

From the Chair's Desk

DR. BONNIE MORADI
CHAIR

This has been a milestone year for us. Our proposal to establish a Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies went through the final approval steps and we started Fall 2022 formally as a department. Our proposal garnered overwhelming support at every stage of the shared governance process, from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Faculty, to the College and University Curriculum Committees and Councils, to the Faculty Senate, and College and University leadership. Campus-wide collaborations and coalitions were essential

to this significant achievement. A key feature of our establishment of the department was to continue the Center with its distinct mission of promoting cross-disciplinary collaborations in research, education, and public engagement about gender, sexuality, and women. Moving forward, the Center will continue this important cross-disciplinary work and the Department will advance academic degrees, curriculum, and research in the discipline of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies.

Another important milestone this year is the approval of revisions to our major. These revisions were the result of careful assessment and reimagination by our faculty, incorporating student needs and interests and advancements in the

field. The major now comprises three core areas of race, sexuality, and transnational. In addition, students now have the option to pursue concentrations in the areas of health and race, as well as in the previously available concentration options (general, international, and sexuality). We are particularly grateful to our students, whose input and interests over the years informed these revisions and reimaginings of the major.

On the heels of these important achievements, we are in the midst of searches for three tenure-track faculty positions. These new hires will shape the future of the Department and Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies teaching and research.

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From the Chair's Desk, continued

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It has been heartening to see students, faculty affiliates, and friends participate in candidate visits and connect with each other as part of the process.

Hearing the sounds of conversation and laughter from these gatherings is a joy and a reminder that these searches are an essential opportunity to nurture community.

I look forward to punctuating these achievements with celebrations to welcome new colleagues and new students to Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies. I look forward to all of us sharing the labor and joy of continuing to build and nurture community.

"I LOOK FORWARD TO ALL OF US SHARING THE LABOR AND JOY OF CONTINUING TO BUILD AND NURTURE COMMUNITY."

BONNIE MORADI,
CHAIR

Welcome New Graduate Students

We are excited to welcome our new graduate students to the Department's MA program: Mona Ashour, Rose Capo, Cecilia Luna, Angelica McGee, and Tegan Smith. Their research interests cover a myriad of topics, and they each bring a rich range of experiences and accomplishments.



Mona Ashour is an assistant professor of English Language and Literature at Ain Shams University in Cairo, Egypt. She

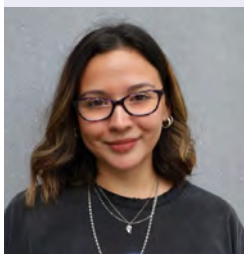
got her Masters in English Literature in 2016, and her PhD in Eco-feminism in 2019. Dr. Ashour is joining University of Florida to accomplish her dream of getting a degree in Women Studies, a specialization that isn't available in her home country. She is aspiring to develop, validate, and spread a new level of

consciousness of African/Arab/Middle Eastern women.



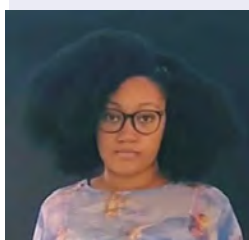
Rose Capo is a first year M.A. Student in the Women's Studies program who earned her Bachelor's in Diversity Studies at

the University of Central Florida (go knights, charge on)! Rose is interested in sexuality studies within the genderqueer community as well as intersectional feminism and progressing sex education within the U.S. In Rose's free time, she enjoys kayaking, hiking, biking, and advocating for alternative modes of transportation.



As a first year MA student, **Cecilia Luna** is focused on Latinx gender and sexuality studies and gender-inclusive language

in the Latin American diaspora. After earning her Bachelor's Degree in Public Relations from the University of Florida in 2017, Ceci served as Communications Specialist at the Student Health Care Center until July 2022. Ceci currently serves as a facilitator for the course GET201: LGBTQ+ Inclusive Gators offered through UF Training and Organizational Development for Faculty & Staff. In addition, Ceci is involved with community groups such as Queer Nation and the Latinx Staff & Faculty Association.



