



## NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND WOMEN'S STUDIES

SPRING 2025 VOLUME 35 ISSUE 1

### FROM THE CHAIR'S DESK



Dr. Bonnie Moradi  
Chair

Recently, I had the pleasure of attending multiple events featuring women's studies students' experiential learning opportunities and accomplishments. These included presentations and discussions with UF alums who leveraged their women's studies education into successful and impactful careers in health care, law, and media. They also included women's studies students presenting their honors thesis research across a rich range of domains, including projects focused on chronic illness, ballet culture, and recreational fear. Most recently, we had an event featuring students involved in community-engaged team research, funded by a Mellon Foundation grant to our department. These projects include analysis of the practice-based knowledge of specialists working in sexual and domestic violence organizations, producing an oral history and documentary film featuring the art and cultural production of nail techs, understanding young adult activists' narratives and experiences, and developing community-based support and knowledge around chronic vulvovaginal pain.

Across these events, I have been struck by our students' thoughtful descriptions of the enduring value of these learning experiences. They describe learning critical thinking and analysis, engaging with and generating new ideas, holding complexities and contradictions, listening to and understanding people's experiences across differences. They also describe learning practical skills such as public speaking, interviewing, data analysis, field observation, film production, media content creation, event organization and logistics, community and professional networking, and writing and presenting for community and academic audiences. There is an immense joy and confidence in these students when they describe experiencing the seed of an idea they planted and watched grow and develop in these projects, with the support of their faculty mentors and peer researchers.

These students embody the value and values of higher education, central to which is fostering the opportunity and freedom to pursue knowledge. Women's Studies as a discipline grew from students exercising this freedom by working with faculty and institutions to create courses, degree programs, and departments in the discipline. In this way, the very existence of Women's Studies programs signifies trust and respect for students' vision, agency, and potential. In this same spirit, the continuing strength of our department and Women's Studies programs everywhere is an indicator of our institutions' value for students' freedom to learn. I am grateful to our students and faculty for reminding us of this central value and mission every day.

## ALUM PROFILE

### EVAN W. LAUTERIA

EVAN GRADUATED WITH A BA IN WOMEN'S STUDIES IN 2009. HE IS NOW AN ASSISTANT INSTRUCTIONAL PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, HAVING EARNED HIS PHD FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA-DAVIS IN 2023.

When I arrived at UF in 2005, I knew I wanted to be a researcher, but my understanding of what constituted research was shaped heavily by media representation. I selected a laboratory-heavy science field as my major, expecting to spend my workdays dressed in a lab coat and peering through a microscope. I was committed to doing good in the world, but I had not developed or honed my passions.



I was lucky enough to take an introductory sociology course in my first-year with a recent graduate of the Women's Studies program. Exposure to the social sciences broadly, and more specifically offerings through the Department—then a Center—such as the emphasis in Theories and Politics of Sexuality, opened up a new world of academic possibilities. I took innovative and enlightening courses with Dr. Angel Kwolek-Folland, Dr. K.L. Broad, Dr. Trysh Travis, Dr. Anita Anantharam, and Dr. Stephanie Evans; under their tutelage, I learned about global human rights, gender inequality and oppression, LGBTQ social movements, intersectional feminism, postcolonial resistance, queer theory, and feminist pedagogy.

I was encouraged to pursue an academic interest in video game studies, with a focus on gender and sexuality, during my time at UF, which has since blossomed into my full research platform. I co-edited *Rated M for Mature: Sex and Sexuality in Video Games* (2015) with Dr. Matthew Wysocki at Flagler College and published articles on LGBTQ representation and inclusion in video games throughout my graduate studies. I found academic community with other scholars, and the multidisciplinary academic foundation I received through Women's Studies enabled me to communicate easily across lines of disciplinary difference. I often now arrive in spaces as one of the few sociologists, but I rarely lack the vocabulary, theoretical knowledge, or methodological training to engage with scholars in literary studies, anthropology, communications, film and media studies, and the like.

I just completed my first year as a member of the faculty at the University of Florida, and my Women's Studies background continues to inform my work. I find myself more empathetic, more understanding, more self-reflexive, and more willing to learn from my students, in no small part thanks to my undergraduate experience in Women's Studies. I am extremely grateful to have been mentored by such stellar faculty, and I try to "pay it forward" now by encouraging my students to pursue their own curiosities and interests through UF's dynamic majors and programs.



