INTERVIEW WITH VISITING SCHOLAR STEPHANIE RIGER

Stephanie Riger is a visiting scholar at the Institute this year. She comes to us from the University of Illinois at Chicago where she has recently accepted a position as professor of psychology and women's studies and director of the Women's Studies Program. Her most recent books include Worlds of the Mentally Ill: How Deinstitutionalization Works in the City and The Female Fear: The Social Costs of Rape in America. Institute Associate Director Sherri Matteo interviewed Professor Riger about her work and her plans for the future.

SM: First, tell us about the work you are doing at the Institute this year.
SR: I'm working on several projects here. The first is a paper on stages of growth in feminist movement organizations. This paper was prompted by three things: First, I am interested in theory about life stages of organizations. Second, I have done a lot of consulting work with feminist organizations (grass roots feminist groups such as rape crisis centers, and so on). Third, I am interested in exploring the meaning of feminism as it applies to everyday life. What does it mean to be a feminist organization? How does the dialectic of feminism shape organizational behavior?

SM: What are some of the responses you've gotten to "What does it mean to be a feminist organization?"
SR: The answer to that question twenty years ago is different from the answer today. Twenty years ago to be a feminist organization meant that the organization had to be non-hierarchical. And it had to assume "sisterhood." My paper discusses, first, problems in using a non-hierarchical structure when an organization expands. Second, there are differences among women that need to be acknowledged, and we need to figure out ways to negotiate those differences.

SM: Some examples of those differences are...?
SR: Feminists today are much more aware of the ways that race, ethnicity, age, and so on, shape women's lives. Feminists in the 60's assumed that consensus could always be reached; they had great difficulty in dealing with conflict. Today feminists recognize diversity and differences among women. The challenge for feminist organizations is to recognize diversity while also forging unity among women. How do you manifest that in organization arrangements?

SM: Tell us about your most recent book, The Female Fear.
SR: The Female Fear is about women's fear of rape. The paperback edition (which is coming out in the spring) is subtitled The Social Costs of Rape in America. The book started because of my familiarity with a research project that was going on at Northwestern University's Center for Urban Affairs and Policy Research. There was interest in the 70's, both among researchers and among social policymakers, in the impact of crime on urban communities. Does crime make people barricade themselves behind locked doors and barred windows, or does crime draw people together to try somehow to force out the common enemy, the criminal?

One finding that came up consistently across lots of studies, but that was not attended to sufficiently in my opinion, was the fact that women are more afraid of crime than any other demographic sub-group, even though with the exception (and it's an important one) of rape, women are least likely to be victimized.

Continued on page 6

RHODE LECTURESHIP ESTABLISHED

At the Institute's recent Open House on November 1, friends and colleagues welcomed new director Iris F. Litt, M.D., and bid a last farewell to outgoing director Deborah L. Rhode. As Rhode's picture was placed alongside those of other directors and acting directors, Litt announced the formation of the Deborah L. Rhode Annual Lectureship. The lecture will honor those who have made significant contributions to the status of women through their scholarship.
SCHOLARS COLUMN

New Appointments

Carol Lashof is a playwright and associate professor of English and Drama at St. Mary’s College of California. Her most recent play, “Fräulein Dora,” based on Freud’s “Case of Dora,” was produced last year by TheatreWorks of Palo Alto. Her current work examines myths of the artist and the mother.

Yael Yishai is a professor of political science at the University of Haifa. Her work deals with interest groups and public policy, particularly focusing on Israeli politics. Her most recent book, Land of Paradoxes: Interest Politics in Israel, will be published by SUNY Press (Winter 1991). Yishai’s current research is on the attitudes of states toward questions on childbearing.

Continuing Scholars

Affiliated scholar Lucia Chiavola Birnbaum’s essay, “Red, a Little White, a Lot of Green, on a Field of Pink: A Controversial Design for an Italian Contribution to a Multicultural Canon for the United States,” has been published in an anthology, From the Margin: Writings in Italian Americana (Purdue University, 1990).

Affiliated scholar Marcia Falk is the author of The Song of Songs: A New Translation and Interpretation, (Harper Collins, 1990). In November and December, she gave readings and talks from this book and from her own poetry at San Francisco State University, the Judah Magnes Museum, the Contra Costa Jewish Community Center, the Jewish Community Library in San Francisco, and several local bookstores. In November she chaired a session on “Defining a Jewish Lesbian Feminism” at the annual meetings of the American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature in New Orleans.

