From the Director’s Desk

Marking important anniversaries gives us the opportunity to reflect on significant books, events, and legal landmarks. Last year, for instance, we marked the 50th anniversary of the publication of Betty Friedan’s *The Feminine Mystique* with a series of programs. For several years, we have specifically designed our conference series—Feminist Legacies—as a way to revisit major feminist texts, such as Simone de Beauvoir’s *The Second Sex* and Mary Wollstonecraft’s *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*. Our conference next spring, “Feminist Publics, Current Engagements: Gender | Culture | Society,” commemorates the 40th anniversary of Michelle Z. Rosaldo and Louise Lamphere’s *Women, Culture, and Society* (1974) and of feminist anthropology more broadly. And this semester, we mark 40 years since the Roe v. Wade decision with a symposium, “Reproductive Rights in the US: 1973-2013,” co-hosted with the Levin College of Law.

I also have participated in a significant anniversary during 2013: the 200th anniversary of the publication of Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice* in 1813. I was one of several scholars invited to give a talk at a conference at the University of Cambridge celebrating the event. I was delighted to learn about such things as Jane Austen’s influence on the New Woman movement in Britain at the end of the 19th century or the presence of Jane Austen in the trenches during the World War I. My own talk focused on the emotional

The CWSGR Welcomes Two Faculty Members

We are pleased that two additional faculty members are joining us in the Center. Dr. Laura Guyer has been central to the development of our Health Disparities in Society (HDS) minor, and now joins us as a Senior Lecturer charged with teaching the core and other health-related courses, as well as overseeing the growth of the minor. A registered dietician with a PhD in Educational Leadership (UF, 1987), Dr. Guyer has been a central figure in public health in Alachua County and beyond for several decades. She has worked at UF in various capacities during that time, as well as at the former Alachua General Hospital. She comes to the CWSGR after a dozen years as Associate Director of the Suwannee River Area Health Education Center, and most immediately, from a position in the College of Medicine. Dr. Guyer’s broad social network and passion for teaching the social dimensions of health and healthcare delivery have made her indispensable in the creation of our HDS minor, and we are happy to have her join us full-time and bring the social and cultural dimensions of healthcare to our students’ attention.

Our second addition is not really new at all—Professor of Sociology Connie Shehan

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From the Director’s Desk, continued from page 1

and moral qualities that Austen associated with the natural landscape in *Pride and Prejudice* and in her work more generally. All of the papers and presentations, taken together, revealed that there are perhaps as many reasons to celebrate *Pride and Prejudice* as there are readers, but the thread that runs through all responses is that Austen’s voice has resonated and continues to resonate with generations of readers. Without calling herself a feminist, Austen delivered a message about women’s empowerment simply by creating a narrative in which a young woman living in a constrained society nonetheless claimed the power to refuse and to choose for herself.

Not a bad message to keep in mind as we look forward to the academic year ahead of us. I hope that you will check our web site as we put new events and co-sponsored programs up and that you will attend as many as you can. We introduced our new graduate students at the opening event last month, and I know that they look forward to meeting many more of you in classes and at events as they and our returning students progress through our program. Next week we will inaugurate our Feminist Pedagogy Reading Group, and we welcome everyone to join us as we consider this important topic that can potentially bring us all together as teachers, students, and feminists.

New Health Disparities in Society Minor Launched

Following unanimous approval by the University’s Curriculum Committee last fall, the CWSGR’s newest minor, Health Disparities in Society, was added to the list of 48 minors offered in CLAS. At that time, no one could have predicted the program’s rapid growth and the numbers of future medical and health professions students who have enrolled. Former undergraduate student Neal Singh, now a first year student in UF’s College of Dentistry explained, “I knew that this information would be of great use to me because as a prospective dentist, I need to be culturally competent and be able to work with and treat a wide variety of patients in the best possible way. Since our world has many diverse people today, it is important to take factors such as gender, race and ethnicity, socioeconomic status, education, physical and mental health, sexual orientation, and geographical location into account when working with and treating patients as a health care professional.” Health Disparities in Society is popular among students from various colleges and, we look forward to teaching a lively and diverse group of students for many years to come.

