

From the Director's Desk



DR. BONNIE MORADI
DIRECTOR

I have been thinking a lot about the importance of community and feminist intersectional praxis – the inextricable link between scholarship and action for social change. Many of us attended the National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) conference this year. As usual, there was inspiring research, teaching, and activism to learn about. However, what was most remarkable to me was the strength of community among the attendees; strength of community in terms of numbers, in terms of diversity (e.g., centering women of color and trans and gender non-conforming people), and in terms of joy, laughter, and connection through praxis. This sense of community and joy was particularly powerful given that the work itself was often about challenging

and painful topics such as hate-based violence, social inequalities, and experiences of marginalization and erasure.

I think about community as the process and the outcome of our praxis – an important part of how we do our work and what we achieve through our work. Prominent feminist scholars have written about community in inspiring ways. Patricia Hill Collins' calls for building "coalitions of conscience" grounded in empathy, ethics of social justice, and intersectional understanding of community. Audre Lorde alludes to community when she says "the sharing of joy, whether physical, emotional, psychic, or intellectual, forms a bridge between the sharers which can be the basis for understanding much of what is not shared between them, and lessens the threat of their difference." Adrienne Rich describes communities of resistance in which "the sharing of work" fosters an

empowering joy that makes us, as Lorde describes "less willing to accept powerlessness, ... resignation, despair, self-effacement, depression, self-denial..."

I view our work as scholars, teachers, students, and practitioners as a source of joy and community that is a powerful countervailing force to the systems of inequalities and dynamics of erasure that we are working to understand and transform.

Many of our initiatives this year reflect this notion of community and praxis, connecting our scholarship with transformative action. For example, this semester, Dr. Manoucheka Celeste and Dr. Bryce Henson organized a brownbag building community with first generation graduate students at UF. With Dr. Laura Guyer's leadership, our students worked with Gainesville4All to gather input from our neighbors throughout Gainesville about their needs and how to promote equity in our communities. With Dr. Maddy Coy's expertise, we

(Continued on page 2)



Inside this issue:

Fall Reception	2
Welcome New Students	3
Attitude of Gratitude	5
Alum Spotlight: Dr. Vanessa Fabien	6
Alum Spotlight: Krishna-Iyer, S.J.D.	7
Remembering Ntozake Shange	8
Welcome Dr. Hernandez	9
Center Affiliates Win NEH Grant	10
Consider an M.A. in the Center	11
Honoring Dr. Hill-Lubin	12
UF at NWSA	13
WST Major Diasti's Study Abroad	15
Center offers Graduate Certificates	16

From the Director's Desk, continued

(Continued from page 1)

organized #HearMeToo, a series of events to recognize International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and 16 days of activism against gender-based violence in

our communities. With Dr. Billy Huff's expertise, in spring, we will offer the Center's (and UF's) first course on Transgender Studies. All of these initiatives connect scholarship with teaching with action. This work is the

cornerstone of building communities through feminist intersectional praxis. We thank each of you for being a part of building and sustaining this work and community.

"I VIEW OUR WORK AS SCHOLARS, TEACHERS, STUDENTS, AND PRACTITIONERS AS A SOURCE OF JOY AND COMMUNITY THAT IS A POWERFUL COUNTERVAILING FORCE TO THE SYSTEMS OF INEQUALITIES AND DYNAMICS OF ERASURE THAT WE ARE WORKING TO UNDERSTAND AND TRANSFORM."
-BONNIE MORADI, DIRECTOR



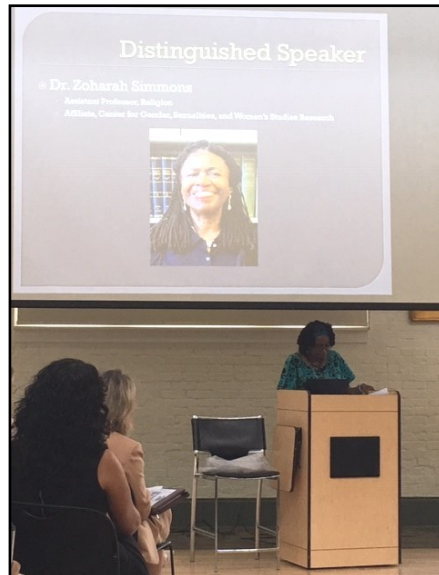
Another Exciting Fall Reception

The Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies Research held its annual Fall Reception on September 12 in the Atrium in Ustler Hall. Director Bonnie Moradi welcomed over 100 guests including core and affiliate faculty, students, and friends of the Center. Dean Richardson offered words of pride and encouragement for the Center.

New and returning graduate students, new and continuing affiliate faculty, and campus and community partners were celebrated.

Student awards included the O. Ruth McQuown Awards, Madelyn Lockhart Dissertation and Emerging Scholars Awards, and the Cindy Colangelo Award for Breast Cancer Awareness.

The Distinguished Affiliate Contribution Award was presented to Center Affiliate and former Center Director Dr. Judy Page. After an inspiring talk to reception attendees, Center Affiliate, Dr. Zoharah Simmons, was honored with the Uppity Woman Award for her inspiring scholarship and activism.



DR. ZOHARAH SIMMONS GAVE AN INSPIRING TALK BEFORE BEING PRESENTED WITH THE UPPITY WOMEN AWARD FOR 2018.



FORMER DIRECTOR JUDITH W. PAGE (RIGHT) IS PRESENTED WITH THE DISTINGUISHED AFFILIATE CONTRIBUTION AWARD AT THE FALL 2018 RECEPTION.



Welcome New Graduate Students

We are delighted to welcome our new graduate students to the Center's MA

program: **Shyamala Engelhart, Andreina Fernandez, Kaylee Kagiavas, Logan Nesar, and Melissa Powers.**

These students bring a rich range of experiences and interests:

Shyamala Engelhart has a BA in Psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her research interests include the intersection of gender and aging, with a focus on how contemporary women are resisting and rewriting common aging narratives and finding empowerment through online platforms such as blogging. Shyamala is a certified clinical hypnotherapist and her hobbies include playing chess, singing, and meditation.

