

## From the Director's Desk



**DR. BONNIE MORADI**  
DIRECTOR, CWSGR

A warm hello and welcome back to the new academic year, which by now is well on its way! I am the new Director of the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research. I am honored to serve the Center in this role and to continue the path of leadership set by our outstanding former Director, Judy Page.

I want to take this opportunity to share my background, describe where we stand as a Center, and offer our vision for the future.

Stepping into the Director role has been like coming home for me. The warmth and beauty of Kathryn Chicone Ustler Hall is certainly part of this feeling. If you have not had a chance to visit, please do! I am also coming home to my core passions and commitments. As an undergraduate student, I was fortunate to find my way to women's studies through feminist mentors and their life changing classes. These classes gave me the tools to understand how sociocultural

dynamics of power and privilege manifested in our everyday lives. I double majored in women's studies and psychology, then earned a PhD in counseling psychology with a focus on women's experiences of sexism, racism, and feminist identity. In 2001, I joined the UF Psychology Department and became an Affiliate of the Center that same year. Throughout my career, women's studies and its feminist underpinnings have served as the principal compass of my research, teaching, mentoring, and professional leadership. Given my own story, I am passionate about reaching as many students as we can and equipping them with the tools of women's studies and gender research.

*Continued on page 2*



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Trans Resource Network</i>	2
<i>Welcome New Students, Alumnae Spotlight</i>	3
<i>STRIVE</i>	4
<i>Attitude of Gratitude</i>	5
<i>Life-Changing Internship, Book Nook</i>	6
<i>Preceptor Spotlight</i>	7
<i>Changing Health Care</i>	8

## MA Student Creates Digital Archive of Florida NOW

Gainesville in the 1970s and '80s was a hotbed of feminist organizing, at one point boasting three different chapters of the National Organization for Women (NOW). Their activities are captured in the records of Florida NOW, which were donated to UF's Smathers Library in 2010.

Women's Studies MA student Tim Kavaklian-D'Annecy was bitten by the digital history bug early in

his time in the program, and has spent the last year scanning and transcribing materials from this collection. The result is an interdisciplinary Women's Studies/Digital Humanities project entitled "A Digital Archive of the Florida National Organization for Women." Open to the public and accessible to anyone at <http://fnowarchive.org/>, the collection is hosted on a Wikipedia-style platform to

allow public contributions and comments.

At 5:00 pm on Wednesday, March 18, 2015, Mr. D'Annecy will present his project to the public in Ustler Hall, walking the audience through the user-friendly interface, and exploring some of the key documents featured in the collection. Memos, newsletters, and even some sound recordings chronicle Gainesville feminists' work

*Continued on page 7*





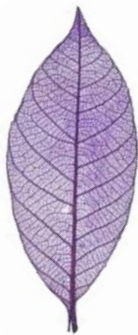
KATHRYN CHICONE  
USTLER HALL  
CIRCA 1919

---

*"STEPPING INTO  
THE DIRECTOR  
ROLE HAS BEEN  
LIKE COMING  
HOME FOR ME."*

BONNIE MORADI,  
DIRECTOR

---



*From the Director's Desk, continued from page 1*

On that note, I am delighted to share that in an era in which enrollment is shrinking precipitously in many areas of study, we are strong and positioned to grow. Our major in women's studies has been stable, we continue to welcome outstanding cohorts of master's students each year, and our minor in health disparities is growing. In the year and a half since this minor's launch, we are set to exceed one hundred students enrolled! Our students are learning, growing, and preparing for promising futures. They are also making an impact today by serving our community through internships and practica that address poverty, campus diversity, victim advocacy, and the health care needs of women and underserved populations.

The strength of the Center rests on continuing to reach these talented students, offering them high quality courses and research opportunities, and providing them with mentoring

and support to succeed. This growth is key to our vision for the Center: to use the tools of women's studies and gender research to produce and support scholars, leaders, and social change agents who work collaboratively and build coalitions to advance knowledge, contribute to their communities, and promote equity and opportunity for all members of our global society. Our strategies for working toward this vision include broad outreach to prospective students, growth and support of faculty and staff capacity, and engagement of campus and community partnerships. To this end, we are excited to launch our national search to recruit a new faculty member as the Vada A. Yeomans Endowed Chair of Women's Studies. We are introducing a graduate student affiliate group (parallel to our faculty affiliate group) for students who are committed to the vision and

mission of the Center. We are adding new partnerships for recruiting prospective students. We are pursuing fundraising and grant opportunities to support our students, faculty, and Center initiatives. Last but not least, we continue to provide programs on pedagogy, science and scholarship, and vital social issues for the public good.

