

WOMEN'S STUDIES AT CAROLINA

News from Women's Studies at the University of South Carolina Fall 1995



Monica Wyche, Dewey Scott-Wiley, and Mindi Blackburn in "Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)"

Summer Satire Brings Comic Relief

An audience of nearly 200 Friends of Women's Studies enjoyed a mid-summer's revel at a special preview performance of *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)* at Drayton Hall on July 12. Billed as a feminist satire on academia, Shakespeare, and "The Canon," the play by Ann-Marie MacDonald was a highly popular offering in USC's Comedy '95 Summer Rep season.

Dewey Scott-Wiley, on loan from Trustus Theatre, starred as Constance Ledbelly, an assistant professor who has devoted her career to ghostwriting scholarly papers for a pompous male professor, who dumps her for a coed. Determination and a bit of "rough magic" allow her to effect a miraculous career move: the discovery of a secret manuscript that preserves the "true"

text of Shakespeare's *Othello* and *Romeo and Juliet*. Time-traveling to Venice and Verona, Ms. Ledbelly encounters a bellicose Desdemona and a brazen Juliet, the true heroes of their plays, which turn out to be comedies after all, and not the vexed tragedies favored by academe.

A superb cast under the direction of Richard Blair included, in addition to Ms. Scott-Wiley, Mindi Blackburn as Desdemona, Monica Wyche as Juliet, Tom Dalton as Iago, and Thom Penn as Romeo.

Program assistant Maxine Higgins, who coordinated the event, reported, "In terms of fundraising, *Desdemona* was a modest achievement; in terms of 'fundraising' - generating positive energy and excitement - it was an overwhelming success!"

Resignations Prompt Search for Leadership

A national search for a new Director of USC Women's Studies was launched on August 23 with a meeting convened by Provost James C. Moeser of a 10-person search committee chaired by Dr. Jean Ann Linney, Professor of Psychology and Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

Resignations by USC's two top Women's Studies administrators late last spring necessitated the search. Dr. Sue V. Rosser, Director of Women's Studies since 1986, will become Director of the Center for Research on Women and Gender and Director of Women's Studies at the University of Florida in January 1996, following a term as Senior Program Officer for Women's Programs at the National Science Foundation.

Dr. Mary Crawford, Graduate Director of Women's Studies since 1993 and Interim Director during Spring 1995, has returned to West Chester University as Professor of Psychology and Women's Studies. Her most recent book, *Talking Difference*, which proposes a feminist theory of language and gender, was published in July.

Women's Studies faculty and students paid tribute to the service of both Dr. Rosser and Dr. Crawford at receptions this summer.

The search for a senior scholar and administrator will take place during the next several months and proceed until the position is filled, Provost Moeser said. A search for a graduate director will follow. Members of the search committee, in addition to Dr. Linney, are Dr. Sally Boyd, Regional Campuses and Continuing Education; Dr. Paula

Resignations, Cont. p.3

Call for Applications

Josephine Abney Faculty Fellowship for Research in Women's Studies

Applications for the 1996 Josephine Abney Faculty Fellowship for Research in Women's Studies are due on January 19, 1996, at 4:00 p.m. The fellowship is designed to encourage research that focuses on women or gender-related issues. The research may be interdisciplinary or it may originate in any discipline within the University system.

The fellowship is open to any full-time faculty member in the University system. The fellowship subcommittee of the Women's Studies Committee will make the final selection of the recipient. The most important criteria for selection are the significance of the proposed project, the soundness and clarity of the research plan, and its potential contribution to Women's Studies scholarship. The 1995 recipient of the summer research award, Dr. Joyce N. Wiley of USC Spartanburg, is studying the political strategies of Bint al-Huda, a Muslim women's rights activist in Iraq.

For application forms and further information, please contact Dr. Judith Giblin James, Interim Director of Women's Studies, at 777-4007. The recipient will be announced on March 29, 1996.



L-R(front) Stacy Collins, Dr. Mary Crawford, Vanessa Farr, Hayes Hampton, L-R(back) Sharon Friedman, Karen Nickless, and Carol Hall. Not pictured, Kathleen Anderson.

Certificate Graduates Celebrate Successful Completion of Program

Seven students earned the graduate certificate in Women's Studies last spring and summer and received congratulations from Dr. Mary Crawford, Graduate Director, 1993-95, and Interim Director in Spring 1995, at a luncheon in May.

