

studies

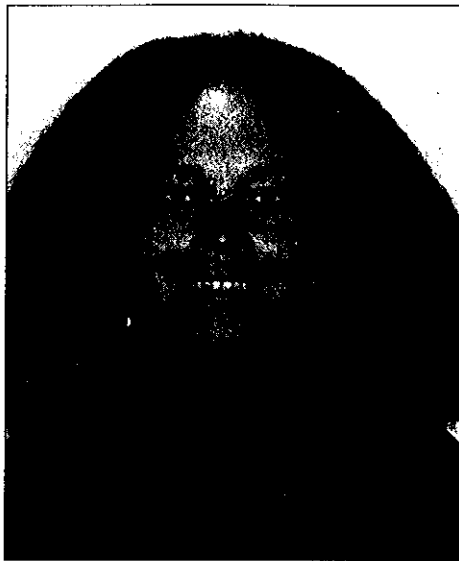
news from women's studies at the university of south carolina

New Graduate Director Named

A national search for a permanent director of the graduate program in Women's Studies led to the selection of Dr. Faye Harrison for the position. Dr. Harrison is an anthropologist who received her Ph.D. from Stanford University and served on the faculties of the University of Louisville from 1983 to 1989 and the University of Tennessee from 1989 to 1997. She is currently president of the Black Anthropologists Association and program chair for the International Women's Anthropology Conference to be held in Richmond in 1998.

Dr. Harrison's work is pushing new frontiers on the intersection of race, class, gender, and sexuality primarily in two areas: in the lives of women in Jamaica's urban informal economy and in the production of knowledge in the field of anthropology. Her work includes "The Gendered Politics and Violence of Structural Adjustment: A View from Jamaica," forthcoming in *Situated Lives: Gender and Culture in Everyday Lives* and "Writing Against the Grain: Cultural Politics of Difference in Alice Walker's Work" in *Women Writing Culture*. The second edition of her 1991 book *Decolonizing Anthropology: Moving Further Toward an Anthropology for Liberation* is in production.

When asked about her thoughts on joining the program, her enthusiasm was evident. "My initial impressions signal to me that Women's Studies has a promising present and future here at the University of South Carolina. I am genuinely excited about the prospects of



Dr. Faye Harrison

working with new colleagues and students to develop critically creative pedagogy, scholarship, and service within the program and its "extended family" across the University. For me it is a privilege to participate in building a program committed to reformulating and potentially *transforming* knowledge on women's diversity. I am especially interested in seeing our program assume an unequivocally inclusive orientation that embraces an expanded notion and practice of feminism. As we enter the 21st century, feminist praxis will clearly benefit from being informed with race, class, nation, and even transnational axes of difference."

We look forward to Dr. Harrison's leadership in our graduate program in promoting interdisciplinary teaching and scholarly research that focuses on the intersections of race, class, gender, and sexuality.

WOST Plans First Faculty Retreat

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! On Friday evening, November 7, and Saturday, November 8, Women's Studies will host its first retreat for all interested faculty from any of the University of South Carolina's eight campuses. To be held at Hickory Knob State Park near McCormick, South Carolina, the retreat will provide an opportunity for faculty with interests in women's studies to meet, to share information about teaching and research, and to participate in developing the vision and plan for the future of Women's Studies at USC. Faculty from the regional campuses will have opportunities to share plans for their programs and to establish links for future collaborations.

In the last five years, the Columbia campus has hired 300 new faculty. Many of these new faculty are engaged in gender scholarship and teaching. In combination with the extensive network of faculty already involved with women's studies, there is a tremendous opportunity to forge new connections to facilitate interdisciplinary teaching and scholarship through Women's Studies. "We hope that faculty who have been involved with the program for a long time can meet with faculty who have recently developed interests or have recently arrived at the University to start some collaborations that lead to new and better teaching, to new research, and to grant activity," said Lynn Weber, director.

Harley to Deliver 1997 Freeman Lecture



Dr. Sharon Harley

The 1997 Adreee Glover Freeman Lecture in African-American Women's Studies will be presented by Dr. Sharon Harley on Thursday,

October 23 at 8 p.m. in the Gambrell Auditorium. Her talk, "MoJo Working' and other tales of Black Working Women: The Politics of Invisibility," will focus on black women and work.

Dr. Harley, co-principal investigator of the Black Women and Work Project, is also director and codirector of Afro-American Studies at the University of Maryland, College Park. She teaches courses on Afro-American history, black culture, women's history, and women's work. Dr. Harley received her Ph.D. in United States History from Howard University. Her publications include "When Your Work

is Not Who You Are: The Development of a Working Class Consciousness Among Afro-American Women," "Reclaiming Public Voice and the Study of Black Women's Work," and "For the Good of Family and Race: Gender, Work, and Domestic Roles in the Black Community, 1880-1930."

