Irene Thompson 1919-2005

As many of you know, the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research owes so much to Irene Thompson. She was instrumental in putting Women's Studies on the map at UF. If you wish to communicate with her family, you can do so by contacting her daughter, Dr. Margaret Thompson, 212 Croyden Road, Syracuse, NY, 13224, or via email msthomps@maxwell.syr.edu.

The following obituary ran in Professor Thompson's local paper.
Irene S. Thompson, 86, died of cancer on September 17, at Francis House in Syracuse, NY. Born in New York City, she lived in Gainesville, Florida, from 1955 until 2001, when she moved to The Nottingham. Thompson was a 1939 magna cum laude graduate of Adelphi College (now University) in Garden City, NY, and earned M.A. degrees from both NYU and the University of Florida, where she completed additional graduate study in American literature. She taught at the high school level for many years, and came to the University of Florida in 1966. She was the founder of the Women's Studies Program at UF and the University's first Gender Equity Officer. She also taught here for two decades. The Irene Thompson Scholarship for undergraduate and graduate students was established in her honor.

Thompson wrote extensively in the fields of women's literature and feminist issues. As a founding member of the Modern Language Association's Committee on Women's Concerns, she co-edited two books: Stepping off the Pedestal: Academic Women in the South (1982), and The Road Retaken: Women Re-enter the Academy (1985). Thompson was active in numerous professional, civic, and women's organizations. As a New York resident, she was a patron of the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra and was involved in many activities at The Nottingham. In the spring of 2005 she was named The Nottingham's "Resident of the Year."

Irene Thompson is survived by her daughter, Margaret Susan, her brother, Eugene Siegel of New Rochelle, and several nieces and nephews. Her husband, Professor Arthur W. Thompson, died in 1965.

Burial will be at Gainesville, Florida, and a memorial will be held in the spring. Contributions in her honor may be given to the Irene Thompson Scholarship Fund; checks should be made out to the "University of Florida Foundation" and sent to the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research, 3324 Turlington Hall, PO Box 117352, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611.

From the Director: Dr. Milagros Pena

The new academic year begins with great excitement and at the same time sad news. Dr. Irene Thompson died September 17. Irene Thompson was Associate Professor Emerita, Department of English. She taught the first Women's Studies course here in 1971. Professor Thompson was one of the founding members of the Women's Studies Program and its first director. She is remembered by friends and colleagues with great affection, particularly for her trailblazing spirit and generosity to students. A scholarship administered through the Center is named in her honor and awarded to undergraduate and graduate students each year. Her spirit permeates through the Center and we continue to build upon her vision. (Please see story above)

As part of that vision, we are currently advertising for an Assistant Professor position with specializations in transnational feminisms and gender studies. We also have a number of other opportunities to strengthen the international component of the Center’s programs such as Dr. Rosemarie Mwaipopo who will be joining the Center in the spring semester. Dr Mwaipopo is from the (article continued on page 2)
Dr. Milagros Peña, continued...

Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Dar es Salaam. She will be co-teaching with Dr. Stephanie Evans a core women's studies course as part of our continuing exchange program with Dar es Salaam. In turn, Dr. Evans will travel to Dar es Salaam summer 2006.

We are working closely with Dr. Sandra Russo of the Center for Transnational and Global Studies as part of Title VI efforts to develop workshops and expand our gender and women's studies program. Other opportunities are emerging with the University of the West Indies in Barbados and Jamaica.

