

THE STATE OF WOMEN'S STUDIES AT CAROLINA

News from Women's Studies at the University of South Carolina

Fall 1996

First Impressions and Thoughts about the Future:

Dr. Lynn Weber

After a few weeks in Columbia, I can confidently say . . . It's HOT! I didn't realize you could lose your heat and humidity tolerance so fast! My two years in Delaware as a visiting professor wiped out the tolerance I developed from spending most of my life in Tennessee and 18 years on the faculty at the University of Memphis—home of Elvis (The King Lives!) and *hot* and *humid* summers!

I am excited to be taking over as Director of Women's Studies at USC. The Women's Studies Program is in great shape: the major and minor are sound and popular, the graduate certificate program is growing rapidly, women and men faculty in each part of the campus are conducting ground-breaking scholarship on women and gender, and the program sponsors a long list of continuing activities that promote and disseminate knowledge about gender. It is no small feat to achieve such a solid program, and I owe a deep debt of gratitude to my predecessors, Sue Rosser, and Judith James, and to many dedicated faculty across the campus for guiding the program to this point.

One of the great strengths of women's studies, and one of the reasons for its growing popularity on college campuses is its interdisciplinary nature. Real life social, political, economic, and psychological processes do not fit neatly into the boundaries created by the academic disciplines; they are much more complex and far reaching. Because of its critical stance, interdisciplinary approach, and orientation toward social change, women's studies is wide open to innovation, collaboration, and the



Dr. Lynn Weber

linking of knowledge and activism. It is no accident, for example, that the rapidly growing body of scholarship and teaching on the intersections of race, class, gender, and sexuality, my own area of interest, has emerged out of women's studies—not out of racial or ethnic studies, class or stratification research, or any of the traditional disciplines. This growth has happened in women's studies because, centered in a critique of traditional disciplines for their exclusion of women, women's studies has been open to self critique for its exclusion of multiply-oppressed groups such as women of color, working class women, and lesbians.

Achieving interdisciplinary scholarship and teaching in a university setting is difficult. Our goal in women's studies is to provide a place where people can share their research, teaching, and activist work across the traditional disciplines, find others who share their interests, and find the resources they need to develop their projects. I am very encouraged by the commitment that Dean Lester Lefton, the College of Lib-

Dr. Lynn Weber Named New Director of Women's Studies

An extensive national search for a new director of women's studies concluded last spring with the hiring of Dr. Lynn Weber. A distinguished scholar in women's studies and sociology, Dr. Weber co-founded the Center for Research on Women at the University of Memphis and served as its director for 14 years.

eral Arts, and the University have made to increasing the visibility and impact of women's studies. They have already committed significant new support for the program. This year, for example, in addition to our regular programs such as the speakers' series and the research conference, the college will sponsor a major speaker to campus, and we will be conducting a national search for a permanent graduate director.

Another exciting development at USC is that African American Studies is also being given new support. Jim Miller, its new director, is a feminist who shares my interest in the intersections of race, class, gender and sexuality and is committed to collaborating with women's studies.

I'm looking forward to a long and fruitful relationship with women's studies at USC. In good southern fashion I have been welcomed every day. I encourage you to stop by the office and say hello. Maxine Higgins, the program coordinator; Wanda Haynes, our new program assistant; and Pat Gilmartin, the interim graduate director, make the office a wonderful place to work and to meet.

Dr. Judith James Recognized



Dr. Judith James

USC's Women's Studies Program owes a great deal to Dr. Judith James. She's been a virtual one-person crisis management team for us, stepping in more than once to guide the program through times of transition. She filled the newly-created post of graduate director in 1992-93, while a search was conducted for a permanent director. Dr. James also served as interim program director in 1993-94 while Dr. Sue Rosser was on leave. And last year she once again assumed the duties of interim director as we searched for a new permanent director.