The generosity of our alumnae/i and friends, the hard work and talent of our faculty, staff, and students, and the engagement of our affiliates are critical to the success of these strategies and to achieving our vision. Each of you is an important part of our story, our promise, and the path ahead.

Thank you all for your engagement. I look forward to serving the Center in the coming years.

*Center Grad Student Works to Develop Transgender Resource Network*

This summer, **Reilly-Owen Clemens**, an MA student at the CWSGR, assisted in the development of the Transgender Resource Network (TRN), an ongoing project of the Office of LGBT Affairs. The TRN is an effort to increase the visibility and accessibility of resources specific or relevant to the needs of transgender, transexual, and gender non-conforming (trans-identified) students on campus. Its main goals include: creating a web-based hub that centralizes the psychological, medical, and procedural aspects of gender transition; increasing

interdepartmental communication, problem-solving, and programming; providing opportunities for ongoing education, data-gathering, and scholarship-driven policy development regarding trans-identified student issues; and assisting students in identifying individuals across campus experienced in addressing trans-identified student concerns. For those who desire to transition, the TRN helps to simplify the process and ensures that students can focus on being students. For those with less binary identities, it provides key administrators and advocates with

the knowledge necessary to fulfill UF's ongoing commitment to campus diversity in face of this rapidly diversifying and growing population. Not only will this help to ensure a positive campus experience for all students, it will help UF continue to recruit top scholars from across the nation. For the CWSGR, the TRN demonstrates one of the many new and exciting efforts, undertaken by faculty, staff, and students, to secure gender equality on and off campus.

## 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 **Robert Baez, Yukai Chen, Dayton J. King, Paul J. McDonough, Maya Velesko, and Amber Ward** to the MA program in Women's Studies.

**Robert Baez** graduated from Florida Atlantic University with a major in Public Communication. His research interests include transgender issues, transnational feminism, gender and sexuality, social movements, civic engagement, masculinity, and media studies. He is committed to questioning the existing knowledge about gender in order to develop innovative research within the field.

**Yukai Chen** comes to us from the People's Republic of China where he completed his undergraduate studies at



NEW M.A. STUDENTS (L TO R) (STANDING) MAYA VELESKO, DAYTON J. KING, (SEATED) ROBERT BAEZ, AMBER WARD, YUKAI CHEN (PAUL McDONOUGH NOT PICTURED)

Shaanxi Normal University. He plans to continue his research on changes in the domestic and social status of women from Asian and Islamic countries after their immigration into European and North American countries as well as examine the rights of sexual minorities.

**Dayton King** earned his BS from the University of Central Florida with a major in Legal Studies and a minor in Political Science. He is pursuing a MA/JD Joint Degree, dually enrolled in the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research at the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and in the Levin College of

Law. With his joint degree he hopes to work in the family law system and focus on the institutional barriers women face in the family and in the workforce.

**Paul J. McDonough** earned a BA with honors from UF with a major in Women's Studies. He earned an MS in Library and Information Sciences from Florida State University. He is interested in concentrating his research on the pedagogical issues men confront in women's and gender studies.

**Maya Velesko** graduated from Florida International University with a BA in International Relations. She is a community activist involved in food justice projects and is former owner and founder of *The Jones Eastside* and *The Jones B-Side*. She is pursuing a concurrent degree in Women's Studies and Master of Sustainable Development Practice. Her research will continue to explore her interest in sustainable food activism.

**Amber Ward** graduated last spring from UF with a BA in English. She will continue her research exploring gender and representation in film and media and the relationship between the consumption of these representations and their impact on social realities, especially the portrayal of violence against women.

## Alumnae Spotlight: Sarah Schott



**Sarah Schott, Math major, Women's Studies minor; Hometown: Winter Springs**

*"I was a math major at the University of Florida, but had always had an interest in*

*feminism. On a whim, I chose to take a course in women's studies and then decided to pursue a minor in women's studies. Math and women's studies seemed like an odd combination to many, but as a woman in a field historically populated by men, it was a perfect fit for me.*

*I never quite found my niche in college, but I do feel that the closest I got was in my women's studies classes. I was inspired by my peers and teachers. I learned so much from them, not only about writing and*

