

# NETWORK

News Exchange  
Through the Wo/Men  
on the Rutgers Campuses

Fall 1992

## Molara Ogundipe-Leslie, Sixth Laurie NJ Chair

Nigerian poet, writer, literary critic, and leading scholar in women's studies and women-in-development, Molara Ogundipe-Leslie has been appointed to the Blanche, Edith, and Irving Laurie New Jersey Chair in Women's Studies at Douglass College for 1992-93.

Ogundipe-Leslie has held numerous government and activist posts. From 1987-89, she was the National Director for Social Mobilization in the Presidency of the Federal Government of Nigeria with specific responsibility for the political and cultural education of women in anticipation of civilian rule in 1992. Among many other groups, she has co-founded WIN (Women in Nigeria), a women's research and activist group; AAWORD (Association of African Women for Research and Development), a Pan-African women's research organization; and Women for Mutual Security.

Despite her activism, Ogundipe-Leslie defines herself as essentially a literary critic and writer. She was the founding chair of the Department of English at Ogun State University, (Ago-Iwoye, Nigeria) in 1983. She has taught at University College (Ibadan, Nigeria), Cambridge University (England), Columbia, University of Ife (Ife-Ife, Nigeria), and Harvard, to name only a few. She has received numerous grants and awards in recognition of her scholarship and has been a visiting scholar in England, Canada and the United States. In addition to her essays on modern African fiction, most recently *Toward a Double-Gendered Cosmos: Essays on African Literature*, (forthcoming), Ogundipe-Leslie has published a collection of her poems, *Sew the Old Days and Other Poems* (1985). Two more collections are in progress, as are several anthologies.

While at Rutgers, Ogundipe-Leslie will continue her research and writing, meet with faculty and students, and lecture throughout the country. Her inaugural lecture, entitled "The Construction of Female Gender in African Literature," will be given on Wednesday, October 14,

1992 at 7:30 p.m. at Voorhees Chapel on the Douglass College campus. In the Spring, Ogundipe-Leslie will conduct the annual Laurie N.J. Chair seminar. This year's topic is "Gender, Voice, Perspective: Women, Development and Peace." The seminar is open, on a competitive basis, to undergraduate and graduate students, scholars, activists, and practitioners within commuting distance of Douglass College. For more information and/or seminar applications, please contact Ferris Olin at the Laurie N.J. Chair office.

## Cora Kaplan, New IRW Director

The Institute for Research on Women is proud to announce the appointment of Cora Kaplan as its new Director. A senior feminist theorist in the English Department at Rutgers-NB, Kaplan has been active in the women's community since her arrival in 1989. She is a member of the Women's Studies Executive Committee, a former co-chair of the Gender Group, the convenor of a theory reading group sponsored by IRW, and the organizer of the Thinking About Women Lecture Series for 1991-92 and 1992-93. She is also active in the university community at large. This year, in addition to serving as IRW's Director, she will be a Faculty Fellow at the Center for the Critical Analysis of Contemporary Culture.

As Director, Kaplan hopes to enlarge and enhance the visiting scholar program and to begin an annual graduate student/faculty seminar focusing on specific issues under the general topic of the interface between feminist scholarship/activism and policymaking.

Kaplan brings to the Institute not only an interdisciplinary but an international outlook. She has made important feminist contributions to the development of cultural studies in Great Britain. From 1969-88, she taught in the School of English and American Studies at Sussex University, where she participated in the construction of a feminist curriculum and worked with a number of extra-institutional feminist groups, such as the Marxist-Feminist Literature Collective, and the *Feminist Review*. Kaplan was also involved with Adult

Education in Britain, teaching regularly at Day Schools throughout the country and helping to revise the curriculum at The Open University.

