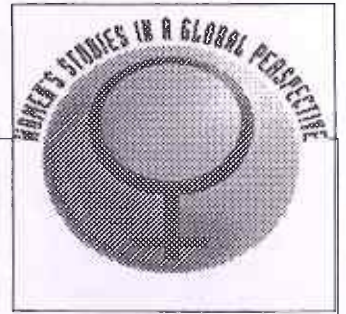


## Newsletter

### Fall 1995



*From the Director*

First, I have to thank you all. I have been deeply moved by the tremendous amount of support and goodwill I have found as I take over this challenging--well, to be more honest, daunting-- job that Alice handled so well. There's much to celebrate here, and I do think we need some celebration in our hectic lives. People both inside and outside of the Rutgers community are proud of our Women's Studies program and see it as the foremost in the nation. Our excellent faculty and students remain enthusiastic and committed to building the program. We are enjoying increased material support as our hiring continues this year, as a dozen current faculty are moving parts of their budgeted lines into our program, and as we will, this year, thanks to the heroic fund-raising efforts of Mary Hartman and the new Institute for Women's Leadership, see the groundbreaking for a new building to house Women's Studies and finally get us out of the basement. These institutional changes will make our lives more comfortable and encourage more scholars to work in the field of Women's Studies, even as all over the nation, feminist scholars are more and more identifying themselves as Women's Studies scholars.

These successes are happening within a cultural framework that must temper optimism and budding complacency. The intransigence of problems in the world and in the institutions which meet those problems--including the university, including Women's Studies--remain discouraging to women and men who wish to address gender, ethnic, and racial discrimination and violence in the home and street, in the workplace and legal institutions, in the depths of our psyches. The Beijing conference has highlighted the enormity of the problems women face around the world in gaining access to economic and political self-determination, in combatting violence, and in claiming sexual rights.

But the fragile unanimity of that conference may help us see how the work of Women's Studies is important to the future. Our interdisciplinary analysis of the gendered structures of human culture and of the interaction of gender with race, nation, and ethnicity helps target underlying structures of domination and oppression that may unite disparate efforts at liberation. And the ethical force of women's studies, not just to work for knowledge that matters but to acknowledge our own complicity in the problem and change the way we know, presents a challenge to all fields of knowledge. Where are we elitist, racist, indifferent to others? These are not questions of political correctness to be policed; they are ethical questions of how we know, the hardest questions of all.

Women's Studies still finds itself faced with old charges of being overly political and simplistic. We are indeed as political as any other field in the conviction that what we study matters. But I find very little of the political rigidity that we are so often charged with--a rigidity that does interfere with the possibility of self knowledge and with the possibility of dealing with the surprising twists and turns of the world. Instead I find in Women's Studies a diverse group of faculty and students committed to understanding gendered ways of knowing and, therefore, to better understanding knowledge itself. We unite in the conviction that this understanding is crucial to a better society not just for all women but for all men, all children, all people. Why else are we in education?

*Harriet Davidson*



## Mary H. Dana Women Artists Series at the Mabel Smith Douglass Library

*"What I like to do is to transform emotion into image. Emotions create change, anger can be transformed into images of pleasure. The psychological, the sensitive, the seductive, the tender are a part of the picture." Andrea Belog*

The Mary H. Dana Women Artists Series is entering its 25th year next year. A major celebration is being planned and would include retrospective exhibition of more than 100 women artists works. A symposium may also be included in the celebration.

This series is one of the earliest alternative exhibition spaces in the country. Many of the more than 180 artists shown over the last two decades have commented on its importance to furthering their careers and recognition in the art world.

### 1995-1996 Exhibitions

Sept. 14 - Nov. 3	Andrea Belag
Nov. 10 - Dec. 15	Sheba Sharrow
Jan. 9 - Feb. 2	Robin Tewes
Feb. 9 - Mar. 4	Melissa Marks & Portia Munson
Mar. 11 - Apr. 26	Virginia Cuppaidge
May 1 - June 15	Jane Zweibel

For more information or to become involved, contact: Ferris Olin (908) 932-9407. Mabel Smith Douglas Library, New Brunswick, NJ 08903-0270



