



Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research

University of Florida
<http://www.wst.ufl.edu>

News and Views

Spring 2005

Volume 15, Issue 2

Dr. Milagros Peña Named New CWSGR Director



It is with great pleasure and optimism that I accept the Director position for the Center. The Center has had a tremendous history and I hope to build on that history. Dr. Angel Kwolek-Folland this spring accepted becoming the first Associate Dean for Centers, Institutes and International Affairs. Angel did a lot for the Center and I am fortunate to be able to continue to tap on her wisdom and friendship as I venture into new territory for the Center's future.

Accepting this position is a bittersweet moment for me. Both my mother and grandmother would have been tremendously proud to know that I was given this opportunity. They came to this country right after World War II to flee the dictatorship of Trujillo in the Dominican Republic. As divorced single mothers, with little formal education, they worked in New York City's garment district, and gave my generation an opportunity to go beyond high school. The day I received my doctorate was a real family celebration. Though my mother and grandmother are no longer with me, I feel they share in the opportunity my colleagues have entrusted to me. In all I endeavor to do, I like to take the time to acknowledge the two most important women in my life as my mentors and unwavering supporters.

I came to the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research in 1999. I was living and working in the Southwest at New Mexico State University before coming to Florida when I was presented with the opportunity to come to the University of Florida. I recently had an opportunity to return to the Southwest where I have fond memories, but again I chose the University of Florida. The Center has a tremendous future ahead of it. Our proposal for a Ph.D. in Gender and Women's Studies is marching ahead. Our new building is under renovation with a move projected for the fall of 2005. The first endowed professor in the Center is here (Dr. Florence Babb). The Center is projected to grow both in faculty hires and graduate student admissions. Our undergraduate majors and minors continue on an upward path. We have several conferences planned including one we are co-sponsoring with other State of Florida universities hosting the 2005 National Women's Studies Association conference to be held June 9-12 in Orlando, Florida. The next phase of the Center's growth will be its doctoral program. Our goal is to have the doctoral program up and admitting students within two years. In addition, I hope to develop new opportunities for the Center with the University of Florida Press.

I am fortunate to be given the opportunity to lead the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research on solid ground, thanks to the work and legacy of directors before me. To think that the Center just about three decades ago began out of faculty offices and where it is today is a testimony to a community that I will look to as we build on those early efforts. I look forward to contributing to that legacy. -Milagros Peña

National Women's Studies Association Conference "Women and the Environment: Globalizing and Mobilizing"

The Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research will co-host the annual conference of the National Women's Studies Association (NWSA), which will be held in Orlando, Florida, June 9-12, 2005. The theme is "Women and the Environment: Globalizing and Mobilizing," with internationally-known Keynote Speaker Dr. Vandana Shiva. In addition to CWSGR, the conference will be co-

hosted by: the University of Central Florida's Women's Research Center, the University of South Florida's Women's Studies Department, and the University of Central Florida's Women's Studies Program. To view the schedule of events and register for the conference, please visit the NWSA web site, <http://www.nwsaconference.org/>.

Thanks to Goerings Book Store for sponsoring the Friend's of Women's Studies Holiday Book Sale!

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Dr. Vandana Shiva
(Photo from NWSA)



Farewell Letter From the Departing Director

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

In January, I accepted a position in our College as Associate Dean for Centers, Institutes and International Affairs. I did so with very mixed emotions. My time as director of Women's Studies and the Center has been among the best years of my academic life. I have enjoyed working with colleagues and students in the program, and getting to know its many friends. Together we accomplished a great deal in the past few years, and I know there is much more to come. I am, of course, still a member of the Women's Studies faculty and intend to continue to contribute in any way I can to the Center. I will, in fact, oversee the construction phase of our move to Ustler Hall, slated now to run through October. And the Center is in my "portfolio" as Associate Dean, which will allow me to advocate for our mission.

Meanwhile, I am very pleased to know that Dr. Milagros Peña will be the new director. Milly has been with the Center since 1999 and has been an active and creative participant in the Center. She has some great ideas for ways to keep our programs growing and strong. She has been a confidant and friend, and I know that she will do an excellent job.

