

CLAGS NEWS

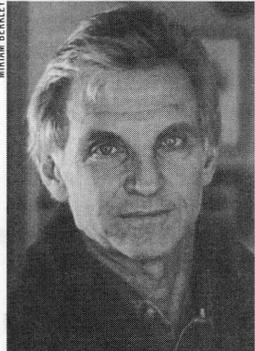
The Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies

The Graduate School and University Center of the City University of New York

Summer 1996

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It's Time to Say Goodbye



MIRIAM BERKLEY
MARTIN DUBERMAN

It's nearly ten years to the day — March 19, 1986 — that I gathered a small group of friends together in my living room to discuss the possibility of setting up a lesbian and gay research center. Out of that initial gathering, the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies was born — though it took

five years of mobilization and struggle before CLAGS became formally established, in April 1991, at the City University of New York Graduate School.

From the beginning, CLAGS saw its mission as twofold: to increase the amount of reliable scholarship available on the lesbian and gay experience, and to disseminate that scholarship to a general public. And during the past five years, through a series of fellowships, publications, colloquia and conferences, CLAGS has become a vital centerpiece in the burgeoning new field of lesbian and gay studies.

The time feels right for me to step down as Director. And for several reasons. CLAGS is on a sure footing, with (some) money in the bank, a large and loyal group of supporters, a dedicated staff and Board, and in the wings a gifted, seasoned new Director in Jill Dolan. A new generation needs to reconfigure CLAGS in its own image. And I need to reclaim more of my time for the research and writing that have always (unlike organizational work) centrally defined who I am.

I have no (well, minimal) regrets about having given ten years of my life to CLAGS; the work had to be done, and I'm proud of our many accomplishments. But in truth, I'm a scholar-hermit by

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A Message from the New Executive Director



JILL DOLAN

I'm honored and pleased to be succeeding Marty Duberman as Executive Director of CLAGS. I taught in theatre and drama and women's studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison before I accepted my present position in the PhD Program in Theatre at the CUNY Graduate Center. At Madison, teaching and writing in

lesbian performance theory, the fact that a national center for lesbian and gay studies had been established in New York gave me a sense that the field in which I worked was arriving, securing its legitimacy and its vibrancy and insisting on its visibility. In my two years at CUNY, during which I've served on the CLAGS board, I've been impressed with the level of activity and accomplishment the center can boast: I know of very few institutes or associations that manage to sponsor and organize as many public events as CLAGS, events foundational to the most important conversations happening in the field.

I'm eager to facilitate further distinguished, distinctive work at CLAGS. It remains enormously important that gay and lesbian and queer studies be firmly established in the academy, so that the knowledges our communities produce and the practices they foster can be taught and understood along with more traditional, canonical learning. As a nationally visible center, CLAGS can help advocate for the establishment of gay and lesbian studies programs, undergraduate majors, and graduate programs, in the CUNY system and around the country. Our leadership can provide models for curricula that organize gay and lesbian experiences and knowledges, our diverse histories and cultures, our pains and our pleasures, our insights and our ethics into courses and symposia that will train the next

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A Message from the New Executive Director

MARTIN DUBERMAN
Founder and Director Emeritus,
Distinguished Professor of History, Lehman College
and The Graduate School, CUNY

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CLAGS News Staff

MATT ROTTNEK
Assistant

**SERVICE STATION DESIGN TO
INFORM AND PROMOTE**
Design

Dolan, from page 1

generation of thinkers, teachers, and activists to know the history of our community, its key contributions, and its awesome future.

At this point in its history, CLAGS needs to retain the grassroots energy that founded the organization while assuming the responsibility of institutional position and affiliation. Under the good auspices of the CUNY Graduate School and University Center — thanks, in particular, to the support of President Frances Horowitz and Dean Alan Gartner — CLAGS is in a position to model coalition-building across academic disciplines, and between gay and lesbian studies and the activist community. Interdisciplinarity has always been the hallmark of gay and lesbian studies; CLAGS has long modeled scholarship that builds gay, lesbian, queer-specific knowledges through diverse methods and across multiple identity and community bases. I look forward to fostering conversations among disciplines and communities, and to offering CLAGS's resources to groups and speakers, scholars and activists who can illuminate our multiplicity, our great collective potential.

My experience in lesbian and feminist politics has been primarily academic, although I consider the academy to be a vital site of activism. In my teaching, my scholarship, my writing, my theatre productions, I have always assumed (idealistically and hopefully) that my work might have some consequence in a gradual movement toward profound social change. I've been lucky enough to witness regular changes of consciousness, of politics, of affiliation in my undergraduate and graduate students, as a result of ideas that seduced them, provoked them, compelled them to think differently about their relation to culture. I believe that ideas are efficacious, that thought has a direct, real effect (teachers, I suppose, take this on faith).

The real effect of ideas, of conversations, of workshops and town meetings, of publications, monographs, the CLAGS NYU series, position papers, of arguments and even loud and contentious public fights, is where CLAGS can make its greatest contribution. I believe we

are an activist and an academic organization, one that can offer our communities a place to think, a place to build coalitions across gender, racial, ethnic, class, sexual practice, and ability positions that the gay, lesbian, bisexual, queer, and transgender movements need to actualize.

