The Student – Scholar Partnership (SSP) Journal

SPRING 2013

Enriching contributions to society performed collaboratively by partnerships of Students and Scholars.

The SSP is run out of The Women’s Studies Research Center, Brandeis University – Epstein Building, 250 South Street, Waltham, MA 02453.
# Student-Scholar Partnership Program Journal

**volume six**

**spring 2013**

## Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Letter from the Program Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>About the Student - Scholar Partnership Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Notable Quotes from Our Last Semester SSP Relationships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Full List of Spring 2012 Partnerships</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Select SSP Project Essays

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Scholar</th>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Pnina Abir-Am</td>
<td>Victoria Lee</td>
<td>Hiring AND Firing Practices of Women Scientists during the 1970's and 1980's</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Rosalind Barnett</td>
<td>Clara Gray</td>
<td>The New Soft War on Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Mary Berg</td>
<td>Ivonne Moreno</td>
<td>Spanish to English Translation of Peruvian Blockbuster Classic Literature: ‘Aves sin nido” by CLorinda Matto de Turner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Helen Berger</td>
<td>John Nunes</td>
<td>“Does Worshipping the Goddess Make You a Feminist?” Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page</td>
<td>SS Project</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 12   | Scholar: Linda Bond  
Student: Kristina Pisarik  
Project: One + One – Women Affected by War |
| 13   | Scholar: Janet Freedman  
Student: Susannah Feinstein  
Project: “Small Groups Around the Globe” Feminism Study |
| 14   | Scholar: Lois Isenman  
Student: Donna Vatnick  
Project: Science and Spirituality Weblog |
| 15   | Scholar: Brenda McSweeney  
Student: Lucia Hsiao  
Project: Gender Case Studies with the United Nations: an E-Book |
| 16   | Scholar: Ruth Nemzoff  
Student: Marielle Temkin  
Project: Married Into: Making New In-Law Bonds Work |
Welcome to the Student-Scholar Partnership!

After reflecting on the work we have done over the past year, it is my opinion that the SSP is one of the best living examples of the idea of “enrichment” that the Women’s Studies Research Center has to offer.

*Enrichment*: the act of making fuller or more meaningful or rewarding – *(from Freedictionary.com)*.

How does the SSP exemplify this? By investigating and adding value to the world we live in and the culture in which we lead our daily lives. The SSP opens up minds to new ways of thinking, discussing, and taking action in thoughtful ways. Some instances of our “enrichment”:

- Started a deep discussion blog on the inter-connectedness of science and spirituality; Interviewed elderly men and women on their lifeviews at this age;
- Launched an effort to grow awareness and provide assistance to women in Africa experiencing devastating aftereffects of war;
- Intently studied and currently working to remedy in-law family relationships in a humane and caring way;
- Garnered national attention with an art installation on Gender Equality in the Trades;
- Published a book in conjunction with the United Nations which provides a snapshot of gender issues as they manifest themselves in different contexts around the world.

With a focused eye, inquisitive mindset, and critical thinking, our Scholar and Student Partners have come together to produce significant results. Their thoughtful and relevant projects have touched on varying topics including Science, Religion, Equity Between the Sexes, Women Affected by War, Spanish Translation, Art, Aging and Feminism.

We are proud of all the accomplishments achieved by our Partnerships, and appreciative of their enriching and meaningful work. Thank you to all of our Women’s Studies Research Center Scholars and Students for their dedication and contribution!

With an eye towards enriching our future…..

Kristen Mullin,
Program Coordinator, Student Scholar Partnership (SSP)
About the Student-Scholar Partnership Program

“T
he SSP Program is an excellent opportunity for our talented undergraduates to develop serious, productive, and engaging relationships with scholars and university faculty. These partnerships span so many diverse areas of intellectual inquiry and professional development - it’s stunning to me to see how many different projects are available to our students. This program is truly a credit to the students, scholars, and faculty who participate.”