I want to thank all my colleagues and the students and office assistants who have contributed to the program during my tenure. In particular I want to thank Paula Ambroso, without whom Women's Studies at the University of Florida would be a very different, and bleaker, place. -Angel Kwolek-Folland

News and Views Volume 15, Issue 2

Milagros Peña, Ph.D., Director
Stacey Moyer, Co-Editor/Graphic Designer
Paula Ambroso, Co-Editor
Victoria Adams, Assistant Editor

News and Views is published each semester to inform faculty, staff, students and Women's Studies supporters of activities at the CWSGR at the University of Florida. For further information about upcoming events, please visit our web site at:
<http://www.wst.ufl.edu>

Reception for Florence Babb

CWSGR will hold a reception for the new Vada Allen Yeomans' Professor of Women's Studies, Dr. Florence Babb on
Wednesday, March 23, 2005
215 Dauer Hall from 4:30-5:30 pm
Refreshments will be served

Gender Conversations

An open forum for research discussion
Spring 2005 Schedule

Feminist Bookselling: History and Challenges

Owners of Wild Iris Books
Cheryl Krauth and Lyly Rodriguez
Tuesday, January 18, 11:45am, Dauer 219

Why Do Women Join? Elite versus Volunteer Narratives in the Israeli Women's Movement

Patricia Woods (Political Science)
Wednesday, February 23, 11:45am, Dauer 219

The Care Burden of HIV-Affected Households in Tanzania:

The Case Study of Hai & Knondoni Districts
Ruth Meena, Visiting Professor,
University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Thursday, March 10, 11:45am, Dauer 215

Marketing Sex Work in Postwar Japan, 1945-1956

Sarah Kovner (History and Asian Studies)
Friday, April 1, 11:45am, Dauer 219

Demystifying Eco-Criticism: Interdisciplinary Feminist Approaches to Theory and Activism

Danielle Dirks (Sociology), Vanessa Fabien (African American Studies and CWSGR), Stacey Moyer (CWSGR), Margot Reynolds (English), Kendra Vincent (CWSGR)
Friday, April 15, 11:45am, Dauer 219

Summer 2005 Courses

WST 3015 *Interdisciplinary Perspectives of Women*
WST 3930 *Transnational Feminisms*
WST 4905 *Independent Study*
WST 4940 *Internship*

Fall 2005 Courses

WST 3015 *Interdisciplinary Perspectives of Women*
WST 3015 *Honors Interdisciplinary Perspectives of Women*
WST 3415 *Transnational Feminisms*
WST 4905 *Independent Study*
WST 4930 *Women in Modern Hebrew Literature*
WST 4930 *Gender and Genesis*
WST 4930 *Lesbian and Gay Studies*
WST 4930 *Gender and Language*
WST 4930 *Women and German Cinema*
WST 4940 *Internship*
WST 6905 *Independent Study*
WST 6935 *bell hooks*
WST 6935 *Gender and Language*
WST 6935 *Sex, Love, and Globalization*
WST 6946 *Internship*
WST 6971 *Research for Master's Thesis*

Nora Alter, Germanic and Slavic Studies, co-edited the volume *Sound Matters: Essays on the Acoustics of Modern German Culture* for which she wrote the critical introduction and contributed an essay on Brecht's *Kuhle Wampe*.

Florence Babb, CWSGR, is co-organizing (with Mark Padilla, Columbia U) a session entitled "Sexuality and the Political Economy of Tourism in Latin America and the Caribbean" for the conference of the Society for Applied Anthropology in April. She will also present a paper on "Ché, Chevys, and Hemingway's Daiquiris: Cuban Tourism as Development Strategy in a Time of Globalization" and serve as a discussant for a session on "Urban Classes, Urban Spaces: Residents' Places in the Shifting Sands of Economic Transformation" at a joint conference of the Society for the Anthropology of North America and the Canadian Anthropological Society in Mexico this May.

Sylvie Blum-Reid, Romance Languages and Film, presented "From Brasov to Paris: Brassai's Visions of 1930s Paris" for the *Paris as Promised Land: Francophilia in Eastern Europe* session at the annual Modern Language Association conference in December.

Kendal Broad, CWSGR/Sociology, published an article in *Qualitative Inquiry* with **Kristin Joos**, Honors, called "Online Inquiry of Public Selves: Methodological Considerations."

