From the Director: Milagros Peña

Spring 2006 has turned out to be a busy semester. We are happy to announce that Dr. Anita Anantharam who received her Ph.D. in 2003 from the University of California, Berkeley will be joining us in Fall 2006 as a new faculty member. Anita's areas of specialty include South Asian Studies with a designated emphasis in Women, Gender and Sexuality. She is currently completing a book titled Illuminating Feminism: Religion, Nation, and Poetry in South Asia and developing another based on research focused on "East/West Encounters: 'Indian' Identity and Transnational Feminism in Manushi." We are excited on her coming and contributing to the development of transnational feminism in our undergraduate and graduate program and to strengthening ties with the Center for Transnational and Global Studies as well as Asian Studies.

Our Center specialties and programs continue to attract visibility both nationally and internationally.

Late last Fall, Dr. Eijun Senaha of the Department of English and Women's Studies of Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan came to review our program as he was traveling the United States collecting data on top women and gender studies programs in the U.S. Dr. Senaha's university is developing a women's studies program and he was awarded a grant to come to the U.S. and learn from programs like ours.

This Spring we were reminded of our history and the roots of our success as a program and now center. On February 10th, we honored the life and work of Dr. Irene Thompson at a memorial service. The service began with a talk presented by her daughter Dr. Margaret Thompson who is a professor in the History Department at Syracuse University titled "Concentric Circles of Sisterhood: American Nuns Challenge Catholic Patriarchy." The talk was fitting given Irene Thompson's close connections to a number of U.S. Catholic's sisters and their causes. Margaret Thompson honored her mother's legacy by using the image of concentric circles to situate nuns within the contexts of both women's experience and religious patriarchy. The talk and the film tribute that followed honored Irene Thompson's career as feminist path breaker and sister to many and in particular at the University of Florida.

Next Fall we take Dr. Irene Thompson's legacy to our new building named after Kathryn Chicone Ustler who so graciously gave to the restoration of this historic building, which had been a women's gym. Our next newsletter will show pictures of the interior and the reception marking our new beginnings! -Milagros Peña

Research Assistance Needed

Dr. Kendal Broad is conducting research, and you may be able to help! If you have been involved in the FRIENDS (of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People) program at UF, please consider participating in research about FRIENDS by interviewing with Dr. Broad. If you would like more information or are willing to participate, please email her at kendal@soc.ufl.edu or call 352-392-0251 x257 (private voicemail). The FRIENDS training team and the Director of LGBT Affairs have approved this project. As well, this project has received approval from the Institutional Review Board at UF (Protocol #2005-U-087). (Please note that due to ethical guidelines, she cannot interview students.)

CWSGR would like to give a very special thank you to Jean and David Chalmers for all they did to help create a beautiful memorial service for Irene Thompson. Thank you for opening your home to all of us for the reception.
Academic Program

Summer 2006 Courses
WST 3015 Interdisciplinary Perspectives of Women
WST 3415 Transnational Feminisms
WST 4905 Independent Study
WST 4940 Internship

Fall 2006 Courses
WST 3015 Interdisciplinary Perspectives of Women
WST 3415 Transnational Feminisms
WST 3930 Women and Poverty
WST 3935 Women in Modern Hebrew Fiction
WST 3930 Gender & Development
WST 4905 Independent Study
WST 4940 Internship
WST 6905 Independent Study
WST 6948 Ecofeminism
WST 6935 Masculinity in Suburbia
WST 6935 Gender, Sexuality and Social Movements
WST 6935 Race, Class, and Media
WST 6935 Gender and Cultural Politics in Latin America
WST 6946 Internship
WST 6971 Research for Master’s Thesis

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

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, TBA

Language, Gender, and Violence: Why is Change so Slow?
(Making the Invisible Visible)
M. J. Hardman, Linguistics
Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Annual National Women's Studies Association Conference
The 27th annual NWSA conference will be held in Oakland, CA, June 15-18, 2006. The theme this year is “Locating Women's Studies: Formations of Power and Resistance.”

This year's Keynote Speaker is Rebecca Walker. In 1997 Rebecca Walker co-founded the Third Wave Foundation, the only national, philanthropic organization for women aged 15-30. Some of this year's larger topics will include: Mothering as Resistance/Activism/Social Change; Empire, Global Political Conflicts and Resistance; Feminist Science; and Intersections: Locating Acts of Courage which will explore the intersections between art and women's studies.

