

# Contributor Notes

**Lena Ampadu** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of English, at Towson University, Baltimore, Maryland, where she teaches courses in composition, African American Literature, and black women writers. Her research interests and scholarly publications focus on women writers in the African Diaspora, intersections between orality and literacy, and the rhetoric of nineteenth century-African American women.

**Anna Beauchamp** is a student in the Master of Adult Education program, at St. Francis Xavier University, researching ways in which women's learning as mothers influences their academic learning. She works as Associate Dean of The Collegiate, at The University of Winnipeg. Anna lives in Winnipeg with her partner James and their two daughters: Jillian (six) and Lauren (three).

**Brigitte H. Bechtold** immigrated to Montreal, Canada in 1979 as a teenager from St-Vincent and the Grenadines, in pursuit of a good education and better opportunities. She is presently pursuing a combined Doctoral degree in social work and Education. Ms. Joseph is employed as a child care social worker in Quebec. Her research interest is in anti-racist social work, and the experiences of Black social workers and students.

**Candace Bernard** is a social worker with the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services in the Adoption Disclosure Program. Her research interests are in the area of race, class and gender and she is presently completing a Masters in education thesis which is examining the impact of the intersection of race, class and gender on the educational experiences of African Nova Scotian youth.

**Wanda Thomas Bernard** is an Associate Professor of Social Work at the Maritime School of Social Work, Dalhousie University. Her research interests are in the area of discrimination, racism, oppression africentricity and empowerment. Dr. Thomas Bernard teaches in direct practice, anti-racist and anti-oppressive social work.

**Camilla Cockerton** is a lecturer in the geography department in the University

of Canterbury (Christchurch, New Zealand). Her PhD, on Tswana women's migration from colonial Botswana to South Africa, involved 15 months of fieldwork. This entailed six months of ethnographic research in a village on the edge of the Kalahari Desert (mostly conducting in-depth interviews with elderly Tswana women) and archival research in Gaborone, Johannesburg, and Pretoria. Hired at Canterbury University as a development specialist, she teaches development geography, Pacific Geography, and feminist geography. Her current research interests broadly include feminist landscapes, diasporas, motherhood, and migration, and, more specifically, farm labour in the Cook Islands, the Cook Islands diaspora in New Zealand, and the Oceania suffrage movement in the 1920s.

**Dawn L. Comeau** received her Master's degree in Women's Studies from San Diego State University where she also taught Women in the Social Sciences. She is currently working towards her PhD in Women's Studies at Emory University. Her research interests are lesbian mothering and lesbian health.

**Cheryl Dobinson** is the Administrative Co-ordinator for ARM. She holds a Masters in Sociology from York University and her studies have focused on women, youth, and sexuality. Her work on sexual identity has recently been published in *Herizons* and *The Journal of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Identity* and her upcoming publications include a co-authored article on lesbians and film in *The Journal of Homosexuality* and a piece on transexual legal issues for *Fireweed*. Cheryl helped organize the 1997 conference on Mothers and Daughters as a graduate assistant for York University's Centre for Feminist Research, and is pleased to now be working for the organization that evolved from this conference.

**Rishma Dunlop** is an Assistant Professor of Education at York University. Her current research and teaching areas are English Language Arts, Literary Studies and the Imagination, Arts-Based Research and Alternative Practices in Educational Research. Her poetry has won numerous awards and has appeared in *Room of One's Own*, *Grain*, *Event*, *English Quarterly*, *Contemporary Verse 2*, *Whetstone*, *Poetry Nottingham International* (UK), *Literator* (South Africa), *Canadian Woman Studies/les cahiers de la femme*, *JCT*, and in the edited volume, *Redefining Motherhood: Changing Identities and Patterns*. She was a finalist in the 1998 CBC/Canadian Literary Awards. Her collection of poems, *Boundary Bay*, was published in 2000 by Staccato Chapbooks.

**Arlene E. Edwards** is a Black, feminist, graduate student working on a PhD in community psychology at Georgia State University. She is originally from Trinidad and Tobago, and currently lives in Atlanta. Her interests are in the areas of Black community work, women's work, and the use of Black women's experiential products to work within Black communities in particular, and

communities of women's work in general. An example of Black women's work is community mothering—the extension of communal/parental behaviors by Black women to their community, as a means of interaction and intervention. She hopes to continue to develop the theory so that authentic translation may occur as it is used in intervention design, and documented in scholarly media.

**Josephine Enang** recently graduated from the Masters of Nursing program, Dalhousie University in Halifax. Her thesis focused on the childbirth experiences of African Nova Scotian women. Josephine is a midwife, by background, so has an interest in childbirth and is currently working in the IWK Grace Health Centre. She struggled with not having role models or mentors in her program. She was the only African student in her program, however her interest in looking at Black women's health was more the result of lack of research or information around those issues.

