

# Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research

University of Florida

News and Views

Spring 2001

Volume 11, issue 2



## From the Director...

The new year started on an exciting note! In December, Herb Yardley provided a major donation for the creation of the garden project that will frame Kathryn Chicone Ustler Hall. He has asked that the garden be named after his mother and wife:

The Mary E. and Catherine A. Yardley Garden. With the garden funding in place, we can move forward with the renovation and construction of what will become the CWSGR complex. The project plan should go out to architects for bids this summer. We expect the building to be ready for occupancy by 2004, and the garden to be finished by 2006. These facilities will house classroom space, offices for faculty, staff, and visiting scholars, a library of books and videos on women and gender, an exhibition space, a small kitchen, places for public performances, readings, lectures and gatherings, and a teaching Herstory Wall in the garden area. We hope that the complex will become a central gathering place for both the campus and the community.

Now that the building and garden are on their way, we will continue fund-raising for the basic equipment we need to make the building habitable and the garden sustainable: tables, desks, chairs, computers, telephones, a refrigerator and stove, benches for the garden and outdoor seminar areas, and an endowment for garden upkeep. We also hope to raise funds to create fellowships for visiting scholars as well as faculty at UF, student scholarships, an endowed chair, library and video materials, and support for art exhibits and performances. The CWSGR, for example, mounts three exhibits each year by women artists. We would like to also be able to commission art works for the building, or purchase representative examples of the work that has been exhibited for a permanent collection of work by women artists. In short, there's lots more still to do!

We have many other accomplishments to report. As

you'll see from the articles in this newsletter, CWSGR faculty and affiliates have had a busy and productive year. We have hired a new colleague, Stacey Langwick, who focuses on women, gender, medicine, and health in Africa who will be jointly appointed with Anthropology. We hope to add another faculty member next year. In addition, our proposal for a master's degree program in Women's Studies went before the Board of Regents in March. We are also organizing our first Women's Studies Study Abroad courses. In the midst of all this activity, we moved to spacious new offices in 3324 Turlington in January, and have on display an exhibit of sculptures by Jana Bailey, a talented artist and one of our undergraduate majors.

As I'm writing this, I received word that next fall the CWSGR's invitation to host a Fulbright scholar from Russia has been accepted. Professor Elena Gritsenko is from the Linguistic University of Nizhny Novgorod, the most important center in Russia for language study. She will be doing research here on a project on gender and language, and exploring the curriculum and structure of our Center in preparation for creating a Women's Studies program at her home university. Professor Gritsenko will share with us her observations on the state of women's and gender studies in Russia, and will present some public lectures and seminars during her time at the Center.

We are all very pleased and excited about the increasing visibility and impact of the Center and its effectiveness in supporting research, teaching, and learning about women and gender. We're looking forward to another year of growth!

-Angel Kwolek-Folland

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## *News and Views, Volume 11, Issue 2*

**Angel Kwolek-Folland, Ph.D., Director**  
**Dawn Ramsey, Editor**  
**Paula Palmer, 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 the Center's upcoming events, academic programs, course schedules, and scholarships, or to see the newsletter online, visit our website at:  
<http://web.wst.ufl.edu>

## ***Visiting Fulbright Scholar at the Center for Women's Studies***

Elena Gritsenko is a linguist and professor at the University of Nizhny, Novgorod and will be visiting the University of Florida and the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research for the Fall 2001 semester. She will be here for five months beginning in August, and will be developing a course on feminist criticism for her home university. In addition, Dr. Gritsenko will engage in conversations about women's studies in Russia while she's here. The CWSGR will be sponsoring a joint reception with Linguistics sometime in the early fall for Dr. Gritsenko.

