

## Kessler-Harris Appointed to Direct New Brunswick Women's Studies

The Women's Studies Program welcomes Alice Kessler-Harris, who assumed the position of director of the Women's Studies Program at New Brunswick on July 1, 1990. One of the leading national and international figures in the field of women's studies, Kessler-Harris hopes to further Rutgers' established national reputation as one of the foremost institutions in the area of gender studies. "Rutgers University is an exciting place," she says, "with a tremendous depth of resources. I look forward to participating in the creative and innovative scholarship that is encouraged here."

"The Women's Studies Program at Rutgers can benefit from the core of terrifically talented women and men who have complementary research interests in various disciplines," according to Kessler-Harris, "but the program can also take the initiative in introducing other departments to some of the exciting new scholarship on women." In her position as director of the Women's Studies Program, she hopes to expand the possibilities for graduate work in women's studies,



Andrew Kessler

Women's Studies Program Director  
Alice Kessler-Harris

and contribute to the formation of a women's archive. "I hope to bring some new insights to women's issues and further the development of the intellectual and academic aspirations of all students here at Rutgers," she adds.

Indeed, Alice Kessler-Harris has contributed broadly to the body of research on women's issues: she is the author of numerous articles on women's labor history that have appeared in journals such as *Feminist Studies*, *Labor History*, *Gender and History*, and *Signs*. Additionally, she has contributed to scholarly and popular journals through essays, monographs, book reviews, comments, and miscellaneous pieces. In the mid-1980s she received much national attention for her work as expert witness in the well-known court case of *The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission v. Sears Roebuck and Company*. She is currently president of the American Studies Association. Her latest book, *A Woman's Wage: Historical Meanings and Social Consequences*, is forthcoming from University Press of Kentucky.

## Douglass Project Receives 1990 American Association of University Women Progress in Equity Award

The Douglass Project for Rutgers Women in Math, Science, and Engineering is the recipient of the 1990 American Association of University Women Progress in Equity Award. The award is given annually by the AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund to institutions as a way of recognizing innovative and replicative efforts to achieve significant progress for women in education. The award ceremony will take place on October 23 on the Douglass College campus. Gretchen Ilgenfritz, president of the Legal Advocacy Fund, will make the presentation.

The Douglass Project offers a wide variety of programs both at the pre-college and the college level. The third annual Douglass Science Institute was held this past summer at Douglass. It brought 46 "rising" eleventh-grade women to campus for two weeks of science enrichment. The students resided in the

Bunting-Cobb Math and Science Hall and were able to take advantage of the wonderful facilities, including a microcomputer room where the participants worked on lab journals and a newsletter.

This academic year, the Douglass Project will continue to offer its "Scientific Spinoffs" and "Faculty Talks" series at the Bunting-Cobb Math and Science Hall. Ten Bunting-Cobb graduate residential fellows will, again, serve as mentors to the 100 undergraduate women who reside in Bunting-Cobb. Other Douglass Project activities will include peer study groups, and "hands-on" lab visits. The Douglass Project will also look at ways to encourage more women undergraduates to do research in the numerous labs on campus. A longitudinal study funded by the Exxon Education Foundation will also get underway.

The fall semester will see the opening of

the Douglass Math and Science Learning Center in cooperation with the Faculty of Arts and Sciences—New Brunswick. At the center, students will find peer tutors; advisors; videotapes of homework problems in math, chemistry, and physics; and a community of other students studying in these fields. Eventually, the center will include "hands-on" demonstrations and a computer facility.

Finally, the Douglass Project is working in cooperation with the math department and the undergraduate colleges in the Rutgers EXCEL program. EXCEL, or Extended Calculus for Exceptional Learners, is an intensive honors calculus course based upon a successful program at Berkeley to retain minority students in math. At Rutgers, the pilot program will be offered to students taking calculus for engineers and for the life sciences.



# Global Center Sets Agenda: Women, Violence, and Human Rights

The Center for Global Issues and Women's Leadership opened its doors in September 1989, and throughout the year held monthly sessions about the situation of women around the world. These "Global Gatherings" included discussions of women's activities in China, Poland, the Philippines, and Israel and the West Bank, as well as more general presentations and discussions on issues of women, violence, and human rights.

The official opening of the center was held on April 26, 1990. Margarita Papandreou of Greece, president of the Women for a Mutual Security International Network, and Paula Giddings, journalist, teacher, distinguished author of several books on African-American women, and current occupant of the Laurie New Jersey Chair in Women's Studies at Douglass College, engaged in a dialogue moderated by the center's director, Charlotte Bunch. In discussing "Women's Rights as Human Rights," the speakers explored issues of why women's rights have not been traditionally seen as human rights and how the world might change if women's lives and perspectives were taken seriously.