Two of the graduates were enrolled at USC solely to pursue the graduate certificate. Stacy Collins came to Women's Studies with a B.A. from the College of Charleston. She married this summer and works in Columbia. Sharon Friedman came from Detroit, Michigan, after teaching in secondary schools. She is currently pursuing a doctorate in public policy at Portland State University.

Other graduates completed their certificates concurrently with study toward an advanced degree in a traditional discipline. Vanessa Farr, a Fulbright scholar from South Africa, also earned an M.A. in English. She is now pursuing a Ph.D. in Women's Studies at York University in Toronto. Her essay on "Gestures of Belonging in the Novels of Bessie Head" won a \$200 prize from the Southeastern Women's Studies Association in April.

Hayes Hampton, also a graduate student in the Department of English, will finish a dissertation on the rhetoric of feminist spirituality in 1996. Kathleen Anderson is at work on a dissertation in psychology. Carol Hall's dissertation topic in the Department of Geography is a feminist critique of Geographical

Information Systems (GIS) technology. And Karen Nickless, currently studying toward a Ph.D. in history, has already published on the cultural heritage of Shaker women.

Contributions Honored



Sally Boyd

We pay special tribute to Dr. Sally Boyd, Assistant Vice Provost for Continuing Education, who served Women's Studies as Associate Director during spring and summer 1995. A longtime supporter of Women's Studies as a teacher of Women in Western Culture (WOST 111) and a member of the Women's Studies Committee, Dr. Boyd joined us in January to assist with budget, planning, and scheduling, but with the resignation of Dr. Mary Crawford this spring, she took on full responsibility for the program for several months.

Dr. Boyd is widely respected as an administrator who can be relied on to see the multiple dimensions of any problem complexly and completely and to find a harmonious solution. Her intelligence, positive energy, and bright spirit saw us through a difficult transitional period. Women's Studies recognizes and celebrates her important contributions.



Judith Giblin James

Interim Director Cites Challenges

Dr. Judith Giblin James, who directed the Women's Studies program in 1993-94, will serve as Interim Director this year. She offered the following assessment of the state of the program:

"The magnitude of our recent losses is all too apparent as we begin the new academic year. In addition to Dr. Sue V. Rosser and Dr. Mary Crawford—the two women most responsible for the rapid growth of the program in the last few years and the architects of its national reputation—two other important members of the Women's Studies faculty have moved on to other positions: Dr. Thavolia Glymph, a scholar of African American women's history, who has accepted a position at Pennsylvania State University, and Dr. Jennifer Ring, a political theorist, who will become Director of Women's Studies at the University of Nevada at Reno. We celebrate their opportunities and wish them well, but we will miss their wisdom and transformative energies.

"Work to fulfill the mission of Women's Studies—to increase knowledge about women—will continue in earnest, but it will take a renewed commitment from all of us as students, faculty, and friends as we also seek to reestablish a permanent base of senior leadership for the program through the search this year for a director and another search in 1996-97 for a graduate director. Those of us charged with the day-to-day operation of the program are counting on you to give us your thoughts, your good will, and your support."

Graduate Program Begins Year with New Students, New Director

The graduate certificate program in Women's Studies this year will be in the capable hands of Dr. Patricia Gilmartin, Professor of Geography, member of the Women's Studies Committee, and recipient of the 1989 Josephine Abney Faculty Fellowship for her research on women explorers and travelers.

She will supervise a program that currently enrolls over 40 students, including 14 who were admitted this spring and summer. Anticipating the year ahead, Dr. Gilmartin offered the following thoughts:

"The role of Acting Director of the Graduate Program in Women's Studies for the coming year promises to be a demanding and exciting one. Demanding because of the standards of performance and productivity set by those who preceded me in this position, and exciting because it represents an opportunity to be an integral part of our dynamic Women's Studies program. In its brief existence, the graduate program has shown an impressive growth and vitality, and I intend to do all I can to sustain that momentum.

"I have several goals, both general and specific, for the year. My first responsibility, of course, is to the graduate students—to advise and assist them as they work toward their graduate certificates. I also intend to encourage more faculty to participate in the program, with the aim of expanding the number of course offerings available to our graduate students. I am looking forward to getting to know all of the Women's Studies faculty, students, and supporters better in hopes of facilitating that sense of community and mutual support which all of us seem to value so much in the program.

"More broadly, I also believe that the position of Graduate Director includes a general responsibility to participate in other efforts to improve the status of women within the University and the community at large. I am looking forward to 1995-96, convinced that it will be another great year for Women's Studies."