Angelica McGee received her BA in Communication Studies and Gender and Sexuality Studies at

The University of Nevada- Las Vegas. She has been involved in community outreach with organizations such as The Samuel Proctor Oral History Program, The Artisans' Guild Gallery, Peaceful Paths, and The United Church of Gainesville. At UCG, McGee serves as an inclusive sexual education and relationship specialist where she teaches youth the differences between healthy vs unhealthy relationships, how to improve those relationships, and if and when they should seek professional

help. In her graduate studies, she focuses on race, class, gender, culture, community and faith through an intersectional lens.

Tegan Smith is a first-year M.A.



student interested in ecofeminism, posthumanism, and relational ethics. Before coming to UF, she received her B.A.

in History and Women's and Gender Studies at Santa Clara University. While at SCU, she researched the history of gay bars in San Francisco, LGBTQ+ activism, and the racialization of homosexuality during the Third Reich.

Welcome Back, Second-Year MA Candidates

We are delighted to welcome back our second-year MA candidates as they continue their endeavors and their theses and projects.

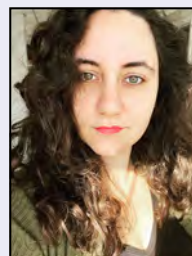


Ebonee Brown is a second-year MA candidate in the Department for Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies. She is

currently continuing her thesis project that examines gender performance and Atlanta's Trap music genre under the supervision of committee chair Dr. Manoucheka Celeste. Ebonee

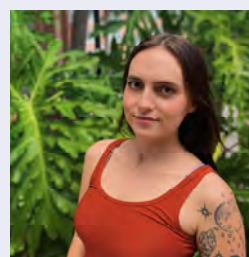
aims to work full-time within her community while continuing their research.

Ecem Ece is a second-year



Women's Studies MA student. They are currently working on their MA project, under the advisement of Dr. Maddy Coy.

The project explores the practice of positionality and discusses the relationality of knowledge production and situating identities. They will continue their writing and activist work with LGBTQ+ communities in Turkey.



Beth Holden is a second year Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies MA student. She is

currently working on her thesis, "How Do We Reach Recovery? A Feminist Analysis of Drug Use Recoveries," that investigates the ways in which we conceptualize and categorize substance use and substance use recovery, under the advisement of Dr. Trysh Travis.

(Continued on page 4)

"I'M SO GRATEFUL
TO THE INCREDIBLE
MENTORS AND
PROFESSORS IN
THE WOMEN'S
STUDIES
DEPARTMENT WHO
GAVE ME THE
TOOLS TO CREATE
CHANGE, AND FOR
THE WORK THEY DO
EVERY DAY TO
BRING US CLOSER
TO A WORLD OF
JUSTICE.
-ZOE TURNER,
UF CLASS OF 2022
(SEE PAGE 14)

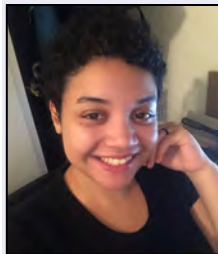
Graduate Student Update *(continued)*

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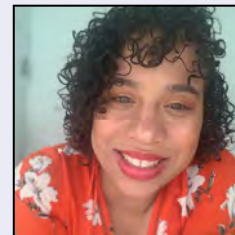
Kelsey Malles is a second year Women's Studies MA student currently working on her non-thesis project under the supervision of Dr. Anita Anantharam.

Her project explores plant-based lifestyles and how the same systems that uphold racism, classism, and sexism also sustain speciesism. She will continue working on her project to create a comprehensive guide for participants taking tours of Peacefield Farm Sanctuary to enable a holistic understanding of dietary impacts.



Nagdeska Paulino is a second-year master's student, and their research revolves around women's studies and colonial studies within

environmentalism. She argues that climate change is both a product of and tool for colonialism and proposes that climate studies must be done interdisciplinarily to be effective. They are working on a non-thesis project, an art exhibition displaying their research, with Dr. Maddy Coy as their committee chair.