Dr. James' spirit and commitment to the program have been a source of strength for all of us involved with it. Her eloquent voice has represented us often and well, both inside and outside the university. For this and more, we just want to say, "THANKS, JUDITH!"

Women's Studies Reorganizes

Aside from our new director, you may have noticed another new face in women's studies, that of Ms. Wanda Haynes, who joined us in early August. With all our new plans and initiatives we needed to bring another staff member on board and we were given funds by the Provost's office to do so. Wanda will be handling the daily operations of the office.

As a result of adding a new program assistant, Maxine Higgins, has been given a new title and duties. Maxine is now the program coordinator for Women's Studies. Along with her regular duties, she will be focusing her attention on three additional areas: 1) research, 2) fund raising, and 3) outreach. She describes the position as her "dream job" and plans to devote her organizational abilities and energies to making the dream come true.

Dr. Sally Boyd Participates in Cross-Cultural Exchange Program

In our spring 1996 newsletter, we told you about an exchange program involving women from Colombia, South America and Columbia, South Carolina. Dr. Sally Boyd visited Colombia this summer as part of that program and provided this report of her experiences:

Four cities in two weeks with a schedule packed from early morning till often late at night. A whirlwind of visits with government officials, educators, volunteers, agency representatives, and community organizers. Hospitality that easily rivals the South's, in a country rife with poverty dotting some of the planet's most splendid geography. These are among the images I brought back from the Colombian cities of Pereira, Armenia, Manizales, and Cali. This summer I was privileged to participate in a cross-cultural program designed to promote women's leadership and civic participation through a Columbia, South Carolina/Colombia, South America exchange. Funded by the U.S. Information Agency and awarded to Columbia College, the grant supported four exchanges with four participants each, two south-to-north and two north-to-south. My group, the last of the series, also included Dr. Diane Thompson, professor of social work at

Columbia College; Mary Waters, executive director, Governor's Office Commission on Women; and Dr. Paula Shirley, professor of Spanish at Columbia College (a real blessing, with not a soupcon of Spanish among the three of us!).

Never have I experienced so much in such a short time. I took a wild ride in a Suzuki Samurai through the dirt streets of a barrio perched precariously on a hillside. We visited programs for children whose dedicated, visionary leaders refused to bow to the odds against them; a rural home for preadolescent boys who had spent many of their young years homeless and alone on city streets—an urban residential health care and education program for adolescent girls whose pregnancies resulted from sexual abuse. We applauded the show-and-tell proudly presented by "graduates" of a program that provides both education and low-interest loans to enable single women heads of households to start their own small businesses. We visited the home of a community mother, a solution to poor neighborhoods' childcare needs that is almost revolutionary in its simplicity. We were entertained at a nightclub where we were frisked by armed guards be-

fore being admitted, and the band played "New York, New York" in our honor.

For me the experience was incredibly enriching. Everywhere we were awed by the hard work being done by women and men to counter poverty and the dismal conditions it brings. Most striking is the approach to problems that includes the engagement and participation of those whose conditions are being improved. While government support is a key factor, many projects we observed were initiated at the municipality—even neighborhood—level, with a plan for local ownership and control to take over very quickly. Despite difficult conditions, the country seems to project an atmosphere of hope. My colleagues and I are now excited by the challenge of pursuing the linkages we established, following up our experiences in ways that will be beneficial to both cultures, and maintaining ties with new friends whose warmth and openness set the stage for much sharing in the future.

Sally Boyd, professor and assistant vice provost for Continuing Education Academic Credit Programs, teaches Women and Western Culture in the Women's Studies Program.

Banner Year for New Women Faculty

Women's studies would like to welcome all of the new women faculty on campus this year! We look forward to working with each of you and having you join us for what promises to be an exciting year.

APPLIED PROFESSIONAL SCIENCE

Deborah Fowler: Dept. of Retailing; Ph.D. Texas Tech University; research interests: sports merchandising for female consumers.