- former Provost Marty Krauss, June 2006

Program Overview

The Student - Scholar Partnership (SSP) was launched in the spring of 1997 as a project of the Women’s Studies Program at Brandeis University. Today, the Program continues as an important component of the Women’s Studies Research Center (WSRC). This paid internship opportunity is designed to give undergraduate students a unique learning experience by allowing them to work side by side with a Scholar from the Women’s Studies Research Center in an interdisciplinary environment. Once accepted into the Program, students work collaboratively with established professionals in their field of interest. Scholars benefit from the fresh perspective and insights of undergraduate students, and Students greatly benefit from the mentoring and experience of their Scholars.
Notable Quotes from Our Last Semester SSP Relationships:

Spring 2013

“I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to work on this exciting project, and to interact with many of the Scholars at the Women’s Studies Research Center as well as with the international contributors to our publication…. I hope that future students at Brandeis will continue to take advantage of the Student Scholar Partnership as well as the events that the WSRC offers.”
- Student Lucia Hsiao with Scholar Brenda McSweeney on “Gender Case Studies with the United Nations: an E-Book”

“I am happy to have had the chance to develop and sharpen these skills that I will be using throughout my educational and professional career – especially if I decide to pursue publication of my own work on the future.”
- Student Clara Gray with Scholar Rosalind Barnett on “The New Soft War on Women”

“I feel truly blessed to have Janet in my life as a mentor, boss, and most importantly a friend.”
- Student Susannah Feinstein with Scholar Janet Freedman on “‘Small Groups Around the Globe’ Feminism Study”

“His opportunity has begun to fulfill my biological perspectives by adhering to my human curiosities. Hopefully, the work we do will shake up the minds of those who want to unify science and spirituality, and expand the minds of those who never thought it was possible.”
- Student Donna Vatnick with Scholar Lois Isenman on “Science and Spirituality Weblog”
“O
verall, the SSP program was a great and unique experience for me. …… I hope I can apply what I learned in this program in my future career!”

- Student Victoria Lee working with Scholar Pnina Abir-Am on “Hiring and Firing Practices of Women Scientists during the 1970’s and 1980’s”

“I’ve worked with Ruth for the last three semesters through the SSP program, and I can honestly say that they have been an amazing three semesters. Working with Ruth has taught me many things, among them being how to best communicate my ideas, how to voice my opinion to my boss while still being respectful, and how to work as a very close-knit team…. Needless to say, I'm sad to be graduating because I will so miss working with Ruth through this wonderful program, but I am so pleased and feel so lucky to have been a part of it. “

- Student Marielle Temkin with Scholar Ruth Nemzoff on “Married Into: Making New In-Law Bonds Work”
1. Pnina Abir-Am (Resident Scholar) and Victoria Lee (Student) - “Hiring and Firing Practices of Women Scientists during the 70's and 80's”

2. Roz Barnett (Resident Scholar) and Clara Gray (Student) - “The New Soft War on Women”

3. Mary Berg (Resident Scholar) and Ivonne Moreno (Student) – “Spanish to English Translation of Peruvian Blockbuster Classic Lit: ‘Aves sin nido’ by Clorinda Matto de Turner”

4. Helen Berger (Visiting Scholar) and John Nunes (Student) - “Does Worshipping the Goddess Make You a Feminist?”

5. Linda Bond (Visiting Scholar) and Kristina Pisarik (Student) – “One + One” Women Affected by War”

6. Jennifer Coplon (Visiting Scholar) and Diana Wang (Student) – “Down But Not Out: Empowering Stories and Photos of Elders”

