UF CENTER FOR
WOMEN'S STUDIES AND
GENDER RESEARCH

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

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From the Director's Desk

Just before classes started last fall, I was surprised and exhilarated to be

appointed Interim Director of the CWSGR. Having been an affiliate faculty member for years, I was aware of the accomplishments of the faculty and of the excellent programs that the Center had sponsored, such as the continuing Gender Conversations Series. Although we have all felt the difficulties of the economic downturn, the Center has held its own, in part thanks to the generosity of our supporters in the UF community and beyond. To our affiliate faculty members and our loyal supporters, we express our gratitude. I also thank Milagros Peña for her leadership of the Center for

continued support as she has moved to the dean's office. Many phone calls and emails later, Milly is still providing



Professor of English and Women's
Studies Affiliate Dr. Jill Ciment
reads from her book,
Heroic Measures, at the well
attended fall reception.

me with institutional memory, as has another former director, Angel Kwolek-Folland.

The year began with our opening program and reception, the highlight of

which was a reading by UF novelist and Professor of English Jill Ciment. Jill read from her recently published novel, Heroic Measures, which last summer made it on to Oprah's summer reading list. Also at that event, Associate Dean for Humanities Debra Walker King provided an inspirational message. We've hosted several fascinating speakers since that beginning, and look forward to others during the remainder of the spring semester. We're in the early stages of talking about a series of small conferences on re-reading important feminist texts from the 20th century. We will inaugurate this series next year with a conference on Simone de Beauvoir's The Second Sex. Our own faculty members continue to distinguish themselves in their

Continued on Page 2

Spring Gala Planned

Invitations have been mailed and RSVPs have arrived for A Spring Gala at the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research.

over four years, and her

The Gala is a celebration of the installation of a collection of paintings by Florida artist Eleanor Blair in Ustler Hall, made possible by a generous The Gala, set for February 27th from 7:30-9:30 p.m. is being held in the Atrium at Ustler Hall and features the music of the UF Jazz Combo, with new Jazz Director, Scott Wilson. (Gerhard Baier Trumpet Artist and AKAI Windsynth Artist)

Gala attendees will meet the artist, Eleanor Blair, mingle



Palm Fronds painted by Florida artist Eleanor Blair

with friends, and enjoy wine

and heavy hors d'oeuvres. Cocktail attire is requested. The event will be catered by Ibti.

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



Dean D'Anieri chats with new Center Director Judith Page following the Fall Reception. research: Trysh Travis has published a major book, The Language of the Heart: A Cultural History of the Recovery Movement from Alcoholics Anonymous to Oprah Winfrey (UNC Press, 2009), and Stephanie Evans has co-edited an exciting collection, African Americans and Community Engagement in Higher Education (SUNY, 2009). And several of us have other books on the way!

Finally, this spring we are celebrating the installation of ten

beautiful paintings by artist Eleanor Blair, generously donated to us by Kathryn Chicone Ustler. These paintings, which re-imagine Florida's vibrant landscapes and flora, have brought our atrium to life. If you can't make it to our spring gala on February 27th, both a celebration and a fundraiser for the Center, please stop by at another time to see the paintings in the atrium. Having just completed a scholarly

project on women and gardens in 18th and 19th century England, I am particularly delighted to have these paintings greet me every day as I come to work! Please visit our web site, ably maintained by Office Manager Donna Tuckey, for a complete listing of our faculty, courses, and events. I hope to see you in the Center!



Longtime Gainesville Feminist Donates Historical Papers

By Trysh Travis

Emily Browne, long a pillar of

Emily Browne (2nd from left), founder of the local chapter of NOW in Gainesville is shown here with fellow activists (left to right)
Ruth Brown,
Jan Elliott, and
Celia Fairweather.

Gainesville's progressive community and a founder of the Judy Levy chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW), has donated eight boxes of personal papers to the CWSGR. These documents shed light on the development of Gainesville's women's organizations as well as on the ways in which women worked to influence local elections and city government. When processed, they will be a rich addition to UF's Special Collections library, which houses similar materials from groups like Gainesville Women for Equal Rights (GWER) and Florida NOW, as well as a digital collection titled "Radical Women in Gainesville."

