



### Mariana Valverde New Sexual Diversity Studies Program Director

On July 1<sup>st</sup> 2006, Mariana Valverde began her three-year term as Program Director of Sexual Diversity Studies, joining David Rayside (Director of the Bonham Centre) on the SDS leadership team. Valverde is a professor at the Centre of Criminology at Woodsworth College. She was recently named to the Royal Society of Canada, the country's oldest and most prestigious scholarly organization. Her numerous books include **Diseases of the Will**, which won the Herbert Jacob Award in 1998.



Of her long-time interest in sexuality studies, Valverde says "I was involved both in the university side [and]

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### Centre Celebrates \$1- Million Endowment

*U of T Grad Mark S. Bonham Gives Generously to Sexual Diversity Studies*

Ontario businessman and philanthropist Mark Bonham has made the largest-ever gift to SDS since its undergraduate program was established in 1998. With this kind of support, the newly-designated Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies is becoming one of the largest and most comprehensive of its kind in the world.



**Mark S. Bonham: "I am thrilled to be a part of SDS"**

Born in Guelph, Ont. in 1959, Bonham graduated from the University of Toronto (University College) with a B. Com. degree in 1982. He is now CEO of Stoney Ridge Estate Winery in Vineland, Ontario. He is also President and CEO of Bonham & Co. Inc., a financial investment office, and heads the M. Bonham Charitable Foundation. He also serves on the advisory board of the annual Inside/Out Film Festival in Toronto – one of the largest gay and lesbian film festivals in the world – and has been a major supporter of Casey House, which provides a caring hospice environment for people with AIDS.

A long-time supporter of the university, Bonham has *continued on page 3*

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also in the non-university community side.” Her community activism included membership in the Body Politic collective and the Toronto Centre for Gay and Lesbian Studies. She wrote the cutting-edge book **Sex Power and Pleasure** in the mid-1980’s, well before sexuality studies arose within the university.

Having taken part in the very first discussions at U of T about the need for Sexual Diversity Studies, Valverde becomes SDS Program Director at a time of dramatic growth in student enrolments. The major program has been a huge success, and students are now anticipating a specialist program. Valverde has some exciting ideas for moving that project along, and for teaching a course of her own in the program.

Valverde is also pleased about the new special topics courses offered by SDS this fall, such as **Trans Theory and Politics**. She hopes that some of these courses, and her own course-in-development, will soon be turned into the regular fourth-year courses needed for a specialist program.

Overall, Valverde wants to see a balance of Canadian and international content in SDS course offerings. She envisions her own course as covering Eastern Europe, Islamic states and China, in addition to North America and Western Europe. And she is thrilled that SDS will be benefiting from the scholarship of Ashwini Tambe. Newly-appointed to Women’s & Gender Studies and History at U of T, Tambe will be teaching a course in the history of sexuality from an international perspective, a course being cross-listed with SDS.

Speaking of international perspectives, Valverde’s own reputation as a scholar nets her many guest lecture opportunities worldwide. The importance to SDS of making global contacts is not lost on her. “When we do move towards a graduate program”, says Valverde, “it’ll be good to have those links.” A future SDS Masters Program, she believes, could draw on international students to everyone’s benefit.

For now, Valverde oversees the undergraduate programs. As anyone reading the new online **Undergraduate Journal of Sexual Diversity Studies** can tell, SDS undergrads are innovative scholars who will find a truly inspirational leader in Valverde. ■



## “Roberts Fund” Creates New Student Awards!

Through the enormous generosity of Robert Schott, the Bonham Centre will be administering a new award program for LGBT students. The new fund will create bursaries totalling \$15,000 each year, starting in 2006-07. It has been established as a memorial to Schott’s one-time partner Robert Beninati. It is motivated, too, by a recognition that LGBT youth often encounter distinctive hardships that make a university program more difficult to embark on and complete. Further information will soon be available on the SDS website. ■

## Exciting Line-up of SDS Courses

The fall term is already underway, and U of T students are enjoying an unprecedented range of SDS courses. The first of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year core courses, **UNI 255F - History and Perspectives in Sexual Diversity**, is being taught by veteran SDSer Scott Rayter; and the second, **UNI 256S - Sexualities: Social, Organizational and Legal Contexts**, by new Sociology faculty member Adam Green. Established SDS courses on literature (**ENG 273Y**) – and politics (**POL 315F**) are again being taught by Michael Cobb and David Rayside. Fadi Abou-Rihan is responsible for our two 3<sup>rd</sup> year theory courses (**UNI 354F** and **355S**), and Meredith Cartwright is teaching **UNI 365F – Sexuality and Law**.

