

N·E·T·W·O·R·C

News Exchange
through the Wo/Men
on the Rutgers Campuses

Fall 1991

Jacqueline Pitanguy Appointed Fifth Laurie New Jersey Chair Occupant

Internationally-known women's rights activist Jacqueline Pitanguy has been appointed to the Blanche, Edith, and Irving Laurie New Jersey Chair in Women's Studies at Douglass College for 1991-1992.



photo by Nick Romanenko

Jacqueline Pitanguy

Her year-long appointment will be followed in 1992-1993 by Molaria Ogundipe-Leslie, a Nigerian writer, scholar, and activist.

Pitanguy is a social scientist and activist. From 1986-1989 she served as president of Brazil's National Council for Women's Rights, the first federal organization in that country to improve conditions for women. She has also been a leader in the fight to outlaw defense of honor as justification for

murder. Until a recent decision by Brazil's Supreme Court, the defense of honor, although not part of that country's legal code, had been used successfully by thousands of men on trial for murdering their wives. As president of the National Council for Women's Rights, Pitanguy also promoted the establishment of special police stations for women that handle complaints of rape and domestic violence.

In 1990, Pitanguy founded CEPIA (Citizenship: Studies, Information, Action), a

"... If we look at history from the perspective of exclusion, we can trace an international, unofficial history of women's resistance."

nonprofit, nongovernmental organization that does research in such areas as violence, reproductive health, human rights, and the environment and evaluates public policies and legislation. She was recently named cochairwoman of a national commission on citizenship and reproduction in Brazil.

While at Rutgers, Pitanguy will continue research and writing, meet with faculty and students, and give lectures throughout the state and nation. Her inaugural address on October 10, 1991 was entitled "Exclusion and Resistance: An Historical Overview and the Brazilian Experience." In addition, in the spring she will conduct the Laurie New Jersey seminar on "Women, Power and Social Change." The seminar is open, on a competitive basis, to undergraduate and graduate students, scholars, activists, and practitioners within commuting distance of Douglass campus.

Home at Last

June 1, 1991 signaled the beginning of a new era for three women's studies programs on the Douglass College campus. The offices of the Rutgers Institute for Research on Women (IRW), the Laurie New Jersey Chair in Women's Studies at Douglass College, and the Center for Women's Global Leadership moved to a new home on campus at 27 Clifton Avenue. The facility, which was destroyed by fire over a year ago, has been rebuilt and now serves as a center of activity for women's programs.

On October 3, 1991 members of the Rutgers and New Jersey women's studies communities officially celebrated the opening of the building. The event also kicked-off the capital campaign in honor of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of Douglass College, which hopes to raise monies for a number of Douglass programs. Among them is an additional building for the property which would house the Women's Studies Program, Faculty of Arts and Sciences - New Brunswick, and other related activities.

Officials at the ceremonies also announced the launching of the first university-based Institute for Women's Leadership, a cooperative venture of a number of programs based at Douglass College. Partners in the new institute include the Center for the American Woman and Politics, Center for Woman's Global Leadership, Institute for Research on Women, New Brunswick Faculty of Arts and Sciences Women's Studies Program, Laurie New Jersey Chair in Women's Studies, and Douglass Advisory Services for Women. The new institute will address growing concern about the scarcity of women in policy-making positions by developing educational programs for training future women leaders and research agendas related to women in leadership roles in the United States and globally.

Mark Your Calendars!

The Tenth Annual Celebration of Our Work Conference is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19, 1992 at Hickman Hall on the Douglass campus of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Details to follow.

*" I think the institute
provided the opportunity
to feel really a part of a
bigger international group
of women, with differences
but with the same interest
and goals . . . "*

*At left: International
Women's Leadership
Institute participants
and staff.*



International Women's Leadership Institute

The Center for Women's Global Leadership (previously called the Center for Global Issues and Women's Leadership) convened its first International Women's Leadership Institute from June 2-14, 1991, at Douglass College. Twenty-three women working to end gender violence in their regions and countries participated. They represented women's leadership at the grassroots, public-policy, and judiciary levels from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East, Western and Eastern Europe, the Pacific, and North America.

