Robson Outstanding as First Women's Studies' Resident Scholar

Noted poet, author, and legal scholar, professor Ruthann Robson of the City University of New York School of Law, visited WVU November 2-5 as the first Women's Studies Resident Scholar. Robson teaches constitutional law, criminal procedure, feminist legal theory, and law and sexuality, and has written widely in the area of lesbian legal theory.

In her keynote public lecture, "Women's Studies, Women's Stories, and Women's Bodies," professor Robson challenged her audience to examine various narrative traditions and structures. She addressed how narratives may function to diminish or enhance the "outsider" status of non-dominant or minority populations, and suggested that differing standpoints of writers or listeners, rather than creating empathy, might lead to substituting pity, or relief at superiority of status conferred by "insider" status, for empathy with a narrator. Her listeners were challenged to examine how shifts from oral to more written textual to high tech hypertextual, or "screenic," modes of communication might affect, for good or ill, how we live as individuals or in communities.

Creative Writing instructor Kelly Moffett spoke for the hundreds of people positively affected by Ruthann Robson's warmly engaging and intellectually stimulating presence, when she thanked the Center for bringing Robson to campus.

"I can't believe what a positive influence Robson was," she wrote. [My students now] see a world outside of themselves....One of my students told me: 'She talks from her heart. After I heard her responses to our questions, I realized that writers can be honest—and respected.'

Prof. Robson visited six literature, creative writing, and poetry classes as well as lecturing on lesbian family law in a social work class. She met as well with a local attorney, members of the Women's Law Caucus, BiGLM (Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian Movement), COSO (Council on Sexual Orientation), and FEM (Female Equality Movement) and consulted with student life professionals. Thanks to the generosity of WVU alumna Suzanne Temple (M.A. English, 1975), this is the first of five annual residencies in honor of Judith Gold Stitzel.
**Director’s Corner**

This fall, we sponsored Fireside Chats on Paris during World War I, Constance Fenimore Woolson, and Hamburg, Germany, ca.1800. Ann Timmons portrayed writer and economist Charlotte Perkins Gilman, and three women from Brazil shared their impressions of the United States during WVU’s Diversity Week.

We co-sponsored Morgantown’s Celebrate Community rally to counter the KKK rally in Clarksburg and "Heart Medicine: The Living Arts of Appalachia" for Mountaineer Week. Ruthann Robson was our first resident, and Sylvia Podhajecy is our first Fulbright scholar. We participated in the Society of Women Engineers’ regional conference at WVU and launched a new graduate student feminist research group which meets biweekly. We had an open house for the university and supported the Alliance’s balloon festival barbecue and fund-raiser. All new women faculty were sent Emily Toth’s Ms. Mentor’s Impeccable Advice for Women in Academia, and many of them attended the Alliance potluck hosted by Jane Cardi. But those were just our public events!

In addition, we worked with faculty associates to revise course offerings; revised faculty evaluation guidelines that are awaiting final approval; developed plans for a women’s studies visiting committee (watch our spring newsletter for more!); began discussing our draft long-range plan; collected ideas for our 20th anniversary celebration; and started planning for our first off-campus summer school course.

As always, it is clear that Women’s Studies thrives because of the support we have from our many friends. We are part of the Eberly College of Arts & Sciences but have a unique WVU-wide mission. 24 faculty and staff from throughout the university serve on our committees, plus Center faculty and staff, students, and Alliance board members.

Thank you, everyone, for making this such a successful and productive semester!

*Barb Howe, interim director*

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**Alliance News**

**Programs and Funds Gain $5,600**

Over $5646 in proceeds from the 1998-99 Balloon Festival Fundraisers and individual gifts were donated in November by the WVAWS to the WVU Foundation for Center programs and awards. The gifts are to be used as follows: $2,173 to support the Carrie Koetürisius Scholarships endowment; $1,773 to enhance the Velma Miller Women’s Studies Graduate Scholar Endowment; and $1,700 to support Nexus’ publication and Fireside Chats.

Please join me, also, in congratulating WVAWS boardmember Martha Phillips Hupp for being chosen as the 1999 Terese Lasser Memorial Awardee for West Virginia for her twenty-five years of breast cancer survivor peer education with the Reach for Recovery program.

