Chinese Delegation visits Women’s Studies

A delegation, consisting of 12 members including one interpreter and one Canadian representative, visited the Women's Studies Department on November 7, 2007. The delegation, led by Ms. He, Senior Vice-President of Hunan Women’s Vocational University, was on a study tour in Canada to learn more about innovative Canadian policies aimed at promoting and protecting women’s rights in the work place, with particular interest in issues like gender equity, women/migrant workers’ legal protections, skills training and educational initiatives. The Study tour was supported by CIDA Policy Option Project, which provides technical expertise and training to the Government of China in support of policy reforms that contribute to sustainable development, human rights and poverty reduction.

Hunan Province is currently going through a massive restructuring of its labour market, particularly in agricultural areas. Rural-urban as well as inter-provincial migration is fast growing in Hunan with an estimated 11 million migrants, nearly half of which are women. The Hunan Women’s Federation and the University conducted needs assessments of the migrants and are in the processing of drafting policy recommendations for alleviating of unemployment in the Province, with a particular attention to promoting gender equity and improving the legal rights of migrant women.
How To Find Us

Interested in more information about Women’s Studies at Simon Fraser University? You can visit us on the web at: **www.sfu.ca/womens-studies**.

If you're on campus you can come to our offices on the fifth floor of the AQ (directly above the East Concourse Cafeteria), the main office is AQ 5102A.

We have a brochure describing all the activities of the department, and more detailed booklets describing undergraduate and graduate programs which can be sent on request.

**Phone:** 778-782-3333
**Fax:** 778-782-5518

**Mailing Address:**
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You can contact the following for more information on different programs:

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**Ruth Wynn Woodward Secretary**
Andrew Wickerson
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778-782-4023
MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR cont’d

The past year marked the third year of the new PhD program in Women’s Studies. Four of the eight current PhD candidates admitted in the past three years completed the comprehensive exams and two of them have also defended their dissertation proposals. This same year saw six of the sixteen current masters level students defend their theses or extended essays and three of them are going on to PhD programs here, at McGill University, and at Temple University in the United States.

Graduate Caucus Report
Sonja Boon

All Women’s Studies graduate students are members of the Women’s Studies Graduate Caucus. The WSGS is the place for graduate students to come together and discuss their experiences, identify issues of concern, partake in social events and plan special events and activities. In addition to this, the Caucus, as part of the Simon Fraser Student Society, elects representatives to larger student political bodies like the Graduate Issues Committee and the Forum. It also elects departmental representatives, who voice graduate student concerns at monthly departmental meetings, and finally, elects its own officers to oversee its activities.

Over the past few years, WSGS events have included a variety of informal get-togethers and parties at cafés, in parks and in student homes, chances for all of us to get to know one another outside the classroom. We’ve also had the opportunity, through the SFSS special grants program, to plan larger special events. In 2005, the Caucus invited SFU faculty and others to speak on the topic of feminism as part of a three-part lecture series held in the Maggie Benston Centre; in 2006, we brought Dr. Katherine Side, who has the distinction of holding the first PhD. from a free-standing Women’s Studies program in Canada (York 1997), to speak with students about academic careers in Women’s Studies. In 2007, we organized a more extensive series of professional development workshops led by Women’s Studies faculty members from UBC and SFU. Finally, we supported Caelie Frampton’s (MA 2007) Sociology for Changing the World: Social Movements/Social Research, published by Fernwood Books, was launched at SFU Vancouver in 2006. The Caucus is also able to award a number of small conference grants to students wishing to attend or present at academic conferences.

Finally, a brief word of thanks to everyone who has made all of these events possible. Over the past two years, we’ve benefited from the commitment and expertise of many, including: Byron Lee, Mary Shearman, Caelie Frampton, Ben Milne, Trish Garner, Jewelles Smith, Beth Pentney and Sarah Berry (and I’ve probably forgotten a few!). Thank-you, all!

Chinese Delegation cont’d

The purpose of the visit was to learn about the Canadian experience in order to strengthen their policy inputs to the Hunan government.

Habiba Zaman, Associate Professor of Women’s Studies, who visited China under the BC Scholars to China Program in 1998, delivered a talk to the team on immigrant and migrant women’s participation in the labour market and their rights as well as entitlements in Canada. A number of questions were raised concerning migrant workers’ rights and the comprehensive concept of a migrant worker that includes documented, undocumented, and even inter-provincial migrant workers in China. The role of various local, national, and international organizations and advocacy groups for migrant workers’ rights in Canada were also discussed.
GRADUATE CHAIR REPORT
Marilyn MacDonald

The 2006/07 academic year has been a busy one for our graduate program, including the arrival of new staff and graduate students, and the successful progress through their studies of both Master’s and Doctoral candidates. At the end of January, Kathryn Hunter took over the position of Departmental Secretary, and has become an invaluable part of the WS graduate program. In particular, she has been involved in the completion of a major updating and restructuring of the WS Graduate Studies handbook, to be more user-friendly for both students and faculty. The final revisions for this handbook will be determined in the next departmental meetings, and the handbook should be available early 2008.

