

Beyond the Centre

Spring 2007

Newsletter of the Centre for Women's and Gender Studies
The University of British Columbia, Canada

Farewell from Director Sneja Gunew

Sneja Gunew

The end of last term was marked by the retirement of Valerie Raoul (see photos inside) and this editorial will also mark my own farewell as Director since I will be stepping down at the end of June and will be going on a year's leave. We are fortunate indeed that Gillian Creese has taken on the task of Director for the next five years, marking the first time that we have someone from Sociology rather than Humanities/Education. We are also very happy to announce that Nora Angeles has agreed to be Graduate Advisor for next year. What a team!

This term has been a challenging

one in that the Centre, along with all the other interdisciplinary units formerly housed in FOGS, were relocated in the new College for Interdisciplinary Studies (CFIS). Unfortunately, the inauguration of this new unit came at the same time that UBC faces a significant budget crisis so resources could not be diverted into ensuring that this new framework for interdisciplinarity would be supported in the best possible manner. In a nutshell, we and our colleagues have been scrambling to keep our various units afloat, particularly as this relates to funding for graduate students and for much-needed faculty positions. While we have managed to keep some core courses running it has

been at the expense of all the programs which had defined the Centre as a research unit since its inception, for example, the UBC Scholars' Program and the Visiting Scholars' Program in particular. Although we continue to hope that scholars will visit while on sabbatical etc. we are no longer able to support those from developing countries at this stage—a severe loss to our core principles. Our particular thanks to Douw Steyn and Kersti Krug who both did a superhuman



Outgoing director Sneja Gunew with Gillian Creese who will become the Centre's new director on July 1, 2007.

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The Newsletter of the
Centre for
Women's and Gender Studies

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job in guiding us through the turbulent shoals of this transition. We look forward to working with the interim Principal for the new CFIS, Grant Ingram.

However, there were many events and people who helped us transcend these material constraints. Our events included the Centre's Symposium that took advantage of having two distinguished visitors from India: Professors Sanjukta Dasgupta and G.S. Jayasree, as well as Professor Maria Ng from the University of Lethbridge. I wanted a final chance to celebrate women's writing specifically since this speaks to my own research interests. The Symposium was titled "Serial Accommodations: Diasporic Asian Women's Writing" and was co-hosted by the Centre for India and South Asia Research (see Kim Snowden's report

inside). The Symposium will also be the basis for an upcoming special issue of *Canadian Literature* which I will be co-editing with Kim Snowden, Terri Tomsky and Medha Samarasinghe. The Centre hosted a party in February to show our gratitude to all our Faculty Associates without whom we could not keep the graduate program going. We supported Nikki Strong-Boag's important workshop in December on "Negotiating Disadvantage for Children and Youth in Canada, Australia, and the United States from the 19th. Century to the Present." We also supported a number of events specifically tied to Queer Studies such as hosting the launch in December of *Trans/Forming Feminisms: Transfeminist Voices Speak Out*, edited by Krista Scott-Dixon; a public lecture in February of Dr. Bobby

Noble from York University who spoke on "The 'P' Word, Trans Men, Stone Butches and the Politics of Penetration" and a seminar by Ross Wantland (from the University of Illinois) who discussed men's responsibilities in relation to fighting domestic and other violences against women. A particular highlight for me was the visit in February of Uzawa Hisa (the only female head of a Noh family) and her troupe who performed a play called "The Lady Aoi" (featuring a formidable female demon), based on an episode from *The Tale of Genji*.

A number of important publications marked this second term. Our 14th *Views from the Edge* appeared with papers from last year's graduate stu-

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Harpist Alys Howe (below right) entertained at Professor Valerie Raoul's retirement party, held at Green College in December 2006. Some of the graduate students in attendance (upper right) were Jane Lee, Hui-Ling Lin, Manuela Valle, Eunkyung Choi, and Heather Hanrahan.



Update on the Undergraduate Women's and Gender Studies Program

Wendy Frisby, Chair

It has been a busy and difficult term, as UBC is facing a major budget cut. The Faculty of Arts lost 30 faculty positions, including our .5 joint position in Gender, English and Indigenous Studies. We had a number of excellent applications, but were unable to proceed with the hiring process. Given the strategic importance of the position, we are hoping to be able to re-advertise next year.