The Freeman lecture fund was established in 1993 to honor Columbia attorney and social activist Adreee Glover Freeman. Contributions may be made to the USC Educational Foundation in care of Women's Studies, 1710 College Street, Columbia, SC 29208.

New Digs for Women's Studies

In 1998, Women's Studies will be joining African American Studies and a segment of the honors program in an historic, newly renovated building, Flinn Hall. Built in 1860, Flinn Hall is located behind the South Caroliniana Library, just off the prestigious USC Horseshoe. Moore and Associates Architects are overseeing the project to restore the exterior of the building to its original design. The interior is being completely reconfigured to house the Women's Studies and African American Studies Programs as well as several classrooms to be shared with the Honors College.

To maximize sharing and collaboration among our programs, we jointly designed the space. On the first floor, Women's Studies and African American Studies will share a library/computer lab, a seminar/conference room, and a break room with kitchen facilities. Also on the first floor will be a Smart Classroom, with advanced audiovisual capabilities and computer hookups, and an honors program seminar room. Another classroom and program and faculty offices for Women's Studies and African American Studies will be located on the second and third

floors. Renovations are already underway with a target completion date of April 1998.

With our program focus on the intersections of race, class, gender, and sexuality, we see this building as a way of demonstrating African American Studies' and Women's Studies' joint com-

mitment to collaborative work. When Interim Provost Don Greiner received our request to house the two programs together, he proposed this beautiful and prestigious location—to "make a statement." A powerful statement it does make, and we are anxious to work together toward the promise it contains.



Currently under renovation, Flinn Hall, located behind South Caroliniana Library on the Columbia campus, will be the new home of Women's Studies and African American Studies.

Director's Comments

Thank Heavens for summer! Time to do some different things and to step back and reflect. I began reflections on my first year at South Carolina by reviewing a new book manuscript and attending a conference on black women and work, "Roots, Resistance & Representation: Sister Scholars Study Black Women and Work." The conference, held at the Smithsonian Institution, was a wonderful opportunity to connect with friends and to participate in a day-long dialogue on the meaning and significance of black women's work. Sitting in small groups at lunch, we were each asked to identify three words that described our work. Thinking about my first year as director of Women's Studies, I said "connections, activism, and reflections." I then had to add a fourth—"frustration" at being so active I had little time for reflection! As I sat with 10 black women scholar/teacher/activists these terms or similar ones came up frequently.

The work of Women's Studies, of African American Studies, of all scholar/activists working at the intersections of race, class, gender, and sexuality is connective work—facilitating communication between academics in different disciplines, between faculty and diverse student populations, and between folks inside and outside of university settings. In Kathleen Blee's new edited manuscript, *No Middle Ground: Women and Radical Protest*, on women's political activism, Belinda Robnett refers to women activists in the Civil Rights Movement as "bridge workers." Bridge

leaders are the people who actually make the connections between the broad goals and strategies articulated by publicly identified leaders of a movement and the constituents of the movement. And that is the work of Women's Studies—we build bridges:

- We worked closely with Jim Miller in African American Studies to cement our relationship and to pursue common goals. Some of those goals included working on plans for our new jointly shared space in Flinn Hall; recruiting WOST's new graduate director, Faye Harrison; sponsoring several speakers; and planning for future collaborative course offerings.

- Faculty from three different colleges made research presentations in a well-attended research series.

- A new brown-bag series, "Teaching for Social Justice," brought faculty together across diverse disciplines to focus on improving teaching by reaching a diverse student population and promoting understanding across race, class, gender, and sexuality.

- The Tenth Women's Studies Conference brought over 140 students and faculty from across the state to share research and pedagogical strategies. The community panel—Claudia Smith Brinson, of *The State* newspaper, Jane Dreher Emerson from Planned Parenthood, and Representative Gilda Cobb-Hunter—was especially helpful in identifying how university faculty and students can facilitate their activist work.

It was a busy year of making connections to improve the scholarship/teaching/activism of faculty and students across the campus. But because this work goes against the grain of the way universities are organized, it takes more time

and energy than does the work of traditional disciplines in traditional departments. We do it because we believe, but we often become frustrated because the obstacles are great.

The Women's Studies Advisory Committee deserves special thanks for withstanding the frustration. Sixteen representatives from 14 departments on campus worked diligently to revise the mission statement of the program, to identify areas of emphasis, to revamp our awards program, to recruit a new graduate director, and to promote the program inside and outside of the University.

