



Feminist Trajectories

*Newsletter of the Women's and Gender Studies Department
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey*

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Hip Hop Politics of Ya Little Sista

Zenzele Isoke

First Year Ph. D. Student, WGS

I grew up on misogyny, hell it was the background music of my adolescence. It provide shape, sound and texture to my girlhood. "The boyz in the hood are always hard. . ." "six in the morning police at my door, fresh Adidas squeak across the bathroom floor." Or how about this one, "gangsta, gangsta that's what they yelling, it's not about a salary it's all about reality!" As a young girl, I looked up to my thugged-out, dope-dealing brother. His adventures in the hood became mine. One of his "little homeys" became my first love, laying claim to my virginity. Watching big brother get jacked by one-time became my own personal testimonial of police brutality and state corruption. The life dramas and traumas of our big brothers continue to be the focal point of the rap game — of hip hop in general — while, the experiences of our not that innocent little sisters still get faded out. Our presence seems relevant only when it enhances the profile of our brothers, lovers, fathers and baby's daddies. The authenticity of living brown gender, of getting out of the hood and thinking futuristic, of living with violence, deceit and abandonment (and holding it down anyway) get lost in the whirlwind.

The cultural politics of being a skinny, gap-toothed latch key little girl doesn't yet have the same market appeal as bootlegging CD's to go platinum or dunking basketballs. But as maturing adults we eventually come to understand it's not all about the money, but also

power — political power - and respect. Guess what, your little sista wants some! It's time for sistas to face up to our own experiences, live up to our own priorities and flex our own voices and perspectives. Many of us have struggled as students, single mothers, minimum wage workers, and "wifey"- all at the same time - without receiving anything more than symbolic recognition. It's time for the sistas of the hip-hop generation to stand up and speak out about what is important to us. It is time for us to value ourselves by helping to set the political agenda of the hip hop generation, as opposed to simply following the lead of our charismatic big brothers. We have the knowledge, the skills, the commitment and the resources to do it.

Isn't it ironic how the images of women of the hip hop generation that get promoted are super-sexy foxy browns obsessed with designer shoes and hair-weaves? The public doesn't see our struggles, pains and our commitment to family and community. The public doesn't see our tireless efforts to make sure our households and organizations function, our efforts to keep the offering plates full at church, and our efforts to keep our children fed. What the public does see are well-paid, well-fed men stepping up to microphone to tell us what we need to be thinking, what we need to be doing and who we need to be voting for. But you know what, everything has its time, and ours has come. Join me in organizing the women of the hip hop generation to make sure our political voices get heard.

From The Department Chair

We are delighted to bring you this issue of the WGS Newsletter with so much news of what is happening inside and outside the department, of the new projects and activities with which our alumnae and affiliated faculty are engaged, and of our students and their many interests. Like last year's, this issue of the Newsletter has been prepared entirely by our graduate students; and thanks go to Hailing Wang, our Graduate Research Assistant, for her perseverance in coordinating all submissions.

This academic year marked our reconnecting with our larger community of alumnae. In summer 2003 I had the privilege to have lunch with Terry Watkins (RC 1989) and Judith Algor (UCNB 1997) and to learn about their work and their times at Rutgers. In October, 2003, the celebration of the fiftieth Anniversary of Graduate School gave us an opportunity to revisit our early struggles and the joy of constructing the first feminist and women's spaces at Rutgers. We also began to plan several events to celebrate the 35th Anniversary of the first women's studies course ever offered at Rutgers NB. Yes, it was in 1969 that a course "The Educated Woman In Literature" was offered by Professor Elaine Showalter. Our anniversary celebration, which will take place during the academic year 2004-2005, will include several events and will start with an undergraduate "Feminist Zines" class, so students can directly engage in thinking, debating and writing about challenges to and accomplishments of feminisms. As our planning proceeds we will keep you posted, and we hope many of you will be able to join us for some of these celebrations.

Questions of public policy, affirmative action and silencing of gender during and after the Michigan decision by the U.S. Supreme Court were addressed during the October policy forum "Making of Public Policy: Focus on Affirmative Action Post-Michigan." This panel discussion, jointly organized by the Institute for Women's Leadership and the Department of Women's and Gender Studies and with support from the *Reinvest in Rutgers* fund brought together a lively panel discussion including several distinguished panelists, Winnifred Brown-Glaude (Project Director, Institute for Women's Leadership, Rutgers University), Jocelyn Samuels (Vice President for Education and Employment, National Women's Law Center), and Tanya Hernandez (Professor of Law & Justice, Justice Frederick W. Hall Scholar, Rutgers School of Law - Newark). For us at the academic institution, the Michigan decision raises questions of what we should be doing differently so that permanent changes can be achieved. While access to education has been repeatedly recognized as a critical point of entry for the empowerment of individuals and groups that have been marginalized, equally important is what we do in the classroom (what we teach and how we teach) and how we advance critical thinking. Are we creating

a space where critical race theory is advanced and where significant interventions are being made? While Justice Sandra O'Connor optimistically estimated 25 years as a time when racial preference policies will no longer be necessary, given the realities of today, of continuing poverty, discrimination, and still limited possibilities of access for different ethnic and minority groups, what has to take place to achieve those goals. In the end, as speakers pointed out, only by breaking through the multiplicity of barriers will we make significant progress.