Emily Browne was born in New Jersey in 1942 and moved to St. Petersburg at age sixteen. She attended Boca Ciega High School then went on to major in math at UF. After graduating in 1963, she taught middle and high-school math and became department head and Senior Class Sponsor in her one (and only) year of teaching. She then became a "systems analyst" in the strange new field called "computer programming" at the GE plant in Alachua. Browne's long life as an activist began with the 1950s civil rights movement and included the March on Washington of 1963.

In Gainesville she represented her precinct in the local Democratic Party for over nineteen years, and was the local contact for the Democratic Socialists of America. She worked for Florida NOW and Floridians Representing Equity and Equality as well as the NAACP and other organizations.

In 2008, Wild Iris Books displayed Browne's collection of feminist and progressive t-shirts in a special exhibit entitled "Feminist Fashion Statements, 1968 -2008."

We often think that history is made by famous people, but in fact the myriad small actions we take each day in our lives are what make history. If you or someone you know has personal papers or artifacts related to the history of women, feminism, or other progressive causes, they may be valuable to future scholars. Diaries, letters, minutes from meetings, press releases, organizational records, flyers, posters, and photographs are all key documents that help us to better understand women's work in pursuit of equality in recent times as well as the distant past. If you have materials you believe would interest scholars, please contact Assistant Professor Trysh Travis (273-0393/ttravis@ufl.edu) or the Director of the CWSGR (392-

Grad Students Attend NWSA

This year's National Women's Studies Association annual meeting, held in Atlanta from November 12-15, had some new attendees. Thanks to a generous anonymous gift, five UF Women's Studies graduate students were able to attend the conference, whose theme this year was "Difficult Dialogues."

Graduate Students Sarah Austin, Diana McCarley, Whitney Shadowens, Sarah Steele, and Erin Tobin attended as first timers. "As a first year MA student, the NWSA gave me the chance to hear a variety of gender analyses and field work topics, affording me greater insight into the exciting trajectory of our discipline, and sparking ideas of my own," said Graduate Student Diana McCarley, "With documentaries intersecting sexuality, race and gender, papers on pornography, vegetarianism, and the political media, and debates about how to coalesce feminist activism and academe, the conference officially grounded and energized my entry into the Women's and Gender Studies."



Women's Studies Faculty member and conference veteran Trysh Travis attended the conference as well and was the moderator in a roundtable discussion titled, "Gender, Sexuality, and Campus Drinking Cultures: A Discussion of Policy and Practice." She also had a book signing session for her new book, The Language of the Heart: A Cultural History of the Recovery Movement from Alcoholics Anonymous to Oprah Winfrey (UNC Press, 2009).

Gender Conversations "Intersections" Series Continues

Dr. Jennifer A. Rea, Associate Professor and Director of Distance Learning in Classics, kicked off the fall Gender Conversation Series in September with Intersections of gender and antiquity, "The Scream on the Other Side of Silence: Feminism and Vergil's Aeneid"

The series, which is open to everyone, is sponsored by the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research. Coordinated by Women's Studies Assistant Professor Anita Anantahram, with help from Assistant Professor of Religion Robert Kawashima and last year's coordinator, Associate Professor Stephanie Evans, the discussions are held monthly during the lunch hour in the third floor library in Ustler Hall.

In October, Assistant Professor of Political Science and Women's Studies Affiliate Laura Sjoberg addressed Intersections of Gender and Terrorism at a very well attended conversation, followed in November by Doctoral Student in

Religion Caleb Simmons discussing Intersections of Gender and Development examining "Muscles and (Mal)development: Hypermasculinity and the Legacy of the Domination of Nature in India."

On December 10th the conversations continued with a graduate student panel discussion, Intersections in the Contemporary Study of Gender, featuring graduate students Sarah Austin, Meredith Kite, and Erin Tobin

The Spring Gender Conversation Series began on January 19th with a packed house and Associate Professor of History Nina Caputo discussing Intersections of Gender and Medieval Europe.

