

SARAH LAWRENCE COLLEGE

Archived News

2003-2004

News articles from 2003-2004

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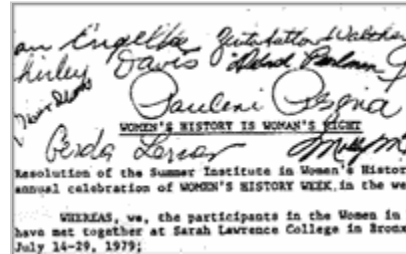
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Dr. Gerda Lerner Honored

Date: Jun 2, 2004

News Release

A State historic marker designating Sarah Lawrence College as the “Home of the Nation’s First Graduate Degree Program in Women’s History, founded by Dr. Gerda Lerner in 1972,” was unveiled on Saturday, June 5th at 2 p.m. Congresswoman Nita Lowey (D-NY) spoke at the ceremony that honored Dr. Lerner, widely acknowledged as one of the foremost pioneers in the field of women’s history. In attendance was alumnae of the Women’s History program as well as alumnae of the historic 1979 Summer Institute in Women’s History that was organized by the Sarah Lawrence graduate program under Dr. Lerner’s leadership and the Women’s Action Alliance and from where, 25 years ago, Women’s History Week (later to become Women’s History Month) was launched.



The program honoring the Women’s History program was part of the College’s 2004 reunion celebrating Sarah Lawrence’s 75th anniversary. Recognized for its innovative pedagogy that stresses close student faculty interaction at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, the College established several pioneering programs of which Women’s History is particularly notable. Program directors and faculty have included many whose names are among the most illustrious in the field of women’s history. In addition to Dr. Lerner they include Amy Swerdlow, Alice Kessler-Harris, Sherry Ortner and Barbara Engel, to name just a few.

One of the hallmarks of the Women’s History program is the convening of conferences and meetings of scholars and activists to address issues of pressing concern. In 1979 only five years after the program began, a summer institute was held that would give important momentum to the women’s movement. Immediately after the “Institute in Women’s History for Leaders of Women’s Organizations” that summer, two student-activists brought a resolution passed at the Institute proclaiming “the annual celebration of Women’s History Week” to members of Congress, President Carter and governors of the states. National acceptance of the proclamation and the ultimate designation of Women’s History Month resulted.

Twenty five of the original 52 participants at the ‘79 institute returned to Sarah Lawrence to reflect on how far women have come, tried to recapture the spark of the movement, and began to develop an action plan for the future renewal of the women’s movement. Many of the original attendees of the Institute have gone on to attain positions of leadership in a range of fields, including teaching, research, social advocacy and grassroots organizing.

“The quest to know our history as women and the desire to use that knowledge in our organizing efforts for women’s equality converged twenty-five years ago at Sarah Lawrence College in a Summer Institute in Women’s History for Leaders of Women’s Organizations,” says Pam Elam, one of the activists who had taken the proclamation to Washington and who planned the reunion of the institute participants. “In many ways, the summer of ‘79 at Sarah Lawrence College and its June 2004 Reunion offered, in microcosm, a view of the last quarter century of Women’s Movement activity for change,” she added.

Reflections from Participants at the 1979 Summer Institute:

On the importance of the 25th reunion:

I am angry and concerned about the fragility of the protections women have struggled so hard to gain and about the horrific circumstances of millions of women and girls around the world. I feel a great sense of urgency, more than ever before. I will be interested in sharing ideas, concerns, and experiences with those remarkable women I met in 1979.

- Carole Artigiani

On the achievement of Women's History Week (to become Women's History Month) following the Institute:

"I had sent the Women's Action Alliance copies of the curriculum and organizing guides and commemorative posters, we had designed for Women's History Week in Sonoma County. My primary goal in attending the conference was to get the Women's History Institute to embrace a National Women's History Week. It was an easy win. I don't remember any opposition.

"The difficulty came later as we worked to get a Congressional Resolution. Pam Elam and Peggy Pascoe did much of the coordination and lobbying. There was early success with the governors of each state because participants returned to their states and asked their governors to declare Women's History Week. Someone or some group got the ear of the White House because I received a call from Sarah Weddington, who was President Carter's Assistant for Women's Affairs. She told me that the President was going to issue a Presidential Proclamation calling on the America people to pause and remember the tremendous contributions of American women. He issued that Presidential Proclamation in 1980 and every president since has done the same.

"In 1980, I co-founded the National Women's History Project. Our mission is to recognize and celebrate the diverse and historic accomplishments of women by providing information and educational materials and programs.

"National Women's History Week which in 1987 became National Women's History Month has been very successful in getting schools, communities, workplaces, and organizations to recognize women's history. The most effective way to use women's history is to make it personal and relevant to your audience."

-Molly Murphy MacGregor

On participants' roles in implementing the drive for Women's History Week (Month)

"When I returned to Illinois I was charged up for women's history month and luckily was tied into a major statewide alliance of women's groups: the Illinois Women's Agenda. It didn't take much persuading to get the Agenda to take women's history week on with much enthusiasm. It was the perfect project because it could encompass all women and we had much diversity (including disagreement on many issues) in the Agenda membership.

"Women's History Week and now month continues in Chicago... We did an all day workshop (now repeated on a regular basis) Called Don't Throw it Away-Saving the History of Women's Organizations to draw attention to the need to save and donate records. I left Chicago in fall 1980 and returned to Philadelphia where I had lived in the early 70's.

“Upon arrival in Philadelphia I began to get calls from folks in city government who wanted to do the women’s history week thing there—they had heard about what I had done in Chicago and had heard about it from other sources. Within months I was drawn into planning meetings. At some point which I don’t recall now I began giving the Don’t Throw it Away workshops again and began to help a writer assemble a guide to women’s history collections in the Delaware Valley—still a useful source.

“In the early 1990’s I began having lunch with a small group of mostly women (one guy) which resulted in the country’s first conference on women’s historic sites held at Bryn Mawr College. This conference proved seminal as many attendees (myself included) have become very involved with saving and interpreting women’s history sites. There are two editions of a great set of driving and walking tours about women’s history, which came out of this conference.”

– Cindy Little

On women’s history or any other history projects participants initiated or in which they played a major role or were influenced by the Institute:

“I began immediately to incorporate women’s history in all my presentations and writing. Because I was directing/coordinating the ACLU Southern Women’s Rights Project, there were a lot of these. I also helped to organize a number of women’s history community programs.

“Most immediately I returned home and developed a course on “Black Women in White America” for high school students.

“Several years later, I was privileged to help initiate and to serve on the board of a new Virginia Women’s History Project, which Lynda Robb, wife to the governor, began as her first lady project. It was several years of work to organize museum exhibits, a catalogue, a film on the history of Virginia women, speaker series, a Harriet Tubman opera, and other events. The Project is celebrating its 20th anniversary this fall at the state Library of Virginia with an exhibit and catalogue focused on new material we have discovered about Virginia women’s history since that time. (The early project set up ongoing research grants with money left from the original effort. These continue today.)

“Every newsletter I wrote, every talk I gave, every opportunity I had I tried to get a women’s history component into the discussion. I think the best example though was inviting Carolyn Reed into the South to address black household workers in Georgia and Mississippi. I did the logistics but she did the real work. I saw those faces as she spoke. I knew they were moved to organize by some of those stories.

“Over the years, I developed and taught several college courses on different aspects of women’s studies which included women’s history: Women, War and Peace; Women, Health and Healing; Women and the Economy.”

- Betsy Brinson

For the past fifteen years, I have been building and sustaining a youth development organization, Global Kids, Inc., which is grounded in a commitment to human rights and social justice. Much of the thinking and practice that is the mark of Global Kids comes from my experience as an educator, historian, and activist. Issues of women and girls are an integral part of our programming, which is essentially driven by the interests and experiences of the young people, both girls and boys, involved in Global Kids. Participants are largely from “high needs” schools and marginalized communities of New York City who are learning about critical local and global issues and educating and inspiring others to take action. They understand that historical experience informs present-day circumstances and that the struggle for social justice is life-long. ‘Human rights’ is a powerful organizing tool. Essentially, my work involves educating young people (and those who teach them) about human rights and then supporting them in developing the knowledge, skills, and experiences they need to effect social change.”

-Carole Artigiani

On what participants remember most about the Institute:

“It was the result of the bringing together a group of dynamic, committed, curious women who were working to transform society and seeking to know the roots of women’s oppression and the stories of those who had preceded us in this struggle. There was a desire on the part of many participants to find a way for women of diverse backgrounds to find common ground and create strategies for coalescing around a feminist agenda.”

- Carole Artigiani

Summer Writing Programs

Date: Jun 8, 2004

News Release

Sarah Lawrence College, once again, proves to be the place for writers over the summer. The annual Summer Seminar for Writers and High School Writer's Workshop are programs designed to foster the development of new and experienced writers.

The Summer Seminar for Writers (June 20-25) is a non-competitive, week-long series of workshops, in which students are encouraged to produce new work and reflect on work completed prior to the program. Students are admitted to study in fiction, non-fiction, or poetry and work intensely in classes with no more than 12 participants.



Conferences, a unique aspect of the Sarah Lawrence experience and of both summer programs, give students the opportunity to meet one-on-one with their workshop professors, while supplemental conferences provide them with a chance to study with other workshop faculty.

Ample time is provided for students to read and write, and readings, lectures, panels, and social events round out the experience and contribute to the overall goal of the seminar—to enable participants to find new directions, produce new work and foster new ideas in a community of people devoted to the calling and craft of writing.

The High School Writer's Workshop (July 5-9) has a similar format to the Summer Seminar for Writers though theatre workshops are included as part of the writing curriculum. Led by theatre artists, these workshops helps students explore the creative process through improvisation, group projects and games.

The writer's workshop is where students will write, read each other's work, learn to observe, and transform what they see into poems and stories. Emphasis is on production of original writing, collaboration and discussion, and revision.

There will also be opportunities for participants to conference with both their writing and theatre workshop leaders. The week of workshops, faculty and student readings ends with a celebration of student work.

Empowering Teachers Summer Institute Program

Date: Jun 28, 2004

News Release

"Educational Values and Values Education: The Classroom as Community" will be the theme of this year's Empowering Teachers Program Summer Institute (July 12-16) and will address values issues in the classroom—a topic that educators have struggled with for years. Hosted annually by Sarah Lawrence College's Child Development Institute (CDI), this year's program has attracted the interest of international educators.



Participants in the Institute will attend lectures and panel discussions throughout the week and work intensively in small groups to examine the six principles of the New York State Code of Ethics for Educators, issued by the New York State Education Department in December 2003. They will report on their group-work at the end of the week.

Jane Andrias, noted leader in the progressive public education movement, will open the Empowering Teachers Summer Institute, held on the Sarah Lawrence campus, on Monday, July 12 at 11:30 a.m. with a keynote address, open to the public, entitled "Reflections on Teaching: Relationships, Possibilities, and Power."

The Empowering Teachers Program Summer Institute is a weeklong professional development workshop designed for educators working with children in early childhood education and public elementary school settings. Expected to attend this institute are six Venezuelan and two Ghanaian educators who will share their experiences with peers in their countries.

The values based theme of the Institute is undoubtedly a draw for local and international attendees. Jan Drucker, Director of the Empowering Teachers Program says that the Institute "will address how teachers can keep the classroom focus on values of collaborative work when the school culture emphasizes students' individual accomplishments, through methods such as standardized testing. We will also look at how values are taught in a didactic way as well as the ways values explorations arise organically in the classroom environment."

The Empowering Teachers Program is hosted by Sarah Lawrence's Child Development Institute (CDI). The Child Development Institute (CDI) was established in 1987 to develop programs for early childhood and elementary school teachers, administrators, child development professionals, parents and the community at large. Through its work, CDI presents a progressive perspective on child development and education. For more information about the CDI and its programs, please call (914) 395-2630.

Robert Riggs Named Chairman of the Board of Trustees: Jessica Beckett '06 Receives Udall Fellowship

Date: Jul 15, 2004

News Release

Sarah Lawrence College has named longtime Bronxville resident Robert Riggs the 18th Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Senior counsel at the Wall Street law firm Carter Ledyard & Milburn and director of a number of corporations, he has served most recently as Sarah Lawrence's vice chairman and has been a member of the board for ten years.

Riggs and his family have had a long standing relationship with Sarah Lawrence. His wife Wendy Riggs attended the college's Center for Continuing Education for post-bachelors studies and his mother, Frieda Wildy Riggs, was a generous supporter of the Esther Raushenbush Library and a member of the board of the Friends of the Library for nearly twenty years, for which she is honored with a plaque in the library's Seely garden. In 1997 the Riggs family established Sarah Lawrence's *Frieda Wildy Riggs Chair in Religious Studies* to honor her and to support the teaching and study of all varieties of religion and its significance for culture, private and public.



Riggs and his wife have been actively involved in the College's \$75 million fund raising campaign, "*the Sarah Lawrence Difference. Preserve it. Enrich it.*" that will conclude in the fall and that will have raised funds for the Monika A. and Charles A. Heimbold, Jr. Visual Arts Center, scholarships, faculty support, general improvements to the College campus, technology and endowment. Riggs stated that his priority as chairman is to increase the liberal arts college's endowment, explaining that at \$50 million Sarah Lawrence has one of the smallest endowments of peer institutions, yet one of the strongest academic programs in the nation.

"I believe that Sarah Lawrence offers its students an exceptional educational life with an unparalleled emphasis on direct faculty student relationships in small classes and conferences. It is truly a model for higher education that must be treasured and preserved," said Riggs.

Robert Riggs attended Bronxville High School, graduated cum laude from Amherst College, and earned his law degree from Columbia Law School. He is a retired U.S. Air Force Captain. A former trustee of the Village of Bronxville, Riggs is co-chair of the Bronxville Historical Conservancy.

"As a second generation Bronxville resident I have seen first hand what a rich cultural and intellectual resource the College is for the surrounding community. I hope others will not only come to recognize its value to our local residents, but will also lend their support to ensure the College's future," he said.