The conference also includes special events such as a creative writing series, an art exhibition, a film series, a book exhibition, and area excursions including one to a women-owned winery. There will also be extended seminars on Sunday morning to provide opportunities for small groups of conference participants to exchange ideas on theoretical, political, or strategic matters of interest to women's studies practitioners.

For more information please visit http://www.nwsaconference.org/ or call NWSA at (301)403-0525.

Art History Meets Gender Studies in Paris

“Let Them Eat Cake: Art in the Age of Marie-Antoinette,” will be taught by Dr. Melissa Hyde (Art History and CWSGR affiliate) this summer. This course will take "the wicked queen" as the focal point for the study of French culture and art during the decades leading up to the French Revolution. The class will take full advantage of the astonishing riches Paris has to offer for this period in exploring aesthetic culture and gender politics during this period of dramatic social, political and cultural developments that culminated in the violent overthrow of the French monarchy and the establishment of France as a modern republic. "Art in the Age of Marie-Antoinette" will combine class lectures and discussion of readings in art history (painting, architecture, decorative arts, fashion and garden history), gender and cultural studies, with weekly excursions to museums and parks in Paris and its environs. In addition to regular class meetings and field trips, there will be occasional guest lectures by leading specialists (American and French) in art, history and aesthetics of the era.

Please email the Paris Research Center for information about this program or others:

News and Views
Volume 16, Issue 2
Milagros Peña, Ph.D., Director
Paula Ambroso, Editor
Amanda Culp, Co-Editor/Graphic Designer
Stacey Moyer, Co-Editor/Graphic Designer
Kendra Vincent, Co-Editor/Graphic Designer
Maeve Hendrix, Assistant Editor

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

Avraham Balaban, African and Asian Languages and Literatures, published “The Rabbinical Court as a Slaughterhouse: Dvora Baron’s ‘Bill of Divorcement’” in a forthcoming anthology about Baron’s life and work through the University of Maryland.

Sylvie Blum-Reid, Romance Languages and Literatures, presented a paper entitled, “Away from Home: Two Directors in Search of an Identity,” at the MLA special session on the New Transnational Europe. She also hosted an international symposium entitled “Translation Routes” at U of W with Sidney Wade. She is currently working on the French film festival at the Hippodrome Theatre.

Amanda Davis, Ph.D. Candidate English, CWSGR, will present “On Margins: Multiethnic Literatures and the Boundaries of Prison Writing” at the MELUS Conference in April.


Angel Kwolek-Folland, History/CWSGR, published “Women and the New Corporate Governance: Pathways for Obtaining Positions of Corporate Leadership,” with Cindy A. Schipani, Terry Morehead Dworkin, Virginia Maurer, and Marina V.N. Whitman, in the forthcoming issue of Maryland Law Review. She also published “Women’s Businesses, New and Old,” in Major Problems in American Business History, edited by Regina Lee Blaszczyk and Philip B. Scran ton, Houghton Mifflin, 2006. She traveled to the University of Nottingham for six weeks in February and March as a Fulbright Senior Scholar, where she presented lectures to students and faculty, worked with administrators on program development, learned about issues confronting higher education in the UK, and gathered information for her cross-cultural gender rights research.

Stacey Langwick, CWSGR/Anthropology, recently published a chapter entitled, “Geographies of Medicine,” in Borders & Healers: Brokering Therapeutic Resources in Southeast Africa. She presented papers about the history of the scientific development of Traditional Medicine in Tanzania at two international conferences. She presented two papers in the United States: “The Shifting Politics of Contemporary Traditional Medicines in Tanzania: From Socialism to Neoliberalism,” and “Nursing Multiple Natures: Negotiating Medical Pluralism in Tanzania.” This spring semester, Dr. Langwick coordinated the third year of the Gender and Development Faculty Exchange program between the University of Florida and the University of Dar es Salaam.

Ana S.Q. Liberato, CWSGR, will be conducting a capacity building workshop on gender and the environment in the community of Robles, located in Cali, Colombia from April 19-23. The workshop is part of the community-based conservation project for institutions working in and around protected areas of Ecuador and Colombia, supported by the MacArthur Foundation and executed by the Tropical Conservation and Development Program (TCD) at the University of Florida.

Bonnie Moradi, Psychology, presented an invited address titled “Perceived Discrimination and Mental Health: Current Findings and Future Directions” at Mary Washington University. She also received the Outstanding Contribution to Scholarship on Race and Ethnicity Award from the APA Society of Counseling Psychology Section for Ethnic and Racial Diversity.

