

Pembroke Center Associates

Newsletter

National Council for Research on Women Honors President Ruth Simmons



Ruth Simmons

On February 28th, the National Council for Research on Women (NCRW) honored Brown University President Ruth J. Simmons with the “Making a Difference for Women Award” in New York City. NCRW created the award to celebrate outstanding leaders who are making a difference in the lives of women and girls.

The Pembroke Center is a charter member of the National Council for Research on Women, a network of 120 leading research, policy, and advocacy centers committed to improving the lives of women and

girls. NCRW works to share the latest news, information, and strategies needed to ensure fully informed debates, effective policies, and inclusive practices. In partnership with business, academic, non-profit, and philanthropic organizations, NCRW advances collaborative and transformative change, both nationally and globally. As a member of NCRW, the Pembroke Center shares its research expertise with the network and participates in conferences.

NCRW chose to honor Ruth Simmons “for her outstanding contributions to higher education and as a remarkable role model for women’s transformational leadership,” said Vivienne Heston-

Demirel, director of communications for the National Council for Research on Women. The annual award was also bestowed on Ed Gilligan, vice president for American Express. The event, held in New York City, was attended by a wide cross section of leaders from business, philanthropy, higher education, and the non-profit fields. Recent award recipients have included:

Alison Bernstein - William and Camille Cosby Endowed Professor at Spelman College and former Vice President of the Ford Foundation

Johnnetta B. Cole - President, Bennett College and President Emerita, Spelman College

Drew Gilpin Faust - President, Harvard University

Mamphela Ramphele - Former Managing Director, World Bank

Gloria Steinem - Activist and Author, Founder of *Ms. Magazine*

Melanne Verveer - Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women’s Issues, United States Department of State

“We are so pleased that NCRW chose to honor President Simmons,” said Kay Warren, director of the Pembroke Center. “We know what a transformative impact she has had here at Brown, and on higher education more broadly. The NCRW award is a wonderful way to celebrate her remarkable accomplishments.”

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From the Director

From our large introductory course to the committed intellectual community fostered in the senior research seminar required for all concentrators, the Concentration in Gender, and Sexuality Studies inspires Brown students to think critically about issues of *difference*. Each academic year, the Pembroke Center reaches hundreds of undergraduate students through Gender and Sexuality Studies courses and related offerings in other departments that examine women, gender, or sexuality as a central focus. The Center is pleased to offer a rigorous path for Brown students who are interested in exploring the construction of gender and sexuality in social, cultural, political, economic, or scientific contexts.

This academic year, the Pembroke Center is offering three new courses to undergraduates: "Gender and the Modernist Self," "The Laws of Violence: Lawful Killings in Law Enforcement, Punishment, War and the War on Terror," and, "Sense and Scientific Sensibility: Beyond Vision, From the Scientific Revolution to Now." Courses taught by the Pembroke Center's postdoctoral fellows, provide Brown's students with the opportunity to study with the dynamic scholars that the Pembroke Center brings to Brown each year.

Deborah Weinstein'93 directs the Gender and Sexuality Studies concentration. Weinstein earned her Ph.D. in the History of Science from Harvard University and was a postdoctoral fellow at the Pembroke Center in 2002-2003. Her research focuses on the history of modern American medicine and human sciences. In her role directing the concentration at the Pembroke Center, Weinstein works with Brown faculty from across the disciplines to enhance course offerings and advises student concentrators.

Gender and Sexuality Studies is interdisciplinary by nature because it explores issues of difference from the

perspective of so many fields of study – from literature to sociology to medicine. The concentration's advisory board currently includes faculty from Political Science, Medicine, Modern Culture and Media, English, Urban Studies, Theatre Arts and Performance Studies, History, Comparative Literature, and Italian Studies. In addition, there are faculty from many other fields who are teaching in the concentration. Given the span of disciplinary perspectives among the faculty, it is not surprising that we have a number of double concentrators who couple their interest in gender and sexuality with fields such as Anthropology, English, Education, International Relations, and Ethnic Studies.

Looking to the future, the Pembroke Center has exciting plans to expand the curriculum. Given the concentration's concern with equipping students to do original research, we are developing a new methods course. This will enable students to pursue issues from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. Our goal is to enable students to be fluent in theory and methods within and across the humanities and social sciences, especially in relation to their own individual research interests. We also plan to develop a graduate level course on critical and feminist theory that will serve graduate students from a wide range of disciplines.

None of these exciting accomplishments and plans for the future would be possible without the Pembroke Center Associates. Your support of the Pembroke Center provides Brown students with the opportunity to take advantage of an exciting curriculum that explores the myriad ways that gender and sexuality inform and shape our world.