Despite the fact that Women's and Gender Studies (WAGS) at UBC now has only 2.8 faculty positions, we are still accomplishing many things. We offered 30 course sections this year that were taken by just over 1,000 students. The interdisciplinary nature of the program is enhanced by having instructors with appointments in Computer Science, Nursing, Law, Education, Community and Regional Planning, Sociology, Critical Studies in Sexuality, Asian Studies, English, and the Centre for Women's and Gender Studies.

April Tam, who represents undergraduates on the WAGS Coordinating Committee, helped promote the program in a number of different ways. For example, she and her colleagues were runners up for the "Most Enthusiastic Booth" at the Beyond Second Year Event held in SUB in March. They spoke to many students who are deciding on their Majors as they enter 3rd year. April also assisted with the design of a banner, a brochure, and a web site update. She was successful in obtaining funding from the Arts Undergraduate Society and used some of it to have a social for WaGS undergraduate and CWaGS graduate students. Our students were also

very involved in organizing a series of events associated with UBC Realities of Race Week from March 19-23.

We had a very good turn out on International Women's Day on March 8 when Dr. Nefissa Naguib from the University of Bergen in Norway delivered a Keynote Address entitled: Cinderellas of Anthropology: The Social Life of Women in the Middle East. Her visit was co-sponsored by WaGS, CWaGs, Diversity and Access, and the departments of Anthropology and History.

A certificate in Women, Gender and Development is now being offered through the Tec De Monterrey-UBC Joint Academic Program. This program is aimed at upper level international

students who come to UBC for a certificate program that will count towards their degrees at their home institutions. Thanks are extended to Nora Angeles and her committee for putting the certificate together, and to Nora and Dawn Currie who organized a pedagogy workshop on "Integrating Gender and Development Perspectives in UBC Courses" on February 28.

Dr. Valerie Raoul retired in December 2006 and will be deeply missed, although we do hope to see her often at the Centre. Dr. Raoul played a major role in the undergraduate program over the years, and most recently taught two required courses - WMST 327 and

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Convocation, May 2007

Congratulations to our graduating students!

PhD

Kim Snowden

MA

Paola Arboleda

Kathleen Gamble

Heather Hamrahan

Ragya Husain

Roseann Larstone

Manuela Valle

BA

Tracy Battin

Alison Benjamin

Adam Carmichael

Patricia Comeau

Aoife Chamberlaine

Maria Escobar

Sumayya Kassamali

Elise Lanthier-Brun

Rhona McElwain

Liane McKeachie

Tamsin Mulvogue

Claire Palo

Sadie Pile

Krista Riley

Christopher Walsh

Kerry Watts

Sharika Wirasekara

Stephanie Wong

Director's Report

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dent conference just in time to be sold at this year's conference held April 18th. We were delighted to attend the launch at the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies of *Unfitting Stories: Narrative Approaches to Disease, Disability, and Trauma*. This book is a product of the 1999 - 2002 Major Thematic Grant entitled "An Interdisciplinary Inquiry into Narratives of Disease, Disability, and Trauma," Principle Investigator: Valerie Raoul, French, Hispanic & Italian Studies, and the Centre for Research in Women's Studies & Gender Relations. We also look forward to the publication by UTP in May of Sunera Thobani's book *Exalted Subjects: The Making of Race and Nation in Canada*.

Finally my thanks to the students whose enthusiasm and creativity helped remind me why it is so crucial to keep this enterprise going and to the many colleagues associated with the Centre whose generosity and energy ensure that we enter this new era with a burnished profile and an avalanche of wonderful ideas. Particular thanks to the Advisory Committee, to Gillian Creese (who jumped in the deep end as Graduate Advisor), to Wendy Frisby (whose cheerfulness in the face of institutional challenges is an inspiration), to Sunera Thobani (whose presence reminds us of what is possible), and to Wynn and Jane whose superhuman efforts behind the scenes ensures that the Centre remains a beacon in an occasionally bleak landscape. I look forward to working with the team in a different capacity after I return from leave.



Uzawa Hisa (the only female head of a Noh family) with demon mask at a workshop preceding performance of the Noh play "The Lady Aoi", at UBC in February. Christina Laffin, Asian Studies (right). Photo courtesy of [Vancouver Shinpo](#).

