As a rebellious grad student at the University of Waterloo in Political Science, I remember looking at SFU’s Department of Women’s Studies in the 1970s as a pioneer in feminist theory. It is with great pleasure I come to the program on secondment for three years as Chair. Thanks to the collective wisdom of the members of the Department, the External Review Process has been an exceptionally good way to become grounded in the culture. I am pleased to be charged with implementing the name change process, and also with leading the drive to integrate the Status of Women’s Chairs across the country on the occasion of their 25th anniversary. There are many priorities for this Fall, including re-opening graduate admissions, which is crucial to our sustainability. I include the copy of the summary of the three year plan for your information, which was approved in early Fall. We await Senate approval of the name change soon. I look forward to meeting and talking with each of our associates and discussing with you all the priorities in the coming months.

Here are some of the highlights which I look forward to seeing come to fruition:

**Innovative Leadership**

Building on its record for leadership as the first program in Canada established in 1975, the WS Department has proposed to Senate to change its name to the more inclusive Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies (GSWS) becoming...

(Continued on page 3)

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As I prepared to leave the office of Chair of Women’s Studies, I tried to put my three-year term (2006-2009) into perspective. Starting with an unexpected remark by the former Vice President Academic John Waterhouse just as I became Chair, to the effect that small departments (like Women’s Studies) would likely be merged into larger ones, the experience has been challenging. I think, however, that we rose to the challenge, with positive achievements such as the expansion of the number of faculty associates, our thorough Self Study, the glowing External Review Report and our subsequent decision to merge Gender Studies and (GDST) and Women’s Studies (WS). However, my term was bracketed by unsettling news. In the final weeks of my tenure, I learned that the Dean would end the University’s contribution, in the form of a Continuing Faculty Line (CFL) toward the Ruth Wynn Woodward Chair. Due to vacations in the Administration, I could do no more than protest before leaving office. I think that we have assured the merger but I left office without any resolution of the funding for the Ruth Wynn Woodward Professorship (RWWP). At least I have the consolation of knowing that the department has an excellent new Chair and, I hope, a sense of purpose with which to address this latest blow.

Initially, I did not share the prospect of a merger with anyone but the previous Chair, who was also surprised. Instead, I attended and asked pertinent questions at all meetings of chairs, administrators and mixed groups, to...
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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

Feel free to contact the following for more information on different programs:

Chair
Catherine Murray
gswsch@sfu.ca
778-782-5526

Chair of Graduate Program
Habiba Zaman
hzaman@sfu.ca
778-782-5688

Chair of Undergraduate Program
Lara Campbell
lcambel@sfu.ca
778-782-3737

Departmental Assistant & Undergrad Advisor
Roberta Neilson
wsda@sfu.ca
778-782-3593

Department Secretary
Kathryn Hunter
wssec@sfu.ca
778-782-3333

Ruth Wynn Woodward Secretary
Esther Harrison
rwwpasst@sfu.ca
778-782-4023

Mailing Address
Department of Women’s Studies
Simon Fraser University
8888 University Drive, AQ 5102A
Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6

The SFU Women’s Studies Newsletter 2008-2009
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the first such program in Canada to do so. The next three years will consolidate growth and extend these areas in the undergraduate curriculum.

GSWS is unlikely to experience significant competition for undergraduate enrollments in these areas in BC, suggesting an important window for curriculum and program innovation, and distinctive positioning for the university.

The name change implies continuing the redesign of introductory courses and development of the sexuality curriculum stream, consolidating and extending existing strengths with associate faculty who already offer relevant courses.

GSWS has already shown a significant track record in launching four new courses in past three years, with three new course proposals pending (Sex in the City, Women in Policy, and RWW Advanced Seminar) after dropping five.

Its recent External Review lauds the Department as among the most “impressive” and productive of research faculty, consistent with three of SFU’s strategic research themes: Health, Economic Organization; Policy; Culture, Society and Human Behavior.

Dynamic Enrollment Strategies

WS introduced a Gender Studies minor in 2003 and grew headcount by 27 percent (in the previous 3 years).

The Department proposes to grow total undergraduate enrollments in the next three years by 20 percent from a target headcount from 896 in 2008-2009 to 1100.

We propose to work with the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) and seven partner departments in cooperative ways to count joint course enrollments and explore joint minors.

We propose to work with Co-op and Community Organizations to develop Co-op enrollments.

To meet competition from the addition of two more Ontario universities to five already offering doctoral programs, we will initiate and complete a review of the graduate program.

“I am pleased to see that the Department continues to remain optimistic about the future”

Core Faculty Development

Attrition through past or pending retirement, in the view of the external reviewers has caused the Department to reach the point of unsustainability.

Accordingly, WS will work with the Dean to stabilize the funding for the RWWP position, and seek two Associate Professor (AP-4) positions proposed in years two and three of the plan, in: Policy and Feminist theory; and Gender and Sexualities to consolidate the sexuality curriculum reform, contribute to grad supervision and advance research.

This is an exciting time for me to come on board as Chair. I am pleased to see that the Department continues to remain optimistic about the future, and I look forward with anticipation to my tasks at hand!

~ Catherine Murray

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR (CONT’D)

As the number of students enrolled in Women’s Studies courses continues to increase, and as we see more students declaring Women’s Studies as a major or minor, the undergraduate committee has responded by offering new and innovative courses, and working hard to ensure that our program is exciting, rigorous, and accessible. In addition to developing new curriculum to be implemented with the new departmental name, Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies (GSWS), we have been adding new courses and streamlining older ones. Keep an eye out, for example, for the second year course “Sex and the City,” which we will start to offer in spring, 2010. In addition, be sure to check the calendar, as many of our second and third level courses now have fewer pre-requisites; all part of an initiative to ensure that our students can more easily get the courses they need to graduate, as well as to make our courses more accessible to non-majors and minors. Stay tuned for further changes at the first year level.

“Education’s purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one.”

~Malcolm S. Forbes

UNDERGRADUATE CHAIR REPORT
Lara Campbell

© Photo by Dale Northey
GRADUATE CHAIR REPORT

This past year has been another mix of ups and downs for the graduate students. On the one hand, their self-designed and self-interpreted survey for the recent external review was very positive about affirming “Women’s Studies as a vital space for addressing women’s experiences and promoting gender equality. Its interdisciplinary nature provides a supportive and challenging environment…” On the other hand, funding cuts for graduate students’ travel has been a concern for students wishing to travel to conferences and present papers. Despite the financial downside, all of our graduate students attended conferences, presented papers, and most have published articles listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

All new students were welcomed at an orientation/reception and are taking part in a mentoring project undertaken by fellow WS graduate students, in which each new student is matched with a current graduate student.

