Notes from the Chair

Before our attention starts to focus entirely on the preparations for the annual conference in Washington D.C., I would like to reflect on the WSS accomplishments and events at Midwinter in Boston. Diminished support for professional travel in many institutions resulted in a smaller conference, but it did not dampen our enthusiasm and we managed to have a great time. One of the highlights of the Midwinter conference was certainly our social, with the reception and tour of Schlesinger Library, at Harvard’s Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, in Cambridge. This visit was made possible thanks to a very special invitation by Marilyn Dunn, Executive Director of Schlesinger Library, in coordination with Connie Phelps, WSS Membership Committee Chair. I would like to express my gratitude to both Marilyn and Connie for making this special event possible. It was the first visit to Schlesinger Library for many of us, and we all enjoyed the exhibit with important artifacts and manuscripts, including those from Julia Child, who was a long time Cambridge resident. Additionally, we had the opportunity to tour the stacks and engage in conversation with Marilyn and many of Schlesinger Library staff members. The topics included the difficulty in defining Third Wave Feminism; pros and cons of the wave trope; and collection development and archival issues of women’s group blogs. These issues are dear to all of us librarians committed to women’s issues, regardless of institutional differences, and I felt encouraged and fortunate to be a member of such an engaged professional group.

The WSS committees worked diligently on new and continuing projects at Midwinter. Although our efforts to establish a liaison relationship with the NWSA has not yet materialized, thanks to Chimene Tucker and Kim Clarke, the WSS was represented at the NWSA Annual Conference in Atlanta, GA last November. Their poster presentation titled “Infused Instruction: Women’s Studies Librarians are the main ingredients to Improve the Research Process in Women’s Studies” explored information standards for women’s studies. I look forward to the developments of this project by the instruction committee at the annual conference and beyond. I
also would like to mention the monumental work by Diana King, our past chair, regarding revisions to the “Publications Manual” and her ongoing leadership to revamp the “Orientation Manual.”

Jane Nichols, our Vice-chair/chair elect, hosted the discussion forum titled “The ‘F’ Word: Contemporary Feminism is Freaky” that was attended by Boston area librarians in addition to WSS members. The discussion revealed differences in interpretation and representation of feminism between the second wave feminists and the younger generation. Jane did a terrific job in leading a difficult discussion, and we were persuaded that tension between the generations can be productive and that different choices, of clothing for example, do not reflect divergence from core values, but they can be expressions of diversity. This is certainly an important debate that is likely to continue. The WSS members are well positioned to take a leadership role in these exchanges.

I hope many of you will be able to join us at the annual conference in Washington D.C. One of the exciting things will be the celebration of the professional achievement of Cindy Ingold, the winner of the Career Achievement Award. Our conference program on June 28 “Finding the Best Film for the Classroom: Feminist Pedagogy, Visual Literacy and Representation” continues the exploration of film and multimedia issues that started at the conference program last year. The four distinguished panelists will present their perspectives of a teaching faculty, film distributor, media librarian, and film review e-journal editor. Join us for this exciting presentation!

Kayo Denda
WSS Chair
Women’s Studies Librarian
Rutgers University
Contemporary Feminism: Topic of Midwinter Discussion

WSS put together a wonderful discussion group at ALA Midwinter in Boston. Librarians discussed questions around 3rd Wave Feminism and library service. Titled “The ‘F’ Word: Contemporary Feminism is Freaky,” the discussion revolved around questions such as how to define Third Wave Feminism and whether the trope of “waves” is a useful way to categorize feminist activism and theory. The discussion built on the participants’ sharing of their understandings and first-hand experiences of second and third wave feminism and frequently returned to this topic as a touchstone.

Questions discussed included what kinds of service and information needs students and faculty in Women’s Studies are currently having, whether academic departments were changing names in response to contemporary feminism’s focus, and what shape feminist activism on college campuses is taking. Participants also discussed their approaches to outreach to feminists on their campuses, instruction methods, and collection issues.

The consensus of the discussion was that in order to respond to the challenges of Third Wave feminism, librarians need to better understand the set of issues Third Wave feminists are bringing to the table and the current climate for women. These approaches include a global focus, diversity and inclusion, micro-politics, the media, and consumerism.

Jane Nichols

WSS Social at ALA Midwinter 2010

The social took place at Harvard University’s Schlesinger Library in Cambridge.