In May, the center held an international planning meeting to launch and refine its program for the coming three years. Twenty-two distinguished women leaders from around the world joined the center's staff and planning committee to discuss the center's inaugural theme, "Women, Violence, and Human Rights." Among the participants were Jacqueline Pitanguy, chairwoman of the first Brazilian National Commission on Women;

Anna Magezi, a Ugandan district judge; Marie Aimee Helie-Lucas, founder of the Women Living Under Muslim Laws International Solidarity Network; and Yayori Matsui, a leading journalist with the *Asahi Shimbun* in Tokyo.

The planning meeting participants considered the problem of violence and women on several levels. First, the group reported on the work being done by women's groups to address violence in their regions and what aspects of the problem seem most urgent. Second, they looked at violence against women as a family and social issue on its own and how it needs to be addressed as an important political issue. Finally, four working groups discussed violence against women as related to and as essential elements of four other major social issues: peace and militarism, development and multi-national corporations, cultural and religious fundamentalism, and human rights. The Global Center will work in the coming years on further development of this analysis and sponsor programs to address issues of women, violence, and human rights.

Other plans for the coming year include: continuing to hold monthly "Global Gatherings;" preparing a two-week leadership institute for about 20 women from around the world, set for the summer of 1991; collaborating with other organizations addressing these questions and developing global education endeavors; and raising money to start a visiting associates program in 1992.

## IRW to Launch New Direction

The Institute for Research on Women will begin two new projects in 1990-91, both designed to give greater emphasis to the support of research on women. The first involves IRW's assumption of a major role in the development of the Women's Archives Project in conjunction with the Rutgers libraries, and the second, an assessment of the needs and interests of the large number of Rutgers scholars who work on gender.

The Women's Archives Project has had a long history in the women's community at Rutgers. Finally in 1989 it was endorsed by the University Library Committee and received President Bloustein's approval in principle, although direct funding was postponed because of the university's fiscal emergency. The Women's Archives Project as now envisioned includes expanding and giving focus to the rich resources in women's history that the Rutgers library already has. These resources now include more than 200 collections of personal and family papers, and institutional and organizational records from colonial times to the present. Included, for example, are the papers of Millicent Fenwick, Mary Norton, the Roebling family, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, as well as the records of *Signs*, the New Jersey Division of the AAUW, the Women's Caucus for Art, and Douglass College. The records of the Women's Project of New Jersey, Inc., which recently produced the volume and exhibition *Past and Promise: Lives of New Jersey Women* will soon be added.

In the future, the focus of the collection will be in the areas of existing strength at Rutgers: women's leadership, feminist theory and criticism, and the history of women's organizations. Because two of the leading collections of women's history, at Radcliffe and Smith, are overcrowded and turning away new materials, Rutgers has an unusual opportunity for national prominence in the collection of research materials on women.

A proposal is now being developed with the help of the Rutgers Foundation to seek major funding for an endowment to create a position of an archivist to support research efforts of scholars who use these materials. Eventually, there will be efforts to fund a separate facility to house this collection.

IRW's second project, the assessment of the research needs and interests of Rutgers scholars who work on gender, began last spring with a meeting of faculty members represented in IRW's *Women and Gender: A Directory of Scholars at Rutgers University* and discussions with IRW's advisory board and executive committee. Initial responses centered on the wish for programs on feminist theory and approaches to scholarship. IRW's 1990-91 seminar series, "Generative Ideas: Origins of Feminist Research," has been planned to address these interests. Other suggestions for activities and programs will be requested in a questionnaire being prepared by IRW for distribution in the Fall.



Loures Bueno

Several participants in the center's international planning meeting discuss violence against women (from left to right): Hannah Tiagha, Cameroon, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa; Anna Magezi, Uganda, Uganda Association of Women Lawyers; Hei Soo Shin, South Korea, Rutgers Ph.D. candidate in sociology; Mallika Dutt, India, Sakhi (organization for battered South Asian women in the New York-metropolitan area).



## System-wide Women's Studies Bibliographer Appointed

Rutgers Libraries has appointed Jane Sloan, based at the Mabel Smith Douglass Library, the women's studies bibliographer for the library system. While also acting in the capacity of reference librarian, she will be coordinating the development of women's studies resources among the various Rutgers libraries, as well as specifically developing the collection at Douglass Library, which has been designated the primary women's studies collection at Rutgers.

