

From the Director's Desk



DR. BONNIE MORADI
DIRECTOR

This has been a surreal semester in a surreal year. We have had to share pain, milestones, and celebrations at a distance, through screens. Yet, as I reflect on the year, I am humbled at how our center community came together and achieved so much to be proud of and celebrate.

We marked the end of the semester with a virtual celebration for our graduating students. At this event, our students spontaneously shared narratives about their learning, their journeys, and what they are carrying forward from their time in the Center. They shared stories of how their personal transformations shaped transformations in their family and friends, stories of how the knowledge and skills they gained will infuse feminist anti-racist work

into their careers, stories of how care and community in the Center sustained them during their time at UF (and hopefully beyond). These students' stories guide Center faculty and staff through the hardest times.

At the graduation event, I was holding the moment of joy and celebration. At the same time, I noted the heaviness we have been feeling individually and collectively. We are holding the relentless killings of Black folks by police, the racism and violence against Asian American people, the particular misogyny and gendered-violence deployed against Asian American women, the disproportionate health and financial burdens of the pandemic on BIPOC communities.

In this context, I have great admiration for the care and labor that I have seen from all of you in our center community. Students, staff, faculty, affiliates, and friends have worked to maintain support and community through making space in and outside of the classroom, organizing

programs to promote sharing, caring, and healing, and showing up day after day for each other, our families, and for the Center.

As featured in this issue of the newsletter, we are ending this academic year with successful faculty searches and hires, forward movement on our department proposal, a plan of action and assessment for addressing anti-Black racism and supporting BIPOC students, faculty, and staff, just to name a few accomplishments. We are also saying farewell and good wishes to two of our faculty colleagues. These are all significant milestones in any year, let alone in a year as trying as this has been.

In this moment, while we hold the gravity of the pain, the anger, and the resolute determination to keep doing the work of social justice, I am also very thankful to celebrate and share our joy and pride in what we have achieved this year, in solidarity and community.

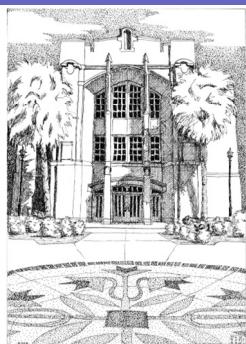


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The Center Welcomes New Faculty



"In this moment, while we hold the gravity of the pain, the anger and the resolute determination to keep doing the work of social justice, I am also very thankful to celebrate and share our joy and pride in what we have achieved this year, in solidarity and community."

-Dr. Bonnie Moradi



Dr. Nilufer Akalin is a critical health studies scholar whose areas of expertise include migration studies, intersectionality theory, and critical race theory. Her teaching expertise includes health inequality and self-care; gender, health, and medicine; and social theory. Her research focuses on the interplay of immigration status and race and how they are treated in the healthcare system to produce health inequality in the United States. Dr. Akalin will bring her expertise in health equity and justice to teaching courses such as Introduction to Health Disparities and the practicum for the Center's Health Disparities in Society minor.



Dr. Hilary Coulson is an interdisciplinary historian and gender studies scholar, with a focus on the history of women, crime, violence, and incarceration in the United States from the period of the Early Republic through the Civil War. Her work is concerned with matters of race, class, gender, and connections to perceptions of criminality and punishment in United States history. Dr. Coulson will bring her expertise to teaching core and elective courses, such as Interdisciplinary Perspectives in Women's studies and History of American Medicine: Race, Class, Gender, & Science.



Dr. Hina Shaikh is a feminist and ethnic studies scholar whose work examines the alternative gendered and geographic imaginings of data, archival fictions, space, and place. This work includes analysis of biometric data collection by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) from Muslim women and analysis of the Tennessee Integrated Traffic Analysis Network (TITAN) predictive software and its reallocation of policing resources. Dr. Shaikh will bring her expertise to teaching core courses as well as courses in AI, data science, and data analytics, including courses such as Data Feminism and Gender, Race, and Science.

