DEPARTMENT OF GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND WOMEN’S STUDIES
SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
NEWSLETTER, FALL 2013

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR
Willeen Keough

The Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies has been alive with innovation and energy this past academic year, with faculty, students, and staff demonstrating that GSWS really is “the little engine that could.”

Our faculty members continued to engage in thought-provoking research. For example, Helen Leung, in collaboration with a colleague at Melbourne University, explored representations of the “Queer Asian City.” Jackie Levitin immersed herself in film and other media expressions of Jewish and Palestinian identity. Habiba Zaman and doctoral candidate Syeda Nayab Bukhari conducted interviews with South Asian immigrants and settlement workers to report and make recommendations on levels of support for newcomers to the Vancouver area. Lara Campbell investigated the ways that Vietnam War resistance both challenged and reinforced gender in Canada. Community outreach was also a very high priority for faculty members, as demonstrated by Marjorie Griffin Cohen’s involvement in the Living Wage Campaign on campus, Willeen Keough’s work with the Social Housing Coalition of British Columbia, and Jen Marchbank’s engagement with the LGBTQ community in Surrey and co-organization of a campaign school to educate women on planning and implementing successful political campaigns.

We were thrilled to welcome a number of exciting new scholars to our department this past year. Tiffany Muhler Myrdahl is continuing as our Ruth Wynn Woodward Chair, and Lucas Crawford has joined us as a special Ruth Wynn Woodward Lecturer. Claire Robson came aboard during the summer as a SSHRC postdoctoral fellow, working under the supervision of our Associate Faculty member Elise Chenier, and Adrian Guta has joined us more recently as a CIHR postdoctoral fellow, studying under another of our Associates members, Cindy Patton. With innovative projects, such as an LGBTQ oral history and social mapping installation, and a “What Does It Mean to Feel Fat?” conference, as well as creative community engagement (Quirk-e Memory Boxes,

(Continued on page 3)
TABLE OF CONTENTS
Message from the Chair ...................................1
Graduate Chair ...........................................3
GSWS Graduate Students Participate in
2013 Congress at UVic .................................4
Quirk-e Memory Boxes ................................6
SFU Grad at Simone de Beauvoir Institute ..7
Pathways to Prosperity ................................10
Lara Campbell ..........................................11
Staffing News ..........................................11
Southern Asian Immigrants in Vancouver ..12
Helen Leung ............................................12
Canadian Womens’ Voter Congress ..........14
Jacqueline Levitin .....................................14
Willeen Keough .......................................15
Nelson Mandela Tribute .............................16
Ruth Wynn Woodward Lecturer ................17
RWW Junior Chair Report .........................20
Books Published .......................................22
Our Faculty and Associate Faculty ..........23

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

We’re also on Facebook

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.

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

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

CONTACT US

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

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

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

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

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

Policy & a Pint, anyone?), our new colleagues are re-energizing GSWS as they re-imagine scholarship and teaching.

Adding to our outreach, our department organized or co-sponsored a number of significant public talks and scholarly events in the past academic year. In November 2012, GSWS joined with the Kalayaan Centre to co-sponsor a province-wide conference titled “Workers’ Struggles Amidst Neoliberal Globalization.” Faculty member Habiba Zaman’s insightful new book, Asian Immigrants in Two Canadas: Racialization, Marginalization and Deregulated Work, was launched on the eve of the conference. A month later, Kathleen Monk, Executive Director of the Broadbent Institute and regular panelist

(Continued from page 1)

...Natasha Patterson successfully defended her doctoral dissertation entitled: “Focusing on Reality TV: Exploring Women’s Participation in Talent-Based Competition Shows." Congratulations to Natasha on her accomplishment!

Somayeh Bahrami, MA candidate: Somayeh presented a paper at the Canadian Sociological Association conference at the Congress of Social Science and Humanities in June 2013 at the University of Victoria. The panel examined the theme of Gender, Migration, and Citizenship.

The graduate program welcomed three new students this year: Constance Yan and Kelly Blank have joined our MA course intensive program and Maria Theresa Hour has joined the PhD program. We have a thriving and healthy graduate program, with a total of 22 graduate students, including 9 MA students and 13 PhD students. Please see our website for longer profiles of many of our current graduate students, all of whom are undertaking creative, original, and fascinating projects on various aspects of gender and sexuality.

We would like to congratulate all of our graduate students for their incredible accomplishments this past year. Here are a few highlights:

Congratulations to Sandra Martins, a dedicated organizer within the GSWS Graduate caucus, who recently graduated with her MA (focusing on gender and education).

Huai Bao, doctoral candidate: Congratulations to Huai for receiving a SSHRC doctoral award! Huai has also completed his comprehensive

(Continued on page 8)

GRADUATE CHAIR REPORT

Beginning in Fall 2013, we introduced two new graduate courses into our revised curriculum: Professional Development I and II. Based on requests from students and increasing demand across the university for more intensive professional development training, we are using these courses to explore opportunities for developing graduate school survival skills, possibilities for conference, publication and grant writing, research presentations and feedback, and job interview skills and training. Our class this fall (2013) has been very successful and we hope to make this a regular feature of our graduate program.

