

# SDS

**“So, what do you do with a degree in sexual diversity studies?” It’s a question our students have heard once or twice. Or a thousand times.**



**Contributors:**

Yvonne Palkowski  
David Rayside  
Scott Rayter

 Our students—our amazing students—go on to do many things. Education, social work, activism, grad school, law, business. But each one of them takes a passion for social justice with them. And a critical eye to the many ways that sexuality might get in the way of justice. Whether it’s fighting for trans rights or against HIV/AIDS criminalization, for global sexual justice or queer youth rights our students are out there, doing it.

At the Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies, we host so many conferences, seminars, symposia and salons that outsiders might lose sight of the main thing that we do: educate the next generation. Our undergraduate and collaborative graduate students—about 250 of them—are engaged with cutting-edge research, scholarship and activism. We may teach them, but they also teach us. Each year at the SDS Student Research Colloquium, where our fourth-year undergraduate and collaborative graduate students present their work in progress, we are inspired and humbled by their creative, passionate and rigorous scholarship.

Our program continues to expand as we try to keep up with student demand. This last academic year, we introduced three exciting new undergraduate courses. First, we have Sexual Diversity in a Global Context, our first course to focus on the challenges of LGBTQ rights internationally. We were able to offer this course thanks to the incredible generosity of Linda Schuyler, whose gift allowed us to create the Global Education Fund to support courses about sexual diversity beyond North America. The course is being taught by Dr. David Seitz, a graduate of our own collaborative PhD program.

There is our new service learning course entitled Engaging our Communities. Through a two-year grant from the Faculty of Arts and Science, we were able to launch this course that places students in various LGBT community organizations alongside regular classroom seminars to look at the politics of engagement and activism. This year we were able to place students with the Canadian

## director’s report

Lesbian and Gay Archives, the Ecumenical Chaplaincy at University of Toronto, PWA, LGBT Youth Line, and the Digital Collaboratory.

Finally, through a partnership with Equity Studies, we introduced a fourth-year course on Sexuality and Disability, taught by the wonderful Dr. Kelly Fritsch. Kelly is a Banting Postdoctoral Fellow at the Women and Gender Studies Institute at the University of Toronto, and a rising star in disability studies. We are lucky to have her teaching for us at the Bonham Centre.

Next year, we will be offering a new third-year trans studies course. In the past, we have had a fourth-year course on trans studies, but it has been a small seminar restricted to our majors and specialists. The new third-year course will make trans studies accessible to many more students across the University of Toronto. We are able to do this through the generosity of a private donor committed to supporting trans studies. Our fourth-year course will become an advanced course, allowing our students to specialize in this emerging, new area of study.

Our students are hungry for courses that tackle difficult issues of intersectional oppression. The new course on the intersection of sexuality and disability is a good start in this direction. But, we still have a long way to go. We need courses that address intersectional questions of race and racism, and First Nations and Two-Spirit rights, to name but two obvious gaps in our curriculum.

It is a challenging time for universities, with public resources becoming more scarce. But, we have not taken “no” for an answer. We have found ways to give our students what they crave—exciting, new, ground-breaking courses that tackle the sexual justice issues of the day. We have found opportunities, partnerships and private support.

Because we know what our students will do with a degree in Sexual Diversity Studies; they will change the world.