Andreina Fernandez graduated from the University of Florida in 2017 with a BS in Psychology, a BA Linguistics, and a minor in Disabilities in Society. Her research focuses on Latinx identity, queer identities, and immigration.

Kaylee Kagiavas graduated with an Individualized Studies BA with minors in women's studies, history, and psychology from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania in 2018. Her research and interests are focused on reproductive politics, women's history, and nonprofit work. She is excited to further explore women's and gender studies topics throughout her MA.

Logan Nesar graduated from the University of Florida with his BA in Women's Studies and two minors in Health Disparities and Public Health. He currently works as the graduate assistant for LGBTQ Affairs. He hopes to focus his research on the medicalization of transgender people's identities and the ways that trans people contest this. He is

also interested in disability studies and mental health.

Melissa Powers graduated from the University of Florida in 2017 with a BS in psychology and a minor in Women's, Gender, and Sexualities Studies. It was in large part her work in feminist and queer theory through her undergraduate minor that inspired her to pursue an MA in the Center. She intends to continue working in theory with a focus on power and empowerment as well as an exploration into queer identities. Melissa views intersectional feminist scholarship as a means of impacting social change.



WOMEN'S STUDIES GRADUATE STUDENTS (LEFT TO RIGHT)
LOGAN NESER, ANDREINA FERNANDEZ, SHYAMALA ENGELHART,
KAYLEE KAGIAVAS, AND MELISSA POWERS

News from Current MA Candidates

Our new students join our current MA candidates who have been hard at work on their exciting and diverse research projects, and have news and updates to share:

Mirela Cardinal's MA research project, with the supervision of Dr. Tanya Saunders, is about queer visibility on YouTube videos in the Brazilian context. She is currently analyzing her data and developing her knowledge towards queer studies and discourse analysis methodologies through her independent study. She will spend the

remainder of the year writing the first draft of her non-thesis project and applying for PhD programs in social sciences or counseling that center on social justice.

Corinne Futch is a second year MA student working with Dr. Alyssa Zucker's supervision on her thesis project podcast about queer students' experience at the University of Florida. She hopes to shed light on the marginalization of this community to invoke change within the university.

Meaghan MacPherson is working on her MA thesis with the supervision of Dr. Tace Hedrick to analyze the #MeToo movement as survivor discourse. She will spend this semester completing a draft of her thesis with the intention of defending in the Spring. She is also currently applying for PhD programs in Communication and Media Studies.

Marcela Murillo, with Dr. Connie Shehan's supervision, successfully defended her final project titled "Empowerment and Agency through Domestic Practices: A qualitative study of Laundry Practices in UF's Family Housing" during the Fall. She obtained the prestigious Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies Research Madelyn Lockhart Graduate Student Teaching Fellowship for Fall 2018. This award has allowed her to gain more teaching experience through the lectureship of WST2611 Humanities Perspectives in Gender and Sexuality. Finally, her paper "Monstrosity, Motherhood and Indigeneity: Representations of Otherness in Contemporary Bolivian Comics," which is the result of a Women's Studies class, has been accepted as a chapter in an edited volume on Monstrous Women in Comics to be published by the University Press of Mississippi in early 2019.

(Continued on page 4)

*Welcome New Graduate Students (continued)**(Continued from page 3)*

Anthony Dustin Rollins is continuing his MA/PhD work in the Center with the supervision of Dr. Kendal Broad-Wright. He continues to focus his research on intersectionality and contemporary HIV/AIDS activism within a queer context using a theoretical perspective informed by carnal sociology. His thesis will address the sexual liberation narratives of queer men using Tuvada as pre-exposure prophylaxis. He is excited to continue contributing to the Center and queer intersectional scholarship.

Karleen Schlichtmann continues to work on her MA thesis with the supervision of Dr. Manoucheka Celeste. She is analyzing the representations of Black women living with HIV/AIDS in health research literature and comparing that to existing programs that serve this group. At this year's National Women's Studies Association Conference, Karleen presented her research poster, "Just Imagine' A World without HIV/AIDS: Black Feminist interventions in Health Justice."

Jane Stanley is currently working on a non-thesis project under the supervision of Dr. Trysh Travis. This project takes the form of a blog detailing the histories and impacts of nine influential female comedians. Over the summer, Jane interned at Gainesville Girls Rock Camp, which she found to be a transformative experience. Jane plans to graduate in the spring of 2019 and will attend law school after a gap year.

Matt Stern is working on the first full draft of his MA thesis under the supervision of committee chair Dr. Tace Hedrick and committee member Dr. Maddy Coy. This thesis will analyze graphic images of violence against women in the television series *Twin Peaks* in order make connections between the racialized and gendered ideologies employed in mass media and the discourse(s) involved in the #MeToo movement. He hopes to turn this thesis into a publishable paper and help spark conversations about the importance of empathy in perceptions of both fictional and real-life accounts of sexual violence.

Hannah Tabor is continuing to work on her non-thesis paper, under the supervision of Dr. Connie Shehan, with plans to defend in the Spring of 2019. Her research involves examining and analyzing the equity of women's health services in Gainesville, Florida. In addition, she will present her research at the Global Status of Women and Girls Conference at Christopher Newport University in March, as well as attend the United Nations Youth Assembly in February. She is currently applying to PhD programs in higher education and sociology.

Nik Wiles completed a full draft of their non-thesis project this semester with the supervision of Dr. Trysh Travis. It is a book about parenting outside of the gender binary, and it uses a memoir-style approach from the viewpoint of a genderqueer parent. Nik presented a portion of this book at the inSECURITY conference this year, and it received much interest, which is why they are currently pursuing publication. Alongside these endeavors, Nik continues their work as a Professor of English at Santa Fe College; they are also beginning work on an academic publication that addresses the potentially damaging effects of using umbrella terms in connection to gender identities.

Alexandria Wilson is continuing as a joint MA/PhD student. She continues to focus on the issues of violence against women and women's exploitation in Central Eastern Europe. She is currently on a Fulbright grant conducting dissertation fieldwork in the Czech Republic. For her final project in the Center, she is working on a journal article, with the supervision of Center affiliate faculty member Dr. Laura Sjoberg in which she explores how women's organizations in the Czech Republic and Slovakia are resisting the new "gender backlash" movement which has taken hold across Europe.