In the Spring 2004 we will return to pressing contemporary issues by holding a seminar "African Women's Health" on March 24, 2004. This event is jointly organized with the Institute for Research on Women and is supported with funding received from the Research Council of the Rutgers University and Faculty of Arts and Science. The seminar will feature two scholars, Bernedette Muthien (Founder and Executive Director, Engender, South Africa), whose work documents intersections between gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS; and medical anthropologist Ellen E. Foley (University of Pennsylvania), whose work focuses on health issues in rural and urban Senegal, and the health of African immigrant women in Philadelphia. The seminar will precede an exciting conference "Women in the Era of Globalization" at Douglass on March 25, co-sponsored by WGS, which will conclude with the L' Hommedieu lecture by Mary Robinson, the former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. These two events will offer us opportunities to hear from international activists and scholars as they assess what has to be done and what avenues of research and political activism we may pursue.

These are just few of the events in which our students and faculty have been and will be involved in this year. We hope you will enjoy reading about WGS community and will share with us your news as well.

-Joanna Regulska, Department Chair



2003 WGS Honors Students (left to right): Lauren Vincelli, Claudia Garriga-Lopez, Joanna Regulska (chair), Veena Viswanatha



From The Graduate Director

More than two decades ago feminist sociologists began to explicate the concept of "invisible labor" to capture the manifold forms of work done by women that remain "out of sight." Unwaged and unrecognized, this form of women's labor sustains human life, interpersonal relations, and community organizations. It has also given birth to new academic fields.

On Saturday, October 25, 2003, faculty, students, alumnae, and friends of Women's and Gender Studies (WGS) came together in the Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett Building to celebrate a particular form of invisible labor — the intellectual work and institution-building that generated the interdisciplinary research field of Women's and Gender Studies. Organized in conjunction with the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Graduate School, New Brunswick, "Frontiers of Feminist Research and Activism" explored the crucial contributions of the scholars who founded feminist studies at Rutgers.

WGS faculty Judy Gerson, Mary Hartman, and Joanna Regulska provided vivid portrayals of the early efforts of feminist faculty to break away from the received views of women in traditional academic disciplines, to discover new sources, new modes of analysis and interpretation, and new pedagogical techniques, which they crafted into the first women's studies courses in the late 1960s. Their intellectual innovation was coupled with strategic interventions into university processes that allocated office space, faculty lines, and research budgets in order to transform the autonomous efforts of individual faculty into academic programs: the minor, the major, the M.A. and the Ph.D. program.

The scholars who envisioned and then built the women's studies programs at Livingston College and at Douglass College took thousands of hours away from their own research in order to secure an institutional foundation for feminist scholarship at Rutgers. These scholars have achieved eminence for their research and publications, but too often their labor in founding and institutionalizing women's and gender studies remains invisible. The panel celebrating the feminist founders sought to redress this problem by recognizing the valiant efforts of Kate Ellis, Elaine Showalter, Gloria Feman Orenstein, Mary Emery, Judy Gerson, Joan Burstyn, Mary Hartman, Catharine Stimpson, Virginia Yans, Dee Garrison, Suzanne Lebsack, Heidi Hartman, Martha Howell, Alice Kessler Harris, Harriet Davidson, Barbara Balliet, Joanna Regulska, Meredith Turshen, Barbara Callaway, Mary Gossy, and Jennifer Jones.

Two other featured events of the October 25th celebration helped illuminate how wonderfully fruitful the feminist founders' labor has been. As keynote speaker, Professor Mary Gossy traced conceptual linkages between feminist invention, feminist poetics, and the pleasures of knowing that

some of our feminist projects are done to "perfection." In a second panel discussion, "Living a Feminist Life, Making a Feminist World," WGS alumna, Shana Fried (Law Student at Rutgers School of Law - Newark), Ph.D. student Zenzele Isoke, and undergraduate major Allison Attenello joined faculty members, Barbara Balliet and Charlotte Bunch in sharing their thoughts about the wide range of feminist transformative practices that have originated in and been sustained by continuing links with women's studies. The eloquence of their insights was a fitting tribute to the feminist founders and to the continuing intellectual project of women's and gender studies at Rutgers.

- Mary Hawkesworth, Graduate Director

Report From Croatia

Rama Lohani Chase,
Second Year Ph. D. Student, WGS

Organized by the Center for Women's Studies Zagreb, the Belgrade Women's Studies Center and the department of Women's and Gender Studies at Rutgers, the theme of working seminar 2003 was "Feminist Critical Analysis: Issues of/for Ethics." As in past years, the one week long seminar took place in the Inter-University Center in the beautiful historic town of Dubrovnik in Croatia. A medley of academics, students and activists from Serbia and Montenegro, Poland, the UK, Finland, Croatia and the United States, the seminar provided an exhilarating experience for all of us. In what follows, I will try to give a brief sketch of some of the interesting presentations in the seminar and specifically what our group of presenters talked about.

Professor Diana Tietjens Meyers, at that time the Laurie Chair at Rutgers, inaugurated the conference with her presentation on "Narrative and Moral Life," during which she talked about how individuals can develop skills to understand others and become competent narrators of their own subjectivity as well as subjective experiences. On the second day, philosopher Nadežda Bačinić presented her ruminations titled "The Turn to Ethics Re-examined," in which she expressed her fear that the turn in ethics to postmodernism may bring a crisis to the concept of ethics itself. I found Maja Uzelac's "Communication in Feminist Empirical Moral Sphere – Interactive Learning Workshop" especially rewarding as it became an ice-breaker for participants to get to know each other. The third day of the seminar brought important issues to the table as Alison Jagger gave her presentation titled "Global Responsibility and Western Feminism." Since Rutgers student

(Continued on page 4)



Croatia... continued from page 3...

