THE STAIR OF

WOMEN'S STUDIES

News from Women's Studies at The University of South Carolina

Fall 1990

Arney Childs Award Goes To Student Government President



Ramsdale

Marie-Louise Ramsdale, 20year old former student government president and Carolina Scholar, received the 1990 Arney Robinson Childs Memorial Award in Women's

Studies for her commitment to Women's Studies and to the ideals of critical leadership held out by Arney Childs.

A South Carolina College student majoring in government and international studies (Soviet studies and Russian language) and minoring in women's studies, Ramsdale maintained a 3.825 GPR while working actively as president. Her senior honors thesis com-

Guevara Receives Thompson Award

On Award's Day in April, Women's Studies presented the second annual Emily Thompson Memorial Award in Women's Health to Edilma Guevara, a doctoral student in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics in the College of Health.

Guevara is already a nurse, and her current research, funded by the Pan American Health Organization, is under way in her native Cali, Colombia.

Entitled "Menopausal Characteristics and Breast Cancer," her project was chosen for the following reasons:

 It focuses on an understudied area affecting the last third of women's lives.

see Guevara (page 2)

pared child-care facilities and legislation in the United States and Scandinavia with analyses of current socio/political and legal trends. Dr. Sue Rosser, one of her Women's Studies professors, cites her native intelligence, excellent analytical and research skills, boundless energy and persistence, and her ability to lead, persuade, and receive the confidence of others. She is the third woman in the history of USC to be elected president of the Student

Government Association.

In an interview with Ann Hill for the USC Times, Dr. Carolyn Jones, director of the Undergraduate Division of the College of Business Administration and another of Ramsdale's Women's Studies professors, calls her a "global thinker"—able to encompass all aspects of a problem and find a path through divergent attitudes to reach a solution.

see Ramsdale (page 2)

Close Foundation, South Carolina Businesses Move to Support Women's Studies Endowment

The Close Foundation of Fort Mill, S.C., has recently shown support of USC Women's Studies with a \$10,000 grant, the first from a foundation, bringing the Women's Studies Endowment to over \$200,000. Charles A. Bundy, president of the foundation, indicates that the Board of Directors was glad to support efforts to stimulate research and teaching about women.

Important business support of Women's Studies has come from T&S Brass and Bronze Works of Travelers Rest, and from News and Press, Inc. of Darlington. In Columbia, Colonial Life and Republic National Bank have led corporate giving, joined by Semaphore,

Chernoff/Silver and Associates, RPR & Associates, South Carolina Federal, U.S. Construction Co., the Marwin Co., the Woodward, Leventis, Unger, Ormand & Herndon Law Firm, SCE&G, Crowson-Stone Printing Co., and 16 matching gift companies.

Over 850 alumni and friends, including faculty, staff, and students, have contributed to the endowment in order to advance Women's Studies by facilitating research, public lectures, and innovative teaching. Largest individual gifts to date include a \$50,000 and a \$25,000 contribution. Assisted by its Community and Business Board, Women's Studies is working to reach an immediate goal of \$250,000.



George Thiesen, President T&S Brass & Bronze Works



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Ramsdale (from page 1)

"It's important that we celebrate the presence at Carolina of such a person. She gave me the educator's ultimate pleasure — the knowledge that you've had a small part in developing a person who you know will be successful." "There's a remarkable conceptual level in the way she works out problems. She has a determination and commitment to get things done, but she's very conciliatory in her approach." "She's a feeling, sensitive person who uses her intellect to move toward goals, arrive at conclusions."

Ramsdale, who is attending Harvard Law School this fall, looks back on the value of Women's Studies in her academic career. "The most important thing I gained is an entirely different perspective in sociology and international relations — one that isn't androcentric. Women's Studies really changes how you perceive the world, and touches on so many disciplines."

She laughs, "There are some who imagine that a course about women must be all about male-bashing. Those who criticize are the ones who really need the class," she adds. There were some men in all of Ramsdale's Women's

Studies classes. They may have been initially intimidated by the ratio of women to men, she says, but faculty and students were always interested in hearing the male perspective on issues being discussed. The men she knew eventually came to say This makes sense' and to feel really positive about

For community service, Ramsdale received the General Motors Spirit Award for Community Service in 1989 and the 4) It can lead to PAHO funding of award for the Best New Volunteer for the Rape Crisis Network. She also served as a counselor at Camp Kemo, coordinated two campus Red Cross Blood Drives, and volunteered with the Guardian ad Litem project and the Ronald McDonald House.

Ramsdale's leadership resulted in the establishment of a permanent University Safety Committee, the installation of safety call boxes all over campus and improved security and lighting. She

also helped organize the University's relief efforts following Hurricane Hugo.