Visiting scholar Rosemary Killam presented “In Our Own Voices: Women Academic Musicians’ Descriptions of Role Models, Education and Goals” (co-authored with Claudia Lynch of the University of North Texas Computing Center) at the College Music Society’s Annual Meeting in Washington D.C. She also copresented with W.E. Kilham and L.R. Smith their newest developments in computer-supported aural pedagogy, “Learning Melodic Ideas,” at the Society for Music Theory’s Annual Meeting in Oakland, California.

Annette Lawson, affiliated scholar on leave from the Institute, has recently had her earlier book, Adultery: An Analysis of Love and Betrayal, appear in paperback (Basic Books).

On a recent trip to New Orleans, associate director Sherri Matteo visited the Center for Research on Women at Newcomb College at Tulane University. A copy of their Newsletter and a list of courses offered by their Women’s Studies program is on file at the Institute.

Affiliated scholar Karen Offen has been elected secretary-treasurer of the International Federation for Research in Women’s History for a five-year term. Her review-essay, “The New Sexual Politics of French Revolutionary Historiography,” appeared in French Historical Studies (Fall 1990).

The Female Fear: The Social Cost of Rape in America (Free Press, 1989), by Margaret T. Gordon and visiting scholar Stephanie Riger, has been selected as a CHOICE Outstanding Academic Book.

JAPAN VISITORS

In October, associate director Sherri Matteo and Institute scholars met with several women who visited Stanford from the International Women’s Education Association of Japan, based in Tokyo.

Also in October, the Institute was visited by the Nagoya Women’s Mission ’90, a delegation from the City of Nagoya Bureau of Women’s Affairs. They were particularly interested in exploring themes for research on women, and in learning about the Institute lecture series and publications.

MARILYN YALOM FUND

FALL 1990 AWARDS

We are pleased to announce the recipients of the Marilyn Yalom Fund awards for fall 1990:

Marcia Falk, affiliated scholar, for attendance at the annual joint meetings of the American Academy of Religion and the Society of Biblical Literature, held in New Orleans.

Dr. Linda C. Giudice, director of Stanford’s In Vitro Fertilization and Reproductive Endocrinology Laboratories, for preparation of a manuscript on which she is collaborating, entitled “The Ethics of In Vitro Fertilization: A Need for an International Commission.”

Affiliated scholar Karen Offen, for a book she is co-editing, Writing Women’s History: International Perspectives, to be published by Macmillan Press in 1991.

BOOK PARTIES

David Tyack, professor in Stanford’s School of Education, and Elisabeth Hansot, professor of political science and former Institute visiting scholar, celebrated the arrival of their book, Learning Together: A History of Coeducation in American Public Schools. The party was held at Serra House on November 28.

On January 9, at 4:30 p.m., Susan Bell and Marilyn Yalom will be the guests of honor at another Institute book party to celebrate the publication of Revealing Lives. Autobiography, Biography and Gender. If you would like to attend, please let Gini Gould know at (415) 723-1994.

Both books are available through the Institute’s Publication Series.
BOOK REVIEW


As I read Revealing Lives, my interest and excitement in its essays took the form of a fantasy about the course that might be structured around this book. Other readings would come from the works discussed in it, while its notes provide further bibliography and background. The name of the course would be "Intersubjectivity: A Discussion of Gender and Life Writing."

The fact that a single word—intersubjectivity—can be applicable (though in different ways) to essays that had their origin in a scholarly conference and that cover widely divergent subjects, in two senses of that word, bears witness to the careful editing of this book. While not observing a totally strict chronology, Bell and Yalom have created a progression from the early nineteenth century, represented through Anna Kuhn’s opening discussion of Bettina von Arnim’s Die Gunderode (1839) to Susan Fiske’s concluding piece on the “Father Books,” memoirs written by children of Fascist fathers that have appeared since the early 1970’s.

This historical ordering, which in itself would provide only an arbitrary coherence, is complicated and enriched by the careful placing of three essays: Kuhn’s initial one on von Arnim and on Christa Wolf’s The Quest for Christa T.; Regenia Gagnier’s study of English working class autobiographies, set in the book’s center; and Diane Middlebrook’s "Postmodernism and the Biographer," which just precedes the deeply moving essays that close the book. While grounded in biographical data and biographer’s practice, all three set in play a number of theoretical points that the other, even more particularized, essays serve both to exemplify and to critique. Meanwhile, the essays that I have described as "more particularized"—and I can give as examples Bell’s discussion of John Stuart Mill or Genaro Padilla’s study of Mexican women’s “pre-American” recollections, but my point holds for all the contributions—are imbued with theoretical awareness. The result is a constant dialogue or interchange between current feminist theorizing on subjectivity and gender and the experience of gendered subjects as it is mediated in turn by their biographers.

