

# WOMEN at the CENTER

**Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture**  
**David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University**

Issue 23, Spring 2013

## The Power of This Story: Activism in Durham

For the second year, students enrolled in the women's studies senior seminar led by Professor Kathy Rudy came to the Bingham Center to ground the feminist and queer theory they have been studying for the past four years with research using the records of Durham-based



**Duke students talk with Betsy Barton and Kat Turner following the second panel**

activists and organizations. Professor Rudy framed this experience by asking "How could the essays and theories they so love travel not into the future, but just across Broad Street, Buchanan, Main, and Mangum, outside the walls of East Campus and into the Durham community?"

This year, the class reached into the community through a series of three panel presentations intended to share the rich history of social justice activism that has taken place in Durham over the past several decades. Speakers included Joanne Abel, Barb Smalley, David Jolly, Jeanette Stokes, Kat

Turner, Betsy Barton, Mandy Carter, Steve Schewel, and Donna Lee Giles.

During the last panel, which was held at the Durham County Library, Mandy Carter addressed the town/gown divide by pointing out that Duke may have a fraught relation-

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## Archiving the Bingham Center's Own Records

Last fall, we did what so many of our collection donors do: we packed up our materials from years past and sent them to the archive. As part of our preparations for the Rubenstein Library move, Bingham Center staff went through filing cabinets and cleared our shelves, bringing together documents that trace the nearly 25-year history of the Library's efforts to build a collection of historical materials documenting women's lives.

What we found stretches back to the very beginning, when Women's Studies Archivist Ginny Daley first combed through a

hefty guide to special collections at Duke University, carefully uncovering sources that might shed light on the historical experiences of women. Also included are planning and promotional materials for past symposia, programs, and exhibits; early iterations of our evolving subject guides and newsletter; and meeting minutes and other administrative files that provide a glimpse of our day-to-day activities.

As we approach our 25th anniversary, it is fitting that our own history is now documented in the University Archives.

[library.duke.edu/rubenstein/bingham](http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/bingham)

**SALLIE BINGHAM CENTER**  
FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY AND CULTURE

## Spring Events

### **The Power of This Story: Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality in Durham 1960-1990**

(see story on pg. 1 for program details)  
February 27, March 20, and April 3

### **Clarissa Sligh and Nava Atlas in Conversation: Race, Gender and Identity in Artists' Books** March 25

### **Melissa Gira Grant: The War on Sex Workers** March 27

### **Black Feminist Film School Screenings**

- *A Litany for Survival*  
January 30
- *Experimental Shorts including Barbara McCullough's Water Ritual #1*  
April 4

### **Robin Morgan & Marie Anderson: The Women's Pages & The Women's Liberation Movement** *Scholars' Tea with Kimberly Voss* April 18

## Profiles in Research: Laura J. Foxworth

Mary Lily grant recipient Laura J. Foxworth, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of South Carolina, recently conducted research for her dissertation, "The Spiritual is Political: How the Southern Baptist Convention Debated Feminism and Found the New Right."

She focused primarily on records in the Resource Center for Women in Ministry in the South collection. The Resource Center was founded by Jeanette Stokes in 1977 to provide support for women in ministerial leadership roles.

Foxworth writes, "In my examination of the Resource Center files, I came across an interesting collection of newsletters for Southern Baptists in North Carolina who supported feminism in the 1970s and 1980s. These newsletters were produced by 'Southern Baptists for the Family and Equal Rights,' or SBFER, an organization formed in 1981 to create support for the Equal



**From the "Southern Baptists for Family and Equal Rights" newsletter, found in the Resource Center for Women and Ministry in the South records.**

Rights Amendment and issues related to the health and welfare of women in the North Carolina Baptist Convention and in state politics. After its efforts to promote the ERA in the state were unsuccessful and the deadline for ERA ratification came and went, the organization turned its focus to women's ordination and other expressions of feminism in the Southern Baptist Convention."

She continues, "The SBFER's newsletters are crucial for my dissertation as they provide evidence of grassroots feminism within the Southern Baptist Convention at a time when the denomination was reversing course on many issues regarding gender equality, in full retreat from moderate positions it had taken in the 1970s. These materials from the early 1980s reveal strong dissenting views, which complicate the narrative of the Southern Baptist Convention's right turn on social issues."

## Transforming Knowledge: New E-Book from Jean O'Barr

In a 2010 talk on her lifelong relationship with books, Bingham Center co-founder Jean O'Barr said, "My life has always been a life with books—and it still is. Now I do not have to own them to cherish them."

This sentiment is particularly appropriate as she publishes her new book, *Transforming Knowledge: Public Talks on Women's Studies, 1976-2011*. This volume, available as an e-book or by print-on-demand from She Writes Press, brings together a selection of writings which chronicle her personal journey that unfolded along with the growth of the women's movement and evolution of Women's Studies.

Now retired, Jean O'Barr founded and led the Duke University Women's Studies Program for two decades. She is a premier feminist thinker, educator and activist; the author of many books, such as *Women Imagine Change* and *Feminism in Action*; and a former editor-in-chief of *SIGNS: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*. Her records are preserved at the Sallie Bingham Center.