Kaplan has written widely on gender, sexuality, race, class, nationalism, popular culture, women's poetry, constructions of feminism, and the politics of reading. She is the author of *Sea Changes: Essays on Culture and Feminism*, *Salt and Bitter and Good: Three Centuries of English and American Women Poets*, and the frequently reprinted article, "Pandora's Box: Subjectivity, Class and Sexuality in Socialist Feminist Criticism" in addition to numerous other articles, reviews and lectures. She is currently at work on two books, *Giant Propensities: Ethnology, Gender and Culture in the Making of British Nationality, 1840-1865* and *Mastering Mystery: The Sexual Politics of Crime Fiction* (with David Glover).

## Second Women's Global Leadership Institute

The Center for Women's Global Leadership convened its second Women's Global Leadership Institute on the theme "Women, Violence and Human Rights," June 14-27, 1992 at Douglass College. Twenty women at the forefront of the struggle against gender violence in countries as diverse as Ecuador, Turkey, Sudan, China, France, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, and South Africa met to strategize on addressing such violence as a violation of human rights. The women built upon the work of the first 23 Institute participants who met in June 1991 to explore the theoretical and practical connections between violence against women and an international human rights framework.

The first week of the 1992 Institute was devoted to participants' presentations of their own work and perspectives, as well as to panels focusing on issues such as The Strategic Role of Human Rights and International Law as a Framework for Addressing Violence Against Women and Religion, Family, Race, Health and Sexuality. In the second week the participants formed five intensive working groups which focused on identifying strategies in areas such as public education, prevention, and advocacy



programs that combat violence against women and legal strategies to use human rights laws to address gender violence at the national level.

In addition, the participants presented their work at two public fora: June 18 at Douglass College and June 25 at the International Women's Tribune Centre in New York. The Center also coordinated a panel of New Jersey women, working at the state and local levels on issues of gender violence, who presented their work to the Institute participants. In a further effort to foster local-global connections, half of the participants remained after the two-week period for field stays with anti-violence groups in New Jersey and Vermont.

The Center also conducted a number of in-depth personal interviews with a participant from each region. The interviews explored the connections between the broad women's movement against gender violence, the usefulness of a human rights framework in this struggle, and the personal history of the participant as an activist in this area. Together with an update on strategies to link women's rights and human rights, the interviews will be central to the 1992 Institute report which will be available in the fall.

Among other strategies, the 1992 Institute participants affirmed the need to coordinate a second "16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women" (November 25 - December 10). The Center will compile an international calendar of events occurring around the world during this period, and urges readers to organize, sponsor, or dedicate events already scheduled to this theme to the 16 Days Campaign. The Center will also co-sponsor a number of events within the Rutgers community to mark the 16 Days.

In addition, the worldwide petition drive calling upon the United Nations, as it organizes its first international human rights conference in 25 years (June 14, 1993, Vienna), to comprehensively address women's human rights throughout the conference agenda, will continue through June 1993. The petition, initiated by the Center, and now co-sponsored by over 100 national, regional and international women's organizations, has been widely used to raise public awareness, locally and globally, and educate mainstream human rights organizations that violence against women violates human rights. The petition has been circulated in 80 countries in every region of the world and has been translated into 12 languages. On March 13, 1992, the Center, together with the International Women's Tribune Centre and the World

YWCA delivered the first round of 75,000 petition signatures to the UN Secretary General Boutros-Ghali.

In addition to its other activities, the Center plans to hold a Strategic Planning Institute in early spring 1993. This will be the next Institute of the Center's three year focus on the theme "Women, Violence, and Human Rights," and will bring together 10-15 international women who are already at an advanced stage in addressing women's rights as human rights in their regions. The Institute will focus on the next steps for international networking and action around gender violence over the period 1993-96. Included in this agenda are plans for a "Tribunal" or "Public Hearing on Violations of Women's Human Rights" to be held prior, or parallel, to the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna; The Year of the Family 1994, when the World Conference on Population and Development will also be held; and the 1995 World Conference on Women scheduled to be held in Beijing.

