FEMINIST NEWS
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FORD_FOUNDATION_PROJECT_ON_INTEGRATING_RACE_AND_GENDER INTO COLLEGE_CURRICULUM

The Institute for Research on Women and Gender is one of about two dozen feminist Research Centers in the nation granted funds from the Ford Foundation to reform college curricula by integrating the new scholarship on race and gender into existing courses. The Columbia project involved six faculty members and eight graduate assistants who, individually over the past year, have worked to educate themselves about relevant scholarship in their teaching fields to revise the syllabi of

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

The past year was a busy one at the Institute. Following the paths charted by Carolyn Heilbrun, Avalon Professor of English, and founding Director of the Institute, and Miranda Pollard, former Assistant Director, we developed new courses, revised existing ones, and began systematic planning for graduate instruction in feminist scholarship. We also sponsored workshops, seminars and colloquia focusing on some of the major theoretical and practical issues which lie at the heart of feminism.

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Social Hierarchies in the Contemporary West

In Spring of 1990, the Institute for Research on Women and Gender organized a new faculty development seminar, "Social Hierarchies in the Contemporary West." Nine faculty and two graduate students, representing a broad range of disciplines in the social sciences and humanities, pooled their talents to create a series of courses focusing on the systems of hierarchy characteristic of western society. The syllabi developed concentrate on analyzing the meaning of class, race, ethnicity and gender in the West, and draw upon a wide variety of teaching materials including scholarly monographs, primary sources, fiction, and film.

The seminar was funded by Columbia College's Standing Committee on the Core Curriculum, which dedicated a portion of a grant from the Ford Foundation earmarked for the core curriculum. Accordingly, the new courses being developed will meet the new "extended core" requirement of the College. They will be taught in small sections and will concentrate on discussion and critique of primary and secondary courses. Two sections of the course are being scheduled for the Spring Term of 1991, and additional sections will be offered in the following years.

Letter from the Director (Cont'd from page 1)

Our list of activities is long, and some of the more important are described separately below, but several smaller initiatives also deserve mention. For example, we received funding from the School of International and Public Affairs to form a faculty-student caucus focusing on Women in Development. Activities of the caucus included support for student participation in November’s AWID (Association for Women in Development) conference in Washington, a mini-conference featuring feminist critiques of structural adjustment policies, and a lecture series on women’s movements in India. Among our guests were Richard Jolly of UNICEF, Aili Tripp of Northwestern University, June Nash of CUNY, Lourdes Beneria of Cornell, Jane Gayer of Boston University, Srilatha Batliwala, State Program Director of Bangalore, and Deborah Maine of our own School of Public Health. During the year we also co-sponsored the Women’s History Seminar with Barnard’s Center for Research on Women. The first semester’s talks were held at Barnard, and featured Paula Giddings of Douglas College, Rutgers University, who spoke on "The Challenge of Diversity" and Jean Fagan-Yellin of Pace University, whose talk was titled "Thoughts on Harriet Jacob’s Incidents in the life

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Women's Art Project
Shawn Atkins
Shelly Eversley

Recent Phd Graduates in Feminist Scholarship

Although Columbia University does not yet offer a PhD program in Women's Studies, it is possible to work with feminist faculty on dissertations which focus on gender issues. The following is a list of just some of the Columbia graduate students who have either completed or are in the process of completing dissertations which we feel are of interest to women's studies affiliates and enthusiasts. We are always eager to hear about doctoral students who are actively supporting and enriching feminist scholarship, so please keep us posted!!

This fall JAN BONEY will defend her dissertation, Reading Pairs: The Difference Gender

Do You Want To Be On Our Mailing List?

Then please complete and remit the following coupon to the Institute for Research on Women and Gender at Schermerhorn Building Extension 763, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027 so you can begin receiving our semi-annual Feminist Newsletter as well as schedules of events coordinated through the Institute.

Name

Street Address City State Zip
In February 1990, the Institute for Research on Women and Gender, announced the 1990 Essay Competition. Open to all Columbia College, General Studies and Engineering students, the competition called for papers on the history or experiences of women of color in the United States. Essays examining public policy, civil rights, sexuality, historiography, coalition building and auto/biography were expressly encouraged. The main objective of the competition was to alert the campus community to the many forms of oppression which have confronted women of color in the United States and to the histories of their resistance.

Response was enthusiastic. Works were submitted on a variety of topics ranging from auto/biographical notes on Ida B. Wells and Zora Neale Hurston to the politics of Malcolm X. A panel of seven faculty members from the Columbia Women's Studies Program were selected as judges. Two candidates were named co-recipients of the award, with two others claiming honorable mentions.

