

*From the Desk of the Chair*



**DR. BONNIE MORADI**  
CHAIR

As many of you know, our friend and colleague, Donna Tuckey, is retiring this summer. We had a wonderful celebration of Donna on April 12, 2024. So many of you were able to attend and celebrate Donna in person. Former Director, Judy Page, made a lovely and deeply meaningful surprise dedication to Donna. Many who couldn't be there in person sent messages of celebration and good wishes.

It is impossible for me to capture the sense of love that was palpable at the celebration event for Donna. Her family, friends, colleagues, students – we all were there together in

community because of Donna.

I take this opportunity to share what I shared, through lots of emotions, with Donna at the event:

It might be a cliché to say that Donna is the heart and soul of our department, but it's true. Donna is also the spine, the muscle, and the connective tissue of our department. What I mean is that she embodies the spirit and the labor of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies. Donna is so deeply committed to the work that we do, and importantly, to the people that we are. I don't know how we got so lucky to get to have her with us all these years.

Donna, when we all think of you, we think of your love, your care, your warmth. You put people first, you love your family so deeply, you remember and check-in with all of us, you get things done with

grace and care, you create lovely spaces in our building with your keen eye for decorating. I couldn't believe you sewed curtains for my office so it would be cozy before I started the job.

I have so many moments with you that I treasure - all the times we've laughed and cried and commiserated. One of the things I remember so clearly is that time you sang "let it go" from frozen to me when I really needed to hear that. I still conjure that image of you singing when I need to be reminded to let it go.

It's not going to be the same here without you. I'm going to miss you every day.

We're all going to miss you every day.

We have much love and gratitude for you Donna.



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## *Alum Profile: Feminist Mentors Provided a Foundation of Support and Community Building*



**DR. MALLORY SZYMANSKI**

*Mallory Szymanski earned her MA in Women's Studies in 2008 and her PhD in US history from UF in 2017. She taught several Women's Studies courses between 2012 and 2017. She now teaches at Alfred University (AU) where she was recently tenured and promoted to Associate Professor of History. At Alfred, she co-founded and directs the Africana Studies program and serves on the Executive Committee for the Women and Gender Studies program. Mallory is editor at [Clio and the Contemporary](#).*

AU students say that my reputation has two pillars: my classes are challenging but fruitful, and my events always have good food. Beneath this foundation lay a web of feminist mentors from UF who taught me the twin pedagogical virtues of support and community-building.

My MA thesis advisor and teaching mentor, Dr. Trysh Travis, had the most profound impact. She taught me that holding high standards for students is difficult but worthwhile, and that honest and constructive feedback demonstrates respect for students' work and its potential. Dr. Kendal Broad gave us all the gift of "part of what I hear you saying," a phrase I offer my students as an on

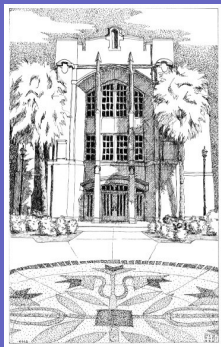
-ramp to new ideas the way Dr. Broad did for me. Dr. Bonnie Moradi championed professional rigor *and* personal well-being, captured by her advice about clarity and rigor in mentoring that I have taken as a mantra: "transparency is support."

Ustler Hall continued to be my home while I completed my PhD in history at UF. As anyone who knows her can attest, Donna Tuckey held that whole place together. Her skillful event-planning and warm greeting at the top of the stairs made Women's Studies a radically welcoming space. I bring Donna Tuckey energy to my campus when I host community-building events for students such as field trips to New York City, networking workshops, and graduation celebrations. Like Donna, I make sure the food is always good and abundant, and any leftovers go home with students.

Outside the classroom, I research and organize with Free the People Roc (FTP), an organization formed in the wake of the murder of Daniel Prude by Rochester Police Officers in 2020. I lobby for Daniel's Law, a New York State initiative designed to fund mental health professionals as first-responders. This work draws on graduate seminars I took in classrooms of Ustler Hall about feminist theories of power and coalition-building which always pointed to praxis beyond the ivory tower.

Recently, I shifted my research focus to more directly link my applied work and intellectual interests. I am co-author of two articles and a manuscript-in-progress with Ted Forsyth, a social scientist and public scholar. Our project responds to Black feminists' calls to

*(Continued on page 3)*



*"Beneath this foundation lay a web of feminist mentors from UF who taught me the twin pedagogical virtues of support and community building."*

-Dr. Mallory Szymanski

## *Congratulations Women's Studies Graduates!*

A group of Women's Studies majors gathered for a photo before the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences graduation recognition ceremony at the Stephen C. O'Connell Center on Saturday, May 4th. At this ceremony, Dean David Richardson and chairs and directors recognized students graduating with Bachelors degrees in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Congratulations to those pictured and to all of our class of 2023-2024 graduates, including Women's Studies majors, and students minoring in Women's Studies, Theories and Politics of Sexuality, and Health Disparities in Society.