Among the approximately seventeen changes which have been proposed for our graduate program, the Department has approved the move of the deadline for applications from March to the second Monday in January. This was done to bring our review and acceptance dates more in line with other universities. As well, changes in award dates for some graduate funding (still to be confirmed from Graduate Studies) should allow us to make firmer offers of financial support. Also, in keeping with some of the recommendations of a review of graduate student supervision, the application package is now to include a more comprehensive proposal, and the academic fields and topic of any proposed research study will be indicated in the acceptance letters (in addition to the identification of senior supervisor). As a small department, especially during a time of faculty renewal (or limited renewal), we have a particular range of possible academic fields in which student supervision is available, and any changes made to a candidate’s topic and field of study, once admitted to our program, must take that into consideration.

As many of you may already know, Dr. Jon Driver (current Dean of Graduate Studies) will be stepping down from that position in September, 2008, and we have certainly benefited from his support and continued pursuit of equity in such issues as awards of fellowships, scholarships and travel support. It is to be hoped that his successor (not yet determined) will carry on with the same approach. The Grad Studies office has had a significant turnover in staff recently, in such key areas as registrar and awards, so we may expect to see some changes in processing times, application procedures and so on, especially given the stronger interest in graduate education being exhibited by the Provincial Government, and the developments within the University in relation to restructuring and focussing of research directions.

In September, we welcomed four new candidates in the Master’s course-based option (Claire Askew, Sarah Sparks, Sarah Sparks and Kaitlin Pelletier), and four in the Doctoral program (Mary Shearman, Joy Walcott, Francis Syeda Bukhari and Jessica Haddon). All have begun the completion of their first semester’s course requirements, and had a chance to meet faculty, staff and fellow graduate students at an orientation/reception held on September 12th. This reception included a premiere showing of Beth Pentney’s video on the WS doctoral program (including interviews with our students, on different aspects of graduate life), and an introduction to the SFU library system by WS liaison librarian and associate, Moninder Bubber.

In the Master’s program, a number of students successfully completed their studies.

(Continued on page 5)

GRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE NEWS

The 2006/2007 year was both busy and productive for graduate students in the Women’s Studies department at SFU. We greeted three new MA students in the fall of 2006, Lisa Weeks, Iram Zaidi, and Karen Kinsey. We also took part in the Women’s Studies Departmental Advance, and organized a fall potluck social. Women’s Studies grad students formed a thesis writing group, held a holiday social, and organized a professional development workshop with UBC and SFU Women’s Studies students and faculty. Several of our PhD students in the first cohort completed their comprehensive exams, and Sonja Boon was our first PhD student to defend her thesis proposal. We also said goodbye to several graduating MA students, including Byron Lee, Sarah Berry, Brian Richter, Jewelles Smith, and Caelie Frampton.

Graduate Student Representative: Mary Shearman
Sarah Berry, for her Master's thesis, "Too posh to push or too quick to cut? deconstructing media representations of elective caesarean sections".

Caelie Frampton, for her Master's thesis, "Tuition rebates and the Teaching Support Staff Union: an examination of the textual coordination of university bargaining".

Byron Lee, for his Master's extended essays, "Reading GAM in Craigslist personal ads: constructing Gay Asian Males during negotiation of anal intercourse" and "Remembering spatially: Refocusing the history of Vancouver's gay community".

Brian Richter, for his Master's extended essays, "Selling the menopausal body: a critical analysis of physician-targeted HRT advertising" and "Community-university Co-operative Model case study: a reflexive and exploratory look at one CBR experience".

Mary Shearman, for her Master's thesis, "Betty Lambert's plays for children: a feminist approach to theatre for young audiences".

Jewelles Smith, for her Master's extended essays, "The Swan versus Orlan: spectacle, plastic surgery, violence, women's bodies" and "Does the Personal Information and Protection Act (2003) obstruct the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act?".

As well, several students successfully completed the defence of their thesis proposals, and are now working towards the completion of their studies: Those students are Mignon Alphonso, Sonja Boon, Cole Dodsley, Xinying Hu, Alieka Rudder, Lisa Weeks.

In the Doctoral program, Sonja Boon and Natasha Patterson were the first of our students to undertake sessional teaching positions, offering an upper-level course on "The maternal imaginary" and on "Inside and outside the box: feminist television studies" respectively.

Two more doctoral candidates successfully completed their comprehensive examinations: (Xinying Hu, Helen Loshny).

