THESE PAST THREE YEARS HAVE DEMONSTRATED THE WISDOM OF CHANGING OUR DEPARTMENTAL NAME TO GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND WOMEN’S STUDIES. OUR ENROLLMENTS HAVE INCREASED 40%, WE HAVE INTRODUCED SOME NEEDED NEW COURSES (LIKE GENDER AND DISABILITIES, OR A COURSE ON MISOGYNY) AND DOUBLED OUR ASSOCIATE FACULTY. I BELIEVE WE ARE MUCH BETTER KNOWN AT STRAND HALL NOW, AND OUR REPUTATION FOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH IS GROWING. IT HAS BEEN A REWARDING AND INTENSE TIME AS DEPARTMENTAL CHAIR, AND I AM ENDEBTED TO ALL FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENTS FOR SO GENEROUSLY, AND INDEFATIGABLY, PARTICIPATING IN THIS RADICAL MAKE-OVER. I AM PERHAPS PROUDEST THAT WE REMAIN HOME TO THE LAST OF THE FIVE REGIONAL RESEARCH CHAIRS ACROSS CANADA ESTABLISHED IN THE NEXT THREE ACADEMIC YEARS. GSWS IS A FIELD WITH SPECIAL TRANSFORMATIVE POWER—A DISCIPLINE THAT INVITES CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH AND ENCOURAGES INNOVATIVE TEACHING. IT ATTRACTS STUDENTS WHO ARE NOT AFRAID TO BE CHALLENGED AND EMBRACE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR COMMUNITY. GSWS PROVOKES CHANGE BEYOND THE WALLS OF THE ACADEMY—INSERTING ITSELF IN PUBLIC DEBATES, CREATING DISCOMFORT AMIDST COMPLACENCY, AND INFORMING SOCIAL POLICY.

THE DEPARTMENT OF GSWS AT SFU EXEMPLIFIES ALL THESE PROCESSES. FACULTY MEMBERS ARE CARING, CONSCIENTIOUS TEACHERS WHO HAVE CREATED A DIVERSE AND EXCITING CURRICULUM. THEY ARE VERY PRODUCTIVE, PUBLISHING IN A VARIETY OF MEDIA, ENGAGING MULTIPLE DISCIPLINES, AND ADDRESSING BROADER COMMUNITY CONCERNS. A NETWORK OF ASSOCIATE MEMBERS BROADENS THE DEPARTMENT’S DISCIPLINARY RANGE. THE RUTH WYNN WOODWARD CHAIR CELEBRATES INTERDISCIPLINARITY IN ITS RESEARCH PROFILE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT. THE DEPARTMENT’S TRAVELING SPEAKERS SERIES EXTENDS ITS OUTREACH TO COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE PROVINCE. THE DEPARTMENT MAINTAINS

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR
Willeen Keough

I am extremely honoured and grateful to have been asked to assume the position of Chair of Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies for the next three years. GSWS is a field with special transformative power—a discipline that invites cutting-edge research and encourages innovative teaching. It attracts students who are not afraid to be challenged and embrace the opportunity to contribute to their community. GSWS provokes change beyond the walls of the academy—inserting itself in public debates, creating discomfort amidst complacency, and informing social policy.

The Department of GSWS at SFU exemplifies all these processes. Faculty members are caring, conscientious teachers who have created a diverse and exciting curriculum. They are very productive, publishing in a variety of media, engaging multiple disciplines, and addressing broader community concerns. A network of associate members broadens the department’s disciplinary range. The Ruth Wynn Woodward Chair celebrates interdisciplinarity in its research profile and community engagement. The department’s traveling speakers series extends its outreach to communities across the province. The department maintains

MEMOIRS OF AN OUTGOING CHAIR
Catherine Murray

I am very excited to be part of the department’s ongoing consolidation and growth as it continues to strive for excellence in feminist research, teaching, and community engagement.

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HOW TO FIND US
Interested in more information about Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies at Simon Fraser University? You can visit us on the web at: www.sfu.ca/gsws.

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.

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

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

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

Chair
Willeen Keough
gswschr@sfu.ca
778-782-5526

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

Undergraduate Program Chair
Jen Marchbank
jmarchba@sfu.ca
778-782-8986

Manager,
Academic and Administrative Services
Roberta Neilson
gswsmgr@sfu.ca
778-782-3593

Department Secretary
Kathryn Hunter
gswssec@sfu.ca
778-782-3333
MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR (CONT’D)

(Continued from page 1) an active presence on all three SFU campuses. And all these efforts are supported by a deeply committed and talented staff. Under the creative guidance of my predecessors—Catherine Murray, Mary Lynn Stewart, Marjorie Griffin Cohen, and others—the department has established a footprint that truly belies its small core complement.