Since arriving at Rutgers in May, 1990, Jane has attended several locally held conferences, as well as the women's studies section meetings of the American Library Association annual conference, and met extensively with her Rutgers colleagues in order to learn and become involved in the essential networking that supports an up-to-date resource center. She is looking forward to providing systematized bibliographic control and access to the already extensive but dispersed collections at Rutgers, and is drafting collection policy and planning a database of indexed reference materials as beginning steps. She would appreciate hearing from faculty and students interested in women's studies about additions to the collections or library needs they may have.

Sloan comes to Rutgers from the University of Southern California Libraries where she worked first as a government documents librarian, and then as the cinema-television bibliographer. She has published several bibliographic works and is currently completing a guide to resources on Alfred Hitchcock, a filmmaker who has inspired a large amount of contemporary feminist criticism. Her particular areas of interest in women's studies are feminist critical theory and women's fiction and cinema.

## Camden Women's Studies Program Expands

Sheila Cosminsky (sociology-anthropology) assumed leadership of women's studies in Camden as the new chair on July 1, 1990. Under her direction, the women's studies program is eager to continue the pattern of growth experienced during the previous academic year. A new interdisciplinary course with the title "Intellectual Diversity and Cultural Pluralism" is being taught this fall by Luis Garcia (psychology) and Jean Ritzke (English). This transformed course on gender and multi-cultural issues was developed by a group of eight faculty members and thirteen undergraduate students under a DHE grant administered by Marion Steininger. Approximately

## Generative Ideas: Origins of Feminist Research

The Institute for Research on Women will present its 1990-1991 Thinking About Women Seminar Series on "Generative Ideas: Origins of Feminist Research." The series will ask scholars who represent a spectrum of approaches to feminist research to examine the origins of their work in their personal and professional lives. How did they arrive at the subject of their research? Did they find male or female mentors or other early support for their work? How did issues of gender affect their methods of research? What is the role of theory in their work? Feminist scholars will discuss how their work has been influenced by the cross-cultural or interdisciplinary nature of women's studies, or by issues of race, class, or sexual preference. They will also be asked to comment on public response to their work and the way they have arranged their lives to accommodate personal as well as professional demands.

In addition to lectures by individual scholars, the 1990-1991 Thinking About Women Seminar Series will include two round-table discussions. The first will invite male scholars whose work centers on women or deals with issues of gender to comment on the origins of their projects and the ways in which their work on gender has affected their professional and personal lives. The second round-table discussion will explore the variety of research "languages" used in the study of gender and the revisionary purposes they share.

This series on the sources of the generative ideas behind feminist research will launch the Institute for Research on Women's new emphasis on feminist theory and methodology and on the ways to best serve the large number of scholars who work on gender in the Rutgers research community.

Alice Kessler-Harris inaugurated the series on September 27 with a talk entitled "Is Every History an Autobiography?" Other speakers are:

### October 18

Linda Zerilli, Political Science, Rutgers

### November 8

John Gillis, Moderator, History, Rutgers  
Ed Cohen, English, Rutgers  
English Showalter, French, Rutgers

### February 5

Suzanne Lebsock, History, Rutgers

### March 5

Abena Busia, English, Rutgers

### April 11

Cora Kaplan, Moderator, English, Rutgers

Donna Haraway, History of Consciousness, University of California, Santa Cruz

Mary Ellen Capek, Executive Director, National Council for Research on Women

Sandy Flitterman-Lewis, English, Rutgers

The lectures for the 1990-1991 series will be held at Woodlawn on the Douglass campus to provide a comfortable setting for discussion and ample free parking. Each program will begin at 4:00 with a reception. The lecture will begin at 4:30 and will be followed by a question and discussion period. The series is co-sponsored by the Center for the American Woman and Politics.



## New Jersey Project

The IRW and the New Jersey Department of Higher Education are pleased to announce the publication of *The New Jersey Project: Integrating the Scholarship on Gender, 1986-1989*. This collection of essays describes various segments of the innovative effort to integrate the new scholarship on gender, race, class, and ethnicity on a statewide level. Many faculty members who have participated in the project discuss the impact on their colleges and their experiences in a variety of disciplines. In addition, the developers of the project provide details of the three and one-half year effort. Contact IRW offices to obtain a copy of the booklet.