The graduate program welcomes three new students this year: Constance Yan and Kelly Blank have joined our MA course intensive program and Maria Theresa Hour has joined the PhD program. We have a thriving and healthy graduate program, with a total of 22 graduate students, including 9 MA students and 13 PhD students. Please see our website for longer profiles of many of our current graduate students, all of whom are undertaking creative, original, and fascinating projects on various aspects of gender and sexuality.

We would like to congratulate all of our graduate students for their incredible accomplishments this past year. Here are a few highlights:

Congratulations to Sandra Martins, a dedicated organizer within the GSWS Graduate caucus, who recently graduated with her MA (focusing on gender and education).

Natasha Patterson successfully defended her doctoral dissertation entitled: “Focusing on Reality TV: Exploring Women’s Participation in Talent-Based Competition Shows.” Congratulations to Natasha on her accomplishment!

Somayeh Bahrami, MA candidate: Somayeh presented a paper at the Canadian Sociological Association conference at the Congress of Social Science and Humanities in June 2013 at the University of Victoria. The panel examined the theme of Gender, Migration, and Citizenship.

Huai Bao, doctoral candidate: Congratulations to Huai for receiving a SSHRC doctoral award! Huai has also completed his comprehensive
This year's Congress, a Canadian national association of professional and academic organizations, including the Women's and Gender Studies Association, was held in June at the University of Victoria in British Columbia. Inspired by her graduate students from GSWS 830 Gender, Migration and Citizenship offered in Fall 2012, Professor Habiba Zaman organized two sessions under the Canadian Sociological Association (CSA) at the Congress. Four MA students—Somayeh Bahrami, Nadine Boulay, Rishma Johal, and Nathalie Lozano Niera (in alphabetical order)—presented their papers originating from the Gender, Migration and Citizenship course. All four students submitted their abstracts before the deadline while fulfilling other course requirements in their first semester (Fall 2012) at Simon Fraser University. The CSA has a long-standing policy of reviewing draft papers to meet the association’s scholarly criteria prior to acceptance for CSA official program. Based on the comments on the final paper in the course, the four students revised their papers for presentation. The papers presented include (i) “I am a Racialized Immigrant Woman: I am Unemployed and Poor,” by Somayeh Bahrami; (ii) “The Burden of Proof: Gay and (Continued on page 5)
Lesbian Asylum Seekers in Canada,” by Nadine Boulay; (iii) “Moving beyond the Citizen’s Shadow: South Asian Canadian Women’s Agency,” by Rishma Johal; and (iv) “Canadian Exclusionary Immigration Act and its Effects on Women and LGBTTI Refugees,” by Nathalie Lozano-Neira. As Grad papers, these were well received by the audience with lots of support and encouragement. Victoria’s uninterrupted sunshine and warm weather in the first week of June also uplifted the academic spirit of our students and they promised to keep trying to publish their papers. GSWS partially funded our graduate students’ conference participation. Thanks to Katherine Hunter, Roberta Neilson, Tracey Anbinder, Lara Campbell, and Willeen Keough for supporting four graduate students’ first endeavour at the Congress 2013!

~ Habiba Zaman
Claire Robson is a new SSHRC funded postdoctoral fellow in GSWS. As part of her two-year arts research project about memory, she invited each of the 28 members of an LGBT elders’ group to turn a regular shoebox into a piece of conceptual art. Each box represents a ‘slice’ of memory that is of particular significance to the artist. The collection of Quirk-e (the Queer Imaging & Riting Kollective for Elders) Memory Boxes has shown at two local community centres, the Queer Arts festival, and at the QMUNITY’s Honouring Our Elders event.

Robson hopes to show that arts-engaged research can offer ways for marginalized individuals to re-collect and re-present their experiences in ways that examine collective memory and speak back to institutional forgetting. GSWS is currently collaborating on a book project – The Bridge Generation – that draws together stories from members of Quirk-e. GSWS and History professor Elise Chenier will provide socio-historical overviews of each of the decades covered in the writers’ long journey from no rights to civil rights.

For more information about the Quirk-e collective, Robson’s research, or the anthology, please contact claire_robson@sfu.ca.
Syeda Nayab Bukhari, PhD candidate of the department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies, who recently moved to Montreal, has been appointed as a research associate of The Simone de Beauvoir Institute (SdBI). SdBI is a college of Concordia University dedicated to studying feminisms and questions of social justice. Research associates (RAs) of SdBI are involved in feminist research issues and projects; the team of RAs meet regularly to discuss and exchange ideas in seminars or Feminist Cafe events. It is a great opportunity for Syeda and GSWS to make connections with feminist research bodies active across Canada.
exams and thesis proposal, was entered into the second round of the Canadian Writers Union’s National Prose Competition, and received third prize at the Chinese Canadian Travelogue Competition. He also has taught a sessional course at UBC, published an article in the Journal of International East-West Studies, and presented at a conference on gender and sexuality in contemporary art in Finland.

Nadine Boulay, MA candidate: Nadine has been coordinating an inter-generational oral history project to record and archive lesbian histories in Vancouver during the 1970s and 1980s. She was a successful recipient of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada's Masters scholarship, and the SFU Living Personal Truths Awards. She is currently applying to PhD programs to continue her research on queer histories and cultural memory.