*analysis of feminist texts, but also about myself.*

*Since I graduated, I pursued and received my PhD in mathematics at Duke University. In order to receive my graduate funding, I had to teach, which terrified me. However, through this experience, I learned that I have a passion for teaching. After receiving my PhD in May 2012, I was fortunate to be hired at Duke as an Assistant Professor of the Practice (POP), which allows me to focus on teaching and education research (very different from my dissertation research). But the best part of my job is the fact that I have the flexibility to pursue many interests. Because of this, I have finally been able to merge my interests in math and women's studies.*

*Two years ago, I started a mentoring program for women considering a major in math. As a teacher, I*

*find that we're more likely to lose women than men as potential majors when math "gets hard." In these situations, I find that women often fault themselves, while men often fault the material. I hope to redress this through the mentoring program. In addition, I've recently become the Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies for our department. This role gives me the opportunity to have more direct contact with the new majors (both women and men). In this capacity I hope to help students feel connected to the math department, much like the connection I felt to my women's studies courses through the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research."*

## STRIVE: Protecting Students from Sexual Assault

On January 22, 2014 President Barack Obama established the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault. In April, this Task Force released a set of recommendations for colleges and universities looking to curb their rates of sexual assault on campus. These recommendations reflect the suggestions of thousands of stakeholders, including survivors, parents, students, faculty members, and staff.

Prevention is one of the first steps that the Task Force recommends, and engaging men in this process is particularly important. The Sexual Trauma/Interpersonal Violence Education program at the University of Florida (STRIVE) addresses this primary prevention component, providing educational presentations and events to the UF campus community on a wide range of topics including interpersonal violence, gendered violence, sexual assault, consent, and healthy relationships. While educating for prevention, STRIVE also addresses the issue of effective response once an assault has occurred, and serves as a resource for survivors who seek a wide array of services on and off campus. Founded in 2010, STRIVE anticipated the

recommendations set forth by the White House Task Force by four years.

With its focus on peer education, STRIVE would not exist without the engaged and supportive student body at U.F. The CWSGR plays a key role in encouraging



students and preparing them to work in sexual assault prevention, as well as effective secondary response. Professor Trysh Travis and MA student Anna Armitage are currently working with STRIVE Prevention Coordinator Rita Lawrence and Debbi Weiss, a counselor at the Counseling and Wellness Center, to create a service-learning class on Victim Advocacy, which will be offered for the first time in the fall of 2015. Women's Studies senior Razidah Thomas recently accepted a position as a volunteer peer educator with STRIVE. In this capacity, she will facilitate programs with students

that encourage discussions about consent, healthy relationships, and the role of alcohol in sexual assault. Anna Armitage, a second year MA student in the Center, is a Lead Peer Educator, creating and giving presentations across campus on a wide variety of topics related to interpersonal violence and sexual assault. One such educational program has been introduced to UF this year by Rebekah Foster, another Women's Studies senior. Called "Yes Means Yes!" this program is designed to prompt discussion of what constitutes consent. It will be offered multiple times throughout the fall semester of 2014. The facilitators are some of the most charismatic and informed members of our campus community, coming not only from CWSGR, but from our affiliate faculty and friends in Counseling and Wellness, the Dean of Students Office, and Housing and Student Life. In a season when sexual violence has been much in the news, the Center is proud to be at the forefront of prevention and response.

## WST Major Olivia Philips Aspires to Fight for Equality



**Olivia Philips, History/  
Women's Studies double  
major, German minor; junior.  
Hometown: Pembroke Pines**

*"This past summer, I participated in Florida State University Law School's Summer for Undergraduates Program.*

*Over the course of this four week program, my fellow participants and I adhered to a strict Monday to Friday schedule that included LSAT workshops, a mock constitutional law class, a mock legal writing class, guest speakers ranging from judges to senators, and opportunities to visit various judicial and legislative buildings in the capital. Though the schedule seems arduous, I enjoyed every second of this experience.*

*This program reaffirmed my desire to attend law school. Through this program, I also gained a different perspective on the lives of women who are lawyers. As a women's studies major, I understand that women today continue to receive unequal treatment in their workplaces. After listening to and interacting with the various amazing women who came to speak with us, I now know more of the difficulties of raising a child, requesting maternity leave, and finding appropriate day care for a child. These women all came from moderate beginnings and worked their way up the ladder to become influential in their various fields of law.*

*To me, studying feminism involves the understanding that the need for feminism stemmed from a variety of*

*oppressions. After participating in the program and reviewing case law, I rejected my previous assumption that everyone is treated equally in the eyes of the law. As I continue to pursue my study of law, I now know that a law says more than the written text. I understand that in order to change the role of women in society, interpretations of the law need to be carefully worded to ensure equal treatment of the full population."*



OLIVIA PHILIPS (FIRST ROW, CENTER) WITH HER FSU LAW SCHOOL UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM COLLEAGUES.