Visiting Scholar Report

Jane Mattisson, Kristianstad University

I wish to express my sincere thanks to the SAGA Centre for enabling me to spend six very fruitful weeks as a visiting scholar at UBC. During this period I have written the first draft of a thirty-page article and conducted the research for a second. Both articles discuss the documentation of World War One by a private soldier from North Vancouver. The articles are based on a definition of fiction by Northrop Frye. They compare the narratives of four different media: an unpublished memoir and military sketches (article one); and photographs and diaries (article two). Both articles are to be published on the World Wide Web in July 2007. In addition to the two articles, the site will include a short biography of Draycot. Hyperlinks will provide additional information on the three battles in

which Draycot was involved (Ypres, the Somme and Vimy Ridge), details of conditions at the Western Front and selected research – literary as well as historical – on World War One.

During my visit I have been able to make use of the excellent library facilities at UBC as well as continue archival work at the North Vancouver Museum & Archives. I was given the privilege of presenting my research on Draycot at a public talk at UBC. This was attended by thirty students and two professors. A more popular version of my talk was given to the North Shore Historical Society.

While visiting the SAGA Centre I have also taken the opportunity to

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WS Graduate Students Association Report

Sally Mennill and Jane Lee

Greetings from your newly constituted WSGSA PhD and MA reps! In February of 2007 (the moment Sally handed in her comps papers, to be exact), Sally Mennill and Jane Lee took over as WSGSA PhD and MA reps. We were immediately greeted with warmth and encouragement from both the WSGSA and the CW&GS Advisory Committee and we have enjoyed our two months' tenure.

We would like to start by thanking Sam Semper and Manuela Valle for their dedication to the WSGSA during their time as PhD and MA reps. Sam

and Manuela worked tirelessly on the structure, community and visibility of the WSGSA during their lengthy jobs as representatives. Their legacy has provided us with a solid foundation from which to base our endeavours.

Like Sam and Manuela before us, we have been busy planning and participating in events both academic and social on behalf of the CW&GS graduate students. On the academic side of things, our first duty was to attend the Advisory Committee meeting in early March. This proved to be a constructive and educational experience for us as we learned much about administrative and political aspects of the Centre and its place in the University community. From the committee we received excellent feedback on the Equity and Climate survey that Jane was in the process of circulating, and we discussed the possibility of having a WSGSA website with

a link from the main CW&GS site. Both endeavours were supported by the committee.

Jane's Equity and Climate survey, circulated in early to mid-March, received many thought-provoking responses to which her April 1 report testifies. If you have yet to see this report please e-mail Jane at hwajoo@hotmail.com. The results of the survey will form the basis for the CW&GS forum being held in mid-April for graduate students to discuss concerns, ideas and plans with the Centre's Director and Grad Advisor. This will be the first of what we hope to be regular forums for students to meet with the Centre's administrators.

While Jane was busy circulating and tabulating her report, Sally was involved as the graduate student rep-

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Dr. Jane Mattisson visit

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make contact with academics in my second research area, academic writing for Chinese students. I have had invaluable discussions with members of staff at UBC as well as at Capilano College, North Vancouver. It is my aim to write an article comparing the experiences, teaching resources and methods of academic writing instructors in Sweden, China (where I am Honorary Professor at Ningbo University) and Canada. The guidelines for this comparative study have been drawn up during my visit at UBC. The study will involve collaboration at both teacher and student level.

It is my sincere hope that I shall be able to return to UBC in the near future. Once again, I wish to thank all the staff at the SAGA Centre for their generous support during my visit.



Graduate students Eunkyung Choi and Manuela Valle at work on a banner for UBC Women's and Gender Studies.

CWAGS Grad Student Association

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representative on the committee to hire a new director for the Centre. The committee's interview process involved a grad student forum during which students had the opportunity to pose questions and express concerns to the applicant, Gillian Creese. Among other things, Gillian assured us that she is committed to helping with funding for graduate students and she was also encouragingly responsive to our curriculum-related concerns. It is out of this meeting that the need for the upcoming graduate forum was born. The hiring committee also had the opportunity to listen to Gillian's vision presentation and conducted a lengthy interview with Gillian. Sally was pleased to be able to participate in and learn from this process.

