

## Julia Kristeva Inaugurates the France-Florida Research Institute

By Jaime O'Dell

The University of Florida is proud to have hosted Julia Kristeva on February 9-10 for the inaugural events of the France-Florida Research Institute. Addressing a full house at Constans Theatre on February 10, Kristeva shared insight into her most recent publication, the three-volume *Le génie féminin* (*The Feminine Genius*), which examines the unique genius of political philosopher Hannah Arendt, British psychoanalyst Melanie Klein, and French writer Sidonie-Gabrielle Colette. Dedicating the inaugural lecture to Simone de Beauvoir, Kristeva emphasized that world citizens are now in a position to achieve Duns Scot's ideal: to pay particular attention to the fundamental uniqueness of the individual.

Kristeva broached the complicated relationship between the female psyche and the world in which it is situated. She outlined stages in the female psyche, including disidentification with the mother (as the first sexual object), identification with the father (who represents law, morality, and society), and sexual identification bound to the Oedipus complex. Kristeva also expounded on object relations as a link to the "other" that seems to exist in each of us from early childhood. For each writer, Kristeva examined aspects of object relations, life and writing, and temporality of rebirth as relevant to her individual genius.

Kristeva named Arendt, Klein and Colette as women who faced history with realism and courage, and highlighted, as a component of their genius, their personal breakthrough in going beyond the situation of the group. Kristeva explained that Arendt was keen to identify the 'who' of the individual, as well as how that which is unique in the individual can remain hidden within the solitary experience. Kristeva inspired the audience with Klein's notion of rebirth, and how the child in each of us can re-emerge to experience renewal and perpetual innovation. Kristeva also discovered how Colette's written thought is linked with her life, leading to writing that expresses thought-made-flesh and flesh-made-thought. For Colette, according to Kristeva, to live is to think, sublimate and write; freedom is the possibility to renew identity and to make it different.

The room exploded in applause to Kristeva's conclusion that we celebrate the individual. Recognizing that the genius of a woman is composed of male and



Left to Right: Dr. Gayle Zachmann, Dr. Carol Murphy, Dr. Julia Kristeva, and Dean Neil Sullivan.

and female, we must transcend this dichotomy to find peace and solidarity in our unique differences.

On February 9, Kristeva led a more intimate roundtable discussion of her work in the Keene Faculty Center. The panel of professors who posed questions about significant aspects of Kristevan thought included Dr. Carol Murphy, Dr. Maureen Turim, Dr. Ofelia Schutte (USF), and Dr. Julian Wolfreys.

Key to the roundtable discussion was Kristeva's study of the interface of psychoanalysis and literature. She explored the etymology of revolution as signifying a return to the tradition of thought in the past, in an effort to unveil the future. Kristeva also discussed her theories of desire and language, and their connection to ideology and the power of horror. She explained how abjection, purification and anti-Semitism relate to theories of the self and the "other," and how writers visit these states by naming them and thus distancing them. Referring to her book *Black Sun*, Kristeva demonstrated how depression can be tied to language. Kristeva's psychoanalytic theory proposes disrupting symbolic language by listening to its semiotic undertones, and rebuilding it, in order to conquer depression through sublimation. Kristeva touched on her book *Strangers to Ourselves*, in which she maintained that fear of the foreigner stems from an inability to face other selves within us.

**see Kristeva page 4**

**Jaime O'Dell is a graduate student in the department of Romance Languages and Literatures.**

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**From the Director**  
**Dr. Angel Kwolek-Folland**

The sound of budgets shrinking has provided the backup chorus to this year's discussions about the future. We can take some comfort in not being alone, as financial problems have plagued the entire national educational spectrum. And the CWSGR is privileged to have the backing of a visionary dean, Dr. Neil Sullivan, and colleagues across the University who participate in and sustain our efforts. But the reality is that in the future programs like ours increasingly will rely on donations, grants, and "the kindness of strangers" as state funding for public higher education continues to diminish.