## CONGRATULATIONS WOMEN'S STUDIES GRADUATES!



Women's Studies  
Class of 2025

A group of Women's Studies majors posed for a photo before the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences graduation ceremony at the Stephen C. O'Connell Center on May 3rd, 2025, where College leaders recognized Bachelor's degree graduates.

Congratulations to those pictured and to all of our class of 2024-2025 graduates, including Women's Studies majors, and students minoring in Women's Studies, Theories and Politics of Sexuality, and Health Disparities in Society.

## COLLEGE WOMEN ON THE RISE

Thanks to a generous grant from *Beyond120*, we were able to send four Women's Studies majors to the College Women on the Rise program, part of the Women's Conference of Florida. Some attendees reflect on their experiences below.

"The College Women on the Rise Program was a great opportunity to connect with other women across Florida and learn about their experiences, goals, and passions. I am truly grateful for the lessons I learned there and the bonds I formed with other students and mentors."



"Attending the College Women on the Rise program was an incredible opportunity for me. From establishing important career connections outside of the traditional college campus to socializing with my fellow women's studies scholars-this opportunity allowed me to make lifelong friends while solidifying my commitment to advocating for better career opportunities and support for women in their professional careers. I am so proud to be a women's studies major, and even prouder to have been selected for such a prestigious program."



# CELEBRATING MILESTONES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MA GRADUATES!

**Sonbol Bahramikamangar** defended her thesis titled “*Violence Against Kurdish Women in Iran*,” which uses interviews, autoethnography, and ancestral narratives to explore how Kurdish women experience violence, particularly in the context of a strict theocratic Islamic state. She received a Travel Grant Award from UF’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to present her research at the Association for Women in Psychology conference. Sonbol was honored with a Certificate of Outstanding Merit from UF’s International Center and has been accepted to the Ph.D. program in Gender Studies at Stony Brook University. She is particularly grateful for the mentorship of Dr. Maddy Coy, whose support made her research possible and played a significant role in her success.

**Mary Kate DiFresco** successfully defended her M.A. thesis “*Rooted Wisdoms: Gardens as Ancestral Feminine Knowledge*” under the guidance of Dr. Alyssa Zucker and was excited to graduate and re-focus her activist and grassroots work with the local Climate Cafe. She plans to take a break from academia to ground herself in climate work close to her heart before applying to PhD programs.



MA graduates celebrating together

**Amya Ellison** successfully defended their non-thesis project titled “*Navigating Misogynoir: Black Women Negotiating Gender in Predominantly White Institutions*” under the guidance of committee co-chairs Dr. Cinnamon Williams and Dr. Maddy Coy. Post-graduation, Amya plans on moving out of state for career options outside of academia, as they seek to create meaningful change.

**Alexandria Gibson** earned her M.A. in Women’s Studies in the spring of 2025. With the mentorship and support of Dr. Olivia Adams, she successfully defended her thesis, “*Sitting at the Feet of Elders*,” and developed an accompanying archive housed at UF’s Samuel Proctor Oral History Program. Alexandria presented at a conference and participated in the Reproductive

Justice Futurisms Think Tank at Smith College. She also received a grant from AAUW to host “The Period is Political,” an art workshop centering menstrual narratives. Alexandria is excited to continue growing The Goddess Project, a grassroots women’s wellness initiative she founded in Gainesville to address gaps in reproductive health literacy.

**Whitney Rodriguez Minda** successfully defended her non-thesis project titled “*Venus, and the third act in the dystopia of Vecinos*” under the guidance of her committee, Dr. Jillian Hernandez and Dr. Hina Shaikh.

**Zuzu Tadeushuk** offers thanks to her committee, Dr. Jillian Hernandez and Dr. Hina Shaikh, for their guidance as she wrote and successfully defended her thesis, “*Embodiment, Being, and Appearing: A Cultural Analysis and Phenomenology of Fashion Modeling*.” During her time in the program, she presented her work at two conferences, and is proposing a panel on modeling for the next National Women’s Studies Association conference.