This dialogic intersubjectivity between scholar-biographer and the subject of each biographical study underlies and complicates the whole book, but other forms of intersubjectivity form its manifest content. As the editors note, "Autobiography masquerading as biography is one of the central discoveries of this book" (4). Yalom gives one example of such a "masquerade" when demonstrating the ways in which Adele Hugo’s unexpropriated biography of her famous husband (only available since 1985) functions in certain ways, as Adele Hugo herself said, as "mes mémoires" (55; my emphasis). Carol MacKay’s essay, placed immediately after Yalom’s, on Anne Thackeray Ritchie’s biographical introductions to her father’s work, has a similar theme.

There are related instances, but in these, "masquerade" does not seem the fully appropriate word. At one point Kuhn quotes von Arnim as saying, "Everyone should be the object of their own curiosity and should bring themselves to light like a piece of ore or an underground spring" (27). Often the means for accomplishing that, given the way intersubjectivity functions, is to do the heavy work of digging through to another person’s subjective source, thereby discovering something about one’s own; Kuhn’s essay centers upon such a project, but so does Glenna Breslin’s discussion of the dynamic at work in Lorine Niedecker’s editing of Zukofsky’s letters and of Niedecker’s poems about Morris, Jefferson, and Darwin (147-48). Similarly, Susan Figge’s essay on sons’ and daughters’ biographies of their Nazi fathers is at least as much about each biographer/subject as about his or her biographical subject.

Even the few instances that I have given point up the fact that intersubjectivity works between as well as within genders. The editors consider their central focus of attention to be an "insistence on gender as the lens through which autobiography and biography are scrutinized" (5), and one sees the truth of their claim. But scrutiny through that lens brings surprising things to view. For instance, Jane Aaron speculates on a connection between Charles Lamb’s empathetic and nurturant character and the fact that in his infancy he was left to the care of his sister Mary, ten years his senior (32). The essay placed after Aaron’s, Mary Zirin’s discussion of Nadezhda Durova, who fought throughout the Napoleonic wars disguised as a cavalry officer, notes that Durova’s "nanny" was her soldier father’s orderly (48). John Felstiner, in describing German as Paul Celan’s "mother tongue"—but also the tongue of those who murdered his mother in a Nazi labor camp—makes the centrality of the mother to Celan’s own sense of his subjective “center” one of his major themes (71). And while the mother-daughter identification made familiar through Nancy Chodorow’s work bears upon Mary Felstiner’s essay on Charlotte Salomon, the identification of Charlotte with her grandmother produces not the loss of self that one might expect but a possibility for "self-discovery from subterranean sources" (191).

If intersubjectivity has in humans an essential and constant structuring as well as destructuring function—and I think it does—it will also surface in the tripped interactions between this book’s reader and its authors and their subjects. Such at least was my experience with each essay but most tellingly perhaps as I read Barbara Babcock’s "reconstruction" of Clara Shortridge Foltz. Babcock’s second sentence reads, "Craving recognition, wealth, and power, [Foltz] publicized herself with uncommon energy and enthusiasm" (131). My own modern

Continued on page 4
ASSOCIATES NEWS

Thank you

Many, many thanks to members of the Associates Board for all of their efforts toward the successful completion of the Institute’s annual membership drive. We are especially grateful to Sara Taft, membership chair, and Marnie Paulus for setting up the mailing and to all our board members for signing, stamping, sealing, etc.

Local Seminars

Former Institute director Deborah L. Rhode was the featured speaker at the fall seminar, held at Mary Anna Matsumoto’s home. Rhode, professor in Stanford’s School of Law, discussed findings from her recent book, *Justice and Gender*.

The winter seminar will be held on February 28 at the home of Anita Weissberg in San Francisco. Visiting scholar Stephanie Riger (see front page interview) will be the guest speaker.