I want to invite you all to connect with your friends and colleagues through Women's Studies next year. We have BIG plans:

- A retreat for Women's Studies faculty from all the campuses of the USC system on Friday and Saturday, November 7 and 8. Put those dates on your calendar and plan to come and make connections for furthering your own work and the larger mission of Women's Studies through linking with other scholar activists.

- A great research and teaching series, with dynamic outside speakers, including Sharon Harley and Lani Gunier.

- The move to our new digs in Flinn Hall with African American Studies and a section of Honors College classes at the end of this year.



Call for Applications

Josephine Abney and Carol Jones Carlisle Research Awards—Women's Studies is seeking applications for the Josephine Abney Fellowship for Research and Carol Jones Carlisle Research Award. These awards are designed to encourage cutting edge, women-centered research that is solidly grounded in women's studies perspectives. Proposals are invited which are consistent with the research mission of Women's Studies to reconceptualize knowledge, create new knowledge and/or reinterpret existing knowledge about women and their experiences through the lens of gender and the prism of diversity. The research should be interdisciplinary in nature or have interdisciplinary implications. The proposal should reflect a commitment to improving the status of women.

Several changes are in place for 1998:

- Both awards are now open to any full-time, permanent faculty or professional staff member.
- Amount of the Abney award has increased to \$5000 and the Carlisle to \$1000.
- The new Abney application form requires submission of a one-page proposed budget; applications for the Carlisle must be in one-page proposal form. All applications are due January 16, 1998.

Harriott Hampton Faucette Award—We also seek applications for the Faucette award which is designed to assist Women's Studies graduate certificate students with research and professional development. The award is for a maximum of \$500. Applications must be made in the form a one-page proposal; deadline for fall is September 30, 1997; for spring, January 31, 1998.

For additional information about these awards and/or application forms call Wanda Haynes at 7-4007. Applications should be forwarded to Women's Studies Program, 1710 College Street, Columbia, SC 29208.

Kelly-Lewis Wins Abney Award

Dr. Joyce Kelly-Lewis, assistant professor, College of Social Work, was awarded the ninth annual Josephine Abney Faculty Fellowship in Women's Studies for her research proposal "In Their Voices: The Journey from Welfare Dependency to Self-Sufficiency." The \$3750 award supports summer research projects.

By describing the path from welfare to self-sufficiency from the perspectives of the women making the journey, Dr. Kelly-Lewis' research has the potential to add new voices to the ongoing welfare debate. She plans to collect data through a series of group and individual interviews with these women at three different stages in their lives.

Current welfare reform has been focused on the fiscal "bottom line" and is aimed at cutting the cost of federal support for society's neediest members. As is often the case with policy decisions that affect poor women, policymakers have not involved the welfare recipients in the planning process. Seeking to give a voice to the South Carolina women whose lives will be profoundly affected, this research has the potential to illuminate some of the hidden "costs" of welfare reform. Dr. Kelly-Lewis argues that "This country needs to hear from persons affected by welfare reform as it develops different approaches to job programs, worker support programs, and ways to protect children. Findings from this study can inform policy formulation and program development that assist clients in their move from welfare dependency to self-sufficiency."

Dr. Kelly-Lewis received her Ph.D. in Social Welfare in 1993 from the Florence Heller Graduate School, Brandeis University. She is project director for the Maternal and Child Health Training Project at USC.



Dr. Joyce Kelly-Lewis

Farewells & Welcomes

We would like to take a moment to bid a fond farewell to Dr. Lester Lefton who is leaving his position as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts. Women's Studies has benefited greatly from Dr. Lefton's leadership and commitment to diversity. He was instrumental in recruiting our director and graduate director, as well as securing faculty lines that will ensure the growth and development of our program. We would like to wish him the best in his new endeavors.

It is our pleasure to welcome Dr. Blease Graham as interim dean of the College

of Liberal Arts. His hard work and commitment to our program have already been demonstrated to us by his service on last year's Director's Search Committee.

Also, we would like to welcome our new provost, Dr. Jerry Odom. Dr. Odom's commitment to academic excellence and his record of recruiting and retaining minority and women faculty will prove invaluable to our program, as well as the entire University. We look forward to working with him as we head toward a new century.



Celebrating spring graduation are (l-r) Diane Hathaway, Carolyn Reichart, and Andrea Looby. (Not pictured: Diane Kempson)

Six Receive Graduate Certificate in 1996-97

During the 1996-97 school year, six more students earned their graduate certificate in women's studies bringing to 35 the number who have completed the program since its inception in 1992. Graduating in December 1996 were Mary Alm and Catherine Kerwan. Graduating in May 1997 were Diane Hathaway, Diane Kempson, Andrea Looby, and Carolyn Reichart.