## UPDATES ON CONTINUING MA STUDENTS

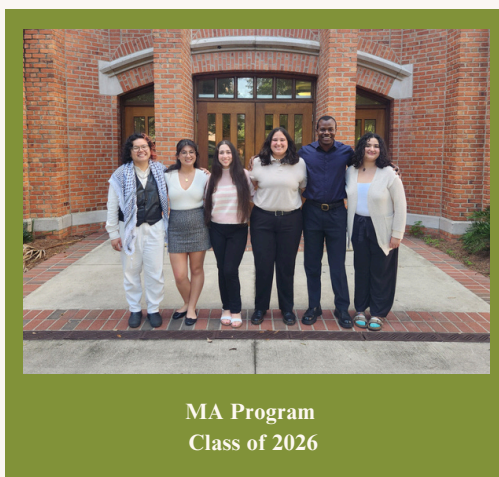
**Isabella Adams** is a rising second-year MA candidate. She is currently working on her thesis, interrogating (counter) hegemonic constructions of masculinities in 21st-century popular superhero media. Her project is supervised by Dr. Barbara Mennel, Dr. Trysh Travis, and Dr. Margaret Galvan. Isabella presented her scholarship at a graduate student conference in the Spring.

**Rae Landingin** spent the summer conducting fieldwork in New York City, focusing on the intersections of queer and trans of color nightlife and grassroots mutual aid organizing. Their research explores how these spaces cultivate belonging, care, and futurity beyond normative frameworks, serving as tools of resistance and survival. Supported by a CLAS Travel Award, a Field Research Grant from the Center for Latin American Studies, an AAUW Gainesville Branch Grant, and a Charles T. Woods Grant, their work is guided by Dr. Jillian Hernandez.

**Sharlyen Lopez** is a rising second-year MA candidate. She is currently working on her thesis examining the rhetoric

surrounding fetal personhood and futurity, while comparing anti-immigration rhetoric that directly dehumanizes Latin American migrant children arriving in the United States. Sharlyen looks forward to conducting research under the supervision of her chair, Dr. Shaikh.

**Alexander Ozoani** is a rising second-year MA student. His thesis will focus on the lived experiences of LGBTQ+ Nigerians through the lens of minority stress theory. This summer, he conducted research under the mentorship of his co-chairs, Dr. Olivia Adams and Dr. Hina Shaikh.



**Marie Vazquez** is a rising second-year M.A. candidate. She is currently working on her thesis project, which explores the role

of queer joy in fostering resilience and promoting mental well-being among LGBTQ+ college students in the U.S. South. In March, she presented collaborative research with Dr. Maddy Coy on Florida's rape and domestic violence crisis centers at the 2025 Association for Women in Psychology conference. She is currently an RA in the VIPER Lab, under the guidance of Dr. Olivia Adams. Marie was recently awarded a Charles T. Woods Student Grant, which supports student research projects that benefit LGBTQ+ communities.

**Kay Yehezkely** is a rising second-year MA student. She was excited to collect data for her thesis project this summer, conducting interviews with young women to understand how their gendered childhood experiences impacted their political consciousness and views. Her thesis project, tentatively titled "No Politics at Dinner," will be developed under the guidance of Dr. Zucker. She was also very excited to be a part of a summer program this June in Bologna, Italy, on the topic of gender, politics, and society.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AWARD-WINNING FACULTY AND STAFF!



**Dr. Olivia Adams**  
Canadian Institutes of  
Health Research  
Grant Recipient



**Dr. O.G. Murrell**  
2024 - 2025 CLAS Teacher  
of the Year



**Amanda Bouquet**  
2024 - 2025 CLAS Staff  
"Rookie of the Year"



**Dr. Joanna Neville**  
2024 - 2025 CLAS  
*Beyond120* Grant Recipient



**Dr. Maddy Coy**  
2024 - 2025 CLAS  
International Educator of  
the Year



**Dr. Hina Shaikh**  
Humanities Scholarship  
Enhancement Fund  
Recipient



**Dr. Jillian Hernandez**  
CHPS Public Humanities grant  
recipient  
Center for Latin American Studies  
Research Tutorial Abroad Project  
Award  
Humanities Scholarship  
Enhancement Fund Recipient  
UF Research Foundation Recipient



