Amber Dean, a Women's Studies MA graduate was nominated for the Dean's Graduate Medal and chosen to give one of the June 2003 convocation addresses. Here are her comments to fellow graduates:

Good afternoon fellow graduates, faculty and staff, family and friends. As I reflect on what to talk about today, I kept thinking about what a tremendous honor and privilege it is to be receiving a second post-secondary degree today — a privilege that I know we've all worked very hard for! I will always be grateful for all of the learning and development that my time here at SFU has inspired, as well as for all the fun and challenging late-night debates, and for the friendships that will last a lifetime. Because I have come to care so much for this University and what it stands for, I thought I would take a moment today to reflect on the privilege that comes hand in hand with our parchments, and on the responsibilities that I believe come with this privilege.

All of us have invested huge amounts of time, energy, and hard work to get us to where we are today, and we have likely experienced our

Cindy Patton

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Cindy Patton to the department as the Canada Research Chair (CRC) in Community Culture and Health. Dr. Patton is jointly appointed in Women's Studies and in Sociology and Anthropology. Cindy, who began her CRC appointment in May 2003, comes to SFU from Emory University in Atlanta Georgia where she was a member of the Graduate Institute of Liberal Arts.

Cindy completed her BA in Anthropology and Economics at Appalachian State University, her Master of Theological Studies at Harvard and her PhD in Communications at the University of Massachusetts. During the 1980s she worked as a community organizer, journalist and health activist in the area of HIV/AIDS. Her first book, Sex and Germs: The Politics of AIDS was the first sustained analysis of the emerging AIDS epidemic. Her second book, Inventing AIDS, defined a new method for cultural analysis of media health coverage. She has also explored how gender interacts with AIDS in Last Served? Gendering the HIV Pandemic, and AIDS in an international perspective, Globalizing AIDS. She has also published numerous essays on popular culture representations of race and gender. Dr. Patton has worked with community groups to develop and evaluate health education programs in the context of HIV/...continued p. 2

Rosemary Brown

Rosemary Brown died suddenly on April 26, 2003. With her death Canada lost a visionary and a leader. Born in 1930 in Jamaica, Rosemary came to Canada in 1951 to study at McGill University. She received her BA from McGill in 1955 and went on to earn a Masters of Social Work in 1962 from the University of British Columbia. In 1972 she was elected to the British Columbia legislature as the NDP candidate for Vancouver-Burrard. She was the first Black woman in Canada to be elected to a provincial legislature. She served as an NDP member of the BC legislature until 1986.

In 1987 Rosemary served as the Ruth Wynn Woodward Professor (RWWP) in the Women's Studies department. She was the second person to hold this position. As the RWWP she generously shared her political expertise with her colleagues and students by teaching a course Women, Power, and Public Policy. She also taught one of the WS core courses, ...continued p. 4
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Undergraduate News 7
Graduate News 12
Faculty News 20
Community Events 28

Women’s Studies Mission Statement

Our mission is to place women at the centre of inter-disciplinary teaching and research about power relations, and to foster knowledge to transform these relations to the benefit of women.

...continued from p. 1—Amber Dean

time at University as a constant struggle to balance studying with the part-time or even full-time jobs that we have had to hold to meet the rising costs of tuition. With government cutbacks to education resulting in a 30% increase in student fees last fall, and another 30% rise just approved for this September, I know that many of us have had to make increasingly difficult choices: add to our already-substantial debt, work close-to-full-time jobs while in school, or give up our dreams of an academic or professional career because the associated costs are just too high. I mention this to you today because if you’re anything like me, you’ve wiped your brow in relief that you are finished school today and won’t have to pay that additional 30% next fall. But I think that along with the privilege of receiving our degrees today comes a responsibility to think of those who come after us, many of whom will be adversely affected by these tuition hikes... and I wouldn’t be a woman’s studies grad if I failed to point out that women and those marginalized by race and low-income are certain to be the most adversely affected. I believe it’s important for those of us receiving our degrees today to continue to defend the rights of all others to have access to this same incredibly rewarding, enriching experience that we are here today to celebrate.

I also believe that the defense of academic freedom is an important responsibility which we, as graduates, inherit today. Many of you will agree that there has never been a more important time to take up the defense of this most essential cornerstone of good research, for we have been earning our degrees at a time when the threat to academic freedom - brought about in large part because of encroaching corporate interests in our universities - has never been so great, or so apparent. While we have been busying ourselves with our studies and our own research over the past few years, several distinguished academics and researchers have been reprimanded by their universities, condemned by our government, or even denied jobs, because their work threatened the corporate funding of their institutions, or because they were overly critical of the role of corporate investment in research intended for the public good. I raise this issue as someone who is passionate about research, academia, and all that it can contribute to social change. My time here at SFU has emphasized over and over the importance of critical thought, and of refusing to take what is said by those in authority for granted. I believe it is essential that we, the new graduates, turn our newly-honed critical gaze towards the events unfolding around us, and stand in defense of the principles of academic freedom... for how else can we ensure that our degrees will continue to have merit, and that our research will continue to be unhampered by corporate interests?

It is not surprising to me that in this time of government cutbacks, our universities are feeling the crunch and wondering how they will continue to offer the high quality education that we have all been fortunate to experience. However, to shift the financial burden to students or to corporations holds serious consequences. Instead, I think we need to focus on the absolute necessity of universal, publicly funded post-secondary education, and the question of how to achieve this is one that we, the newest generation of scholars, need to turn our minds to, in order to ensure that academic freedom remains a cornerstone of our much-esteemed universities.

All of us have had the experience of taking a class that has opened our eyes to new ways of thinking, which to my mind is the most exciting and challenging part of attending university. While completing my coursework for my MA I was fortunate to take a class from Governor General award-winning poet Dionne Brand, who was Ruth Wynn Woodward Professor in Women’s Studies from 2000-02. Dionne said many things during our time in class that challenged my thinking and made me see the world in new ways, but one of the most significant things she said was that the really hard choice that faces each of us at some point in our lives occurs when we are confronted with an opportunity to act in a way that is of no obvious social benefit to ourselves. While she didn’t lay this out to us as a challenge, I suspect that she meant it that way. So I present it to my fellow graduates today, as a challenge to all of us, now that we’ve reaped the social benefits of a post-secondary education; to now, in some corner of our lives, make that hard choice to resist or to give back so that others may benefit as well. To conclude on an optimistic note, Dionne also said that she believes the weight of history falls on the side of liberation for all people, despite temporary setbacks, and that the great strides that have been made towards that liberation have occurred in but a blink in the eyes of the universe.

Thank you, and congratulations.

...continued from p. 1—Cindy Patton

AIDS. She has developed methods for training community members, including youth, to participate in research and development of education programs. She has served as a policy consultant to the World Health Organization’s Global Programme on AIDS and as a field researcher for the US Centers for Disease Control.

For the CRC in Community, Culture and Health Cindy will work in two broad areas. Her Information and Health projects will examine how individual people and communities access and interpret medical information. Her current pilot studies are related to body and health: including a study of adventure racers’ understanding of their bodies and the risk of their sport; a study of HIV positive persons’ body image in the context of drug side effects; and a study of HIV positive long term survivors. She will also be conducting research on globalization of medicine and its effects on women’s health, particularly the areas of HIV, cancer, and medicalized menopause. In addition, she has established a Health Research and Methods Training Facility, located at Harbour Centre. This centre focuses both on mixed methods, and on methods that enable community members to participate more actively in the research process. Individual research projects conducted through the centre will create collaborative opportunities for faculty and graduate students from a number of disciplines. The centre will also encourage the development of innovative research methods that will allow researchers and marginalized...continued p. 4
Lynne Hissey
In Memorium
Meredith Kimball

Lynne Hissey died in February 2003 after a long illness. With her death Women's Studies and SFU lost one of its most dedicated and talented teachers. Lynne was born in 1954 in England and immigrated to Canada in 1967. She received her BA from SFU in English and Communications in 1982 and her MA in Communications in 1986.

Lynne published articles on journalistic objectivity, horror films, party politics in Canada, and women and music videos. She gave many public lectures on topics as wide ranging as women and music videos; feminist topics; portrayals of lesbians on TV; feminist and lesbian cultural criticism; women and television; sex, race, and class on television; gender and the media; media stereotypes of women; feminism and poststructuralism; and media literacy. She was an active citizen at SFU and in the wider community. At SFU she was the President of the Teaching Support Staff Union (TSSU) in 1983-1984, the Chair of the Senate Appeals Board from 1984-1986, and a member of the committee that developed the initial sexual harassment policy at SFU. She was also a Director of MediaWatch, a national feminist organization concerned with representation of women in the media, curator of two Pacific Cinematheque Lecture/Screening series, and a Board Member of the Laura Jameson Housing Coop.

Lynne Hissey
Joseph Tan

One of Simon Fraser University’s most dedicated and hardest working educators was suddenly and prematurely taken away from us on February 9, 2003. Lynne Hissey was just 48 years young. I was fortunate enough to have known her for 13 years and in many different capacities. Lynne meant many different things to me. Certainly, she was without question the best teacher, professor, instructor and supervisor I have ever had in my life. Just as great as our personal loss however, is the reality that generations of students will never have the opportunity to benefit from Lynne’s broad areas of knowledge and expertise, from her skills and total devotion to teaching and, most of all, from her passionate conviction in the importance of Women’s Studies as a field for theory and, more importantly, actual practice.

I was a student in many of Lynne’s courses in Communications, Canadian Studies and in Women’s Studies. The first course I took with her was Communications 110 (“Introduction to Communication Theory”). It is not much of an exaggeration to state that the study guide Lynne authored for the Distance Education version of this course is a classic text: succinct yet comprehensive, in-depth yet simple and easy to understand. The entry point for thousands of students to the world of theory, it has been in continual use, in an almost entirely unchanged form, for 15 years. Among its many other distinctions, it presents an excellent definition of “reification” in two pages and explains “semiotics” in just seven! However, my best memory of Lynne as an instructor would undoubtedly the semester I took her Women’s Studies 301 (“Women in the Media”) course. This was one of Lynne’s hallmark courses, combining her strong belief in justice and equality for women with her insightful and highly informed analysis of mass media and the “Culture Industry” to deliver a powerful and, ultimately, scathing critique of the systemic sexism and misogyny encountered by women in our media-driven world. It is one of the many irritating quirks of the academic system that Lynne could not be my senior supervisor when I did my Masters in Communication—due to her not ever having finished her doctorate (which in turn was due to Lynne’s complete devotion to her courses and to teaching). Despite this, she contributed, and aided me, more than anyone else—including my actual supervisors—in my finishing that thesis on time. This was characteristic of one of Lynne’s most endearing yet poignant traits:

her willingness to devote long, thankless hours in helping her students, friends and colleagues coupled with her almost complete unwillingness to take credit or compensation—even when these were abundantly due.

Although the teacher-student relationship was the initial defining element in our friendship, Lynne was always much more than a great teacher to me. In Lynne I saw a vibrant, dynamic feminist woman, a woman who was always and ever passionate in her philosophical convictions and who remained steadfast in her political commitments—regardless of the constantly shifting intellectual fashions and trends of the time. She was one of that increasingly rare group of women called Marxist Feminists. Lynne clearly understood the strengths—and weaknesses—of the two ‘world outlooks’. She was radical in her convictions, long before this became a term to describe the latest clothes, yet never dogmatic—even in her trenchant criticisms of so-called “postmodernism”. In describing why she persisted in being both a Marxist and a Feminist, I would have to say that ultimately, Lynne was a Marxist because she was, first and foremost, a Feminist activist who wanted to change the world and not simply comprehend it.

I believe I speak for many people who knew or met Lynne over the years when I say: “Thank you, Lynne, for all the wonderful acts of kindness you showed to all of us over the years. We will always remember you in our hearts—and in our minds.”

The Lynne Hissey
Ritawana Jiwa

I met Lynne Hissey in the late 1980s as a student in one of her Communication classes. I was struck by her intellect, humour and ability to connect the everyday with somewhat dense theory. She took abstract notions and made them real. Following this, I took five more courses with Lynne, three of which were cross-listed with Women’s Studies. Needless to say, I became somewhat of a groupie. I was captivated by the way she engaged her students as well as the respect and consideration which she consistently afforded us. She encouraged us to challenge what many accepted as commonplace, and helped us to see beyond the narrow parameters that were constructed for us by the dominant order, be it in films, television or in the news.

...continued p. 34

Lynne Hissey
Women in Canada 1920 to the Present. She and her students valued her contributions in the classroom very highly. Rosemary concluded her report of her year as the RWWP by saying: “I have re-discovered a love for teaching and have particularly been enriched by my contact with the students”. They certainly were enriched through their contact with her.

Part of the mandate of the RWWP is community outreach and Rosemary carried out this part of the mandate to the fullest. As major activities she taught a short course at the University of Victoria on Women and Human Services, gave the keynote address for MATCH International “Canadian Feminists and Women and Development”, attended the Women’s Congress of Women on Peace and Disarmament in the Soviet Union, participated in an NFB film on the Feminization of Poverty “No Way: Note Me”, spoke at the UN Conference on Homelessness, prepared two TV programs for the Knowledge network on Women and Politics, and developed a seminar for women politicians.

In addition to these activities she gave more than 40 community talks during her year with us. As one would expect, many talks were about politics including free trade, women and politics, the Meech Lake Accord, “An Uncommon Wealth of Women—Forward Looking Strategies”, “Lobbying for Change”, “Politics in British Columbia”, and “The Use of LEAF and its Role in the Charter”. Other of her talks focused on social services including “Women and Human Services”, “Women’s Empowerment”, “How to be Advocates for Senior’s Housing”, “The Delivery of Human Services”, “The Future of Canadian Social Programs”, “The Importance of Self Esteem”, and “Can We Still Afford the Family?”. As her life-long goals were to eliminate both racism and sexism in Canadian society, many of her talks focused on these forms of discrimination including: “The Legacy of the Early Women’s Movement”, “Learning from our History”, “Racism, Sexism, and Black Feminism”, and “A Historic Event for Black Canadians”. In addition to these talks she spoke at the BC Congress of Black Women’s Tribute Dinner, moderated a public discussion on South Africa sponsored by the Anti-Apartheid Network, gave the keynote address at the inauguration of the Rosemary Brown Generation Fund for the Education of Black Youth, spoke at the anniversary dinner for Jamaican independence, gave the keynote address for the Junior Black Achievement Awards, and moderated a public forum for the Parallel Commonwealth Conference on South Africa. Her involvement and interests in life were wide ranging and thus she was also involved with a CBC program “Music in Your Life”, and gave a talk to the Victoria Status of Women on “Joys of Being an Older Woman”.

Although her teaching and community activism took up most of her time, she did find the time to work on two research topics “The Use of Computers in Delivery of Human Services” and “The Implication of the Meech Lake Accord on Immigrants and Immigration Policies”.

In all her work, Rosemary was a fighter for the cause of social justice. Wherever she found discrimination or injustice, she worked to eliminate it. She served as the ombudsman for the Vancouver Status of Women, trained volunteers for the Vancouver Crisis Centre, served as chief commissioner of the Ontario Human Rights Commission, and most recently was one of the founders and, from 1989, the executive director of MATCH International.

In her final report of her activities as RWWP, Rosemary introduced her comments by saying “I approached my appointment as the Ruth Wynn Woodward Professor...in Women’s Studies with anticipation, excitement, and many plans. Although all of my goals for the year have not been realized, that has been the result of being unrealistic as to how much could be achieved in a twelve month period.” Perhaps she accomplished so much both in her year with us and in her whole life because there was so much that needed to be done that “unrealistic” expectations were necessary. What is remarkable is how much she did do and how much richer all of us are for having had her among us for 72 years.

Message from the Chair
Meredith Kimball

Welcome to the fourth issue of the SFU Women’s Studies Newsletter. We are using the newsletter as a forum for an ‘annual review’ to celebrate the many activities and accomplishments of the students, faculty, and staff in the department. The events reported in this issue of the newsletter occurred between the summer of 2002 and the summer of 2003. Articles in this newsletter cover these events and many others related to the research, teaching, administrative, and public service activities of faculty, staff, and students in the department.

This year was filled with sadness as two people associated with the Department died, Lynne Hissey, a long-time sessional instructor in Women’s Studies, died in January 2003 after a long illness. In April, Rosemary Brown who was the Ruth Wynn Woodward Professor (RWWP) in the department during 1987 died suddenly. Stories about both of these women are included in this newsletter. On a more positive note, the new Gender Studies Minor was approved at all levels of the university and the provincial government. This program officially began in September 2003. The new PhD program also was approved at all levels of the university and awaits only final approval from the provincial minister.

