

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

- An Appetite for Paris
- Center Faculty News
- Grad Student Presents at PRC Workshop
- Rethinking Gender and Indigenous Identity in the Andes
- Fall Reception will Feature Dedication of Sculpture
- "Activists Among Us" Event Heavily Attended

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News and Views of The Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research

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Dr. Judith W. Page

From the Director's Desk

As I think we all know, this summer marked the 50th anniversary of the publication of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. As a child in segregated New Orleans, I read the book in an edition from the public library that my mother also read. Although I'm not sure how conscious I was as a reader, I identified strongly with Scout, the curious young girl at the center of the narrative, and was moved by the depiction of race and injustice in the book. On re-reading the book this summer for the first time

since then, I was equally impressed by the way that Harper Lee also understood



the intersections of gender and class, and was particularly struck by Scout's fear of the expectations of becoming a

Southern lady. As she tells us, "I felt the starched walls of a pink cotton penitentiary closing in on me." Written just a decade after the publication of *The Second Sex* and a few years before the second wave of modern feminism, *To Kill a Mockingbird* helps to put in context many of our goals at the Center, especially for our programming this year.

We begin with our opening reception and program, where Betty Smocovitis will give a talk, "Celebrating Darwin? Reflections on Darwin and Gender after 2009." Later in September

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Dr. Winifred Breines to Speak

The Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research presents Winifred Breines, Professor Emeritus of Sociology at Northeastern University, speaking on "The Trouble between Us: An Uneasy History of White and Black Women in the

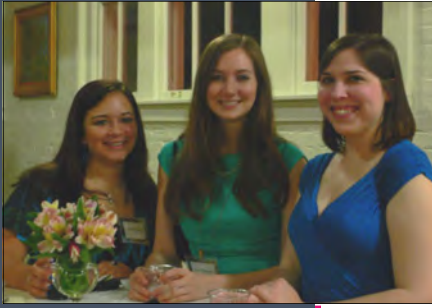
Women's Liberation Movement," September 29, 2010, at 4:30 in the Atrium of Ustler Hall. The talk, presented by the Center for Women's Studies, is co-sponsored by the Center for Humanities and the Public Sphere,

The Center for the Study of Race and Race Relations, and the Departments of English, History, and Sociology.



Dr. Winifred Breines, Professor Emeritus, Northeastern University, will speak at the Center on September 29th.

From the Director's Desk (continued from page 1)



Graduate Students Erin Tobin, Toni Williams, and Sarah Austin enjoy the Spring Gala

“She seemed glad to see me when I appeared in the kitchen, and by watching her I began to think that there was some skill involved in being a girl.” – Scout

*–Harper Lee
Author,
To Kill a Mockingbird*

we look forward to Winifred Breines’s lecture on the history of black and white women during the women’s liberation movement of the

1960s. We have also scheduled an interdisciplinary panel of our affiliates, “Feminist Scholarship Now,” to discuss the influence of feminist thought on the various disciplines, and perhaps to touch on the relationship between early activism and the development of feminist scholarship in the last few decades. In the spring, we will host a conference on Simone de Beauvoir and the legacies of *The Second Sex*. And these are just some of the different programs and formats that we

will introduce in the coming year and publicize on our web site.

Although we have discontinued the Gender Conversations series in favor of greater diversity in programming, we are committed to the spirit of talking about and examining issues of gender in multiple contexts. In that sense, conversations about gender will continue. We have a small group of highly committed core faculty and a vibrant group of over 70 affiliates, as well as a loyal friends and partners in the community. I invite all of our constituencies to participate actively—let us know what we have done well and what we might do better. Let us know of your ideas for programming. We

value your insight and support!

While these difficult days are not the easiest times for growth and development, with resources lagging behind our aspirations and ideals, we will continue to move our academic programs and the Center forward. We have a steadily increasing number of majors (over 50 at last count, with lots of minors too) and we have an excellent group of graduate students working on important projects. Our programming complements the commitments of both faculty and students. Perhaps we are no longer concerned about the same starched walls of pink cotton that worried Scout, but we remain committed to facing the challenges of gender.