We have been especially fortunate this year to receive donations for new initiatives. Former dean of the graduate school, Dr. Madelyn M. Lockhart, has provided substantial funds to start a faculty fellowship named in her honor. This fellowship will provide release time for faculty as well as teaching experience for graduate students. The family of alumnus Carolyn Osterhoudt Fabal has contributed a scholarship for students that will assist undergraduates and graduates in their goals. Mr. Kenneth Roberts of Custom Copies and Textbooks, Inc., successfully challenged Women's Studies supporters to contribute funds that could be used for special projects. Using these funds, we will begin collecting the oral histories of those who were instrumental in founding and sustaining first the Women's Studies Program and later the CWSGR, starting this year with interviews of Dr. Irene Thompson and Dr. Mildred Hill-Lubin.

Many other supporters, such as Dr. Sheila Dickison and Ms. Mary V. Fisher, have buoyed our building or general funds, enabling us to support the many student groups, colloquia, speakers, and symposia the Center sponsors or co-sponsors each year. In addition, we have received in-kind support from The African Violet, Goerings Book Store, and Wild Iris Books.

This year we offered a symposium show-casing research and activities on women and gender at UF, poetry readings, twice-monthly research colloquia, and co-sponsored events with many other departments, schools, or centers. These included a lecture by Julia Kristeva, a year-long visit by playwright, poet and novelist Ntozake Shange, workshops by hypertext author Shelley Jackson, a visit by lesbian activist Alix Dobkin, and an exhibit detailing the life experiences of Mexican migrant farm workers in Florida. Thank you to all of the supporters and friends of CWSGR who continue to make this work possible! - Angel

**Thanks to Goerings Book Store for sponsoring the holiday book sale.**

**Summer 2003 Courses**

- WST 3015 Interdisciplinary Perspectives of Women*
- WST 4905/6905 Independent Study*
- WST 4930/6935 Study in Ecuador*
- WST 4940/6946 Internship*

**Fall 2003 Courses**

- WST 3015 Interdisciplinary Perspectives of Women*
- WST 3930 Gender, Race, and Science*
- WST 3930 Imperialism and Gender*
- WST 3930 Gender, Migration, and Transnational Identities*
- WST 4905/6905 Independent Study*
- WST 4930 Images of Women in Modern Israeli Literature*
- WST 4930 Poetry of Women of Color*
- WST 4930 Introduction to Lesbian and Gay Studies*
- WST 4930 Women, Religion, and Society*
- WST 4930 Feminist Biblical Criticism*
- WST 4940/6946 Internship*
- WST 6935 Sexual Rights in Global Perspective*

**STUDY IN ECUADOR**

In partnership with the University of Florida International Center, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, the CWSGR is offering a program this summer on Gender and Development at ESPOL (Escuela Superior Politécnica del Litoral) in Guayaquil, Ecuador. The program covers theoretical, practical and methodological aspects of gender, environment, agriculture and participation in classrooms and in the field. It also aims to give students a complete learning experience, blending theory and methods with practical face-to-face experience beyond institutional walls. For more information please email Dr. Angel Kwolek-Folland at [halohead@wst.ufl.edu](mailto:halohead@wst.ufl.edu).

**News and Views**  
**Volume 13, Issue 2**

- Angel Kwolek-Folland, PhD., Director**
- Kimberly Helm, Editor**
- Paula Ambroso, Assistant Editor**
- Yelizaveta Batres, 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 website at: <http://web.wst.ufl.edu>

**Nora Alter** (German and Slavic Studies) has been awarded a Humboldt Fellowship.

**Sylvie Blum** (Romance Languages and Literatures) presented the paper "The Elusive Search for Nora Luca: Tony Gatlif's Adventures in Gypsy Land" at the Modern Language Association's annual convention in New York.

**Joe R. Feagin** (Sociology) has been recognized by The Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities of the American Sociological Association. The organization has named the Feagin Distinguished Undergraduate Paper Award in his honor.

**Lola Haskins** (Computer Science) won a National Endowment for the Arts award in Poetry for 2003. She is the only recipient of this nationally competitive award in Florida.

**Debra Walker King** (English) was named associate provost of academic affairs effective July 1. Her position will entail reviewing, analyzing, and evaluating policies, practice, and programs of the University related to faculty, staff and students.