For me, this will be the last time that I am writing this column. After four years as chair of the department, I will be stepping down. My time as chair has been very busy and very rewarding. As always it is the people who make the job. The faculty, staff, and students in Women’s Studies have been a pleasure to work with and I have been very fortunate to have so many colleagues who have helped me get things done and have also accomplished many things on their own. The department during this time has had a successful external review, hired new faculty, and implemented two new programs—the Gender Studies Minor and the PhD. One of my favourite projects has been this newsletter and I am pleased to see the completion of the fourth newsletter.

By the time you are reading this newsletter, Dr. Marjorie Griffin Cohen will be chair of the department. You can contact her by phone (604-291-5526) or e-mail (mcoven@sfu.ca). You are also welcome to contact me by e-mail (kimball@sfu.ca). For general information about the department consult our web page (www.sfu.ca/womens-studies) or call the general office (604-291-3333).
Women’s Studies Advance

Every two or three years, the Women’s Studies staff, instructors, and student representatives meet to discuss plans for the future development of the department. Although many groups on campus call such meetings ‘retreats’ we early on dubbed them ‘advances’ for two reasons. First, these are working sessions and thus are not a space for reflection and renewal. Second, we liked the political metaphor of moving forward rather than backward.

The day-long discussion included many topics including the new Gender Studies Minor; the writing-intensive, quantitative-intensive and breadth-intensive university requirements; faculty renewal; the next three-year plan; the possibility of introducing an applied course; and how to strengthen the role of sessional instructors in the department.

By Day 4, Blue had managed to slow down, stop barking, and if the flock split, bring back the stray and re-organize her flock. When a dog begins to move the flock it is referred to as “lifting” or “taking the weight” of the sheep. The herding dog must learn to balance herself -- finding that spot where the sheep will move quietly forward without becoming so pressured that they panic, and to bring the sheep to the handler either by driving them from behind or circling in front and changing their direction. She must also be able to hold the flock and cut out individuals to be examined for injury or sickness.

Sheep are used in cut blocks (areas that have been logged and re-planted) to control the weeds which would otherwise choke out the saplings. There can be up to 9 dogs working, plus a handler and a guardian dog to keep off cougars and bears.

One exercise at camp was pretending we were dogs sent out to move the sheep by balancing ourselves, figuring out who is the leader (usually an old ewe) and what signals she gives before moving (often a flick of an ear, or movement of her head). Another exercise was herding ducks through an obstacle course – easier said than done!

Trials were held on the last day with much joking and good-natured competition. We cheered loudly for our dogs and team-mates as they completed their portion of the course.

Blue’s job was to drive some of the sheep into a pen, releasing the others into a field where another dog picked them up. As we passed the flock on to each new dog, we passed a solar lamp to the handler (surreptitiously borrowed from someone’s campsite) with no less pomp and ceremony than passing the Olympic torch! The Blue Ewes were judged the winners, due in no small part to my certain, to Blue’s stellar performance in penning. Now, if only puppies came with a bit of land and a few sheep...

WS MA student, Angela Thachuk (left) and Brian Burtech, Associate Faculty at WS Advance

This year’s advance was held on April 30 at Hart House in Burnaby Lake Park. Sixteen people attended. Shawn Hunsdale and Joanna Lemay attended as undergrad student representatives. Angela Thachuk and Baharak Yousefi attended as graduate student representatives. Sessional instructors Marusya Bociurkiw, Angela Cameron, and Larissa Petrillo attended. Associate faculty included Brian Burtech and Arlene McLaren. Faculty included Meredith Kinball, Helen Leung, Jacqueline Levitin, Cindy Patton, and Mary Lynn Stewart. Billie Korstrom and Honoree Newcombe attended as staff.

Knee Deep in Sheep

Billie Korstrom

I discovered it while surfing the web: “4 days of sheepdog training, trials on the last day, all meals provided, camping available in the field.”

When I pulled up in my ancient Tercel stuffed with a leaky tent I saw that the field was full of enormous RV’s - the only tents in sight were to provide shade for the dogs, a variety of breeds with impressive pedigrees. Most folks had 3 or 4 dogs at different levels of training and had competed extensively in obedience and herding trials. Blue, my mongrel puppy, had just completed 6 weeks of basic obedience classes.

When she saw the sheep, she was hysterical; couldn’t quite believe that she was allowed to chase them. She hesitated - then charged after them with wild abandon, barking furiously, scattering them in all directions.

A beginner dog is given “dog-broke sheep” who know exactly what to do. They are referred to as either “light”, sheep who are flighty or “heavy” (also known as velcro sheep), who will stay with the handler. The dogs instinctively chase the sheep, seeing them as prey, and must be trained to bring them to the “pack leader” or handler.

WS sessional instructor, Marusya Bociurkiw (left) and WS faculty, Mary Lynn Stewart at the WS Advance

Photo Credit Brian Burtech

Blue taking part in a sheep herding lesson
Congratulations to...

Jody Furneaux who received the Hadassah-WIZO scholarship.

Rachel Hurst who received the MATCH International Bursary in honour of Rosemary Brown.

Marie Lane who received an SFU Graduate Fellowship.

Joanna Lemay who received the Evelyn Lett Scholarship.

Jamie McGough who received the Boag Foundation Graduate Award in Women's Studies for her essay States of Identity: Globalization, Power Relations, and the Shifting Meanings of Citizenship.

Natasha Patterson who received an SFU Graduate Fellowship.

Melanie Kay Ratard who received the MATCH International Bursary in honour of Rosemary Brown.

Brian Richter who received an SFU Graduate Fellowship and the Grace Machinus Graduate Fellowship.

Angela Thachuk who received a SSHRC MA Fellowship and an SFU Graduate Fellowship.

Baharar Yousefi who received the Anne Peters Pinto Graduate Scholarship.

Anna Ziolecki who received the Maggie Benston Memorial Graduate Bursary and the National Council of Jewish Women Graduate Scholarship.

Peruvian Marinated Shrimp
Marjorie Griffin Cohen

2 lbs raw shrimp
4 scallions, thinly sliced
1/2 cup lemon juice
4 small fresh hot chilies, seeded and finely minced
1/4 cup chili-pepper oil or olive oil
2 T. fresh parsley
1/2 t. freshly ground pepper
1/2 t. salt

Boil whole shrimp for 2 min. Let cool, peel. Combine all ingredients and marinate for 1 hour in the refrigerator. Stir several times. Serve them on bamboo skewers—two to a skewer—and pile them all on a platter. It looks fabulous. This can serve a crowd as an appetizer.

Marjorie says of this recipe: “This looks great and brings rave reviews. I like it because it is different and easy to serve on a platter to a crowd. I halve the recipe for a smallish dinner party. This is from Cynthia Wine’s cookbook—she’s my friend Naomi Horodesky’s sister.”

Library Report
Jacqueline Levitin

Women’s Studies has a very helpful new liaison librarian, Moninder Bubber. She succeeds the excellent Carole Goldsmith whose new duties include overseeing the media collection which is moving from LIDC to the library. The collection should be in place in the library by the Fall and the library promises easier access in its new location. Videos and other media will be found via the search mechanism currently used to search for books. The collection is to be housed in the Fine Arts Room now renamed the “Media Collection”.

A number of new online journals relevant to Women’s Studies have been added to the library’s resources. Check out the Library Research guide for Women’s Studies at http://www.lib.sfu.ca/researchhelp/subjectguides/women.htm (It can also be accessed via the library home page under the link to “Research and Writing Guides”) Included is a new online encyclopedia titled Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Encyclopedia available directly at http://www.glbtq.com/ Also check out the useful collection of 100+ Oxford subject dictionaries available from the Library’s alphabetical list of indexes and databases: http://www.lib.sfu.ca/researchtools/databases/dbofdb.html?DatabaseID=488 We also have access to the Oxford English Dictionary online. You can connect to the OED from — http://www.lib.sfu.ca/researchtools/databases/dbofdb.html?DatabaseID=485. To access any of the above, if asked for user id, use your SFU computing account, or your last name (as your id) + your library barcode number (as your password).

How To Find Us

Interested in more information about Women’s Studies at Simon Fraser University? You can visit us on the web at http://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. Our FAX number is 604-291-5518 and you can reach us by phone at 604-291-3333. You can write to us the old fashioned way at Women’s Studies Department, Simon Fraser University, 8888 University Drive, Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6. 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.

Women’s Studies Staff
Running the Department

The staff in Women’s Studies are the people who both keep the department running efficiently and are two of the people you are most likely to talk to or meet if you call or come to the department. Billie Korstrom, the Departmental Assistant, manages the budgets for the department and the Ruth Wynn Woodward endowedship, advises Women’s Studies majors, joint-majors, and minors about their program requirements, works with the Undergraduate Chair on curriculum design and revisions, and provides organizational support for all of our community events. Christine Goodman, the Receptionist/Department Secretary/Chair’s Secretary and Graduate Secretary, handles inquiries about the department, keeps departmental files, designs posters for public events, processes book orders, outlines, and library reserves for all undergraduate and graduate courses, and works with the Graduate Chair and graduate students to insure their successful progress through the MA program.
Minor in Gender Studies

A gender studies minor program may be taken with any major degree. The program is designed to offer students opportunities to integrate their understanding of gender relations in society and culture. Students must complete twenty-four credit hours comprised of nine credits of lower-division courses and fifteen credits of upper-division courses. With one lower-division core course, GDST 200, required of all minors. For the remainder credits toward the minor, students can apply credits from regularly offered courses listed below or from a list of designated courses available from the Departmental Advisor in Women's Studies. It is the student's responsibility to ensure completion of prerequisite and other departmental requirements before choosing elective courses. Students planning to take a minor in Gender Studies should consult with the student advisor in Women's Studies about course selection at their earliest opportunity.

Lower Division Requirements:

- GDST 200-3, Thinking about Gender
- Plus two of the following:
  - CRIM 213-3, Introduction to Women and Criminal Justice
  - CRIM 233-3, Introduction to the Judicial Process
  - SA 106-4, Perspectives on Canadian Society
  - SA 286-4, Aboriginal Peoples and British Columbia: Introduction

Upper Division Requirements:

Students must complete fifteen credits of upper-division courses selected from the following list and a list of designated courses available from the Departmental Advisor in Women's Studies.

If in doubt as to your eligibility to register in a particular upper-division course, you are advised to contact the undergraduate advisor in the appropriate department well in advance of any attempt to register.

- CMNS 455-4, Women and New Information Technologies
- CRIM 311-3, Minorities and the Criminal Justice System
- CRIM 333-3, Women, Law and the State
- CRIM 432-3, Gender in the Courts and the Legal System
- FPA 313-3, Arts, Audience, Patronage, Institution:
- GEOG 387-4, Geography and Gender
- HIST 411-4, Class and Gender in European History
- HIST 425-4, Gender and History
- HIST 454-4, Gender and Sexuality in U.S. History
- LAS 323-3, Women in Latin American Literature and Society
- SA 318-4, The Anthropology of Medicine
- SA 331-4, Politics and the Family
- SA 335-4, Gender Relations and Social Issues
- SA 435-4, Gender, Colonialism and Post-Colonialism
- SA 486-4, Aboriginal People and British Columbia
- WS 300-4, Gender and Development
- WS 314-4, Race, Class and Gender Relations
In March the WSSU got a little creative. To spruce up the WSSU common room a fabulous group of feminists got together to decorate a silk banner. The banner was made of silk squares and each person was able to choose a few squares decorate it in their choice of patterns and slogans. Time and energy was put into this great social for WSSU members. Thanks go to Jen Brad for sewing it all together and volunteering space in her house for us to decorate and to those that contributed an evening to this project. Check it out in the Women’s Studies common room in AQ 5090.

The Diaper Campaign was a major focus of the spring semester. Changes to BC’s daycare regulations affected families across the province, including students at SFU. The WSSU, headed by Stephanie Chatterton, WSSU secretary, and Jewelles Smith joined the protest started by the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC. The changes to the child care system are aiding in the devolution of caregivers and moving child care out of regulated centres into homes, in turn having caregivers paid less for the same work.

Signatures were collected during the spring semester in classes and during the bake sale for the YWCA turning in over 100 signed letters. These letters were later sent to BC Premier Gordon Campbell, Minister of Finance Gary Collins and Minister of State for Women’s Equality Lynn Stephens. Let’s hope they read these letters and realize that this issue needs to be addressed.

On the topic of childcare, Tiffany Kalanj petitioned the SFSS for an increase in coverage for members when they are attending meetings and events. Originally members were only given $5 per day but it has now increased to $3 per hour. Kate Whitehorn, who sat on the SFSS’s senate for the WSSU, and Brynn Bourke also helped to implement these changes.

This past summer there was also an active push to keep the WSSU working through the summer by Billie Attig and Shawn Hunsdale. This is a fairly difficult task given the small number of students attending in the summer. Kudos to them!

The Women’s Studies Student Union at SFU is continuously growing with more people joining the major, joint major and minor programs. The WSSU is always looking for more people with fresh new ideas to pitch in and have a say in their student union. Meetings are generally held once every two weeks and you can volunteer a little or a lot. If you can’t make it to the meetings you are still welcome to be on the e-mail list so you know what’s going on. Feel free to e-mail wssu-info@sfu.ca for more information on how to join and meet some amazing people. Anyone who is currently enrolled in a Women’s Studies class at SFU or is a declared Major, Joint Major, or Minor in Women’s Studies is welcome to join and be active. So come out and have a say in your student union!

For International Women’s Day in March the WSSU organized a bake sale and garage sale with the money raised going to the Vancouver YWCA’s support group for single mothers. With the help of students baking delicious treats and donating used goods for the garage sale, it was a huge success. In that one day the WSSU was able to raise $242.75 and with a little bit from the WSSU budget they were able to donate $300. It was an amazing success for a great cause.

December remembrance display created by the WSSU and the Women’s Centre

The Pathways Through Violence display proved to be very educational, not only about various types of abuse suffered by women, but also institutional abuse currently being inflicted upon the women of British Columbia by the BC Liberals. At each station along the pathway there was a specific focus on how the cuts by the provincial government are affecting women in, or leaving abusive relationships. Included in these cuts is the funding to all of BC’s provincially funded Women’s Centres as of 2004.

ắt Arts Co-op Update

Pauliete Johnston

What do a transition house, a maritime museum, a financial institution and The Fringe Festival have in common? They all employed students from the Faculty of Arts Co-op program for the summer 2003 semester.

Two Women’s Studies majors completed Co-op work terms this summer, along with psychology, sociology, contemporary arts and other Arts majors. Positions posted by employers from the lower mainland, across Canada and internationally are open to all Co-op students, with only a few specifying a preferred kind of undergraduate or graduate degree program.

Women’s Studies majors bring a wealth of skills to the workplace: strong writing, research, analysis, project management,
critical thinking, and organizational skills, to name a few. In addition, employers in both the not-for-profit and profit sectors value your passion, commitment and knowledge of issues. The positions we post for students in the Arts Co-op program are designed to appeal to a wide range of student interests.

In Co-op, you apply to posted positions. In representing 19 different majors, some of the positions we post will be of more interest to you than others. The purpose of the Co-op program is to provide you with opportunities to explore one or more career fields and to experience for yourself the ways in which your degree studies and interests can be applied. By alternating Co-op work terms with academic semesters, you graduate with work experience and information on where you want your career to take you.

If you are a new SFU student, you can apply to Co-op right away and complete the Bridging On Line Co-op preparation course – see www.sfu.ca/coops/bol

Also, coming this Fall is the implementation of the first phase of our new and improved online management system, which is going to make applying for positions even easier. Watch throughout the year for Arts Co-op information sessions. And, if you are an alumnus who would like to hire a Women’s Studies Co-op student, please contact me.

Paulette Johnston, Program Manager
Faculty of Arts Co-op Program
604.291-3041 pjjohnsto@sfu.ca

Congratulations to Women's Studies Graduates

The following students convocated in October 2002 and June 2003 with degrees in Women’s Studies.

Women’s Studies Major
Stacy Clumpus, Sarah Harrison, Aising Joe, Mandy Kilsby, Anika Stafford, Debra Walsh, and Kate Whitehorn

Jody Furneaux Receives Hadassah-WIZO Scholarship

Jody Furneaux, a Women’s Studies major, won the Hadassah-WIZO Scholarship in Women’s Studies in the fall of 2002. This scholarship was established at SFU in 2000 by Hadassah-WIZO Vancouver. Hadassah-WIZO was founded in 1917 and is dedicated to the support of health, social welfare and educational programs in Israel and Canada. The Women for Women mandate of Hadassah-WIZO provides many services for women including legal advice, shelters, telephone hotlines, shelters, half-way houses, self-help groups, and other services for women. This scholarship reflects the organization’s commitment to women and women’s issues and honours a member or friend of Hadassah-WIZO who has shown dedication to achieving the group’s aims.