## The Institute for Women's Leadership

Last year a new institute was established on campus to promote and develop women's leadership and to coordinate the many programs on women at Rutgers. The IWL is a consortium of the centers, institutes, and programs at Rutgers which focus on women: the Women's Studies Program, directed by Harriet Davidson; Douglass College, led by Acting Dean Martha Cotter; the Institute for Research on Women, directed by Marianne DeKoven; the Center for Women's Global Leadership, directed by Charlotte Bunch; the Center for Women and Work, directed by Sue Cobble; and the Center for American Women and

Politics, acting director Debbie Walsh. The directors of these programs meet regularly to find ways to encourage and sponsor education, research, and public service initiatives concerned with questions of women's leadership and gender as it relates to leadership and public policy. The IWL has been sponsoring, through a gift from Beneficial Management Corporation, a series of lectures by women leaders, bringing to campus Ruth Simmons, Karen Burstein, Anna Quinlan, and bell hooks. The next lecture will be by Karen Nussbaum, director for the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor and founder of 9 to 5, the National Association of Working Women. She will speak on November 5 at 5.00 PM. in Traves Hall. ◆



## A New Building for Women's Studies

Thanks to the fundraising efforts of Mary Hartman and the new Institute for Women's Leadership (IWL) plans are now ready for a spring groundbreaking for a new building to house Women's Studies and the offices of IWL. This building will be located next to the IRW building on Clifton Ave. and has been designed by the same architect Elizabeth Moynihan. The new building will have a large conference room, a seminar room, library, lounge, abundant office space, and many windows. Parking will also be extended on the site. We hope to move into the new building by Spring 1997. ◆



## NATIONAL WOMEN'S STUDIES ASSOCIATION

### 1995 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

*Sherry Gorelick, Associate Professor of Sociology*

I have just returned from the 1995 annual conference of the National Women's Studies Association. I want to report to Rutgers Women's Studies on the conference and the status of the organization. I want also to make some suggestions regarding Rutgers' relationship to NWSA.

NWSA 1995 was a great success. Plenary speakers included Beverly Guy-Sheftall, Ros Petchesky and a diverse list of other distinguished women. The plenary session on "Chaos and Order" involving Jacqui Alexander, Andrea Nye, Cynthia Enloe and Chrystos was stunning --electrifying--inspiring. One came away from these sessions with new ideas, new perspectives, new knowledge, and, more important, renewed enthusiasm for our work. The cultural programs were excellent. Sessions on teaching "Women's Studies 101," curricular materials, and pedagogy routinely drew over 70 participants. The conference in general exuded an air of enthusiasm, good will and a contagious mixture of seriousness and conviviality.

In short, the organization has bounced back from its Akron disaster. If Austin was a hobbled, phoenix-like NWSA, its feathers still smoldering, NWSA 1995 was a quetzalcoatl, soaring brilliant in its many colors. Perhaps the most encouraging sign was that a large proportion of the participants were young, attending NWSA for the first time, and eager to infuse the organization with the enthusiasm of the "third wave." A session on "Generation X and the "F" word" packed the room with women exploring the different meanings of [F]eminism among younger and older women. I think we all learned a lot from it.

The annual meetings of NWSA serve multiple functions. Especially given Women's Studies origins, and special mission, as an interdisciplinary field, NWSA is our professional association, an excellent place to present our research. In addition to the presentation of substantive papers on diverse topics, at NWSA administrators of Women's Studies programs meet, network, problem-solve, and examine both the broad vision and the practical problems underlying their programs.

NWSA is also the central place for thoughtful practitioners to examine issues in feminist pedagogy. Although they do such practical "nitty-gritty" things as exchange syllabi, and discuss problems and techniques, their vision and purview is much broader than that. They explore the issues of multi-culturalism and diversity, as well as the changing problems and meaning of feminist pedagogy in the context of our changing historical times. It is at NWSA that we can explore and gain comparative data on the conditions of our

work as teachers, knowing that neither technique nor curriculum is ahistorical, because the social context in which we teach is complex and changing. I feel strongly that those of us who teach women's studies courses should be attending NWSA regularly, and we should make a special effort to get teaching assistants in the program to the annual meeting.

I had some excellent conversations about the state of Women's Studies with Annette Kolodny, who gave a paper on "Combatting Antifeminist Intellectual Harassment." (The paper will soon be published as a chapter in her forthcoming book). It seems to me that this work has great significance on intellectual, ideological, and organizational levels. On the intellectual level, feminist scholarship has been subject to a tremendous ideological attack cloaked in intellectual, pseudo-intellectual and anecdotal forms. On the organizational level there is the attack on both individual Women's Studies programs, and on NWSA itself.