This is a complex time for gay and lesbian studies in the academy. Queer theory has launched a conversation about language, about identity, about coalition, in a new and different way than our movement addressed these topics before "queer" provided itself as an umbrella. While the galvanizing force of queer activism and theory remains productive, those of us who produce and consume it might be wary of its commodification, its insidious stylishness. I'm interested to see how different kinds of gay and lesbian (and gender and race) epistemologies and political programs will reassert themselves in the coming years. CLAGS will be deeply invested in these debates, and will take a leadership position as our communities come to new (and perhaps reembrace old) terms.

In assuming the position of CLAGS's Executive Director, I see myself as someone adept at enabling others to do their best work. I can contribute to CLAGS a clear sense of organizational structure and efficient functioning; an enthusiasm for projects and programs that will continue to bring CLAGS local and national visibility and influence; and a vision for gay and lesbian studies that will help CLAGS continue to contribute new knowledge about our lives, our ideas, and our communities into the 21st century.

On behalf of the CLAGS board, staff, and members, I want to thank Marty for his many years of tireless hard work and advocacy on behalf of gay and lesbian studies at CUNY and in the academy in general. Marty's dedication, fervor, and leadership have secured CLAGS's future.

I look forward to working with all of you; your work, your ideas, your lives are the stuff of which CLAGS is made.

Jill Dolan

Duberman, from page 1

temperament, and the daily grind of organizational work has never been entirely congenial to me. And, sometimes, it has been downright unpleasant, particularly during those periods — inevitable in movement work — when internal factionalism develops, tempers fray and accusations fly. Yet such periods of self-scrutiny and criticism are, however painful, essential; they allow for new voices and agendas to emerge, they keep our organizations true to their stated purposes, and they ensure that those purposes will constantly be refined to meet shifting conditions and needs.

It has been a great privilege to be part of an enterprise that has done so much to challenge outmoded, stereotypical views of nonconforming gender and sexual behavior — and thereby, ultimately, to changing statutes, legal opinions, hearts and minds. I deeply thank the many thousands of you who have shared our sense of the importance of CLAGS's work and have contributed time and money toward ensuring its continuance. I have the deepest confidence in those who are taking over the reins at CLAGS, and I urge all of you to give them your ongoing support. Certainly they will have mine.

Martin Duberman

CLAGS Wins Second Rockefeller Grant!

In April 1996, CLAGS received word that it won a \$250,000 grant from the Rockefeller Foundation to support scholars in lesbian and gay studies. For the second time since 1992, the Rockefeller Foundation selected CLAGS as a host site for its Humanities Fellowships.

The \$250,000 grant is the Rockefeller Foundation's only award to a non-AIDS lesbian and gay institution. The award then, is an especially sweet victory for CLAGS: it is a tremendous vote of confidence in the work that we do.

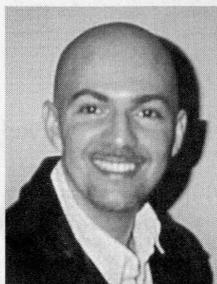
The grant will enable CLAGS to provide six \$30,000 resident fellowships to scholars in the next four years. CLAGS's winning proposal, entitled "Citizenship and Sexualities: Transcultural Constructions," examines diverse cultural constructions of identity, affiliation, and sexuality and how these constructions impact community building within lesbian and gay institutions and communities in the United States. Written by CLAGS board member Harriet Malinowitz, the proposal investigates why problems of community-building and coalition-building continue to exist in our organizations and communities, despite a broad awareness of the importance of organizing multiculturally.

After a year publicizing the fellowships, CLAGS will invite submissions of scholarly work that explore the "citizenship" and "sexualities" theme in three different settings: in lesbian and gay organizations and institutions; in queer families and communities; and nationally. The first deadline for applications from potential Humanities Fellows will be in February 1997, and the first two Fellows will begin their tenure in September of 1997.

The Rockefeller Foundation made its initial Humanities Fellowships award to CLAGS in 1992. The earlier grant, also in the amount of \$250,000, supported the work of six Fellows working in lesbian and gay studies from 1993 to 1996. CLAGS's six previous Rockefeller Fellows in the Humanities were: Charles Nero; Carra Leah Hood; Allan Berube; Janice Irvine; Nan Alamilla Boyd; Jeffrey Edwards.

New Board Members

CLAGS enthusiastically welcomes these new members and hopes that through their participation and expertise, the organization will remain a vital force for lesbian and gay studies into the 21st century:



Arnaldo Cruz-Malavé is Associate Professor of Spanish and Literary Studies at Fordham University in New York City. He is author of *El primitivo implorante: El "sistema poético del mundo" de José Lezama Lima* (Amsterdam: Rodopi, 1994) and of numerous articles on Caribbean and U.S. Latino literatures and cultures. As a Puerto Rican and a New Yorker, and a Caribbeanist by training, Cruz-Malavé is particularly interested in the intersections of the diasporic experience and homosexuality. Cruz-Malavé is presently working with the Program Committee on the upcoming Latin American and Latino Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Conference.



