

Laurie New Jersey Chair Visiting Scholars Welcomed

Gwyn Kirk and Saba Mebrahtu are the recipients of the Spring 1989 visiting fellowships awarded to scholars under the auspices of the Laurie New Jersey Chair in Women's Studies at Douglass College. They arrived at Rutgers in January and are working with Charlotte Bunch, the current occupant of this Chair, as leaders of the Spring Seminar entitled "Feminist Perspectives on Leadership, Power and Diversity." During their stay at Rutgers they will be pursuing their own independent research projects, participating in the Laurie New Jersey Spring Seminar and addressing various groups.

Gwyn Kirk is a sociologist with a doctoral degree from the London School of Economics and taught for over five years in Great Britain. For nearly a decade she was an organizer and activist in community campaigns in parts of inner London affected by gentrification. These included campaigns for affordable housing, housing designed for and by women, community parks and gardens, public open space that is safe for women, and the participation of community groups, tenants and workers on city government decision-making.

In 1983 she became a founding member of the Greenham Women Against Cruise Missiles, originally formed to bring a lawsuit to challenge the legality of the deployment of cruise missiles in Britain. For the past seven years she has been involved with the Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp in England, speaking extensively in the United States and in Britain to raise monies and political support for this group of women. Earlier she spent time in Third World countries (Papua/New Guinea, Tanzania, Malawi, and Peru) exploring and linking the issues of Third World women and development. Three years ago she helped organize *WomanEarth*, a small multi-racial network of women in the United States with parity in numbers between women of color and white women based in Stanford. Having parity, Gwyn Kirk explained, means



From left to right: Saba Mebrahtu, Charlotte Bunch, Gwyn Kirk

Steve Goodman

that no one group dominates and no one is a token at someone else's event. *WomanEarth* will hold its second gathering in Spring 1989 and is planning to publish a newsletter called *WomanEarth Review*.

She has published in various journals on women, peace and politics. Her books include *Greenham Women Everywhere* (with Alice Cook) (South End Press, 1983) and *Urban Planning in a Capitalist Society* (Croom Helm, 1980). Currently, she is working on another book of essays entitled *Blood, Bones, Connective Tissue: Essays on Feminist Peace Politics* which should be ready for publication by the end of 1989. While at Rutgers she will be writing these essays and lecturing on racism and nonviolence/armed struggle.

Saba Mebrahtu, a nutritional anthropologist, is completing her doctoral studies at South Dakota State University. Born and raised in Ethiopia, she moved to the Cameroons when she was twelve. She came to the United States to go to college and received a Bachelor of Science degree in biology and

chemistry from Sioux Falls College and Master of Science in nutrition and biology from South Dakota State University. Finding that laboratory work was "a bit too removed from the real world," she shifted to more applied research on the multifaceted causes of child malnutrition. This made her realize that she needed additional social science training to supplement her scientific background. Shortly after beginning her doctoral program in rural sociology, she was awarded a Ford Foundation Fellowship to study at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture in Ibadan, Nigeria.

During the past two years she has been doing field work on the linkages between child malnutrition, agricultural patterns and women's work in three Nigerian villages. In the process of doing this research her interest was sparked by the potential role of women's organizations in affecting community decisionmaking in the village despite their exclusion from the formal power structure. "I discovered that working collectively

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East European Visiting Scholar



Anna Titkow

The first Fellowship for Eastern European Women has been awarded to Dr. Anna Titkow, Associate Professor in the Department of Medical Sociology of the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Dr. Titkow will be in residence at the Institute for Research on Women at Rutgers University from January 1 through June 30, 1989. During this period she will be working on her research project entitled "Sex Identity and Social Change in Eastern Europe."

After receiving her doctoral degree from Warsaw University, her dissertation was published as a book entitled *Medical Behavior: Warsaw Study*. A few years later, in 1982, her study, *The Child and Values*, was also published. In this work Dr. Titkow explored the contradictory orientations toward children in Poland. She is currently completing her research on a theory of social stress and its applications to the analysis of the macro-processes in Polish society. One of the areas of her investigation is social change as a stressor, and, more particularly, the occupational activation of women as a source of stress. She is the chair of the Medical Sociology Committee of the Polish Sociological Association and a member of the executive committee of the European Medical Sociology Association.

In 1981 Dr. Titkow received a grant from the Institute of Social Studies of Columbia University and worked with Professor Cynthia Epstein as her advisor. While in New York, she met Robin Morgan and was asked to contribute to her anthology entitled *Sisterhood Is Global*. She also became one of the co-founders of the "Sisterhood Is Global" International Institute. Dr. Titkow looks forward to meeting with members of the Rutgers community during her stay in the United States.

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through women's organizations might be a more effective way of bringing about change rather than dealing with individuals on a one-to-one basis. Women's organizations need to be strengthened in their efforts to decrease their workloads and to improve child nutrition." She concluded, "We know relatively little about women's lives in rural Africa. If agricultural and nutritional development policies are to succeed, we need to become better informed about women's decisionmaking and multiple work roles."