In terms of funding, Women's Studies students received several graduate fellowships (Mignon Alphonso, Iram Zaidi, Lisa Weeks in the Master's; Beth Pentney, Natasha Patterson, Mary Shearman, Silke Frischmuth in the Doctoral program). Xinying Hu received a Graduate International Scholarship, and, having successfully defended her doctoral thesis proposal, has now gone to China to carry out her research. All the doctoral candidates who have completed the initial coursework and comprehensive examinations are also eligible for President's Research stipends (including Sonja Boon, Natasha Patterson, Xinying Hu). Mary Shearman received a Pacific Century Graduate Scholarship, for her entrance into her doctoral studies, and Jessica Haddon received a CD Nelson Memorial Graduate Scholarship (matched with a Pacific Century Graduate Scholarship for the next academic year) and a SSHRC Graduate Scholarship for her entrance into

### SFU/UBC Women's Studies Graduate Student Professional Development Workshop

**Beth Pentney**

In March, the SFU Women's Studies graduate students organized a professional development workshop in collaboration with the UBC Centre for Women's and Gender Studies. Held at SFU Harbour Centre and followed by a SFU/UBC Women's Studies social at Steamworks, the workshop included four sessions on topics of interest to Women's Studies grad students, including developing a CV, comprehensive exams, getting published, and the academic job search. The sessions were co-chaired by faculty members from both SFU and UBC, and included lively conversation and plenty of useful information. A special thanks goes out to all the faculty and students who took part in making this workshop such a success!
First Impressions: An East to West Transition
Sarah Spear

“**How do you like school? What is it like in Vancouver?”** are questions I have been asked repeatedly since moving to Vancouver from Ottawa, Ontario, from my friends and family back home. To every person I replied (a little ambiguously) “well, so far so good!” Some took that as a positive statement, others as negative. I let them decide.

How do I like school? It’s Stressful. If I wasn’t a little stressed though, I’d think something was wrong. I feel as though the Women’s Studies department and graduate caucus has put effort into (at the very least) informing students of events and socials. The onus is on the student to make the effort in return to go to the events and socialize with the other students and faculty. I was the only student present at the Women’s Studies Advance in September. Needless to say, I felt a little out of place. The faculty, however, were very kind and welcoming to me, which I greatly appreciated. The students who are “regulars” at caucus meetings are also friendly and helpful. It is reassuring to know people who have gone through similar experiences are an email or caucus meeting away for advice.

Moving to Vancouver has probably been a little easier for me than other new students as I already had a few friends from Ontario living here. Still, even with their help, I can see how grad school has the reputation of being isolating. The most enjoyable time I’ve had studying was when another student and I studied all weekend, mostly in silence. It was enjoyable simply because I had company and was not stuck in my apartment with my computer.

What is it like in Vancouver? I can honestly say I prefer snow to rain. At least you can play in the snow.

Teaching for the First Time
Natasha Patterson

After completing my comprehensive exams, I applied to teach my first course during the summer semester this past year. I designed a special topics third year Women’s Studies course titled, “Inside and Outside the Box: Feminist Television Studies.” The purpose of the course was to introduce students to the ways in which feminist scholars have debated and approached the study of television. The course was divided into three main sections, focusing on: representation, genre, and audiences. Assignments consisted of a review, a final essay, a presentation, and participation in a course blog. I was excited to be given the opportunity to teach a course in my chosen field and I looked forward to discussing and debating feminism and television with my students.

Overall, teaching was a positive experience, and I came away from it with a new found respect for the profession. As a first time instructor, my two biggest challenges revolved around course design and pedagogy. You realize very quickly how much thought and work goes into designing a course from scratch. There is just so much literature to choose from in any given field, but of course, you can’t include everything! Quick and assertive decision-making becomes a necessity at this stage, as you don’t have too much time to fret over what to include/exclude. With regards to teaching, I found it difficult to balance the diverse needs of my students (i.e., learning styles) with my expectations, especially when they came to the course with varying degrees of interest in, and knowledge of, the topic. In anticipation of these differences, I created a student profile sheet which they filled out the first day of class. This became a valuable source of information as I found out early on what their various learning needs were, why they were taking the class, other relevant coursework and so on. By the end of the course, it became clear to me that studying television in a critical manner continues to be met with ambivalence and even resistance, but this often makes for some of the most interesting discussions.
Women’s Studies and Literature
Leah Claire Allen

I started a PhD program in Literature at Duke University in North Carolina about two weeks after I defended my MA essays in Women's Studies at SFU last summer. While I was apprehensive about leaving the interdisciplinary of Women’s Studies, my MA allowed me to make immediate and strong connections to the Department of Women's Studies at Duke. I am enrolled in a certificate program which will add a special Women's Studies designation to my degree when I graduate. Last year I was also a member of the Women's Studies Graduate Scholars’ Colloquium, and this year I will be co-coordinator of the colloquium and its monthly meetings. While I miss SFU and Vancouver, I am happy to say that I’ve remained very connected to Women's Studies and will continue to maintain this connection as I complete my PhD in Literature.