–Director Judith W. Page

“Feminist Scholarship Now” Panel Announced

The Center for Women’s Studies and Gender Research will present “Feminist Scholarship Now,” an interdisciplinary panel discussion, on October 8, 2010 at 12 noon in the Atrium of Ustler Hall.

Participants include H. Jane Brockmann, Department of Biology, Pamela Gilbert, Department of English, Danaya Wright, Levin College of Law, Faye Harrison, Department of Anthropology and Center for African American

Studies, and Louise Newman, Department of History. Stephanie Smith, Professor of English, will moderate.

Bring your lunch—we will provide coffee, tea, and dessert.

Spring Conference: Simone de Beauvoir: Legacies

The Center for Women’s Studies and Gender Research will host a conference, “Simone de Beauvoir: Legacies,” on February 10 and 11, 2011. Professor Toril Moi, James B. Duke Professor of Literature and Romance Studies, Professor of English, Philosophy, and Theater Studies, and Director of the Center for Philosophy, Arts, and Literature

at Duke University will deliver the keynote address, “The Taste of Another Life: Beauvoir Between Literature and Philosophy,” on Friday, February 11th at 4:30 in the Atrium of Ustler Hall.

Other participants include: Nancy Bauer (Tufts University), Judy Coffin (University of Texas), Mary Beth Mader (University of Memphis), and Carol Murphy,

Sylvie Blum-Reid, Brigitte Weltman-Aron, and Maureen Turim from the University of Florida. Details will follow as we get closer to the event.

For more information please consult the web site (www.wst.ufl.edu) or contact Judith Page (page7@ufl.edu) or Trysh Travis (ttravis@ufl.edu).

An Appetite for Paris

By Assistant Professor Anita Anantharam

I spent the Spring 2010 semester in Paris, France as a Visiting Scholar at l’École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS) and as a scholar in residence at the UF Paris Research Center. My project was to research Slow Food activities in Paris’ Bastille neighborhood (10th arrondissement).



Different Varieties of Salt in Nice, France.

I had already spent 2 summers in north India at Navdanya (an organic farm run by the renowned eco-feminist Dr. Vandana Shiva) and I wanted to research the unique and divergent approaches taken by local groups under the “International Slow Food Movement” umbrella towards community development, gender-equity, and food

sovereignty. This research will form the basis for my next book project titled, “Fasting and Feasting: Transnational Food Politics in Three Continents.”

I was invited to teach a class on my research topic at the University of Florida’s Paris Research Center while in residence in France by Dr. Gayle Zachmann, Director of the PRC. In the semester-long course titled “An Appetite for Paris: Gender, Globalization, Travel, and Food” students enrolled in my class were able to study the diverse gastronomic culture of Paris, the history of French colonialism in Indochina, domestic-servitude and identity politics in contemporary France.

Students were required to engage in a semester-long service-learning

component at the Slow Food Café in Bastille in order to situate the theoretical readings from class in a real-life context. We were also able to visit a woman-owned vineyard in the South of France (Provence) and local/organic markets in Nice.



Cafe de la Commune Libre d’Aligre (Slow Food Cafe where student’s conducted their service-learning projects)

Opportunities like this—to teach one’s research in a study-abroad context—encourages scholars to see experiences through their student’s eyes. Without a wonderful group of students, neither my class nor my research would have been successful.

Judith W. Page organized a conference in March 2010 on Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice* with Dragan Kujundzic for the Center for Jewish Studies. She also gave two papers, "Jane Austen and the Allure of Shakespeare's Shylock," at the UF conference and at the national Nineteenth Century Studies Association Meeting in Tampa last March 2010, and "Miniature Worlds and Domestic Spaces: Maria Elizabeth Jacson's *Botanical Dialogues* (1797) at the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism in Vancouver, British Columbia, in August 2010. This paper was based on a chapter of her forthcoming book, *Women, Literature, and the Domesticated Landscape: England's Disciples of Flora, 1780-1870* (with Elise L. Smith, Cambridge University Press, 2011). Closer to home, she spoke to the local chapter of the Jane Austen Society on "Reading *Northanger Abbey*" in August. She was also appointed a Sustainability Fellow for UF and participated in a two-day retreat at Paynes Prairie, also in August, on ways to integrate issues of sustainability into the curriculum.

