

WOMEN at the CENTER

Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture
David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University

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Writing Women at Duke into Wikipedia

On March 20, the Bingham Center sponsored the first Women at Duke Wikipedia Edit-a-thon in partnership with the Women's Center and the University Archives.

Bingham Center staff provided instruction on editing Wikipedia and helped participants set up accounts and choose topics. Bridget Booher, author of the recently published book *Women at Duke Illustrated*, spoke about her experiences conducting research on Duke women.

After the training session, participants broke out individually or in pairs to start creating articles on alumnae, former professors, or



Katie Jones, Duke '14, and Stefanie Conrad, communications officer at the Duke School of Nursing, create new entries in Wikipedia

women whose papers are housed at Duke. The event led to the creation of new articles on women such as chemist Rose May Davis, the first woman to earn a Ph.D. at Duke; anthropologist Ernestine Friedl; and feminist artist Irene Peslikis.

A number of other articles are currently in progress, covering topics ranging from alumna Sara M.

Evans, a prominent historian specializing in American social and women's history of the 20th century, to the *Who Needs Feminism?* global

social media campaign which began as part of a class at Duke in 2012.

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Profiles in Research: Lauren Gutterman

With support from a 2013 Mary Lily Research Grant, I visited the Bingham Center to do research for my book manuscript about the personal experiences and public representation of wives who desired women between 1945 and 1985. I examined the Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance's archives, as well as the papers of prominent feminist thinkers Robin Morgan, Kate Millett, and Minnie Bruce Pratt.

Unprecedented numbers of married women began to recognize their same-sex desires—often through their participation in the feminist movement—and leave their marriages for lesbian lives in the 1970s. The details of this transition, however, are typically glossed over in oral histories and memoirs that conform to strict script of oppressive marriages and liberating lesbian love.

Minnie Bruce Pratt's journals complicate

this tale, providing rare insight into how one woman attempted to balance a lesbian affair with marriage in the mid-1970s. After sleeping with a female friend, Pratt confessed to her husband. At first, she insisted that she still loved him but wanted to continue her affair as well. While her husband initially accepted this arrangement, Pratt's feelings for her lover deepened and her husband's jealousy grew. Still, Pratt agonized in her journal over the path that she should take and what the repercussions would be for her two young sons. Though Pratt did ultimately divorce her husband, the emotional and intellectual struggles documented in her journals undermine any notion that the transition from wife to out lesbian was simple or inevitable.

Contributed by Lauren Gutterman, Assistant Professor, Women's Studies, University of Michigan.

Recently Published Collection Guides

Pauline Bart Papers

See “*Behind the Scenes with Samantha Crisp*”

Mandy Carter Papers

Carter is a self-described “southern out black lesbian social justice activist” based in Durham since 1982. Her collection documents her work as a grassroots organizer and social justice activist.

Leah Fritz Papers

See “*Behind the Scenes with Samantha Crisp*”

Kay Leigh Hagan Papers

Hagan is a writer, teacher, and feminist whose work often focused on women’s internalized oppression.

Lisa Jaronski Zine Collection

Over 300 zines by women from the 1990s-2000s, many of which were acquired through “*Lazy Jane’s Zine Trades*.”

All Bingham Center collection guides may be found here:
library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingaids/

Micham Honored with Career Achievement Award

Laura Micham, Merle Hoffman Director of the Sallie Bingham Center for Women’s History and Culture, has been selected as the 2014 winner of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Women and Gender Studies Section (WGSS) Career Achievement Award. The award honors significant long-standing contributions to women’s studies in the field of librarianship over the course of a career.



Victoria Hesford, Assistant Professor of Women’s and Gender Studies at Stony Brook University and past Mary Lily Research Grant recipient, writes, “To say that Laura is an archival dynamo whose energy and enterprise constantly brings new people, new collections, and new ideas to the Bingham Center would be an understatement! She has ideas, she works collaboratively, and she is not easily put off by the inevitable complexities and difficulties of

bringing a project to life.”

Jeanette Stokes, Executive Director of the Resource Center for Women and Ministry in the South, whose records are held in the Bingham Center, adds, “Laura’s work has made the Sallie Bingham Center a vibrant presence on the campus of Duke University, in the community of Durham, North Carolina, and in the wider academic community nationally and internationally. It makes creative use of its

collection while cooperating with campus and community groups to provide outstanding educational programs.”

Naomi Nelson, Director of the Rubenstein Library, writes, “Under Laura’s leadership, the Bingham Center has grown in important and dynamic ways and, at the same time, she has made significant contributions to the larger profession.”

Behind the Scenes with Samantha Crisp

For the past several months, I have been hard at work on two big processing projects. The first is the Pauline Bart papers. Bart is a former psychologist and sociologist active in Chicago. Bart focused her research on many different women’s issues, including menopausal depression, pornography, and feminism, saying that whatever women wanted her to study, she studied. Her most voluminous research was on sexual assault. In 1985, she co-authored a book entitled *Stopping Rape: Successful Survival Strategies*, for which she interviewed 94 anonymous survivors of rape or attempted rape in the Chicago area. She also performed extensive research on the Jane Collective, an underground abortion service operated by a group of women in Chicago from 1969 to 1973. Bart interviewed 40 members of the Jane Collective in the late 1970s and transcripts of these interviews are preserved in the collection.