Lavender Living Learning Community

By Natalia Hazday, Women's Studies Major, Class of 2021, and
 Dr. Alyssa Zucker, Women's Studies Associate Professor

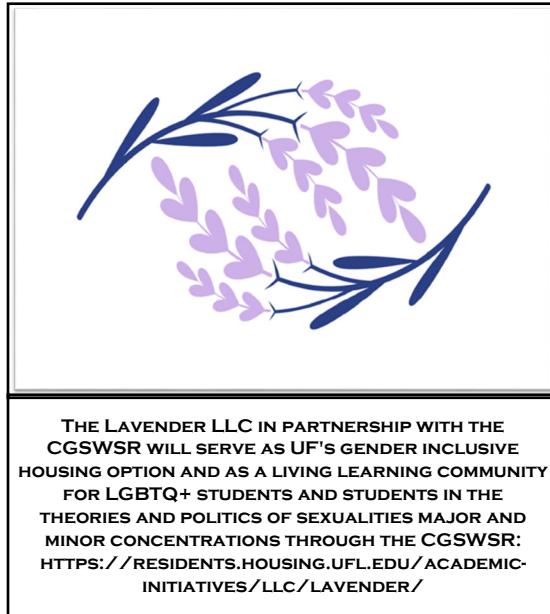
Our Center is thrilled to partner with student advocates and Housing and Residence Life to launch a new living learning community (LLC): Lavender LLC. Thematic LLCs at UF allow students to live in designated dorms with others who share common interests. LLCs also provide academic and extracurricular programming related to the theme. Lavender LLC will be organized around themes of gender and sexuality, with emphases on intersectionality, complexities of gender identity, the history of LGBTQ+ movements, and queer theory.

Importantly, Lavender LLC, located in Springs Complex, will serve as the first gender inclusive housing at UF. This housing option is ideal for gender expansive students (e.g., trans, non-binary, gender non-conforming, and intersex people) and for sexual minority students (e.g., lesbian, gay, bisexual, and queer people), as well as cisgender and heterosexual students with interests in gender and sexuality studies. Unlike traditional housing options, students living in Lavender LLC will not be assigned roommates or suitemates based on their sex assigned at birth, but instead will have the

option to select the students they want to room with based on other characteristics. Many other universities in Florida and across the country offer gender inclusive housing, and we are glad UF is taking this step.



fulfills general education and UF Quest 2 requirements for undergraduate students. The class also counts toward the Women's Studies and Theories and Politics of Sexuality major and minor concentrations.



As the academic partner to Lavender LLC, our Center will be responsible for providing at least one linked course per year to LLC students. For Fall 2021, **Dr. Kendal Broad** is teaching IDS 2935, *Be a Social Justice Activist*, as the linked course. LLC students who wish to take a class together are invited to enroll in the class which will provide an overview of scholarship about social movement organizing, intersectionality, and hashtag activism. The class

Advocacy for gender inclusive housing at UF was a sustained effort by students in Pride Student Union, and student stakeholders have been involved in every step of the process to launch Lavender LLC. The Lavender LLC planning team received the 2021 Outstanding Inclusive Excellence Initiative Award from UF Multicultural and Diversity Affairs. We are excited to support their efforts and to contribute to creating exciting environments on campus that support students' personal and academic development. Lavender LLC will open in Summer 2021!



Celebrating Milestones and Accomplishments

Congratulations to our MA graduates!

Sunshine Adam graduated with an MA in Women's Studies in the Spring of 2021. Thanks to the mentorship of Dr. Della V. Mosley and Dr. Alyssa Zucker, they successfully defended their thesis project titled "Building Academics for Black Lives: Reflections from a Black, Queer, Disabled Organizer." Since then, they have continued their work with Academics for Black Survival and Wellness, an initiative that moves scholars and academics towards taking action against anti-Black racism. After graduation, they are looking forward to entering life post-academia and working full-time for the healing and liberation of Black and queer folks.

Chelsea Gifford graduated with her MA in Women's Studies in spring 2021. In March, she successfully defended her thesis project titled, "Dear Diary: Life-Writing as a Radical and Introspective Form of Queer Self-Making." Chelsea extends tremendous gratitude to her Chair, Dr. Trysh Travis, and committee member, Dr. Elizabeth Garcia, for their continued support and

mentorship. She is grateful for her experiences throughout the MA program, specifically her roles as an instructor for the course, "What Is the Good Life," and her teaching assistantship with Dr. Anita Anantharam for "Transnational

Peaceful Paths Domestic Abuse Network over the past semester. She is appreciative of the knowledge, support, and friendship she found within the Center.



WOMEN'S STUDIES GRADUATE STUDENTS (LEFT TO RIGHT)
JUSTINE VERAS, SKY MARTIN, SUNSHINE ADAM, AND
CHELSEA GIFFORD

Feminism." Chelsea plans to seek a meaningful career path that combines her passion and dedication to both academic and student affairs.