Anita Anantharam was awarded a Fulbright Senior Scholar Research Award for 2011. During her grant term she will conduct interviews with 25-50 women activists who were involved in the movements for women's rights between the years 1970-1980 and undertake archival research in tandem to trace the media representation of women's rights in Hindi and English print culture. Her research is being sponsored by the Centre for Women's Development Research in New Delhi, India. **Dr. Anantharam's** translation project of one of India's most well known modern Hindi poets titled *Mahadevi Varma: Political Essays on Women, Nation, and Culture* was jointly published in 2010 by Zubaan Books (New Delhi) and Cambria Press (NY). Her monograph *Bodies that Remember: Women's Indigenous Knowledge and Cosmopolitanism in South Asian Poetry* is in press with Syracuse University's Series in Gender and Globalization and scheduled for publication in 2011.

Dr. Anantharam presented two papers during the Spring 2010 semester. The first: "Private and Communal Kitchens as Spaces for Rethinking Gender, Identity, and Citizenship" was presented at a conference held at the UF's Paris Research Center titled, "Representations of Migration in Public and Private Spaces." The second paper was an invited lecture at l'École

des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS) titled, "Home and the World: Indian Women and Encounters with Transnational Feminism." She also organized a student service-learning conference at the Café Associatif de la Commune Libre d'Aligre (Paris, France) to showcase the work of her students.

Florence E. Babb's book, *The Tourism Encounter: Fashioning Latin American Nations and Histories*, is out this September from Stanford University Press. Other publications appearing this fall include a journal article, "Che, Chevys, and Hemingway's Daiquiris: Cuban Tourism in a Time of Globalization," in the *Bulletin of Latin American Research* and a photo essay, "Tourism Refashioning Nationhood," in *Anthropology News*. **Dr. Babb** is giving papers at international conferences in Lisbon and Toronto, and is the organizer and discussant in invited sessions of the American Anthropological Association. She received a CLAS Humanities Enhancement Grant for research for summer 2010 on gender and indigenous identity in Peru; she will give two presentations on campus this fall based on her recent work in Latin America.

Kendal Broad has two articles in press. The first is titled "Sexualities Sociologies and the Intersectional Potential of Two Qualitative Methodologies," and is in press in the edited volume, *Theorising Intersections: Sexual Advances* (editors, Taylor, Y; Hines, S. and Casey M). Palgrave Macmillan publishers. The second piece is titled "Coming Out for Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays: From Support Group Grieving to Love Advocacy," and is in press with the journal *Sexualities*. **Dr. Broad** also has a book review in press for *Journal of the History of Sexuality*, on Amin Ghaziani's book: *Dividends of Dissent: How Conflict and Culture Work in Lesbian and Gay Marches on Washington*. **Dr. Broad** is continuing research on two projects, one on gay anti-racism and the other charting a map of the rhetorical framings in current contests about LGBTQ families.

Stephanie Evans is a Colonel Allen R. and Margaret G. Crow Term Professor for the UF college of Liberal Arts and Sciences for the 2010-2011 Academic Year. She was recently appointed Director of African American

Studies. Her forthcoming SUNY Press book, *My Passport Made Me Persona Non Grata: Complex Self-Definition in Black Women's International Travel Narratives* (working title) is due to be published in 2012.

Tace Hedrick presented her paper "Walter Mercado, Sexuality, and 'Oriental' Mysticism in Latin America" at the Latin American Studies Association meeting in Rio de Janeiro in June. **Dr. Hedrick's** essay on the well-known Puerto Rican astrologer and television personality Walter Mercado, "Queering the Colonized: Walter Mercado, Spiritual Capital, and Orientalism," is forthcoming this year in the collection *Para leer a Walter Mercado (Toward a Reading of Walter Mercado)*.

Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and former CWSGR Director **Angel Kwolek-Folland** was given an advance award from the National Science Foundation, Partnerships for Adaptation, Implementation, and Dissemination (PAID) for Collaborative Research - Alliance for the Advancement of Florida's Academic Women in Chemistry & Engineering. In December, she gave an invited lecture, "A Woman's History of Business," at the International Conference for Businesswomen Networking in Málaga, Spain. She was invited to the Business Law and Narrative Symposium at the Michigan State University College of Law where she gave a lecture titled, "The Personal is International: Gender Rights, Globalization, and Sexual Harassment."

