



Building Partnerships

In this issue

Spotlight on our Centre Manager	2
Spotlight on our Advisory Board	3
Reducing the Risk of Lethal Violence	4
Management Committee	5
Rethinking Relationships: Engaging Youth, Connecting Communities	6
Spotlight on our Research Associate	8
Feminist Perspectives	9
The Book Shelf	10
The Book Shelf	11
Upcoming Events	12

Mission

The Centre promotes the development of community-centred, action research on violence against women and children. The Centre's role is to facilitate the cooperation of individuals, groups and institutions representing the diversity of the community to pursue research questions and training opportunities to understand and prevent abuse.

It serves local, national and international communities by producing useful information and tools to assist in the daily work against violence toward women and children.



Neighbours, Friends and Families Recognition of Workplace Champions

Neighbours, Friends & Families (NFF) Workplace Champions were recognized in five communities in Southwestern Ontario on February 12, 2010. The date was chosen on the Friday prior to Family Day to celebrate the vision of healthy families living and working in safe and vital communities. Over 150 organizations in the public, private and not for profit sectors were honoured for their commitment to inform and educate employees about the warning signs of domestic violence / woman abuse.



London

Recognition events were held in London, Owen Sound, Strathroy, Stratford and Windsor. Leaders from all levels of government and community came together to show support for NFF in the workplace and in recognition of the important role that workplaces need to fulfill in preventing future tragedies of domestic homicide. The 2007 murder of Lori Dupont has served as a wake-up call in Canada and the inquest recommendations that followed from her death clearly challenge the commonly held belief that domestic violence is a private matter. Lori Dupont was a nurse who was killed at work by her ex-boyfriend Marc Daniel, who was also a doctor at the same hospital. The recommendations call for an expansion of the NFF campaign across the province to specifically reach workplaces.

The NFF workplace program has been developed as a proactive response for employers looking for support in complying with the new regulations of Bill 168 in the



Owen Sound

Occupational Health and Safety Act that will come into effect on June 15, 2010. The recognition events were sponsored and

See Recognition – pg. 5

Spotlight on our Centre Manager

Maria Callaghan

Manager of The Centre for Research & Education on Violence against Women and Children

Maria Callaghan is the Manager of The Centre for Research & Education on Violence against Women and Children at the University of Western Ontario. She comes to CREVAWC with over ten year's Financial Management experience as well as a lifetime of experience as a feminist.

Although Maria did not follow a traditional career path in the women's movement she has quietly been advocating for women's equality throughout her life and career. Maria credits her mother's influence in her formative years with helping her to develop a critical analysis of women in society as well as providing her with a positive role model for feminism.

Ms. Callaghan previously worked for over ten years as a Senior Financial Analyst at General Motors of Canada Ltd. where she was also a member and Treasurer of the General Motors National Women's Advisory Council. Under the direction of the first woman President of General Motors Canada, Maureen Kempston Darkes, GM Canada started this National Women's Advisory Council to address issues unique to women in manufacturing. Maria's work on the Advisory Council included developing a mentoring program for women, organizing networking opportunities to lessen the isolation women felt, as well as advising senior management on critical issues for women in the workplace. The highlight of her career at General Motors came in 1997 when Maria chaired the first ever GM Canada National Women's Conference, "Driving Change through Diversity" in Detroit Michigan for over 1100 women from across Canada. She was awarded the General Motors "President's Council Award" for her work on this initiative.

For Maria it seemed like the perfect fit when she began as the Coordinator at the Centre for Research & Education on Violence against Women and Children in 2003. It allowed her to use the financial, management and organizational skills she had developed in the corporate sector along with her feminist principles and values to work for public education and change for women and children. From 2005-2008 Ms. Callaghan was also a



National Coordinator for the research initiative "Intersecting Sites of Violence in the Lives of Girls" at the Centre for Research & Education on Violence against Women and Children. In this role Maria worked with the Alliance of Canadian Research Centre's on Violence and with an amazing group of young women to begin to understand the various forms of violence young women face in their lives.

As the Centre continued to grow, so did Ms. Callaghan's role and in 2008 Maria formally became the Centre Manager. In her current role she oversees the day to day operation of the Centre, manages the Centre finances, grants, human resources, event planning, as well as developing outreach tools, such as the newsletter and website. She also acts as a liaison between the Faculty of Education, Western, Community Agencies in the London community and beyond. Additionally, Maria has been a member of the Middlesex County Coordinating Committee to End Woman Abuse from 2004-2010. Also, during this time, she served for three years on the Executive of the Committee.

In her spare time Maria is an avid year round runner; however, she draws the line at running outside in the winter when it is below -20 degrees Celcius! Maria is married to Sean Hinchberger and is also the proud mother of Margo and Jacob.

Our Staff

Dr. Peter Jaffe
Academic Director

Ms. Barbara MacQuarrie
Community Director

Dr. Helene Berman
Scotiabank Research Chair

Ms. Maria Callaghan
Centre Manager

Ms. Joy Lang
Community Liaison Officer

Ms. Marcie Campbell
Research Assistant

Ms. Lina Maria Rodriguez Ardila
Administrative Assistant



1137 Western Road, Room 1118
Faculty of Education Building
University of Western Ontario
London, ON N6G 1G7

T. 519.661.4040

F. 519.850.2464

www.CRVAWC.ca

Spotlight on our **Advisory Board**

Dr. Barbara Lent *Family physician*

As a family physician with a keen interest in women's issues, Dr. Barbara Lent has concentrated much of her energy on addressing violence and abuse as a health issue.

Her commitment to and understanding of these issues has been enhanced by her involvement with various community-based initiatives, such as the Centre for Research and Education on Violence against Women and Children.