In the Master’s course-based option, four students successfully wrote their field examinations and completed their MA degrees: Claire Askew, Kaitlin Pelletier, Sarah Sparks, Sarah Spear. Congratulations to each of you!

Three MA students successfully completed their thesis proposal defense:
- Rahela Nayebzadah, “(Un)veiling the Veiled Subject.”
- Giti Eghbal Kalvir, “Iranian Immigrant Women in Canada: Dynamics of Poverty Among Iranian Immigrant Single Mothers.”
- Maryam Kiani, “Female Body and Immigration; the case of Young Iranian Women in Vancouver.”

One Doctoral candidate successfully completed her thesis proposal defense:
- Natasha Patterson “Focusing on Reality TV: An Exploration of Women’s Participatory Media Culture.”

Sessional Appointments
Mary Shearman received a Sessional appointment.

Scholarships, Bursaries and Other Awards
In terms of financial support, students who received scholarships, bursaries or other awards include:

- Spring 2009 Graduate Fellowships were received by Giti Eghbal Kalvir, Claire Askew and Sarah Sparks.
- Summer 2009 Graduate Fellowships were received by Syeda Bukhari, Tasha Patterson and Beth Pentney.

Private Awards
Anne Peters Pinto Graduate Scholarship in Women’s Studies was awarded to Sasha Bennett for the Spring 2009 semester.

The President’s PhD Research Stipend was awarded to two students: Mary Shearman and Tasha Patterson for the Fall 2009 semester.

(Continued on page 5)

GRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE NEWS
by Syeda Bukhari and Kathryn Hunter

The graduate caucus had a very successful year. The caucus met several times during the year to discuss problems being faced by students and to share resources and information with new students. We had one new student join the PhD program in January. Nelson Alexander, and the caucus welcomed new MA students Sasha Bennett, Sonya Chand, Giti Eghbal Kalvir, Will Keats-Osborn, Maryam Kiani, Rahela Nayebzadah, Cara Ng, and Jenelle Thomas. The buddy-program was revisited in September of 2008 and returning students offered help and support to the new comers to the Women’s Studies graduate program.

This year Mary Shearman, PhD student, completed her comprehensive exam while Tasha Patterson defended her proposal. Four MA students; Claire Askew, Kaitlin Pelletier, Sarah Spear and Sarah Sparks completed their degrees. We congratulate them for the successful completion of the Masters Program in Women’s Studies and wish them success in their future pursuits. The cut in funding to caucuses and graduate students to present and share their research at conferences was a heated topic among the caucus members this year. Almost all graduate students showed their frustration and apprehensions towards the budget cut for research activities.

The students mentioned that there were few forums where they could share their research work with other scholarly communities and take their inputs, but with the drastic budget cut, all these avenues are closed for graduate students leaving very few opportunities to share scholarly work on formal forums such as conferences and seminars. The caucus formally requested the department to take up this issue with the university management to find a commonly agreed-upon solution.

Four MA students; (L to R) Sarah Spear, Claire Askew, Kaitlin Pelletier, and Sarah Sparks (missing) completed their degrees. We congratulate them for their successful completion of the Masters Program in Women’s Studies and wish them success in their future pursuits. © photo in private collection
GRADUATE CHAIR REPORT (CONT’D)

(List of Teaching Assistants, Tutor Markers and Research Assistant Positions)

Fall 2008
WS 101 TA: Claire Askew, Mary Shearman.
WS 102 TM: Syeda Bukhari.
GDST 200 TA: Rahela Nayebzadah, Kaitlin Pelletier.

Spring 2009
WS 101 TM: Syeda Bukhari.
WS 102 TA: Giti Eghbal Kalvir, Mary Shearman.

Summer 2009
WS 101 TM: Sasha Bennett
Fall 2009
WS 101: Maryam Kiani, Xinying Hu
WS 102 TM: Rahela Nayebzadah
GDST 200: Jenelle Thomas, Mary Shearman

The department welcomes the prospect of accepting new graduate applications for the September 2010 intake. The department remains optimistic about the future and the coming name change.

WHAT’S IT LIKE TO TEACH WOMEN’S STUDIES?

Alessandra Capperdoni's appointment as limited-term lecturer in the department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies started in September 2009. Since then, she has been teaching two exciting courses. In her words, “The first, GDST 200 ‘Thinking about Gender,’ is a large lecture course originally introduced as part of the curriculum of the Gender Studies program by Helen Leung. The second, WS 405 ‘Postcolonial Feminist Theory,’ is a senior level seminar bringing feminist methodologies in conversation with postcolonial studies, critical race discourse, and the productive challenges of women from the Global South to academic disciplines and feminist movements. Alessandra reminisces, “both courses are stimulating and challenging, though in different ways. For GDST 200 Alessandra is indebted to the professionalism and enthusiasm of her two TAs, Mary Shearman and Jenelle Thomas, who are doing a wonderful job at bridging the complex issues discussed in the readings and lecture material with the queries, puzzlements, and live experiences students address in the tutorials. In WS 405, students bring a variety of perspectives and critical positions to their discussions; they are not only deeply committed to their studies but also place high stakes in the relevance of what they learn and their engagement in the social. They work seriously to 'build knowledge' rather than to 'receive it.' It is wonderful to work with students displaying such enthusiasm and intellectual energy.”

This is not Alessandra’s first experience in teaching in the department of Women's Studies at SFU. After completing her PhD in English, she taught two courses as a sessional instructor: WS 207 “Introduction to Feminist Theory” (Spring 2008) and WS 320 “Women from Africa” (Fall 2007), courses overlapping in different ways with her research on feminist theory, criticism, and studies in gender and sexuality in literature and cultural production. “Teaching these courses was a highly rewarding experience,” says Alessandra. “Students in WS 207 consistently generated vibrant discussions, to the point that it was sometimes difficult to ‘manage’ their passionate interventions. When I began teaching WS 320, I had a few worries that the spectrum of the questions we addressed—the positions and sexual problematics of women from different nations and localities in Africa and African cultural productions—might be too broad and unsettling for students given the questionable lack of visibility of Africa beyond pejorative representations. Yet, after a few weeks during which I pondered on these questions (cultural and pedagogical alike) and wondered about the timid responses to the course material, I was pleasantly surprised to notice an increasing eagerness and passion on their part. It was refreshing to see how they started to engage with the material with much enthusiasm and found entry points to these questions from the social positions they occupied. In both courses, we wrapped up our discussions with the presentation of research projects and creative projects. It is perhaps at this moment that seeing their ability to generate knowledge in creative and meaningful ways becomes a most rewarding experience. Indeed, the TransSomatechnics Conference organized by Susan Stryker, Ruth Wynn Woodward Professor in 2007-2008, has been not only a highly formative moment for me but has literally shaped my current research project.”