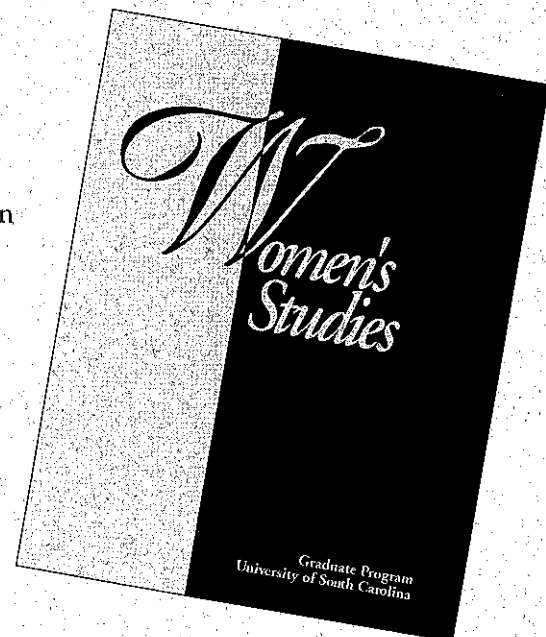
Patricia Gilmartin

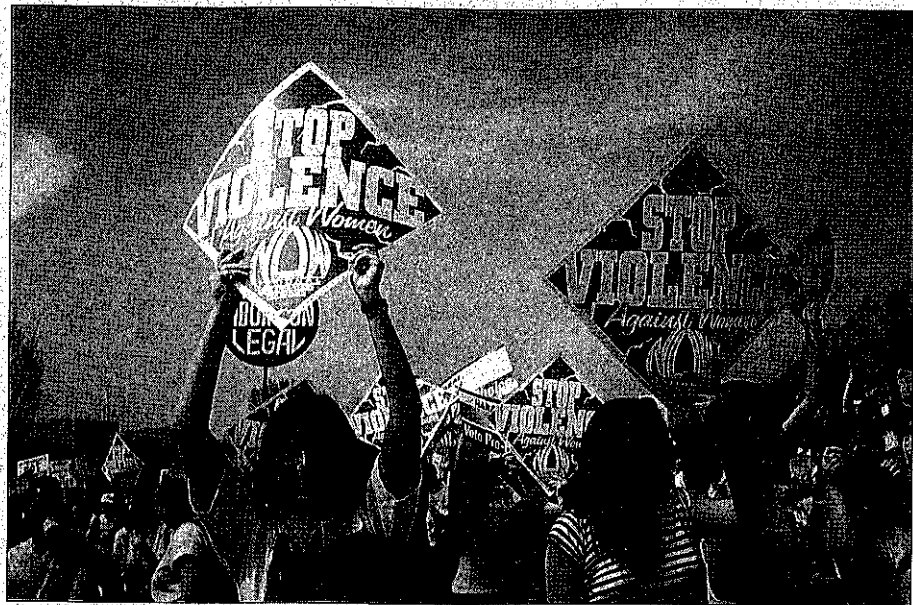
Resignations (from p. 1)

Feldman, College of Liberal Arts; Dr. Miriam Freeman, College of Social Work; Dr. C. Blease Graham, College of Criminal Justice; Dr. Judith Giblin James, Women's Studies; Dr. Ed Madden, College of Liberal Arts; Dr. Aretha Pigford, College of Education; and graduate students Rebekah Bradley and Katrina Walker.

New Brochure Now Available

A new graduate program brochure is now available for prospective students and others who are interested in learning more about the certificate in Women's Studies. Thanks to Betty Hudgens for designing the brochure. It provides information about Women's Studies courses, faculty, awards, and activities, and features quotations from individual graduate students about their experiences in the program. Fifteen students have earned the graduate certificate since August 1992, when the degree program was instituted.





Lisa Robinson, USC graduate student in Women's Studies and the Department of Religious Studies, was one of 14 graduate and undergraduate students from the Columbia campus who traveled to Washington, DC, on April 9 to participate in a national rally to protest violence against women. The YWCA of the Midlands will coordinate the observance of a Week Without Violence beginning October 15.

Spring Schedule Features Course in Women's Autobiographies

A graduate course in 20th-century Women's Autobiographies will be offered on the Columbia campus in Spring 1996 by Dr. Elizabeth Harrison, Director of the Charleston Center for Women and author of *Female Pastoral: Women Writers Re-Visioning the American South* (1991).

The course will emphasize interdisciplinary and multi-ethnic approaches to seven life stories from across the century, including those by a Sioux woman, a Jewish immigrant from Russia in 1912, an African American ethnographer, a

white working-class woman from Appalachia, and a Vietnamese woman who immigrated to the United States in the 1970s.