I’ve also recently finished processing the Leah Fritz Papers. Fritz is a feminist poet, active in both the US and England for the past fifty years. After sorting through her papers, I discovered that, prior to dedicating her career solely to poetry, Fritz wrote prolifically on important political issues, including pornography, school desegregation and K-12 educational reform, socialism, feminist theology, feminist publishing, Jewish identity, sexuality and sexual ethics, and feminist consciousness-raising. She also corresponded with, interviewed, and reviewed dozens of women authors and feminist activists. I’ve highlighted all of these materials in the collection’s finding aid so they will be accessible to researchers in each of these subject areas.

Contributed by Samantha Crisp, Bingham Center Technical Services Intern

Announcing Our 2014-15 Mary Lily Grant Recipients

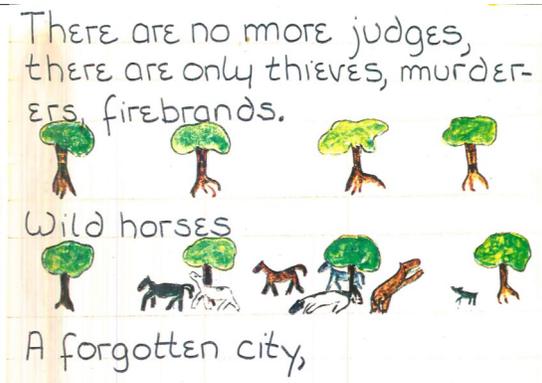
Dr. Georgina Colby, linguistics and cultural studies, University of Westminster, for a book on Kathy Acker combining philosophical analysis with literary and critical theory, to explore connections between feminist theory, Acker's use of philosophy, and her experimental writing practices.

Dr. Donna Drucker, civil and environmental engineering, Technische Universität Darmstadt, for a journal article on sexual behavior and the science of contraceptive testing in the mid-20th century United States.

Sara Mameni, Ph.D. candidate, visual arts, University of California, San Diego, for dissertation research on Iran-US relations in the 1960s and 1970s—leading up to Iran's Islamic Revolution of 1979—through the lens of queer theory, feminist theory, and postcolonial studies.

Ivy McIntyre, Ph.D. candidate, history, St. Louis University, for dissertation research on South Carolina families in times of personal crisis in the early Republic.

Andrew Pope, Ph.D. candidate, history, Harvard University, for dissertation research on radical social movements and the New South in Georgia from 1968-1996.



Dr. Georgina Colby spent time in April researching manuscript notebooks and artwork from the Kathy Acker Papers

Dr. Jason Scott, Dr. Annalisa Castaldo, and Jennifer Lynn Pollitt, for an edited collection of essays looking at how kink identities, behaviors, and lifestyles are represented in popular and cultural studies.

Mairead Sullivan, Ph.D. candidate, women's, gender, and sexuality studies, Emory University, for dissertation research on questions of breastedness in feminist and queer theory.

Hope Tucker, independent scholar, for an artist's video on the fragility of reproductive rights in the American South, as seen through the work of those who labored for these rights in the second half of the 20th century.

Recently Updated Collection Guides

Nava Atlas Papers
New addition to a collection documenting Atlas' career as both a book artist and vegan cookbook author.

Ipas Records
Newly added material includes records related to offices in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Clarissa Sligh Papers
A significant addition to this collection includes photographic prints, artists' books, and political posters.

All Bingham Center collection guides may be found here:
library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingaids/

Mary Lily Travel Grants: library.duke.edu/rubenstein/bingham/grants

Writing Women at Duke into Wikipedia *continued from page 1*

This event was part of a worldwide movement to increase the number women editors and women-focused articles on Wikipedia. Studies show that currently only 9-13% of editors on Wikipedia are women, leading to imbalances in the creation of articles on or of interest to women. Additionally, women often report feeling intimidated by the editing community or the processes of editing. The Women at Duke Edit-a-thon was designed to encourage more women to feel comfortable editing Wikipedia and to increase the quality and

quantity of information about women available on Wikipedia. Edit-a-thons allow people to come together in person or online to edit articles on specific topics. This March marked the third year of the WikiWomen's History Month project. Participants created and improved almost four hundred articles at a series of international events and edit-a-thons held throughout the month.

Contributed by Claire Radcliffe, Bingham Center Public Services Intern

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Meetup/Durham/Women_at_Duke

DUKE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

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Bingham Center to Host Zine Librarians (un)Conference

This summer, a diverse group of energetic zine librarians from academic, public, and independent libraries and archives will meet in Durham to share ideas and skills for providing access to zines to readers in our communities. The Bingham Center's collection of women's and queer zines from the 1990s to the present, one of our signature collections, was one of the main draws for the selection committee in choosing Duke University as the location for the 6th annual Zine Librarians (un)Conference. Though some elements of the program will be planned in advance, the unconference format allows the attendees to determine their interests, goals, and priorities for learning and sharing their knowledge as a group at the beginning of the event.

The event will be held July 18-20 at Perkins Library. This conference will have no registration fee in order to increase accessibility to attendees, and will be open to all who are interested in zines and libraries. Elements of the program will be broadcast online to allow wider participation. Jenna Freedman of Barnard College is coordinating a scholarship fund to support travel for a person of color to attend this conference. Please contact Kelly Wooten (kelly.wooten@duke.edu) for information about this event or for details about how to donate to the scholarship fund.



Radical South zine by Niku Arbabi, from the Niku Arbabi Zine Collection

2014 Zine Librarians (un)Conference: <http://zinelibraries.info/wiki/zluc2014/>