GSWS has created a new five-year plan, with innovative ideas about how to move forward, despite financial constraints across the university. I am very excited to be part of the department’s ongoing consolidation and growth as it continues to strive for excellence in feminist research, teaching, and community engagement.

~ Willeen Keough

TRAVELING SPEAKERS’ SERIES

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.

Brian Burtch, Associate Professor traveled to Whitehorse, Yukon in March for speaking engagements. The talks included two schools, a women’s studies class at Yukon College, a CBC radio interview, and a public lecture, actually a conversation, about homophobia and transphobia in high schools on Monday evening. Brian looked forward to being back in Whitehorse after his first-ever visit there in 2003. He’s grateful to all the people in Whitehorse who organized the event, and to GSWS’ travelling speakers series for funding travel and related costs.

After finishing with the Traveling Speakers Series, Brian went to the University of Hull to speak on the related topic of “Trends & Countertrends in Homophobic and Transphobic Bullying” on June 26, 2012.

Mary Shearman, PhD Candidate travelled to Terrace, BC to give a talk as part of the International Women’s Day celebrations. Mary spoke on Burlesque and Erotic Dance history in Canada/Sex Work in Canada/Feminist Theatre for Young Audiences. The event was jointly sponsored by the Northwest Community College and Terrace Women’s Resource Centre Society Terrace, BC March 8, 2012. Approximately 75 community members attended Mary’s talk. Mary found everyone very welcoming and positive about her talk. There was also some discussion about how great the Traveling Speakers Series is and how the community has been very satisfied with everyone who has come up through the program.
I believe we have all heard from our graduate advisors and professors that one must start publishing if aspiring to be an academic in a university setting. I recall a former colleague Professor Michele Pujol of Women’s Studies at the University of Victoria reminding me of this when I joined UVic in 1992. Michele unfortunately died at a very young age in August 1997. Professor Louise E. Sweet, my mentor at the University of Manitoba in the 1980s, suggested “writing one page a day” to complete my PhD dissertation. These two feminist and leftist scholars had a profound impact on my academic life in Canada. Michele once mentioned that her senior colleague had a record of publishing a book (fiction) almost every alternate year. The feminist colleague who was present during our conversation politely added that when she received a rejection letter from a publisher, she placed the manuscript in another envelope and mailed it to a different publisher. In academia, writing and publishing is both a rewarding as well a frightening experience. One requires navigating this tough, but not rough, terrain with determination, perseverance, and academic rigour. In this short piece, I would like to reminisce about my own journey as an academic from my days at the University of Rajshahi in Bangladesh, to the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg as a graduate student, and finally, as faculty at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, British Columbia. When a book or an article gets published, what is generally not well known nor publicly discussed is how much labour and how many hours are invested in the process of publishing. For each success story in publishing, many disappointments, frustrations, and failures are indeed hidden from the public gaze. In the early years of my academic career at SFU, I attended a three-day Continuing Studies Teaching and Instructional Skills Workshop. The Director, in his opening speech jokingly remarked, a curriculum vita never tells the failures of one’s life! If one counts the efforts of publishing in

(Continued on page 5)

The department is excited to announce that Trish Garner is the third student to successfully earn a PhD from our department. The title of Trish’s dissertation is *Stitching Up the Natural: “Manboobs,” Pregnancy, and the Transgender Body*. Her dissertation is also expected to be published by an international publisher because of the originality of its contribution to trans studies. Trish already has an impressive publication record for a young scholar at this early stage of her career. Her co-authored article on the comparative study of cosmetic surgery and sex reassignment surgery in the journal *Atlantis* was the first of its kind to be published in the journal. As a sessional instructor has taught on queer masculinities. However her most recent course was, “Cripping the Norm: Disability Studies and its Intersections”. The course was designed in response to students’ requests to understand more about DisAbility Studies, and has been very well received.

Congratulations Dr. Garner!
“Publish or Perish”… (CONT’D)

(Continued from page 4

a numerical sense, there might be more failures than successes. My own narrative might sound successful, but it has been built on failures, isolation, and loneliness, and sacrificing some but not all pleasures.