With an Attitude of Gratitude

Thanks to everyone whose generosity helps the Center continue to thrive, including the following donors:

- ♥ Association for Academic Women
- ♥ Mr. Gregory R. Allen
- ♥ Dr. Marni A. Brown & Mr. Casey A. Brown
- ♥ Reverend Glen A. Busby & Mrs. Linda C. Busby
- ♥ Mr. Fred Cantrell, Jr.
- ♥ Mr. Evan G. Coe
- ♥ Coca-Cola Co.
- ♥ Community Foundation of North Central Florida
- ♥ Mrs. Jean Chalmers & Mr. David M. Chalmers
- ♥ Ms. Susan F. Delegal
- ♥ Dr. Sheila Dickison
- ♥ Dr. Paul L. Doughty
- ♥ Dr. Margaret U. Fields & Dr. Michael J. Fields
- ♥ Mr. John A. Grannan
- ♥ Dr. David G. Hackett
- ♥ Ms. Jeanette K. Helfrich
- ♥ Mr. C. David Hickey
- ♥ Mr. James W. Hicks
- ♥ Dr. Sidney Homan, Jr. & Mrs. Norma M. Homan
- ♥ Dr. Nicole A. Horenstein
- ♥ Dr. Grady E. Johnson, Jr.
- ♥ Mrs. Kelly Johnstone
- ♥ Mr. Charles C. Kafoglis
- ♥ Mr. Sid Kennedy
- ♥ Dr. Angel Kwolek-Folland & Mr. Nathan O. Folland
- ♥ Dr. Angela S. Lindner & Mr. James H. Lindner
- ♥ Dr. Madelyn Lockhart
- ♥ Dr. Mary K. Lockwood
- ♥ Mr. Grady McClendon
- ♥ Dr. Judith W. Page and Professor William H. Page
- ♥ Dr. Jaquelyn L. Resnick & Dr. Michael B. Resnick
- ♥ Lynne E. Roy
- ♥ Ms. Eleanor C. Smeal
- ♥ Ms. Clara J. Smith
- ♥ Dr. John M. Spivack
- ♥ Ms. Anita R. Sundaram
- ♥ Ms. Kathryn Chicone Ustler

- ♥ Ms. Deborah Whippen
- ♥ Mr. Robert Wilder
- ♥ Mr. John H. Williams, Jr.
- ♥ Mr. Chuck Woods

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



USTLER HALL

Center for Gender, Sexualities and Women's Studies Research

Offers an interdisciplinary forum for the study of gender and sexualities, their intersections with race/ethnicity, class and other sociocultural systems, and their functions in cultures and societies.

Opportunities for Giving to the Center

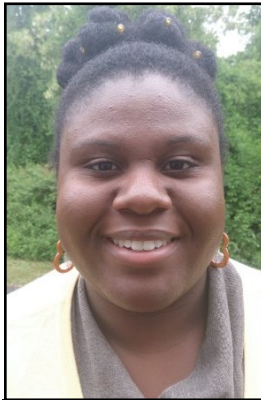
We appreciate the generosity of our donors at all levels. For those thinking of a significant gift to the Center, we have some suggestions:

- \$250 Garden walk pavers for the Yardley Garden (honor a recent graduate or teacher)
- \$500 Send a student to a regional or national meeting, or fund a student's research trip
- \$1000 Garden enhancement and plants for the Yardley Garden:
Name a section of the garden for a friend or loved one (a plaque will indicate contribution)
- \$1000 Inscription for an existing bench in Yardley Garden in honor of a friend or loved one
- \$2000 A bench in Ustler Hall in honor of a friend or loved one, with an inscribed plaque
- \$5000 Sponsor a major named lecture (one time event)
- \$5000 Support faculty research for the summer (Faculty Summer Research Fellowship)
- \$5000 Course development (New Course Development Grant)
- \$10,000 Inscription on the Yardley Wall



For majors gifts and other naming opportunities, please contact
Christy Popwell, Director of Development, CLAS: (352) 392-1964 or cpopwell@ufl.edu.

Center Alum Launches Academic Career in Race, Gender, and Environmental Justice



DR. VANESSA FABIEN,
BA, WOMEN'S STUDIES
UF CLASS OF 2006,
PHD HISTORY, U-MASS
AMHERST, 2014

Alum Spotlight: Dr. Vanessa Fabien graduated with her BA in Women's Studies in 2006. She earned a PhD in September 2014 in Afro-American Studies at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. As a historian, her research focuses on 19th and 20th century African American history and culture with particular emphases on environmental ethics, religion, and gender. She recently completed a Presidential Diversity Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Department of Africana Studies at Brown University and will begin a new position as a Visiting Fellow with the Historic Black Church Program at the University of Miami School of Law's Center for Ethic and Public Service.

My research provides scholars and environmental stakeholders with a

theoretical and historical framework from which to organize across disciplines and reap the synergistic gains of an integrated approach to addressing and redressing racial, gender, and environmental inequalities. I am completing my manuscript entitled, Red, Black, and Green: African American Environmental Thought and the Historical Construction of Environmental Inequality. This manuscript provides a theoretical understanding of African American environmental thought through a historicity that maps the intellectual, cultural, and agricultural production of African Americans during distinct historical periods. Specifically, the manuscript examines how the natural environment inspired African Americans' resistance against institutionalized slavery, a failed Reconstruction, debt peonage during the Great Depression, and socially engineered ghettoized living conditions spurred by racial restrictive covenants during the 20th century. As a Fellow of the OpEd Project Public Voices Greenhouse, I published several OpEd pieces on climate change, gun control, lynching, and women's reproductive health. In my piece "My Body My Pain: Listen to Me and all Black Women"-featured on The Root.com- I discuss the historical misdiagnosis of endometriosis in black women due to the racial bias in how

medical providers assess pain in their black female patients.

