



The Bonham Centre Award

We kick off our academic year with our annual Welcome Back Party and the Bonham Centre Award. We are thrilled that this year's recipients of the award are Linda Schuyler, co-creator and producer of *Degrassi*, and Dustin Lance Black, academy award screen writer of *Milk*.

The Bonham Centre Award was established in 2007 to recognize an individual or group that has made a significant contribution to the advancement and education of issues surrounding sexual education. Past award recipients include filmmaker John Greyson, Barbara Findlay, the Canadian Union of Public Employees, and renowned sexual educator and counselor Sue Johanson.

Linda Schuyler, who is a graduate of the University of Toronto and began her career as a teacher, is best known for co-creating and executive producing the multi-award winning *Degrassi* television franchise, comprised of *The Kids of Degrassi Street*, *Degrassi Junior High*, *Degrassi High*, *School's Out*, *Degrassi Talks* and *Degrassi: The Next Generation*. The *Degrassi* series has from its inception portrayed teen life in a diversified and inclusive context with many storylines

that challenged and educated its audience around issues of sexual diversity and identity, and tackled such difficult issues as domestic violence, teen pregnancy, pedophilia, adoption, religion, divorce, bullying, drug use, suicide, sexual assault, abortion, and mental health.

Dustin Lance Black is an American screenwriter, director, film and television producer, and LGBT rights activist. In 2000, he wrote and directed *The Journey of Jared Price*, a gay romance film, and *Something Close to Heaven*, a gay coming-of-age short film. In 2001, he directed and was a subject in the documentary *On the Bus* about a road trip and adventure taken by six gay men. Raised as Mormon, he was hired as the only such writer on the HBO drama series *Big Love* about a polygamist family. Lance has been active in speaking out about discrimination in the Mormon Church and making it more LGBT-inclusive. Having witnessed the AIDS crisis in the early 1990s, Lance felt compelled to write a movie screenplay based on the life of San Francisco city councillor Harvey Milk, an effort that resulted in his Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay in

2008's movie *Milk*. In all of these and many other endeavours, Dustin Lance Black has excelled at educating and inspiring a young generation to become activists in a grassroots way around issues of sexual diversity.

Both Linda Schuyler and Dustin Lance Black, through their visionary cultural works, have contributed to broader and more tolerant perspectives on sex, sexuality and sexual diversity in the public sphere.



SDS: Because ideas about sex matter

From the Director, Brenda Cossman



And so we begin another exciting academic year at the Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies.

We have lots of new initiatives this year. For starters, we are participating in University College One – an innovative program for first year students. The focus of UCOne is Engaging Toronto, and our portion of the course is entitled ‘Sex in the City’.

We have some exciting new courses this year for our undergraduate students, including “Sexuality and Popular Culture” taught by Andrew Lesk, and “Queer Affect” by Professor Elspeth Brown. And our other courses are back by popular demand: from Queerly Canadian to Trans Studies.

We will host our Second Annual SDS Student Research Colloquium in March. Last year’s inaugural event showcased the groundbreaking work of both our graduate and undergraduate students in a day long academic extravaganza.

We have an amazing array of

events lined up for the year. In September, we are celebrating SDS alumnae Peter Knegt’s new book *About Canada: Queer Rights*. In November, we are co-sponsoring an evening of performance art with FADO, entitled *Commitment Issues*, with a panel discussion the next night with all of the performers. In March, we are hosting postcolonial and legal scholar, Ratna Kapur, speaking on global implications of Slutwalk. In the late spring, we are excited to be participating in the Robert Giard Retrospective, a photo exhibit with the University of Toronto Art Centre.

The Sexual Representation Collection continues to grow, with new donations of materials from Tristan Taormino, Annie Sprinkle, and Lord Morpheus. And many others are on the horizon.

SDS has been successful in a number of research grants. We are the recipients of a Jackman Humanities Institute program for the Arts award to support the Robert Giard Retrospective.

Last year, we were received funding for a Café Scientifique, through the Canadian Institute for Health Research (CIHR). The CIHR Café Scientifiques are intended to provide a space where

experts and the public can engage in informal discussions on health related issues of popular interest. Our event addressed the question of female sexual dysfunction in the new DSM-5. The Café, held in the UTAC lobby in May, had a panel of medical researchers, doctors and sex therapists addressing a packed room on the extent to which female sexuality has been pathologized, and how female sexual dysfunction is and should be envisioned and/or treated.