The previous board chairman, Margot C. Bogert, stepped down in May 2004, but will remain on the board. She served as chairman since 1998.

Sarah Lawrence is a liberal arts college for men and women, founded in 1926, with a distinctive system of education. It is known for having one of the lowest student/faculty ratios in the country. At the core of the system are small classes, regular one-on-one student-faculty conferences, cross-disciplinary approaches and the integration of the creative arts within the curriculum.

Lauren Sprieser Currently in 3rd Place in Dressage Competition

Date: Jul 16, 2004

News Release

Lauren Sprieser, Chicago native and Sarah Lawrence student, with horse Bellinger, tied for third place at the end of the first half of the Dressage Team Championship in the North American Young Riders' Championship (NAYRC). The remaining dressage riders will compete today. This is Sprieser's second year competing with the United States' Region 2 team in the NAYRC.



At the 2003 NAYRC in Bromont, Canada, Sprieser helped the Region 2 team bring home a Bronze medal. That fall, she resigned from the Sarah Lawrence Equestrian team in order to dedicate her riding time solely to practice for competitions.

“This is a great achievement for Lauren particularly because it’s her second year qualifying for Young Riders,” says Lori Rakoczy, Sarah Lawrence’s Equestrian Coach. “It’s a truly noteworthy success for a Sarah Lawrence student, as the College’s students are generally recognized for their cerebral and artistic talents rather than athletic ones.”

What stands out most about Sprieser’s equestrian abilities is that this past year, she competed with two horses, Bellinger and L’Etoile 6. Most, if not all, equestrian competitors ride only one horse. Though Sprieser will just compete with Bellinger for the 2004 NAYRC, L’Etoile 6, former horse of German Olympic gold medalist Monica Theodorescu, is new to the United States and has already begun to win and place in competitions with Sprieser.

Following the 2004 NAYRC, Sprieser will take a leave of absence from Sarah Lawrence and head to Warendorf, Germany where she and both horses will train with Theodorescu—a rare opportunity for American Young Riders. Bellinger will begin work at the Grand Prix level, the highest level of equestrian riding competed at the Olympic Games. Sprieser also hopes to begin competing overseas.

The NAYRC is the highest rated equestrian championship in the disciplines of eventing, dressage, and show jumping in North and Central America, including the Caribbean and Bermuda, and is second only to the Olympic and Pan-American games. The Region 2 team, of which Sprieser is a competitor, competes in the Dressage category, where horse and rider are judged on their ability to perform walk, trot and canter exercises in a seamless, graceful manner. The 2004 NAYRC will be held August 10-15, at Tempel Farms in Wadsworth, Illinois.

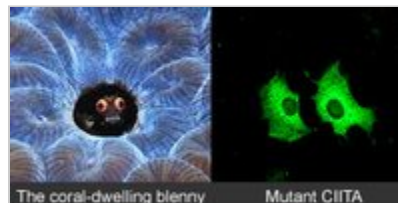
Photo: Lauren Sprieser and 12 yr. old Bellinger. —Available upon request.

NSF Grants Offer Students Unique Opportunities

Date: Aug 17, 2004

News Release

Four members of the Sarah Lawrence faculty have been awarded grants from the National Science Foundation, funding projects that involve student contribution and participation. The grants, totaling over \$700,000 and spanning three years, have advanced opportunities for students to pursue serious scientific study at the small liberal arts school. The grants provide unique educational experiences for students, allowing them to engage intimately with intensive scientific research, both in the field as well as in the laboratory.



This past summer, through the Sarah Lawrence Undergraduate Summer Research Program, Biology Professors Raymond Clarke and Drew Cressman worked with students on their NSF grant projects, making significant strides in the respective investigations and contributing to the biological community.

Clarke and recent Sarah Lawrence graduate Carly Gaebe ('04) have been conducting both lab and field work on Clarke's project, researching the effects of water movement and zooplankton escape behavior on planktivory by coral reef fishes in different microhabitats. Clarke, who was awarded \$172,000 for his inter-institutional collaborative project, with the assistance of Gaebe, worked with Chris Finelli from the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium in the field, and Ed Buskey of the University of Texas Marine Science Institute in his Port Aransas, Texas laboratory.

Not only did Gaebe have to privilege of working with a NSF grantee this summer, she also was working with a scientist whose namesake has been immortalized in marine biology. A small species of fish, *Tomicodon clarkei*, was named for the professor by Jeffrey Williams and James Tyler in their paper "Revision of the western Atlantic clingfishes of the genus *Tomicodon* (Gobiesocidae), with descriptions of five new species," published in *Smithsonian Contributions to Zoology*, Number 621 (2003).

Cressman's project, investigating the critical role that the Class II Transactivator (CIITA) protein plays in the immune response in normal individuals, should ultimately facilitate a deeper understanding of the immune response and contribute to work on HIV and other immune system diseases. This research is supported by a three year NSF grant totaling \$278,000. Cressman worked with five students this summer, each of whom worked on independent experiments providing significant contributions to the CIITA investigation.

This fall thanks partly to NSF funding, Sarah Lawrence students will have more opportunities to work closely with science faculty members on important research projects as other grant projects resume. These projects include Ryan Hinrichs' "Spectroscopic Studies on the Heterogeneous Chemistry of Model Mineral Aerosol Compounds," which will provide Sarah Lawrence with its first summer research project in Chemistry in 2005; and Karen Rader's investigation of the historical relationship between academic and public understanding of biology in the twentieth century United States, specifically examining the changing display patterns of life science exhibitions in American Museums between 1900-80.

Sarah Lawrence Summer Research Program

The NSF grants, supplemented by the Dean's Office at Sarah Lawrence, fund the Sarah Lawrence Undergraduate Summer Research Program, a summer internship program now in its second year. The Science Division of the program provides undergraduate students the opportunity to pursue research projects in a variety of disciplines within the science faculty at the college, and offer even more intensive and in-depth study than is

available during the year. Guided by faculty members working on an assortment of long term research projects, the students receive extensive experience in professional scientific research, as well as a summer stipend and guaranteed summer housing for a nominal fee. For more information on the Summer Research Program or how to apply, [click here](#).

Clarke

Biology Professor Raymond Clarke and recent Sarah Lawrence graduate Carly Gaebe ('04) have been conducting both lab and field work on Clarke's project, researching the effects of water movement and zooplankton escape behavior on planktivory by coral reef fishes in different microhabitats. Clarke, who was awarded \$172,000 for his inter-institutional collaborative project, worked with Chris Finelli from the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium, who joined teacher and student for three weeks at Glover's Reef in Belize. Gaebe helped deploy complex instruments to measure precisely the water currents in the feeding zones of little fish called blennies. In addition to the field-work, the project included two weeks of lab work at Port Aransas, Texas in the laboratory of Ed Buskey at the University of Texas Marine Science Institute. Here, blennies were placed in tanks that created water currents matching those measured in the field and their feeding attacks on natural prey were videotaped. In the fall semester, a student will work with Clarke to analyze these videotapes to determine feeding success at different current speeds. Carly Gaebe, who plans to attend graduate school in marine biology, enjoyed many new experiences ranging from working with precision underwater while being buffeted by ocean swells to picking individual live copepods out of mixed plankton samples under a microscope.

Clarke's fish

Professor Ray Clarke, of the Sarah Lawrence biology faculty, has been bestowed the honor of namesake for a small species of fish: *Tomocodon clarkei*.

In their paper, "Revision of the western Atlantic clingfishes of the genus *Tomocodon* (Gobiesocidae), with descriptions of five new species", Jeffrey Williams and James Tyler state: "The species is named in honor of Raymond D. Clarke, Professor of Biology at Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, New York, who collected the holotype and only known specimen during his studies of the behavioral ecology of chaenopsid blennies at Carrie Bow Cay, Belize." The paper was published in Smithsonian Contributions to Zoology, Number 621 (2003).

Few professors, and even few biologists have the opportunity to supply their name to new species—that opportunity is usually reserved for taxonomists who work together on determining names. However, due to Clarke's collaboration with Tyler, he made the right connections, and will be immortalized in the world of marine biology!

Cressman

Drew Cressman's students made some very exciting discoveries and advancement this summer. Cressman received a grant from the NSF for an investigation of the critical role the Class II Transactivator (CIITA) protein plays in the immune response in normal individuals, a project ultimately facilitating a deeper understanding of the immune response and contributing to work on HIV and other immune system diseases. Each student participating in the summer program had an independent project to work on, contributing to the greater CIITA investigation. Lab technician and returning Summer Research Program student Lindsay Zielinski has spent the last year manipulating the gene for the CIITA protein and putting together a system for the purification of CIITA from bacteria and using it to assess the ability of CIITA to interact with other proteins. Despite the arduous work just setting up the project, Zielinski acquired data that showed she was successful.

Sisters Sebila and Zerina Kratovac worked on experiments that, according to Cressman "generated some surprising results." Cressman explained that these results "suggest CIITA may associate with and be regulated

by other proteins and enzymes in the cell that nobody has ever really considered before. At the moment, their preliminary data is very clean and promising, and will form the basis of a new grant application that we will submit to the NSF in January.”

Allissa Pham continued a project started Christin Janczak last summer, assessing how mutations in the CIITA gene affect the protein's subcellular localization and the rate at which it induces the expression of other genes. This project involved treating cultured mammalian cells with a chemical agent every hour for anywhere from 3 to 16 hours for 3 sets of samples, so as to ensure statistical accuracy. When Pham presented her results [at biweekly lab meetings], “...they had to be summarized in these massive graphs and tables which would always leave the rest of us a bit overwhelmed,” Cressman said, “but Allissa stayed right on top of it.”

Allie Slane, continuing with a project initiated by Mike LeVasseur, who graduated in May, examined the ability of CIITA to translocate from the nucleus to the cytoplasm in cells. This project brought out Slane's skill in trouble shooting; lead by consistently puzzling results in her data, Slane conducted a careful analysis to deduce the cause of her unusual observations, and through this analysis discovered that a particular gene sequence was not what it was initially believed to be. This research required lot of time in front of a fluorescent microscope, tracking the effect that a chemical inhibitor of nuclear export has on CIITA protein localization in cells. Her data was a sequential series of pictures of cells that glow bright green wherever the CIITA protein is located. Cressman commented that “a composite image of her data is almost a combination of art and science.

This summer also saw Cressman, partnered with Christin Janczak, his student of two years, publish a paper in the July 1st issue of the Journal of Immunology. Looking back, Cressman is quite proud of his students and feels they “have made nice progress working out some of the molecular mechanisms that regulate immune system activity.”

Hinrichs

This summer, Ryan Hinrichs began research for his NSF project, “Spectroscopic Studies on the Heterogeneous Chemistry of Model Mineral Aerosol Compounds,” with the assistance of Sarah Lawrence junior Robert Garrard. Hinrich's, awarded \$282,000 by the NSF, officially receives funding in October and the summer work was sponsored by Sarah Lawrence College through the Sarah Lawrence Summer Research Program.

Hinrichs' project is an investigation of soil and mineral dust deposits in the atmosphere and how these particles reacts with the high concentration of NOx gases, a main component of smog. “Each year, over a billion tons of soil and mineral dust becomes suspended in Earth's atmosphere. These microscopic soil particles can alter the chemistry of the atmosphere, and we are particularly interested in how these particles react with polluted air...” Hinrichs explains. “In our laboratory, we study these interactions by using model systems, which consist of pure mineral samples and controlled concentrations of pollutant molecules.”

The three year grant will support one undergraduate student during the academic year to assist Hinrichs on this project, as well as two students over the summer, in addition to funding research equipment.

Lama M. Fakhri receives Fulbright Award

Date: Aug 20, 2004

News Release

Lama M. Fakhri of Sarah Lawrence College has been awarded a Fulbright grant to Egypt in Islamic Studies, the United States Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board announced recently.

Fakhri, who graduated from Sarah Lawrence in December '03 on an accelerated academic course, will be working on her project, "Revolution and Revision: The Development of Islamic Law in Egypt," an in-depth study of the progress and suppression of the Egyptian Feminist movement. The thesis of the project originated from the initial question: "Does Islam allow for equality of the sexes?"



Fakhri will live and study in Cairo, Egypt, conducting research on her project for the next nine months. The first few months will be spent studying the foundations of Islamic Jurisprudence, and the second half will focus on the way in which Islamic Law has been implemented in Egypt.

In addition to her work abroad, Fakhri has received funding from the Fulbright Commission to complete a talking tour upon her return to the US in May 2005, awarded as part of the Islamic Civilizations Initiative of the Fulbright Program.

Lorayne Carbon named director of Early Childhood Center

Date: Sep 11, 2003

News Release

Lorayne Carbon, M.S.Ed. of New Rochelle, has been appointed director of Sarah Lawrence College's Early Childhood Center (ECC), a school for young children and a placement center for Sarah Lawrence students interested in child development and teaching. Carbon comes to the ECC from the Virginia Marx Children's Center at Westchester Community College in Valhalla where she was education coordinator since 1996. She has also been an adjunct professor of early childhood education and child development at Westchester Community College. For the last 19 years Carbon has been an early childhood teacher and center director. She is a graduate of SUNY Buffalo and received her master's degree from the Bank Street College of Education in New York City.

The former director of the ECC, Sara Wilford, who has now ended a 21 year tenure as head of the Center and who continues to direct the College's graduate education program, the Art of Teaching, said of her successor: "The Early Childhood Center and the College are very fortunate to have a new director with the experience, professionalism, and warmth that Lorayne Carbon embodies. Her background, her leadership and her interest in families of all backgrounds make her an ideal choice."

Established in 1937 as a setting for research and observation of normal child development, the Early Childhood Center was originally known as the Sarah Lawrence Nursery School. It has benefited from a close association with the Art of Teaching and Child Development graduate programs, as well as with the Child Development Institute, an enrichment and communication forum for educators and child development professionals.