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## *Dr. Coy's Newly Published Book Focuses on Violence Against Women*



Dr. Maddy Coy's book, [\*Violence Against Women in the US: Theory, Research and Policy\*](#), was published by Routledge in April 2024. Distilling the existing evidence base and literature on violence against women in the United States, the book includes an overview of forms of violence, the prevalence of violence, contexts in which violence occurs, and debates about intervention and prevention. It engages with how human rights frameworks define violence against women as a cause and consequence of women's inequality, and explores how race, ethnicity, class, citizenship status, and sexual orientation shape experiences of victimization, perpetration, and institutional responses.

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## *Feminist Mentors Provided a Foundation of Support and Community Building*

*(Continued from page 2)*

#sayhername and focuses on Black women shot by police in Rochester, NY, since 1975. We are conducting oral histories and archival research into traumatic experiences of Black and brown people, so the prescient lessons about embodied research from my feminist methodologies courses with Drs. Peña and Babb inform my work.

My training at UF primed me to be persistent. My feminist mentors taught me that the benefits of truth-telling and community-building outweigh the risks. This lesson, which I hope to bestow on my students, fuels me with an unwavering faith that collective liberation can be—and will be—achieved.



## *Celebrating Milestones and Accomplishments*

### **Congratulations to our MA Graduates!**

**Mona Ashour** graduated with an MA in Women's Studies in the Spring of 2024. Thanks to the mentorship and care of Dr. Hina Shaikh, she successfully defended her thesis titled, "Comparative Analysis of Gender-Based Violence in Climate Fiction: Global North versus Global South" During her time in the program, she presented her work at the UNA Chapter of Gainesville and Gators for UNICEF. She is excited for her post-academic future and opportunities. She thanks department faculty, cohorts, and Donna Tuckey for continued support throughout her MA.

**Rose Capo** (she/her) graduated with her MA in Women's Studies in Spring 2024. She successfully defended her MA project, "Living Queer, Loving Florida: a Film on Identities, Sex Education, and Pleasure" which is now accessible for viewing on YouTube. Rose is excited to continue working for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as a Social Media Associate to promote HIV testing and treatment services to #StopHIVTogether. She thanks department faculty, her friends, and her family for their continued support.

**Ecem Ece** graduated with their MA in Women's Studies in Spring 2024. Their MA project, titled "Be on the Side of Your Child from Now On?: Activist Mothers of LGBTQ+ Children in Turkey and Their Interlocking Transformations," encapsulates their research into the gender and sexuality identity transformation processes of mothers with gay, lesbian, and trans children in Turkey. After successfully defending their project, Ecem now aims to complete their PhD in



A GRADUATION CELEBRATION WAS HELD ON APRIL 25TH FOR (LEFT TO RIGHT) ECEM ECE, CECI LUNA, MONA ASHOUR, TEGAN SMITH, ANGELICA MCGEE, AND ROSE CAPO.

Sociology while also exploring academic job opportunities to further contribute to queer and feminist scholarly discourse.

**Ceci Luna** graduated with an MA in Women's Studies in the Spring of 2024. Thanks to the mentorship and care of Dr. Jillian Hernandez, they successfully defended their thesis titled, "Pendejx Pleasure Praxis: Playing with -X and -E as Queer Latinx Performance." During her time in the

program, she presented her work at the 2024 Association for Jotería Arts, Activism and Scholarship (AJAAS) Conference and served as the commissioned artist for several queer and Latinx projects such as book talks, the AJAAS annual conference and the Latinxxx Sexual Economies Symposium at Yale. She is excited for her post-academic future and opportunities to continue her thesis work. She thanks department faculty and cohorts for continued support throughout her MA.

**Angel McGee** successfully defended her MA thesis titled, "Black Joy Matters: #blackboyjoy in Western Europe," which included an immersive art exhibit mainly created from artifacts that she acquired during her fieldwork. She is presenting her work at two conferences this summer. This Fall 2024, Angel will become two times a Gator, beginning her PhD at UF in Youth Development and Family Science. She was generously awarded a McKnight Doctoral Fellowship and will continue her work with the Black Joy and Restorative Justice Collective that she co-created. Lastly, she plans to continue spearheading the "Black Joy" archive that she created at UF's own Samuel Proctor Oral History Program.

## *Celebrating Milestones and Accomplishments*

**Tegan Smith** graduated with her MA in Women's Studies in Spring 2024. Under the supervision of her committee, Dr. Hina Shaikh and Dr. Anita Anantharam, she successfully defended her thesis titled, "Ecofeminist and Counterhumanist Imaginings: Rethinking Knowledge and Being." She thanks department faculty, cohorts, Donna Tuckey, and her Gainesville family for continued support throughout her MA.