Women's Studies Sessional Instructors

Sessional instructors form an important part of the Women’s Studies’ teaching program. Over the years many people have taught in the department, either bringing an expertise to the Women’s Studies classroom that is not represented among the regular WS faculty, or teaching a regular course when faculty are on leave. Although sessional instructors provide a critical component of the undergraduate teaching in WS, they do not have job security since they are hired to teach only one course at a time. In order to increase the visibility of sessional instructors in the department, brief biographies of some of the current sessionals in the department, a list of publications by sessional instructors, and a list of the courses taught by sessionals during the past year have been included in this newsletter (see below).

The department advertises regularly throughout the year for sessional instructors. The minimal qualification is usually an MA
degree and some teaching experience. If you would like to receive our job advertisements, contact the Departmental Assistant, Billie Korstrom (291-3593 or korstrom@sfu.ca).

**Brief Biographies of Women's Studies Sessional Instructors**

Below are brief biographies of Women's Studies Sessional Instructors who have taught recently or are now teaching in the department.

**Marusya Bociurkiw**
Marusya Bociurkiw is a Ph. D. Candidate in the Interdisciplinary Program at the University of British Columbia, where she holds a SSHRC Fellowship. She received her BFA from the Nova Scotia College of Art & Design, and her MA from York University's Department of Social and Political Thought.

Her dissertation topic focuses on affective practices of nation and nationalism, as represented on Canadian television. She has recently published an essay in *Reconstruction: An Interdisciplinary Cultural Studies Journal*, and in *Between Ethics and Aesthetics: Crossing the Boundaries* (Glowacka, ed.), SUNY Press. She is also the author of two books, including the poetry collection *Halfway to the East* (Lazara Press) She has been producing films and videos in Canada for the past fifteen years, and her work has screened at film festivals worldwide. She is a founding member of several arts organizations, has written for many arts and culture publications including *Pine, Parachute* and *Fireweed*, and is a long-time activist in feminist, arts and anti-war movements.

**Benita Bunjun**

Benita's role and responsibility as an educator derives from her feminist pedagogy, academic research, and community relations. In particular as the instructor for the Women and Work course at SFU; her pedagogy reflects the racialization and gendering of work within a colonial and globalization context. Her involvement in marginal communities (academic and non-academic) has and continues to focus on the social constructions and relations of the gendered, dispossessed and racialized bodies of women. She currently also teaches *Introduction to Gender Relations* at the University of British Columbia. The course examines the social construction of race, class, sexuality, ability, and gender relations, while focusing on how positions of oppression and privilege are created, enforced, and intersected. Benita Bunjun is the Women and Welfare Project Coordinator at Vancouver Status of Women (www.wsw.ca). The Project brings forth an in-depth analysis of the BC welfare system within the current colonial, poverty, and globalization context. Benita is the Regional Representative of the BC Coalition of Women's Centres (www.wcwomen.cjb.net) for the Lower Mainland Region.

**Angela Cameron**
Angela Cameron is the Senior Researcher and Coordinator of the Poverty and Human Rights Project. She is also an Adjunct Professor at the University of British Columbia Faculty of Law, and teaches occasionally at Simon Fraser University in the Criminology and Women's Studies faculties. Her areas of interest are human rights law, and criminal law, with a focus on feminist analysis. She has just completed her LLM at the University of British Columbia Faculty of Law where she wrote a feminist analysis of restorative justice in cases of intimate violence.

**Miriam Euchi**

A native of Toronto, Miriam received her BA from the University of Toronto with a major in East Asian Studies, specializing in Japan. After graduation she went off to work in the Canadian Pavilion at Expo 70 in Osaka, and ended up staying in Japan for 31 years. There she was active in a number of women's groups and movements with both Japanese and non-Japanese women, concerned with a wide range of issues including reproductive health, sexist education, environmental concerns, and women's spirituality. While raising her three daughters, she taught English, worked as a translator and journalist, went through graduate school specializing in Religion and Philosophy (Kyoto University), and taught humanities-related courses at a Japanese university. She also spent a total of about two years in a small town in North Cameroon studying the life style and culture of the Fulani women in that area. Since the late 1980s her academic research has focused especially on women's spirituality, feminist theology, women in the world religions, and New Age spirituality. Miriam has published papers on religion and religious philosophy from a feminist standpoint in several Japanese academic publications, as well as ethnological monographs on the Fulani women in English and Japanese. She relocated to North Vancouver in 2001.

**Rachelle Hole**

I was born and raised in Vancouver, British Columbia. My first degree was a BA in psychology from the University of Manitoba. I then spent time in Ontario and worked as a residential counselor at E.C. Drury School for the deaf. Since these early experiences working with deaf children and deaf colleagues, I have continued to work in various capacities in the deaf community. I completed my B.S.W. and M.S.W. at the University of British Columbia. Currently I am a PhD candidate in the Individual Interdisciplinary Studies Graduate Program and I plan to defend my dissertation in January 2004. My dissertation is exploring how three deaf women perceive the influence of hearing loss when constructing their identities. My research and teaching interests are disability studies and Canadian social policy. I have been teaching as a Sessional instructor for the SFU Women's Studies Department since Fall 2001.

**Larissa Petrollo**

Larissa has a PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of British Columbia. Her dissertation, "Contemporary Lakota Identity: Melda and Lupe Trejo on 'Being Indian'" contextualizes the life stories of a Lakota/Mexican couple from the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. She has worked in Women's Studies, First Nations Studies, Anthropology, English and Canadian Studies. At SFU, she has taught 'Race, Class, Gender,' 'First Nations Women,' and is currently teaching 'History of Women 1920-present.' Her central academic interests are in social and cultural change, cross-cultural communication, research ethics, oral history methodology, gender studies and indigenous knowledge.

**Laura Wood**

Laura is a former family and criminal lawyer who has taught as a Sessional Instructor in the Women's Studies Department since 1986. She has had a wide range of occupations from Continuing Education programmer to Financial Assistance Worker. She currently works for the Elizabeth Fry Society in several of their Lower Mainland programs and for her local Community Response Network doing public education on issues of adult guardianship and adult abuse and neglect. Laura lives with her partner and children in Maple Ridge where she has participated in a large number of community organizations of various types. She has a special interest in midwifery and pre-natal education and is currently treasurer of the Ridge Meadows Women's Centre Society.
Courses Taught by Women's Studies Sessional Instructors

The following courses were taught by sessional instructors between the fall of 2002 and the summer of 2003:

**Marusya Bociurkiw**, WS 301 Women and the Media

**Miriam Eguchi**, WS 200 Women in Cross Cultural Perspective

**Rosemary Gagan**, WS 201 Women in Canada 1600-1920

**Lynne Hissey**, WS 305, Women and Utopias; and WS 203 Female Roles in Contemporary Society


**Larissa Petrillo**, WS 314 Race Class and Gender Relations, WS 320 Special Topic: Native Women

**Myra Rutherford**, WS 304 Women and Religion, WS 307 Women in British Columbia

**Angela Cameron**, WS 303 Special Topic: Women and the Law

**Debra Pentecost**, WS 203 Female Roles in Contemporary Society, WS 205 Women and Popular Culture, WS 305 Women and Utopias

Conference Papers, Academic Presentations and Film Screenings


Bociurkiw, Marusya "Unspoken Territory". One World Film Festival, Ottawa Ontario, October 2002

Bociurkiw, Marusya "Eternal Network" (Group Show). The Western Front Gallery, February 2003


Sessional Publications and Talks

Publications


Looking especially at the experiences of Northern Nurses and the desire of Aboriginal women to continue to practice traditional medicine, especially with respect to birthing. During this past year she has also published a book, Women and the White Man’s God: Gender and Race in the Canadian Mission Field (UBC Press, 2002). Congratulations, Myra! Although she’s very excited about the new directions her life is taking, she will very much miss being part of the department and that she has very much enjoyed interacting with Women's Studies students.

Myra received her PhD in History from York University. She has taught at SFU in Women's Studies both as a Limited Term Lecturer and as a Sessional Instructor. She has taught a wide range of courses including Women and Religion, Women’s Roles in Contemporary Society, Issues in Women’s Health and Health Care, Women, Science and Technology, Women in Canada, 1600-1920, Women in Canada 1920 to the Present, and Women in British Columbia. Students found Myra’s courses very valuable and she consistently receive high student evaluations. Students consistently rate the work in Myra’s courses as heavy and demanding. They also found her to be enthusiastic about the material she taught, responsive to suggestions and complaints, available for extra help, encouraging of questions during class, willing to listen, and very fair in the way she marked. She often included guest speakers and/or field trips into her courses which were very much appreciated by her students.

Bociurkiw, Marusya Talk on ‘Culture Jamming’, Part of Doc ‘n Talk Film Series, UBC, April 2003.

Bociurkiw, Marusya Poetry reading, Honouring Press Gang Authors, the Western Front, May 2003.

Myra Rutherford Moves to Saskatchewan

Myra Rutherford, a frequent sessional instructor in Women's Studies at SFU, has received a Canadian Research Chair Post Doctoral Fellowship at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. Her project will look at Native/Newcomber relations in Northern Canada after World War II with a particular focus on Health Care. She will be

Myra Rutherford
Women's Studies Student Computer Lab

If you are a Women's Studies student, check out our computer lab in AQ 5101. There are several computers, internet connections and a printer (bring your own paper). The lab is open Monday to Friday from 8:30 to 4:00. There is also study space in the room and it is just across from the Women's Studies Student Union (WSSU) Common Room.

Teaching Assistants

Teaching Assistants and Tutor Markers are an important component of the Women's Studies instructional staff. Both of our first-year courses, Introduction to Women's Issues in Canada and Introduction to Western Feminisms, have tutorials taught by Teaching Assistants. In addition both of these courses are offered by correspondence and Tutor Markers in these courses are the main contact students have with SFU. During the past year, Jillian Deri, Rachel Hurst, Natasha Patterson, Angela Thachuk, Baharak Youssefi, and Anna Ziolecki have worked as either Teaching Assistants or Tutor Markers. Barbara Blakey who wrote the correspondence version of Introduction to Women's Issues in Canada served as the Supervisor for this course, and Mary Lynn Stewart who wrote the correspondence version of Introduction to Western Feminisms was the Supervisor when this course was offered.

Vagina Monologues Tradition Continues in 2003

In 2001 and 2002, two WS graduate students, Taryn McCormick and Amy Skinner, produced and directed Eve Ensler's Vagina Monologues. Both of them have since graduated, but the Vagina Monologues are firmly established on campus. This year an all-student cast presented three performances on February 12, 13, and 14, 2003. As in previous years the performances were held to large or sell out crowds in Images Theatre and the money raised was donated to the Helping Spirit Lodge in Vancouver, the Shamai House in White Rock, and the International V-Day Campaign.

The SFU Women's Centre organized the event and other SFU sponsors included The Peak, the Simon Fraser Student Union, the Women's Studies Student Union, and the Women's Studies Department.

Nicole Bailey, Sofie Gassieva, Rebekah Grayston, Angela Mur, and Anmika Simpson were the organizers and producers of the 2003 V-Day shows at SFU. Diandra Oliver was the stage manager. Julie Kivinen was the fundraising coordinator and she was assisted by Jolene Love- day and Tiffiny Wong. Make-up and hair was done by Blanche MacDonald. Lighting technicians were Laura Moore and Allie Colclough. Melanie Ratard produced the program.

There were 30 performers. They included Jennifer Baese, Nicole Bailey, Melissa Bandura, Erin Borgfjord, Sveva Brow, Anna Busch, Katie Carlson, Monique Chatterton, Rhianne Coppen, Sophie Gassieva, Alana Gerecke, Rebekah Grayston, Melanie Kuxdorf, Christie Jorg, Karna Lacoff, Jen LaPlaca, Elaize Lee, Wincey Li, Corrine Longworth, Stephanie Mc Kinno, Laura Moody, Angela Muir, Marsha Nathan, Jane Osborne, Julie Poitras, Kate Robinson, Gina Sandner, Hannah Shoub, Anmika Simpson, and Krista Wojciczkowski.

The V-Day (V stands for Victory, Valentine, and Vagina) movement is a world wide campaign to end violence against women and to proclaim Valentine's Day as the day to celebrate women and demand the end of abuse. This was the fifth year of the V-Day campaign and it has grown rapidly. In 2002 more than 800 V-Day performances were presented around the world. These events raised over $7 million for local, national, and international organizations that are working to end violence against women.

Graduate News

Sue Wendell, Graduate Chair

Five new M.A. students arrived in September, 2002: Kelly Aujla, Natasha Patterson, Angela Thachuk, Ingrid Vander Kloet, and Anna Ziolecki; they have all completed their first year of graduate study. In this year's admission process, we offered admission to 20 new students for September, 2003 of whom 11 are coming.

In the Fall semester, 2002, Amber Dean and Taryn McCormick defended their MA theses successfully, and both graduated in June, 2004. Amber gave the convocation address. Emily Edwards and Amanda Oster passed their MA Field Exams in the Spring semester, 2003, completing their requirements for the Course Intensive WSMA degree and graduating in June 2003. Jillian Deri passed her Field Exams in the Summer semester, 2003, and will graduate in October 2003. The field exam areas of each of these students are found in this Newsletter.

In a very active Summer semester, the following students defended their MA theses successfully: Rizwana Jiwa, Jamie McGough, Rachel Hurst, Ritz Chow, Baharak Youssefi, Noel Patten and Megan Bulloch. Rizwana, Jamie, Rachel, Ritz and Baharak will graduate in October 2003. Noel and Megan will graduate in June 2004. The thesis abstracts of each of the graduating students are found in this Newsletter.

As Graduate Chair, in September, 2002, I responded to the reports of the five external reviewers of our full program proposal for the new PhD in Women's Studies to the Assessment Committee for New Graduate Programs, which approved our proposal. On February 5, 2003, the Senate Committee on University Priorities approved it. On the evening of March 3, Meredith Kimball, Rachel Hurst, Baharak Youssefi and I attended the SFU Senate meeting, where our PhD proposal was considered and approved. On March 20, 2003, the Academic Operations Committee of the Board of Governors approved it, and on June 12, the provincial Degree Program Review Committee approved it and recommended it to the Minister for approval. The proposal awaits the signature of the Minister.
concluded that individuals well versed in an environmental issue respond to this issue using personal experiences and awareness in contrast to the women's rights issues, where their responses are based on stereotypes or cultural norms rather than personal experiences. The relationship of this finding to the precautionary principle and role of paradigms in this process is discussed.

The Personal is Political Is Ethical: Experiential Revaluation & Embodied Witnessing in Illness Narratives
Ritz Chow

Feminist praxis prioritizes and values marginalized experiences—with particular emphasis on those mediated by gender—as a strategy to counter culturally dominant stories, theories and practices that support oppressive social forces and as a means through which marginalized folks, especially women, can affirm their identities. The struggles over identity politics have served to broaden the range of marginalized experiences to include those of people oppressed by gender, race, class, sexuality, and more recently, disability and illness. Experiential narratives of illness introduce unique elements to the feminist project, because, unlike other categories of oppression (with the exception of disability), illness can’t be easily imbibed with experiential value, since its manifestations may cause discomfort, pain and suffering. By revaluing illness experiences, these narratives challenge social and cultural contexts—including other narratives—that devalue bodies and physical vulnerability. This devaluation of bodies extends to theories that describe female, coloured, poor and queer folks as more determined by bodily processes and as physiologically and anatomically abnormal in comparison to higher-class white, heterosexual, non-disabled and non-ill men.

With my narrative of my mother’s experiences of breast cancer as a working-class, Asian immigrant woman with limited facility in the English language, I examine what illness experiences reveal about the conditions necessary for effective embodied testimony. Accepting the responsibility for receiving and continuing the work of my mother’s testimony, I must, as a daughter and pharmacist, acknowledge my own bodily vulnerabilities. Only by being ethical listeners can we become effective witnesses for stories by ill narrators.

A Melancholic Musing: Women’s Narratives on Depression
Amber Dean

The number of women diagnosed with clinical depression has soared over the past few decades. Very little is known, however, about what depression means to those women who experience it, as relatively few first-person narratives relating the lived experience of depression are available. This research explored four oral history narratives and five published narratives by women who have firsthand experience of depression, in an attempt to shed insight into the meaning(s) of depression in the lives of contemporary women. The narrators of the four oral histories are diverse in terms of age, race, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and level of education. The five published narratives examined at Persimmon Blackbridge’s (1997) novel Prozac Highway, Evelyn Lau’s (2001) memoir Inside/Out: Reflections on a life so far; Lauren Slater’s (1998) autobiography Prozac Diary, Elizabeth Wurtzel’s (1995) memoir Prozac Nation: Young & Depressed in America, and Meri Nana-Ama Danquah’s (1998) memoir Willow Weep for Me: A Black Woman’s Journey Through Depression.