*Victoria C. Bruhn, WVAWS president*

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**1999 - 2000**

**Center for Women’s Studies Faculty & Staff**

Mary Beth Garvin - Program Specialist (on medical leave)
(Donna Clarke and Patricia Dudley are temporarily assuming some of Mary Beth’s duties.)

Barbara J. Howe, Ph.D. - Interim Director & Assoc.
Professor of History

Cathy Copney Jasper - Administrative Secretary

Vanecia Palecanda, Ph.D. - Visiting Assist. Professor

Lillian J. Waugh, Ph.D. - Senior Admin. Assistant

Barbara Scott Winkler, Ph.D. - Visiting Assist. Professor

**Teaching Assistants - Women’s Studies 40**

Janelle Coughlin, Jay Joersz, Shirin Lee, Amanda Ray

**Work Study Students**

Susan Cramer, Amy Gee, Jennifer Jacobs, Alicia Krizmanich, Jennifer Thomas

Phone (304)293-2339 Fax (304)293-3041
e-mail wvwmsf@wvu.edu
Web site http://www.as.wvu.edu/wvwmsf/

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**Photo by Lillian Waugh**

1999-2000 Introduction to Women’s Studies teaching assistants with mentor and course lead teacher visiting assistant professor Barbara Scott Winkler (ctr.). From left, Janelle Coughlin, Amanda Ray, Winkler, Shirin Lee, and Jay Joersz.
Center Staff and Faculty News

Vaneeta Palecanda and Lillian Waugh presented a session on “Expanding Horizons for Professional Women” at “Become a Big Part of a Small World,” the 1999 Ohio Valley Region G SWE (Society of Women Engineers) Conference held at WVU in mid-November.

Judith Gold Stitzel (Professor emerita of English and Women’s Studies and founding director of the Center for Women’s Studies) is the 1999 recipient of the Charles H. Daugherty Award, the West Virginia Humanities Council’s highest honor. 96, Inc. published her short story, “The Hearing Aide”. She and faculty associate Emily Spieler (Law) spoke at Morgantown’s November 6 Celebrating Community event, an alternative to an area Ku Klux Klan demonstration.

Barbara Scott Winkler (Women’s Studies) is a co-editor of the newly-published Teaching Introduction to Women’s Studies: Expectations and Strategies (Bergin & Garvey, 1999). A resource and preparatory text for teachers, the work addresses institutional contexts, social issues, and practical classroom strategies related to the discipline. Dr. Winkler also served as a panelist and presented a workshop for the WV Professional Women’s Forum in Charleston and traveled to the University of Michigan as a guest speaker for a Women’s Studies Speakers Series panel, “Shaking Things Up in Women’s Studies: Recent Ph.D.s Discuss Activism, Academe, Publishing, and Pedagogy.”

Student News

Center TA Amanda Ray (B.A., History and English, Women’s Studies Minor ’99, M.A. candidate), was inadvertently omitted from the last Nexus May grads’ listing. Public Policy and Political Science doctoral candidate Christine Brehm is the newest Women’s Studies’ Certificate graduate.

FEM Encourages Women’s Health

Woman’s studies’ minors Angela Higgins (l.) and Rebecca North (r.), above, worked the FEM (Female Equality Movement) booth in the Lair as part of “Love Your Body Now Day,” September 22nd.

They gave out information on the harmful effects of unrealistic female body images, especially in regard to nutrition, and urged boycotting firms which use such images to sell products.

New Groups Starting

Feminist research
Graduate students, want to practice presentation skills? Enjoy the give and take of collegial critiques? Please join the Women’s Studies Graduate Student Feminist Research Group by contacting Amanda Ray at aray@wvu.edu or (304)293-2339.

Women and Diversity in Natural Resources
Theresa Wang (Division of Forestry) is working with students to organize a group. Contact Prof. Wang at twang3@wvu.edu or (304)293-2941 x 2416.

Graduate News

Sharon Hurt Davidson, (B.A., English, Certificate ‘90, Teaching Assistant, and MALS ‘93) has returned with husband and son to Morgantown and is telecommuting to Washington, D.C. as marketing director for the National Scenic Byways Program (Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation).