Photo by Kayo Dendo
Kim Clarke and Chimene Tucker, members of the Instruction committee, presented a poster at the National Women's Studies Association Conference entitled, “Infused Instruction: Women’s Studies Librarians are the main ingredient to improve the research process in Women’s Studies” in November 2009 in Atlanta. The poster illustrated how 21st century information competencies can help students find and use information more knowledgeably and ideas of promoting lifelong learning within the discipline.

The highlight of the poster is the section that takes a representative research paper assignment and “infuses” it. The original assignment requests that students write a six page formal paper on a topic, and cite the sources used. While the rewritten assignment asks more of students, the instructor is much clearer in their expectations of the students’ work. They are to choose a workable research topic, neither too broad or too narrow; the term formal writing is explained, and they are given a particular citation style and expected to use it, with model citations given.

A handout accompanied the poster. In addition to the abstract and the standards, tips for integrating the standards, as well as assignment ideas were offered, along with a brief bibliography of readings.

The attendees who stopped by the poster were a surprising mix. While many were faculty, staff of women's centers, and women's studies students, both graduate and undergraduate, and a handful of women's studies librarians, visited. Faculty appreciated the suggested assignment tips, noting that students' papers would be enhanced with the use of the standards; women's centers staffers asked about starting or further developing their own library collections, and a few students received some reference assistance. The librarians came to say hello and shared about their work at their libraries.

Note: Both the poster and handout is available on the WSS Instruction site underneath Research and Publications at http://www.tc.umn.edu/~clark078/wss_instruction/index.html

Kim Clarke
Committee Reports From Midwinter

Instruction Committee
The committee is engaged in the ongoing project of the “Information Literacy Standards for Women’s Studies.” The members are committed to getting this done within a one-year time frame. After the final revisions are complete, Diane will contact the ACRL IL Consultant. The consultant will make suggestions or changes along with the ACRL Standards Committee. Others outside of the Instruction Committee and ACRL will need to review the standards, such as WS faculty. The committee also discussed some possible topics for programming that will be forwarded to the Program Planning Committee.

Diane Fulkerson, Chair

Membership Committee
The Membership Committee met at Midwinter and discussed some goals and strategies for improving communication through social networking tools Facebook, MySpace, and Twitter, as well as other WSS publications and media. We continued discussion of the ACRL membership statistics and what we can learn from the responses to emails sent to members.

Marilyn Dunn, Executive Director of the Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University, graciously offered the Library as the site for the WSS Midwinter social. The social included a tour of the Library, with a behind-the-scenes look at the facility, in addition to wonderful refreshments. (see picture on pg 3)

Connie Phelps, Chair

Research Committee
The Research Committee reviewed the call for proposals for the 2010 Poster Session which seeks to provide an opportunity to present completed research or work in progress. This will be the third annual Poster Session sponsored by the Women’s Studies Section and will take place at the Membership Meeting at Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. Research Committee members are participating in an ongoing joint research project of the Feminist Task Force, the Committee on the Study of Women in Librarianship, and the Women’s Studies Section. Members discussed plans for updating the committee website.

Rebecca Hankins came to the Research Committee to discuss two of her projects. Rebecca is the author of the recent article “Uncovering Black Feminist Writers 1963-90: An Evaluation of Their Coverage in Research Tools.” Rebecca is engaged in two projects: a digital feminist name authority project and the creation of a thesaurus to document new terms. The thesaurus that was put together by Ruth Dickstein on Women in LC was published many years ago and has not been updated. These are potential opportunities for section members.

