

SDS

director's report

As we wind down the academic year, nothing at SDS actually seems to slow down! From awards ceremonies to visiting lectures, the end of term is a veritable blur of events.

In the last few weeks, we hosted Professor Ratna Kapur, who gave a talk entitled "Slutwalk Couture: The Postcolonial Politics of Feminism Lite". It was a fascinating look at the shifting meaning of slutwalks as they travelled across the globe to postcolonial contexts like New Delhi, India.

Then, there was Susie Bright, the sex educator extraordinaire, our Michael Lynch Distinguished Visitor, who gave her provocative talk, "Big Sex, Little Death: Sexual Liberation, Erotic Forensics and the Great Feminist Vanishing Act". In case you weren't around in the 1980s, Bright - then known as Susie Sexpert - helped found *On Our Backs*, the first lesbian erotica magazine in the U.S. published by and for women. These days, she has a blog and an online radio magazine, contributes to *The Huffington Post* and continues to write and edit books on sex and sexuality.

Perhaps it was just coincidental that both speakers addressed contemporary developments in sexual politics as a way to explore the waning and waxing influence of feminism. But, it was certainly unmistakable.

We were privileged to host Representative Barney Frank, Democrat of Massachusetts, co-author of the financial regulator overhaul known as the Dodd-Frank Act, and first out gay Congressman in the United States. Introduced by the Honorable Bill Graham, Rep. Frank shared some informal remarks on the current and future state of LGBT politics in the U.S.

Then, of course, there were the accomplishments of our students. We held the second annual SDS Student Research Colloquium, where our graduate and fourth-year undergraduate students have an opportunity to present their research in progress. It was another amazing day, showcasing the cutting-edge sexual diversity research being done by our students.

As we go to press, we are finalizing our student award recipients for the 2011-12 academic-year, and we will be presenting the awards at our end-of-term party. Once again, we celebrate the remarkable accomplishments of our students.

All of this, in the last few weeks! Then, there was the rest of the year, which was filled with events, parties, and more than a few courses. We began the year with the Bonham Award, given to Dustin Lance Black, Academy Award screenwriter of *Milk*, and Linda Schuyler, co-creator and producer of *Degrassi*.

In the fall, we celebrated and unveiled the Ontario Heritage Trust recognition of the University of Toronto Homophile Association, the first group in Ontario to rally around lesbian and gay rights. University of Toronto President David Naylor was on hand to address the gathering, and the heritage plaque was then installed on the east of side of University College. Our own Professor David Rayside, who spearheaded the heritage initiative, was not only on hand for the festivities, but actually helped install the plaque with his own hands.

On the curricular front, we had many exciting developments, from the new courses in popular culture, queer affect, and the UC One initiative that received more than its fair share of media attention, "Sex in the City". Next year, we will be broadening our offerings again, adding a new course that will bring a social work perspectives to our students.

It's hard to believe, but it has been three years since I became director. As for next year, well, I will be on leave. And I will be leaving the Centre in the stunningly capable hands of Professors David Rayside and Scott Rayter. And then, before I know it, I will be back, for another two years as Director of SDS.

Brenda Cossman
Director

Contributors:

Anthony Collins
Scott Rayter
Wendy Koslow
Amy Gottlieb
Brenda Cossman

FACULTY BRIEFS

Professor David Brennan



David Brennan is Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Social Work. Professor Brennan has been a clinical social worker in the HIV/AIDS and health care field since 1983. His research focuses on the health and well-being of marginalized gay, bisexual, two-spirit and other men who have sex with men. His work includes the psychosocial needs of older adults living with HIV, as well as the impact of several factors on HIV risk for gay and bisexual men including the role of a history of childhood sexual abuse, optimistic beliefs about HIV treatment and the role of intimacy and pleasure in sexual risk behavior. Professor Brennan is currently involved in work to examine how we measure sexual orientation in population-based health studies as well as the resiliencies, strengths and assets that gay and bisexual men have that prevent them from becoming infected with HIV.