## With an Attitude of Gratitude

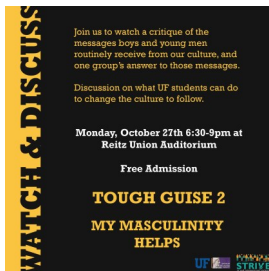
Thanks to everyone whose generosity keeps the center viable, including the following donors:

- Ms. Kathryn Chicone Ustler
- Mr. Gregory R. Allen
- Mrs. Janet Fant Carlson
- Ms. Susan F. Delegal
- Ms. Polly French Doughty and Dr. Paul L. Doughty
- Ms. Nattaliah A. Earle
- Dr. Jamie R. Funderburk
- Dr. David G. Hackett
- Dr. Eloise M. Harman
- Dr. Sidney R. Homan, Jr. and Ms. Norma M. Homan
- Dr. Grady E. Johnson, Jr.
- Mr. William L and Mrs. Shirley J. Kiser
- Dr. Angel Kwolek-Folland and Mr. Nathan O. Folland
- Dr. Madelyn Lockhart
- Dr. Jeanna M. Mastrodicica and Mr. Clay B. Sweger
- Dr. Judith W. Page and Professor William H. Page
- Dr. Milagros Peña and Dr. Fredrick W. Hamann
- Ms. Deborah McTigue
- Ms. Clara J. Smith
- Mr. Martin B. Smith III
- Dr. Mark W. Thurner
- Dr. Sno E. White and Dr. Michael E. Mahla

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



**NEW CENTER DIRECTOR BONNIE MORADI (RIGHT) PRESENTS THE "UPPITY WOMAN" AWARD TO WOMEN'S STUDIES AFFILIATE AND FORMER DIRECTOR, DR. JUDITH W. PAGE, IN RECOGNITION OF HER SUPPORT OF THE CENTER AND HER 5 YEARS OF DIRECTORSHIP. THE AWARD IS GIVEN ANNUALLY AT THE CENTER RECEPTION.**



## Center Partners with STRIVE to Present Documentaries

On October 27th, STRIVE and the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research will host 2 films, *Tough Guise 2* and *My Masculinity Helps*, at the Reitz Union beginning at 6:30pm. The event is free and open to the public. *Tough Guise 2* is a documentary examining the ongoing epidemic of violence in America and its roots in outmoded ideals of manhood. *My Masculinity Helps* explores the role of African American men and boys in the prevention of sexual violence. Discussion will follow.

## Feminist Mehek Mirchandani Goes to Tallahassee

**Mehek Mirchandani, Political Science major, Women's Studies minor; senior. Hometown: Orlando**

*"I spent this past spring working in the office of Senator Eleanor Sobel, a long-standing Florida politician who has represented Broward County for*



**MEHEK MIRCHANDANI (FIRST ROW LEFT) WITH HER SENATE TEAM**

*more than 20 years. As a political science major with a minor in women's studies, I wanted to pursue an internship that encompassed both of my interests. Given Senator Sobel's role as Chair of the committee on Children, Families and Elder affairs, this internship fit perfectly.*

*Senator Sobel was acutely aware of how much of a minority she was amongst her cohort. As a liberal feminist who strived to work on lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) and pro-choice issues in a very conservative legislative body, Senator Sobel worked and fought for her beliefs despite frequent challenges. One thing I learned from my work with Senator Sobel that will stay with me for the rest of my life is the art of compromise. I learned that it is well worth it to spend the time to explain and work through an issue so that all parties are protected and something valuable is accomplished.*

*On one of my last days interning in the Senate, I was asked to present a bill. I knew nothing about it, and the Senator pulled me aside and said, (paraphrased), 'You can't let your fears get to you. Life is going to be filled with things that scare you, but you have to fight to do and be better.' My time working in the Senate under Senator Sobel was the most challenging and fun experience I have had in my life. She taught me so much about what it means to be a feminist, and for that I am eternally grateful. I interned for her through the Bob Graham Center for Leadership and Service. You can find out more about their internship program here: <http://bobgrahamcenter.ufl.edu/students/internship-opportunities>."*



*WST Sophomore Gabriella Larios Describes Life-Changing Internship*



GABRIELLA LARIOS,  
UF WOMEN'S STUDIES MAJOR

"READING  
STATISTICS AND  
THEORY IN A  
TEXTBOOK ISN'T  
ENOUGH"

-GABRIELLA LARIOS  
UF SOPHOMORE

UF Women's Studies Major, Sophomore Gabriella Larios, takes a look back on her life-changing summer internship at the Women's Fund of Miami-Dade.