Campbell Corner Sponsors NYC Reading

Date: Oct 16, 2003

News Release

Winners of the Campbell Corner poetry prize will read from their work on Monday, October 20 at 8 p.m. at Poets House in New York City. The program will begin with a reading from Campbell Corner judges poets Phillis Levin, David Baker, and Beth Ann Fennelly. Winner V. Penelope Pelizzon, "The Monongahala Book of Hours" and finalists Genine Lentine, "Fifteen Thousand Useful Phrases" and Brian Teare, "Begin, Beware---" will each read their winning entries and another selection of their poetry. Pelizzon's first book, *Nostos* won the Poetry Society of America's Norma Farber First Book Award. She is also a recipient of the 2002 Pennsylvania Council on the Arts grant. Pelizzon teaches at the University of Connecticut and has published in *The Hudson Review*, *The Kenyon Review*, and *32Poems*.

Campbell Corner, named after mythologist Joseph Campbell, is a literary website that publishes various contributions of writers, poets and philosophers. Campbell Corner hosts an annual poetry contest in which the winner receives a monetary prize and is published on the website. For more information, please call (914) 395-2411 or visit the Campbell Corner Website.

Genetic Testing for Women

Date: Oct 24, 2003

News Release

The New York Breast Cancer Study, published in the October 24 issue of *Science* reports on the high rate of cancer among a certain group of women with inherited mutations in the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes. While the study breaks new ground about the lifetime risks of developing breast and ovarian cancer, it also provides useful information regarding medical options for women with or at risk of cancer. Jessica B. Mandell, MS, CGC genetic counselor and research coordinator for the study has provided answers to the following frequently asked questions.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q. How do women inherit gene mutations? If I don't have a family history of breast cancer, what are the chances that I have a mutation?

A. Women inherit mutations of the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes from their parents. A lack of family history of cancer does not necessarily mean that you do not have a mutation in one of these genes that instruct the cells of the breast and ovary to grow at a slow and regular rate. (Cell growth and division at an increased rate can lead to cancer.) Since an altered gene may come from your father, and the incidence of developing cancer among men is significantly smaller, family history may not be enough of an indication to determine whether or not you carry a mutation.

Q. How do I know if I have a mutation in the BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene?

A. The only way to find out is to receive genetic testing. Genetic testing is performed by taking a small blood sample and screening it for possible mutations in the BRCA genes. While hundreds of possible BRCA mutations exist, and mutations have been found in populations around the world, certain BRCA mutations are more prevalent among individuals from specific ancestries. The New York Breast Cancer Study, based on Ashkenazi Jewish women with breast cancer, focused genetic testing on the three most common BRCA mutations because these are the most frequent mutations in the Ashkenazi population.

Q. I think I am at an increased risk for carrying a BRCA mutation. Where do I go for genetic counseling and genetic testing?

A. The first step is to meet with a genetic counselor or medical professional who can provide you with a medical and family history risk assessment and the necessary information about testing to determine if genetic testing is right for you. It is important to receive this detailed information before testing to review the benefits and limitations of the test, the implications of the results, opportunities for follow-up medical services, and the meaning of test results for both the individual and the family. Genetic testing is a specialized test, not intended for the general population of women, even if they are of Ashkenazi Jewish background, unless they have had cancer or there is cancer in their family. Pre-test counseling will help clarify if you are an appropriate candidate.

Q. What is a genetic counselor?

A. Genetic counselors are specially trained medical professionals who work as members of a health care team, providing information and support to families at risk for a variety of inherited conditions or who have members affected by genetic conditions and birth defects. Genetic counselors identify families at risk, investigate the situation present in the family, interpret information about the medical disorder, analyze inheritance patterns

and risks of recurrence and review available medical and social options with the family. Genetic counselors also provide supportive counseling to families, serve as patient advocates and refer individuals and families to community or state support services.

Q. How do I find a genetic counselor?

A. Most major medical centers today have a cancer department or a genetic counseling department with access to genetic counselors that specialize in cancer. To find a genetic counselor in your area, you can also contact the National Society of Genetic Counselors website.

For more information about genetic counseling please see the Sarah Lawrence College [Graduate Program in Human Genetics](https://www.sarahlawrence.edu/genetic-counseling/index.html) » [<https://www.sarahlawrence.edu/genetic-counseling/index.html>] web site.

Landmark Breast Cancer Study

Date: Oct 24, 2003

News Release

A landmark study of Ashkenazi Jewish women with inherited mutations in the genes BRCA1 and BRCA2, called The New York Breast Cancer Study, was published by the journal *Science* magazine on October 24, and reveals some surprising findings that will contribute significantly to the scientific knowledge in the field of breast cancer management. The study was the first to incorporate pre- and post-test genetic counseling, offered through the Sarah Lawrence College graduate program in Human Genetics, for enrolled subjects.

The study, which was based on one of the largest population samples ever collected in this area of research, provides the truest estimation to date of the lifetime risks of developing breast and ovarian cancer caused by mutations in the genes BRCA1 and BRCA2. Important scientific findings include:

- New statistics about incidences of ovarian cancer among women with the gene mutation: Women who carry the BRCA1 gene have a 54% lifetime risk of developing ovarian cancer.
- Groundbreaking information about the negative impact of obesity and lack of exercise among teenagers on breast cancer development as adult women: Exercise and appropriate weight during adolescence delayed the onset of breast cancer in women who carry the mutation.
- Findings that relate the date of birth of the subjects to the risk of breast cancer: Women in this study who carried the breast cancer gene born before 1940 developed breast cancer later in life than those born after 1940.

Conducted by Dr. Mary-Claire King of the Departments of Medicine and Genome Sciences, University of Washington, Seattle and Joan H. Marks, MS and Jessica B. Mandell, MS, CGC, of the Graduate Program in Human Genetics at Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, NY, the study engaged over 1000 women of Ashkenazi Jewish background in the New York Metropolitan area.

More than 100 students in the Sarah Lawrence program served as research associates. Twelve hospitals and medical centers in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut enrolled participants in the study over a 5-year period.

Principal investigator Mary-Claire King, American Cancer Society Professor of Genome Sciences and Medicine at the University of Washington, commented: "This study is unique because it integrates molecular genetics, epidemiology and genetic counseling to identify genetic and environmental factors whose understanding can lead to the control of breast or ovarian cancer. Data about inherited cancer in Jewish families not only benefits those with mutation in the BRCA genes but can also be applied to the general population of American women who, although not at such extremely high risk, confront breast and ovarian cancer as devastating realities in their lives."

The role of genetic counseling in the study provided the 1,008 participants and their families with:

- Information and the opportunity to discuss risks associated with BRCA1 and BRCA2 gene mutations.
- Medical options for prevention and early detection.



“The results of the study provide genetic counselors with validated information about the actual cancer risks related to BRCA gene mutations so that they can offer patients the most comprehensive information on genetic testing and preventive medical options,” said Joan H. Marks, one of the study’s principal investigators and co-author of the Science magazine article. “The environmental findings also enable younger women without breast cancer today to consider changing behavior to help modify their risks of developing breast cancer,” she said.

The field of genetic counseling, which now extends around the world, was born at Sarah Lawrence College in 1969 with the establishment of the first graduate program to train professionals in both the science of genetics and the psychology of working with patients and families at risk for inherited disease. Today, there are approximately 28 institutions providing graduate training in genetic counseling and over 1,000 professionals in the field, about half of who are graduates of the Sarah Lawrence program.

Jessica B. Mandell, genetic counselor and research coordinator, provided genetic counseling for the study participants along with over 30 genetic counselors from collaborating medical centers and 100 students in the Sarah Lawrence graduate program. “With the growth of knowledge about human genetics and expanded opportunities for genetic testing,” said Ms. Mandell, “the need and demand for trained genetic counselors has grown exponentially. Genetic counselors possess a unique ability to assist in disease diagnosis, prevention and management, and provide psychosocial and ethical guidance to help patients make informed, autonomous health care and reproductive decisions.”

The Sarah Lawrence program, which utilizes 50 hospitals in and around New York City for field placements, is a two-year program leading to a Master of Science degree. Students complete a clinical caseload required by the American Board of Genetic Counseling (ABGC) and upon graduation are eligible for board certification. The vast majority of the men and women who have successfully completed the program have found employment within two months of graduation. For more information on genetic counseling and the Sarah Lawrence graduate program, please visit the [Human Genetics Graduate Program](https://www.sarahlawrence.edu/genetic-counseling/index.html) » [<https://www.sarahlawrence.edu/genetic-counseling/index.html>] website as well as <http://www.nsgc.org/> » [<http://www.nsgc.org/>].

H.E. Riaz H. Khokhar, Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, to Speak

Date: Oct 27, 2003

News Release

Sarah Lawrence College's annual Adda B. Bozeman Lecture will feature H.E. Riaz H. Khokhar, Foreign Secretary of Pakistan speaking on "Pakistan and the War on Terror" on Wednesday, November 12 in Titsworth Lecture Hall. The lecture begins at 5 p.m. and is free and open to the public. For further information, please call (914)395-2411.

H.E. Riaz H. Khokhar, Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, is the principle advisor on foreign policy to Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf. Khokhar is the former Ambassador to India, the United States, and China. His talk will focus on Pakistan's critical role in the war on terror.

This event is sponsored by the Adda Bozeman Lecture Fund in International Relations. This fund was endowed by friends and students of Adda Bozeman, faculty member from 1947-1977, and supports an annual lecture by a renowned international relations expert.

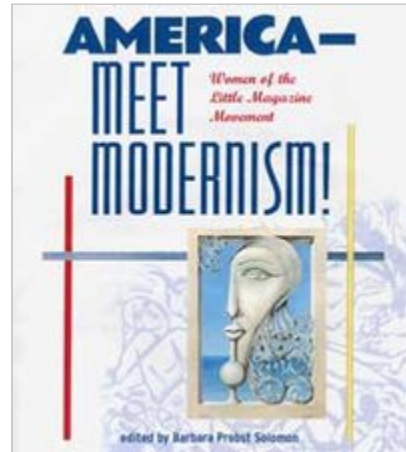
The Women of the Little Magazine Movement Exhibit

Date: Oct 30, 2003

News Release

An exhibit chronicling and highlighting the Little Magazine Movement, a landmark in American letters, will preview at Sarah Lawrence College during the month of November. An expanded exhibit will be on view at the Cervantes Institute in Manhattan in late spring. Acclaimed writer Barbara Probst Solomon and her graduate writing class at Sarah Lawrence College created the exhibit, which will tour the country next year. For further information and exhibit hours please call (914) 395-2470.

The Little Magazine Movement is as significant a literary landmark as the 1913 Armory Show is to the art world. "America - - Meet Modernism! Women of the Little Magazine Movement," is a comprehensive view of the impact little magazines, and the women writers who founded some of the most important ones, had on modernist literature in the first half of the twentieth century.



The Dial, *Poetry*, *The Little Review*, *Story*, *Twice A Year* and *Sur* in Buenos Aires introduced to this continent Cubism, Surrealism, Futurism, and feminist and Freudian theory. Among the poets and writers first published in these pioneering magazines were Ezra Pound, T.S. Eliot, Zora Neale Hurston, Carson McCullers, Mina Loy, William Faulkner, Franz Kafka, James Joyce, Kay Boyle, Sherwood Anderson, Mary Butts, Anton Chekhov, Marianne Moore, Amy Lowell, Ernest Hemingway, J.D. Salinger, John Cheever, Norman Mailer, Tennessee Williams and Virginia Woolf.

The exhibit includes a rare display of these "little" magazines, including *The Dial* from 1842 as well as a collection of over forty photographs of the magazines' legendary editors and authors (some taken by Berenice Abbott, Man Ray, Alfred Stieglitz, and Dorothy Norman), vintage posters advertising the magazines and a detailed literary timeline of the women of the little magazine movement spanning the mid 19th to the mid 20th century. Five short films will be shown continuously during the exhibit hours. These include the rarely seen "A Propos de Nice" by the great innovative French director of the 1920s and early 30s' Jean Vigo; "Viaje a la Luna" by the Barcelona artist from an original screen play by Federico Garcia Lorca; "Meshes in the Afternoon" (1943-59); "A Marriage: Georgia O'Keeffe and Alfred Stieglitz" (1991) by Edwin Sherin and "Paris was a Woman" (1997), by Greta Schiller. The expanded version of this exhibit will include some Modernist art.

"To date there has been no overall evaluation of the tremendous role that women played during the Modernist period; their accomplishments remain a lost part of our literary history, an unknown part of our heritage," said Solomon, who with her students wrote the catalogue and collected the materials. "In assembling this exhibit and time-line my students at Sarah Lawrence College and I have focused on these women editors and writers in the context of the times they lived in, rather than as gender outsiders," she said. "Interestingly, when viewed from this perspective, their contribution to Modernism and American literature, rather than diminishing, hugely expands."

Barbara Probst Solomon is a professor in the MFA program at Sarah Lawrence, writer, editor and filmmaker. Among her books is her classic prize-winning memoir *Arriving Where We Started* and the novel *Smart Hearts in the City*. Her essays have appeared in *Harper's Magazine*, *The New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *The New Yorker*, *Vogue*, *L'Infini*, *Cambio16*, and *The New York Review of Books*. Her documentaries include the prize winning "When the War was Over." She is the El Pais American cultural correspondent and the editor of

the literary journal *The Reading Room*. While a student in Paris in the 1950s she helped establish the historic Spanish dissident magazine *Peninsula*, which evolved into the legendary Paris-based Spanish publishing house Ruedo Iberico.

“The little magazine course is an excellent example of what we do best at Sarah Lawrence--provide our students with a rigorous educational experience that is at the same time innovative, even unprecedented,” said Vijay Seshadri, director of Sarah Lawrence’s graduate program in creative non-fiction. “Through this course our students not only studied literary history and wrote about it but also had a chance to touch it, and in fact, in important ways, make it.”

The museum catalogue for “America -- Meet Modernism!” will be available at the Sarah Lawrence College bookstore and at booksellers, Amazon and Barnes & Noble. For further information: contact Great Marsh Press 212-946-4522 or visit <http://www.greatmarshpress.com/> » [<http://www.greatmarshpress.com/>]. The exhibit is sponsored by Sarah Lawrence College, Great Marsh Press and the Cervantes Institute.

