



Nina C. Leibman Fellowship

Advisory Committee

Julie Bram attended UCLA as both an undergraduate and a graduate student. She received a B.A. in Communication Studies and an M.A. in Education. At UCLA she and Nina worked together as teaching associates for the wildly popular Introduction to Communication Studies course. Currently, Julie is active in many charitable causes and serves on the board of several organizations including the Jewish Venture Philanthropy Fund and The Holy Land Democracy Project. She feels privileged to be a part of this committee that will help to honor Nina's legacy and continue the important work she began.

Nick Browne is Professor of Critical Studies of Film and Television in the Department of Film, Television and Digital Media at UCLA. He holds a doctorate from Harvard University and has taught at UCLA since 1979. He was Nina's dissertation advisor.

Geoff Cowan has been an important force in almost every facet of the communication world - as a public interest lawyer, academic administrator, best-selling author and award-winning teacher, playwright, television producer, and government official. Since 1996, he has been dean of the University of Southern California's Annenberg School for Communication. In 2006, he was named the inaugural holder of the Annenberg Family Chair in Communication Leadership at the Annenberg School and director of the School's Center on Communication Leadership. He holds a joint appointment in the USC Gould School of Law, teaches courses in journalism, and is directly involved in the work and research of a number of major centers and projects at the Annenberg School, including the USC Center on Public Diplomacy, which he founded, the Norman Lear Center, the USC Center on Communication Law and Policy, the Charles Annenberg Weingarten Program on Online Communities and the USC Annenberg School Center for the Digital Future.

Barbara Fraser is the Chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance at Santa Clara University. She earned a Ph.D. from the University of Oregon, M.A. from Miami University of Ohio, and a B.A. from Yankton College in South Dakota. Barbara has directed numerous musicals, including *A Chorus Line*, *Antigone*, and *The Laramie Project* (Moises Kaufman). She also puts much of her creative energy into playwriting. She has written five plays and collaborated on one musical. Barbara's areas of specialty include American theatre history, cultural analysis of theatre and the musicals of Sondheim. Barbara wrote her doctoral dissertation on the American Musical Theatre, and has continued that interest by presenting papers at National Conventions for the Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) and the Popular Culture Association. She authored a chapter in *Sondheim, A Casebook* edited by Joanne Gordon, and another chapter will soon be published in a book about Women in the American Musical Theatre edited by Judith Sebesta and Bud Coleman.

Michele Hilmes is Professor of Media and Cultural Studies and Director of the Wisconsin Center for Film and Theater Research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is the author or editor of several books on broadcasting history,

including *Radio Voices: American Broadcasting 1922-1952* (Minnesota, 1997); *Only Connect: A Cultural History of Broadcasting in the United States* (2001); *The Television History Book* (British Film Institute, 2003), and *NBC: America's Network*, (2007). Nina and Michele were colleagues and friends, both concerned with issues of women and media, and convinced of the strong role that television and film play in shaping real-life experiences and expectations.

Abby J. Leibman is one of the cofounders of the California Women's Law Center and served as its Executive Director for twelve years. She is currently the principal of Leibman & Associates, providing consulting services on organizational and leadership development and on the prevention and elimination of discrimination. Leibman is adjunct faculty at UCLA where she teaches Advocacy and Women's Civil Rights in the graduate division of the Women's Studies Department. She is a 1978 magna cum laude graduate of UCSD where she majored in political science and minored in biology and received her J.D. from Hastings College of Law in 1981. Leibman helped to establish the Nina C. Leibman Fellowship as a tribute to her beloved twin sister, Nina, whose remarkable contributions to her field were cut short by her tragic death. It is Leibman's hope that through the Fellowship, Nina's work and her legacy will continue to help change the world.

Mike Messner received his B.A. and M.A. from C.S.U. Chico, and his Ph.D. in Sociology at U.C. Berkeley. He is Professor of Sociology and Gender Studies at the University of Southern California, where he currently chairs the Sociology department. His books include *Taking the Field: Women, Men, and Sports* (2002), *Men's Lives* (2006) and *Politics of Masculinities: Men in Movements* (1997). He has conducted several commissioned studies on gender and sports media, and is a past President of the North American Society for the Sociology of Sport.

Kathryn Montgomery received her Ph.D. in Film and Television Studies from UCLA in 1979. She later returned to teach in the Critical Studies MA/Ph.D. program from 1982 to 1990. As one of Nina's professors, Kathryn worked closely with Nina on her research in television history, assisting her in the early planning and research stages of her doctoral dissertation. After moving to Washington, D.C. in 1990, Kathryn co-founded the nonprofit Center for Media Education, a policy advocacy group focused on ensuring a quality media environment for children. In 2004, she returned to full-time teaching at American University, where she is Professor in the School of Communication. She has written two books -- *Target: Prime Time. Advocacy Groups and the Struggle over Entertainment Television*, published in 1989 by Oxford University Press; and *Generation Digital: Politics, Commerce, and Childhood in the Age of the Internet*, forthcoming in Spring 2007 by MIT Press. She lives in Takoma Park, Maryland with her husband, Jeff Chester, and her daughter, Lucy Chester. Kathryn remembers Nina with great fondness and respect and is honored to be part of this important project established in her name.

Ellen Seiter is a professor of Critical Studies and holds the Stephen K. Nenno Chair in the USC School of Cinematic Arts. Seiter's interests television history and criticism, feminist media studies and qualitative audience research. She is the author of *Sold Separately: Parents and Children in Consumer Culture* (Rutgers, 1995), *Television and New Media Audiences* (Oxford, 1999), and *The Internet Playground: Children's Access, Entertainment, and Mis-Education* (Peter Lang, 2005). She was a friend and professional colleague of Nina's, and greatly admired Nina's academic work.