### **Updates on our continuing MA students**

**Sonbol Bahramikamangar**, who recently completed her first-year as an MA student, has already embarked on an exciting journey within the department. Under the guidance of Dr. Coy, she has laid the groundwork for her thesis, focusing on violence against Kurdish women in Iran. Sonbol plans to conduct interviews with Kurdish individuals who have moved out from Iran. This summer, she is thrilled to participate in an internship alongside Dr. Coy, contributing to ongoing research on violence against women.

**Mary Kate DiFresco** (she/they) is a rising 2nd year MA candidate in the department. They have begun collaborating on the core leadership team for Gainesville's up and coming Climate Cafe. They will

continue working on their research on community gardens, focusing on ecomemory work, decolonizing our futures, and fostering intergenerational bonds and justice. They plan to begin their data collection this summer in Harlem, New York.



THE COHORT OF GRADUATE STUDENTS FROM THE EXPECTED CLASS OF 2025 (LEFT TO RIGHT) ALEXANDRIA GIBSON, SONBOL BAHRAMIKAMANGAR, MARY KATE DIFRESCO, AND ZUZU TADEUSHUK. (AMYA ELLISON, WHITNEY RODRIGUEZ MINDA NOT PICTURED)

**Amya Ellison** (they/she) is a rising second-year MA student in the department. They are continuing to work on their non-thesis project titled "Misogynoir in a PWI Context." They will be examining Black women and femme's experiences with misogynoir while aiming to provide a healing space for embodied knowledge to flourish in a retreat style dialogue series. Amya is excited to collect data during late summer/early fall of this year.

**Alexandria Gibson** is a rising second-year MA candidate in the Department. She is currently working on her research project tentatively titled "Sitting at the Feet of Elders" that will trace the prevalence of

traditional healing among women in the Afro-Caribbean diaspora. During the summer, she will be conducting oral histories with participants under the supervision of Dr. Olivia Adams. Alexandria was selected to receive the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Gainesville Branch Grant and will be hosting a period positive art workshop titled "The Period is Political." Alexandria has been invited to attend the 2024 Summer Session on Gender/Sex/uality In/Justice "Black Feminisms and Sex/uality Studies."

**Whitney Rodríguez Minda** is a rising second-year MA candidate in the Department. She is currently working on her M.A. project on Black sexualities and other types of sex work and labor, and on archival research on Sinnamon Love's career as a professional sexual performance artist. Her project will be supervised by Dr. Jillian Hernandez and Dr. Anita Anantharam.

**Zuzu Tadeushuk** is a rising second-year MA candidate in the Department. She is currently working on her thesis examining theories of embodiment and aesthetics as they intersect with an autoethnographic account of her experience in the fashion world. During the summer, she will be conducting research under the supervision of her co-chairs Dr. Jillian Hernandez and Dr. Hina Shaikh.

## *Congratulations to our Award Winning Faculty*



**Dr. Maddy Coy**  
2023-2024 Teacher of the Year,  
UF College of Liberal Arts and  
Sciences



**Dr. Ocqua Murrell**  
Recipient of a Humanities Scholarship  
Enhancement Award (Research Support)



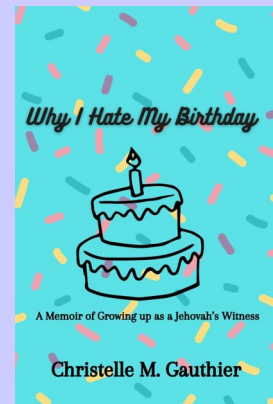
**Dr. Jillian Hernandez**  
Selected for a UF Research  
Foundation Term Professorship  
2024-2027



**Dr. Cinnamon Williams**  
Recipient of a Humanities Scholarship  
Enhancement Award (Research Support),  
Winner, 2023 National Women's Studies  
Association (NWSA) University of Illinois  
Press, First Book Prize,  
Named NWSA Women of Color Leadership  
Project Fellow

## *Congratulations to Recent Grad on Book Publication*

Department graduate Christelle Gauthier recently published a memoir, [\*Why I Hate My Birthday\*](#), which charts her childhood experiences growing up as a Jehovah's Witness. Christelle's use of humor and honesty creates an intimate interaction between the reader and writer that showcases her vulnerability and resilience.



## *Farewell and Thank You*

How did 25 years go by so fast? As I end my career at UF, 17 years of which were spent in Women's Studies, I will most cherish the memories and the friendships I have made along the way.

All of you know how much I love the Center/Department, whose mission I will always support. I have grown to know you through that mutual support. Thank you to those in leadership, and to the faculty and affiliate faculty, who became so important to me both professionally and personally. Thank you to the fellow CLAS staff members who talked me through difficulties. (You know who you are.)

As I walk away from Ustler Hall on my very last day, I will think of all of you. Please know I am so grateful for the memories. You will remain in my heart and on my mind.