For her extraordinary achievements, she was recognized with the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award, the Steven Swanger Leadership Award, a Government and International Studies Award, and Outstanding Senior Award among others.

women in their non-reproductive years.

Guevara received a cash award in recognition of her commitment to advancing health.

women's The award is given Guevara

in memory of Emily Thompson, a former student at USC who completed her master's degree in public health with a focus on women's health.

Thompson often voiced her devotion

Preventive Medicine Fund in Women's Studies

Women's Studies is pleased to an-serve to advance research and teaching nounce the establishment of the en- of preventive medicine as it relates to dowed Preventive Medicine Fund in women. Friends of Women's Studies Women's Studies. Launched by the who are particularly interested in this Carolina Health Institute, the fund is in issue may specify that their contribuits infant stages, but will eventually tions are to help build this fund.

the course. Women, too, eventually came to recognize the stereotypes they held about other women, and to gain better perspectives on themselves in Guevara (from page 1) society. "Women's Studies offers a more rounded, more complete education," Ramsdale says. "It's really the up and coming area in higher educa-

- 2) It seeks better to define the benefit/ risk ratio of the use of Estrogen Replacement Therapy.
- 3) It can make a significant impact on the current debate concerning the appropriate use of ERT.
- appropriate health programs for

to the goal of improving our knowledge and service in that field. She died two years ago while working at DHEC.

Other Funds in the Women's Studies Endowment to which Friends may designate their gifts:

- The Harriott Hampton Faucette Fund, made possible through a generous gift from its namesake, allows Women's Studies to fund various opportunities such as a special guest lecturer, or a student film project. The fund has also helped to send women students to a scientific conference, to commission a music composition by a woman in celebration of Women's History Month, and to produce a video documentary of Women's Studies at Carolina.
- The Josephine Abney Faculty Fellowship for Research in Women's Studies, established by its namesake, funds summer research in alternating years. Recipients have been Dr. Paula Feldman, English (see page 4); and Dr. Patricia Gilmartin, Geography, working on the biography of an American explorer and cartographer, Mary Jobe Akeley, for whom a mountain in Canada is named.
- The Carol Jones Carlisle Fund, established by colleagues, students, family, and friends in honor of the English professor emerita, is growing and will soon fund research assistance grants to USC scholars focusing on women.
- The Arney Robinson Childs Memorial Fund, established by family and friends in honor of the former dean of women, historian and public servant, funds an annual award to an outstanding undergraduate student in Women's Studies.
- The Emily Thompson Memorial Award in Women's Health, established by family and friends in memory of the former USC student, funds an annual award to a student doing outstanding research in the field of women's health.

Composer Maxine Warshauer's Song Cycle -



original song cycle by Maxine Warshauer of Columbia, commissioned in part by USC Women's Studies for the 1990 Women's Studies Celebration, was performed

at the New York City 92nd Street YM-YWHA on June 17. Warshauer's music was selected along with that of four other composers for the annual concert sponsored by the American Society for Jewish Music.

Warshauer, pianist, accompanied soprano Laury Christie-Vaughan, USC professor of music at the New York tor, premiered at the Koger Center for concert; they were joined by a flutist and cellist. Warshauer, Christie-Vaughan, Robert Jesselson (cello) and Constance Lane (flute) first performed the song cycle on March 22 during Women's History Month on the USC-Columbia campus. Entitled A Time to Blossom, the cycle sets poems by Hannah Senesh, Hildegard von Bingen, and Emily Dickinson.

Warshauer is a 1989 graduate of USC's School of Music with a doctorate in musical arts. She earned her masters degree in music composition, with honors, from the New England Conservatory of Music in 1980. Her major work, Shacharit: An interpretation of the Sabbath morning Synagogue service for chorus, orchestra, soloists and narra-

the Arts in 1989. It was also performed at the Charleston Piccolo Spoleto Contemporary Music Festival 1989 and was broadcast over the South Carolina Educational Radio Network. Two other recently commissioned works include Born on a River, celebrating the 250th anniversary of the city of Wilmington, N.C., and Let's Get the Rhythm for children's chorus and orchestra for Lexington School District I.

Women's Studies commissioned Warshauer's A Time to Blossom with proceeds from the Harriott Hampton Faucette Fund in Women's Studies. Other sponsors were USC's College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Office of the Provost, and School of Music.

A Sample of Outside Speakers:-

Modjeska Simkins and the South Carolina Conference of the NAACP

Dr. Barbara Woods, Duke-UNC Center for Research on Women and USC Southern Studies Fellow, presented excerpts from her work on a biography of the great South Carolinian Modjeska Simkins. She accompanied her talk with slides from throughout



Researcher Barbara Woods stands with civilrights activist Modjeska Simkins, who has received South Carolina's highest civilian honor, the Order of the Palmetto.

in the Columbia community, in the state of South Carolina, and in the national civil rights movement. Woods was cosponsored by Southern Studies and Women's Studies.