Carol Murphy, Romance Languages and Literatures, has a forthcoming essay on the contemporary French author Marie Nimier in the May, 2006 edition of Cincinnati Romance Studies. She is the guest co-editor of two forthcoming issues of Contemporary French and Francophone Studies entitled, “Verbal, Visual, Virtual: New Canons for the Twenty-first Century.” She also received a Distinguished International Educator Award from CLAS and the International Center in December of 2005.

Geraldine Nichols, Romance Languages and Literatures, published “Blank Spaces: Literary History, Spain and the Third Millenium,” in the collection Spain Beyond Spain: Modernity, Literary History and National Identity by Bucknell University Press. She presented “Place, Space, and Identity in Women's Writing in Spain,” concerning the work of Mercé Rodoreda, at the University of London in March. She has been invited to participate in the inaugural activities of the Joan Corominas Center of Catalan Studies at the University of Chicago in April where she will discuss contemporary women's writing in Catalonia with Carme Riera.


Malini Johar Schueller, English, published “Analogy and (white) Feminist Theory: Thinking Race and the Color of the Cyborg Body” in the Autumn 2005 issue of SIGNS.


Facility Focus

Center Names New Faculty Member

It is both an honor and a privilege to be joining such an incredible University-I am looking forward to settling into my new home at the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research. I believe that I will be able to add to the diverse curriculum and research interests of the Center and look forward to building my career with my new colleagues and students at the University of Florida. My commitment to scholarship on women and gender began when I was an undergraduate at Columbia University in the City of New York—but even then I recognized that as a South Asian-American woman my commitment to women's studies would not come without conflict. I had to fight with my family to declare my major as Women's Studies, defy taboo subjects of sexuality at home when I wrote my senior thesis on inter-generational conflicts around sexuality, marriage, and motherhood, and risk community standing when I began outreach work for a South Asian women's shelter that supported survivors of domestic violence.

My volunteer work for women's shelters in New York and New Jersey sparked my interest in South Asian languages-without proper linguistic training I knew that I could not do the work I wanted to do in the communities I wanted to work with. At the University of California, Berkeley I pursued my doctoral degree in South and Southeast Asian Studies and Women's Studies. My dissertation research which I am currently expanding into a book, centered on women's anti-state poetry from India and Pakistan during movements of religious revitalization throughout the twentieth century. Thanks to a generous offer from the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research I plan to devote the Fall 2006 semester to full-time research and to finishing my book. I am excited to begin teaching in the Spring 2007 semester. My husband and three-year-old girl are equally excited about this move—the toddler is looking forward to seeing baby alligators—and Gainesville, I think, will be a wonderful place to be academics and parents. I thank you all for this opportunity to

Semi-finalist for Graduate Student Teaching Award

Each academic year, the UF Graduate School recognizes the best, brightest, and most industrious of the University of Florida's graduate teaching assistants for their work as instructors in the classroom. This year Amanda Davis was nominated for such an award by many of her students. Ms. Davis is a Ph.D. candidate in English and has taught for Women's Studies since 2001. She has taught Interdisciplinary Perspectives of Women and Incarcerated Women. Davis shows her commitment to learning both inside and outside of the classroom, “One of my wider hopes is that students will grow in their analytical and critical thinking skills not just so they will better understand the material that we are covering in our particular class, but so they will be able to apply those skills to their future work and daily lives in a socio-political world that increasingly demands it of them.” She is currently a semi-finalist. Finalists will be announced at the end of March and recognized at a reception in April.

Visiting Professor

Dr. Rosemarie Mwaipopo is currently a Visiting Professor participating in the University of Florida-University of Dar es Salaam Gender and Development Faculty Exchange Program. She holds a permanent position in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Dar es Salaam. Over the past thirteen years, she has conducted research on gender, natural resource use and management, poverty and more recently, orphaned children. She has considerable experience in community-based research, and has participated in numerous development projects both in the rural and urban areas of Tanzania. This semester Dr. Mwaipopo is co-teaching a course entitled Interdisciplinary Perspectives of Women with Dr. Stephanie Evans in Women's Studies. She also presented, “The Mama Mkubwa Foster-care Initiative: Social Investment and Local Solutions to Orphaned Children's Vulnerability in Tanzania” on March 22.