Additional Faculty Members, continued from page 1

actually served as Director of the Women’s Studies Program (as it was then called) from 1985-89, shortly after she arrived at UF with her PhD from Penn State University. Women’s Studies seems to have proven a good incubator: since then Dr. Shehan has served as the Founding Director for UF’s Center for Excellence in Teaching, Associate Dean of CLAS, President of the Faculty Senate, and, most recently, Chair of the Department of Sociology, Criminology, and Law. Along the way she’s mentored countless students, won teaching and mentoring prizes, and authored numerous books and articles on American families, gender, and power; she is currently the editor-in-chief of the five-volume *Encyclopedia of Family Studies*, to be published by Wiley-Blackwell in 2015. In the coming years, Dr. Shehan will split her appointment between Sociology and Women’s Studies.

We are delighted to welcome her back to “the Women’s Studies Program” that she helped to build.
Welcome New Graduate Students

We are pleased to welcome to the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research 6 new graduate students who will join our graduate cohort of 4 MA candidates. Our incoming class will enrich our graduate program with their wealth of expertise in social justice activism, art, and politics. Please join us in welcoming Anna Armitage, Eric Chianese, Reilly-Owen Clemens, Tim Kavaklian-D'Annecy, Hina Shaikh, and Dana Williams to the MA program in Women's Studies.

Anna Armitage graduated from the University of South Florida with a double major in History and Women's Studies. Her research interests include 20th century American women's history, specifically focusing on redefining resistance. Some of her previous projects examined prostitution in the Progressive Era and the involuntary sterilization of Native American women in the 1970's.

Eric Chianese earned his BA from University of Florida in English and Political Science ('10) and took a law degree from Harvard Law ('13). His research focuses on media and gender roles and reproductive rights law. He also works for Know Your IX, a national advocacy group dedicated to helping victims of Title IX violations.

Reilly-Owen Clemens earned her BA from Winona State University, where she majored in Political Science and minored in both French and Philosophy. She then attended the University of Alabama where she obtained her Juris Doctorate. Her research interests center on transsexualism and its relationship to oppression, women's history, and feminist activism.

Tim Kavaklian-D'Annecy graduated from UF in 2013 with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science with a minor in Women's Studies. He interned at Planned Parenthood of North Florida with the North Florida Justice Fund and has volunteered throughout college. His research interests include reproductive rights and public policy.

Hina Shaikh graduated last spring from the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College of Florida Atlantic University with a degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences and a dual concentration in Political Science and Women's Studies. Born to Pakistani parents and raised as a Muslim, Hina is interested in the racialization of the Muslim identity, especially the ways in which Muslim women react to and negotiate with their identities in a post-9/11 world. Hina loves to read and re-read theory to such a point that she hopes to make a career of it one day as a professor.

Dana Williams received her BA from the University of Florida in May 2012, majoring in Women's Studies and minoring in Spanish and International Development and Humanitarian Assistance. Before beginning her MA studies, she spent time in Australia and China, and worked for the Migrant Education Program of Alachua County. Dana was born and raised in Gainesville, and is excited to be back at UF!

Recent Grads Report on The NoLOSE Conference

Miami natives Maria C. Muñoz (Women's Studies major 2012) and Shanti M. Cruz (Women's Studies major 2011) continue to bring their energy, insight, and power to our community. Maria is currently a graduate student at UF in the Student Personnel in Higher Education program through the College of Education. Shanti works as a Residential Case Manager for Peaceful Paths, a local Gainesville partner abuse resource network. Last spring, the two received financial aid to travel to San Francisco for the annual conference of NoLOSE -- National Organization of Lesbians of SizE. The organization strives to create a community of fat queers seeking to end the oppression of fat people through a commitment to feminist, anti-oppression ideology and action. The highlights of their report follow:

“The theme of the 2012 NoLOSE conference was “Survival of the Fattest.” NoLOSE serves as a space to swap survival skills, strategies to “do it” for ourselves, and bring to the fore the experiences of those facing intersecting oppressions. Recently the organization has changed their vision to include people of all gender expressions and to promote a space for fat people of color. In Fatlandia, people of all shapes, sizes, and colors, superfat people, trans-identified people, and people of all ages and abilities surrounded us. In Fatlandia, terms like fat and queer are words of empowerment and participants are constantly challenged and encouraged to use those words as tools of action.

(Continued on page 4)
Graduate Update 2013

Lola Bovell (MA, 2009) is a second year student at the University of Wisconsin School of Law. She serves as Vice-President for Academic Affairs of the Latino/a Law Students’ Association.