Suzanne Grossman's, Professor Jennifer Morgan's (History Department & WGS, Rutgers) and my own presentations were directly or indirectly related to the issue of representation, especially "Western cultural representations" of the "other." I would like to pause for a moment to elaborate on Jagger's presentation.

Her talk raised some of the ethical dilemmas that feminists in general face in the contemporary world of economic globalization. Jagger argued for the need to be pro-active, instead of relativist and abstract, on the issues affecting women's lives in the global South because of the neo-liberal economic policies of the North. She argued that, while philosophical discussions and debates on essentialism vs. universalism vs. cultural relativism or isolationism versus interventionism are not entirely irrelevant to feminist practice and theorizing, feminists in the North should take heed of the criticism coming from "Third World" feminists while still not giving up the important work toward building an inclusive framework to re-think their responsibilities as citizens of the privileged hemisphere. Giving examples of transnational feminist practices as a viable path, Jagger stated that "Western feminists need to acknowledge that our destinies are intertwined with those of women in the global South and figure out how to work with them in order to make our interventions more constructive, supportive and respectful." It was indeed refreshing to hear Jagger speak on issues like the destruction of the environment, the need for social justice, the effects of economic globalization on the people in the Global South, and increasing militarization and weaponization of nations.

The fourth day turned out to be equally exciting with Professor Dragana Popovic's paper on "Engendering Science: The Issues of Ethics" in the morning session followed by Rada Boric's activist soul booming in the seminar room on "Something We Must Do." A philosopher-scientist, Popovic pointed out how women scientists' involvement in scientific inventions had been under-represented to make their contributions seem insignificant. By mentioning how science is not a value neutral and objective pursuit, Popovic expressed her concern about ethics in the scientific community as scientific technology has been and continues to be put into the political projects of nation-building and power wielding. The afternoon session was Suzanne's and mine. Suzanne talked about the much publicized case of Amina Lawal, a Nigerian woman who was sentenced to death by stoning for committing adultery, and the petition that went around the world on her behalf. She specifically focused on the transnational circulation of media representation of women from "other" parts of the world, which perpetuates the idea that "Third World women" are in need of saving by the West. This led to an interesting discussion on the difficulties of knowing when to participate in global campaigns, particularly

email petitions, that are conducted on behalf of women. My own presentation was about the problems of cross-cultural representations in complex issues like dowry and dowry related violence against women in South Asia, specifically in India. The popular representation of dowry in the West takes it as a violent practice of "murder by culture" rooted specifically in "Hindu" culture (I read this as a "colonialist stance" of representation), while the feminist contentions coming out of "Third World" feminist practices rightly point to the need to situate dowry in the "colonial past" and the present day culture of global consumerism. In my presentation, I argued that, while some of the critiques of representation point to valid questions of "otherizing" cultures, the invisibility of the voices of subaltern women who have to confront the lived realities of victimization by dowry needs to be dealt with by feminists. An ethical response can come about only by addressing the problems of representation along with the issues affecting women rather than outright "victimization by culture" or by taking a stance of "cultural relativism," which can take the form of entrapment politics of representation.

The next day marked the fifth and the final day of the seminar. Our own Professor Morgan presented her research that traced the historical complexities involved in the stabilization of racial categories like "black" and "white" through the study of travel narratives of European men to Africa and the Americas. She revealed how "gender" and women's bodily corporeality as tied to reproduction were evoked in the reconfiguration of "racial difference" that separated European men from their own women as well as from "others," peoples that they came to colonize eventually. If the "politics of representation" marked the "familiar" in relation to "gender" and "unfamiliar" in opposition to culture and civilization, a tradition that seems to have continued, the ethics of representation should go deeper into history to elucidate the complex modes of production – economic, political, gendered – to see how these categories came to exist as natural instead of socially and culturally constructed.

Though the official time for the seminar had ended, we continued to roam around the city and its vicinities for the next couple of days. The hour long walk on the wall around the city is something that leaves a permanent impression of the beauty of the place. And the islands surrounding the city provide an escape away from the fortified walls enclosing the city scape. On the island of Lokram, Suzanne had a swim in the rather choppy Adriatic Sea with some of our seminar colleagues while I went hiking around the island, where I had the pleasure of interacting with the wild peacocks. We left Croatia feeling stimulated by the exchange of ideas and knowledge and by the beauty of our host city.

Special thanks to Graduate School and alumnae donors, whose financial support made this trip possible



Riding the Third Wave Adventures in Feminist Documentary Making

Nicole Wines
WGS Major

The spring semester 2003 I took my Women's Studies senior seminar, Third Wave Feminism, with Professor Judith Gerson. For our final project we had a choice of writing a paper or doing any other kind of creative project like making a zine, a website, or anything we could think of. I knew right away I wanted to make a video documentary about third wave feminism, and Professor Gerson supported this idea from the beginning. However, I never expected that it would turn into the project it did.

When I started thinking about how I would put the video together, I wanted to do a fifteen to twenty minute piece documenting feminist activism on campus, but actually finding a large amount of feminist activity that corresponded with my schedule that I would be able to videotape was pretty hard. I quickly scrapped that idea and decided to make a simple documentary that would help the viewer figure out what third wave feminism is. I sent out a call for participation around campus and on feminist e-mail listserves and quickly got several responses. I put together a short list of questions to ask each person I interviewed, and decided that I would allow the interviewees to contribute whatever else they wanted. I wanted their responses and contributions (which ended up being in the form of poetry, dance, artwork, and other art forms) to shape the final version of the documentary instead of me manipulating their contributions to shape it the way I wanted.