The United Nations declaration of 1975 as the International Women’s Year opened up a new era for women in the South. The Chair of Political Science at the University of Rajshahi, in collaboration with the World University Services, organized a seminar on UN Human Rights on December 10, 1976, UN Human Rights Day. After a considerable search and having failed to recruit any senior female faculty members (there were only 17 female faculty members out of 300 at the University), he asked (my emphasis) me to present a paper on women in Bangladesh. As a young lecturer, I had no choice but to comply with the request. My paper, “UN Human Rights and the Position of Women in Bangladesh,” was not only presented at the seminar, but was later published in a top English daily, The Bangladesh Observer. To my surprise, I also received a small honorarium for publishing that piece. Later, a reporter of a local Bengali newspaper approached me for a Bangla version of the article, which I did, and it was published in the Dainik Barta. I did not realize at the time that my paper infuriated the President of the University, a right-wing Islamic Studies scholar, who was the chief guest at the seminar. In the following year, when I faced an interview board (the President of the University was Chair of the board) for the renewal of my term appointment, the President asked me: “Do you find any differences between UN Human Rights and Islamic rights for women?” During my tenure at the same university, I conducted a research project titled, “Employment of Women in a Purdah Society: A Study of Values and Attitudes of University Teachers about Employment of Women in Bangladesh,” and submitted the research findings in the form a manuscript to the Rajshahi University Studies Journal. After waiting for several months, I made an enquiry with the editor who mentioned that the piece was publishable, but asked me to delete the section on research methodology. In that section, I mentioned that the university had been closed for most of the year (276 out of 365 days) due to student unrest and demonstrations that caused huge delays in the survey and data collection. The editor argued that the President of the University, as the Chair of the editorial board, would never allow publishing it until and unless the methodology section was deleted. I agreed with his decision for the sake of publishing, although I knew that it was the most interesting and informative section of the paper. The scope for publishing in a peer-reviewed journal was very restricted for women, as the editor, members of the Editorial Board, and the reviewers were almost all males.

In 1982, as an MA student in Political Studies at the University of Manitoba, I wrote a paper titled, “The Military Politics in Bangladesh,” for a two-semester course (September to April) in my first year of the program. In that paper, I had concluded that a military coup was imminent in Bangladesh. Two days after submission of the paper to the Professor, the Winnipeg Free Press, a provincial newspaper, carried a cover story of the military takeover in Bangladesh. Later that year, in June 1982, I presented and distributed the same paper at the Bengal Studies Conference organized by Hanna Papanek, a well-recognized scholar on South Asia at the Harvard University. The paper was published in Asian Profile. The Library of Congress Catalogue listed the article, as it covered military politics in Bangladesh. It also appeared (without my knowledge) as a chapter in an edited book titled, Bangladesh Politics and Administration (1984). Should I be surprised or angry? One must keep in mind that communication was not that easy in the 1980s. As a graduate student, I tried to write major papers and book reviews in such a way that they would be published eventually in conference proceedings in Canada (“Women in Higher Education: A Study of Attitudes of Female Students to Selected Development Issues of Bangladesh,” in V. S. Pendakur, editor, South Asian Horizons: Political Economy and Rural Development, 1984), journals in India (“DeMaoization: China after Mao,” in The Indian Political Science Review, 1984), and in Hong Kong (“The Role of Military in Bangladesh and Pakistan: A Comparative Study,” in Asian Profile, 1983). However, the transition from (Continued on page 12
(Continued from page 1)

1985 to insist on external appointments—despite the declining state of our Endowment, and cutback of matched University funding. Our model of post-doctorate recruitment has yielded us not only leading-edge research topics (art, gender and aboriginal culture, medicalization of sex, critical race critique of honour killings), but also truly exceptional resident Ruth Wynn Woodward Chairs: Dana Claxton, Thea Cacchioni, Dana Olwan—all of whom have gone on to prestigious tenure track appointments at other universities. If I have a disappointment, it is in the fact that I feel I was not able to create the conditions where we could focus more on intersectionality and critical masculinity studies, and expand our recruitment of men to our courses. Although our blockbuster courses at the intro level show about 20% male enrollments—this is good, but not yet good enough.

My perspective from another Faculty and Department has helped me to realize—and celebrate—the value of the people here. GSWS faculty are simply amongst the best at SFU. I was amazed at the annual rate of book production, and awards (3 major awards in this period for teaching, research and lifetime achievement) and many leading conferences reached by them in any given year. In my own work, I have been gratified by the response to our 2010 Sex Money Media Conference (co-sponsored with Women in View and Communication) and to my growing interest in gender, cultural governance and the urban creative economy. In aid of that, I brought home a Letter of Intent for an agreement with the Communication University of China’s Institute of Gender and Media Studies, under the direction of UNESCO Chair Dr. Liu Liqun in July, which I hope the Department will complete in the coming year. While I leave to return to Communication, I hope to maintain an Associate role, and seek a joint appointment so I can continue in this area. I am also very glad to see the new direction of the research centre on Culture and Communities under FCAT is now steered by many of our very own faculty, under the direction of Associate Kirsten McAllister, becoming more central to the teaching and research mandate of GSWS.