Dr. Barbara Lent has practiced family medicine in London, Ontario, since 1979, first in a small "private" office and then at the Victoria Family Medical Centre, a community-based academic practice in a socially disadvantaged neighbourhood. She moved to the academic world of family medicine in 1994, where she supervised medical students and postgraduate trainees in family medicine. She is presently a Professor in the Department of Family Medicine, and Associate Dean of Equity and Professionalism at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry at The University of Western Ontario.

Her involvement in research began in the early 1990's when she collaborated with colleagues at the Thames Valley Family Practice Research Unit to develop the Woman Abuse Screening Tool (WAST) to assist family physicians in identifying a history of woman abuse in their patients. This tool has since been translated into French, Spanish, and Hebrew by other family physicians, and has been used as part of several research projects internationally, including a large project which evaluated the longterm outcomes of universal screening by health care providers for woman abuse on the health and well-being of women and their children. She is currently a co-investigator in a longitudinal study of the patterns of women's health in a group of 300 Canadian women from Ontario, New Brunswick and British Columbia in the early years after leaving abusive male partners.



Educating physicians and medical students has also been an important part of Dr. Lent's professional activity. She worked with family physician colleagues and other medical edu-

cators to develop various educational initiatives for practicing family physicians on violence and abuse as a health issue, including a 4-module program, subsequently endorsed by the College of Family Physicians of Canada, and an interactive program run by the Ontario College of Family Physicians. In addition, she has led educational sessions for family medicine residents and medical students on issues related to violence and abuse. These research and educational activities have led to the publication of several academic articles and book chapters on woman abuse as a health issue.

In the last 2 decades Dr. Lent has participated in various committees locally and provincially addressing violence against women, including the original board of the Battered Women's Advocacy Clinic and the London Co-ordinating Committee to End Woman Abuse, which recognized her contribution by awarding her the John Robinson Award in 1996. She was a member of the Domestic Violence Death Review Committee of the Office of the Chief Coroner of Ontario from its inception until 2007. Participating in such committees has enabled Dr. Lent to bring the perspective of physicians to various community organizations and institutions, and to reinforce for physicians and medical students the important role that these non-medical organizations/institutions play in responding to violence against women.

Building on her perspective as a family physician, Dr. Lent's activities demonstrate a commitment to feminism, innovation and collaboration.

2010 Advisory Board Members

Mr. Joseph Dunlop-Addley
Chair, CREVAWC Advisory Board
Professor, Fanshawe College

Dr. Gail Hutchinson
Vice-Chair, CREVAWC Advisory Board
*Director, Student Development Centre
University of Western Ontario*

Dr. Nancy Bjerring
Professor Emeritus, Fanshawe College

Ms. Beverly Coulston
Professor, Fanshawe College

Ms. Michelle Doege
Professor, Fanshawe College

Ms. Lisa Heslop
*Supervisor, Family Consultants/Victim Services Unit
London Police Service
London Coordinating Committee to End Woman Abuse*

Mr. Dermot Hurley
*Assistant Professor, School of Social Work
Kings University College*

Dr. Tracy Isaacs
*Chair, Department of Women's Studies and
Feminist Research
University of Western Ontario*

Dr. Barbara Lent
*Associate Dean, Equity and Gender Issues, and Faculty
Health, Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry,
Associate Professor, Department of Family Medicine
University of Western Ontario*

Dr. Gloria Alvernaz Mulcahy
*Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Education, Professor
Emerita, University of Western Ontario. Chair, At'lohsa
Native Family Healing Services*

Dr. Julia O'Sullivan
*Dean, Faculty of Education
University of Western Ontario*

Mr. Robert Owens
*Coordinator, Social Service Worker Program and
The Sonier Centre
Fanshawe College*

Justice Eleanor Schnall
*Judge, The Ontario Court of Justice
London Coordinating Committee to End Woman Abuse*

Ms. Louise Pitre
*Executive Director, Sexual Assault Centre London.
Chair, London Coordination Committee to End
Woman Abuse*

Reducing the Risk of Lethal Violence

Collaboration in Threat Assessment & Risk Management: From Theory to Practice

Marcie Campbell

Research Assistant

The Domestic Violence Death Review Committee (DVDRC) investigates and reviews deaths involving domestic violence with a view to making recommendations aimed at preventing deaths in similar circumstances. The DVDRC continuously forms recommendations around the need for community and government agencies that work with victims and perpetrators of domestic violence to conduct risk assessments and collaborate and communicate the results to establish an effective safety plan for the victim and risk management plan for the perpetrator. The importance of the DVDRC recommendations was underlined by the Domestic Violence Advisory Council that reviewed the need for a comprehensive action plan to improve various systems' responses to domestic violence. Amongst many strategies outlined was the importance of professional education and enhanced collaboration in risk assessment. On February 8 & 9, 2010, the Centre for Research & Education on Violence against Women and Children (CREVAWC) hosted a conference with government and community stakeholders entitled "Reducing the Risk for Lethal Violence: Collaboration in Threat Assessment and Risk Management". The conference was designed to initiate more dialogue with community and justice partners around the issues of risk assessment, risk management, and collaboration among systems. The conference was funded by the Ontario Women's Directorate. Two hundred and eighty-six people attended the conference with representatives from community, justice, government ministries and other various agencies.

The conference facilitated discussions between community and justice partners on the challenges around systems' collaboration and risk assessment; practical solutions to the barriers around confidentiality, information sharing and risk assessment; and potential action plans for collaboration around risk assessment and risk management in different jurisdictions.

Several challenges to risk assessment and collaboration were identified and fell under four categories: a) confidentiality and information sharing; b) who comes to the table; c) assessment tools; and d) resources.

The main challenge identified around confidentiality and information sharing is breaching a client's trust and privacy to share information with other professionals. Professionals are concerned about being held liable for breaching confidentiality, losing a client's trust, having the information fall into the wrong hands (e.g., the offender) and sharing too much or too little information.