Alicia Schmidt Camacho's prize-winning essay, "Envisioning the Big Blue: Trajectories for the Future of Women's Studies and Women of Color Feminisms" explored the dangers of post-colonial ideology in current feminist thinking. Co-recipient Kristen Fresonke's essay, "Zora Neale Hurston's Dust Tracks on a Road and Malcolm X's Autobiography: Telling about Self, Telling about Selfhood" looked at the genre of autobiography as a method of political reclamation and resistance. One of the two essays accorded honorable mentions, was Shelly Eversley's "Overcoming the Burdens of the Past: Two Black Women Seize the Day", chronicled the literary achievements of Toni Morrison and Gayl Jones. The other, submitted by Minne Jung Min Hong called "Dreaming through Memory: An Asian American Autobiography", proposed the

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- DIRECTOR (Cont'd from page 2)

of a Slave Girl." The Spring meetings were held at the Institute and focused on work by feminist scholars of the premodern West. Speakers were Helene Foley of Barnard's History Department, Ann Jones of Smith College and Barbara Harris of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Columbia and Barnard's Women's Studies programs also co-sponsored a lecture on a similar theme in conjunction with the Art History Department. Patricia Simons of the University of Michigan illustrated how domestic architecture in Renaissance Florence represented and constructed gender relations among this culture's elite. In collaboration with Columbia's English Department, the Institute also sponsored a lecture by Valerie Traub of Syracuse University on lesbian feminist theory.

This coming year will be equally busy. As the calendar in this issue indicates, several activities and speakers are already lined up; more will follow. The first semester of the Women's History Seminar is planned, and the first speaker

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1990 Graduation marked a decisive moment in the brief history of Columbia’s Women’s Studies Department when two women were conferred Bachelor Degrees in the major. Columbia and Barnard currently co-teach the Women’s Studies curriculum, with both schools offering a liberal range of classes from the social sciences and humanities. At present, over 16 students have chosen to major or concentrate in feminist scholarship at Columbia. Even more impressively, a total of 79 Columbia College students (44 in Fall 1989 and 35 in Spring, 1990) enrolled in the five core courses during academic year 1989-1990 alone.

Both Columbia and Barnard are now considering substantive changes in the major to meet the expressed needs of their students and to take account of new developments in feminist scholarship. To this end, the Institute has begun reforms which will provide Columbia students with a wider range of historical and cultural perspectives in an effort to reduce the curriculum’s eurocentrism and class biases, and will offer students more freedom to choose among the growing list of departmental courses offered at Columbia and Barnard. A major catalyst for reform has been the student steering committee which submitted a critique of the existing programs.

While Columbia University does not yet offer a graduate degree in Women’s Studies, the Institute has identified those faculty whose graduate courses and whose own research concentrate on issues pertaining to gender, race, class and sexuality. (The Institute’s new research directory, Directory of Research on Women and Gender, which is available at our office, contains much of this information). We will also publish a list of the relevant graduate courses being offered this year so that students will have some guidance in planning a program in feminist scholarship.

In addition, the Institute has created a new graduate-level, inter-disciplinary colloquium on feminist theory to be offered annually, which hopes to lay the groundwork for students contemplating further research on women and gender. The 1990 course, "Theoretical Paradigms in Feminist Research" will be co-taught by Professor Howard of the English Department and Professor Howell of the History Department, Director of the Institute for Research on Women and Gender.
Beginning in September of 1990, the Women's Art Project will sponsor a semesterly Reading/Lecture series, Women in Writing and the Arts, which will bring to the campus poets, filmmakers, writers, sculptors and playwrights who are in the process of reclaiming/proclaiming the history of women in the arts. In addition to creating this opportunity for students to be exposed to the experiences of artists already established in their community, the Women's Art Project will organize Open Readings to give students an arena in which to read their own poetry and fiction and listen to the work of other writers in their community.

Later in the year, in conjunction with Postcrypt Gallery, the Women's Art Project will sponsor an Art Show of painting, prints, sculpture and photography by women from Columbia University.

The Women's Art Project will also create a written space of articulation for women by publishing an annual literary magazine. The first issue will appear in the Spring of 1991.

The Women's Art Project welcomes suggestions, new members and submissions for the literary magazine and art show. If you are interested in working with them in any mode, please contact Shawn Atkins at 664-6437 or write Women's Art Project, Columbia University, 767 Schermerhorn Extension, New York, New York 10027.

in a new series organized by Jean Cohen, Associate Professor of Political Science, on "Welfare and Rights", is already scheduled. In the Spring, we also hope to hold a colloquium called "Women in/on/by Science." Another special project is also underway, on "Work and Family Policy", a one-day closed seminar funded by the Ford Foundation and the AMEX Foundation. Chaired by Sheila Kamerman of Columbia's School of Social Work, and coordinated by Katherine Hughes, a fourth-year Graduate Student of Sociology, the seminar will feature papers by four invited experts and will include commentary by an audience of about a dozen members of the Columbia community with another twenty invited guests. Participants hope that these papers, as well as the responses to them, will form the core of a published volume of articles.