We have come a long way from women's studies as a program to women and gender studies as a Center. It is fitting that in February Kathryn Chicone Ustler Hall will be completed and the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research will be relocating to this historical building. Irene Thompson and all who joined her over the years in building women and gender studies at UF have left us a legacy. Our future continues to build on that legacy. -Milagros Peña

Sexualities Conversations
Co-Sponsored by CWGSR & LGBT Affairs

Neither in the Closet nor on the Balcony: Private Lives and Public Activism in Nicaragua

Florence Babb, CWGSR
Monday, November 14, 2005
11:45 am, 216 Anderson Hall

May 2006 Intersession in Paris
Seeing the /Other/: French Representations of Non-Western Cultures

Florence Babb (CWGSR) and Victoria Rovine (Art History and African Studies) will co-teach a May 2006 intensive week-long course through the Paris Research Center in Paris. The course will explore the long history and contemporary context of French museums and other public institutions in the representation of non-Western cultures. The course will focus on the representation of African cultures, which are particularly prominent in Paris, though it will also address the presence of Latin American arts and cultures in French museums and other public venues. In addition to visiting museums and galleries where African and other non-Western art is displayed, students will explore the contemporary African cultures of Paris.

They will visit neighborhoods with high concentrations of African residents in order to gain insight into the relationship between the "official" representations of Africa and the lived cultures of Africans in Paris today.

All students are eligible. There is no minimum language requirement. Applications are available at: www.clas.ufl.edu/PRC, or by contacting: paris-research@clas.ufl.edu, or (352) 392-2016 ext. 256.

Gender Conversations
An open forum for research discussion
Fall 2006 and Spring 2006 Schedule
219 Dauer Hall (Ruth McQuown Room), 11:45 am-12:45 pm

Gender, Free Trade Zone Employment and Health: The Case of Female-Headed Households in the Dominican Republic
Ana S.Q. Liberato, CWGSR
Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Typecasting Women: The Use of Women's Newspaper Sources by Genre
Cory L. Armstrong, Journalism
Wednesday, February 8, 2006

An Early Feminist Hebrew Writer: The Case of Dvora Baron
Avraham Balaban, African and Asian Languages and Literatures
Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Language, Gender, and Violence: Why is Change so Slow? (Making the Invisible Visible)
M. J. Hardman, Linguistics
Thursday, March 16, 2006

News and Views
Volume 16, Issue 1
Milagros Peña, Ph.D., Director
Amanda Culp, Co-Editor/Graphic Designer
Stacey Moyer, Co-Editor/Graphic Designer
Kendra Vincent, Co-Editor/Graphic Designer
Paula Ambrosio, Editor
Victoria Adams, Assistant Editor

News and Views is published each semester to inform faculty, staff, students, and Women's Studies supporters of activities at the CWGSR at the University of Florida. For further information about upcoming events, please visit our website at: http://www.wst.ufl.edu

Spring 2006 Courses

WST 3015 Interdisciplinary Perspectives of Women
WST 3415 Transnational Feminisms
WST 3930 Incarcerated Women: Literature from Prison
WST 3930 Cultural Productions of Masculinities
WST 4905 Independent Study
WST 4930 Race and Gender in Chicana/Latina Literature and Culture
WST 4930 Women in Islam
WST 4935 Seminar in Feminist Studies
WST 4940 Internship
WST 5933 Sociology of Gender
WST 6508 Advanced Feminist Theory
WST 6905 Independent Study
WST 6935 Feminist Ethnography
WST 6935 Trade and Human Rights in the Americas
WST 6946 Internship in Applied Women's Studies and Gender Research
WST 6971 Master's Research

Avraham Balaban, African and Asian Languages and Literatures, published a chapter from his project, “Motherhood in modern Hebrew fiction” in Hebrew in *Ha'aretz* in August. His second novel, *They Say Love*, will be published by Hakkibutz Hameuchad, Tel Aviv. “A Gender Reading of Agnon’s Metamorphosis” will be published in an anthology in honor of Professor Dan Miron of Columbia University.

Sylvie Blum-Reid, Romance Languages and Film, was awarded a grant by the Center for European Studies for a new course proposal entitled, “European Identities, European Cinemas.” Her article “The Elusive Search for Nora Luca: Tony Gallifit's Adventures in Gypsy Land” appeared in the July issue of *Portal Journal of Multidisciplinary International Studies*.