We are delighted that David will be teaching a new course in SDS entitled "Sex and the Epidemic: Social Work, HIV and Human Sexuality" beginning in the fall 2012. The new course will examine how the epidemic has impacted the provision of social services in relation to the diversity of human sexuality, and bring an important new theoretical and disciplinary perspective to the SDS curriculum.

As David describes, "The "Sex and the Epidemic" course will provide SDS students with a unique perspective on how sexuality is linked with social work and human services in Toronto. This course will be an exciting opportunity for students to examine how social workers and other human service professionals integrate issues of HIV and sexuality into providing care and services for a broad range of populations, including youth, women, older folks, immigrants, those living with disabilities, LGBT communities, heterosexual populations and ethno-racialized populations."

David explains that the course will be "grounded in the values and practice of social work and will involve community partners who will be able to provide real world experiences in relation to how sexuality is dealt with (or ignored) in the context of social and human services." Its emphasis on social service delivery, from a social work perspective, will provide a much-needed supplement to the SDS curriculum.

HIV has dramatically impacted how we deliver social services in Canada and beyond. Programs focused on youth are keenly aware of the need to address sexuality more comprehensively now that HIV has impacted such a large number of youth. This is true across a number of social service systems from Child Welfare, to criminal justice to immigration.

Allison Burgess has just started her new job as U of T's Sexual and Gender Diversity Officer, but she's no stranger to the University. A UC graduate and longtime teaching assistant in Sexual Diversity Studies, Allison holds a Ph.D. from OISE/UT focusing on queer histories and activism in Toronto. She recently taught a course in UC's Canadian Studies Program and served as a TA in the new UC One course.

The study of sexual diversity underpins the work that Allison will be doing in her new role, which involves providing education, resources, and consultation to the whole University community on issues of sexual and gender diversity. "Sexuality and gender are connected to most or all aspects of our lives, in sometimes more obvious and sometimes less obvious ways," she says. "Thinking critically about the relationship between sexuality and the world, on the personal, local, or global level, is key to a deeper understanding of systems of power, marginalization, and activism."

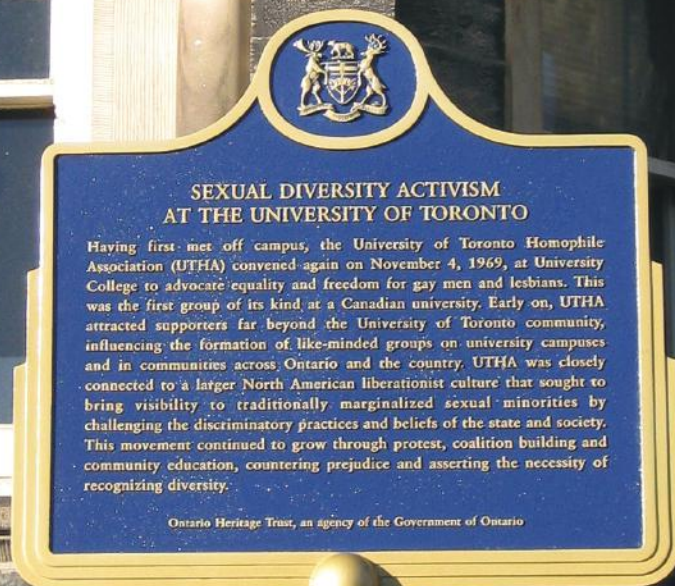
Allison looks forward to collaborating with partners across the three campuses on equity initiatives. The Sexual and Gender Diversity Office has worked closely with the Bonham Centre on such projects as student awards, academic conferences and the Positive Space Campaign. Allison herself was the co-founder of Brock University's Positive Space Campaign, one modelled in part on the pioneering program at U of T.

The Bonham Centre welcomes Allison and looks forward to working with her.

