From the Center for Women’s Studies and Gender Research

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RARE WINTER EDITION

From the Director’s Desk

On September 6, 2007, at our 2007-08 Academic Year Opening Reception Celebration, the Yardley Garden Wall was unveiled! After our customary announcements and awards presentations, those in attendance proceeded outside for the unveiling of the garden wall. As the pictures inside this newsletter show, the rains stayed away giving us a beautiful day to celebrate the long anticipated completion of the wall surrounding the Yardley Garden in front of Ustler Hall, our new home. The reception focused on the unveiling of the first names to grace the granite wall in celebration of achievements of women, and the generosity of benefactors to the center.

Two inspirational quotes from Alice Walker, African American novelist and feminist writer, appear on each wall. On the north wall, “In search of my mother’s garden, I found my own…” Similarly, the south wall reads “She is involved in work her soul must have….” Dr. Sheila Dickison, who recently accepted the position of Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the College of Arts and Sciences, was present and was invited to peel back the tape that unveiled her name engraved on the wall. Over the years Dr. Dickison has supported many of the center’s efforts and we were thrilled to have her participate in the unveiling of her own name in celebration of her long-time support.

We surprised Dr. Madelyn Lockhart who was also present. Dr. Lockhart did not know her name was included among the engravings. Her children along with some of her friends who were aware of her deep commitment to the center and to the university, contributed to having her name included. After some secret planning to set the scene for the surprise, I invited Dr. Lockhart to “help me peel back the name of this next person whom she knew well and was most appropriate for her to unveil…” As you can imagine, she was very surprised and truly honored to have her name forever etched for posterity in such a lovely setting. Dr. Madelyn Lockhart, now retired, served as Dean of the Graduate School and Dean of International Studies and Programs from 1985 to 1993, Associate Dean from 1981 to 1985 and Assistant Dean from 1973 to 1977 and 1979 to 1981. She has aided students and faculty in many ways, including the implementation of a fellowship program to assist students working on their dissertations and with another award to support release time to advance the careers of faculty.

Continued on Page 2
**Opening Reception (continued)**

The unveiling ceremony was truly a wonderful event along with the reception that followed. I look forward to next year’s opening reception where we will unveil photographs of a number of women athletes who played on UF sports teams. Rather appropriately, these photographs will grace one end of what was once a basketball court inside the Women’s Gymnasium that is now Ustler Hall.

The center is grateful to Joanna Neville, one of our former graduates, and Lynda Tealer, Executive Associate Athletic Director of Women’s Sports at UF, for making the photograph display possible. With the help and support of the larger UF community, we continue in our efforts to enhance our presence and our programs.

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**Dr. Rhoda Reddock visits U.F.**

Professor Rhoda Reddock of the Centre for Gender and Development Studies at the University of the West Indies, came to the University of Florida Campus, specifically to Ustler Hall on September thirteenth, to present her research in a presentation titled, “Diversity, Difference and the Caribbean Women’s Movement: The Challenge of Anti-Racism.”

The lecture, sponsored by the African American Studies Program and the Center for Women’s Studies and Gender Research, and the Center for Latin American Studies was very well attended by students, faculty, and members of the general public who came to hear the award winning author talk about the intersection of race, class and gender primarily in English-speaking Caribbean nations.

Dr. Reddock is a founding member of CAFRA (Caribbean Assn for Feminist Research and Action).

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**Dr. Neuma Aguiar comes to CWSGR**

Neuma Aguiar, the Director of the Center for Quantitative Research in Sociology and the Quantitative Methodology Program in the Social Sciences at the Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil, spoke to attendees of her October 24th lecture on the topic of “Comparative Perspectives on the Women’s Movements of Latin America, Asia, and Africa at the End of the 20th Century.”

Aguiar, the author of *Desigualdades Sociais, Redes de Sociabilidade e Participação Política* (Social Inequalities, Social Networks and Political Participation), is an expert on gender and society with emphasis on gender and stratification, time use research, and women’s movements in developing countries. The lecture was sponsored by the CWSGR, the Center for Latin American Studies, and the CWSGR Vada Allen Yeoman’s Endowment.

She was recently awarded the Florestan Fernandes Prize, by the Brazilian Society of Sociology, for her life-time contributions to the field of sociology.
Study Abroad: Spring in Paris

Women’s International Activism in Paris: Challenges and Empowerment

An Appetite for Paris: Asian/American Diaspora and the Politics of Consumption

Imagine traveling to the site of the first International Women’s Rights Congress in 1878 to explore women’s international activism or Asian/American Diaspora.