Topics discussed included the impact of discourses of biomedicine and femininity on women’s depression experiences, as well as the relationship between postmodernism and depression. Connections between depression and women’s creativity were also explored. Women’s experiences with Prozac and other anti-depressants, as well as their experiences with traditional and alternative ‘treatments’ for depression, were used as a starting point for discussion about the strengths and limitations for feminisms of the various resolutions to depression that exist today. Finally, the research concluded with discussion of the merits of the recent material-discursive models posed for understanding depression in women differently.
Engaging Invisibility: Theorizing Femme Identities
Rachel Hurst

Femme identities challenge hegemonic notions of femininity as weak and insignificant, and provide a site for a re-theorization of femininities. Femmes are frequently invisible within and outside of queer communities, and this invisibility results in the isolation, erasure from the queer movement, and trivialization of femmes. Placing femmes at the centre of academic inquiry on gender identity, and using focus groups to provide qualitative data, this thesis examines how femme identities are situated in relation to queer theories, feminist theories on the body, queer histories, and subculture theories.

The central research question is: (How) do femmes theorize and construct their identities as femmes, and how do they signify their identities to others? From this central question, this thesis explores how and if femmes situate their identities within a historical context if femme subculture theories are effective to explain femme invisibility, and how femme identities are situated theoretically and historically.

A total of nineteen participants participated in four focus groups conducted in Toronto, Ontario and Vancouver, British Columbia. The participants discussed questions concerning coming out as femme, femme role models, signifying femme, and femme definitions. Previous research on femme identities, feminist subculture theories, queer theories, feminist theories on the body, queer histories complement the focus group research, and are employed to evaluate the research questions.

This thesis argues that femmes manipulate feminine gender expression in radical and revolutionary ways, a statement that is supported by existing literature on femme identities and by focus group participants’ contributions. The focus group research indicates that only some participants situate their identities historically, and the potential consequences of this are examined in the analysis and conclusions. Feminist subculture theories’ consideration of women’s invisibility within subcultures can partially explain the invisibility of femmes within queer communities, and feminist subculture theories’ discussion of the reappropriation of femininities by women in subcultures is very similar to femmes’ accounts of their gender identities. Assessing femme identities independently of butch identities addresses the historical and theoretical neglect that femme identities have suffered, and affirms that femmes are an important historical and theoretical piece of our understanding of queer identities.

Voices from the Diaspora:
Identity Formation of Ismaili Girls and Women in Canada
Rirwana Jiwa

This thesis examines the identity formation of diasporic Ismaili women who were born in East Africa (i.e., Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania) and grew up or have spent a formative portion of their lives in Canada. Analyses of the in-depth interview responses from all eight participants indicate that they engage with identity formation through myriad filters including culture, race, gender, sexuality, and class and are influenced by social and familial relations as well as popular culture. As such, their identity formation experiences are informed by fluid processes, which incorporate multiple filters and diverse encounters.

Employing a third world feminist methodology, I include myself as a ninth participant and offer my own insights and perspectives as a member of this cohort. Guided by reflexivity and collaboration, this methodology is informed by postcolonial and feminist theories and promotes a multi-praxis approach to learning about women’s lives. The flexibility of this approach allows for broad range of experiences and influence in our lives and is able to accommodate our range of needs throughout the collaborative process.

My findings show that Ismaili women’s identities exist within a hybrid or third-time space, where geography and history are influential, but not determinants of our identities. The fluidity of the third-time space enables us to shift our identities to accommodate social changes. In this realm of hybridity, we are able to enact personal agency to articulate our identities as well as offer new insights on critical social issues.

Traffic Jam: Conflicts and Cooperation between Feminist Perceptions of Global Trafficking in Women
Taryn McCormick

Traffic Jam: Conflicts and Cooperation between Feminist Perceptions of Global Trafficking in Women is a discussion of the various feminist perspectives on the issue of global trafficking in women. This thesis identifies and explores the three primary perspectives that have been used by feminists to both analyze and address global trafficking in women. First, the anti-prostitution perspective includes its opposition to trafficking in women under its broad condemnation of prostitution in general. Second, the anti-trafficking perspective opposes those practices which constitute human rights or labour rights violations. This perspective supports the right of women to choose to engage in sex work. Instead of condemning the sex industry as a whole, it only attacks those aspects of it that it views as exploitative. Finally, the contextual perspective posits that individual women’s experiences of the sex industry are far too divergent to be encompassed within a single theory or model for action. While this perspective concurs with the anti-trafficking principle that violations of human rights must be stopped, it simultaneously suggests that individuals must have the final say in the way that these issues are discussed and addressed. This thesis concludes with a discussion of how feminists can more effectively utilize these divergent perspectives.

From ‘Girl Power’ to ‘No Sweat’:
A Feminist Analysis of Market-Citizenship
Jamie McGough

Market-citizenship is the result of a reconstitution in the meanings and experiences of liberal-democratic citizenship. The processes of globalization together with the ascent of neo-liberalism are driving an overall shift in power from state to market that challenges the viability of feminists’ relationships with the state. Therefore, the roles of states and citizens become more ambiguous as political spaces diminish and citizen equality problematically becomes equated with concepts of market freedom and individualized consumer choice. Consequently, the marketization of citizenship challenges feminists as citizens to locate power, and as consumers to articulate a new political project to extend their own agency and collective power in the face of an expanding market sphere.

To this end, global consumer activism emerges as one potential path where feminists actively politicize consumer-citizen roles in order to navigate and challenge the decrease in collective citizen power. Women have long
utilized consumer-based activism to collectively challenge their historical marginalization from the formal political process by resisting the separation of citizen and consumer roles, and global consumer activism applies this technique within a neoliberal context. Nonetheless, although consumer-based activism can be an attractive political tool for many reasons, its ability to combat market-citizenship is faced with a number of limitations that put into question its participatory and long-term potential as a feminist political tactic.

Border Crossings: The Transnational Activism of Women in an Era of Globalization
Noel Patten

The importance of women’s transnational activism across difference, or activism beyond national borders, has become increasingly relevant as the gendered impact of globalizations intensifies. By focusing on the way in which globalization affects women’s lives, this thesis illuminates the contradictory and complex nature of global processes. An investigation of social movement theory and the ‘global women’s movement’ serves to provide the framework for the conditions under which the organizations in this study engage in activism.

Employing institutional ethnography, this study highlights the transnational activism of the Maquila Solidarity Network (Toronto, Ontario) and the Philippine Women Centre (Vancouver, British Columbia) within the context of globalization and the processes of social, political and economic restructuring occurring throughout the world.

The four women interviewed in this thesis shed light on the dynamics of organizing transnationally and illustrate how the activities of the Maquila Solidarity Network and Philippine Women Centre engage to resist, challenge and shape processes of globalization.

My findings demonstrate that through transnational exchanges and by building alliances, women are questioning the authority and inevitability of globalization. By enacting individual and collective agency at the local, national and global levels, diverse women are mobilizing and acting to address processes of globalization in an effort for positive change.

Dissecting the Ethical Scientist: Baha’i and Feminist Perspectives
Baharak Yousefi

In relation to their work, scientists have two types of responsibilities. The first—the responsibility to do good science—reflects the quality of the work being done. The second—the responsibility to do moral science—queries the ethics of formulating socially pernicious hypotheses, research designs, and scientific products. It is argued that the responsibility to do moral work is not scientific specific. It is, nevertheless, of value to explore the moral responsibilities of scientists as responsible citizens. Thus, Baha’ism and feminism are used as two possible ethical frameworks. Respectively Baha’iism and feminism are religious and secular movements committed to social justice. This paper explores the moral character of science in accordance to first Baha’i principles, and second feminist virtues of science. Content analysis of chosen Baha’i and feminist texts are conducted in relation to Randy Thornhill and Craig Palmer’s sociobiological theory of human rape as described in A Natural History of Rape: Biological Basis of Sexual Coercion (2000), which is used throughout this thesis as an example of morally questionable science. Lastly, the parallels between Baha’i and feminist guidelines are explored in conjunction with the nuances of good and moral science.

Course-Based MA Graduates

Students in the course-based MA program take six graduate courses and at the end of their program they write two field exams based on two of their WS courses. This year three students finished the course-based MA. These students and the areas in which they took field exams are listed below:

Emily Edwards
The Body, and Methodology in Women’s Studies Research.

Amanda Oster
Women’s History: Autobiographies, Memoirs and Journals; and Methodology in Women’s Studies Research.

Jillian Deri
Feminist Theory: Theorizing Queer Genders; and Women, Science and Technology.

Women’s Studies MA Grad Move On

This past year a record number of MA students finished their degrees in Women’s Studies. For the record, here are what some of them are doing after getting an MA in Women’s Studies.

Megan Bulloch
In August 2003, I moved to Columbus, Ohio to start my PhD in Developmental Psychology with Dr. Sally Boysen. My PhD research is with 11 chimpanzees in the Chimp Center at Ohio State University, where Dr. Boysen has been teaching them numerical competence, spelling and word recognition.

Ritz Chow
I will keep practicing as a pharmacist and, perhaps in a year, I may apply to a doctoral program for more academic stride!

Amber Dean
Since defending my thesis in September 2002, I have taught Women’s Studies, English and adult special education at North Island College in Courtenay and Women’s Studies at Capilano College; started a new job in Vancouver for West Coast LEAF (Legal Education and Action Fund), where I am coordinating a sexual assault peer education program for students in grades 7-12; and received a research grant from CRIAW (Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women) to study the experiences of criminalized young women in BC.

Emily Edwards
Right now I’m working at the Federal Justice Department downtown, but only until September 30th. I am hoping to begin my PhD at either Trinity in Dublin or York in England in October 2003.

WS MA grad 1 to r: Baharak Yousefi, Noel Patten, and Emily Edwards
Rachel Hurst
I've already moved to Toronto and I'm starting at York in the PhD programme in Women's Studies. I've proposed to do research on women's experiences of cosmetic surgery and femininities, as well as how these experiences compare to feminist artists' critiques of cosmetic surgery in their work.

Jamie McCough
I hope to take a couple of years off before looking at options for a PhD. I plan to work, perhaps get a job abroad and travel a bit.

Taryn McCormick
I have now completed my first year of law school at Osgoode Hall. After completing the next two years of law school, Bar admissions, and articling, I plan to practice law with a firm that allows me to do Constitutional/Charter of Rights law or with an organization that works in the area of human rights.

Amanda Oster
I have ideas but no concrete plans for the upcoming year. Although attracted to the idea of a regular paycheck, I must admit that the thought of leaving the University environment is far too unsettling. I am considering acquiring more science courses, going back to study psychology, or starting something completely new. I envision a year of program research, applications, and the always difficult process of making decisions.

Noel Patten
In September 2003 I enrolled in the PhD Program in Women's Studies at York University.

Baharar Yousefi
For the immediate future I will move to Toronto and work for Chapters. In the longer term I am thinking of either a college teaching position or law school for the fall of 2004.

Welcome New Graduate Students
The following students entered the Women's Studies MA program in September 2003.
Pei-Ching Chen Soochow University, Taiwan
Caelie Frampton Lauenat University
Silke Frischmuth Polytechnic University of Advance Study, Germany
Caitlin Holmes University of British Columbia
Imran Rahat University of Punjab
Bindy Kang Simon Fraser University
Mandy Kilgby Simon Fraser University
Kyoshina Motoko Kwansei Gakuin, Japan
Marie Lane University of Alberta
Brian Richter University of Arizona, USA
Jewelles Smith Simon Fraser University

Graduate Publications

Speaking to High School Students about Violence Against Women
Anna Ziolecki
In February 2003, I had the pleasure of being a guest speaker at Moscrop Secondary School in Burnaby for their annual White Ribbon Campaign week. I was invited to speak on the issue of violence against women in Canada and received a warm welcome from Mrs. Elizabeth Byrne and her grade eleven Social Studies class. In addition to discussing general facts concerning violence against women, I spoke to the class about some of my past research on violence against immigrant and racial minority women in Canada. The class impressed me with their intellectual curiosity and mature questions and comments regarding this issue.

Ellen Balka Named YWCA Woman of Distinction
Ellen Balka, was the first person to receive an MA in Women's Studies in 1987. She then went on to complete an Interdisciplinary PhD in Applied Sciences at SFU in 1991. Her first job was at Memorial University where she was the first full-time faculty member in Women's Studies. In 1997 she returned to SFU where she is currently a Professor in the School of Communications. In May 2003 she was nominated for and received a YWCA Woman of Distinction Award for Workplace Innovation. The citation for her award reads:

"For a while technology seemed destined to become the new 'old boys club' – a male dominated field in which women were present only on the lowest rungs of the ladder. Enter this woman. A role model and tireless motivator she is determined to ensure that women are present and influential in the new economy.

She also works to improve conditions for women within the university system. She has
fought for gender equity in the workplace by recruiting women to graduate programs and helping to shape the emotional and organizational costs of inequity. She has shared her own experience of filing a successful complaint after discovering that she was being paid significantly less than a junior male colleague.

Her book, Computer Networking: Spinners on the Web, has been used to aid in setting up technical assistance programs for women's and community groups in B.C. It was an important information source during the development of Industry Canada’s VolNet Program and has been used in Australia to aid in setting up computer networking resources for women in rural areas.

As a professor at Simon Fraser University and research scientist with Vancouver Coastal Health she has moved beyond studying the impact of technology on the lives of working women to being able to identify emerging issues and trends and act as an agent for change.

Establishing the Assessment of Technology in Context Design Lab at SFU, the lab focuses on women’s interactions with technology.

An advocate for many, she won a Supreme Court of Canada challenge under the Charter of Rights, giving Visa students the right to collect unemployment insurance.”

**WUSC International Seminar in Vietnam, 2002**

Jamie McGough

For six weeks in the summer of 2002 I was one of 30 Canadians and 5 academic advisors who participated in the World University of Canada (WUSC) International Seminar in Vietnam. After gathering in Ottawa for a five day pre-orientation, where most of us met each other for the first time, we flew to Hanoi where we met a large group of students; each holding a big sign with a name. I saw my name, and met Tram, an education student from Dalat and my soon-to-be roommate, translator, occasional life saver, and friend. For the next six weeks, our Vietnamese counterparts literally took us by the hands and introduced us to their country. They showed us how to bargain, how to order food from street vendors, how to cross a street (slowly, no stopping and the traffic will swerve around you), how to hail and barter with xe om (motorbike) taxis, and a hundred other indispensable life skills. For some of us, culture shock and the intense heat seemed to be the biggest challenges. For others in these early days, communication and differences between themselves and their roommates proved the toughest obstacle.

One of the great things about the program is the chance to meet not only students from another part of the world, but students from all across Canada. The seminar was a multilingual event, with English, Vietnamese, French, as well as regional dialects spoken. Some students spoke up to four or five languages. The Canadians underwent Vietnamese language lessons, where we tried to master the six different tones with the help of our ever-patient counterparts.

Once we had spent some time in Vietnam, a lot of the information we had been given before we left Canada seemed a bit redundant. It’s a strange thing to attempt to ‘box’ a culture and prepare yourself for a journey as if you are prepping for an exam. We too were surprised at some of the things the Vietnamese students had been told about us, things that were by no means universal attributes among members of our group. In the end, nothing could have prepared any of us for the amount of learning and personal growth many of us experienced in the seminar.

**Working in the Labour Movement**

Jody Jensen

Since first stepping into an undergraduate women's studies class, I've gotten used to answering the question: how did you get here? The answers have multiplied over the years, as I moved from chemistry to women's studies to the labour movement. As a student, I could not have predicted the trajectory that my career path would take (nor the direction it might take from here) but my interdisciplinary background and wide range of experience has proved a great strength for my current work.

Since completing my MA in Women's Studies in 1996, I've worked predominately in the labour movement as an organizer, negotiator and currently, as Executive Director of the Professional Employees Association – a small, independent union representing public sector professionals in B.C.

But getting back to there and how I came to Women's Studies: nearing completion of my Bsc, I had become dissatisfied with the prospect of practicing science in a climate that seemed not to tolerate a bigger-picture analysis of the context in which that practice takes place. After working in analytical chemistry labs and dabbling in courses across faculties, I decided on an MA in Women's Studies. The program provided me with opportunities to build on a multidisciplinary background and explore those questions of here and there – or rather, why we continue to be fascinated by differences, and how science and politics are intertwined in their construction. The program also allowed for a closer integration of my academic studies and my desires to be politically engaged and make a difference in people's material lives.
Those impulses have found good outlet through my work for unions as an advocate, organizer, educator and negotiator. I started out volunteering as a shop steward while working as a Teaching Assistant, then found myself bargaining a collective agreement and resolving employee grievances while I worked to integrate a consensus-building approach with the combative style of labour negotiations.