Rob Bittner, doctoral candidate: Rob presented two papers earlier in the year: One talk was on two-spirited youth in literature at the Association of American Geographers in Los Angeles, and the other presentation was on emerging gender identities in young adult literature at the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences in Victoria. He also was invited to give guest lectures at UBC, St. Catherine University, the University of Illinois, and in the Faculty of Education at SFU. This year he published a chapter on children’s virtual worlds co-authored with Dr. Eric Meyers at UBC (in the collection Children’s Play Worlds: Culture, Learning and Growth in Virtual Spaces). Two other articles were accepted for publication in 2014: one in Bookbird, a children’s literature journal, and another in Rethinking Sexism, Gender, and Sexuality, a collection of essays published by Rethinking Schools. Considered an expert in the field of children’s literature, Rob was asked to serve as a juror on the 2014 John Newbery Medal Committee.

Novia Chen, doctoral candidate: Congratulations to Novia on successfully completing her comprehensive exams! Novia also presented two papers this past year: “Normalizing Disability, Decentralizing Heterosexual Temporality: Dissecting Queerness in Zero Chou’s Drifting Flowers” (University of Film and Video Association, Chicago, IL. U.S., 08/12), and “Validating Female Authorship in Chinese Cinema: The Case of Li Yu” (Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Chicago, IL. U.S., 03/13).

Maria Theresa Houar
Welcome to Maria, who just joined our program this fall to study dance performance and gender. Maria Teresa Houar's choreography was featured in the short independent dance film “Country of Bodies: Bombay in Dance", a project which was originally conceived for the Mumbai Pride festival in 2011, and later grew into a short, independent dance film inspired by Wim Wender's “Pina”. Early in September, the film was screened at the Whistling Woods Film Institute in Mumbai, India. Upcoming screenings will be held at festivals Cinephiila festival in Tunisia and Dubia, and at the NFDC Film Bazaar India, in Mumbai. Information about future screenings and related news updates can be found at: http://countryofbodies.wordpress.com and https://www.facebook.com/COBdancefilm

Rishma Johal, MA candidate: Rishma won the Lal Bahadur Shastri Award for the Best Graduate Essay for 2012-13. Rishma’s paper, "Moving Beyond the Citizen's Shadow: South Asian Canadian Women’s Agency," focused on how the citizenship experience (Continued on page 9)
of South Asian women in Canada has changed over time and demonstrated how South Asian Canadian women have utilized their autonomy to overcome the secondary status that various barriers have imposed on them. Congratulations to Rishma on successfully completing her thesis proposal defense!

Nathalie Lozano Neira, MA candidate: Nathalie presented a paper in a panel (organized by Dr. Habiba Zaman) during Congress in Victoria on immigration legislation and its impact on women and queer refugees in Canada. She was recently awarded fellowship at the Centre for the Studies of Gender, Social Inequities and Mental Health. For more information on this award, see http://www.socialinequities.ca/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/CGSM-Community-Trainee-Ad.pdf. Congratulations to Nathalie on successfully completing her thesis proposal defense!

Joy Walcott-Francis, doctoral candidate: Joy presented a paper entitled "Negotiating Physical Activity – Black Canadian women tackle cardiovascular Disease" at the GSS Think Again Conference. She will also be co-facilitating a workshop titled "Stimulating Rich Discussions in the Classroom" for the 18th Annual Spring Semester TA/TM Day in January.

~ Lara Campbell

Barbara Bates, doctoral candidate:

What I would like to share about my past year as an older GSWS PhD student (notice I didn't say old), who is about to complete the second part of three comprehensive components, is that it is possible to combine a job, a home, a marriage, time for family and friends, and even the unexpected joys and complications of life, with graduate studies. I'm not saying that this has been easy, but it has been absolutely rewarding and an adventure, as I come to understand with deeper knowledge the society that I live in and, as well, how this society has influenced and continues to influence me, a feminist who came of age during the sixties revolution (yes, I think it was a revolution). It can be done. And, importantly, it should be done, if a person is so inclined (enough said about this inclination).
Syeda Nayab Bukhari, PhD candidate at Simon Fraser University and research associate of the Simone de Beauvoir Institute, Concordia University, presented a poster at the Pathways to Prosperity Annual Conference held on November 15-16, 2013, in Ottawa. The title of the poster was “Building social capital: Lived experiences of skilled Immigrant women and men from South Asia,” and it focused on the sources of support, eventually converting into social capital, utilized by south Asian skilled immigrants (women and men) in BC. Examples were drawn from the in-depth interviews of the participants, reflecting their lived experiences. An anti-racist and feminist lens was used to analyse the intersections of race/ethnicity, gender and family in the process of building social capital. Syeda also attended the meeting of the Standing Committee on Student Engagement of Pathways to Prosperity project; she was elected as the coordinator of the Quebec Node of graduate students/researchers for the project. The Pathways to Prosperity Partnership (P2P) is an alliance dedicated to fostering inclusive communities that promote the economic, social, and civic integration of migrants and minorities in Canada.

~ Syeda Nayab Bukhari
Lara Campbell

This past year has been a busy one. I was very lucky to work with fellow historian (and department chair) Willeen Keough on our co-authored textbook/reader entitled Gender History: Canadian Perspectives (Don Mills: Oxford University Press, 2014).