We have been funded again this year for a Café Scientifique, for an event entitled “Gender Dysphoria: Treating and Supporting Transgender Youth”, which will be held in the spring. We will bring together some leading researchers, therapists and activists on transgender youth, for what we hope will be an insightful evening.

SDS Faculty Research

Panel discussion on ***Faith, Politics, and Sexual Diversity in Canada and the United States*** by David Rayside and Clyde Wilcox. With Brenda Cossman, Barry Adam, Pamela Klassen, Clyde Wilcox and David Rayside, April 2011.

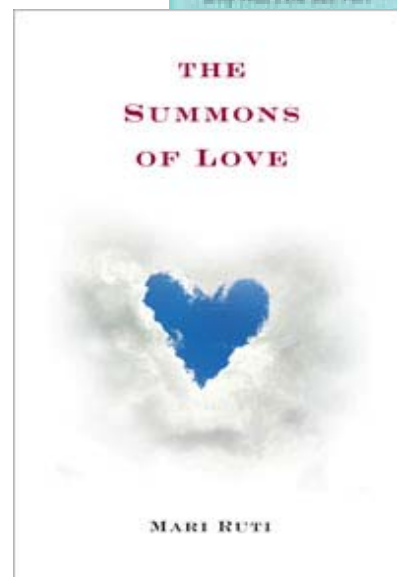
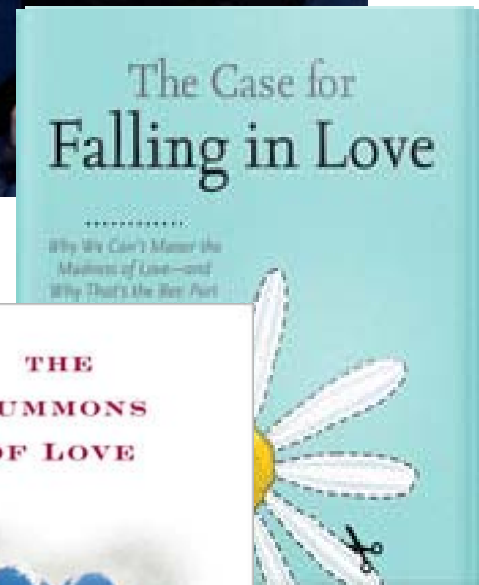


Faculty Profile: Mari Ruti

Mari Ruti spends a lot of time thinking about love. Her two most recent books are all about love. *The Case for Falling in Love* takes on the self-help industry, arguing that women should ignore the whole “women and men are from different planets” advice, and focus instead on what they look for in love and where they look for it. Mari says, “The book is best described as ‘deconstructed feminism for the masses’”, and her sources, well, a little bit Lacan, a little bit *Gossip Girl*.

The Summons of Love is a philosophic reflection on romantic love, exploring the unconscious patterns motivating our romance behaviour. It argues that love’s “mission” is much more panoramic than happiness, so that sometimes our most meaningful affairs are those that fail. Mari describes *The Case for Falling in Love* as “a thoroughly mainstream pitch [that] is witty and funny, whereas the tone of *The Summons of Love* is contemplative and even a little melancholic.”

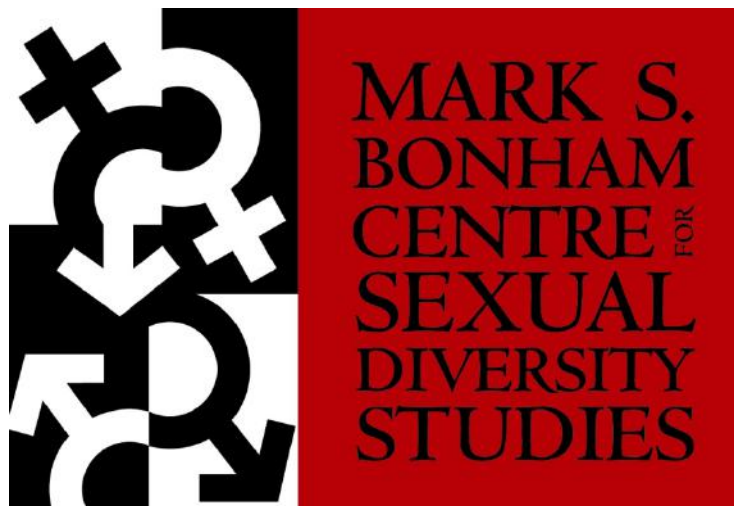
Don’t forget to check out her blog on *Psychology Today* - http://www.psychologytoday.com/experts/mari_ruti - yep, it’s about love.