**Dr. Trysh Travis**  
Rothman Summer Faculty  
Fellowship  
Radcliffe Institute for  
Advanced Study Fellowship



## CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

### THINK TANK AT SMITH COLLEGE



Reproductive Justice Futurisms Think Tank

Graduate student Alexandria Gibson and recent grad Terri Bailey attended a Reproductive Justice Futurisms Think Tank at Smith College that was hosted by Loretta Ross. Pictured here are Dázon Dixon Diallo (founder of Sister Love), Byllye Avery (Gator alum and founder of the National Black Women's Health Project), Alexandria Gibson (The Goddess Project), and Terri Bailey (Bailey Learning and Arts Collective, Inc.)

### [M] FACTOR SCREENING

Dr. Olivia Adams' lab hosted a screening of The [M] Factor with a Q&A afterwards; thanks to the Mellon Foundation for support.



The [M] Factor Screening

### ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN PSYCHOLOGY

Department members Dr. Bonnie Moradi, Sonbol Bahramikamangar, Dr. Maddy Coy, Dr. Alyssa Zucker, and Marie Vazquez present their scholarship at the annual meeting of the Association for Women in Psychology in Santa Fe, New Mexico.



Annual A.W.P. Meeting



## ALUM PROFILE

### *KARLEEN SCHLICHTMANN*

KARLEEN GRADUATED WITH AN MA IN WOMEN'S STUDIES AND A GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC HEALTH IN 2019. SHE IS A PROGRAM MANAGER FOR THE HIV/STD DEPARTMENT FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

When I began the master's program in 2017, I had a passion for Black feminist theory and public health. I am amazed at how a 2-year program could nurture my passions and provide so many opportunities, not only for me as a student but as a young professional upon graduation. The MA program was transformative, leaving a lasting impact on me personally and professionally.

As a graduate student, I was able to present my research on Black women living with HIV and their access to healthcare at the National Women's Studies Association annual conference. Being a panelist and presenting a solo poster on my research were the most proud moments of my time at the Center. I was also able to take advantage of training and become a certified Peer Sex Educator with Planned Parenthood. The skills I learned were crucial as I transitioned to my career in public health.

Since graduating, I have held multiple public health roles, first as a Community Health Worker in rural eastern North Carolina. There, I helped people connect to social services, receive proper medical care, and mitigate daily living barriers. I also served as a Public Health Education Specialist for a county health department where I had the opportunity to provide health education and write and successfully implement a grant that focused on reducing infant mortality, particularly among families of color. In my current role as an HIV/STD Program Manager for the State of Texas Department of Health and Human Services, I conduct and oversee HIV/STD testing, prevention, intervention, and surveillance in 50 counties.

I owe much of my academic, professional, and personal growth to the guidance and support of my UF mentors Dr. Manoucheke Celeste, Dr. Bryce Henson, and Dr. Kathryn Ross. The knowledge I gained from them has been a guiding force in my work. Being able to implement Black feminist theory into public health policies and community health has been rewarding and healing. To have the guidance of Dr. Celeste—an award-winning author, professor, and Black woman, who believes in supporting student success through mentorship—has defined the standard on how I, a mixed-race Black woman, approach leadership, feminist theory, and community in professional and personal settings.

As I continue to hold leadership positions in my career and have an active presence in the communities I live and serve in, I will always prioritize Black feminist theory, justice and equality to ensure I give a voice to those who are voiceless and neglected. I thank the Center for providing the resources, opportunities, and caring faculty and staff that have paved the way and provided the framework for me to be as successful as I am today.



## RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

Undergraduate students engaged in mentored research through many mechanisms, including WST4970 *Honors Thesis*, CLAS Scholars Program, University Scholars Program, and Mellon Grant funded projects. Here are just a handful of the projects our faculty sponsored this year.



### REY ARCENAS

Women's Studies major Rey Arcenas presents his thesis "*Resistance at the 'Head of the Snake': Queer Young Adult Activist Responses to Florida Anti-LGBTQ+ Legislation*" conducted with Dr. Broad.



### REN KATZ

Women's Studies major Ren Katz presents their thesis "*Resilient, Fatigued, Liberationist Futurists: Floridian Young Adult Transgender Activists Resist Anti-LGBTQ Legislation*" conducted with Dr. Broad.