Cindy Snow (Teaching Assistant, Certificate and MALS ‘95) is teaching basic adult education at Quinsigmond Community College in Massachusetts.
Faculty Associate News

Katherine Bankole (Center for Black Culture and Research) delivered a paper, "Africana Women, Black Culture, and Identity in Higher Education and Beyond," at the 9th Annual Association of Black Culture Centers Conference in November.

Bonnie M. Brown (Journalism) has been appointed to a National Public Radio panel which is studying ways to increase newsroom diversity and enhance multi-cultural issue coverage, and is developing a journalism study-abroad course in London in conjunction with the WVU Office of International Programs.

Esther Gottlieb (Research and Economic Development) and Elizabeth Iglesias (Counseling Psychology and Rehabilitation) are co-directing a Summer 2000 graduate-level field experience in Cuba (see ad, this page).

Kathleen McNerney (Foreign Languages) continues her Catalan scholarship with Voices and Visions: The Words and Works of Mercé Rodoreda (Associated University Presses of America, 1999).

Rosemary Srebalus (Psychology/Student Counseling Services) reports that a total of 82 people (66 Morgantown, 10 Parkersburg, and 6 Extension Service) have been trained as WVU Safe Zone members. Safe Zone recruits and trains gay affirmative faculty and staff to provide support to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered students. Training is projected for WVU-Potomac State Campus.

Sally Maggard (Sociology) continues her WVU ties while on-leave as a rural sociologist/national program leader with the USDA and has had two book chapters published, "Gender, Race, and Place: Confounding Labor Activism in Central Appalachia, in Neither Separate Nor Equal: Women, Race and Class in the South, Barbara Ellen Smith, ed. (Temple Univ., 1999); and "Coalfield Women Making History," in Confronting Appalachian Stereotypes: Back Talk From An American Region, Dwight B. Billings et al., (University Press of Kentucky, 1999).

Thank you, Eberly College of Arts and Sciences and West Virginia Alliance for Women's Studies, for helping underwrite academic year 1999-2000 Nexus publication. Donna Clarke and Lillian Waugh, co-editors

STITZEL ENDOWMENT PREMIERE EVENT SET for APRIL 7-9, 2000

Perley I. Reed School of Journalism professors Christine Martin and Maryanne Reed, co-recipients of the Center's first Judith Gold Stitzel Award for Excellence in Women's Studies Teaching and Learning, are pleased to announce that the Freedom Forum Network and C-SPAN will be collaborating on the exciting program, which showcases both the professors' landmark research on Vietnam era women war correspondents and six to eight correspondents.

"So far," says Martin, "the committed journalists are Tracy Wood, Jurate Kazickas, Edie Lederer, Ann Mariano, Laura Palmer and Kelly Smith-Tunney." Breaking stories could slightly change the configuration of these speakers. Three other journalists have indicated strong interest.

Don Ross, a representative of the Freedom Forum's Newseum in Arlington, VA, will attend and cover the event in conjunction with a large Newseum exhibit on the history of war correspondence.

As Nexus goes to press, the keynote event panel is set for Friday, April 7th, 7 p.m., site to be announced. Watch the Center's website for affiliated seminars and presentations.

Cross-Cultural Learning:

A Summer 2000 Field Experience in Cuba

Cost $2,500
Includes:
Round trip (Morgantown-Havana)
10-days room and board
Tuition fees for 3 WVU graduate credits
Lectures and site visits in Cuba

Applications are available from the WVU Office of International Programs, 293-6955.

For more information:
Please contact Elizabeth Iglesias, Ph.D., 293-5703 x 1810, eiglesia@wvu.edu or Esther Gottlieb, Ph.D., 293-4806, egottlie@wvu.edu
Slovak Fulbright Scholar Discovers Women’s Studies

Ahojte, priatelia ženských štúdií!

That’s Slovak for “Hello, friends of women’s studies!” My name is Silvia Podhajecka (Pôd-ha-yet-ska). I am 24 and I come from Banská Bystrica, Slovak Republic, which was formed in 1993 four years after the end of the Soviet Block. I came to Morgantown in August to study community and economic development, especially of women. On returning home, I’ll keep working on the Slovak transition to democracy.

There are still no formal women’s studies programs in Slovakia. The three classes I am auditing this semester—Seminar in Gender, Women’s Movements Since 1960, and Body Politic—provide me with an invaluable overview of feminist theory.