Although NWSA itself sparked much of the criticism, that is precisely why we need NWSA. It is a place where we can discuss and better understand the political forces constraining us, and the larger context of our own more local constraints and battles. In short, we need NWSA as much as NWSA needs us. The NWSA Antidiscrimination Task Force reported several successes this year. That is only one way that the existence of NWSA helps us. Even with its current unwillingness to take public stands, even hobbled, as it is, by legal restrictions that profit-making corporations need not heed--it is a source of autonomous strength for us, and we need it.

I have some specific suggestions. We are fortunate, this year, because the next NWSA will take place at Saratoga Springs, New York (June 12-16). That is within driving distance of Rutgers. That will make attendance at the 1996 NWSA MUCH cheaper. Therefore I think that we should start right now to inform ALL of our Women's Studies faculty and students of the excitement of the new NWSA and encourage them to submit proposals for papers and, whether they present papers or not, attend.

One of the most exciting things at this year's NWSA was the creative tension between "Third" and "Second" Waves of feminism. A student caucus formed. Those students will bring their energy, enthusiasm, passion, creative anger, and deep commitment to the future of Women's Studies, back to the classrooms in which they teach and learn. And if we can just catch the spark and pass it on to our colleagues and our students, we will have that most precious thing, that miraculous thing: a next generation. All the more wonderful in these unpromising times.





## Women Organizing Internationally: Report from the Fourth World Conference on Women and NGO Forum '95 in Beijing

*by Susana Fried and Deevy Holcomb  
Center for Women's Global Leadership*



On September 4-15, 1995 the Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW) was held in Beijing, China. In coordination with this UN-sponsored meeting, a parallel event for non-governmental organizations was held from August 30 - September 8, in Huairou, China, about an hour's drive from Beijing. Although the NGO forum was initially scheduled to be held in Beijing, Chinese engineers declared the intended site structurally unsound four months before the conference, and the event was moved to the tourist town of Huairou. Unfortunately, while Huairou is a lovely town, the final site was difficult to negotiate and its distance from Beijing forced participants to choose between participating at the NGO Forum or the intergovernmental conference. Indeed, conditions were less than optimal in Huairou, because of the physical layout of a basically unfinished NGO Forum site, the multiple layers of security checks one was required to pass through, and the ubiquitous rain during the Forum's first week. Moreover, many women who had planned to attend were unable to do so because of difficulties in arranging visas and other logistical problems. Despite these obstacles, nearly 30,000 women attended the Forum, participating and conducting thousands of workshops, plenary sessions, cultural events, exhibitions, marches, rallies and, of course strengthening existing networks and creating new ones.

The Center for Women's Global Leadership was a visible presence at the NGO Forum. We held several successful events including the Global Tribunal on Accountability for Women's Human Rights, where 18 women from around the world testified about human rights violations in areas of civil, political, social, economic and sexual rights. Three eminent judges, including Sharon Hom, professor of Law at the City University of New York law School, Jacqueline Pitanguy, former Laurie Chair in Women's Studies at Rutgers and Director of CEPIA in Brazil, and Pierre Sane, Secretary-General of Amnesty International concluded the six hour event with statements that highlighted the accountability of both state and non-state actors for violations that were identified by the testifiers. Other events reported on and called to action ongoing campaigns and events that the Center has coordinated and collaborated on for several years including the presentation of over a million signatures on the Petition to the United Nations to Promote and Protect Women's Human Rights to the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights, Jose Ayala Lasso; a speak-out on the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence, a worldwide annual campaign (November 25 to December 10) to publicize, strengthen, and advance activism against violence against women through actions in media, schools, communities and governments; and showing of "The Vienna Tribunal: Women's Rights are Human Rights" which documents the Global Tribunal on Violations of Women's Human Rights held at the World conference on Human Rights in 1993 followed by a moving and lively discussion about women's strategies and actions to end violations of women's human rights.