**DONNA TUCKEY SITS ON HER NAMED BENCH, A RETIREMENT GIFT FROM FORMER CENTER DIRECTOR AND FRIEND, DR. JUDITH PAGE.**

## Mellon Foundation Grant Brings Exciting Initiatives

We have had a productive year implementing exciting initiatives funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant to our department to highlight women’s studies strengths in experiential learning and career readiness. You can read more about our work, [in an article written by Lauren Barnett for CLAS News](#).

A thread across all these activities is to showcase and celebrate our students’, graduates’, and friends’ experiences of the positive impact of gender, sexuality, and women’s studies in their life, work, and communities. If you haven’t had a chance to do so already, please take a moment to complete our [alum and friends survey](#) and join us in telling the many inspiring stories of gender, sexuality, and women’s studies!



In Spring 2024, core faculty Drs. Jillian Hernandez and Alyssa Zucker, and affiliate faculty Dr. Aimée Bourassa developed the course *Professional Pathways in Women’s Studies* for undergraduate and graduate students in the department. As part of the course, they offered three Mellon-funded events open to all UF community members: a panel of recent alums, a public talk by Sesali Bowen, and a panel of professionals employed in careers related to Women’s Studies, at sites where our students can intern. Additional events that are a part of the Department’s Mellon grant are described on pages 9 and 10.

**ENGAGED & IMPACTFUL**  
BUILDING CAREERS IN GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND WOMEN'S STUDIES

Join us on **February 21 at 10:40am ON ZOOM**

Come hear from recent department graduates (BA and MA) to learn how they obtained their jobs and how their education relates to their current work. Part of the Department's Mellon Foundation Higher Learning Grant Series



**ANDREINA FERNANDEZ**  
M.A. '20  
EDITOR, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA PRESS



**MARIA SOLDANA**  
B.A. '20, M.A. '22  
EQUITY LEADERSHIP CONSULTANT, NATIONAL EQUITY PROJECT



**YINLU ZHU**  
B.A. '22  
HEAD OF PRODUCT, VOT-ER

**UF DEPARTMENT OF GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND WOMEN'S STUDIES**  
Liberal Arts and Sciences

**BEYOND 120** 

**The Baddie, The Book, & The Bag:**  
A Real Talk with Sesali Bowen  
Wednesday, March 6th | 4:30pm  
Ustler Hall Atrium

The author and podcaster dives deeper into her career, including the themes of her acclaimed memoir and navigating the media industry.

Light refreshments will be served and a book signing will follow.



**DEPARTMENT OF GENDER, SEXUALITY AND WOMEN'S STUDIES**  
Liberal Arts & Sciences

**AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES**  
Liberal Arts & Sciences

**Mellon Foundation**


**CAME**

**UF College of Journalism and Communications**  
Department of Media Production, Development and Technology  
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

**UF English.**

Part of the Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Department Mellon Foundation Higher Learning Grant Series

**PROFESSIONAL PATHWAYS IN WOMEN'S STUDIES PANEL**




**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17TH @ 12:50 P.M.**  
**USTLER HALL ATRIUM**  
REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

**LISA CHACKO** LISA CHACKO MD  
MENOPAUSE & MIDLIFE HEALTH

**TERESA DRAKE** GENDER JUSTICE CLINIC, UF LAW

**CRYSTAL SORROW** CHILD AND YOUTH PROGRAMS & VIOLENCE PREVENTION, PEACEFUL PATHS

**UF DEPARTMENT OF GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND WOMEN'S STUDIES**  
Liberal Arts and Sciences

**BEYOND 120** 

Working with colleges, universities, and other organizations that nurture advanced humanistic inquiry and social justice, the Mellon Foundation makes grants through its Higher Learning program that broaden our understanding of American history and culture; develop the interpretive tools and methods scholars use to create meaning; support faculty and students whose work exemplifies a drive toward greater equity in their fields and institutions; and promote pathways for those seeking to exercise transformative academic leadership.

## *Alum Profile: Women's Studies Major, Health Disparities Minor, Reshape Graduate's Planned Career Path*



**Charli Fernandez** graduated with a BA in Women's Studies, and minors in Health Disparities in Society and Disabilities in Society in 2023. She is currently earning her master's degree in public health with a concentration in Behavioral, Social and Health Education Science at Emory Rollins School of Public Health.

I had always planned on becoming a doctor. My advisor in high school said to me that every medical school knew you could “do science” so it was up to me to showcase my ability to “do things” outside of chemistry or biology. With that advice in mind, I decided to major in Women's Studies. At first, my family didn't understand how a degree in Women's Studies would help me get into medical school, but it was a great balance to all the STEM classes I was taking. I quickly became obsessed with what I was studying. Taking Women's

Studies classes helped me understand the plight of women around the world and in the US.