The twelve-day institute included panels, workshops, and public events exploring ways to make women's perspectives on gender violence more visible and effective in public policy debates. Panels with outside resource people were held on the topics of "Gender Violence, Development, Militarism and the State," "Race, Culture, Religion and Family in Relation to Violence Against Women," "Women's Health and Sexuality," and "The Strategic Role of Human Rights and International Law in Addressing Gender Violence." Working groups then developed coordinated international and local strategies for combatting violence in relation to five areas: human rights, development, health, education, and the law.

Seven institute participants spoke at an International Speakout at Douglass College Student Center on June 7, 1991 entitled "No More Violence: Women Reclaim their Human Rights" attended by over 100 people from the New Jersey-New York area.

On June 14, participants reported on the conclusions of the institute at the International Women's Tribune Centre in New York to women working in human rights, development, and women's organizations in the

United States, and to representatives from the U.N. and funding agencies.

As part of the strategies developed by the working groups, the institute participants also launched a coordinated global campaign of sixteen Days of Activism Against Gender Violence with the slogan "Violence Against Women Violates Human Rights." This campaign will run from November 25, 1991 (The International Day of Protest Against

*" . . . It was empowering to meet you (the
Center for Women's Global Leadership
staff) and the women of the Institute.*

*Sisterhood is global . . . Networking on
violence is a central hope . . . "*

— 1991 Institute Participant

Violence Against Women originated in Latin America) to December 10, 1991 (Human Rights Day), and will include the anniversary of the Montreal Massacre in Canada, December 6. During these sixteen days, each institute participant will coordinate a special event or series of events in her region. Other groups around the world are being encouraged to coordinate events as well.

The Center for Women's Global Leadership will sponsor events in the New Jersey-New York area during the sixteen days to highlight the relationship between gender violence and the violation of human rights.

Useful Phone Numbers

Associate Alumnae of Douglass
908/247-0700

Center for the American
Woman and Politics
908/828-2210

Center for Women's Global
Leadership
908/932-8782

Consortium for Educational Equity
908/932-2071

Douglass Project
908/932-9197

Faculty of Planning, Graduate
Department of Urban Planning and
Policy Development
908/932-4005

Institute for Research on Women
908/932-9072

Laurie New Jersey Chair in
Women's Studies
908/932-6948

Women's Studies – Camden
609/757-6089 or 6080

Women's Studies – New Brunswick
908/932-9331

Women's Studies – Newark
201/648-5817 or 5860

IRW Visiting Research Associates

Heidrun Schorcht

The Institute for Research on Women (IRW) is pleased to report the affiliation of Heidrun Schorcht as a Visiting Research Associate. A professor of American Studies at Friedrich-Schiller Universität in Jena, FRG, Schorcht spent the summer at IRW studying women's political activism in the United States. She is the author of numerous articles on feminist and peace movements in the United States as well as coauthor of the *Dictionary of Political and Social Life in Britain and the United States*.

It is Schorcht's belief, now shared by many American Studies scholars in Germany, that the political activism and achievements of American women have served as a model for women all over the world. "For example," she states, "before reunification, feminists in eastern Germany had few opportunities to voice their opinions. The one legitimate outlet available to them was scholarly publication concerning women in the West."

Continuing this tradition of learning from western women, Schorcht came to the United States to investigate changes in the social, economic, and legal status of American women in the political and cultural climate of the period 1970-1990 and to test her ideas through interviews with American women of different social classes, ethnic groups, and political orientations.

Schorcht's summer visit to IRW was sponsored by The International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) which facilitates academic exchange between East European and American scholars. She is the third East European scholar hosted by the IRW.

Frances Oppel

Frances Oppel, Lecturer in Humanities at Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia, and 1983 Rutgers Ph.D. in English, has been a Visiting Research Associate at the IRW since July 1991. She has written on the subject of women's poetry and is, most recently, the author of *Mask and Tragedy: Yeats and Nietzsche, 1902-10* (1987).

Oppel returns to New Brunswick to prepare a monograph on the representation of women in Nietzsche's *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*. Unlike previous feminist scholars who have labeled Nietzsche's texts misogynist, Oppel believes, following Derrida, that "Nietzsche's texts themselves, in subverting logical structures, open new subject positions for their readers." Through a rhetorical analysis of the appropriation of the name of "woman" for "philosophy" or "truth" and an investigation of women's responses to the text from its publication to the present, Oppel proposes to define "the new notion of sexuality" which she believes Nietzsche constructs through rhetorical strategies which simultaneously disrupt and parody conventional male/female relations. Among recent commentators on Nietzsche, as well as Derrida, Oppel takes up Luce Irigaray's "lover's quarrel" with Nietzsche in *Marine Lover* (1980; just translated from the French, 1991), in which Irigaray criticizes Nietzsche's concepts of the will to power, the superman, and the eternal return as both sublimations of his fear of death, and repressions of his own wish "to be woman."