Undoubtedly the most exciting news is that another faculty member, Priscilla Ferguson, Professor of Sociology and French, will be joining us at the Institute this year as Associate Director. Priscilla is a sociologist of culture in France and Francophone Africa and the author of Literary France: The Making of a Culture. In addition to helping organize lectures, colloquia and workshops and advising students, Priscilla will concentrate on undergraduate curricula matters. We are delighted to have her with us.
center for feminist scholarship and teaching at Columbia, and we all wish her well in her new career in the academy.

Jane Bennett, who has assisted in teaching and administering Barnard’s Women’s Studies curriculum since 1987, will be instructing three courses this term at Barnard, including Major Feminist Texts I, which she will lead this Fall and Spring, and The Invisible Woman in Literature, which will also be offered this Spring. In addition to her position with Barnard’s Women’s Studies Department, Jane has been teaching on a full-time basis at the State University of New York at Old Westbury for the past three years, in their Humanities Department. As a Fullbright Scholar in Applied Linguistics, Jane is in the process of completing her Doctoral dissertation on Oral Narratives of Rape and the Social Construction of the Knowledge of Rape. We, of Columbia’s Women’s Studies Program, are excited about Jane’s teaching appointment, and are certain that her students will be even more so.

Sue Rosenstock, from Barnard College’s Women’s Studies Department, has replaced Miranda as the Institute’s administrator. She brings us a variety of essential skills acquired in over four years of administrative and secretarial legal work. As importantly, she brings a demonstrated commitment to feminist studies along with familiarity with the Columbia-Barnard community, a real asset in our complicated institutions!

Siobhan Benet, the Institute’s secretary/receptionist, will be back with us again this year. Her intelligence, dedication and grace account for many of our successes, and we are delighted to have her with us again.

Last year’s Departmental Research Assistant, Linda Dynan, from Economics, will also be with us this year and she will be joined by two graduate student colleagues, Deborah Malmud from English and Shyama Benkateswar from Political Science. Each will be working on special projects for the Institute, especially on lecture, workshop and seminar series. Haneen Sayed from Economics will be returning to the Institute as a TA for the introductory Women’s Studies course, Women and Men: Power, Politics and Poetry. She will be joined by Ellen Marakowitz from Anthropology. They will be working together with Elizabeth Blackmar, Associate Professor of History at Columbia, and Celeste Schenck, Associate Professor of English at Barnard.

We also thank Melissa Fisher, a second-year Ph.D. student in the Anthropology Department, whose organizational abilities made her a valuable asset to the Institute this summer.

We are delighted that two of our work-study students, Zoe Pappas and Shawn Atkins, will be working with us again next year. Each brings with her special skills and a proven commitment to the Institute. We would also like to welcome Zoë Allen to our work-study staff. Zoë is a Columbia College Women’s Studies major.
courses they offer. Faculty participants included Professor Newman of Anthropology, Professor Mizruchi of Sociology, Professor Blount of English, Professor Bloom of Economics, Professor Kesselman of Political Science and Professor Freeman of History. Graduate assistants included Kate Dudley of Anthropology, Katherine Hughes of Sociology, Lynette Jackson of History, Rani Kronick of Political Science, Manisha Sinha of History, Helen Thorpe and Elizabeth Wiesen of English and Haneen Sayed of Economics. Although the work of course revision was accomplished separately by teachers and their assistants, the entire group regularly met together to discuss intellectual and pedagogical issues arising in the course of their work. They were joined in these meetings by members of the Advisory Committee to the Project which included Professors Blackmar, Fields and Levenson of History, Professor Rampersad of English, and Professor Franco of Comparative Literature.

During the year, the group also held two meetings with scholars outside the Columbia community to discuss issues of common interest. The first seminar examined contemporary debate on "The Black Family." Guest speaker, Professor Francis Fox-Piven of the City University of New York, discussed two provocative articles: "Family, Race, and Poverty in the Eighties" by Maxine Baca Zinn and "A Comparison of Two Works on Black Family Life" by Patricia Hill Collins, both of which appeared in the Spring 1989 edition of Signs. These articles challenged the assumptions inherent in contemporary political discourse which suggest that failures of the "Black Family" explain the oppressions of this country’s Black poor. The second seminar reviewed two equally challenging papers on race and racism in the United States, one by Professor Barbara Fields of Columbia’s History Department analyzing American ideology of race, and the other, by Professor E. Fox-Genovese of Emory University, on the economics of the southern antebellum slave-holding household. Committee members report that these works will soon be assigned readings in a variety of Columbia courses, including those to be offered under the rubric of "Social Hierarchies in the Contemporary West" (see article in this issue).