Marsha Bryant, English, gave two presentations on women poets at the Modernist Studies Association. “The I's Have It? The Problem of Dramatic Monologue in Contemporary Women's Poetry” considered the work of A.I and Carol Ann Duffy. The second paper, co-authored by Mary Ann Eaverly, compared H.D.'s Egypto-modernism with archaeologist James Henry Breasted’s theory of hyperdiffusism.

Mary Ann Burg, Community Health and Family Medicine and Director of the Women's Health Research Center, and Kathleen Grant, WHRC Center Coordinator, will publish “Treatment of menopausal symptoms in family medicine settings following the Women's Health Initiative findings” in a forthcoming issue of the *Journal of the American Board of Family Practice*.

M. Margaret Conway, Political Science, published the third edition of *Women and Public Policy: A Revolution in Progress* with David Ahern and Gertrude Steuermale.


Faye V. Harrison, African American Studies/Anthropology, edited and contributed to *Resisting Racism and Xenophobia: Global Perspectives on Race, Gender, and Human Rights*, a book that grew from the work of the Commission on the Anthropology of Women (of which Harrison is the chair) in relation to the 2001 World Conference Against Racism. She has a forthcoming article on gender politics and the human rights implications of HIV/AIDS transmission in *Indian Anthropologist*.

Tace Hedrick, CWSGR/English, published “Mae e para isso (Mother is for This): Gender, Writing and English-Language Translation in Clarice Lispector” in the *Luso-Brazilian Review*. She will present “My Grandparents get Mexicans from Gas Stations: Mexico, Mexicans, and Labor in Home Improvement” to the American Studies Association, November, 2005.

Bonnie Moradi, Psychology, received the 2005 Outstanding Contribution to Scholarship on Race and Ethnicity Award from the APA Society of Counseling Psychology for her paper with N.T. Hasan, “Arab American Persons’ Reported Experiences of Discrimination and Mental Health: The Mediating Role of Personal Control” published in the *Journal of Counseling Psychology*. She also has two articles forthcoming in *Journal of Counseling Psychology and Teaching of Psychology*.

Carol Murphy, Romance Languages and Literatures, will have her essay “Spectres de Duras: affect, écriture, lecture en mouvement” published this December in the *Cahier de I’ Herme*, a work devoted to Marguerite Duras.


Stephanie A. Smith, English, will publish her work entitled, *Household Words: Bloomers, Sucker, Bombshell, Scab, Nigger, Cyber* this December with the University of Minnesota Press. See this link for more: http://www.upress.umn.edu/books/S/smith_household.html.

Trysh Travis, CWSGR, organized a panel exploring “New Perspectives on Child Sexual Abuse” for the Thirteenth Annual Berkshire Conference on the History of Women in June. The panel included her paper, “The Incest Narrative and the New Domestic Fiction.” Travis’s report on the Berkshire Conference will be published in *Australian Feminist Studies* this spring. Travis is currently utilizing a year-long National Endowment for the Humanities grant in order to complete her manuscript.
Stephanie Evans, Invited Panelist in England

In August, Dr. Stephanie Evans attended the Third International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities hosted by the University of Cambridge in England.

Dr. Evans earned a place on the panel through a competitive call for papers on the History and Theory Humanities-Net discussion list and joined two other presenters for a panel entitled, “Intellectual History: The Pedagogy of a ‘Usable Past.’” The panel was described as “a discussion of Intellectual History as a way of addressing the crisis in historical education, particularly in the United States. Whose ‘usable past’ do we teach? Should we teach?” The panel organizers, Dr. Robert E. Merrill and Dr. Alan Orr are both from the Maryland Institute College of Art. The core of the presenters’ papers were on considering history through theories of Paulo Freire. Dr. Evans presented, “The Right to Grow: African American Women’s Intellectual Legacy.” The Center for Women’s Studies and Gender Research and the African American Studies Program contributed funding for Dr. Evans to attend the conference.

Ustler Hall Update

Faculty, students, and staff tour Ustler Hall (see pictures). The construction at Ustler Hall is progressing, and the Center for Women’s Studies is scheduled to relocate in February 2006.