Kay Warren, Director



Linda Pei Grant Recipient Christine Zaleski '11 Studies Oyster Restoration in The Gambia and Rhode Island



Harvesters shuck oysters at landing sites with the help of family members. Women can also enlist the help of retired harvesters to help shuck for the price of breakfast, three cups of oyster meat, and about a dollar a day.

The Pembroke Center is pleased to support Christine Zaleski's research into the potential of community-based management approaches in the conservation of coastal resources. She examines how community-based management approaches have impacted human and ecosystem welfare in oyster restoration projects in The Gambia and the United States. The \$1,000 Linda Pei grant supports student research related to women's financial empowerment. It honors the life of Linda Pei '67 (1944–2007) and is made possible through the generosity of Carol Lemlein '67, P'90, Eric Natwig '69, AM '72, P'90, and the Women's Committee of the Brown University Club of Southern California.

Zaleski, an environmental studies concentrator, is studying how alternative management plans contribute to human welfare and environmental protection in protected wetlands in The Gambia and Rhode Island. In The Gambia, the TRY Oyster Women's Association is a self-organized group of women oyster harvesters who harvest from Tanbi

National Park. They are working to create a sustainable co-management plan for the oyster fishery that balances the needs of the harvesters, consumers, and the environment. In Rhode Island, the Nature Conservancy has launched an oyster restoration project in Ninigret Pond in Rhode Island.

In The Gambia, women oyster harvesters have been working in the Tanbi National Park for more than thirty years. Over the last ten years, as more harvesters work the same area, they have increased their harvesting effort and have experienced a marked decrease in oyster size. Although the Department of Parks and Wildlife Management is officially responsible for managing Tanbi's natural resources, management of this fishery has largely followed tradition and community territorial rights. In 2007, the women organized themselves into a producer association called TRY Oyster Women's Association to improve their livelihoods by increasing their capacity to buy and sell oysters. In 2009, TRY partnered with the sustainable fisheries project, Ba Nafaa, to add conservation and sus-

tainable development approaches to their existing efforts and to develop a formal management plan. The community has been able to use consensus decision-making to voluntarily reduce harvesting in the short-term for the long-term sustainability of the oyster fishery on which they depend.

In Rhode Island, the Nature Conservancy is working to enhance the wild population of oysters in Ninigret Pond. This project will accept shell from area restaurants and recycle it back into the environment in order to enhance the oyster habitat and oyster population in the salt pond. Historically, Rhode Island has been an area of high oyster productivity. However, years of overexploitation, coastal development, resulting sedimentation, disease, and pollution have reduced oyster numbers to the point where there is no commercially viable wild harvest in Rhode Island. This oyster restoration project will rely on citizens groups to help implement the project and police the area for poachers.

Because both Tanbi National Park and Ninigret Pond are officially protected areas and have open access for oyster harvesting with some regulations and restrictions, they provide interesting cases to compare. Zaleski is studying how people adhere to the regulations and how compliance is influenced by a number of factors including: governmental and citizen's monitoring, perceived legitimacy of the protection or regulation, and the nature of the restricted resource.

"Communities working together have the power to make positive impacts on their environment while living off its resources," observed Zaleski. "The oyster women in The Gambia are living proof of that. The Linda Pei grant will allow me to share lessons about cooperative management across cultures."

Challenge Underway to Raise \$1 Million to Endow Innovative Research Collaborations at the Pembroke Center



Research under the category of “Gender and Public Policy” could examine micro-loans to poor women in India. This photo shows women weaving rope out of coir, which is one way women earn money in Kerala, India.

The Pembroke Challenge seeks to help the Pembroke Center bring together interdisciplinary groups of Brown researchers and colleagues at other institutions to investigate transnational issues of common concern. If the Pembroke Center can raise \$750,000, Elizabeth Munves Sherman’77, P’06, P’09 and David Sherman’79, P’06, P’09 will give an additional \$250,000 to fully fund the \$1 million endowment for new research collaborations in three broad categories:

- Gender, Medicine, and Science
- Gender and Public Policy
- Families and Workers on the Move

Within each category, requests for proposals will be solicited from Brown faculty through a competitive process. The optimal proposal—broad enough to encourage dialogue yet narrow enough to produce tangible results—will plan a multi-year initiative. We expect that the interdisciplinary and international scope of the issues and researchers will produce new lines of inquiry and research partnerships.

Endowed income will be used to fund research stipends for research group leaders drawn from the Brown faculty, support visiting scholars, create opportunities for student involvement, convene workgroups and symposia for collaborative exchange, organize conferences to disseminate research findings to wider scholarly and public audiences, and facilitate publications.

What is the goal of the Pembroke Challenge?

Research initiatives funded by the Pembroke Challenge will bring together scholars from different fields across the social sciences, humanities, and creative arts to collaborate on common research problems that explore the benefits and risks of social change.

Why is interdisciplinary research important?