Elisa M. Rios is a second-year Women's Studies MA student. She is currently working on her thesis which

centers the racial and ethnic identity formation of Afro-Latinas through oral herstories under the supervision of committee chair, Dr. Jillian Hernandez. She aims to empower and uplift Afro-Latinas' voices.

Opportunities for Giving to the Department and the Center

We appreciate the generosity of our donors at all levels. For those thinking of a significant gift to the Department or 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:
- \$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.

With an Attitude of Gratitude

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

- ♥ Mr. Gregory R. Allen
- ♥ American Association of University Women, Gainesville Chapter
- ♥ Arts Association of Alachua County
- ♥ Association for Academic Women
- ♥ Mr. Steven R. Berry
- ♥ Dr. Marni A. Brown and Mr. Casey A. Brown
- ♥ Mr. Robert A. Burnsed
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- ♥ Mr. Eric Lehmann
- ♥ Dr. Angela Lindner & Mr. James H. Lindner
- ♥ Dr. Madelyn Lockhart
- ♥ Dr. Mary K. Lockwood
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- ♥ Dr. Jaquie L. Resnick & Dr. Michael B. Resnick
- ♥ Mr. Juan Luis Rodriguez
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- ♥ Ms. Lynne E. Roy
- ♥ Mrs. Lori L. Saxon and Mr. Robert S. Saxon
- ♥ Ms. Christine N. Sheridan
- ♥ Mr. Adam J. & Mrs. Elissa F. Silverman
- ♥ Ms. Eleanor Smeal
- ♥ Ms. Clara J. Smith
- ♥ Dr. John M. Spivack
- ♥ Ms. Anita R. Sundaram
- ♥ Ms. Gemma Torcivia
- ♥ 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, educational travel for graduate students, scholarship funds, speaker honoraria, and exhibit support.



— [USTLER HALL] —

Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies

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.

Faculty Member Jillian Hernandez to Lead Study Abroad Course in Colombia

The Department is proud to announce that Associate Professor Jillian Hernandez will lead a group of University of Florida students on an immersive learning experience on Colombia's Caribbean coast this summer. The course, Latina Gender and Popular Culture, will examine critical issues in the Latina Community and will examine culture from famous Latina icons to everyday Colombian women. (Please see the information below.)



DR. JILLIAN HERNANDEZ



Eligibility Requirements

- Open to all majors
- Must have a 3.0 GPA or higher
- Must be in good standing

Students will earn up to 7 credits. Housing, program excursions, some meals, language partners, international health insurance are included in the program fee. This summer study abroad program is administered by the UF International Center.

COLLEGE INFORMATION

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Courses are taught by UF and local faculty

PROGRAM

This program leverages the rich cultural context of Colombia's Caribbean coast to provide an immersive learning environment for students to learn about critical issues in Latina gender and popular culture studies. From examining world-renowned icons like Shakira, Karol G, and Sofia Vergara to your everyday Colombian woman, this program will dive deep into gender and women's studies with a cross-cultural view. Students will also take a Spanish course from professors at the Universidad del Norte. Students will be placed into beginning or intermediate Spanish and have the opportunity to converse with a local language conversation partner! No prior language experience is necessary.

LOCATION

Barranquilla is an industrial city and cultural center located on the warm Caribbean coast. As the home city of influential Latina popular culture figures who have crossed over to the U.S. market, like Shakira and Sofia Vergara, it's the perfect destination to examine Latina gender. Barranquilla is also the site of Colombia's largest Carnival celebration, held each Spring.

EXCURSIONS

Program excursions will include a Barranquilla city tour; trips to museums such as the Museo del Caribe and Museo de Arte Urbano; visits to various local craft fairs and workshops; an overnight excursion to Cartagena; and an overnight excursion to Bogota.

HOUSING

Students will be housed in homestays for the majority of the program. On overnight excursions to other cities (Cartagena; Bogota), they will share hotel rooms.