Working to protect and advance the rights of often vulnerable or marginalized people in their workplace is a continuing source of challenge and inspiration, as are collaborative efforts to revitalize and revision the labour movement. A big chunk of union work is about building and changing relationships— with all sorts of people from all kinds of backgrounds and circumstances; and so my varied background has proved an advantage, helping me to bring alternate perspectives and creative solutions to labour relations problems.

Working for Mental Health
Jill Stainsby

My 1991 Master’s degree in Women’s Studies did not directly qualify me to work in mental health. Instead it taught me much about how to learn, how to teach, how to work with others in planning and implementing services, and how to present a reasoned argument in my chosen field.

I have the dubious distinction of identifying myself in several ways within mental health— I’m a family member of more than one person with a mental illness, I have a similar diagnosis myself, and I now work as a mental health service provider. Wearing many hats sometimes makes work confusing!

This past April, I received the Courage to Come Back Award for Mental Health from Coast Foundation. It was an incredible experience and a real honour. I am the fifth BC recipient of this award, and I’m in very good company.

From 1994 to 1996, I was the Executive Producer, a production team member, and a participant in the award-winning mental health video Within These Walls. SFU owns a copy of the video, and I have shown it in Dr. Susan Wendell’s Women and Disabilities course at least twice.

The video won two USA Alliance for Community Media awards – Pacific Northwest Region’s Best Documentary: Public Awareness, and the USA National Hometown Award in the same category. We also won an award from the Canadian Independent Annual Film Festival in 1999, and presented the video at the Rendezvous With Madness film festival in Toronto (1997), the Reel Madness Film Festival in Victoria (1998), and the Downtown East Side Film Festival (June 2003).

Right now, I work for the Vancouver Community Mental Health Service, holding two positions— I’m a Consumer Support Worker at the central office, and an Intake Worker at a local mental health team. Since receiving my degree and working for TSSU on campus, I have worked at Riverview Hospital, the BC Public Trustee, CMHA (BC Division), and as a Community Developer for Vancouver Coastal Health.

It is important to me to work and be credible in the mental health field, given that it has been part of my life since I was very young. To that end, I am now enrolled in the Master’s in Social Work Program at UBC. I expect to complete the program in 2005, as well as continuing to work full time for the community mental health service.

This second Master’s degree is the workplace credential I need to move forward in mental health, while the Women’s Studies Master’s is the one that gave me the energy, skills and focus needed to make a success out of my mental health work. My career began once the first Master’s was completed, and I look forward to many more successful years.

Mental health work is not a field in which everyone feels at home. For me, however, it’s a very good fit. It’s necessary, useful work, helping people who (like myself in the past) are among the most marginalized and stigmatized people in this world. I believe I can make a difference in others’ lives, in a way that is very much worth doing.

There are Feminists at Law School
Taryn McCormick

Yes, it’s true, there are feminists at law school. You wouldn’t know it to walk around most of the hallowed halls dedicated to turning out hundreds of LLBs each year. But we’re there. We’re the ones who get emotionally involved during discussions on tenants rights, who constantly get asked ‘so are you going into family law then?’, the ones who keep choosing to include a gender perspective in our assignments, the ones who actually look forward to reading the unbelievably long decision in the Morgentaler case. Yup, we’re here, you just have to look for us.

The reason that you have to look for us is that law school is a very homogenizing experience. In first year we all take the exact same courses. We spend every day with the same people, in the same class rooms, with the same professors. Thankfully, I got lucky and found a lot of really amazing people in my section and in my extracurricular groups. People with interests and lives beyond the walls of Osgoode Hall. People to show me around Toronto. People who want to talk about things besides the issue of cestoppel as it relates to contract and other such dry topics.

If I could say one thing to feminists thinking about entering law school it is this...find these people as soon as possible! Find the activists, the legal aid wannabes, the people who see beyond school and make friends with them.
They will keep you sane. They will help you resist the push to become the cookie cutter lawyer that law schools are designed to create.

Now obviously every school is different and some are much more accepting of difference than others. In my experience, however, the minute you walk in the doors you’re on a conveyor belt to Bay Street and it’s up to you to hop off if that’s not your scene. Career Services probably won’t have contact names for the NGOs and non-profits that you want to work for. The volunteer organizations will probably all be ones that look good on a resume but don’t entail a lot of emotional investment. That sort of thing will pop up repeatedly. But, as I said before, finding a community with similar values and interests will help immeasurably. Chances are they’ll know about jobs that come up, or can recommend great volunteer positions, or will simply support you so you decide whether or not to go on exchange. That sort of thing will help you to keep your personality and your feminist passion in tact while you go through law school. Hopefully, that means that you’ll come out on the other end with all the same feminist energy that you started with, but with a new tool for using it in the world (an LLB).

Being a boat rocker, however, I’m finding that personally surviving law school with my feminist values intact isn’t enough for me. For people like me, I recommend looking for ways that you can leave a feminist mark on law school. At Osgoode, for instance, there is a wonderful Women’s Caucus that I have joined. We have organized speakers panels, fundraised for local shelters, and introduced female students and professors to each other in the hopes of creating impromptu mentoring situations. Osgoode also has an Activist Association which has demonstrated against the views of conservative speakers, circulated petitions calling for peace, and organized a food and clothing drive. Joining these groups has given me a great outlet for my activist tendencies.

Finally, a female professor recently told me that the big struggle for my generation of feminist lawyers will be in their private lives. There are more women than men at my law school, we’re getting more and more of the good articling positions, we’re branching out into more areas of the law, but we are still the only ones asking ‘Is this a family-friendly firm’ at job interviews. So the final important action that a feminist in law school can take is to work on creating an environment where the men feel as responsible as the women for ensuring equality around the school and within the wider profession. They should be asking if firms are family-friendly too. They should be looking at professional standards to see if any groups are unfairly disadvantaged as lawyers or as clients. Creating an environment where both men and women take responsibility for ensuring that there is justice in our justice system is something that starts at law school, where they’re trying to teach us what it means to be lawyers. Having feminist perspectives involved in the creation of the next generation of lawyers can only have a positive impact.

Lest you think that law school is daunting or depressing or inherently anti-feminist, let me assure you, I’m loving every minute of it! It has its problems, like every other institution that I’ve come across. But it is giving me some powerful tools that can be used to advance feminism in society and to ensure that individual women receive the justice that they seek and deserve in their lives.

Meredith Kimball Endowment Growing
Mary Lynn Stewart and Sue Wendell

Meredith Kimball will retire in September 2004. We want to create a permanent tribute to her extraordinary leadership in shaping and sustaining the Department of Women's Studies at Simon Fraser University. In 2002, we began an endowment fund to establish a scholarship in her name: the Meredith Kimball Graduate Entrance Scholarship in Women's Studies.

During the past year, we have been fundraising for the scholarship among colleagues at SFU, alumnae and friends of Women's Studies. Our goal is to build a healthy endowment of $10,000, which will produce the scholarship annually in perpetuity, before Meredith retires. To date, just over $7,000 has been raised toward the goal.

Below is a brief summary of Meredith's contributions to Women's Studies and Simon Fraser University. Please consider making a contribution this year to the endowment fund.

Since her appointment in 1976 as the first faculty member in Women's Studies, Meredith Kimball has made extraordinary contributions to building, sustaining and expanding the Women's Studies Department at Simon Fraser University. When Women's Studies was still a program, Meredith was coordinator for a record five and a half years; she then served as Chair of the Department of Women's Studies from 1991 to 1993 and again from 1999 to 2003. Meredith prepared the program's successful bid for what became the Ruth Wynn Woodward Professorship in Women's Studies, led the process of becoming a department, and facilitated the introduction of the Master's Program in Women's Studies and the (still pending) proposal for the PhD Program. Recently, she has led the department's effort to appoint new faculty in response to the pending retirement of the first generation of Women's Studies professors and established the Summer Visitors Program for Women's Studies instructors in colleges in B.C. and the Yukon.

In addition to this outstanding contribution to building Women's Studies at SFU, Meredith has been the Associate Dean of the Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies, chair of three major faculty committees, and chair of undergraduate and graduate studies in her other department, Psychology. In both her departments, she has participated in almost all departmental committees. In addition, Meredith sat on Senate and several Senate committees between 1983 and 1986, and on the University Tenure Committee from 1998 to 1999. She acted as an Advisor and an Investigative Committee Member of the Harassment Policy Office between 1995 and 1997. Moreover, through her impressive professional and community service, Meredith has promoted the status of women psychologists, the development of research on the psychology of women, and the growth of Women's Studies throughout B.C. and Canada.
Faculty Research Interests

Below are brief descriptions by each of the regular faculty in Women’s Studies of their ongoing research projects.

Marjorie Griffin Cohen: The two main research projects I am working on are an edition of a book on globalization and women in semi-peripheral countries and a book dealing with comparative issues on electricity deregulation in the four countries. The four countries considered will be Canada, Mexico, Norway, and Australia. The other project I am also working on is another paper on privatization and its effect on pay equity.

Meredith Kinball: I am working on a long term project on the history of women in psychology and psychoanalysis. I am continuing my work on Bertha Pappenheim, exploring the feminist implications of her translations of Mary Wollstonecraft’s, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* and Glükel of Hameln’s *Memoirs*. I also plan to explore the work of Mary Whiton Calkins, an early pioneer in the field of psychology.

Helen Leung: I am currently researching on Hong Kong’s queer culture and its relation to the emergent social and political movement for sexual and gender minorities. I analyze the inter-relations of various forms of queer expressions: from ethnographic discourses, the “queer unconscious” of mainstream cinemas and popular music, to the consciously queer cultural productions by queer cultural producers for the queer community. I also examine the diversity and cultural specificity of the notion of “queer” (variously rendered in Chinese) and consider alternative possibilities of understanding and organizing around sexual and gender variance.

Jacqueline Levitin: I have been working for the past three years on a SSHRC grant with a group of researchers (all women) on the topic of women’s health and its relationship to housing in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver. We are just finishing our projects and plan to publish a book from our research - my chapter will be on ethnographic films made about the DTES. I have just completed a 22-minute video, *Building Bridge: A Housing Project for Women*, about the twenty-year effort of Bridge Housing Society for Women to construct housing for women in the Downtown Eastside. Hopefully, my video will publicize their success and be useful in their search for funds to construct more housing, perhaps for needy senior women in the neighborhood. I am currently embarking on research about early (60s and 70s) narrative filmmakers in Canada which I hope to turn into a larger collaborative research project. Then there is a more personal project, an experimental documentary video on my parents’ growing up in Harbin, Manchuria. Their families were refugees from the pogroms in Russia, and I will weave this story with the story of the Jews of Kaifeng, where a Jewish community was established in the 1300s.

Marilyn MacDonald: I am beginning the third phase of an ecofeminist study of the academization of social justice movements. The preceding phases have investigated the incorporation of feminist science studies (TSS) into the teaching, research and community service activities of faculty in Canadian universities (Phase 1, Women’s Studies; Phase 2, Environmental Studies). This phase involves participatory action research, through community-generated narratives related to environmental health. In September, I will be involved in a project led by Dr. Claire Carlin (University of Victoria), entitled, “Infection without germs: the idea of contagion in the early modern Christian imagination”. My contribution will be based on material from my course, “In whose image? exploring feminist critiques of science and religion, using women’s science fiction”, as most recently revised.

Cindy Patton: My current research projects are: study of adventure racing, including risk assessment and perceptions of the body; side effects of HIV medications, including a description of the evolution of endocrinology as a science in the context of developing secondary treatment for people experiencing side-effects from HIV medication; comparison of the Canadians and US reporting on the dangers of hormone replacement therapy. I am also developing new methods for conducting health research, especially methods that increase the collaboration between academic and community-based researchers.

Mary Lynn Stewart: My research continues to focus upon how fashion was disseminated to a wider range of Frenchwomen between the two World Wars, and what this trend, with its concomitant rise in consumerism, meant for Frenchwomen of the interwar period. The end result will be a book tentatively entitled “Fashioning Meaning: Dressing Modern Frenchwomen, 1919-1939.” I am also working more occasionally on new attitudes toward youth and the emergence of the concept of the modern girl in France, which may be the subject of my next book.

Sue Weadell: I have continued working on a philosophical discussion of the paradox of valuation in disability ethics and politics, in which disabled people value and/or take pride in our differences from nondisabled people yet also assume that some (but not all) measures to prevent or cure disabilities are good. Since the usual reason given for preventing or curing disabilities is that we want to prevent unnecessary suffering, this has led me to examine the widespread assumption that suffering is bad and should be prevented, and whether it conflicts with the equally widespread assumption that involuntary suffering is necessary to some important kinds of learning and development. I have been collecting descriptions from the writings of people with illnesses and disabilities of the value they place on their differences from healthy and nondisabled people, including the ways that suffering has changed them. I have also been analyzing various philosophical approaches to suffering to determine if they are compatible with ill and disabled people’s values and experiences. During my retirement, I will continue to study the ethics and politics of psychosomatic medicine, especially the influence of gender, race and class on psychosomatic diagnosis. I also want to develop a philosophical analysis of current causal theories of psychosomatic illness (theories of mind-body interaction) and the implications of those theories for diagnosis and treatment of physical symptoms, especially in women. I anticipate that this work will eventually result in a book on psychosomatic medicine.

Sue Wilkinson: My major research project is on women’s experiences of breast cancer. I am continuing to analyze data from a series of focus group discussions between women who have received a breast cancer diagnosis and who are at different stages of living with cancer. I have published a number of articles based on this project and am currently working...
partner. Other faculty members from UBC, UNBC, and the University of Victoria as well as 23 other community partners will be involved in the project. If the application is successful students in Women’s Studies will be eligible for funding for work on the research of the CURA.

Mary Lynn Stewart received a SSHRC Research Grant of $47,000 for continued research, by her and her graduate students, on her project entitled “Dressing Modern Frenchwomen, 1919-1939”.

Faculty Publications
Below is a list of some of the publications, conference papers, and talks published and presented by Women’s Studies faculty throughout the past year.

Publications


Leung, Helen (2002). Loving In The Stillness of Earthquakes: Ho Yuk - Let’s Love Hong Kong. In Yau Ching et al., Ho Yuk - Let’s Love Hong Kong: Script and Critical Essays (pp. 55-61). Hong Kong: Youth Literary Press.


Co-editors Jacqueline Levitin (left) with Valerie Raoul (centre) and Judith Plessis of UBC at the launch of Women Filmmakers Refocusing.


Conference Papers and Academic Presentations


Leung, Helen "Bi/Trans Subjectivity and Queer Visuality in Hong Kong Cinema." The Humanities Institute at Stony Brook, University of New York at Stony Brook, November, 2002.


Wilkinson, Sue “All my Womanhood was Taken Away: Women’s Talk about Appearance, Femininity and Sexuality Following Mastectomy,” International Society of Critical Health Psychology, Auckland, New Zealand, April, 2003.


Wilkinson, Sue “Lesbians and Breast Cancer: What Do We Know - and What Do We Need to Know?” Conference on Women’s Health Issues, University of Victoria, British Columbia, June, 2003.


Community Talks


Wilkinson, Sue “Women Talk About Breast Cancer: Approaches To Analysing Qualitative Data,” Centre for Research in Women’s Studies and Gender Relations, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, April, 2003.


Reflections on Retirement

Susan Wendell

For almost as long as I can remember, I have had a passionate interest in questions of ethics, metaphysics and epistemology (although I didn’t know what to call them until I discovered philosophy as a subject area at university). One of my early memories is of sitting quietly in the Methodist church I attended with my maternal grandfather, staring at a stained glass window of Jesus with children gathered around him, feeling comforted by the image but also greatly trying hard to figure out what God must be like and how I ought to live. I also remember being troubled at a young age by the idea of responsibility. Since religion was the only form of abstract thought I encountered as a child, I questioned my friends who were Roman Catholic about the doctrines they were learning for their First Holy Communion and studied their catechism books with them, fascinated by what seemed to me deep but confusing secrets. As a young teenager, I discussed religion with Jewish friends, sending them with my questions to their rabbis and awaiting the answers eagerly, until one of the rabbis invited me to attend Saturday classes with them, which I did.