## ***Summer 2001 Courses***

*WST 3015 - Interdisciplinary Perspectives of Women - Sara Crawley*  
*WST 3015 - Interdisciplinary Perspectives of Women - Lara Foley*  
*WST 4905/6905 - Independent Study - Angel Kwolek-Folland*  
*WST 4940 - Internship - Angel Kwolek-Folland*

## ***Fall 2001 Courses***

*WST 3015 - Interdisciplinary Perspectives of Women - Laura Sullivan*  
*WST 3015 - Interdisciplinary Perspectives of Women - Milagros Peña*  
*WST 3930 - Women Laboring - Lynn Barolet*  
*WST 3930 - Incarcerated Women - Amanda Davis*  
*WST 3930 - Race/Gender in Film - Laurel Tripp*  
*WST 4905 - Independent Study - Staff*  
*WST 4930 - Womanist Intellectual Thought - Debra King*  
*WST 4930 - Women, Religion, and Society - Zoharah Simmons*  
*WST 4930 - Race, Class, and Gender - Kendal Broad*  
*WST 4930 - Feminist Theories - Pamela Gilbert*  
*WST 4940 - Internship - Staff*  
*WST 6935 - Gender and Research - Angel Kwolek-Folland*  
*WST 6905 - Independent Study - Staff*  
*WST 6935 - Womanist Intellectual Thought - Debra King*

## ***The CWSGR Has Moved!***

The Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research has moved to 3324 Turlington Hall. Please drop by and visit our new office! Come and see our Spring 2001 Art Exhibit, *Reflecting on the Body: Creating and Losing Power* by Jana Bailey.

## ***In the Works for Summer 2002: Women's Studies Summer Program in Ecuador***

The Center will be co-sponsoring a program with IFAS Office of International Programs and the Food and Resource Economics Department (FRED) for several students to study abroad in Ecuador for the Summer 2002 term. In an increasingly global economy, it is essential that students receive an education that embraces global issues and includes international perspectives. The course is designed to expose students to global issues with a particular focus on Gender and Development (GAD). The proposed program hopes to expand UF's recognized excellence in the field of GAD and provide an opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to benefit from the University's expertise.

The four week study trip will be conducted in Ecuador to provide the basis for students to experience and learn about international development and conservation issues firsthand. The group will visit development projects located in the Ecuadorian Sierra and Coast. They will be interacting with local farmers, community groups, and people who are involved in natural resource management and policy-making. In addition, students will visit different eco-systems and look at how gender relationships and responsibilities are structured differently on the coast and in the Andes. Through a systems approach, students will be introduced to the interconnections that exist among gender, environment, agriculture, and participation, and their relevance to their daily lives. In each location there will be a combination of class sessions, guest speaker lectures and field project visits.\*

For more information, call the CWSGR at 392-3365 or the GEAP office at 392-1965 or contact, Aly Dagang: [akdagang@ufl.edu](mailto:akdagang@ufl.edu), Dr. Peter Hildebrand: [peh@ufl.edu](mailto:peh@ufl.edu) or Elena Bastidas: [bastidas@fuse.net](mailto:bastidas@fuse.net)

\* excerpt from GEAP course syllabus

## Distinguished Professor and Women's Studies Advocate: An Interview With Dr. Constance Shehan

Constance Shehan, a sociology professor and director of the University Center for Excellence in Teaching (UCET), was recently awarded the Florida Blue Key (FBK) Distinguished Faculty Award for her outstanding service to UF. The award is given annually to faculty members who excel as teachers and have a strong commitment to students and research. Throughout her career at the University of Florida, Dr. Shehan has won several awards, including the CLAS Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching (1991), a UF Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching (1991), a TIP Award (1993-94), and the Ernest G. Osborne Award for Excellence in Teaching presented by the National Council on Family Relations (1994). Most recently, Dr. Shehan received an award for Innovative Excellence in Teaching, Learning and Technology (2000). Her service to UF includes being president pro tempore of the CLAS faculty, serving two terms on the Faculty Education Policy Group, and being president of the Association for Academic Women at UF. Shehan was the director of the Center for Women's Studies from 1985 until 1989, and she became the founding director of UCET in 1994. Recently, Dawn Ramsey had the opportunity to speak with Dr. Shehan about her award and experience as a professor at UF. The following are excerpts from their conversations.\*