**Maxine L. Margolis** (Anthropology) is a member of the Board of Advisors for the three-volume *Encyclopedia of Men and Women* published by Kluwer Academic/Plenum. She also has contributed an entry to the Encyclopedia titled "The Relative Status of Men and Women."

**Irma McClaurin** (Anthropology) has been named to Choice Magazine's list of "Outstanding Academic Titles: The Best of the Best in Published Scholarship" for her work *Black Feminist Anthropology: Theory, Praxis, Politics, and Poetics*. She is currently serving as deputy provost at Fisk University, and was recently promoted to fellow status based on experience and seniority by the Board of Directors for the Society of Applied Anthropology.

**Zoharah Simmons** (Religion) published "Are We up to the Challenge? The Need for a Radical Re-Ordering of the Islamic Discourse on Women" in *Progressive Muslims On Justice, Gender, and Pluralism*, Omid Safi, editor. She also published "Racism in Higher Education" in the University of Florida *Journal of Law and Public Policy*, Volume 14.

**Anita Spring** (Anthropology) published "Gender and the Range of Entrepreneurial Strategies: The Typical and the New Woman Entrepreneur" in A. Jalloh and T. Falola, eds. *Black Business and Economic Power*, University of Rochester Press. She also carried out a gender assessment in Eritrea, and published *A Gender*

*Assessment of Health Parameters and Delivery Systems, Agricultural Enterprises and Women's Participation in Eritrea* for WIDTECH and the International Center for Research on Women.

### ANNOUNCING THE DR. MADELYN M. LOCKHART FACULTY FELLOWSHIP

A generous gift from Dr. Madelyn M. Lockhart has started an endowment fund for an important new opportunity for UF faculty and graduate students. The Dr. Madelyn M. Lockhart Faculty Fellowship in Women's Studies is designed to simultaneously assist faculty research programs and the development of graduate students' teaching portfolios. The fellowship will be open to all tenured and tenure-stream University of Florida faculty. It enables a one-course teaching release for faculty to develop a new research project on women and gender. The fellowship will be administered by CWSGR and additional donations to the endowment can be made in care of the Center. An official announcement and call for proposals will go out in Fall 2003.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MADELYN LOCKHART DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP WINNERS:  
SHARYN JONES O'DAY and JAMAICA PRINCE

## WANIA SANTANNA

"Affirmative Action Rights in Brazil: Race, Gender, and Human Rights"

THURSDAY, APRIL 3rd  
4:00 p.m., 219 Dauer Hall

Wania Santanna is an Afro-Brazilian at the forefront of the struggle of Afrodescendants, particularly for women's rights. She has been active in NGOs since 1983, and has worked in IBASE (Brazilian Institute for Social and Economic Analysis), in FASE (Federation of Organizations for Social and Economic Assistance), and as director of ISER (Institute for the Study of Religion). She has developed instruments to monitor and evaluate public policies on the Afrodescendent population (differentially for men and women), particularly applying the Index of Human Development to these populations.

She is a member of the Articulação de Mulheres Brasileiras (formed in conjunction with Beijing) and acted as their representative to the National Council of the Women's Rights in Brazil. She now serves as Minister of Social Promotion in the new Workers Party cabinet of "Lula", recently elected President of Brazil.

In the Fall of 2002, the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research accepted two students into the newly created Master of Arts/Master of Women's Studies program. As the academic year comes to a close, Kimberly Helm and Jana Bailey talk about their experiences in the program.



Last summer, with the school year quickly approaching, I had no idea what to expect from graduate school. I had been out of school for so long, that the prospect of actually being in school was quite scary. I knew I had it in me somewhere, but I kept thinking, "What if I forgot how to write? What if I forgot how to read?" My first semester certainly did prove to be a challenge in that respect, but luckily, my professors were very supportive and always willing to work with me in any way needed.

At first, I thought that starting out in a fledgling program might be detrimental to my academic experience, but what I found instead was that being one of two graduate students in a new program, resources were more readily available and everyone was very eager to develop classes and a program that worked for me. I have had the opportunity to take courses in other departments, and this is also helpful in my pursuit of an interdisciplinary education. I want to examine issues of gender from many different lenses and this program certainly helps me do that.