Satellite Update

Los Angeles—Old and new friends of the Greater Los Angeles Associates gathered at the home of Carmelo Bosko in Los Angeles on November 9 to meet new Institute director Iris F. Litt and continuing associate director Sherri Matteo. Matteo began the evening with a brief history and description of the Institute, calling upon contributing founders Susan Heck and Beth Garfield to add their memories of how the Institute began. Litt then described her past and current work in pediatric medicine and women’s health and concluded with a lively discussion period.

The event was the first of three evening “dessert potlucks” planned for this year to introduce Institute faculty and scholars to interested individuals throughout the Greater Los Angeles area.

San Francisco—Institute director Iris Litt addressed San Francisco friends and supporters on December 4 at the Mark Hopkins Hotel. Dr. Litt spoke on “Women and Health: Taking Care of Ourselves.”

New York, Chicago, and San Diego—Plans are underway for events later in the year in these cities.

Associates Day

This year’s annual half-day program will take place on Wednesday, January 16, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Guest speakers will be Institute Director and Professor of pediatric medicine Iris F. Litt, on women and health; Professors David Tyack and Elisabeth Hansot on gender and co-education; and Professor Carolyn Lougee on critical female figures in history. The morning program begins with coffee at 8:15 and ends with luncheon at 12:30. For more information please call (415) 723-1994.

Corporate Associates

The first corporate seminar of the year will be held on Wednesday, January 30, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., location to be announced. Paula Reynolds, co-founder of M2 Management Maximizer, will present, “Career and Family Balance: How Company Flexibility can Strengthen your Team and Improve Bottom-Line Results.” She will discuss her company’s experience with and research findings on restructuring and filling maternity leaves, interim project assignments, job shares, and other innovative staffing alternatives. She will also discuss the results of a recent survey of Bay Area companies’ needs in these areas. For more information, please call (415) 723-1994.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

April 17 is the date of the Institute’s annual fundraiser. This year we are celebrating 100 Years of Stanford Women. A day-long celebration is planned, culminating in an evening reception hosted by President and Robin Kennedy in their home and a gala dinner at the Faculty Club. Watch your mailbox for more information or call Sally Schroeder at (415) 725-0373.

PACIFIC RIM CONFERENCE

In the spring of 1991, the Pacific Rim Consortium on Women’s Studies will hold its second conference, “Women’s Self-Representation and Culture.” Hosted in Japan by Josai University’s Center for Inter-Cultural Studies and Education, and planned in association with the Institute, the three-day conference will focus on developments in the theory and praxis of women’s self-representation in literature, film and visual media.

Those wishing to attend should write to Nina and Peter Morgan, Center for Inter-Cultural Studies and Education, Josai University, 1-1 Keyaki-Dai, Sakado-Shi, Saitama-Ken, 350-02 Japan (FAX 0492-85-7167).

Book Review—Continued from page 3

Victorian upbringing in proper “feminine” attitudes made me find Foltz therefore instantly deplorable. But the point toward which Babcock’s essay is that Clara Foltz’s confusion and conflicts, along with her astonishing intelligence, drive, and courage, made her a “representative heroine” (140) for women today. She too, then, is an “underground spring” (27) in which one may well find one’s own reflection.

If this review were a course called “Intersubjectivity,” we would at least have the quarter’s ten-week space to discuss the ideas in *Revealing Lives*. In this space I can only urge you to read it.

Barbara Charlesworth Gelpi, Associate Professor
English Department
JING LYMAN LECTURES

The Jing Lyman winter series, "Life Writing and Gender," will explore life writing, biographies and autobiographies, as they are affected by gender, as well as race and ethnicity. Their lectures will explore issues such as the images revealed when life writing is analyzed in terms of gender; how the theory, practice, and style of telling are affected when interpreted or viewed through gender.

Wednesday, January 23, Noon History Corner, Room 2


Wednesday, January 30, Noon History Corner, Room 2

Historian Edith Gelles, Institute affiliated scholar, will follow. Author of the forthcoming Portia: The World of Abigail Adams, she will discuss the problems of writing about the life of a famous statesman's wife and maintaining the focus on her.

Wednesday, February 6, Noon History Corner, Room 2

In the next lecture, Gloria Hull, professor of women's studies and literature, will follow with "Afro-American Women Writing Selves, Writing Poetry." Hull, chair of the Women's Studies Program at UC-Santa Cruz and former visiting scholar at the Institute, is the author of All the Women are White, All the Blacks are Men, but Some of us are Brave: Black Women's Studies, Color, Sex and Poetry: Three Women Writers of the Harlem Renaissance; The Diary of Alice Dunbar-Nelson, and a book on poetry, Healing Hearts: Poems 1973-1988.