Justine Veras graduated with her MA in Women's Studies in Spring 2021. In March, she successfully defended her thesis project titled, "Afro-Spirituality and Brujeria in Popular Culture" under the supervision of her committee chair Dr. Jillian Hernandez and committee member Dr. Tanya Saunders. Justine plans to continue her lifelong journey of healing, advocating for larger liberty, and living deeply and fully. She extends gratitude to her cohort and all others in Gainesville, at UF, and in the Center who have provided her joy, support, and friendship during her time in the program.

Sky Martin graduated with her MA in Women's Studies in Spring 2021. Over the past semester, with the supervision of Dr. Alyssa Zucker, she successfully defended her thesis titled "Black Racial Identity and Feminist Perspectives as Predictors of the Positive Embodiment of Black Women." She also completed two internships at Bread and Roses Women's Healthcare Center and

News and updates from our continuing Graduate Students

Terri Bailey will be writing and continuing to conduct research in Black Feminist theory as it relates to her thesis on women in leadership roles in African

Celebrating Milestones and Accomplishments

traditional spiritual practices. She hopes to interview women who are priests in African Traditional Religion from various parts of the diaspora. In addition, she will finish the editing process for *Gaineville Proper*, her book of poetry focusing on people and places in Gainesville's historically Black communities (this is in fulfillment of her Alachua County Major Artist Grant obligation). Finally, Terri will host the second installment of her Queens Room wellness series, *Warrior Women's Wellness: Self-Care for the Latinx Feminine Divine midsummer* (part one centered on Black Feminists).

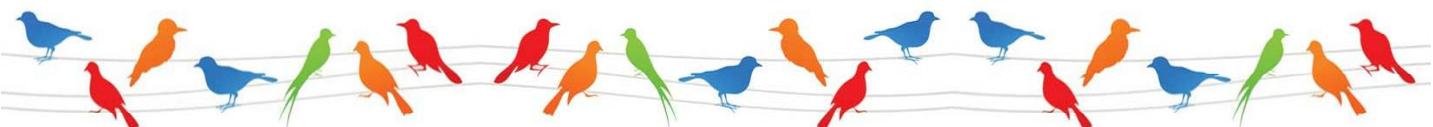
Priya Gurjar will continue to work on her MA thesis project, which will center the voices and experiences of victim-survivors of sexual violence. Over the summer, Priya plans to spend time reading, working on her research, and enjoying her time off. She is looking forward to assisting Dr. Zucker and Dr. Coy with tracking attrition in rape prosecution in Alachua County during the fall.

Bailey Haas will continue research for her MA thesis. This project examines how online spaces allow for consciousness raising and intersectional activism. She looks forward to taking the summer to narrow her scope and explore the work that is being done across mediums such as podcasts, Instagram posts, and TikToks. Bailey is also looking forward to meeting her cohort and the Center faculty and staff in person for the first time!

Maria Saldana will continue research on her MA thesis, focusing on the narratives of the Queer Peruvian Diaspora. She will spend the summer interviewing self-identifying Queer Peruvians and archiving their testimonios with the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program. Maria is looking forward to hearing their stories as well as continuing her work with the PUMAS Collective, a formation of Peruvians in the diaspora that works towards social change with Peruvians back home. She is excited to keep building community with her cohort in the fall and dreams of attending many perreos when it is safe to do so.

Jess Trochez will continue research on her MA project, delving into an interrogation of the colonial violence against queer communities in Honduras. Their MA project will specifically center sex workers and the collective ways they promote their wellness and liberation. To illuminate how systems of oppression actively target sex workers, their project positions sex work as a site of queer resistance and decolonization, unraveling the racialized heteropatriarchal values of colonial violence in Honduras as well. For her project, Jess is looking forward to spending the summer reading about sex work in Honduras, searching for poetry written by people in or from Honduras and expanding on her own poetry.

Lucy Xie will be writing and conducting research for her MA thesis. Her project historically and geopolitically contextualizes the rise in COVID-19 related hate crimes against Asian American people. She is excited to be reunited with her family after a year abroad, and will be taking time to read, explore, and better understand Asian feminisms this summer.