(Left) L-R: Paula Ambrosio, Stephanie Evans, Ana S.O. Liberato, Tace Hedrick; Director, Milagros Peña, and Associate Dean, Angel Kwok-Folland

(Right) L-R: Sanam Dolatshahi, Stacey Moyer, Florence Babb, Kendal Broad, and Tryah Travis

$3.3 Million Grant Received

Drs. Sandra Russo, International Center/CWSGR, and Mark Brown, Environmental Engineering, have received a $3.3 million NSF IGERT (Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeships) grant. The grant will fund U.S. Ph.D. students for interdisciplinary work around the topic of adaptive management, with a focus on water, wetlands and watersheds. Fifteen departments, including the Center for Women’s Studies, and four colleges at UF are involved in the grant. Research sites are in the Okavango Delta, Botswana; the Pantanal, Brazil; the Yucatan, Mexico; the Kakadu Swamp, Australia; and the Everglades. For more information, see the website at: http://AMw3igert.ufl.edu.

Visiting Assistant Professor, Dr. Ana S.O. Liberato

I was born and raised in the Dominican Republic. I received my bachelor’s degree in statistics from Autonomous University of Santo Domingo, and my Master’s and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Florida. My areas of interest are gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, class and health, poverty, and well-being. Other areas of interest are globalization, democratization, collective remembering, transnationalism and identity. My article, co-authored with Joe Faigin, “Becoming American and Maintaining Ethnic Identities: The Case of Dominican Americans,” will appear in Yoku Saw-Taylor and Steven A. Tuch’s upcoming book, The Other African American Families in the United States (Rowman and Littlefield Publishers). Another article, co-authored with C. Pomeroy and D. Fennell, entitled, “Well-being and Social Policy in Bolivia: The Impact of Ethnicity and Regional Location on Material Wealth and Health Outcomes,” will appear in Social Indicators Research. I am currently working on a book about political culture and democratization in the Dominican Republic. I also have another article under review in the area of gender and development, race, and cultural studies.

I will be in the Center for Women’s Studies and Gender Research as a Visiting Assistant Professor for one or two years and hope to gain more experience as a professor and researcher during this time. I am currently working as the undergraduate coordinator, which is giving me the opportunity to get to know our undergraduate students. I know that CWSGR has a great future ahead. The Center has a visionary leadership with smart views as to how to hire the ideal faculty and attract excellent students. I feel very happy with having the opportunity to be, at least, temporarily a part of it. My interest in gender issues started with seeing my mother’s activism in labor unions and my sisters’ interest in party politics. I am still inspired by these experiences and know that, to a great extent, my research will continue focusing on gender and women’s issues.- Ana S.O. Liberato
Drs. M.J. Hardman and Connie Shehan, recipients of the Uppity Woman Award (Photo by P. Ambroso)

advisor. Dr. Liberato discussed her interests and background.

Dean Neil Sullivan made opening comments, including addressing the need for the University of Florida community to remember those who have been displaced by Hurricane Katrina, and to help where we can.

Dr. Peña presented Dr. M.J. Hardman with an Uppity Woman Award, honoring her outstanding support of Women's Studies at UF. Dr. Constance Shehan also received an Uppity Woman Award. Dr. Shehan was the director of the Women's Studies Program from 1985 to 1989 and continues to be a valuable supporter.

Dr. Liberato announced the Women's Studies Graduate Certificate recipients for 2004-2005: Monica Morris, Rebecca McGovney, and Kirsten Anderson. Stacey Moyer was presented with the Irene Thompson Scholarship for her research on sexualities. Yumiko Hulvey announced the O. Ruth McCown Scholarship recipients. Congratulations to Becky Blanchard, Lin Cassidy, Fredline McCormack, Keny Fenio, Lisa Hager, Emily Friend, Allison Kole, Kristie Soares, and Jessica Weather.