At the intergovernmental conference, the Center coordinated the women's human rights caucus, a collaborative group of NGO's who lobbied governmental delegates around human rights issues throughout the *Platform for Action*, the official document agreed to by the 189 States attending the conference. The caucus was one of many formed by NGO's during the three-year preparatory process and at the conference. These efforts, in cooperation with many activities of NGO Forum participants, created a groundswell of support, among both governmental and NGO delegates, to make the entire platform a document about the human rights of women. As speeches given by heads of state and leaders of delegations at the main plenaries illustrate, including the clear human rights focus of Hillary Rodham Clinton's addresses to the NGO Forum and at the FWCW Plenary, this perspective was forcefully advanced during the two weeks of negotiations. Overall, the Platform asserted the universal and holistic nature of the human rights of women. Specific language and commitments that human rights advocates gained in Beijing include the reaffirmation and extension of commitments to promote and protect women's human rights, including the right to be free from violence, the right to sexual and reproductive health free from discrimination or coercion, access to information about sexual and reproductive health care, equal rights to inheritance for women and girls, and the obligation of governments to pursue and punish perpetrators of rape and sexual violence against women and girls in situations of armed conflict as war crimes. A genuine and lively discussion among government and NGO delegates about women's rights to sexual orientation illustrated broad support across all regions to recognize that discrimination against women on the basis of sexual orientation is a barrier to their full enjoyment of human rights; but there was also virulent opposition to including such language in the Platform. Although not all the recommendations presented by the women's human rights caucus were accepted, in particular a recognition that sexual orientation is one barrier that women face to enjoyment of equality, the Center was encouraged by the commitments in the Platform to promote and protect women's human rights in many arenas. Now, the next stage begins of translating the Platform into concrete strategies and ensuring that its promises are carried forward in legislation, policies and programs. ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦



Pictured: Pam Tevebaugh, Dawn Walker, Debra Liebowitz (academic coordinator), Wendy Reilly, Nancy Eng, Douglass students who attended the NGO Forum as part of an educational group organized by the Public Leadership Education Network (PLEN).



# Student and Faculty News

## New MA Students at Women's Studies

**Susannah Orenstein** - Graduated from Dickinson College and put her English degree to use in the non-profit sector working at the Historical Society of Princeton, where for the past five years she directed membership and special events and helped research and implement museum exhibitions. She hopes to continue study at the doctoral level and eventually teach.

**Sharice Richardson** - Graduated from Rutgers with a B. A. in English and Women's Studies. She works at the office of Academic and Student Affairs, Cook College. She wants to go for her doctorate and teach or work in college administration.

**Dasa Duhacek** - Graduated from Belgrade University, Yugoslavia with a major in Philosophy. She coordinates and lectures at the Women's Studies center in Belgrade which is at its infancy. She hopes to go for doctorate and go back to Yugoslavia and continue to teach and advocate for the advancement of women in Yugoslavia.

**Ann Wallace** - Graduated from Drew University in 1992 with a Bachelors in Art History and Women's Studies. She is particularly interested in women's literature. She would like to teach women's studies at the high school or undergraduate level or work with a community organization focused on educating women. Ann still works with a consulting firm in New York which consults for non-profits.

**Sharlimar Douglass** - Graduated from Morgan State University with a B.A. in African American History. She hopes to receive her M.A. in women's history and go on for a Ph.D. in History. Her passion in life is to work with young black girls around the issues of sex, race, and self-esteem. She wants to teach at the middle school in order to reach young black girls.

**Fern Bass** - Graduated from Pratt Institute in 1981 with BFA in Communications Design. She has worked for the past 14 years as an art director/graphic designer in publishing. She plans to spend the next 14+ working on her doctorate, teaching, writing and organizing on a community level for the advancement of adolescent girls.

**Kate McGuire** - Comes from the University of Colorado, Boulder with a BA in Psychology. Due to her interest in female adolescent development, she would like to implement then teach Women's Studies classes at the high school level. ♦

## Faculty Search

The Women's Studies Program at Rutgers University, New Brunswick invites applications for a tenure-track or tenured joint appointment in Women's Studies and another social sciences or humanities field beginning in July 1996. Teaching at the graduate and undergraduate level will be divided equally between the program and the relevant department. Applicants with interests in race and ethnicity, sexualities, social movements, and women and feminism from a comparative perspective are encouraged to apply. Candidates should anticipate a Ph.D. by September 1996; demonstrated experience in Women's Studies teaching and scholarship strongly preferred. Send letter of application, C.V., and three letters of recommendation by November 1, 1995 to Search Committee, Women's Studies Program, Voorhees Chapel, Douglass Campus, P.O. Box 270, New Brunswick, NJ 08903-0270.