Our graduate students are a tremendous strength to GSWS. The dissertations produced more than meet the test of original and worthy contribution to knowledge in our field. While I leave to return to Communication, I hope to maintain an Associate role, and seek a joint appointment so I can continue in this area. I am also very glad to see the new direction of the research centre on Culture and Communities under FCAT is now steered by many of our very own faculty, under the direction of Associate Kirsten McAllister, becoming more central to the teaching and research mandate of GSWS.

Our graduate students are a tremendous strength to GSWS. The dissertations produced more than meet the test of original and worthy contribution to knowledge in our field. Our students are indispensable to the volunteer femocracy in the community NGOs all around town. While the rate of graduate publication and completion of Program milestones is understandably lower than many other Departments, this is mostly due to scarce funding for graduate support. We regularly lose good incoming graduate students to competitors able to offer better funding. We have few awards available. In response to this critical need, we have launched a $500,000 capital campaign to develop a $20,000 annual doctoral award. This is now recognized by the University’s Advancement plan with the target of 2015.

A big priority for the Chair is to work on external relations, promote non-traditional academic dissemination, build new community links, and develop partnerships with an eye to experiential learning opportunities for our students. Our experience with a major breakfast during the UN’s 16 days of activism against gender violence in December of 2011 has forged important new community links and led to roundtable discussions on judicial education, led to a wonderful teaching resource to recruit male allies with the video Walk a Mile BC Style, and led to a stint with the BC Teachers’ Federation to develop a module on gender and war this year for four of our own undergraduates, under the direction of Dana Olwan and Sandra Martin.

Memory is important to GSWS. Marilyn MacDonald left before my arrival, and the hole left by her absence in many of our core B and Q courses remains a serious one. I am also honoured to have the opportunity to preside over the retirement ceremonies for Mary Lynn Stewart, who has been invaluable to this university for 35 years. Her loss to the curriculum on fashioning gender and sex in the city will be incalculable. GSWS now is one of the departments which has invested a lot in digitizing its Ruth Wynn Woodward archives, in preparation for the upcoming 30th

(Continued on page 13)
SFU’s Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies and the Ruth Wynn Woodward Endowed Chair were proud to host Red Shoes, Green Belts, White Ribbons - a breakfast to celebrate activism against gender violence in Vancouver. The breakfast was held on December 8, 2011 at the Segal School of Business, SFU Vancouver. The celebration coincided with the international campaign of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence, the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women in Canada (December 6) and December 10th, International Human Rights Day.

Jen Sookfong Lee, author of A Better Mother and well known CBC book correspondent, was the keynote speaker at this breakfast event. Jen spoke on Storytelling the Journey: Personal Narratives and Understanding Violence sharing her thoughts about the role of violence in her fiction, in that of her literary influences and what it may say to us in our constant struggles against gender violence.

Other presenters included, Dana M. Olwan, Junior Ruth Wynn Woodward Chair who spoke about Demystifying Gender Violence in Muslim Communities.

Dr. Jen Marchbank, SFU Surrey, spoke on Fighting Back in the ’Burbs: Youth Activism in Surrey. As well, Tasha Patterson, PhD student in GSWS spoke on Putting Men Back into the Picture: Exploring postfeminist narratives of gender violence in celebrity culture.

Premiered at the event, was the very well received short video, Walk a Mile, BC Style. A local take on the Red Shoes walk a mile in her shoes campaign aimed at helping men better understand and appreciate women’s experiences, thus changing perspectives, helping improve gender relationships and decreasing the potential for violence.

Representatives from over 20 community partners attended the breakfast and had the opportunity to network and socialize, many making connections for the first time.
The theme of Dana Mohammed Olwan’s RWW Chair lecture and workshop series was *Resisting Gendered and Colonial Violence Against Women*.

For the first event, Dana brought in a young activist, Jessica Yee who spoke about *Marginalization Doesn’t Happen by Accident: Colonialism and Violence from the State on January 27, 2012,* at the SFU Burnaby campus. Yee asked Why are Indigenous women five times more likely to die of violence than any other race of women in Canada? Why is the state enabling violence by its inaction and complicity? These and other questions were addressed by this free public lecture.