Women’s Studies of UF Represented in Northern Cyprus

Angel Kwolek-Folland is involved with a consortium of scholars from UF's Business school, the University of Michigan, and Indiana University on a research project on women's leadership in an international context. They are in the process of preparing a survey instrument that will be administered to business leaders in the US, Canada, and western Europe. A paper reporting on their project has been accepted for the second International Conference on “Breaking the Glass Ceiling” organized by the Center for Women’s Studies of Eastern Mediterranean University to be held in Famagusta, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in April, where papers will be presented by scholars from 25 countries. It's one of the largest Women's Studies conferences outside of the US to bring academics, scholars, politicians, writers, etc. to share their views on issues regarding women. Some of the countries represented include some you'd expect (UK, Germany, Finland) but also some you might not (Iran, Azerbaijan, Malaysia, and Hungary, for example).
Irene Thompson Memorial

The CWSGR, co-sponsoring with Jean and David Chalmers, held a memorial service to honor the life of Irene Thompson on Friday, February 10 at the Baughman Center at the University of Florida. Margaret Thompson, daughter of Irene, and Director of Graduate Studies in the History Department at Syracuse University, presented a tribute to Irene Thompson’s career as a feminist path breaker and sister to many at the University of Florida. Her talk was entitled “Concentric Circles of Sisterhood: American Nuns Challenge Catholic Patriarchy.” She presented research on Catholic sisters in American history (as well as from her own work with feminist sisters today) and how feminist analysis offers critiques to hierarchical ordering of knowledge and human behavior. Thompson used the image of concentric circles to situate nuns within the contexts of both women’s experience and religious patriarchy.

The service also included remembrances from Madelyn Lockhart and Phyllis Meek. Margaret Thompson also narrated a film commemorating Irene’s life, which was followed by a reception at Jean and David Chalmers’ residence.

The Center for Women’s Studies and Gender Research would like to express gratitude to all who took part in the

The Irene Thompson Scholarship

Deadline April 15

The Irene Thompson Scholarship was established to honor outstanding undergraduate and graduate students who are pursuing a course of study focusing on women/gender. Eligible applicants are: undergraduate and graduate students enrolled at UF and students who are majoring in Women’s Studies or who have demonstrated a strong commitment to Women’s Studies as determined by the scholarship committee. Applications must be accompanied by a transcript, two letters of recommendation from UF faculty and a paper or other evidence of commitment in Women’s Studies. Each application will be evaluated by a scholarship committee composed of three members of the Women’s Studies faculty representing different fields of study. In order to build a sense of continuity and to pass on the support to future generations, the award winners should pledge to contribute to feminist scholarships and/or to engage in civic service that benefits Women’s Studies after completing their degrees. The award is $500. The recipients of the Irene Thompson Scholarship Award will be honored during the CWSGR Opening Reception in August. For more information please visit http://www.wst.ufl.edu/scholars1.html.

CWSGR Acquires Painting

The Center has received a painting by Gladys Rockmore Davis (1901-1967), donated by the Reitz Union. An artist who succeeded in both commercial and fine arts, Davis gave up a career in advertising art to devote herself to creative painting. Her work in pastels ranks with her oils, and her chief subjects are children, nudes and still-lives. Some of her work hangs in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York as well as UF’s own Harn Museum. This painting will be hung at CWSGR in Ustler Hall.

Remembering Irene

“I remember Irene so very well from those early days. I was here at the founding of Women’s Studies and was always there at all the meetings and events. Irene had so much to do just to get the whole notion of a Women’s Studies Program accepted. We today stand on her shoulders with our large successful program. It was her talent of causing herself to be heard -- and I can testify that in those days that was extremely difficult -- that made our beginnings possible.” -M.J. Hardman
Hokkaido University Professor Visits the Center

Dr. Eijun Senaha visited CWSGR in Fall 2005. He is a professor of English at Hokkaido University in Sapporo, Japan. Last fall he was a visiting researcher at the University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C. conducting research on gender curriculums in the U.S. He visited with Milagros Peña, Director of CWSGR, learning about the center’s program in general, the curriculum, and administrative issues in order to aid in the construction of a firm program on gender studies at his university in Japan.

CWSGR Awareness Campaign

PRedferred Communications Inc. is a team of six undergraduate students (pictured at left) in the Public Relations Campaigns course in the College of Journalism. This team is creating a campaign to raise awareness for the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research graduate programs.

The team has conducted both secondary and primary research to help gather information on which the campaign will be based. Secondary research has consisted of gathering information on competitive programs in the southeast, the history of the Center, the Center’s faculty, programs available, current enrollment and trends in the field of Women’s Studies. Primary research was conducted via surveys and one-on-one interviews with current Women’s Studies and Gender Research graduate students and faculty.