My BA degree in Women's Studies in tandem with my experience as a Haitian American woman helps me interpret the history of the U.S. geographical space from a transnational lens and question how race, gender, and class shape the contours of the American terrain. The precipice for my work started in my first semester at UF in summer 2002 when I enrolled in Interdisciplinary Perspectives in Women's Studies and learned about transnational collaborative grassroots movements among women who fought for social change. Through studying the unique standpoints and epistemologies that undergirded these powerful movements, my interest in African American women's fight for equality for all emerged. That spring semester, Professor Barolet invited me to give a lecture in this course on how African American women helped shaped the civil rights movement. It was through my research for this lecture titled, "Stories Untold: Black Women's Political Activism in the Civil Rights Movement," that I gained a gendered insight into the environmental justice movement.

I credit the CGSWSR for being an integral component in my scholarly pursuits to shape the public discourse on race, gender, and the environment as well as inspire young girls and women of color to embark upon a journey towards becoming public intellectuals.

"I CREDIT THE

CENTER FOR BEING

AN INTEGRAL

COMPONENT IN MY

SCHOLARLY

PURSUIITS TO SHAPE

THE PUBLIC

DISCOURSE ON RACE,

GENDER, AND THE

ENVIRONMENT AS

WELL AS INSPIRE

YOUNG GIRLS AND

WOMEN OF COLOR

TO EMBARK UPON A

JOURNEY TOWARDS

BECOMING PUBLIC

INTELLECTUALS.

-DR. VANESSA FABIEN

Center Alum Brings Gender Equity Lens to International Tax Consulting



AISHWARYA
KRISHNA IYER, SJD
MA/JD
UF CLASS OF 2018

Alum Spotlight:
Aishwarya Krishna Iyer graduated with the MA in Women's Studies and SJD in Taxation from the Levin College of Law in 2018. She is currently an International Tax Consultant at PricewaterhouseCoopers.

*Gurur Brahma Gurur Vishnu Gurur
Devo Maheshwaraba
Gurur Saakshaat Para Brahma
Tasmai Shree Gurave Namaha*

Guru (Teacher) is verily Brahma – the creator, Vishnu – the protector, and Maheshwara – the destroyer. Guru is the embodiment of the Supreme Principle. I worship the most powerful Guru and bow my head in front of you.

From when I can remember, my parents have taught me the 'sholka' (above), a Hindu verse, which has been deeply ingrained in me. I came to know its true value after I came to the United States and met such wonderful teachers at the Center. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Mallory Szymanski, Dr. Tace Hedrick, Dr. Kendal Broad, Dr. Bonnie Moradi, Dr. Alyssa Zucker, Dr. Trysh Travis, Dr. Kristin Joys, and lastly Dr. Angel Kwolek-Folland.

Dr. Kwolek-Folland has not only been an

amazing mentor, but she is like family to me, she has showered me with love, warmth, and care, and has made Gainesville home to me. Importantly, she has taught me to stand up for myself and to say no. Also, a special shout-out to Donna Tuckey for being the superwoman of our department. Thank you for not only teaching me to be curious but also teaching me to be a better person.

I have always been interested in Women's studies and issues that affect women. To pursue this interest, I wanted to solidify my theoretical base. With that motive, I applied to the Center's MA program in early 2016. What happened in the next two years has been life-changing. My time at the Center has left a profound impact on both my professional and personal life.

All the classes I took at the Center not only helped to shape my thoughts but also encouraged me to think, to leave my comfort zone and widen my horizons. I learned to identify and understand issues not only through a lens of gender analysis, but also to think about issues like class, race, and sexuality. Most importantly, these classes helped me to connect theory to practice. The best part about being a student in the Center was all the amazing talks that were organized. It was so interesting to meet and hear from various people across the nation, with different backgrounds and areas of expertise. Following these examples, I find myself being vocal and able to identify and analyze patriarchal systems. My learning from the Center helps me to confront and work to transform these systems more fiercely and confidently.

Professionally, I am now working as an International Tax Consultant at

PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC). My job is to help private equity and hedge funds structure their investments in a tax efficient manner. In addition, I help and engage my firm to support women both as employees within the firm and as clients of the firm. PwC focuses on making the work environment inclusive and I am participating in various initiatives undertaken by the firm. Some of these initiatives include the 'be for she initiative', 'Women Upfront', the 'Women's Advisory Network' and the 'NYM Finance Women's Network'. Most recently, we sadly lost one of our colleagues. Botham "Bo" Jean, who was tragically killed in Dallas. I participated in the various discussions we had in the firm about race, and implicit bias and its impact on our day to day lives. I could understand and contribute meaningfully to all of these issues as a result of my Women's Studies education and training at the Center.

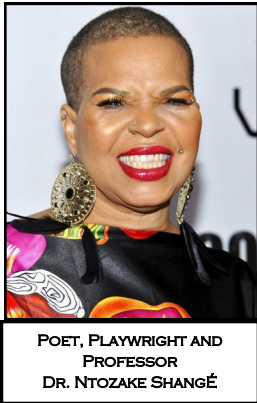
Continuing my gender and fiscal interests, this year I presented a paper at the National Women's Studies Association's (NWSA) annual conference that discussed the gender and class consequences of the carbon tax. I want to continue to think and learn about gender and fiscal issues and develop my interests further. I was excited to see Center faculty and students at NWSA and participate in the graduate recruitment reception event.

Lastly, I take this opportunity to thank Indra, my partner, and my family who encouraged me to apply to the Center and supported me through my hectic schedule. Thank you for standing up with me and



Remembering Poet, Playwright, and Former UF Professor Ntozake Shangé

By Bobbi Korner, Dean
College of Arts and Architecture,
Pennsylvania State University



POET, PLAYWRIGHT AND
PROFESSOR
DR. NTOZAKE SHANGÉ

From 2002 to 2006, poet and playwright Ntozake Shangé was a faculty member in the then Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research. She worked with undergraduate and graduate students, conducted research on local slave cemeteries, and collaborated with College of the Arts Professor Mikell Pinkney and UF students on a world-premiere production of her choreo-poem "Lavender Lizards and Lilac Landmines: Layla's Dream." Bobbi Korner was, at the time of Professor Shangé's UF appointment, an Associate Dean in UF's College of the Arts. Dean Korner worked with the Director of the Center, Angel Kwolek-Folland, to bring Professor Shangé to UF. Professor Ntozake Shangé passed away October 27th at the age of 70. Among her many achievements was her Tony Award-nominated play "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow is Enuf." Dean Korner remembers Professor Shangé time at UF, and its importance to interdisciplinary scholarship and teaching.