Over a few weeks, the number of responses and contributions grew, and I ended up with two and a half hours of interviews and another two hours of footage of poetry reading, dance performance, artwork, and activist events. It was difficult to choose what would actually go into the final video, as my purpose was to allow the voices of the participating feminists to be heard, not to cut them up and fragment them. My fifteen-minute short piece quickly turned into a forty minute long film and a project that I knew would go beyond the classroom.

Since the completion of the video, it has been screened in full four times (the premier screening/potluck for the participants and their friends; an impromptu screening at Tent State University; at the feminist film night this past November at the Women's and Gender Studies Building, and at a feminist film night at _gaia studio in Hoboken) and parts of it have been screened at the Rutgers Grad Film Night. It is currently being translated into Dutch by a community media group in Amsterdam to be screened over the Netherlands cable access.

Making this video not only helped me to understand third wave feminism on a much deeper level than just reading about it, but it allowed me think about the idea of participants' voices and agency in my documentary making and has helped me realize how much video projects are shaped by the people who participate in them. It has also helped me explore feminist film further and I intend to help set up more feminist film nights at Rutgers in the future.

If anyone is interested in seeing the video or obtaining a copy, there is a copy in the Women's and Gender Studies film library or you can contact me at agora@albuscav.us.

Last Summer in Dublin Pro-Choice Activism in Ireland

Suzanne Grossman
M.A. Student, WGS

"What's the craic?" The Irish expression for "what's up" or "what's going on" is a phrase I heard often last summer in Dublin, the site of my M.A. practicum with the Irish Family Planning Association (IFPA). Ireland, a country known for its majestic green landscapes, traditional music and convivial people, is also known for its strong Catholic and conservative values. Abortion is illegal in Ireland except to save a woman's life making it one of the most severe laws in not only the European Union but the entire world. Commonly referred to as "an Irish solution to an Irish problem", approximately 7,000 women travel with their government's consent to the United Kingdom and elsewhere each year for abortions that are unavailable in their own country.

Last summer, I worked at the IFPA's main headquarters located in a small brownstone across from the beautiful Trinity College campus in Dublin's city center. The IFPA has been at the forefront of ensuring that reproductive health information and services are available to women and men since its beginning in 1969. Currently there are two IFPA clinics in Dublin that offer family planning and contraception services, pregnancy counseling, and medical training for doctors and nurses. The organization also advocates on a number of reproductive rights issues domestically and internationally.

The main project I worked on involved conducting research and gathering factual information to dispel the myth that Ireland is a homogenous, conservative Catholic country and to counter the belief that a ban on abortion protects the country's moral values. To this end, I gathered news articles demonstrating pro-choice viewpoints, researched public opinion polling, and collected information on the women who travel for abortions. I also met with key researchers and individuals involved with abortion research or advocacy in Dublin.

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Dublin...continued from page 5...

In September 1983, as part of a national referendum, the Irish people voted to amend their constitution and make the right to life of the "unborn" equal to the right to life of the woman under Irish law. Last year marks the 20th anniversary of the Eighth Amendment, which, as pro-choice activists are quick to point out, placed absolute moral principles above the real life experiences of thousands of women. This can especially be seen in a controversial case involving a Dublin minor. In 1992, Irish authorities stopped a 14 year-old girl from Dublin, pregnant as a result of a rape by a family acquaintance, from obtaining an abortion in England. In what became known as the X case, the Irish High Court ordered the girl to remain in Ireland and continue the pregnancy; this decision was overturned two weeks later by the Supreme Court which held that the threat of suicide constituted a "real and substantial threat to the life as distinct from the health of the mother". The X case caused a national stir and resulted in the passage of a national referendum supporting women's right to travel overseas for an abortion, as well as a provision on forbidding the State from limiting information available on abortion in another country.

More recently, in 2002 a referendum designed to outlaw the "suicide provision" that had resulted from the X case was only narrowly defeated. Pro-choice advocates campaigned heavily against the referendum and, in a surprising move, were joined by certain pro-life groups who felt that the referendum was not strong enough. With the defeat of the referendum the right to abortion remains illegal in Ireland but women are free to travel abroad; many do travel though the burden and shame of this trip is great. In addition, it is not known what happens to the untold numbers of women for whom such a trip is impossible.

As someone who has spent several years working as a pro-choice activist in the United States, I was particularly interested in gaining a sense of pro-choice activism in Ireland. While in Dublin, I heard numerous people say there is no active pro-choice movement in Ireland. When something major takes place like a referendum or an X case, people come together for a specific goal and then fall away until the next major event comes up. Whatever elements are necessary to sustain an active movement do not appear to be

here. There are also no visible signs of the way abortion impacts women's lives such as women dying from back-alley or botched abortions, in part because women are able to travel by ferry or plane to the UK.

In order to learn more about pro-choice activism in Ireland, I eagerly accepted an invitation from Ivana Bacik, law professor at Trinity College and IFPA board member, to attend Alliance for Choice meetings. Alliance for Choice evolved out of the group Alliance for a No Vote that was formed in response to the 2002 abortion referendum. Present at these meetings was a small group of mainly older activists, almost half of which to my surprise were men. I use the word surprise when comparing this group to activist-groups in the US that I've been a part of which are almost always all women, mainly younger, with the occasional male. Through these meetings I had the opportunity to be involved in the planning of a press conference to mark the 20th anniversary of the Eighth Amendment.