Dr. Harrison, a student of Carolyn Heilbrun at Columbia University and of Susan Gubar at Indiana University, has published widely on 20th-century literature by women.

Other courses for Spring 1996 will be announced soon. For more information, please call 777-4007.

Bulletin Will Increase Communication

This fall marks the debut of *Be-Speaking*, a bi-weekly bulletin of Women's Studies. Edited by program assistant Maxine Higgins, it is designed to keep Women's Studies faculty and students updated on program news, administrative issues, and events of interest on campus and in the community. The title comes from Mary Daly's *Websters' New Intergalactic Wickedary of the English Language*, where "be-speaking" is defined

as 1) foretelling; speaking of what will be; and 2) bringing about a psychic and/or material change by means of words. "By weaving a tighter information web," Ms. Higgins said, "we hope to promote involvement and activism in Women's Studies." The first issue appeared August 24. If you're not on the mailing list for *Be-Speaking* and would like to be, please contact Ms. Higgins at 777-4007.

Resource Center for Columbia Women in Planning Stages

A planning initiative to establish a women's resource center in Columbia is underway, sparked by the closing this summer of Bluestocking Books. The women's bookstore on Gervais Street served for three years as an informal meeting place for women, and its absence has been keenly felt.

Approximately 30 women attended a meeting on August 9 for wide-ranging discussions about what functions a women's resource center might serve, how it could be organized and funded, and other related issues. The group made considerable progress in initial planning, and three committees were formed to continue working on the project: a publicity committee to arrange a location for and advertise the next meeting; a coordinating committee to begin drafting by-laws; and a research and finance committee to investigate site requirements and costs as well as potential sources of funding grants for the center.

The committees will present progress reports at the second planning meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, October 4, at 7:00 p.m., in Classroom D of the Baptist Medical Center's Educational Office Center (1333 Sumter St., inside the secured parking facility). Anyone interested in contributing time and ideas to the women's resource center project is invited to attend the meeting.

The State of Women's Studies at Carolina is published bi-annually by Women's Studies at the University of South Carolina

Dr. Judith Gibling James
Interim Director of Women's Studies

Dr. Patricia Gilmartin
Acting Graduate Director of Women's Studies

Maxine Higgins
Program Assistant

Tami Eldridge
Graduate Assistant

Women's Studies
1710 College Street
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208
Telephone (803) 777-4007
FAX (803) 777-9114

Dates to Remember, 1995-96

Mark your calendar for events of interest in 1995-96, and watch for the announcement of others throughout the year.

SEPTEMBER

- 7 Poet Nikky Finney, South Carolina native and writer-in-residence at the University of Kentucky, will read from her collection *Rice* (1995) at 7:00 p.m. in Gambrell Auditorium. Co-sponsored with the Department of English. Ms. Finney is the daughter of SC Supreme Court Justice and Mrs. Ernest A. Finney, Jr., of Sumter. She is a founding member of the Afrilachian Poets and the Bluegrass Black Arts Consortium.
- 13 Open House at Women's Studies, 1710 College St., 3:30-5:30 p.m. Join us to welcome the new semester! Newly-catalogued browsing library and collection of scholarly journals on display.
- 20 Dr. Ed Madden, Assistant Professor of English, will open the Women's Studies Faculty Research Series with a lecture on "The Gospel According to Radclyffe Hall: The Lesbian Messiah in *The Well of Loneliness*," 3:30 p.m. in Gambrell 250. Reception will follow.
- 22 Meeting of the Women's Studies Committee, 2:00 p.m., 1710 College St.
- 29 Reception sponsored by Professional Women on Campus, 4:00-6:00 p.m., Gambrell 428.

OCTOBER

- 4 Women's Resource Center planning meeting, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Classroom D, Baptist Medical Center's Educational Office Building, 1333 Sumter St. (See story in this issue.)
- 6 "The Life and Leadership of Elizabeth Cady Stanton: A Centennial Celebration of *The Woman's Bible*," a three-day conference sponsored by Columbia College, begins with a banquet at the Adam's Mark Hotel. Keynote speaker is historian Dr. Gerda Lerner, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Registration information: Dr. Vivia Fowler, Columbia College, 786-3776 or 786-3749.
- 11 Dr. Ann L. Coker, Associate Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, will present a lecture on "Childhood Sexual Assault and the Risk of Pre-Invasive Cervical Cancer among Women Prison Inmates" in the Women's Studies Faculty Research Series, 3:30 p.m., Gambrell 250. Reception will follow.
- 13 Women's History Month Committee Meeting, 2:30 p.m., 1710 College St. Also the North American premiere of a dramatization of the letters of Jane Baillie Welsh and Thomas Carlyle by Henry Donald. Performance at 8:00 p.m., Gambrell Auditorium, directed by Steve Hart. Co-sponsored with Theatre, Speech, and Dance as part of the Victorians Institute Conference.
- 30 Women's Studies Faculty Meeting, 3:00 p.m., 1710 College St.
- 31 Spring Course Listings available.

