The Pembroke Center is pleased and honored to announce the inauguration of the Ruth Simmons Prize in Gender and Women’s Studies. The prize will be awarded annually for an outstanding honors thesis on questions having to do with women or gender. In the spring, the Pembroke Center will invite faculty in all fields to nominate honors theses for the prize. A committee of faculty who teach and write in the area of gender studies will make the selection. The Ruth Simmons Prize carries with it an award of $1,000.

In addition to the Ruth Simmons Prize, the Pembroke Center awards numerous other awards, grants, and internships to Brown students:

**Marie J. Langlois Dissertation Prize:** awarded to a graduate student for an outstanding dissertation in the area of gender studies or feminist analysis.

**Joan Wallach Scott Prize:** awarded to an undergraduate student concentrating in Gender and Sexuality Studies for an outstanding honors thesis in the discipline.

**Helen Terry MacLeod Research Grant:** provides support for undergraduate honors research having to do with women or gender, or research that brings a feminist analysis to bear on a problem or set of questions.

**Barbara Anton Internship Grant:** awarded to an undergraduate completing an honors thesis that involves an internship or volunteer work in a community agency.

We are most grateful to President Simmons and our many generous supporters who have chosen to support prizes and research grants at the Pembroke Center. These prizes and grants make it possible for Brown students to embark on ambitious research projects each academic year.
When the Pembroke Center began raising funds in 1984 to establish its endowment, we knew that this work was essential to securing the Center’s future. The National Endowment for the Humanities, the Ford Foundation, and the Rockefeller Foundation had provided generous funding for the new Center—about three-quarters of a million dollars, which was impressive support at that time for humanistically oriented research. But that funding was seed money, and the Center now needed money to grow and develop into the future. The first years of research had made it clear that the kind of questions the Center was asking were not likely to yield easy answers. Center research had begun exploring the cultural and social meanings of gender and the ways those meanings intersect with other systems of difference such as race, ethnicity, religion, economics, and so forth. It soon became clear that there was hard work ahead. If rational analysis and good intentions sufficed, misogyny, racism, religious bigotry, and ethnic hatreds would have been defunct long ago. The challenge was—and is—to understand how complex and interrelated categories of difference work to produce problematic and often dangerous ways of thinking and acting. The Pembroke Center endowment was needed to enable the Center to work on these questions well into the future.

Marie J. Langlois’64, LLD’92 hon., chaired this early and successful effort, which benefited from the extraordinary generosity of hundreds of donors who supported a vision for a robust Center that would engage in groundbreaking research, provide academic opportunities for Brown students and faculty, and honor the legacy of Pembroke College. Today, the Center has undertaken, through the Campaign for Academic Enrichment, to increase the endowment raised by its early supporters. The Pembroke Center’s endowment principal now stands at over $4 million, with an accumulated market value of $9.5 million. Income from those funds enables the Center to support scholars in the humanities, the social sciences, and the life sciences at all levels of development from undergraduate students to the most distinguished senior scholars. Its interdisciplinary research programs draw scholars from all over the world and have earned Pembroke an international reputation for excellence. Its scholarly journal, *differences*, the premier journal of its kind in cultural studies, reaches a worldwide readership. The Center supports Brown’s innovative undergraduate concentration in Gender and Sexuality Studies and continues to preserve the important histories of Brown and Rhode Island women in its Christine Dunlap Farnham Archives. Interdisciplinary research programs draw scholars from all over the world and have earned Pembroke an international reputation for excellence. These accomplishments are a lasting testament to the farsightedness of the Center’s generous donors. And yet, the need to raise endowment monies seems in some ways as urgent today as it did in 1984. For all of the enormous insight Center research has gained into the workings of gender and other systems of difference, history continues to impose new questions and to revitalize some of the old intractable ones. A strong and vibrant Pembroke Center.
On September 28th, Vice Chancellor Jerome C. Vascellaro ’74, P’07 and Mary Vascellaro ’74, P’07 graciously hosted a Pembroke Associates event at their home in San Francisco. More than sixty members of the Pembroke Center Associates, the Brown Club of Northern California, and other friends had the opportunity to learn more about the Pembroke Center’s many activities and to discuss the question of women in politics with Professor Jennifer Lawless.