"MY SPIRIT IS TOO
ANCIENT TO
UNDERSTAND THE
SEPARATION OF
SOUL AND GENDER"

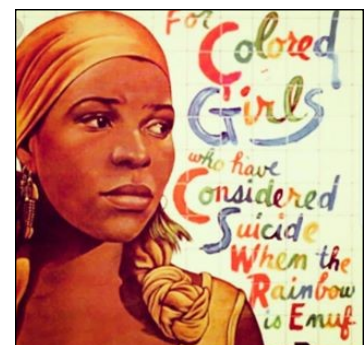
NTOZAKE SHANGÉ

FOR COLORED GIRLS
WHO HAVE CONSIDERED
SUICIDE /WHEN THE
RAINBOW IS ENUF

Mikell Pinkney [who knew Ntozake from his theater connections] reached out to me to see what we might be able to do to have her at UF as an artist-in-residence. We found out that she was interested in moving from her teaching situation and I reached out to Angel. Angel and I met with our two deans at the time (Don McGlothlin [from COTA] and Neil Sullivan [from CLAS]) and they were both supportive. I recall Neil Sullivan was particularly enthusiastic, recognizing the potential both for collaboration across colleges and for what someone of her poetic imagination would add to our collective, creative mix. Subsequent to the

production of her play, Layla's Dream, we discussed possibilities of tenure. Angel and I worked with the deans and Provost to create the option for an interdisciplinary, cross-college tenure and promotion review committee, which hadn't been possible before. The collaboration across colleges that began when Ntozake came had an impact beyond her hire. The cross-college appointment became a model for other, similar, interdisciplinary hires. Sometimes, when you dare to support creative people and ideas, there are strong impacts that challenge a bureaucracy and help it work more effectively for the future. Ntozake was all about that in her life and artistic work and the administrative collaboration behind the scenes to bring her to UF had an impact on our students who had the chance to see the possibilities and pitfalls of creative collaboration. Further, administrators indulged in creative collaboration that created new options for the future. Bringing Ntozake to UF is an example of the ripple effect of risking a bit in administrative leadership.

We remember and honor Professor Ntozake Shangé immense contributions to feminist and women of color scholarship and creative production.



Connecting Art, Community, and Feminist Praxis: The Center Welcomes Dr. Jillian Hernandez

By Matt Stern

MA Candidate, Women's Studies



DR. JILLIAN HERNANDEZ

The Center is excited to welcome our newest faculty colleague, Dr. Jillian Hernandez.

Dr. Hernandez's scholarship is located at the nexus of several important fields including Black and Latina feminist theory, Black and Latinx studies, art history and performance studies, media and cultural studies, hip hop studies, and critical girlhood studies. When asked how she describes her scholarship, Dr. Hernandez said, "I write about how [women, girls, queer people, and trans people of color] imagine liberatory worlds and ways of being a racialized and gendered subject. I also examine how, because of this radical potential, they are often vilified and framed as deviant and dangerous in dominant discourses."

Dr. Hernandez is currently completing a book project under contract with Duke University Press, entitled *Aesthetics of Excess: The Art and Politics of Black and Latina Embodiment*. It examines how the bodies of women and girls of color are racialized through cultural discourses of aesthetic value that mark them as sexual "others," and how in turn, aesthetic value is generated through the presentation of their bodies. Her second book project will investigate how contemporary women and queer of color artists use feminine aesthetics (e.g., the color pink, flowers, glitter) to engage with the U.S. political landscape in the aftermath of the 2016 presidential election.

Dr. Hernandez's research also centers praxis. In 2004, Dr. Hernandez established Women on the Rise!, an arts-outreach project for girls of color, at the Museum of Contemporary Art

in Miami, Florida. Dr. Hernandez created Women on the Rise! in response to an increase in the number of girls placed in juvenile detention in Florida. "When I researched the kind of educational opportunities available to them while incarcerated," she says, "I found that none of their classes provided a space for self-expression in the midst of what was a profoundly disorienting and distressing experience. I learned that the girls were constantly being subjected to various forms of dubiously effective and at times violating state-supported group and individual counseling." In Women on the Rise!, Dr. Hernandez utilized an "intergenerational feminist art praxis" in lieu of art therapy or forms of carceral reform. The goal was "to generate space for girls of color both in detention and at other community sites to engage in creative expression and critical dialogue, practices that they were either socially and institutionally excluded from (being artists) or believed incapable of (being theorists)."

Describing her work with the girls in Women on the Rise!, Dr. Hernandez said, "I started to consider questions regarding how the girls were negotiating embodiment, sexuality, representation, and inter and intra-ethnic and racial dynamics. The then-nascent field of girl's studies was primarily concerned with middle-class white girls framed as being 'mean' due to relational aggression dynamics or in need of boosted self-esteem. These were not the issues the girls I was working

"I AM EXCITED

TO BE IN A

SPACE THAT IS

EXPLICITLY

DEDICATED TO

FEMINIST

INQUIRY AND

PRAXIS, AND

THAT IS

GROWING."

-DR. JILLIAN
HERNANDEZ

(Continued on page 14)

Center Affiliates Win NEH Grant, Put Feminist Technology Practices into Action

By Dr. Laurie Taylor, Center Affiliate and UF Digital Scholarship Librarian



DR. LAURIE TAYLOR

In August 2018, the National Endowment for the Humanities announced that they awarded \$231,093 for *Migration, Mobility, and Sustainability: Caribbean Studies and Digital Humanities Advanced Institute*. The investigator team for the project includes Center Affiliate members: Dr. Laurie Taylor, UF's Digital Scholarship Librarian and the Digital Library of the Caribbean's (dLOC) Director, Dr. Hélène Huet, European Studies Librarian, Dr. Paul Ortiz, Director of the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program in the Department of History, and Dr. Leah Rosenberg, Professor of Caribbean Literature in the Department of English.