In February, we had Assistant Professor of English Dr. Jodi Schorb lead a conversation that analyzed moments when narratives by women circulated prominently in her talk titled, Intersections of Gender: Early American Prison Narratives. We hope to see you at our next Gender Conversation. All information about the Gender Conversation Series can be found on our website at www.wst.ufl.edu. You can also call the center at 352-392-3365. You are encouraged to bring a friend and a brown bag lunch!

Don't miss our next Gender Conversation!

March 23rd, 2010

11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Ustler Hall, 3rd Floor Library
Intersections of Gender, Sexuality and Evangelical Christianity
Sean O'Neil
Doctoral student
Department of Religion

April 22nd

12:00 p.m.— 1:30 p.m. Ustler Hall, 3rd Floor Library
Intersections in the Contemporary Study of Gender
CWSGR Graduate Student Panel
Melissa Houle, Catherine Jean, Diana McCarley,
Whitney Shadowens, Sarah Steele, and Erin Williams

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CWSGR Faculty News

Judith W. Page was named Waldo W. Neikirk Term Professor in CLAS last spring. She has presented several papers recently: one on Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park* at a conference on Austen in Chawton, UK over the summer 2009; an invited talk on Austen and Shakespeare at the Higgins School for the Humanities at Clark University in November 2009; and a paper on Dorothy Wordsworth and Italian gardens at a conference in Florence, Italy in January 2010.

Anita Anantharam currently has two books in press: the first is a translation project of one of India's most well known modern Hindi poets titled Mahadevi Varma: Political Essays on Women, Nation, and Culture. The second is a monograph on feminist poetry from India and Pakistan, Bodies that Remember: Women's Indigenous Knowledge and Cosmopolitanism in South Asian Poetry, which is currently under-contract with Syracuse University's Series in Gender and Globalization.

Dr. Anantharam's most recent publications include "A Change in Aesthetics and the Aesthetics of Change: Premchand's Bazaar-e husn and Sevasadan," accepted for publication in Gender and Language; "East/West Encounters: 'Indian' Identity and Transnational Feminism in Manushi," Feminist Media Studies, 2009; and Engendering the Nation: Women, Islam, and Poetry in Pakistan, 'Journal of International Women's Studies, 2009. She also presented two academic papers last spring, at the American Comparative Literature Association, and at the South Asian Studies Association Annual Conference.

Florence E Babb's book, The Tourism Encounter: Fashioning Latin American Nations and Histories, based on her long-term research in Cuba, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Peru, is forthcoming this year with Stanford University Press. A book chapter, "Neither in the Closet nor on the Balcony: Private Lives and Public Activism in Nicaragua," appeared in Out in Public: Reinventing Lesbian / Gay Anthropology in a Globalizing World, edited by Ellen Lewin and William L. Leap (Wiley-Blackwell 2009). Her essay, "Feminismo, Identidad, Diaspora—Un comentario sobre las practicas transnacionales," came out in an art exhibition catalog for Cara(a) cara / face2face (Miami, FL: Centro Cultural Español). Her review essay, "Gender, Kinship, and Migration in the Andes," is in press in Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society. She presented papers at the Congress of the Latin American Studies Association in Rio de Janeiro and at the International Congress of Americanists in Mexico City. She was elected to hold the Cultural Seat on the Executive Board of the American

Anthropological Association for the 2009-2012 term.

A Recent publication by Kendal Broad-Wright, titled "Activist Parenting and GLBTQ Families" and published in the Journal of GLBT Family Studies in 2008 was co authored by H. Alden, D. Berkowitz, and M. Ryan, who earned PhDs in Sociology at UF and have certificates and concentrations in Women's Studies. Her paper "Sexualities, Sociologies and the Intersectional Potential of Two Qualitative Methodologies" was accepted for publication in Theorizing Intersections: Sexual Advances (2010). Dr. Broad is also doing two book reviews for the NWSA Journal (21,1) on, 'Same-Sex Marriage: The Legal and Psychological Evolution in America' and 'Courting Equality: A Documentary History of America's First Legal Same-Sex Marriages'. Dr. Broad's research, supported by the Placek small grants program of the American Psychological Foundation & a CLAS Humanities Scholarship Enhancement Fund, continues on "The Narrative Work of A Multi-Racial Gay Men's Group, 1980-2005: Constructing Multi-Racial Gay Selves and Doing Intersectional Resistance."