Notes on America – Meet Modernism! Women of the Little Magazine Movement

Statement from the Curator:

For many years I had mulled over in my mind the possibility of making an exhibit that would recover the lost history of these extraordinary women and their legendary magazines. As a writer, as an editor of a literary magazine, and as a teacher of writing students, I felt it important for students to realize that mainstream publishing is not identical to the history of great twentieth century literature. This past year I was able to organize the exhibit. I had eight highly motivated students in the Sarah Lawrence College graduate writing course I teach who were eager to make a museum catalogue and gather materials for the exhibit. I tossed out the ball; Nicole Davis, Leslie Hoffman, Ann Fine, Pamela Johnson, Martha Mortenson, Lynn Pitts, Tamuira Reid, and Donna Zucker, working as an ensemble team, energetically returned the volley. Each student wrote an essay on one of the magazines for our 152 page museum catalogue. What they liked best about the project was the experience of making something that turned into a published work. BPS

Historical Notes:

The precursor to all the little magazines was the 1840 transcendentalist *Dial*, which Ralph Waldo Emerson started, choosing Margaret Fuller as its editor. In addition to her writings and translations, Fuller wrote first-hand accounts of prison and mental asylum conditions, and became the first American woman foreign newspaper correspondent, covering the 1848 Italian revolution for the American press.

No one agrees on the exact moment when Modernism arrived on these shores. Alfred Stieglitz opened Little Galleries of the Photo-Secession (later known as "291") in New York in 1905, but it was the 1913 Armory Show that created the cultural storm. Yet one year before Marcel Duchamp and Picasso were shocking the American public with their art, literary modernism had crossed the ocean and was firmly on the train to Chicago. Harriet Monroe, inspired in her visit to London by the poetry of Ezra Pound, had founded *Poetry* magazine. Two years later, also in Chicago, Margaret Anderson founded *The Little Review*; she was soon joined by Jane Heap, an artist from Kansas. In 1918 they published the first installment of James Joyce's *Ulysses*; by 1920 obscenity charges were filed against the magazine for publishing the thirteenth episode of *Ulysses*. Anderson and Heap lost the court case and even were threatened with prison. The post office destroyed all the copies of the magazine. It was 'burn *Ulysses* burn' time. In the 20s Anderson and Heap moved *The Little Review* to Paris; during the same period Marianne Moore became the chief editor of the reincarnated version of *The Dial*.

The women connected to the Little Magazine movement wanted to be at the epicenter of the literary endeavor, at the heart of Modernism. They insisted on being essential players in their time, not an easy accomplishment for women in the first half of the twentieth century. They were plucky, determined, and combined a keen sense of literary and artistic judgment with innate felicitous practical know-how. Though their emphasis was on Modernism, they were alert to social issues. Martha Foley was jailed three days in Boston for championing

women's rights; Victoria Ocampo was jailed for one month for her opposition to the dictator Juan Peron, and was unable to leave Argentina until the mid 1950s. Dorothy Norman was a close friend of Indira Ghandi and helped to set up the American Emergency Food Committee to feed the hungry in India.

SLC Drops Standardized Test Requirement for Admission

Date: Nov 13, 2003

News Release

Sarah Lawrence College announces that beginning with the high school graduating class of 2005, students will no longer be required to submit standardized test scores as part of their applications for admission. Though considered for several years, the decision was precipitated by changes to the SAT that will go into effect in 2005. Among those changes is the addition of a brief writing section that the College has determined would not be helpful in its admission process given the nature of the writing required at Sarah Lawrence.

“While the changes to the SAT are well intentioned, we feel that it is important at this time for our admission policy to reflect our belief that standardized testing is not effective in evaluating a student's ability to succeed in a writing-based curriculum such as ours,” said Thyra Briggs, dean of Admission. Almost all courses require papers, and most require students to complete long-term independent projects resulting in substantial written work. Tests are rare.

Sarah Lawrence has never put much emphasis on test scores in the admission process, focusing instead on the rigor of students' high school courses, their academic success as reflected in grades and teacher recommendations, and their ability to write. Writing is at the core of the Sarah Lawrence application, which requires multiple essays as well as a graded academic writing sample.

The College's decision to eliminate standardized test scores from the application process was also bolstered by what the College observes as an unhealthy obsession with test results. “The proliferation of test prep courses and tutoring for the SATs has been steadily adding stress to an already stressful application process,” said Briggs. “Further, we have become increasingly concerned that as more affluent students avail themselves of costly test preparation, they are gaining an unfair advantage over others,” she said.

SLC Honors Young Local Writers: News and Events at Sarah Lawrence College

Date: Nov 13, 2003

News Release

Twenty-two aspiring writers from Yonkers high schools will be recognized at a November 18th ceremony at 7 p.m. in the Suzanne Werner Wright Theatre at Sarah Lawrence College. The students won scholarships to attend the Summer Writer's Workshop for High School Students, held in July at the College. The Youth Mentoring Initiative for International Understanding, a collaboration of Sarah Lawrence College's graduate writing program, the Yonkers Public Schools and the Greater New York Chapter of the Fulbright Association, sponsors the Yonkers students' participation in the workshop that is designed to help young people develop their writing skills in a non-competitive environment.



The November ceremony will recognize the Yonkers students and their teachers from the school district. Some of the students will read writing they completed during the workshop. Ambassador Robert Aisi, representative of the Papua New Guinea United Nations Mission, will be the keynote speaker. A leadership award will be presented to superintendent of the Yonkers Public Schools, Angelo Petrone for his work in promoting international education.

In July the scholarship winners joined 50 other students from the tri-state area for five days of writing and theatre workshops led by prose writers, poets and theatre artists. In keeping with the Sarah Lawrence tradition of one-to-one interaction between students and teachers, students met individually with workshop leaders throughout the week.

The Greater New York Chapter of the Fulbright Association provided the scholarships. The Fulbright Association is a member organization of students, teachers and scholars who have participated in the [Fulbright Program](http://exchanges.state.gov/education/fulbright/) » [<http://exchanges.state.gov/education/fulbright/>], an educational exchange program dedicated to promoting international cooperation.

Yonkers Public Schools teachers chose the scholarship winners based on a writing competition focused on themes of diversity, conflict resolution and global issues—topics that resonate with the Fulbright Association's international concerns.

"We feel it is increasingly important to acknowledge schools' emphasis on writing and reward students' writing efforts," said Rosalba DelVecchio, education committee chair for the Greater New York Chapter of the Fulbright Association. The group has stressed the value of building partnerships with institutional members of the Association, such as Sarah Lawrence, to benefit the education of young people.

At the inaugural awards ceremony in 2001, Harriet Mayor Fulbright, the widow of Senator J. William Fulbright who founded the Fulbright Program, explained the Fulbright Association's enthusiasm for the Youth Mentoring Initiative. "Senator Fulbright was convinced that we can and must use our minds and hearts to provide all our youth with the best education possible" in order to "lay the groundwork for a worldwide network of intelligent and dedicated leaders."

Sarah Lawrence is committed to involving local community members in its programs; the Youth Mentoring Initiative is one aimed at involvement and collaboration with the City of Yonkers. "It is important to us, as a

college based in Yonkers, to have students who are close neighbors participating in the workshop," said Alexandra Soiseth, assistant director of the graduate writing program and coordinator of the summer writing program.

At last year's awards ceremony, Yonkers City Council President Vincenza Restiano pointed out that the students in the Yonkers Public Schools represent 53 nations and cultures. "In America, in New York, in Yonkers, cultural diversity is not a trend. It is here," she said. Restiano also delivered a proclamation from the Yonkers City Council commending the Youth Mentoring Initiative for "expanding the horizon of our youth." A similar proclamation from the Mayor of Yonkers was issued in 2001. The 2002 keynote address was given by Alison Gardy, director of international relations at the 92nd Street Y and board member and membership chair of the national Fulbright Association.

The Fulbright Vision and 11 September 2001

Harriet Mayor Fulbright

Since the day I agreed to talk with you, our world has been turned upside down. The tragic events which so swiftly unfolded at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a field in Pennsylvania last September 11th transformed popular opinion and outlook around the world. If there was ever a single event that riveted the attention of every human being within reach of some means of communication and changed the view of life and what it means, this was it. This was one of those few times when everyone will remember where they were and what they were doing when they heard the news.

Within hours of the explosions my email address began to fill up with heartfelt messages from every continent. People poured out feelings of support and sympathy and added thoughtful comments on the difference between the people of Afghanistan and the terrorists. There were numerous letters addressed to President Bush urging him to use caution in his response, sent for more signatures, to be passed on to the White House. News reports on the Administration's plans indicate that all these messages have been heard in some fashion.

As always when a momentous event has occurred, I am left thinking about what my husband's reactions would have been. What might be his response to this tragedy?

First and foremost, he was an instinctive collaborator. He would therefore reach out to allies to help bring the perpetrators to justice. His call to collaborate 60 years ago came in the form of the introduction of a Congressional resolution to establish an international body, which became the United Nations. He was not a pacifist; in 1940 he strongly supported Roosevelt and his assistance to the British through the Lend Lease program when his colleagues were opposed to any involvement in the conflict, and he warned his audiences that Hitler had to be stopped forcefully long before our entrance into World War II.

He was, however, supremely cautious in recommending the use of force and was the only Senator, or advisor of any kind, who expressed to President Kennedy opposition to the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba. His first line of defense was always an exchange of views. All during the Cold War, for instance, he would consult on a regular basis with the Soviet Ambassador as a means of finding out Moscow's motives and thoughts behind its actions. The conversations were often held at his dinner table, and many a Senate colleague refused the invitations for fear of being tainted by being in the same room with the enemy.

At the same time Fulbright would fall back on the skills and habits he developed as a Professor at the University of Arkansas - skills he also practiced in Congress. He would spend time at the Library of Congress looking for historical precedents, and he would hold hearings with a wide variety of sources and experts to bring to light the causes of the attack as well as the best response to it. He would be concentrating on the very roots from which terrorism springs and on the sources of a hatred so fierce that the perpetrators think nothing of ending the lives of thousands of innocent people.

Senator Fulbright would, in other words, educate both himself and his country. He would subsequently convey to us that Islam is not the source of violence; that it is a religion of peace, one practiced by one fifth of the world's population; that its Holy Book the Quran states that when you take the life of one person, that act is the same as killing all of humanity; that suicide is unacceptable; that terrorism therefore has nothing to do with Islam or Muslims.

This role of education and seeker of peaceful solutions was, as many of you know, so natural to him that in 1945 right after the atomic bombs were dropped on Japan, Senator Fulbright did what has become his trademark as public servant. Convinced that the true enemy was now war itself because of the unimaginable havoc wrought by the new weaponry, he turned to history and to his own life for a preventive measure. The program which grew out of his intense thought, study and Senate hearings is the one he considered his greatest accomplishment: namely, the program which bears his name, signed by President Truman on August 1, 1946. It became clear to him, especially as he looked back on his experience as a Rhodes scholar, that if we could get to know one another and learn to exchange ideas, then perhaps we might not be so willing to exchange bullets. The international exchanges started modestly and grew slowly but steadily until the Fulbright Program is now the single largest program of its kind in the world.

We are now at a crossroads, perhaps the most significant in the history of the planet. Today power no longer rests in the hands of those with muscle, material goods and masses of land. The sources of strength more and more lie in science and technology, the development of expert service and creative delivery systems and the ability to work with those outside our own familiar communities. This empathy and understanding seems all the more urgently needed during these last few weeks.

I am happy to report that the Fulbright methods of dialogue and of reaching out to those with all manner of differing opinions has spread to those working with the program he left behind. When Daniel Hajitoffi, the Fulbright Commission Director in Cyprus, asked my advice on an appropriate memorial for the Senator right after his passing, I immediately replied that he would love a garden. Daniel did one better. After much hard work, he was able to establish a Fulbright House right between the lines of barbed wire dividing the city of Nicosia into north and south; and with the help of the American Ambassador, he quietly began bringing together groups of Greek and Turkish Cypriot Fulbright alumni and supporters for informal meals and discussions. At a reception during my visit, small groups of Cypriots came to me to say that their friendships across the border began as a direct result of the Fulbright Commission.

And in Israel the Fulbright Director of a few years ago brought together Palestinian and Israeli high school students for refreshments, games and, of course, discussions. I only point out two instances because you will tire of my voice if I carry on longer, but I wanted you to know of the extra mile walked by the Fulbright Program staff and take pride in their efforts.

As is obvious, Senator Fulbright had much more than the perpetuation of his name in mind when he created his international education exchange program. He was, in fact, uncomfortable with personal monuments of any kind. Rather, I think that the underlying reason for his hard work on the exchange program was not only to further the ideals of education and peace. He was also determined to lay the groundwork for a worldwide network of intelligent and dedicated leaders capable of promoting education for both men and women in every country and determined to establish peace. He was convinced that the whole international community of Fulbright scholars could and would combine forces to help improve the quality of life for all people without destroying the planet we inhabit.

This network is essential because it is now clear that peaceful solutions to global problems can no longer be accomplished by heroic individuals alone or even by groups within single countries. It is up to you and all your Fulbright colleagues who have traveled the planet and are in the best position to work together on solutions, using your global network of the best minds available, developed during this scholarship. As he stated in his last book:

"The future is not in the stars but in our own minds and hearts. Creative leadership and liberal education which in fact go together, are the first requirements for a hopeful future for humankind."

Senator Fulbright was convinced that we can and must use our minds and hearts to provide all our youth with the best education possible and to find the most effective peaceful solutions to critical problems for the benefit of all society and all nations. The Fulbright experience is not something one can dismiss at its completion. The events of September 11th should convince us of that. Like it or not, it is a lifelong commitment, and I thank you one and all for making that commitment.

Greetings

Alison Gardy

Greetings. I want to recognize the people in this audience who are responsible for not only the second successful year of this writing program partnership between Sarah Lawrence College, the Yonkers Public Schools, and the Greater New York Chapter of the Fulbright Association, but also a more than 100% increase in participation of Greater New York Chapter-sponsored students, from ten to 21.