LEARN MORE OR APPLY

UFIC Website
internationalcenter.ufl.edu
Application Deadline
March 1, 2023

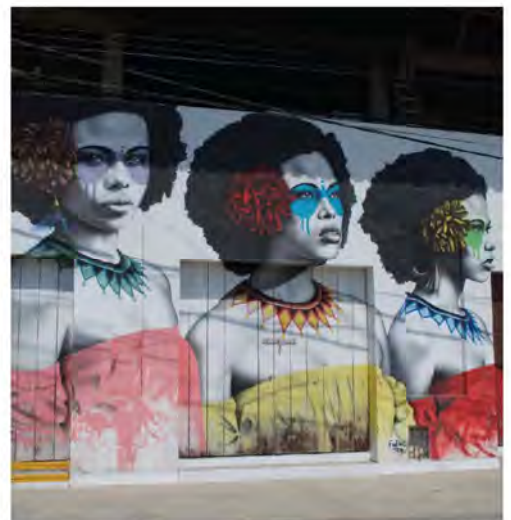


COURSE INFORMATION

All students will earn credit for the following courses:

WST 4956: Latina Gender & Popular Culture (3 UF credits)
Beginning or Intermediate Spanish (4 transfer credits)

Total Number of Credits Offered: 7



Department Faculty and Students Present their Scholarship

Department faculty and graduate students presented their scholarship at multiple conferences, from San Juan to Cincinnati. We have captured some moments here.



GRADUATE CERTIFICATE STUDENT SUMAIYA NUSRATH AND CORE FACULTY MEMBER DR. ALYSSA ZUCKER
SOCIETY FOR THE PSYCHOLOGICAL STUDY OF SOCIAL ISSUES
SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO, JUNE 2022



M.A. STUDENT ANGELICA MCGEE AND M.A. ALUM TERRI BAILEY
CREATING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES: ADVANCING HEALTH AND HEALTH EQUITY THROUGH ARTS AND PUBLIC HEALTH COLLABORATIONS
ORLANDO, FLORIDA, OCTOBER 2022



CORE FACULTY MEMBER DR. MADDY COY
NATIONAL ACADEMIES' ACTION COLLABORATIVE ON PREVENTING SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION 4TH ANNUAL PUBLIC SUMMIT
VIRTUAL CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 2022



CORE FACULTY MEMBER DR. JILLIAN HERNANDEZ
MARKING TIME: ART IN THE AGE OF MASS INCARCERATION SYMPOSIUM
UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI, JULY 2022



M.A. STUDENTS EBONEE BROWN AND ELISA RIOS
NATIONAL WOMEN'S STUDIES ASSOCIATION
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, NOVEMBER 2022

COME EARN YOUR WOMEN'S STUDIES MASTER'S WITH US

UF

Participate in a vibrant community of scholars!



Program Fully Funded!

Course subjects offered:

DATA FEMINISMS

ECOFEMINISM

LGBTQ+ HEALTH

BLACK FEMINIST THEORIES

FEMINIST METHODS

LGBTQ+ MOVEMENTS & ACTIVISMS

RACE, SEX & REPRESENTATION

CRITICAL GIRLHOOD STUDIES

UF

**DEPARTMENT OF GENDER, SEXUALITY
AND WOMEN'S STUDIES**

Liberal Arts *and* Sciences



The Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies Research Call for Proposals for Awards and Grants

We invite students and faculty to submit proposals for the following Center awards and grants:



AAUW Gainesville Student Grant: The AAUW Gainesville Branch Student Grant provides up to \$1000 to support women's studies students to conduct research, education, or initiatives that align with AAUW's mission: <https://www.aauw.org/> and <https://gainesville-fl.aauw.net>



Charles T. Woods Faculty Grant: The Charles T. Woods Faculty Grant supports faculty research or service intervention projects that benefit LGBTQ+ communities. Grants of up to \$6,000 will be awarded that can be used over a period of one academic year in the form of salary (e.g., summer, course release) or reimbursement for expenses required for the

project. All projects should clearly connect research and praxis, with an applied component that benefits LGBTQ+ communities.