Wednesday, February 13, Noon History Corner, Room 2

Professor Barbara Babcock will follow with her talk "Clara Shortridge: a Life in Five Scenes and Many Voices" about Clara Shortridge Foltz who was the first woman attorney in California, and the subject of her forthcoming biography. Babcock is the Ernest W. McFarland Professor of Law and the first woman to be tenured at the Stanford Law School.

Wednesday, February 20, Noon History Corner, Room 2

In a joint presentation, Institute affiliated scholar Susan Groag Bell (European and British women's history) and senior scholar Marilyn Yalom (French literature) will talk about "Autobiography: Theory and Practice." Yalom and Bell are the co-editors of the recent book, Revealing Lives: Autobiography, Biography, and Gender. Susan Bell’s autobiography, Between Worlds, will be published in June 1991 by E.P. Dutton/W. Abrahams, New York.

Wednesday, February 27, Noon History Corner, Room 2

Benjamin Saenz, Ph.D. candidate in the English Department at Stanford, will give a Chicano perspective on "Writing the Self into Time (Through Poetry)." Saenz, formerly a Stegner Fellow in Creative Writing at Stanford, studied also at Texas University and Louvain University in Belgium. His first book of poetry, Calendar of Dust, is forthcoming in spring.

Wednesday, March 6, Noon History Corner, Room 2

In the final lecture, Diane Middlebrook, professor of English and former chair of the Program in Feminist Studies, will discuss the process of life writing in "Feminist Theory and the Practice of Biography."

NON-INSTITUTE EVENTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art is presenting a symposium on January 19, from 1:00-4:00, in Herbst Theatre, entitled "Gender and Modernism: American and European Photography between the Two World Wars."

Tickets will be available through the City Box Office. The program is in conjunction with an upcoming exhibition of photographs by Florence Henri. For further information please phone the S.F. Museum of Modern Art at (415) 863-8800.

A conference entitled "The Legacy of Simone de Beauvoir and Jean-Paul Sartre" will be held at the Holiday Inn, Palo Alto, on January 18-20, sponsored by the International Simone de Beauvoir Society. Speakers will include Institute scholars Karen Offen and Marilyn Yalom, and Professors Jean-Marie Apostolides and Marc Bertrand of Stanford's Department of French and Italian. For further information please phone Yolanda A. Patterson, chair of the Society, at (415) 854-4183.

The UC-Davis Fourth Annual Conference on Clinical Nutrition, "Women's Nutrition and Health," will take place March 22-23 at the Embassy Suites Hotel, in Napa, California. Topics will be of interest to physicians, dietitians, nurse practitioners, and other health professionals who counsel women. Tuition is $225 for physicians and $165 for non-physician professionals. Further information can be obtained by phoning the Office of Continuing Medical Education at UC-Davis (916) 734-5390.
APPLICATION DEADLINES

Scholars' Program
Applications are invited from scholars with research projects on women and gender for unsalaried appointments as either visiting or affiliated scholars.

Application Procedure: Applications may be submitted twice a year (February 15 and September 15) and should include a C.V., a 2- to 3-page abstract of projected research, and two letters of reference. Send inquiries and applications to Sally Schroeder, Institute for Research on Women and Gender, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305-8640.

Applications are also due on February 15 from current affiliated scholars whose appointments expire in August 1991. Procedures are the same as above.

Gender Research Fund
The Institute invites applications from Stanford faculty for 1991-92 seed money awards designed to result in outside grants placed through the Institute or in publications whose royalties will be shared by the Institute. No more than two awards of up to $5,000 will be made each year. Applicants should submit a 3- to 5-page proposal with budget by March 1 to Dee Gustavson, Institute for Research on Women and Gender, Serra House, 8640.

Marilyn Yalom Fund
Institute affiliated and visiting scholars, as well as Stanford faculty, are invited to apply for small grants from the Marilyn Yalom Research Fund, which supports research on women and gender in the humanities. Up to $3,664 may be allocated for spring 1991 awards, with no grant exceeding $1,000. Please submit a 2- to 3-page proposal and budget to Dee Gustavson, Serra House, 8640, by April 1.