In addition to abortion-related research and activism, I was also involved with some of the more fun IFPA projects during the summer including a condom distribution campaign. I helped produce information booklets that were attached to 20,000 free condoms that a group of us distributed at a two-day rock music festival in July called Witnness that included such acts as Coldplay, Damien Rice and David Gray. Our red t-shirts expressed the campaign's "Don't Be Late" theme as we passed out condoms to concert-goers from all over Ireland carrying in their tents and sleeping bags for the weekend. Some were excited to receive "free johnnies" while others expressed shock and embarrassment when they looked at

the small packets we handed them. It was a beautiful, sunny weekend and a great opportunity to reach thousands of young people with information on having sex responsibly.

By living and working in Ireland last summer I gained important insights into the politics of abortion and sexuality in Ireland today. The struggle for the legalization of abortion in Ireland is far from over. It remains to be seen how or if women there will ultimately be relieved of the great burden of traveling abroad for abortions. I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with the Irish Family Planning Association on a small part of this struggle. I returned to the U.S. at the end of the summer but remain in solidarity with women's rights advocates in Ireland.

Second Annual Rainbow Graduation Celebration

Tuesday, May 6, 2003, The Rutgers Club
New Brunswick, NJ

Lawrence La Fountain-Stokes,
Assistant Professor of Latino/Latina Studies and Spanish,
University of Michigan

I have been asked by Cheryl Clarke and by Claudia Sofía Garriga López (RC 2003) to share some words with you in celebration of queer commencement. I confess that this is a somewhat difficult thing for me to do. As many of you might know, I am also leaving Rutgers after four years as an assistant professor in the departments of Puerto Rican and Hispanic Caribbean Studies, Spanish and Portuguese, and Women's and Gender Studies. I am moving on to the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, where I hope that I will get to see some of you, even if only in passing. In a sense, this is also my graduation today.

My experiences at Rutgers have been very mixed, with ups and downs, but one thing is clear: there is a very committed and caring number of individuals here, a community of fellow souls united in our desire to make this a welcoming place for all students, faculty and staff who, for one reason or another, feel the marks of difference, especially because of our sexual orientation, gender expression, or way of being. I was quite fortunate to arrive here in 1999 and be able to fully participate in the celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of queer activism on campus; an extraordinary event coordinated by Cheryl Clarke which I will never forget and for which I will never be forgotten, as I have been told by everyone who has seen the documentary on former boy-scout James Dale and has seen my loving face staring at him with big puppy-dog eyes. I am also honored that I saw the evolution of the Program in Women's Studies into a Ph.D.-granting Department of Women's and Gender Studies under the leadership of Harriet Davidson, Joanna Regulski, and my friend Barbara Balliet; that I was able to share the richness of the Institute for Research on Women with Beth Hutchison, to share with colleagues such as Ben Sifuentes Jauregui and Yolanda Martinez San Miguel, and to meet wonderful graduate and undergraduate students such as Claudia through university events and in my courses on the Queer Caribbean, Gender and Sexuality, and Latino and Latina culture.

But let us not forget: there is a war at this institution, much as there is in the world at large, one that has not been yet resolved or won. It will be up to those of you who remain and to those who come in the future to see how this is all resolved; whether the Rutgers administration gives equal health benefits to unmarried partners of gay and straight faculty and staff; whether Rutgers supports the creation of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender studies programs, the

existence of queer student groups, the research and teaching of queer faculty or on queer subjects. In a sense, Rutgers is not unique in this respect; these are battles that are being waged across the country, if not the world. Perhaps you yourselves have been and will be involved in these struggles here and at other places. In many ways, we at Rutgers are in the vanguard; in other respects, we lag sadly behind.

Many of you here are leaving Rutgers in quite different circumstances, as the culmination of your undergraduate or graduate years of study, and for that you deserve to be highly commended. Hopefully, you have had a positive experience here, a true education in all senses of the word, inside and outside of the classroom, in the libraries and cafés, on the streets of New Brunswick and Piscataway, on Ryder's Lane, in dorms, with lovers under the bed sheets, with your clothes on and off; an education based on friendships and on sharing with your peers and your mentors, with people you admire and whose acquaintance you may treasure for life. Alas, having a true education most likely might have also entailed gaining a profound conscience of the struggles we face. Being a university student is participating of a magical world with its own rules and regulations, its own order and logic, its own time schedules, for example, doing absolutely nothing before twelve noon, but also staying up late at night organizing a protest or a special event, or writing a paper on why there are twelve documentaries analyzing the impact of the Cuban revolution on homosexuality on the island. Many of you might be going on to continue your studies at other institutions, or perhaps even here. The pleasures of graduate and professional school are many fold, particularly the permission to fully immerse oneself in the pursuit of knowledge and of particular skills, to open one's mind in unimaginable ways and further train one's body, to learn even more. That was, at least, my experience, and I hope that it will also be yours. For those of you who are leaving the university to join the workforce, I also wish you luck. As we all know, these are not the best of times, in fact, it is not clear what kind of times they are at all. The step from student life to full-time labor is momentous indeed. For some of you, it might mean the chance to raise a family, however it may be constituted; to make a movie, write a book, defend someone in court, cook fabulous food, heaven knows, there are so many important things to be done, and so many trivial pleasures left to enjoy. It is a very exciting thing indeed, one you should be very happy to embrace. It will also be an enormous relief to your parents and to all of those people who thought you would never finish school. Having been in school for most of my life, I can tell you, from experience, that it is more fun to be a student, but that there is also something to be said for receiving a paycheck, no matter of what size. Perhaps some of you will be returning to other states or countries, or will embark careers that will take you to distant places. May it all be for the best.