Allison Burgess



ADVOCACY



On November 2, 2011, the Ontario Heritage Trust and the Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies unveiled the provincial heritage plaque commemorating the formation of the University of Toronto Homophile Association. The first LGBT-related provincial plaque in Ontario recognizes the formation of the University of Toronto Homophile Association in 1969, which was the first group in Ontario to rally around lesbian and gay rights.

OUTREACH

Report from the SDS School Liaison Committee

Amy Gottlieb

We have had three successful seminars in our four-part seminar series: **Teaching, Learning and Sexuality Education**. There are 25 participants: 15 from elementary and 10 from secondary schools.

The first seminar focused on policy, specifically around sex education, equity and human rights. The second focused on intersectionality, power and privilege and the third focused on examples of inclusive teaching practices. The final seminar in March engaged teachers in action plans for implementing sexual education in the classroom and schools.

In all seminars there has been a combination of theoretical concepts with teaching practice grounded in school and classroom.

Participants have "homework" to do between seminars that relates to making changes in curriculum and school climate where they teach.

The SDS Schools Committee is excited about developing a cohort of teachers who are consciously creating critical and inclusive teaching practices.

UTAC
university of toronto
art centre

SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY, MAY 4 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

6 pm: Art with Insight Panel

Generously supported by Peter Allen

Through the Lens of Psychoanalysis: The Photographic Portraiture of Robert Giard.

Participants: Ken Corbett, Muriel Dimen, Virginia Gouldner, Adrienne Harris.

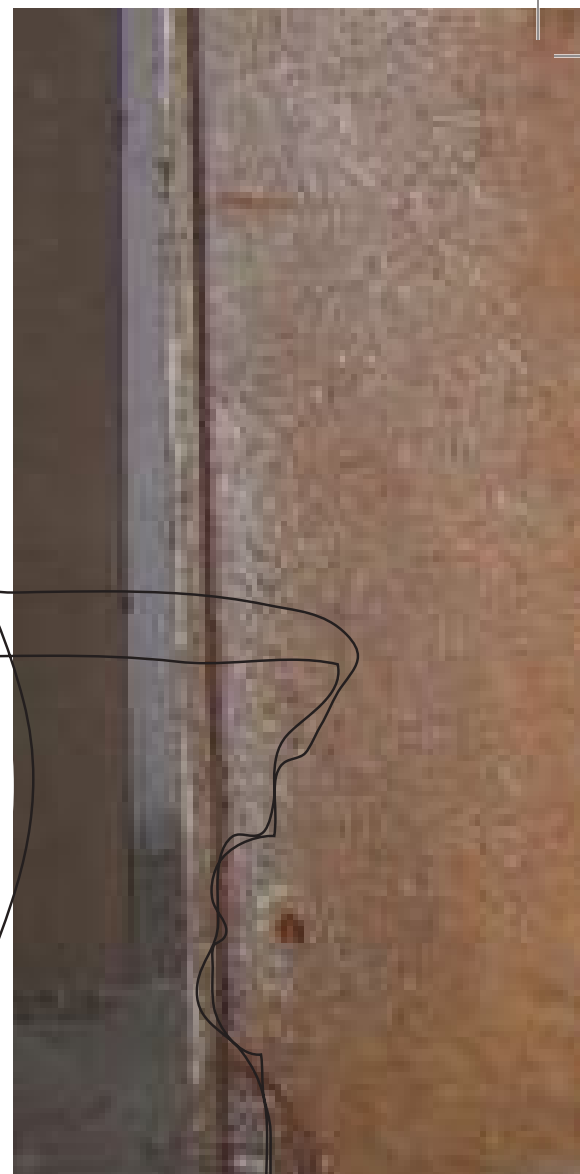
Moderated by Hazel Ipp, Toronto Institute for Contemporary Psychoanalysis.

7:30 pm: Opening Reception for *Just As You Are: Portraits by Robert Giard*

Location: UTAC art lounge, 15 King's College Circle, Toronto ON M5S 3H7.

Directions at: www.utac.utoronto.ca/visiting.