Marsha Bryant, English, presented a paper at the Modernist Studies Association, "Edith Sitwell as Modernist Icon: The Beaton Photographs."

Leilani Doty, Neurology, was a contributing author to the latest edition of *Our Bodies, Ourselves*, due to come out in May 2005.

Stephanie Evans, CWSGR/African American Studies, published "First Black Woman in Phi Beta Kappa" in the Winter 2005 edition of Phi Beta Kappa's *Key Reporter*.

Tace Hedrick, CWSGR/English, recently published "Ana Mendieta" in *Notable American Women*. She was also a session organizer at the Latin American Studies Association conference and presented "Playing the Myth: Historicity in Chicano/a and Latina/o Texts."

S. Yumiko Hulvey, African and Asian Languages and Literature, recently published her book, *Sacred Rites in Moonlight: Ben no Naishi Nikki*, with Cornell East Asia Series press.

Angel Kwolek-Folland, CWSGR/History, has been selected as a J. William Fulbright Senior Specialist candidate, which will allow her to work with college and university departments outside the US on research and program development and curricular transformation.

Maxine L. Margolis, Anthropology, published "The Relative Status of Men and Women" in the *Encyclopedia of Sex and Gender: Men and Women in the World's Cultures*, a two-volume set edited by Carol Ember and Melvin Ember and published by Kluwer Academic/Plenum in 2004.

Bonnie Moradi, Psychology, received the Research on Psychotherapy with Women Award from the American Psychological Associations Society for the Psychology of Women and the Presidents Letter of Commendation for Excellence in Research from the University of Akron.

Carol Murphy, Romance Languages and Literatures, published her article, "Jeux de l'amour et du hasard dans les romans de Marie Nimier: 'Domino', ou le polar pervers", in the Spring issue of "L'Esprit Créateur." In January, she was elected Vice-President of the France-Florida Foundation for the Arts, the endowment arm of the French Consulate in Miami.

Milagros Peña, CWSGR/Sociology, published her book, *Punk Rocker's Revolution: A Pedagogy of Race, Class, and Gender*, with Curry Malott in November 2004 with Peter Lang Press. She has a forthcoming book edited with Edwin I. Hernandez and Ken Davis entitled *Emerging Voices Urgent Choices: Latino/a Leadership Development from the Pew to the Plaza*.

Sandra Russo, International Center, and Malcolm McPherson, Harvard University, conducted an analysis of the higher education system in South Africa for the U.S. Agency for International Development. The purpose of the analysis was to review USAID's programs which had been supporting historically disadvantaged institutions since apartheid ended in 1994. The results of the study will be used to guide USAID's funding to higher education in South Africa for the next five years.

Stephanie A. Smith, English, presented two papers, "The Mother of Them All: Sacajewea as American Icon" at the Modern Language Association and "Rich and Strange: The Legacy of Wanda Ga'g" at Constellations of Youth, EGO conference. She has been invited to the 8th International F. Scott Fitzgerald conference at Hofstra University this April.

Anita Spring, Anthropology, published two articles and will also present a paper entitled, "The West African Enterprise Network: Networking West Africa's Business Globalists," for the conference on West Africa-U.S. Relations at the University of Texas, Arlington in April.

Faculty News Continued on Page 6

Women's Studies and Service-learning

Dr. Stephanie Evans has structured her spring section of WST 3015, "Interdisciplinary Perspectives of Women" to include a community service-learning component.

Service-learning is a pedagogy that pairs academic coursework with community service. Students learn through structured reflection exercises such as journaling, class discussion, and small group dialogue. Students read theories and case studies, then volunteer at community agencies; they compare the written text with the lived text. The major assignments for the course are a double-entry (reading and service) journal and a final paper that answers a question the agency wants answered about how the student related their service experience to the agency mission. In addition to a semester of student volunteer work, the agency will receive a copy of the student final papers to aid in grant writing or reporting, volunteer recruitment, or other administrative agency needs.

Because Women's Studies grew out of feminist activism, community service-learning is a natural companion for women's studies classes. Students choose their own service site, which allows for a wide range of service work to be done in the Gainesville community. The UF Office of Community Service has formal relationships with almost 90 community agencies; thus, students can choose an agency that is relevant to their own academic discipline, their professional goals, and their personal interests.