*"I spent my summer as an intern for The Women's Fund of Miami-Dade, a non-profit organization that works to empower women and girls by funding innovative initiatives that build equality, foster social change, and create community partners in Miami Florida.*

*The Women's Fund gives grants to about 20 different organizations each year and has funded approximately 400 gender-specific non-profits since its inception in 1991. The Women's Fund's grantees are the backbone of Miami. These grantees provide a wide range of services including entrepreneurship classes for incarcerated women, easily accessible shelters and*

*baths for homeless women, leadership training and mentoring relationships for young girls, legal services to those who cannot afford them, and so much more. In addition to developing their grantee partners throughout the year, the Women's Fund also engages in advocacy on critical issues affecting Miami-Dade, such as human trafficking of children.*

*I wish I had known, or cared enough, about all these opportunities to give back to my community while I was still living in Miami. People around me perceive service at home as unimportant compared to mission trips abroad. However, interning at the Women's Fund has helped me realize how vital work at home is. I look forward to returning to Miami over the summer and incorporating community service with young girls*

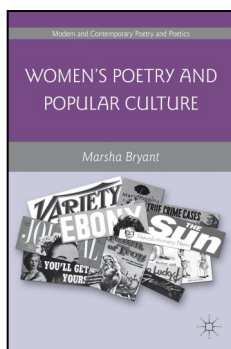
*and women as a regular part of my life.*

*I am incredibly grateful for the outstanding women's studies education I received at U.F. I also realize that sometimes reading statistics and theory in a textbook isn't enough. Constant activism and advocacy are difficult and the drive to keep making a difference can get lost while trying to keep up with readings for class or studying for exams. My internship with the Women's Fund provided the perfect opportunity for me to find the balance between academia and community involvement that I have been seeking."*

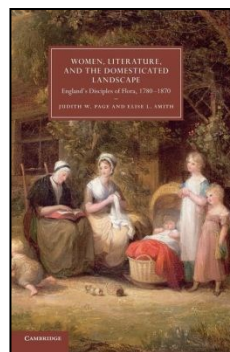


*Book Nook: Recently Published Books by Center Faculty and Affiliates*

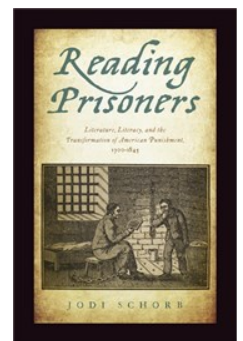
**Marsha Bryant,** *Women's Poetry and Popular Culture.* Modern and Contemporary Poetry and Poetics Series. 2011. Palgrave MacMillan, 2013.



**Judith W. Page,** (co-authored with Elise L. Smith), *Women, Literature, and the Domesticated Landscape: England's Disciples of Flora, 1780-1870* (Cambridge University Press, 2014).



**Jodi Schorb,** *Reading Prisoners: Literature, Literacy, and the Transformation of American Punishment, 1700-1845* (Rutgers University Press, 2014)



**Stephanie A. Smith,** *Baby Rocket* (Thames River Press, 2013) *Content Burns* (Thames River Press, 2014) (Numbers 2 and 3 of the *Warpaint Trilogy*.)

**Laura Sjoberg,** *Gender, War and Conflict* (Polity Press, 2014).



## Preceptor Spotlight: Candice King, MBA, MAE

By Laura K. Guyer



**CANDICE KING,**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,**  
**ACORN CLINIC**

One distinguishing feature of the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research's Health Disparities in Society minor is the service learning practicum, a capstone experience

that places students in community agencies that address the health care needs of at-risk populations in Alachua County. The practicum would not be possible without the participation of many dedicated community partners. One of these committed individuals is Candice King, MBA, MAE, Executive Director of the nationally recognized Alachua County Organization for Rural Needs (ACORN) Clinic that provides low-cost medical and dental care to rural, low-income, uninsured residents of north Florida.

Locally, Candice King has played a vital role in the provision of health care, education, and services to low income and special needs populations for more than twenty-five years. She returned as ACORN's Executive Director in 2013 from the UF College of Medicine's Family Data Center where she provided budget/fiscal management and participated in grant writing and

research. Ms. King has held positions in state and local government as well as in the non-profit sector. She was the founding director of CHOICES (Community Health Offering Innovative Care and Education Services) and today serves on the board of the Rural Health Partnership and Alachua County Health Advisory Board. She collaborates with health agencies to improve access to health care among those most vulnerable and is an integral part of the county's health care safety net.

