news from women's studies at the university of south carolina

## **Bachelor's Degree in Women's Studies Now Available**

The USC Board of Trustees and the Commission on Higher Education approved the Women's Studies Program's request to establish a Bachelor of Arts in Women's Studies. The interdisciplinary field of Women's Studies and the scholarship it has generated in recent years has significantly transformed the traditional disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and is having a growing impact on the sciences and professional schools. At the University of South Carolina. Women's Studies is an interdisciplinary program that emphasizes understanding the diverse expressions of gender across race, class, nation, and sexuality in three general thematic areas: women's health, social activism and public policy, and arts/literature/culture. The program exposes

See "Bachelor's" on page 3



Thyvolia Glymph

## **Women's Studies Makes Joint Hires with** English, Educational Psychology

This fall, Drs. Ingrid Reneau and thion of the historical, mythical, spir-Vicky Newman will join Women's itual, and epistemological signifi-Studies as joint appointments with English and educational psycholos. gy, respectively. As with Dr. Deborah Parra-Medina, who joined us last year in a joint appointment with health promotion and educa-tion, each of them will have 50 percent appointments in Women's Studies and 50 percent in her respective department.

Reneau will receive her Ph.D. degree this fall from the Rutgers University Department of English. Her dissertation, "Dancing the Clearing in African Diaspora Narratives," investigates the ways in which the religious dance the Ringshout, a derivative of the circle dances of Africa, can be used as a model for intertextual interpreta-

cance of a range of African cultural traditions. She focuses primarily on the works of Paule Marshall of the U.S. and Earl Lovelace of Trinidad. Her dissertation was supported by a Social Science Research Council-Melon Minority Dissertation research grant.

This fall, Reneau will offer the new course in our undergraduate BA curriculum, Áfrican American Feminist Theory, and will develop new and cross-listed courses for Women's Studies at the intersections of African American, African Diaspora, Caribbean, and feminist literatures. Before teaching at Rutgers as a graduate student, she taught in Cook College's Discovery Program and Livingston College's

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## **Thyvolia Glymph to Deliver 1999 Freeman Lecture**

A native South Carolinian and former USC professor, Dr. Thyvolia Glymph will deliver the 1999 Adrenée Glover Freeman Lecture in African-American Women's Studies on Thursday, Oct. 7, in Belk Auditorium of The Darla Moore School of Business. Her talk is titled "African American Women, American History, and the Politics of Memory." The lecture was established

in 1993 by the Women's Studies Program in memory of Adrenée Glover Freeman, a Columbia attorney who was active in civic affairs and served on the Community Advisory Board of the Women's Studies Program. It is especially fitting that Dr. Glymph deliver the lecture, since she attended high school with Adrenée Glover Freeman at C.A. Johnson High School in

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## **Director's Comments**

Women's Studies and the Year 2000

This summer at the 20th National Women's Studies Association annual meeting, I was impressed with what Women's Studies has become in such a short academic time frame -the first courses were offered in the late 1960s and early 1970s, the national association was formed in 1977, and now there are over 700 undergraduate degree programs, thousands of courses, and a growing number of Master's and Ph.D. programs. Next year, the University of South Carolina will add another program to this rapidly growing field of study.

In June, the USC Board of Trustees and the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education each approved a new Bachelor of Arts Degree in Women's Studies to be offered on the Columbia campus. It will be the first B.A. in Women's Studies in South Carolina. The many steps in the process over the last two years have provided us with ample opportunities to consider the value of the degree and the program—to the students, to the wider University community, and to the state of South Carolina.

As we approach the 21st century, Women's Studies, although a fledgling field in the academy, is characteristically critiquing its intellectual and institutional foundations while clarifying its strengths and mission. The strengths of Women's Studies—and what our degree programs have to offer students of the future—are many:

Focus on gender and women: By focusing the learning experience on the social construct of gender and the perspectives of women, Women's Studies courses raise new questions and encourage students to question traditional explanations of women's and men's experiences

in many cultures and throughout history. In recent years, Women's Studies has increasingly focused on power relationships of gender as well as of race, class, sexuality, nation, and age — as research has revealed the interrelatedness of these systems of inequality and the common themes and dynamics that undergird them. Developing a critical vision-of traditional knowledge as well as of the institutions and disciplines in which we work —is central to Women's Studies. People who can develop a broad and complex understanding of the institutions in which they are situated can be excellent workers in a variety of settings but more importantly can forge their own ways more effectively in the ever changing workplaces of the future.