Riger Interview—Continued from page 1

Margo Gordon, (now director of the School of Public Policy at the University of Washington) and I did a telephone survey of 5,000 people, in three different cities, Chicago, Philadelphia and San Francisco, and in-depth interviews with about 300 people in those three cities. We looked at the Sunset and the Mission in San Francisco, and we looked at other neighborhoods in other cities, trying to maximize the diversity of ethnic and socioeconomic groups. We asked them questions about their levels of fear, how they coped with crime, etc.

SM: What are some of the findings you report in your book?
SR: One finding is that the least fearful women, that is young women, are more afraid than the most fearful men, that is elderly men. So women's fear levels are much higher overall than men's fear levels and fear of crime in general. What distinguishes women's expertise with crime from men's is that women get raped and men don't (with so few exceptions that they prove the rule). Women's fear of rape is something that's almost always in their minds, although it's not always in the forefront of their consciousness. It shapes the way that women react to the world. If a woman is walking down the street and somebody comes up to her and she thinks that person is dangerous for whatever reason, fear of rape will come to her mind immediately. Men don't have that consciousness. They don't think in terms of rape.

SM: How do women cope with fear of rape?
SR: When we asked them that, we find that they do things that they have to do, despite their fear: they go to school, they go to work. But in areas where they have more discretion, like seeing friends, or perhaps going to a bar for a drink, or going out at night for a walk, they restrict their movements. That's where the fear has the most impact. In addition, fear falls along the same divisions in society as crime, so women who are poor and women who are black are more afraid and take more precautions. An exception is that women who are older are also more afraid.

One of the things that surprised us was the response when we asked women "How strong do you think you are and how fast do you think you can run?" Most women, about 66% in our study, said they were slower and weaker, not only than the average man, but also than the average woman. That was strongly related to their levels of fear. Many women have an image of themselves as physically frail and vulnerable which is associated with taking restrictive precautions to cope with crime. I think it's important to develop women's sense of physical efficacy. Activities like weight training and self-defense training that give women the physical feeling of being powerful are psychologically important too.

SM: So what should women do about their fears?
SR: That's a difficult question. On the one hand, by restricting themselves, women lose freedom and opportunities. If they didn't restrict themselves, it's possible that they wouldn't get raped. On the other hand, given the crime situation in this country, I don't think we can advocate that women stop taking precautions. There are more assertive precautionary strategies, such as learning self-defense, that women can use. What our book points out is the cost to women of taking precautions. We also reframe this issue from being an individual woman's responsibility for keeping herself safe. So much of the advice about rape prevention is directed at the individual woman as if it's her problem alone. We want to emphasize that it's a societal problem. It's a matter of situational things, like better lighting, and other more complicated societal causes of rape—issues of power and inequality.

SM: Tell me a little bit about your forthcoming book, Worlds of the Mentally Ill.
SR: Dan Lewis (my husband) and I and other researchers followed about 300 mental patients for six months.
Riger Interview—
Continued from page 6

after they were released from Chicago area state hospitals. Lots of people now call deinstitutionalization a failure, but I think that’s a gross oversimplification. I was interested in seeing if the women patients’ experiences were different in some ways than the men’s. The factor that emerged in our study much more powerfully than gender was social class. What distinguishes mentally ill people once they’re released from the hospital is not so much their mental illness as their poverty. They don’t have money for housing, they don’t have money for food, they have difficulty getting jobs; their lives are much more similar to people who are at the lowest end of the economic scale than they are to other mentally ill people who have more resources. This is true of women as well as men. So one of the points that we make in that book is that mental health policies over the last twenty or thirty years have “dehomogenized” the mentally ill. They are no longer a homogeneous group, defined solely by their mental illness.

SM: What kinds of things had the patients that you studied been hospitalized or institutionalized for?
SR: Most of them were diagnosed as schizophrenic.

SM: Is this the kind of person we’re likely to find if we look at our homeless population?
SR: About 20% of the people we studied at some point along the way were homeless or had trouble finding housing. That’s interesting is that a lot of them used social services rather than “falling through the cracks” of the social services system as some believe. I was particularly interested in what sources of social support people used. Basically what people used most frequently were their families. We asked people to tell us who they went to when they have money problems, health problems, problems with work, an important personal problem, and so on. The modal answer was “I go to my family.”