In late 2012, the University of Toronto Press published Debating Dissent: The Sixties in Canada, which I co-edited with Greg Kealey and Dominique Clément.

Dominique and I also co-wrote an article for the collection called “Time, Age, Myth: Toward a History of the Sixties.”


Currently, I’m continuing to work on my research project on gender and the antiwar movement, and I’m working on an article about masculinity and draft dodgers.

I’m also co-editing a collection of original articles for Between the Lines Press with my Canadian history colleagues Michael Dawson and Catherine Gidney (at Fredericton’s St Thomas University). We hope that this collection, called Worth Fighting For: War Resistance in Canadian History, will be published in 2014.

Finally, with the increased financial support of the GSWS department, I have been able to continue my work co-organizing the Herstory Cafe with historical interpreter Jolene Cumming. We have organized a wide range of talks and events related to women’s history in the Vancouver: see our website at www.herstorycafe.ca

Staffing News

Congratulations to Roberta Neilson, who gave birth to a bouncing baby boy on January 15, 2013. Alexander Arthur Neilson entered the world weighing 10 lbs, 2.7 oz and was 21 and 5/8 inches long. Both mother and child are healthy and happy.

Roberta enjoyed her parental leave and was very grateful for the amount of time she had off but is also happy to return to work in GSWS.

A special thank you to Tracey Anbinder for all her hard work and dedication as the department’s Manager while Roberta was on parental leave. The department was in excellent hands and everyone is grateful for her service. Tracey Anbinder returned to her position as undergraduate advisor in Psychology. Tracey has since received a promotion and is the new Manager, Academic & Administrative Services, FASS at Surrey. The department wishes her all the best in her future endeavors!

Future SFU Student—Class of 2035

© Photo by Roberta Neilson
South Asian Immigrants in Greater Vancouver

Professor Habiba Zaman and Syeda Nayab Bukhari (PhD candidate, GSWS) completed in December 2013 a report titled *South Asian Skilled Immigrants in Greater Vancouver: Formal and Informal Sources of Support for Settlement* (49 pages). Metropolis British Columbia funded the research project. Based on in-depth interviews of a sample of South Asian immigrants as well as settlement workers, the study deals with and analyzes factors that are complex and challenging socially and economically to new immigrants in the settlement process. Two well-known immigrant settlement services – MOSAIC in Vancouver and Progressive Intercultural Community Services (PICS) in Surrey – supported and generously assisted in conducting the study. Several organizations have expressed interest in publishing the report online to make it easily accessible to the community, especially the immigrant community.

~ Habiba Zaman

Helen Leung

I must confess I am terrible at writing entries for newsletters because I am not really one for the "backward glance" – the look back at past achievements. I am usually more excited to be moving on and looking forward to fresh, new endeavours. So, in the spirit of the New Year, I am going to write instead about what I'm working on and what I hope to achieve this year rather than what I've done in the past year. Well, at the very moment (literally) I am chasing an imminent deadline, trying to finish a 8000-word article on the acclaimed Hong Kong director Wong Kar-wai. I am offering queer perspectives on his films, which are mostly about heterosexual love. It's one of those crazy, anti-intuitive projects that I can't quite tell if I have made a brilliant or idiotic decision to take on. I'll let you know in the next newsletter!

After that, I have three projects brewing. The first is my foray into sound studies, a "sonic turn" for someone who has worked primarily with visual media. Last year I wrote a conference paper on sound and sexuality in Sinophone cinema, which led me down a very interesting rabbit hole of scholarship on sound, hearing, and listening publics. I hope to complete two articles, one on queer sound in Sinophone cinema, and another on Sinophone hearing, this year. The second project is a collaboration with Melbourne University Cultural Studies scholar Audrey Yue. We are currently writing an article that develops a framework for a comparative study of Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Singapore as exemplary models of "Queer Asian City." We hope to develop from the piece a larger project that examines intersections across the practices of gay clusters, urban renewal and social movement in these cities. Finally, brewing on the back burner is a project I am calling "A Tale of Two Film Cities: YVR-HKG," which is a comparative study of heritage activism and creative practices that are inspired by the film industries of Hong Kong and Vancouver. Taking off from the interesting scholarship on "film-induced

(Continued on page 13)
tourism," I want to explore social and arts projects that are fostered by the experience of living in a city where celluloid (now digital) dreams are produced. Aside from these academic endeavours, I hope to develop more awareness, foster more connections, and be more inspired in my daily life. Oh, that and finish my A2Z photography project that is currently stalled on P. If you have ideas for a photograph on a subject that starts with the letter Q, please let me know!

An entry from my A2Z photography project: F: Fight or Flight? I hope the answer is apparent!

Happy 2014!

~ Helen Leung
Jacqueline Levitin

I recently returned from Israel-Palestine. My purpose was to begin research on a documentary film and web documentary – the object of a proposed SSHRC Insight Grant with lots of student participation. (Let me know if you are interested in working with me if I hear positive results at the end of April!) As my plane set down in Tel Aviv, I have to admit that I was suddenly feeling a bit overwhelmed by this ambitious 4-year project. Immediately, however, my spirits lightened. From one after another, as I started telling people about my project, came a genuine rush of enthusiasm that buoyed my spirits. No one, they told me, had ever looked at the political situation of the Middle East from my perspective – Genetics.