Congratulations:
Li Li, Barbara Caracciolo, Jessica Haynes, LaTonya Jefferson, Melissa Jurado, Adrienne Maxwell, Megan Sapp, and Kathleen Stellitano for completion of their Internships

CWSGR Student's Summer Learning Outside the Classroom
Megan Seery (CWSGR) worked as an intern at the Florida School for Traditional Midwifery this summer. She will be studying business and anthropology in Rio de Janeiro next spring.

CWSGR Spring 2006 Art Exhibit: Paula Ambroso

Paula is extremely excited about displaying her art at the Center. She feels it is an honor to be allowed to display at CWSGR where so many wonderful women have chosen to share their art with the UF/Gainesville community. Paula enjoys loud, vibrant colors and describes her six-year old granddaughter, Megan, as her greatest critic (along with April, Billy and Amanda, her children).

Please come see Paula's work on display from December 12 until the Center moves into Ustler Hall. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

CWSGR Fall 2005 Art Exhibit: Jennifer Paelmo

The Fall 2005 Art Exhibit features works by Jennifer Paelmo.

Jennifer's work is heartfelt and visionary. Although her paintings are abstract, she indicates that they seem to express the different phases in her life. She states that her artistic philosophy defines art as a true expression of the soul, so in order to be an artist within any path of our lives, she believes we must be able to tap into our true selves, emotions, and experience at a given moment.

A reception for her work was held on October 13. Her work will be displayed in 3324 Turlington Hall from August 16 through December 10. The exhibit is free and open to the public.
**Alligator Controversy**

There has been intense controversy at UF surrounding the insensitive reporting and racist cartoons published by The Independent Alligator, a student-run newspaper. A coalition against the paper has been formed, which includes many students, faculty, and staff at UF, along with the Black Graduate Student Organization, Black Student Union, National Council of Negro Women, Give Black, Student Government, University Athletic Association, and Campus NOW.

Although the paper is "independently" funded, campus and community advertising forms its financial base. The coalition is asking for a campus-wide boycott to defund the paper.

The coalition has demanded a "proper and professional" apology. The demands also include diversity training for Alligator staff in order to eradicate offensive reporting and "opinions" offered. The coalition stresses that the boycott is not about censorship, it is about holding the paper accountable for responsible reporting and upholding the professional journalism code of ethics. For more information visit: http://plaza.ufl.edu/drevans/. Information courtesy of Dr. Evans's website.

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**F.A.C.E Honors National Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

Feminist Activists Creating Equality sponsored The Handprint Project on October 17 and 18 at the Plaza of the Americas. In honor of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, F.A.C.E. displayed a mural where a pledge could be made to never raise a hand against another living being. Pledges were symbolized by placing hands in paint and then on the mural. For more information about this project or to get involved with F.A.C.E. contact Szeleni Gray at szeleni@ufl.edu.

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**I.M.A.G.E. In Our Communities**

In Movement Against General Eyedeballs, or I.M.A.G.E., founded summer 2004, a student run organization, has two main goals: to educate the student body about issues affecting women and to build positive self-esteem in women and children of the community. They take action against negative portrayals of women and men and work to eradicate stereotypes.

Recently, I.M.A.G.E. held Mystery of Woman week, which included a meet and greet for potential members, an open discussion on the role of women in our society, and a lunch discussion on the face of women in our world. They also held a community field day event at the Woodland Boys and Girls Club.

Meetings are held every Monday at 7pm in Florida Gym room 285. For more information please visit their website at: http://grove.ufl.edu/~image.

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**Aid for Hurricane Katrina Victims**

On September 17, a truck funded by Southern Women's Festival directors Pat Cobb and Linda Jackson traveled from Jacksonville to Ovett, Mississippi to deliver needed items to Camp Sister Spirit, a women-owned campground and conference center just inland from where Hurricane Katrina came ashore. Despite extensive storm damage, Camp Sister Spirit has taken in women and their families left homeless by the storm. Donations from women's communities in Jacksonville, St. Augustine, Melrose and Gainesville will go directly to the Camp for use by residents.