**Chioma Ekpo** is a graduate student at Dalhousie University, in the Women's Studies Department, currently completing her Masters degree. Her undergraduate degree was obtained from the University of Toronto, with a double major in Sociology and Women's Studies, and a minor in Social Anthropology. Chioma moved from Toronto to Halifax, Nova Scotia because of the rich Black heritage in Nova Scotia and its overall contribution to Canadian history. She thought that Nova Scotia would be a great place to obtain her Masters degree, as she was originally interested in African women writers. When she got there though, it was a different story entirely. Her thesis addresses Black Nova Scotian women's narratives. She is the only African student, from Nigeria, in her graduate program.

**Wendy Faith** is a doctoral candidate in the Department of English, at the University of Calgary. Her dissertation, entitled "Embodied Figures and Transfigured Bodies: the Language of Reproduction in Contemporary Literature," explores the ways in which certain rhetorical and semantic strategies are currently used to either enable or contest maternal stereotypes.

**Karen Flynn** is in her final year in the PhD program, in Women's Studies, at York University. Her research interests include, women, work and family, racism, feminist and post-colonial theory. She writes a regular column for the community newspaper *Share*.

**Any Marie-Gerard Francois** teaches in Women's Studies at Glendon College, the bilingual campus of York University, in Toronto, Canada.

**Robin Edward Gearing**, a father of two, has worked as a family therapist in various settings, focusing on the parenting roles of mothers and fathers. His current research examines the nurturing role between fathers and their chil-

dren. Robin works with families at The Hospital for Sick Children and in private practice.

**Nancy F. Gerber** recently completed her PhD in Literatures in English at Rutgers University. This article is adapted from her dissertation, titled “From Shadow to Substance: The Figure of the Mother-Artist in Contemporary American Fiction.” She is an adjunct instructor in the Women’s Studies Program at Rutgers University-Newark.

**Priscilla A. Gibson** is an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Minnesota. She researches African American grandmothers in kinship care and has presented at numerous national conferences on this topic. She teaches direct practice courses. She has over 25 years of direct practice experience with African American families, children with developmental disabilities and their families, culturally sensitive services and consumer participation in development community services.

**Fiona Joy Green** became a mother to her son Liam eleven years ago while in England completing her Masters in Women’s Studies. For the past decade she has been teaching in the Women’s Studies Program at the University of Winnipeg. She has also taught in the Departments of Sociology at the Universities of Manitoba and Winnipeg. Fiona’s doctoral dissertation, “Feminists Mothering: Feminist Activism, Pedagogy and Praxis” (working title) is nearing completion.

**Merryl Hammond** is a feminist (step)mother of five. She has a PhD, and worked as a full-time, at-home mother for several years. She is the founder of Mothering Matters (MM), a support group for at-home mothers, which now has ten chapters in the Montreal area. (Write <mhammond@total.net> for details about MM.)

**Jennifer Harris** is a PhD candidate in English at York University, Toronto. She has published in a number of feminist journals, is an associate editor at the cultural studies journal, *Alphabet City*, and the co-editor of a recent issue of *the Canadian Review of American Studies* titled “Blackness and the 49th Parallel.”

**Cindy-Lou Henwood** is a first year PhD student in the department of Sociology at York University. Her research interests includes race, gender and popular culture.

**Emily Jeremiah** studied at Exeter College, Oxford, and is currently based at the University of Wales Swansea, where she is completing a doctorate on maternal subjectivities in recent women’s writing in German. Her research interests include feminist theory, theories of motherhood, and literature by women.

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**Bertyln Joseph** is an Afro-Caribbean student at McGill University. She has Bachelors degrees in Sociology and in social work and has just completed her Masters in social work last year. Bertlyn is now in the process of pursuing her PhD. When she tried to get into the program there were a lot of difficulties and when she got there, there were no Black faculty members. This was a struggle for her and it became a challenge up until graduation.

**Laurie Kruk** is Assistant Professor in English Studies at Nipissing University, in North Bay, Ontario. She is the mother of a two-year-old daughter, and step-mother to an eleven-year-old son. She has published articles on Margaret Atwood, Joy Kogawa, Timothy Findley and Alistair MacLeod. Her interests include the short story, women's writing, gender studies, Native literature, and her growing awareness of "the family squeeze."

**Erica Lawson** was born in Jamaica of African descent and has lived in Toronto since 1981. She is a PhD candidate in the Department of Sociology and Equity Studies in Education at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto. Her research interests are anti-racism education, Black feminisms, and anti-colonial educational transformation. Her dissertation focuses on the production of health knowledges among and between Caribbean immigrant women and their daughters.