Interdisciplinarity: Women's Studies is self-consciously not disciplinary; it is interdisciplinary. In its original meaning, the word discipline meant training disciples. At their best today, the traditional academic disciplines provide in-depth training for students in the theories and methods of particular intellectual traditions. Yet, this depth of focus has all too often been accompanied by narrow and provincial ways of thinking that no longer satisfy our desires to know about the complex realities of the late 20th century. Women's Studies is one of many interdisciplinary ventures-ethnic studies, regional studies, area studies, marine studies, environmental studies--that have grown up in the last 30 years to meet the challenge of developing a more complex understanding of issues and solutions to problems. In contrast to the challenges of the disciplines, the challenge of interdisciplinarity is to provide scope and complexity by working across multiple disciplines



without developing a merely superficial understanding of issues. Thus, our goal is not to train disciples but rather independent thinkers who are self-reflective and critical and who understand the benefits of concentrating in a field (e.g., through double majors and minors) while they simultaneously come to see how the assumptions of various disciplines limit and shape the knowledge they produce.

Flexibility: The interdisciplinary and critical foci of Women's Studies both facilitate and require a kind of intellectual flexibility that is absolutely essential to work in the 21st century. To be successful in Women's Studies, students must learn the languages and methods of multiple disciplines, tolerance for other ways of thinking, to think in global rather than national frames, and to think inclusively-across disciplines as well as race, gender, class, sexuality, age and other dimensions that structure our worlds in hierarchical ways.

As we approach the 21st century, Women's Studies is poised to lead the academy in producing new knowledge and in developing scholars, activists, and students who are grounded in the depth of focus on gender and women and the scope and breadth of interdisciplinarity, and in intellectual and interpersonal flexibility.

## **Undergraduate Curriculum Expands**

The Women's Studies Program has expanded its undergraduate curriculum. In addition to its three core courses (WOST-III). Women in Culture, WOST-142. Women in Society, and WOST 113, Women and Their Bodiesin Health and Disease), the program also offers a variety of courses crosslisted with a number of academic disciplines: WOST 210/ANTH-210 The Human Cycle in Different Cultures WOST 3007 SOCY 301 Sociology of Sex Roles.
WOST 3017FSYC 301 Psychology of Marriage.
WOST 304/SOCY 304 Race Class Cender, and Sexuality.
WOST 305/SOCY 305 Sociology of the Family.
WOST 306/SOWK 305 Social Welfare Services for Women and Minorities WOST 307/Feminist Theory WOST 308/AFRO 308 African American Feminist Theory WOST 310/PSYC 310.Psychology of Women.
WOST 311/IOUR 311 Minorities, Women, and the Mass Media
WOST 320/CLAS 320 Women in Greco-Roman Antiquity.
WOST 351/ANTH 351 The Family in Cross-Cultural Perspective WOST 352/GINT: 352 Politics of Sex Roles WOST-358/ANTH-358 Gender, Culture, and Behavior WOST-399/Independent Study WOST 430/Topics in Women's Studies WOST 437/ENGL 437 Women Writers WOST 454/GINT 454 Women and the Law WOST 464/HIST 464 History of American Women WOST 499/Community Service Internship WOST 541/NURS 541-Issues in Women's Health WOST 555/ANTH 555/LING 541 Language and Gender Also, special topics courses are occasionally offered by various academic

## **Getting Ready for Sesqui: Retreat III**

departments and approved by Women's Studies

Thanks to continued support from the College of Liberal Arts and to the enthusiasm of affiliate faculty and graduate students, we will have our third annual retreat Nov. 12 and 13. This year, we will meet at Sesquicentennial State Park's Conference Center, where we will have the option of overnight accommodations. A Retreat Committee will soon be formed to plan activities that will make our third retreat a special and productive experience for all who participate.