My project starts with a proposal made in 1918 by David Ben-Gurion, later Israel’s first Prime Minister – a man with almost mythic status in the Jewish world. Having researched the villages of Palestine, Ben-Gurion and his co-writer (Israel’s second President, Yitzchak Ben-Tvi) proposed that the arriving Jews should have a lot in common with the Palestinians living there because they had found overwhelming evidence that these Palestinians were originally Jews! They were the descendants of the Jews who had remained after Rome had destroyed and looted Jerusalem and exiled the kingdom’s inhabitants as slaves. In the 8th century, these Jews converted to Islam when Muslim invaders offered the choice of an easy conversion – or taxation!

As I follow the mystery of the trail of genetic evidence of four individuals, I hope to unsettle entrenched positions. For example, could we better understand the ‘fellah’ (Palestinian farmer’s) attachment to the land if we imagined him as formerly a Jewish farmer who had never left? The web documentary format will allow the viewer to explore such questions in all

(Continued on page 15)
Jacqueline Levitin (CONT’D)

their real complexity. But complexity already started as I was organizing my first filming. Who would have expected that a foot and a half of snow would fall on

Jerusalem and create chaos for my December interview schedule!

~ Jacqueline Levitin

Willeen Keough

My first year with GSWS has been a very busy one, with much to learn about being a new chair in a new department. But it has also been an extremely rewarding time in a lively and creative environment. With extreme gratitude to everyone in GSWS for their professionalism and generosity, I am happy to announce that I haven’t sunk the place yet.

I have also found time to be somewhat productive in other aspects of my work. In March, I met with colleagues in gender studies from around the world at the Oxford Round Table, 15th Annual International Symposium on Women and Education, and presented a paper entitled, “Out in Left Field: Teaching for Social Justice.” Lara Campbell and I completed a textbook and reader titled Gender History: Canadian Perspectives, which has been published by Oxford University Press. I continue to carry out research and writing on articulations of masculinities in the Canadian seal hunt, and my manuscript entitled “Sea Shepherds, Eco-warriors, and Impresarios: The Performance of Eco-masculinity in the Canadian Seal Hunt of the Late Twentieth Century” has been accepted for an anthology on masculinities to be published by Wilfrid Laurier University Press. Another article, “Unpacking the discursive Irish woman immigrant in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Newfoundland,” was published in Irish Studies Review, and I contributed to a round-table journal review (with Michael Silvestri and Andrew Mackillop) of Barrie Crosbie’s book Irish Imperial Networks: Migration, Social Communication and Exchange in Nineteenth-Century India for Britain and the World.

Another article on my Irish research, “The Creation of the ‘Irish Loop’: Ethnicity, Collective Historical Memory, and Place,” has been accepted for an anthology about movements in Irish landscapes for Ashgate.

Currently, I have begun research and writing on “Between ‘the Rock’ and a hard place: Newfoundland masculinity in the oil fields of Alberta,” an exploration of shifting gender relations resulting from the “Big Commute” of Newfoundland men between home communities and the West. I am guest editor for a special edition of the Canadian Journal for Irish Studies, involving papers from an international conference that I chaired in 2013 entitled “On the Edge: Transitions, Transgressions, and Transformations in Irish Studies.” And I am enjoying my role as co-investigator on a SSHRC Partnership

(Continued on page 19)
This year I was honoured to participate in the Thanks for the Colour project [http://thanksforthecolour.webs.com/] commemorating Mandela's 95th birthday! My portrait was painted by South African artist Salli Van Druten, and included in a book presented to Mandela alongside 94 other portraits and messages from around the world thanking him for the colour he added to the world. Reflecting on his life today, and feeling the bright light the world has lost, I wanted to share my message to Madiba from the project with you!

I'd like to thank Nelson Mandela for the colour because…

As a young Canadian girl, I remember watching a film and first learning about apartheid in my elementary school geography class. I recall feeling shocked, angered and at a loss to understand how and why human beings could treat each other so horribly. I began to read everything I could about South Africa and, Madiba, you quickly found a special place in my heart. I came to see you as a father figure with a fiery soul, a wise head, and a gentle heart, with many lessons to teach about life, love, courage, and grace. I clearly remember watching both your release from prison, and your eventual election as President through tear-filled eyes.

From a distance, you have shaped my own life journey in unique ways. In university, I became fascinated with the concept of restorative justice, and focused my undergraduate capstone on the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission. It was through this research that I first heard you describe the philosophy of Ubuntu (a person is a person through other people), which remains at the core of my worldview. In times of frustration and anger, I often reflect on all you endured, reminding myself that if you could survive 27 years in prison, rejecting bitterness and embracing mercy and forgiveness, than I too must find the grace to model these virtues in my own life. After finishing school I went on to found a small charity (Homes of Joy), which supports AIDS orphans, and prioritizes access to education. Although I find a great deal of joy in this work, it has not been without challenges. In times when I am uncertain of the path ahead, I reflect back on all I have learned from you, and remind myself that although there may be obstacles in my path, they are never insurmountable. Although so many of your words have touched my heart, the ones that I carry with my always are as follows: "There is no passion to be found playing small – in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living."

