Director’s Column

Gretchen Ritter
January 2006

Shelby Knox is an amazing young woman. This sweet, gregarious nineteen year old from Lubbock, Texas is not your average UT undergraduate. In addition to studying for tests and writing papers, Shelby spends a good portion of her time traveling around the country to talk to audiences about the importance of comprehensive sex education.

How did Shelby become an authority on this topic? The public schools in Lubbock, Texas offer abstinence-only sex education. Lubbock also has one of the highest rates of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases among teens in the state. As a high school student and member of the city’s youth commission, Shelby decided that there was something wrong with that picture. She felt this way even though she herself is a devout Christian from a conservative family. When one of the elders from Shelby’s church questioned her involvement on this issue, Shelby explained: “Not everyone is as lucky as I am. Many kids don’t have their church and their family to support them.”

Two independent filmmakers from New York – Marion Lipschultz and Rose Rosenblatt – came to Lubbock to follow the controversy over sex education. The film they produced – “The Education of Shelby Knox” – follows the issue and the young woman at the center of it. Shelby lost her campaign to bring comprehensive sex education to the public schools. But she emerged as a strong and thoughtful advocate of this issue, who is able to reach a wide variety of people with her unassuming, genuine approach.

As part of our yearlong series on Women, Gender and Health, the center held a screening of “The Education of Shelby Knox” last November. We had a standing-room-only crowd of 150 students, faculty and community members turn out for the event. After the screening, Shelby was there to discuss the film and the issue with the audience. Like Shelby, many students in the audience came from schools where sex education consisted of a preacher coming to tell them why abstinence only was the only way. Some expressed frustration that they had been denied information that might have protected teenagers who were sexually (Cont. Page 2)
Director’s Column - Continued

active from getting pregnant or being exposed to sexually transmitted diseases. The audience gave Shelby a standing ovation.

Shelby is a student in the UT in Washington program this semester. When I saw her recently, she told me that she plans on double majoring in Women’s and Gender Studies (she’s already a Government major) when she returns to UT Austin in the fall. Beginning in the Fall of 2006, CWGS will offer an undergraduate major in Women’s and Gender Studies. We are very pleased to have smart young leaders like Shelby Knox express an interest in our major.

As I often say, it is a privilege to work at the Center because of the many wonderful faculty and students who participate in our programs. In our yearlong focus on gender and health, we have learned about the effect of relationships on health; the controversy over hormone replacement therapy; and the role that black beauty parlors play in educating their clientele about public health issues. Faculty from all over our campus - from Sociology, Social Work, Nursing, LBJ, Psychology, and Kinesiology - are doing important research on gender and health issues. CWGS is pleased to be able to highlight their research and support them in their work.

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Academic News by Associate Director & Graduate Adviser Susan Sage Heinzelman

CWGS MA Graduate Program:
We are pleased to report that we more than doubled the number of students admitted to our Masters Program in 2005. From the twenty applications we received from students all over the United States and abroad, we selected nine to admit to our program. We were able to fund four of the nine students and are working toward the goal of funding at least half of the students we admit each year.

(Cont. Page 3)
**Academic News - Continued**

**CWGS Undergraduate Major***:
The strength of our faculty and curriculum is reflected in the growing demand for our courses at the undergraduate level. Beginning in the Fall of 2006*, CWGS will offer undergraduates the opportunity to major in WGS. We believe that these majors will make a vital contribution to the university’s desire for excellence in its interdisciplinary projects. (*Pending Final Approval)

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**Bibliographer's Corner** by Lindsey Schell

The most broadly appealing new library resource is the New York Times online historical backfile. After lengthy contract negotiations, the UT Library was able to go live with this resource at the beginning of the spring semester. The entire backfile from 1851 to 2001 is now available in a full text and keyword searchable format. In addition to news stories, the product includes editorials, letters to the editor, obituaries, birth and marriage announcements, photos, and advertisements. The search interface can be viewed in ten languages, including Spanish and Chinese, and each citation provides a choice to see the article alone or within the full page on which it appeared. Results can be collated into personalized lists that can be emailed or exported to citation software such as EndNote. Previously, the New York Times was our most heavily used microfilm set, but we expect this new format to radically change the nature of historical research as well as undergraduate assignments centered on "all the news that's fit to print."