At the April meeting of affiliate faculty and advisory committee members, interest was expressed in modifying the format of the first two years. In the past, we formed breakout groups to engage in open-ended brainstorming on curricular, programmatic, and research issues. This year, however, we are considering also breaking down into work groups that focus on the development of works-in-process by generating collective, interdisciplinary feedback on specific manuscripts, proposals, or course designs. This type of activity will bring concrete intellectual depth to an event that celebrates the far-ranging breadth of feminist scholarship as it is pursued and produced today.

## 2000 Women's Studies Conference

The 13th Annual Women's Studies Conference will be held Feb. 24 and 25, 2000. Please mark your calendars!

## Glymph

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Columbia and also suggested to Sue Rosser, then director of the Women's Studies Program, that a lecture be established in Freeman's memory.

Dr. Glymph, an assistant professor of history at Pennsylvania State University since 1995, earned her Ph.D. in history from Purdue University and served as an assistant professor of history at USC from 1991-1995. She specializes in U.S. economic history, 19th-century U.S. South, and slavery and emancipation. She is co-editor of the award-winning book Freedom: A Documentary History of Emancipation: The Wartime Genesis of Free Labor: The Lower South. Her recent articles include "This Species of Property: Female Slave Contrabands in the Civil War" and "African American Women in the Literary Imagination of Mary Boykin Chesnut." She is currently working on a book, titled The Substance of Power and the Meaning of Freedom: Southern Women in Slavery and Freedom.

Contributions to the Freeman lecture fund may be made to the USC Educational Foundation in care of USC Women's Studies, Flinn Hall, Columbia, SC 29208.

## **Bachelor's**

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students to the latest research, writing, and activism in each of these areas.

While we expect the degree to be officially available in spring 2000, prospective majors should be able to seek advisement beginning with the fall 1999 semester. The degree will be offered through the College of Liberal Arts, and specific information regarding degree requirements can be obtained from the liberal arts dean's office and the Women's Studies Program.

# 1999 Faculty/Staff Research Awards

Dr. Laura M. Ahearn, Department of Anthropology, received the **1999 Josephine Abney Research Award** in the amount of \$5,000 for her research project, "Birthing Culture: Changing Childbirth Practices and Beliefs in Nepal." Dr. Ahearn received her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan.

Her project is inherently interdisciplinary. Not only does it draw its methods and theoretical framework from four subdisciplines (cultural, linguistic, biological, and applied), but it also builds upon and contributes to work done by scholars in other fields, such as public health, women's studies, demography, geography, and sociology. In a village where many women still give birth alone in a cowshed in order to avoid polluting their husbands or in-laws, Dr. Ahearn's research has caused some families to

rethink how they want their daughters-in-law to give birth. Her research is aimed toward increasing the childbirth options for these women and to foster a positive attitude toward childbirth among villagers.

Dr. Lessie Jo Frazier, Department of History, received the 1999 Carol Jones Carlisle Research Award in the amount of \$1,000

for her research project "We Never Just Cooked: The Long-Term Ramifications of Women's Participation in Mexico's 1968 Student Movement." Dr. Frazier received her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan.

Her project focuses on Mexico and brings an international perspective to scholarly and activist understandings of the long-term ramifications of







Lessie Jo Frazier

women's participation in social movements of the 1960s. The project also addresses the theoretical implications of women's political participation, both on their own lives and on society as a whole, through a diachronic comparison of life history interviews taken a decade apart.

## Friends of Women's Studies

The following individuals and organizations have supported the Women's Studies Program Endowment through contributions from January 1996 to June 1999.