This year, more courses than ever are being taught experimentally on special topics. Leslie Katz, a faculty member in Drama, will be teaching a fourth-year offering on **Sexual Performance – Case Studies in S/M**. Rinaldo Walcott, from the department of Sociology and Equity Studies at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, will again be teaching **The New Queer Visibility**, also at the fourth year level. Dan Irving, from York University’s political science department, will be teaching **Trans Theory and Politics**. And Scott Rayter will be teaching **Queerly Canadian**, which will soon be made a permanent offering in the SDS (and Canadian Studies) line-up. ■

### Photography Credits

Mariana Valverde (page 1): photo by Josh Meles  
Mark S. Bonham (page 1): photo by Diogenes Baena  
Maureen FitzGerald (page 3): photo by Susan King

## MAUREEN FITZGERALD ENDS EXTRAORDINARY TERM AS SDS PROGRAM DIRECTOR

She has been called “the world’s best mentor” by Mariana Valverde. Maureen FitzGerald’s accomplishments as SDS Program Director (2000-2006) include overseeing a huge expansion in SDS course offerings and student enrolments. “Students love Maureen, and I think she played such a crucial role...she deserves so much credit” says Valverde.



But the SDS Program Directorship is only one chapter in the book of FitzGerald’s life. Well before she and other faculty at U of T began to talk about forming a Sexual Diversity Studies Program, FitzGerald was making her mark as managing editor of Women’s Press. Personal highlights of that time period include editing Valverde’s first book **Sex Power and Pleasure**, the feminist anthology **Still Ain’t Satisfied**, and **Enough is Enough: Aboriginal Women Speak Out**. Of her time at Women’s Press, FitzGerald says, “it was exciting as well as disheartening, and I learned a lot.”

By the time FitzGerald left Women’s Press, she was working full-time at U of T’s Transitional Year Program. While taking part in “free-wheeling” faculty discussions about sexuality studies, FitzGerald made a life-changing decision. At a time when virtually no parenting support existed for same-sex couples, she and her partner Amy Gottlieb adopted a baby boy. FitzGerald is now a frequent participant in the community-based courses “Dykes Planning Tykes” and “Daddies & Papas 2 B”, offering support and information to the next generation of gay and lesbian parents.

FitzGerald’s plans for the future are numerous. She will continue her work on the **Lesbians Making History Project: Oral Histories of Gay Women in Toronto, 1940’s-1960’s**. Her dream is to see completed oral history tapes housed at the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives (CLGA), with segments available for listening via the CLGA website. Other projects include committee work for an LGBTQ exhibit at the Fisher Rare Book Library (slated for the spring of 2008), and getting Routledge’s **Who’s Who in Contemporary Gay and Lesbian History** - in which two FitzGerald-penned bios appear - onto the SDS website.

University of Toronto students and community members who know and love FitzGerald needn’t worry - they will still see her at SDS events throughout the school year. As busy as she plans to be, Maureen FitzGerald will always remain a part of Sexual Diversity Studies.

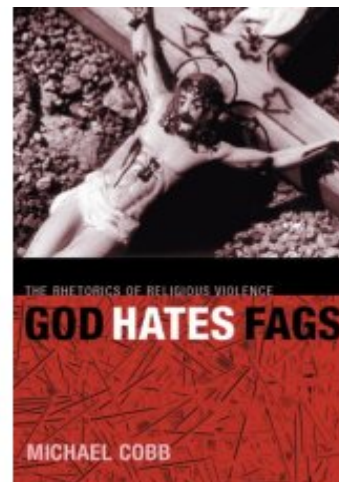
been a major donor to the Joseph L. Rotman School of Management, and actively involved in the university’s Awards of Excellence program. He received U of T’s Arbor Award for volunteer service in 1999.

“Mark has been a strong supporter of SDS for years”, says Centre Director David Rayside. “He has made a real difference for our students with his generosity and commitment, first helping out when we were still very small. Now once again, and more dramatically than ever, Mark has shown his great confidence in what we have accomplished, and in the dreams we have for the centre’s future.”