Stephanie Evans is lead editor of the newly released African Americans and Community Engagement in Higher Education: Community Service, Service-Learning, and Community-Based Research (SUNY, 2009) and author of the article "African American Women and International Research: Dr. Anna Julia Cooper's Legacy of Study Abroad" in Frontiers: The Interdisciplinary Journal of Study Abroad. She also authored the book chapter "Learners and Teachers of Men: A Historical View of the Participation and Contributions of Black American Males in Higher Education." Dr. Evans gave an invited lecture at the 40th Anniversary of Africana Studies Conference at Vassar College in April. In July, she attended the 26th Annual International Katherine Dunham Technique Seminar at Southern Illinois University. She was Academic Program Chair of the 2009 Annual Convention of Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), held September 2009 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Tace Hedrick was invited to present her paper "Walter Mercado, Sexuality, and 'Oriental' Mysticism in Latin America" at the Latin American Studies Association meeting in Rio de Janeiro in June. Dr. Hedrick also gave a talk to during UF's "Race,'Spice' and Latinas" Workshop in March. Dr. Hedrick's paper "Queering the Cosmic Race: Esotericism, Mestizaje, and Sexuality in the Work of Gabriela Mistral and Gloria Anzaldúa" was

published in Aztlán: A Journal of Chicano Studies, Fall 2009 and "Of Indians and Modernity in Gloria Anzaldúa's Borderlands/La frontera: The New Mestiza" was published in a special issue of Review of International American Studies, Fall/ Winter2009/2010. Her paper "From House on Mango Street to Playing With Boys: Genre, Marketplace and Chicana Identity." Reading Latina/o Identities is forthcoming in "Pasaporte latino: viaje, cultura e identidad en la literatura hispana en los Estados Unidos."

Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and former CWSGR Director Angel Kwolek-Folland was given an advance award from the National Science Foundation, Partnerships for Adaptation, Implementation, and Dissemination (PAID) for Collaborative Research - Alliance for the Advancement of Florida's Academic Women in Chemistry & Engineering. In December, she gave an invited lecture, "A Woman's History of Business," at the International Conference for Businesswomen Networking in Málaga, Spain. She was invited to the Business Law and Narrative Symposium at the Michigan State University College of Law where she gave a lecture titled, "The Personal is International: Gender Rights, Glocalization, and Sexual Harassment." Two papers **Dr. Kwolek-Folland** coauthored were published: "Pathways for Women to Obtain Positions of Organizational Leadership: The Significance of Mentoring and Networking," Duke Journal of Gender Law and Policy, January 2009, and "Pathways to Success for Women Scientists in Higher Education in the U.S.," in Gender Equality Programmes in Higher Education: International Perspectives, Berlin, 2008

Trysh Travis' book, *The Language of the Heart:* A Cultural History of the Recovery Movement from Alcoholics Anonymous to Oprah Winfrey was published by UNC Press in November. Dr. Travis gave a talk on "Women, Addiction, and Child Welfare: Sharing an American Perspective" to the Ministry of Social Affairs, Kaohsiung Province, Taiwan, ROC last July. She also organized a roundtable on "Gender, Sexuality, and Campus Drinking Cultures" at the annual conference of the NWSA in November. She was an invited plenary speaker at FSU's History of Textual Transmission program, and shared research from a forthcoming book on "Publishing Development and Development Publishing: Perspectives on Print Culture in the 'Third' World."

Career Panel Held

The Center held its first Women's Studies Career Panel last spring featuring four alumnae panelists—Victoria Adams, Diana Gibson, HavreDe Hill, and Megan Seery— and addressing the current Women's Studies community at the University of Florida. Assistant Professor Trysh Travis organized the Saturday roundtable that featured tips for job seekers, cautionary tales from the workplace, and networking opportunities.

Victoria Adams, a 2005 graduate of the Center and currently a marketing consultant in Tallahassee, and 2006 graduate turned public relations and marketing manager Megan Seery spoke about how their education

prepared them for their current positions.