Christine Goodman’s Retirement Party
Beth Pentney

The Women's Studies department celebrated the retirement of our secretary Christine Goodman this year, with a dinner party at Christine’s favourite restaurant, the Pink Pearl. Faculty and graduate students joined Christine to wish her well in her travels, which included a plan to walk the historic pilgrimage through Spain. Christine was presented with gift certificates from the department that would prepare her for her travels, to Holt Renfrew (for some fabulous shoes) and Mountain Equipment Co-op (for whatever else one might need while trekking). Speeches from faculty and graduate students wished Christine well and thanked her for her work over the years, and Christine left us with these important words of wisdom: “wear sunscreen.”

Have We Won?
Maude Barlow

In March of 2007, as part of the Margaret Lowe Benston Lecture Series for Social Justice Issues, Maude Barlow came to the SFU Harbour Centre campus to speak about the need for Canadian Women’s Stewardship. Ms. Barlow is currently the National Chairperson of the Council of Canadians. She spoke for two hours, arguing that women need to take what they learned from the women’s movement to tackle the major issues of our time. Some of the major issues that Maude touched upon were environmental devastation; growing income inequality between countries and inside them; extremism and ethnic violence; and the growing militarization of our world. The Womens’ Studies department would like to thank Maude Barlow for coming and speaking, as it was a challenging and lively evening where much knowledge was shared.

The Margaret Lowe Benston Lecture Series in Social Justice

In recognition of Dr. Margaret Lowe Benston’s dedication to building a more just and equitable world through her research, teaching and community activism, her family, friends and colleagues have established the Margaret Lowe Benston Endowed Lecture Series in Social Justice. In her memory, the lecture series builds bridges between the University and its communities. Each program focuses on a specific topic connected with social justice. The series features one main public event annually or biannually. The invited speakers are those community activists/scholars who have distinguished themselves in a particular social justice cause.
In the spring 2007, Xinying entered the Progressive Economic Forum Annual Student Essay Contest and was awarded the Top Graduate Essay prize $1000. Her essay was titled: “The Rise of Precarious Work for Women in Countries as Different as China and Canada”. The essay is now on the website of the Progressive Economic Forum: http://www.progressive-economics.ca.

To enter the contest, a student is required to submit an essay of 5,000-10,000 words on any subject related to political economy, economic theory or an economic policy issue, which best reflects a critical approach to the functioning, efficiency, social and environmental consequences of unconstrained markets.

Xinying is currently doing her field work in Beijing for her dissertation: “Paid Domestic Labour as Precarious Work in China”. Her research interest deals with the social protection of precarious female workers who work in households in contemporary Chinese cities. Paid domestic labour is among the most vulnerable conditions of exploitation throughout the world. It is a form of precarious work in which there is no job security and is generally characterized by few statutory protections, low wages and no benefits. Xinying’s doctoral research will focus directly on this under-studied disadvantaged group of workers in China. By investigating the economic and social security of domestic workers, she hopes to be able to contribute to information that will lead to possible public policy solutions to a growing problem. From July 2007, she started the preparation of her field work and contacted with domestic worker's agencies and relative organizations. In October, she began to do interviews, in hopes of having her field work finished by the end of this year.

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Jessica Haddon (WS PhD Student) who has received SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholarship - Doctoral Award and the C.D. Nelson Memorial Graduate Scholarship for the Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 semester.

Xinying Hu who was awarded a Graduate International Scholarship ($1000) in Summer 2007, after winning a competition.

Natasha Patterson (WS PhD Student) who was awarded the Margaret Lowe Benston Memorial Graduate Bursary in Women's Studies for the Fall 2007 semester.

Mary Shearman (WS PhD Student) who was recently awarded the Pacific Century Graduate Scholarship for the Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 semesters.

Congratulations to the following graduate students who received Graduate Fellowships for the 2007 – 2008 academic year: Mignon Alphonso, Iram Zaidi, Lisa Weeks, Beth Pentney, Natasha Patterson, Mary Shearman, Silke Frischmuth.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Regulating Bodies Colloquium

The Women’s Studies Department will be sponsoring a one-day on-campus colloquium on “Regulating Bodies” to be held on January 18th, 2008, in the Halpemr Lounge. Beyond the objective of bringing together people at SFU who are engaged in scholarship/research on bodies, our intent is to form a group to apply for an interdisciplinary collaborative research workshop and/or conference in the spring 2008 SSHRC competition.