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Faculty Happenings in the WGS Community

Abena Busia, Associate Professor of English & WGS, is one of the project co-directors and series editors for a four volume series *Women Writing Africa Vol 1: The Southern Region* (New York: The Feminist Press, 2003).

Belinda Davis, Associate Professor of History, WGS Affiliate Faculty, is currently a fellow at the Shelby Cullom Davis Center, Princeton University, and is a co-investigator of a three-year project funded by the Volkswagen Foundation concerning 1960s-70s protest and interculturality. Recent work, which encompasses examination of how the German women's movement transformed (West) German political culture in the 1970s, includes

"Geschlecht, Kriegsdrohung, und Friedensaktivismus in der BRD 1977-1983," in K. Hagemann, U. Kätzel, and J. Davy, eds., *Pazifismus/PazifistInnen, Friedens- und Konfliktforschung als Geschlechterforschung* (Essen: Klartext, forthcoming 2004)

"From Effeminate Protesters to Cowboy Reagan and his Boy Toys: Gendered Perceptions surrounding Peace Protest in 1970s-80s West Germany and America," *Mitteilungsblatt des Instituts für soziale Bewegungen* (special issue "Peace Movements as Social Movements") (forthcoming 2004)

"Berlinerinnen auf die Strasse: Frauen im öffentlichen Stadtraum während des Ersten Weltkrieges," *Informationen zur modernen Stadtgeschichte*, (special issue "Stadt und Gender") (ed. A. von Saldern, forthcoming 2004)

"Toward a New Path: Research on Gender and Politics in Modern Germany," in Jean Quataert and Karen Hagemann, eds., *Gendering Modern History: Rewritings of the Mainstream* (New York: Berghahn, forthcoming 2004).

Chun-fang Yu, Professor of Religion, WGS Affiliate Faculty, will retire from Rutgers at the end of spring semester and take up a new position at Columbia University in the fall of 2004. She will be a professor in the Department of Religion and the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, directing the graduate program in Chinese Buddhism.

Diana Tietjens Meyers, Professor of Philosophy, University of Connecticut and the Laurie Chair in WGS in spring 2003, has a forthcoming book *Being Yourself, Essays on Identity, Action, and Social Life* (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publisher, 2004).

Eileen Appelbaum, Professor of Labor Studies, WGS Affiliate Faculty, published her new book *Low-Wage America: How Employers Are Reshaping Opportunity in*

the Workplace (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2003).

Ferris Olin, Faculty of the Rutgers University Libraries, WGS Affiliate Faculty, published "Collecting the Cultural Politics of Community Survival: Samella Sanders Lewis," *Aurora IV* (2003): 201-217.

Joanna Regulska, Professor of WGS & Geography, continues her collaborative, NSF supported research on the European Union and women's agency in Poland and in the Czech Republic; her most recent publications (2004) include "Democracy and Technology", chapter in S.D. Brunn S.L. Cutter and J.W. Harrington eds., *Geography and Technology* (Dordrecht, the Netherlands: Kluwer Academic Publishers), and "Gender and Family in Europe", chapter in Kobayashi, A., Essed, P. and Goldberg, D.T. eds., *Companion to Gender Studies* (London, UK: Blackwell).

Karla Jackson-Brewer, Lecturer of Religion, WGS Affiliate Faculty, is the Civic Dialogue and Curriculum Consultant for the National Spirit Project's Vo-Du Macbeth collaboration. This Vo-Du Macbeth is an adaptation of the 1936 Orsen Wells theater piece, which takes place in New Orleans in 1863. The project explores issues of power, race and identity in communities of African descent. She is also a facilitator and consultant for the Woodhull Institute for Ethical Leadership.

Leela Fernandes, Associate Professor, Political Science & WGS, published *Transforming Feminist Practice: Non-Violence, Social Justice and the Possibilities of a Spiritualized Feminism* (San Francisco: Aunt Lute Books, 2003).

Louise Barnett, Professor of English, WGS Affiliate Faculty, had a month long fellowship in January at the Beinecke Library, Yale to do research for her projected book *Jonathan Swift in the Company of Women*. She gave a plenary address on Swift and misogyny at the South Central Society for 18th Century Studies in Santa Fe, February 27, 2004.

Mary Hawkesworth, Professor of WGS, edited the second edition of the *Routledge Encyclopedia of Government and Politics* (two volumes, 1500 pages, New York: Routledge, 2003). Informed by post-positivist assumptions about knowledge production, the *Encyclopedia* includes 88 chapters, written by leading scholars, that critically analyze the major research topics in each of the subfields of political science. Each author explores methodological as well as substantive issues pertaining to the subject, advances arguments concerning the strengths and weaknesses of alternative research approaches, and clarifies the political

implications of the various analytic strategies. The second edition takes into account research developments and political changes that have occurred since the first edition was published in 1992 and includes fifteen new essays addressing significant political transformations of the last decade.

Nancy A. Hewitt, Professor of History & WGS, has just been elected to serve as the new Director of the Institute for Research on Women for 2004-2007. Her term will begin July 1, 2004. In addition, her latest book *Southern Discomfort: Women's Activism In Tampa, Florida, 1880s-1920s*, will be available in paperback from University of Illinois Press beginning in January 2004. She will be enjoying a sabbatical this spring and will be busy working on a co-authored American History textbook with her husband, Professor Steven Lawson and a biography of Amy Post, her favorite first wave feminist/abolitionist/Quaker/spiritualist.

Susan Carroll, Professor of Political Science & WGS edited a volume entitled *Women and American Politics: New Questions, New Directions* (Oxford, 2003).