It is remarkable to see such expansion, such an unqualified upturn, a big, smiling YES during this time of so many cutbacks, downturns and grim no's. My heartfelt gratitude goes to: Michele Tolela Myers, President of Sarah Lawrence College; Elise Van Oss, President of the Greater New York Chapter of the Fulbright Association; The Honorable Vincenza Restiano, President of the Yonkers City Council; Susan Guma, Dean of Graduate Studies at Sarah Lawrence College; Joe Farmer, Superintendent of Yonkers Public Schools; Alexandra Soiseth, Assistant Director, Graduate Writing and Coordinator of the Summer Writers Workshop for High School Students; Rosalba Del Vecchio, Education Committee Chair of the Fulbright Association Greater New York Chapter Board of Directors and the determined engine behind the creation and sustaining of this partnership. (Rosalba, would you please stand? I want not only to thank Rosalba for the time and energy she has donated as a volunteer despite a full to overflowing professional and family life, but also to make a point that the power of a single individual volunteer is phenomenal.)

I also want to recognize the Teachers; Students; Parents; Friends here tonight, and, someone who is not with us tonight, but joined us last year for our launch celebration and gave us her blessing, Mrs. Harriet Mayor Fulbright. Mrs. Mayor Fulbright is a tireless advocate for the Fulbright Program, which her husband founded, and for international educational exchange in general, as a means to increase genuine mutual understanding and greater prospects for peace between peoples of the world. Esteemed Guests, each of you has contributed to our collective success. You should all be proud of this moment.

The past year has shattered, expanded, darkened, deepened, confused and clarified our perceptions of the world. In the meantime, we get our coffee from the corner deli and take the usual train home. Daily life trundles on with habitual resilience, yet everything has changed. We stand more together, yet more alone, on the cusp of a question that asks, Which way is forward? What does it mean to do the right thing? On the world stage? In our country? In our schools and homes? We can no longer imagine that these spheres of life are concentric circles. They link and influence each other more than ever in our shrunken world.

I last had the honor of speaking on this stage, in this illustrious institution that is Sarah Lawrence College, just over a year ago, on October 1, which the Mayor of Yonkers dedicated as Fulbright Day, when the first ten Yonkers high school students sponsored by the Greater New York Chapter to attend the High School Summer Writers Workshop stood on this stage and shared their writing.

It was a healing event. We had come together to celebrate the successful launch of our groundbreaking partnership just three weeks after a few people who had cut ties to their humanity and, consequently, to humanity, had used the familiar instruments of passenger planes to rewrite the New York City skyline forever. The night we met here in this auditorium, smoke still gushed from the wound at Ground Zero as the heavens sucked skyward, in a huge reverse waterfall, the incinerated remains of the great towers and nearly 3000 people from 87 countries. Their vanishing left us wordless. We searched for their stories, read them in the newspapers, posted them on walls, re-told them, and shook our heads in speechless shock.

Many of the students who performed on this stage last year made a brave decision not to read the stories and poems they had prepared and polished over the summer, but instead to premiere the writing that this horrific destruction had birthed within them. They had discovered the power of writing to give voice to their grief and form to their horror. They had discovered that while writing could not erase or change the past, it could help them digest the present and anchor them amid the relentless rush of headline news. Writing could push their thinking to deeper levels. It could provide relief simply by naming the pain. It could take them on a path to self-knowledge. It could help them formulate a convincing argument. The students read from their heart. I cannot wait to hear this year's students read.

This is not to say that writing is a good in and of itself. Writing is only a tool. People can misuse it to spread hatred and lies. With the Internet, anyone can post misinformation that condemns an entire race, religion, ethnicity, or nation. But I want to tell you about someone I recently met who uses writing to accomplish extraordinary good. Her name is Beverly Hawk, and she is from Birmingham, Alabama. She told me a story that revealed, once again, the phenomenal power of a single individual volunteer.

I met Beverly through the annual US Fulbright Association conference. The US Fulbright Association is the alumni association for citizens of the United States who have received grants to study, research, or teach in one of the 140 countries that participate in the Fulbright Program. Since the Fulbright Program is an exchange program, students, teachers, scholars, and administrators from other countries also come to the United States to learn, study, and teach.

I want to explain a bit more about the spirit of the Fulbright Program, because it explains the context in which I met Beverly, and it resonates with the values expressed by you in this room tonight. Founded in 1946, thanks to Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas, who pushed the necessary legislation through Congress, the Fulbright Program has had over 250,000 participants worldwide. In the Senator's words: "The Fulbright Program aims to bring a little more knowledge, a little more reason, and a little more compassion into world affairs and thereby to increase the chance that nations will learn at last to live in peace and friendship."

Today, the Fulbright Program is the largest and oldest federally-funded international educational exchange program in the United States. It is still guided by Senator Fulbright's ardent belief in the value of international educational exchange.

In his words: "Educational exchange can turn nations into people, contributing as no other form of communication can to the humanizing of international relations. Man's capacity for decent behavior seems to vary directly with his perception of others as individual humans with human motives and feelings, whereas his capacity for barbarism seems related to his perception of an adversary in abstract terms, as the embodiment, that is, of some evil design or ideology."

I encourage everyone here tonight who is a student, teacher, administrator, scholar, or non-academic professional to consider applying for one of the wide range of Fulbright grants. Please let me or Greater New York Chapter President Elise Van Oss know if you would like more information about applying. My Fulbright grant to Mexico in 1988 opened my world as no other experience could have done. I learned as much about Mexico as I did about my own culture in the United States.

Now to Beverly's story. Beverly, who is a college professor of political science, has enjoyed two Fulbright grants to Kenya and Malawi. The story she shared with me, however, took place not far away in Africa, but in her hometown of Birmingham, Alabama. Birmingham, Beverly told me, has had a full-time FBI bomb expert since the 1960s, when the city became a key battleground of the civil rights struggle. People like the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. and thousands of young students faced fire hoses, dogs, and forces of hatred such as the Ku Klux Klan and ordinary people who were not ready to see other ordinary people as equals. Many here will remember Birmingham as the site of the infamous bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church.

Beverly told me that "a nice tradition" had recently taken root in Birmingham. In her spare time, she volunteers for an interfaith group, the Metro Area Justice Interfaith Committee (MAJIC), and for the Coalition Against Hate Crimes, two organizations that often work together to keep an open dialogue going between different

faiths, races, and ethnic groups. Birmingham is mostly Baptist, but has several other Christian denominations as well. Beverly is Catholic herself. There is also a Jewish community, a Muslim community, Hindu, Buddhist, and Baha'i communities. Birmingham is black, white, brown, American and international.

"Whenever a racially or religiously motivated attack occurs anywhere in the country, especially involving White Aryan Nations," Beverly told me, "Birmingham gets nervous. There's a fear that pockets of hatred will act. So we get people together to talk. But it's always the same 45 or 65 people again and again who come out."

In the summer of 1999, Buford O. ("Neal") Furrow, a white supremacist from the State of Washington, walked into the lobby of the North Valley Jewish Community Committee in Los Angeles, and opened fire, spraying 70 bullets and wounding children. He then hijacked a car, spotted a Filipino-American postman, got out of the car, asked the postman to mail a letter for him, started shooting, and killed him. When Neal Furrow turned himself over to authorities a day later, he said his shooting spree was "a wake-up call to America to kill Jews."

Back in Birmingham, the tension was thick. At one of the community meetings, Beverly and other like-minded people worried that with the Jewish New Year coming up in just eleven days, a copycat hate crime would occur in their city. An idea occurred to her. She wrote a simple greeting on a piece of paper: Our warmest thoughts are with you at the High Holy Days. May the year bring peace and joy for you and those you love.

"That was it," Beverly said. "The message was simply a greeting of good will and good wishes. It was not about one religion sending a religious message to another religion." Beverly turned to Reverend Lawton Higgs, who leads MAJIC, for the next step. He asked her to get the letters ready. He would print them on MAJIC letterhead and distribute them to the interfaith mailing list. "It is so thrilling to find people to work with," Beverly said, "and they are out there to be found."

Copies of the greeting circulated around the community, to black churches, white churches, to the Muslim community, to people of the Buddhist, Hindu, and Baha'i faiths. Sometimes Beverly stood by as people lined up to sign. "I wish I could have recorded the conversations I heard as people signed their names," she said. "My best friend in college was Jewish! 'We have a Jewish neighbor.' You got a window onto people's lives and thoughts through those remarks." Beverly tried to circulate the greeting only among friends, but she realized that as more and more people asked to circulate copies of the greeting, she could not guarantee that the signatures would avoid unsafe hands. Her solution to the dilemma? Get over 1,000 signatures. That way, she reasoned, individuals with malicious intent would be less likely to try to put the signers' names on the Internet in an effort to expose them to hate groups. There is power in numbers.

The greetings with signatures began coming back to Beverly. They kept coming and coming. In that brief space of eleven days, Beverly collected over 2,000 signatures. She framed each page on an oversized piece of thick paper, then bound the pages between a glossy cover, and tied it all together with blue and white ribbons. On the cover, she printed, "Rosh Hashanah Greetings to the Jewish Communities of Birmingham." "It's not often," she said, "that something with 'Birmingham' written on the cover has such a positive message inside."

Beverly brought the book of greetings to the Jewish community center. "They looked at me in disbelief," she said. "They could not believe so many people had signed. For me, it was shocking to see how low a place they thought they held in the community."

Beverly's effort took ingenuity, time, and energy. As for cost, the entire effort, with all the photocopying, mailing, and binding, came to a total of "at most \$250." Beverly's idea reached the scale of reality that it did, because she tapped into feelings that many people in Birmingham wanted to express, but, as Beverly put it, "they felt too awkward or concerned that their motives might be questioned if they just went up to their neighbors and gushed."

It gets better. To thank the people who signed, the Jewish community held a concert. They put out 100 chairs, figuring more people would not come. Beverly noticed that only 50 people had replied to the invitation, so she started making phone calls. The night of the concert, a thunderstorm hit Birmingham. "It was like a car wash,"

Beverly said. "No umbrella could help." People started arriving, soaked and dripping. Then more people came, and more people, until 250 people packed the room "right up to the punchbowl." Rabbi Miller, the Reform rabbi in the community, walked in about fifteen minutes late with his two sons. There were no seats for them.

The next concern of Beverly and her colleagues at the Metro Area Justice Interfaith Committee was Y2K. At the time, there was a real fear in Birmingham that, as Beverly put it, "the crazies might come out." Beverly and MAJIC turned their fear into an opportunity. Throughout the year 2000, they sent greetings to Muslims for Ramadan, Buddhists for Buddha's Birthday, Jews for Rosh Hashanah, Hindus for Diwali, Baha'is for the Honoring of their Prophet Baha'u'llah, and various Christian faiths for Christmas. Each community wrote one page in their own words about their faith, including contact names and phone numbers of speakers willing to talk about their faith to other communities. Then a copy of that page was attached to each copy of the greeting with room for signatures, and the two pages were photocopied and distributed together. Beverly and others bound the greetings and gave them as gifts to each community. Each effort produced 1,500 to 2,000 signatures.

Long after the books were bound and presented as gifts, signed greetings continued to trickle in. Beverly would collect them and bring them in bunches to each community. This spillover of belated good will reinforced the message of the original gift: You are not alone. You are among friends. We are glad to have you as our neighbors.

The greeting to the Muslim community read: Our warmest thoughts are with you during the Holy Month of Ramadan. We are thankful to have you as our friends and neighbors and hope the future will strengthen our ties of friendship and understanding.

February 20, 2000 marked the one-year memorial of the gruesome slaying of a gay man named Billy Jack Gaither in the countryside outside Birmingham. Beverly told me the story. It went like this: "Billy Jack Gaither lived in Sylacauga, Alabama with his parents all his life and worked at the Russell Athleticwear factory there. His killers picked him up at a local restaurant, took him to the sticks (further into the sticks) where they beat him unconscious. Thinking him dead, they put him in the trunk and drove to get gas to assist in the disposal of the body. When they went to dump him, he had enough strength to knock one of his attackers down the hill. They doused him with gas and burned him alive. The configuration of his corpse showed his arms raised. (Killed February 20, 1999.) His father said Billy Jack couldn't have been gay because he read the Bible. Today, his attackers are in prison, and show no remorse. When interviewed for Connie Chung, they said, 'Yeah, we are in jail, but Bill Jack is in Hell.'"

For the one-year anniversary of his death, Beverly planned a community-wide memorial book to let Billy Jack's parents know that others, straight and gay alike, were thinking of their son and wanted to send condolences. Beverly was determined to get over 1,000 signatures on the condolences. People at a local gay center "thought I was crazy" to think so many people would sign. Because Billy Jack and his parents were locals, Beverly took extra care to distribute the condolence pages, each of which had fifteen signature lines, only to people who were "safe," that is, people she knew would not circulate the names to hate groups. As a result, the pages came back with some signature lines blank. Beverly thought it would send the wrong message to give Billy Jack's parents a book of greetings with blank signature lines, so she sent the incomplete condolences to gay organizations, and asked them to fill in the blanks with their signatures. "But I was determined," she said, "that over 500 of the signatures would be straight."

She got over 1,000 names. More than 500 of them were "straight." She bound the condolences in a book, and made it extra fancy. She added pages cut out from Holocaust Museum and Southern Poverty Law Center publications. "It was real pretty, dignified," Beverly admitted.

It took two hours to drive to Billy Jack's parents' house from Birmingham. A man who had once dated Billy Jack and a friend of his took Beverly to deliver the book. Beverly imagined that the visit would take no more than twenty minutes. She would deliver the book and leave, so as not to impose. She ended up staying for hours, well into the night. Billy Jack's sister could not look at more than six pages of the book at a time before she had to close it. Beverly later learned that it had taken Billy Jack's sister a month to read the entire memorial book.

