

19 Paula Vogel Brown University



Paula Vogel is an award-winning playwright. She won the 1998 Pulitzer Prize for drama for *How I Learned to Drive*, which sensitively explores the relationship between a teenage girl and the uncle who molests her. Vogel also

won an Obie in 1992 for her play *The Baltimore Waltz*, which deals with AIDS, and received the 2004 Award for Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. She is currently the Adele Kellenberg Seaver Professor of Creative Writing at Brown University. She inspires the next generation through her teaching, and as an accomplished writer she shows them that openly queer playwrights can indeed make it on Broadway.

20 Karina Walters University of Washington

Karina Walters is now living among the Maori in New Zealand on a much-coveted, year-long Fulbright Senior Scholar Award. This came after she spent the last year in New Zealand as an Honorary Visiting Scholar, also working with the Maori. Her list of awards and accomplishments includes an Excellence in Science award from Women of Color Empowered, a Professor of the Year award from the Columbia University School of Social Work, and an Association for Women in Psychology 2002 Women of Color Psychologies Award. She is also a member of the Choctaw Nation. Her dissertation for her Ph.D. in social welfare was entitled *Urban American Indian Identity and Psychological Wellness*. Besides working with the Maori, she has researched, written and taught extensively on the cultural, historical and social factors affecting indigenous peoples, whose health problems include diabetes, HIV/AIDS, mental health and substance abuse. An advocate for American Indians and Native Alaskans, as well as Two-Spirit people, Walters shows that the work academics do is more than just pontification on dusty old topics—it can, and does, save lives.



HONORABLE MENTIONS

These women—top contenders all—also deserve a printed nod for their exemplary work both in and out of academia. All are still working, if not still teaching.

1. Sarah Bay-Cheng, State University of New York, Buffalo

2. Charlotte Bunch, Rutgers University

3. Melinda Chen, University of California, Berkeley

4. Lillian Faderman, California State University, Fresno

5. Nikki Giovanni, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

6. Jacqueline Goldsby, University of Chicago

7. Nadine Hubbs, University of Michigan

8. Catherine Lord, University of California, Irvine

9. Heather Love, University of Pennsylvania

10. Sharon Marcus, Columbia University

11. Joanne Meyerowitz, Yale University

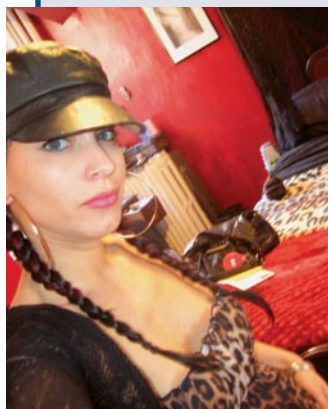
12. Adrienne Rich, University of Illinois, Urbana

13. Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, City University of New York Graduate Center

14. Amy Villarejo, Harvard University

15. Kate Weston, Harvard University

Funding Future Scholars



The Point Foundation awards scholarships each year to outstanding students from the LGBT community. The deserving winners not only get financial support, but also are assigned a mentor from their field of study. With 12 full-time staffers and a few part-timers, the Point Foundation has been awarding scholarships since 2001.

Ph.D. candidate Stacy Weibley is one of the latest to be awarded a scholarship. She is attending the Johns Hopkins University's School of Public Health on the Women's

Health Track. Her undergraduate work was completed at Colgate, her master's at American University. Her experience with the Point Foundation has been rewarding both financially and emotionally. The financial help was key. Though her previous academic work was completed with the help of merit scholarships, Weibley says, "It is difficult to find funding around the issues that I am studying now. I am doing my dissertation on internalized homophobia among lesbians and this is not something that is popular in public health; most of the students seek and receive government funding and, given the current administration, it is not something that I am likely to get funding for."

But more than that, the mentoring program has served her well. "I really needed a sense of family and community, and I needed the nurturing [Point provided]. I have a disconnect with my family in sad ways since I came out. The sense of family I have gained extends past the mentor relationship to the entire Point Foundation."

The program not only offers its scholars money and time, but puts them in touch with other scholars in the program—current and alumni—through events around the country.

"We think it's important that Point scholars stay in contact with each other. Our foundation is about scholars and we want to make sure that it stays like that and they are definitely connected," says Jennifer Kolmel, the communications and marketing manager at the Point Foundation.

Though the students will have to show they are active in the LGBT community—many started Gay Straight Alliances at their high schools and have a community service background—the disciplines they choose do not matter.

"It has always been our philosophy to have scholars in a wide range of interests and majors; we've even had a master of divinity student," says Kolmel.

Funding for the Point Foundation comes from a variety of places, from private donors to grants based on corporate partners that have named scholarships. They make a four-year commitment of \$25,000 per year. The named scholarships include Time Warner, HBO and MTVU.

Among the 2007 scholars are Amy Andre, Angela Clements, Lilia Espinoza, Kim Hackford-Peer, Kathryn Jerman, Tina Owen, Joelle Ruby Ryan and Emily Williams. For a full list of recipients and information on the Point Foundation, including how to donate or become a mentor, go to pointfoundation.org — *Jenna V. Loceff*