Another challenging aspect to risk assessment, risk management, and systems collaboration is deciding who comes to the table. Specifically, the challenges were around deciding on which systems should be represented in the collaborative, developing and maintaining trust between stakeholders and including professionals that are not from the violence against women sector.

The third challenge discussed was the use of risk assessment tools. There was concern that professionals from different sectors would not understand or relate to risk assessment tools that they were not familiar with. And, there was concern that by focusing mainly on the risk assessment tool, a professional's instinct about the level of risk would be ignored.

Finally, lack of resources was identified as a challenge with risk assessment and system collaboration. First, there is generally a lack of trained staff to conduct risk assessments. Second, high-risk teams require funding subsidies. Resources are needed to help the coordination of family and criminal court processes and resources are needed to identify victims that are not in the justice or community system.

Participants at the conference also identified unique challenges around risk assessment and risk management within minority populations. For example, there is no known risk assessment tool that incorporates specific risks associated with minority populations, such as poverty, language barriers, racism and mistrust of values, and norms and authority figures from the dominant culture. Furthermore, minority communities are usually quite interconnected which can make it difficult for professionals to maintain confidentiality or neutrality if there is a personal relationship

outside of the professional.

In terms of practical solutions, the conference participants looked to already existing high-risk collaborative teams in the province, such as the Hamilton High-Risk Domestic Violence Community Advisory Committee; the Family Violence Project of Waterloo Region; and the Muslim Resource Centre for Social Support and Integration in London, Ontario. However, the main action plan identified is having the province establish a province-wide risk management protocol that outlines exactly when confidential information can be shared, what the process entails and the liability issues involved. Additionally, this protocol could delineate a universal definition of risk and a common standardized risk assessment tool for all sectors.

CREVAWC Management Committee

Beginning in 2009, the Centre is governed by a Management Committee that reports to the Dean of Education. The Management Committee is responsible for overseeing the direction and management of CREVAWC as well as for supporting the goals of CREVAWC and facilitating its initiatives as a Faculty-based centre within the University.

Responsibilities of the Management Committee:

- Approve a 3-year project plan and budget.
- Monitor the implementation of the plan.
- Approve the annual budget.
- Approve the annual report and recommend it to the Dean for approval.
- Develop a communications strategy.
- Identify fund raising priorities.
- Develop strategies to increase the integration of the Centre into the Faculty of Education through shared initiatives and resources.
- Consult with the Advisory Committee on emerging and ongoing initiatives.

The Management Committee will meet at least three times per year (fall, winter and spring) and more often if necessary.

Membership of the Management Committee:

Dr. Bob Macmillan

Chair of Management Committee

Ms. Krishna Patel

Director of Administration, Faculty of Education

Dr. Peter Jaffe

Academic Director, CREVAWC

Ms. Barbara MacQuarrie

Community Director, CREVAWC

Dr. Katina Pollock

Assistant Professor, Faculty of Education

Dr. Jacqueline Specht

Director, Centre for Inclusive Education
Faculty of Education

Dr. Vaughan Radcliffe

Associate Professor, Richard Ivey School Associate Dean, Faculty of Education of Business

Ms. Maria Callaghan

Manager, CREVAWC

Ms. Lisa Heslop

Supervisor, Family Consultants/Victim Services Unit
London Police Services

London Coordinating Committee To End Woman Abuse

Recognition - *continued from page 1*



Strathroy-Middlesex

co-hosted by local VAW Coordinating Committees, the Centre for Research and Education on Violence against Women and Children (CREVAWC) and the Western Interministerial Council of the Ontario Government. Speakers at the events included Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, Laurel Broten, Attorney General Chris Bentley, MPP Maria Von Bommel, London Mayor Ann-Marie DeCicco-Best, John Wilkinson, Minister of Revenue, Khalil Ramal, MP for London-Fanshawe and Ed Holder, MP for London West.



Windsor

For more information on how your organization can become a NFF Workplace Champion contact:

Alfredo Marroquin

Telephone 519-661-2111 Extension 87486

E-mail:

alfredo@neighboursfriendsandfamilies.ca

Website: <http://neighboursfriendsandfamilies.ca>

Rethinking Relationships: Engaging Youth, Connecting Communities

Helene Berman, RN, PhD
*Scotiabank Research Chair and Associate Professor,
School of Nursing, UWO*



A Mural Project

On November 20, 2009, the Centre for Research & Education on Violence against Women and Children hosted a provincial conference, *Rethinking Relationships: Engaging Youth, Connecting Communities*. Funded through a generous grant from the Ontario Women's Directorate, under their Promoting Healthy and Equal Relationships initiative, the conference brought together close to 500 people from across Ontario, most of whom were youth. The aim of this 1-day conference was to share innovative strategies for working with youth toward the promotion of healthy and equal relationships.

In recent years, many outstanding programs for youth have been developed. However, all too often, these are developed by adults, for youth. While there is nothing inherently wrong with such 'adultcentric' approaches, the *Rethinking Relationships* conference was based on our assertion that programs are likely to be more meaningful and relevant when young people are directly involved in the conceptualization, development, implementation, and evaluation of these programs. Consistent with this idea, this conference was a time for youth to take centre stage. And that's precisely what they did! The keynote speakers were all youth and included Jessica Yee, founder and director of the Native Youth Sexual Health Network, who spoke passionately and eloquently about healthy sexuality, reproductive justice, cultural competency, and youth empowerment. Jessica is a strong believer in the power of the youth voice, and you can see her activism

it up on sites like the CNN syndicated *Racialicious*, *SHAMELESS Magazine: For Girls Who Get It!* or her recently released book, *Sex Ed and Youth: Colonization, Communities of Colour, and Sexuality*. She is the 2009 recipient of the YWCA Young Woman of Distinction, a 2009 Role Model for the National Aboriginal Health Organization, and was named one of 20 International Women's Health Heroes by *Our Bodies/Our Blog*.