If you have any interest in participating, please contact Beth Pentney, “Regulating Bodies” Conference Coordinator, at body-conf_coord@sfu.ca
Susan’s current research interests are in philosophy of the body, body modification, body-technology interrelationships, film theory, and architectural theory, particularly as they relate to transgender history, politics, social formations, and subjectivities. She is working on a short book project for feminist publisher Seal Press, *Transgender Political History in the United States*, which is intended as an introductory level text on the subject, and which she intends to finish by October 1, 2007. Susan is also editing a few journal special issues on transgender or embodiment/technology topics—*Women’s Studies Quarterly, Social Semiotics, Australian Feminist Studies*. Her two longer-term projects are a book, *Sex Change City: Theorizing Urban (Trans)Formation in San Francisco*, which looks at the relationship between transgender bodies and the built environment, and an experimental film, *Christine in the Cutting Room*, about the relationship between transgender embodiment and cinema in the life of 1950s transsexual celebrity, photographer, and filmmaker Christine Jorgensen.

**Transsomatechnics: Theories and Practices of Gender Embodiment**

The Ruth Wynn Woodward conference is being held from May 1 - 3, 2008 at the SFU Harbour Centre campus in downtown Vancouver. Organized by Susan Stryker, the Transsomatechnics conference aims to explore the relationship between transgender phenomena and the newly coined term “Somatechnics”, suggesting the inextricability of the body (soma) and the practices and techniques (technics) by means of which the body is formed and transformed—physically, symbolically, and socially. For information about attending the conference, please contact Andrew Wickerson, at rwwchair@sfu.ca

**WOMEN IN TRADES**

A Conference organized by Kate Braid, Ruth Wynn Woodward Professor (2006-2007)

For the past few years there has been a drastic shortage of skilled trades workers in BC. There have been equally drastic efforts to meet it, including the recruitment of skilled tradesmen from Europe and South and Central America, but barely a word has been heard about training the huge potential workforce of women in the province. There is currently not a single support group for women in trades in BC, no lobbying effort on their behalf, and hearsay reported no increase in the numbers of women working in trades in BC since the 1980s.

It was thought that a possible result might also be the formation of new Women in Trades support groups, and conceivably, the lobbying of government and industry to encourage more women into trades.

There had not been a conference of women in trades in BC since 1993 although there was a national conference in 2000 in Banff and an afternoon event at the British Columbia Institute of Technology in 2005.

When Kate Braid was appointed the Ruth Wynn Woodward Chair in women’s Studies at SFU, the primary goal of her position was to coordinate a conference for BC and Yukon women in trades. Kate felt it was vital the conference be taken seriously in the trades community rather than as just an academic exercise. She was also concerned about the intimidation factor of the “university” title for some tradespeople. Kate therefore invited Tamara Pongracz, Chief Instructor, Trades Access Program at BCIT, to co-sponsor the conference. The Trades Discovery Program for Women that Tamara teaches is the longest running pre-trades training program for women in the province and is well-known and well-respected.

She also felt it vital that the conference aim of addressing the lack of women in trades in BC & Yukon not be seen solely as either an industry or a union concern, but one equally important to both. However, for this reason the conference remained a solely Ruth Wynn Woodward Chair/BCIT sponsorship in almost all promotional materials. In fact, major support was given to this conference by the BC Construction Association (BCCA) through the efforts (particularly the fund-raising efforts) of its Vice-President, Abigail Fulton. This event would have been a far more modest affair, with fewer concrete results, without her and her organization’s significant support.
Teaching WS320: The Maternal Imaginary
Sonja Boon

From January until April 2007, I taught a special topics course for the Department of Women’s Studies. “The Maternal Imaginary” explored three centuries of women’s autobiographical writings on maternity and mothering through the lens of feminist theories of mothering. The course drew on materials from two of my comprehensive fields and allowed me to engage with my research interests in the relationships between women and the reproductive body on a more public level. My students, fourteen in total, hailed from a variety of backgrounds. Only two were mothers and only one was a Women’s Studies major. All were active participants, eager to explore new ideas and willing to incorporate different ways of thinking.

The course readings, which incorporated the work of well-known scholars and authors such as Adrienne Rich, Mary Wollstonecraft, Susan Bordo, Simone de Beauvoir, Luce Irigaray, Julia Kristeva, Hélène Cixous and Madame de Sévigné, alternatively perplexed and invigorated the students, provoking fear, loathing, wonder and awe. Hélène Cixous’ short autobiographical novel, The Day I Wasn’t There, and Julia Kristeva’s “Motherhood [according to Giovanni Bellini]” proved to be particularly challenging, while excerpts from Ina May Gaskin’s 1970’s classic, Spiritual Midwifery, drew fascinated responses.

