

Pembroke Center Associates

Newsletter

Pembroke Center Awards Inaugural Seed Grants



The Pembroke Center is pleased to announce the recipients of four inaugural seed grants of up to \$10,000 that fund transnational research initiatives involving faculty from the humanities, social sciences, creative arts, health sciences, and science and technology studies. The projects are led by Brown faculty members and many engage with researchers at other institutions. The funding is provided for the 2013 calendar year. The program is ongoing and the Pembroke Center has issued a call for another round of grants to be awarded for the 2013-14 academic year.

Dialogues in Feminism and Technology: A Distributed Online Collaborative Course 2013

Working with a network of feminist scholars, artists, and teachers around the world, this project will initiate a “cyber learning experiment” that creates a distributed online collaborative course (DOCC) on the topic of “Dialogues in Feminism and Technology.” This DOCC will engage experts in Science and Technology Studies, media artists, online learning instructors, and media systems designers and involve instructor and student participants at fifteen universities and colleges in the U.S. and abroad. Project leaders aim to demonstrate a work of collaborative feminist technological innovation for the purposes of addressing the edu-

cational needs of students interested in advanced topics in feminist Science and Technology Studies. The DOCC will add to the digital archive of material on the history of women and technology and illuminate the contribution of feminist Science and Technology Studies scholarship to the histories of science and technology. Faculty seek to engender a set of digital practices among women and girls, to teach and encourage their participation in writing the technocultural histories of the future by becoming active participants in the creation of global digital archives.

The project will make available a shared set of learning materials such as an online space for social exchange and a set of prompts for collective and collaborative learning activities. The project will also invite experts to participate in a set of moderated dialogues that will be videotaped and shared online. The funding from the Pembroke Center seed grant will make possible several of these video dialogues.

Wendy Hui Kyong Chun

Professor of Modern Culture and Media, Brown University

Alexandra Juhasz

Professor of Media Studies, Pitzer College

Anne Balsamo

Dean of the School of Media Studies, New School for Public Engagement

Tara Nummedal

Associate Professor of History, Brown University

Kelly Dobson

Associate Professor of Digital + Media, Rhode Island School of Design

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From the Director

New doors are opening at the Pembroke Center thanks to our alumnae/i leaders and you, the members of the Pembroke Center Associates. Because of your steadfast support – through your membership, campaign gifts, attendance at our events, donations of items to our archives, and sharing our news with other alumnae/i – the Pembroke Center has never been more dynamic. Thanks to leaders on the Pembroke Center Associates Council and beyond, we are able to offer new programs for students, faculty, and alumnae/i.

Under the leadership of Elizabeth Munves Sherman'77, P'06, P'09, the Pembroke Challenge fundraising campaign raised more than \$1.5 million to support new transnational research. This effort has already borne fruit. In January we awarded our inaugural seed grants to four dynamic research projects led by Brown faculty. You can read more about the research in our cover story. We have issued a call for new applications for a second round of funding for faculty-led research. These seed grants provide funding for the development of interdisciplinary collaboration that generates new research, produces publications and conferences, and incubates projects for larger external funding opportunities.

Alumnae/i leaders are also helping to support student research on issues broadly related to the Pembroke Center's work. The new Steinhaus/Zisson research grants are made possible by Nancy Steinhaus Zisson'65, P'91 and William Zisson'63, P'91 in memory of their mothers, Beatrice Bloomingdale Steinhaus'33, P'60, P'65, GP'87, GP'91, GGP'16 and Gertrude Rosenhirsch Zisson'30, P'61, P'63, GP'91. Many years ago, Joan MacLeod Heminway '83 established the Helen Terry MacLeod Research Grant to honor the life of her grandmother Helen Terry MacLeod (1901-1994). Since 2008,

Carol Lemlein'67, P'90, her husband Eric Natwig'69, AM'72, P'90, and the members of the Women's Committee of the Brown University Club of Southern California have funded the Linda Pei Undergraduate Research Grant to honor the life of Linda Pei '67 (1944-2007). Please turn to page 4 to read about the research that students are pursuing thanks to these Pembroke Center grants.