**Susan MacCallum-Whitcomb** holds a PhD in English from the University of New Brunswick and has been granted awards by the University of Toronto, the University of New Brunswick, and SSHRC. Now based in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Susan is the mother of two young children and a prolific free-lance writer. Her most recent scholarly work is *This Giving Birth: Pregnancy and Childbirth in American Women's Writing* (Popular Press, 2000), a critical anthology co-edited with Dr. Julie Tharp.

**Joyce MacIntyre** is a status Native with the Six Nations Band; she works full-time as an operation's analyst, and is pursuing her degree, in Women's Studies, at York University. Joyce experienced the death of her only child, Duane, in 1992 and has since facilitated self-help groups and served on both the Cross-Cultural Policy Committee and the Parental Pod Committee of Bereaved Families of Ontario. A selection of her poems entitled *Reflections of Time* has been published through Bereaved Families of Ontario.

**Allison Mackey** is currently completing her honours degree in English and Philosophy at Nipissing University, North Bay, before moving on to graduate studies. She is also the mother of two sons, Ariel (five) and Mateo (one). Along with the task of combining her academic interests with her life as the mother of young children, Allison also faces the challenges of living in a bicultural/bilingual household; she and her partner Gustavo constantly strive to maintain

family and friendship ties by sharing their time between both Canada and Uruguay.

**Dolana Mogadime** was born in Pretoria, South Africa. She emigrated to Canada with her family at an early age in 1970. Dolana is currently pursuing a PhD in Sociology and Equity Studies at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto. Her dissertation analyzes life in the classroom for students and teachers of African, South Asian and South East Asian descent, who represent the most under researched in Canadian educational literature. The focus of her study on successful practice, will contribute to teachers' understanding of how to engage the interests of students from culturally diverse backgrounds whilst providing academically enriched programs of study. Dolana has presented papers, on transformative educational policy and in the area of racial and gender equity, at a number of international conferences. Recently at the conference "Mothering in the African Diaspora: Literature, History, Society, Popular Culture and the Arts" (York University, Canada), she spoke about the need for educators to develop a vision of education which provides adolescent Black girls with the opportunity to envision their own leadership possibilities.

**Gail McCabe** is a doctoral candidate in the Graduate Programme in Sociology at York University. Her areas of interest are Sociology of the Body; Sex and Gender; Sport; Migration; Power; Mass Communication and Feminist Political Economy. Her dissertation project "Re-inventing the Crone: Feminist Constructions of Age, Wisdom and Power" focuses on the conscious aging projects of old womyn emerging in the areas of spirituality, corporeality, creativity, technology, ecology, social, and political movement. Gail has been writing poetry since early childhood and for her it is a liberatory act which enables her to make sense of her own experience; maintain her sanity in a schizophrenogenic world, and resist the alienation of a claustrophobic social system. Poetry writing is something passed on from her mother, Sara, through Gail and to her daughters. Gail takes great pleasure in reading her children's poetry and of course, her poems are also her children, so she finds it gratifying to bring them to birth.

**Leigh M. O'Brien** is an Associate Professor at Nazareth College, Rochester, New York, where she teaches Early Childhood Education and Foundations of Education courses. Her research currently focuses on the use of narrative in education, and gender and education. She is also the mother of a seven-year-old girl who has helped her re-think education.

**Andrea O'Reilly** is an Assistant Professor in the School of Women's Studies at York University where she teaches courses on Toni Morrison, on motherhood, and on mothers and daughters. She has presented her research at

international conferences and is the author of over a dozen articles and chapters. She is also the co-editor/editor of several books on mothering and motherhood, and author of *Toni Morrison On Mothering* (forthcoming). She was coordinator of the first international conferences on “Mothers and Daughters,” 1997 and “Mothers and Sons,” 1998 sponsored by the Centre for Feminist Research at York University. Andrea is the Founding President of the Association for Research on Mothering, and founding editor/publisher of the *Journal of the Association for Research on Mothering*. She also conducts community workshops on motherhood, mothers and sons, and mothers and daughters, and has been interviewed widely on these topics. Andrea and her common-law spouse of 17 years are the parents of a 15-year-old son, and two daughters, ages 10 and 13.

**Ruth Panofsky** is a member of the Department of English at Ryerson Polytechnic University where she teaches Canadian Literature. She is author of *Adele Wiseman: An Annotated Bibliography* (1992) and co-editor of *Selected Letters of Margaret Laurence and Adele Wiseman* (1997). Her articles, book reviews, and poems have appeared in literary journals and major Canadian newspapers.

**Venetria K. Patton** obtained her PhD from the University of California, Riverside in 1996. Currently, she is the Coordinator of African American and African Studies and an Assistant Professor of English and Women’s Studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Her book, *Women in Chains: The Legacy of Slavery in Black Women’s Fiction*, was recently published by SUNY Press.