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
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University of Toronto
15 King's College Circle, Toronto, ON
M5S 3H7
416-978-2968
<https://donate.utoronto.ca/uc>



Find the Bonham Centre online at:

<http://www.uc.utoronto.ca/sexualdiversity>

Saying Goodbye – Jude Tate

Jude Tate, Sexual & Gender Diversity Officer, will be leaving her position as of September 30th, 2011. Jude and her partner (Hart House Warden Louise Cowin) are headed for Vancouver, B.C. where they will each take up exciting new positions at the University of British Columbia. In her 12 years at University of Toronto, Jude has been a remarkable citizen, tirelessly advocating on behalf of sexual and gender diversity. From raising the bar in U of T's Pride role, to the groundbreaking conference Bent on Change, to last year's Making it Better Project, Jude has worked to put this university at the forefront of institutional leaders on these issues, while pushing all of us to acknowledge the gaps between formal policy and lived realities for many LGBTQ members of our three campus communities. She has also been a very good friend and ally of SDS from its early days. We will miss her!

Written/edited by:
Brenda Cossman
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Ontario Heritage Trust Recognizes Sexual Diversity at U of T

In October and November, 1969, activist history was made with the formation of the University of Toronto Homophile Association. This was the first group in Ontario to rally around lesbian and gay rights, and one of the first in Canada to be shaped by the new wave of sexual liberation politics.

Forty-two years later, in the late afternoon of November 2nd, 2011, this remarkable event will be commemorated by the installation of a provincial plaque. The unveiling, sponsored by the Bonham Centre and the Ontario Heritage Trust and open to the public, will be from 5:00 to 7:00 pm, in East Hall. The plaque itself will then be placed on the east side of the college (facing the Student Union building and Hart House).

This will be the first LGBT-related provincial plaque in Ontario. Its unveiling will feature representatives of the OHT, the provincial government, and other levels of government. Representing the university will be President David Naylor, Bonham Centre director Brenda Cossman, and SDS student Nikki Stratigacos (representing LGBTOUT).

The idea to mark UTHA's establishment came from a Bonham Centre working group chaired by David Rayside, with a membership that included Don McLeod (historian and SDS Steering Committee member), Nikki Stratigacos, Jude Tate, and

Tori Smith. The U of T agreed enthusiastically to officially sponsor the proposal, which was then accepted by the OHT.

UTHA's origins lie in a *Varsity* ad placed by Jearld Moldenhauer, who worked on campus and would soon establish Glad Day Bookstore. This was the beginning of a long history of queer activism at U of T, including LGBTOUT. The early days were dominated by gay men, but gradually the activism around sexual diversity expanded in mandate and in the range of participants.

One of the formative steps in that activist story was the establishment of SDS in 1998. The Bonham Centre would not be

where it is today without the years of impatient energy contributed by U of T students, administrative staff, and faculty in the thirty years before.

SDS is a proud sponsor of this initiative, and warmly invites all of its students, instructors, alumni, and community supporters to attend the celebratory unveiling in East Hall, UC, on November 2nd at 5pm.



LGBTQ Spring Fling at Integral House: David Rayside, Jim Stewart, Brenda Cossman, Donald Ainslie

SDS Student Awards Ceremony 2010-11

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

Erin Fauteux, Brock Hessel, Sarah McQuarrie, Natasha Novac, Paul Weadick

The Sexual Diversity Studies Scholarship

Natasha Novac

The Jack Hallam UC'52 Undergraduate Scholarship

Brock Hessel

The Emperor I Sergio Apolloni Memorial Scholarship

Jerome Scully

The Bonham Scholarship for Study in Issues of Sexuality

Scott Scavone

The Rainbow Triangle Alumni Association Award

Olive Hersey

The LGBTOUT Award

Harla Receno, Alex Wells



Above: Professor David Brennan, Scott Rayter and award winner Natasha Novac

Below: Scott Rayter, Jude Tate, award winners Alex Wells and Brock Hessel