#### SAVE THIS DATE!

The 11th Annual Celebration of Our Work Conference is scheduled for Tuesday, May 25, 1993 at Hickman Hall on the Douglass College Campus. Details to follow.

### 1992 - Year of the Woman?

The media are touting 1992 as "the year of the woman" just as they have several times in the past. And once again, CAWP is conducting the painstaking research and information-gathering process that allows us to provide an accurate assessment of the numbers of women candidates and winners at the state legislative, statewide and Congressional levels. CAWP is also offering analysis and commentary in response to daily calls from the press on topics ranging from women candidates to the role of first ladies to the impact of the abortion issue on election-year politics. For the latest election information, contact Lucy Baruch at CAWP.

### Past and Promise Posters

A set of New Jersey Women's History Posters now makes it possible for you to look at the people you have read about.

A companion visual aid to the Women's Project of New Jersey's award-winning book, *Past and Promise: Lives of New Jersey Women* brings Silvia Dubois, Clara Barton, Jesse Redmon Fauset, Mabel Smith Douglass and other prominent and representative New Jersey women to the walls of your workplace, classroom, library, or home.

The 18" x 24" posters display New Jersey women of the past and present in four areas: Law & Government, Arts & Entertainment, Community Activism, and Science & Technology. The text and illustrations feature 4-5 women of diverse backgrounds and achievements, and are based upon material from *Past and Promise: Lives of New Jersey Women*, the first comprehensive biographical reference volume on the history of women in New Jersey.

The Women's Project of New Jersey, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to the retrieval and documentation of New Jersey women's history. The set of 4 Women's History Posters costs \$28.00, and can be purchased through the Consortium for Educational Equity.

### IRW Visiting Scholars

#### Roberta Wells Imre

Roberta Wells Imre was a practicing social worker for 21 years in Michigan and New York before returning to academia and receiving her Ph.D. from Rutgers in 1981. Her dissertation explores the influence of positivist ways of knowing on academic social work and was published as *Knowing and Caring: Philosophical Issues in Social Work*. She has become increasingly interested in the contributions of feminist thought to central epistemological and moral issues involved in professional practices like social work.

While at IRW, Imre will be working on a monograph entitled *Good Knowing in Practice* as part of a broader study "focusing on the nature of good practice, using social work as an example of a modern morality tale seen from a feminist perspective." Imre is a founding member of The Study Group for Philosophical Issues in Social Work. She will be at IRW from July 1992 to June 1993.

#### Joyce Gelb

Joyce Gelb is the Director of the Marvin Rosenberg - Hubert H. Humphrey Program in Public Affairs at City College. She is the author of four books, most recently *Feminism and Politics: A Comparative Analysis* (1989), as well as numerous articles and papers,



including a forthcoming monograph, *A Tale of Two Cities: Housing Change and Gentrification in London and New York*. During her stay, which is co-sponsored by the Center for the American Woman and Politics, Gelb will be working on several comparative projects related to women's political participation in Japan, Korea, and the United States. She will be at IRW for the Fall 1992 semester.

#### Judith Chelius Stark

Judith Chelius Stark is an Associate Professor of Philosophy at Seton Hall University. During her stay at IRW, Stark intends to research the existentialist roots of early feminist theory and to develop a course in feminist theory for the Philosophy Department. This two phase project is entitled "Feminist Theory, Existentialist Roots and Current Directions" and will touch upon issues as diverse as Hannah Arendt's conceptual paradigm of action, labor and work and its connections to "women's work," Augustine's development of the notion of original sin and its relation to women, and the politics of "virtuosity" and gender roles in society and politics. Stark will be at IRW for the academic year 1992-93.

#### Second Annual NEW Leadership Institute

*"In only ten days, the way I look at leadership, politics, and women has completely changed."* With those words, one of the 21 students who attended the NEW Leadership program at the Center for the American Woman and Politics (CAWP) described the impact of the 10-day summer institute on her life. While we make no claim to having an impact of that magnitude on every participant, we know that the program was a powerful eye-opener for many of the young women who came to New Brunswick to explore the theory and practice of women's political participation.