**Christine Peets** is the mother of two sons, and is an independent writer, editor, and researcher. She has written extensively on childcare and other social and environmental issues. Her research has dealt with the mother-son relationship; and her relationship with her own mother. She has presented her work at one international conference, and looks forward to future presentations. She was the Conference Co-ordinator for “Healthy Children=Healthy Communities” in Kingston, Ontario, Canada in 1999. Currently, Christine is expanding her research on “mother-teachings” and is also doing further research on mothering and health. She is the (incoming, June 2000) President of the Kingston and Area Home Business Association, and is the editor of the ARM newsletter.

**Crystal’Aisha PerrymanMark** is a poetess, writer, and revolutionary. She pens poetry under the name Crysais, is committed to anti-oppression and social justice, believes in everyday revolutions and the strength of internal power. A Bachelor of Arts student at York University and a young mother of the three-year-old soul named Sable Cora, with another on the way, Crysais is dedicated to the principles of truth, passion, and integrity and explores this in her creative and academic work. Her particular focus lays in the experience of young

motherhood for Black women. Believing that Motherhood is Sacred, she is committed to its political, spiritual, and theoretical praxis.

**Cassie Premo Steele** is the author of *We Heal From Memory: Sexton, Lorde, Anzaldua and The Poetry of Witness* (St. Martin's Press) and the editor of *Moon Days: Creative Writings about Menstruation* (distributed by Ash Tree Publishing). She is also an award-winning poet, currently at work on a book of poems about pregnancy, childbirth, and motherhood. She teaches Comparative Literature at the University of South Carolina.

**Laura Thomas** is a graduate student in the Department of Educational Studies at the University of British Columbia. She studies gender relations in the history of Canadian college sport from an interdisciplinary and feminist perspective. She also writes poetry and plays with non-traditional, post-structuralist narratives in the context of her academic work.

**Trudelle Thomas** is an Associate Professor of English at Xavier University, a Jesuit university in Cincinnati, Ohio where she teaches courses in writing and literature. She is writing a book about spirituality and motherhood. Her essays have appeared in *College Composition and Communication*, *The Journal of American Culture*, *Border States*, and elsewhere. She is also a child advocate, quilt-artist, and power walker.

**Ruthe Thompson** is an assistant professor of English and acting director of Women's Studies at Southwest State University in Marshall, Minnesota. Her essay "Working Mother" appeared in *Generations: Academic Feminists in Dialogue* (University of Minnesota Press, 1997). Her entry on feminist artist Judy Chicago's controversial "The Dinner Party" installation will be published in the forthcoming *International Encyclopedia of Censorship* (Fitzroy Dearborn). She has authored numerous articles for national magazines, publishing most recently in *American Artist*, and is currently creating two films: one on gender politics in academia and another on rural women's experiences with breast cancer.

**Andrea Riesch Toepell** is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Applied Health Sciences at Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario. She has done extensive research in the field of community health and gender and health issues. She is the mother of two daughters. She has a multiethnic and multicultural family.

**Njoki Nathani Wane** is an Assistant Professor in Sociology and Equity Studies in Education at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto. She teaches both in the graduate and pre-service programs. Her research and teaching areas include: black feminisms, African feminisms, anti-

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racist studies, women and development, and indigenous knowledges.

**Marybeth White** currently mothers three children; Heather (eleven), Sean (nine), and Rheanna (two). While mothering she completed her Honours Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and Religious Studies at York University. She has facilitated support groups for breastfeeding mothers and advocated for the legislation of midwifery in Ontario. Her areas of interest include Buddhism, Existentialism, and Feminist Philosophy.

**Nicole Willey** is currently pursuing her PhD at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. Her primary focus is post-colonial women's writing. She completed her Master's thesis, "Colonizing Motherhood in the Caribbean and Nigeria: Mothers in Literature," at Kent State University, Ohio. She has recently published in *Alabama English* and on the webzine *How2*. Currently working through the connections between African feminism and African American women writers, she will be presenting papers on Jessie Fauset and Ntozake Shange later this year. In a past life, she taught high school English in Maryland.

**Winsom** is a Toronto-based artist who envisions, translates, and creates designs from the metaphysical world which she taps into. Her work is also inspired by the spirituality and mysticism of her African, Awarak, and Carib ancestors. She has travelled extensively in West Africa and has spent many years researching the ancient religions of Ashanti, Carib and Awarak culture. Winsom's work has been exhibited at the Art Gallery of Ontario, Boston's Museum of the National Center of Afro-American Artists, and many other numerous galleries across the universe.

**Sarah V. Young** is Professor Emerita of Social Work at Longwood College in Virginia. In addition to carrying several administrative roles, she has taught students in social work, teacher education, honors, and women's studies. Her publications deal with curriculum transformation, diversity, and pedagogical issues. Her latest role is that of grandmother.