In addition to the more ‘official’ readings outlined above, students also explored less conventional autobiographical models, soliciting maternal autobiographies from mothers they knew and analyzing blogs and online birth diaries. Throughout the course, students critically assessed the cultural conventions and stereotypes which continue to constrain women’s maternal experiences, and sought to shape a broader understanding of mothering and maternal practice.

Staying active after retirement
Susan (Sue) Wendell

I have been enjoying retirement, having more freedom to read and write, as well as to garden, knit, walk, cook and spend time with friends. In May 2007, I was interviewed for a documentary film, called Blood and Honey, which will be based partly on my philosophical understanding of disability. The executive director of the film, Jessica Bernstein, was influenced by my book, The Rejected Body: Feminist Philosophical Reflections on Disability, when she was writing her Ph.D. dissertation about the influence of having had diabetes since childhood on the self-identities of adults. Jessica brought a small and very professional film crew to our house (a cameraman/director and a sound engineer). Over two days, they filmed three hours of my answering Jessica’s questions and another hour of my walking around the backyard looking thoughtful (I hope). I was surprised to enjoy the experience as much as I did, and I learned a lot about the process from the crew, who were generous in explaining what they were doing. The film will explore the psychological impact of having diabetes, partly through the stories of people with diabetes who offer insight into the nature of suffering and living with hardship. It is a non-profit venture that will be distributed through diabetes associations, and Dr. Bernstein hopes that it will be shown on public television.

In July, I gave a four-hour audio-taped interview to Kristina R. Knoll, a Ph.D. candidate in Women's Studies at the University of Washington, whose dissertation is about the past and future of feminist disability studies. My article, "Notes from Bed: Learning from Chronic Illness," will appear in a new anthology from Women’s Press/CSPi, Dissonant Disabilities: Women with Chronic Illnesses Theorize Their Lives, due to be published in February, 2008.
WOMEN’S STUDIES STAFF

The staff in the Women’s Studies Department keeps the department running efficiently. The following individuals make up the Women’s Studies staff:

Roberta Rogers  Departmental Assistant & Undergrad Advisor

Roberta Rogers is the Departmental Assistant and Undergraduate Advisor who joined us on May 1, 2006. Roberta has been with SFU for nearly 10 years. Previously, Roberta worked at the SFU Vancouver campus (Harbour Centre) and has enjoyed the move up to the hill. Prior to taking this position, Roberta worked in Continuing Studies for 7 years, working for various programs such as Extension Credit, the Seniors Program, the Opera Program, the Arts Downtown, and Integrated Studies. Roberta is a SFU alumnus, receiving a Bachelor of Arts (Political Science Major, Extended Minor in History) including some courses in Women’s Studies.

In her role as the Departmental Assistant, Roberta manages the budgets for the department and the Ruth Wynn Woodward endowment, advises undergraduate students on various Women’s Studies majors, joint-majors, and minors about their program requirements, works with the Undergraduate Chair on curriculum design and revisions, and provides organizational support for all of our community events such as the SFU Open House.

Andrew Wickerson  Secretary to the Ruth Wynn Woodward Chair

Andrew Wickerson is a recent addition to the Women’s Studies department. He is currently working on his Undergraduate degree and will graduate in Fall 2009 with a Bachelors of Arts degree (History Major, Political Science and English Double Minor). He has been working at Simon Fraser University for the past year, first at goSFU/Student Services, then at the SFU Bookstore, and the UPASS/ID card production at SFU Surrey. Outside of SFU, Andrew is a musician and enjoys spending the rest of his free time relaxing with his friends, watching hockey and soccer, traveling and creating music.

In his role as the Secretary to the Ruth Wynn Woodward Chair, Andrew assists the Ruth Wynn Woodward Endowed Chair, the Department Chair and the Departmental Assistant in the provision of departmental outreach initiatives, which includes preparing posters and flyers to publicize outreach events. He is also responsible for developing and maintaining the departmental, professorial and event web pages and for coordinating the production of the departmental annual newsletter.

Kathryn Hunter  Chair’s Secretary & Graduate Secretary

Kathryn Hunter is the new Department & Graduate Secretary who joined us on January 29, 2007. She has been working at SFU for the past three years. Prior to taking this position Kathryn worked in various departments on the Burnaby campus including the Art Gallery, the Library and Student Services. Kathryn is an SFU alumnus who graduated in 2002, receiving a Bachelor of General Studies (Criminology Minor, Sociology Minor and Psychology Minor).

In her role as the Department and Graduate Secretary, Kathryn provides clerical support to the Chair and Graduate Chair, and she also helps with graduate applications, scholarship applications, theses and extended essays defenses, and graduate student inquiries.