I discovered ancient Greek philosophy in my second year of university, and I can still remember the excitement and relief of that discovery. Here were other people who thought the way I did and cared about the same questions. They were called philosophers, and there were quite a lot of them. Very few of them were women, but as a young student, I didn’t realize that the scarcity of women in philosophy was ominous; women professors were scarce in all the subjects I studied. Seven years would pass before I began to explore the
implications of women’s near-invisibility as philosophers and in the philosophical theorizing of men.

In the meantime, I was more troubled by another problem I encountered in graduate school: I was trained in the Anglo-American-Canadian tradition of analytic and linguistic philosophy that dominated North American universities during the 1960s and 1970s. Unlike the ancient Greeks, philosophers in this modern tradition had little regard for applying philosophical methods to the moral and social problems that people face in living. Applied ethics was one of the lowest subjects in the philosophical hierarchy we absorbed in graduate school. When I announced my intention to work on John Stuart Mill’s “The Subjection of Women,” thus combining applied ethics with concerns about the absent gender, some of my fellow graduate students told me I would never find a job. But I didn’t want to continue in philosophy if I couldn’t study the problems that interested me, so I persevered.

Twenty-seven years after completing my PhD, I find that my generation of Canadian, American and English philosophers has not only revived applied ethics and social philosophy but made it respectable. (My impression is that applied ethics and social philosophy are still low in the philosophical hierarchy, but that the hierarchy itself is not taken as seriously as it once was.) Moreover, one of my subject areas - feminist philosophy - has gained much wider acceptance in the philosophical community, and much more space in publications, than I imagined possible. Another of my subject areas - philosophy of disability - is still new and struggling to be taken seriously, but the new generation of scholars now working in the field will almost certainly win recognition for the issues they are raising.

I am not retiring from philosophical work; I can’t imagine wanting to do that, and, with luck, I’ll never have to. Nor am I withdrawing from all connection to SFU Women’s Studies; I expect to visit the department from time to time, especially for public talks and events. I am retiring from teaching and committee work. Teaching has engaged me passionately for more than 33 years (especially since I got reasonably good at it about 20 years ago), and I will probably miss it. Nevertheless, I have a strong feeling that it is time to do other things, to focus on my writing and to find new creative projects. I don’t expect to miss committee work.

I became an academic because I loved to teach and write, and the university offers opportunities and a context for doing both. Walking back to my office after a good class, I often felt amazed that I was paid to do something I enjoyed so much. On the other hand, the most difficult aspect of working at SFU has been defending my creativity against the demands of a large institution. That is neither my fault nor SFU’s. My kind of philosophizing is an unusually introverted and solitary activity, requiring long patient hours of reading, thinking, analysing, speculating, distilling and then looking for the right words. Modern universities are extroverted institutions. They want to see everyone talking to each other all the time. They also want tangible results, as many and as quickly as possible. If you do something successfully, they want you to do more of the same thing in order to guarantee future success; when I have understood and written about something to the best of my ability, I want to move on to something I don’t understand. Institutions also need a lot of participation in making decisions and carrying out policies, especially from people in their employment equity categories. Considering how ill-suited we are to one another, I think SFU and I have gotten along pretty well. Nevertheless, it is time for a friendly separation.

I am looking forward to having more time and energy to write. I am currently working on three projects: a philosophical study of psychosomatic medicine, an article on the paradox of suffering in disability ethics and politics, and a re-examination of the concept of social construction in relation to disability. I am also planning to live a more balanced life - by spending more time in my garden, in my kitchen (no laughing, please), and with old and new friends.

I want to end these reflections with some favourite lines from a poem by T.S. Eliot called “Little Gidding.” At this point in the poem, near dawn on a city street, a man meets one of his former school masters, now dead, who says to him: "...I am not eager to rehearse / My thoughts and theory which you have forgotten. / These things have served their purpose: let them be. / So with your own, and pray they be forgiven. / By others, as I pray you to forgive. / Both bad and good. Last season’s fruit is eaten / And the felled beast shall kick the empty pail. / For last year’s words belong to last year’s language / And next year’s words await another voice."

Sue Wendell Retires
Meredith Kimball

After receiving her PhD in Philosophy from the University of British Columbia, Sue Wendell joined SFU in 1977 with a joint appointment in Women’s Studies and Philosophy. In 1994 she moved to a full-time appointment in Women’s Studies.

Sue has made important contributions in the areas of teaching, research, and service over her career at SFU. Always a conscientious and informed teacher, she received the SFU Excellence in Teaching Award in 1993. She has taught undergraduate courses at all levels of the Women’s Studies curriculum and for a number of years taught a required methodology course for majors and minors at the fourth year level and the graduate research methodology course. Her teaching evaluations over the 26 years she has taught here have consistently been among the highest of any faculty in the department. In addition to her teaching, she has also made important scholarly contributions to the field of feminist studies. Her early work focused on sex discrimination, pornography and freedom of expression, liberal feminist philosophies, and issues of responsibility and choice. More recently she has been instrumental in developing the area of philosophy of disability. Her book, The Rejected Body: Feminist Philosophical Reflections on Disability, continues to be a major work in this field. A number of Sue’s publications have been included in a wide range of anthologies. Her current project on the philosophy of psychosomatic medicine which she plans to continue in retirement will continue to keep her name in the forefront of feminist philosophy.

In addition to her contributions in the areas of teaching and scholarship, Sue has made many service contributions to Women’s Studies and, when she had a joint appointment, to the Philosophy Department as well. In Philosophy she chaired the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee and served almost every year on the Department Tenure Committee. In
Women’s Studies she has served as both Undergraduate and Graduate Chair. Of particular note is the work she has done over the past two years to develop the proposal for a PhD in Women’s Studies and guide it through many university and government committees. Without her good common sense, excellent communication skills, knowledge of bureaucratic systems, and vision the PhD in Women’s Studies might very well not have happened.

Throughout her career Sue has been a fine colleague. Her research and teaching always have been closely linked. What she studied she taught, and what she taught was always informed by her latest scholarly work. As soon as she began her ground-breaking work on feminist theory and disability, she developed her course, Women and Disability, which was the first such offering in Canada. It is partly this close link between her teaching and research that make her such a dynamic teacher. With her students and with her colleagues, Sue is a powerful and empowering presence. She demands quality work from students. She is also skilled at patiently and clearly showing them how to achieve excellence in their work. In meetings she is a model of reason and clear thinking. In a meeting, it is often Sue who can frame a conflict or a difficult issue in ways that clarify and suggest a useful direction in which to proceed. On top of it all, she has a fine sense of humour, a delight in the world of the mind, and a respect for people as they are, rather than as they should be. We will all miss her. We wish her well in retirement and look forward to following her work as it continues to develop.

**Sabbatical Report**

Marjorie Griffin Cohen

My sabbatical year has largely been spent working on the globalization project’s books (one on women and globalization and the other on electricity deregulation) and preparing the applications for the Community-University Research Alliance grant. I am pleased that my edited book *Training the Excluded for Work* was published. This was the result of an earlier long-term research collaborative project on Work and Society. Two other edited books that I worked on last summer and fall also appeared in print this year. These collections arose from an SFU conference on globalization and are entitled *Global Instability: Uncertainty and New Visions in Political Economy* (Kluwer, 2002) and *Global Turbulence: Social Activists’ and State Responses to Globalization* (Aldershot, UK: Ashgate, 2003).

A major part of this sabbatical year was spent working on the book I am co-editing with Stephen Clarkson, *Governing Under Stress: Middle Powers and the Challenge of Globalization*. It is now complete and will be published by Zed in the U.K. early next year (2004).

The other major research for this year focused on issues specifically related to public policy in B.C.: women’s work under health care restructuring and the redesign of the electricity sector in B.C. The privatization of health care has had a large impact on women’s wages in hospital support work. An analysis of this appears in my study, *Destroying Pay Equity: The Effects of Privatising Health Care in British Columbia*. My research work on the changes in the public provision of electricity in B.C. is closely related to my work as President of Citizens for Public Power. This group is active in the attempt to keep electricity in the public sector. My publications this year on electricity deregulation include *High Tension: B.C. Hydro’s Deep Integration with the U.S. Through RTO West, Getting a Power House: BC Hydro and the new Energy Plan, and Public Power and the Political Economy of Electricity Competition: The Case of B.C. Hydro*. I have also written a number of popular articles that have appeared as ‘op eds’ in newspapers in B.C.

My other major commitment this year has been related to being one of eight women who have filed a complaint with the Canadian Human Rights Commission over the absence of women and other groups protected by the Canadian Human Rights Code in the awarding of Canada Research Chairs. The complaint is against Industry Canada for failure to ensure that universities abide by the Canadian Human Rights Code.

**Sabbatical Report**

Habiba Zaman

During my study leave, I presented several conference papers, published three book reviews and was invited to contribute to the Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures, edited by Suad Joseph. But my primary goal was to prepare a book manuscript tentatively titled Neo-Liberal Globalism, Migration and Commodification of Immigrant Laborers in Canada: Intersections of Race, Class and Gender. Funded by an SSHRC-MCRI grant (2000-2005) and a SFU Small Research Grant (1999-2002), I investigated the processes of commodification and dec commodification of migrant and immigrant female labourers in Canada. Borrowing the Marxist concept of commodity, I have used commodification in numerous ways in my manuscript from the restructuring of public sectors in global capitalism to fundamental structural changes in the Canadian state, i.e., shifting from public to private sectors. The concept of dec commodification originated in Polanyi’s work. I have followed the lead of several later scholars who introduced the notion of social citizenship rights and indicated that welfare states grant entitlements independent of market participation.

Using a broad political economy theory framework and a feminist lens, I have in this enquiry adopted several methods, including textual analysis, participant observation and open-ended interviewing. I also used collaborative research. This took the form of a collaborative project with the Philippine Women Centre (PWC) in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. In all, 69 women, all residents of British Columbia, were interviewed. My analysis revolves around qualitative dimensions of the interviews rather than their quantitative nature. Most women were from South and South-east Asia, especially from Bangladesh, India and the Philippines. In terms of religion, they described themselves as Christians, Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims. These women represented neither a typical picture nor a gross generalization, but reflected the diversity of the organization of their labour and their commodification in several sectors of the Canadian economy. The wide range of stories they provided assisted me immensely in analyzing pre- and under-commodification, partial and full commodification, and also the dynamics and prospects of dec commodification of im/migrant women in Canada.
Musings On Work at SFU and Retirement

by

Karlene Faith, who turned 65 in April, and will be officially retired on August 31.

Privilege and Gratitude are the two words that come to mind when I think back on my twenty-one years at Simon Fraser University, as exemplified by:

- Being paid to lecture and exercise academic freedom on matters for which I have a passion, in classrooms with students who want to be there.
- Receiving encouragement to speak publicly on those matters, with the authority of the university behind me.
- Sitting beside the bust of Gandhi in the courtyard near the sciences, reflecting on the ideals his bearing signifies.
- Working for seven years with the Centre for Distance Education and appreciating the remarkable skills and good hearts of the talented staff there, and in the then-Instructional Media Centre, who produce and distribute print and multi-media distance education courses as a key SFU community outreach program.
- Being hired by the School of Criminology in 1989, as a regular tenure track employee, when they'd already known me for seven years, which felt great because, since they already knew me and hired me anyway, I could relax, with none of the fear typical of new faculty, who don't yet know or understand university or department politics.
- Participating in Women's Studies retreats with women who are making careful decisions about what is important for students to learn about women.
- Having the autonomy to teach what sounded like but were not fluff courses, such as the Hot Topic "Bad Girls in the Movies," and likewise to write a book such as Madonna.
- Granted the luxury of a full year to focus on two research areas (Foucault and postmodernism, and feminist theory), thanks to the Institute for the Humanities, who (apart from their generosity to me) offer steady, significant contributions to campus life and to the public.
- Having formal channels to people who make things happen, within the university, in the wider community and in governments. It was a great thrill to learn, on two separate occasions, that work I co-authored was cited by the Supreme Court of Canada. To be taken seriously is the consequence of university affiliation.
- Knowing that my superiors, including colleagues, will support any good idea if I'm willing to see it through.
- Witnessing the cross-cultural interaction of students in class with varied languages, colours and family histories on faraway continents, and seeing how it will be when racisms and theisms are archaic.
- Being in a position to open up the resources of the university to the communities whose taxes support our work, and whose lives are often our subject.
- Having access to media when important issues surface.
- Applying for project funding, and sometimes getting it.
- Being able to travel, and to share and gain knowledge with colleagues, students and community activists in Sweden, Norway, Fiji, Australia, Papua New Guinea, England, India, the U.S. and Cuba, and across Canada.
- Benefiting from the collegiality of colleagues who have gone out of their way to facilitate my work.
- Meeting and being inspired by remarkable people among students, staff and faculty at SFU, conferences, and other campuses, and by grassroots partners such as B.C. women's communities, human rights groups, and the Shuswap Nation.
- Being in a position to invite current and former prisoners, and at other times the warden, to speak to various classes, and to hold class inside prisons with prisoners participating, so as to demythologize "criminal types".
- Having access to performances by arts students, lectures by esteemed colleagues, and the steady campus traffic in visiting intellectual groundbreakers and human rights advocates, across disciplines.
- Watching how beautifully coordinated the campus can be in the event of, for example, severe snowfall.
- Having access to publishers.
- Appreciating the courage of the unions, whose strikes over the years have always seemed reasonable.
- Standing in awe of the views of the mountains and Indian Arm from the vantage point of various Deans' and Directors' corner offices and at The Club.
- Receiving messages and letters from former students who have made their way or are still seeking their own path.
- Earning enough money to eat out, go to a concert or the movies, or take a taxi, almost any time I want, and having great health insurance.
- Working with brilliant honours and graduate students, becoming friends with some of them over time, and then enjoying them as colleagues at SFU and elsewhere.

For all the above and, no doubt, many other reasons that will come to me, I am amazed and grateful, to have enjoyed these privileges these many years. To be allowed my own voice, to join with others for the benefit of the community beyond my own career interests, to watch young minds (and some old) reach for knowledge, and put their knowledge to work in their communities, this has all been very rewarding.

There are elements of fulltime university work and campus life that I won't miss — like, the long hours at the computer after a day of lectures and meetings, the pressures of marking papers and exams, observing self-serving misuses of power, and waiting for the bus in bad weather. It doesn't seem like much, in retrospect.
To retire is to “give up office or work, esp. through age; go away or withdraw; go to bed” (Collins English Dictionary, 1998). I’ll give up my office, but work will continue for a few of the 15 or so years I have left. The calls will still come, I will still attend community meetings, I still have books to write, and I’ll have to supplement my pension. But even if I sustain ties, as I will with Women’s Studies, come August I will also be ritually going away from the university, and withdrawing from the hub of the life of the mind. And I will no doubt spend more time in bed, sleeping — between projects, visits with the grandchildren, and indulgences like music and film with seniors’ discounts. I am indeed retiring.

**Karlene Faith Retires**  
Meredith Kimball

Karlene Faith of the SFU School of Criminology and a long-time Associate Faculty in Women’s Studies retired in August 2003. Karlene received her PhD in the History of Consciousness Program at the University of California at Santa Cruz in 1981. In 1982 she joined SFU Centre for Distance Education and the School of Criminology as the director of the Distance Education Program in Criminology. She moved to the School of Criminology as an Assistant Professor in 1989 and is currently a Professor. In 2002 she was awarded one of three Dean’s Medals in the Faculty of Arts in recognition of academic excellence in teaching, research, and service. She has been an Associate Faculty member in Women’s Studies since 1996.

Karlene has an outstanding research record with 10 books, over 30 journal articles and book chapters and many conference presentations. Her most recent books (Madonna: Rawdy & Soul, 1997 University of Toronto Press; and The Long Prison Journey of Leslie Van Houten: Life Beyond the Cult, 2001, Northeastern University Press) focus on issues of social justice for women in prisons and the social construction of ‘bad’ girls and women. These two topics are the focus of much of her work.

As a teacher, Karlene has taught an impressive range of courses. Some of these courses are Women, Law and the State; Women and Criminal Justice; Gender Theories of Crime and Punishment; Restorative and Transformative Justice; The Uses of Biography in the Study of Crime and Punishment; Foucault and Feminism; and the History of Women’s Music. She has also been active as a supervisor and committee member of graduate thesis committees. She has supervised 5 MA theses and one PhD thesis. She has been on more than 10 graduate committees, including three Women’s Studies MA thesis committees.

In addition to her teaching and research, Karlene has been an active citizen at SFU and in the wider community. She has been a member of the SFU Feminist Institute for Studies on Law and Society since 1990 and served as the Director in 1993-1994. She is a founding member and on the advisory board of Strength in Sisterhood (SIS) which is a parole support network. She served as the chair of the ASC Women in Prison Task Force and Decarceration Committee. She has given over 40 public lectures and workshops. She also has found the time to give media interviews, and has produced several videos on the criminal justice system. In recognition of her many contributions to the profession and to society she received the International Helen Prize for Humanitarian Works in 2000 and the Life Achievement Award from the American Society of Criminology, Division of Critical Criminology.