Tanya Faublas (MA, 2009) lives in South Florida and works as an Account Manager for Actavis, a pharmaceutical distribution company.

Nathalia Hernandez Ochoa (MA, 2013), who graduated with a MA in Women's Studies and a Latin American Studies Certificate, has a full-time job with the Center for Latin American Studies. She is the new Program Coordinator, where her responsibilities include academic advising for undergraduate students who are working towards minors and certificates in Latin American Studies. She will also be coordinating conferences and events for the Center.

Cathy Jean (MA, 2013): After finishing her MA in Women’s Studies, Cathy Jean is now working on her PhD at UF in the Political Science Department with a focus on gender and international relations. She also serves as the managing editor for the academic journal International Feminist Journal of Politics. She intends to participate in international academic conferences this school year, focusing on the research she conducted for her women's studies MA thesis.

Kelly Korman (MA, 2013) works full-time at an organic certification agency in Gainesville, FL. She is transitioning from leadership for the Student Agricultural Gardens at UF, which she developed as her MA project. She is also applying to PhD programs to pursue her interest in sustainable food system development.

Amy Long (MA, 2008): After several years working in corporate communications for nonprofit organizations like the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression and the ACLU’s Drug Law Reform Project, Amy has returned to school to pursue an MFA in fiction writing. She received a full fellowship to Virginia Tech’s highly regarded program and began classes this fall.

Caroline “Kay” Picart (JD/MA, 2013): Kay Picart’s Copyright and Critical Race Theory in American Dance: Whiteness as Status Property, a book that grew out of her MA thesis research conducted under Dr. Patricia Hilliard-Nunn, will be published by Palgrave-Macmillan. In addition, she was admitted to the Florida Bar in late September.

Lauren Smith (MA, 2013) writes to tell us the following: “I am living in Alexandria, VA, where I work for Close Up Foundation, a nonprofit organization that offers civic education programs in Washington DC for middle school and high school students. This job allows me to practice my belief in the importance of supplemental education programming, which was a tenet of my WST graduate research. My time in UF’s Women’s Studies and Gender Research MA program was invaluable in terms of helping me understand how to combine my belief in feminism with my work in organizations that do not self-identify as feminist, and the professional experience I gained working with WST, UF Housing, and Slow Food Gainesville was great preparation for the work I am doing now with Close Up.”

Sarah Steele (MA, 2011): Sarah’s “Performing Utopia: Queer Counterpublics and Southerners On New Ground” appeared in Utopia: A Critical Inquiry into Queer Utopia, edited by Angela Jones and published this August as part of the Palgrave Macmillan series Critical Studies in Gender, Sexuality and Culture. The essay evolved from her thesis work at UF, with the continued help of her graduate committee. It provides an empirical example of contemporary social movement actors and their use of queer utopian spaces. This fall, Sarah began her first semester as a PhD student in the Sociology Department at the University of Illinois at Chicago, where she continues her scholarly interest in social movements, sexuality, and gender.

Erin Tobin (MA, 2010): After finishing her degree at Florida, Erin went on to receive an MA in Cinema Studies at New York University. She is currently a student in the PhD Program in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at the Ohio State University, and this fall she is teaching a class on “Hollywood, Women, and Film.”

Recent Grads Report on The NoLOSE Conference (continued)

The conference started with a Fatshion show during which lovely fat bodies-- dressed to impress-- took the stage for all to see. Workshops ranged from seminars on safe sex to self-defense classes, to a live history session for members of a traveling circus. Our nights ended with a food truck festival in the hotel parking lot, a clothes swap, and fat flea market where talented fatties had the opportunity to showcase their talents and sell their products. The conference concluded with a keynote address from Collette Carter, co-Director of the Andre Lorde Project in New York and a self-identified “black queer fat femme activist.”
With an Attitude of Gratitude

Thanks to everyone whose generosity keeps the center viable, including the following donors:

- Ms. Kathryn Chicone Ustler
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Donations to the Center are used to fund conferences, symposia, educational travel for graduate students, scholarship funds, speaker honoraria, and exhibit support.

Feminist Anthropology—Spring 2014 Conference and More

By Dr. Florence Babb

In last spring’s News and Views we announced the upcoming Women’s Studies conference on campus February 21-22 and the generous support we have received from various parts of the University. We’re excited about the way things have shaped up and so we are providing this brief follow-up to the planning.