Prior to the Ford Foundation Fellowship, Saba Mebrahtu worked as a nutritional anthropologist in the Dietary Management of Diarrhea project of the Johns Hopkins University, Laduba, Nigeria. She has also taught and lectured both here in the United States and in Nigeria. She is the co-author of a number of articles on soybean germination and cereal fermentation. For the Laurie New Jersey Chair seminar she will be discussing her findings on women's role in the household economy and leadership in rural Nigeria. She plans to continue research work on cropping patterns, women's work and child nutrition in Subsaharan Africa.

Gender Integration Project Holds Spring Conference

"Integrating Diversity into Gender: Ethnicity, Class and Culture" provides the theme for the Spring conference of The New Jersey Project on April 28, 1989, at Mercer County College. It will feature Dr. Beverly Guy-Sheftall of Spellman College and Dr. James Anderson of Indiana University of Pennsylvania, both nationally recognized for their work in this area.

Two years ago The New Jersey Project: Integrating the Scholarship of Gender was launched with a three-and-a-half year grant by the New Jersey Department of Higher Education. Since that time this project has broken new ground and gained local and national recognition for its work in faculty development, curriculum revision and networking across the state system of higher education. To date 18 colleges and universities have sent faculty teams to intensive two-week summer institutes on integrating the scholarship of gender into the undergraduate curriculum. In addition several faculty members

IRW Director Receives Award for NJ Project



Ann Haupt of NJCUCWE presents award to Carol Smith, Director of IRW

On October 20, 1988 the New Jersey College and University Coalition on Women's Education (NJCUCWE) presented the 1988 Rhoda Freeman Recognition Award to The New Jersey Project. Dr. Carol Smith, as the Director of the Institute for Research on Women and of The New Jersey Project, and Ferris Olin, Executive Officer of IRW and Associate Director of the project, received plaques recognizing their contributions for advancing the interests of New Jersey

women in education. Dr. Judith Johnston of Rider College was also a recipient in recognition of her significant contribution as the Project Coordinator during its first year. Chancellor T. Edward Hollander and Assistant Chancellor Edward Goldberg of the New Jersey Department of Higher Education were also recognized for their leadership and support in funding The New Jersey Project.

have received competitive grants from DHE for this work on their campuses. The New Jersey Project will hold a reunion in fall 1989.

The conference is open to the public. For information, call Dr. Corann Okorodudu, Project Coordinator, at 201/932-9072.

Writing Contest Honors New Jersey Women

On March 16, 1989 awards were presented to the winners of the "Women of Worth" writing contest, co-sponsored by the Rutgers University Consortium for Educational Equity and the Institute for Research on Women. The contest is held annually in celebration of National Women's History Month. The top award for the 9th and 10th grade students went to AnnMarie Pirchner for her essay on Katherine Elkus White, the first woman mayor of Red Bank. The winner of the 11th and 12th grade category was Minh Hoang for his essay on Bichlien Lien Hoang, his mother. The celebration was held at AT&T in Basking Ridge. Barbara Boggs Sigmund, keynote speaker, presented the awards.

Students in grades 9-12 in schools around the state submitted essays about a nineteenth or twentieth century New Jersey woman who succeeded in personal and/or community endeavors.

Bara Rosenheck, the project's coordinator, stated that "the contest is an ideal activity for high school teachers and students during March because participating districts receive lesson plans, resources and supplementary materials for developing their women's history curriculum." In addition, in past years this contest has attracted the participation of not only students and teachers, but also parents and community leaders. For further information, call 201/932-9072.

Seventh Annual "Celebration of Our Work" Conference

A panel of feminists from England, Liberia, and Poland will open the program of the Institute for Research on Women's seventh annual "Celebration of Our Work" conference on Tuesday, May 23. Dr. Gwyn Kirk, an urban sociologist, Dr. Corann Okorodudu, a psychologist, and Dr. Anna Titkow, a sociologist, will discuss "The Personal is Political — Globally" by sharing their personal experiences as scholars and activists in the global feminist movement.

Thirty workshops throughout the day will also reflect the overall theme of the conference, "Mosaics of Inclusion." Panels on a broad spectrum of topics will deal with reproductive issues, peace as a feminist issue, "mosaics" of psychology, politics and women in

New Jersey, gender issues in college admission testing, gender equality in the church, cultural perspectives on "disabilities," sex differences in power and conflict handling, women in fiction, female murderers in New Jersey, women in science and math, AIDS and women and children, and many other issues.

The conference will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Hickman Hall, Douglass College Campus. The pre-conference registration fee of \$20 (\$15 for students) includes lunch, refreshments, and a conference booklet. Registration at the door will be \$25 and \$20, respectively. The pre-conference registration deadline is May 12. For information, call the Institute for Research on Women at 201/932-9072.



Contributors

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