From age 17, I worked full-time, first, for the Slovak offices of multinational corporations (Wrigley, Pepsi Cola) and then for ADCI/VOCA, an American non-profit organization whose Slovak site has just become independent as “VOKA.” On weekends, I earned a master’s in teaching English and English Literature at the University of Constantine the Philosopher in Nitra, studied non-governmental organization management on my own and studied English abroad.

In Morgantown, I’ve been on field trips involved with regional micro-enterprise and talked to people from organizations engaged in economic development. Always, I try to gain insight into the economic status of women from West Virginia and other Appalachian areas and compare women across cultures. I met many West Virginia community leaders as a participant in the Community Development Training in Canaan Valley organized by the WV Rural Development Council in cooperation with the WVU Extension service and was part of the WVU Community Design Team which is assisting people in Petersburg, West Virginia, to develop a sustainable program to improve living conditions in the town.

As an affiliate of the feminist geography graduate student group, I also visited one of Dr. Ann Oberhauser’s Appalachian By Design research sites. This project is especially interesting to me.

I’d like to thank everyone at the Center for Women’s Studies and at WVU for linking me to the resources and networks necessary for my independent studies. In particular, I am grateful to Drs. Lillian Waugh, Barbara Howe and Ann Oberhauser.

If you’d like to learn more about Eastern Europe, I suggest you read Slavenka Drakulic’s How We Survived Communism and Café Europa: Life After Communism, and visit the website www.ourslovakia.com

Silvia Podhajecka

Applicants and Nominees Sought for 1999-2000 Awards and Scholarships

Application and nomination forms are now available for the Center’s 2000-2001 academic year awards. For details, go to http://www.as.wvu.edu/wwmsi Questions? E-mail us via the website at wwwms wvu.edu or contact Pat Dudley at 293-2339 x 1153 or at pdudley@wvu.edu

Awards will be presented at the Women’s Studies’ Year 2000 Graduation and Awards’ Celebration on April 15, 2000 (see Calendar, page 8).
Off The Wall:
The Life and Times of Charlotte Perkins Gilman

was right on target October 26th as the Center for Women’s Studies’ contribution to WVU’s Diversity Week.

Dramatist Ann Timmons’ one-woman show, billed as “the story of one woman’s struggle to change the world,” challenged minds, stirred emotions and alternately saddened and gladdened listeners’ hearts.

Timmons’ skillful use of Gilman’s characteristic interjection, “Women, wake up!” moved the monologue along at a brisk clip. The dramatist crafted her presentation from portions of Gilman’s extensive writings, in particular her autobiographical short story, “The Yellow Wallpaper,” major treatise Women and Economics, science fiction, correspondence, and journal, The Forerunner.

Gilman (1860-1935), the leading feminist thinker of her day, now enjoys currency as a major American thinker and social reformer.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Launched . . . Director Search

Applications, nominations and inquiries concerning the position of Director of the Center for Women’s Studies in the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences at West Virginia University should be addressed to Dr. E. Jane Martin, Chair of the Search Committee, West Virginia University, Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, 201 Woodburn Hall, P.O. Box 6286, Morgantown, WV 26506-6286. For more information, visit: www.as.wvu.edu/wmst

New . . . Community Coalition for Social Justice

A recent KKK rally in Clarksburg and continuing concern about a wide range of social justice issues in our schools, homes, and community has prompted area citizens to increase their commitment to making tolerance, diversity, peace and equity as much a part of our landscape as our West Virginia hills. To do your part, please contact Emily Spieler at espieler@wvu.edu; (304)292-4616 or (304)293-7690.

Continuing . . . Center ListServ

Want to share resources, event information, discuss issues with other women/women’s organizations in West Virginia? Join the WVU Center for Women’s Studies listserv, WVWMST-L. You may subscribe by sending the following message: SUBSCRIBE WVWMST-L first_name last_name (Example: SUBSCRIBE WVWTST-L Jane Doe) to LISTSERV@WVNVM. WVNEDU. Address questions to Cheryl Taylor at ctaylor12@wvu.edu
The Magic of Tomorrow

Since we know there will be a tomorrow, it's good to plan for it. That's the theory behind estate planning—providing for others' tomorrows. For example, you could help plan for a better tomorrow by including a gift for the Center for Women's Studies in your will or revocable trust.

