THE PEMBROKE CENTER for Teaching and Research on Women was founded at Brown University in 1981 as a center for interdisciplinary work on gender and society. It draws fellows and faculty affiliates from across the country and around the world to its annual research seminar, which addresses gender issues from a cross-cultural and theoretical perspective. The Center has an international reputation and was designated by the Ford Foundation as a “Center of Excellence” to serve as a resource and model for other institutions.

During its first two research cycles (1982–89), with funding from Ford and the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Center supported four post-doctoral fellows each year, funded six faculty research fellows, welcomed visiting scholars and research affiliates to campus, and held a three-day conference on “Feminism/Theory/Politics,” which brought six hundred people to Alumnae Hall and formed the core of an anthology entitled Coming to Terms: Feminism/Theory/Politics. New York: Routledge, 1989.

Today the Center continues to support the work of post-doctoral fellows in the crucial early stages of their careers, allowing them to spend an academic year in residence, pursuing their own research and exchanging ideas with Brown faculty and students. It is also the institutional home of the Women’s Studies concentration and the focus of interdisciplinary research and teaching activities for Brown faculty working on gender and culture.

Social and sexual mores have changed dramatically in the last two decades and are still changing. Such changes present a formidable challenge to our nation’s political, economic, social, and cultural institutions and place great demands on public policy makers. Drawing on the work of scholars across the disciplines, the Pembroke Center asks new questions in order to find new answers. At the Center, faculty and students study how concepts of gender are formed and transformed and the impact of these concepts on society.

The funding Brown received in the 1980s from foundations was seed money for the Pembroke Center. It was given with the expectation that in due time the Center would establish an endowment and be fully funded. Hence, our endowment campaign goal of $3,000,000—this sum will enable the Center’s fellowship program, lecture series and research seminar to continue into the twenty-first century.

To achieve our goal, we need your help. This newsletter will bring you up to date on efforts to reach the endowment goal and give past and future donors an idea of just how the Center spends your dollars.
During the first week in September, the Pembroke Center awaits the arrival of three new **Post-Doctoral Fellows**. They may come from anywhere in the United States as well as from abroad: in the past fourteen years, the Center has had one scholar from Algeria, two from Britain, one from France, four from India, three from Iran, and one from Italy. The scholars may work in any discipline or field. Typically, they are recent recipients of a Ph.D., writing their first books. Each is selected from a highly competitive group of applicants. For this year’s research topic, “The Question of Violence,” for example, there were 109 applicants from six countries.

The process of selecting the fellows begins in early summer, fifteen months before they will arrive. Advertisements are placed in professional journals and in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, and announcements are sent to women’s studies programs, research centers, and university departments throughout the U.S. and the world. The post-doctoral applications are due by the third week in December so that they can be sent out to the selection committee composed of Brown faculty and scholars from other institutions. In early February, the Center convenes the committee for a selection meeting, paying a small honorarium plus travel costs for those from out of town. At this point, we will have spent approximately $2700. Once the fellows are chosen, they receive a letter of appointment from the Dean of the College. The three fellows selected for 1994–95 each receive a stipend of $24,000 for nine months in residence (total $72,000). The 1996–97 fellows will receive stipends of $25,000 (total $75,000). The Center has three named fellowships to support the stipends.
The Center devotes the largest portion of its funding to the support of post-doctoral fellows in residence. This support represents an investment in the young teachers and scholars of today who will, within a decade or so, be the tenured faculty and mature scholars of our colleges and universities. In the current academic market, in which resources to support research and professional development are rapidly shrinking, such support is crucial.

“Attending the Pembroke Center Roundtable on The Charisma of Violence as an alumna of Brown was a liberating and exciting educational experience. With none of the pressures of a student or scholar, I was able to participate and learn in an unconstrained manner. The discussion of the various readings was both stimulating and challenging. I would recommend the experience to any alumna who has the time to prepare for and attend a Pembroke Center Roundtable.”

Joan MacLeod Heminway ’83

The year of the Pembroke Fellowship has been an extremely critical year in my career as a scholar. Participation in the year-long interdisciplinary seminar, with several senior members of the Brown faculty and students, was rigorous and demanding, and has encouraged me to clarify and refine several aspects of my work.” Janaki Nair, Fellow 1993–94; Research Fellow at the Madras Institute of Development Studies, India.