Sharing the stage with Jessica were two other equally dynamic young people, Geneviève Morand and Gaston Cotnoir. Geneviève created *Authentik*, a magazine written by and for teenagers that is dedicated to encouraging girls' passion for the arts, culture and sports and reports about inspiring youth and women. The aim is to raise self-esteem, media literacy and critical thinking while moving towards concrete action and giving the girls a voice. Co-founder of *Spark Media*, a not-for-profit organization working with youth to create alternative media that reflects their stories and vision, Ms. Morand spoke about how empowering youth through the media can sharpen their critical eye and social conscience while expanding their horizons. Gaston Cotnoir is the Healthy Sexuality Coordinator for Access AIDS Network where he is an educator and front-line outreach worker dedicated to issues of homophobia, heterosexism, HIV prevention and youth sexuality. A seasoned and skilled speaker, Gaston conducts weekly support groups for LGBT youth and spoke with poignancy and humor about homophobia and heterosexism in the school system and its impacts on individuals, families, and communities. In recognition of his accomplishments, Gaston was awarded the Outstanding Contribution to Social and Health Services Award by the Lesbian, Gay Bi Trans Youth Line.

In a talk titled *The Change Makers*, Ben Barry discussed ways in which each person can help change the status quo. This is something he knows a bit about, having worked tirelessly for the past 10 years to

transform the beauty ideal from oppressive to empowering. While there is still more work to be done in this regard, Ben has made substantial contributions, since the humble beginnings of his agency in his mother's kitchen! Today Ben is the CEO of the Ben Barry Agency, the first modeling agency in the world to challenge the status-quo beauty ideal by representing models of all ages, sizes, backgrounds, and abilities. The agency, headquartered in Toronto, has become the world leader in helping brands transform their representation of women and men in advertising from exclusive and discouraging to inclusive and empowering. Its global client list has included Sears, Armani, Nike, Macy's, Reitman's, and Dove. The agency coordinated the first fashion week show in the world featuring "real women" at Toronto Fashion Week in March 2009. Named as "one of 25 leaders of tomorrow" by *Maclean's*, Ben has been the subject of feature interviews on Oprah, CNN, MTV, Fashion Television, and Canada AM and



*Michelle Pajot, Helene Berman, Shad, Maria Callaghan,
Lina Rodriguez*

his work has been profiled in the *Globe and Mail*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Boston Globe*, *Financial Times*, *Times of India*, and *The Guardian*, among others. He is recipient of the CIBC National Student Entrepreneur of the Year Award and the first male winner of the Governor General's Award in Commemoration of the Persons Case for advancing the equality of girls and women in Canada. Ben is a former business columnist for the *Globe and Mail* and author of the Canadian bestseller *Fashioning Reality: A New Generation of*

Entrepreneurship. His book was hailed by Profit Magazine as “a manifesto for young entrepreneurs and a call to arms to everyone.” He is currently a PhD student at Judge Business School where he is conducting research on perceptions of beauty around the world. Ben serves on the Board of Directors for the Canadian Foundation of Women's Health and as Chair of the Toronto Fashion Incubator, a small business incubator for Canadian fashion entrepreneurs.



Alia El-Tayeb, Randa Bringi, Shad, Helene Berman

Another highlight of the day was the premier performance of True Colours, an interactive Forum Theatre play written and directed by Toni Wilson. Currently employed by the Thames Valley District School Board where she works every day toward the elimination of violence and the promotion of healthy and equal relationships with the TVDSB Safe Schools Committee, Toni was a teacher of English and Dramatic Arts for 30 years, and has been involved in violence prevention and forum theatre for the past 20 years. She has used interactive theatre extensively to allow the practice of effective strategies for dealing with adversity. True Colours examines relationships within two different families who are dealing with the issues of racism and homophobia. Performed once with inappropriate behaviour and language as well as verbal, psychological and physical abuse, the play is then performed a second giving the audience the chance to replace the actors and, in effect, positively change the ending of the story.

Other highlights included breakout sessions that were similarly led by youth and that addressed varied forms of individual and systemic violence, including racism, sexism, homophobia, dating violence, mental health and well-being. And what a great way to end the day with a concert by Shad,



Genevieve Morand and Warsan Amin

London's Juno nominee for the 2008 Best Rap Recording of the Year! In all, it was a wonderful day that provided safe and creative spaces for youth to engage in dialogue regarding the promotion of healthy and equal relationships. While the energy and enthusiasm were palpable throughout the day, and many important ideas were explored, it is important that we pause to reflect critically on what is needed if we are to truly foster healthy and equal relationships in the lives of youth. Several issues are worthy of consideration.

First, many of the 'anti-violence' programs, particularly those which are delivered in the schools, are developed within an 'anti-bullying' framework. Second, many programs place an emphasis on changing individual behavior, with little attention to the larger social, political, and cultural contexts that allowed violence to flourish – and that support and condone, in subtle and explicit ways, the very behaviours we wish to change. In the absence of an analysis that takes into account violence that is derived from racism, sexism, classism, homophobia, and ableism, we inadvertently suggest that the responsibility lies solely with the individual. In other words, we seek individual solutions to public problems. Finally, when we use generic terms such as bullying, when in fact what may be occurring is racism, sexual harassment, or homophobia, we miss an opportunity to name the problem for what it really is and limit our ability to effectively stop it. The Rethinking Relationships conference was premised on the idea that we need a 'paradigm shift' in how we engage collaboratively in meaningful partnerships