Madiba, I want to thank you for teaching me the importance of service and of never giving up belief that the ultimate goodness of humanity truly always does outweigh and triumph over the bad. Thank you for inspiring me to nurture my passions in life, to have faith, to believe in my dreams, and to push forward to conquer my fears. Thank you for teaching me that courage and fear are not mutually exclusive. Thank you for teaching me to be tolerant and humble, except when faced with intolerance. Thank you for teaching me to refuse to view humanity within constructed binary oppositions. Thank you for demonstrating the importance and value of "leading from the back," and of knowing when to fight and when to let go. Above all else, thank you for standing tall as an example of forgiveness and mercy, and for showing us all just how monumental an impact one person truly can make in this world.
I am honoured and excited to be working with such a keen and committed department here at SFU’s Dept of GSWS! Since arriving in early September, (from McGill/Alberta), I’ve been immersed in teaching and getting a feel for the many communities that make up SFU. To that end, I’ve offered faculty support on behalf of our department to Out on Campus’ new Trans* and Gender Diversity Project.

My most pressing challenge at the moment is to secure funding for a conference called “What Does It Mean to Feel Fat?,” which will bring together scholars, activists, community researchers, and artists (tentatively scheduled for October 2014). On deck for the Spring Term is a public outreach series, most likely a reading/writing workshop for trans youth, which will culminate with a visit from Dr. Susan Stryker of the University of Arizona. Taking the longview, I look forward to partnering with community-based fat activists to develop and offer free anti-fatphobia workshops for high school students.

Since accepting my post as RWW Lecturer in April, it’s been a busy time of writing and revising. I’ve had poetry accepted at magazines such as Rampike, The Fjords Review, Between: New Gay Poetry, and Los Angeles’s Rattle. (Rattle accepts 150 poems per year out of 176 500 submissions – please bear with my excitement!) Vancouver has been kind in this regard as well: a piece of creative prose appeared in the summer edition of PRISM International, while an excerpt of (and interview about) my art project “Gay Incantations” came out recently in SAD Magazine. On the academic side of things, I’ve used my “free” time this term to write up my postdoctoral research on the High Line Park in New York City (forthcoming in Transgender Studies Quarterly) and I await revisions on a few recent projects about queer rurality (for Sexualities and a wonderful book collection called Queering the Countryside). All in all, taking up my new position has been very inspiring and very busy.
on CBC’s *Insiders*, delivered our annual Margaret Lowe Benston Memorial Lecture. Speaking on the subject “Women Winning: Strategies from an Insider,” she provided humorous but thought-provoking insights into dealing with “the boys” in the public halls and the backrooms of formal politics. In March 2013, we co-sponsored a public talk and reading by Professor Yan Li, Director of the Confucius Institute at University of Waterloo, who gave us an intimate talk about her personal journey from Chinese worker and soldier to Chinese-Canadian novelist. Many thanks to doctoral student Huai Bao for helping to organize this event. In May, GSWS co-sponsored a transformative conference on designing safe cities for women and girls, co-organized by our RRW Chair, Tiffany Muhler-Myrdahl, and Women Transforming Cities. Our postdoctoral fellow Claire Robson organized a highly successful BOLD (Bold Old [er] Lesbians and Dykes) Fest in September 2013. And GSWS provided ongoing financial support for Herstory Café, a community lecture series on a range of fascinating subjects relating to women and gender, co-organized by our colleague Lara Campbell.

We are exceptionally proud of all our graduate students, whose work at the cutting edge of scholarship never ceases to amaze me. Special congratulations go to recent MA graduate Sandra Martens and recent PhD graduate Dr. Natasha Patterson as well as to SSHRC recipients Huai Bao and Nadine Boulay. But I encourage readers to read the pages below and student profiles on our website to fully appreciate the creativity and enthusiasm of all our graduate students as they develop exciting new questions and methodologies for exploring the dynamic field of gender, sexuality, and women’s studies.

Not to be outdone, our undergraduate students have demonstrated tremendous innovation and sensitivity to issues in the world beyond the academy. In “GSWS 318: Young Women Civic Leaders,” for example, students worked with the Justice Education Society of BC to help identify and overcome barriers to young women’s engagement in civic and political life. Under the direction of a committee comprised of young women between 15 and 25 years of age, our students devised community-based projects and engaged with decision-makers to find ways to eliminate gender inequity in political participation. Another of our courses, “GSWS 333: Feminist Interventions in Urban Studies,” partnered with CityStudio, a learning hub through which students work with the City of Vancouver to create projects of community significance. Students worked with enthusiasm on projects such as “Art in the City 2013” (on food accessibility and affordability), and a blog entitled “Harassment on Translink” garnered much interest. In fact, “Harrassment on Translink” went viral, and students Katie Nordgren and Alexa Dredge soon found themselves fielding interviews from local and national media. These are just two examples of the many ways that our students are applying their learning in the world outside their classrooms.