When Kathryn is not at work you will find her with her two beloved dogs, Milka, a Miniature Dachshund, and Fergus, a small Terrier Cross. She often participates with them at Confirmation classes (similar to events shown in the film “Best in Show”) or Dog Agility events.
FACULTY RESEARCH

Lara Campbell

Lara is currently in the midst of two projects. First, she is working on revising her manuscript, “Respectable Citizens: Gender, Family and Unemployment in Ontario’s Great Depression”. Second, she received a Discovery Parks Initiative Grant to begin the research for her new project “Heroes, Havens, Cowards: Gender and the Politics of Draft Resistance in Canada and the United States.” This project focuses on the role of American women who immigrated to Canada in protest against the Vietnam War. Various aspects of this research have been presented at academic conferences in the past year: the American Studies Association in October 2006; the Western Association of Women’s Historians in May, 2007, and the New World Coming: The Sixties and the Shaping of Global Consciousness in June 2007. She is also working on an edited collection on the history of the sixties, along with historians Greg Kealey and Dominique Clément.

This past year, Lara has also been active in bringing women’s history to the wider community. She spoke on “The Politics of Feminist History” to the Canadian Federation of University Women in January, 2007, presented her research on Vietnam antiwar activism to a group of students, faculty and community members at University of Northern BC in December 2006, and helped organize a successful Women’s History Network conference on women and health care history in fall 2007. In addition, Lara has been working with Jolene Cumming, a local historical interpreter, to create the monthly Herstory Café; an informal night of women’s history, which takes place in Vancouver. The new website is up at www.herstorycafe.ca.

Marjorie Griffin Cohen

Marjorie is currently finishing editing a book entitled Imagining Public Policy for Women. This will be published by the University of Toronto Press in 2008. Also, she is in the process of analyzing data from a large research project on gendered youth experiences in the labour market. This will result in two articles, one focusing on gendered distinctions in teenage work and the other focusing on the precariousness of youth labour.

Research Grant:

"Re-defining Public Services in British Columbia: Challenges to Economic Security and Alternative Possibilities." This is a large five-year CURA grant, currently in its fourth year. It studies the impact of government public policy changes on vulnerable populations and includes 22 university-based researchers and 22 community-based researchers in three areas: social assistance, employment standards, and community-based health care. The Women’s Studies department is the major SFU partner with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives –BC. Many WS students have been involved with specific studies in the project.

Helen Hok-Sze Leung

Helen completed a book entitled Undercurrents: Queer Culture and Postcolonial Hong Kong which will be published in 2008 by the University of British Columbia Press. She is currently working on several new projects: co-editing a special issue of Journal of Chinese Cinema on “Chinese Cinemas as New Media”; co-editing a new book series on "Queer Asia" from Hong Kong University Press; and beginning research on martial arts as a form of body transformation in wuxia film and fiction.
Jacqueline is currently finishing an experimental documentary titled Mahjong & Chicken Feet. The film uses the story of her parents’ origins in China to talk about the 20th century Jewish Russian community in Harbin, China and the thousand-year-old Kaifeng Jewish community formed by Jews who arrived in this ancient capital of China via the Silk Road from Persia. The film changes form along the way – mixing cinéma-vérité with a wryly observational and painterly lyrical style. Not ignoring the Chinese who welcomed these foreign communities, the documentary is as much about the Chinese today as it is about Jewish settlers. Jacqueline hopes one of pleasures of the film for the spectator will be the inclusion of spontaneous situations where the “inscrutable Chinese” reveal themselves to the camera in all their naturalness.

Jacqueline has begun working again on a SSHRC grant-funded project with women in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside (DTES). The idea of this project is to allow the women she formerly worked with at the time she made the video Building Bridge: a Housing Project for Women in 2003 to have a more participatory role in sharing their stories. The project calls for an interactive web site with links to articles and other information to give a portal on daily life in the DTES and the issues raised by the neighborhood.

Research Grants:
SSHRC Standard Research Grant – $123,202 (April 1, 2006-March 31, 2009)

Graduate Student supervision:
Congratulations to Mary Shearman who completed her M.A. thesis-option degree (thesis title: Betty Lambert’s Plays for Children: A feminist Approach to Theatre for Young Audiences) and who is now beginning a Ph.D. with us in Women’s Studies.

Mary Lynn Stewart

Mary Lynn is currently doing research on women investigative reporters in France between 1906 and 1951, with the focus on three women who began their journalistic careers on the feminist daily, Le Fronde, at the turn of the century and went on to be foreign investigative reporters for other newspapers, mainly but not exclusively socialist and communist. She is interested in what they took from their early experience on a feminist newspaper with them into their travel abroad and their critiques (feminist and non-feminist) of fascism and colonialism.