### *What is your educational background?*

I have a Ph.D. in Sociology from Penn State. As a grad student I was funded as a research assistant not a teaching assistant. When I got the opportunity to teach a class I jumped at it. But before I could start teaching I had to take one required graduate seminar in College/University teaching that was offered by my department. Now that I look back on it, my department was pretty forward thinking in offering this course. Most faculty still come to their jobs with little or no training or experience in teaching. I really enjoyed teaching -- and I ended up teaching five different courses before I finished my Ph.D. I taught at the main campus of Penn State -- large classes in Industrial Sociology to business majors; I taught at the Altoona campus of Penn State; and I even taught at the Rockview State Penitentiary!

### *What first interested you in Women's Studies?*

My own personal experiences and observations led me to women's studies. In graduate school, I started out specializing in gerontology but eventually switched my focus to the study of work and occupations because I dis-

covered a really interesting book called *Dual Career Couples*. I figured that if/when I became part of a couple, my partner would most likely be a professional, as I would be. Thus, I, too, would become part of a dual-career couple. After reading that book I realized the kinds of obstacles professional women experience in the work place and in their attempts to combine the demands of this type of employment with a family life. This is what led me to the study of gender and to women's studies. By the way, even though that book was written 30 years ago, things haven't changed that much for women in the professions or in the home. My research today focuses on these issues.



### *How was your experience as the director of Women's Studies?*

It was really challenging but beneficial to me in that I got to meet a lot of people from many different departments and I learned a lot about how universities function -- how decisions are made. It was challenging for a number of reasons. The program was much smaller during the mid to late 1980s. I was only the second director and I was an untenured assistant professor at the time! There were many fewer women faculty and not that much support for women's studies as a discipline. Very few resources were devoted to the program. There was no support staff, no office space, and a \$3000 annual operating budget. Thanks to the generosity of the then-chair of Sociology, we were able to draw on their office support for help. Yet we still managed to increase campus-wide support for the program by offering interesting speakers and appointing a range of people -- men as well as women -- to an Advisory Board that acted as good-will ambassadors. Some of these folks are still very active in women's studies and remain good friends to me. I really appreciate the support they gave the fledgling program!

### *What other organizations were or are you involved in?*

I've been involved in just about everything on campus! Early on, I was the faculty advisor to the "snow" ski club! I served on the early AIDS advisory council. I've participated in academic advising, including Preview, for (See Shehan, page 7)

## FACULTY AWARDS, PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

### **Kendal Broad, CWSGR and Department of Sociology**

Dr. Broad presented a paper titled: "Must Identity Pedagogies Self-Destruct?" at New College, Sarasota in January. She will also be presenting in March, "Transgender Identity Constructions, Deconstructions and Fracturings" at the UNCA Fourth Annual GLBT Studies Conference on Queer Intersections: Community, Identity and Public Space. Dr. Broad was nominated for a Teacher of the Year Award for the 2000-2001 Academic year!

### **Sara Crawley, CWSGR and Department of Sociology**

Ms. Crawley, a Ph.D candidate in Sociology and a graduate teaching assistant for the CWSGR, has recently published an article in *Gender and Society* titled, "Are Butch and Fem Working-Class and Antifeminist?"

### **Antoinette Emch-Deriaz, CWSGR and Department of History**

Dr. Emch-Deriaz will be presenting a paper at the American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies annual meeting in New Orleans in April on Rousseau's Geneva. In addition, Dr. Emch-Deriaz will have a paper published in the Canadian Bulletin of Medical History titled: "De l'importance de tater le pouls".

### **Lara Foley, CWSGR and Department of Sociology**

Ms. Foley, a graduate teaching assistant for the CWSGR, co-presented a paper titled "Negotiating and Narrating Frustration in the Whiner's Club: Constructions of Gender, Sex and Sexuality" at the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction Couch/Stone Symposium, February 23-25, in Miami, Florida. In addition, she will be participating in the NWSA conference this June in Minneapolis, presenting in a session on motherhood and academia, talking about the course she developed titled "Theories and Politics of Motherhood." She is also a finalist for the graduate school's graduate student teaching award. Ms. Foley recently accepted an assistant professor position at the University of Tulsa. Congratulations!