Gerard Ferguson is Assistant Professor of Health Policy in the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at NYU. He holds a Ph.D. in the history of science from Harvard University and is a social historian of medicine and public health. His primary research interests include race, poverty, and disease in 20th-Century America. Ferguson has served as a board member with the NAACP's environmental justice project and is active with several grassroots health and education efforts in NYC and across the U.S. He also has some fundraising experience and will work closely with the Development Committee.



Suzanne Iasenza is Associate Professor in the Counseling Department at John Jay College of Criminal Justice at CUNY. She is also a psychologist in private practice in NYC. She is co-editor and contributing author of the book *Lesbians and Psychoanalysis: Revolutions in Theory and Practice* (Free Press). Her interests include psychoanalysis, gay and lesbian family systems, and female sexuality.



José Muñoz is Assistant Professor of Performance Studies at NYU where he teaches queer theory, critical race theory and visual culture. He is the co-editor of *Pop/Out: Queer Warhol* (Duke, 1996) and *Politics in Motion: Culture, Music, and Dance in Latina/o America*. He is completing the manuscript *(Dis)Identifications: Race, Sexuality, and Visual Culture*.

Uproar at Americas Society Conference

CUNY Graduate School Courses with Lesbian/Gay Content, Fall 1996

English

"Race, Class, and Gender in 19th Century American Literature"

"Composing the Oppositional Self: Gender, Race, and Class in Rhetorics of Resistance"

"Black Feminist Thought"

History

"American Autobiography: The Construction of Women's and Men's Historical Memory in the United States"

Sociology

"Women, Men, and the Workplace: Power, Culture, and Sexuality"

Spanish

"Contemporary Feminist Narrative in the Hispanic World"

Women's Studies

"Major Feminist Texts"

"Hybrid Identities: Race and Gender in Ethnic Literatures"

Two weeks before the Margin/Center Conference, held at Americas Society on March 21-22, the directors of the Society first threatened to cancel the Conference, then decided to redesign the program in order to exclude the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies as a cosponsor of the event.

The directors of the Americas Society shelved the original program and hastily printed a censored version. Their homophobic gesture gave particular urgency to an event whose goal had been to deal precisely with issues of power, marginalization and strategies of representation.

The Conference, whose subtitle was "emergent discourses in Latin American and Latino literature and culture," included three panels: Afro-Caribbean Literature, Womens Writing, and Gay and Lesbian Literature and Culture.

Planning for the Conference began in the Fall of 1994, when Dan Shapiro, Head of Literature at Americas Society, invited CLAGS to cosponsor the Conference. For the next eighteen months, Elena Martinez and Oscar Montero planned the Conference along with Mr. Shapiro. CLAGS also contributed \$2,000. toward the event. By late February 1996, the final program was printed.

Several letters between CLAGS and the Americas Society state that the program must include all three cosponsors on its cover: CLAGS, Americas Society and the Instituto Cervantes. The original program reflected this agreement. However, less than three weeks before the Conference, Mr. Shapiro called the Conference organizers to tell them that the Conference could not be held at Americas Society because of CLAGS's participation.

In a compromise of his own making, Mr. Shapiro ultimately printed and mailed a program that completely omitted the cosponsorship of CLAGS. As Mr. Shapiro later admitted, Elizabeth Beim, director of cultural

affairs at Americas Society and Everett Briggs, the Society's president, had forbidden him from discussing the changes with CLAGS. When questioned by members of the press, who had by now been alerted of the situation, the directors of Americas Society falsely claimed that each sponsoring organization had done its own program — a mendacious attempt to cover up its homophobia.

During the second day of the Conference, the censoring of the program was discussed by the participants. Oscar Montero presented a chronology of events that led to the censorship, and Elena Martinez chaired the discussion. It was a charged, often tense discussion. A town meeting on homosexual panic was not what CLAGS had envisioned when it decided to participate in this project. However, the discussion gave added resonance to many of the issues of oppression and representation that had been raised in the panels.

Panelists and participants offered ways at the Conference to counteract Americas Society's homophobia. Some of the suggestions were included in a letter asking Americas Society for an explanation and an apology. A copy of the letter, along with a chronology of events and a petition signed by over thirty Conference participants was sent to Americas Society, all Conference participants, the MLA and LASA lesbian and gay caucuses, the Rockefeller Foundation, backers of Americas Society, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation and CLAGS board members.

Americas Society's actions only served to highlight the importance of CLAGS. In the genteel setting of Americas Society, homophobia, with its attendant gestures of silencing, erasure and oppression, is alive and well. CLAGS refused to allow a business-as-usual cover-up of these events.

We urge those supportive of CLAGS to express their disapproval of the censorship by writing Mr. Everett Briggs, Americas Society, 680 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10021, or by calling Mr. Dan Shapiro, Ms. Elizabeth Beim or Mr. Briggs at 212-249-8950, or fax 212-249-5868.