Important as they are, the curriculum changes which the "Ford" and "Social Hierarchies" projects promise will not be fully implemented for several years. To help students presently at Columbia in their own study of these issues and to make the Institute’s commitment to this new scholarship visible, we also held an essay prize contest this past Spring, inviting students to create their own literature on the general theme of race and gender.

Prize (cont’d from page 4)

political import of personal experience.

Using funds from the Ford Foundation grant and with additional support from the Columbia College Dean’s Office, the Institute awarded the first prize recipients $500 each. On May 1, 1990, Provost Jonathan Cole presented the prizes and honorable mentions at a ceremony hosted by The Institute for Research on Women and Gender.
TENTATIVE FALL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday 9/18 4-6 pm
Women’s History Series
Lynn Hunt, University of Pennsylvania, "Pornography and Political Representation in Revolutionary France" (slides) Co-sponsored with the Barnard College Women’s Center.

Tuesday 9/25 4-6 pm
Feminist Autobiography
Natalie David of Princeton University

Wednesday 9/26 4-6 pm
Conversations About Women.
Maria de los Angeles Crummett, Barnard College
"Women, Children and International Debt Peonage." Sponsored by the Barnard College Women’s Center.

Wednesday 10/24 7-9 pm
Feminist Biography and Autobiography,
Louise De Salvo, Hunter College/CUNY
"Virginia Woolf." Sponsored by the Barnard College Women’s Center.

Thursday 9/25 4-6 pm
Women in Development
Frances Fox-Piven and Helga Hernes
"Women in the Welfare State"

Thursday 9/25 6-8 pm
Women, Culture, and Literature.
Merle Woo, San Francisco State University
Title to be announced. Sponsored by the Barnard College Women’s Center.

Monday 9/29 6-8 pm
Women’s History Series
Catherine Hall, Polytechnic of East London
"Male Identities: Gender and Ethnicity in Mid-Nineteenth Century England" Co-sponsored with the Barnard College Women’s Center.

Wednesday 11/7 7-9 pm
Feminist Biography and Autobiography.
Deirdre Bair, Independent Scholar and Writer
"Women’s Lives: Can We Achieve a Written Model?" Sponsored by the Barnard College Women’s Center.
Monday
11/19
4-6 pm
Women, Culture and Literature
Madeline Gardiner, Novelist
"Women in Haiti"
Sponsored by the Barnard College
Women's Center.

Wednesday
Feminist Biography and Autobiography
Eunice Lipton, New York City
11/28
7-9 pm
"Will the Real Olympia Please Step Foward:
A Memoir of Victorine Murent, Artist and Model"
Sponsored by the Barnard College
Women's Center.

Tuesday
Women's History Series
Ellen Ross, Ramapo College
12/4
4-6 pm
"Marriage and --- in East London"
Co-sponsored with the Barnard College
Women's Center.

A more complete listing of lectures will
be available in early Fall.

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PhD (continued from page 3)

Makes in French Renaissance Poetry on which she worked with
Columbia Professor Richard Katz of the French Department. She
will then head to the midwest to be an Instructor in the
Department of Modern and Classical Languages at Cornell
College in Mount Vernon, Iowa.

LAURA DOWNS, one of History Professor Robert Paxton's PhD
students, is now teaching in the History Department of University
of Michigan at Ann Arbor. In May 1987, Downs defended her
dissertation, Women in Industry, 1914-1939. The Emperor's
Perspective: A Comparative Study of the French and British
Metals Industry.

BETH HARRISON completed the requirements for her doctorate in English and Comparative
Literature in 1989, advised by Professor Carolyn Heilbrun. Her
dissertation was intitiled Re-Visioning the Southern Garden:

Some Versions of Female Pastoral. Harrison now is an
Assistant Professor at Berea College.

After defending her dissertation, Community
Radicalism in Gijon: 1900-1934, in May 1990, PAM RADCLIFFE, a
student of Edward Malefakis, travelled to the west coast to take up a position as an
Assistant Professor position in the History department at University of California at San
Diego.

Also in the History Department, ANN RAMSEY, advised by JW Smit, explored women's roles in Renaissance Europe,
writing her dissertation on Religion and Society in the Transformation of an Urban
Community: Piety in Paris during the League, 1588-1594. After her defense, Ramsey will go to the
University of Texas at Austin to become an Assistant Professor in the Department of
History.
RECENT AND UPCOMING BOOKS BY WOMEN'S STUDIES FACULTY


Temma Kaplan: Red City, Blue City: Civic Culture in Picasso's Barcelona, University of California Press, California, forthcoming.


Mirella Servodidio, Reading for Difference: Feminist Perspectives on Women Novelists in Contemporary Spain.


For a more complete listing of faculty publications, see the Institute's Spring 1990 Directory of Research on Women and Gender which is currently available at 763 Schermerhorn Extension.