Other leaders excel at making connections. This December, Victoria Westhead'83, P'17 hosted a wonderful event for us at her home in Brooklyn, providing the opportunity for local alumnae/i to gather and meet danah boyd'00, who led a fascinating discussion on how youth manage privacy issues through their social media networks. Similarly, Mary Vascellaro'74, P'09 has helped us build a partnership with the Women's Leadership Council and invited us to co-sponsor a campus screening of the PBS documentary "MAKERS: Women Who Made America," directed by Betsy West'73. The event will take place on March 13th; please see page 3 for more details and plan to join us if you can.

These are just a few of the alumnae/i who help lead the way for the Pembroke Center. On behalf of all in the Brown community who benefit from Pembroke Center programs, I thank you for your continued support.



Sincerely,
Kay B. Warren
Director

MAKERS: *Women Who Make America* Documentary Screening and Panel Discussion



Wednesday, March 13, 2013
6:00 – 8:00 PM
Martinos Auditorium, Perry and
Marty Granoff Center
for the Creative Arts
154 Angell Street, Providence

MAKERS: WOMEN WHO MAKE AMERICA is a documentary that airs on PBS on February 26, 2013. **MAKERS** tells the story of how women have helped shape America over the last 50 years through one of the most sweeping social revolutions in our country's history, in pursuit of their rights to a full and fair share of

political power, economic opportunity, and personal autonomy. This event will feature a one-hour screening of a portion of the documentary, followed by a panel discussion featuring women involved in the project.

Marika Shioiri-Clark '05
Global Resident/Environments
Designer at IDEO

Barbara Smith
Critic, teacher, lecturer, author,
scholar, and publisher
of Black feminist thought

Betsy West '73
Executive Producer, **MAKERS:**
Women Who Make America

Sara Wolitzky '04
Co-Producer, **MAKERS:**
Women Who Make America

Moderator:
Nancy L. Buc '65, LLD'94 hon.
Chair, Pembroke Center
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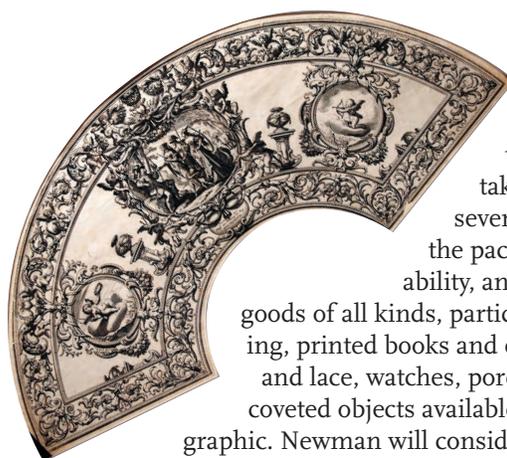
The Women's Leadership Council is pleased to host this event for the Brown community in association with the Pembroke Center Associates, the Sarah Doyle Women's Center, the Brown Alumni Association, and the Brown Club of Rhode Island. To learn more about **MAKERS**, please visit: www.makers.com.

Elizabeth Munves Sherman '77, P'06, P'09 Lecture in Gender and Sexuality Studies

Wednesday, April 3, 2013, 5:30 PM
Pembroke Hall, Room 305
172 Meeting Street, Providence, RI
Reception to follow

“Is there a future in the past”: *Eventails de Bosse, Early Modern Engraving and the Judgment of Paris*

Karen Newman
Owen Walker Professor of Humanities
and Professor of Comparative Literature
Brown University



The availability of luxury goods is often thought of as a twentieth-century phenomenon, but the “consumer revolution” taking place in Europe in the seventeenth century accelerated the pace of production, the availability, and the consumption of goods of all kinds, particularly luxury goods. Painting, printed books and engravings, silk, gloves and lace, watches, porcelain, and fans all became coveted objects available to a widening demographic. Newman will consider engraving, fans and their motifs, and one particular fan produced by the renowned early modern engraver, Abraham Bosse, representing the “Judgment of Paris,” to think about gender and aesthetic judgment, engraving, and the copy.