I learned about gender, race, sexuality, and how those things, along with so many others, influence the way women function in society. I had the pleasure of taking two classes with Dr. Maddy Coy, who is a fabulous teacher. Coming from STEM classes where I sometimes felt like just a face in the crowd, I suddenly felt seen and understood in my Women's Studies classes. I eventually added two minors: Health Disparities in Society and Disabilities in Society. The combination of pre-med classes and these three tracks ignited a passion for public healthcare that I did not have before. Understanding the disparities people face due to healthcare systems, and socioeconomic and racial disparities, made me modify my career goal. I decided I wanted to advocate for others so that everyone could receive the healthcare they deserve.

With this new passion in mind, I decided to put medical school on the backburner and instead

focus on public health. I am currently working toward my master's in public health at Emory Rollins School of Public Health. I am extremely grateful to be a student and serve as the secretary for the Rollins Student Government association. I have a special interest in sexual and reproductive health and am an active member of the Emory Reproductive Health Association. I am currently working with the Emory Prevention Research Center, specifically on the Breathe Easy Georgia Homes project. I plan to continue this work and begin working on sexual health research being conducted at Emory and in Atlanta.

The knowledge I gained in my Women's Studies classes changed the course of my life for the better, and I am extremely grateful for the people I met during my time as a Women's Studies major at the University of Florida.





## Honors Thesis Students Explore Topics of Special Interest

Students who completed their undergraduate honors theses in Spring 2024 presented their work at a Mellon event in April. Congratulations to all students completing a thesis under the direction of department faculty this year!



**Isabella J. Adams**

“Girls **Do** Get it Done: Neoliberal Feminist Critique in Eric Kripke’s *The Boys*”

Committee members: Dr. Carolyn Kelley (chair), Dr. Margaret Galvan (second reader)



**Syona Rai**

“The Creation and Resistance of a New South Asian Diasporic Feminism”

Committee members: Dr. Alyssa Zucker (chair), Dr. Hina Shaikh (second reader)



**Paulina Trujillo**

“Disrupting Disparities, Making Green Waves: Elevating Hispanic Women’s Voices on Reproductive Policies”

Dr. Alyssa Zucker (chair), Dr. Teresa Cornacchione (second reader)



**Mia Kittridge**

“Guacamaya’s 2022 Hack on the Mexican Ministry of National Defense: Surveillance and Feminist Resistance”

Committee members: Dr. Alyssa Zucker (chair), Dr. Paola Uparela (second reader)



**Grace Sutton**

“LGBTQ+ Healthcare Experiences in Pregnancy and Birth”

Committee members: Dr. Olivia Adams (chair), Dr. Alyssa Zucker (second reader)

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### Opportunities for Giving to the UF Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies

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

- \$250 Garden walk pavers for the Yardley Garden (honor a recent graduate or teacher)
- \$500-\$1000 Send a student to a regional or national meeting, or fund a student’s research trip
- \$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)
- \$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](mailto:cpopwell@ufl.edu).

## Department and Center Events Bring Scholars, Collaborators, and Guests to UF

For complete list of cosponsors, see events calendar on our website <https://wst.ufl.edu/>

