!

## Hemispheric Dialogues

Two Women's Studies faculty members are participating in a collaborative, cross-disciplinary research initiative that draws together scholars from Anthropology, Art History, Education, and Foreign Languages with the common interest in applied, participatory, and/or social justice-oriented research in the Americas. The geographic conceptualization of the Americas bridges area studies and ethnic studies approaches in thinking about the Western Hemisphere. This reformulation facilitates interdisciplinary dialogue among participants that challenges how we formulate the boundaries of intellectual inquiry. As globalization continues to accelerate, we must take into consideration the multifold processes that connect U.S. Hispanic/Latina and Latin American communities. This innovative approach is at a nascent stage in the U.S. and this

research cluster makes a significant contribution to its development.

The spring of 2010 proved productive for ongoing hemispheric dialogues as well as the campus at large. The group hosted Professor Juan Flores in on March 5, 2010. Professor Flores's public presentation proved successful, attracting an audience from across the campus, which included administrators, faculty and students from a variety of academic units. The presentation provided an overview of Flores's latest monograph *The Empire Strikes Back: Caribeño Tales of Learning and Turning* and focused on methodology, cultural remittances, and the intersections between Latin American scholarly formations, Latin American Studies and Latina/o Studies.

A research cluster seminar enabled an impromptu oral history interview, which led Professor Flores to consider his personal evolution as a scholar, from his early childhood interests, graduate work and finally his current research on Afro-Latinos and Puerto Rican studies. His seminar facilitated a consideration about the value of oral history and implicit connections between personal histories, academic training and intellectual formations. The Flores visit invigorated collaboration in the cluster giving the group new impetus to consider relationships between disciplines. This led to on-going discussions about the intersections between Latin American scholarly formations, Latin American Studies, and Latina/o Studies.

The cluster met monthly to discuss the following projects:

- **Pascha Bueno-Hansen's** book manuscript on women and the internal armed conflict in Peru.
- **Mónica Domínguez Torres'** conference papers about early modern representations of pearl fishing activities in the New world.
- **Carla Guerrón-Montero's** work on "Constructing Perennial Joy in Postcolonial Destinations in the Americas."
- **Gladys Iñarregui's** work on the relationship between representations of violence in Latin American poetry and the limitations of conventional literary criticism.
- **Alvina Quintana's** book proposal for *Borders Be Damned: Creolizing Multicultural Studies*.
- **Rosalie Rolón-Dow's** study of the experiences of diaspora returnees to the University of Puerto Rico.

Overall, the cluster activities, the group seminar, public address, and incubation meetings were instrumental in creating an invigorating intellectual space vital for considering the methodological challenges and interdisciplinary focus of Hemispheric Dialogues. The collaborations have evolved into a vision for a book project that will explore the isms and schisms between Latin American and Latina/o studies research agendas and contribute to a resource guide for those interested in interdisciplinary studies, teaching pedagogy, and methodology.

On Monday, October 25, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00



## 2010 Graduation Class

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Meredith Ambrose *, **  | Shayla Nastasi  |
| Liesbeth Bishop         | Sarah Robins **   |
| Victoria Bourret **     | Yesenia Rodriguez   |
| Heather Chapman         | Katrina Sansalone   |
| Megan Dunn              | Jennifer Scalia   |
| Aimee Grady             | John Stracquatano   |
| Catherine Grunert **    | Breanna Sullivan **   |
| Amanda Hendrickson      |   |
| Marie Shau-Ying Hong ** | * Recipient of the Nellie Thompson Rudd Awards for scholarship, leadership, and service in Women's Studies. |
| Sadye MacGuire          | **Recipients of the Women's Studies Awards of Special Merit   |
| Leah Meyer              |   |
| Camille Moncrieffe      |   |
| Joan Moses              |   |
| Sonia Murrey            |   |

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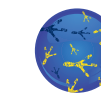
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|                   |                    |
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| Margaret Andersen | Carol Post         |
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| Suzanne Cherrin   | Morissa Sher       |
| Julie Demgen      | Lloyd Thoms, Jr.   |
| Steven Dentel     | George Watson, Jr. |
| Joseph Dewson III | Norine Watson      |
| Brenda Mayrack    |                    |

p.m., you can attend a symposium in the Ewing Room, Perkins Student Center, organized by the Hemispheric Dialogues Research Cluster. The title is "Social Justice in the Americas: Reflections from Latina Scholars" and is part of the Hispanic Heritage Month schedule of events. Please see the Women's Studies web site for details.