Alumnae Update

Marlene J. Holden-Bednarczyk, DC 1998

After graduating in 1998, Marlene was the Congregate Housing Coordinator for the State of New Jersey. She received her Master of Science Degree in Quality Systems Management in 2000 and is currently a Research Scientist and the Coordinator of the Communicable Disease Reporting System for the State of New Jersey.

Helen French, DC 1996

Helen graduated in 1996 and works for Ms Foundation for Women - a not-for-profit women's organization - and the White House Project, a women's leadership organization, dedicated to increasing women's leadership in all sectors of society, up to and including the presidency.

Denise Gamble, DC 1998

After graduating from Douglass in 1988, Denise Gamble attended the University of California, Davis School of Law (King Hall) where she graduated with a degree of *Juris doctor* in May 1991. She worked for Attorney's Briefcase, a legal research publishing company, and passed the bar exam in the summer of 1992. She then worked for the Law Offices of Arnold Laub in San Francisco. She moved to Hanford, California in late 1993 to take a job with another law firm, Kahn, Soares & Conway. She passed the New Jersey bar exam in July 1997. She began working for another law firm, Mattleman, Weinroth and Miller in September 1998. In March 1999 she started her current position as a Disciplinary Investigator with the New Jersey Supreme Court Office of

Attorney Ethics. She remains in this position (with a promotion in 2003) and continues to enjoy it as much as the day she started.

Stephanie Harzewski, Graduate School, 1998

After finishing her M.A in Women's Studies from Rutgers in 1998, Stephanie Harzewski worked for two years in the Manhattan publishing sector and enrolled in the University of Pennsylvania's PhD English program, receiving her M.A in 2001. She is anticipated to complete her doctorate in May 2005 with a Certificate in Women's Studies. Recent publications include "'Chick Lit' and the Urban Code Heroine: Interview Symposium with Caren Lissner, Melissa Senate, Alisa Valdes-Rodriguez, & Jennifer Weiner." *New Voices of the Americas: Interviews with Contemporary Writers*. Ed. Laura Alonso Gallo. Cádiz, (Spain: Aduana Vieja, 2004); "An Unfinished Renaissance: New Editions of Eliza Haywood." *The Age of Johnson: A Scholarly Annual* 13 (2002): 473-508. (Co-authored with Toni Bowers); and "Consuming Heteroscripts: The Modern Wedding in the American Imaginary." *Iowa Journal of Cultural Studies*, forthcoming. In 2002 Stephanie Harzewski was a finalist for the Penn Prize for Excellence in Graduate Teaching. She has been awarded a Dissertation Grant in Women's Studies from the Woodrow Wilson Foundation for the 2004-2005 year. Her dissertation aims to be the first book-length treatment of the chick lit phenomenon. She is currently at work on an article entitled "The Limits of Defamiliarization: *Sex and the City* as Late Heterosexuality."

Rainbow...continued from page 7...

As some of us prepare to leave Rutgers let us be thankful for everything we have received and experienced, but also commit ourselves to never rest still, not let a day go by, that in some small or large way we struggle to overcome prejudice. Let us not forget, because if we do, someone will only be to happy to remind us, to put us in our place, to try to close those doors that so many people like ourselves have struggled to open and to keep open. It is sad to recognize how we currently live in a society that thrives on social inequality and injustice, on discrimination against individuals based on racial, ethnic, religious, gender, and sexual traits, on the status of their body or their health. I think most if not all of us in this room share a commitment towards social justice; an awareness of the legacy of the Left, of socialism and anarchism, of workers' movements, of the impact of decolonization, feminism, the Civil Rights struggle, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and trans power, AIDS activism, and all of the myriad social movements that allow us to be here where we are today in each other's company. May our paths continue to cross in the future, and may we have the strength to always do the right thing.

WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES CALENDAR OF EVENTS SPRING 2004

Wednesday, February 25, 11:30 - 1:00 p.m. Room 103 RDJC

Research Briefing Professor Barbara Balliet, "Illustrating Gender: Women, Culture & Commerce in 19th Century Publishing"

Professor Barbara Balliet's research focuses on race, gender, and class in 19th-century American history. She is currently completing a book on the complex nexus of representations of women in print culture, women's work, and women in commercial publishing in the nineteenth century. Recently her work has been featured in the symposium, *American Radiance: Views on Identity and Place in America*, and at the American Folk Art Museum. Professor Balliet has edited multiple editions of *Women Culture and Society: A Reader*, as well as *The Practice of Change: Concepts and Models for Service Learning In Women's Studies*. She serves as the WGS Director of Undergraduate Studies.

Tuesday, March 9, 4:30 p.m. Room 103 RDJC

Annalee Davis, "Evocation of A Caribbean"

Annalee Davis was born in Barbados in 1963. She completed her B.F.A. at the Maryland Institute, College of Art and M.F.A. at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. After university she returned to the Caribbean; she lives and works in Barbados and in Trinidad. Annalee has worked throughout the Caribbean as founder of an artist's union. She has held solo exhibitions in the Caribbean and in the U.S. and exhibited internationally at the Habana and Sao Paulo Biennials, as well as in exhibitions in Argentina, the Dominican Republic, Germany, Spain and South Africa among other places. Annalee will show slides and speak about her work to establish a social and historical context for her sound pieces, installation works, drawings and paintings. Annalee's reference point for her work is the Caribbean archipelago situated in the belly of Americas. The region shares a five hundred year history of forced and voluntary migrations, invasions, settlements and emigrations, resulting in the ambivalent nature of what it means to be Caribbean. Through a series of works, Annalee evokes "a" Caribbean as opposed to representing essential notion of "the Caribbean".