### **Tace Hedrick, CWSGR and Department of English**

Dr. Hedrick has recently published an anthology article titled: "Are You a Pura Latina? Rooms, Shoes, and Ethnicity" Shari Benstock and Suzanne Ferris, eds. *Footnotes: On Shoes*. Rutgers University Press, 2001.

### **Patricia Hilliard-Nunn, CWSGR**

Dr. Hilliard-Nunn presented a discussion on "Manipulating Materials," in conjunction with the "Spirits of the Cloth" exhibit at the Harn Museum of Art, leading the discussion on how women in the African Diaspora utilize accessible media as an expression of identity, culture, and heritage.

### **Angel Kwolek-Folland, Director, CWSGR**

Dr. Kwolek-Folland was interviewed in Philadelphia in November for a film documenting the life of Rebecca Lukens, the early 19th-century owner of Lukens Steel. The film will air on PBS in March for Women's History Month. In January, she consulted with planners at the Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in Cambridge for a travelling exhibition on the history of entrepreneurial women. She will be the featured speaker for Women's History Month at Monmouth University, New Jersey in March, and will present a paper at Emory University as part of a workshop sponsored by the Social Science Research Council.

### **Jane Love, CWSGR**

Dr. Love will be presenting a talk about the course she is currently teaching for CWSGR, "Women in Hypermedia," for the research network forum of the Conference for College Composition and Communication in Denver, Colorado.

### **Milagros Peña, CWSGR and Department of Sociology**

Congratulations to Dr. Peña who was nominated for a College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Teacher of the Year award for 2000-2001!

### **Kenneth Sassaman, Department of Anthropology**

Dr. Sassaman, an affiliated faculty member, was awarded the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Teacher of the Year Award for Fall 2000. Congratulations Dr. Sassaman!

### **Anita Spring, Department of Anthropology**

Dr. Spring has recently published an edited book titled: *Women Farmers and Commercial Ventures: Increasing Food Security in Developing Countries*. The book was published through Lynne Rienner Publishers.

### **Marta Wayne, Department of Zoology**

Dr. Wayne recently published a book titled: *Women, Science and Technology: A Reader in Feminist Science Studies* with Mary Wyer, Donna Giesman, Mary Barbercheck, and Hatice Orun Ozturk; Routledge, 2000.

*(See Faculty News, page 7)*

## Reflecting on the Body: Creating and Losing Power

Currently on display at the CWSGR is an art exhibit by Jana Bailey which stresses the relationship women have with their bodies. The title of the exhibit is meant to convey the complex and conflicting responses of the women who served as "models" for the pieces. Some women were very empowered by their participation and felt proud of their bodies, feeling that they loved their bodies and the way they looked captured in plaster. Others were devastated, having very different pictures of their bodies in their mind's eye. Thus, the title is meant to communicate that some women were satisfied and comfortable in their bodies and some had very distorted pictures of themselves.



Distorted body image and the complicated beauty rituals that women put themselves through is the focus of Jana's academic work at UF. Jana is a senior majoring in Women's Studies and has focused much of her course work in the area of women's body issues and the influence of media on body image. Jana's research interest lies within the discourse of beauty and bodies, the social and cultural implications of this discourse, and the way that women's lives and actions are shaped and informed by the dialogue of beauty in popular culture. These works as well as Jana's undergraduate thesis, stem from her fascination with the manner in which women recreate and alter their bodies according to the dominant culture's ideals. Jana will be graduating Spring 2001.