with youth. The notion of 'mentoring' is reconceptualized. Rather than viewing mentoring as something that someone does 'to or for' someone else, we need to think about how everyone who engages in a mentoring relationship brings their expertise to that relationship, and is changed by that relationship. In other words, rather than thinking of mentoring relationships as comprised of the 'mentor' (usually the adult) and the 'mentee' (usually the child/youth), a more meaningful approach would be one where all participants have something to learn and something to teach, resulting in mutually reciprocal change on the part of all those involved. In order for this shift to occur, we also need to critically re-think prevailing discourses on 'adolescent development' that typically depict youth as a group stymied by 'raging hormones' who cannot be expected to engage in critical and sustained reasoning about the circumstances in their lives. As we learned during the Rethinking Relationships conference, such depictions are both wrong and unwarranted. The reality is that youth are active agents who are quite capable of engaging in the development of innovative and creative strategies designed to promote healthy and equal relationships in a manner that reflects the everyday lives of girls and boys, young men and young women. I thank the Ontario Women's Directorate for their support and innovation in this area and consider it my honor and privilege to have worked with so many wonderful people in the Rethinking Relationships: Engaging Youth, Connecting Communities conference.

Spotlight on our Research Associate

Gloria Alvernaz Mulcahy, PhD., CPsych.,

Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Education, Professor Emerita, King's University College, University of Western Ontario. Chair, At^lohsa Native Family Healing Services



Gloria Alvernaz Mulcahy, PhD., CPsych., comes from the Monterey Bay area of California, USA and is of Tsalagi ancestry. She received her PhD from the University of Maryland at the

Institute for Child Study. She is an Academic Research Associate with the Centre for Research & Education on Violence against Women and Children and Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Education since 2004 at The University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario Canada. Her initial contact with the Faculty of Education, CREVAWC was as President, Board of Directors, At^lohsa Native Family Healing Services; Professor King's University College, and VP North America, World Council for Psychotherapy (WCP) re: a project entitled Bridging Two Worlds Healing our Communities. This Conference embodied Alvernaz Mulcahy's vision of community/ university collaboration at the local, national and international levels incorporating healing practices embedded in indigenous approaches along with psychology, medicine and the healing arts symbolizing the potential for interdisciplinary and cross-cultural engagement – science, social science, health, medicine, and the arts. This context has shaped her academic-research-community & indigenous focus at CREVAWC.

Partnerships first created during Bridging Two Worlds with CREVAWC, The WCP (Vienna, Austria), At^lohsa, King's University College and the Centre for Creativity, as well as Fanshawe College were renewed in 2005 with a Symposium entitled Circling women from the Four Directions—The fragile lives of Aboriginal women bringing together speakers Beverley Jacobs, ED Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC); Audrey Huntley, No More Silence, Toronto; Edna & Cheyenne Brass, from Vancouver & the Down Town East Side (DTES) Vision Quest & Fast; and D. Ritchie (At^lohsa)& Alvernaz Mulcahy. This Conference fostered dialogue about the 500 missing and murdered Aboriginal women across Canada unfolding a narrative of racism, violence, loss and hope for ending violence against indigenous women.

The vision for these endeavours emerged while Alvernaz Mulcahy was a Visiting Research Scholar at the University of British Columbia, Centre for Women's Studies and Gender Relations and serving as a link to the First Nations House of Learning. She organized an interdisciplinary Conference at Sty-Wet-Tan Hall on indigenous healing supported by the Narratives of Disease, Disability and Trauma project, Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies. This event served as a model for cross disciplinary engagement with medicine, the social sciences, and the healing arts exploring indigenous knowledge and practices presented by the late indigenous healers Bev Julian, Chilliwack, B.C. and Alexandria Grigorieva, Yakutia, Siberia. The community link established was with DTES indigenous activists Edna Brass and the late Harriette Nahanee who became a victim of the B.C. justice system. The community engagement was through the Vision Quest & Fast that became the focus of several of Alvernaz Mulcahy's documentary films including – Vision Quest Healing our Community screened at Sault St. Marie; Vancouver and Kelowna Arts Festival, BC; and Banff, Alberta; Université Nantes, France; WCP, Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Vienna, Austria. Indigenous Women in Action: Voices from Vancouver, 2006 was filmed at the Courthouse at the opening of the Pickton murder trial and featured at the 2007 Film Festival, London Regional Art Gallery/Museum and at various universities & community centres. In 2007— 2008 her photographs from Vision Quest, DTES Vancouver were exhibited and Voices from Vancouver screened at Zhiibaayaa-Niimidwin: Dancing Through Time II— Traditional Art Forms in a Contemporary World at the MacLaren Art Centre Barrie, ON.

A recent collaboration (March 2010) at UWO with local Aboriginal agencies is an example of moving toward an inclusive approach to teaching and learning. It involved indigenous families/communities and, as such, addresses the systemic problem of access to education for indigenous people. Alvernaz Mulcahy served as liaison for CREVAWC to various communities linking with At^lohsa Native Family Healing Services, First Nations Studies (FNS), Aboriginal Education (Faculty of Education), First Nations Students Association (FNSA)

See Spotlight – pg. 11

2009 Research Associates

Academic

Dr. Gloria Alvernaz Mulcahy
Dr. Claire Crooks
Dr. Myrna Dawson
Dr. Walter S. DeKeseredy
Dr. Molly Dragiewicz
Dr. Roma Harris
Dr. Lori Haskell
Dr. Gail Hutchinson
Dr. Yasmin Jiwani
Dr. Holly Johnson
Dr. Beverly Leipter
Dr. Alan Lescheid
Dr. Robin Mason
Dr. Susan Rodger
Dr. Dora Tam
Dr. Paul Tremblay
Dr. Leslie Tutty
Dr. Christine Wekerle
Dr. Sandy Welsh
Dr. David Wolfe