The conference, “Feminist Publics, Current Engagements,” will honor the 40th anniversary of the publication of a landmark collection in feminist anthropology, Woman, Culture, and Society, co-edited by Michelle Z. Rosaldo and Louise Lamphere. Along with keynoter Lamphere, the conference will feature three more invited anthropologists who will reflect on how this pioneering anthology anticipated debates on women and gender relations that are still animating the field.

Much of the discussion will be focused on the legacy of this work in contemporary scholarship and activism. Members of the UF community will serve as commentators and moderators at the conference.

Three months before the UF conference, Lamphere will be honored with the Franz Boas Award, one of the most distinguished prizes in anthropology, at the meetings of the American Anthropological Association in Chicago. We have organized a panel at the meetings with the same four invited speakers who will come to Florida, offering us a chance to test-run short versions of presentations and receive feedback that will be useful to the UF conference. In addition, I will be teaching a new seminar this spring in Feminist Anthropology for undergraduates and graduate students, which will incorporate writings by the invited guests. We hope that students will make up a good portion of the attendees at the conference and to that end a morning will be devoted to informal conversation among the speakers and the wide UF community.

As the conference organizer and a longtime feminist anthropologist myself, I look forward to this signal opportunity at UF to critically engage questions of current importance, not only to the discipline but to interdisciplinary women’s studies.

Questions may be directed to me at Florence Babb, fbabb@ufl.edu. Please mark your calendars and spread the word!

Center Director Judy Page Presents the “Uppity Woman” Award to Women’s Studies Affiliate Professor Marta Wayne, Biology in recognition of her support of the Center. The award is given annually at the Center reception.
Feminism is Your Fuel; The Destination is Up to You.

2013 Graduate Kathy Keeter (triple major, Political Science, Women’s Studies, and Spanish) shares the story of her exciting—and successful—job search. As it turns out, a Women’s Studies degree is “value-added” in today’s corporate culture, provided you “leverage it” the right way!

“That’s right, it is possible not to starve to death after college just because you majored in Women’s Studies. In fact, you don’t even have to tread the murky water at the bottom of Maslow’s Hierarchy, but can instead climb that pyramid to find success and happiness, all thanks to the valuable insights gained from your “useless” major. Here’s how.

During my time at UF, I channeled my passion for Women’s Studies into everything I did. I converted the fledgling Women’s Leadership Council into a thriving hub for collegiate women, the Women’s Student Association (WSA). I simultaneously dove into my studies, electing for a challenging course load that would deepen my understanding of multiple fields. On the one hand, I developed leadership and organization skills, on the other, a talent for critical thinking and communication. ‘Soft’ skills these may be, but guess what employers were looking for when this Women’s Studies major came a-knockin’?

I slapped these accomplishments on a resume and edited, edited, edited. I sought advice from the well-dressed experts at the Career Resource Center and from the better-dressed advisors in Women’s Studies. I practiced until I felt confident I had a lot to say, and knew just how to say it. And when I went to the Career Fair to find summer internships in 2011, employers listened. They listened because I had a unique major, a good GPA, and plenty of passion and experience with women’s issues. Instead of hiding my Women’s Studies background like it was some sort of hindrance, I praised it as an avenue for bringing diversity to a company. The enthusiasm with which I discussed my academic and extracurricular accomplishments made a difference: that summer I spent 10 weeks as an Executive Intern with the Target Corporation.

The following fall, I tackled a violence prevention internship with the Peaceful Paths Domestic Abuse Network, further strengthening my time management and interpersonal skills. My work with WSA continued, proving I could sustain my efforts and follow through with projects I begin. I spent that semester flying all across the country to interview with companies like Hershey’s, Hess, and PepsiCo. But in the end, it was Amazon that won my little feminist heart: I’m now an ‘Operations/Logistics Manager’ in Fort Worth, Texas, eating well and on my way to paying back my student loans.

The formula for my success is simple: it began with my decision to major in Women’s Studies. I found my passion, and I pursued it feverishly. Before I knew it, I had a laundry list of accomplishments and experiences I could use to stun future employers long enough to convince them to pay me lots of money. Thanks, persuasive essays from WST 2015.