In partnership with the dLOC, we proposed this collaborative project to host a weeklong, in-person workshop and five additional monthly virtual workshops on collaborative Digital Humanities (DH) and Caribbean Studies. This grant proposal and project developed from our shared feminist technology practices, where we approach and utilize technology to best meet community needs. Feminist technology practices are transdisciplinary, recognize the importance of people in relation to technologies and technical practices, and are socio-technical, encompassing people, policies, communities, and technologies together. As such, this project begins by acknowledging distributed and diverse expertise in our communities, respecting diversity and difference, and affirming the power and value of our communities and networks, including both working collaboratively together as members of the investigator team as well as working in relation to our connected communities.

For this project, we will open a call to select participants for the program. We expect to select a mix of faculty, graduate students, and information professionals who are engaged in teaching Caribbean Studies. Participants will gain DH teaching experience and in-depth knowledge of how to utilize digital collections in teaching. The Institute will provide training in tools, processes, and resources for developing lessons, modules, and/or courses. This Digital Humanities Advanced Institute is the most recent of ongoing initiatives for building capacity and community for Caribbean digital libraries, from digitization for access and preservation, to building upon digitized materials for research and teaching. In addition to our team of investigators, our team includes others from across UF and the Caribbean region who will be instructors for this Institute. We look forward to collaborating over the next two years with the 26 participants selected for this program. We are particularly excited to connect together following feminist technological practices for mutual aid, shared benefit, and community building.

Please see the full grant proposal for more information, and for details on all instructors: <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/1/IR00010262/00001>

Dickison Launches Director's Timeline Plaque

Dr. Sheila Dickison, Associate Director of Academic Programs at the Bob Graham Center for Public Service and a Women's Studies Affiliate Faculty member proposed the creation of the new Directors Timeline of the Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies Research.

The plaque takes us from 1977, the year of the inception of the Women's Studies Program, through present day with room for more Directors to be added. We are very grateful to Dr. Dickison for her generous gift and ongoing support, and also for her advancement of this initiative to preserve and recognize the leadership history of the Center. We hope you will stop by our lobby in Ustler Hall to see the new plaque.





UF | Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies Research

COME TO THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA'S CENTER FOR GENDER, SEXUALITIES, AND WOMEN'S STUDIES RESEARCH TO EARN A MASTER'S DEGREE:

The Center offers an interdisciplinary forum for the study of gender and sexualities and their intersections with race/ethnicity, class, and other sociocultural systems. Our vision is to use the tools of gender, sexualities, and women's studies 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. A Master's degree from the Center will provide you with a high quality graduate education in an engaged community of scholars, tailored to prepare you for a variety of PhD programs and/or careers.

PARTICIPATE IN A VIBRANT COMMUNITY OF SCHOLARS: We have thirteen core faculty members who have expertise in gender, race/ethnicity, and sexualities; Women of Color feminisms; LGBTQ+ studies; transnational and postcolonial feminist analysis; Chicana, Latinx, Afro-Latinx, Haitian, and Caribbean studies; critical girlhood studies; and media, cultural, and literary studies. They apply this expertise in the study of critical domains such as collective identity and activism, health and medicine, law and politics, sexual violence and exploitation, immigration, work, leadership and business, history, literatures and cultures, media and art, and social movements. In addition, we have over 100 affiliate faculty members with wide-ranging expertise who offer courses and serve on graduate committees. We also have a strong group of PhD and MA graduate certificate and affiliate students engaged in our program. See [our latest newsletter!](#)

"[My Thesis] project has shown me that there is a way to blend technical tools like wikis and databases with feminist ethics of breaking down barriers to knowledge."

-Tim D'Annecy, Alum

STUDY WITH FACULTY MEMBERS IN THE CENTER

- [Anita Anantharam](#), MBA, PhD (South and SE Asian Studies)
- [Kendal Broad](#), PhD (Sociology)
- [Manoucheka Celeste](#), Graduate Certificate (Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies), PhD (Communication)
- [Maddy Coy](#), MA (Research and Social Policy), PhD (Social Policy/Sociology)
- [Laura K. Guyer](#), RD (Dietetics/Nutrition), PhD (Curriculum and Instruction)
- [Tace Hedrick](#), PhD (Comparative Literature)
- [Jillian Hernandez](#), PhD (Women's and Gender Studies)
- [Angel Kwolek-Folland](#), PhD (Women's History)
- [Bonnie Moradi](#), PhD (Psychology)
- [Tanya Saunders](#), MPP (International Development Policy), PhD (Sociology)
- [Constance Shehan](#), PhD (Sociology)
- [Trysh Travis](#), MA (English), PhD (American Studies)
- [Alyssa Zucker](#), Graduate Certificate (Women's Studies), PhD (Psychology)

"In this program, I have found space to do dynamic work that serves a greater purpose. I feel a part of something bigger and I am thankful for all the caring faculty and everything the center has done for me."

-Marcela Murillo, Alum

PURSUE THE MA DEGREE THAT MEETS YOUR GOALS: We offer an **MA, with thesis and non-thesis options**. We also offer combined **MA/JD** degrees, **concurrent MA** degrees, and **accelerated BA/MA** degrees. Students typically complete the MA in 4 semesters. The MA degree requires 30 credits, including three core courses (9-credits) that provide a strong foundation in women's, gender, and sexualities studies, and additional elective credits that students can choose from a wide range of courses, such as:

Feminist Media Studies

LGBTQ+ Health

Social Justice Praxis

Global Women of Color

Feminist Methods

Jobs, Gender, and Justice

LGBTQ+ Movements and Activisms

Race, Sex, and Representation

Feminist/Queer of Color Studies

STUDENT FUNDING: Assistantships with tuition remission as well as fellowships and other scholarships are available. Financial aid applications should be submitted with admission materials.