At the end of March, we joined with the SFU Women's Studies department to host a series of professional skills workshops at SFU Harbour Centre. Sally worked with Beth Pentney, her SFU counterpart, to co-ordinate workshops on Comps/Thesis Proposals, presented by Gillian Creese of UBC and Lara Campbell of SFU, Curriculum Vitae, presented by Margery Fee of UBC and Mary Lynn Stewart of SFU, Job Search/Interview Skills, presented by Deanna Reder of UBC and Helen Leung of SFU, and Publishing, presented by Nikki Strong-Boag of UBC and Brian Burch of SFU. All of the presentations were informative and helpful and the socializing at Steamworks afterwards was a nice treat. Our thanks go to all of the faculty members who donated their time and expertise to these workshops. Your insight was greatly appreciated!

The WSGSA has never lacked for social opportunities and this semester was no exception. In mid-February we

organized a well-attended celebration of the Lunar/Chinese New Year at Bo Kong restaurant. As the photos attest, a fun time was had by all and we rang in the year of the pig in style. We also had the opportunity to socialize with some students from the undergraduate program at the Turkish restaurant, Rime, in late March. Fostering open communication with our undergraduate

week. These posters were displayed in the Centre's front windows throughout the week.

Finally, the pursuits of graduate students and the WSGSA won't be stopping for the summer. Many of us will be off to conduct our empirical research and present at conferences all over the world. Others will begin or continue their teaching careers and the WSGSA



Graduate Students Abby Wener, Susie Roman, and Heather Hanrahan celebrate Lunar New Year.

counterparts is an important part of the WSGSA's mandate. Special thanks go to April Tam for putting together such a fun event.

Ever eager to combine our socializing with academic success, other pursuits of the semester have included the making of a banner for use by CW&GS students and faculty alike at future events. Several of us got together at Manuela's house in February to make this banner, which now finds its home in the Centre's library. In March Manuela, Sam and Jane also found the time to get together and create a poster display for UBC's Realities of Race

will be continuing to plan and organize upcoming events. The CW&GS advisory committee's annual retreat, new student orientations and, of course, welcoming our new director will be on the top of our agenda. We wish you all a happy and productive summer and we bestow our best wishes upon Dr. Kim Snowden as she embarks on her new post-PhD life!

Studies in Autobiography, Gender and Age

News from the SAGA Centre

Carla Paterson, Acting Director

On January 1 2007, following the retirement of Valerie Raoul, the founder and Director of SAGA, I was appointed Acting Director of the SAGA Centre. The last few months have involved a steep learning curve, but I am delighted to have taken on this position, and am grateful for the able assistance of Hui-Ling Lin, the SAGA RA, as well as Jane and Wynn from CW&GS.

SAGA continues to offer work space to graduate students and Visiting Scholars. From March 5 to April 8, we were happy to host Dr. G. S. Jayasree who was visiting CW&GS. From February 7 to March 19 we had our own Visiting Scholar, Dr. Jane Mattisson, who teaches English at Kristianstad University in Sweden and Ningbo University in China. Mattisson is currently engaged in two research projects: one on "Representation of the Hero in World War One" and another on "Academic Writing in English for Chinese Students." During her visit, she was able to connect with people at UBC in relation to both projects, and gave a fascinating talk on the ways the experiences of a North Vancouver soldier, Water MacKay Draycott, were represented through the different media of diary, memoir, photographs, and topographical charts.

SAGA, and particularly Hui-Ling Lin, also continue to organize the Green College "Autobiography and Film" Speaker Series. On February 5 there was a screening of *Footbinding: Searching for the Three Inch Golden Lotus* and discussion with the filmmaker, Yue-Qing Yang. On February 28 there was a screening of two films, *Blood* and *A Girl Named Kai*, followed by discussion with their creators, Debora O and Kai Ling Xue. On April 13

there will be an event entitled: "Auto/bio/graphical Genres: Life Stories in Film and Print." The morning featured a film about a Chinese magician and acrobat, *The Magical Life of Long Tak Sam* and a talk by its creator and Long Tak Sam's great-granddaughter, Ann Marie Fleming. In the afternoon, Larissa Petrillo spoke about *Being Lakota: Identity and Tradition on Pine Ridge Reservation*, a book she has recently written in collaboration with Melda pe Trejo that presents the life stories of the Lakota/Mexican couple.

Visual stories and records were highlighted in "Culture, Narrative, and Auto/bio/graphy in the Digital Age," a SAGA event that took place at the Graduate

...a film about a Chinese magician and acrobat, The Magical Life of Long Tak Sam and a talk by its creator and Long Tak Sam's great-granddaughter, Ann Marie Fleming.....