Marcia Barrett, The University of Alabama

No Report Submitted by:
• Awards Committee
• Collection Development & Bibliography Committee
• Electronic Resources and Access Committee
• Nominating Committee
• Program Planning Committee
• Publications Committee
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Meeting name</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat Jun 26</td>
<td>4:00-5:30 pm</td>
<td>General Membership (includes poster presentations)</td>
<td>Grand Hyatt Washington–Independence</td>
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<td>6:00-8:00 pm</td>
<td>WSS Social</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun Jun 27</td>
<td>8-10 am</td>
<td>Conference Planning Committee 2010</td>
<td>Renaissance Washington–Meeting Rm 03</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8-10 am</td>
<td>Conference Planning Committee 2011</td>
<td>Renaissance Washington–Meeting Rm 06</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:30-noon</td>
<td>Awards (closed)</td>
<td>JW Marriott–Rayburn</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:30-noon</td>
<td>All Committees meeting</td>
<td>Renaissance Washington–Meeting Rm 12-14</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4:00-5:30 pm</td>
<td>Executive and Leadership Orientation</td>
<td>Grand Hyatt Washington–Latrobe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon Jun 28</td>
<td>8-noon</td>
<td>Program: Finding the Best Film for the Classroom: Feminist Pedagogy, Visual Literacy and Representation</td>
<td>Washington Convention Center–147A</td>
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♦ For most up to date information see: http://libr.org/wss/conferences/index.html

♦ For other meetings of interest, visit: http://ftfinfo.wikispaces.com/Conference+Schedules

This site includes conference meetings for:
- Feminist Task Force (FTF)
- Committee on the Status of Women in Libraries
- Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Round Table (GLBTRT)
- Social Responsibilities Round Table
- Intellectual Freedom Round Table
- Rainbow Project Task Force
- and more.
Cindy Ingold wins 2010 ACRL WSS Career Achievement Award

Cindy Ingold was selected as the 2010 winner of the Association of College and Research Libraries Women’s Studies Section Career Achievement Award. She is currently the women and gender resources librarian at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. This award is sponsored by ABC-CLIO and recognizes significant contributions to women’s studies librarianship. A plaque and a cash prize of $1,000 will be presented to Ingold at 8 a.m. on June 28 during the ALA Annual Conference in Washington D.C.

Cindy has provided extensive service to WSS and ACRL and published several important works including:


From the Editor

Margaret J. Foster will end her term as Newsletter Editor following ALA Annual 2010. Marisa Ball, Assistant Newsletter Editor, will move into the Editor’s chair.

Newsletter Editor Opening

WSS Newsletter Editor needed for two year term, beginning with Fall 2010 issue.

Responsibilities:

Serve staggered 2-year term: year one as Assistant Editor and year two as Editor. Editors are non-voting ex-officio members of the Executive Committee and of the Publications Committee. Editors may divide up the editorial and text inputting tasks as they choose. Camera-ready copy is sent to ACRL for production and mailing. Editors solicit input and news from WSS Officers, committee chairs and members, and may write original copy. At least one editor should be at the following events:

♦ WSS Executive, Publications, and Program Committee meetings
♦ Membership meetings
♦ Leadership Orientations
♦ ACRL meetings for newsletter editors

Qualifications:

♦ Knowledge of or willingness to learn Microsoft Publisher
♦ interest in increasing one’s knowledge of how WSS operates
♦ desire to add a national service accomplishment to one’s CV

To apply:

please send a brief email regarding your interest to Marissa Ball at ballm@fiu.edu or Margaret Foster at margaretfoster@tamu.edu

Applicants are encouraged to attach a copy of current CV.
Welcome New Members! (Aug ‘09– Feb ‘10)

Amanda N. Price
Amanda Schmidt
Brianna Leesch
Caitlin Grace Flanagan
Caitlin Shanley
Chris Place
Courtney Leigh Barbour
David Ellenwood
Deborah A. Murphy
Elizabeth Smith
Elizabeth Theobald
Gail McMillan
Gail Rodgers McCormick
Gretchen Feltes
Hope L. Justice
Janai Garfinkel
Jane M. Hutton
Jennifer Ilagan Holowich
Jessica O'Brien

Juliet Taylor Rumble
Karen Brown
Katherine Sara Drewes
Kathleen M. Conrad
Kimberley Schwenk
Krystal M. Lewis
Laura Deffley
Malia Elizabeth Willey
Mary Ellen W. Rogan
Mary O'Kelly
Melanie Jean Meyers
Melodie Frankovitch
Michael Woodward
Michelle Denise Datis
Monica Hope Castiglione
Natalie K. Bulick
Penelope Wood
Rhonda L. Neugebauer

Ruth Jean Shaw
Sally Evans
Sanjyot Walawalkar Selkirk
Sara Eve Linden
Sara Hupp
Sharon H. Swacker
Simone M. Fujita
Sofia Erendira Vazquez-Duran
Stephanie R. Miles
Susan Wood
Susanne Irene Ragen
Virginia E. Corvid