Reflecting the success of her book, *The Language of the Heart: A Cultural History of the Recovery Movement from Alcoholics Anonymous to Oprah Winfrey*, **Trysh Travis** has been named one of two Managing Editors of "Points: the Blog of the Alcohol and Drug History Society." This group blog will bring together scholars from across disciplines to address the global history--distant and recent-- of drug and alcohol use and abuse, trafficking and regulation. **Dr. Travis** was recently promoted to Associate Professor.

Graduate Student Presents at PRC Workshop

Graduate student Meredith Kite presented a paper, “Gender, Community, and Social Justice in Civic Agriculture,” at the April 2010 “Representations of Migration in Public and Private Spaces” workshop in Paris, France. A portion of her travel was funded by the Center for Women’s Studies and Gender Research.

The workshop, hosted at the University of Florida Paris

Research Center and co-organized by Women’s Studies Assistant Professor Dr. Anita Anantharam, brought together scholars from the United States and Europe to discuss issues of gender and migration.

Meredith Kite and Anita Anantharam presented a module on gender, migration, and global food politics. Additionally, Meredith gave a presentation in Anita Anantharam’s “An Appetite for Paris: Gender,



Meredith Kite and Anita Anantharam (far left) lunch with other presenters at the conference.

Globalization and Food“ class about community agriculture and cooperative grocers, based on her experience working as an intern for Citizens Co-op in Gainesville.

Rethinking Gender and Indigenous Identity in the Andes

By Professor Florence Babb



Florence Babb with community members in Vicos, Peru (2010)

Gender and indigenous identity in Latin America emerged as a critical subject for research in the twenty-first century. This summer, with the support of a CLAS Humanities Initiative Award and the assistance of Anthropology graduate students Jamie Lee Marks and Joe Feldman (both with connections to

Women’s Studies), I launched an ethnographic research project to reexamine gender and cultural identity in the Peruvian Andes. Years ago, I was among a group of cultural anthropologists and feminist scholars who debated the formation of gender inequalities in the region. Given dramatic changes since that time, I see a need to rethink cultural meanings and practices that are laden with differences of gender, race, and power.

The intersectionality of gender, race, and nation is a familiar framework for gender studies scholars, yet intersectionality has

not often been historicized to enable us to observe the complex ways in which change occurs. I am considering what is at stake in the commonly held notion that women are “more Indian” than their male counterparts and, based on my preliminary research, I suggest that what has been a social liability, being both female and indigenous, has become in some cases a new form of cultural capital. This is not to say that the identity status has made an absolute reversal from negative to positive, but that we must examine in new ways the meaning and materiality of being indigenous and female in Peru.

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"We cannot do great things on this Earth, only small things with great love."

Mother Theresa



With An Attitude of Gratitude

Thanks to everyone whose generosity keeps the center viable including the following donors:
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 Mr. Andre S. White, and Ms. Kathryn Chicone Ustler.

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

Spring Gala Fundraiser Brings Supporters Together

On February 27th, a night of dining and dancing brought supporters together for a good cause: to raise funds to help support the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research.

The Spring Gala celebrated the installation of a collection of paintings by Florida artist Eleanor Blair in Ustler Hall, generously donated by Kathryn Chicone Ustler.

Attendees enjoyed the music of the UF Jazz Combo, with new Jazz Director, Scott Wilson, in the recently decorated Atrium in Ustler Hall, as they mingled with friends, met the artist, and enjoyed wine and hors d'oeuvres catered by Ibt.

Contributors included Florence Babb, Victoria Rovine, Kendal Broad-Wright, Danaya Wright, Margaret Fields, Angel Kwolek-Folland, Nathan Folland, David

Leverenz, Anne Rutledge, Albert Matheny and Jane Adair, Jaquelyn and Michael Resnick, Helen Safa and John Dumolin, Phoebe Bowers, Linda Cole and Glen A. Busby, Sheila K. Dickison, Polly and Paul Doughty, Carol Ritzen Kem, Elaine and Thomas Muther, Jr., Barbara Oberlander, Joan Ruffier, and Susie Mae White, William H. and Judith W. Page.

The Center is grateful to all who attended and helped to make this night a success.