Charles T. Woods Student Grant: The Charles T. Woods Student Grant supports student research or service/community projects that benefit LGBTQ+ communities. Grants of up to \$4,000 will be awarded that can be used over a period of one academic year in the form of salary (e.g., summer, graduate assistantship) or reimbursement for expenses required for the project. All projects should clearly connect research and praxis, with an applied component that benefits LGBTQ+ communities.

All proposals are due March 15, 2023, and should be submitted via the application portal on the Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies website. Please visit <https://wst.ufl.edu/funding/> for more information.



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.

Alum Spotlight: Maria Saldana

Women's Studies Education Benefits National Equity Project



MARIA SALDANA

María Saldana (she/ella) graduated cum laude from UF with a BA in Women's Studies and a BS in Psychology in 2020 and earned an MA in Women's Studies in 2022. She is a Program Associate at the National Equity Project and a columnist for award-winning American online magazine *Them*.

My graduate work at the Center has opened many doors for me and I feel privileged to have been able to acquire the skills and knowledge during my MA program that I now use throughout my life.

While at the Center I was able to curate my experience and intentionally bring in my community work and merge it with my academics. Being able to create an archive of oral histories with the help of the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program was one of the most memorable parts of my graduate experience and the skills I learned through that process have been indispensable as I transitioned to my current job.

I now work as a Program Associate with the National Equity Project (NEP), an organization whose mission is to transform the experiences, outcomes, and life options for children and families who have been historically underserved by institutions and systems. As an associate in the Center for Equity Leadership, I facilitate different equity workshops and courses on a national level.

Because of my education at the Center, I'm able to engage in meaningful discourse with my colleagues and with the clients and participants we at NEP meet daily. The knowledge that I gained in courses taught by Dr. Jillian Hernandez, Dr. Manoucheka Celeste, and other wonderful professors at the Center have been central in the ways I approach my work. Being able to draw from Black and Native feminist theories to shape future offerings at NEP has been incredibly rewarding.

Additionally, I write an advice column for the queer online magazine, *Them*, answering questions on varied topics, including queerness, relationships, and community. Much of the framing I have in these topics comes from courses like Latinx Sexualities, Global Women of Color, and the many texts I had access to while at the Center.

I cannot think of my time at the Center without thinking of the mentors I had. Dr. Hernandez's mentorship has been a foundation for me to navigate my work spheres. To have the guidance from a woman of color, one who poured so much care during

her role as my thesis chair, has set the tone for how I approach leadership in the spaces I'm in. Her reminder to write from an intuitive place has helped me as I imagine new ways to do editorial writing, and also how I approach hosting at NEP.

Of course, the MA program brought me to my wonderful cohort. My peers continue to remind me what it means to care for each other and honor the many knowledges we already hold.

My women's studies education has touched every corner of my life. It was a catalyst for the opportunities that I've come across and was such a time of growth and transformation. The relationships I made during the MA program, the knowledge and skills I gained, all contributed to where I find myself now. At the Center, I was able to explore how my own identities have impacted my life, continue to strengthen my relationships to my multiple communities, and radically imagine an abundant future.



International Visitors Find Mentors in the Department



Liliana Jaramillo Mestra is a Sociologist from the Universidad del Valle – Cali, Colombia, and PhD student from the Universidad de La Laguna in Spain. For 2022-2023 she is a Visiting Scholar at UF, thanks to Fulbright Spain, studying with Dr. Maddy Coy.

I came to work with Dr. Coy, in the Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies, because of her international experience in violence against women, and to advance my research about prostitution and trafficking of Colombian women in Spain. So far, I have participated in different classes that have given me deep theoretical and methodological tools to nurture my research work, and attended lectures organized by the Department. My experience has far exceeded my expectations, not only in the high quality of feminist theory in the Department, but also the human quality of professors, staff, and students. All of them are great colleagues offering a warm atmosphere.



Roksolana Mykytiuk, a graduate student from the University of Warsaw in Poland, spent the final two semesters of her MA program in American Studies as an exchange student at UF in 2022.