Lesbian and Gay History: Defining a Field



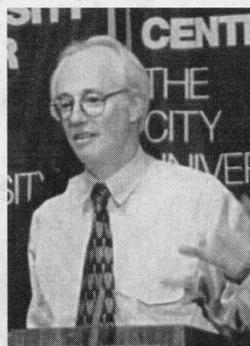
LILIAN FADERMAN, CARROLL SMITH-ROSENBERG AND BLANCHE WIESEN COOK ON THE "ROMANTIC FRIENDSHIP" PANEL

On October 6-7, the CUNY Graduate School PhD Program in History and CLAGS co-hosted a wide-ranging conference on "Lesbian and Gay History: Defining a Field." The two day event brought together more than 40 panel discussants, and an audience exceeding 300 people, to explore new directions and continuing debates in the field of gay and lesbian history. Among the panel topics discussed were the "classic" debates surrounding the historiography of "Romantic Friendship" and "Gender and the Homosexual Role." Discussants included Blanche Wiesen Cook, Lillian Faderman, Carroll Smith-Rosenberg, Randolph Trumbach, George Chauncey, Ramon Gutierrez, Martin Manalansan, Will Roscoe and Martha Vicinus.

There were additional panels on the writing of biography, the ongoing efforts of archivists to preserve and make available the material record of bisexual, transgendered, gay and lesbian lives, the challenges of teaching lesbian and gay history both in and out of the university setting, and the work-in-progress of graduate students and independent scholars. Among the panelists were Jonathan Ned Katz, Lisa Duggan, Larry Gross, Vivien Ng, Angela Bowen, John D'Emilio, Alice Echols, James Miller and Jeff Nunokawa.

In addition, the film "Outrage 69" was shown on the first evening of the conference, followed by a roundtable discussion that included the film's director Arthur Wong. The discussion was free-wheeling and sometimes contentious, involving basic questions about the ways in which lesbian and gay politics and history are represented in the media.

The Rockefeller Foundation and the New York Council for the Humanities were sponsors of the conference.



DAVID NASSAW, CHAIR OF THE HISTORY PHD PROGRAM AT THE CUNY GRADUATE SCHOOL, WELCOMES THE CONFEREES



MIMI BOWLING OF THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

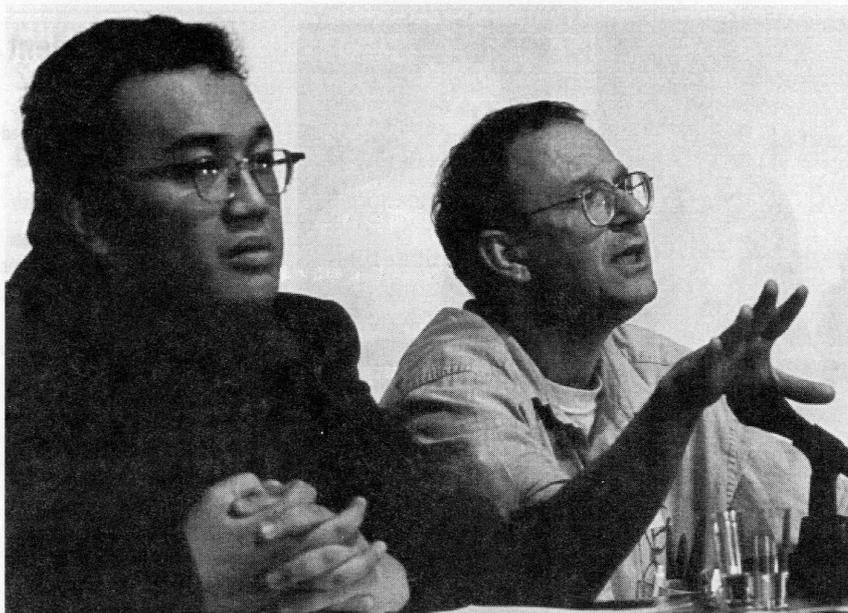
Graduate Student Committee

Recently the CLAGS Board formed a Graduate Student Committee with a three part mission: a close involvement with the planning of the Seventh Annual National Queer Graduate Studies Conference, entitled "Forms of Desire," to be held at the Graduate Center in April of 1997; increasing awareness and opening lines of communication between CLAGS and various university queer student groups; and becoming involved with CLAGS On-line. As academic communities rapidly move towards increased involvement with the internet, the Graduate Student Committee hopes to utilize this expansive resource to connect to and share information with other area (and global) queer academic groups.



MEMBER OF THE GRADUATE STUDENT COMMITTEE

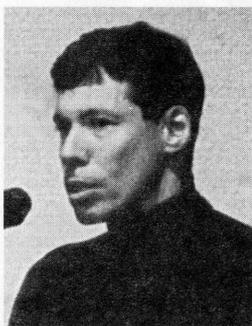
Politics Conference



MARTIN MANALASAN AND DENNIS ALTMAN



PAUL HAGLAND, SHANE PHELAN, CATHY COHEN



MARK BLASIOUS MAKING CLOSING REMARKS

On February 8-9, CLAGS held its first conference organized by political scientists, "Identity/Space/Power: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Politics." The conference steering committee, chaired by Mark Blasius and Paisley Currah of CUNY, included community-based activists, faculty, and graduate students from the metropolitan area.

The conference began with a panel "Conceptualizing the Political, Creating an Agenda" that included a paper by Hector Carrillo on his fieldwork studying AIDS activism in Mexico, Cathy Cohen's critique of queer theory's absence of class- and race-based analysis, Paul Hagland's overview of international and human rights theory's contribution to LGBT politics, Amanda Udis-Kessler

on bisexuality's destabilization of tradition political claims of lesbian and gay identity, and Riki Anne Wilchins's transgendered "performative-analysis" of gender revolution as a basis for rethinking what LGBT politics is about.