December graduate, Mary Alm. (Not pictured: Catherine Kerwan)

Program enrollment and graduation rates have held steady during the past few years; the number of inquiries received about the program during the current year suggests we could experience a significant increase in enrollment. Nine new students were admitted for fall 1997, including one Fulbright scholar, Siobhan Groitl from Germany.

1997 Conference in Review—Looking Ahead to 1998

Anniversaries celebrate past accomplishments and often spur changes and innovations. This was true of the tenth annual Women's Studies Conference: "WELL/FARE: Power, Conflict & Contradictions in Women's Lives." Paper panels addressed the theme of how "well" women "fare" in diverse areas such as education, social activism, religion, the workplace, and in images in various media. After years of calls for "more" on our conference evaluations, we moved to a 1 1/2 day format this year.

In addition to offering more time, we offered greater variety this year as well. One particularly popular innovation was a community panel which brought activists from the community into a dialog with our conference participants. Panelists included: Jane Dreher Emerson, chief executive officer, Planned Parenthood of South Carolina; Claudia Smith Brinson, associate editor, *The State*; and Gilda Cobb-Hunter, House of Representatives, South Carolina Legislature. The discussion was lively and offered strategies for social activism.

This year we interspersed our presentations with workshops and performances. Two workshops on pedagogy were offered "Promoting Positive Race, Class, and Gender Dynamics in the Classroom" and "Introducing

Women's Studies: A Roadmap From Our Classrooms." A one-woman theatrical presentation, "Hard Times, Cotton Mill Girls," introduced participants to women who had been involved in the textile industry and labor reform. And for those who prefer a "hands on" approach, "The Body of Woman: An Experiential Movement Workshop" offered a chance to do some physical as well as mental "stretching."

Dr. Sheryl Ruzek, our keynote speaker, delivered a thought-provoking look at the health care debate with her presentation, "Women's Health: Caring, Curing, and Community." Dr. Ruzek, a professor of health education and women's studies at Temple University, is author of *Women's Health: Complexities and Difference*.

Plans are already well underway for the 1998 conference. Next year we will switch our conference from March to February so the conference will be both a "kickoff" to Women's History Month and a "bridge" from Black History Month. We will continue with our one-and-a-half day format—beginning at midday on Thursday, February 26, and continuing throughout the day on Friday, February 27. The theme of the 1998 conference will be "Race, Class, Gender and Sexuality: The Diversity of Women's

Lives." Our keynote speaker, Lani Gunier, noted African-American civil rights lawyer and activist, will provide an important link between black history and women's history. We plan to expand our community panel discussion and offer workshops on publishing and grants writing.

Mark your calendars now and be sure to join us on February 26 and 27, 1998!

Newsletter News

We've changed our newsletter schedule and in the future it will be distributed mid-August and late January. Not only have the distribution deadlines changed, but we've changed our focus as well.

The August newsletter will report program news and inform our friends of upcoming events for the calendar year. January's newsletter will highlight a particular pedagogy and research topic. Special topic bibliographies will be included, as well as a focus on individual faculty work in progress.

The 1997-98 Women's Studies Research Series

The 1997-98 Women's Studies Research Series showcases new faculty and new research directions for faculty. The presentations will be held at 3:30 p.m. in Gambrell 250 and will be followed by a reception in our office at 1710 College Street.

Our series begins on September 24 with Dr. Vicky Newman who is beginning a faculty appointment in the College of Education's Department of Educational Leadership after spending a year as a research assistant professor at the Institute for Families in Society. Her talk, "I Embroider to Convey More Faithfully What I Have Seen: Teaching Manuel Puig's *Kiss of the Spider Woman*," addresses pedagogical issues of student/reader response and student/teacher interactions.

October 22nd's lecture, features Dr. Faye Harrison, our new graduate director and prominent feminist anthropologist. Her talk "The Cultural Politics of Color, Gender, and Class: A Guided Tour Through a Greater Antillean Maze" is based on her most recent work in the Caribbean.

On November 20, Dr. Annette Appell, who is beginning her second year at USC's School of Law, will present "Protecting Children

or Punishing Mothers?" in which she explores the role of race, class, and gender in the targeting and treatment of mothers in the child protection system.

The 1998 year begins with a new research direction by three long-time Women's Studies faculty. On January 28th, Dr. Carol McGinnis Kay (Department of English), Dr. Lee Jane Kaufman (Department of Government and International Studies and Institute for Families in Society), and Dr. Patricia Gilmartin (Department of Geography) will present their latest work on women and detective fiction. Kaufman and Kay's, *G is for Grafton*, will be published by Sue Grafton's publisher, Henry Holt, in November.