During my exchange year, I took classes in Transnational Feminism and Violence Against Women at the Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies Research. I applied the knowledge from these courses to the events happening in my home country, Ukraine: war crimes against women and human trafficking of the refugees at the Polish-Ukrainian border. I was taught by incredibly strong and inspiring women at UF.

In my final term I completed my MA thesis together with Dr. Maddy Coy and Dr. Agnieszka Graff (UW, Poland), exploring the usage of conservative motherhood ideology in the politics of the 1970s United States, specifically the activism of Phyllis Schlafly and Anita Bryant.

Apart from classes, this experience was also a life-turning point for me. When the war broke out, I received so much love and support from everyone at UF. We started a Ukrainian Student Association and did everything in our power to raise awareness and money to help people in Ukraine. My time here at UF has been truly amazing — both awakening and heartbreaking. It has brought a lot of tears and a lot of happiness, moments of loneliness and desperation, as well as belief and hope.



Rusan Lateef is a fourth-year PhD Candidate in the School of Social Work at McGill University in Canada. She was awarded a Canada Graduate Scholarship - Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement last year, which funded a two-month research stay as a Visiting Scholar at UF with host supervisor Dr. Alyssa Zucker.

During my stay, I received mentorship on conducting intersectional research, joined the research team for a study titled *Tracking Attrition in Rape Prosecution in Alachua County, Florida*, participated in a weekly academic reading group, provided a guest lecture in the Violence Against Women class, and networked with some of the exceptional faculty and students at the Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies Research. Since leaving Gainesville, I have co-presented at a research conference with Dr. Zucker and continue to work with her and Dr. Maddy Coy on the Attrition project. The mentorship I received on intersectional scholarship enhanced my doctoral research and will be applicable to future sexual violence research that I conduct.

Women's Studies Alums: Where are they now?

UNDERGRADUATES



Wafaa Ateyah
Spring 2019
B.S. Psychology and
B.A. Women's Studies

I am currently pursuing my PhD in Counseling Psychology at the University of Florida!

My training in women's studies allowed me to have the vocabulary to describe my lived experiences as an Arab American Muslim woman who wears the Hijab. It allowed me to parse out the intersecting and interlocking systems of oppression that plague our society and shape many of our lived experiences. It deepened my passion for centering the voices of the most marginalized and underserved. As a budding psychologist and researcher, my work is rooted in radical love, empathy, equity, and justice - much of which was sparked from the peers that I met through my women's studies classes, the faculty that I connected with, and the classes that I took.



Ashley Marceus
Spring 2019
B.A. Political Science,
Women's Studies,
and African American
Studies

I am currently a second-year student at Columbia Law School. This semester I am participating in a Domestic Violence externship with the Queen's District Attorney's Office in Queens, New York. I am working toward becoming a sex crimes and domestic violence

prosecutor. This summer I will be working in the Special Victims Unit at the State Attorney's Office for the Ninth Judicial Circuit where I will be assisting with sex crimes and domestic violence crimes.

My training in women's studies has allowed me to bring a pivotal feminist lens to my work. I have a strong desire to advocate for women who have been battered and abused through domestic violence and sex crimes. Particular courses such as Sexual Ethics allowed me to better understand how to work with these survivors, and empower them throughout the process. I still recall important statistics learned and am able to apply these to my understanding of cases. I am also able to understand the unique challenges that black women crime victims must face due to historical and systemic biases, which I learned about in Women's Studies courses. I specifically remember discussing the travesty of the R. Kelly cases, where the voices of black women were silenced by the criminal justice system, in my Capstone Seminar. In that moment I knew I would commit my career to advocating for such women and making sure they were vindicated and heard no matter what.



Michaela Poitevien
Spring 2020
B.A. Women's
Studies, with a minor
in Health Disparities
in Society

I am currently living in Miami, Fl. I graduated with my master's in Biomedical Sciences in Spring, 2022. Since graduating, I have been doing some traveling and have

Women's Studies Alums: Where are they now?

gotten to visit Mexico, Canada, New York, Georgia, Belize, and Puerto Rico so far. I am also currently in the process of applying to dental school.