Each year, on the anniversary of Billy Jack's death, Beverly and other members of the Metro Area Justice Interfaith Committee and the Birmingham community "do a little something to remember him." Billy Jack's parents have moved away, but his sister still lives nearby. And more greeting pages keep trickling in for Billy Jack's memorial book. "This year," Beverly told me, "I will take some more pages to Billy Jack's sister. She is in a wheelchair now from inherited lung problems. Very rare I am told.... I will tell her of how we talked, and that, in that way, he lives."

I encourage each of you not to underestimate the power of your individual actions, as writers, as volunteers, and as citizens of the world.

Thank you for allowing me to share these words with you tonight.

Alison Gardy
October 17, 2002

Childhood Asthma

Date: Nov 25, 2003

News Release

The Sarah Lawrence College Health Advocacy graduate program and the Health Science and Society faculty will sponsor a program on “Childhood Asthma and the Community,” Wednesday, December 3rd from 3–6:15 p.m. at Slonim House. The event, which will present two community-based asthma initiatives, is presented without charge to the community. Please call Crystal Greene at (914) 395-2371 or email cgreene@sarahlawrence.edu » [<mailto:cgreene@sarahlawrence.edu>] for reservations. Refreshments will be served.

The program will be divided into two sessions, the first, “*Framing Childhood Asthma: Past and Present*,” will meet from 3–4:30 p.m. Panelists include: Gregg Mitman, Ph.D., historian, University of Wisconsin, “Childhood Asthma: the public response in historical terms,” and Lori Stevenson, MPH, epidemiologist, New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation, “Childhood Asthma in New York: What does it look like? Where do we find it?”

The second session, from 4:45 to 6:15 p.m. will focus on the “*Community Response: Models of Practice*.” Two community-based asthma initiatives, Yonkers and Harlem (NYC) will present their initiatives including strategies for childhood asthma detection, prevention and treatment. Panelists include: Jeff Byrne, Asthma Program Director, St. John’s Riverside Hospital in Yonkers; and Sandy Klihr-Beall, RN, Benjamin Ortiz, MD, Katherine Shoemaker, MPP, and Betina Jean-Louis, Ph.D., “Harlem Children’s Zone Asthma Initiative.”

Study of Black Music

Date: Dec 15, 2003

News Release

Inspired by the work of Amiri Baraka (LeRoi Jones), particularly his 1963 history *Blues People: Negro Music in White America*, a generation of scholars in the field of jazz and blues music criticism was born, creating a legitimate space in the academy for the serious study of African American music. “Blues People: 40 Years Later, A Symposium” to be held at Sarah Lawrence College February 6–7, will honor Baraka’s artistic legacy as well as focus attention on the pioneering scholarship that has grown out of those early years of the study of this uniquely American culture.



Blues People was the first book-length history written by an African American that addressed the social, musical, economic, and cultural influences of the blues and jazz (which Baraka refers to as “Negro music”) on American history. Symposium panels and lectures will speak to diverse aspects of jazz studies, including women’s roles, black nationalism, and the development of rap music.

Baraka’s approach to music criticism was different from anything else that existed when he first began writing in the 1950s and 60s, partly because he was the only black writer in a field of white critics. Komozi Woodard, professor of history at Sarah Lawrence and the organizer of the symposium commented: “He was not simply describing the music, but he fashioned a type of writing that was itself an artistic performance about music.”

The symposium will culminate in a music and poetry performance by Baraka’s group, “Blue Ark” that includes poets, blues singers, and other musicians led by saxophonist and professor of jazz studies at Rutgers University, Herbie Morgan. The group has performed in numerous countries around the world.

The symposium’s participants themselves reflect the growing recognition of jazz’s academic significance in higher education. Blues and jazz have come of age in the university. For example, one of the featured panelists is Ingrid Monson, first appointed holder of Harvard University’s Quincy Jones Chair created in 2000 to devote scholarship to jazz music and its implications in the African American experience. Monson will speak on a panel along with John Szwed of Yale University who will address “The Folk Communities of Amiri Baraka and Ralph Ellison,” as well as Travis Jackson of the University of Chicago.

Following is the complete Symposium Schedule:

Blues People: 40 Years Later, A Symposium/ February 6-7, 2004

Reisinger Concert Hall, Sarah Lawrence College

Friday

9:00 Registration

10:00 Welcome

10:15 Panel: **Coltrane, Monk and Jazz Criticism**

Salim Washington, Robin Kelley, and John Gennari, "Baraka's Bohemian Blues"
Scot Brown, "Praise for the Imamu': Amiri Baraka, the Kawaida Recording (1969) and the Politics of Black Cultural Nationalism"

12:30-1:30 Lunch

2 pm, Panel: **Black Pearls: Blues Women & What the Music Said**

Farah Jasmine Griffin, Mark Anthony Neal, Daphne Duval Harrison, "Blues Women: from the 1920s to the 1960s"

4 pm, Panel: **Blues People, So What**

Travis Jackson, Ingrid Monson, John Szwed, "The Folk Communities of Amiri Baraka and Ralph Ellison"

6 pm, **The Rap on the Music Business**

Chuck D (invited but not confirmed), Tracie Morris, and Carmen Ashhurst Woodard

8 pm Dinner Break

Student party

Saturday

10 a.m. Welcome

10:30, Panel: **African American Dance**

Katrina Hazzard, Jookin': the rise of social dance in African American Culture, Jacqui Malone on choreographer, Cholly Atkins, genius of Motown choreography, Donna Peters, "Hearing Dance and Seeing Music - The Jazz Tap Community"

12:30-1:30 Lunch

2:00 p.m. **Panel: Musicians on the Music**

Hilda Harris, Sarah Lawrence College, La Shonda Barnett, Sarah Lawrence College, David Burrell, "Daybreak," "David Burrell Plays Ellington & Monk," W.S. Tkweme, University of Massachusetts

4:00 p.m. **Panel: The Poetics of the Music**

Tracie Morris, Eugene Redmond, and Amiri Baraka, Michael Simanga, "Blues People: African American Identity and Music in the 21st Century"

6:00 p.m Dinner Break

7:00 p.m. **Amiri Baraka and Blue Ark Music and Poetry Performance Participants**

Carmen Ashhurst Woodard, Sarah Lawrence College, formerly president of Def Jam Recording.

Amiri Baraka and Blue Ark: blues, jazz and poetry group

In addition to *Blues People*, *Black Music* and *The Music*, Baraka is the author of over twenty plays, three jazz operas, more than eight books of nonfiction, two novels, a more than a dozen volumes of poetry.

La Shonda Barnett, Sarah Lawrence College, social and cultural historian, is a Ph.D. candidate at William and Mary College.

Scot Brown, historian at UCLA, and author of the new book, *Fighting for US: Maulana Karenga, the US Organization, and Black Cultural Nationalism*.

David Burrell, pianist has performed on a number of albums including, *David Burrell Plays Ellington & Monk*.

John Gennari, professor of history and cultural studies at the University of Vermont. Gennari is finishing a pioneering book on the music that includes a chapter of Baraka's role in jazz criticism in the 1950s.

Hilda Harris, Sarah Lawrence College music faculty member, is a singer and actress, a performer in opera, oratorio, and orchestral concerts in the U.S. and Europe, a solo artist with the Metropolitan Opera Affiliate Artist Program and a freelance recording artist.

Daphne Duval Harrison, emeritus, University of Maryland. Harrison is a path-breaking historian of music who wrote the classic work, *Black Pearls: Blues Queens of the 1920s*, and who is editing an encyclopedia of the blues.

Farah Jasmine Griffin, Columbia University, author of the new book, *If You Can't Be Free, Be a Mystery: In Search of Billie Holiday*. Professor Griffin is on the cutting edge of African American studies today.

Katrina Hazzard is the author of the classic study of Black American dance, *Jookin' the Rise of Social Dance formations in African American Culture*.

Nat Hentoff of the Village Voice is the prolific author of a number of books including the classic, *Jazz: New Perspectives*.

Travis Jackson, University of Chicago, Music & the Humanities is one of the young lions in African American musical studies.

Robin Kelley, Columbia University, is one of the leading scholars in American history, cultural studies, labor history, and African American Studies, who is now hard at work on a new book on the renowned jazz genius, Thelonius Monk.

Jacqui Malone is an expert on the influential choreographer Cholly Atkins, one of the geniuses behind the Motown phenomenon and author of the book, *Stepping on the Blues: The Visible Rhythms of African American Dance* and co-author with Cholly Atkins of *Class Act*, which according to the library journal says: "The story of Cholly Atkins is that of 20th-century American jazz and tap dance... This book resonates with charm and provides solid information about the history of American jazz dance."

Ingrid Monson is a noted scholar of jazz and the first appointed holder of Harvard University's Quincy Jones Chair.

Tracie Morris, award-winning writing professor at Sarah Lawrence College and one of those who paved the way for performance poetry.

Mark Anthony Neal, University of Texas, Austin, one of the rising stars in African American Studies who broke new interpretive ground with his book, *What The Music Said*.

Donna Peters is sociologist and ethnographer at Temple University, specializing in performance and dance.

Michael Simanga is a poet, cultural critic, music producer, and author of the novel, *In the Shadow of the Sun*. Simanga is one of the pillars of the Black Arts Movement.

John Szwed has set the pace in cultural studies and biography for quite some time; his last two books are biographies of jazz musicians, *Space in the Place: The Lives and Times of Sun Ra* and *So What: the Life of Miles Davis*. He teaches at Yale University and is a guest this year at Center for Jazz Studies at Columbia University.

W.S. Tkweme, University of Massachusetts. Mr. Tkweme has been a student and teacher of jazz history for some time now—sometimes on jazz radio and at times lecturing at American colleges.

Salim Washington is one of the young lions in African American Studies as well as a professor of music and African American Studies at Brooklyn College, who is working on an important manuscript about John Coltrane and his music.

Komozi Woodard, History faculty, Sarah Lawrence College, is the author of *A Nation Within A Nation: Amiri Baraka (LeRoi Jones) and Black Power Politics* and editor of *Freedom North, The Black Power Movement, and Groundwork*.

Friends of the Library Offer Two Mini-Courses

Date: Dec 17, 2003

News Release

“19th Century Music” and “Our Mutual Friend by Charles Dickens” are the themes of two mini-courses to be held over three days, January 14-16, in Marshall Field House at Sarah Lawrence College. The mini-courses are sponsored by the Friends of the Esther Raushenbush Library and are free to members. Membership, at a cost of \$45 annually for a single individual and \$60 for a couple, is available at the time of registration. For more information about becoming a Friend of the Library or the two mini-courses, please call (914) 395-2472.

“19th Century Music” to be held from 10 a.m. – 12 noon, is broken up into particular subjects of study with regard to 19th century music over the three days. The sessions are entitled “Romantic Landscape,” “War of the Romantics,” and “Approaches to Wagner.” The mini-course will be taught by music faculty member Martin Goldray.

“*Our Mutual Friend* by Charles Dickens,” held from 1- 3 p.m. will be devoted to the study of the Charles Dickens novel. Ilja Wachs, literature faculty member will lead the three sessions.

In addition to the January mini-courses, Friends of the Library enjoy numerous benefits throughout the year including invitations to visiting authors programs, borrowing privileges from the Library’s holdings of 200,000 books, hands-on orientation to the Library’s computer-based information resources, reference use of 1,000 English and foreign language periodicals, a newsletter listing Friends’ events, as well as lectures, concerts and special events at the College.

Balanchine Performance

Date: Dec 23, 2003

News Release

"Barefoot Balanchine," a performance celebrating the centennial of George Balanchine's birth-date, will be given on Monday, January 26 at 4 p.m. in the Bessie Schoenberg Dance Theatre of Sarah Lawrence College's Performing Arts Center. The event is free and open to the public. For more information and reservations, please call (914) 395-2433.



Taught by former New York City Ballet soloist Wilhelmina Frankfurt, currently a guest faculty member in the Sarah Lawrence College Dance Program, the performance by students in the program is a reconstruction of excerpts of ballets created by George Balanchine. During rehearsals, legendary Balanchine dancer Allegra Kent coached the Sarah Lawrence dancers.

The program includes excerpts from *Vienna Waltzes* (1977), music by Richard Strauss; *The Four Temperaments* (1946), music by Paul Hindemith and Frankfurt's own choreography based on her research of *Luna Park*, music by Lord Berners and part of Charles B. Cochran's "1930 Revue."

George Balanchine was the founder of the School of American Ballet and the New York City Ballet. Balanchine is a trademark of the George Balanchine Trust.

The program of dance at Sarah Lawrence, both undergraduate and graduate, is well renowned for its conservatory level instruction. It's director, Sara Rudner infuses the program with integrated, innovative approaches to the creative process following in the tradition of previous directors, Viola Farber and Bessie Schoenberg. Acclaimed dancers and choreographers Meredith Monk, Lucinda Childs and John Jasperse, among others, studied dance at Sarah Lawrence.

SSSF Annual Auction

Date: Jan 30, 2004

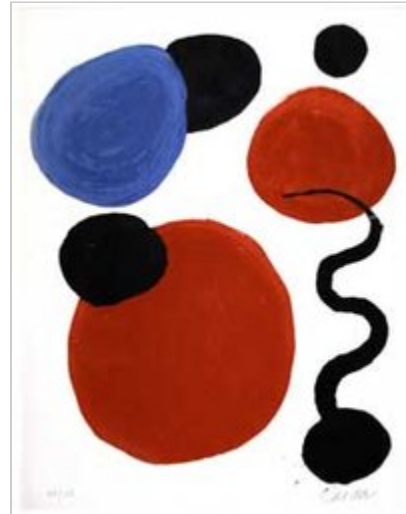
News Release

A painting by Alexander Calder, the gown actress Jane Alexander wore to the 1970 Academy Awards, a Vera Wang dress valued at \$2500, a Zac Posen dress valued at \$1800, autographed books by Alice Walker, and tickets to *The Producers* starring original cast members Nathan Lane and Matthew Broderick are just a few of the items to be auctioned off at Sarah Lawrence College's Students for Student Scholarships Fund (SSSF) to be held on Friday, February 27 at 7 p.m. in Reisinger Concert Hall.