According to Alessandra, the students’ enthusiasm was only made possible by her being able to persist, “thanks to the culture of encouragement and support that the department fosters. Roberta Neilson and Kathryn Hunter are indefatigable in providing all possible material assistance, and colleagues and Chairs (formerly Mary Lynn Stewart and presently Catherine Murray) create a nurturing and vibrant space of intellectual energy. Collegiality and interdisciplinary work are not buzz words but a reality in the Women’s Studies department.”
learn if the possibility of merging was pending or even (such was my astonishment) plausible. I learned that the threat was not imminent but was credible. In my second semester, I told the Department about the possibility of a merger and after members of the department absorbed the disturbing news, we began to plan how to ensure our continued existence as a department. In this context we held annual “Advances” to discuss issues devolving from the University’s initiatives and in 2008 a Revisioning” exercise, complete with a professional facilitator. Although we did not pursue many of the recommendations from these endeavours, I believe that these meetings prepared the way for the external review that dominated my last year as Chair and that has resulted in major changes such as the merger and accompanying name change to Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies (GWS) Department and major curriculum revisions detailed in Lara Campbell’s report. I want to thank everyone for going through this time-consuming process with good grace. My special thanks to Helen Leung and Lara Campbell for their creative work on undergraduate (and to a lesser degree, graduate) curricular reform.

In the first year of my term, I tried to identify a research topic that might result in a collaborative research project in the Department. As an interim gesture, and as a way of bringing in faculty from other departments, we held the colloquium, “Regulating Bodies,” in January 2008. The papers were excellent and interdisciplinary, as well as multidisciplinary in approach; the attendance was good. Although many of the faculty and graduate students outside the department wanted to continue and apply for a SSHRCC workshop, no one else in Women’s Studies was interested in doing so. Accordingly, and regretfully, I did not pursue the project. Perhaps faculty will think about another project, since I can report, on the basis of my experience with the Board of Governors of the Canadian Federation of the Humanities and Social Sciences, that collaborative research will be emphasized in research funding. The first year and a half was also busy because our new Departmental Assistant (DA), Roberta Rogers (now Neilson), had to learn the job without an up-to-date Chair to guide her. Together, we learned about budgeting under the new financial regime, but Roberta mastered the new system (FINS), not to mention the still-problematic Student Information Management System (SIMS) on her own. I am extremely grateful for her competence and good-natured attitude to every task and individual faculty member and student—personal qualities that have made the past three years significantly smoother for me and everyone in the Department.

Staffing posed problems in the first year and a half of my term. Roberta and I conducted no fewer than four searches and hires (all of our positions are set at starting grade, which is one reason we have turnover). Every hiring took time and every new hire required instruction, which Roberta handled ably and without complaint. If I can pass on one insight learned about budgeting under the new flow and personal contact with graduate students. I am especially pleased that she helped with my filing, a task that I dislike and as everyone will have noticed, avoid.

In the first year and a half, two people held the position of Ruth Wynn Woodward Assistant; but in January of 2008, Esther Harrison took the position and has remained with us since then. Esther has taken on added responsibilities for the Newsletter production and website maintenance; and made Roberta’s and my job easier. I know that the past three RWW Chairs have found her assistance invaluable.

During the first year of my term, the University started an enrollment drive, the first stage of which prioritized recruitment, especially from high school. Accordingly, I proposed and supervised a survey of our recruitment efforts and the University’s (as it turned out, virtual non-) representation of WS in high school visits, as well as the creation of a more attractive brochure to be distributed at the high school recruitment meetings and at our own on-campus displays. My thanks go to our Undergraduate Minor Robin Gilker and to Roberta Neilson for their efforts on behalf of this initiative. I also authorized more advertising of new or special topic courses, notably by ads in The Peak.

By 2008, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) put more emphasis on retention than on recruitment. Already, I had begun sending encouraging letters to students who did well in our introductory courses, informing them of the next semester’s course offerings. Lara has suggested writing similar letters to good students in all our courses. Roberta identifies the students with good grades and makes an email list, so the instructor or Chair merely writes a brief message. For the future (though not necessarily next year, when there are so few faculty present), I recommend the resumption of the departmental orientation for potential Minors and Majors, albeit in a more...
“...collaborative research will be emphasized in research funding.”

(Continued from page 6)

engaging manner than in the past: less detailed information, more mention of interesting upcoming courses and “success stories” about majors and minor who went on to interesting work. There are some engaging examples of success stories in the surveys of students conducted for our Self Study.

In my second year as Chair (2007-2008), the financial crisis was the big news story, so I continued going to the meetings mentioned above and added the special sessions on the crisis (where we learned more about the extent of the crisis than about how we managed to get into such a pickle). One sobering exercise was the FASS Taskforce on the Budget, which gathered information on enrollments and Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) that, as another department chair publicly noted, targeted small departments. As I inquired into the figures on WS in the Taskforce Report, I noted that the WS figures omitted the GDST figures (which were not mentioned anywhere in the Report) and that our FTEs were inaccurate. After corresponding with and visiting faculty financial and university analytical studies personnel, I managed to get the two sets of enrollments counted together and to get (I hope) our RWWP counted only for half time teaching (as other Chairs are counted). The name change should ensure that our full enrollment is counted in future; how the RWWP is counted will need constant oversight. We need to think carefully in future about taking on any faculty who do not teach for us as a courtesy to another department, or for any other reason, since they (and their fictive four-course teaching loads) are included in the calculation of our departmental FTEs, and depress them. Low FTEs are serious obstacles to getting new CFLs and sessional money. Even now, when positions and money are so scarce, we have to ensure better FTEs to expect to get any resources.