ChangingInterpretations of Women's History

Dr. Glenda Riley, University of Northern Iowa, lectured on the evolution of women's history since the early 70s when Riley studied how women were represented in history books.

She and others thought "if we do our job right, we won't have to do this forever." By the mid 70s historians of women had expanded approaches to a political approach (women acting in traditionally male ways, i.e. suffragists); social approach (women acting as women (pots and pans); women in approach, i.e. women in engineering; and the oppression view ("Ain't it awful"). The early 80s brought the need to mainstream and the concurrent problem of other faculty being

In the late 80s, Riley says, there were definite trends: 1) still writing great women's history; 2) collecting women's sources — letters, journals; 3) becoming permanent features in profession; 4) developing sensitivity to different kinds of women, with a growing gap between women's his-

intimidated (How can I teach some-

thing I know nothing about?).

Simkins'life of courageous leadership tory and gender history. This leads to a 5th phase: a broader view of women's history in context as a vital part of the history profession.

> Riley was sponsored by the Graduate History Association, the Department of History, Southern Studies, and Women's Studies.

Southern College Women and Social Protest

Dr. Amy McCandless, historian at the College of Charleston and a USC Southern Studies Fellow, examined Southern campuses and revealed that, despite significant regional variations in attitudes and methods, Southern women were more a part of the national student culture than their absence from the public record would suggest.

"They fought for civil rights, protested against the war in Vietnam, and argued for sexual equality." McCandless presented examples from a wide spectrum of Southern campuses.

She was sponsored by Women's Studies and Southern Studies.

Pedagogy: Perspectives and Pitfalls

Dr. Rosemarie Tong, director of Women's Studies at Davidson College, professor of philosophy, and see Speakers (page 4)

Speakers (from page 3)

National Council for the Advancement of Secondary Education Professor of the Year, was keynote speaker for the system-wide Women's Studies Conference on March 30.

She elucidated ways in which Women's Studies offers an important and valuable alternative model for teaching. At the crux is the issue of cultivating student responsibility for sharing in the The book is available at the USC bookconstruction of knowledge, as opposed to rewarding passive reception of unquestioned knowledge defined by authorities. The device is far more powerful and empowering, and the knowledge freer of the unyielding categories that grow out of traditional methods. Her presentation was videotaped and a copy is available for loan from Women's Studies. She was sponsored by the Office of the Provost and Women's Studies.

Female-Friendly Science Now Available

Female-Friendly Science: Applying Women's Studies Methods and Theories to Attract Students, a new book by Dr. Sue V. Rosser, is now available from Pergamon Press. Professor in USC's School of Medicine in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, Rosser addresses the major national issue of how to attract and retain more people in scientific fields. The book is dedicated to Dr. Joan Altekruse, former chair of USC's Department of Preventive Medicine.

Facing the projected dearth of American-trained scientists in the 1990s, Rosser provides a practical guide for making science teaching more relative to women and people of color, so as to convince more of them to want to contribute to science.

"This book should become a handbook for science departments and medical schools throughout the country. We are facing a crisis today in diversifying our scientific community, especially with regard to increasing the numbers of women and minorities, and this book offers help and hope that we can effect change. We can make our laboratories and clinics more congenial for everyone," writes Judith Walzer Leavitt, professor and chair of the Department of History of Medicine at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Medical School.

Anne Fausto-Sterling, professor of medical science at Brown University writes, "Rosser performs an important task by drawing together and synthesizing a diverse literature on the personnel gap in American science, the debates within the academy on curricular structure and diversity, the feminist critiques of science, and the scholarship on women's ways of know-

store for \$9.

Abney Fellow Lectures in New Zealand



The 1987 recipient of the losephine Abney Faculty Research Fellowship in Women's Studies, Dr. Paula Feldman of the English department was invited to give two lectures in May

in Wellington, New Zealand, on the topic of Katherine Mansfield's short story Je ne parle pas francais. Feldman was in New Zealand to finish research on the process of composition and the process by which the original story was defaced by its author and why, using manuscript material as evidence.

With the USC Abney Fellowship, Feldman began the work of editing and critiquing the unknown original version of the story. Its author, Mansfield, has been called the mother of the English short story. Feldman received a subsequent grant from USC's Research and Productive Scholarship Committee. She presented her lectures at the Turnbull Library, associated with the National Library of New Zealand. and at Victoria University.