Almost immediately upon my arrival at the Pembroke Center I realized that it provided an exceptional environment for stimulating intellectual discussions and study. The theoretical diversity of the participants in the seminar ensured provocative arguments and lively debates.” Valentine Moghadam, Fellow 1988–89; World Institute for Development Economics Research at the United Nations University, Helsinki, Finland.

“I was one of the first Pembroke Fellows. My time at the Center was one of the most rapid periods of intellectual growth I have ever experienced. I entered a discourse that I previously had no knowledge of, but which has been central to my intellectual life ever since.” Anne Norton, Fellow 1982–83; Professor of Political Science, University of Pennsylvania.

endowment, however. Each year, the Center applies to the University Lecture Board which has funds available to departments or centers whose projects are approved by a faculty committee. During 1994–95, we were awarded $3,000 help to cover costs of the Visiting Scholar series. Co-sponsorship is another way the Center cooperates with different areas of the university. The Center also regularly co-sponsored events with the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America, the Public Policy Center, and the departments of English, Political Science, Philosophy, German and Comparative Literature. The Center also regularly contributes to numerous activities sponsored by other University departments and programs, such as the lecture this spring by Nawal El-Saadawi, Egyptian physician and writer.

The highlight of each spring term is a Research Roundtable focused on research theme. The day and a half-long event brings national and often international scholars together with the regular seminar participants plus other interested faculty. Generally, six scholars are invited to present position papers at the roundtable. The participants, all of whom read common material in advance of the meeting, then have the opportunity to engage in a series of extended and intense discussions rarely possible in larger more public conference settings. The total cost of the roundtable, including honoraria, transportation, xerography, entertainment, room rental, custodial services is approximately $9000.

The Pembroke Center Research Seminar ends in May with final presentations by the post-doctoral fellows. The fellows' research is published in the form of books and articles; it is presented at professional meetings and used in teaching. The following are some of the institutions to which the Center's 40 post-doctoral fellows have gone on to teach or do research: The Johns Hopkins University; Carnegie-Mellon University; New York University; Northwestern University; Harvard University Center for Middle Eastern Studies; The World Institute for Development Economics Research of the United Nations University in Helsinki, Finland; the Universities of California-Berkeley and Irvine, Pennsylvania; Arizona; Minnesota, Rochester, Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Iowa.

Coppélia Kahn, Professor of English at Brown at the March 1995 Roundtable.

Faculty Research Fellows

When the Pembroke Center held its first session in 1982, the four post-doctoral fellows were joined by faculty, affiliated scholars, graduate and undergraduate students and two Faculty Research Fellows. For the next three years, with the support of the Ford Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities, faculty fellows received release-time from one course each semester to participate in the seminar and pursue their own research projects. Faculty fellows from this period included Mary Ann Doane, Naomi Schor, Anne Fausto-Sterling, Kay Goodman, Melinda Raab and Louise Lamphere.

The support the Center was able to offer faculty participants in the seminar was repaid many times over, first, in the enriched conversations and debates that full faculty participation produced in our weekly sessions; then, in the development and expansion of women's studies courses and interdisciplinary cooperation that the seminar fostered, among the faculty and between faculty and post-doctoral fellows; and finally, in the form of the research that faculty members polished and tested over the course of the year.

The Center would like to reinstitute the Faculty Research Fellows Program, first, through an annual gift fund and eventually through endowed fellowships. $10,000 will release a faculty member from one course and enable that person to participate actively in the Pembroke Seminar.

Stanley Stowers, Professor of Religious Studies at Brown and Roy Mottahedeh, Professor of Mid-Eastern Studies and History at Harvard, at a Pembroke Center Roundtable.
The Center's endowment currently stands at approximately $1.4 million. In order for the Pembroke Center Research Project to be fully funded, our endowment must reach the $3,000,000 goal.

Endowment
The yield on the endowment is 5.2% for 1994–95; for 1995–96 the yield will be 5.1%.