To access, go to www.lib.utexas.edu, select Research Tools, then Databases and Indexes to Articles. Choose "N" and look for "New York Times." If you would like assistance with using the New York Times online historical backfile or creating assignments to utilize this resource, please contact me at schell@mail.utexas.edu. Please note that access to current NYT articles is still available through Lexis/Nexis.
CWGS Affiliate NEWS

Kamran Ali (Anthropology) edited *Gendering Urban Space in the Middle East, South Asia and Africa* (Palgrave Press), and received funding to help organize the 2005 Population Council (Cairo) workshop on Urban Landscapes on the Margins: Khartoum and Karachi. He recently presented “2005 of Women, Work and Public Space: Some thoughts on Karachi’s Poor” at the University of Manchester, among other places.


Noel Busch (Social Work) received the Distinguished Recent Contributions in Social Work Education Award, a national distinction from the Council on Social Work Education, for her work to improve the curriculum on domestic violence and sexual assault at UT.

Charlotte Canning (Theatre and Dance) published her book *The Most American Thing in America: Circuit Chautauqua as Performance* (University of Iowa Press).


Chiquita A. Collins (Sociology) was named a fellow of the Foundation for Community Empowerment. The two-year fellowship is designed to support research efforts in applied research and policy analysis of issues that impact urban areas.


Suzanne Freyjadis-Charberka finished her MA from the WGS program in 2005 and is now the Director for the Women's Game Conference in Austin.

Three of Norval Glenn's (Sociology) marriage studies were reported in numerous publications, including the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal* and *Washington Post*. He examines the benefits of marrying young, the impact of race on marital bliss and the effect of divorce on children.

Dean Darlene Grant (Social Work) was named 2005 Social Worker of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers’ Texas Chapter.


Susanne Hafner (Germanic Studies) received the A.W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Medieval Studies for the 2005-2006 academic year. She is spending the year at Notre Dame’s Medieval Institute researching for her book *Vergilian Masculinities: Medieval Readings of the Aeneid*.

Tracie Harrison (Nursing) received a $120,000 post-doctoral fellowship for research on aging with disabilities. She is one of 24 new nurse scholars and fellows receiving grants from the John A. Hartford Foundation and the Atlantic Philanthropies’ Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Capacity Scholars Awards Program. As a university doctoral student in 2003, she received a $50,000 Hartford Foundation award for a study on how women with paralytic polio before age 12 are now aging.

Eun-Ok Im (Nursing) has been elected a 2005 Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, an organization that strives to promote health policy and practice. An expert in international cross-cultural women's health issues, she is working with a five-year, $1.8 million National Institutes of Health (NIH) research grant that began in 2003.

Naomi Lindstrom (Spanish and Portuguese) will join the editorial board of a new online journal titled *Hojas del Cíbilo-vario: Revista de Literatura y de Cultura Argentinos*. The journal is a project of the Centro de Investigacion en Literatura Argentina at the Universidad Catolica Argentina.

Julia Mickenberg (American Studies) has published *Learning From The Left: Children's Literature, The Cold War, And Radical Politics In The United States* (Oxford University Press).

Lisa Moore (English) won this year’s Richards Teaching Fellowship from the Department of English. Her article “Queer Gardens: Mary Delany’s Flowers and Friendships” is appearing in October in *Eighteenth-Century Studies*.

Chandra Muller (Sociology) has been awarded a $500,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to study “Gender Differences in Science and Math: Diversity and the Role of Social Context” for 2005-2008. She’ll address how schools structure opportunities for adolescent girls and boys of different races, ethnicities, social classes and immigrant generational statuses as they prepare for careers in science and math.