And, as we all know, none of our efforts could be successful without our excellent staff. They are the bedrock of our teaching, our research efforts, and our community engagement. We are so pleased to have Roberta Neilson back as our departmental manager after her parental leave to care for her beautiful and absolutely charming son, Alex. We are very grateful to once again benefit from her steady hand at the budgetary tiller, her generosity in undergraduate advisement, and her calm in
MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR (CONT’D)

(Continued from page 18)

the face of the storms around her. We owe an immense debt of gratitude to Tracey Anbinder, who was our acting DM throughout most of the year, and embraced the work with great energy, initiative, and ability. Tracey has now gone on to become Manager of Academic and Administrative Services, FASS, Surrey campus, and we wish her all the very best in her new position. And where would we be without our own Kat Hunter, who keeps us all organized with a cheerful smile and is the glue that holds together the graduate program? (She is also the keeper of our Nespresso machine, so we know who is really in charge of the department.) We are so lucky to have the support of such a wonderful staff, and I am particularly grateful for all your help and patience in getting me through my first year as departmental chair.

GSWS rocks!

~ Willeen Keough

Willeen Keough (CONT’D)

(Continued from page 15)

Development Grant titled “Reclaiming the New Westminster Waterfront.” My contribution to the project involves two of my favourite things: oral history and working with members of the broader community.

Art in the City 2013

Victoria Chen, Flora Yon and Erika De Torres are three undergrad students from Dr. Tiffany Muller-Myrdahl’s GSWS 333 course, “Gender, Place & Culture: Feminist Interventions in Urban Studies”. This is a ‘partner’ course with CityStudio, a project school for learning, innovation and leadership. As it worked with CityStudio, they had to initiate a project that would help with an intervention for the City of Vancouver’s Healthy City Strategy that focused on safety and inclusion. Their intervention was focused on food and art. They wanted to address food accessibility and affordability in the City of Vancouver through asking the public to participate in creating an art piece that would incorporate different ideas and thoughts that interacted with each other to answer this question. They used the Burnaby SFU campus in order to flight test their project. They were met with great success!
In August 2012, I began my appointment as RWW Junior Chair, with a focus on Gender & Urban Studies. To make this move, I took a leave of absence from my position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Women & Gender Studies at the University of Lethbridge, where I had been since 2008. However, my arrival in Vancouver occurred by way of Toronto: during the spring semester 2012, I was on a study leave at York University’s Centre for Feminist Research. So, 2012 was something of a whirlwind chapter in "Life as Itinerant Academic," and my partner and I were able to see a good deal of the Canadian landscape along the way!

As the RWW Junior Chair 2012-13, my attention went to research, teaching, and conducting a variety of community-engagement activities. My research activities connect feminist praxis to urban studies: one project involves working with the Vancouver-based Women Transforming Cities (described below); another focuses on the collection of LGBTQ oral histories in Lethbridge, Alberta. Both projects link participatory engagement, such as storytelling and community mapping, to social policy initiatives to examine place-making among marginalized communities and efforts aimed at increased social inclusion. (You can read more about the SSHRC-funded Lethbridge project here: www.queerlethbridge.com.)

My research interests clearly informed my teaching schedule. My take on the RWW seminar was called "Gender, Place and Culture"; it aimed to engage students and a limited online audience in a conversation about gender and urban studies and the myriad ways scholars/activists seek to address justice and equity in cities. Course materials for the 2012 RWW seminar are archived at http://tmullermyrdahl.org/rww-seminar-calendar/. Additionally, I taught a feminist qualitative methods course which also invited students to think about equity, this time through the linked practices of research, representation, and knowledge production. In addition to my regular teaching, I gave two guest lectures in UBC’s Humanities 101 program, which is a free university program for residents of Vancouver's Downtown South and Downtown Eastside neighbourhoods.

Because one of the central features of the RWW Junior Chair is community engagement, much of my energy went to organizing, facilitating, participating in, and/or presenting at events that aimed to bridge the interests of multiple communities. I gave two public talks about my Lethbridge research, one for SFU’s Vancity Office of Community Engagement and the other for the Yukon Women’s Directorate. Facilitated by the Travelling Speakers Series and Brenda Barnes of the Women’s Directorate, my visit to Whitehorse involved an interview with The Yukon News and CBC North’s “A New Day” with Sandi Coleman, a presentation with the Yukon government’s Policy

(Continued on page 21)
Community of Practice, a lunch at the Victoria Faulkner Women’s Centre, and the public talk at la salle communautaire. It was a packed and thoroughly enjoyable trip!

Other spring events: I gave an invited “New Directions in Feminist Research” talk at the University of Saskatchewan, presented at the Civic Governance Forum at Harrison Hot Springs, and organized a talk by geographer Leslie Kern from Mount Allison University, who gave a public lecture on gentrification at Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House. I also organized a "Policy & A Pint" panel discussion on the topic of how the apparatuses designed to facilitate social change – such as funding streams and civic engagement strategies – structure the forms that social change take. The panel consisted of a councillor from the City of Vancouver; a member of the City’s Urban Aboriginal Peoples Advisory Council; a grants officer from the Vancouver Foundation; and representatives from two NGOs, one youth-directed with an anarchist bent and the other with a more traditional approach to client services. The forum highlighted the need for, and the barriers to, a more collaborative model for change-making. The panel is available here as a public archive:
http://www.sfu.ca/tlcvan/clients/sfu_woodwards/2013-02-07_Woodwards_Policy_Pint_10559/

The lion's share of my community engagement efforts went toward a partnership between the GSWS Department and Women Transforming Cities (WTC), a new NGO that emerged out of the City of Vancouver’s Women’s Advisory Committee in 2011. Co-led by former Vancouver City Councillor Ellen Woodsworth, and Wendy Williams, WTC aims to spark changes in municipal policy to improve the lives of women and girls in all aspects of urban life. I joined the all-volunteer board as an ex-officio representative of GSWS; in that capacity, I participated in several of the monthly multi-lingual cafes that WTC held across the Lower Mainland (on topics such as housing, youth engagement, and labour), and was one of the speakers for the sold out Pecha Kucha Night Vancouver event at the Vogue Theatre in February. Speaking to an audience of nearly 1100 people was exciting and slightly terrifying, not least because I was in the grips of a lengthy case of laryngitis!