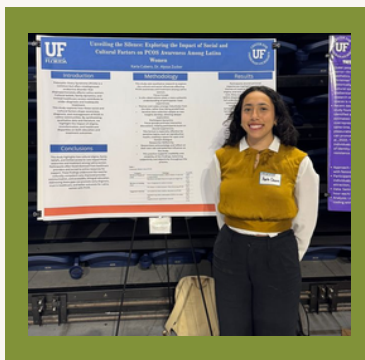
### GARRETT JOHNSON

Women's Studies major Garrett Johnson presents his thesis "*I Feel Like Halloween is Queer Season': Queer Ritual, Horror, and the Power of Recreational Fear*" conducted with Dr. Neville.



### ANA SMALLING

Women's Studies major Ana Smalling presents her thesis "*Dancing Outside the Lines: A Study of Identity Expression in Ballet Spaces*" conducted with Dr. Neville.



### KARLA CUBERO

Women's Studies minor Karla Cubero presents a poster on the research she conducted on PCOS and Latina women with Dr. Zucker via the University Scholars Program.

### EMILY BUTLER

Women's Studies major Emily Butler's thesis was called "*The Invisible Burden of Womanhood: How Gendered Expectations of Labor Perpetuate Autoimmune Disease*," conducted with Dr. Zucker.

### ANN-MARIE IANNONE

Women's Studies major Ann-Marie Iannone's thesis was called "*Dear Florida, Inclusive Sex Ed is Not Bad: A Review of Sex Education and Florida Policies*," conducted with Dr. Wiley.

## DEPARTMENT AND CENTER EVENTS BRING SCHOLARS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS TO UF

**August 29, 2024**

### **Politics, Movements, and Joy: A meditation on Black Twitter**

Andre L. Brock (Georgia Tech), Sarah Florini (Arizona State University), Raven Maragh-Lloyd (Washington University), and Jasmine McNealy (UF)

Lead sponsor: African American Studies

**October 3, 2024**

### **The Rocks Don't Care How You Get There: Reimagining Field Science for a More Accessible, Inclusive & Ethical Discipline**

Anita M.S. Marshall (UF Department of Geological Sciences)

Lead sponsor: Imagining Climate Change

**October 4, 2024**

### **National Endowment for the Humanities, Grants Info Session**

Dr. Suha Kudsieh (Division of Research at the National Endowment for the Humanities)

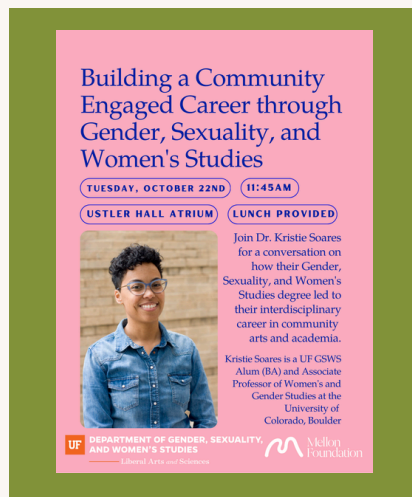
Lead sponsor: Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies Research

**October 15, 2024**

### **Black Queer Worth-Making and Reproductive Justice in Bahia**

Dr. Nessette Falu (University of Texas, Austin)

Lead sponsor: African American Studies



**October 22, 2024**

### **Building a Community Engaged Career through Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies**

Dr. Kristie Soares, UF GSWS Alum (University of Colorado, Boulder)

Lead Sponsor: Department of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies

**October 22, 2024**

### **New Waves in Latinx Sound and Popular Music Studies**

A conversation with on recently published books with Jonathan Calvillo (Emory), Ivan Ramos (Brown), Richard T. Rodriguez (UC Riverside), Kristie Soares (University of Colorado, Boulder), moderated by Yessica Garcia Hernandez (UCLA), organized by Jillian Hernandez (UF)

Lead Sponsor: Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies

**January 22, 2025**

### **Zora Neale Hurston Panel Discussion**

Featuring Dr. Cinnamon Williams from our department among other illustrious panelists