Ann Minton: Dept. of Retailing; Ph.D. University of South Carolina; research interests: motivation and leadership in sales management, the effects of social norms on decision making

Hazel Walker: Dept. of Administrative Information Management; Ed.D. University of Tennessee; research interests: ethics, efficacy, effectiveness of electronic systems (domestically and globally), alliances and partnerships, electronic instructional management.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Tatiana Kostova: Ph.D. University of Minnesota; research interests: strategic management and organizations.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Kimberly A. McCabe: Ph.D. in sociology; research interests: law enforcement.

EDUCATION

Laura Brinker: Dept. of Instruction and Teacher Education; Ph.D. University of Wisconsin; research interests: math curriculum.

Louise Jennings: Dept. of Educational Psychology; Ph.D. Univ. of California, Santa Barbara; research interests: education policy and planning, multiculturalism.

Caroline Owens: Dept. of Instruction and Teacher Education; Ed.D. Indiana State University.

ENGINEERING

Perla Balbuena: Dept. of Chemical Engineering; Ph.D. University of Texas at Austin.

LAW

Annette Appel: Dept. of Clinical Legal Studies; J.D. Northwestern University; research interests: children's legal issues.

LIBERAL ARTS

Kate Brown: Dept. of English; Ph.D. University of California at Berkeley; research interests: British fiction.

Kirstin Dow: Dept. of Geography; Ph.D. Clark University; research interests: environmental and physical geography.

Lessie Jo Frazier: Dept. of History; Ph.D. University of Michigan; research interests: 19th/20th century South and Latin America.

Barbara Hancin-Bhatt: Dept. of English; Ph.D. University of Illinois; research interests: linguistics, second language acquisition theory.

Ann Kingsolver: Dept. of Anthropology; Ph.D. University of Massachusetts at Amherst; research interests: socio-cultural anthropology.

Dorothy Peterson: Dept. of Spanish, Italian, & Portuguese; Ph.D. University of Arizona; research interests: Spanish/medieval studies.

Peyton Rowe: Dept. of Art; M.F.A. Virginia Commonwealth University; research interests: graphic design.

Marilyn Thomas-Houston: Dept. of Anthropology/African American Studies Program; A.B.D. New York University; research interests: African-American anthropology, particularly African Diaspora.

Graciela E. Tissera: Dept. of Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese; Ph.D. University of Pennsylvania; research interest: Spanish.

Susan Vanderborg: Dept. of English; Ph.D. Stanford University; research interest: 20th century American poetry.

Robin Wolpert: Dept. of Government and International Studies; Ph.D. University of Chicago; research interests: American politics.

Banner Year, cont. p.4

Fellowship Applications Due January 17

Applications for the 1997 Josephine Abney Faculty Fellowship for Research in Women's Studies are due on January 17, 1997. The \$3,750 fellowship is offered each year to support summer research focused on women or gender-related issues.

The competition, which is open to all full-time faculty members within the University, is intended to support faculty research which can be completed during the three months of summer. The criteria for selection include the significance of the proposed project, soundness and clarity of the research plan, and potential contribution to women's studies scholarship.

The 1996 recipient of the Abney Fellowship is Dr. Joan Gero, associate professor in the Department of Anthropology on the Columbia campus. Her proposal was entitled, "Meals and Metals: A Feminist Inspection of Early Formative Household Labor in Catamarca, Argentina."

The 1997 award winner will be announced on March 28, 1997, during the annual USC Women's Studies Conference. For application forms and further information, contact Maxine Higgins at 777-4007.