The next series event was a workshop with the Steering Committee on *Gendered and Colonial Violence in Times of War and Empire: A Discussion and Workshop,* held at the SFU Burnaby Campus, Diamond Alumni Centre on Saturday, February 3, 2012.

The last event was co-sponsored by the Margaret Lowe Benston Endowment and featured prominent transnational feminist theorist, Chandra Talpadde Mohanty who spoke on *On Walls, Borders, and Occupations: Securitized Regimes, Anatomies of Violence, and Feminist Critique.* Framed within the context of a recent feminist of color solidarity delegation to Palestine, this talk focused on the colonized anatomies of violence mobilized by the ‘democracies’ of the USA, Israel, and India. Arguing that these securitized regimes utilize particular and connected racial and gendered ideologies and practices at their social and territorial borders, the lecture suggested a vision of cross-border feminist solidarity that confronts neoliberal militarization globally. The event was held at the SFU Vancouver campus on February 20, 2012.
A Warm Welcome to Tiffany Muller Myrdahl

Tiffany Muller Myrdahl is thrilled to be in residence as the Junior Ruth Wynn Woodward Chair in Gender and Urban Studies, 2012-13. Tiffany completed her PhD in Geography and a certificate in Feminist Studies at the University of Minnesota in 2008. Since 2008, she has been an Assistant Professor in the Department of Women and Gender Studies and an associate member of the Department of Geography at the University of Lethbridge. She is on leave from the University of Lethbridge during her tenure as the Junior RWW Chair.

Tiffany's research links urban, social, and feminist geography with a focus on social inclusion and feminist praxis. She employs a community-engaged qualitative research practice to examine the social and spatial processes that constitute and shape cities. Her scholarship has attended to the spatial logics of sport-centred urban entrepreneurial policies; the social geographies and mobilities of marginalized communities, with an emphasis on women and LGBTQ populations; the relationship between urban contexts (histories, economies, and cultural politics) and the formation of gender and sexual subjectivities and communities; and the intersection between municipal social policy and planning praxis. Her academic publications can be found in *Gender, Place and Culture; Social & Cultural Geography; Journal of Lesbian Studies; Leisure/Loisir; Leisure Studies*; and *ACME: An International E-Journal for Critical Geographies* (forthcoming). Her recent work also includes chapters in *Queering Planning: Challenging Heteronormative planning practice* (Ashgate, 2011) and in *Stadium Worlds: Football, Space and the Built Environment* (Routledge, 2010).

Tiffany’s current research combines critical analyses of urban policy with the development of a queer oral history archive and an examination of the socio-spatial formations of LGBTQ identities. She uses oral history methodologies and analyses of urban social policy and participatory planning schemes to understand urban change in Lethbridge, Alberta. This project, entitled "The lives of (sexual) others: social difference and urban change in Lethbridge, Alberta," is funded by the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada and the University of Lethbridge, and has been supported by the Centre for Feminist Research at York University, where Tiffany was in residence during spring 2012.

As Junior RWW Chair, Tiffany will be teaching, writing, and organizing events around the theme of feminist urban futures. The first component of this program is Tiffany’s fall course, the Advanced RWW Seminar. You can read about and participate in the course here: [http://tmullermyrdahl.org/rww-seminar-homepage/](http://tmullermyrdahl.org/rww-seminar-homepage/). The course website includes lecture and discussion materials, texts, and links to many additional sources that explore questions of and experiments in urban social inclusion. (More links are always welcome!) You don’t need to be enrolled in the course to participate in the online conversation.

Tiffany will also be participating with the Women Transforming Cities initiative throughout the year: [http://womentransformingcities.org/](http://womentransformingcities.org/) You can meet her at WTC events and at RWW events, which will be announced here and at the RWWP current activities website: [http://www.sfu.ca/gsws/community-outreach/current-wwp-activities.html](http://www.sfu.ca/gsws/community-outreach/current-wwp-activities.html)

This practical handbook will introduce readers to social justice education, providing tools for developing “critical social justice literacy” and for taking action towards a more just society. Accessible to students from high school through graduate school, this book offers a collection of detailed and engaging explanations of key concepts in social justice education, including critical thinking, socialization, group identity, prejudice, discrimination, oppression, power, privilege, and White supremacy. Based on extensive experience in a range of settings in the United States and Canada, the authors address the most common stumbling blocks to understanding social justice. They provide recognizable examples, scenarios, and vignettes illustrating these concepts.