Lawless, an assistant professor of political science at Brown and an affiliated faculty member of the Taubman Center for Public Policy, spoke about her research on political ambition and the effect gender has on the decision to run for office. She is co-author with Richard Fox of the recent book *It Takes A Candidate: Why Women Don’t Run for Office* (Cambridge University Press, 2005) based on data from the Citizen Political Ambition Survey, a national survey conducted with almost 3,800 potential candidates. Lawless and Fox’s research finds that women, even in the highest tiers of professional accomplishment, are substantially less likely than men to seek elected office, be recruited to run for office, or express a willingness to run for office in the future. Lawless shared her particularly interesting perspective on the question, having run as a candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives in Rhode Island’s second congressional district in 2006.

The Pembroke Associates thank Jerome and Mary Vascellaro for making this event possible. Please see page four for dates and locations where this program will be offered next year.

Jennifer Lawless

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Suzanne Stewart-Steinberg, Associate Professor of Comparative Literature and Italian Studies, is the new director of Gender and Sexuality Studies. Stewart-Steinberg has been a member of Brown’s faculty since 2005. Her research interests focus on the literature, culture, and politics of nineteenth and twentieth century Italian and German literature. She is the author of *Sublime Surrender: Male Masochism at the Fin-de-Siècle* (Cornell University Press: 1998) and has a forthcoming book on the construction of modern Italian identity in the post-Unification period entitled *The Pinocchio Effect: On Making Italians* (1860-1930).

In her role as Director of Gender and Sexuality Studies, Stewart-Steinberg will be overseeing the concentration, advising students, working with the faculty board for the concentration, and overseeing the awarding of prizes in Gender and Sexuality Studies.
Robin Alario: Volunteer for the Christine Dunlap Farnham Archives

Pembroke Center volunteer Robin Alario comes from a long line of writing women: her father’s grandmother, who was one of the few literate people in her Italian village, served as the community scribe, while her mother’s great grandmother kept a diary of her journey from Scandinavia to America. So it is particularly fitting that Robin has spent every Friday for the last twelve months searching for women’s writings in the John Hay Library. The Hay, which houses the Brown University Archives and special collections, has an outstanding collection of materials pertaining to women at Brown and in the wider Rhode Island community, as well as a recent addition, the Feminist Theory Papers. These materials, known as the Christine Dunlap Farnham Archives, comprise a wonderful collection much used by scholars; however, its research guide has become out of date.

It has been almost twenty years since archivist Karen Lamoree produced the Research Guide to the Christine Dunlap Farnham Archives. It is a volume the size of a phone book, but since it was published in 1989, Brown has added many items to the collection. Robin is helping the Pembroke Center bring the guide up to date by locating the documents concerning women. Some are in collections that escaped notice before, such as the letters from Brown’s first president to his wife Margaret Manning, or letters from the Reverend Stephen Gano to his daughter Eliza B. Rogers, who was one of the busiest philanthropic women in nineteenth-century Providence.

Most of Robin’s discoveries are, however, more recent acquisitions. Some are from distinguished faculty: they range from Brown Professor Anne Fausto-Sterling’s activities on the Affirmative Action Monitoring Committee in the late 1970s to papers from Professor Karen Newman, former director of the Pembroke Center. Others are from local women with connections to Pembroke, such as Eleanor Burges Green, sister of Theodore F. Green (for whom Rhode Island’s airport is named), who was one of the founders of the Providence District Nursing Association. She became an honorary member of the class of 1918 in thanks for her generous contributions to Pembroke College. Other papers are from students and range from a biblical history notebook kept by Alice Marion Crosby, class of 1904, to lecture notes and essays by students in the very recent past.

Robin said she particularly liked some of the photographs she found, and she was also impressed by many of the women. One she recalled was Pawtucket-born Justine Tyrell Snadbeck Priestley, class of 1943, who became a social worker then went on to direct a program that gave scholarships to African American students.

Robin earned a degree in literature from American University in Washington DC; she is now attending library school at the University of Rhode Island. She has no direct ties to Pembroke or to Brown, but she has nevertheless made a great contribution to the Pembroke Center and to the study of women’s history.

Please visit our website at www.pembrokecenter.org/archives/ to view selected items in the Christine Dunlap Farnham Archives online.
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