-J. Bailey and D. Ramsey



## Cristina Garcia - A reading from *The Aguero Sisters*



On March 28 at the Chandler Auditorium at the Harn Museum, the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research and the Department of English hosted a reading by Cristina Garcia. Ms. Garcia attended Columbia University and began her career as a nationally recognized political columnist in the 1980's. In 1988, Cristina moved to California and began what would be her new career, that of storyteller. Her first novel, *Dreaming in Cuban*, was released to universal acclaim in 1992. Her most recent novel, *The Aguero Sisters*, has received similar accolades and has been praised as a gifted chronicle of exile's promise and peril. Cristina is the former Miami bureau chief for TIME Magazine and is currently a fellow at Princeton University. She lives in California with her young daughter Pilar.

## Girl Scouts Commemorate Women's History Month Through Art

The Girl Scouts of Alaco Plus have contributed artwork for an exhibit that was on display of the second floor walls of the J. Wayne Reitz Union. This is the second year the Girl Scouts have come together with the Center and the Dean of Students Office to celebrate Women's History Month. The exhibit, titled *Continuing the Journey: A Legacy of Empowerment*, was on display for three weeks from February 25 to March 18. On March 4, a reception was held in the Union in honor of the Girl Scouts who participated. Paula Palmer, office manger for the Center, and Diane James, Service Unit Manager for the Girl Scouts of Alaco Plus, presented certificates to the girls. Ms. Palmer, who organized the exhibit said, "When we proposed having Girl Scouts exhibit artwork for women's history month a year ago, we thought it would be a great opportunity to introduce



(See *Girl Scouts*, page 6)

Photograph by Gwen Dougherty



## Why Women's Studies

By Patrick Douma

Question: "What's your major?"

Response: "I am a Women's Studies major."

For me the next question is almost always some paraphrase of "WHY WOMEN'S STUDIES?"

This question is asked in either an embracing or respectful tone by both female and male questioners alike, without the suspicion or scrutiny that I would naturally expect on occasion.

Is it how I present my response? Or am I somehow limited to meeting polite people? Is it my perceptions that led me to believe this question always arrives with a sincere invitation for me to elaborate? Why do both women and men seem so open to embrace the notion that I, a man, study Women's Studies? Would there be any difference if I were a woman? Do female peers in Women's Studies always get the same embracing tone when they respond, "I am a Women's Studies major"?

My guess would be no, they do not. There probably exists a double standard and if my guess is correct, then it constitutes an ironic juxtaposition of my white male privilege. I almost immediately begin receiving silent applause for studying Women's Studies by women and men alike, while my peers and local women's groups (i.e. campus NOW) probably don't always enjoy such a warm reception for their efforts.

White male privilege? It doesn't deserve any more analyses, and for my part, I choose to accept the warm reception I receive, because in consciously reaching out to those people who have asked, it says to me that I have identified my opportunity to pass on what I have

learned from the Women's Studies program.

So what do I say? What follows is a paraphrase of what I strive to convey to those so eager to listen.

When you leave this earth, that which you take with you is only the knowledge you have learned through your relationships with others. So why not live deliberately, learning through relationships, with conscious intention to receive and recognize another's knowledge as equally valid as your own.

Women's Studies necessitates a willingness to let go of my preconceptions about the world, to leave my shoes at the door and try on another set. It may not always be possible, but ultimately it is about the effort to follow a path in which I attempt to experience another's perspective on the world without conditions. For myself the challenges and rewards of the Women's Studies program have been exactly that, releasing and receiving of ideas and perceptions. Women's Studies has been my opportunity to do this and at the same time bridge the gap between my academic and personal endeavors.

My hope is that by shedding some light on my personal experience with Women's Studies, I will inspire other female and male students who are looking to bring personal growth to their own academic experience. Maybe they too will choose Women's Studies.

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*Patrick Douma is a senior in Interdisciplinary Studies majoring in Women's Studies at the University of Florida*

*(Girl Scouts, continued from page 5)*

young girls to Women's Studies and the University of Florida. We have been very pleased with the response from the girls. The artwork we've displayed this year in the Reitz Union was outstanding. You can see by the quality of the work that the girls have really reflected on the meaning of women's history month."