In one of many ironies of these times, we had three quite wonderful incumbents in and conferences/exhibitions put on by the Ruth Wynn Woodward Endowed Chairs, were able to fund many graduate students through research assistantships, and were able to provide a Limited Term Appointment for next year by saving during high-interest years—yet were recently told that the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences would no longer fund the CFL that has constituted the University’s contribution to the Endowed Chair, citing our ability to hire a Limited Term instructor. This funding, which replaced an earlier arrangement for $60,000 annually from the Vice President Academic (VPA) had been promised by the VPA in the late 1990s but, I learned in the course of my term, had been handed over to FASS in 2001 (along with other CFLs). Only while contesting the ending of the University’s contribution to the Chair, did I learn that FASS had placed the CFL monies in the Teaching Instructor/Teaching Assistant (TI/TA) budget line, a line that is now being drastically cut. I have expressed my outrage about the treatment of the RWWP as a TI. I have noted that Analytical Studies—and the Board of Directors—treat the appointment as a Chair appointment. Whatever the Dean intends to do to compensate (and she has reminded us she has no money), is up to negotiations between the Department and the Dean.

During my three years, I have also been contesting the designation of the RWWP as a Visiting Professor, something that began just before my term. I am now told that it is now and will in future be treated at the upper echelons of the Administration as a Chair. Much of the problem devolves from the fact that the RWWP was the first Endowed Chair at SFU, and, as a President at that time said, not the Chair that the University would have preferred as its first. Either because the University was new at Endowed Chairs, or because of their less than enthusiastic reception of this particular million dollar endowment, or possibly because of the massive change-over in the VPA’s office in recent years, the paperwork on the University’s obligations to the RWWP is scanty. I have gathered what documentation we have (we lost some documentation in an archiving misadventure a decade ago) into a file in the Chair’s office. I can only repeat the recommendation above to maintain constant vigilance on this subject.

~Mary Lynn Stewart

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A WS DEGREE?

✓ Physician
✓ Mental Health Counselor,
✓ Family Therapist
✓ Sexual Assault Counselor
✓ Lawyer
✓ Policy Analyst
✓ Gender Analyst
✓ Equity officer
✓ Parole Officer
✓ Prison Warden
✓ Librarian
✓ University Professor
✓ Teacher
✓ Minister
✓ Community Development Practitioner
✓ Administrator
or Business Owner
✓ Environmental Technician
✓ Any of the above and more
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATE STUDENTS

Giti Eghbali Kalvir, has published an article called “Iranian Immigrant Women in Canada: Economic Security Among Iranian Immigrant Single Mothers in Vancouver” published by Proceedings of 2009 International Conference on Social Science and Humanities. Details found elsewhere in this newsletter. Congratulations, Giti!

Beth Pentney is in Ontario teaching subjects at the Centre for Continuing Education, Nipissing University: ENGL 1501: Language and Written Communication I in 2009, ENGL 1502: Language and Written Communication II in 2009 and UNIV 1011: University Success 2008-2009. In addition to teaching, also wrote a book chapter and several reviews. More information in another area of this newsletter.

If we have been wondering what the attraction is in Ontario... Beth also got married recently. Congratulations, Beth! See the formal announcement on page 18 of this newsletter.

Mary Shearman is a PhD candidate in Women's Studies. Mary pursued her BA (honours) in Theatre at the University of Ottawa and completed her MA (thesis: Betty Lambert’s Plays for Children: A Feminist Approach to Theatre for Young Audiences) in Women’s Studies at Simon Fraser University. Mary’s current research explores the history of The Penthouse Nightclub in Vancouver as Canada’s longest standing exotic nightclub. Mary is approaching the Penthouse as a case study that illustrates the relationship between dancers, the law and the larger community over an extended period of time. The Penthouse is an extremely important venue in local sex history (and is thus a huge draw for a budding sex historian). Mary has recently taught a class in Women’s Studies focusing on Showgirls: Performance, Embodiment and Sexuality. Mary volunteers with FIRST, an international group which advocates for the decriminalization of sex work in Canada.

Mary’s other activities include writing two encyclopedia entries and three book reviews. As well, her research grant “Pacific Century Graduate Scholarship” was renewed for $10,000. Congratulations, Mary!

TRAVELING SPEAKERS’ SERIES

The Traveling Speakers’ Series was established for networking and outreach purposes. Sponsored by the Ruth Wynn Woodward Chair through the Department of Women’s Studies, SFU is ensuring that the benefits of higher education become known throughout the Province of BC and the Yukon to the universities, colleges, and women’s centres.

Each year in early November, the organizer contacts the faculty and graduate students inviting them to participate. They are encouraged to send a list of research topic(s) they would be willing to speak on, a short bio, and their available dates. Four volunteers offered to travel the speaking tour this year: one associate professor and three graduate students. Next, the organizer notifies the universities, colleges, and women’s organizations in remote communities about the Traveling Speakers Series and includes a prepared list with faculty and graduate student availability and topics. Then, she matches the speakers with interested organizations. The events are free and open to the public, and often are included in a regular class.

Brian Burch, Associate Professor traveled to two locations: North Island College (Courtenay) and UBC (Kelowna). His talk, “Messages from Silenced Youth: Homophobia & Transphobia in British Columbia High Schools” was also heard by a group who traveled from UBC (Penticton) to join the Kelowna group and hear Brian speak.

Kaitlin Pelletier, MA student, traveled to the University of Victoria to speak about grad life; Northwest Community College (Terrace) heard “Skin Deep: Environmental health is a Women’s Health Issue”; and Dease Lake Campus and High School requested “Another Ugly Side of the Beauty Industry.”

The Traveling Speakers’ Series is a worthwhile program which the community educators value greatly. It is a networking opportunity that provides visibility in remote communities, allowing potential future students to experience the benefits and see that higher education can open up a world of opportunities for them.

Kaitlin Pelletier at Dease Lake. © Photo in private collection
Dana is an interdisciplinary artist whose work includes film and video, installation, performance and photography. Her work is held in public collections, including the Vancouver Art Gallery, Winnipeg Art Gallery and the Art Bank of Canada. Her work has been screened internationally, at the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Walker Art Centre in Minneapolis. Her work has been screened at Sundance Festival and Microwave in Hong Kong.

Dana was awarded the prestigious VIVA Award from the Doris and Jack Shadbolt Foundation and in 2007 became an Eiteljorg Fellow sponsored by the Ford Foundation. Women’s Studies extends their warmest congratulations to Dana, who has been invited to present her art at the prestigious 17th Biennale of Sydney to be held May 12 to August 1, 2010.