Community

Dr. Mohammed Baobaid
Ms. Mandy Bonisteel
Ms. Catherine Burr
Ms. Jacquie Carr
Ms. Pamela Cross
Ms. Cathy Hird
Ms. Janet Izumi
Mr. Tim Kelly
Ms. Anna-Lee Straatman
Ms. Margaret MacPherson
Mr. Alfredo Marroquin
Mr. Al J.C. O'Marra
Ms. Victoria McKendry
Ms. Maureen Reid
Ms. Deborah Sinclair

Feminist Perspectives

Re-envisioning our Future: A Call out for Feminist Reconnection and Action

Sarah Scanlon

*Public Education and Outreach Coordinator
Sexual Assault Centre London*



This year we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the feminist movement. As I look back over how far we have come I unpack the movement that exists around me and how my politics and work contribute to it. I would love to say that feminism has always been a comfortable fit for me but just like everything else it is a journey full of challenges and hypocrisy. I find it interesting that since becoming more

visible or vocal within the community I have been labelled a 'radical' feminist by both the mainstream community and the violence against womyn sector. Why does challenging the system automatically make me angry? How does wanting a better world for my brothers and sisters make me radical? Why then are we not all radical? I think we all need to be challenging ourselves to be living every part of our lives with our feminist politics present... even when they are not comfortable. I feel as though, in many ways, activism seems to be missing as an intrinsic part of the feminist movement.

The violence against womyn sector grew out of our feminist mothers and grandmothers activism and advocacy in which they refused to be silenced and made invisible about issues that affect womyn. Our government now provides our communities with some funding to act as a support for the casualties in the war against marginalized bodies, particularly womyn. In our dependency on this funding the government dictates to the VAW community our mandates and does not fund enough money to deliver the outcomes that they ask for. Because of this high demand and insufficient funding which we spend much time chasing after rather than doing the work that needs to be done, most are too exhausted to be out in the community calling for action and a shift of consciousness in mainstream mentalities. The stats are not changing, violence against womyn is still an intrinsic part of our society, and we are running out of resources to support those who need it.

This same desperate scramble for funding to keep our important programs running seems to also divide us, as competition, rather than unite us as allies. We often lose sight of the fact that we are fighting for the same thing... a world of peace, acceptance, solidarity, community, and of course love. That is the reason I came into this community, because for the first time I saw a greater purpose that united a community of people who know that we deserve more and are not afraid to speak up. It is imperative within the journey of education and prevention work to involve

all different kinds of folks with valuable lessons to make us stronger. We live in a system that refuses to acknowledge the link between violence against womyn and gender inequality. Until we bring this message to the forefront we cannot create the shift in consciousness that will bring an end to violence.

We need to create spaces for young womyn's feminisms and voices to strengthen. We need to create spaces for the waves of feminism to learn from each other and connect in meaningful ways. We need to create spaces for men to redefine their masculinity and recognize the importance of their place within this movement. We need to create different ways of knowing and spaces for new and even 'radical' ways of instigating change. We need to reimagine the way in which we fight against oppression,



particularly violence against womyn. When we reimagine this conversation for change all voices must be included and heard. Community collaborations are a imperative. It is our responsibility to create a shift in our communities understanding of violence and that is not just the problem of the marginalized but a human problem that has wreaked havoc in all of our emotional and relational lives. The way to stand rooted in our feminisms is instead of letting the issues overwhelm us we must put our politics into action and feed off each other energies and dreams for the future. I envision our world without violence and understand that action from each individual is necessary and it must happen now. Happy Agitating!

The Book Shelf

CARNAL CRIMES: SEXUAL ASSAULT LAW IN CANADA, 1900-1975

Constance Backhouse



Toronto: Irwin Law.

The Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History, 2008.

A review by Dr. Nancy Bjerring
Professor Emeritus, Fanshawe College

Carnal Crimes: Sexual Assault Law in Canada, 1900-1975 profiles nine cases of sexual assault tried in Canadian courts of law in the twentieth century. The author, Professor Constance Backhouse, is the foremost legal historian writing in Canada today. As with her earlier work, (*Petticoats and Prejudice*, *Challenging Times*, *Colour-Coded*, and *The Heiress vs The Establishment*), the presentation of the nine case studies of *Carnal Crimes* is immensely readable and compelling; the often horrific material is handled with sensitivity and care. Professor Backhouse's interdisciplinary approach and extensive research offers to specialist and non-specialist alike an ideal combination of accessibility and authority.

In *Carnal Crimes*, Prof. Backhouse has integrated the stories of real women and children within a thought-provoking social analysis, framing it all by clearly-explained feminist theory. Ultimately, the evidence and analysis she presents amounts to a devastating critique of the systematic failure of the Canadian legal system to ensure that justice be done to victims of sexual assault.

Prof. Backhouse has selected the nine cases in *Carnal Crimes* as representative of the enormous number of sexual assault cases tried by Canadian courts over the 1900-1975 time period. These heart-wrenching cases acquaint us with the brave women and children who had the perseverance to bring their experiences of sexual assault before courts of law which, more often than not, proved to be unreceptive and hostile settings where fair hearings were thwarted and justice denied. It is a credit to Prof. Backhouse's skill as a story-teller that, although we feel enormous compassion for these women and children, we also feel a powerful admiration for them and respect for their courage in taking the system on, and for standing firm in the face of prejudice, violence and judicial mistreatment.