## Mary H. Dana Women Artists Series Fall 1990

September–October 10: Large sculptural collages in metal, acrylic, and wood by California artist SOONJA KIM

October 12–November 16: Works in oil by Pennsylvania realist painter BABETTE MARTINO

November 19–January 7, 1991: Metal sculpture of feral animal packs by Massachusetts artist KITTY WALES, and artists books by New Jersey artist SUELLEN GLASHAUSSER

All exhibits are at the Mabel Smith Douglass Library on the Douglass College Campus.

## Associate Alumnae Recruit for Douglass

In partnership with Douglass College, the Associate Alumnae of Douglass have developed a pilot project to encourage young women to attend the women's college. The project is aimed at women who live out-of-state and consists of two phases: a luncheon meeting for alumnae and guidance counselors, and a reception for eleventh- and twelfth-graders and their parents.

In order to elicit information about local school systems and to enlist support for the project, a questionnaire is sent to alumnae in a particular geographic region before the luncheon is scheduled. The newly-produced video, *Rutgers: The Douglass Difference*, offers a description of the campus - including personal statements from faculty, staff, and students - to luncheon participants. The reception for young women and their parents is intended to familiarize them with Douglass and what the women's college has to offer.

Douglass Dean Mary S. Hartman and Associate Alumnae Executive Director Adelaide Zagoren directed the luncheon meetings in southeastern Florida in April and were extremely satisfied with the results. Receptions for students and parents in that region are scheduled for October. Luncheon meetings and receptions are planned for September and November, respectively, in the Washington-Baltimore area. Further programs are anticipated pending the results of these initial ventures.

The associate alumnae are also preparing for the seventy-fifth anniversary of Douglass College in 1993. During last spring's reunion weekend, a total of 62 oral histories of alumnae of various ages were recorded. Additional oral histories will be collected during the numerous alumnae events of the next three years. Zagoren welcomes inquiries from interested departments or individuals who wish to contribute to the anniversary celebration through the preparation of materials, exhibition of memorabilia, or communication of the history of Douglass women's experiences.

## Women and Politics

This fall, the Center for the American Woman and Politics (CAWP) will be wrapping up a few projects, undertaking others, and continuing some ongoing efforts.

On the research front, CAWP is putting the finishing touches on its report about the abortion issue in the 1989 New Jersey and Virginia elections. Data show a great deal about how voters, candidates, and activists dealt with the issue. The report will be available shortly. It will be of particular interest to the media and to campaign activists concerned about how the issue might play in this year's elections.

Researchers at CAWP are also winding down a four-year project on the impact of women in public office. CAWP's own research, along with that of the grantees who undertook research for the center, will be presented in two forms: an edited volume of scholarly articles and a report geared to the general public. Readers of either will find out about how and where women in public office at various levels are affecting policies, processes, and politics. Check with CAWP for details on the availability of the reports.

CAWP is collaborating with the Institute of Policy Leadership at the University of

Missouri-St. Louis to convene "A New Decade of Leadership: Women State Legislators-A Regional Forum." The meeting will take place in St. Louis in November, and all 183 women legislators from Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Tennessee have been invited to attend. Discussions will concern legislative effectiveness, with lawmakers exploring common interests and strategies for influencing the future of their states and region, as well as the nation.

Ongoing CAWP activities include tracking of women candidates and participation in the Hispanic Women Leadership Institute. CAWP will be compiling information about women running for state and federal offices around the country in a year marked by numerous important races featuring women candidates. Also, the center will be providing technical assistance for the second year of the institute, preparing 25 young Hispanic women for the challenges of leadership in their chosen fields—education, business, social services, or government.

## Progress toward Educational Equity

With the twenty-first century right around the corner, the Consortium for Educational Equity begins its sixteenth year of assisting educators to face the challenges ahead. By developing new programs and expanding those that have proven effective, the consortium continues its success in equipping teachers and administrators with the tools needed to expand career and educational choices for all students, based on interest and abilities, rather than on gender and ethnicity.

In 1990-91, the consortium will continue to help schools implement parental involvement and cooperative learning programs in math and science through several projects. "Family Math" and "Family Science" are specially designed programs which train elementary school teachers to conduct workshops in hands-on math and science for children and their families. "Science Teams," a U.S. Department of Education demonstration program in cooperative learning, is proving effective for increasing motivation and involvement of fifth- and sixth-graders in science.

A nationally acclaimed two-day training program, REACH (Respecting Ethnic and Cultural Heritage) is offered by the consortium for teachers of grades kindergarten through eighth. The multicultural education workshops offer a distinct focus on cultural

diversity and gender inclusiveness for curriculum enrichment. Teachers and librarians are introduced to a variety of materials that can infuse multicultural and global perspectives into the classroom.