NOVEMBER

- 15 Adrenee Glover Freeman Memorial Lecture in African American Women's Studies by Dr. Patricia Hill Collins, author of *Black Feminist Thought*, 7:30 p.m., Gambrell Auditorium. Reception will follow. Dr. Collins, Professor of African American Studies at the University of Cincinnati, will speak on "Building a Critical Mass: Rethinking Black Women's Political Activism."
- 29 Dr. Lori Loeb, Assistant Professor of History, will present a lecture on "Stoned Angels: Marketing Patent Medicines to Victorian Women" in the Women's Studies Faculty Research Series, 3:30 p.m., Gambrell 250. Reception will follow.

DECEMBER

- 4 Annual two-day conference of the South Carolina Women in Higher Education Administration begins in Charleston.
- 18 Commencement for undergraduate majors and recipients of the graduate certificate in Women's Studies, 7:30 p.m., Coliseum.
- 21 Deadline to submit proposals for presentations at the ninth annual USC System-wide Women's Studies Conference on March 29.

JANUARY

- 17 Deadline to submit entries for the Women's History Month calendar. Meeting of the Women's History Month Committee at 3:00 p.m., 1710 College St.
- 19 Deadline for applications for the 1996 Josephine Abney Faculty Fellowship for Research in Women's Studies.
- 24 "Creating Knowledge about Women: Research by Graduate Students at USC," a panel presentation in the Women's Studies Faculty Research Series, 3:30 p.m., location to be announced. Reception will follow.
- 26 Meeting of the Women's Studies Committee, 3:00 p.m., 1710 College St.

FEBRUARY

- 1 Look for a variety of events in celebration of Black History Month during February.
- 21 Dr. Miriam L. Freeman, Associate Professor of Social Work, will present "Virginia Satir, Family Therapy, and Gender Issues" in the Women's Studies Faculty Research Series, 3:30 p.m., location to be announced. Reception will follow.

MARCH

- 1 Look for a variety of events in celebration of Women's History Month during March. A complete calendar will be available in mid-February.
- 15 Deadline for pre-registration for the USC System-wide Women's Studies Conference.
- 21 Opening performance of an experiential festival of music, movement, art, and poetry, tentatively titled "Weaving Dreams of Women," 8:00 p.m., Drayton Hall. Conceived and directed by Melody Schaper, Associate Professor of Theatre, Speech, and Dance, the work will also be performed on March 22 and 23.
- 21 National Conference on 18th- and 19th-century British Women Writers begins on the USC Columbia campus for three days of interdisciplinary exchange on women writers and literary, political, legal, medical, religious, and scientific discourse. The conference is being organized by Ellen Arnold, Becky Lewis, and Sid Watson, graduate students in Women's Studies and doctoral candidates in the Department of English.
- 29 Ninth Annual USC System-wide Women's Studies Conference, all day, location to be announced. Registration required. Awards luncheon will feature presentation of the Josephine Abney Faculty Fellowship for Research in Women's Studies, the Carol Jones Carlisle Award for Research in Women's Studies, and the Brenda Harden Gross Memorial Book Award.

APRIL

- 12 Southeastern Women's Studies Association Conference, through April 14, at Virginia Commonwealth University. This year's theme: "Global Feminism: Beijing and Beyond."
- 17 Dr. Emilie Smith, Assistant Professor of Psychology and Dr. Shirley Geiger, Assistant Professor of Government and International Studies, will present a lecture on "Don't Talk About My Mother: Single Parents, Social Capital, and Involvement in Their Children's Schooling" in the Women's Studies Faculty Research Series, 3:30 p.m., location to be announced. Reception will follow.
- 18 Awards Day presentation of the Arney Robinson Childs Memorial Award for Women's Studies undergraduates and the Emily Thompson Memorial Award for graduate student research in women's health at 2:00 p.m. on the Horseshoe.

Friends of Women's Studies

The following is a listing of friends of Women's Studies who have supported the Women's Studies Endowment by contributions from March 1994 through August 1995. We are grateful for your support.

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