During the spring 2005 semester, students are volunteering at the Child Advocacy Center, Gainesville PRIDE Center, Easter Seals, Baby Gator, Association for Retarded Citizens, Arbor House (a homeless shelter for women), Girls Club, Family Visitation Center, Gainesville Correctional Facility, Sheriff's Office, Humane Society, American Cancer Society, and Corner Drug Store (a center for substance abuse prevention) among other agencies.

Dr. Evans is also teaching a service-learning course in African American Studies (AFA 4905), "Mentoring Local Youth," in which students mentor at Big Brothers/Big Sisters, PACE program, the Reichert House, and the Boys and Girls Club.

-Stephanie Evans

Visiting Scholar: Ruth Meena



I am very much looking forward to the time I spend here at the University of Florida through the faculty exchange program with the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. This semester, I am co-teaching the course, "Gender, Race, and the Media" with Dr. Helena Särkiö.

While I am not a media specialist, I do bring practical experiences in using media for transformation, in critiquing media, and also in creating alternative non-traditional media for transformation. I look forward to sharing my experiences with the class and also learning from the students.

In addition to the class, a good portion of my time at this university is going to be spent in the library, using the rich resources that are available. This is going to be a wonderful opportunity for me to use this space creatively to update my conceptual theoretical frameworks, which will enable me to engage in the ongoing debates and discourses in political science, gender, and human rights.

I am also currently processing data on field research conducted while I was home: "Gender Based Violence in Institutions of Higher Learning in Tanzania." I intend to utilize the resources at the university to familiarize myself with literature on this topic from this part of the world. I also hope to familiarize myself with the policy interventions that some of the universities have in place as a measure to make the university institution a gender friendly environment for men and women. Indeed, this is going to be a very valuable space for me to do this work.

I am definitely looking forward to building new social networks, meeting colleagues, and making new friends here at the University of Florida. This is going to be a valuable investment.-Ruth Meena

Trysh Travis Receives National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship



My book, *The Persistence of Sentiment: Contemporary American Literature and the Culture of 12-Step Recovery*, is part of the scholarly sub-field known as history of the book. Unlike literary critics, who look primarily at the way the language in a text constructs meaning, book historians usually look at the workings of the institutions that create and distribute books, and at the way people make use of books in their lives. *The Persistence of Sentiment* treats both of these things, examining the development of the publishing industry that supported the growth of the 12-Step recovery movement (which

began with the founding of Alcoholics Anonymous in 1935), and the place of reading within the therapeutic culture that has become part of the mainstream of modern life. It traces the change in gender emphasis within this print culture over time - moving from the masculine origins of AA (women were initially excluded from AA meetings) to the mass feminine reading public of Oprah's Book Club. A Humanities Scholarship Enhancement grant from UF will allow me to make final trips this summer to the archives the book draws on; a year-long National Endowment for the Humanities grant frees me from teaching next year so that I can complete the manuscript for publication.-Trysh Travis

Spring 2005 Open House

The Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research held its first spring open house for women's studies students on Sunday, January 23, at the home of Dr. Trysh Travis. Students had the opportunity to meet other women's studies students and faculty, including the new Vada Allen Yeomans' Professor, Dr. Florence Babb.

Students and faculty participated in a roundtable conversation discussing research interests, activism and future pursuits and goals. Attendees enjoyed the refreshments and engaging conversation.



Students and faculty at the open house (Photo by A. Kwolek-Folland)



Students with CWSGR Director, Dr. Milagros Peña (Photo by A. Kwolek-Folland)



Students with CWSGR Director, Dr. Milagros Peña (Photo by A. Kwolek-Folland)

CWSGR Attends UF Women's Basketball Game



CWSGR students, staff, faculty, and friends attended the UF Women's Basketball game on January 9th against Auburn. The UF women's team defeated Auburn by a score of 67 to 60.