My training in women's studies has really come in handy during shadowing when interacting with patients. Understanding the complexities of gender issues, along with health disparities, has allowed me to connect with patients on a deeper level. I make sure to take into account people's background and, overall, ensure they have a smooth and comfortable experience at the dental office, especially since I know many people have anxiety about visiting the dentist.

GRADUATE STUDENTS

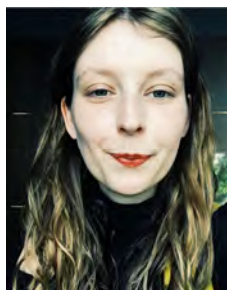


Terri Bailey
Spring 2022
M.A. Women's
Studies

Founder/Executive Director of the nonprofit Bailey Learning and Arts Collective, Inc (BLAAC) and the owner of the newly formed LLC, Terri Bailey Creative Healing and Alternative Therapies (Terri Bailey CHATs)

BLAAC's 1st official project is The Queens Room Women's Empowerment Group and virtual S.H.E. Shed (queensroom.org) a self-help, self-care, and healing tool provider that hopes to give women the tools to become their best, most authentic and empowered selves. I utilize parts of my MA project,

Womanifesto of the Divine Feminine and the Laws of S.H.E. (self-care, healing and empowerment) as I continue to expand on free and low cost resources for women to access. The same applies to Terri Bailey CHATS which will also afford me the opportunity to go out in the world and speak on my experiences as a lay abortion health worker, survivor of domestic and sexual violence, and my ever-evolving repository of coaching and spiritual services.



Melissa Powers
Spring 2019
M.A. in Women's Studies

I currently work in the admissions department at Metropolitan State University of Denver, a school with a diverse student

body and a commitment to college access. I teach a gender studies course called Beauty Cultures there, as well.

I definitely draw upon my women's studies training in my teaching. My coursework, research, and hands on teaching experience during my M.A. provided me with a strong foundation for my current and future work in the field.



D.C. Internships Transform Knowledge into Policy and Action

This year was pivotal for many Women's Studies students who used their Washington D.C. internship opportunities to put their knowledge to the test. "Experiential learning opportunities allow students to take theories and knowledge gained in the classroom and apply them in a practical setting while developing professional work experience," says Dr. Alyssa Zucker, the Department's Experiential Learning Coordinator.

How pivotal was the experience? We thought we would let the students tell you in their own words.



My name is Edwidge Labbe and I am a third-year student at the University of Florida studying Political Science and Women's Studies on the pre-law track.

This year, my summer break looked a little different... I spent my summer working in the Nation's Capital, interning

with Congresswoman Federica Wilson (FL-24). To say the least, it was an interesting time to be in Washington, D.C. as a Women's Studies major. I began my internship in May, 2022 and by this time, the Court's opinion in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* had already been leaked. It was not until the end of the Court's term that they released the official decision, ultimately deciding to repeal *Roe v. Wade*.

At the time, I lived a five minute walking distance from the Capitol and the Library of Congress and every morning up until the decision got released, there would be activists from both sides, as well as the occasional presence of Representatives, chanting outside of the Court as its 10-foot barricades stood tall.

Living in D.C. was quite tumultuous; however, I could not have been more grateful to occupy that space given the background that I have in the topic and being able to suggest 'good' policy initiatives for the people and communities that will be negatively impacted by the overturn of *Roe*. Throughout my Women's Studies career, my

biggest takeaways have been the concept of intersectionality and access. As we move forward in this post-*Roe* society, I think legitimate conversations are to be held surrounding what access looks like, who is able to access services, and what that looks like across racial and economical lines.



This past summer, I had the incredible honor to intern with United States Congressman Ted Deutch's Washington, DC office. My first week, the decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson* overturning the long-held federal right to an abortion

came down. Congressman Deutch read the headline aloud to the office, and I wrote the response he shared on his social media later that day.