This unique resource has many user-friendly features, including “definition boxes” for key terms, “stop boxes” to remind readers of previously explained ideas, “perspective check boxes” to draw attention to alternative standpoints, a glossary, and a chapter responding to the most common rebuttals encountered when leading discussions on concepts in critical social justice. There are discussion questions and extension activities at the end of each chapter, and an appendix designed to lend pedagogical support to those newer to teaching social justice education.

Zaman, Habiba (2012) *Asian Immigrants in “Two Canadas” Racialization, Marginalization and Deregulated Work* Fernwood Basics

Canada is experiencing a major demographic shift, with two-thirds of the population in major cities predicted to belong to racialized groups, particularly Asian newcomers, by 2031. But how are these immigrants faring in this new Canada? Employing the International Labour Organization’s concept of “basic security” and the voices of immigrants themselves, Asian Immigrants in “Two Canadas” demonstrates that their security — such as work, job, employment, and voice and representation — has been compromised in multidimensional ways. Changes to immigration policy and the neoliberal restructuring of the Employment Standards Act in British Columbia have led to further marginalization within the labour market and the creation of deregulated and hazardous workplaces — resulting in the emergence of “two Canadas” within the Canadian welfare state. Representing a diverse group of immigrants, this book demonstrates a shared experience of precariousness and insecurity — an experience that has led to a broad-based alliance of Asian immigrant workers aimed at addressing workplace security and rights.
Since childhood I’ve been obsessed with death as well as infatuated with life. Having written extensively on them, I’m looking forward to death, to the moment of having my deeds justified, while sentimentally attached to life, to the vitality, uncertainty and the realness of life. While observing people crossing my path hurriedly, I always wonder how many souls are slumbering in the earth peacefully. Are they really at peace on the other side?

As time elapses, I’ve become used to hearing more and more of people close to me dying. In April 2011, my father left us. I was there for the cremation. I still find it hard to believe if that scene was real or a momentary hallucination. Night falls, always commencing the silent montage of bittersweet memories. None of the days has passed without thoughts of him, of him reading my newly published book, of him spreading the word about my acceptance into the doctoral program, and of our last dinner on the New Year’s Eve, when I made us a hot pot and gave him a walkie talkie as a present.

A few days ago, a friend’s wife died of lung cancer developed from breast cancer. I spent the day at the Crossroads Hospice, with the friend and his family surrounding the deathbed. His wife, a very kind and sweet Japanese woman of barely 42, a gifted musician and a caring, loving wife and mother, passed away at the hospice. Her 79 year old father and brother flew from Japan to Vancouver to attend the funeral.

Having experienced the loss of someone dearest, I shared my feelings with them, giving them support and strength, cheering them up, letting them know they were not alone. I also shared with them my new discoveries about near death experiences, shared death experiences and the light I had seen through the narratives of many who had come back to life after resuscitation. I think that we are oftentimes too blind to see death should be as celebrated as birth as it is the pathway to rebirth, a metabolic pathway that links up the newborn and the new dead. Death itself has nothing saddening; the sadness only lies in how it impacts the living.

My own loss has so far transformed me into someone who has started to place daily priority on pondering over the meaning of life through a panoramic review of my past, over how much I have given to this world instead of having obtained, and how much I have loved, before one day, when I myself have to leave and am cremated into ashes. I want to be useful and helpful to those around me and those out of my reach before it gets too late. This is the only way to make those slumberers—our loved ones—rest in peace, in eternity and in blessings, and the only way to see the sacred light at the end of this journey.

~ Huai Bao Dhawa

Huai Bao Dhawa has lived, studied and worked in China, Canada and the USA, building an impressive list of accomplishments around the globe.

His experiences so far have been split between Eastern and Western performing traditions in the theatre, literature and film production. He is finally drawn to gender and sexuality research as he believes the core drive for all the arts is sexuality, which goes hand in hand with our gender consciousness and gender performativity in a very complex way beyond our normal perceptions.
PhD (all but dissertation) to a tenure-track academic position transformed me into an academic “gypsy,” where writing for publication seemed an illusory path.

After PhD, I was successful in publishing a couple of papers based on my dissertation. Meanwhile, the only feminist publisher in Bangladesh published my dissertation titled, Women and Work in a Bangladesh Village, in 1996. To my surprise, in June 2012, a mid-level civil servant sent me an email informing me that he was asked at the Public Administration Training Course (Savar, Dhaka) to review the book and to do research on the author. My published book is still considered relevant and used in training courses for civil servants in Bangladesh!