Carmen Diana Deere to present "Liberalism and Married Women's Property Rights in 19th Century Latin America: A Comparative Analysis"

By the beginning of the twentieth century, married women's property rights in Latin America had evolved along two distinct paths. All South American countries still maintained their colonial marital regime, either partial (Hispanic America) or full (Brazil) community property. In contrast, Mexico and the five Central American republics had established the separation of property regime--where each spouse owned and controlled his/her own property and its fruits--as either a formal option or as the default regime. Moreover, whereas South American countries maintained the colonial inheritance regime of restricted testamentary freedom with only some although important modifications, Mexico and Central America had adopted full testamentary freedom. This raises the question of why Latin America is characterized by such divergent paths with respect to family law.

Dr. Deere is the Director of the Center for Latin American Studies and a Professor of Food and Resource Economics. She will present her lecture on Friday, April 22 at 2:00pm at 219 Dauer Hall, Ruth McQuown Room.-Carmen Diana Deere



Kelly Mangan and Erin Mahoney, Chair of the New York Reproductive Rights Task Force
 (Photo by Brandon Schulman)

Local Activists Protest FDA

On Jan. 7th, thirteen women from Gainesville joined 40 other women from New York, New Jersey, Washington D.C., and Philadelphia at the FDA headquarters in Rockville, Maryland. We went to pressure the Food and Drug Administration to make the Morning-After Pill (MAP) over-the-counter for all women, and to protest delays in the approval process.

The MAP Conspiracy-a national coalition of feminist groups working on this issue-held a sit-in after a short press conference in front of the FDA. We wanted to block access to the FDA building just as the FDA has blocked women's access to the Morning-After Pill. Nine were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct.

While the FDA continues to delay its decision regarding the Morning-After Pill, the action was successful in bringing much-needed public attention to this important issue. The fight for reproductive rights is an on-going struggle; we need to continue to take direct action and demand freedom over our own bodies.

MAP Conspiracy does not accept the FDA's ruling and will continue to pass out MAP in defiance of the prescription requirement. If you want the Morning-After Pill over-the-counter for all women - if you want to keep your access to birth control pills, condoms, and abortion - join a feminist group that actually fights to protect and expand these rights. Freedom is never granted, it has to be won. We need you to win greater freedom for women.

You can help by signing our MAP pledge at www.mapconspiracy.org and by telling FDA drug chief Steven Galson that you want MAP over-the-counter now! (301-594-5400). For more information and to get involved, call 352-372-2361. -Kelly Mangan, President, Campus NOW

Stacey Langwick Receives UF Humanities Enhancement Grant



(Photo by G. Kessler)

Stacey Langwick has received a UF Humanities Enhancement Grant for her research project entitled "Global Traditions, Transnational Medicines." This summer she will spend six weeks in Geneva, Switzerland at the headquarters of the World Health Organization (WHO) investi-

gating the history of the Traditional Medicine Unit. For over thirty years, WHO has been at the forefront of establishing a transnational, transcultural Traditional Medicine. Langwick seeks to examine the development of an internationally recognized category of traditional medicine and to explore the new liberations and dominations this globalist project supports. Particularly interested in its effects in Africa, she is asking: What new kinds of transnational medical activism does the globalization of Traditional Medicine make possible? What socio-cultural divisions and hierarchies does it support? -Stacey Langwick

Faculty News Continued From Page 2

Trysh Travis, CWSGR, chaired and commented on a panel entitled "Books, Men, and Bookmen" at the annual Modern Language Association conference in December.

"A Series with Blue"



The Summer 2005 Art Exhibit, "A Series with Blue," will feature works by Brittany Ferguson. Brittany is a first year student at Virginia Wesleyan College majoring in Art and Communications. She attended Gainesville High School where she developed her artistic, athletic, and academic abilities. While in high school, her peers often commissioned her to create logos and designs for school clubs and t-shirts. This helped Brittany to develop her artistic skills, which she used to create an AP Art Portfolio that she submitted for college credit.

Her work will be displayed in 3324 Turlington Hall from May 9 through August 5. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

Women's Studies Students Assist In Organizing V-Day Celebration



The Apartment Poets (Photo by Loren Beer)

Kristie Soares and Lindsey Dearing, Women's Studies majors and members of The Apartment Poets, were among the organizers of The Apartment Poets' and Lambda Theta Alpha's V-Day Open Mic-Night, "'V' is for..." on February 9th at the Orange and Brew.