Rutgers University is an Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action Employer.

## Seventh Annual Student Achievement Awards for Excellence in Feminist Scholarship

The New Jersey Project is pleased to announce its seventh annual awards competition, open to undergraduate students at two-year and four-year colleges and universities in the State. The Project will make awards of \$250 to each of ten winners and will award Honorable Mentions to a number of students. Award-winning work must either apply a gender, race/ethnicity, class, and/or sexuality analysis to work in any discipline, or focus on the contributions of women or men of all colors to society, history, culture, or thought in any area of study. Interdisciplinary work and work that seeks to understand the intersection of gender, race/ethnicity, class and sexuality are particularly encouraged. Research papers, essays (academic and personal), and other written work from all courses at all levels may be submitted. No more than one submission per student will be considered. All written submissions should be typed, double spaced, on heavy white bond (not dot matrix, please). Required cover sheet is available in 101 College Hall, DC. Submission deadline is February 3, 1996. For more information call (201) 595-2296.



**SAVE THE DATE!**

General Meeting--  
November 7 at 3.00 PM  
Voorhees Rm5

Women's Studies' Potluck  
December 14

**Visiting Scholar Program at The Institute for  
Research on Women**

The Institute for Research on Women (IRW) at Rutgers University, New Brunswick is seeking applications for residencies during the 1996-97 academic year. Postdoctoral scholars in any discipline pursuing research projects involving and gender are invited to apply. Although these visiting scholar appointments are unsalaried, they carry faculty privileges such as private office space at IRW, access to libraries, and recreational facilities, and invitations to university lectures, colloquia and seminars. Current and recent scholars have joined us from universities in the U.S. as well as Sweden, Ukraine, Russia, Australia and New Zealand. Please spread the word to interested colleagues, and for further information contact the IRW at (908) 932-9072) or fax (908) 932-0861.

**Women's Studies Resources Internet  
Workshop Thursday, November 9, 1995**

Loree Annex, Douglass  
To Register e-mail :  
loeb@zodiac.rutgers.edu

**Women's Studies at  
Rutgers**

Voorhees Chapel Basement  
Douglass Campus  
New Brunswick, NJ 08903

Main: (908) 932-9331/9355  
Graduate: (908) 932-8246  
Certificate: (908) 932-8192  
Fax: (908) 932-1335

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*Assistant to the Graduate Director:*

Joanne Givand

*Graduate Assistant:*

Jainaba Kah

*Office Support:*

Mary Rose Sarja

Kathy Vega

Rosa Salinas





### IRW SCHEDULE

The Rutgers Institute for Research on Women (IRW) has announced the following lectures concerning its Thinking About Women Series on topic "Feminism Questions Modernity":

Nov. 30 -- Susan Stanford Friedman, English, University of Wisconsin at Madison

*The New Geography of Identity and the Future of Feminism Criticism*

Feb. 8 - Bonnie Smith, History, Rutgers

*Masculinity and Historical Modernism*

Mar. 21- Drucilla Cornell, Law School and Political Science, Rutgers

*A Just Alliance: Rethinking Kant for Feminism*

Apr. 18 - Sara Suleri Goodyear, English, Yale

*Feminism and Minority Discourse in Postcolonial Literatures*

All of these lectures will begin at 4:30 PM and will be preceded by a reception at 4 PM. For more information, please contact the IRW at 932-9072

### 1996 Douglass Spring Colloquium

#### "Women's Health: Past, Present, and Future"

Jan 29 Dr. Evelyn Hammonds--  
*MIT*

Feb 12 Vivian Pinn-- Assoc. Dir.  
Women's Health - NIH

Feb. 28 Shiriki Kumanyika--*Minority Health Issues*, Assoc. Dir. for  
Epidemiology, PSU

Mar. 18 Dr. Irene Wapnir-- Breast  
Cancer, Dept of Surgery,  
UMDNJ

Apr. 1 Dr. Barbara Drinkwater--  
Osteoporosis

Apr. 15 Ann O'Leary- Assoc. prof.  
Psychology, Rutgers

Please contact Karen Mittleman at (908) 932-8669 for more information.



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