The survey consisted of four sections intended to gather information on graduate school interest and methods of researching graduate schools, important factors when considering a graduate school program, the student’s awareness of the Center and uses of various technology to gather information. These surveys were given to undergraduate students, mainly majoring in Women’s Studies, Anthropology, Sociology and Psychology.

The results of the team’s research indicated that 88 percent of students interested in graduate schools consult Web sites for information. The most popular methods used to gather information were the personal computer, cell phone, Google, and networking sites, such as MySpace.com and Facebook.com. Seventy-two percent of students strongly disagreed that they were aware of the Women’s Studies program. In addition, a strong disagreement was found for awareness of degrees offered, diverse faculty, the new building and careers available after graduate school.

Based on the team’s findings, a campaign has been devised to raise awareness of the Center and the graduate programs offered. Some highlights of this campaign include redesigning print materials related to the program, redesigning online materials related to the program, including the Center’s Web site, creating a blog, using networking sites such as Facebook.com and creating a multimedia DVD brochure designed to highlight the program as well as the University of Florida and Gainesville. In addition, the team also wants to build awareness and excitement of the Kathryn Chicone Usler Hall by having an opening week celebration which will include guest speakers, refreshments and prizes.

The team is currently implementing certain aspects of the aforementioned tactics which will be evaluated for a final presentation. The tactics that are not implemented will be recommended by the team for future consideration. The team will present their findings at the end of April in front of faculty and staff of the Center for Women's Studies and Gender
Congratulations Women’s Studies Graduates

Virginia Hamner is the first student at UF to graduate with both a Women’s Studies (M.A.) and a Law (J.D.) degree simultaneously. She has been awarded an Equal Justice Works Fellowship working with Florida Institutional Legal Services in Gainesville (September 2006-August 2008). She will be receiving funding to do work that tangibly connects her training in law and women’s studies to social justice and hands-on advocacy and activism. She will be working with incarcerated women and their families throughout Florida, providing legal advocacy, researching and producing educational materials for inmates, families and activists, and developing a systemic review of the administration of mental health services from a gender-specific perspective.

Kendra Vincent, Graduate Research Assistant in Women’s Studies, will graduate with her M.A. in Women’s Studies this spring with a thesis entitled, “For the Benefit of Girls: Evaluating a Program in Appalachia.” Kendra will present and share her findings and conclusions with others who work with girls. Her immediate plans are to gain more experience working with local youth.

Stacey Moyer, Graduate Research Assistant in Women’s Studies, will graduate with her M.A. in Women’s Studies this summer with a thesis entitled, “To Construct or Deconstruct? The Narration of Self and Gender in Genderqueer Identity.” Stacey will take the next year to travel, ride her bike, and deconstruct the patriarchy. Eventually, she plans to return to academia to pursue her Ph.D. in Women’s Studies.

Sexualities Conversation Series

This year the Center began a Sexualities Conversations series, co-sponsored with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Affairs in the Dean of Students Office. In the Fall semester (November 14th), the first talk featured Vada Allen Yeomans Professor of Women’s Studies, Florence Babb. The title of her talk was “Neither in the Closet nor on the Balcony: Private Lives and Public Activism in Nicaragua.” In the Spring semester (February 15th), the second talk featured Assistant Professor of Political Science, Katrina Schwartz. The title of her talk was, “Homophobia, ‘Christian values’ and the politics of extremism in Latvia.”


Please come listen to emerging issues in Sexualities research in the Ruth McQuown room (219 Dauer) on April 17th from 11:45 am - 1:15 pm. All are invited to attend. -Kendal Broad

Student Graduates with Ph.D. Concentration in Women’s Studies

Karen Spicer received her Ph.D. in Counselor Education, Marriage and Family Therapy, with a concentration in Women’s Studies. She defended her dissertation entitled, “Identifying power differentials in non-violent heterosexual couples in counseling through discourse analysis,” Fall 2005.
CWSGR Spring 2006 Art Exhibit:
Paula Ambroso

The Spring Art Exhibit “Frog Legs” features work by the Center’s own Paula Ambroso. Paula uses bright and bold acrylic paints to produce her paintings and hangs them with colorful beads. She also dabbles in glass fusion. Paula considers painting and cutting glass a therapeutic and creative outlet for a life full of working at the Center, going to graduate school and watching her children and grandchild grow! A reception for her work was held on March 8, 2006. Her work will be displayed in 3324 Turlington Hall through the end of the semester. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

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Women’s Studies
T-Shirts

Available in a variety of styles in 3324 Turlington Hall for $10.00 donation.

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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