A second panel addressed an overflow crowd about "Constituencies, Organizing, and Political Formations." Participants included Urvashi Vaid, Larry Kramer, David Rayside, Ellen Andersen and Donald Suggs.

The second day of the conference, even more than the first, brought together academic analysts, elected officials, policy makers, and community activists. A panel entitled "Sexual Identity and Political Space" applied the topics of the first day onto neighborhood, national, hemispheric, and transitional levels of analysis. Participants included Jacqui Alexander, Martin Manalasan, Robert Bailey, Juanita Ramos Diaz and Dennis Altman.

A three-hour Town Meeting took place on Friday afternoon. The format brought in, following CLAGS's mandate, diverse components of the LGBT community. Workshops and their leadership highlights included: LGBT Health Issues (Terry McGovern of the HIV Law Project and Javid Syed of Asian and Pacific Islander Coalition of HIV/AIDS; learning from our defeats (Karen Burstein); the Left and LGBT politics (Melanie Kay/Kantrowitz); candidacy development (Eileen Rakower, judicial candidate); youth and education issues (school board and Hetrick-Martin representatives); and responses to all workshops by elected officials Tom Duane and Deborah Glick.

A final panel on "Strategies" included a report from the Beijing Women's Conference by Jean Grossholtz, a comparison of judicial, legislative, and electoral strategies by Rebecca Mae Salokar, a discussion of the utility of "think tanks" for LGBT politics by Lee Badgett, and an assessment of Republican and Democratic party politics on the eve of the presidential campaign season by Rich Tafel. The conference was concluded with remarks by Mark Blasius, who summarized its overall themes. Lastly, as a political event of both thought and practice, the conference participants (led by CLAGS board member Kendall Thomas) raised almost \$1,000 to support the work of South Africa's National Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality to keep LGBT protections in that country's draft constitution, the first in the world to do so.

Trans/Forming Knowledge: Street Smarts, Social Activism, and the Power of Expertise

On Thursday, May 2 CLAGS presented a one day conference which staged a series of conversations exploring the relationship between vernacular knowledge created during the course of community organizing, and expert knowledge generated by professionals, academics, and bureaucrats. "Trans/Forming Knowledge" explored the dynamics of these different forms of knowledge and especially their significance for HIV transmission and prevention, transgender narrative and political organizing.

The conference opened with opening remarks by Martin Duberman, Director of CLAGS, Carmen Vázquez, Director of Policy at the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, New York, and Jeffrey Escoffier, NYC Office of Gay and Lesbian Health.

Each session was structured to allow for extensive discussion between panelists and members of the audience. The first conversation, entitled "HIV/AIDS: Transmission, Activism and Expertise," explored the dynamics between street smarts and expert knowledge dealing with the controversies around oral sex and lesbians with HIV. Panelists included Amber Hollibaugh, Director of Lesbian AIDS Project, GMHC; Ki Namaste, Transgender HIV activist, Montreal, Quebec; Ana Olivera, Director of Clinical Programs, Samaritan Village; Colin Robinson, Director of HIV Prevention, GMHC; and David Román, University of Southern California. The moderators were George Bellinger, Gay Men of African Descent, and Marj Plumb, NYC Office of Gay and Lesbian Health.

The second conversation, entitled "Narrative Trans/Formations," included writer, activist, and founder of FTM International James Green; Karen Nakamura, Yale University; Ben Singer, Rutgers University; Kiki Whitlock, Transgender Task Force of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission, and transgender activist Jessica Meredith Xavier. The moderators were Nan Alamilla Boyd, 1995-1996 Rockefeller Fellow at CLAGS, and Henry Rubin of Harvard University.



KAREN NAKAMURA, JAMES GREEN, JESSICA MEREDITH XAVIER, KIKI WHITLOCK, BEN SINGER



KI NAMASTE, DAVID ROMÁN, ANA OLIVIERA, COLIN ROBINSON, AMBER HOLLIBAUGH

The third session, entitled "Community Matters: Knowledge in Progress," consisted of a series of work groups about the production of knowledge and provided feedback on projects undertaken by community and professional groups.

Sandy Stone of the Advanced Communications Technology Laboratory, University of Texas at Austin and the author of *The Empire Strikes Back: The Posttranssexual Manifesto* and *The War of Desire and Technology at the Close of the Mechanical Age* concluded the conference with a performance piece.

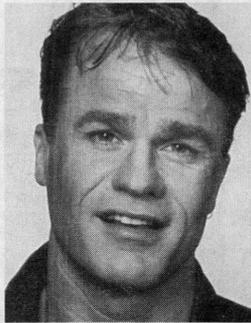
Ken Dawson Award

Constance Jordan Award

CLAGS is Collecting Syllabi

CLAGS is collecting syllabi used/ proposed for graduate and undergraduate courses in both Lesbian and Gay Studies and other disciplines that treat lesbian and gay themes. We hope to compile the syllabi and publish them in some form, and keep them on file to circulate among scholars and professors.

Please send syllabi, along with a statement of permission to publish them, to: The Curriculum Committee, CLAGS/CUNY, 33 West 42 Street, New York, NY 10036-8099.