Wednesday, March 24, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. RDJC

Colloquium on African Women's Health

Featured speakers on March 24 will include Bernedette Muthien (Founder and Executive Director, Engender, South Africa), whose work documents intersections between gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS, and medical anthropologist Ellen E. Foley (University of Pennsylvania), whose work focuses on gender, power and health issues in rural and urban Senegal as well as the health and social issues of African immigrant women in Philadelphia. Julie Livingston, Assistant Professor of History who specializes in issues of health, healing, and the human body, will moderate the discussion.

March 25, 2004, 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Douglass College Student Center

Women in the Era of Globalization: Power and Gender Inaugural Symposium and 20th Anniversary L'Hommedieu Lecture

Mary Robinson, Director of the Ethical Globalization Initiative, former President of Ireland, and former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights will deliver the 2004 L'Hommedieu Lecture. The day-long symposium leading up to Robinson's lecture will serve to illustrate the significance of women in leadership roles in the current global environment. The symposium will be integrated into several existing Douglass College programs including the Shaping A Life mission course, the Leading Edge program, the Scholars program, and the Global Village. The College will coordinate the symposium with a variety of departments on campus. The symposium is scheduled from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Douglass College Center. Mary Robinson will deliver the 2004 L'Hommedieu Lecture at 7:00 p.m. in Traves Hall of the Douglass College Center. For more details about the symposium, please visit <http://www.douglass.rutgers.edu/globalization/default.asp>

Wednesday, March 31, Room 103 RDJC**Research Briefing Professor Phillip Rothwell, "Empty Paternity in Portuguese in Portuguese Narrative"**

Professor Phillip Rothwell is a member of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, the Center for African Studies, and the Graduate Faculty in Women's and Gender Studies at Rutgers. He has published widely in refereed journals on the cultures and literatures of Lusophone Africa and Portugal. He is currently the guest editor of Portuguese Literary and Cultural Studies 10, a volume which focuses on "Reevaluating Mozambique." His book, *A Postmodern Nationalist Truth, Orality and Gender in the work of Mia Couto* will be published by Bucknell University Press in 2004.

Thursday, April 8th, Room 103 RDJC**Professor Hong Zhang, "Chinese New Daughters: Small Family Size + New Cash-Earning Power - Renegotiating Parent-Daughter Relations in Rural Families"**

Professor Hong Zhang received her BA in English from Huazhong Normal University, and her M.A. in English from Wuhan University, China. She received her Ph.D. in Anthropology at Columbia University in 1998. She was a post-doctoral fellow at the Fairbank Center for East Asian Studies, Harvard University. At the Fairbank Center she organized a workshop — "Daughters' Worth Re-evaluated: Changing Intergenerational Relations and Expectations in Contemporary China". She is currently back at Colby College teaching Chinese and courses on the anthropology of China. Her talk focuses on the new roles daughters are expected to play in Chinese family life in the context of sharp fertility decline and rapid social and economic changes. In light of new concerns for their old age support threatened by lowered fertility rates, rural parents have become very much more aware of the importance of developing and consolidating a reciprocal relationship with their children, and there is a growing recognition among the young and middle-aged rural parents of the importance of their daughters.

Wednesday, April 21, Room 103 RDJC**Research Briefing Professor Mary Gossy, "Billie Holiday's 'Back in Your Own Backyard': Glimpses of Imperial Panic"**

Professor Mary Gossy specializes in feminist literary theory, psychoanalysis and the prose of Imperial Spain. She is the author of *Freudian Slips: Woman Writing, the Foreign Tongue* (University of Michigan Press, 1995), *The Untold Story: Women and Theory in Golden Age Texts* (University of Michigan Press, 1990), and numerous articles on gender and writing in various anthologies and refereed journals. Her third book, *The Spain of Loss: Imperial Anxiety and the Modern Unconscious*, investigates the intersections of gender, empire, and the "foreign" in authors as diverse as Poe, Stein, Freud and Joyce, is forthcoming. In 2002 she won the Warren I. Susman Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Women Rock the World



the first 35 years of women's studies at rutgers nb

Since the first women's studies course, "The Educated Women in Literature" was offered by Professor Elaine Showalter in fall of 1969, Women's Studies at RU-New Brunswick has grown from a few courses to a full fledged department of Women's and Gender Studies with one of the strongest interdisciplinary graduate and undergraduate programs in the United States. Throughout the academic year 2004-2005 we will be celebrating our history. The poster competition "Women Rock the World: The First 35 Years of Women's Studies at Rutgers" (Spring 2004) will be followed by a WGS undergraduate course "Feminist Zines" to be offered in the fall 2004. In spring 2005 we hope to hold a series of exhibitions in New Brunswick campus libraries and a one-day conference on **March 4th 2005** that would bring together our founders, current and former colleagues, students and alumnae. As a part of celebrations we will also initiate an Annual Distinguished Service Award.

We hope you will be able to join us. Schedule of planned events will be online soon, in the meantime please visit our department website <http://womens-studies.rutgers.edu/events.html> for current happenings.

Together, Women Rock The World!

Department of Women's and Gender Studies at Rutgers, New Brunswick

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Feminist Knowledge Production - the class and us (left to right) front: Zenzele Isoke, Christopher Rivera
Back: Emily Bent, Jessica Gamble, Julie Miele, Kelly Coogan, Catherine Sameh, Lara Cassell, Andrew Mazzachi