YEAR-END REPORT ON MY APPOINTMENT 1987-88

SUBMITTED BY DAPHNE MARLATT

The following is a list of my activities during my appointment as the Ruth Wynn Woodward Endowed Professor for 1987-88:

Teaching:
WS 203 Female Roles in Society
WS 303/823 Women's Writing in Canada & Feminist Theory

Directed Readings:
WS 403 based on 203 -- Tina Cousins
Eng 841 Modernist Women Writers & Contemporary French Theory
-- Jody Castricano, Jacqueline Larson, Julia Steele, Ann Campbell
WS 401 Native Women's Texts and Tapes -- Kerrie Charnley

Additional Lectures:
Sept. 21 "Between the Lines: Women's Reading & Writing" to Women's Studies Program

Visiting Speakers Arranged for:
July Janet Campbell Hale reading -- U.S. Native Indian author
January Betty-Jane Wylie talk and reading -- on women's journals & playwriting
March Nicole Brossard talk to accompany showing of NFB film "Fire Words" on Quebec feminist writers
March Smaro Kamboureli to my 303/823 class -- on Julia Kristeva's theory

Conference Organized:
November 25/26 "Telling It: Women and Language Across Cultures" featuring the ideas & work of Native Indian, Asian-Canadian & lesbian writers

Additional Projects Supervised:
spring semester: bibliography of writing by Canadian women of colour -- Jill Stainsby
: transcription of audiotapes from Telling It Conference & initial editing of transcripts for publication with Lee Maracle, Sky Lee, Betsy Warland -- transcription by Sharon Oliver -- this involved a grant application to the University Publications Committee (successful & a grant application to the Canada Council, Explorations Program (pending)
Community Outreach

1) Manuscript response sessions:
   4 sessions in all during the summer & fall semesters, 3 of these were with writers outside the university community

2) Talks and Workshops Outside Simon Fraser University:
   May 14-15 -- paper, "Subverting the Heroic: Recent Feminist Writing in B.C," to Women's Studies Regional Conference on Bowen Island
   May 18 -- paper & ensuing discussion on women & culture to SCHIST at Capilano College
   July 19 -- talk to women's writing group in Vancouver, contact Kate Braid
   Sept 16-18 -- journal writing workshop on North Pender Island
   Sept 22 -- talk on women's journal writing to Women's Studies class (Jean Clifford) at Capilano College
   Oct 22 -- noon reading to highschool & college audience; evening talk on women's writing & reading, Cariboo College, Kamloops
   Nov 3 -- talk on silencing of women, women's community, Saltspring Island
   Nov 23 -- reading & talk on subverting the heroic in women's writing, Fraser Valley College, Mission
   Feb 22 -- paper & ensuing discussion on women's reading & writing for CCLow on UBC campus
   Mar 3 -- workshop on women's writing & publishing, Chetwynd Women's Center at Northern Lights College campus
   Mar 4 -- all-day workshop on women's writing, Fort St. John Women's Center
   Mar 8 -- memorial lecture for North Shore Women's Crisis Centre, at Capilano College, on women's reading & writing

Publications edited:
Tessera -- co-editor for issues #4 & #5 -- preparation for issue #6
West Coast Review -- contributing editor XXII, 4

Texts published:
"Reading & Writing Between the Lines" (poetic collaboration on collaborating) with Betsy Warland, Tessera 5
"It Never Occurred to Me," a fictional memoir based on research done for me this year by my research assistant Cheryl Carter -- broadcast on CBC Radio May 7
"from SALVAGE," a selection of poems, Line 11

forthcoming:
a special issue of Line on my work, with new writing, correspondence, & critical articles by several critics
Summing up:

This was an extraordinarily busy year for me but I enjoyed its various aspects. Most particularly, I enjoyed the opportunity to teach again, especially as I had enthusiastic and open-minded students. Teaching is always, of course, a learning experience too, as one deepens one's knowledge of the topics one is lecturing or leading discussion on. This was particularly true of both Directed Readings Programs I took on in the fall semester. The community outreach aspect took me into communities I would not otherwise have encountered, and I think the Chair can be most useful here in bringing together women for discussion who might not otherwise break out of their own social circles to encounter one another's ideas and experience. Certainly the communities I went into in Fort St. John, Chetwynd, Kamloops and on Saltspring Island seemed eager for discussion and glad of the opportunity my visit afforded. I was welcomed warmly and treated most hospitably.