Simon Fraser University, the School of Criminology, and Women’s Studies will be diminished without her presence. Associate Faculty in Women’s Studies are faculty at SFU who have full appointments in other departments or schools. Thus they often are unable to take a very active part in the life of the department. Karlene was an exception to this pattern. She often came to department meetings, pot lucks, and other social events. Whenever she came, she made lively and important contributions. A great conversationalist, it was always lots of fun and very informative to discuss books and films with her. We shall miss her contributions on campus, but hope to keep in touch through her continued involvement in various social events and parties.

**Working with Hilary**  
Andrea Lebowitz

One of the unexpected pleasures of my retirement has been to work with Hilary Newitt Brown on the preparation of her papers for placement in the SFU Special Collections. The first deposit was made in June of 2003 and I hope that the Hilary Newitt Brown Special Collection will be complete within the year.

It all began when Hilary, the unrivalled senior states-person of Hornby Island, invited me to tea. This was an offer no islander could refuse. Based upon my recent book on another island notable, (Gillian Douglas: Writing Nature, Finding Home) Hilary thought that I would be the one to assist her. However, the first project was not her own work but that of her late husband, Harrison Brown—rather typical one might say!

Harrison, a freelance journalist, had made a trip through Scandinavia, the Soviet Union, China and Japan in 1936. One of the first westerners in many of the areas of the orient, he kept a photo-journalistic record of his experiences. In stunning pictures he documented the lives of ordinary people, many of them women, as well as the mighty. His unpublished manuscript of the journey complements the pictures, one of which is of Agnes Smedley, well known to feminist scholars. With Harrison’s documents safely delivered to SFU and The Harrison Brown Special Collection established, Hilary and I turned to her life.

Born in Scotland in 1909, Hilary has lived on Hornby Island since 1937. From childhood, Hilary wished to be an interpreter, a desire that led her to study in Geneva and Germany where she attended Frankfurt University. Here she found herself in the midst of upheaval as the Nazi’s came to power. Indeed the first journalistic piece for which she received pay was a description of the situation in 1932 just prior to the Nazi take-over.
Forced to leave Germany, she continued to assist the resistance by acting as a contact person in England and by writing her first book, *Women Must Choose*, a cross cultural study of the lives of women in Nazi Germany, the Soviet Union and the western democracies. Her second work, *Half of Humanity*, continued the study but her publisher refused to bring it out, because it was not “light” enough for a female audience.

Having immigrated to Canada, both Browns lectured throughout the States during the winter while homesteading on Hornby Island, BC in summer. In 1940, The US government refused to allow non-citizens to lecture in its programs, and Hilary turned to CBC broadcasts and Island matters. On the Island, Hilary has initiated virtually all of the important local institutions—the Credit Union, the Co-op, Elder-housing and the Heron Rocks Friendship Centre to name only a few.

After the NDP government established the Island Trust legislation to manage the islands in the Strait of Georgia and Howe Sound in the early 70’s, Hilary was named the Chair of the Trust. She and her fellow directors travelled extensively to learn islanders’ wishes about governance in order to translate the legislation into reality.

After the death of her husband Harrison in the late 1970’s, Hilary continued to reside on their land at Heron Rocks, Hornby Island, although part of it had been sold to a co-operative campground, which undertook to preserve the ecological well being of the land. Finally, Hilary donated her remaining property to create the Heron Rocks Friendship Centre, an organization dedicated to cross-cultural communication, peace and women’s issues. She continues to reside at Heron Rocks and remains the centre of island news and history.

So the papers are amazing and complex and the work is rewarding and interesting. We have spent the winter sorting and organizing documents as I have learned the history of this remarkable woman. What remains to be done are Hilary’s many trips to China and the interviews she conducted there with the elderly to ascertain the quality of life for the aged in China. These transcripts and an unpublished manuscript are the final part of the papers. I hope that the Hilary Newit Brown Special Collection will be complete by spring 2004.

Recently Hilary asked me if it were easier to work with a living or dead subject. I answered “a living person without question”. Maybe it’s not always easier but it’s always more interesting and inspiring.

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## Community Events

### Gender, Sexuality and Health Conference

Sue Wilkinson

From June 10 to 13, 2004, Women’s Studies at SFU will be hosting a major international, interdisciplinary conference on Gender, Sexuality and Health at the Harbour Centre campus. This is the first time that these three important areas have been brought together in the context of an international conference. The conference will provide a showcase for cutting-edge research and advocacy at the intersection of gender, sexuality and health, as well as an opportunity for networking and dialogue. We expect to attract around 200 international scholars and activists to present and discuss their work. There will also be special events for graduate students and members of the local community, as well as exhibits highlighting community activities. The keynote speakers at the conference will include:

- **Cindy Patton**, newly-appointed as a Canada Research Chair in the Departments of Sociology/Anthropology and Women’s Studies at SFU, and internationally known for her work on HIV/AIDS
- **Lesley Doyal**, Professor of Health and Social Care at the University of Bristol, UK - a leading expert on the political economy of health and the relationship between health and underdevelopment; and advisor to the UN and WHO
- **Pat Armstrong**, CHSRF/CIHR Chair in Health Services and Professor in the Department of Sociology at York University, Toronto; and Chair of the National Coordinating Group on Health Care Reform and Women and the Centres of Excellence for Women’s Health Program
- **Monica J. Casper**, sociological researcher and newly-appointed Executive Director of the Intersex Society of North America (Seattle, USA), the organization which campaigns for education about and improved services for people born intersexed (i.e. those who do not fit conventional definitions of ‘male’ or ‘female’)

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### Review of My First Year

Sue Wilkinson

Two years living and working abroad is a wonderful personal and professional opportunity – and my first year as Ruth Wynn Woodward Professor (RWWP) has been fantastic! I arrived in Vancouver in September 2002, to warm sunshine and brilliant fall colours. I was soon teaching an undergraduate course on ‘Women’s Sexualities’ to twenty enthusiastic students and getting to know my new colleagues in Women’s Studies, who are doing some really interesting work. I’d come from a Social Sciences Department back in England, so it was a welcome (and very stimulating) change to engage with a broader range of disciplines, and also to be able to take a feminist commitment for granted. I began to make contacts with local community groups working in women’s health, particularly breast cancer and lesbian health (my specialist areas), and gave a public lecture on ‘The breast: representations in sickness and in health’ at the Harbour Centre in November. I was also made very welcome on a visit to talk at the Northwest Community College in Terrace, in rural BC. Back in Vancouver, the New Year brought more snow than I’d ever seen in England (although I gather it was atypically little for the Coast Mountains) and Meredith introduced me to snowshoeing in virgin...

...continued p. 30
CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

International Interdisciplinary Conference on

GENDER, SEXUALITY AND HEALTH

Vancouver, Canada, 10-13 June 2004

Contributions of the following types are invited:

- Papers (30 min. including discussion)
- Posters
- Symposia (2 hours, including discussion)
- Workshops (2 hours)

All submissions will be reviewed by the Conference Committee

Closing date for submissions: 1st March 2004

Submissions should be sent to:

Sue Wilkinson, Chair, GSH Conference Committee, Department of Women’s Studies, Simon Fraser University, 8888 University Drive, Burnaby, BC, V5A 1S6, Canada

Please use the following format:

(i) Cover sheet, with the following information:
Type of presentation (i.e. paper, poster, symposium or workshop)
Title of presentation
Author name(s) and affiliation(s)
Mailing and email addresses; telephone and fax numbers

(ii) Abstract sheet, with the following information ONLY:
Type of presentation (i.e. paper, poster, symposium or workshop)
Title of presentation
200-word abstract
(For symposia, 200-word abstract for EACH paper + a 200-word overview/ summary)

Email enquiries about the Conference may be addressed to:<gsh@sfu.ca>
Conference website available Fall 2003 (from <www.sfu.ca/womens-studies>)
Community College and University College Visiting Scholar Program

This program sponsors instructors involved in Women's Studies programs from the colleges and university colleges in BC and Yukon to work and study at SFU during the summer. The program began in the summer of 2001. In 2001 there were two visitors, Jennifer Gustar from Okanagan University College and Serena Patterson from North Island College. In the summer of 2002 Melissa Munn from Northwest Community College was the visitor. This past summer once again there were two visitors, Connie Brim from the University College of the Cariboo and Melody Martin from Malaspina University College. There are articles by each of them in this newsletter.

Instructor(s) are sponsored for one month during the summer to study and work at SFU. Relocation expenses to and from the lower mainland are reimbursed, either airfare or $ .35 per kilometer. For visiting scholars who are from outside the lower mainland a housing allowance up to $1000 is provided. If a visiting scholar requires child care, an allowance up to $400 is provided. A visiting scholar is provided with computer accounts, a library card, an office or shared office space in the Women's Studies Department, and a limited photocopy budget.

There are one or more visitors per summer, depending on the budget for the year and other planned programs. There are a number of possibilities. People from the lower mainland are welcome to apply, however, relocation and housing costs are not covered. If a local visitor incurs extra child care costs because of taking this position, these are covered up to $400. Because there are lower costs associated with visitors from the Lower Mainland, there is the possibility of several visitors, but the budget limits the number of visitors from outside the Lower Mainland. However, if institutions are willing to share the relocation, housing, and child care costs, it might be possible for two visitors from an institution to come.

Applications should consist of a short proposal (3-5 pages) and a résumé. The deadline for summer 2004 is November 14, 2003. The proposal should focus either on a research project or a course development project. An individual can apply more than once, but preference is given to people who have not previously held a visiting scholar position. Preference is given to community college and university college instructors who are teaching or developing Women's Studies courses or programs. Others who are teaching courses in other disciplines with a focus on women and women's issues may apply but will be given a lower priority.

Send applications to: Marjorie Griffin Cohen, Chair, Women's Studies Department, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby BC V5A 1S6. Questions about the program should be directed to Marjorie Griffin Cohen by phone or e-mail (604-291-5526 or mcohen@sfu.ca).

Collecting Women's Writing

Connie Brim

Since 2000, in collaboration with Dr. Joan Bryans, a philosopher who occasionally teaches at UBC's Department of Philosophy, I have been identifying and collecting writings composed by women who lived in British Columbia's Southern Interior between the time of white settlement and 1950. These writings take a variety of forms including letters, diaries, recipes, songs, memoirs, and verses. Thus far we have located written work from more than twenty women. The archival research continues—and shows no sign of abating for quite some time.

Working at the Women's Studies Department and the Bennett Library at SFU provided me with a pleasant change from archival research and the opportunity to research (and record) the feminist editorial process. My work at SFU...
fell into two separate yet related activities. First, taking advantage of a well-stocked library, I researched the subject of the feminist editorial process (is there such a process, and if so, what principles inform it?) as well as questions related to trespassing and appropriation of private voice. Secondly, and serendipitously, less than two weeks prior to arriving at the Women’s Studies Department, Cuyler Page, Curator at the Kamloops Museum, invited me to read a transcription of an unpublished manuscript by Julia Bullock-Webster, an English woman who visited the South Okanagan between 1894 and 1896. While reading the transcription of her diary, I recorded my questions, ideas, and impressions of Bullock-Webster’s diary. This process produced what I call a reader’s log about trespassing into a private diary not written with an eye for publication.

I thank the Women’s Studies’ Community College and University College Visitors’ Program, especially Meredith Kimball and Billie Kuret, for their generosity and support.

Native Women’s and Women’s Studies
Mélody Martin

My name is Mélody Martin. I am Wailaki/ Pomo from Mendocino County, north of San Francisco. I have been in Canada for almost 35 years now, and I have worked for the last ten years in the First Nation Studies, Women’s Studies and English departments at Malaspina University College. One of the very exciting parts of my work has been collaborating with my colleagues to develop First Nations women’s courses in the Women’s Studies Department. These courses, which have been offered for the last eight years, are taught by Native women and have been very successful in attracting and retaining a good number of First Nations students both women and men as well as non-Native students.

I am truly thankful for the opportunity and pleasure of working on campus at SFU during May and June. Trying to complete research while teaching full-time, caring for and about family, friends, students, and geriatric pets presents many challenges. In my particular case, I have been working for the last 3 years with a group of 30 other First Nations women (former and current students) involved in women’s studies at Malaspina University College on Vancouver Island. We established the Native Women’s Research Project and the Kwam-Kwun S̱Uúxw̱i, two groups of Native women involved in a variety of collaborative activities including interviews, surveys, focus groups, conference presentations and scholarly writing. Our main focus has been to articulate some of our experiences as Native women in academia, and most specifically within the context of the feminisms we encounter in the area of women’s studies. Part of this project has provided the data for my doctoral thesis, which I am very close to finishing, thanks to the concentrated time I have had to devote to it here in the Women’s Studies Department at SFU.

Everyone here has been welcoming, helpful, respectful, and encouraging an ideal work environment! The peace and quiet and acceptance that I experienced here has afforded me the opportunity to make very significant progress in my work. Hopefully, by the next time I apply to come for the summer as a Community College and University College Visiting Scholar (I do intend to try this again!) I will have my Ph.D. completed, and will be working on another project with the Kwam-Kwun S̱Uúxw̱i.

Special thanks to Meredith, Christine and Billie for all their kindness and help.

Hychka siim.

Women and Poverty: La Boheme

The Vancouver Opera sponsors an Opera Speaks series prior to the performance of each opera. These events which are held at the Vancouver Public Library connect the world of opera with today’s world. In April 2003 four women spoke on the panel before the performance of La Boheme. Each focused on the issue of women and poverty, relating the fictional Mimi’s experiences in the opera to contemporary issues facing poor women in Canada. Andrea Lebowitz, Professor Emerita in Women’s Studies, spoke about how Mimi is named in the opera—as Mimi or little when her name is Lucia. This process of naming serves to define and control her as today similar processes are used to name the poor and needy to keep them in their place. Rosemary Brown, former Ruth Wyn Woodward Professor in Women’s Studies, gave a historical overview of the conditions of women and other minorities in the 19th century. Liz Evans, the Director of the Portland Hotel Society spoke about working with and learning to respect and admire the women of the Portland Hotel. Lynne Smith, a judge and former Dean of Law at UBC, spoke of differences in the laws faced by Mimi in the 19th century and by poor women today. The panel was moderated by Pamela Post, a writer and CBC radio journalist.

Women’s History Month

Each October brings with it another chance to celebrate one or a few of the many women who have contributed to making the world a better place for women today. In October 2002, we turned our attention to Pauline Johnson Tekahionwake, 1861-1913. Dr. Veronica Strong-Boag, a Professor of Women’s Studies and Educational Studies at the University of British Columbia, and Dr. Carole Gerson, a Professor of English at SFU gave the lecture, "Recovering Pauline Johnson Tekahionwake". Using poems, pictures, and information from their two jointly authored
books, *Paddling Her Own Canoe: Time and Texts of E. Pauline Johnson Tekahionwake* and *E. Pauline Johnson: Collected Poetry and Selected Prose* they focused on how her performances and her writing reflected her identities as a First Nations person, a woman, a Canadian, and a person with a mixed-race (Native and European) background. Questions afterwards led to a lively discussion and everyone left with a greater appreciation of the struggles and achievements of Pauline Johnson Tekahionwake. The evening was jointly sponsored by Women’s Studies at SFU and The Women's Studies Program and The Centre for Research on Women's Studies & Gender Relations at the University of British Columbia.

Women's History Month Speakers Carol Gerson of SFU (left) and Nikki Strong-Boag of UBC

**RWWP Co-sponsorships 2002-2003**

Each year some of the money from the Ruth Wynn Woodward Endowment is used to co-sponsor events on the SFU campus and in the wider community. Occasionally these funds are also used to help support outside speakers in WS classes. These classes are open up to the wider SFU community. During the past year the following events were supported with these funds:

- **Dr. Richard Lee:** Sociology/Anthropology and Women’s Studies sponsored Dr. Lee’s talk “Confounding Conventional Wisdom: Women’s Power and the AIDS Crisis in Three African Societies” on October 8, 2003.

- **Sisters on the Bench:** This event was sponsored by the National Congress of Black Women's Foundation and West Coast LEAF as a Celebration of Women’s History Month, October 2002. Five female judges of African descent spoke at a fundraising lunch. Women’s Studies purchased a table and Rachel Hurst and Ingrid Vander Kioet, both graduate students in WS attended.

- **SFU Women’s Centre:** The December 6 Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre ‘Pathways Through Violence’ display and program and the on-going Health Workshop Series.