Lynn Rew (Nursing) was the Davis-Sams Distinguished Lecturer at Indiana University School of Nursing this fall. The lecture series focused on health disparities in underserved populations. Rew is the Director of the Southwest Partnership Center for Research in Health Disparities at the UT Austin School of Nursing.
Loriene Roy (School of Information) is a candidate for the American Library Association’s President for 2007-2008. She is also the first indigenous candidate in the ALA’s 130-year history. ALA has a membership of 65,000.

Janet Staiger (Radio-TV-Film) has a new book, Media Reception Studies (New York University Press).

In October, Pauline Strong (Anthropology) began serving a one-year term as President of Camp Fire USA Balcones Council.

Alexa Stuifbergen (Nursing) received a $1.6 million National Institutes of Health grant to continue her studies on improving quality of life for persons coping with multiple sclerosis. Her NIH funding for the research now totals more than $3 million and will continue through 2010. Co-investigators on the study include research scientist Heather Becker and Tracie Harrison, assistant professor of nursing.

Congratulations!
The following CWGS Students have been chosen to present at various conferences:

Melissa Koonce:
- 8th Annual Sarah Lawrence College Women’s History Conference (Bronxville, NY) - Dangerous Desires: Queer Politics in the New Millennium - March 3-4
- 4th Annual Meeting of the Cultural Studies Association at George Mason University (Arlington, VA) - April 19-22

Kyle Brillante:
- CUNY Graduate Center’s Women, Gender, Pedagogy conference in February 2006
- 8th Annual Sarah Lawrence College Women’s History Conference (Bronxville, NY) - Dangerous Desires: Queer Politics in the New Millennium - March 3-4

Rebecca Moody:
- The Midwest Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee focusing on the theme “Archival Bodies,” February 10-11, 2006, in conjunction with the Center for 21st Century Studies and its 2005-06 research theme “States of Autonomy”

CWGS Faculty Fellows 2005-06

Dr. Marlene Dixon, Department of Kinesiology
Dr. Dixon examines work-family conflict and human performance management in the sport industry.

Dr. Tracie Harrison, School of Nursing
Dr. Harrison’s research is centered on aging for women with childhood onset disability, including their perceptions of how gender development was impacted by childhood onset paralysis.

Dr. Barbara Jones, School of Social Work
Dr. Jones focuses on pediatric palliative and end of life care, grief and loss, childhood cancer survivors, hope and resiliency.

Dr. LeeAnn Kahlor, Department of Advertising
Dr. Kahlor studies women’s health communication with an emphasis on infertility and reproductive health, environmental risk communication with an emphasis on information seeking and processing, and television viewing.

Dr. Mary Jo Kirisits, Department of Civil Engineering
Dr. Kirisits researches the importance of applying microbiology to better understand and optimize the performance of biological drinking water treatment processes.

Dr. Rebecca Lewis, Department of Anthropology
Dr. Lewis focuses on the power dynamics of primate societies and variation in social and male-female relationships.

Dr. Paul Martorana, Department of Management
Dr. Martorana studies issues involving power, status, emotions, justice and discrimination and focuses on subordinated individuals’ attempts to gain equity in the workplace.

Dr. Tracy McMillan, School of Architecture
Dr. McMillan examines the relationship between the built environment and public health, focusing particularly on the impact of non-motorized transportation and children’s public safety.

Dr. Michele Rountree, School of Social Work
Dr. Rountree’s research interests include health and mental health of women, particularly women of color, as it relates to the intersection between IPA (Intimate Partner Abuse) and HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Nancy Stalker, Department of Asian Studies
Dr. Stalker’s speciality is modern Japan, focusing on religious and cultural movements in Japan and their connection to issues of national identity.

Dr. Lynn Westbrook, School of Information
Dr. Westbrook studies information seeking processes. She is the author of the award-winning Interdisciplinary Information Seeking in Women’ Studies.

Dr. Wei-Hsin Yu, Department of Sociology
Dr. Yu’s research interests include labor markets, social inequality, and recently, career mobility, nonstandard employment relations, and female labor force participation in Japan and Taiwan.