Pamela Quaggiotto

Pamela Quaggiotto, assistant professor of anthropology and Women's Studies Program Coordinator at Randolph-Macon Woman's College, will join other IRW Visiting Research Associates later this fall.

Quaggiotto has written and lectured on the subject of "Sicilian Food Ritual." Her primary interest is in interjecting a feminist perspective into anthropological interpretations of ritual as text.

While at the IRW, Quaggiotto will be preparing a monograph, "Altars of Food to Saint Joseph: Women's Ritual in Sicily." Her study analyzes a ritual organized by contemporary women in Rosaforte, Sicily in the context of class relations and the global economy and considers both the possibilities and limits of expression and action available to women within a male-controlled religion.

Quaggiotto's visit to the IRW is being funded by a 1991 American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship for Recent Recipients of the Ph.D.

Susan Hallgarth and Soon-Young Yoon

Susan Hallgarth and Soon-Young Yoon, who have previously been IRW Visiting Research Associates, continue their affiliations. Hallgarth is working on a study of Willa Cather, while Yoon is investigating the relationship between Asian women's movements, women's studies, and health.

HOUSING WANTED: Visiting scholar needs furnished two-bedroom apartment or house within commuting distance of campus and close proximity to shopping, etc., for academic year 1992-1993. Call Ferris Olin at Laurie New Jersey Chair offices 908/932-6948 with information.

NEW Leadership

Involving young women in politics and public leadership was the theme as twenty-three students and fifteen faculty or staff advisers from twelve colleges and universities around the country converged on the Center for the American Woman and Politics (CAWP) for the first of four summer institutes under a Kellogg Foundation grant. The program, entitled NEW Leadership (National Education for Women's Leadership) was a joint effort of CAWP and the Public Leadership Education Network (PLEN), a consortium of women's colleges working together to prepare women for public leadership.

Participating institutions were six PLEN member colleges and six universities chosen with an eye on geographical and institutional diversity. In addition to Douglass College, the participants were: Agnes Scott College, Decatur, GA; Brown University, Providence, RI; College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, MN; Lehman College, City University of New York, Bronx, NY; Mount St. Mary's College, Los Angeles, CA; Penn State University, University Park, PA; San Diego State University, San Diego, CA; Stephens College, Columbia, MO; Sweet Briar College, Sweet

Briar, VA; and University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR.

Highlights of the program included: a trip to New York City to meet former Congresswoman Bella Abzug and Manhattan Borough President Ruth Messinger; a visit to Washington D.C. with opportunities to meet with several Congresswomen and chat with Bobbie Kilberg, a deputy assistant to President Bush; a workshop on racism and heterosexism; speeches by numerous women in public leadership such as former Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, National Women's Political Caucus Chair, Sharon Rodine, and former New Jersey Transportation Commissioner Hazel Gluck; training in public speaking, making a point, and "working a room"; and speeches, panels or workshops on a wide range of themes related to public leadership.

Back on their own campuses, the students, working with their advisers, are undertaking projects designed to test and hone their leadership skills through community service or action. Next summer they will return to New Brunswick to report on their projects and to serve as mentors to a new group of students from twelve different colleges and universities.

Women's Studies - Newark

This fall the Women's Studies Program at Newark plans a series of talks by faculty who have been involved in the Opening Project on the Integration of Gender, Race and Class. These presentations will focus on pedagogical implications and implementation. Also planned is a series of videotapes to be coordinated with ongoing women's studies courses aimed at bringing the debates on multiculturalism to the attention of students.

Anna Quindlen, *New York Times* columnist and author, will give a talk on November 7, 1991 and in the spring the program will sponsor its Fourth Annual Women and Popular Culture Series.

Both Sides Now: Women, Long Term Care, and the Sandwich Generation

A frequent topic in popular magazines is the "Sandwich Generation," people who find they have financial, emotional, and often physical responsibility for both dependent elderly relatives and dependent children. What is often an unstated fact is that this is truly a woman's issue: on one side, women

are most often the elderly relative in need of care; on the other side, women are usually the caregivers for elderly relatives in the home, even when both husband and wife work outside the home.