Dana has plans in late April to hold a symposium which will locate how aboriginal Women have been represented on the screen. The keynote speaker will address broader issues concerning aboriginal womanhood and the screen. In addition, the critical investigation will be cast further and invite graduate students to submit abstracts on the topic on the representation of Indigenous Women in media, film history and broadcasting. The symposium will also feature performance works of Lori Blondeau and Skeena Reece, who are considered Canada’s leading Aboriginal performance artists. Both artists will be creating new works that respond to the film, “A Man Called Horse.”

The keynote speaker Hulleah J. Tsinhnahjinnie, Director of the C.N. Gorman Museum and Assistant Professor in the Department of Native American Studies at the University of California-Davis will address broader issues concerning aboriginal womanhood and the screen.

Dana is an active member in the arts community and has participated in panel discussions, juries, curatorial projects, advisory committees, mentoring youth and young artists. Her family is from the Wood Mountain reserve.

Afua’s work as Woodward professor encompassed three areas. First, she taught two courses over the period of the year (WS 320: Exploring African Canadian Women’s History and WS 310: The Black Autobiographical Tradition: Memory, Body, and Surprising Narratives). Second, she engaged in public outreach in order to build bridges between the academic and lay communities. She curated an exhibit on the Black British Columbian historical experience. She called and chaired a workshop on Black Canadian Studies. She gave regular lectures, readings, and presentations throughout lower mainland British Columbia and Washington State. Third, she conducted research on the Black Canadian history with a special focus on British Columbia with three objectives: to discuss how Black Studies could be institutionalized within the academy, to build a research network among Black Studies scholars, to create a program of critical research, and to reconceptualize the role of the Black community in the Black Studies agenda. The formation of the Black Canadian Scholars Association emerged.

As the RWWP, Afua was a very active and visible chair as exemplified in her work as a teaching professor, researcher, and public intellectual. This is a prestigious Chair and Afua believes her being the RWWP raised the visibility of Black history and studies at SFU and within British Columbia and Canada. Her community outreach project, the exhibit about Black Communities, continues to be viewed by dozens of members of the public.

Afua extends her thanks to all who made her stay with SFU Women’s Studies the success that it was.

High unemployment rates, humiliating relief policy, and the spectre of eviction characterized the experiences of many Ontario families in the Great Depression. *Respectable Citizens* is an examination of the material difficulties and survival strategies of families facing poverty and unemployment, and an analysis of how collective action and protest redefined the meanings of welfare and citizenship in the 1930s.

Lara Campbell draws on diverse sources including newspapers, family and juvenile court records, premiers’ papers, memoirs, and oral histories to uncover the ways in which the material workings of the family and the discursive category of ‘respectable’ citizenship were invested with gendered obligations and Anglo-British identity. *Respectable Citizens* demonstrates how women and men represented themselves as entitled to make specific claims on the state, shedding new light on the cooperative and conflicting relationships between men and women, parents and children, and citizen and state in 1930s Canada.


Containing essays from leading feminist academics, and social activists, *Public Policy for Women* addresses important public policy issues that fail to address women’s needs. The volume’s contributors pay particular attention to the relationship between the welfare state and vulnerable populations of women, while making substantial contributions to current public policy debates in Canada.

Focusing on discussions of controversial issues such as single working mothers, prostitution, mandatory retirement, guaranteed income, and work for welfare, these essays also consider the political and economic constraints that have been brought about by neo-liberal policy changes. Full of relevant policy critiques and original recommendations for improvement, *Public Policy for Women* readresses often neglected subjects and concerns and makes informative appeals for public policy to address women’s needs.


These two novels describe the early lives of Henry Bibb and Phillis Wheatley, important figures in African-American history. Henry Bibb was active in the abolitionist movement, while Phillis Wheatley was America’s first published female African-American poet. These lyrical novels recreate their times and their voices for young adults.

Afua Cooper, RWWP Chair for 2007-2008, specializes in the history of slavery and abolition, and is the award-winning author of *The Hanging of Angelique: The Untold Story of Canadian Slavery and the Burning of Old Montreal.* Afua has published five volumes of poetry and is a dub poet and recording artist.
The staff in the Women’s Studies Department keeps the department running efficiently. The following individuals make up the Women’s Studies staff:

**Roberta Neilson:** Departmental Assistant & Undergraduate Advisor

Roberta Neilson has worked for the Department of Women’s Studies as the Departmental Assistant and Undergraduate Advisor for just over three years. Roberta has worked at SFU since 1997. Roberta advises undergraduate students about the various Women’s Studies courses and programs. As well, Roberta manages the budgets for the department, prepares course schedules, supervises support staff, enters timesheets, organizes sessional postings, assists in and provides organizational support for our recruiting and community events such as Academic Options Day and SFU Open House.

Roberta is a SFU alumnus, receiving a Bachelor of Arts (Political Science Major, Extended Minor in History) and took some courses in Women’s Studies. For fun, Roberta enjoys taking ballroom dance lessons (her favourite is tango). As well, Roberta loves scrapbooking (still working on a wedding scrapbook), baking and making chocolates.

**Kathryn Hunter:** Chair’s Secretary & Graduate Secretary

Kathryn Hunter has worked at SFU for around 6 years; 3 of those years in Women’s Studies. Kathryn has a long history with SFU starting when she was 12 participating in Summer Camps, then completing her Bachelors Degree in 2002 and now many years later since her first adventures at SFU finds herself working here. Kathryn is not the only alumnus from SFU in her family. This past year her sister completed her Honors, Co-op Bachelor of Science degree in Molecular Biology Biochemistry.

In her role as Department Secretary, Kathryn provides clerical support to the Chair, Graduate Program, and Department as a whole; and is just around the corner to call for help when the photocopier jams.

When Kathryn is not at work you will find her with Milka, her “Flying Dachshund” who is one of only 40-some Miniature Dachshunds registered and performing agility in Canada.

Then of course, comes her very unique dog Fergus. Ever wondered when you pass a dog on the street, “What kind of dog is that?” Well, now owners can find out by a simple (or not so simple) DNA test for their dogs. Fergus was sold to me as a Shih Tzu cross Yorkshire Terrier. However, the DNA test told the rest of the story...that Fergus is a Shih Tzu, Schnauzer, Chihuahua, Spitz, Maltese. Go figure!