Brenda Cossman  
Director

# CENTRE NEWS



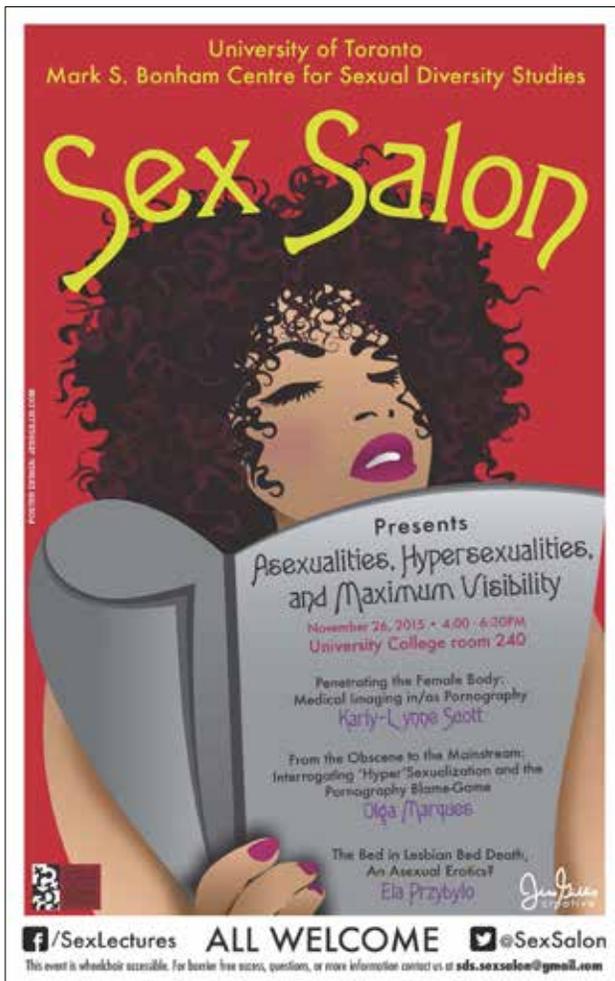
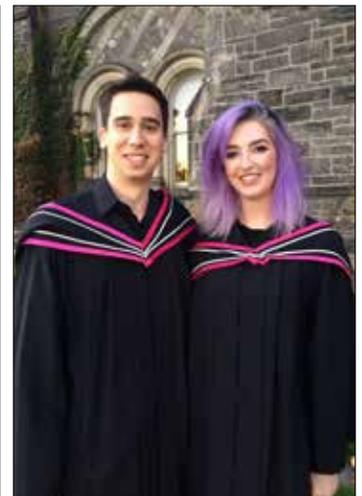
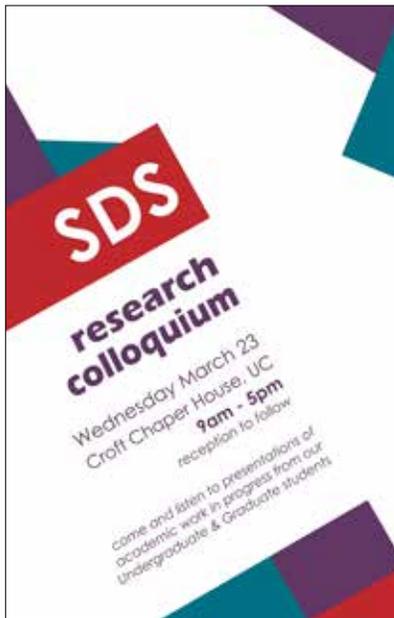
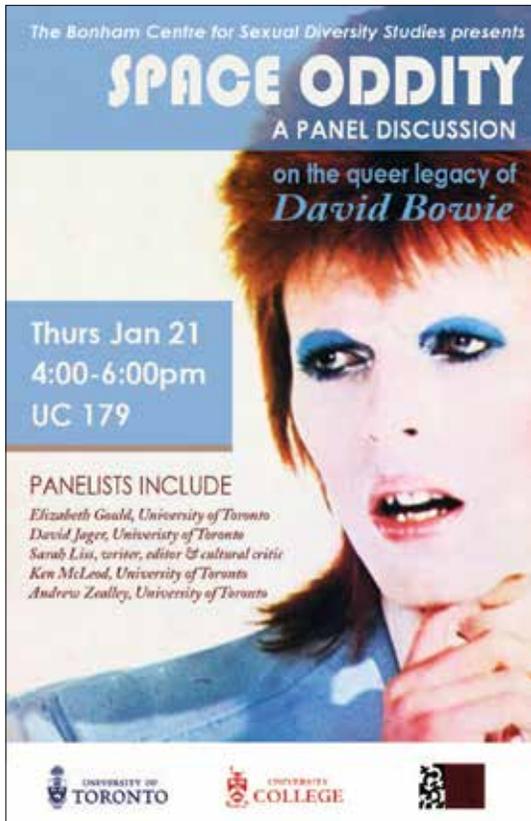
## The Legacy of James Stewart

On December 9, 2015, the University of Toronto gathered at Integral House to celebrate honour the late Jim Stewart for his extraordinary commitment and generosity to the Departments of Math, Music, The Faculty of Architecture and to the Bonham Centre. Jim passed away on December 3, 2014.

Since his days as a Professor of Mathematics at McMaster, where he helped organize the first gay activist group on campus, Jim was a stalwart supporter of LGBT rights. The author of several widely used calculus textbooks, Jim opened his extraordinary home, the mathematically inspired Integral House, to hundreds of fundraisers and performances – but the Bonham Centre was the very first one.



