

**Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women
2008-2009 Academic Year in Review**

Nanjing-Brown Joint Program in Gender Studies and the Humanities

Brown University's initiative to strengthen its international programs now includes an exciting research partnership between the Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women, the East Asian Studies Department, and the Cogut Center for the Humanities at Brown with the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities and Social Science at Nanjing University. The program brings outstanding scholars from Nanjing University into dialogue with scholars here at Brown about the global future of gender, feminist studies, and the humanities. With an ambitious schedule of faculty and student exchanges and an exciting series of publications, the Nanjing-Brown Program promises to build vital connections between our institutions and foster rigorous and imaginative global critical thinking.

In March, the Pembroke Center sponsored a series of lectures and a colloquium to explore gender, modern China, and the transnational humanities. Chengzhou He, Associate Director of the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences at Nanjing University spend a month in residence at the Cogut Center for the Humanities and participated in the Center's colloquium.

Pembroke Seminar

With four postdoctoral fellows, four faculty fellows, and two graduate student fellows, this year's Pembroke Seminar, "Visions of Nature: Constructing the Cultural Other" was particularly productive. The seminar explored representations of nature cross culturally and historically. The Center brought three renowned scholars to campus to deliver lectures related to the seminar topic.

Twentieth Anniversary of Pembroke Center Journal

The Center's journal, *differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies*, celebrated twenty years of publishing with a highly lauded colloquium at Brown about the current state of critical theory. Renowned scholars came to campus to present and engage in dialogue with Brown scholars.

Feminist Theory Papers

The Feminist Theory Papers continues to grow. With an external board of directors and new letters of intent from prominent feminist theory scholars, the collection has received much attention, including being featured at Columbia University's "Archiving Women" conference.

<http://pembrokecenter.org/archives/FeministTheoryPapers.html>

Gender and Sexuality Studies

The concentration is growing and drawing a lot of interest from undergraduates. Under the leadership of Suzanne Stewart-Steinberg, there are new course offerings and a higher profile for the concentration.

<http://pembrokecenter.org/instruction/index.html>

Commencement Forum

Crisis: Policies to Strengthen a Troubled Economy

Our forum drew intense interest over reunion weekend and we completely filled the List Auditorium to capacity and had to turn about a hundred people away. Our experts shared their insights and expertise about the financial crisis and regulatory reform.

Panelists: Randall S. Kroszner '84, the Norman R. Bobins Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and a former governor of the Federal Reserve Board; and, Annette L. Nazareth '78, Brown trustee, partner at Davis, Polk & Wardwell, and former commissioner of the Securities and Exchange Commission. Moderator: Jill Schlesinger '87, editor-at-large, CBS MoneyWatch.com.

Podcast: http://alumni.brown.edu/news_events/reunions/09gallery/CF-economy.html

Women's History Month

Kirstin Downey, author of *The Woman Behind the New Deal* spoke on campus in March about her book and the life of Frances Perkins, who was the chief proponent and major architect of the Social Security Act and was Franklin D. Roosevelt's Secretary of Labor. Perkins was the first woman to be appointed to be a Cabinet secretary. The event was sponsored by the Sarah Doyle Women's Center and the Associates served as cosponsored this terrific talk.

Regional Programs

- Assistant Professor Jennifer Lawless spoke at the home of Nancy Gidwitz'70 in Chicago about women in politics and provided an analysis of the role that gender played in the 2008 presidential primaries and general election.
- Nancy Northup'81 spoke about reproductive rights in Boston in a joint program sponsored by the Pembroke Center Associates and the Brown Club of Boston's "Brown Women of Boston" network.

Archives

- Oral histories of this year's 50th and 25th reunion classes were completed and will be preserved in the Christine Dunlap Farnham Archives.
- Caryl Ann Nieforth'59 made a substantial gift of material items to the Archives including memorabilia, books, photos and other items pertaining to the University.
- A special commemorative booklet was developed for the Rededication of Pembroke Hall and distributed widely, including to all members of the Corporation. Extensive work was done to incorporate the history of Pembroke Hall and the Rhode Island Society for the Collegiate Education of Women in all University publications about the building.
<http://pembrokecenter.org/documents/FundingofPH.pdf>
- The Pembroke Center's Feminist Theory Papers project was featured at Columbia University's "Archiving Women" conference.

Publications and Publicity

- The Pembroke Center has been featured this year in the *Brown Alumni Monthly*, *Today at Brown*, *Featured Events at Brown*, the *Brown Insider*, and on the University's homepage. The Center's commencement forum was featured by the Brown Alumni Association and made available as a podcast.
- The Pembroke Center Associates newsletter was published three times.
<http://pembrokecenter.org/associates/newsletter.html>

- The Center's research newsletter was published and distributed widely on campus, to alumnae/i and to an international list of scholars.
<http://pembrokecenter.org/research/newsletter.html>
- The Pembroke Center Associates Facebook page:
<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=14285186135&ref=ts> is growing and has over sixty members.

Membership

As of June 17, 2009, the Pembroke Center Associates have raised over \$108,000 in membership contributions from 420 members. Despite a challenging fundraising climate, we can be grateful for the ongoing generous support of our members.

<http://pembrokecenter.org/associates/join.html>

Campaign

Over \$3,293,000 in pledges and bequest intentions have been designated for the Pembroke Center. http://pembrokecenter.org/documents/Pembroke_Case_05-23-07fixed.pdf

The Pembroke Center Associates Council was particularly generous in its support of the Pembroke Center with campaign pledges this year. We held a special celebration of Nancy L. Buc on campus during Corporation Weekend that was attended by the Chancellor and leadership of the Campaign.

Student Achievements

Ruth Simmons Prize in Gender and Women's Studies:
Soyoung Park, Sociology
"Silenced Pain: The Korean Comfort Women's Struggle to Matter"

Joan Wallach Scott Prize
Lily Shield, Gender & Sexuality Studies
"Blogging Feminism: Toward a Politics of Intersectionality and Inclusion"

Marie J. Langlois Dissertation Prize
Erin M. Parker, Sociology
"Social Disparities and Breastfeeding in the United States"

Helen Terry MacLeod Research Grant
Karen Dannemiller, Engineering
“Development of a Formaldehyde Detection System”

Barbara Anton Internship Grant
Alison Cohen, Community Health
“Community-Based Participatory Epidemiology: Developing, Conducting, and Analyzing an Environmental Health Assessment with Communities for a Better Environment”

Linda Pei Undergraduate Research Grant
Debbie Lehmann, Economics
“Impact of Micro-Credit Programs on Women’s Empowerment in Salta, Argentina”