JAMES N. GREEN

James N. Green, a doctoral candidate in Latin American History at UCLA was chosen as this year's recipient of the \$5,000 Ken Dawson Award. His work, *Bichas, Bofes, and Gays: Masculinity and Homosexuality in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo,*

Brazil, 1930-1990 explores the intersection of gender, class, race and sexuality in Brazil. Focusing on the cities of Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, Mr. Green documents the social and cultural lives of homosexual/gay men as they confront and subvert the policing powers of racial ideology and sexual/gender systems.

This year, the number of entries for the Dawson Award were the largest since its inception four years ago. There were several outstanding proposals. In addition to Mr. Green, the finalists included Steven Maynard who was first runner up with his work, *Saturday Night at the Bunkhouse: Working-Class Gay History in Rural and Northern Ontario, 1890-1930*, and Ruth Vanita and Saleem Kidwai who were second runner up with their proposal, *Homosexuality in India: A Reader*.

Previous Dawson Winners:

1993-94: Marc Robert Stein
1994-95: Jonathan Ned Katz
1995-96: Kitty Tsui



GAY WACHMAN

Gay Wachman, a doctoral candidate in the English Program at the CUNY Graduate School, has won the second Constance Jordan \$4,000 dissertation award.

Wachman emigrated to the U.S. from England in 1977; she has taught high

school and college English in both countries and she is currently an Instructor at SUNY College, Old Westbury. Wachman has been politically active in various causes, most recently with ACT UP/NY's Needle Exchange Program. Her dissertation examines the converging discourses of perverse desire, primitivism, class, and war in some 1920s narratives by British women writers.

The Constance Jordan Fellowships will be awarded each year through 1997-98, with the possibility of renewal thereafter. Constance Jordan, the donor, is herself a Professor of English at the Claremont (California) Graduate School, and a literary scholar of distinction. Her books include *Renaissance Feminism: Literary Texts and Political Models* and *Pulci's Morgante: Poetry and History in Fifteenth-Century Florence*. Jordan has established the fellowships in order to encourage gay and lesbian literary studies with historical content at The CUNY Graduate School.

CUNY Student Paper Awards

1st Prize (\$250): James H. Sweet, "Male Homosexuality and Spiritism in the African Diaspora"

2nd Prize (\$150): Renate Reimann, "Fighting for Family Integrity: How Lesbian Couples With Children Counter Social and Legal Discrimination"

Crossing National and Sexual Borders: A Latina/o and Latin American Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Conference

On October 3-5, 1996, "Crossing National and Sexual Borders" will bring together, for the first time, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender writers, artists, community leaders, cultural critics, and performers from Latin America and the United States to engage in an open dialogue and exchange of ideas. In panels, workshops, plenaries, performances and informal discussions, participants will address issues critical to our communities: AIDS, sexual taboos, classism, racism, and religious oppression. "Crossing National and Sexual Borders" aims to overcome invisibility, to examine cultural representations that stereotype us and to challenge homophobia and racism, the main components of our oppression both in Latin America and the United States.

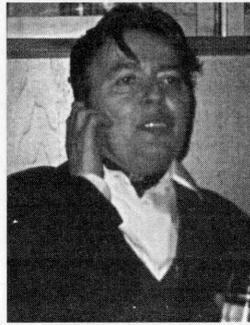
A coalition of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Latinas/os in the United States and their counterparts in Latin America would be a powerful, unprecedented step toward visibility and the affirmation of our rights. "Crossing National and Sexual Borders" will be the forum for such an historic, ground-breaking event — a landmark in our emerging histories and identities.

Possible speakers include: Cherrie Moraga, Carlos Monsiváis, Carlos Jauregui, Carmen Vázquez, and Frances Negrities.

Organizing committee: Oscar Montero (Lehman College/CUNY), Arnaldo Cruz-Malavé (Fordham University), Licia Fiol-Matta (Barnard College), Robert Irwin (New York University), Carmen Vázquez (Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center), Kelley Ready (Hunter College/CUNY), Carlos Rodriguez (Seton Hall), Elena M. Martinez (Baruch College/CUNY)

The Performance subcommittee of the Conference Planning Committee organized a very successful fundraising event at WOW, entitled "An Evening of Mariconerías and Marimachismos," with the participation of Carmelita Tropicana and Maureen Angelos, as hosts, and Lilly Montero (singer), Tepito Danz'acá (modern dance group), Dolores Prida (playwright), and performers Sussana Cook, Jessica Chalmers, Gerry Gómez Pearlberg, and Dan Bacalzo. The evening drew a full house and \$1,000. was raised. The members of the performance subcommittee who organized this event are Robert Irwin, Carmelita Tropicana Camilla Fojas.

Monique Wittig Gives Kessler Lecture



MONIQUE WITTIG

Distinguished lesbian writer and theorist Monique Wittig gave the Fourth Annual David R. Kessler Lecture on Friday, December 1, 1995, at the CUNY Graduate Center. Wittig, who is currently a Professor of French at the University of Arizona, is a foundational thinker in contemporary lesbian theory. Her articles — in particular "The Straight Mind," "One is Not Born a Woman," and "The Point of View: Universal or Particular?" — have been vital to current writing in lesbian and queer theory that takes a materialist perspective on social relations.