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## **Research Series**

The 1999-2000 Women's Studies Research Series will be presented. at-3:30 p.m. on the following dates

#### Wednesday, Sept. 22, 1999

Title: "Gender and Military Discipline in Chilean Cold War Prison Camps"

Speaker Dr. Lessie Jo Frazier, Department of History

#### Thursday, Oct. 21, 1999

Title: 'Be/'in' the Dance: The Cendered Choreography of Self Renewal in Paule Marshall's The Chosen Place, The Timeless

Speaker: Dr. Ingrid Reneau, Women's Studies and Department of

#### Wednesday, Nov. 17, 1999

Title: "Health Effects of Partner Violence During Pregnancy" Speaker: Dr. Ann Coker, School of Public Health

#### Thursday, Jan. 27, 2000

Title: "The Disembodied Woman How the Internet Changes Pornography"

Speaker Dr. Ina Roy, Department of Philosophy

#### Thursday, March 2, 2000

Title: "Students Creating New Knowledge Speakers: Graduate Student Panel

#### Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Htle: "Images of Social Workers in the Movies: Themes of Gender, Race, and Class" Speaker: Dr. Miriam Freeman, College of Social Work

## **Joint Hires**

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Upward Bound Program, in Hunter College's English Department, and at the LaGuardia Community College-CUNY Writing Center.

Newman received her Ph.D. in education from Texas A&M University in 1996. Since then, she has served as a research assistant professor at the Institute for Families in Society and assistant professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policies at the University of South Carolina. Newman has served on the Advisory and Graduate Committees of the Women's Studies Program for the last two years. Her research and teaching interests include feminist and critical pedagogical theory, representations of teachers in popular culture, history and philosophy of education, animals and nature in the curriculum, and schools and community.

Newman will offer a new graduate course on feminist curriculum and pedagogy and will teach feminist theory courses at the graduate and undergraduate levels. She is also working to develop articulation agreements between Women's Studies and the College of Education to support education students who are concentrating in Women's Studies and obtaining the graduate certificate.

One of the most dynamic areas of interest to our Women's Studies faculty and students is feminist pedagogy, and we are especially pleased to have Newman to guide our work. Likewise, our programmatic emphasis on race, class, gender, and sexuality will be greatly enhanced by Reneau's African and African Diaspora feminist scholarship and teaching. We welcome them to the program.

## **Brownbag Pedagogy Series**



The 1998–99 Brownbag Pedagogy Series, "Teaching for Social Justice," continued to pique the interest of fac-

students, friends in the communitv. The topics included "Transgressing Disciplinary Boundaries," facilitated by Dr. Faye V. Harrison (Women's Studies Department Anthropology); "Critical

Pedagogy for Transgressive Learning Communities," facilitated by Dr. Faye V. Harrison (Women's Studies and Department of Anthropology); "From Multiculturalism to Social Critique and Action," facilitated by Dr. Louise Jennings and Fred McDaniel (Department of Educational Psychology, College of Education); "Balancing Transmission and Inquiry Modes of Teaching," facilitated by Dr. Faye V. Harrison (Women's Studies and Department of Anthropology); "Inquiry-Based Pedagogy," facilitated by Drs. Carol Flake, Heidi Mills, and Jane White (College of Education and Center for Inquiry) along with Steffka Eddins (Marine Science and South Carolina Honors College); and "Feminist Counseling: A Multicultural Approach," facilitated by Dr. Kathy Evans (Department of Educational Psychology, College of Education).

The 1999-2000 series will continue in Flinn Hall:

- Wednesday, Sept., 15, 1999, noon
- •Thursday, Oct. 14, 1999, 12:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Oct. 27, 1999, noon
- •Tuesday, Nov. 16, 1999, 12:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Feb. 2, 2000, noon
- Thursday, Feb. 17, 2000, 12:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 15, 2000, noon
- •Tuesday, April 11, 2000, 12:30 p.m.

Topics and facilitators will be announced in advance. If you have an idea for a topic or would like to be a facilitator, please call Lynn Weber at *777-*4007.