**Esther Harrison:** Secretary to the Ruth Wynn Woodward Chair

Esther Harrison is enjoying all of her varied duties, as each year they evolve into something new and different. She credits being an employee of SFU since 2006 as the source of experience that has helped her learn the diversity that this position requires.

Away from SFU, Esther recently moved into her own home with a large yard. Besides growing many varieties of flowers, she and her partner decided to grow a vegetable garden this year. The project proved to be very satisfying and hugely successful. Just go and visit their cold room if you need proof; it is full of the fruits of their labour; everything from carrots to squash! In fact, next year they plan to expand the garden space. Oh, by the way, the freezer still has fruit that needs to be converted to jams and jellies.

While dance lessons are on hold, social dancing is still on Esther’s agenda; after all, she is newly engaged. She and her fiancé tear themselves away from duties at home to trip the light fantastic. Argentine tango still tops the list of her favourite dances. Latin dances such as Rumba and Cha Cha are a close second.
FACULTY AND ASSOCIATE FACULTY RESEARCH

Brian Burtch

The third edition of Law in Society: Canadian Readings (Nelson Education Ltd.), co-edited with Nick Larsen of Chapman University, CA is now in print. The edition includes several new chapters on racism, law and Aboriginal peoples, domestic violence, employment equity and affirmative action, and law and homophobia topics. Rebecca Haskell and Brian Burtch contributed an original article on homophobic and transphobic bullying in schools, “Teachers Don’t Hear the word ‘Fag’” to this edition.

Lara Campbell

This past year has been a busy year of research and writing. Lara’s book, Respectable Citizens: Gender, Family and Unemployment in the Great Depression, Ontario, 1929-1939, is now available from the University of Toronto Press. Lara is also co-editor of a special edition of a leading American Journal. “Looking at the Same World Through Different Eyes: Postwar Canadian Women’s Activism,” is the Canadian edition of Women and Social Movements in the United States, 1600-2000, (mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter) now available online. This research has led to an SSHRC Standard Research grant (2010–12) for $45,000 and an article entitled “Women United Against the War: in The Sixties” and the “Shaping of Global Consciousness” (Palgrave MacMillan and Black Rose Books, 2009). Lara’s interest in the history of the 1960s has also led to a collaboration with two Canadian historians, Greg Kealey and Dominique Clément. Together, they are editing a collection of original articles for the University of Toronto Press. The book, Debating Dissent: Canada in the Sixties, brings together leading scholars in Canada to address topics ranging from the women’s movement to the history of LSD in Canada. This book is currently under contract with the University of Toronto Press.

Marjorie Griffin Cohen

Marjorie, an associate member of Women’s Studies, is currently working on a book entitled The Gendered and Precarious Nature of Teenage Work and an article on “Assessing Women, Trade and Economic Restructuring in the NAFTA Era.”

Additionally, Marjorie is involved with two Community-University Research Alliance Projects, one based in Quebec on work-life balance and another—examining the links between climate change policies and social justice—based in BC called “The Climate Justice Project.”

Helen Hok-Sze Leung

Helen is currently working on two articles and a short book: an article “Trans Locations in Chinese Cinemas” for the anthology Trans Ventures: Trans/Transformations of Gender in Sinophone Culture (Hong Kong University Press, 2010); an article “Queer Aesthetics” for the anthology The Blackwell Companion to Chinese Cinema (Blackwell, 2010); and a short book on the film Farewell My Concubine for the “Queer Classics” Series (Arsenal Pulp Press, 2011).

Jen Marchbank


The majority of academic and journalistic attention on the issue of mail order brides focuses upon the potential for women to be exploited in this trade. It is vital that protective policies are developed to prevent the violation of women. However, her research seeks to understand the reasons why women choose to become mail order brides, their experiences coming as brides, their husbands’ experiences and reasons for seeking a bride in this way to inform potential policy.
Jacqueline Levitin

Jackie’s work this year on “Video Ethnography with Women of Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside,” a SSHRC grant-funded project on women and housing and health has been both interesting and challenging.

Gentrification in the neighborhood is proceeding rapidly and the desire of property owners to ‘cash in’ has left a swath of emptied buildings with ‘For Sale’ signs tacked to them, especially in the area between downtown Vancouver and Main Street where relaxed city bylaws make conversions attractive. Meanwhile the former low-income tenants of the buildings scramble for housing in a neighborhood (and elsewhere in the city) where affordable housing is, in essence, unavailable. More and more Downtown Eastside residents find themselves forced to live on the streets. Such is the case with one of the women whom she had interviewed on a previous SSHRC project and whom she had intended to interview on the present project. In this changing climate, Jackie has been focusing her research on how policy changes have impacted the lives of the women she is following. Jackie is enjoying working with a number of student researchers on the project. Their goal is to develop an interactive website with information, videos and links to scholarly articles that will serve as an interface with the Downtown Eastside.

Catherine Murray

Catherine was one of ten project leaders from a field of 33 applications to be invited to the second stage of competition for a Major Collaborative Research Initiative administered by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. This international network on Cultural Work, Urban Infrastructure and the Creative Economy involves a team of 46 researchers in five countries, and will map cultural work and its contribution in over 30 communities across Canada from 2010 to 2017. For more information see www.cultureandcommunities.ca/. The seed grant was $20,000, with contributions from the Vice President Research as well as the Deans of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and of the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology. Results of the competition will be announced in January, 2010. One of the major research domains is cultural diversity and integration, involving the study of race and gender in cultural work.

Catherine is interested in creative spaces, cultural infrastructure and the creative economy. She is committed to studying the interplay of gendered and ethno-cultural patterns of cultural work and its contribution to complex models of productivity in our daily community life.

Mary Lynn Stewart

Mary Lynn published an article for the Encyclopedia of Women’s History and a research note for the Bulletin of the Canadian Historical Association, she was invited to speak at a workshop at Simon Fraser University, as well as at the Berkshire Conference of Women’s History. She chaired and commented at three conference panels: at the annual meeting of the Canadian Historical Association at UBC, at the annual meeting of the Canadian Historical Association at UBC, and at the annual Conference of the Western Association of Women Historians at UBC. She was invited to give a brief talk on Rosemary Brown as the Ruth Wynn Woodward Endowed Chair in Women’s Studies at the unveiling of the stamp recognizing Rosemary Brown during Black History Month, noted elsewhere in this newsletter. Mary Lynn has successfully completed her second term as Chair of Women’s Studies.