How the Endowment Yield is Spent

- Post-doctoral Fellows
- Faculty Research Fellows

Gifts to the Endowment

$250,000+
Nancy L. Buc Fellowship '65
Artemis A.W. and Martha Sharp Joukowsky Fellowship '55-'58
Carol G. Lederer Fellowship '49

$700,000-2,49,999 Rosemary Pietrel Sorrentino Fund '53 Ph.D.
Bella Krovitz '33
Jean E. Miller '49

$50,000-99,999 Pembroke Fund
Susan Huffard Ball '62
Marie J. Langlois '64
Anne Jones Mills '60
Chelsey Carrier Remington '61
and David F. Remington '61

$10,000-49,999 Centennial Fund
Elizabeth Chace '59
Mr. and Mrs. Clarence J. Coutu
Estate of Katherine M. Hazard '33
Joan MacLeod Heminway '83
H. Anthony Itleson '60
Estate of Helen M.E. McCarthy '26
Carol Drescher Melamed '67
Cynthia B. Patterson '65
Joan Wallach Scott and
Donald M. Scott
Henny Wenkart '49

$2,500-9,999 Andrews Fund
Estate of Madeleine W. Arnold '18
Barbara F. Bristol '56
Laura J. Corwin '66
Sharon B. Draeger '67
Carol Mondy Fine '74
Alice Michaels Ginandes '68
Sybil M. Hebb '66
Melissa T. Howland '48
John D. Hushon '67 and
Dr. Judith M. Hushon '67
Mary D. Jacobson '45
Lydia Mason Kanzler '31
Gail E. McCann '73
Barbara Rothschild Michaels '45
Gale A. Mondy '72
Pembroke Club of Northern California
Steven L. Rattner '74
Evelyn Jacobs Reisman '49
Barbara Grad Robbins '55
Eileen Rudden '72 and
Joshua Posner '71
Ava Seave '77
Ruth Sittler '33
Doris Hopkins Stapleton '28
Ethel Nichols Thomas '34
Phyllis Tillinghast '51
Gloria Rosenhirsch Wallick '33
Dorothy Williams Wells '52
Margery Goddard Whiteman '62

YOU may earmark your endowment gift for:

- Post-doctoral Fellows
  The Center would once again like to fund 4 fellows, as it was able to do for 7 of its 11 research years.

- Faculty Research Fellows
  The Center wishes to reinstitute this program.

- The Research Roundtable
- Visiting Scholars
- Women's Studies
- The Christine Dunlap Farnham Archives

Your gift may also be in the form of undesignated funds.
Funding

Brown provides funding for the Center’s operating budget, which covers telephone, office supplies, xeroxing, etc., as well as for salaries, as follows: the Associate Director and the Coordinating Secretary are funded by the University; funding for the Director’s salary is divided between her home department and the University’s contribution to the Center; partial funding for the Coordinator of Alumnae Affairs is provided by funds raised by the Associates.

“White Elephants” and Other Innovative Gifts

- In December each year, the Pembroke Club of Northern California holds a white elephant auction. They gather at a member’s home, enjoy their continuing friendships, get rid of old and gain new possessions, and send all the checks to the Pembroke Center Endowment.

- The Women’s Committee of the Southern California Brown Club solicits its members and sends contributions to our endowment, as does the Brown Alumnae Club of Kent County (RI).
- The Pembroke Class of 1954 and the Pembroke Afternoon Reading Group in Providence have sent gifts in memory of classmates or members.
- Pembroke Classes of 1939, 1940, and 1957 have contributed a portion of their reunion gifts.
- In celebration of their 40th reunion, six members of the Class of 1949 made a quilt that was raffled off during Commencement weekend, with the proceeds going to the Center’s endowment.
- Gifts are sent to honor a close friend; one alumna honored her mother on her mother’s birthday, a group of friends celebrated the 50th birthday of an alumna with gifts to the endowment.
- An Associate endowed a prize for an undergraduate thesis in honor of her grandmother.
Alumnae Funds Crucial to the Center

The Pembroke Center Associates, our alumnae/i organization, is an integral part of the Center. Each fall, alumnae receive materials asking them to become an Associate. For eleven years, all alumnae were sent our materials, but as expenses for printing and postage rose, we had to change our policy and concentrate on reunion classes and on those who had been Associates over the years. The annual campaign costs approximately $5,000.