**1** Bonham Centre Director Brenda Cossman remarking on the incredible impact that the late Jim Stewart had on the Bonham Centre and LGBT activism in Canada, at a reception in honour of his legacy **2** Integral House, home of the late Jim Stewart **3** Wayne Cuervo, Heather Brady, and David Vella, SDS Advisory Board Members, at the reception in honour of the late Jim Stewart



**Clockwise from top left** The poster for Space Oddity: A Panel Discussion on the Queer Legacy of David Bowie, held in January 2016, exploring Bowie's creations, legacies and lives. To hear the talks, search "Bonham Centre" on YouTube **2** Following on the success of the World Pride Human Rights Conference in 2014, the Bonham Centre partnered with Pride Toronto and The 519 to host Pride & Prejudice: Human Rights in the Pan Am Region, a conference to explore the state of LGBTQ rights throughout the Pan Am region in the lead-up to the Pan Am Games in summer 2015 **3** Tyler Carson and Afra Boissevain, SDS collaborative master's program graduates, at fall convocation in November 2015 **4** Poster from our annual Research Colloquium for undergraduate and graduate students, held in March 2016 **5** The poster for the November 2015 edition of our monthly Sex Salon series. The Salon is a small, research-in-progress series that is open to the public and discusses new works in queer theory.

# STUDENT SUCCESS

## A Conversation with Laine Zisman Newman

Laine Zisman Newman is a PhD student at the Centre for Drama, Theatre & Performance Studies and is a part of the collaborative programs in Sexual Diversity Studies and Women and Gender Studies.

After receiving an MA in Drama from the University in Toronto in 2010, Zisman Newman completed her MFA in Documentary Media at Ryerson University. Laine currently chairs the SDS Sex Salon Series and has been the recipient of a number of graduate awards. She currently TAs for several SDS courses.

"Laine is one of those individuals who helps to make the centre into an exciting and stimulating place for faculty, students, and community members." - Scott Rayter, Associate Director

### Tell us about your research.

I started researching queer women's performance in 2010, after speaking with a few incredibly inspirational lesbian and queer women theatre creators at a symposium conducted for a queer issue of *Canadian Theatre Review*. My interest was sparked and I made a documentary on the subject in 2013 for a master's thesis project. My doctoral research has very much grown out of that creative work. My current research focuses on how the spaces in

which queer women develop and rehearse their works influence their artistic practices and the kinds of work they produce. Using queer and feminist theory, this interdisciplinary work draws from performance studies, theatre studies, and queer geography, to explore the spatiality of queer women's performance.

### What drew you to SDS?

I knew when I applied to U of T that I was interested in pursuing the collaborative program in sexual diversity studies. SDS offers a unique opportunity to engage queer theory and sexuality studies that I do not have access to through my home department. In addition to the courses offered, the collaborative program provides me with opportunities to meet faculty and students from a range of departments and to attend lectures, events, and programs that directly relate to my own research interests.

### What advice would you give to other students (both graduate and undergraduate) who are thinking about enrolling in the program?

In my experience, the program is incredibly open to proposals for new events and initiatives. Take advantage of everything the program has to offer and get involved.

## SDS AWARD WINNERS 2016

Congratulations to all the SDS student award winners who were honoured for their academic excellence and community involvement in the 2015-16 school year!

### **Patricia & Douglas Dadson Scholarship**

Anton Kaptainis  
Rebekah Lowe

### **Sexual Diversity Studies Scholarship**

Alisha Stranges

### **Rainbow Triangle Alumni Association Award**

Dahli Clarke-Partida

### **Emperor I Sergio Apolloni Scholarship**

Alex Ludgate

### **Bonham Scholarship for Study of Issues in Sexual Diversity**

Alex Ludgate

### **LGBTOUT Award**

Katherine Mika Howard  
Julian Oliviera  
Haley O'Shaughnessy

### **Jack Hallam Undergrad Award**

Alex Ludgate  
Julian Oliviera  
CJ Sander  
Jonathan Zarb

### **Pride & Remembrance Association Scholarship**

Denio Lourenco  
Alisha Stranges

### **Michael Prodanou Bursary in Sexual Diversity Studies**

Alisha Stranges

### **David Rayside Scholarship in Sexual Diversity Studies**

Jasmine Hodgson-Bautista  
Matthew Mohan

### **The Paul and Jacqui Perron Book Prize for SDS255, *Histories & Sexuality***

Shayna Sayers

### **The Maureen FitzGerald Book Prize for SDS377, *Lesbian Studies***

Jade Bryan

### **Jack Hallam UC '52 Graduate Award**

Ido Katri  
Celeste Pang

# Thank You for your support!

The following donors generously supported the Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies between January 1, 2015 and March 31, 2016.

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# Q & A

WITH  
UNDERGRADUATE  
STUDENT  
REBEKAH LOWE

BY SCOTT RAYTER

## What made you want to do the SDS degree?

**M**y identity as a queer woman of colour definitely influenced me in deciding to do an SDS degree. I wanted to study something that allowed me to engage with my identity politics academically and creatively. The SDS degree also fit well with the way I wanted to study English literature in engagement with queer theory and politics. This degree has allowed me to engage with and critique topics that interest me - like literature, gender politics, and queer theory.