Students, faculty, staff, alumnae/i, friends and neighbors will try to outbid each other for donated items. A silent auction from 5–6:30 p.m. at the president's house will precede the main event and a dance featuring the Seville Swing Orchestra, refreshments and door prizes will follow from 9 p.m.–1 a.m. in Bates Hall. All events are free and open to the public.

Other items to be auctioned off include a weekend stay in the Hamptons and an eye exam with free prescription glasses and sunglasses. Auction attendees can also purchase raffle tickets to win a weekend stay in New York City for two, which includes show tickets and dinner at the 21 Club.

The Sarah Lawrence Students for Student Scholarship Fund is one of the oldest student-run fundraisers in the country. For further information, an updated list of items or to donate an item, please call the Student Affairs Office at Sarah Lawrence College, (914) 395-2575.



Journalist Amy Goodman to Speak

Date: Feb 2, 2004

News Release

Amy Goodman will speak on “Independent Media in a Time of War and Elections” on Friday, March 5 at 7 p.m. in Reisinger Concert Hall. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, please call (914) 395-2411.

Amy Goodman believes that for true democracy to work, people need easy access to independent, diverse sources of news and information. However, she is concerned that the last two decades have seen unprecedented corporate media consolidation. The U.S. media was already fairly homogenous in the early 80s; argues Goodman; some fifty media conglomerates dominated all media outlets, including television, radio, newspapers, magazines, music, publishing and film. In the year 2000, just six corporations dominated the U.S. media, she says. Goodman’s lecture will focus on her work as a progressive journalist working in independent media.



Amy Goodman is a documentary filmmaker and host and executive producer of Democracy NOW!, the award winning daily radio show on the Pacifica Radio network.

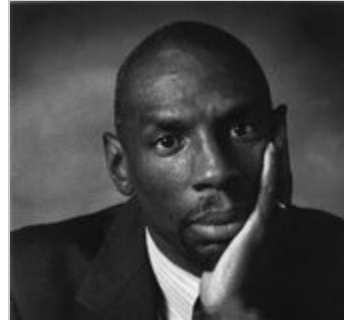
This event is hosted by Sarah Lawrence College’s Women’s History Department, and co-sponsored by the Bronxville League of Women Voters.

Anti-Violence Advocate Geoffrey Canada to Speak

Date: Feb 26, 2004

News Release

Sarah Lawrence College's Child Development Institute will host the 17th Annual Longfellow Lecture featuring Geoffrey Canada on Thursday, April 1 at 4:30 p.m. in Reisinger Concert Hall. Canada, author and award-winning expert on issues concerning violence, children and community redevelopment will speak on "Violence and Education: The Twin Crises Facing America's Children." This event is free and open to the public. Reservations are required. For more information, and to place reservations, please call (914) 395-2412.



Geoffrey Canada, who grew up in the South Bronx, has dedicated his life to helping children with difficult early life experiences secure both educational and economic opportunities. He received the first Heinz Award in the Human Condition for his work as President/ CEO of Harlem Children's Zone, Inc. Canada is the acclaimed author of *Fist Stick Knife Gun: A Personal History of Violence in America*, and *Reaching Up for Manhood*. He is also the founder of the Chang Moo Kwan Martial Arts Center, where he teaches the principles of tae kwon do, anti-violence and conflict resolution techniques to community youth.

Margery Franklin, Director of the Child Development Institute, feels Canada's lecture will bring "more awareness to the problems that besiege our communities and to think about ways we might contribute to the kinds of change that Geoffrey Canada is working towards."

This lecture is seventeenth in a series honoring the memory of Cynthia Longfellow '72, Harvard Ed.D. '79, who devoted her professional life to bettering the lives of young children.

SSSF Annual Auction Raises Over \$23,000

Date: Mar 2, 2004

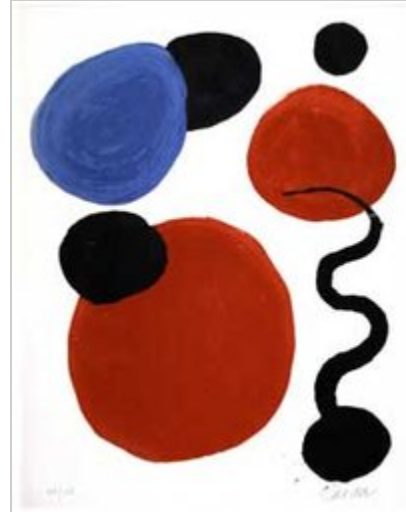
News Release

Sarah Lawrence hosted its most successful Students for Student Scholarships Fund annual auction last Friday, February 27. The fund-raiser brought in over \$23,000, more than doubling last year's proceeds.

Donations from community members, students, faculty, staff and alumnae/i, including, the gown actress Jane Alexander wore to the 1970 Academy Awards, a Vera Wang dress, a painting by Alexander Calder, and two tickets to the French Open with hotel accommodation provided both glamour and excitement to the auction.

The hard work of the SSSF committee, particularly committee chairs Edward Bandera-Duplantier and Cole Webster, made this year's auction such an astounding success, said Stephen Sporer, Director of Student Activities. "The students did an extraordinary job, from contacting alumnae/i for donations to organizing the evening's events," Sporer said. In addition to the main event, the auction was preceded by a silent auction at the President's house and followed by a formal Swing Dance.

Believed to be the oldest student-initiated scholarship fund in the U.S., the Sarah Lawrence Students for Student Scholarships Fund helps raises scholarship funds through campus fundraisers. Since 1958 the annual auction has been SSSF's largest event.



Meeting of Women Who Gave Birth to Women's History

Date: Mar 9, 2004

News Release

Women's History Month was born at Sarah Lawrence College 25 years ago this summer. On Monday, March 8, six of the women responsible for its creation - participants at the 1979 "Women in History Institute" - met to reflect on how far women have come and to look to the future.

The conversation that took place at the President's House at Sarah Lawrence included Amy Swerdlow, historian, activist and author; Pamela Elam, who was instrumental in obtaining the designation, and other original institute participants. It was a preface to a program being planned for a reunion in June of the Institute participants and the graduates of the Sarah Lawrence Women's History program - which is celebrating the 30th anniversary of the first graduating class - that will review the progress women have made since 1979 and call for a replication of the historic institute to help meet the challenges women face in the 21st century.

Following the 1979 Institute, Elam and another student in Sarah Lawrence's Women's History program - the first graduate program in the nation - took a resolution passed at the Institute proclaiming "the annual celebration of Women's History Week (which became Women's History Month) in the week containing March 8," to Congress, President Carter and governors of the states. The result was the national recognition of the role of women in society and throughout history that spurred the women's movement forward.

Mayor Proclaims Sarah Lawrence College Day in Yonkers

Date: Mar 10, 2004

News Release

Yonkers Mayor Philip A. Amicone pronounced March 3, 2004 Sarah Lawrence College Day in Yonkers and called upon city residents to join him in extending warmest wishes and sincere congratulations to the College as it celebrates its 75th anniversary with an exhibit: *Sarah Lawrence College: Past and Present*.



The thematic narrative of the exhibit, along with reprints of photographs, documents and newspaper clippings, explores the essence of what makes Sarah Lawrence a unique institution and features a detailed view of the College's relationship with its local community. The exhibit explores the College's vision for education, a progressive philosophy of education adopted by William Van Duzer Lawrence who founded the College in memory of his wife, Sarah Bates Lawrence.

Other materials explain the pioneering programs SLC has initiated in such areas as Continuing Education, Early Childhood Education, Human Genetics, Health Advocacy and Women's History, its multi-faceted role in the community, the importance of the arts and creativity in an SLC education, featured alums and examples of Sarah Lawrence as seen in popular culture.

The exhibit will run through the month of March at the Riverfront Library branch of the Yonkers Public Library. It will then be on display in the College's Esther Raushenbush Library from April 5 to June 4. It appeared at the Bronxville Public Library in November.

Pianist Carsten Schmidt Performs

Date: Mar 11, 2004

News Release

Pianist and Sarah Lawrence College music professor, Carsten Schmidt will make his New York Solo Recital Debut on Sunday, April 4 at 8 p.m in Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Center, Goodman House, 129 West 67th Street. The program will consist of *Pause Ininterrompue* by Toru Takemitsu; *In Time's Unfolding* by Chester Biscardi; *Piano Sonata No. 7* by Ernst Krenek; *Chiaroscuro* by Willem Jeths; *Yugen, Aware and Interno Cupola* by John Hilliard; and *Sonata A- major, D.959* by Franz Schubert. The compositions by Biscardi, Jeths, and Hilliard are NY premiere performances. To purchase tickets, \$20 regular admission and \$12 for Seniors and Students, please call the box office at (212) 501-3330 or visit <http://www.ekcc.org/> » [<http://www.ekcc.org/>].

Carsten Schmidt has been a member of the Sarah Lawrence Faculty since 1998. He has performed extensively as soloist, chamber musician and orchestra soloist throughout Europe, North America and Japan. In a review of one of his performances, The Chicago Tribune wrote: “[Carsten Schmidt] displayed an impressive technical facility allied with a striking interpretive intelligence during a demanding program. Though Schmidt clearly has technique to burn, he wears his virtuosity lightly and, unlike some other contemporary keyboard phenoms, he uses it to advance his musical interpretations, and not simply to dazzle.”

Prior to the performance, at 7 p.m., composer Chester Biscardi will offer a pre-concert talk during which he will introduce his NY premiere piece *In Time's Unfolding*. Biscardi is the Director of the Music Program at Sarah Lawrence.

Center for Continuing Education Hosts Open House

Date: Mar 11, 2004

News Release

Sarah Lawrence College's Center for Continuing Education's Open House informational session with the professors teaching during its seven week summer term will be held Friday, April 2 from 11 a.m.–1:30 p.m. in Slonim House. Lunch is provided. The Center for Continuing Education offers a range of courses designed for non-traditional students who are beginning or resuming their college careers. All summer study courses are offered at a 25 percent discount. For more information and reservations, please call (914) 395-2205 or email cce@sarahlawrence.edu » [<mailto:cce@sarahlawrence.edu>].

The courses being offered in Summer 2004 include: *Writer's Gym* with Cassandra Medley, which focuses on a wide range of exercises and methods that enable the writer to pursue her /his impulse to write; *A Literary Journey to Italy* with Judith Serafini-Sauli, which examines journals and fiction set in Italy by authors ranging from Mark Twain to Edith Wharton; *Telling Lives: Life History Through Anthropology* with Mary Porter, which studies print and on screen narratives and memoirs that explore diverse ways life courses are experienced and represented throughout the world; *Living History: Autobiographical Perspectives on the American Past* with Priscilla Murolo, which explores U.S. history through personal narratives that detail epic events and movements as well as everyday life.

Jonathan Franzen to Read

Date: Mar 17, 2004

News Release

Jonathan Franzen, winner of the National Book Award and the American Academy's Berlin Prize for his novel *The Corrections* will read at Sarah Lawrence on Wednesday, April 21, 6:30 p.m. in Suzanne Werner Wright Theatre. The reading is free and open to the public. For more information, please call (914) 395-2411.

Franzen's novel received much publicity when he expressed reservations about its inclusion in Oprah Winfrey's Book Club in 2001. He has written two other works of fiction, *The Twenty-Seventh City* and *Strong Motion*, and a collection of essays, *How to Be Alone*. He has also written nonfiction for *The New Yorker* and *Harper's*.



Poetry Festival

Date: Mar 29, 2004

News Release

Sarah Lawrence College will host its first Poetry Festival Saturday and Sunday, April 17 – 18. This event is believed to be the first major poetry gathering of its kind in Westchester County and coincides with National Poetry Month. The Sarah Lawrence College Poetry Festival is free and open to the public. For more information, please email: <mailto:poetryfestival@gm.sl.c.edu> » [<mailto:poetryfestival@gm.sl.c.edu>]



The weekend will consist of two full days of poetry readings featuring some of the nation's most important poets including: Kim Addonizio, Lucie Brock-Broido, Ellen Bryant Voigt, Justin Chin, Edward Hirsch, Tony Hoagland, Suji Kwock Kim, Ann Lauterbach, Charles Martin, Patricia Smith, James Tate, Edwin Torres, Dara Wier, and Sarah Lawrence Faculty members Laure-Anne Bosselaar, Kurt Brown, Stephen Dobyns, Kate Knapp Johnson, Victoria Redel, Vijay Seshadri, and Mark Wunderlich. Sarah Lawrence students will also read from their work.

The program begins at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 17 with registration and a welcome address in Reisinger Concert Hall. There will be four concurrent readings in the afternoon followed by a featured reading and Open Mic in the evening. The festival continues on Sunday April 18 with readings beginning at noon. A panel discussion "On the Art of Revision" will take place at 2:30 p.m. followed by another reading and a final featured reading in the evening.

The Sarah Lawrence Poetry Festival was envisioned and spearheaded by Liz Irmiter, MFA graduate student who, with a committee of fellow students and faculty members, selected a group of writers that represent different poetic voices ranging from free verse, New Formalism, L-A-N-G-U-A-G-E and spoken word.

Committee members include MFA student Alexandra Grace, undergraduates Kit Frick and Sarah Janczak, and faculty advisors Kurt Brown and Jeffrey McDaniel. Says Irmiter, "The committee chose to have as many styles of poetry represented as possible, because we believe that poetry can appeal to everyone. The most important thing about poetry today is that there are so many voices, so many writers taking risks whether in a new use of a traditional form or in the expression of language itself."

This event is sponsored by Sarah Lawrence College, The Diana Leslie Fund, Friends of the Library, and Poets and Writers, Inc. through a grant it has received from The New York State Council on the Arts-supplement.

Grammy Winning Composer George Crumb To Perform

Date: Apr 1, 2004

News Release

Concert is part of 75th Birthday Celebration Tour

Innovative composer George Crumb will perform with the ensemble that bears his name at Sarah Lawrence College's Reisinger Concert Hall on Wednesday, April 21 at 8 p.m. During 2004, the George Crumb Ensemble will tour throughout the USA in celebration of the composer's 75th birthday. Tickets are \$10 regular admission, \$8 for individuals 55 and over and students. For more information, please call (914) 395-2411.