Student Centre on March 30. It featured a presentation by Sam Migliore, of Kwantlen University College, and Margaret Dorazio-Migliore of the BC Cancer Agency on "Adjusting the Lens: Uses of Audio-Visual Recording in Ethnographic Research." At the event we introduced a new SAGA policy of making audio-visual equipment available on a short-term basis to researchers. Graduate students or faculty can apply to SAGA (by emailing Hui-Ling Lin at huiiling.ubc@gmail.com) to borrow a camcorder, cassette recorder, digital



Carla Paterson

voice recorder, or transcriber, or to use workstations that have the capacity to edit video, analyze qualitative data, and design printed materials.

The activity of the preceding months promises to continue through the spring. In April we will begin redesigning and updating our website: <http://www.saga.ubc.ca/>. In May we plan to hold a symposium with Jo-Anne Lee from the Department of Women's Studies at the University of Victoria. She was instrumental in the founding of Anti-dote, "a grassroots, volunteer organization of racialized minority and aboriginal girls and women." We hope to have some of the "gurlz" from the organization present videos they have made about their experiences. We also will have a meeting of the SAGA Advisory Committee. Any one who would like to contribute to the evolving operation and direction of the Centre is welcome to attend.

*Visiting Scholar Report**Sanjukta Dasgupta, Department of English, Calcutta University*

This was indeed a very different experience, my three weeks in March 2007, as a Visiting Scholar at the Centre for Women's and Gender studies, University of British Columbia, Vancouver. It was different because the Director of the Centre, Prof Sneja Gunew organized a conference "Serial Accommodations: Diasporic Asian women's Writing" to coincide with my visit and invited me to be the keynote speaker and also take part as a panelist in the first panel session of the conference. The topic of my keynote address was 'Longing to Belong: Migration Blues in Immigrant women's writing' and the title of my panel presentation was "To be or not to be- The English Dept in an Indian university".

The keynote of my address was to sensitize the conference participants about the need for familiarization with local language writing (Bangla, Punjabi, Hindi, Urdu etc) by the South Asian diasporic subjects from their new home addresses, as well as the need to be attentive to local language writing about the diaspora by resident writers who write from the varied places of origin. I also gave the weekly Wednesday centre talk based on my ongoing project on representation of the family in Indian and American women's writing.

On arrival at the Centre, Prof Gillian Creese and Jane Charles, CRWGS administrator and her team including the very efficient Wynn and Maggie, welcomed me warmly. I was promptly escorted to my shared office space and shown how to switch on the computer designated for my exclusive use. I was also asked to help myself to tea and coffee at the snug pantry at the end of a very well laid out single storied yellow longitudinal building with many yellow awnings, that made the Centre

stand out from all the other more functional tall campus buildings. The centre really looks charming and chic, like a welcome island, for those of us who strongly believe that our engagement with women's and gender studies is our activism and not just an integral part of our academic commitments.

The Director of CWAGS, Prof Sneja Gunew handpicked books from her personal library for me to read and discuss with her during the period of my stay. I also used the Koerner Library frequently and came across some very good books, besides the photocopying facility has made me bring home some very useful material.

I also want to mention the care and hospitality extended to me by Prof Man-

...a welcome island, for those of us who believe that our engagement with women's and gender studies is our activism and not just an integral part of our academic commitments.....

dakranta Bose and her partner Prof Tirthankar Bose during the period of my visit. In fact, it was their enthusiastic encouragement and my eagerness to reconnect with Prof Sneja Gunew, who I first met at SOAS, London in 2004, that brought me to beautiful Vancouver and gave me the wonderful opportunity to learn and read about Canadian immigrant writing at the University of British Columbia, guided by Prof Gunew. Needless to state, I'll cherish as a rich learning experience my three weeks at



CWAGS, UBC located in an idyllic environment- skirted by the blue Pacific ocean and the range of spectacular mountains, some green tipped, others snow capped.