Finally, together with Wendy Williams of the Women’s Advisory Committee, I co-chaired WTC’s conference organizing committee, which put together WTC’s first conference: “Designing Ideal Cities for Women and Girls”. Held in May prior to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities meeting, the conference brought together electeds, NGO leaders, academics, activists, and others to generate ideas and policy recommendations that could be shared with city change makers, including municipal leaders, city bureaucrats, activists, scholars, and others. A central goal of the first WTC conference was to produce a tangible outcome: specific strategies and policy recommendations that could become the basis of efforts to hold municipal leadership accountable for implementing policies and practices that make cities work for a full diversity of women and girls. Many of these strategies can now be found on the WTC website, womantransformingcities.org along with the videos of the keynote addresses. It was a successful and well-attended conference, and it set the stage for WTC to play an important role in creating more equitable cities.

Occupying the RWW Junior Chair in 2012-13 was a wonderful experience, and I am grateful to GSWS for all of the support that enabled me to undertake the activities listed
here! Being afforded such diverse opportunities within and beyond the university provided a chance to meet and work with wonderful people; it also encouraged me to push my own boundaries as an academic writer and teacher, to make feminist geography more accessible to a wider variety of audiences. I hope to make my renewed tenure in the RWW Junior Chair (2013-15) as fruitful, and continue to demonstrate the significant role that GSWS plays at SFU and in the broader community.

**BOOKS PUBLISHED**

**Gender History**

**Canadian Perspectives**

Willeen Keough and Lara Campbell

Combining primary and secondary sources with original discussions, *Gender History* examines the full range of gender experiences – past and present – beyond binary conceptions of masculinity and femininity. Addressing both the chronology and crucial themes of gender in Canada, this combination text/reader is an essential resource for understanding the evolution of Canadian gender systems.

Oxford University Press
2014

**RUTH WYNN WOODWARD JUNIOR CHAIR (cont’d)**

(Continued from page 21)
FACULTY MEMBERS

Willeen Keough  
GSWS Chair  
(History)  
gswschr@sfu.ca

Marjorie Griffin Cohen  
GSWS / Political Science  
mcohen@sfu.ca

Helen Hok-Sze Leung  
GSWS  
helen_leung@sfu.ca

Lara Campbell  
GSWS  
lcampbel@sfu.ca

Jen Marchbank  
GSWS/Explorations  
jmarchba@sfu.ca

Habiba Zaman  
GSWS  
hzaman@sfu.ca

Jacqueline Levitin  
GSWS/ Contemporary Arts  
levitin@sfu.ca

RUTH WYNN WOODWARD

Tiffany Muller Myrdahl  
Ruth Wynn Woodward  
Junior Chair 2012-2015  
rwwp@sfu.ca

Lucas Crawford  
Ruth Wynn Woodward  
Lecturer  
Crawford@sfu.ca

ASSOCIATE FACULTY MEMBERS

Ellen Balka  
Communications Professor  
ellenb@sfu.ca

Parin Dossa  
Anthropology Professor  
pdossa@sfu.ca

Deanna Reder  
English Assistant Professor  
Deanna_Reder@sfu.ca

Moninder Bubber  
Liaison Librarian  
bubber@sfu.ca

Olena Hankivsky  
Public Policy Professor  
olena@sfu.ca

Özlem Sensoy  
Education Associate Professor  
ozlem@sfu.ca

Brian Burtch  
Criminology Professor  
burtch@sfu.ca

Genevieve Fuji Johnson  
Political Science Associate Professor  
genevieve_johnson@sfu.ca

Lisa Shapiro  
Philosophy Professor  
lisa_shapiro@sfu.ca

Elise Chénier  
History Associate Professor  
echenier@sfu.ca

Kirsten McAllister  
Communications Associate Professor  
kmcallis@sfu.ca

Diana Solomon  
English Associate Professor  
Diana_solomon@sfu.ca

Dara Culhane  
Anthropology Professor  
culhane@sfu.ca

Marina Morrow  
Health Sciences Associate Professor  
morrow@sfu.ca

Jennifer Spear  
History Associate Professor  
jennifer_spear@sfu.ca

Peter Dickinson  
English Professor  
peter_dickinson@sfu.ca

Catherine Murray  
Communications Professor  
murraye@sfu.ca

Ann Travers  
Sociology Associate Professor  
atravers@sfu.ca

Cindy Patton  
Sociology & Anthropology Professor  
ckpatton@sfu.ca

RETIRED PROFESSORS

Meredith Kimball  
Marilyn MacDonald  
Mary Lynn Stewart  
Susan Wendell