Habiba Zaman

Habiba is currently writing an international conference paper entitled, “The Political Economy of Immigrant labour in Canada: Intersections of Race, Gender and Class,” for possible publication in the Journal of Contemporary Thought or in the conference proceedings brought out by the Forum on Contemporary Theory in India.

As well, she is working on a book chapter titled, “Transcultural Academic Mother: Secrecy, Silence, Negotiations and Resistance,” to be published by Andrea O’Reilly & Lynn Hallst (eds.) in Being and Thinking as an Academic Mother.

Habiba was an external examiner for Maria Lourdes (Marilou) Carrillo, Women’s and Gender Studies, UBC, April 16, 2009 for her PhD Thesis titled, Socially Transformative Transnational Feminism: Filipino Women Activists at Home and Abroad.
PUBLISHED ARTICLES


Griffin Cohen, Marjorie. (2008, December 24). “The income gap between rich and poor is widening, immigrant incomes are plummeting, and young people entering the labour market are earning less than their parents a generation ago.” The New Westminster Record.

Griffin Cohen, Marjorie. (2008, December 24). “The income gap between rich and poor is widening, immigrant incomes are plummeting, and young people entering the labour market are earning less than their parents a generation ago.” The Trail Daily Times.


Helen Hok-Sze Leung, Helen and Yue, Audrey, eds. (2009). Special Issue on “Chinese Cinemas As New Media,” Journal of Chinese Cinemas 3(1). (Referred).


BOOK CHAPTERS


CONFERENCE PAPERS AND ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS


Griffin Cohen, M. “Pay Equity.” In CUPE, Western Library Workers’ Conference, Connecting Our Communities, Vancouver, October 4, 2008.


Kimball, M. “All You Have To Do Is Listen.” In Canadian Psychological Association, Montreal, PQ, June 2009.

Hok-Sze Leung, H. “Queer Asia on Screen.” In Screen Culture Intermediality and Inter-culturality Conference, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, March 12, 2009.


Marchbank, J. “Designing Engagement, Explorations in Arts and Social Sciences.” In 35th McGraw-Hill Ryerson Teaching and Learning Conference, First Year in Focus: Engaging Students in their First Year and Beyond, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, May 12–14, 2009.


Patterson, N. “Framing Reality TV Women: Celebrity, New Media and Post-feminist Culture.” In Canadian Women’s Studies Association Annual Conference, Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences. Carleton University, Ottawa, May 2009.

Patterson, N. “Reality TV, the Audience, and Feminist Research Methods.” In Outside the Lens: A Conference on Interdisciplinary Feminist Research, Women’s and Gender Studies Graduate Conference. University of British Columbia, Vancouver, April 2009.


Stewart, M. “Fashion Crossing Borders: La Mode sans frontiers.” At the annual meeting of the Canadian Historical Association, University of British Columbia, June 2, 2008.


Zaman, H. Filipino “Community and Beyond: Towards full participation in a multicultural and multi-ethnic Canada.” In National Research Conference, National Alliance of Philippine Women in Canada, University of Toronto, November 7–9, 2009.

**PUBLICATIONS—CONFERENCES—LECTURES**

Zaman, H. “Skilled Immigrant Women in Metro Vancouver: An Exploratory Study.” In Canadian Women’s Studies Association Meeting of The Congress, Carleton University, Ottawa, May 24–26, 2009.


**FILMS, VIDEOS AND MEDIA INTERVIEWS**


Griffin Cohen, M. (2008, November 27). Response to Finance Minister Flaherty financial update. CBC Radio Syndication Seven separate 15-minute interviews at: • CBC Iqaluit • CBC Quebec City • CBC Victoria • CBC Yellowknife


**LECTURES**


**Unveiling of Rosemary Brown Stamp**

To recognize February as Black History Month, Canada Post featured a stamp in honour of Rosemary Brown, the first Black woman to be elected to public office and the first woman to run for the leadership of a Canadian federal political party. The National Congress of Black Women Foundation hosted the stamp launch. The foundation also presented a short play on slavery and a film on Rosemary Brown.

Women’s Studies own Mary Lynn Stewart gave a short talk for the occasion. Many may fondly remember Rosemary Brown as the Women’s Studies second Ruth Wynn Woodward Chair.
Syeda Bukhari conducted a six-day workshop, as a lead trainer, on Gender Awareness Sensitization for Interns of Punjab Female Internship Program during July 6–11, 2009 in Lahore while visiting Pakistan on her vacation. The Training Workshop for Internship Scheme for 50 Women, (recent post-graduates) was organized by the Asian Development Bank, Pakistan and Program Management Unit (PMU), Gender Reforms Action Plan, Government of Punjab, Lahore. The objective of the program was to encourage women for public sector employment; to provide a platform to the potential/qualifying women to prove their capabilities; and to give exposure to young/qualifying women about the public sector environment and functioning especially in areas like office management, planning and execution of project activities.

The training module was designed to cover the topics of gender sensitization and awareness; gender roles and expectations; gender, media and violence; sexual harassment; leadership and participatory skills. The workshop was based on interactive methods and was intended to involve the participants through various techniques including individual preparation and participation; lecturing; group work; debating; film screening and analysis, and storytelling. The training module/ sessions covered various topics included difference between sex and gender; societal and cultural gender attitudes; socialization and making of gender; changing gender roles; exploring media images of gender stereotypes; institutional and systematic influences on gender stereotypes; gender and violence; sexual harassment at the workplace; leadership concepts and practices; team building and participatory techniques; basics of project management; and basics of presentation and communication skills. The overall feedback of the participants was positive and they reflected involvement and commitment to learning throughout the workshop. Syeda is a certified trainer and specializes in gender and development related areas; she has conducted several national and international level trainings on gender sensitization; gender and development; participatory approaches and tools; and leadership and management in social enterprises.