In addition to her theoretical writing, Wittig is an important novelist, whose books *Les Guerilleres*, *Le Corps Lesbien (The Lesbian Body)*, and *Lesbian Peoples: Material for a Dictionary* (with Sande Zeig), have captured the imaginations and shifted the politics of generations of readers committed to rethinking social structures.

The Kessler lecture event always provides moving tributes prior to the honoree's presentation by people who know or have been influenced by the person being honored. This year, Erika Ostrovsky, Professor Emerita of French at New York University, and Namascar Shaktini, Associate Professor of French and Comparative Literature at Florida Atlantic University, presented papers on Wittig's writing. Unfortunately, rather than evoking the spirit of Wittig's work, their papers were formal presentations that lasted far too long. Judith Butler's tribute, "Bodies in Parts" (which was read by Ann Pelligrini, since Butler was unable to attend), was more appropriate to the evening's intent. With humor, grace and, of course, intelligence, Butler demonstrated the influence of Wittig's work on succeeding generations of lesbian and queer thinkers.

In the too brief time remaining, Wittig read excerpts from her most recent work, *The Girl*. Reading in French, with a simultaneous English translation provided by Barbara Page, Professor of English at Vassar, following each brief selection, Wittig's charismatic presence delighted the crowd. The reception that followed celebrated the vision, creativity, and revolutionary impact of Monique Wittig's continuing contribution to international lesbian and gay studies.

June 2 Benefit

On Sunday, June 2, 1996, The Palladium hosted a dance party and talk to benefit the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies. "Sex Talk: The Next Generation of Queer Writers Talk About Sex" brought together some of the brightest lights on the gay and lesbian literary landscape to talk about sex and writing.

Moderated by performer Mo Angelos of The Five Lesbian Brothers, "Sex Talk" featured Scott Heim (*Mysterious Skin*), John Keene (*Annotations*), Heather Lewis (*House Rules*), Dale Peck (*The Law of Enclosures*), and Jacqueline Woodson (*Autobiography of a Family Photo*).

The event raised about \$4,000 for CLAGS.

September 1995- April 1996 Donors

Funding News



THE CLAGS OFFICE:
STEPHANIE GRANT, MATT ROTTNEK,
KELLEY READY

Call for Volunteers

From time to time, CLAGS needs volunteers to help out with mailings (like this newsletter) and data entry (mailing list update, donor information input). Because we have a very small staff, we rely on your help to get these jobs done. If you can spare any time, please sign up on the CLAGS Volunteer List. Call 212-642-2924.

Wish List

CLAG is in need of a photocopier that can handle a large to medium volume of copies and a medium to high speed IBM compatible laser printer. Please contact the CLAGS office at 212-642-3924 for details.

CONTRIBUTIONS \$10,000 OR MORE

The New York City Lesbian and Gay Funding Collaborative
The Paul Rapoport Foundation
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H.W. Lutrin in memory of Reinhart Kussat
Judith Lorber in memory of Barbara Rosenblum
Michael Rubinovitz in memory of John Martin

As our national political discourse moves farther to the right, both public and private dollars become more scarce. Federal, state, and local governments provide fewer entitlements and direct service programs, thereby increasing the demands on private foundations and individuals. Flooded with requests from formerly government-supported programs and initiatives, private foundations focus their giving on essential (and deserving) direct service programs. Individuals, too, receive greater demands through direct mail campaigns and phone solicitations.

The lesbian and gay community finds itself particularly strapped during these difficult economic times. We are virtually alone in supporting programs that address the special needs of our community: AIDS-related services, programs for lesbian and gay youth and seniors, anti-violence education, alcohol and drug intervention programs, and gay- and lesbian-affirmative mental health services.

Despite the tightening of private and public purses across the nation, CLAGS continues to attract support from foundations and individual donors. In fact, of the four foundations that made grants this year, three specifically funded our organizational development.

The Rockefeller Foundation awarded CLAGS \$12,000. toward board development. The money will be spent over the course of the next year providing training to board members in organizational development and fundraising.

The Paul Rapoport Foundation made a matching grant of \$10,000. to develop our major donor program. A special fundraising appeal brought CLAGS many new and increased major donors as a direct result of this matching gift.

The New York City Lesbian and Gay Funding Collaborative awarded CLAGS \$10,000. for capacity building. These funds will support the development of a five-year strategic plan and increased fundraising activities.

The Funding Exchange/OUT Fund made a \$6,000. grant toward the CLAGS conference: "Trans/Forming Knowledge: Street Smarts, Social Activism, and the Power of Expertise."

CLAGS to Co-Sponsor New Lecture

CLAGS is proud to co-sponsor the inaugural lecture of the Dr. John Patten Memorial Lecture Series with the Ackerman Institute for the Family. The event, which will explore issues concerning gays, lesbians, bisexuals and the contemporary American family, will be held on the evening of November 14th, 1996 at the Auditorium of the Hunter College School of Social Work, 129 East 79th Street. The panelists include: Kath Weston, Associate Professor of Anthropology at Arizona State University and author of *Families We Choose: Lesbians, Gays, and Kinship*; José Muñoz, Assistant Professor of Performance Studies at New York University; Gwen Turner, writer, actress, filmmaker, and creator of the film *Go Fish*; and Thomas Allen Harris, Assistant Professor in the Visual Arts Department at the University of California at San Diego and director of the film *Vintage: Families of Values* which looks at African American gay and lesbian sibling relationships. The panel will be moderated by family therapist, Stanley Siegel, MSW.