SM: Tell me about yourself.
SR: I went to the University of Michigan as an undergraduate. I spent a semester after graduation doing research for a psychology professor. I really enjoyed it, and I went on to graduate work at the University of Michigan. I was in graduate school at a time when social psychology was beginning to break out of the laboratory and turn to more naturalistic settings to look at contextual or situational effects on behavior, so it was an exciting time. I was also there during the years of student rebellion and the early years of the contemporary feminist movement. I was in my first consciousness-raising group in 1968. That’s where I participated in some of the women’s organizations that got me interested in organizational dynamics.

SM: What made you go to your first consciousness-raising group?
SR: I had participated in a general kind of way in student politics. The first anti-war teach-in was held at the University of Michigan when I was a freshman. Being involved in radical politics was part of the experience of being a student in those days. So when feminism came along, I had to explore what it meant. And of course it meant a great deal to me.

SM: What has it meant to you personally as well as professionally?
SR: Well, personally it helped me understand my own life, and also my experience with graduate school, which was a stressful place for women in those days. Professionally it gave me an area of research. I did my dissertation on the impact of participation in women's liberation consciousness-raising groups. I have gone on since then to look at women and gender.

SM: You’ll be going to the University of Illinois as director of women's studies. What do you think of the state of women’s studies there?
SR: That’s a good question. One of the things I’m doing this year is visiting women’s studies programs on the West Coast to find out what they offer. The program at the University of Illinois is a very strong one. Five faculty have full or joint appointments. It offers a minor in women’s studies on both the undergraduate and graduate level; it’s been in existence for more than ten years, and it’s very well accepted by the University.

SM: What was it like at Lake Forest College where you taught previously?
SR: It was a very different situation. Lake Forest is a small private liberal arts college, and I had the opportunity there to get to know students very well. I had great freedom in teaching, in part because my classes were small. I was chair of the Sexual Harassment Hearing Board there, and I found that a very interesting experience, although I think there are some built-in paradoxes in sexual harassment policies. In fact, I wrote a paper about the fact that men and women interpret behavior related to sexuality in very different ways. One problem in sexual harassment policies is that men think that they’re doing is normative, and women think that what men are doing is offensive. Another problem has to do with differences in conflict resolution styles. There is some evidence, although it’s not yet conclusive, that women prefer a less adversarial strategy for reconciling conflicts. But many policies don’t provide for that, and there are even problems with mediation (a less adversarial strategy) if that’s the strategy your policy provides. Mediation assumes that the people in a dispute have equal power, but a student claiming sexual harassment by a faculty member doesn’t have equal power in any real sense.

SM: Are there other policy areas with which you have been involved?
SR: I was a member of the Illinois State Task Force on Gender Bias in the Courts. These task forces are being set up all across the country, and I was one of three non-lawyers of forty-six people on the task force, and at least half the people on the task force were judges. It gave me a glimpse into the law and I must say I am glad I’m not a lawyer, especially a female lawyer. One of the things that

Continued on page 8
Riger Interview—
Continued from page 7

a lot of the respondents told us on the survey is that sexism is used as a tactic in court to discredit a female attorney.

SM: In what way?
SR: They would call her “honey” or “sweetie” (SM: In the court, in front of the judge and everybody else?)
Yes, and they would comment on appearance—subtle ways of being condescending and undermining her authority.

SM: Have the women lawyers figured out a way to deal with this?
SR: It’s hard for me to answer what they do because we didn’t ask that on the survey. But it varies a lot with the judges. Some judges will permit this sort of thing to happen in their courtroom and other judges won’t. I think this is an example of the resistance in many professions to fully integrating women at all levels.

SM: Thank you for talking with us, and good luck on your work here and at the University of Illinois.

STAFF NEWS

Virginia (Gini) Gould has joined the staff as secretary-receptionist, working 75% time at the front desk and assuming the duties formerly performed by Sally Schroeder. In addition to the assistance Gould gives the staff, scholars, and the numerous Institute constituencies, she also lends her support to the Associates Program.

Appointment has also been made of a new program coordinator, Nkechi Obiora. She is responsible for the implementation of the ongoing and very successful Jing Lyman Lecture series, as well as all other public programs sponsored by the Institute.

Obiora has just recently come to Stanford from Yale, where she was an administrative assistant.

We are very pleased to announce the promotion of Sally Schroeder. She has assumed many of the tasks performed by the former office manager, Lorraine Macchello, including managing Serra House, overseeing the scholars’ program, and serving as Staff Affairs officer in personnel matters. She continues to assist associate director Sherri Matteo with fundraising activities and will supervise other staff members in record-keeping for these programs.