Now in its second year, National Education for Women's Leadership (NEW Leadership) annually brings together students and their faculty or staff advisors from 12 colleges or universities around the country. The program includes some history and theory, some skill-building, and a great deal of exposure to political women talking about their careers, their political views, their policy concerns, and their experiences balancing public and private lives.

Pairs of students from each institution attend the entire program; the advisors come for a week. After the program, the students and advisor on each campus undertake a public leadership-related

project in their community.

Highlights of this year's program included: Gloria Steinem speaking on leadership and self-esteem; a visit with U.S. Senate candidate Lynn Yeakel; a trip to Washington, DC, featuring chats with journalist Bonnie Erbe (host of the PBS talk show "To the Contrary") and Congresswomen Eleanor Holmes Norton and Susan Molinari; and a send-off speech from former U.S. Civil Rights Commissioner Blandina Cardenas Ramirez.

A new feature of this year's Institute which proved tremendously successful was the presence of three "faculty-in-residence." Kansas State Representative Nancy Brown, Minnesota State Representative Mary Jo McGuire and Washington-based political consultant Wanda Williams spent the entire ten days with the students. They had formal roles on the program, but they also joined participants for meals, recreation, and long evening discussions. They answered questions, offered personal observations about politics and public life, and provided invaluable role models, demonstrating that, as one student put it, "Women very much like ourselves have achieved positions in which they can make a difference."

Students who had attended the 1991 summer Institute (including two from Douglass College) returned to New Brunswick to report on their projects. Their efforts ranged from a Chicana leadership conference to organization of a campus chapter of the Young Women's Political Caucus to revitalization of a campus center for community service. To learn more about NEW Leadership, contact Kathy Kleeman at CAWP.

#### DC 75th Anniversary Campaign Kicks Off October 10

A gala kickoff for the 75th Anniversary Campaign for Douglass College will be held at the State Theatre in New Brunswick on Saturday evening, October 10 at 8:00 p.m. The evening's performance entitled "I Feel a Song Coming On" will feature the music of noted New Jersey lyricist and librettist Dorothy Fields with members of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra providing the music and highlighting noted cabaret singer Mary Cleere Haran. Four other Broadway singers will be featured as well.

Dorothy Fields collaborated with many of Broadway's greats over a 50-year span, composers such as Jimmy McHugh, Jerome Kern, Arthur Schwartz, and Cy Coleman. A few of her songs include "I Can't Give You Anything But Love," "On

the Sunny Side of the Street," and "The Way You Look Tonight."

Seventy-five women graduates will pay tribute to their alma mater and at the same time 75 women leaders of New Jersey will honor Douglass College. Both groups will march in at the beginning to celebrate 75 years of education for women in New Jersey at Douglass College. Dean Mary S. Harman will welcome the audience and share a few brief words about the college.

The show will feature many of the songs written by Dorothy Fields, probably the most noted women lyricist of the century. It is being underwritten by the Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation and all profits will go to the 75th Anniversary Fund.

According to Dean Mary S. Hartman, "this gala kickoff promises to be the start of a most exciting 75th anniversary year for Douglass and the official start of the college's first capital campaign. It will raise much needed funds to bring the programs at Douglass to the levels needed for the women of the 21st century, to allow women to take their places as leaders in tomorrow's world - in math and science, in global and national business and government, and at the same time to build an endowment for the College which will provide a continuing source of income."

Tickets are available at the State Theatre Box Office (908-246-7469). Patron's tickets, which include an invitation to a gala buffet reception in the Heldrich Room and in the downstairs lobby following the show, may be ordered from the Associate Alumnae Office. Patrons will have their names listed in the Playbill as will corporate and organizational sponsors who purchase a minimum of \$500 in tickets which they may use or make available to students.