Rosser-SC Woman of Achievement

Dr. Sue V. Rosser, director of USC Women's Studies, was recognized as a South Carolina Woman of Achievement by the South Carolina Commission on Women last March.

One of four award recipients, Rosser was cited for her leadership in promoting the need for improved education about women across the state and

In her remarks, Rosser listed some of the conditions in South Carolina which have led it twice to be ranked worst in the country for women: poverty, health, sex education, marital rape, child care, and legal status of women. Rosser suggested that perhaps South Carolina should develop a Women's Improvement Act (WIA) to go along with our highly effective Education Improvement Act. A new focus on problems for women in our state might result in an improvement in their status, she said.

Your Support

Show your support of Women's Studies by mailing your contribution made out to the USC Educational Foundation for the Women's Studies Endowment. Indicate if your gift is designated for one of Women's Studies individual funds. (see page 2)

Mail to: USC Women's Studies, 1710 College Street, Columbia, SC 29208. Or call (803) 777-4007 for more information.

Jean Dozier Ayers Recognized

As Women's Studies administrative assistant, Jean Dozier Avers was selected as one of the five finalists for the University of South Carolina Employee of the Year this past spring. She was nominated by the director and assistant director of Women's Studies. She has recently accepted a position in her field of computer programming with USC Computer Services. Women's Studies will miss this outstanding employee and wishes her well.

The State of Women's Studies at Carolina is published bi-annually by Women's Studies at the University of South Carolina.	A the and the last of the second of
Dr. Sue V. Rosser, Director of Women's Studies Dr. Katherine Wyly Mille, Editor Assistant Director of Women's Studies in Charge of Development	
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This series focuses attention on the research on women that is being done by USC faculty in their respective fields.

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are prohibited; some doctors prescribe "cycle regulators." Abortion is illegal and some women therefore go to England for abortions. Women make up a large part of the part-time labor force. Schools have only recently added math and science to girls' curricula.

complicated issue in Irewomen are not economindent and thus face the verty with divorce.

wing Feminism: Now

Millstone, USC associate French, presented ideas out of her involvement in a biography of Gyp, the century French writer, eventually concluded was nd feminist at the same led her to consider models explain the possibility of ergence of values.

Millstone's resulting model separates people who call themselves feminists into three categories: "liberal left-wing feminists," who support the rights of individual women and have an egalitarian vision of society (+freedom/ +equality); "authoritarian left-wing feminists," who have an egalitarian vision of society but who override the claims of the individual (+equality/freedom); and "right-wing feminists," who support an anti-egalitarian, hierarchical vision of society (-equality/-freedom). The latter, for example, might include some women who, in the 18th century, fought to abolish slavery and give women the right to vote, but who opposed the 15th Amendment which gave black men the right to vote on the grounds that white women should have the vote before black men. Right-wing feminism exists today, she said, and can damage the women's movement by pitting one group against another.

Women's Studies

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Women's Studies Courses Spring 1991

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	Course	Credit	Title	Time	Instructor
	WOST 112	03	Women in Society	9:30-10:45 a.m. TTh	Nickless, P.
	WOST J113	03	Women and Their Bodies in Health and Disease	On Video (Telecommunica	Rosser, S. tions)
	WOST 399	03	Independent Study (Prerequisite: Consent of Ir and Director of Wornen's S		ТВА
	WOST 702	03	Issues and Methods in Women's Studies Research		Rosser, S.
	ENGL 843-D	03	Graduate Seminar Family Fictions: Studies in 20th Century American Women Novelist	3:30-6 p.m. T TH	James, J.
	GINT 352	03	Politics of Sex Roles	9:05-9:55 a.m. MWF	Kaufman, L
	SOCY 301	03	Sociology of Sex Roles	10:10-11:00 a.m. MWF	Dudley- Rowley, M.
	LATN 324A	03	Topics in Classical Humanities: Women in Classical Antiqu	•	Castner,C.

Evening and Weekend Program

Women in Western Culture (WOST E111), Women in Society (WOST E112), Psychology of Women (PSYC E310), and Feminist Perspective for Social Work Practice (SOWK/WOST E767) will be offered Spring 1991. For details call 777-8155.

1990-91 Schedule of Events

Thursday, November 29, 1990 Thavolia Glymph, History 3:30 p.m. - Gambrell 152 Pride and Prejudice: Freedom and Afro-American Women in the Postbellum South

Thursday, January 24, 1991 Eve Bannet, English 3:30 p.m. - Gambrell (Room TBA) Derrida, Irigaray and the Holy (M) Other: The Affirmative Turn in 80s Theory

Thursday, February 21, 1991 Carol Garrison, College of Health 3:30 p.m. - Gambrell (Room TBA) Gender Differences in Depression and Suicidal Behavior in Young Adolescents

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