# The Certificate Program's Seven Years of Good Luck

Although graduate courses in Women's Studies were inaugurated here at USC in 1987, the certificate program did not gain approval from the Commission on Higher Education until 1992. This program gave South Carolina its first postbaccalaureate program in Women's Studies and the Southeast region its first public institution conferring a graduate certificate in this field. And it made our Women's Studies Program a part of a national trend in which growing numbers of universities are acknowledging the profound impact of feminist scholarship by authorizing programs to confer graduate credentials, from certificates to doctoral degrees. These credentials attest to the respect being accorded feminist scholarship for the wide-ranging conceptual, analytical, and methodological tools it fashions for producing knowledge that marks a major departure from traditional "regimes of truth." Feminist modes of critical thinking and activist problem solving are being recognized as invaluable skills and practices needed by the next generations of educators, researchers, and practitioners in a broad spectrum of professions.

At a historic moment when the nation's social, demographic, and economic profiles are undergoing drastic shifts, higher education has a responsibility to promote greater awareness of the major dynamics of difference, inequality, and power reshaping the world. The certificate program helps students understand how ideologies and hierarchies of gender and sexuality operate within those broader contexts and interact with other salient distinctions, such as race and class. Our program is designed so that students will leave it better equipped with tools for building successful careers in academia as well as in the wider community, where understanding everyday

experiences of gender, race, class, and sexuality strengthens the ability to negotiate inequalities in health, education, labor force participation, political arenas, and general social well-being.

Seven years ago, the certificate program consisted of 14 courses. Today, we offer 25 (including those crosslisted and approved), with more being developed as new faculty are hired and affiliate faculty numbers grow. Since our beginning, 49 students have completed the program's requirements. This past May and August, three students graduated, while three others were eligible for graduation but had not yet filed for clearance. Today, there are nearly 40 students enrolled in the program.

During the 1998–99 academic year, we successfully recruited 11 new students, one of the most diverse cohorts in the program's history. Two of these students are from southern Africa and three are from sites within the African diaspora, Bermuda, the Netherlands Antilles, and the United States. We are committed to making a vigorous effort to recruit, retain, and graduate students interested in being a part of Women's Studies' newest phase of academic professionalization and public intellectual intervention.

In an attempt to communicate more effectively with our students, we have established a listsery that we encourage students to use proactively. If any graduate students have not received any messages, we do not have your current e-mail address. That can be easily corrected by sending a brief message to harrison-fe@sc.edu. Let's work together to create a dynamic feminist communicative network.

## **Call for Applications**

#### Josephine Abney and Carol Jones Carlisle Research Awards

Women's Studies its; seeking appli cations for the Josephine Abney Fellowship for Research and the Carol Jones Carlisle Research Award. These-awards are designed to encourage cutting edge; women centered research that is solidly grounded in Women's Studies perspectives. We invite-proposals that are consistent with the research mission of Women's Studies to reconceptualize existing knowledge and to create new knowledge about women and their experiences through the lens of gender and the prism of diversity. The research should be interdisciplinary or have interdisciplinary Implications and should reflect a commitment to improving the status of women.

- Both awards competitions are open to any full-time, permanent faculty or professional staff member.
- The Abney award is \$5,000; the Carlisle, \$1,000.
- Applications are due January 14, 2000, and are available in the WOST office.

#### Harriott Hampton Faucette Awards

Women's Studies also seeks applications for the Harriott Hampton Faucette Award, which is designed to assist Women's Studies graduate certificate students with research and professional development. The award is for a maximum of \$500. Applications must be submitted as a one-page proposal. The deadline for fall is Oct. 15, 1999; for spring, January 31, 2000.

For additional information about these awards or application forms, call-the Women's Studies Program Office at 777-4007. Forward applications to the Women's Studies Program, 201 Flinn Hall, Columbia, SC 29208.