### **Transforming Knowledge**

Public Talks  
on Women's Studies  
1976-2011

Jean Fox O'Barr

Available from:  
[shewritespress.com](http://shewritespress.com)

## 2013-2014 Mary Lily Research Grant Recipients

The Bingham Center is pleased to announce the recipients of this year's Mary Lily Research Grants. These grants support the work of scholars who will travel to the Rubenstein Library from all over the U.S. to use the Bingham Center's rich collections.

**Valerie Behrer**, Ph.D. candidate, English, University of Minnesota, for dissertation research on the connections between girls' subjectivities, autobiographical practices, and the development of American radical feminism from the late 1960s to the 1970s.

**Erin Leigh Durban-Albrecht**, Ph.D. candidate, Gender & Women's Studies, University of Arizona, for a set of related projects—including a film and her dissertation—that use Kathy Acker's *Kathy Goes to Haiti* to explore racialized gender and sexuality, cultural production, and U.S.-Haiti relations in the 20th and early 21st century.

**Lauren Gutterman**, Center for Gender and Sexuality Law, Columbia Law School, for a book that will examine the personal experiences and public representation of American wives who desired women, 1945 to 1979.

**Monica Miller**, Ph.D. candidate, English and Women's & Gender Studies, Louisiana State University, for dissertation research

on the use of ugly women as characters that defy the stereotype of the beautiful belle in the work of 20th century Southern women writers.

**Michelle Pronovost**, master's student, Fashion Institute of Technology, for research on the confrontational fashion of riot grrrls in zines from the 1990s.

**Andrea Walton**, Associate Professor, Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, Indiana University Bloomington, for research supporting an article and book chapter on philanthropist Eleanor Thomas Elliott.

**Kelly Weber**, Ph.D. candidate, History, Rice University, for dissertation research related to the politics of daughterhood in the New South, 1880 to 1920.

**Stacy J. Williams**, Ph.D. candidate, Sociology, University of California, San Diego, for dissertation research on how social movements have affected feminist discourse about cooking, 1874 to 2013.

**Mary Ziegler**, Assistant Professor, St. Louis University, for a book about how abortion providers helped define lay understandings of the constitutional, statutory, and common law concerning abortion in the United States.

Mary Lily Research Grants: [library.duke.edu/rubenstein/bingham/grants](http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/bingham/grants)

### The Power of This Story *continued from page 1*

ship with the city of Durham, but Duke alumni who remain here after graduation have helped make Durham great.

Panelists and audience members shared stories about participating in the first LGBT Pride marches in Durham, attending lesbian dances held in the basement of the YWCA, and being present for the Duke vigil following the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968, an event that brought attention to a civil rights issue on campus: the need for improving working conditions of service workers at Duke.

This program series was co-sponsored by the Rubenstein Library, Durham County

Library, Duke's Program in Women's Studies, the Vice Provost of Academic Affairs, and the Pauli Murray Project.

Reflecting on this semester-long experience, Professor Rudy observed, "my students got to hear directly from community people, got to read their diaries and sift through boxes of memorabilia, and examine their own education, all in the shadow of graduation and the new worlds they were about to encounter. The whole thing worked better than any of us could possibly have imagined. One student said it was magical."

## Instruction & Outreach

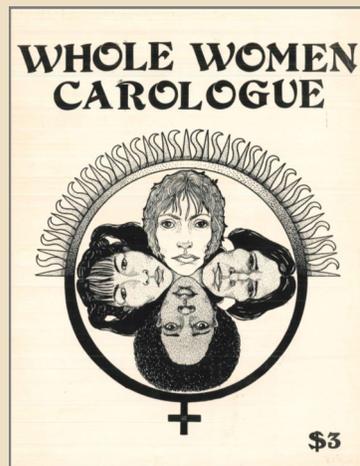
Bingham Center librarians taught a variety of instruction sessions this Spring for students enrolled in the following courses:

**Archival Appraisal**  
(UNC Library Science)

**Girls Go Global**  
(Women's Studies)

**Narratives of Struggle** (Writing 101)

**Women's Studies Senior Seminar**



This guide to resources for women in North Carolina was produced in 1974 by a collective of women from Durham, Chapel Hill, and Carrboro—just one of the many pieces from our collection documenting local activism.

# DUKE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Sallie Bingham Center for  
Women's History and Culture

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## Celebrating 25 Years of Documenting Women's History



In 1988, as a result of a gift by Sallie Bingham, the Women's Studies Archivist position was created to coordinate activities associated with special collections library holdings related to women and gender. The center was permanently endowed in 1993 and named the "Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture" in 1999 in honor of author, playwright, teacher, and feminist activist Sallie Bingham. In 2011, the Center's directorship was endowed by and named in honor of journalist, activist, and women's health care pioneer Merle Hoffman.

### Save the Dates for Upcoming Events!

During the 2013-2014 academic year, the Bingham Center will offer a series of events, as well as a multi-faceted web presence in honor of our 25th anniversary.

- September 17, 2013: Jean O'Barr will read from her new book, *Transforming Knowledge*
- December 4, 2013: Ipas 40th Anniversary Celebration with Merle Hoffman, president and CEO of Choices Women's Medical Center, and Dr. Raffaella Schiavon, director of Ipas Mexico
- March 27, 2014: Our 25th Anniversary Celebration, featuring Sallie Bingham
- April 17, 2014: Women's Studies Senior Seminar Capstone Event with Mab Segrest
- Additional programming with Eleanor Smeal and others

"Women Unite" detail above from a poster by Irene Peslikis, whose papers are preserved in the Bingham Center.