- **Dr. Dominique Veillard:** The Sociology/Anthropology and Women’s Studies Department co-sponsored her talk “The Decline of Female Enrollment in Computing Science at the Bachelor Level in France: How Computers Got Masculinized over the past 20 Years”

- **And the Beat Goes On: The Music of African People Through the Ages:** This event was organized by the African Canadian Coalition Against Racism, The Black Historical and Cultural Society of BC and Women’s Quest Assistance Society in Celebration of Black History Month, February 2003. This day-long event included music, poetry, and informative talks. The Honourable Joan Augustino, who holds two portfolios in the Federal Cabinet, Multiculturalism and Status of Women, was the keynote speaker at the event.

- **Ravensbrük: Forgotten Women of the Holocaust:** This exhibition was sponsored by the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre and ran from February 14 to May 30, 2003. The exhibition which focused on the experiences of the Jewish women who were interned in the Ravensbrük concentration camp during World War II. Ravensbrük was the largest camp for women inmates. By the end of the war 132,000 women and children had been imprisoned there. Of these, 117,000 had died by the time the camp was liberated in 1945.

- **MY DICK and Other Manly Tales:** This performance by Norman Nawrocki was organized by SFPRG and took place on February 27. This one-man educational ‘sex’ comedy cabaret focused on homophobia, sexuality, and appreciating diversity. Norman Nawrocki has performed this show on more than 40 Canadian college and university campuses.

- **West Coast LEAF Equality Breakfast:** Each year for the last 16 years West Coast Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF) has organized a fund-raising breakfast for the celebration of International Women’s Day. This year the keynote speaker was Joanne St. Lewis, a professor of law at the University of Ottawa, Faculty of Law. Women’s Studies purchased a table and Angela Cameron, the instructor of Women and the Law, and several of her students attended.

Women’s Studies table at LEAF Breakfast: standing Angela Cameron, instructor Women and the Law (left) and Meredith Kimball; seated students from Women and Law class

- **Dr. Mala de Alwis:** The Department of Geography and Women’s Studies co-sponsored this talk. Dr. de Alwis teaches at the New School University in New York and the International Centre for Ethnic Studies in Colombo, Sri Lanka. She and Dr. Jennifer Hyndman have worked together and gave the talk, “Bodies, Shrines and Roads: Displacement, (In)mobility, and Violence in Sri Lanka”.

- **Keepin’ it Real: Girls Speaking Out about Diversity:** This one-day conference organized by The FREDa Centre for Research on Violence against Women and Children was held June 21, 2003. This conference was free to more than 100 high school girls of all backgrounds who came together to explore racism, sexism, violence against women and girls, health and sexuality, the law, the media, self defense, yoga, Hip Hop, and creative writing.

- **Women, Citizenship and the Future of Africa: A Rosemary Brown Memorial Lecture:** This lecture was sponsored by the School of Communications and the Department of Women’s Studies. The speaker was Madonna Larbi, Executive Director of MATCH International. MATCH International is dedicated to the empowerment of women in developing nations and sponsors programs for and by women in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.
WS Articulation Meetings Held at UBC

Each year Women’s Studies instructors from the universities, university colleges, and community colleges gather for a one-day meeting to discuss the state of Women’s Studies at our own and other colleges and universities. The topics usually include issues around transfer credits, the development of new Women’s Studies courses, and strategies to insure the survival of Women’s Studies in institutions of higher learning in BC.

This past year the articulation meeting was held at the University of British Columbia on May 9. There was a lively discussion as usual and this year the discussion focused around the qualifications to teach Women’s Studies courses. Next year’s meetings will be held in conjunction with the Bowen Island Retreat which will be held April 30 to May 2, 2004.

Eight academics from across the country initiated a complaint with the Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC) over the discriminatory features of Industry Canada’s Canada Research Chairs Program (CRC). When the complaint was filed in March 2003 about half the CRC positions had been awarded, but only 16% of the total of 847 went to women. The complaint also points to the lack of information about the distribution of CRCs among other groups protected by human rights legislation and includes these groups in its action.

Those initiating the complaint are Marjorie Griffin Cohen (SFU), Louise Forsyth (University of Saskatchewan), Glenis Joyce (University of Saskatchewan), Audrey Kobayashi (Queen’s University), Shree Mulay (McGill University) Michèle Ollivier (Université d’Ottawa), Susan Prentice (University of Manitoba), Wendy Robbins (University of New Brunswick).

During the first stage of the complaint process the CHRC will attempt to mediate between the complainants and Industry Canada to come to some resolution of the issue. This is expected to occur in fall 2003.

Women’s Studies Coordinators’ Meeting
Marilyn MacDonald

This year’s Women’s Studies/Women and Gender Studies Coordinators’ meeting was held on May 31st in Halifax, the day before the Canadian Women’s Studies Association/Association Canadienne des Etudes des Femmes conference. The meeting was organized by Ann Brathwaite (University of Prince Edward Island) and Lesley Biggs (University of Saskatchewan), with a lunch provided through WS at Dalhousie University. About 25 women attended the meeting, with representatives from universities and colleges across Canada. This year’s meeting was set up in a workshop format, with an initial general discussion about the status of WS in Canada based on a report prepared by WS at the University of Guelph. This was followed by two sessions of small-group workshops on topics such as issues facing undergraduate and graduate WS programs, curricular coherence amongst WS programs, and strategies for future development of WS. A brief summary of each workshop was presented that included suggestions for next year’s meeting in Winnipeg. Some of the suggestions included a review of the current roles of the endowed Chairs; an expansion of the University of Guelph report to include curricular, research and community developments; and a continued focus on strategies for at least maintaining the position of WS within academia and the wider community.

Human Rights Complaint over Canadian Research Chairs
Marjorie Cohen

In 2000, the federal government launched a $900-million five-year program to provide 2,000 new faculty positions across the country by 2005. In the process of instituting this Canadian Research Chairs Program (CRC) many established hiring procedures within universities were set aside, mainly because the way the program was designed by Industry Canada. This has resulted in a reversion to very poor hiring procedures that consistently undermine the advances made by women and other groups protected by the Canadian Human Rights Act.
continued from p. 3—M. Kimball on Lynne Hissey

For many people at SFU, Lynne will be best remembered as a dedicated, inspired, and talented teacher. She first taught in Women’s Studies in 1988, and taught an amazing range of courses in the department over the next 14 years. These included Female Roles in Contemporary Society, Women and Popular Culture, Lesbian Studies, Women and Utopias (6 times), Women and the Media (6 times), Methodological Issues in Women’s Studies, and Women and Film. This teaching record in terms of both breadth across our curriculum and sustained interest in frequently taught courses is impressive. Few instructors taught as wide a range of courses, or over so many years. However, Lynne’s breadth and depth of teaching was not limited to Women’s Studies. She also had a wide range of courses in Communications including Introduction to Communication Theory, Mass Media in Canada, History of Communication, Understanding Television, Communication Theory in the Evolution of the Social Sciences, Political Communication, Issues Seminar: Feminism and Postmodernism, and Advanced Communication Theory. She also developed and wrote the study guide for the very popular Distance Education version of Introduction to Communication Theory. In addition, she regularly taught Introduction to the Social Background of Canada in Canadian Studies.

Across all of her Women’s Studies courses Lynne consistently received some of the highest evaluations in the department. She was consistently seen as a knowledgeable, intelligent, and articulate instructor who respected students, and encouraged and supported their learning in the classroom. Just a sample of comments over the years include: “the best university experience I’ve had”; “found her lectures both challenging my mind and opened up new ways of thinking for me. I would definitely take any course she was instructing in the future”; “It is the class I look forward to going to”; “Students and the instructor facilitated each other to form a community of learners”; “Lynne’s facilitation skills were excellent as they allowed for everyone to participate in conversation equally and without feeling threatened. This contributed to optimal learning”; “This was the only class I didn’t skip any of this semester”; “Everyone in the class was a star. A good example of humanized teaching/maximize learning”; “I realize that this is a very high-scored evaluation, but I do take those evaluations seriously and would not rate Lynne as highly if she wasn’t fully deserving of it”; and “Lynne was one of the best profs. I have had the pleasure of meeting and learning from at SFU”. These comments are representative of all the courses she taught at SFU. Through her teaching she made an important contributions to the learning and the lives of many students.

I also personally very much appreciated working with Lynne in the department. She was an active sessional instructor in the department. She lectured in the WS Travelling Speakers’ Series throughout the 1990s. When we had an external review last year, she was one of the sessionals who came to meet with the reviewers. Partly as a result of her efforts one of the recommendations that went forward to Senate from that review is the following: “To continue to investigate the possibility of a rotating lecturership and an appropriate structure for it within the Department in order to provide greater continuity in temporary instruction”. As the department explores this opportunity to provide more continuity for sessional instructors in the department, we will indeed think often of what Lynne contributed over the years.

continued from p. 3—R. Jiwa on Lynne Hissey

As a student, I found her approach to be refreshing. Her students mattered and we always knew that. Not only did she teach feminist theory, she practised it everyday, especially in her classrooms. She made sure that we knew that our opinions and approaches were important, and gave us the spaces and opportunities to express them. For me, it was largely in my writing where she not only validated my voice, but encouraged me to actively make it known. Her faith in me and in my words was such a contrast to the dogmatic and didactic ways of the other professors I had at the time, who only wanted me to conform to the ways of the academy. Is it any wonder that I followed Lynne from one course to another?

Lynne was also known for her informal “tutorials at the pub,” especially after evening lectures. In some ways, she held court, as most of us hung on her words. However, she was also interested in learning about us and our backgrounds. Over the years, I was fascinated to learn the stories of women and how comfortably they came out at a table with Lynne. Indeed, she made us feel at ease. She never portrayed herself as perfect and would admit to her mistakes. One such occasion occurred with a student who was by society’s terms, “a senior citizen.” She looked rather grandmotherly, wore skirts and cardigans and spoke ever so quietly. Lynne worried how this seemingly frail creature would respond to discussions of feminism, patriarchy and hegemony. She considered toning down some of the material, but out of respect for all of the students, did not. From the beginning, this older student did not shy away. She would come to the pub with us after class and as she grew more comfortable, made her strong opinions known. One night, Lynne finally admitted to this student and the rest of us, that she had had reservations about teaching this older student. She publicly apologized for her ageism and its concomitant assumptions. She thanked this woman for teaching her a very valuable lesson. I had never witnessed a teacher admitting to such a thing. I was impressed by her sincerity, honesty and humanity. I have never been more proud of her.

Over the years, my relationship with Lynne went from her being my mentor to us becoming close friends. I often joked that many people were awed that I had become friends with “The Lynne Hissey.” To me, she was just my buddy. Lynne. We shared a similar irreverent sense of humour, and talked passionately about teaching and learning as well as politics and media. She was among my biggest supporters for pursuing a Master’s degree in Women’s Studies. We grew and learned from one another through good times and bad. We were together the night of the Montreal massacre, comforting one another and trying to make sense of the entirely nonsensical. Not having met one another’s parents, she supported me through my Dad’s death, and I her when her mother passed on. She videotaped my wedding shower, service and reception, and offered many “Hisseyisms” in her audio commentary. And I cannot even begin to count the number of times we helped one another move.

Lynne died all too young at the age of 48. She left behind a legacy of accomplishments as a teacher, feminist and intellectual. Among the later entries in her journal was that “teaching is the first priority.” Indeed that was her passion. I am among a long line of students who can attest to that. Academia and future generations of students have experienced a huge loss with her passing. Her partner Sandra, family and friends have lost a beloved part of all of our hearts. We will miss her humour, her keen insights and generous spirit. I will miss my pal, Lynne. She was one of a kind. Indeed she was The Lynne Hissey.
We were divided into five groups of 12 (6 pairs in each group) according to the communes we would be traveling to for three weeks. Two of the groups headed south to Tam Vinh, one to Hue in the central area, and two to Nghe An province in the north. Tram and I were in the Nghe An group, headed to Nghi Phong commune just outside of the city of Vinh. Our group boarded a bus to Vinh, where we stayed a couple of days to get final permission from the local authorities to stay in the commune. Vinh was one of the cities that had been heavily bombed during the American war. In many ways it was still being rebuilt. It was a flat town, dry, and home to the best peanut candies. It is not a tourist destination, and so ‘foreigners’ are a rare sight in the city. We were floored at the attention we received everywhere we went. We visited Vinh University and were able to speak with professors working at the Centre for Poverty Reduction before heading to the commune.

Nghi Phong commune is about a half an hour’s drive, or an hour’s bike ride from Vinh. It is divided into approximately 20 hamlets, each with two to three hundred residents. Each hamlet specializes in a craft; in our hamlet the women spent time making paper to sell to fishers to wrap fish. The majority of residents engage in rice farming and animal husbandry, although some have small-scale businesses or work outside the commune.

Each pair was billeted with a family and Tram and I stayed with a middle aged couple and their three adolescent children, two girls and a boy. Initially, Tram and I were surprised by the physical effort it took to arrange for day to day living. There was no plumbing or running water in the homes, although most families had a well that was used for washing and showering. In our house, the women did all the cooking in a separate hut. I asked if I could help cook with them but could not stand upright or even breathe properly, as it filled with smoke from the fire. I marveled at how our host mother spent time in there everyday. Tram fared better in the kitchen than I, but she preferred to wash dishes with the sisters, so that is what I did as well. One night a few of us decided to get the women from the community together and cook for them ourselves. We biked to Vinh and bought what we thought we needed to make pancakes and fruit salad. It took 6 of us with sweaty brows to keep the fire going without burning ourselves, cook the ‘pancakes’, and make the salad. It must have turned out well, because we all ended up swinging dancing and singing before the night was up.

In Nghi Phong we were encouraged by our academic advisor to “learn by doing”, and we had immense flexibility in terms of our activities. We usually ended up going around and talking with people. We were invited to weddings, parties, to help make paper, to watch TV, soccer games, and into people’s homes for tea and jackfruit. Other times we would go to the health clinic or schools and ask to speak with anyone who was interested in chatting. Our research was group oriented, so we had to shift our topics and learn to work and to compromise as a group. People had different interests, so that was one method of splitting up the information gathering process. I was mostly interested in gender and political structure of the community, and was able to attend a meeting of the Women’s Union, interview the chair of the local People’s Committee, and participate in activities sponsored by the Youth Union. We did community profiling and mapping as a group. During our last night in Nghi Phong we were asked by the People’s Committee to present what we had learned. On the stage in the community centre we worked out some skits and told anecdotes about our stay.

When we left the commune we joined the other northern group for a two-day debriefing at a nearby beach before heading back to Hanoi for our final presentations and completion of the group binders. There were very few dry eyes on the last morning in Hanoi as some of us stood, waving to the bus. Probably the best thing about the seminar experience was being able to meet and become close with our Vietnamese counterparts. I learned so much from Tram and the others from sharing experiences and listening to what they had to say about different things. The WUSC seminar is a highly valuable and enriching experience for students. The thing that would make it complete would be for the Vietnamese students to visit Canada.

Thanks to Bob Birch, LJDC, for masthead design, Juan Sanchez for masthead artwork, and Aixa Mahoney for layout design.
SFU WOMEN'S CENTRE

We are:

PRO-FEMINIST
Committed to the struggle for women’s rights and active against all forms of oppression. Freedom for one must mean freedom for all!

PRO-CHOICE
Committed to ensuring women’s right to control their bodies and their reproductive lives.

TRANS AND INTERSEX WOMAN INCLUSIVE
Committed to ensuring Trans and Intersex women’s rights are respected and protected in the Women’s Centre, on SFU Campuses and everywhere!

SEX POSITIVE
Committed to providing sex positive information that promotes pleasure, growth, honest communication, safety and informed choices across all genders, orientations and expressions.

What's new at the Women’s Centre?

The carpets! Thanks to the kindness of Ron Heath, Dean of Student Services, we’re getting new carpets for the fall semester and we’re thrilled – come see them in all their glory at our fall semester open house in late September. We’re also getting new paint and kitchen repairs courtesy of the Simon Fraser Student Society. Our space is going to look fabulous in time for our 30th Anniversary this year! Keep an eye out for special events in the spring 2004 semester to celebrate 30 years of working with amazing women from the campus and community.

Our Health Information Project continues in the form of our SOUP & SCHMOOZE sessions, with the support of Women’s Studies and the Dean of Student Services. We provide free vegetarian soup to between 60-80 women and talk about any and every physical or emotional health issue – this fall we’ll be covering several topics including birth control and navigating relationships with parents!

To volunteer, check out our library or join the collective, you can visit us at TC 3013, call us at 604.291.3670 or email us at womenctr@sfu.ca
web site: www.sfu.ca/womenscentre/