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Women's Studies
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Women's Studies 1996-97 Calendar of Events

OCTOBER

- 14-15 Fall Break
- 20-26 USC's Diversity Week Celebration. For information on events and activities contact Thomas E. Rivers, Jr., coordinator of multicultural student affairs at 7-7716.
- 23 Research Series: Dr. Rita Gardiol presents "Changing Perceptions of Women Protagonists in Argentine Literature," 3:30 p.m., Gambrell 151. Reception to follow.
- 25 Women's History Month Liaison Meeting, 3:30 p.m., Gambrell 429

NOVEMBER

- 1 Women's Studies Faculty Meeting, 2:30 p.m., Gambrell 429
- 5 Election Day—Don't forget to vote!
- 14 **Adrenee Glover Freeman Memorial Lecture**, presented by Dr. Bonnie Thornton Dill, professor of women's studies, University of Maryland, 8 p.m., Gambrell 153. Reception following in Gambrell lobby.
- 20 Research Series: Dr. Barbara Ainsworth presents "Women's Physical Activity Patterns: The Myth of the Sedentary Lifestyle," 3:30 p.m., Gambrell 250. Reception to follow.
- 27-31 Thanksgiving Break

DECEMBER

- 6 Last Day of Class
- 9-16 Final Exams
- 16 Commencements
- 20 Women's Studies Conference Proposals Due
Graduate Panel Nominations Due

JANUARY

- 10 Women's Studies Conference Committee Meeting, 10 a.m., 1710 College Street.
- 13 Classes Begin
- 15 Women's History Month Final Liaison Meeting and Deadline for Calendar

- 17 Josephine Abney Fellowship applications due
- 24 Women's Studies Committee Meeting, 2 p.m., 1710 College Street.
- 29 Last day to apply for May graduation
- Research Series: Dr. Elizabeth Peterson, College of Education, 3:30 p.m., Gambrell 250. Reception to follow.

FEBRUARY

- 1-28 **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**. Call Multicultural Student Affairs Office, 7-7716 for details on scheduled events.
- 26 Research Series: graduate student panel, 3:30 p.m., Gambrell 250. Reception to follow.

MARCH

- 1-31 **WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**. Print calendar will be distributed end of February; additional calendars are available in Women's Studies Office or by calling 7-4007. Also check out the calendar at our website at <http://www.clasc.edu/wost/>.
- 8-16 **SPRING BREAK**
- 28 Annual Women's Studies Conference, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Daniel Management Center. Registration information will be distributed in late January.
- 31 **EASTER HOLIDAY**

April

- 17 **AWARDS DAY**
- 23 Research Series: Dr. Cynthia Davis, "You Talkin' to Me? The Appeal of Television Talk Shows," 3:30 p.m., Gambrell 250. Reception to follow.
- 24 Last Day of Class
- 28-May 5 Final Exams

MAY

- 9 Commencement
- 10 Commencement

Banner Year, cont. from p.3

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

Heidi Lee Hoerman: Ph.D. in progress, Indiana University; research interest: subject-based information retrieval.

Elizabeth B. Miller: specialist in library and information science, University of South Carolina; research interests: K-12 internet resources and curriculum integration.

Ann O'Neill: Ph.D. University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; research interests: serial publishing and pricing issues, professional knowledge, library buying patterns.

Donna M. Shannon: Ph.D. University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; research interests: effects of education reform and technology on school library media programs, children's responses to literature.

MEDICINE

Wei Wei Chang: Dept. of Internal Medicine; MD.

Ramoth Roseann Cox: Dept. of Internal Medicine; MD.

Kathryn A. Hickman: Dept. of Pediatrics; MD.

Davinder K. Lally: Dept. of Internal Medicine, MD.

Shanti S. Thirumalai: Dept. of Pediatrics, MD.

Lynn K. Thomas: Dept. of Family and Preventive Medicine; MD.

Karen M. Yokoo: Dept. of Surgery, MD.

NURSING

Carolyn L. Murdaugh: associate dean for research; Ph.D. University of Arizona.

Constance Hendricks: Dept. of Family and Community Health Nursing; Ph.D. Boston College.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Maureen Sanderson: Dept. of Epidemiology and Biostatistics; Ph.D. University of Washington.

Belinda Reininger: Dept. of Health Promotion and Education; Dr. PH University of Texas at Houston.