2008 graduate Diana Gibson, who is now an educator at a museum in Miami, and 2006 graduate HavreDe Hill, currently working with the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of the Palm Beaches, spoke about the paths that led them to their current positions.

The attendees certainly benefitted from what the panelists had to say and the panelists also benefitted from seeing how far the program had come from in roots in a small office in Turlington Hall in 2003, when majors were first admitted to the program.



Professor Trysh Travis with panelists (I to r) Diana Gibson, Victoria Adams, HavreDe Hill, Megan Seery.

In a letter to the Gainesville Sun, the four panelists wrote, "Paramount among our studies was the emphasis placed on mentorship, active learning, critical thinking, continuous self-enrichment, and the value of institutional knowledge. In particular, we discovered how to incorporate the views of historically under-represented groups and individuals."

AAW Brings Wasserman Schultz to Campus



Congresswoman Debbie
Wasserman Schultz (center)
visits with Dr. Anita Anantharam
(left) and Women's Studies Director Dr. Judith Page (right)
after the breakfast in Ustler Hall.

The University of Florida Association for Academic Women presented "Breast Cancer Awareness: Balancing Breast Cancer, Family, Work, Reelection, and the 2008 Campaign," featuring Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz on Friday, Nov. 20, 2009. The presentation was accompanied by a continental breakfast

in the Atrium at Ustler Hall.

Wasserman Schultz discovered a breast lump through a self-exam, two months after her first mammogram at 40. Although the cancer was detected at an early stage, she also learned that as an Ashkenazi Jew of Eastern European descent, she was at greater risk of carrying a gene mutation which predisposed her to breast cancer and recurrence. She tested positive for this BRCA2 gene mutation, prompting her to have both breasts removed. "I had a lot going on last year." she quipped, remembering seven major surgeries, including a double mastectomy and reconstructive surgery, all while balancing motherhood and her job as Congresswoman.

Her appearance followed on the heels of the controversial United States

Preventive Services Task Force suggestion that women not begin getting mammograms until they hit 50. "This is very disturbing," said Wasserman Schultz. "The bottom line is that instead of making things more clear for women, the recommendations are totally confusing women."

The informal presentation was cosponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Human Resource Services and the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research.

The University of Florida Association for Academic Women (AAW) provides opportunities for women faculty and professional staff to network and enhance their knowledge about the University of Florida and their work environment.

For more information on the AAW, visit their website at http://grove.ufl.edu/~aaw/

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Checks should be made payable to UF Foundation, Women's Studies or if you prefer to give on-line, go to www.ufl.edu/OnlineGiving/CWSGR.asp

"What do we live for, if not to

make life less

difficult for each other?"

George Eliot

Associate Professor Stephanie Evans honored by Diverse Magazine

With An Attitude of Gratitude

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

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the Center are used to

Donations to fund



Contributors to the Spring Gala being held on February 27th will be acknowledged in the Fall 2010 Newsletter.

Evans Named "Emerging Scholar"

Congratulations to our own Stephanie Evans, an associate professor of Women's Studies and African American studies at the University of Florida, who has been chosen as one of twelve "Emerging Scholars" by Diverse magazine.

Diverse, which first published its "Emerging Scholars" edition in 2002, honored Evans in its

Jan. 7, 2010 edition. Diverse profiles 12 "under 40" scholars from around the country who are making their mark in the academy through teaching, research, and service.

The magazine's editors selected honorees from a pool of candidates recommended by various scholars, department chairs, university public

information officers, and others. Each scholar is selected based on research, educational background, publishing record, teaching record, competitiveness of field of study, and uniqueness of field of study.

For more information on Professor Evans. including her community mentoring projects, visit www.professorevans.com.

Anantharam Nominated for International Educator of the Year

Congratulations to Women's Studies Assistant Professor Dr. Anita Anatharam for being nominated for International Educator of the Year 2009 at the University of Florida. Dr. Anatharam's nomination came from her support of UF's strategic goal of internationalizing the campus and curriculum.