Ms. King has contributed to the practicum since it was established in 2013. Under her direction, students have completed projects that include:

- Investigation of Sovereign Immunity Issues of ACORN's Spanish Clinic
- Competitive Analysis of Bradford and Union County Safety Net Organizations
- Patient Satisfaction Survey of Low Income, Low Literacy Patients at ACORN Clinic
- Enrollment in the Affordable Care Act: Students as Certified Application Counselors

A practicum student noted, "This experience was incredible – I truly enjoyed working alongside Ms. King. The staff and volunteers are genuine, caring, helpful and loving. I learned a lot about myself through the projects and am now more confident when diving into tasks that require learning new things." Another student wrote, "My first week at ACORN was a crash course in rural healthcare and every day I learn something new about the unique needs of rural clinics, especially those serving the un- and under-insured. I love my 'real world' practicum placement. I am learning how to think like a physician in a more holistic manner and about patient barriers to leading healthy lives that are economic and cultural. . ."

Immersed in the health care environment at ACORN, students learn about professionalism while honing their problem-solving, interpersonal communication, and decision-making skills. The experiential learning that takes place at ACORN Clinic cannot be replicated in the classroom and Candice King is equipping the next generation of health professionals to eliminate health disparities.



## NOW Digital Archive, *continued from page 1*

on the ERA, reproductive rights, and local politics. These primary documents are embedded in content pages that provide historical and political context and introduce key players. The result is an invaluable resource for understanding the history of Florida feminism. Its open platform means that, like the feminist movement itself, anyone

can participate and collaborate.

Please join us to mark Women's History month with this celebration of local and regional feminism—you may be introduced to a new technology and through it, become reacquainted with some old friends.



**VISIT US IN  
BEAUTIFUL  
USTLER  
HALL, IN  
THE HEART  
OF THE UF  
CAMPUS.**



## *Spring Talk: Save the Date!*

We hope you will join us at the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research on Monday, 23 March, from 4-6 pm, as we welcome Elaine Carey for a talk on "Doing Drugs in the Archives: Fictions, Facts, and Histories of Women Traffickers."

Associate Professor of Latin American History and Chair of the History Department at St. John's University in Queens, New York, Dr. Carey also holds the Lloyd Sealy Research Fellowship at CUNY's John Jay College of Criminal Justice. She is the author of *Plaza of Sacrifices: Gender, Power, and Terror in 1968 Mexico* (2005), and co-editor with Andrae Marak of *Smugglers, Brothels, and Twine: Transnational Flows of Contraband and Vice in North America* (2011). Her talk in the Center is drawn from research that supports her just-published book *Women Drug Traffickers: Mules, Bosses, and Organized Crime*.

This talk is co-sponsored by the Center for the Study of Race & Race Relations, the Center for Latin American Studies and their Crime, Law and Governance in the Americas Working Group, and the CLAS departments of Anthropology, History, Political Science, and Spanish & Portuguese.



## *Health Disparities: Changing the Delivery of Health Care*

By Laura K. Guyer

The Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research's Health Disparities in Society (HDS) minor was established in 2012 to add diversity to the health professions and increase awareness among students about the preventable differences in health that are linked to social, economic and/or environmental disadvantage. Although new, HDS has quickly grown to become the eighth largest of forty-seven minors in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences because it addresses the current issues in medicine and health care. Students are finding questions about health disparities on their applications to professional schools. Recent program graduate Czarina Teaño notes, "I am

currently working on my last secondary application for medical school. Almost EVERY essay that I have written has centered on this issue. In fact, this last essay asked me to 'describe ideas about how the medical profession can best respond to disparities in health care.'" Cindy Medina, a first year medical student at UF notes, "Learning about the many health disparities interlaced within our society has reminded me of the significance of a patient's individuality and the need to sincerely listen to their concerns. I hope to build patient-physician relationships that can flourish and provide a sound support system grounded on trust." These sentiments are shared by Stephanie

Indelicati who writes, "Being raised in a rural town where health disparities are prevalent, I understand the importance of finding health professionals that can understand that they exist. As a physician assistant, I hope to educate my patients to make appropriate health decisions and give them access to resources they may not be aware of." It is comforting to know that tomorrow's health professionals are being prepared to provide competent and compassionate care.