Through her comprehensive analysis of the nine case studies, Prof. Backhouse exposes one of the "greatest mythologies embedded in law," the all-pervasive belief that claims of sexual assault are "easily made," indeed, are often frivolously and maliciously made, and that such claims are made by women

and children who are "inherently not trustworthy" (171). This social myth dates back in English law to the 18th Century, and was common practice thereafter in courts of law in Canada and elsewhere; yet it was never proven, nor even questioned until after 1975. The assumption that men needed protection from "malicious prosecution" (172) determined how courts defined and assessed the credibility and veracity of victims and accused, including how, in case after case, women's and children's testimony was discounted and disbelieved. Thus, we see several cases in *Carnal Crimes* where severely injured sexual assault victims were not considered to have resisted their attackers forcefully enough to prove non-consent. In one such case from 1951, a five-year-old girl was shown by a medical report to have been violently sexually assaulted, yet she was required by the court to produce corroborative evidence that her attacker was the man she accused—essentially she was obliged to produce a witness to the assault—since children were assumed to be a "most untrustworthy class of witnesses" (173). Sexual assault cases were repeatedly held to higher standards of proof "beyond a reasonable doubt" (287).

In the same vein, courts obsessed over women's prior sexual history, with the bizarre requirement that the victim (though not the accused) be of "previously chaste character" (288). Moreover, we see repeatedly how legal outcomes were influenced by "class, race, ethnicity, antisemitism, disability, age, and homophobia" (5). Indeed, in 1907, a working-class victim of violent assault and rape responded to a cruel and harassing cross-examination in a London, Ontario courtroom, with the powerful and heartfelt rejoinder, "Don't you bully me . . . I want to speak justice, and justice I want if there is justice to be had" (15). Needless to say, this amazingly eloquent middle-aged woman did not receive anything remotely resembling justice from the London, Ontario courtroom before which she brought her complaint.

Although it treats difficult and sensitive material, *Carnal Crimes* is so well-written that, even though the reader is often appalled by the truly shocking details of injustices meted out to women and children by Canadian courts, we are eager to read on until each story is told. In her conclusion, Prof. Backhouse acknowledges that some changes in legal practice have come about since 1975, though much—far too much—remains to be done. At present, we are forced to concur with *Carnal Crimes*' unassailable conclusion that the law in Canada has not only failed to protect women and children from sexual assault; it has actively and deliberately worked to foster attitudes and actions that deprive women and children of their rights, freedoms, social power, individual integrity and, above all, justice under the law. In her final chapter, Prof. Backhouse remains hopeful that the Canadian legal system can and will change its treatment of sexual assault cases. Yet the law must continue to be held to account for its many failures—and *Carnal Crimes* is the text which does so.

BORDERLANDS & BLOODLINES

Gloria Alvernaz Mulcahy



Cape Crocker First Nation, Wiarton, Ontario:
Kegdonce Press, 2009

A review by Anne Burke, Chair, The League of
Canadian Poets in March 2010 Newsletter

Gloria Alvernaz Mulcahy joined the League after her first book of poetry, *Songs that Untune the Spirit*, in the Living Archives Series. Her new book *Borderlands & Bloodlines* (Cape Crocker First Nation, Wiarton, Ontario: Kegdonce Press, 2009) was dedicated to her ancestors who walked the Trail of Tears all the way to Oklahoma. The binary of the title alludes to the two complementary sections of this collection of imagist, evocative, moving, and long poems, such as: "...and now there is only darkness." Other pieces are briefer, concrete poems, wrought of typographical and transformative feminist traditions: deer woman spirit, a seductress who entices humans into relationships: dogfish woman, the daughter of a woman who was kidnapped by a sea creature; and the Raven, as a bird of paradox or trickster figure, a la coda from Haida artist, Bill Reid (1920-1998).

There are phallic symbols of the horned serpent, the Thames river, the horned or antlered river, making their reappearance ("lily shoots and salmon") as well as fertile snake woman. The second section also deals with "night terrors/of remembering". This is a tapestry of unmitigated violence, the killing and the wounded earth mother. They coexist with singing souls, never-

theless, and the healing process of "seed dreaming." With indigenous Creation mythology, she charts the historical odyssey of her people(s). As "shaman's helper", a concrete poem undertakes/overtakes the shifting shapes:

on this

mortuary pole

M

E

Gloria is a mixed media artist, whether composing a poem for a quilt exhibition and musical duet or working as curator for the Centre of Creativity, at King's College, The University of Western Ontario.

The "undeclared war", which Gloria situates as "Caldwell First Nations & Vision Quest 2001, Vancouver", endures today.

"[V]iolence against women knows no boundaries. It doesn't care if you are rich or poor, black or white or Indian, although I will say that if you are indigenous, you are more likely to be targeted as a victim of violence." (Calgary Herald, February 15, 2010, Section C, p. 1) About three hundred persons participated in the Second Annual Valentine's Day Memorial March, in Calgary. They were honouring the memories of three thousand missing or murdered women. Some carried placards with photos of their loved ones, while others while paper cut-out hearts with the names written on them. In Vancouver, the event began nineteen years ago after the brutal murder of an aboriginal woman. (March: 'This abuse and violence has to stop'" (Calgary Herald, Section C, p. 2)

Spotlight - *continued from page 8*

and Indigenous Student Services. These five diverse sectors of the community gathered resources and hosted a two day event at the Faculty of Education—Keeping the Fire: Reclaiming Children & Youth with an Art Exhibition (FNSA), a keynote address by Dr. Martin Brokenleg, U.B.C. speaking to the theme of belonging as a key to youth identity development & a reception with indigenous youth singers/drummers. The Conference included a PowWow (FNSA), Traditional teachings (Jake Swamp and Nelson Shoganosh) and community programmes addressing violence against women & children—Kizhaay Anishinaabe Niin; Kanawayhitowin; & MinoBimawdziwin (At'lohsha). The Faculty of Education Open House featured CREVAWC's research /community programmes & Aboriginal Education including an art exhibition--Vision Quest, DTES Vancouver Photographs, poetry & drawings welcoming Aboriginal families and communities to UWO.