Find more information at <http://wst.ufl.edu>

Questions? Contact Dr. Kendal Broad, klbroad@ufl.edu

Application deadline is February 1st for graduate admission and funding

*In Honor of Dr. Mildred A. Hill-Lubin**By Dr. Debra Walker King, Center Affiliate and Professor of English*

DR. MILDRED A. HILL-LUBIN

On October 14th Dr. Mildred A. Hill-Lubin, emerita faculty member of UF's English Department and affiliate and friend of Women's Studies, left her legacy of "willful behavior," audaciousness, and womanist social change advocacy in our hands as she transitioned from life into the realm of the ancestors. As we commemorate her life, it becomes clear: we stand upon broad, caring, poised, and courageous shoulders. It is with gratitude and respect that the Center for Gender, Sexualities and Women's Studies Research honors her today.

During an era when rumblings about *should* and, if so, in what capacity Black and White women meet in alliance around feminist issues and women's advancement, this powerhouse of dignity and intellectual verve emerged. Amid mountains of skepticism concerning what some considered a not-so-serious idea, Dr. Hill-Lubin shared her passion for women's studies, used her energy for advancing change, and stood for what she knew was right and progressive in the academy. She held hands with sisters of cultural and racial difference, women like Irene Thompson and Ruth McQuown, in a common cause and, with sustained efforts, founded Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Florida. It was not an easy task but one to which she was dedicated and, in unbreakable coalition with her sisters, victorious. She taught us to revere the authority of women in unity. For this, we honor her today.

Dr. Hill-Lubin was not only one of the originators of the UF Women's Studies program, she was a ground breaker for pluralistic, intellectual inclusion and curriculum building in many other areas we and our students now move through with ease and boundless expectations for success. In her role as a professor of

American, African American and African Literatures, she introduced Black women writers like Zora Neale Hurston, Rebecca Carroll, April Sinclair, Bessie Head, Ama Ata Aidoo, and Matiyama Ba to students and faculty alike. She taught us to be empowered by an awareness of Black women's voices, intellect, and beauty. For this, we honor her today.

As a woman of firsts, this foremother taught us courage. She not only introduced Anglo-phone African Literature to the university but also served as the first African American to lead the international African Literature Association and was the first African American and woman appointed as Assistant Dean in UF's Graduate School. Dr. Hill-Lubin advised the American Council on Education, the Office of Women in Higher Education, and the Council of Chief State School Officers (Washington, DC). She sat as a member of the University of Florida Senate and the Florida Commission of Education, and the Florida Humanities Council among other impressive member associations and accomplishments. Dr. Hill-Lubin leaves us with a legacy of courage to enter "foreign" spaces and meet obstacles as "the first," if that is what we must do to bring about change or advance the positive in the lives of others. For this, we honor her today.

We could go on, but it would take reams of paper and many hours to detail the accomplishments of this nationally and internationally respected intellectual, scholar, teacher, administrator, activist, sorority sister (Golden and Life member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority), leader and womanist standard bearer for communal and individual wholeness. We could go on in celebration of her legacy... We must go on.... We can go on.... We will go on.... And for this, we honor her today.

"DR. HILL-LUBIN WAS NOT ONLY ONE OF THE ORIGINATORS OF THE UF WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM, SHE WAS A GROUND BREAKER FOR PLURALISTIC INTELLECTUAL INCLUSION AND CURRICULUM BUILDING IN MANY OTHER AREAS WE AND OUR STUDENTS NOW MOVE THROUGH WITH EASE AND BOUNDLESS EXPECTATIONS FOR SUCCESS."

DEBRA WALKER KING

UF Well-Represented at NWSA Annual Conference

The University of Florida and the Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women’s Studies Research were well-represented at the National Women’s Studies Association (NWSA) annual conference, *Just Imagine. Imagining Justice: Feminist visions of freedom, dream making and the radical politics of futures*, held November 8-11 in Atlanta, GA.

Karleen Schlichtmann (MA student)

Poster Presentation: “Just Imagine’ A World without HIV/AIDS: Black Feminist Interventions in Health Justice”

Aishwarya Krishna Iyer (MA alum)

"The unintended effects of Carbon Tax" in "Charting Anti-Colonial Justice for Land and Survival"

Dr. Anita Anantharam

Selected to participate in the National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) Women of Color Leadership Project

Dr. Kendal Broad, Dr. Maddy Coy, Dr. Bonnie Moradi, Mariana Meriqui Rodrigues, Dr. Alyssa Zucker

“One Feminist Troublemaker’s Utopian Call: ‘Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence’ -- Revisited and Reimagined”

Dr. Manoucheka Celeste

“Re-imagining Resistance: ‘Black Women, Media, and the Uses of Strategic Ambiguity”

Dr. Margaret Galvan (Center affiliate)

“Publishing Feminist Futures”

Dr. Jillian Hernandez

“Black Sugar/Azúcar Negra: Thinking Latinidad, Blackness, and Latinx Anti-Blackness Through Diasporic Queer and Feminist Art”

“CHILE BYE!: A Workshop on Knowledge Production, Academia and Routes of Disidentification”

Dr. Tanya Saunders

“Afro-Brazilian Feminist Imaginaries”

“Maroons, Griots and Decolonial Insurgents: Thinking Black Feminist Utopian Projects in Brazil and Angola”

“Performing the Boundaries of Bodies”

Dr. Gwendolyn Zoharah Simmons (Center affiliate)

Presidential Session: “Repression, Resistance and Solidarity: Black Panthers to Black Lives Matter and Palestine to Standing Rock

Center students **Corinne Futch** and **Kaylee Kagiavas** and Center Alums **Taylor Burtch** and **Aishwarya Krishna Iyer** participated in the MA/PhD programs reception. Travel grants were provided by the Center and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.



DR. JILLIAN HERNANDEZ (CENTER RIGHT) PRESENTS HER RESEARCH TO ATTENDEES OF NWSA'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE

THE CENTER WAS REPRESENTED BY ALUMS TAYLOR BURTCH, MA 2018, AISHWARYA KRISHNA-IYER, MA 2018, MA STUDENT KAYLEE KAGIAVAS, AND MA STUDENT CORRINNE FUTCH AT THE GRADUATE PROGRAMS RECEPTION.