If I were at a different school with a larger program, a student like me could have easily slipped through the cracks and been unable to thrive. Instead, I have been able to work closely with professors and staff to really make my experience unique. I have had the time I needed to remember what it is like to be in school and to learn what it is to be a graduate student. I know that as the semesters go on and the program grows, my experience won't be the same as that of future students, but I have confidence that the Women's Studies Master's program can only grow in ways that will benefit the students that come after me. We are in a very special position where the graduate program will be growing with the department. As the student population grows, so will the amount of faculty and classes. Moreover, with the development of a doctoral program, the possibilities for expansion seem endless. Coming to a small program might not be the right choice for everyone, but for me it has been a wonderful experience. I have enough freedom, but also enough discipline to get what I need from my Master's experience. -Kim Helm

**The Center would like to welcome Kim Helm as our newest Graduate Research Assistant.**



I am enjoying my first two semesters of graduate school in the Women's Studies program. I have had an exciting year with many unique and interesting opportunities. I was fortunate to have an assistantship for Fall 2002 with Dr. Kendal Broad, working on the Cultivating Knowledges 25th Anniversary Symposium put on by the CWSGR. This semester I am privileged to work for Professor Ntozake Shange as the teaching assistant for her course Global Voices of Feminism.

I will be presenting a paper with my colleague Tracey Graham at the Valdosta State University Eighth Annual Interdisciplinary Women's Study Conference titled "Womanism: Inclusive, Collaborative Portraits." I am in the research stage of a project with Professor Shange identifying slave cemeteries in our area. At the end of the semester we are planning a series of rituals to bless the ignored and forgotten burial places, which will be filmed by Dr. Patricia Hilliard-Nunn and choreographed by Ms. Dianne McIntyre.

One of my future goals is to work in women's health for reproductive rights. This semester I am interning at Planned Parenthood of North Central Florida in the External Affairs department with Christine Gajda. I am learning a great deal in this internship and it has motivated me even more in my career plans. My experience in this new Master's program has been exceptionally rewarding and I am looking forward to more exciting projects working with the faculty and staff.

## Kristeva from page 1

Julia Kristeva is a Professor of French literature and linguistics at the University of Paris VII - Denis Diderot, and a practicing psychoanalyst. She is a prolific writer of internationally acclaimed studies on linguistics, philosophy, psychoanalysis, literature, and feminism, such as *Tales of Love*, *Revolution of Poetic Language*, *Semeiotike*, and *The Text of the Novel*.

Kristeva's visit to UF was sponsored by the France-Florida Research Institute, the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research, the Institute for the Psychological Study of the Arts, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. -Jaime O'Dell

**Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research is accepting applications for the Master of Arts (M.A.) thesis degree and the Master of Women's Studies (M.W.S.) non-thesis degree for Fall 2003. For more information please call 392-3365 or email Paula at ambrosop@wst.ufl.edu.**

**The CWSGR apologizes to Gemma Torcivia whose name was misspelled in the Fall 2002 Newsletter.**



**Alix Dobkin Visits the University of Florida**

Recently, CWSGR in conjunction with the Department of English, hosted folk singer and lesbian activist, Alix Dobkin who gave an informal lecture to students and faculty. She spoke candidly about her experiences growing up in a communist

Alix Dobkin and Kim Emery household in the 1950s and her days as a folksinger in New York City, as well as her experiences coming out as a lesbian and her subsequent activism in the LGBT movement. She credits the women's music movement for getting her work and her message to the masses. She also played the guitar and performed some of her songs throughout the discussion.

**A.R.T. Event Examines "Women in the Workforce" Through Film**

A.R.T. (Artistic Reflections Today) at the University of Florida was designed to expand the Women's Leadership Council, to create a stronger women's presence on campus and to promote awareness of women's issues. It was created by sophomores Dani Berrin and Kristin Ede, and was held on February 27.