A one-day conference, "Both Sides Now: Women, Long Term Care, and the Sandwich Generation," sponsored jointly by the American Association of University Women, New Jersey, and the Associate Alumnae of Douglass College, was held on September

28 at Douglass College to explore such issues.

The program included morning panels of individuals currently caring for elderly relatives and dependent children, and professionals in long term care who reviewed the medical/social, financial and philosophical issues, and proposed solutions. Afternoon workshops focused on caregiving, financial and legal services, and how to find and use nursing home and home care services.

Contributors:

Fran Bartkowski
Charlotte Bunch
Stephanie Girard
Cora Kaplan
Kathy Kleeman
Therese McQuarrie
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Elizabeth O'Connell
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Third National Forum for Women State Legislators

November 1991 will be a landmark month on CAWP's calendar. From November 14 - 17 the center will convene the third national Forum for Women State Legislators bringing to San Diego elected women from across the nation along with issue activists, party and organization leaders, journalists, scholars, and representatives of the business, labor, and foundation communities.

The aim of the forum is to increase lawmakers' effectiveness by examining such questions as: What impact have women lawmakers had on the nation's policy agenda, on electoral politics, and on the legislature as an institution? How can political women bring more new women into politics? Where is the next generation of women leaders? What is the cutting edge thinking about pressing policy issues, especially those that most affect women and their families? What are the most effective strategies and tools for women candidates?

At the forum, CAWP will also release the findings from a major four-year research project on the impact of women in public office. Funded by the Charles H. Revson Foundation, the project includes a CAWP study of women state legislators on research conducted by eleven grantees on different aspects of the question of impact. The findings will be presented in a series of reports aimed at a general audience; later, they will also be published in an edited scholarly volume.

Creating Women Theme of 1991-1992 Thinking About Women Series

"Creating Women: Subject-Object Relations in Feminist Art and Scholarship" is the title of the 1991-1992 IRW Thinking About Women seminar series organized by Cora Kaplan (English, Rutgers). In an attempt to engage the questions raised by women's representations of "woman," both historically and in the present, the series brings together feminist artists, poets, critics, cultural historians, anthropologists, and social theorists to talk about how their work helps us to understand the axes of difference that both divide and connect women.

The series began on October 1, 1991 with Mary Kelly, an artist and lecturer with the Whitney Museum Independent Study Program, who discussed her recent work "Historia." Other dates in the series:

November 12
Elin Diamond
English, Rutgers
"Mimesis in Syncopated Time: Reading the Theatre of Adrienne Kennedy"

December 3
Meredeth Turshen
Urban Studies and Community Health, Rutgers
"Women and AIDS in Africa: An Outsider's View"

February 6
Cheryl Clarke
Poet and Assistant Dean
Rutgers College Office of the Dean
"Rethinking Lesbians"

March 5
Hazel Carby
English, Afro-American Studies and American Studies, Yale University
"Black Women, Sexual Ideologies and the Cultural Policing of the Body"

April 7
Ruth Behar
Anthropology, University of Michigan
"The Talking Serpent: Making a Book Out of a Mexican Woman's Historias"

The seminars given by Mary Kelly, Hazel Carby, and Ruth Behar are cosponsored by Rutgers' Department of English and the Center for Critical Analysis of Contemporary Culture. Mary Kelly's lecture was also cosponsored by Rutgers' Department of Art History and Department of Visual Arts.

Lectures are held in the conference room at 27 Clifton Avenue, Douglass campus. Receptions begin at 4:00 P.M. and lectures at 4:30 P.M.

"Thinking About Women" is an annual series sponsored by the Institute for Research on Women and designed to address current issues from an interdisciplinary perspective.



Focus on Future Women Scientists

Cooperative Learning Science Projects

Science has an image problem! This year, the Consortium for Educational Equity will help teachers and parents debunk the image of white men in white lab coats working alone in a laboratory through parental involvement and cooperative learning science programs. The Family Science and Science Teams programs seek to rejuvenate elementary science teachers and the science curriculum.