7. Susan Eisenberg (Resident Scholar) and Zuri Gordon (Student) - “‘On Equal Terms: Art Installation on Gender Equality”

8. Fran Forman (Resident Scholar) and Maya Himelfarb (Student) – “Artistry and the Digital Collage”

9. Janet Freedman (Visiting Scholar) and Susannah Feinstein (Student) - “Small Groups Around the Globe

10. Florence Graves (Scholar) and Damiana Andonova (Student) – Schuster Institute of Investigative Research

11. Lois Isenman () and Donna Vatnik (Student) – Science and Spirituality Weblog

12. Brenda McSweeney (Resident Scholar) / Lucia Hsiao (Student) – “Gender Case Studies with United Nations: an e-book”

13. Ruth Nemzoff (Resident Scholar) and Marielle Temkin (Student) - “Married Into: Making New In-Law Family Bonds Work”

14. Phoebe Schnitzer (Visiting Scholar) and Emily Duggar (Student) - “Gender Issues in Achievement Concerns: Is “Fear of Success” Still With Us?”
This year, I had the opportunity to work on "Changing Strategies for the Hiring and Firing Practices of Women Scientists in the 1980s and 1970s" with WSRC Resident Scholar Pnina Abir-Am. We examined the trials that women in science faced, as well as what method of exposure (from book reviews to mentions in the media) was the most effective in demonstrating the effectiveness of sharing the stories of these women. All the work from this year culminated in Pnina's talk at the bi-annual AAAS (The American Association for the Advancement of Science) Annual Meeting that took place in February. A paper is also in the process of being written for a high impact journal.

Overall, the SSP program was a great and unique experience for me. Coming from a science and public health/policy background, I found this project relevant to myself, as I am also a woman in science. After reading the project proposal, I was intrigued with the idea that women in science have and still are facing obstacles in this field. It was something that I never took the time to think about, and I took advantage of this opportunity to better understand the struggles that my predecessors experienced and in some cases, overcame. In addition, being able to work with a scholar who is so pronounced in her field was awesome. I hope I can apply what I learned in this program in my future career!
This past year I worked with senior scientist Rosalind Barnett at the Brandeis WSRC. Through my work with Dr. Barnett I had the fortunate experience of helping with the completion of one book and the initial stages of another. I learned about the various aspects of writing a social science book.

During the fall of 2012 and part of this spring I worked on Dr. Barnett’s book on sexism in the work place: *The New Soft War on Women* (which will be available for sale this coming fall!). I was in charge of citations for the book, and realized how important it is to stay organized throughout the writing process. I learned how to use *EndNote* citation software and I know it will be an invaluable skill throughout my academic career. In the fall, I also helped organize, take notes, and write the follow-up conference report for the *Fifth Annual Ann Richards Invitational Roundtable on Gender and the Media*, hosted by Dr. Barnett and her writing partner, Caryl Rivers. It was interesting to spend the afternoon in a group of passionate scholars, researchers and journalist. Writing the conference report helped me process the information we discussed and practice professional writing.

This semester I helped find and analyze literature to conceptualize the framework for a new book on lifespan planning, psychology, and development. This work involved active engagement with the material. I collected information on facts, media narratives, stereotypes, recent research projects, and population and demographic statistics. I wrote article summaries and write-ups about themes in the research. I worked on a section for Dr. Barnett’s book proposal on changes in delayed parenthood, birthrate, and fertility.

I have found the article search, analysis and citation skills I learned this year to be incredibly helpful in my class work as well. So much of research involves literature search and analysis. This process can be daunting because there is so much information in the field of academia. Finding and keeping track of the right information can be tedious, so efficiency and accuracy is key. I am happy to have had the chance to develop and sharpen these skills that I will be using throughout my educational and professional career – especially if I decide to pursue publication of my own work on the future.
“Spanish to English Translation of Peruvian Blockbuster Classic Literature: ‘Aves sin nido’ by Clorinda Matto de Turner”

Scholar: Mary Berg  Student: Ivonne Moreno

For the past two semester, I have had the opportunity to work closely with scholar Mary Berg, a kind and smart woman who has taught me a lot about topics that I did not know much about. We have been working on her project of translating “Aves sin nidos”, book by Peruvian writer and journalist Clorinda Matto de Turner, who was expelled from the Catholic Church because of her controversial writings.

This internship has given me the opportunity to learn and do research in a topic that otherwise, I would not have the opportunity to work on. Furthermore, it has opened my eyes to many of the issues that Native Americans were facing in Peru during those times. Moreover, I have been able to learn about a very powerful woman and many others from those times who can be considered feminist today because they did not follow the status quo but they were fighters for the cause that they believed.