In one of my more memorable interviews, a gentleman remarked to me that ‘a major doesn’t matter’ any more when applying for work after college. And while I grasp the intended meaning of his comment, that doesn’t stop it from being inherently wrong. The major does matter, and few matter more in this world than Women’s Studies. So in preparation for that inevitable day when you will leave our beloved Swamp for good, I urge you to summon that burning passion for social justice and let it drive you.

Feminism is your fuel, the destination is up to you.”

Book Nook: Recently Published Books by Center Faculty and Affiliates


(Continued on page 7)
In the spring of 2010, CWSSGR sent two remarkable students off into the world: Caroline Sacerdote (double major, Economics and Political Science; minor Women’s Studies and East Asian Languages and Literature-Mandarin) and Juan “Pepis” Rodriguez (major, Sociology, double minor Women’s Studies and Philosophy). From 2010-2012 the two worked in Seattle for AmeriCorps—a federally-funded program similar to the Peace Corps but focused on marginalized communities within the US. Sacerdote served as a college advisor at Franklin High School; Rodriguez worked as a middle school tutor, mentor and coach, trained incoming volunteers, and served as a school-community-government liaison. In the fall of 2012, both entered law school, Sacerdote at Harvard, Rodriguez at Georgetown. We caught up with them at the end of a whirlwind year to see what was next for them. Caroline Sacerdote writes:

“We are both interested in working abroad, so we figured we’d give it a try this past summer. We applied all over, and Johannesburg, South Africa figured we’d give it a try this past summer. We were both interested in working abroad, so we were both interested in working abroad, so we figured we’d give it a try this past summer. We applied all over, and Johannesburg, South Africa happened to be where we both found positions.

Pepis worked in the Impact Litigation unit at Legal Aid South Africa, the country’s government organization devoted to indigent representation and public legal services; I interned at the Legal Resources Centre, which works in human rights impact litigation. It was pretty random, but ended up working great. Legal work in South Africa is incredibly interesting right now because the constitution is so new, and it was fascinating working in a country with so much respect for human rights within its constitution. It definitely didn’t hurt that Johannesburg was an amazing place to live! We also gave ourselves two weeks to travel after our internships, so we got the chance to visit Cape Town.

We left South Africa in early August, and have been visiting family/traveling since then. I actually just had the chance to attend Lavender Law -- an LGBTQIA law conference -- in San Francisco last week. I can’t believe I’m about to start my second year and am already starting my job search for next summer. I really enjoyed impact litigation, so I think I’m going to shoot for a domestic job doing similar work next summer. I’m hoping that working in the International Human Rights Clinic and taking its accompanying class this year will help me to figure out if I’d enjoy doing that work long term, or if I’d prefer to work in domestic civil rights. In addition, this year I’m looking forward to spending more time with Lambda (our LGBTQIA organization at Harvard Law School) and the Journal of Law and Gender.”

Pepis plans to continue work he started last year with Law Students for Reproductive Justice (LSRJ), OutLaw, and The Innocence Project. In addition, he will be working with Georgetown’s International Women’s Human Rights Clinic, partnering with FIDA-Kenya, a nonprofit organization aimed at improving the legal standing of women in Kenya and tackling various discriminatory Kenyan laws. He’s really looking forward to taking a class on Feminist Jurisprudence in the spring semester with notable feminist legal scholar Robin West.
Mark your Calendar for Upcoming Events in the Center!

Please mark your calendar for the following events, sponsored or co-sponsored by the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research. For all events, see our website for more information on the programs and co-sponsorships.

October 2nd-October 4th:
“Reproductive Rights in the US: 1973-2013”
Co-sponsored by Levin College of Law
Visit www.wst.ufl.edu for more information.

Wednesday, January 15th:
“Trouble the Water,” featuring Academy Award-Nominated Documentary Filmmaker Tia Lessin
Co-sponsored with the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program
2:30 p.m: Ustler Hall, Public Panel Discussion
6:00 p.m. Pugh Hall, Public Screening of “Trouble the Water”

February 21-22, 2014:
“Feminist Publics, Current Engagements: Gender | Culture | Society Forty Years Later”
A conference as part of our Feminist Legacies series, co-sponsored by the Center for Humanities and the Public Sphere, the Office of Research, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Vada Allen Yeomans Professorship, the Department of Anthropology, and the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program.
See page 5 of this newsletter and visit www.wst.ufl.edu for more information.