CWSGR faculty members Kendal Broad and Trish Travis, along with Affiliate Faculty members Leah Rosenberg and Patricia Woods, joined the local effort, bringing clothing, personal items, water and food for humans and animals when the truck made a stop at Wild Iris Book. - Trish Travis
Student Spotlight

Virginia Hamner: First M.A. Double Degree Student in Women's Studies

Women are the fastest growing prison population in the nation and in Florida, yet their needs are often the most invisible. As the first candidate to pursue concurrent degrees in Women's Studies (M.A.) and Law (J.D.) at UF, Virginia Hamner is working to connect, in tangible ways, these areas of study by researching and advocating for the rights of incarcerated women throughout Florida from a feminist perspective, using the law as a tool for social justice.

Virginia was also the Florida Bar Foundation Terry Russell Fellow this summer. She worked on prisoners' rights issues with Florida Institutional Legal Services. Much of her work focused on advocating for the medical and mental health needs of women incarcerated in Florida. Virginia is on track to graduate in May 2006.

CWSGR Welcomes New Graduate Students

Amanda Culp graduated from the University of Miami with a degree in English and Psychology in May 2003. She worked as a Senior Research Assistant for the Center for Family Studies in Miami. For her M.A., she is focusing on issues of gender, sexuality, and language.

Sanam Dolatshahi graduated from Tehran Azad University with a B.A. in English Translation and a M.A. in English Literature. She worked as the editor of Iran's first e-zine and the English section of the first women's news website in Iran, Women in Iran. She is the first student to pursue a joint M.A. degree in Women's Studies and Mass Communications.

CWSGR Students Receive Awards

Vanessa Fabien, majoring in Women's Studies, is a 2005-2006 University Scholar. Vanessa is also a McNair and Gorenberg Scholar. The University Scholars Program awards each scholar a $2,500 stipend and a $500 travel budget to attend a professional conference. It provides undergraduate students with the opportunity to work closely with UF faculty while pursuing fundamental research, exploring scholarly inquiry and developing new knowledge. Vanessa chose to work with Dr. Stephanie Evans. Her research examines the impact of environmental racism on the reproductive health of women of color. Vanessa's current study examines the State of Florida's Department of Environmental Regulations' effectiveness in informing residents of the hazards of Superfund sites. She will continue to work on her research throughout the year. Congratulations Vanessa!

HavreDe Hill, majoring in Women's Studies, received a 2004-2005 Ana Q. Lynch Award. The award is given to students who go the extra mile or "beyond the call of duty" by the Division of Student Affairs in honor of Dr. Ana Q. Lynch who was a staff member at the student infirmary. Dr. Trysh Travis nominated HavreDe based on many outstanding contributions in campus life and the Gainesville community. HavreDe is an active and vocal member of both the Gator Gay-Straight Alliance and the campus chapter of the National Organization for Women, as well as a volunteer at the Florida School of Traditional Midwifery. Her central focus is breast cancer research advocacy, as she works to broaden the discourse of breast cancer so that it addresses the 11,000 young women affected by it annually. Travis states, "I have been invigorated and inspired by having HavreDe as a student." Regarding HavreDe's community organizing, Travis had this to say, "She has already done more, and more important work there than many of us ever will." Congratulations HavreDe!

Thank You and Good Luck, Vicki!

Victoria (Vicki) Adams, has been a vital element of the women's studies office for over a year. Vicki will be graduating and leaving the center in December and plans to attend an international university. She is graduating with a double major in Women's Studies and Political Science. She will be missed! We wish her great success.
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Goerings Book Store
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14th ANNUAL HOLIDAY BOOK SALE
Goerings Book Store at Westgate
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5:00-7:00 p.m.
Goerings will donate 20% of all sales that evening to
the Friends of Women's Studies
Bring your Holiday Shopping List!
Refreshments will be served

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$10.00 donation.

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Additional donations are needed for the following categories: conferences, symposia, travel funds for graduate students to attend conferences, scholarship funds, speaker honoraria, exhibit support, etc.

For more information on upcoming events, please visit our web site at: http://www.wst.ufl.edu or stop by 3324 Turlington Hall.

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