Now, thanks to the Study Abroad Program, and the Paris Research Center, this dream can become a reality. Women’s International Activism in Paris is a course led by Professor Agnes Leslie of the Center for African American Studies. This one-week activity-rich course in Paris, France will focus on women in international organizations based in Paris, examine women’s struggles and successes, and investigate how women overcome these challenges.

An Appetite for Paris is a course led by Dr. Anita Anantharam, also set in the City of Lights. It will examine France’s relationship to former colonies in South and Southeast Asia and the complex ways in which multiculturalism is expressed in the French social landscape.

For more information on this opportunity, please visit our website at www.wst.ufl.edu.

Gender Conversations Continue

Robert Kawashima, of U.F.’s Department of Religion and the Center for Jewish Studies, kicked off the fall Gender Conversation Series, on September 19th with an open research discussion on the “Legal Status of Women in Biblical Israel.”

The series, which is open to everyone, is sponsored by the Center for Women’s Studies and Gender Research. Coordinated by faculty member Dr. Stephanie Evans, the discussions are held monthly during the lunch hour in the third floor library in Ustler Hall.

Affiliate faulty member Whitney Sanford of the Department of Religion, spoke to a group of over twenty five attendees in October on the topic of “Gender, Bodies and Environmental Ethics.”

In November, Sara Crawley of USF’s Women’s Studies Program and Shelbi Day, Staff Attorney for the National Center for Lesbian Rights, addressed a large audience that filled the third floor library in Ustler Hall. Crawley, author of Gendering Bodies, (written with Lara Foley and Connie Sheehan), discussed how society encourages participation in heterosexual gender conformity. Day discussed major political issues relating to gender and sexuality.

On November 30th, at noon, the conversations continued with a panel discussion featuring graduate students Amy Long, Sanam Dolatshahi, and Mallory Szymanski.

The Spring Gender Conversation Series begins on January 28th and the schedule is printed here. All information about the Gender Conversation Series can be found on our website at www.wst.ufl.edu. You can also call the center at 352-392-3365. You are encouraged to bring a friend and a brown bag lunch

January 28
Faye Harrison, Director of African American Studies
My Central Questions about Paradigm-Shifts at the Crossroads of Anthropological, Feminist, Minoritized, and Diasporic Knowledges
11:30-12:45 pm

February 18
Carmen Diana Deere, Director of Latin American Studies
My Central Questions about Women and Wealth
11:30-12:45 pm

March 5
Sandra Russo, Director Development Program, & the Interdisciplinary Water Working Group
Our Central Questions about... Using Research Knowledge for Gender and Social Equity in Water Projects.
11:45-1:00 pm

April 7
LaMonda Horton-Stallings, Department of English
My Central Questions about... Black Women Creating Erotica
11:45-1:00 pm

Friday, April 25
First Year Graduate Student Panel
Kathryn Turner, Desiree Krell, Tanya Faublas, Tatiana Falcon, Michelle Phillips, Lola Bovell
12 noon -1:30 pm

Dr. Peña presented the following research paper: “Hispanic Churches in Social Ministries: Challenges in Feeding the Body in Contested Social Spaces,” presented at the American Sociological Association Conference, New York City, NY, August 11-14, 2007.

Florence E Babb was a special guest editor of a series on “Engendering Anthropology,” which appeared in five issues of Anthropology News this spring and fall. She authored a final piece on “The Future of Feminist Anthropology / The Feminist Future of Anthropology” in the November issue. Her term as President of the Association for Feminist Anthropology concludes in December.

In September, Dr Babb presented a guest lecture on “Feminismo, Identidad, Diaspora Un comentario sobre las practicas transnacionales” for the art exhibition Cara a Cara / Face to Face: Diálogos y Confrontaciones Fronterizas, Narraciones de Género, Raza, Inmigración y Diásporas, at the Centro Cultural Español in Miami. She is also presenting papers this fall at the Latin American Studies Association conference in Montreal and the American Anthropological Association conference in Washington DC.

Stephanie Evans gave three presentations including a panel discussion at the ABWH conference titled “Intersections, Interdisciplinarity, and Black Women in the Ivory Tower” held in Charlotte, North Carolina on October 2-6, “Balancing Academic Substance with Polished Presentation, or The Finer Points of Shameless Self-Promotion.” SREB - Compact for Faculty Diversity. Institute on Teaching and Mentoring held in Arlington, Virginia on October 27, and “Historical Sisters of the Academy: Using History as a Research and Publishing Tool” at a panel presentation and mentoring workshops at the Sisters of the Academy Boot Camp at Auburn University, on August 9-12.