## You've been very active in the SDS student union. How has that shaped your undergraduate experience at U of T?

Being involved in the Sexual Diversity Studies Students Union (SDSSU) has been a great experience. I really enjoy engaging with my fellow students and making their opinions of and needs from the program heard. Being Co-President of the SDSSU has also given me a chance to improve my communication and leadership skills while making great friends in the program.

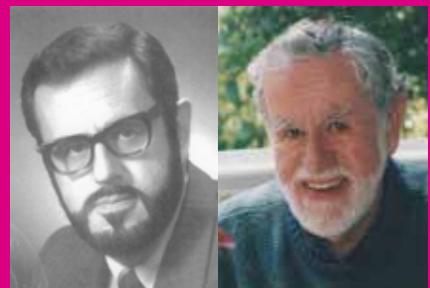
## What are your plans after graduation?

I'm hoping to continue in academia after graduation. I'm looking into applying to graduate schools in Toronto for a Master's in English or Social Work.

## IN MEMORY OF JACK HALLAM

BY DAVID RAYSIDE

Jack Hallam, a life-long social justice advocate, died on November 14, 2015 on Salt Spring Island in BC at the age of 87. Jack's devotion to LGBT rights was unflagging, and in 2009 he donated \$100,000 to create student awards in the Bonham Centre's graduate and undergraduate programs. As a University College alumnus he would have read about the growth of Sexual Diversity Studies since its early days, but his interest in supporting us was intensified by his anger at anti-gay letters to the *U of T Magazine* in 2009, written in response to an extensive story on the history of queer activism on campus. Jack was not prepared to take this, or any other expression of prejudice, sitting down. I first met Jack when the Bonham Centre celebrated his generosity, at an event attended by a few of his old friends from early gay activism in Toronto. I then had the privilege and delight of meeting him at his modest home on Salt Spring, surrounded by the garden he loved. Along with everyone else in his life, I will miss his mischievous humour, his extraordinary compassion, and his passionate dedication to activism.



# OFFICE HOURS

with Don  
McLeod,  
MLS

BY YVONNE PALKOWSKI

**A**s Head of Book and Serials Acquisitions and Selector for Canadiana and Gender Studies at the University of Toronto Libraries, Don McLeod has a lot on his plate. So it's even more impressive that he finds time to act as the Libraries' liaison to the Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies and its programs. We spoke with Don about his efforts to document Canadian LGBT history.

#### **How did you become interested in LGBT history?**

In 1984, I was hired by the AIDS Committee of Toronto to help compile a bibliography on AIDS. Some of the work was done at the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives, and I became fascinated by the holdings there. I later became a volunteer at the CLGA and spent many hours looking through the materials and helping to document Canadian LGBT history.

#### **What are the main challenges in documenting Canadian gay history?**

A lot of documentary evidence has survived, especially for the post-1950 period, but not enough scholars have been working on interpreting this material. Although there have been more publications on Canadian LGBT history in recent years, there are whole areas that remain ripe for examination. These include regional and local histories, studies of the history of visible minorities within LGBT communities, individual histories of important institutions (Pink Triangle Press; Glad Day Bookshop; the Metropolitan Community Church), the history of drag in Canada, histories of community responses to the HIV/AIDS crisis, and many more.

#### **What do you enjoy most about your work?**

I like variety. In a typical day I consult with colleagues, order books, talk to vendors, discuss purchases with professors, and manage budgets. I also appreciate being able to go to conferences and meetings of professional organizations to try to keep up with developments in the field.

#### **What is the hardest thing about your work?**

Sometimes there just aren't enough hours in the day! Keeping up with e-mail requests and queries can be a real challenge. Also, our library acquisition budget is limited so it's always important to spend well.

#### **How has your involvement with the Bonham Centre affected your work?**

I've been on the SDS Steering Committee for several years now. It's always great to meet the professors and students deeply involved in the program, and to hear about their needs or concerns relating to our LGBT collections. I think participation on the Committee has broadened my knowledge and appreciation of SDS, which I hope has enabled me to increase my effectiveness in helping to build LGBT collections at the University of Toronto.

#### **What are you currently working on?**

I'm finishing up the second volume of *Lesbian and Gay Liberation in Canada: A Selected Annotated Chronology*, which has been a preoccupation for years. It is accessible at: <http://lgc.library.utoronto.ca/>. I've also just joined the advisory board of an exciting new digital collection, the Archives of Human Sexuality and Identity, published by Gale Cengage Learning. It will eventually contain several million pages of primary source content documenting LGBT communities around the world.





“Sexual Diversity Studies opens opportunities for valuable interdisciplinary dialogue, and has provided an excellent space for me as a graduate student to foster community with a group of inspiring colleagues.”

Celeste Pang

# 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:

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