- ◆ Department faculty **Dr. Jillian Hernandez** and **Dr. Ocqua Murrell** held a workshop, “**Applying to PhD Programs: Strategies for Success**,” for MA students on September 29, 2023 as part of the Mellon Grant.
- ◆ “**Juana Maria Rodriguez Book Talk**,” was held on October 10, 2023. Dr. Rodriguez, Professor, UC Berkeley, talked about her book, *Put a Life: Seeing Latinas, Working Sex*, (Duke University Press). This event was co-sponsored by Latin American Studies and the Center for Humanities and the Public Sphere.
- ◆ “**Artists as Second Responders**,” a discussion with UF faculty **Rachel Carrico** and **Colleen Rua**, both of the College of the Arts, took place on October 18, 2023. It was sponsored by *Imagining Climate Change*
- ◆ “**Lunch, Learn and Socialize**,” held on November 3rd, and funded by the Department’s Mellon grant, brought a panel of Women’s Studies majors together to share highlights of their experiences with prospective majors.
- ◆ “**Understanding Gender Inequality: Views from the EU, US, and UK**,” held on November 13, 2023, was a panel discussion featuring **Holly Dustin**, House of Commons, UK Parliament, **Janet Veith**, Independent Equalities Consultant, and **Danaya Wright**, UF Law. Sponsored by the Center for European Studies, the International Center, and the Jean Monnet Center of Excellence.
- ◆ “**Traumatic Repercussions: Black Women Birthing and Obstetric Racism**,” the Dr. Ronald Foreman Lecture Series presentation by **Dr. Dána-Ain Davis**, Professor at CUNY, occurred February 8, 2024, in Ustler Hall. Sponsored by African American Studies and co-sponsored by the Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies and the Department of Anthropology.
- ◆ “**Engaged and Impactful: Building Careers in Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies**,” a panel discussion as part of the Department’s Mellon Foundation Higher Learning Grant Series, was held on February 21, 2024. Department Alums **Andreina Fernandez**, **Maria Saldana**, and **Yinlu Zhu** described how their education in Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies related to their current employment.
- ◆ UF Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women’s Studies Research was among the co-sponsors for the “**UF Center for Latin American Studies 72nd Annual Conference: Democratic Backsliding and Resistances in Latin America and Beyond**,” February 29-March 1, 2024.
- ◆ “**The Baddie, The Book, and The Bag**,” a book talk by multifaceted author and cultural commentator **Sesali Bowen**, author of *Bad Fat Black Girl: Notes From A Trap Feminist* was held on March 6, 2024. Author Bowen is also the co-host of *Purse First*, the only podcast exclusively about female and queer rap.
- ◆ The African American Studies Mellon Foundation Speaker Series presented “**The Real Cost of Racial Justice: Black Women Fundraisers and the Radical Organizing Tradition**,” on March 20, 2024, in Ustler Hall. Speaker **Dr. Tanisha C. Ford** is a professor of history at CUNY. The UF Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies was among the co-sponsors.
- ◆ The journal *Women’s Studies International Forum* held a **Publishing Workshop** on April 5, 2024. Organized by **Dr. Maddy Coy**, associate editor of the journal, this event helped graduate students and faculty learn about publishing in the journal.
- ◆ Our department co-sponsored an “**Embodiment Workshop**” on April 15, 2024, led by **Dr. Laura Orrico**, Temple University, and graduating M.A. student **Ecem Ece**.
- ◆ “**Professional Pathways in Women’s Studies**,” a panel discussion featuring **Lisa Chacko, MD**, a specialist in Menopause and Midlife Health, **Teresa Drake**, Director of the Gender Justice Clinic at UF Law, and **Crystal Sorrow**, Director of Education and Youth Services at Peaceful Paths, was held on April 17, 2024. The panel discussion was part of the Department’s Mellon Foundation Higher Learning Grant Series.



## *With an Attitude of Gratitude*

Thank you to everyone whose generosity supports our work, including the following donors:

- ♥ Gregory R. Allen
- ♥ American Association of University Women, Gainesville Chapter
- ♥ Arts Association of Alachua County
- ♥ Assn. for Academic Women
- ♥ Dr. Laurie A. Bankston
- ♥ Dr. Riché Barnes
- ♥ Stephen R. Berry
- ♥ Dr. Sylvie E. Blum-Reid & Dr. Mark A. Reid
- ♥ Dr. Marni A. Brown & Casey A. Brown
- ♥ Dr. Marsha C. Bryant & Camden Pierce
- ♥ Robert A. Burnsed
- ♥ Gail Burton
- ♥ Reverend Glen A. Busby & Linda C. Busby
- ♥ Dr. Robin L. Cannizzaro & Deborah Anne Cappola
- ♥ Fred H. Cantrell, Jr.
- ♥ Cheryl M. Carpenter-Southwell
- ♥ Meaghan Carpentier
- ♥ Bethany L. Catob
- ♥ Jean Chalmers
- ♥ Kim Chalmers
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- ♥ Carolina Cotton
- ♥ Amalia C. Cuadra
- ♥ Dr. Jannar W. Davis & Douglas E. Curry
- ♥ Susan F. Delegal
- ♥ Dr. Sheila Dickison
- ♥ Beatriz Dominguez
- ♥ Dr. Paul Doughty
- ♥ Melissa J. Ellis & Matthew A. Ellis
- ♥ Jasmine Esmailbegui
- ♥ Ryan Feinberg
- ♥ Dr. Margaret U. Fields & Dr. Michael J. Fields
- ♥ Michael B. Friskey
- ♥ Dr. Jamie R. Funderburk
- ♥ Marshall G. Geisser
- ♥ Tina M. Gordon & Jesse D. Gordon
- ♥ John A. Grannan
- ♥ Barbara T. Gray
- ♥ Lauren H. Guidi-Mackey & Phillip D. Mackey
- ♥ Melissa R. Gurney
- ♥ Dr. David G. Hackett
- ♥ Jodee Hannon
- ♥ Robert M. Harringer
- ♥ Amanda D. Hechberger
- ♥ Jeanette K. Helfrich
- ♥ Arden K.T. Herrin
- ♥ C. David Hickey
- ♥ James W. Hicks
- ♥ Grace Hinton & Stephen Hinton
- ♥ Dr. Carolyn K. Holland & Mary E. Anthony
- ♥ Dr. Sidney Homan, Jr. & Norma M. Homan
- ♥ Dr. Nicole A. Horenstein
- ♥ Christine E. Humphlett and John P. Humphlett
- ♥ Suzie Israel
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Gifts are used to fund conferences, educational travel for graduate students, scholarships, speaker honoraria, and exhibit support.



### Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies

Offers academic programs, grants graduate and undergraduate degrees, and advances research, education, and public engagement in Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies.



# GSWS Faculty News

**Dr. Olivia Adams** joined the department in August 2023 and accomplished several teaching and research milestones during her first year at UF. Dr. Adams designed and taught a new course, “History of Women’s Medicine,” which explores Western mainstream medicine and doctoring throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. She also developed a new syllabus for Introduction to Health Disparities, which she will continue to teach during the 2024-25 academic year. Dr. Adams also co-authored several articles, including an exploration of medical mistrust and healthcare seeking experiences among women of color with chronic vulvovaginal pain in the *International Journal of Behavioral Medicine*. Dr. Adams also presented research at the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality and delivered an invited talk at the Kinsey Institute. In Spring 2024, Dr. Adams jumpstarted her social science research lab with four undergraduate students who contributed to two ongoing projects focused on chronic vulvovaginal pain. One of these projects was funded by the departmental Mellon Foundation grant. Lastly, Dr. Adams supported multiple students this semester, including undergraduate honor’s thesis student Grace Sutton and first year MA student Alexandria Gibson.

**Dr. Kendal Broad** has been on sabbatical during 2023-2024, feverishly writing. Her recent article: “Stories of Anti-Racist Gay/Lesbian Gender Alliance: Articulating Intersectional Solidarity in the 1980s” was published in *Gender & Society* [38 (1): 89-113] in February of 2024. Dr. Broad greatly appreciates the support of the Department and many in it who helped her develop this piece.

Our colleague, **Dr. Hilary Coulson**, is moving on to other opportunities outside UF. Over the past few years, Dr. Coulson contributed to our department by developing several new courses, teaching through the challenges of the pandemic and hyflex/zoom (with a newborn!), and she has sparked an interest in many of our students to add the major or minor. We hope that Dr. Coulson’s transition is a positive one and wish her much success moving forward.

**Dr. Maddy Coy**’s book *Violence Against Women in the US* was published by Routledge in April. She is very grateful to students who helped choose a beautiful cover! In February she was honored to receive the 2023-2024 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Teacher of the Year

Award. Dr. Coy continues to work on research about responses to sexual battery with the Alachua County Victim Services and Rape Crisis Center and Dr. Alyssa Zucker. She has recently begun a project exploring the practice-based evidence of specialist sexual and domestic violence organizations in Florida, thanks to a team of brilliant undergraduate students and the department Mellon Foundation grant to promote student research.

**Dr. Jillian Hernandez** published an essay for the anthology *The Nameplate: Jewelry, Culture, and Identity* and a review of Yvette Mayorga’s first solo museum exhibition for *Intervencions*, the publication of The Latinx Project at NYU. She gave two keynote addresses, one for the Center on Race and Ethnicity in Society annual symposium at Indiana University, Bloomington, and the other for the "Too Extra: Black, Latinx, and Afro Latinx Adornment, Performance, and Identity" symposium at Cal State Fullerton. Dr. Hernandez delivered additional invited presentations at Yale, NYU, the Neuberger Museum of Art, Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, and other institutions. She presented research at the Pop Conference at USC and the annual conference of the American Studies Association. Dr. Hernandez organized two book talks



on campus featuring Sesali Bowen and Juana María Rodríguez. She also devoted time to building community with the Department's graduate students.

**Dr. Bonnie Moradi** collaborated with Department faculty to garner an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant focusing on research, experiential learning, and professional pathways in Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies. She coauthored an article reporting the results of a citation network analysis of minority stress scholarship (Moradi et al., 2024). She was invited to present at the National Institute on the Teaching of Psychology and was a panel member for the UF Preparing Future Faculty Program.

**Dr. OG Murrell** is working on several projects, including editing a volume, *Loopholes of Retreat*, to be published by Virginia Tech in 2025. They presented part of their girlhood research at the Girlhood Studies Collective's second annual symposium in April. They will be continuing their research on Afro-Caribbean girlhood in Sint Maarten during the summer and working on several writing projects. They are a recipient of the Humanities Scholarship Enhancement Fund Award 2024 and will serve as the faculty mentor for one of our women's studies students who is a

recipient of a CLAS Scholars Program award. Dr. OG looks forward to continuing their research and teaching WST 3015 in the fall.

**Dr. Hina Shaikh** has been working on her book project this year on Muslim women in Big Data, AI, and surveillance. She has also been leading undergraduate and graduate students in the Data Justice Lab in collecting and analyzing massive datasets on Florida K9 unit policing practices.