SCHOLARS AND STUDENTS GATHER AT THE CONFERENCE (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: DR. RALINA L. JOSEPH, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, CENTER FACULTY MEMBER DR. MANOUCHKEKA CELESTE, ALEXANDRA CENATUS, UF WST CERTIFICATE ALUM/MA IN LAS, AND CENTER MA STUDENT KARLEEN SCHLICHTMANN)

Welcome Dr. Jillian Hernandez continued

(Continued from page 9)

with found the most pressing in their lives.” With these questions in mind, Dr. Hernandez pursued graduate studies in Women’s and Gender Studies at Rutgers University, obtaining her MA in 2012 and PhD in 2013. Dr. Hernandez hopes that both she and her students at UF can engage in community-based art projects with girls of color here in Gainesville.

Dr. Hernandez brings what she learned from the girls and artists in Women on the Rise! about “the power and politics of art and embodiment” to the classroom.

Elaborating on this point, she said, “I’ve applied an appreciation for the power of creativity in my classroom, which promotes risk taking and facing complicated questions that may not have clear-cut answers. My experiences with the feminist praxis of Women on the Rise! have led me to appreciate the lessons of failure, and to acknowledge that self-reflection and critique is a major component of engaging with others in social praxis or educational contexts. I hope that these are lessons my pedagogical approaches impart to my students.” Dr. Hernandez will put this approach into practice in

her Spring 2019 grad seminar, Race, Sex, and Representation.

Dr. Hernandez is “excited to be in a space that is explicitly dedicated to feminist inquiry and praxis, and that is growing” and that she “feel[s] like [she] arrived at a very important moment of expansion not just at the Center but at UF more broadly.” We couldn’t agree more, and we look forward to Dr. Hernandez’s contributions to the growth of feminist pedagogy, scholarship, and praxis here at the Center and at UF.



On October 20th, 2018, the Center’s Health Disparities in Society minor students and Dr. Laura Guyer worked with the Gainesville4All Initiative called the “Gainesville Empowerment Zone” to gather input from community members about community needs and ways to promote equity.

The Center’s Health Disparities in Society minor provides an interdisciplinary, intersectional framework to examine how multiple social systems (e.g., race, gender, and socioeconomic status) intersect to shape interlocking inequalities and preventable disparities in health. It is open to all UF undergraduate students.

Women's Studies Major Studies Abroad and Prepares to be a Women's Healthcare Provider

By Hannah Diasti,
Women's Studies Major



As a first year undergraduate at the University of Florida, I felt lost and in disarray. During that time I approached Dr. Alyssa Zucker about potentially adding a Women's Studies minor to my Biology degree, but she encouraged me to pursue a double major instead. I could not be happier with this decision, as it has had a positive influence on my desired career path. Now in my sophomore year, I am confident in myself and eager to pursue my interests in women's health.

This past summer I went to Mysore, India on a Global Health Research study abroad program where I spent a month immersed in learning focused on health disparities related to caste and gender, with a focus on cervical cancer in women. We listened to distinguished doctors and researchers who explained the cultural context of the community of women we were studying. We learned about the basic structure of various health care systems and how outside social determinants affected women's ability to access health care. We set up a cervical cancer screening clinic, conducted medical history interviews, and observed screenings.

Prior to my experience in India, I had taken one Women's Studies course: Transnational Feminism with Dr. Maddy Coy. I realized how advantageous taking that course was to laying the foundation of my understanding of feminism not only in the West, but around the world. Taking cultural contexts into account helped me understand the experiences of women in India, specifically related to cervical cancer. It is vital that, as a woman in the West, I do not assume that progress should look the same for women globally.

This study abroad experience linked my interest in Women's Studies with my passion for medicine and health. In the future, I hope to become an OBGYN or pediatrician emphasizing women's health. There are many stigmas and social constructs that inhibit women from accessing the level of health care that they need. Prevention was a large aspect of women's health in India that was neglected due to the inability to leave their duties at home, transportation limitations, or disapproval by their husbands and social stigma. I learned about disparities in India, but I know the U.S. is not immune to these tendencies. There are communities and regions within the U.S. where I could have observed similar things to what I saw in India. In my future career as a health professional, I want to make myself and my expertise more accessible to the great women who make up this nation, and further empower them.

I am extremely grateful to this Center for growing my interests in the way that it has and for bringing diversity to my perspective. The courses I have taken, am currently in, and will take, are all influencing the way that I will carry out my ideas in my future and career. Read, watch, or view more about my incredible, life-shaping experience in Mysore, India through research critiques, a day-to-day blog, video interview, and photos on my website at www.thepoverinpurpose.wordpress.com



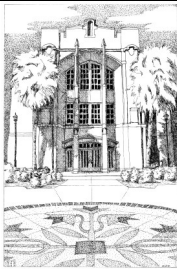
WOMEN GATHER OUTSIDE A POP-UP CLINIC TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF CERVICAL SCREENING.



P.O. Box 117352
Gainesville, FL 32611-7352

Phone: 352-273-0382
Fax: 352-392-4873
wst.ufl.edu

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



Two Graduate Certificates Offered in the Center

The Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies Research congratulates four graduate students who earned their certificate in Women's Studies: **Michelle Barboza**, who recently earned her MS in Geology; **Deepthi Siriwardena**, currently a PhD student in the Department of English; **Alexandra Cenatus**, who earned her MA in Latin American Studies; **Laura Winn**, who is a PhD student in Art History.

Students pursuing graduate work in the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research will become acquainted with various feminist

(and other appropriate) theoretical approaches and methodologies for examining the role of gender in cultural systems. Gender will be understood in intersection with other categories of difference, including race, ethnicity, social class, sexuality, religion, physical ability, age, and nationality.

The Women's Studies Certificate (WST) is designed for graduate students from any discipline who wish to focus on interdisciplinary issues related to feminist theory and practice.

The Gender and Development (GAD) certificate is designed for graduate

students from any discipline who wish to focus on issues related to gender and development.

All graduate students in an MA or PhD program from all colleges at UF are eligible to enroll in either certificate program offered in the Center.

Applications for the certificate must be submitted to the Center's Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Kendal Broad. For more information visit the Center's graduate page at

<http://wst.ufl.edu/graduate-studies/graduate-certificates/>