What are Associates’ dollars used for? Publication costs for three newsletters ($7,500) are a big item. One newsletter each year focuses on the research seminar and the post-doctoral fellows. This is sent to the Center’s mailing list of approximately 1,200, including women’s research centers, women’s studies programs, departments at other institutions, all those who have participated at the Center as fellows, speakers at roundtables, visiting scholars, and those who write and ask that their names be added to the list. This list is international in scope. All Brown faculty and administration receive the research newsletter as well.

In addition, Associates receive two newsletters containing material of interest to alumnae who support the Center.

As a service to women graduate students and faculty, the Center also compiles a newsletter each term listing jobs, grant and fellowship information, calls for papers and upcoming conferences. Flyers, brochures, and announcements come to us everyday, and we have a bulletin board full of this information which we are able to pass on to others. Costs are modest, approximately $300 per year.

Alumnae career forums, a Women’s History month celebration, and a commencement weekend forum and reception also depend on the Associates budget, for a total of approximately $1,500. The Associates budget has helped pay costs for equipment necessary to the Center, such as the fax machine, a tape recorder, an oral history transcription machine, and computer software programs Excel and File-Maker Pro.

One of the most gratifying aspects of life at the Center for the staff is working with alumnae on the Pembroke Center Associates Council. This group of eighteen to twenty-two members meets three times a year, on a Saturday in October, February, and May. The Council’s role is to publicize the work and resources of the Pembroke Center, to advise on matters of policy, and to expand the Center’s financial resources and base of support. Alumnae serving on the Council particularly enjoy the February meeting, where the post-doctoral fellows join them for lunch and talk about their work. All former Council members are invited to the May meeting at Commencement. Council meetings cost approximately $800 per year.

Alumnae Forum speakers, November 4, 1994. Dr. Maria Ana Rodrigues, M.D. Brown University, currently Medical Director, Fall River Community Development Center, and Dr. Patricia Furey, M.D. Brown-Dartmouth Program in Medicine, Head Resident in cardio-vascular surgery at Hartford Hospital.

Pembroke Center Associates Council members. Left to right: Sharon Drager '67, Claire Henderson '61, Elissa Arons '66

Pembroke Center Associates Council 1994-95
Jean E. Miller '49, Chair
Beverly Zweiman '66, Vice Chair
Elissa B. Arons '66
Kathleen Buechel '77
Sharon Drager '67
Joan MacLeod Heminway '83
Claire Henderson '61
Diane Iselin '81
Melissa Kirven-Brooks '82
Karen Marcuvitz Levy '74
Bernicestine McLeod '68
Mary Pat Martin '81
Elaine Bien Mei '61
Diane Lake Northrop '54
Chelsey Remington '61, Chair 1992-94
Hanna Rodriguez-Farrar '87, '90 a.m.
Ava Seave '77
Elizabeth Munves Sherman '77
Leah Sprague '66
Merrily Taylor

Paula Vogel, a professor and playwright in the English and Theater Arts Departments at Brown, was the featured speaker at the second annual reception for New York Metropolitan area Associates. The event was organized by Ava Seave '77 and Diane Iselin '81, both members of the Pembroke Center Associates Council.
Re-inventing the Wheel and Other Catastrophes

By Derria Monique Byrd '96

The process has begun, now let us be resourceful and help it continue. In the spring of 1986, a full-time archivist was hired by the Pembroke Center and the University Library to organize and promote the Christine Dunlap Farnham Archives as a priceless resource available to historians, students, and faculty. In this tradition, I am participating in the Farnham Oral History Project as part of the Pembroke Center's dedication to the research and documentation of the experience of women at Brown University. This project enables me to collect and transcribe the oral histories of Third World alumnae – especially African Americans – who have incredible stories and experiences to share. A University-funded Odyssey Fellowship made possible my involvement with the program by providing financial support for the UTRA (Undergraduate Teaching Research Assistantship) I received.

Over the course of the year, I had the opportunity to interview women from various classes: Beatrice Minkins '36, Joyce Richardson '63, Sidney Okashige '67, Jennifer Davis-Allison '73, Karen McLaurin '73, Gail Mitchell '73, Rogeriee Thompson '73, Anita Spivey '74, Rita Campbell '75, Janette Laremont '80, and Lydia English '85 RUE. The final editions of the oral history transcriptions will be placed in the Archives at the John Hay Library along with biographical information sheets on each of the women.