Perhaps the most immediately beneficial aspect for my own work was the wonderful feature of being provided with an excellent research assistant, Cheryl Carter, who undertook very thorough research into the developments of the Pacific War (1941-45) in Malaysia and Indonesia, the pre-war colonial system in Malaysia, and Vancouver's Chinatown of the 30's & 40's -- all background for my next novel, particularly in terms of women's situation in all three of those areas. This research has already been put to use in the fictional memoir written for CBC Radio earlier this year.

My incumbency attracted a number of graduate students in English who wanted to work with me, which seems reasonable given my field. I did not feel I was as useful to Women's Studies grad students, with the exception of two who took my WS 823 course. Perhaps this was because I never really got to know the others. During the graduate students' orientation held in late April, I realized, as the students introduced themselves and described their areas of interest, there were several with whom I would have liked to talk because their areas overlapped mine. I regretted that the orientation occurred only at the end of my appointment and I would like to recommend that such an introductory tea be held at the beginning of every Chair's appointment, as a way of introducing her to the students and to other members of the faculty in greater depth. Both my beginning luncheon and my farewell luncheon with faculty members were greatly appreciated. It might help to make the Chair feel less insecure during the first half of this very busy year to hold a mid-term luncheon as well. I know other faculty members are just as busy as the Chair, but I think greater liaison would help. I found that I often wanted to check out expectations in an informal way and there was little opportunity for this.

One of these expectations I wanted to check out in greater depth was whether or not I was expected to take on two Readings Programs during my research semester. While I enjoyed them both and felt they were rare opportunities for working in depth with students and for improving my own knowledge, I realized later that keeping up with the reading involved had given me very little time for research additional to that provided by my assistant. And I also felt quite exhausted at the end of my term because I had essentially been teaching for three semesters non-stop. Perhaps future Chairs should be urged not to take on readings programs during their research semesters and their availability for such programs should be advertised a little more widely in related departments during their teaching semesters so students don't realize too late that they can work with them.
This may not be the answer to a problem that has, however, to do more with abundance of wonderful opportunities for the Chair than with necessary restrictions. One wants to do all of it, because it is all so engaging. And after the apprehension of "learning the ropes" in the first semester has passed, one wants to do more than time or energy will allow. My final recommendation is, then, that the tenure of the Woodward Chair be extended to two years. While I realize that this would halve the number of women you could appoint, I do think it would lessen the pressure on each woman who occupies the position to do so much in such a short period of time.
**Scheduled Talks (as of Jan. 25/89)**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 16-18</td>
<td>Journal-writing workshop on N. Pender Island</td>
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<td>talk to Women's Studies Program at S.F.U.: Reading and Writing Between the Lines</td>
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<td>talk to Women Studies class at Capilano College (on journal writing)</td>
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<td>Oct. 7</td>
<td>Workshop at Women's Centre in Chetwynd (Cancelled/illness)</td>
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<td>Oct. 8</td>
<td>morning reading and afternoon workshop for Fort St. John Women's Centre  (Cancelled/illness)</td>
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<td>Oct. 27</td>
<td>noon talk and evening reading at Cariboo College, Kamloops</td>
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<td>Nov. 3</td>
<td>Thursday Evening - talk on women's silencing for Saltspring Celebration of Canadian Writers organizing group</td>
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<td>Nov. 11-13</td>
<td>CRIAW in Quebec City (Cancelled/illness)</td>
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<td>Nov. 23</td>
<td>evening talk at Fraser Valley College in Mission</td>
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<td><strong>Spring 1989</strong></td>
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March 8  North Shore Crisis Services Society at Capilano College - talk

April 22  Duncan, Malaspina College Campus - workshop on gathering and editing a women's oral history