Scholars most often dedicate themselves to research within their own field, which limits the scope of their collaboration. The Pembroke Center wants to create forums through which scholars can pursue their own interests and collaborate across disciplines on issues of common concern.

What disciplines will be invited to participate?

Brown faculty from a broad range of disciplines will be invited to submit proposals to lead research initiatives. The Center expects that faculty from fields as diverse as history, public health, international relations, literary studies, creative arts, modern culture and media, American civilization, anthropology, sociology, comparative politics, economics, development studies, and education will be interested in seeking research funding under this initiative.

Who will create the research groups and how will they be organized?

The Pembroke Center will announce funding opportunities as they become available. Brown faculty will be invited to apply. Application requirements will include: faculty project directors from at least two fields; a central research question or common issue that will serve as an umbrella for the group; a specific plan to involve other faculty researchers, visiting scholars, postdoctoral fellows, and graduate students; and, opportunities for undergraduate involvement. Applicants also will be



Research under the category of “Gender, Medicine, and Science” might explore how health technologies present unexpected challenges for some communities.



Research funded through this Challenge under the category of “Families and Workers on the Move” could explore urban conflicts and migrant communities in Western Europe. The photo above was taken at a June 2010 rally against the British National Party and the English Defence League in East London.

asked to describe the dissemination of individual and collective results through professional meetings, publications, and other activities.

How will students be involved in these research groups?

Although the faculty leaders of each initiative will recruit their research group, it is expected that students will be involved through a variety of means, including paid research assistantships, advanced workshops or courses that are developed and taught during the initiative, and student research grants for related honors projects.

What will be the end products of these research groups?

It is expected that each research group will produce tangible products such as publications, symposia, new courses, and papers presented at academic or other conferences. After the initial period of support from the

endowed research initiatives, it is hoped that faculty will leverage the Pembroke funding into outside grants to continue the research.

How does Brown benefit?

The benefits to Brown are many. The funding of these innovative research opportunities will help Brown recruit and retain faculty who see the benefits of collaborative research. Excellent postdoctoral and graduate scholars interested in these initiatives will be attracted to Brown. Students will enjoy the opportunity to work with faculty on research projects and take new interdisciplinary courses tied to research initiatives. Alumni will be presented with research that is relevant to their lives and is connected to issues that are in – or should be in – the news. The initiatives will provide a platform for faculty to seek longer-term grant support from outside funding agencies.

Brown’s standing in the global research community will continue to grow through Brown scholars’ contributions to the interdisciplinary bodies of knowledge delivered via books, articles, and presentations at conferences around the world. Brown’s internationalization efforts will be enhanced through research findings that address the problems that arise from social change and strategies that can be applied to improve people’s lives.

For more information about contributing to the Pembroke Challenge, please contact Christy Law Blanchard at Christy_Law_Blanchard@brown.edu or (401) 863-3650.

Save The Date! A Mirror on International Development and Humanitarianism

Wednesday, April 27th, 2011
6:30 – 8:30 PM
Washington, D.C.

Cosponsored by the Women's Leadership Council

As natural and unnatural disasters erupt around the globe, the pressure on non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to provide long and short-term international assistance grows. Why have development and relief programs failed to eradicate poverty and inequality, despite decades of targeted efforts and billions of dollars in aid? We will examine the particular challenges of international development and humanitarianism, including cases where donor pressures undercut highly successful local NGOs, transnational labor migration and human trafficking confront conventional country-focused assistance, and human rights-based

approaches seek to displace charity by focusing on rights and responsibilities. A century ago, Oliver Wendell Holmes noted that the Supreme Court was a "mirror on America." This event will take a mirror to the practices of international development and relief efforts and consider the reflection.

Please join **Kay B. Warren**, the Charles C. Tillinghast Jr. '32 Professor of International Studies and Professor of Anthropology, and Director of the Pembroke Center, **David Waskow '88**, Program Director for Oxfam America, and moderator **Jasmine Waddell '99**, Visiting Lecturer of Sustainable International Development at Brandeis University's Heller School for Social Policy and Management, to discuss the impact of international development and humanitarian relief programs on the poor.

RSVP to Megan Rozzero by April 15 at (401) 863-6010 or via email to Special_Events@brown.edu

Save The Date! Commencement Forum with Award-Winning Playwright, Lynne Nottage '86