## **Women's Studies Affiliate Faculty**

Women's Studies implemented a formal faculty affiliates program this academic year, and 54 faculty members from the Columbia campus and three faculty members from regional campuses were given three year renewable appointments as affiliates. All affiliates conduct gender focused research and/or teaching and have agreed to provide service to the program during their ferm. If you are interested in becoming an affiliate, please contact Jackie McClary at 777-4007. Below are our current affiliates:

#### Columbia Campus

Dr. Laura M. Ahearn Department of Anthropology

Dr. Barbara E. Ainsworth
Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Dr. Janice L. Bacon Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Dr. Pamela E. Barnett Department of English/African-American Studies

Dr. Sally Boyd Continuing Education

Dr. Kate F. Brown Department of English

Dr. Thomas J. Brown
Department of History/Southern Studies

**Dr. Ann L. Coker** Department of Epidemiology and Biostanistics

Dr. Susan Courtney
Department of English

Dr. Susan Cutter Department of Geography

Dr. Joan Curningham South Carolina Canter Center/School of Public Health

Dr. Cynthia J. Davis Department of English

Dr. Daniela Di Cecco Department of French and Classics

Dr. Marcia-Anne Dobres Department of Anthropology

Dr. Kathy M. Evans Department of Educational Psychology

Dr. Paula R. Feldman Department of English

Dr. Dörothy S. Fidler University 101

Dr. Carol L. Flake -College of Education

Dr. Lessie Jo Frazier Department of History

**Dr. Mirjam Freeman** College of Social Work Dr. Patricia P. Gilmartin Department of Geography

Dr. Constance Hendricks College of Nursing

Dr. Barbara A. Hirsham Institute for Families in Society

Dr. Judith Giblin James Department of English

Dr. Alice Bee Kasakoff Department of Authropology

Dr. Natalie H. Kaufman Department of Government and International Studies

Dr. Manuela K. Kress Department of Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Science

Dr. Ramona Lagos Department of Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese

Dr. Nancy Lane
Department of French and Classics

Dr. Kevin Lewis Department of Religious Studies

Dr. María C. Mabrey Department of Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese

Dr. Marlene C. Mackey College of Nursing

Dr. Ed Madden Department of English

Dr. Kay McFarland
Department of Internal Medicine

Dr. C. André Mizell Department of Sociology

Dr. Joann B. Morton College of Griminal Justice

Dr. Robert Newman Department of English

**Dr. Vicky Newman** Department of Educational Leadership and Policies/Women's Scudies

**Dr. Penina Njuguna** Department of Germanic, Slavic, and East Asian Languages and Eneratures Dr. Deborah Parra-Medina School of Public Health/Women's Studies

**Dr. Donna L. Richter** Department of Health Promotion and Education

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**Dr. Judy Vanslyke Turk** College of Journalism

Dr. Carolyn A. West Department of Biology

Dr. Fran C. Wheeler : Prevention Research Center

Dr. Judith Whiring Fickling Institute for Families in Society

Dr. Marlene A. Wilson Department of Pharmacology

Dr. Laura R. Wolfver
Department of Government and
International Studies

#### Regional Campuses

Dr. Pat Christensen College of Nursing Spacianhurg

**Dr. Lynn Mulkey** Department of Sociology-Beaufort

**Dr. Laura M. Zaidman** Department of English-Sumrer

## We Want To Hear From You!

	Women's Studies Program 201 Flinn Hall
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Please share with us your accomplishments, interests, and ideas for future programming. We'd also like your input on speakers and topics of interest to you.	Ideas/Topics of Interest:

## **Mission Statement**

University of South Carolina Women's Studies Program

Women's Studies at the University of South Carolina promotes understanding of the diverse array of women's experiences through a complete program of teaching, research, and service to the University, the local community, the state, and the nation. Through its research mission, Women's Studies reconceptualizes existing knowledge and creates new knowledge through the lens of gender and the prism of diversity. Through its teaching mission, Women Studies shares this knowledge with students so that they learn to think critically, to communicate effectively, to solve problems, and to interpret human experiences. Emerging from an activist tradition, Women's Studies serves University, local, state, and national communities by acting as a resource and guide for issues related to women and gender. Our research, teaching, and service missions interweave as we create, share, and apply the knowledge, skills, and values that promote the full participation of women in society.

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Dr. Faye Harrison Graduate Director of Women's Studies

> Rosa Thorn Program Coordinator

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