Maria Houston: Dept. of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology; MSP University of South Carolina.

SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS

Madilyn Fletcher: director of Baruch Institute and tenured professor of biological sciences; Ph.D. University College of North Wales; research interests: microbial biology.

Beth Krizek: Dept. of Biological Sciences; Ph.D. Johns Hopkins University; research interests: molecular and developmental biology.

SOCIAL WORK

Toni A. Cascio: Ph.D. University of Pennsylvania; research interests: spirituality and qualitative analysis.



Back row: (l-r) Jennifer Reed-Burlison, Amy Hill, Angela Crisp, Jennifer Hynes, Elizabeth Robinson, Brandice Whiten, Ena Shea Bramblett. Front row: (l-r) Joanna Daiwo, Becky Lewis, Linda Slonim

Eleven Receive Women's Studies Certificate in Spring and Summer Graduations

Eleven students received their certificates in women's studies at graduation ceremonies last spring and summer. Three of the students, Ena Shea Bramblett, Amy Hill, and Jennifer Reed-Burlison, came to USC expressly to earn the certificate in women's studies and completed the program in just two semesters. Since graduating, Ena Shea has entered the Master's program in political science at USC. Amy and Jennifer are both employed in the area.

Concurrently with her graduate certificate in women's studies, Jennifer Hynes received her Ph.D. from the Department of English and is now teaching in West Virginia. Angela Crisp earned her Master of Education degree, and Joanna Daiwo received a master's degree in educational administration. Joanna, who attended USC on a Fulbright Scholarship, plans to return home to the Solomon Islands to teach for a year and then perhaps return to the U.S. to work on a Ph.D.

Several of the graduates continue working toward advanced degrees in other departments at USC. Ellen Arnold and Becky Lewis are

Ph.D. candidates in English, and Linda Slonim is seeking a master's degree in education. Elizabeth Robinson and Brandice Whiten are pursuing master's degrees in religious studies.

Twenty-nine students have earned their graduate certificate in women's studies since the program's inception in 1992.



Ellen Arnold

Women's Studies Research Series

Women's Studies kicked off its 1996-97 research series with a lecture by our new Director, Dr. Lynn Weber. Her talk was entitled, "To Me That's the Whole Thing—Power: Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality in Everyday Life".

In keeping with Diversity Week celebrations, our October series features Dr. Rita Gardiol, professor of Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese, presenting a lecture entitled "Changing Perceptions of Women Protagonists in Argentine Literature." Her presentation will be Wednesday, October 23, at 3:30 p.m. in Gambrell 151.

November's lecture will focus on women's wellness with a lecture by Dr. Barbara Ainsworth, associate professor in the College of Public Health. Her lecture, "Women's Physical Activity Patterns: The Myth of the Sedentary Lifestyle," will be presented Wednesday, November 20, at 3:30 p.m. in Gambrell 250.

January's focus shifts to education with a presentation by Dr. Elizabeth Peterson, associate professor, College of Education. Her presentation will be held Wednesday, January 29, at 3:30 p.m. in Gambrell 250.

February marks the Third Annual Graduate Student Panel, a special opportunity for our graduate students to share their research. Four papers will be selected to be read at this presentation on Wednesday, February 26, at 3:30 p.m. in Gambrell 250.

Our final research series presentation, featuring Dr. Cynthia Davis, assistant professor of English, will be held Wednesday, April 23, at 3:30 p.m. in Gambrell 250. Her presentation, which focuses on popular culture, is entitled, "You Talkin' to Me?: The Appeal of Television Talk Shows." It promises to be a lively finale to a stimulating research series.

Following each presentation a reception will be held in the Women's Studies Office at 1710 College Street. All presentations are free and open to the public.

Friends of Women's Studies

The following is a listing of Friends of Women's Studies who have supported the Women's Studies Endowment by contributions from January 1995 through August 1996.

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