The purpose of A.R.T. is to examine women through different artistic media with a new theme being chosen each year. This year's theme, "Women in the Workforce," was examined through the artistic medium of film. Films shown at the event included "Baby Boom," "Erin Brockovich," "What Women Want" and "Working Girl." Issues that were addressed in these films include women-to-women relationships in the workforce, sexism, gender roles, salary and pay dividends, and the sexual representation of women in film. The event hosted a panel of distinguished speakers to give personal accounts of their experiences in the workforce. These speakers included Mary V. Fisher (Business), Adrianna Villiers (Design/Entrepreneur), Amelia Graham (Reporter) and Beth Ann Blue (Psychologist). The event opened with 35 minutes of film clips followed by a discussion facilitated by Maureen Turim, professor in the Department of English (Film Studies and Media Studies). The panelists touched on many topics that women face today in the workforce, especially how women feel playing the dual roles of mother and career woman when they choose to be both. The audience actively participated with comments and questions.

Overall, the event was well received with approximately 65 people in attendance. Plans for next year's A.R.T. will soon be underway.

As a compliment to this event, A.R.T. held a business attire clothing drive titled "Best Dressed," asking for donations of women's business attire. If you have any clothes you might want to donate, please drop them off at the CWSGR office, 3324 Turlington Hall. The proceeds will go to Peaceful Paths to aid battered women.

**Kristin Ede is a sophomore in the College of Journalism**

**Thank you to Wild Iris Books and to The African Violet for sponsoring t-shirts and tote bags for the Fall 2002 Cultivating Knowledges Symposium.**

**Gender Conversations**

An Open Forum for Research Discussion  
Spring 2003  
219 Dauer Hall

**Back Stage Racial Relations and U.S. College Students**

Leslie Houts, PhD Candidate  
Sociology  
February 6, 2003, 11:45-12:45pm

**Gendering Hate: The Construction of Homophobia on the Internet**

Helena Alden, PhD Candidate  
Sociology  
March 3, 2003, 11:45-12:45pm

**God Trouble: Gender and Ancient Judaism**

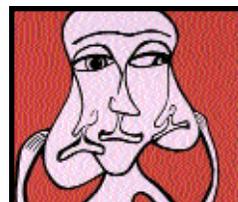
Gwynn Kessler, Assistant Professor  
Religion  
March 26, 2003, 11:45-12:45pm

**Finding Her Own**

Laura Sfire, Graduate Student  
Fine Arts  
April 22, 2003, 11:45-12:45pm

**Artistic Impressions**

**Between Thoughts**



**Susan Nash and Sara Nash**

The CWSGR Spring Art exhibit features the work of a mother and daughter artistic team titled "Between Thoughts." Their work is on display until April 29, 2003 in 3324 Turlington Hall. Susan uses a variety of objects to create unique sculptures. Sara incorporates her life experiences to create intimate drawings. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

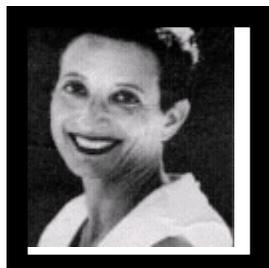
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### Eminent Scholar H el ene Cixous to Visit the University of Florida in October 2003

Along with the France-Florida Research Institute and the Department of English, the CWSGR will welcome H el ene

Cixous for a series of lectures and seminars in the Fall. Cixous is known for her development of * criture f eminine* as a means of dealing with subjective difference in both writing and social theory. She has written numerous plays and novels in addition to theoretical essays, and currently teaches at the University of Paris VIII. She will be in Gainesville October 12-15 and plans to give lectures and a seminar. For more information please contact the CWSGR at 392-3365.

**We would like to thank recent supporters of the CWSGR**

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Coming in May 2003:

### GIVING WILDLIFE A VOICE



Barbara Matusik, a student in the College of Fine Arts, will be exhibiting her artwork at the CWSGR throughout the summer. The exhibition is a mixed media display which combines her love of creating art with her passion for nature, animals, and the environment.

**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 website at: <http://web.wst.ufl.edu> or feel free to stop by our office at 3324 Turlington Hall.**

Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution



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