Views from the Edge

Proceedings of the
Women's & Gender Studies
Graduate Student
Conference, April 2006

Available now at the
Centre for Women's and
Gender Studies
1896 East Mall

\$5.00 per copy

Symposium, March 9-10, 2007

Serial Accommodations: Diasporic Asian Women's Writing

Kim Snowden

On March 9-10th, as part of the week celebrating International Women's Day, the Centre for Women's and Gender Studies and the Centre for India and South Asia Research co-hosted a symposium entitled *Serial Accommodations: Diasporic Asian Women's Writing*. The symposium was designed to explore the contributions made by diasporic Asian women writers in an increasingly transnational world. The symposium was a collaborative event that brought together minority women intellectuals, writers and scholars. The participants included: G.S. Jayasree (Kerala), Maria Ng (Lethbridge), Sanjukta Dasgupta (Calcutta), Mridula Chakraborty (Alberta), Kirsten McAllister (SFU), Mandakranta Bose (UBC), Larissa Lai (UBC), Medha Samarasinghe (UBC), and Sneja Gunew (UBC). We also invited writers to participate

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Panel discussion "South Asian Intellectuals Confront Transnationalism": Sanjukta Dasgupta (Calcutta University), Author Shani Mootoo, G.S. Jayasree (University of Kerala) and Terri Tomsy, PhD Candidate, English, UBC.

Undergrad Program

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WMST 328. Dr. Raoul recently won a Killam Teaching Prize and is remembered by her students as a warm and caring instructor who challenged them intellectually and supported them in a number of ways.

On April 20, WaGS and CWAGS will be attending a day long retreat to discuss ideas for moving both programs forward. On April 27, we will host a BC Women's Studies Articulation Committee meeting where coordinators from the colleges and universities in the program come together to provide updates

on their programs and share ideas.

Congratulations are extended to two of our faculty members, Dr. Sharalyn Orbaugh and Dr. Becki Ross who received research grants from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) this spring. Dr. Ross' project is on the expulsion of sex workers from Vancouver's West End (\$79,000), and Dr. Orbaugh's is on Japanese literature and popular culture (\$116,000). Dr. Tineke Hellwig, the former Chair of Women's and Gender Studies who continues to serve on our Coordinating Committee, also received a SSHRC grant on women's writing in Indonesia (\$41,000). We would also like to congratulate Dr. Kim Snowden,

who does an outstanding job teaching WMST 224, who recently completed her doctoral degree in the Centre for Women's and Gender Studies.

Graduate Advisor's Report

Gillian Creese

We have had another busy term in the Women's and Gender Studies graduate program. Kim Snowden will become our second Ph.D. graduate after she defends her thesis on April 2nd. Along with Kim, six Master's students will also graduate in the May convocations: Paola Arboleda, Kathleen Gamble, Heather Hanrahan, Razia Husain, Roseann Larstone, and Manuela Valle. Congratulations to all our graduating Women's Studies students!

Three Women's Studies grads have won awards: Rupa Bagga won the Student Excellence Award from the Indo-Canadian Shastri Institute; Almas Zakiuddin won the C.D. Howe Fellowship; and Hui-Ling Lin won the Hong Kong-Canadian Business Association Scholarship. Naomi Lloyd has an article based on her Ph.D. research accepted by *Victorian Literature and Culture*. And our first Ph.D. graduate, Chris Shelly, has his book, *Transpeople: Repudiation, Trauma, Healing*, accepted by the University of Toronto Press. Finally, two Ph.D. students, Rupa Bagga and Sam Semper, have been advanced to candidacy, and another, Sally Mennill, has successfully completed her comprehensive examinations.

Congratulations on all of these significant accomplishments!

Much of this term in WMST 500 has been taken up with organizing the 5th Annual Graduate Student Conference: *Fracturing, Negotiating, and Destabilizing Feminist Discourses* that will take place on April 18th at the Graduate Student Centre. We also held workshops on Turning Papers into Conference Presentations, and Getting Published. A number of WMST faculty (Gillian Creese, Margery Fee, Deanna Reder, and Nikki Strong-Boag) participated in a joint UBC/SFU Women's and Gender

Studies graduate student workshop on professional development at SFU Harbour Centre on March 31st. And to facilitate on-going communication about the graduate program, an Open Forum with graduate students has been organized for April 13th.

We received 69 applications for the graduate program for next year: 28 Ph.D.s and 41 M.A.s. Thanks to the other members of the admissions committee (Margery Fee, Wendy Frisby, Sneja Gunew, and Nikki Strong-Boag) for their hard work in assessing the applications. We have offered admission to a small number of applicants, mostly

to prospective Master's students, and await their decisions. We have attracted many top applications but, as always, funding challenges place limitations on how many graduate students we can successfully recruit.