The February 18th session will spotlight research by our graduate students. Three papers will be selected from those nominated by faculty; deadline for nominations is January 12.

Our final presentation on April 16 features our 1996 Carlisle Award recipient, Dr. Kathy Evans. A faculty member of the College of Education's Department of Educational Psychology, her talk will address her research on positive feminist and minority identity models.

WOST Initiates Brownbag Pedagogy Series

"Teaching for Social Justice," a brownbag series on pedagogy that was initiated during the spring semester, met with considerable success and enthusiasm. The initial session on January 23rd was facilitated by Lessie Joe Frazier (history) and Miriam Johnson (social work). Later sessions included:

- **Lynn Weber**, "Promoting Positive Race, Class and Gender Dynamics in the Classroom."
- **Nancy Lane** (French & Classics), "The Institutional Context for Revolutionary Feminist Pedagogy."
- **Vicky Newman** (Institute for Family in Society), "Making Progress? Theoretical Tales From the Classroom and Other Interesting Stories."
- **Jane Harris Aiken** (Law), "Striving to Teach Justice, Fairness, & Morality."

The series is slated to continue through the fall semester. Sessions will be held in Gambrell 429:

- Wed. 9/17, noon-1 p.m.
- Thurs. 10/16, 12:30-1:30 p.m.
- Wed. 11/12, noon-1 p.m.
- Thurs. 12/4, 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Topics and facilitators will be announced in advance. If you have an idea for a topic or would be interested in facilitating a discussion please call Lynn Weber at 7-4007.

Mission Statement

University of South Carolina Women's Studies Program

Women's Studies at the University of South Carolina promotes understanding of the diverse array of women's experiences through a complete program of teaching, research, and service to the University, the local community, the state, and the nation. Through its research mission, Women's Studies reconceptualizes knowledge, creates new knowledge, and reinterprets existing knowledge through the lens of gender and the prism of diversity. Its teaching mission is to share this knowledge with students so that they learn to think critically, to communicate effectively, to solve problems, and to interpret human experience. Emerging from an activist tradition, Women's Studies serves University, local, state, and national communities by acting as a resource and guide for issues related to women and gender. Our research, teaching, and service missions interweave as we create, share, and apply the knowledge, skills, and values that promote the full participation of women in society.

Interim Graduate Director Looks Ahead



Dr. Patricia Gilmartin

Dr. Patricia Gilmartin, professor of geography, will be on sabbatical in the fall of 1997 after serving for the last two years as interim graduate director of Women's Studies. A cartographer, Dr. Gilmartin is the vice chair of the North American Cartographic Society.

One of her more unusual map projects was designing the maps of Santa Teresa for the forthcoming book titled *G is for Grafton* by Natalie Hevener Kaufman, Department of Government and International Studies, and Carol McGinnis Kay, Department of English. Thanks to Pat, to accompany the biographical portrait and political analysis of Kinsey Milhorne, murder mystery fans will also have absolutely accurate and visually pleasing maps on which to locate all of the critical places in Kinsey's life. Pat, Lee Jane, and Carol will be making a presentation on the book to the Women's Studies Research Series on January 28th, at 3:30 in Gambrell 250.

While on sabbatical, Dr. Gilmartin says she "plans to get busy on some research ideas that have been simmering on the back burner, particularly some work on women and travel."

During her tenure as graduate director, Dr. Gilmartin taught the Feminist Research Methods course as well as Women Explorers and Travelers course cross-listed with the geography department. Under Dr. Gilmartin's excellent leadership, the graduate certificate program continued to grow as 18 students graduated and course offerings expanded. Fortunately for Women's Studies, when she returns she will continue to teach these courses in the program.

Friends of Women's Studies

The following is a listing of friends of Women's Studies who have supported the program's endowment by contributions from July 1996 to May 1997.

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Call for Papers

Gender, Race, Class, & Sexuality: Diversity in Women's Lives
February 26-27, 1998

We invite you to submit abstracts (300 word maximum) for paper presentations relevant to the conference theme. Fifteen minutes will be allotted for individual papers. Deadline for proposals is December 15, 1997; please submit to Women's Studies Program, 1710 College Street, Columbia, SC 29208.

We Want To Hear From You!

Please share with us your accomplishments, interests, and ideas for future programming. We'd like to establish a place for our friends to brag about the good things they're doing and will be reporting on this in future newsletters. We'd also like your input on speakers and topics of interest to you.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone# _____

E-mail: _____

Accomplishments: _____

Ideas/Topics of Interest: _____

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