Faculty Fellows give presentations in the New Faculty Colloquium, held every other Friday from 12-1pm. We encourage faculty and students to attend these talks.
NEW MA STUDENTS

Noel Betzner
Noel Betzner is an Austin native. She grew up in Austin, attended the University of Texas at Austin, and graduated in the spring of 2003 with a B.A. in English. For six years, during and after her undergraduate studies, she worked as an emergency room technician. Her interests include studying healthcare policy and the sociology of healthcare from a women’s and gender studies perspective. She also has a great passion for literature. This fall semester she did a policy brief on women with HIV/AIDS in the United States and conducted research in the areas of women’s sexuality and current attitudes toward abortion in the U.S.

Kyle Brillante
Kyle Brillante graduated last May from Trinity University with degrees in Chinese and biology. During his undergraduate years, he spent time in China studying and researching as a recipient of a Freeman Foundation (ASIA Network) grant. Currently he is working on two conference paper presentations—one about men in women’s studies, and the other about alternative spaces of public representation and visibility among the gay and lesbian population in Austin. After his Master’s degree, he would like to continue his studies at the PhD level.

Starr Renee-Corbin
Starr-Renee Corbin is a first-year graduate student in Women’s and Gender Studies. After receiving her undergraduate degree at Texas Christian University in 2000, she was commissioned into the United States Army as a second lieutenant. After serving five years in the Army with the First Cavalry Division in Fort Hood, Texas and in Baghdad, Iraq, she left the Army as a Captain in order to pursue her Graduate degree at UT. Starr-Renee is interested in social policy and literature concerning women and gender and is interested in conducting research inclusive to women in the military. She works full time at the UT Applied Research Lab as an Information Analyst and is also happily married to an Austin Firefighter and the proud mother of a 2 year old son named James.

Johanna (Hanna) Evelyn Dickhut
Hanna Dickhut is originally from the Tennessee Valley. She spent a year at the American International University in Richmond, England. She graduated from the Rochester Institute of Technology with a BS in psychology and a minor in women’s studies. She also completed all of her premedical course work. After completing her bachelor’s degree, Hanna went to work for the Female Sexuality Psychophysiology Laboratory as a research assistant and study coordinator for a year, and this past semester she worked for the UT Institutional Review Board for a month. Her research interests are varied; they include female sexuality and all female environments. Currently, Hanna is interested in studying the sexual development of women graduating from all girls’ schools, and hopes to start recruiting participants this summer if all goes well. She continues to volunteer for Planned Parenthood and Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Stephanie Green
Stephanie graduated from Saint Mary’s College of California in 2001 as valedictorian and with a BA in English and minor in women’s studies. During her time at Saint Mary’s, Stephanie helped to found the Women’s Resource Center and was successful in re-writing the college’s sexual assault policy. Since graduation, she has worked on public outreach and corporate support initiatives for media outlets in San Francisco, including Mother Jones magazine and KQED, Public Television. Due to her experience as Canvass Director of the Democratic National Committee’s fundraising outreach campaign in San Francisco and MoveOn PAC’s “get out the vote effort” in Albuquerque during the 2004 presidential campaign, she arrived at the University of Texas Center for Women’s and Gender Studies with an interest in how U.S. mainstream media functions to form public opinion and the role that gender and sexuality played in candidates’ messaging during the 2004 campaign cycle. Stephanie is currently examining how nationalist rhetoric limits women’s involvement in the current peace movement.

Brianne LaBauve
After graduating from the University of Southern California, Brianne spent nearly three years in Trinidad as a filmmaker and activist. Her research interests include the intersection of race, gender, sexuality, class and nation, as well as the study of film and communication theory.

Jaime Madden
Jaime Madden graduated in May 2005 from Berry College in Rome, Georgia, with a degree in psychology and women’s studies. While there, she and Dr. Carrie Baker, Director of Women’s Studies at Berry, coauthored a paper titled “An Orchid in the Arctic: Women’s Studies in the Rural South.” Published in the National Women’s Studies Association Journal, the paper provides an assessment of women’s studies work from a type of location that is not traditionally considered. It is published in the summer 2005 edition of the journal. It was also presented at the Conference of the National Women’s Studies Association in June 2005. Jaime’s research interests include ecological feminism, which identifies the relationship between domination of women and domination of the environment and advocates for political alliance between the feminist and environmentalist movements.