The consortium will continue to sponsor the statewide "Women of Worth" essay contest. The contest is designed to teach research, interviewing, and writing skills, as well as to promote oral history and women's history in the ninth through twelfth grades.

In conjunction with the New Jersey Department of Education Office of Equal Education Opportunity, several one-day conferences and a seminar series will be offered: "Strategies for the Underachieving Black and Hispanic Male," "Reexamining Stereotypes of the Asian American Student," and eight SEED (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity) Seminars for high school educators to enrich their curriculum through multicultural resources. In addition, the Rutgers Public Education Institute joins the consortium and the Office of Equal Educational Opportunity in co-sponsoring a conference on "Alternatives to Tracking."

The Consortium for Educational Equity is part of the Equity Assistance Center for New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.





Elizabeth Moynahan, A.I.A.

## New Center for Women's Programs on the Douglass Campus

A new building will replace the mansion that burned at 27 Clifton Avenue on January 7, 1990. The Center for Women's Programs will house the Institute for Research on Women, the Laurie New Jersey Chair in Women's Studies, and the Center for Global Issues and Women's Leadership. This illustration represents architect Elizabeth Moynahan's design for the structure, which has a promised completion date of Spring, 1991.

The destruction of the building by fire in January has caused severe crowding and inconvenience to the women's programs which are now located in the lower level of Voorhees Chapel. All three of the programs which were originally to move into the renovated building in January have had to make

do with their present limited space in the chapel basement, and programs which were scheduled to move into the vacated space in the chapel basement were forced to find temporary accommodations until the new building is completed.

A formal opening for the new facility is planned for the late spring.

### Women and Gender Directory

Copies are still available of IRW's September 1989 publication, *Women and Gender: A Directory of Scholars at Rutgers*. If you wish to obtain a copy, call the IRW at 201/932-9072.

### Quindlen to Speak

The New Jersey College and University Coalition on Women's Education will hold its fall meeting on October 10 at Neilson Dining Hall on the Douglass Campus. The guest speaker is *New York Times* columnist Anna Quindlen, who will talk on "Women in Higher Education." The program will begin at 5 p.m. with registration, to be followed by dinner and the lecture. The cost is \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members, and \$15 for students. Reservations must be made in advance by contacting Gloria Cohn at 609/655-8690.

## News from the Laurie New Jersey Chair in Women's Studies

### Women, Race and Reform

The eighth in the ongoing series of seminars conducted through the Blanche, Edith, and Irving Laurie New Jersey Chair in Women's Studies at Douglass College will take place during the Spring 1991 term. Conducted by Paula Giddings—journalist, teacher, and distinguished author—this interdisciplinary seminar will examine interracial alliances between women reformers committed to similar goals such as women's rights, better working conditions and wages, temperance, aid for the poor, the hegemony of a political party, and/or racial reform. Though emphasis will be on alliances in the Progressive era (1896-1921), the ultimate aim of the seminar is to understand the dynamics of interracial coalitions among women reformers in such a way as to develop a paradigm that may be applied to other periods.

Scholars, activists, and practitioners with an interest in the topic of the seminar are encouraged to apply to participate. Undergraduate and graduate students may apply as

well and take the seminar for credit. Applications are being accepted until October 12.

### Global Focus Designated

Charlotte Bunch, Director of the Center for Global Issues and Women's Leadership, is chairing the search committee to select the next occupant of the Laurie New Jersey Chair in Women's Studies. Other committee members are: Katharine Bassard (graduate student, English), Lourdes Bueno (graduate student, anthropology), Abena Busia (English), Sonya Cole (undergraduate student, Douglass College), Mary Gossy (Spanish and Portuguese), Alice Kessler-Harris (women's studies and history), Renee Larrier (French), Joanna Regulski (geography), and Thelma Tate (Douglass Library).

A global focus has been designated as the area of interest for the forthcoming cycle (September 1991 through June 1993). The search committee is reviewing applications of persons of significant achievement whose research and/or work is on the cutting edge of

thought about women in a global context. They expect to complete their deliberations over the course of the next few months.

### Lectures Set

Paula Giddings, the current occupant of the Laurie New Jersey Chair, will be giving several public lectures throughout New Jersey during the academic year. These presentations are free of charge and open to the public. The schedule is:

November 26 at 7:30 p.m.

Montclair State College

November 27 at 6:00 p.m.

Rutgers Camden campus

November 28 at 4:00 p.m.

Rutgers Newark campus

April 25

New Jersey College and University Coalition on Women's Education (place and time to be announced)