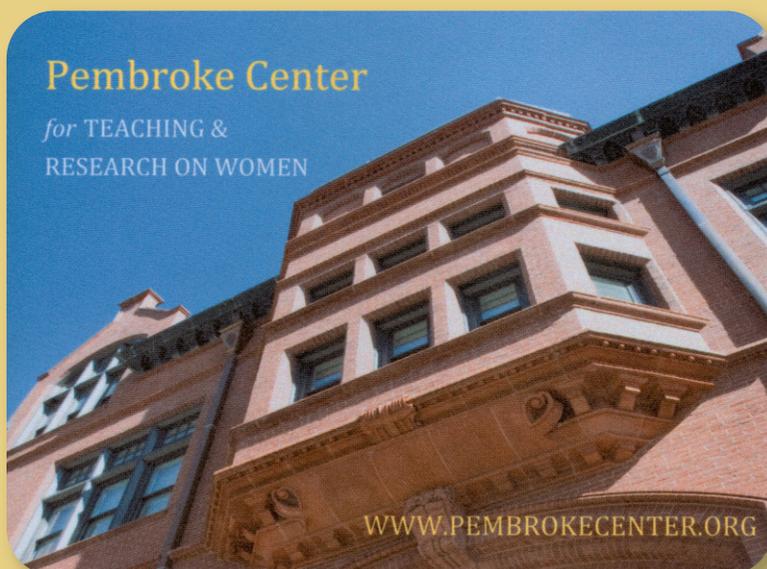
Saturday, May 28, 2011
Time and Campus Location to be announced.

Brown alumnae/i continue to take the theater world by storm, capturing some of theater's most prestigious prizes. No issue – from race to gender

roles to religion – is off-limits. How do they do it? Join Lynn Nottage '86, recipient of the 2007 MacArthur Genius Grant and 2009 Pulitzer Prize, whose plays include *Ruined*, *Intimate Apparel*, and *Crumbs from the Table of Joy* and other Brown alumnae/i playwrights for a no holds barred conversation

about how they write to inspire, provoke, and engage theater audiences around the world. Learn about their motivations and the roadblocks they face as they write plays that are transforming theater today. *Other panelists to be announced.*

A Special Thank You for Your Membership Renewal in 2011



The Pembroke Center Associates have created a mouse pad showcasing another perspective on our home, Pembroke Hall. We will be delighted to send you your mouse pad, along with a special note of thanks, for your membership renewal in 2011.

Membership gifts provide critical support for the Pembroke Center's scholarly initiatives, Associates programming, and publications. Through your generosity, we will provide student research grants, support faculty projects, record oral histories, and bring intellectually engaging speakers to Brown. To renew online, please visit www.pembrokecenter.org or use the form on the back page of this newsletter. Thank you for your membership!

Bringing the History of Brown Women to Life through Digital Technology



Krystal Appiah'95 listens to an oral history at the Orwig Music Library.

After our successful collaboration with the Brown University Library to digitize the *Pembroke Record*, the Pembroke Center Associates are taking on a new women's history project. With the help of the Library, we are digitizing the oral history recordings of Brown women and plan to showcase them on a website that will provide contextual historical information, photographs, and links to other Brown history resources. The goal is to make this treasure trove of original sources available to today's researchers and educators. The site also will feature materials to help K-12 teachers utilize the oral histories for their classes.

For nearly three decades, the Associates have been recording oral histories of Brown women, in both individual and group formats. The project was launched by then Director of Alumnae/i Affairs Barbara Anton. There are over 100 recordings in the collection. Many of the group oral histories have been of women from classes celebrating their fiftieth or twenty-fifth reunions. First recorded on audiocassette tapes, the more recent recordings, approximately ten percent, were videotaped. They are stored in the Brown University Archives. In addition to the preservation concern of the original older cassettes deteriorating with time and use, these recordings were not easy for researchers to use. For example, there is no way to search them by topic or participant.

Concerned about the fragile state of some of these recordings and eager to celebrate the history of Brown women, the Associates have decided to use membership donations to help pay for this project. After the Library converted the recordings from their original format to digital form, volunteers have been listening to them for sound quality and writing abstracts to give a brief description of what participants spoke about during their interviews.

Under the supervision of the Pembroke Center's Feminist Theory Papers Archivist Amy Greer, graduate student intern Krystal Appiah'95, GS'11, is providing critical expertise to the project. Appiah has a master's degree in library and information science, specializing in archives

management, from the University of California, Los Angeles. Currently she is working towards a master's degree in public humanities at Brown and will graduate in May. As part of her internship with the Pembroke Center, Appiah is reviewing the recordings and identifying them with metadata, or keywords, relating to the topics being discussed. This metadata will allow the oral histories to be searchable online, which will be a great boon to Brown students and faculty who use them for their research. Once completed, Brown alumnae/i also will be able to search the oral histories and listen to those of interest, just as they now can access the digital archives of the *Pembroke Record* (www.pembrokecenter.org/associates/history.html).

This ambitious project will take some time to complete. We anticipate having some oral histories online in the fall of 2011, in honor of both the Pembroke Center's 30th anniversary and the 120th anniversary of women at Brown. Going forward, the website will continue to evolve as the Pembroke Center Associates record new oral histories and add them to the online collection. We are grateful to our members, whose membership gifts make this project possible.

PEMBROKE CENTER FOR TEACHING AND RESEARCH ON WOMEN

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