#### Women's Archives Update

In January 1992, Fernanda Helen Perrone was appointed Women's Studies Archivist in the Rutgers University Libraries's Special Collections and Archives. Perrone received her Ph.D. in British and American social history from Oxford where she designed and taught a course on women's history at the Stanford University Center at Oxford. Her dissertation title is *University Teaching as a Profession for Women*; her article, "Women Academics, 1880-1930" will be published in the journal *History of Universities* in 1993. While at Oxford, she also identified and cataloged 18th century books and wrote descriptive bibliography for the Eighteenth Century Short Title Catalog.



Since coming to Rutgers, Perrone has worked on several collections in the Women's History Archives and evaluated potential acquisitions. She is currently preparing a finding aid for the papers of the Women's Caucus of Art. Founded in 1972, the Caucus is the largest professional association for women artists in the United States. The finding aid will help encourage and facilitate research in this important collection. Perrone has also arranged and inventoried the archives of the New York Feminist Art Institute and prepared for its transfer from NYFAI's New York headquarters to the Rutgers Libraries. In addition to the organizational records of this important institute, the collection contains a valuable record of nearly every American woman artist of the past two decades.

As a special project, Perrone has prepared an index to A Guide to the Women's History Archives at Rutgers originally compiled in 1990. The index enables researchers to access information to the Guide by subject, as well as by names of individuals, associations, and institutions.

#### Hobhouse Papers Donated

Novelist, art critic, and biographer, Janet Hobhouse wrote *Everybody Who Was Anybody: A Biography of Gertrude Stein*; *The Bride Stripped Bare: The Artist and the Female Nude in the Twentieth Century*;

and three novels, *Nellie Without Hugo*, *Dancing in the Dark*, and *November*. Dating from her student days in England in the 1960s through the 1980s, the Papers consist of letters, appointment books, manuscripts of published works, an unpublished autobiography, unpublished essays and reviews of her work. The collection is closed to the public until it is processed.

Work is beginning on the establishment of the Janet Hobhouse Memorial Fund. Contributions will be used for the arrangement, description and preservation of the Janet Hobhouse Papers and other manuscript materials in Special Collections and Archives.

#### In The Public Sphere

The 1992-93 IRW Thinking About Women Lecture Series begins September 15 with Catherine R. Stimpson lecturing on "Women, Women's Studies and the Information Society." Other lectures include: 10/20, Phyllis Mack (RU-History), "Politics and Prophecy: Women Visionaries in the 17th Century"; 11/16, M. Jacqui Alexander (Hamilton), "Legislating the National Interest?: Sexualities and 'Post'-Colonial Caribbean States"; 2/25, Kimberle Crenshaw (Columbia Law School), "Rac(e)ing Feminism Towards a Re-Mobilization of the Women's Movement"; 3/11, Tricia Rose (RU-American Studies), "Public Seizures: Black Women in Contemporary

Popular Music and Culture"; and 4/1, Rosalind Petchesky (Hunter), "Reproductive Rights, Post-Privatism and International Feminism." All lectures will be held in the conference room at 27 Clifton Avenue, Douglass campus. Lectures begin at 4:30 pm, preceded by a reception at 4:00 pm.

#### PHONE NUMBERS

Associate Alumnae of  
Douglass  
(908) 247-1974

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

Institute for Research  
on Women  
(908) 932-9072

Laurie N.J. Chair in  
Women's Studies  
(908) 932-6948



Institute for Research on Women  
27 Clifton Avenue  
Douglass Campus  
New Brunswick, NJ 08903

#### CONTRIBUTORS:

Ron Becker  
Lucy Baruch  
Stephanie Girard  
Marilyn Hulme  
Kathy Kleeman  
Niamh Reilly  
Eleanor Wyckoff

Editor: Stephanie Girard

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID

New Brunswick, New Jersey 08903  
Permit #19