Tace Hedrick organized a session titled “Blackness and Comparative Racial Politics in U.S. Afro-Latina/o, African American, and Latin American Writing and Culture” for the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) in Montreal, Canada on September 7, 2007.

Dr. Hedrick also delivered the Keynote Address, “Crossing the Bridge Between U.S. Latina/o and Latin American Studies,” for the University of Florida Third Hispanic Graduate Colloquium "El Arte de Convivir," on October 13th. She gave an invited talk titled “Gloria Anzaldúa and Gabriela Mistral, Queering the Cosmic Race” for English, Latin American Studies, and Women’s Studies at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia on November 15th.

Interim Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and former CWSGR Director Angel Kwolek-Folland had two articles recently published. One, with Margaret Walsh, co-editors of special issue of Business History Review on “Gender and the Service Industries in Business History: Some International Comparisons,” and “Gender and the Service Sector in United States Business History,” Business History Review vol. 81, no. 3 (Autumn 2007).

Dr. Kwolek-Folland also presented a paper (with Prof. Terry Dworkin, Indiana University) titled, “Gender Equity in the Stem Disciplines in the U.S.,” at the Fifth Conference on Gender Equity in Higher Education Berlin, Germany, August 2007.

While traveling in Vietnam, Trysh Travis visited the American Studies Programs at both the Hanoi and the Ho Chi Minh City campuses of Vietnam National University. In Ho Chi Minh City, she met with to Professor Thien Thi Phuong Ngo’s Advanced Seminar in American Studies to discuss their current research projects, which included American attitudes towards a female president, the distribution of household labor within two-career families, and the images of women in popular American Television.
Affiliate Faculty News

Nora M. Alter recently published her essay, “The Legs of Marlene Dietrich,” in Die Wollstonecraft. In her capacity as Vice-president/ president elect she attended the annual Women in German Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah.


Diana Boxer, U.F. Professor of Linguistics, presented an invited talk entitled, “Humorous self disclosures as resistance to socially imposed gender roles” at the International Pragmatics Association Conference this past July in Gothenburg, Sweden. It was part of a panel on Humorous self disclosures: Gender, age, and culture.


Leilani Doty, PhD, Director of the University of Florida Cognitive & Memory Disorder Clinics, Department of Neurology, UF, was appointed as Chair of the (Florida-wide) Alzheimer’s Disease Initiative Education & Training Subcommittee. Also, Dr. Doty was elected to Chair the Communications Committee and serve on the Board of Directors of the national/international academic health organization, the Society for Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine.

Professor Pamela K. Gilbert recently became Chair of the Department of English. Her most recent book, The Citizen’s Body: Desire, Health, and the Social in Victorian England was published by Ohio State University Press in August, 2007. She gave a paper and chaired a session at a conference on “The Idea of the City” at the University of Northampton, England in June. In September, she gave an invited talk at The Georgia Institute of Technology titled “The Spatial Turn: Sex in the City.” In October, she attended the 2007 meeting of the North American Victorian Studies Association in Victoria, Canada, where she delivered a paper titled “Putting the Skin to Work.”

Rose Sau Lugano from the department of African and Asian Languages and Literatures recently attended a workshop on “Representations of Childhood in the Literatures and Film of Africa and the African Diaspora” on October 12-13 at Smith College, Massachusetts. She also presented a paper based on a chapter titled “Condemned by Patriarchy: Trends of Growing Down in Euphrase Kezilahabi’s Rosa Mistika” that examined the conditions that determine selfhood in the African girl child in the East African context.

Professor of French Carol Murphy was named Chevalier in the French Legion of Honor in a decree signed by outgoing French President Jacques Chirac on April 23. She has been recognized for outstanding contribution to relations between the United States and France. It is France’s highest national honor. In December, she will be participating in a bilingual international conference on French Philosophy and Contemporary Art at Florida Atlantic University.

Daniel I. O’Neill, Assistant Professor of Political Science recently celebrated the publication of his new book by Penn State University Press, “The Burke-Wollstonecraft Debate: Savagery, Civilization, and Democracy.” One of the books principal subjects, Mary Wollstonecraft, is the woman generally acknowledged as the founder of modern feminism.


Helen I. Saka, Professor Emerita of Anthropology and Latin American Studies at the University of Florida, was presented the Kalman Silverst award of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) at its recent Congress, September 5-8, 2007, in Montreal.


Gwendolyn Zoharah Simmons delivered a plenary address at the Gandhi-King Nonviolence Conference in Memphis, Tenn at Christian Brother’s College on Saturday, October 27th. Her conference speech was titled, “True Peace Requires Institutional Justice and Individual Spiritual Change.” She one of two invited speakers at the Silk Road Club’s 3rd Annual Interreligious Dinner at the Paramount Hotel and Conference Center on October 1, 2007. The conference theme and the topic of her speech was “Love of Creation: A Bridge to the Divine Love.”