Chosen as one of three Rutgers' New Jersey Department of Higher Education grants, Family Science, an after school, hands-on, science program helps develop an interest in science and science skills in a new generation of American students. This parental involvement program seeks to increase the study of science by all students beginning in kindergarten through eighth grade, particularly female and minority students.

Now in its fourth year, Family Science activities are open-ended and use inexpensive, readily available materials to encourage parents and children to incorporate science into their daily lives.

Fourth and fifth graders from around the state are now creating fossil fuel power plants and investigating the environment thanks to the successful Science Teams program. Recently funded by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, this cooperative learning program is designed to increase elementary teacher's skills in environmental

hands-on science and in cooperative learning. To extend the enormous success of the Science Teams training to schools all over the country, a video and a teacher's manual are available and will be disseminated nationally.

"Participating in DSI helped me to develop an eye for the many math and science fields that are out in the real world. It also taught me how to communicate with people from a different world than I come from."

— 1991 DSI Participant

Summer Science Institute for High School Women

For the fourth year, the Douglass Science Institute for High School Women (DSI) helped forty-six young women from around the state to explore opportunities in math, science, and engineering. It was organized by the Douglass Project for Rutgers Women in Math, Science, and Engineering.

Students attending the institute were selected from an applicant pool of 467 young women. The forty-six participants represented both public and private, and urban and suburban high schools, as well as diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds. During the Institute, which ran from June 23–July 3, 1991, the students resided in the

Bunting-Cobb Math, Science, and Engineering Hall, Douglass campus. For many of the students it was their first time away from home and the experience gave them a taste of college life, independence, and responsibility.

The academic program was rigorous and intensive. During their eleven-day stay at Douglass, students attended math, physics, and biology classes and worked on various projects. The mathematical activities included working with the imaginary and complex number systems, as well as learning about Euclidean, hyperbolic, and elliptic geometry. The students were then asked to investigate the study of hydrocarbons using the information they learned in class. The physics and biology classes provided students with the opportunity to do some "hands on" laboratory work. By assembling wires, amplifiers, and batteries, and learning how to use a soldering iron, each participant in the physics lab constructed a photophone. Biology lab proved to be just as exciting and informative. The students learned and practiced immunological techniques such as the Ouchterlony test and Immunoelectrophoresis to detect the presence of antigens and to determine the similarity between related antigens.

Thanks to the Hoechst Celanese Corporation, the Douglass Science Institute is planning to hold programs during the 1991–1992 academic year for those young women it could not accommodate during the summer program. The students will again do "hands on" science, explore numerous career options in math, science, and engineering, and become part of the network of support offered to young women in New Jersey by DSI.

New Curriculum Gender and Development

The Faculty of Planning, Department of Urban Planning and Policy Development, is adding a new concentration to its existing master of science degree program. This one-year masters program offers training in international development planning. The program is designed both for mid-career professionals from developing nations who seek formal education in planning and for experienced U.S. nationals seeking to further their careers in international development planning. Beginning fall 1992, in addition to the curriculum in regional development and developing nations, the department will offer a concentration in Gender and Development.

Although a few graduate programs in the United States offer courses in women and development, Rutgers is the first to create a masters degree program in this field. The curriculum consists of a core of courses in development theory and planning methods, and an opportunity to specialize in a

discipline such as public health. An oral or written comprehensive examination is required for graduation. Students are accepted once per year, in the fall term.

Gender and Development

Since the early 1970s, two major forces—women and development and global feminism—have shaped and redefined issues of women and society internationally. These two trends came together in the 1980s, as feminism expanded in the Third World and as its leadership had more impact on women's movements globally. Much of the formative interaction between feminism and women in development took place in the context of the U.N. Decade for Women (1976–1985). At the beginning, women saw development and equality as separate, but by the end of the decade, there was increasing emphasis on the interaction between issues of equality and peace (and its opposite, violence) and growth and development.

There was also an impulse to redefine questions of development in relation to gender.

The master of science program continues the critique of conventional development policies by encouraging students to question their effects on women and to challenge their underlying assumptions. The approach is to give students the analytic and technical skills necessary to both reappraise concepts and construct alternatives. An important dimension is the recognition that planners need grounding in one or more disciplines. The women's studies resources at Rutgers cover a broad range of subjects—from anthropology to zoology. An additional resource is the Center for Women's Global Leadership which provides opportunities to work on issues of gender and public policy internationally.