Supporting Student Research at the Pembroke Center

This academic year the Pembroke Center was able to expand support for student research to include graduate students with the new Steinhaus-Zisson Pembroke Center Research Grant that is awarded to both graduate and undergraduate students. We thank the generous donors and the members of the Pembroke Center Associates who make all of our grants possible.



Steinhaus-Zisson grant recipient **Navarra Buxton '13** is a concentrator in Anthropology. Her project, “OpenDoors Case Study: The Effects of Pre and Post Release Employment Readiness Programs in the U.S. on Reducing Recidivism Rates Among Women,” aims to uncover the strategies that Rhode Island non-profit OpenDoors uses to aid incarcerated and previously incarcerated women in finding jobs, as well as identifying the gender-related variables that affect recidivism rates. Using participant observation, Buxton is looking at the different strategies that are used to prepare women for employment both before and after being released from prison. She is collecting data from formal interviews with incarcerated individuals, previously incarcerated individuals, and OpenDoors staff. Buxton is also conducting a critical overview of the scholarly literature to enhance her research. She hopes her case study will not only provide insight into effective approaches toward reducing recidivism rates among women, but also will initiate a discussion concerning the obstacles and successes that grassroots organizations experience when creating and implementing policy agendas.



This year’s recipient of the Barbara Anton Internship Award is **Julia Ellis-Kahana '13**, a concentrator in Sociology. Her project is “Sailing a Social Movement into a Social Non-movement: A Case Study of Self-Empowerment for Safe Abortion in Morocco.” During her time studying abroad in Amsterdam in the fall of 2011, Ellis-Kahana began interning for the international non-governmental organization Women on Waves. This group promotes abortion access and reproductive health services to women all over the world, primarily through public direct action strategies. Under the mentorship of Rebecca Gomperts, MD, MPP, the founder and director of Women on Waves, Ellis-Kahana has gained experience working at the intersection of politics, women’s health, and human rights activism. In her honors thesis, she is examining a recent Women on Waves ship campaign in Morocco, a project completed in collaboration with a Moroccan organization called Mouvement Alternatif pour les Libertés Individuelles (M.A.L.I.). She is using this action as a case study to illustrate that a social movement for safe abortion can in fact inform and incite social non-movement (individualized actions people take in their everyday lives to achieve freedom) within the particular political and cultural context of Morocco.



Bryan Knapp, a graduate student in History, has received a Steinhaus-Zisson grant in support of his dissertation, “From Women’s Health to World Health: The Politics of Infant Formula, World Hunger, and Corporate Accountability, 1968-1981.” Knapp is exploring the global intimate politics and particular site of struggle that developed around the Nestle boycott and the infant formula controversy of the 1970s and early 1980s. Activists in the United States developed global social justice networks and constructed professional organizations to address what they perceived as pressing problems of world hunger, environmental degradation, and corporate malfeasance. Knapp’s research into the infant formula marketing and world hunger campaigns examines questions about the “health” of the body and the “health” of the economy through Western paternalistic images broadcast throughout the world, especially within the World Health Organization. This particular framing helps develop his inquiry into “world health” and how its conceptual and organizational apparatus was imagined. At the same time, individuals in the United States, Asia, Europe, and Africa battled, agitated, and negotiated with these corporate, state, and international institutions to create new social, political, and cultural realms.