Lead Sponsor: Center for Arts, Migration, and Entrepreneurship

**February 5, 2025**

### **Alum Health Panel**

Featuring UF alums Dr. Meagan Campol, Dr. Chris Garcia-Wilde, and Dr. Naomi Mostkoff discussing how their undergraduate education (particularly in our department) prepared them for careers in healthcare

Lead Sponsor: Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies

**February 18, 2025**

### **From UF to Public Interest Law**

Simone Chriss (Southern Legal Counsel)

Lead Sponsors: *Beyond120* and Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies

**March 4, 2025**

### **The Black Birthing Crisis: Why Understanding Slavery & Gynecology Helps Us All**

Dr. Deirde Cooper Owens (University of Connecticut)

Lead Sponsor: African American Studies

NEWS AND VIEWS OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND WOMEN'S STUDIES

## DEPARTMENT AND CENTER EVENTS BRING SCHOLARS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS TO UF

**March 26, 2025**

### **Walking Tour: Women's History and Gender Equality**

Featuring Dr. Alyssa Zucker from our department among other illustrious speakers

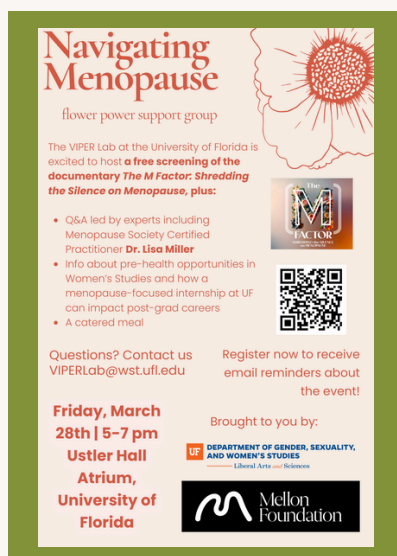
Lead sponsor: Samuel Proctor Oral History Program

**March 28, 2025**

### **Navigating Menopause**

Featuring Dr. Olivia Adams from our department among other illustrious panelists

Lead Sponsor: Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies



**April 2, 2025**

### **Women's Studies Undergraduate Thesis Presentations**

Lead sponsor: Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies

**April 11, 2025**

### **Mellon Student Research Presentations**

Lead sponsor: Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies

***FOR COMPLETE LIST OF ALL EVENTS AND CO-SPONSORS, SEE CALENDAR ON OUR WEBSITE***

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*Courses Include:*

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FEMINIST METHODS  
HISTORY OF WOMEN'S MEDICINE  
LGBTQ+ MOVEMENTS & ACTIVISMS  
RACE, SEX & REPRESENTATION  
GIRLHOOD STUDIES  
PROFESSIONAL PATHWAYS**

*And so much more!*





## FACULTY NEWS

**Dr. Olivia Adams** is part of a research team that received a \$100,000 CAD grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) for a mixed methods study titled: A Multi-Method Investigation of Sexual Pain Experiences and Measurement in Black Canadian Women. Dr. Adams was also put forward as the CLAS candidate for a William T. Grant Scholars Program grant again this year.

This year, **Dr. Kendal Broad** carried on with research about LGBTQ+ movement activism in the US. Dr. Broad submitted an article on their extended research project with and about an interracial group of gay men who were striving to do gay anti-racism in the 1980s. Dr. Broad published an article on teaching and a book chapter on research methodology. Dr. Broad was honored to work closely with two undergraduate students, Ren Katz and Rey Arcenas, supported by a Mellon grant, as they conducted qualitative research projects and honors theses. As well, Dr. Broad served as a committee member for students in the MA program in our department and PhD students in Sociology, who all graduated. Dr. Broad taught at both the undergraduate and graduate levels while also resuming the position of Graduate Coordinator.

**Dr. Maddy Coy** continued a project exploring “practice-based evidence” of specialist sexual and domestic violence organizations in Florida, with a team of brilliant undergraduate students, and funded by the department’s Mellon Foundation grant to promote student research. The team spent the year having fascinating in-depth conversations with experts across the state, writing up findings, and presenting the research at the Association for Women in Psychology conference. Maddy was honored to receive an International Educator of the Year Award from the UF International Center.