Music for the evening spans more than a half-century of Crumb's career, and includes his new piano cycle, *Eine Kleine Mitternachtmusik*, a work based on Thelonius Monk's 'Round Midnight. Also featured on the program are Crumb's haunting *Apparition*, and his earliest acknowledged piece-- *Three Early Songs*, from 1947. To close the evening, the composer turns percussionist, joining guitarist David Starobin in a reading of Crumb's delightful series of humoresques--*Mundus Canis (A Dog's World)*. The George Crumb Ensemble 75th Birthday Tour features: Tony Arnold, soprano; Robert Shannon, piano; David Starobin, guitar; George Crumb, percussion.



George Crumb is Professor Emeritus at the University of Pennsylvania. He received a Grammy for "Best Contemporary Composition" for his piece *Star-Child* in 2001. Crumb won the Pulitzer Prize in 1968 for his piece *Echoes of Time and the River*. In 1998, he received the "Cannes Classical Award: Best CD of a Living Composer" for his *Bridge 9069* recording including *Quest*, *Federico's Little Songs for Children* and *Night Music I*.

The performance is part of Sarah Lawrence College's 75th Anniversary Celebration taking place throughout the 2003-2004 academic year. It is preceded by a mini-concert in honor of Crumb's 75th birthday visit at 5:05 p.m. on April 21st in Reisinger Concert Hall. Crumb's *Vox Balaenae (Voice of the Whale)* will be performed by Ethan Brown, electric flute; Helena Zimmerman, electric cello; and Martin Goldray, electric piano. This event is free and open to the public.

Congressman Rahm Emanuel and Former Congressional Candidate Jean Elliott Brown to Speak

Date: Apr 6, 2004

News Release

The Sarah Lawrence College Politics Faculty will present a panel discussion, "Looking Forward, Looking Backward: The 2004 and 2000 Elections," on Friday, April 16 at 3:30 pm in Reisinger Concert Hall. The program, featuring Congressman Rahm Emanuel (D-IL), Sarah Lawrence class of '81, and Jean Elliott Brown, class of '72, a candidate for Congress in 2000 from West Palm Beach, Florida, one of the hot spots of the recount controversy, is to be the first in a series of events presented by the politics faculty leading up to the 2004 national elections.

"As we begin to think about the choices we face in the 2004 elections, it is important to view the issues in the context of recent American history," said Politics faculty member David Peritz. "As the immediate trauma of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 recedes and the political agenda expands again to include something approaching the usual range of policy issues, it seems particularly important to remember the extraordinary election of 2000 and to reflect on some of the longer term trends in American politics it revealed." Peritz says that such trends would include the sharp geographically-based divides in the partisan alignment of the country; the increasingly fractious character of national electoral politics, with candidates competing for a small number of voters who determine the outcomes in the nationally decisive 'baker's dozen' of swing states; and the political implications of the deep and growing inequalities that characterize American society.

Rahm Emanuel is an emerging leader among Congressional Democrats, currently seeking reelection. Representing Illinois' 5th Congressional District, which covers the Northwest Side of Chicago and parts of suburban Cook County, Emanuel was chosen by his fellow Democratic freshmen as Democratic Whip for their class. He also serves as a Vice Chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and member of the Executive Committee of the New Democratic Coalition. Emanuel began his political career with the consumer rights organization Illinois Public Action, and went on to serve in a number of capacities in local and national politics. In 1992 he served as Director of Finance for the presidential campaign of then-Governor Bill Clinton. He went on to serve as a top White House advisor to President Clinton from 1993 to 1999, first as Assistant to the President for Political Affairs and then as Senior Advisor to the President for Policy and Strategy.

Jean Elliott Brown, currently the Executive Director of the Friends of Norris Cotton Cancer Center at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, was a candidate for Congress in West Palm Beach Florida. She lost the race, having garnered approximately 40% of the vote.

Brown began her career in 1972 as an actor, changing professions in 1983 to public relations, and eventually opening her own successful consulting firm. Her political career began with her run for Congress in March of 1999, motivated by an enormous sense of frustration with her sitting Congressman and a desire to impart change in her congressional district, an economically and ethically diverse area of southern Florida, encompassing seven counties and almost 650,000 people.

Sarah Lawrence is a liberal arts college for men and women, founded in 1926, with a distinctive system of education. It is known for having one of the lowest student/faculty ratios in the country. At the core of the system are small classes, regular one-on-one student-faculty conferences, cross-disciplinary approaches and the integration of the creative arts within the curriculum.

This program is part of Sarah Lawrence College's 75th Anniversary celebration. For more information on this event, or future events in the series, call (914) 395-2411.

Teach in Addresses Issues of Race, Bias and Exclusion

Date: Apr 12, 2004

News Release

Sarah Lawrence College took the unusual step of canceling all classes on Thursday, April 8th to devote an entire day to give serious attention to issues of race relations and diversity. Seen as just the beginning of an on-going conversation among students, faculty, staff and administration, this “teach-in” considered a myriad of topics and facilitated dialogue.

- Message from President Myers
- Schedule of Events
- Morning Workshops



45th Annual Mayfair Celebration

Date: Apr 15, 2004

News Release

Sarah Lawrence College welcomes children of all ages to its annual Mayfair on Saturday, May 1 on Westlands lawn from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This year, the college presents “Down the Rabbit Hole,” an *Alice in Wonderland* theme. Mayfair will include activities based on this favorite children’s classic, including croquet with the “Queen of Hearts” and a tea party with the “Mad Hatter” as well as traditional rides, games and more.



“We are excited about the theme we have chosen this year,” states student coordinator Cole Webster, “We decided to focus on several of the stories from *Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass* and use various characters around which to design games.”

Additional activities include an “archeological dig,” “moonwalk,” face painting, a clown show, cotton candy, music, crafts, prizes and food. Admission is free; ticket prices for activities vary. Free parking is available.

All proceeds for this event benefit Sarah Lawrence College’s Students for Student Scholarships Fund, the oldest student initiated scholarship fund in the US.

If it is raining, this event is canceled. For more information, please call the Office of Student Affairs at (914) 395-2575.

SLC Celebrates the Music of 1928

Date: Apr 19, 2004

News Release

The College Orchestra and returning Sarah Lawrence Orchestra alumnae/i will perform **1928**, on Tuesday, May 4 at 8 p.m. in Reisinger Concert Hall. The musical celebration of the college's 75th anniversary includes four monumental works that debuted between August and December of 1928—Sarah Lawrence's inaugural semester. The program consists of: Kurt Weill's *Threepenny Opera*, Anton Webern's *Symphony Op. 21*, Igor Stravinsky's *Le Baiser de la Fee (The Fairy's Kiss Divertimento)* and George Gershwin's *An American in Paris*. For more information, please call (914) 395-2411.



Says organizer and music faculty member Martin Goldray, “The pieces the College Orchestra will perform presents an overview of the world of classical music during 1928 and its diversity of styles and languages.” The styles Goldray refers to are: archetypal Weimar Republic cabaret style in Weill's *Threepenny Opera*, the 12 Tone Technique in Webern's *Symphony Op. 21*, Neo-classicism in Stravinsky's *Le Baiser de la Fee (The Fairy's Kiss Divertimento)* and American jazz in Gershwin's *An American in Paris*.

Take Back the Night

Date: Apr 20, 2004

News Release

On Thursday, April 22 a march through campus at 8 p.m. will open "Take Back the Night" an event to speak out against violence against women, specifically domestic violence, sexual assault, and sexual harassment.

This student-run and organized event is designed to bring awareness and empowerment to individuals and to inspire action that will bring an end to violence against women. Everyone is welcome to join in for this night of solidarity and healing.

There will be an opening address at Reisinger Concert Hall and the march will proceed from there. Candles will be provided and an accompanying security car will be available for those who wish to participate but are unable to make the walk.

A rally will be held in Reisinger Concert Hall at 9 pm and will feature Karen Coleman from Victims Assistance Services, Helene Norton-Russell from Pace Women's Justice Center, and numerous student speakers and performers. There will also be opportunity for audience members to participate on stage.

A vigil will begin after the rally and will be held in and around the Teahaus where the Clothesline project will be displayed for the duration of the event; simultaneously discussion groups will be taking place around campus.

Meredith Monk to Speak and Present

Date: Apr 21, 2004

News Release

Renowned composer, singer, interdisciplinary performance artist and Sarah Lawrence alumna Meredith Monk will present a piece from her Plateau series of dances on May 7 and 8 at 8 p.m. in the Bessie Schönberg Dance Theatre in the Performing Arts Center at Sarah Lawrence College.

Plateau No. 3, an integration of movement, voice and image aims to evoke the mood and ambiance of a particular landscape inspired by Monk's time in the American Southwest. The student performance of the piece is the result of a spring, interdisciplinary class presented by the dance faculty, entitled "Performance Project: Meredith Monk's '*Plateau*,'" led by visiting artists Andrea Goodman and Ellen Fisher, members of Monk's house company. Reconstructed by Goodman and Fisher, *Plateau no. 3* will feature students from across the curriculum.

During her 35-year career, Monk has earned a reputation as a ground-breaking artist, exploring the voice as instrument and pioneering interdisciplinary technique in performance work. In this time, Monk has earned numerous prestigious awards, including the MacArthur "Genius" Award in 1995, two Guggenheim Fellowships and the 1992 Dance Magazine Award, among many more. Her film, *Book of Days* is currently on exhibit at the Whitney Museum Biennial.

According to her website, "Monk creates works that thrive at the intersection of music and movement, image and object, light and sound in an effort to discover and weave together new modes of perception."

The performance is free and open to the public, but reservations are required. For more information on either event, or to make reservations for the performance, please call the Dance program at (914) 395-2433.



Grace Paley, author and activist to address, 75th Commencement

Date: Apr 29, 2004

News Release

Award winning author, political activist and beloved Sarah Lawrence College Professor Emeritus Grace Paley, will be the speaker for Sarah Lawrence College's 75th Commencement on May 21 at 10 a.m. One of the most respected writers of the last 40 years, Paley will address the 284 candidates for the Bachelor of Arts degree and 152 candidates for Master's degrees.

A member of the Sarah Lawrence writing faculty from 1966 to 1987, Paley helped develop and define the Sarah Lawrence writing program, and in the process influenced a generation of student writers, including such prominent authors as Allan Gurganus '72 and Ann Patchett '85. She received the Edith Wharton Award as the first New York State Author in 1986 and was also awarded a Senior Fellowship by the National Endowment for the Arts in 1987 in recognition of her lifetime contribution to literature.

Paley began her writing career as a poet but is most recognized for her short stories, which have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic Monthly* and *Esquire*. Paley's critically acclaimed collections of short stories include *The Little Disturbances of Man*, *Enormous Changes at the Last Minute*, *Later the Same Day* and *The Collected Stories*. Her collections of poetry include *16 Broadsides*, *Goldenrod*, *Leaning Forward: Poems*, and *Begin Again: Collected Poems*.

Beyond her writing and teaching, Paley has exhibited her passion for politics and activism by taking stands in the name of environmental and social justice, feminism, and the anti-war movement. A self-described "combative pacifist and cooperative anarchist" she was one of a group that went to North Vietnam in 1969 to bring back three American POWs.

"It is always a privilege to welcome an eminent, accomplished speaker to Commencement; it is even more of a thrill when that speaker has had such an important role in the history of Sarah Lawrence. I am proud to welcome Grace to address our 75th anniversary graduating class," said College President Michele Tolela Myers.

Steven M. Burke wins The Rome Prize

Date: Apr 30, 2004

News Release

Next month Steven M. Burke will take leave from his post as music faculty member in composition at Sarah Lawrence College to accept a one-year residency at the American Academy in Rome. Winner of The 2004 Rome Prize for Musical Composition, one of the most prestigious prizes in the field, Burke is following in the footsteps of his teacher, mentor, friend and colleague, Chester Biscardi, composer and director of Sarah Lawrence's music program who himself won The Rome Prize in 1976. Burke received the Frederic A. Juilliard/Walter Damrosch Rome Prize at an awards ceremony at the Metropolitan Club in Manhattan on April 29.



Holding a DMA from Cornell University, Masters of Music from Yale University and the University of Wisconsin – Madison, Burke is a 1990 graduate of Sarah Lawrence College. There he studied science, excelling in his pre-med course (as a sophomore he was asked to take over teaching a chemistry course when the professor left suddenly) – until he studied composition with Chet Biscardi. So inspired by his music studies, Burke made a complete break with his plans to become a doctor and threw himself passionately into composing. “Chet is an incredible teacher and source of strength for me,” says Burke who chose to further his studies after Sarah Lawrence at two of the institutions where Biscardi had studied – University of Wisconsin and Yale.

For Biscardi, Burke represents “a great Sarah Lawrence story” where a student comes to the College intent on doing one thing and ends up doing something entirely different. “As a scientist Steve already possessed a wild, witty and brilliant imagination,” commented Biscardi on his student’s transition. “One day I suggested that he bring his ‘interesting,’ scientific, and spiritual views of the world to his compositions. All of a sudden he was writing a very different, inspired and passionate music that came from a very personal, profound and unique voice.”

In 1998, while still a student at Cornell, Burke was awarded his first major commission from the Seattle Symphony and the ASCAP Foundation. Since then he has been awarded numerous prizes and commissions including a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Charles Ives Fellowship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, a commission from the Fromm Music Foundation at Harvard, the Jerome Foundation, the National Symphony Orchestra and the Philharmonisches Orchester Kiel in Germany where his *Echo of Halos* was premiered last November to critical and public acclaim. Burke’s music has recently been performed by such distinguished ensembles as the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the National Symphony Orchestra.

While at The American Academy in Rome, one of the leading centers for independent study and advanced research in the fine arts and the humanities, Burke will work on commissions he holds including a concerto for bass clarinet and chamber ensemble and a dramatic work about witchcraft.

Biscardi thinks of Burke much as a father would a son. “I am proud of Steve whether or not he wins major compositional prizes, but I must admit that the Rome Prize is a wonderful new feather in his cap.”