Linda Pei Undergraduate Research Grant recipient **Kenna Hawes '13** is a double concentrator in Community Health and Music, Theory and Composition. Her honors thesis “Restoring a Culture of Respect: Community Perspectives on Addressing Intimate Partner Violence on American Indian Reservations” examines the high prevalence of intimate partner violence on many American Indian reservations. Many theories have been put forward to explain why intimate partner violence occurs at such high rates on so many reservations, but Hawes observes that voices from reservations themselves are notably absent from much of this discussion. By interviewing key stakeholders who are working to prevent intimate partner violence in reservation communities across the country, Hawes is investigating how they conceptualize and regard intimate partner violence. She is exploring what causal factors community experts associate with high rates of violence and what measures they suggest to effectively address the issue. In light of the recent congressional debate over the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, Hawes is interested in community experts’ thoughts on where change is rooted. Drawing from concerns and suggestions expressed during these interviews, she will offer recommendations of viable practices for addressing reservation intimate partner violence at the community and federal levels.



Music graduate student **Francesca Inglese** has received a Steinhaus-Zis-son grant in support of her dissertation, “Coloured Coons and *Klopse* Beats: Embodying Contested Subjectivities in Cape Town, South Africa.” Inglese is investigating minstrel troupe music and embodied performance as a dynamic site for constituting and negotiating modes of racial subjectivity and gendered identities in post-apartheid Cape Town, South Africa. Minstrel troupes (known as *kaapse klopse* in Afrikaans) have been a feature of musical life in Cape Town since the mid-1800s, when white and later black American minstrels toured South Africa. Through ethnographic fieldwork and archival research, Inglese is focusing on informal debates around minstrel sound and style; public performances grounded in countermemories of removal, dispersal, and marginalization; and the transmission of embodied practices in emerging youth development projects. She is analyzing how these sonic and embodied practices serve as sites on which stereotypes of “colouredness” are debated and reworked, both cohering and contesting race and gender ideologies grounded in global-local histories, and remapping Cape Town’s urban geography through expressive practice. Her goal is to reveal how, through performance, musical sounds and embodied gestures become public acts that enable participants to critically revisit and revise the significance and relevance of apartheid’s racial categories and dominant gender ideologies in the new South Africa.



Helen Terry MacLeod Research Grant recipient **Catharine Savage '13** is a concentrator in History and Gender and Sexuality Studies. Her honors thesis “The Personal Is Academic: Women’s Studies and Ethnic Studies at Brown University” analyzes how areas of study like Women’s Studies and Ethnic Studies have attempted to reconcile their activist roots with a history of patriarchal elitism in American universities. Given its reputation for progressivism and its active pursuit of academic research on issues of political activism, Savage is using Brown University as a specific case study of these academic endeavors in American universities. She is particularly interested in the relationship between “the self” and “the academic” within these areas of study. She examines their reference to self-empowerment in their pedagogy, scholarship, and justification for their existence as a means to reorient the purpose of university education toward self-actualization. Savage is conducting interviews with founding alumni, faculty, and staff at Brown. In addition, she will use Brown University Archives—the Pembroke Center Archives in particular—to understand the relationship between these areas of study and the institution of Brown University.

from page 1

Does It Help or Hurt Women to Marry “within” the Family? Consanguineous (Cousin) Marriage and Genetic Risk in Egypt

The Middle East remains one of the areas of the world where first cousin marriage is pervasive. Many theories attempt to explain the social benefits that might outweigh the genetic deterrents for particular communities, such as the maintenance of property and wealth within the family or the reduced cost of out-marriage arrangements. Yet these benefits may have lower appeal as tribal affiliation and land-based family economies erode in the face of global capitalism, urbanization, the nuclearization of families, wage labor, the hegemony of medicalized “risk” discourse, the participation of women in the economy, and the decrease in fertility rates.

The “common wisdom” in Western societies is that first-cousin marriage should be avoided because of the genetic risk posed to offspring. Yet in the U.S., state bans on first-cousin marriage, begun in the late 19th century, were aimed against immigrants and the rural poor and pre-date modern genetic discourses of risk (Ottenheimer 1996, Kuper 2002). Many geneticists have argued that the increased risk of inheriting recessive and dominant autosomal disorders with first-cousin marriage is clear but also modest and no larger than the increased risk associated with advanced maternal age (Modell and Darr 2002).