I have a few memories of my days in a tenure-track position at SFU that should be shared here. I sent a paper to a journal in Canada. After going through the regular review process, the editor decided to publish it in a special volume of the journal edited by two guest editors. I saw nothing wrong in the process as it did speed up publication. Later on, one of the external reviewers of my promotion and tenure file commented on the “guest” editors of the journal, implying that it was a less rigorous review process. Serving on the Tenure and Promotion Committee, I learned not to publish repeatedly in the same refereed journal. Another time one of the editors of an international journal gave me a two-week timeline to revise a paper during mid-spring semester (there was no reading break at SFU at that time) to get it published in the forthcoming issue. I felt I had to say “No” due to the pressures of marking, teaching, and so on. Later on, I decided to work on the paper for one hour a day on top of my regular academic work. The revised piece was eventually published.

When I was preparing a book manuscript during my sabbatical year (2002–2003), I mailed out the prospectus to various publishers. I accepted the first positive response from a US publisher enthusiastically, and hurriedly signed the contract. After couple of months, I received a positive response from a leading publisher in Canada. The book, Breaking the Iron Wall: Decommodification and Immigrant Women’s Labor, was published by Lexington Books, USA, in 2006. The external reviewers of my promotion to Professorship made two interesting and positive points that touched my heart: first, Canadian content and Canadian authors hardly ever get published in the USA; and second, if someone’s research is completely different from their PhD dissertation, the reviewer’s university would give extra credit (in my case, promoted to next available position) for that work.

Recently, Fernwood published my book, Asian Immigrants in Canada: Racialization, Marginalization, and Deregulated Work (2012). The book was originally scheduled to be published in (continued on page 14)
Neilson, and the remarkable strategic eye, savvy and command of detail by Kat Hunter, our Departmental Secretary. I regret having to terminate the RWW position of administrator, but note that this was absolutely the only way to keep that program afloat. I also owe Roberta and Kat a big vote of thanks for their personal and professional support during the crazy times as Chair. This is what distinguishes GSWS from so many other small departments. We like to work with each other and we care--just plain everyday feminism in practice.

As I leave, and reflect on the contributions of our previous Chairs, I can attest that I have kept up the tradition of open governance. I am well aware that as an Associate faculty member, I learned a great deal in WS meetings, which served me well my home department and navigating the broader corridors of SFU power. As Chair, I carried on with the idea of open communication in Departmental meetings, and worked with both Roberta and Kat to pub new administrative and financial (continued on page 15)
“Publish or Perish”… (CONT’D)

(Continued from page 12) June 2012. I met all the deadlines, and when someone missed their deadline, the publisher bumped up the publication of my book. I found copies at the Book Fair at the 2012 Congress held at the University of Waterloo and Wilfred Laurier University from May 26 to June 2. I was able to present my book at the Canadian Women’s Studies Association’s “Scholarly Activity” event at the Congress. During my presentation at the Canadian Sociological Association, I had an opportunity to talk about my book. Fernwood, through its 20 Years of Publishing Celebration, also promoted the book at a gala reception at the Congress where I met with other authors.

Finally, I attended Margaret Atwood’s lecture, featured under “Big Thinking” at the Congress, in a jam-packed auditorium. It was very inspiring as she navigated through her memories, including the struggles and trajectory of publications. I felt she should have received a Noble prize in literature by now.

Encouraged by her lecture, I visited the Congress Book Fair and spoke to a couple of editors regarding my “memoir” book project. To my surprise, one of the leading publishers showed genuinely positive interest in my project. Indeed, he showed me a sample copy of a published book dealing with memoirs. Another editor (I reviewed a lengthy manuscript for the publisher) smilingly said, “Oh, you are known to us,” and encouraged me to submit a manuscript. I even received a post-Congress email from the editor that indicated his willingness to consider my manuscript. For me, the fear of “publish or perish” is over, but I feel my new dream of writing a book-length manuscript is still in the womb! Hopes and dreams walk side-by-side in any writing project and publication.

~ Habiba Zaman

* This piece is gratefully dedicated to Professor Louise E. Sweet, who never failed to remind me the significance of publication. Louise Sweet passed away on May 5, 2012 at the age of ninety-six.
believe they represent much of an extension to the way we already design our current courses. So unlike History and other Departments who seem to want to boycott the issue, I think GSWS can get out ahead of it. When you talk to students, they seem to want some outcomes-evidence they can point to to market their experience to future employers or later graduate schools. Jen Marchbank as undergraduate chair is tasked with designing them, and unlike many other leaders in FASS, Jen has direct experience with them in the UK. I tend to think the most interesting area requiring reflection is what we expect from our Degree. We are now extending space to home residence to Erin Aspenleider—so say hello. Erin is the outcomes advisor in FASS who can help us in this task. I have absolute faith that the ones GSWS will develop will use feminist principles of participatory design and will be simple, elegant, and extremely helpful to students and faculty alike for their insight into best practices of feminist pedagogy today.