Stephanie A Smith, Professor of English published “A Most Ambiguous Citizen: Samuel R. ‘Chip’ Delany” in American Literary History (Summer, 2007 v.1.) and “Harriet Jacobs: A Case History of Authentication” for the Cambridge Companion to the Slave Narrative ed. Audrey Fisch (Cambridge 2007) Her retrospective on “Octavia Butler, A Retrospective” will be in the publication “Feminist Studies” this fall and she has been invited to present a paper on Sacajawea as an American Icon by the National Association of Native American Studies in February in Baton Rouge.

Anita Spring, Department of Anthropology, was elected President-elect of Culture and Agriculture, a section of the American Anthropological Association (AAA). She presented two papers on gender: “Conventional and Global African Women Entrepreneurs: Modeling the Similarities and Differences,” at the International Academy of African Business Development, London, May 2007 and “Ester Boserup’s WID paradigm based on agriculture: Can we revise it now?” at the annual meeting of the AAA in Washington in December 2007.

Holiday Book Sale Planned

Mark your calendar for Sunday, December 9th and plan to bring a friend to the 16th Annual Holiday Book Sale sponsored by the Friends of Women’s Studies and Goering’s Bookstore.

The sale will take place from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at Goering’s located at 1717 N.W. 1st Avenue in Gainesville.

Tickets for this special sale are $3.00 and are available at 201 Ustler Hall, or by calling 352-392-3365. They will also be available at the door. Goering’s will donate 20% of all sales that evening to The Friends of Women’s Studies for the Center for Women’s Studies and Gender Research. Please be sure to bring your holiday shopping list!

With An Attitude of Gratitude

Thanks to everyone whose generosity keeps the center viable including some of our recent donors like Janet Fant, Jamie Funderburk, David Hackett, Elouis M. Harman, Mary Hasell, Clyde Kiker and Suzanne B. Kiker, John Scanzoni, Mark Thurner, Sno E. White, Gregory Allen, Linda Lamme, Jeanna Mastrodicasa, Charles T. Wood, Jr. and the Gainesville Community Alliance.

In addition we would like to offer our gratitude to Kim Tanzer and Rodney McGalliard, as well as Mary and James Lockwood and Sheila Dickison.

We also want to thank Rebecca and Paul Nagy, Mark and Virginia Delegal, Geoffrey J. Giles, JoAnn Wilkes, Priscilla Newell, Mary Wade, Eileen Oliver and Bernard Oliver.

Author Ruth Behar to lecture

You are invited to attend a lecture by Dr. Ruth Behar, Professor of Anthropology at the University of Michigan. The lecture titled, Searching for Jewish Cuba: Perils and Pleasures of Diasporic Ethnography, is co-sponsored by the Center for Women’s Studies and Gender Research, the Center for Latin American Studies, the Center for Jewish Studies, and the Department of Anthropology.

It will be held on Tuesday, January 29th at 4:00 p.m. in the Atrium on the second floor of Ustler Hall.

Behar, Author of Translated Woman: Crossing the Border with Esperanza’s Story and The Vulnerable Observer: Anthropology that Breaks Your Heart and editor of Bridges to Cuba and co-editor of Women Writing Culture, is also a poet and emerging filmmaker, with her film “Adio Kerida.” She has been the recipient of a MacArthur Foundation award as well as a John Simon Guggenheim fellowship. Latina Magazine named her one of the 50 Latinas who made history in the twentieth century.

Ruth Behar’s newest book, An Island Called Home: Returning to Jewish Cuba (Rutgers University Press, 2007) is an account of her journey back to Cuba in search of the Jewish community that might have been hers had her family stayed after the revolution.
Water, Gender, and Equity in India: A Symposium and Lecture Series

Dr. Anita Anantharam, Assistant Professor, Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research, and Dr. Vasudha Narayanan, Distinguished Professor, Department of Religion and Director of CHiTra (Center for the Study of Hindu Religions), and Dr. Whitney Sanford, Assistant Professor, Department of Religion, with funding from the Water Institute of the University of Florida, will present a symposium and lecture series addressing the critical problem of Gender, water and equity in India.

The series will bring eminent scholars to the University of Florida to participate in symposia and discussions on the general topic of water and society and, more specifically, how these issues emerge on the Indian subcontinent. This series will 1) educate scholars about the role of gender, religion and social hierarchy in water disputes, and 2) lead to innovative interdisciplinary collaborations and build on existing partnerships within the International Working Water Group.