You select the gift’s specific purpose, such as teaching support via graduate scholarships, building discretionary program funds, or increasing WVU library women’s studies’ resources. You choose for whom your gift will be named. Whatever you do will benefit many and honor someone special.

It's easy to do. The gift in your will or trust should be made to: "the West Virginia University Foundation for the benefit of the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences' Center for Women's Studies." Of course, you should also add the gift purpose you have in mind.

For more on how to create a WVU women's studies’ legacy, please contact me at (800)847-3856 or dmiller@wwf.wvnet.edu, or visit the Foundation website at http://www.wwf.wvnet.edu

Debbie Miller, JD, Director of Planned Giving
WVU Foundation, Inc.

Thank you, women's studies' donors for gifts of $7,816, received from July 1st to November 20th, 1999.

Howard Director Lisa Domitrovich
Lillian Director Andrea M. Lehner Fleisher

Mary Beth Garvin
IMO Ray Grossman
Barbara J. Howe
IMO Flora Cooper, Matilda
Howe & Ray Grossman
Carrie Koeturius
IMO Josephine Koeturius
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Barbara Scott Winkler
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Please let us know if we have been less than timely in acknowledging your gift in Nexus.

L.J. Waugh

1999-2000 Center for Women's Studies' Annual Campaign Pledge Form

The name(s) shown on this gift receipt should be __________________________

Please make my gift in □ honor □ memory of: __________________________

Enclosed, please find my/our:
□ corporate match form
□ check, payable to WVU Foundation

Charge to:  __Visa __MasterCard __Discover
Card #: __________________________
Expiration Date:_____/______
E-mail__________________________

Enclosed is my total "gift" pledge of: ________
□ $1,000 (Leadership) □ $500 □ $250
□ Other ________

Please use this gift for:
□ Program Development
□ Scholarships and Awards
□ Women's Studies Library Endowment

Signature __________________________
Address change? __________________________

□ Yes, please send me information on planned giving.
WVU Women’s Studies Comes to Charleston!

We are pleased to offer our Introduction to Women’s Studies course (WMST 40) for credit in Charleston during the 2000 Summer I session (May 22-June 30).

Vaneta Palecanda, Ph.D., visiting assistant professor of women’s studies at the Center for Women’s Studies, will focus on creating an awareness of issues that affect women everywhere. Students taking the course will deepen their understanding of the relationship of women’s past to their present and future in sociological, economic, and cultural terms and enhance critical thinking skills by applying and testing classroom knowledge in everyday situations.

Although final details are yet to be arranged, the course will meet two or three days per week. Please address questions concerning enrollment to Professor Barbara Howe at (304)293-2339 x 1155 or bhowe@wvu.edu

January- April 2000 Calendar of Events

January 20* Fireside Chat - Ann Oberhauser, Geology and Geology
“Gender and Livelihoods in Appalachia”

February 17* Fireside Chat - Melissa Latimer, Sociology, “Investigating the Consequences of Welfare Reform for West Virginians.”

March 12-15 Specifics pending. From Cuba: Norma Vasallo, Ph.D., director of women’s studies, University of Havana.


March 31 - April 2 Feminist Expo 2000 at the Baltimore Convention Center. To register or for more information, see www.feminist.org. Center is one of many co-sponsors.

April 7-9 First Stitzel Endowment Scholars’ Event.
Keynote Panel: Vietnam War Women Correspondants - and Stitzel Endowment teachers Christine Martin and Maryanne Reed, Journalism. 7:00p.m., site TBA. Watch for flyer on this and accompanying events.

April 15 2:30-5:00 p.m. Women’s Studies’ Graduation and Awards Ceremony (Part of WVU Honors Weekend) Rhododen dron Room, Mountainlair. Reception follows.

April 20* Fireside Chat - Robert Blobaum, History, “The ‘Woman Question’ in Fin-de-Siècle Poland”

*Fireside Chats are from 4:00-5:30 p.m. in the Greenbrier Room of the Mountainlair.

All events are open to the public

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December 1999 and January 2000 are Women’s Studies’ Annual campaign and phonathon months!