GSWS has responded to all of these pending issues (which rise and set in a vastly speeded up SFU policy universe) with a brave, but feasible five-year plan. Quite simply, that plan will keep GSWS as the Department to watch—by our students, community partners, by our “competitors” in the province, and by Strand Hall—but most importantly, by our communities where we matter. Outgoing chairs should stay around but not too close, be available for questions, but not volunteer too much, and generally get out of the way of the new regime. Most importantly, they should avoid giving advice. But I cannot resist leaving one main injunction to all. Treasure this place. I leave it in excellent hands.

~ Catherine Murray
Mary Lynn Stewart Retires

Congratulations to Mary Lynn on 35 wonderful years at SFU!

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### FACULTY MEMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Willeen Keough</td>
<td>GSWS Chair (History)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gswschr@sfu.ca">gswschr@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lara Campbell</td>
<td>GSWS Graduate Chair</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lcampbel@sfu.ca">lcampbel@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marjorie Griffin Cohen</td>
<td>GSWS / Political Science</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mcohen@sfu.ca">mcohen@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jen Marchbank</td>
<td>GSWS Undergraduate Chair/Explorations</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jmarchba@sfu.ca">jmarchba@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiffany Muller Myrdahl</td>
<td>Ruth Wynn Woodward Junior Professor 2012-2013</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rwwp@sfu.ca">rwwp@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacqueline Levitin</td>
<td>GSWS/ Contemporary Arts</td>
<td><a href="mailto:levitin@sfu.ca">levitin@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helen Hok-Sze Leung</td>
<td>GSWS</td>
<td><a href="mailto:helen_leung@sfu.ca">helen_leung@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habiba Zaman</td>
<td>GSWS</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hzaman@sfu.ca">hzaman@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ASSOCIATE FACULTY MEMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ellen Balka</td>
<td>Communications Professor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ellenb@sfu.ca">ellenb@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olena Hankivsky</td>
<td>Public Policy Associate Professor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:olena@sfu.ca">olena@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deanna Reder</td>
<td>English Assistant Professor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Deanna_Reder@sfu.ca">Deanna_Reder@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moninder Bubber</td>
<td>Liaison Librarian</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bubb@sfu.ca">bubb@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genevieve Fuji Johnson</td>
<td>Political Science Associate Professor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:genevieve_johnson@sfu.ca">genevieve_johnson@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Özlem Sensoy</td>
<td>Education Associate Professor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ozlem@sfu.ca">ozlem@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brian Burtch</td>
<td>Criminology Professor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:burtch@sfu.ca">burtch@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janice Matsumura</td>
<td>History Associate Professor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:janice_matsumura@sfu.ca">janice_matsumura@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Shapiro</td>
<td>Philosophy Associate Professor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lisa_shapiro@sfu.ca">lisa_shapiro@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elise Chénier</td>
<td>History Associate Professor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:echenier@sfu.ca">echenier@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirsten McAllister</td>
<td>Communications Associate Professor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kmcallis@sfu.ca">kmcallis@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diana Solomon</td>
<td>English Assistant Professor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Diana_solomon@sfu.ca">Diana_solomon@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dara Culhane</td>
<td>Anthropology Associate Professor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:culhane@sfu.ca">culhane@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marina Morrow</td>
<td>Health Sciences Associate Professor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mmorrow@sfu.ca">mmorrow@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Spear</td>
<td>History Associate Professor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jennifer_spear@sfu.ca">jennifer_spear@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Dickinson</td>
<td>English Professor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:peter_dickinson@sfu.ca">peter_dickinson@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catherine Murray</td>
<td>Communications Professor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:murraye@sfu.ca">murraye@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann Travers</td>
<td>Sociology Associate Professor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:atravers@sfu.ca">atravers@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parin Dossa</td>
<td>Anthropology Professor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pdossa@sfu.ca">pdossa@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cindy Patton</td>
<td>Sociology &amp; Anthropology Professor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ckpatton@sfu.ca">ckpatton@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### RETIRED PROFESSORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meredith Kimball</td>
<td>Women’s Studies/Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Women’s Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Lynn Stewart</td>
<td>GSWS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Wendell</td>
<td>Women’s Studies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### IN MEMORIAM

Andrea Lebowitz