Dr. Anantharam's research focuses on gender and nationalism in South Asia (India and Pakistan). She has two books forthcoming, an edited volume, Mahadevi Varma: Political Essays on Women, Nation, and Culture and a scholarly monograph, Bodies that Remember: Women's Indigenous Knowledge and

Cosmopolitanism in South Asia. In 2007, she won an Internationalizing the Curriculum grant to enhance her Transnational Feminism course. In addition, Dr. Anantharam taught a course on food and globalization for the 2009 UF in Paris Spring Break program. Together with her colleague Travis Smith (Religion), she launched the first UF in India study abroad program in CLAS during the summers of 2008 and 2009 Drs. Anantharam and Smith led a group of students to Dehradun, India to live, study, and work on an organic farm as part of the University of Florida's summer study abroad program in India.

This spring Dr. Anantharam is at the Paris Research Center teaching an Honors course titled, An Appetite for Paris: Gender, Globalization and Food. The course examines foodways (the cultural, social and economic practices relating to production and consumption of food) and transcendence of geographic boundaries, the politics of what we eat, where we eat it, and how we eat and the reflection of deep-

we eat and the reflection of deeprooted gender, religious, racial, class, and national biases.



Anita Anantharam
accepts her award at the
2009 International
Educator Awards at the
Keene Faculty Center on
November 17 2009.



A photo exhibit featuring student photographs from the UF in India Study Abroad Program was held at Volta Coffeehouse in downtown Gainesville from December 2nd through January 5th. All proceeds benefited the Center for Women's Studies and were earmarked for Study Abroad Scholarships. The event was sponsored by the Department of Housing and Residence Life and the Center for Women's Studies with special thanks to Volta.

"Activists Among Us" Panel Discussion Planned

"Activists Among Us: the Gainesville Women's Movement Across Generations" will take place on Thursday, April 8, 2010 from 6:30-8:30 pm at the Matheson Museum. Sponsored by the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program, the panel discussion will bring together local activists from the 1950s through the present to discuss the ongoing struggle for social justice, gender equality, and human rights. The panel will also serve as a springboard for the collection and preservation of historical materials on the history of women's activism in Gainesville.

Moderated by Dr. Patricia Hilliard-Nunn, this event will include members from Gainesville Women for Equal Rights, an interracial organization of women whose active work for civil and human rights changed the course of history in Gainesville. It will also include Gainesville activists in the pivotal women's liberation movement of the 1960s. Serving as one of the main centers of feminist activity nationwide, Gainesville feminists posed radical challenges to male authority, and ushered in a new era of social change and opportunity for women.

The Mayor of the City of Gainesville, The Honorable Pegeen Hanrahan, will be welcoming panelists Vivian Filer, Kathie Sarachild, Jane Hiers, Rosa B. Williams, Sallie Ann Harrison and Corky Culver.

Co-sponsors include: the University of Florida Department of History, the UF Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research, George Smathers Libraries, UF Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere (Yavitz Fund), the Women's Studies Graduate Student Association, the History Graduate Society, The Gainesville Women's Commission, The Emily Dickinson Society, and the Civic Media Center.

For more information please call the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program at 352-392-7168 or email portiz@ufl.edu

"The truth will set you free.
But first, it will piss you off."

-Gloria Steinem American Author, Activist

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Graduate Student News

Graduate Student Tanya Faublas successfully presented her non thesis project, *Kirino Natsuo's English Translations: A Primer* on December 2nd.

Graduate Student Meredith Kite will present her thesis, *Cultivating Food Democracy: Toward an Ecofeminist Politics of the Global Food System*, on Thursday, February 25nd beginning at 8:30a.m. in the Ustler Hall Conference Room.

Graduate Student Sarah Austin will present her thesis, Reclaiming the Experience of Motherhood through Second and Third Wave Feminist Publications, on Thursday, February 25th beginning at 3p.m. in the Ustler Hall Conference Room.

Graduate Student Erin Tobin will present her thesis, Toward a Queer Gaze: Cinematic Representations of Queer Female Sexuality in Experimental/Avant-Garde and Narrative Film, on Friday, March 5, 2010 beginning

at 3:30p.m in the Ustler Hall Conference Room.

This spring semester we welcomed new graduate student Catherine Jean, who joined fellow first year graduate students Melissa Houle, Diana McCarley, Whitney Shadowens, Sarah Steele and Erin Williams, who were admitted in the fall.