Working as a Student-Scholar Partner has been rewarding for me since I have had the opportunity to further develop my research skills which is a very important skill to learn. Furthermore, this partnership has helped to develop my bilingual skills since I have been working on this project which requires me to use my native language which has helped me expand my skills in both languages. Moreover, this internship has given me the opportunity to work with a very incredible woman who knows so much which inspires me to learn more everyday.
“Does Worshipping the Goddess Make You a Feminist?” Study

Scholar: Helen Berger    Student: John Nunes

Working with Helen Berger in the Student-Scholar Program has proven to be a fun experience as well as an interesting and rewarding one. Helping Helen in her research into contemporary Paganism has given me a chance to expand my knowledge and awareness of an interesting subject by organizing and analyzing raw data. In addition to giving me insight into the specific area of Helen's research, my work with her has developed my research skills in general and developed my ability to critically interpret data. Everyone involved in the program has been friendly and helpful: Kristin Mullin is very welcoming and easy to contact, and Helen herself has been flexible, engaging, and interested in the additional point of view I bring to her research. Through her I have even begun to make academic connections outside of Brandeis, as she has put me in contact with colleagues and friends in fields of study related to my own. Overall, the Student-Scholar Program is one that I recommend highly.
“One + One – Women Affected by War”

Scholar: Linda Bond       Student: Kristina Pisarik

The goals of my partnership with Linda Bond were to find curators who will provide a place for her installation, and to come up with ideas and details for her project. I have been responsible for finding curators and people of interest, whereas she comes up with ideas on how to present the installation. Inversely, I also help her brainstorm, and she speaks with nonprofit organizations who might be interested. I feel like the 1+1 project has come a long way from its sketch of an idea in the beginning, to the shape it is forming now. I think it is going to create awareness and raise money for Afghani women and be a very successful installation once we find places to exhibit it.
Janet Freedman and I have been working together through the SSP program for the past two academic years. Janet’s research focus is on the possibilities of consciousness raising (defined as sharing, and also analyzing experience, with the goal of determining appropriate action for feminist change). Together we have investigated many blogs and online informational sources. Janet and I meet every Tuesday for tea and conversation about that work that we have completed that week. This semester the majority of my work consisted of editing Janet’s chapters and properly configuring lists of citations in MLA format. Our project together has gone through countless stages and the final version of the book is due this summer, a very exciting prospect indeed! I feel truly blessed to have Janet in my life as a mentor, boss, and most importantly a friend.
I always knew I wanted to be a scientist. From second grade, when stickers of deep-sea creatures lined my desk, to today, when amino acid structures crowd my walls, I knew that discovery was my hunger. But somehow, there has always been incongruence. How can one bridge science, an entity so systematic and unbiased, with humanity, the unique consciousness that allows us to pursue knowledge? How can we experience science in a creative way? How can we understand spirituality and intuition in a scientific way? Why is this correspondence important? The more specific questions expand endlessly until we reach the abstract question: What is our purpose? Lois Isenman’s “Science and Spirituality” caught my attention as I was leafing through the WSRC 2012-2013 Scholar’s Guide that my roommate brought home after visiting the center. I realized at that moment that the answer had fallen into my lap.

Science and Spirituality, at first glance, appear to be divorced. Science, the search for the general truth in the primary reality cannot coexist with spirituality, a fluid awareness of self and the nonphysical. So, how is it that they do, in fact, coexist in individuals, societies, and civilizations? How is it that the two were once married?

Working with Dr. Isenman has been a philosophical and scientific exploration of the natural world, the reality that we perceive. Dissecting bodies of literature (instead of bodies of frogs) yielded stunning insights. We condensed the “Lectures on Mysticism” from the Varieties of Religious Experience by William James (1842-1910), a well-known philosopher and physiologist. We are continuing to explore recently published articles on meditation, cognition, and spiritual experiences. The fruits of our work can be found on “The Bridge: A Science and Spirituality Resource”, a blog created by Dr. Isenman herself (http://science-spirituality.blogspot.com). This opportunity has begun to fulfill my biological perspectives by adhering to my human curiosities. Hopefully, the work we do will shake up the minds of those who want to unify science and spirituality, and expand the minds of those who never thought it was possible.
“Gender Case Studies with the United Nations: an E-Book”

Scholar: Brenda McSweeney  Student: Lucia Hsiao

Over the past year, I’ve had the privilege to work with WSRC Resident Scholar Brenda Gael McSweeney. Brenda is an expert in gender and global development, having executive responsibilities and conducted research in Africa, India, and Ireland. She is also a lecturer at Boston University.