V-Day is a global movement to stop violence against women and girls. The V in V-Day stands for Victory, Valentine, and Vagina (in honor of *The Vagina Monologues* and their creator Eve Ensler). Everyone was invited to read, rant, perform, sing, or do their own thing in celebration of women and whatever V stood for, for them. Katrina Ruiz, a founding member of The Apartment Poets, hosted the night as she presented her own fiery poetry and fun vagina facts for the audience. The show was a success as it drew a diverse crowd of people from the creators of "exhale" to the performers of *The Vagina Monologues*.-Lindsey Dearing

CWSGR Welcomes New Graduate Student



Joanna Neville graduated from the University of Florida with a degree in English in May 2003. She has been working as a Marketing Coordinator for a small educational publishing house in Gainesville. She has returned this spring to pursue her Master's degree. Joanna hopes to expand

her knowledge and understanding of women's social inequality and work towards remedying the cultural constructs that disenfranchise women.

Congratulations to our Graduates of Spring 2005

Aida Carini is graduating with a double major in Women's Studies and Psychology. She plans to attend law school this fall.

Laura Minor, Graduate Research Assistant in Women's Studies, will graduate with her M.A. in Women's Studies with a thesis entitled, "Unsound Compositions: Women and Compositional Agency." Laura completed her M.A. while simultaneously composing and producing a feminist recording in New York City, which is forthcoming Summer 2005 on an undisclosed label. She also published three original poems in the Winter 2005 edition of *JMWW: A Quarterly Journal of Writing*. Laura is currently co-writing a feminist book series for pre-teen girls with an illustrator in New York.

Megan Sapp will graduate with a B.A. in Women's Studies. She will attend graduate school at Vanderbilt University in the fall to study nurse-midwifery.

Student News

Virginia Hamner, CWSGR MA/JD graduate student, received a Florida Bar Foundation Fellowship for this summer to work on prisoners' rights issues with Florida Institutional Legal Services.

Stacey Moyer, Graduate Research Assistant in Women's Studies, will present on the panel, "What would Sarah Schulman Do? What Lesbian Ethics tells us about the same-sex marriage debate," at the 2005 NWSA conference in Orlando this summer.

Women's Interlocking Network

Beware of dedicated women with passion and drive. They just might change the world. With the start of their new organization, Women's Interlocking Network (WIN), Blair Welsh and Brittany Rajchel will give UF women a chance to interact with the female community of Gainesville like never before. They have plans to volunteer their time in the local women's domestic abuse center (Peaceful Paths), tutor single women working towards earning their GED, and assist pregnant teenagers at Pleasant Place, Inc., an assisted living center for young mothers. Welsh and Rajchel hope that WIN will contribute to the community of women's organizations at UF and in Gainesville.

The meetings take place at the Reitz Union on Thursday nights at 8:00pm. They have incorporated a "shout session" into their bi-monthly meetings so that all members will have a chance to voice their frustrations, talk, and be heard. For more information contact Blair Welsh at pebb1z25@ufl.edu or Brittany Rajchel at britr@ufl.edu.-*Krystle Fernandez*

Mark Your Calendars!

The CWSGR Fall Opening Reception will be held on Wednesday, August 31 at 3:30 pm in the Keene Faculty Center, Dauer Hall

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<https://www.uff.ufl.edu/OnlineGiving/CWSGR.asp>

Phyllis Meek Receives Pride Women of the Year Award

Pride Celebration of Gainesville presented its awards for the Woman, Man and Community Person of the Year at its annual 2004 Awards Dinner on October 8, 2004.

Phyllis Meek won the Woman of the Year award and was recognized for her long-time work for gay and lesbian rights at the University of Florida as Dean of Student Services and for working to combat homophobia and sexism since the early 1970s.

CWSGR congratulates Phyllis on her award and her many accomplishments.

We would like to thank recent supporters of the CWSGR

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Women's Studies T-Shirts

Available in a variety of styles in 3324 Turlington Hall for \$10.00 donation.

Additional donations are needed for the following categories: conferences, symposia, travel funds for graduate students to attend conferences, scholarship funds, speaker honoraria, exhibit support, etc.

For more information on upcoming events, please visit our web site at: <http://www.wst.ufl.edu> or stop by 3324 Turlington Hall.

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