Michiko Niori
Michiko Niori is an international student from Japan. She graduated from Waseda University in Tokyo and received her B.A. degree in law. Michiko spent a year at Washington University in St. Louis as an exchange student, where she studied politics and law. One particular class called "Women and the Law" piqued her interest in women’s issues. She is currently focusing her attention on domestic violence and immigrant women.

Judie Niskala
Judie Niskala graduated from Southwestern University with a BA in philosophy and political science. Judie’s early involvement in gender and human rights activism has led her to pursue her MA in WGS where she hopes to engage in the comparative study of human rights in Latin American and the United States.
Give to CWGS

We invite all members of the community who are concerned with gender equity and the issues facing women, girls and families to support our programs.

If you would like to make a gift, please mail your pledge to:

Kathleen Aronson
Director of Development and Alumni Relations
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Please indicate your gift is for the Center for Women’s & Gender Studies.

You may also e-mail Kathleen Aronson at maronson@mail.utexas.edu or call 512 475-9763 to receive more information.

Apply for WGS Awards

Applications for the Peña, Romero, Temple, and Dissertation Awards are now available. The deadline is March 9th. We encourage students of all majors to apply!

For more information, visit: www.utexas.edu/cola/cwgs/awards/

Take a Health Quiz

True or False:
1. The leading cause of death among American women is heart disease.
2. One of every four women will be sexually or physically assaulted by an intimate partner during her lifetime.
3. More women than men actually die of heart disease each year.
4. HIV/AIDS is the fifth leading cause of death among African American women ages 25-44.
5. Diabetes is the fourth leading cause of death among Hispanic women.
6. Twice as many women as men suffer from depression.
7. The US has one of the lowest rates of breast feeding in the developed world.
8. One out of every two women will have osteoporosis during her lifetime.
9. Since 1997, there has been a 40% increase in the number of women getting plastic surgery.
10. Women over fifty who lift weights have lower rates of osteoporosis, back injury, arthritis, heart disease, diabetes, and depression.

Gender, Relationships and Health

Fall 2005 Conference

CWGS would like to thank all who participated in the Gender, Relationships and Health Conference. The main organizer of the conference was Dr. Debra Umberson.

Co-sponsors included the Department of Sociology, the Population Research Center, the Center for Health Promotion & Disease Prevention Research in Underserved Populations and the Center for African and African-American Studies.

2005-06 CWGS Steering Committee

Kamran Ali (Anthropology)
Jacqueline Angel (LBJ)
Dana Cloud (Communications Studies)
Ann Cvetkovich (English)
Linda Ferreira-Buckley (Rhetoric and Composition)
Hillary Hart (Civil Engineering)
Kristen Hogan (PhD Portfolio)
Eun-Ok Im (Nursing)
Joni Jones (Theatre and Dance)
Laura Lein (Social Work)
Jaime Madden (Women's and Gender Studies)
Yolanda Padilla (Social Work)
Loriene Roy (Information School)
Stacy Wolf (Theatre and Dance)
Advancing Women’s Health
February 9, 2006
UT Alumni Center
8:30 am - 4:30 pm

This conference is being co-sponsored and organized by the Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Research in Underserved Populations (CHPR). Themes include women’s reproductive health, substance abuse issues, and maternal and infant health in minority communities.

Keynote speaker Carolyn M. Sampselle is the Carolyne K. Davis Collegiate Professor of Nursing and Associate Dean for Research at the University of Michigan Ann Arbor. Her areas of research and scholarly interest include behavioral interventions for reducing women’s risks for incontinence particularly related to the birth experience.

JoAnn Banks-Wallace, an Associate Professor at Sinclair School of Nursing, University of Missouri-Columbia, will give the closing address, “Development of Storytelling: A Means of Understanding and Developing Women’s Lives.”

For information, please visit: http://www.utexas.edu/nursing/chpr/conference.html

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We are located on the 4th floor of Walter Web Hall, also known as the Campus Club building.

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