The first in the series titled "River Goddesses, River Linking: From Sacred to Transferable Waters" featured a lecture Auburn University Anthropologist Dr. Kelly Alley and was held on October 9th. In this heavily attended lecture, Dr. Alley outlined the Hindu reverence for key river Goddesses in India and connected faith, ritual, social organization and political movements to illustrate the centrality of sacred water to everyday life.

On January 25th, the series will continue with a Symposium on Religion, Culture and Water Conflicts when Dr. Aaron Wolf of the Department of Geosciences at Oregon State University will focus on the interaction between water science and water policy, particularly as related to conflict and conflict resolution. The Symposium on Gender, Water and Development, featuring Dr. Sara Ahmed, Institute for Social and Environmental Transition (ISET-USA) and Dr. Vicki Getz of Washington State University is tentatively set for February 4th and 5th. Dr. Ahmed focuses on women's participation in water user committees with research partners in Maharashtra and Gujarat as part of a larger program on decentralization and gender rights in South Asia, Africa and Latin America. Dr. Getz conducts research on gender and development, sustainable agriculture and community development. Her research in Kerala, India centers on Gender Capacity Building and the Changing Role of Women in Governance, Economics and Community.

In March, Dr. Amita Baviskar, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi, India will present a lecture titled, "Dams, Development and Equity" Dr. Baviskar focuses on environmental politics, with a focus on social inequality and natural resources conflicts, environmental and indigenous social movements, and urban environmental politics in South Asia.

"Water and Religion in Pakistan and Central Asia," a lecture by Dr. Hermann Kreutzmann, Department of Geography, Free University, Berlin will be held in April. Dr. Kreutzmann has written on relationships between the distribution of water and religion, languages, politics, globalization, and development issues in the high mountain environments of Pakistan.

For further information about this symposia and lecture series, please visit our website at www.wst.ufl.edu

In the spirit of our motto, An Emergency Contraception Day was held on Oct 2, where information was made available about Plan B and safe sex. Workshops titled Feminism, theory, and activism—"The F Word," were held on Oct 25th and Nov 7th. The second workshop was held at the First Presbyterian church during a college/youth group.

On Mon, Nov 19 a panel called "Concussion: Hitting your head on the glass ceiling" about women in the workplace was held in Ustler Hall.

FACE Facts
By Leah Greenblum, President

FACE = Feminist Activists Creating Equality and it is the student organization of CWSGR. Our motto is "we want to make the personal political through activism, service, and awareness-raising on campus and in the community."

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Note: Leah was invited to present a paper, "Doing Gender, Doing Emotional Labor" at the Conference of the Social Sciences.
Introducing our New Graduate Assistants

Tatiana Falcon, Research Assistant
Tatiana graduated from the University of Puerto Rico-Rio, Piedras Campus in May with a Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology. Her interest in Women’s Studies developed through the influence of her aunt who’s a feminist professor back in Puerto Rico and after spending her junior year at Louisiana State University and participating with activist organizations. As a graduate student her research interests include gender construction, language and sexuality.

Tanya Faublas, Teaching Assistant
Tanya A. Faublas earned her Bachelor of Arts magna cum laude in English with a minor in Spanish from Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia. She participated as a student member in the Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society and Sorority, National Honor Society, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Golden Key International Honor Society, and Alpha Lambda Delta National Honor Society and Sorority. Her research interests include the interconnections and existence of women, power, and autonomy.

Desirae Krell, Teaching Assistant
Desi graduated from the University of South Florida in December 2002 with a Bachelor’s Degree in English Education and in May 2006 with a Master’s Degree in Gifted Education. Having spent four years as a teacher, her interests moved from the classroom to research, particularly in the social sciences. With research interests including body image in larger sized women, the culture of hooking up among adolescents and young adults, and the development of a “love education,” Women’s Studies seemed a perfect fit and a strong segue into future plans in Sociology.

Kathryn Turner, Teaching Assistant
Katie graduated in May 2007 from Stetson University with a Bachelor’s degree in Political Science and minors in American Studies and Women’s Studies. She has interned for various nonprofit and governmental organizations researching women and public policy, environmental policy, and urban planning. She completed an undergraduate senior thesis titled “Women’s Movements and the Feminization of Power in Post-Crisis Democracies,” and her current research interests include gender and space, women and public policy, and feminist urban planning theory.

Tatiana, Tanya, Desirae, and Kathryn join our existing graduate students. Please look for more new graduate student introductions in our spring newsletter and visit our website for a complete listing of the graduate students in our program.