## UDconnection

Don't forget to register for an exclusive UD alumni online community at [www.UDconnection.com](http://www.UDconnection.com). The online community allows you to search the alumni directory, post class notes, update your contact information, find upcoming alumni events in your area and take advantage of networking opportunities.



[www.UDconnection.com](http://www.UDconnection.com)

success in spring 2010, the latest on our curriculum, which now features a greater concentration on Transnational Feminism as well as information on a forthcoming winter 2011 study abroad program to Paris, France. You'll read the description and you'll want to sign up for it and pack your bags.

Many highlights shape the rhythm of campus life but nothing beats the excitement and joy of graduation, the *grand finale* to the academic year. Family, friends, and faculty delight in celebrating the success of our students and this May, we witnessed yet another spirited convocation ceremony and we bid farewell to a wonderful group of young women and men. We hope they will stay in touch and let us know from time to time which paths they are traveling on.

Many thanks to the students, faculty, and administrators for supporting Women's Studies and in so many ways help build its success. A special word of thanks to **Dr. Jessica Schiffman** and **Emily Hayworth**, the ultimate dream team: Their excellence and commitment is unsurpassed. I would also like to thank those of you who have made gifts to the program. We greatly appreciate your generosity and support and, above all, the confidence you have shown in our work. Next year, I will be on sabbatical leave; **Dr. Carla Guerrón-Montero** will chair the Department and I wish her best of luck.

Alumni, we always love to hear from you and I hope that the lessons you learned in Women's Studies are serving you well.

On behalf of the faculty and staff I extend my very best wishes,

*Monika Shafi*  
Monika Shafi  
*Elias Abuja Professor of German  
Interim Chair of Women's Studies*

## Staying Connected

We love to hear from you!

**Stacey Callaway** (2005) received her law degree from West Virginia University, is working for a law firm in Sussex County, DE, and teaches as an adjunct faculty member at Delaware Technical and Community College.

**Jacqueline Bracco** (2008) completed her Master's in Education at Columbia University.

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

**Tracy Garber** (2008) is Program Assistant for the Affordable Health Insurance Program at The Commonwealth Fund in New York. She is also going to school part time at Hunter College for her Master's in Public Health in the Health Policy and Management Track. She spent one semester working with a nonprofit in the Bronx to increase the effectiveness of child welfare services.

**Lauren Gibson** (2008, minor) received her Master's in Public Administration at UD. Her thesis was: "Is It Enough? Examining the Sexual Assault Policy at the University of Delaware."

**Whitney Oppito** (2008) is an intern at Women's Campaign International in Philadelphia, a non-profit organization whose mission is to increase

women's participation in politics and decision-making processes.

**Amanda Pollock** (2008) is pursuing a master's degree in Social Work from Bryn Mawr College. As part of her course requirements she completed an internship at Planned Parenthood of Delaware as Education and Outreach Coordinator.

**Alysha McLaurin** (2009) was accepted to graduate school at Delaware State University. She has been working at the YWCA, Georgetown, Delaware, as a Community Services Program Assistant working with teen girls.

**Liesbeth Bishop** (2010) will enter the MBA program at Wilmington University to study Health Care Administration.

**Heather Chapman** (2010) will attend Stetson Law School focusing on criminal and discrimination law.

**Megan Dunn** (2010) spent the summer working for Appalachia Service Project providing emergency home repairs for the people of central Appalachia.

**Katherine Grunert** (2010) will attend Rutgers University for a Master's in Social Work.

**Amanda Henrickson** (2010) is working toward her Master's in Education Counseling at Wilmington University.

**Marie Hong** (2010) is attending the University of Maryland School of Law to study intellectual property law.

**Leah Meyer** (2010) is pursuing a Master's in Women's Studies at the University of Wisconsin.

**Joan Moses** (2010) is working at an event planning firm in Washington, DC.

**Sonia Murray** (2010) is attending Wilmington University for a Master's in Community Counseling.

**Shayla Nastasi** (2010) is working with Public Allies in Delaware. Her partner organization is the Parent Information Center. Their mission is to help children get Individualized Education Plans by communicating with families, school administrators, and specialists.

**Katrina Sansalone** (2010) is attending Rutgers Law School where she is focusing on child advocacy.

**Breanne Sullivan** (2010) is attending the University of Pennsylvania for a Master's in Social Work.

### Help us stay connected

Please e-mail Jessica Schiffman at [jesss@udel.edu](mailto:jesss@udel.edu) or write to Women's Studies, 34 W. Delaware Ave., University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716.

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