The continuation of the Christine Dunlap Farnham Oral History Project is of great importance to the University as a whole. The goals of this portion of the project are not only to record the histories of a group of students who are often neglected by Brown historians, but also to provide a resource which will be available to students with the desire to learn from those who came before them. The first goal allows the women to tell their own stories. In the words of Toni Morrison, “the definitions belong to the definers, not the defined.” The oral history project provides a unique opportunity for the collection of individual stories, advice, and triumphs which often fall by the wayside in the histories currently available to students to study and explore.

A second goal of the oral history project is to provide guidelines today's students can follow. Questions about social life, campus life, and academic life that are not directly addressed in the Big Brown Book of Facts can, at times, become overwhelming, causing students to feel: “there’s no hope,” “it’s too hard,” “we’re not enough.” With the oral history project, students will have access to documents that interweave what has already been done, what the next step is, and how to go about it all with stories of personal experience. This will help to eliminate the phenomenon younger generations are always accused of: “re-inventing the wheel.” What type of progress will we have if every year, every four years, new students come in with talent and ideas, but don’t put them to use properly? None. The oral history project will help provide the path along which the necessary “following in the footsteps” can truly happen.

The Christine Dunlap Farnham Oral History Project provides the materials with which the proverbial ball-and-chain can be transformed into wings on which students can be carried to greater success, enlightenment, and achievement.

Archival Assistant, Derria Monique
Byrd '96 transcribing an oral history.
The Christine Dunlap Farnham Archives

The women's archives honors the memory of Christine Dunlap Farnham '48, first chair of the Pembroke Center Associates Council and a driving force behind the Council's efforts to establish an archive to document and celebrate the lives of Brown and Rhode Island women.

Upon the death of Mrs. Farnham in 1984, the Pembroke Center and the University Library formed a committee to raise funds for an archivist. Thanks to the leadership of honorary fundraising chairwoman, Peg Cheetham '23, and co-chairs Judith Korey Charles '46 and Phyllis Baldwin Young '45, sufficient funds were raised to hire Karen Lamoree as full-time archivist for three years. Under her leadership and with the publication of her 500+ page Guide to the Farnham Archives, use of the women's materials in the John Hay Library by undergraduates, graduate students, and local researchers increased dramatically. When Lamoree left for a position in Madison, Wisconsin, a donation from Martha Sharp Cogan '26 enabled us to hire a part-time archivist, Kim Brookes, for two years. Currently there is no archivist assigned to the Farnham Archives; University Archivist Martha Mitchell oversees it, along with all other materials in the University Archives.

The Pembroke Center and the Associates consider the Archives a very important resource and would like to hire an archivist to continue its work. In the meantime, the Center is working to build the Archives. Currently, we are fortunate to have Derria Byrd '96 coordinating an oral history project for third world women. The oral history collection now contains approximately 150 histories of Brown and Rhode Island women including governors' wives, but is lacking in histories of third world women. (See the article on page 9) In addition, Amy Taxin '97 is transcribing existing oral histories, a necessary project, since audiotapes will eventually disintegrate.

An exhibit prepared by the Center's staff using photographs from the Farnham Archives helped the Pembroke Classes of 1944 and 1945 celebrate their fiftieth reunion. And, as part of the Sarah Doyle Women's Center's 20th anniversary celebration this spring, we have hired Susan Ferber '93 to catalogue and process older materials from the Sarah Doyle files for inclusion in the Farnham Archives. An $800 grant from the Dean of the College to Derria Byrd for her project supported her for first semester. The cost to the Center for her second semester plus the other projects outlined above is $2,400. These funds are covered by Associates' contributions.