Palm Fronds painted by Florida artist Eleanor Blair Celebrated at the Spring Gala

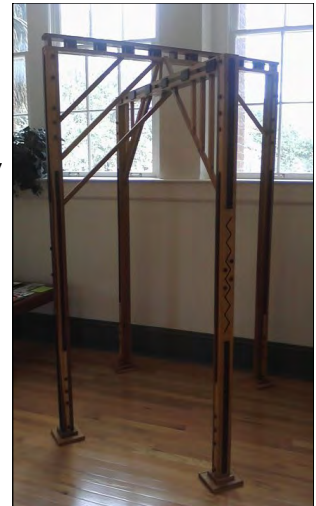
Fall Reception will Feature Dedication of Sculpture

The Center is delighted to have received a gift from Professor Berta Hernandez-Truyol of Meika Alberici's remarkable wood installation, "Four Corners." Many of us knew and admired the late artist, who had been Berta's partner. Meika, who passed away in 2005, was dedicated to the women's movement and its core ideals of equality, diversity, and progress. We remember Meika not only as a talented artist, but as person of great warmth who also

had a marvelous sense of humor. Meika was a native of Madison, Wisconsin, and did her undergraduate work in art at the University of Wisconsin. Her graduate work at the University of New Mexico had a lasting effect on her imagination and her work, as is evident in "Four Corners." When interviewed by The Gainesville Sun in 2002, Meika explained: "During graduate school, I spent most of my spare time in the 12th century

By Dr. Judith W. Page

cliff dwellings all around New Mexico. Petroglyphs (rock art) were carved everywhere. . . . My work is still very much informed by the Southwest. . . . New Mexico took my heart and never let it go." We are honored now to be able to share Meika's passion and her art here in the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research.



Meika Alberici's "Four Corners" will be dedicated at the 2010 Fall Reception

"Activists Among Us" Event Heavily Attended



Moderator Patricia Hilliard-Nunn introduces the panel

The Matheson Museum was the venue for "Activists Among Us: the Gainesville Women's

activists from the 1950s through the present to discuss the ongoing struggle for social justice, gender equality, and human rights.

The panel, which also served as a springboard for the collection and preservation of historical materials on the history of women's activism in Gainesville, was moderated by Dr. Patricia Hilliard-Nunn.

Members from Gainesville Women for Equal Rights, an interracial organization of women whose active work for civil and human rights changed the course of history in Gainesville, were represented along with Gainesville activists in the pivotal women's liberation movement of the 1960s. Serving as one of the main centers of feminist activity nationwide, Gainesville and its feminists posed radical challenges to male authority and ushered in a new era of social change and opportunity for women.

Movement Across Generations" which took place on Thursday, April 8, 2010 in front of a standing room only crowd.

Sponsored by the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program, and co-sponsored by the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research along with many other UF and community centers, the panel discussion gathered local



Members of the historic panel gather before the discussion.

The discussion was preceded by an introduction from Congresswoman Corrine Brown, whose district includes parts of Gainesville, and a pre-taped video from Gainesville Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan. Panelists included Vivian Filer, Kathie Sarachild, Jean Martin, Deanye Overman, Sallie Ann Harrison and Carol Thomas.

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Graduate Student News

Graduate Student Meredith Kite successfully presented her thesis, *Cultivating Food Democracy: Toward an Ecofeminist Politics of the Global Food System*, on Thursday, February 25nd.

Graduate Student Sarah Austin successfully presented her thesis, *Reclaiming the Experience of Motherhood through Second and Third Wave Feminist Publications*, on Thursday, February 25th.

Graduate Student Erin Tobin successfully presented her thesis, *Toward a Queer Gaze: Cinematic Representations of Queer Female Sexuality in Experimental/Avant-Garde and Narrative Film*, on Friday, March 5.

This fall semester we welcomed new graduate students Kate Klebes and Audrey Dingeman, who joined second year graduate students Melissa Houle,

Catherine Jean, Diana McCarley, Whitney Shadowens, Sarah Steele and Toni Williams. Atalia Lapkin will join the program in the Spring.



Graduate Students Melissa Houle, Sarah Steele, Whitney Shadowens, Diana McCarley, and Toni Williams await a Graduate Student Panel Discussion this spring.