Dr. John Patten was a faculty member of the Ackerman Institute for Family Therapy, Medical Director of the Institute's AIDS Project, and co-founder and co-director of the Gay and Lesbian Family Studies Project. He was senior editor and co-founder of *In the Family*, a therapy-oriented magazine about the concerns of gay, lesbian and bisexual families. Dr. Patten died of AIDS on October 4, 1995. CLAGS is grateful for the opportunity to honor his life and work. A reception will precede the lecture. For more information, call 212-879-4900, ext. 149.

Two Volume CLAGS Reader to be Published



CO-EDITOR ESTHER KATZ

Last Spring CLAGS and the New York University Press announced that they would publish a series of books in lesbian and gay studies. The first two volumes in that series have recently gone to press. Both have been edited by Martin Duberman,

the founder and outgoing Director of CLAGS, and consist of selected material presented at various CLAGS conferences, colloquia and lectures from 1988 to 1995.

The first volume, *A Queer World: The Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader*, will be published in February of 1997, to be followed two months later by *Queer Representations: Reading Lives, Reading Cultures*.

Sections in *A Queer World* include: "Mapping Identities: Gender and Sexuality," "The Terrains of History: New Stories, New Methodologies," "Mind/Body Relations: Science and Psychology," "Laws and Markets," and "Sexual Politics." Among the more than fifty contributors to the volume are: Alan Bray, William Byne, Douglas Crimp, Jewelle Gomez, Gilbert Herdt, Gregory Herek, Janice Irvine, Jonathan Ned Katz, Elizabeth Kennedy, Suzanne Kessler, Vivien Ng, Walt Odets, Cindy Patton, Ruthann Robson, Judith Roof, Will Roscoe, Randolph Trumbach and Sharon Thompson.

The second volume, *Queer Representations*, has section headings that include: "Ancient Genealogies," "Visualizing Homosexuality," "The Lives of Texts and People," "Assays in Autobiography," and "Creating Queer Culture." Among the volume's many contributors are: Dorothy Allison, Blanche McCrary Boyd, Dennis Cooper, David Feinberg, Essex Hemphill, Allen Ginsberg, Jill Johnston, Michael Moon, Oscar Montero, Joan Nestle, Dale Peck, Felice Picano, Assotto Saint, and Edmund White.

Four additional volumes in the CLAGS/NYU series are already under contract, and the series will, in the future, be open to any full-length, scholarly manuscripts relating to lesbian and gay studies.

The co-editors of the series are Jeffrey Escoffier and Esther Katz. Escoffier is a CLAGS board member and co-founder of OUT/LOOK magazine. Katz is an adjunct Associate Professor of American History at NYU and Director/Editor of the Margaret Sanger Papers Project. She has recently published *The Margaret Sanger Papers Microfilm Edition* and is now preparing a four-volume book edition of Sanger's selected letters for Indiana University Press. Katz has been on the CLAGS Board of Directors since 1992 and has served as its Chair from 1993-1996.

CLAGS Fundraisers

Like most lesbian and gay institutions, CLAGS relies heavily on the support of individual donors from our community. If you haven't joined CLAGS, please do so today. If you are a loyal member, mark your calendar with the dates listed below.

"In Other Words," A Reading to Benefit "Crossing National and Sexual Borders: A Latina/o and Latin American Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Conference," Sponsored by CLAGS and NYU's Albert Schweitzer Program for the Humanities.

Featuring: Maya Islas; Jaime Manrique; Frances Negron Muntaner; Alberto Sandoval. Hosted by Dolores Prida.

Tuesday, July 2, 1996 at Dixon Place, 258 Bowery, between Houston & Prince. Doors Open: 7:00pm; Program starts: 7:30pm. Admission: \$15, Students: \$10

Dance to Benefit "Crossing National and Sexual Borders"

¡Venga a Bailar! Everyone is invited to a dance and drag show to benefit "Crossing National and Sexual Borders: A Latina/o and Latin American Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Conference" sponsored by CLAGS and NYU's Albert Schweitzer Program for the Humanities.

Saturday, August 31, 1996 at The Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, 208 West 13 Street, 9:00 to 1:00 (Drag show at 11:00) Admission: \$15, Students: \$10.

Contact Suzanne Kaebnick, 718-562-7905.

New CLAGS Directory

Work will begin this summer on a new edition of *The CLAGS Directory of Lesbian and Gay Studies*. If you were listed in the first edition (1994), be sure your entry is updated. If you were not listed, and wish to be, call the CLAGS office (212-642-2924) for a form.



Mark Your Calendars!

October 2-5, 1996

"Crossing National and Sexual Borders: A Latina/o and Latin American Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Conference"

November 14, 1996

John Patten Memorial Lecture

December 6, 1996

The Fifth Annual David R. Kessler Lecture in Lesbian and Gay Studies:
Esther Newton. Proshansky Auditorium, The Graduate School, City University of New York

May 2-3, 1997

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