That very same day, parents of victims from the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida were on the Hill. Congressman Deutch represents Broward County, which includes Parkland, and has been a steadfast champion of gun violence prevention in the wake of the shooting in 2018. He had invited the families to join him in anticipation of a vote on the first bipartisan piece of gun violence prevention legislation in over thirty years. I accompanied the families, and stood next to them as they waited in a room in the Capitol to


D.C. Internships Transform Knowledge into Policy and Action

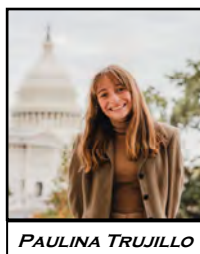
hear the vote. We talked about this fight, and the power of persistence. I watched them from the East Steps as they stood behind Speaker Pelosi and she announced that the legislation, finally, had passed both houses of Congress and was headed for the President's desk.

The East Steps are right across the street from the Supreme Court. To my front was an incredible victory, a moment that these parents had advocated for in the face of heartbreak I hope to never be able to even imagine. To my back was the Supreme Court, where thousands of protestors were already gathering to mark the removal of a constitutional right to abortion, something U.S. women had counted on for almost 50 years.

After my internship, I moved from DC to North Carolina to start as a 1L at Duke Law. As a law student, I knew that I wanted to gain the legal knowledge to put into practice the things I learned as a Women's Studies student. My senior year, I spent time with my Women's Studies classmates thinking about what it means to create change when the systems around us are irreparably broken. We talked about pursuing a world that is more whole, more just-- and how we can begin to do that in the face of such enormous systemic harm. In the few short months I've been

at law school, I've been able to begin to do that: I've drafted expunction petitions, helped tenants fight against their negligent landlords, and taken calls from voters reporting intimidation and suppression on Election Day.

As I work towards becoming a lawyer, I remind myself constantly of the feeling of standing on the corner of progress and setback, hope to my front and devastation behind me. It's true that there is so much work to do. But it's also true that we have the power to do it. I'm so grateful to the incredible mentors and professors in the Women's Studies Department who gave me the tools to create change, and for the work that they do every day to bring us closer to a world of justice. 



PAULINA TRUJILLO

I am a third year undergraduate majoring in Political Science with minors in Mass Communications and Women's Studies. During my internship on Capitol Hill I have extensively engaged with federal public policy. I spent Fall 2022 interning in the office of Lois Frankel. My office worked on negotiating the terms of the Speak Out Act and moving it forward. The act bans Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs) at the pre-dispute stage. I conducted a policy memo on NDAs. NDA policy is important to create a space for survivors to speak out. It is

also important to understand the intersection between gender and race when addressing this issue. The bill was passed in the house in November, and signed into law by President Biden on December 7th, 2022.

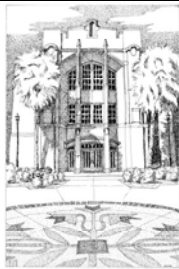
In addition, I conducted research projects for the legislative team to assist in moving legislation. One of these pieces of legislation is the Keep Girls In School Act. I have been an advocate for this legislation since 2019 when I came to DC for a leadership summit through the United Nations' organization Girl Up. Further, I have read lengthy reports on women in the workplace, summarizing ways to promote diversity and how childcare helps close the gender pay gap.

My time in Capitol Hill was an enriching experience, an opportunity for which I'm grateful. I have learned how federal gender policy seeks to address the needs of marginalized communities. This is the topic that my independent study for the Women's Studies department focused on. Without a doubt, I hope to work in a space where I can influence the future of public policy and uplift marginalized communities. The future of public policy is oriented by intersectional feminism. 

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Students pursuing graduate work in the Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies 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 power, including race, ethnicity, social class, sexuality, religion, 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.

Graduate and professional students from all colleges at UF are eligible to enroll in either certificate program offered in the Department.

Applications for the certificate must be submitted to the Department's Graduate Coordinator, [Dr. Jillian Hernandez](#). For more information visit the Department's graduate certificate page at <http://wst.ufl.edu/graduate-studies/graduate-certificates/>