Skilled Pakistani Immigrant Women in BC: An Exploratory Study

This paper is based on an exploratory study of educated and skilled Pakistani women immigrants. An in-depth interview-based study of 12 Pakistani women showed that the women immigrants were highly qualified and had been working on middle or top level positions in their country of origin. They had perceptions and hopes for better socio-economic opportunities after their migration to Canada; however upon their arrival, they found that they had to sacrifice their chosen careers and professional fields, both for the sake of family unification and because of the fear of poverty. This paper i) explores the perceptions, aspirations and reasons for migration among skilled Pakistani immigrant women, ii) analyses the links between family dynamics and women’s success or failure in entering the labour market, and iii) seeks to understand the problems and issues being faced by women during their entry and progress in the labour market of Canada.
REAL LIFE FEATURES

Trish Garner & Family

Trish writes, “Time flies when you’re having fun! It’s hard to believe that Jack and Finn are nearly a year old—they’ll be celebrating their first birthday on December 14th. They’re growing so fast and loving life. This is us on Halloween, Jack’s the giraffe and Finn’s the pumpkin, he loves dressing up so much he wore the costume for a few days afterwards. Crawling has opened up a whole new world for them and a whole new level of mess for me and Emily. We’re a little nervous (and excited) about the next stage, walking, which seems to be fast approaching. But, we’re having a great time as a family, watching them discover new things every day. And it’s really wonderful to see them interact together—playing, sharing, wrestling, and, of course, fighting—it’s hard to be a twin sometimes, but there are definitely more giggles than tears. Oh, and in my spare time, I’m working on my thesis.”

The Garner Family at Halloween © Photo private collection

Marilyn MacDonald Retires

Marilyn spent 17 years with the Women’s Studies department, as she started her career at SFU in September of 1992. Over the years, Marilyn taught numerous courses, many with an emphasis on science and the environment such as “Women, Science and Technology” and “Women & the Environment: Ecofeminism and Sustainable Communities”. She also developed and taught a course with a Q designation “Numeracy, Gender, Culture”, two courses for B designation, and an upper-level course “Gender, War, and Health”. Most recently, in addition to supervising graduate students, Marilyn served as Graduate Chair and revised the graduate handbook.

You may not know that Marilyn took the Master Gardener program at VanDusen Botanical Garden in 2008. She designed and installed a native plant/nature garden in co-operation with SFU Community Trust as part of the ‘greening of campuses’ international movement. Marilyn was instrumental in protecting this garden against many attacks by nearby construction!

Marilyn has since moved from UniverCity and now lives in Port Alberni with her four footed and winged family. She is pleased that Port Alberni has a small town atmosphere. Marilyn continues to be an avid gardener and hopes to become involved in future community native garden projects. Marilyn plans to do some tutoring and possibly teach as well as take advantage of the great hiking trails that Vancouver Island has to offer.

Best wishes Marilyn! We miss you!

Congratulations and best wishes!

On July 10, 2009
Beth Pentney and Derek Serafini were married in Lively, Ontario
Wishing you a world of happiness Beth and Derek!

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FACULTY MEMBERS

Catherine Murray, Chair - gwschr@sfu.ca
Lara Campbell, Women’s Studies Chair of Undergraduate Program - lecampbel@sfu.ca
Dana Claxton, Ruth Wynn Woodward Professor 2009-2010, First Nations, School for the Contemporary Arts and Women's Studies - rwwp@sfu.ca
Marjorie Griffin Cohen, Women’s Studies / Political Science - mcohen@sfu.ca
Jacqueline Levitin, Women’s Studies / School for the Contemporary Arts - levitin@sfu.ca
Helen Hok-Sze Leung, Women’s Studies - helen_leung@sfu.ca
Cindy Patton, Canada Research Chair / Women's Studies / Sociology / - ckpatton@sfu.ca
Mary Lynn Stewart, Women's Studies - mstewart@sfu.ca
Habiba Zaman, Women’s Studies Chair of Graduate Program - hzaman@sfu.ca

ASSOCIATE FACULTY MEMBERS

Moninder Bubber, Liaison Librarian - Women's Studies, Sociology/Anthropology, First Nations Student Centre, Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute - bubber@sfu.ca
Brian Burtch, Criminology Professor - Criminology; midwifery; sociology of law - burtch@sfu.ca
Elise Chénier, History Assistant Professor - History; sexuality and gender - echenier@sfu.ca
Parin Dossa, Sociology & Anthropology Associate Professor - Feminist anthropology; anthropology of migration and diaspora; medical anthropology; disability, age and gender - pdossa@sfu.ca
Olena Hankivsky, Senior Research Grants Facilitator - Associate Professor, Public Policy Program- Gender and health policy; social policy, especially violence against women - olena@sfu.ca
Jen Marchbank, Women's Studies/Director of Explorations, Surrey Campus - Politics of care to violence and resistance to experiences of higher education - jmarchba@sfu.ca
Janice Matsumura, History, Assistant Professor - Modern Japan and East Asian History - janice_matsumura@sfu.ca
Kathy Mezei, Humanities Professor - Canadian literature; feminist literary theory; modern British women writers including Virginia Woolf; domestic space - mezei@sfu.ca
Marina Morrow, Faculty of Health Sciences Assistant Professor - Health and social policy with a focus on women's mental health, health reform, gender, globalization and health - mmorrow@sfu.ca
Deanna Reder, English Assistant Professor - Indigenous literatures in Canada, Indigenous literary theories and epistemologies, and autobiography theory - Deanna_Reder@sfu.ca
Lisa Shapiro, Philosophy Associate Professor - History of modern philosophy, feminism and philosophy, philosophy of emotions (and so moral psychology and philosophy of mind), philosophy of personal identity - lisa_shapiro@sfu.ca
Jennifer Spear, History Assistant Professor - Early North American history; gender and sexuality; comparative colonization, slavery, and race - jennifer_spear@sfu.ca
Ann Travers, Assistant Professor of Sociology - Sociological theory (feminist and queer); gender and technology; sociology of sport; social issues and movements - atravers@sfu.ca

PROFESSOR EMERITA

Meredith Kimball, Women’s Studies/Psychology - kimball@sfu.ca
Andrea Lebowitz, Literature - lebowitz@sfu.ca
Marilyn MacDonald, Women’s Studies - marilynm@sfu.ca
Susan Wendell, Feminist social and political theory; ethics; epistemology; disability - wendell@sfu.ca
DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN’S STUDIES GROUP PHOTO

Left to right, standing: Brian Burtch, Catherine Murray, Marjorie Griffin-Cohen, Moninder Bubber, Mary Lynn Stewart, Mary Shearman, K. Hunter.

Left to right, sitting: Esther Harrison, Roberta Neilson, Will Keats-Osborn, Habiba Zaman, Helen Hok-Sze Leung, and Lara Campbell.

THREE CHAIRS PHOTO

Three Chairs: Meredith Kimball, Mary Lynn Stewart and Catherine Murray.