**Dr. Jillian Hernandez** published the essay “Ca\$h App Connectivities: High Maintenance Feminism and Payment as Praxis” in the Duke University Press journal, *liquid blackness: journal of aesthetics and black studies*, and gave invited presentations at Yale University, University of California-Irvine, and University of Kentucky. She was the recipient of a 2024 Fulbright Specialist Award, through which she shared best practices in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies administration and curriculum at the Universidad Tecnológica Metropolitana in Santiago, Chile. She shared research at national and

international conferences. Dr. Hernandez launched the Full Set Project, a team of UF undergraduate students and scholars from Princeton, Syracuse, and the University of Indiana who are studying the cultural impact of the nail industry and producing public-facing scholarship.

**Dr. Bonnie Moradi** collaborated with colleagues at UF and beyond to submit two grant proposals focused on sociocultural risk and resilience factors and mental health. She co-authored two articles presenting research findings on gender, sexuality, and well-being. She was invited to present at Arizona State University, coauthored several presentations at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, and was honored to serve as a discussant for a symposium led by UF student and faculty colleagues at the annual meeting of the Association for Women in Psychology.

**Dr. Ocqua Murrell** co-edited the volume *Loopholes of Retreat: A Way Out of No Way*, which is in press at Virginia Tech; she also co-authored one of the chapters in the book. She continued to teach core courses in the department, including *Interdisciplinary Perspectives in Women’s Studies*

*and Transnational Feminism*. Dr. Murrell was honored to be nominated by her students and selected by her colleagues to receive a CLAS Teacher of the Year Award “for demonstrated excellence, innovation and effectiveness in teaching.”

**Dr. Joanna Neville** joined the department as a full-time faculty member in Fall 2024 after several years as an adjunct instructor. She leapt into her position by assuming the roles of Undergraduate Coordinator and Experiential Learning Coordinator, in addition to her teaching and mentoring duties. Dr. Neville supervised two undergraduate honors theses this year, as well as a host of undergraduate and graduate teaching assistants in her high-enrollment courses.

**Dr. Hina Shaikh** led her students in the Data Justice Lab to present their research on collecting and organizing police data in the U.S. South at the National Humanities Center. One of the graduating students in her lab, who was a part of the University Scholars Program, finished her distinguished data science thesis with high honors, utilizing the UF supercomputer, HiperGator. Dr. Shaikh also has several articles co-written with students from the lab currently under peer review and a forthcoming article in *Meridians*.

Dr. Shaikh has presented about the impacts of race and gender on data and AI within the Global South, both as the keynote speaker at the FAU Honors College Annual Symposium and as an invited panelist at the Society for the Social Studies of Science.

This year, Associate Professor **Dr. Trysh Travis** served as the principal investigator on a National Endowment for the Humanities planning grant to create a Medical Humanities curriculum at UF. The grant underwrote workshops for undergraduate and graduate students as well as faculty and advising staff with expertise in bioethics, narrative medicine, end-of-life care, and translational humanities research. In January, at the invitation of Barnard College's Center for the Study of Social Difference, Dr. Travis presented a paper entitled “Why I'm Not ‘Against Recovery,’” which examines ways the Opioid Settlement Funds are prompting new approaches to substance abuse treatment. Travis's op-ed on the history of Indirect Cost Recovery in American universities was published in *Time* magazine in February.

**Dr. Cinnamon Williams** published “The Fall of the Family: Reading Family Rejection in Frances Beal's “Double Jeopardy” in a special issue of *Feminist Theory* focused

on intergenerational feminisms. She had an additional chapter accepted for publication in a forthcoming book from Duke University Press. Dr. Williams presented her scholarship at two conferences.

**Dr. Alyssa Zucker** transitioned out of the role of Undergraduate Coordinator after 8 years but continued to develop her leadership skills by serving as interim department chair in Fall (to cover Dr. Moradi's sabbatical) and associate chair in Spring, as well as Parliamentarian for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. She conducted research with undergraduate and MA students in the department, as well as PhD students in other units on campus. This led to a number of research presentations, including an invited symposium she organized for the Association for Women in Psychology. In Spring 2025, Dr. Zucker revamped the major assignment in WST 4704 *Discrimination & Health* to include hands-on experiential learning through Wiki Education, joining her students in the journey to improve public-facing knowledge on Wikipedia.