Publications

Following is a list of books published by Pembroke Center post-doctoral fellows based on work they did during their year at the Center:

Anne Norton (1982–83)

Kaja Silverman (1982–83)

Janice Doane (1983–84) with Devon Hodges

Yasmine Ergas (1983–84) with Laura Balbo

Françoise Basch (1983–84)

Marnia Lazreg (1984–85)

Denise Riley (1984–85)
"Am I that name?: Feminism and the Category of "Women" in History. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1988

Diana Velez (1984–85), editor and translator
Reclaiming Medusa: Short Stories by Contemporary Puerto Rican Women. San Francisco: Spinsters/Aunt Lute, 1988

Rey Chow (1986–87)

Shahla Haeri (1986–87)

Kari Well (1986–87)

Mimi White (1986–87)

Jenny Sharpe (1987–88)
Allegories of Empire: The Figure of Woman in the Colonial Text. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1993

Christine Ward Gailey (1988–89)
Kinship to Kingship: Gender Hierarchy and State Formation in the Tongan Islands. Austin, Texas: University of Texas Press, 1987

Valentine M. Moghadam (1988–89)

Janani Nair (1993–94)
Women in Colonial India and the Subject of Law. Forthcoming: Kali for Women Press with National Law School of India University.
Women’s Studies

The Women’s Studies Concentration is now fourteen years old, and 103 concentrators have graduated since the first commencement class of two students in 1982. The Center administers the concentration and the basic costs of administration are, as with all other concentrations, met by the University. Unlike many concentrations, however, Women’s Studies does not have its own faculty lines, so almost all of the courses listed as “Women’s Studies” courses are cross-listed with other departments and programs. The system, while effective, has its difficulties, especially in times of fiscal restraint, and especially in academic areas and departments where Women’s Studies faculty are under-represented.

An ample endowment for the Pembroke Center would give Women’s Studies more flexibility and allow the concentration to grow. There is great student interest in women’s studies, but while many take courses, most cannot major in the field. Concentrators need both regular course instructors and faculty who can advise them and supervise honors theses, senior essays, and independent studies. In the current system, the faculty who work with Women’s Studies students do so in addition to their normal responsibilities in their home departments.

Each year, the Center awards two prizes for undergraduate work in Women’s Studies. The first is the Joan Wallach Scott Prize for an outstanding honors thesis by a Women’s Studies concentrator. This prize is funded by an endowment established in 1981 honoring the Center’s founding director. The second prize, the Helen Terry MacLeod Prize, is awarded for an honors thesis written by a student in any discipline which focuses on questions relating to women or gender. This prize was recently endowed by Joan MacLeod Hemingway ’83, in honor of her grandmother.

Selected Women’s Studies Honors Theses:

Andrea Marie Dehlerndorf ’94
How Did We Get to ‘Nannygate’?
A History of Domestic Service in 20th-Century America

Smita Narula ’94
Women and AIDS in Zimbabwe

Naomi A. Sachs ’92
Women and Sexual Assault: Interaction of Race, Gender and Class

Ellen J. Sharp ’91

Karen Brown ’90
Rethinking the Man-Made Metropolis: The Relationship Between Constructs of Gender and Planned Urban Form

Alys Eve Weinbaum ’89
Rethinking Reproductive Technologies: Reimagining Reproduction

Catherine Saalfeld ’88
Femininity in ‘Passing’: The Female Spectacle ‘E-raced’

Janet Kroll ’86
Race and Feminism

Elizabeth Cullen ’85
The Politics of the Women’s Vote

Kate Garrett ’84
Fathers and Daughters: Colette, Woolf and the Psychoanalytic

Women’s Studies at Brown is enriched in many ways by the Pembroke Center’s research program: by the many prominent Visiting Scholars the Center brings to campus for public lectures; by the Pembroke Seminar in which selected students are invited to participate; by the post-doctoral fellows who serve as resources to Brown students.

Nancy Armstrong is the Nancy Duke Lewis University Professor of Modern Culture and Media, Comparative Literature, and English at Brown.
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differences:
A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies
Naomi Schor, Harvard University
Elizabeth Weed
Editors
Steven Evans
Assistant Editor
Liana Scalaetter
Editorial Assistant

differences: The Center is the home of a distinguished academic journal, differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies, published three times a year by Indiana University Press. Now in its seventh year and one of the leading journals in cultural and critical studies, differences is a showcase for international feminist criticism. It also helps disseminate the work of the Center to a national and international academic audience. Response to the journal has been so strong that the press has recently launched a differences book series which will make the work available to an even wider readership. The journal began with the help of an initial subvention from the University; it now generates royalties that support its costs.

Pembroke Center
for Teaching and Research on Women
Brown University / Box 1958
Providence, RI 02912