This project will explore the willingness of people in Egypt to marry first or second cousins despite the knowledge about increased risk to offspring and public health messages and medical authorities’ attempts to actively discourage such marriages. Egypt represents an important site for such research because consanguineous marriage is neither blatantly stigmatized and medicalized as it is among South Asian immigrants in the UK, nor is it fully normalized as in the Arab Gulf. Field research and data collection will take place in collaboration with geneticists at the National Research Centre in Egypt, which receives patients referred from all over the country who seek diag-



noses and information regarding inherited diseases, often in their children. The major research aim is to understand how women and men across classes and generations understand the benefits and risks of cousin marriage. The project will culminate with two campus-wide collaborative meetings to explore the research findings.

Sherine Hamdy

Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Kutayba Alghanim Professor of Social Science, Brown University

Tanya Dailey

Clinical Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Brown University

Beshara Doumani

Joukowsky Family Distinguished Professor of Modern Middle East History, Brown University

Stephen Bush

Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Brown University

Samia Temtamy

Professor of Human Genetics, Egypt’s National Research Centre

Samira Ismail

Clinical Geneticist, Genetics, Egypt’s National Research Centre

Continued on page 7

Commencement Forum: Women in Comedy

Saturday, May 25, 2013

Our annual commencement forum will be on Saturday, May 25th. This year’s topic will be women in comedy and we look forward to sharing details of the program when finalized. Please plan to attend if you are on campus for reunion this year.

Stay Tuned for Regional Programming

We are also partnering with the Women’s Leadership Council to plan regional events in San Francisco and Washington, D.C. We look forward to sharing details when they are available.

Performing Native América: Indigenous Public Culture in Transnational Perspective

Against a backdrop of increased activism and cultural revitalization among indigenous peoples in the Americas, this project will bring together scholars to explore how emergent forms of cultural performance reveal new patterns in indigenous mobilization and alliances across borders. It will facilitate dialogue among scholars whose work focuses on distinct peoples and regions throughout the Americas, north and south of the Rio Grande. This geographic barrier is rarely traversed in existing scholarly work on indigenous sociocultural change, but indigenous activists and artists are increasingly exchanging information and experiences across this boundary. Understanding global indigeneity requires similar efforts at crossing political and conceptual boundaries.

Funding from the seed grant will support an interdisciplinary working group at Brown that will meet monthly and culminate in a symposium in late 2013. The symposium will feature a collaborative conversation between leading scholars from throughout the Americas as well as indige-



nous artists-activists. The ultimate goal of this research group is to produce an edited volume and a grant proposal aimed at establishing a hemisphere-wide working group to conduct further research.

Paja Faudree

Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Brown University

Joshua Tucker

Assistant Professor of Music, Brown University

Perspectives on International Health Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs)



This project will organize a series of approximately eight seminars, each with two or more speakers to address three central research questions:

- 1) What/Do health-related NGOs contribute to public health in the countries in which they operate?
- 2) How do NGOs attempt to mediate or mitigate forces producing inequalities in health and health care?
- 3) What are the key factors or conditions affecting their successes and failures?

The project will establish and maintain a website with short papers and presentations that summarize the major debates on the roles of third sector organizations. The collaborative work taking place in the seminars will include students and faculty across disciplines, contribute to the publication of three or four scholarly papers in peer-reviewed journals or as book chapters, and seek to develop a working group to assess potential applications for National Institutes of Health grants.

Ann Dill

Associate Professor of Sociology, Brown University

Linda Cook

Professor of Political Science, Brown University

Geri Augusto

Visiting Associate Professor of Africana Studies, Brown University

Lundy Braun

Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and Africana Studies, Brown University

Nitsan Chorev

Associate Professor of Sociology, Brown University

Susan Cu-Uvin

Professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Professor of Medicine and Professor of Health Services, Policy & Practice, Brown University

Masako Ueda Fidler

Professor of Slavic Languages, Brown University

Marida Hollos

Professor of Anthropology, Brown University

Josiah Rich

Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology, Brown University

Pembroke Center
for TEACHING AND RESEARCH ON WOMEN

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