Our primary project this year was the publication of an e-book of gender case studies by the Global Network of UNESCO Chairs on Gender. We have spent the bulk of our time cultivating authors, editing their contributions, and collaborating with Brenda’s co-author. We were so pleased to announce the release of our e-book in March, entitled Gender Perspectives in Case Studies Across Continents. This publication included chapters submitted from South America, Burkina Faso, Liberia, and others from five continents in all, and they provide a snapshot of gender issues as they manifest themselves in different contexts around the world. At present, we are undergoing preparation for a second e-book, to be published next year.

I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to work on this exciting project, and to interact with many of the Scholars at the Women’s Studies Research Center as well as with the international contributors to our publication. I also really enjoyed preparing for and attending two enlightening WSRC events this year, the Left on Pearl film screening and Zilka Spahić-šiljak’s lecture on women’s roles in rebuilding communities in Bosnia Herzegovina. I hope that future students at Brandeis will continue to take advantage of the Student Scholar Partnership as well as the events that the WSRC offers.
“Married Into: Making New In-Law Bonds Work”

Scholar: Ruth Nemzoff    Student: Marielle Temkin

I've worked with Ruth for the last three semesters through the SSP program, and I can honestly say that they have been an amazing three semesters. Working with Ruth has taught me many things, among them being how to best communicate my ideas, how to voice my opinion to my boss while still being respectful, and how to work as a very close-knit team. The range of tasks I've worked on with Ruth have exposed me to the world of book publishing, marketing, speech writing, blog article writing, social media marketing...the list goes on. The mentoring aspect of the SSP is absolutely the best part of it. Having Ruth in my life to help me with job application ideas, how to approach past employers for advice, and what's necessary to focus on in life in general when I get overwhelmed (just to list a few) has been an incredible boon. She is a fabulous mentor and a fabulous person overall, and the mutual respect we have for each other inspires me. The fact that she does respect my ideas despite me being a student with much less experience than her has given me more strength in my own ideas and made me a better communicator of them. Needless to say, I'm sad to be graduating because I will so miss working with Ruth through this wonderful program, but I am so pleased and feel so lucky to have been a part of it.
Partnerships Not Able To Participate in this Journal:

“Down But Not Out: Empowering Stories and Photos of Elders”
Scholar: Jennifer Coplon  Student: Diana Wang

Elderly people who are living in near poverty and who may have physical disabilities are often viewed negatively by society, but in fact they have much to share and teach about resilience, persistence, inner strength and courage. This scholar is interviewing elders from Boston, MA and also from Uganda, Africa to create an exhibit with their life-stories and photos to further the discussion on resilience and appreciation.

“On Equal Terms” Art Installation on Gender Equality”
Scholar: Susan Eisenberg  Student: Zuri Gordon

Working with SSPs Haley Bierman (fall semester) and Zuri Gordon (spring semester), the On Equal Terms Project was able to move ahead nationally on several fronts that advance the effort to reframe public conversation about gender segregation in skilled trades occupations in the construction and utility industries. We continued to post on the Move the Decimal Point blog; began research for Women Run Work, tracking women who have advanced into leadership positions as foreman, superintendent, or project manager; and accomplished a variety of work in preparation for the Fall 2013 exhibition of the On Equal Terms installation at the Clemente Soto Velez Center in New York City.

“Gender Issues in Achievement Concerns: Is “Fear of Success” Still With Us?”
Scholar: Phoebe Schnitzer  Student: Emily Duggan

This project strives to understand contemporary gender differences and similarities in young people’s concerns about achievement. Replicating research done four decades ago, the study will allow comparisons charting the shift in gender roles and attitudes as well as in psychologists’ interpretative frameworks.