## DEPARTMENT AWARDS

### AAUW- GAINESVILLE BRANCH GRANT

The Department is proud to announce this year's winners of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Gainesville Branch Grant. This grant was made possible by the generosity of the AAUW-Gainesville Branch to support women's studies students to conduct research, education, or initiatives that align with AAUW's mission: <https://www.aauw.org/>



ANNA E. DOBBINS  
Art History



RAE LANDINGIN  
Gender, Sexuality, and  
Women's Studies



ALISHA PALMER  
Anthropology

### CHARLES T. WOODS GRANT

The Department is proud to announce this year's Charles T. Woods Endowment Grants. These grants are made possible by the generosity of Charles T. Woods to support research and service that benefits the LGBTQ+ community. Chuck, as friends and colleagues knew him, was a UF alum, faculty member, and leader. He was a proud advocate for LGBTQ+ communities and was instrumental in establishing LGBTQ+ faculty and staff visibility, community, and support at UF.

#### FACULTY AWARD



LAURA GONZALES  
Department of English

#### STUDENT AWARDS



ANNA E. DOBBINS  
Art History



MARISSA FALK  
Psychology



RAE LANDINGIN  
Gender, Sexuality, and  
Women's Studies



MARIE VAZQUEZ  
Gender, Sexuality, and  
Women's Studies



# WITH AN ATTITUDE OF GRADITUDE

*THANKS TO EVERYONE WHOSE GENEROSITY ON **GATOR NATION**  
**GIVING DAY** HELPED US TO CONTINUE TO THRIVE, INCLUDING  
THE FOLLOWING DONORS:*

- Tanya Ahmann
- Debra E. Akin
- Cathryn Albrecht
- Gregory R. Allen
- Renee Andrews & Tom A. Thomas
- Mary E. Anthony & Dr. Carolyn K. Holland, MEd
- Dr. Kelsey Antle
- Jennifer L. Archer
- Terri L. Bailey
- Tonya L. Becker
- Cynthia D. Bertelsen & Michael K. Bertelsen
- Eileen Bisgard
- Dr. Susan B. Bluck
- Dr. Sylvie E. Blum-Reid & Dr. A. Reid
- Sandra Bohlander
- Richard Boler
- Donna L. Bone & Gary S. Bone
- Dr. Lyle A. Brenner
- Dr. Marsha C. Bryant & Camden Pierce
- Sarah Buck
- Dr. Regina Bussing & Dr. Thomas D. Bussing
- Dr. Dale F. Campbell & Dr. Lynn Leverty
- Meaghan Carpentier
- Njeri Carthy
- Dr. Raymond R. Carthy
- Carol A Caruso
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- Debra L. Claussen
- Charna R. Cohn & Prof. Stuart R. Cohn
- Carolina Cordero
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## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES

Congratulations to our graduating MA students **Sonbol Bahramikamangar**, **Mary Kate DiFresco**, **Amya Ellison**, **Alexandria Gibson**, **Whitney Rogriguez Minda**, and **Zuzu Tadeushuk** (see page 4).

Congratulations to our graduate certificate students. **Daneille March**, **Rosemary Maro**, and **Jennifer Quartey** earned the Gender and Development certificate. **Carli Castillon**, **Macodou Fall**, **Kenesma John**, **Kandysee Leonard**, **Daniela Alejandra Lizarazo Luna**, **Tiffany Pennamon**, **Ana Maria Ramirez Gomez**, and **Jorgelina Silva Benitez** all earned their certificate in Women's Studies. Finally, congratulations to our undergraduate students, **Kelsey Curley**, **Rachel Kramen**, and **Amelia Packham**, who completed the Violence Against Women certificate.

Graduate and professional students from all colleges at UF are eligible to enroll in the Department's certificate programs in either Women's Studies or Gender and Development. Applications for the certificate must be submitted to the Department's Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Kendal Broad. For more information, visit the Department's graduate certificate page at <http://wst.ufl.edu/graduatestudies/graduate-certificates/>. Undergraduate students from all colleges are eligible to enroll in certificate programs. Please visit <https://wst.ufl.edu/certificates/> for more information.