The Center's director, Angel Kwolek-Folland, was very pleased with the exhibit. "This gives girls a chance to learn about particular women in the past who have made a difference; and it sends the message that girls can make a difference," said Kwolek-Folland. When Dr. Kwolek-Folland was asked what other programs she thought might be beneficial to girls with regards to women's studies her response was quite enthusiastic. "I'd like to see more girls imagine themselves as college professors! It would be fun to have a Girl Scout Day on the UF campus, where women faculty could introduce the Girl Scouts to what we do."

(Shehan, continued from page 3)

many years. I've served as President pro tempore of the Liberal Arts and Sciences faculty; president of the Association for Women Faculty. And I was on former-president Lombardi's advisory board for six years. I guess it's clear that I have trouble saying "no" when I'm asked to do something for the University!

### *What are your favorite classes to teach?*

I've taught at least a dozen different courses since I've been here. Recently I've been teaching my Sociology of Women course from a "body" perspective. This is really fascinating and I've learned a lot! I also really like to teach the undergrad course "Marriages and Families." It sounds like a stodgy, common-sense type of course but it's actually really contemporary and is a good way to introduce students to research-based information from the social sciences.

### *What does the award mean to you?*

It's really wonderful to be publicly recognized for the time and effort I've devoted to UF's students. It's not necessary -- because the interactions with students are very rewarding in themselves. But it's certainly nice to be congratulated in this way. It's clearly a luck of the draw kind of thing, though, because there are many, many other faculty members who are just as deserving.

### *What kind of future involvement would you like to see between the University and students?*

I would like to see more dialogue between faculty and students. We (the faculty) have been where students are and we do understand the challenges they face. I also think it's time for more students to take responsibility for their own learning. It should be an active process not a passive one. And I also think there needs to be more civility on campus. Professors have feelings, too! I urge students to treat their teachers with the same respect they would treat other professionals. Professors, on the other hand, need to realize that we can learn from our students. The use of technology is just one of many ways in which our students are often more expert than we are.

### *What are your future plans at UF?*

Well, that's a really good question! For the past six months I've been leading a task force that's trying to develop a campus-wide Institute for Children and Families. This is really exciting to me because my teaching and research focus on family issues, particularly those involving women and children. So, I'm hoping to be able to participate in this Institute in some way.

\*some information provided by CLASnotes Vol. 14/15, No. 12/1

## Friends of Women's Studies

The Friends of Women's Studies was organized in 1991 through the efforts of Polly Doughty and director Linda D. Wolfe in order to increase community awareness about Women and Gender studies. The organization is a network of Women's Studies supporters who have not only made generous contributions to the Center, but have developed and participated in several programs beneficial to the CWSGR. Fundraising events in the past, sponsored by the Friends include an annual booksale at Goerings Bookstore of which a percentage of sales is donated to the CWSGR, and last year a luncheon at the Sweetwater Branch Inn was organized in order to raise funds for the new Women's Gym Commemorative Garden.

With our Fall 2001 newsletter, we will begin profiling Friends of Women's Studies members who have made significant contributions to the Center. If you are interested in becoming a Friend of Women's Studies member, fill out and return the form on the back of News and Views or contact the CWSGR office for more information.



### *Congratulations and Good Luck Dani!*

Student assistant Danielle Chicerchia will be graduating in the Spring 2001 with a Bachelor's degree from the College of Business in Marketing. Dani has been with the Center for 3 years and has been a valuable asset to the Women's Studies staff. Good luck Dani; you will be missed!

(Faculty News, continued from page 4)

## JOINT PUBLICATIONS

*Body Politics and The Fictional Double*, a collection of essays edited by **Debra Walker King**, was published by Indiana University Press. Other essays by University of Florida faculty include Debra King, Maude Hines, S. Yumiko Hulvey, Stephanie A. Smith, and Maureen Turim.

**Sara Crawley, Lara Foley, and Constance Shehan**, have recently signed a book contract with AltaMira Press to write a book titled: *Gendering Bodies* for AltaMira's Gender Lens series.