Trauma and uprooting & displacement of women have been research themes for Dr. Mulcahy at CREVAWC. She has collaborated with Dr. Helene Berman and colleagues on SSHRC and CIHR funded projects. In 2009 publications appeared in the area of Nursing and Health as well as inclusion in a Social Work book of readings¹. She presented a Scientific Poster at the National Conference on Health and Domestic Violence: The Family Violence Prevention Fund and UCSF National Centre of Excellence in Women's Health 2007 in San Francisco, California and is presently a consultant on a CIHR funded Embodied Trauma project with Dr. Helen Berman, UWO in collaboration with University of Toronto. Alvernaz Mulcahy is a frequent speaker for community events, at universities and at national and international conferences.

Dr. Mulcahy engages in community work as a volunteer and President of the

Board of Directors, At'lohsha Native Family Healing Services and Vice President for Ganaan De We O Dis^Yethi Yenahwahse SOAHAC, Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre. Recently (December 2009) she became one of the founding members and Co-President of the emerging Dshkan Ziibi Native Women's Association of London Ontario. Future plans include a Heritage River Exhibition in PEI hosting a World Congress for Psychotherapy in Vancouver and working with At'lohsha & No More Silence in Toronto, and other community groups to take the violence against women issue to the United Nations.

¹ Berman, H., Alvernaz Mulcahy, G., Forchuk, C., Edmunds, K. A., Haldenby, A., & Lopez, R. (2009). Uprooted and displaced: A critical narrative study of homeless, Aboriginal, and newcomer girls in Canada. *Issues in Mental Health Nursing*, 30(7), 418-430.

Forthcoming publication edited by Rick Csiernik from the School of Social Work at King's University College

Upcoming Events



4th Annual Father's Day Breakfast

Coaching Boys into Men: Celebrating the role of fathers, mentors, coaches and significant men in the lives of boys.

Preventing Violence against Women and Girls.

Our special guest, Jackson Katz is one of America's leading anti-sexist male activists. An educator, author and filmmaker, he is internationally recognized for his groundbreaking work in the field of gender violence prevention education with men and boys, particularly in the sports culture and the military.

Introductions from Dr. Peter Jaffe, Faculty of Education at the University of Western Ontario and Chief Faulkner, London Police Service.

Registration

Date: Monday, May 31st, 2010

Time: 8:00am – 10:00am

Location: London Convention Centre

Price: \$20.00

Registration: Lina Rodriguez at lardila@uwo.ca

Bring your father, son or friend. Everyone is welcome!

4th Annual Father's Day Lunch

Coaching Boys into Men: Celebrating the role of fathers, mentors, coaches and significant men in the lives of boys.

Preventing Violence against Women and Girls.

An invitation to teachers, coaches and counsellors to learn about Katz's School-Based MVP program.

Our special guest, Jackson Katz is one of America's leading anti-sexist male activists. An educator, author and filmmaker, he is internationally recognized for his groundbreaking work in the field of gender violence prevention education with men and boys, particularly in the sports culture and the military.

Introductions from Dr. Peter Jaffe, Faculty of Education at the University of Western Ontario.

Registration

Date: Monday, May 31st, 2010

Time: 11:00am – 2:00pm

Location: London Convention Centre

Price: \$20.00

Registration: Lina Rodriguez at lardila@uwo.ca

Bring a friend. Everyone is welcome!

Ending Sexual Violence through Celebrating Female Sexuality

Week of Celebration & Art Exhibit Performances, Speakers & Workshops

May 10 – 14

The Arts Project & Other Venues

Sponsored by: The Sexual Assault Centre London, The AIDS Committee of London, The Centre for Research & Education on Violence against Women & Children

For more information call: 519-439-0844

Extravaganza de Arte!

The Latin American Nursing Student Initiative (LANSI) was founded just over one year ago by a small group of UWO students to contribute to health promotion and community development in Latin America. Despite their short existence, the team has been able to boast significant accomplishments. Last summer, LANSI sent two nursing students to Cuzco, Peru to establish a partnership with Jesus mi Luz (a shelter for homeless boys) and Mundo Verde Spanish School (a non-profit school that supports those in need and assists the conservation of our rainforest). The students also made several donations to the orphanage, and had a life changing experience to share with their peers. This year LANSI was successful in its efforts to gain approval for the development of an Interdisciplinary Global Health Elective course in the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Western Ontario. This July they will continue to promote global health education. LANSI will be sending five students, accompanied by Faculty advisor, Dr. Helene Berman, to promote health among homeless children and abused women in Peru. This generous endeavour demands hard work from the volunteering students and staff, but also requires support from the community. If you would like to support the students, please attend LANSI's largest fundraiser of the year to raise global health awareness and support indigenous homeless children and abused women in Peru.

An art gala that will take place at the Aeolian Hall in London, Ontario. This will be a memorable evening for all guests filled with live entertainment, unforgettable performances and a silent auction (tickets are available online at www.aeolianhall.ca <<http://www.aeolianhall.ca>>).

When: Thursday June 17th; Doors open at 7:30pm and the program begins at 8:00

Where: Aeolian Hall, 795 Dundas St.

Cost: \$20.00 (hors d'oeuvres included) and there will also be a cash bar.

If you are unable to attend, but would like to lend support to this important initiative, you may send a tax-deductible donation on-line through the University of Western Ontario. Here's how...

Click on <http://www.westernmakesadifference.ca/howtogive/direct.html>

Check the "Give Now Online" in the upper right

When asked how you would like to direct your gift, check the box, "Alternatively, I would like direct my gift to" and write in "LANSI" in the appropriate box.

Thank you/Gracias. We hope to see you on June 17!

For more information about LANSI, please contact Kaleigh at koleary7@uwo.ca or (519) 913-3334 x 8702. Or visit us on facebook at http://www.fhssc.com/Latin_American_Nursing_Student_Initiative/Welcome.html