RSVP: 416-978-1838 or utac.rsvp@utoronto.ca





This year Scott Rayter taught the inaugural “Sex in the City” course, as part of the new UC One initiative, which provides small seminar experiences for first-year students to develop the writing and research skills that will help them succeed as they begin their studies at UofT. Media coverage of the course was widespread including radio, TV, newspapers, and online.

UC’s overall theme was “Engaging Toronto,” and the courses brought leaders, activists and artists from outside the University into the classroom and then took students out into the community as a way of asking larger questions about belonging and citizenship.

Jane Farrow came and spoke about the history of queer Toronto; Glen Murray told his story about his activist roots and current political successes. Mariana Valverde informed students about the legal regulation of spaces, sexualities, and bodies, from bathhouse raids of the past to the current battles over prostitution. Students went on field trips to the Lesbian and Gay Archives and Pink Triangle Press, where Ken Popert explained the history of the *Body Politic* and invited many of the people who work on *Xtra!*, *fab*, Cruiseline, and Squirt to talk about their role in the organization. Finally, students attended a working rehearsal with Sky Gilbert and his actors as they prepare for his upcoming play at Buddies, *Dancing Queen*.

According to student Sean Shinkle, “Unlike most courses is first year, the environment is intimate, and students are able to interact weekly with an awesome professor. In particular, “Sex in the City” has fascinating curriculum that is specialized, intriguing and is sure to wake you up!”

STUDENT SUCCESS

Every spring,

SDS celebrates the accomplishments of our students at our Over and Out Party. This year's winners:

The Patricia and Douglas Dadson Scholarship

Stephany Gerrard, Juliana Krstevska, Chilombo Njolomba, Rodney Rousseau

The Sexual Diversity Studies Scholarship

Paul Weadick

The Jack Hallam UC '52 Undergraduate Scholarship

Stephany Gerrard, Amy Silverberg, Erin Fauteux, Brock Hessel

The Pride & Remembrance Association Award

Jennifer Robertson

The Emperor I Sergio Apolloni Memorial Scholarship

David Holysh

The Bonham Scholarship for Study in Issues of Sexuality

Kiran Mehdee

The Rainbow Triangle Alumni Association Award

Johanna Lewis

The LGBTQ Award

Ricky Rodrigues,

The LGBTQOUT Award

Ben Peel, Tyler Carson, Brock Hessel

The LGBTQ Scholarship

Richard Coutts

The Susan Addario Book Prize for UNI 255

Matthew Clifford-Rashotte

The Paul and Jacqui Perron Book Prize for UNI 256

Kiran Mehdee, Jennifer Robertson

The Maureen FitzGerald Book Prize for UNI 377

Lisa Kadey



Just As You Are: Portraits by Robert Giard

APRIL 28 - JUNE 30, 2012

UTAC
university of toronto
art centre

Curated by Diana Gore, Renée van der Avoird, and Julia Cyr

A Featured Exhibition of the Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival, in conjunction with the Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies, and supported by the Jackman Humanities Institute, the Valerie Jean Griffiths Student Exhibitions Fund in Memory of William, Elva and Elizabeth, the Museum Studies Program, Faculty of Information, University of Toronto and the University of Toronto Art Centre.

Robert Giard's black and white portraits of gay and lesbian literary figures capture an extraordinary cultural moment in 80s and 90s America.

This exhibition features 40 vintage prints from the Estate of Robert Giard. It also includes eight portraits of gay and lesbian Canadian writers recently donated by Jonathan Silin to the University College collection.



"It was a relief to know that all the work I have done within the Sexual Diversity Studies program and all my volunteer work outside of SDS was worthy of recognition. These awards made a difference not only in terms of finance but in terms of my level of self-confidence."

BROCK HESSEL

Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies, 2014

BOUNDLESS **IMPACT**

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

To make a donation, or to discuss a planned gift to support the Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies and its students, contact:

Alumni & Development

University College Room D105

University of Toronto

15 King's College Circle, Toronto, ON M5S 3H7

416.978.2968

<https://donate.utoronto.ca/uc>