Finally, special thanks to Sneja Gunew and Margery Fee for their work on the graduate committee, and to Wynn Archibald (Graduate Secretary), Jane Charles (Administrator), and Maggie Yau (Secretary). You have all helped me in too many ways to count, and made my role as graduate advisor so much more enjoyable.

Serial Accommodations

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on the panels and take part in readings and we were thrilled to welcome Shani Mootoo and Lydia Kwa. The conference was organized by Sneja Gunew and the panels and readings were moderated by three graduate students: Kim Snowden, Terri Tomsy, and Medha Samarasinghe.

We began on Friday afternoon with a keynote address from Sanjkuta Dasgupta, Professor of English at Calcutta University and currently a visiting scholar at the Centre. Professor Dasgupta launched the symposium with a talk about discourses of belonging and non-belonging in the work of Indian women writers in the diaspora and drew particular attention to the need to explore works in languages other than English. The papers presented over the weekend explored a wide range of themes and ideas and topics included the construction of the autobiographical subject, diasporic legacies, histories of displacement and return, working in dialogue with specific diasporic texts,

and excerpts from personal memoirs. One of the highlights of the event was a reading by Shani Mootoo. Shani read from her latest novel, *He Drown She in the Sea* and from her collection of poetry, *The Predicament of Or* and discussed her writing within the context of her own construction and understanding of diasporic identity. We were also delighted to close the symposium with readings from Larissa Lai and Lydia Kwa. It was wonderful to include literary readings at a scholarly event and to be able to provide a space to talk about women's writing, to hear authors read and discuss the process of writing literature, and explore what it means for their writing to be the subject of scholarly work. It was truly a stimulating event with great conversation, wonderful company and fabulous food!

Despite the torrential rain, the symposium was very well attended and the event was a great success. The organizers would like to thank everyone who attended the event or helped out in some way.



G.S. Jayasree



Paul Kershaw



Maria Ng

CWAGS Spring Lecture Series, January - April, 2007

Anne Martin-Matthews

UBC School of Social Work

Home Care Workers and the Negotiation of Client and Family Relationships: Blurring the Boundaries between the Public and Private Spheres.

Jan. 10, 2007

Nikki Strong-Boag

UBC Dept. of Educational Studies

Always Second Best? The Nature and Implications of Foster Care in English Canada from the 19th Century to the 1990s: A Research Agenda

Jan. 17, 2007

Wendy Frisby

UBC Women's and Gender Studies

Reflections on Feminist Participatory Action Research

Jan. 24, 2007

Leonora Angles

Womens and Gender Studies / School of Community and Regional Planning
Navigating (Trans)Nationalism and (State) Feminism: (Trans)Formations in the Philippine Womens Movements in Post-Marcos Period

Jan. 31, 2007

Jennifer Chun

UBC Dept. of Sociology

The Contested Politics of Gender and Employment: Revitalizing the South Korean Labour Movement

Feb. 7, 2007

Maria Ng

University of Lethbridge, English Dept.

Life Writing and Borderlands

Feb. 14, 2007

Alison Bailey

UBC, Institute of Asian Research

Avenging Women: Filial heroines in Chinese Literature and Film

Feb. 28, 2007

Sanjukta Dasgupta

Calcutta University, English Dept.

Across Cultures: Representations of the family in Indian and American Women's Writing

Mar. 7, 2007

Paul Kershaw

Director, Social Care and Social Citizenship Research network, UBC

Changing the Subject: Violence, Care and (In) Active Male Citizenship

Mar. 14, 2007

Sylvia Fuller

UBC Dept of Sociology

"Active Citizenship" and Welfare Reform: Single Mothers and the Logics of Volunteerism

Mar. 21, 2007

John Pitcher

Visiting Scholar, Centre for Women's and Gender Studies, UBC

Late Medieval Women's Spiritual Autobiography: History, Psychoanalysis, Feminism

Mar. 28, 2007

G.S. Jayasree

University of Kerala, English Dept.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
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- *Encourage UBC faculty graduate students and others to meet together in multi-disciplinary groups for discussion and research in these areas;*
- *Bring UBC researchers together with activists and researchers from other institutions in Canada and abroad, and from within the community; and*
- *Communicate support for women's studies, gender analysis and feminist research to governments, insitutions, community groups and the public in British Columbia, Canada and elsewhere.*

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