Episodically over the 2006-07 year, she has been occupied with modest revisions to her book’s manuscript, Dressing Modern French-women: Marketing Haute Couture, 1919-1939, and checking copy-editing on the book. It will be published by Johns Hopkins University Press in March 2008.

Habiba Zaman

Habiba’s current research deals with economic security and immigrants in Canada. The study examines the ability of recent immigrants to reasonably meet their basic security needs within the labour market. Furthermore, the study explores immigrants’ overall security in terms of labour market, income, employment, work, representation and voice, and access to adequate housing and transportation.

Habiba has submitted a paper titled “Labour Market Regulations and Economic Insecurity for Immigrants: The Case of Filipinos in BC” to the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives for publication. The paper is based on a study that took place between 2005 and 2006. It consisted of a structured survey of 100 Filipino immigrants in BC, detailed in-depth qualitative interviews and focus groups with 30 Filipino immigrants, plus a workshop on policy alternatives with Filipinos as well as representatives of other immigrant and community groups. The survey provided an overview of the challenges Filipinos encounter in the labour market and how changes to the Employment Standards Act in BC have made existing challenges greater. The in-depth and focus group interviews with 30 participants provided detailed narrations about the labour market experience, its challenges, and the impact of changes to the Employment Standards Act and other policies since 2002. The paper concludes with a series of policy recommendations that, if implemented, would significantly improve the economic security of recent immigrant workers, and result in greater knowledge of, respect for, adherence to and enforcement of workplace rights.
ASSOCIATE FACULTY RESEARCH

Arlene McLaren

During the past year, Arlene has been working on several projects. She is currently co-authoring a report about the working conditions of migrant and immigrant farm-workers in the Vancouver and throughout the Lower Mainland. The research is taking account of ethnicity, gender and age. She is also beginning research on traffic safety discourses and practices and their implications in particular for mothering.

Ongoing Grant:

SESSIONAL INSTRUCTOR

Delia Douglas

I am delighted at the opportunity to teach material that addresses several of my substantive areas of interest. And while my position as a sessional means that I offer classes that are essentially “one offs,” I have been heartened by the enthusiasm that has been expressed by a number of students regarding the subject matter of my courses (i.e., sport, globalization and the politics of location). I have taught two of these courses in the US and as a black Canadian I have appreciated the racial diversity (in addition to the occasional male student) of my women’s studies classes at SFU. I must add that I value the range of experiences and perspectives that emerge from students’ varied locations, as well as the challenges and opportunities that their presence has provided.

Grants
I am the Research Associate with the University of Manitoba (Fall 2006-Fall 2009). Dr. J. Halas (Principal Investigator) and I have a SSHRC grant. The project is titled: Investigating the absence of racial diversity in physical education: Toward an anti-racist praxis. We explore the content organization and delivery of physical education teacher training programs in order to see how systems of white power and privilege function to sustain inequities within faculties of physical education across Canada. We are currently interviewing faculty across Canada about their programs.

PUBLICATIONS, CONFERENCES & LECTURES

Publications

Burtch, Brian and Larsen, Nick (eds.), Law and Society: Canadian Readings (Toronto: Nelson Canada, 2006), 388 pages


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**Conferences, Papers and Academic Presentations**


Campbell, Lara and Patterson, Natasha: "For Improper Ob- jects": Thinking about the Past, Present, and Future of Women’s Studies," BC Studies, no.154 (Summer 2007): 121- 130.


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Griffin-Cohen, Marjorie. Keynote Speaker BC Creek Protection Society meeting, “Privatizing Water in B.C., Vancouver, Mountain Equipment Co-op, June 2, 2007 (invited)


PUBLICATIONS, CONFERENCES & LECTURES

(Continued from page 16)

February 2007.


Stewart, Mary Lynn. Commentator, panel on “Sexing the Intellect: Women as Public Figures Since 1945,” at the annual conference of the Society for French Historical Studies, Houston, March 2007


Zaman, Habiba. Women and Law Conference titled “Branching Out: Contemporary Challenges to Feminist Advocacy.” Organized by the Association of Law Students (University of Victoria) promoting awareness, study and understanding of the issues that women face both as professionals in and as subjects of the law. The presentation was on “Immigrants and the Accreditation Process,” U of Victoria, March 10, 2007.


Lectures/Talks

Douglas, D.D. White here, white now: A deliberation on the racial signification of sport. Invited participant, Symposium on Race and Sport, University of Iowa, Iowa City, October 2006.


Stryker, Susan. Guest Speaker: “(De)Subjugated Knowledges: The Recent Emergence of Transgender Studies.” Beloit College, November 20, 2006; Bowling Green State University, November 16, 2006; Amherst College, October 24, 2006.

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