**Dr. Trysh Travis** presented an invited paper titled "Keyword: Recovery" at the *Making Habits/Breaking Habits—Keywords in the History and Politics of Addiction* conference sponsored by the History of Science Department at Princeton University this winter. She continues to serve as an Associate Dean in the UF College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

**Dr. Cinnamon Williams** won the NWSA/University of Illinois Press First Book Prize to develop her book: *Slave of a Slave No More*. She also received a UF Humanities Scholarship Enhancement Fund Award for the 2024 cycle. Since arriving at UF in 2023, Dr. Williams has been teaching the class *Practicum in Health Disparities*, building connections between our

students and community organizations in Alachua County and beyond. Additionally, she offered the graduate seminar *Foundations/Future of Black Feminism*.

**Dr. Alyssa Zucker** collaborated with former M.A. student Alexandra Weis to publish "Blood and guts: Objectification predicts menstrual suppression" in the journal *Women's Reproductive Health*. With graduate certificate student Hannah Brown and two colleagues from outside UF she co-authored "Prohibited by pity: Perceptions of the warmth, competence, and sexual rights of women labeled with intellectual disability" in the journal *Sexuality Research and Social Policy*. She also contributed an invited chapter "Understanding and Addressing LGBTQ Health Disparities: A Power and Gender Perspective" to the *Palgrave Handbook of Psychology, Power, and Gender*. Together with Dr. Jillian Hernandez and Dr. Aimée Bourassa she offered the course *Professional Pathways in Women's Studies* and delighted in assisting students to translate their Women's Studies skills and knowledge into career opportunities.



## 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/>



**Alexandria Gibson,**  
MA Candidate,  
Gender, Sexuality, and  
Women's Studies



**Allison Westerfield,**  
PhD Candidate, Art History,  
Graduate Certificate in  
Women's Studies

### 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.



### Woods Grant Faculty Recipients



**Dr. Kendal Broad,**  
Department of Gender, Sexuality,  
and Women's Studies



**Dr. Arina Pismenny,**  
Department of Philosophy, Affiliate  
of the Center for Gender, Sexualities,  
and Women's Studies Research

### Woods Grant Student Recipients



**Reha Atakan Cetin,**  
PhD Candidate,  
Sociology, advised by  
Dr. Alin Ceobanu



**Kimi Lessor,**  
Pre Professional  
Biology, advised by  
Dr. Olivia Adams



**Karen Libby,**  
PhD Candidate,  
English, advised by  
Dr. Margaret Galvan



**Emily McIltrout,**  
PhD Candidate,  
Psychology,  
advised by  
Dr. Bonnie Moradi



**Allison Westerfield,**  
PhD Candidate, Art  
History, advised by  
Dr. Rachel Silveri

We thank our external grant review committee members, Roberto Abreu, Greg Allen, Carlene Chase, Berta Esperanza Hernandez-Truyol, and Amy Martinelli for their evaluation of the AAUW-Gainesville and the Charles T. Woods grant applications.



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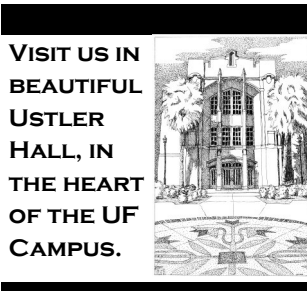
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**Application deadline is FEBRUARY 1st for graduate admission and funding.**

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and Women's Studies  
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## *Congratulations to our Graduates*

Congratulations to our graduating MA students **Mona Ashour, Rose Capo, Ecem Ece, Ceci Luna, Angelica McGee, and Tegan Smith** (see pages 4-5).

Congratulations to our graduate certificate students **Shelby Boehm**, who earned a PhD in Curriculum and Instruction, **Dominique Fairley**, who earned a PhD in Sociology, and **Daniel Zengotita**, who earned a PhD in Political Science, in summer 2023. Congratulations to **Estefania Pinto Ruiz**, who earned a PhD in Mass Communications in the fall semester, 2023, and to **Sylvia Adisa, Catalina Baracatt, and Mirian Molina De Cruz**, who earned MAs in Sustainable Development Practice, in Spring, 2024. Congratulations to **Sophia Rappazzo**, who earned an MA in Political Science, **Sameera Akella**, who earned an MA in Sociology, **Brooke Hall**, who earned an MFA in Design and Visual Communication, **Abigail Lindo**, who earned a PhD in Music, and **Bren Garland**, who earned an MFA in Art, in the Spring 2024 semester. Boehm, Fairley, Zengotita, Pinto Ruiz, Akella, Garland, Hull, and Lindo earned graduate certificates in Women's Studies and Adisa, Baracatt, Molina De Cruz, and Rappazzo earned graduate certificates in Gender and Development from the Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies this past year.

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. Jillian Hernandez](mailto:Dr.Jillian.Hernandez@ufl.edu). For more information visit the Department's graduate certificate page at <http://wst.ufl.edu/graduatestudies/graduate-certificates/>