Bonham himself believes strongly that the research and teaching fostered by the centre is exciting and important, and that the University of Toronto is the ideal place for this kind of initiative. The centre “brings together Canada’s brightest students with some of this country’s best teachers and researchers,” he says. “This is a long-neglected area, and Canada provides an ideal environment to take up these questions creatively. The country’s largest university, located in a city as diverse as Toronto, makes it a terrific setting to challenge young minds and help all of us expand our horizons. I am thrilled to be a part of SDS.”

Bonham’s \$1-million endowment will go towards enhancing the centre’s programming. This will allow SDS to greatly expand its research and teaching profile, and to develop activities enriching community understanding of sexuality. ■

### Books Launched by SDS Faculty



Professor Michael Cobb, who teaches **Introduction to Gay and Lesbian Literature**, has written a thought-provoking new book, **God Hates Fags: The Rhetorics of Religious Violence**. ■

## SDS STUDENT AWARD WINNERS FOR 2006

### **Patricia & Douglas Dadson OSOTFII Scholarship** **Kirstin Caspersen & Alison Carson**

Kirstin is in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of her double major in SDS and Criminology. Alison is starting her MA in English at York U.

### **The Sexual Diversity Studies Scholarship** **Erika Katzman**

Erika is in the 4<sup>th</sup> year of a Latin American Studies major.

### **Rainbow Triangle Alumni Association Award** **Dave Lau**

Dave has completed a double major in SDS and Sociology, and is taking his Masters degree in Sociology at LSE.

### **Emperor I Sergio Apolloni Scholarship** **Colin Chamberlain**

Colin has completed his BA and is now off to grad school.

### **The LGBTOUT Student Award** **Suzy Yim & Matthew Strang**

Suzy and Matthew have graduated from U of T. Both possess dazzling LGBTQ community activist records.

### **The Bonham Scholarship for Study of Issues in Sexual Diversity** **Robbie Morgan**      Read a profile of Robbie here

#### SDS EVENTS FOR 2006-2007

**OCTOBER 2006-APRIL 2007 - SDS Colloquium Series**      SDS faculty and graduate students interested in sexuality studies present a series of informal monthly talks about their research. These talks will take place Thursdays from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm at University College, Room 240 (second floor of the building at the northeast corner).

**Thursday October 19** - Assistant Professor of Sociology Adam Green presents "The Social Organization of Desire".  
**Thursday November 23** - The 2nd colloquium features Antje Budde, Assistant Professor in University College's Drama Program.

**NOVEMBER 2006 - Panel Discussion on "Is it now OK to be LGBT at work?"** This discussion is sponsored by SDS in association with the Gay-Straight Alliance at the Rotman School of Management. It will be held at Rotman.

**JANUARY 18-19, 2007 - Conference on "Religion, Sexuality and Politics in Canada and the United States"**. This conference is co-sponsored by SDS, The Centre for the Study of the United States, and the Department of Political Science at the University of Toronto. Academics from across North America will be presenting their work.

**MARCH 2007 - Public lecture on Disability & Sexuality** This lecture is organized in co-operation with *Come As You Are*, a Toronto and community-based co-op that markets sexual products. Their approach to sexuality is respectful, open, humorous and accessible!

For further information on these & other SDS events, visit our website at [www.utoronto.ca/sexualdiversity](http://www.utoronto.ca/sexualdiversity)

## Meet Robbie Morgan

It is no wonder that David Rayside, Centre Director, describes **Robbie Morgan** as a "dynamo". This SDS undergrad is always in motion, on or off the U of T campus.

Morgan moved here from Chicago, where she was a sex-ed teacher. In 2002, she discovered the SDS program at U of T. "Just reading the course list was thrilling" she says.



In no time, Morgan was at U of T, quickly becoming an SDS mover and shaker, and in 2006 she won the Bonham Scholarship. Her extracurricular activities include work in the **Sexual Diversity Studies Student Union (SDSSU)** and the **Undergraduate Journal of Sexual Diversity Studies (UJSDS)**: <http://ujdsd.sa.utoronto.ca/index.html>.

Founding **UJSDS** - a spectacular new online journal for student writers - may just be her biggest accomplishment to date. "My goal for creating the journal is to brag, really" says Morgan. "The students in this program are smart and challenging and will be the leaders in the field in just a few years."

Now back at U of T to complete her undergrad degree, Morgan will also find the time to edit 80+ hours of video footage shot this past summer for her first documentary film. This dynamic young woman is fast becoming a leader herself. ■

### **THE MARK S. BONHAM CENTRE FOR SEXUAL DIVERSITY STUDIES**

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