Farewell and Good Wishes to Two Core Faculty Colleagues

*"It is in
collectivities
that we
find
reservoirs
of hope
and
optimism"*

-Angela Davis

Two of our Center core faculty colleagues are transitioning to other opportunities. We offer our deep gratitude for all of their contributions and wish them great success and joy in the next chapter of their path.

Dr. Elizabeth Garcia joined the Center in 2019. Thank you Dr. Garcia for bringing your expertise in Latina Feminist Thought and Activism to our courses and Center community!

Dr. Laura Guyer joined the Center in 2013. Thank you Dr. Guyer for bringing your expertise in health disparities to our Center community, and for your outstanding stewardship of the health disparities minor!



DR. ELIZABETH GARCIA



DR. LAURA K. GUYER

Edna Saffy Lecture Series: Dr. Safiya Noble Presents on Algorithmic Oppression

As part of the Edna Saffy Lecture Series, the Center co-sponsored Dr. Safiya Noble's lecture, "Your Search Algorithm is Political." This talk was organized by the African American Studies Program and cosponsored by multiple units on campus. Dr. Noble is an Associate Professor at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in the Department of Information Studies where she serves as the Co-Director of the UCLA Center for Critical Internet Inquiry. She is the author of a best-selling book *Algorithms of Oppression: How Search Engines Reinforce Racism* (NYU Press). In her talk, Dr. Noble discussed artificial intelligence as a human rights issue in the 21st century. She provided evidence on how search algorithms can misrepresent people and communities, and the harm that comes from these algorithmic practices, designed and implemented by humans. She underscored the role of search engines and other decision-making systems in contributing to oppression. She argued that with artificial intelligence must come accountability.



DR. SAFIYA NOBLE

BA to MA in Women's Studies: Center Alum Connects Research and Community

by Mackintosh Joachim, Women's Studies major, CGSWSR intern, Class of 2021



Maria Saldana graduated with the BA in Women's Studies and a BS in Psychology in 2020. She has since started the Women's Studies MA program at the University of Florida.

For many undergraduate students at the University of Florida, the Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies Research (CGSWSR), or as it is informally known as "The Center," is unknown territory. However, students are often excited to learn that The Center offers a major and a minor in Women's Studies, minors in Health Disparities in Society and in Theories and Politics of Sexuality, and a Master's degree in Women's Studies. Although The Center's M.A. students come from all over the U.S. and abroad, they are sometimes undergraduate students from right here at UF.

One of those students is Maria Saldana (pronouns she, her, ella). Saldana recently completed her first year in the Women's Studies MA program. Like

many of our undergraduate majors, Saldana was a dual degree student. She earned a BA in Women's Studies and a BS in Psychology, graduating cum laude in 2020. Saldana stated that her undergraduate Women's Studies education was particularly useful because of its theoretical focus, including courses on queer Latin America and Black feminist and womanist theory. "I was intentional in choosing courses that centered Black Feminist Theory/Women of Color theory and Queer theory in Latin America as they shaped my community work and own research." Saldana connected learning from her women's studies course with her community work. "I've been involved in social justice work with my community and different collectives for a few years now. The more I dove into Women's Studies, I saw how the work I was doing in my community was related to what I was learning in class." Due to the smaller class sizes relative to courses in other majors, Saldana was able to receive essential feedback from her professors, which helped her to prepare for graduate studies.

I asked Saldana to reflect on any differences between being an undergraduate student and being a graduate student and if there were any surprises. Saldana said that she did not expect to start graduate school in a pandemic, and I think all UF students can agree that we did not wish to attend school while we are in a global crisis. Saldana also described unique aspects of graduate classes. For example, she said that graduate classes

can be truly intimate, with class sizes ranging from six to twenty students. Saldana said that while graduate students take fewer classes than undergraduates, they must be prepared to do a lot more readings for each course than they did in undergraduate classes. However, the relationship and bond that one creates with their advisor or chair are more profound and significant. "I have loved being able to dream-build my own work, as it feels deeply personal and also much more than that. Being able to nurture my relationship with my brilliant mentors, Dr. Hernandez and Dr. Mosley, who continue to support not just my work, but my whole self. Growing closer and learning from the talented professors in the Center, and of course, bonding with my cohort!" For her M.A. thesis, Saldana is focusing on stories from the queer Peruvian diaspora. She is working with the direction and mentoring of Dr. Jillian Hernandez (committee chair) and Dr. Della Mosley.

It was a pleasure to do this feature on Maria Saldana. During our talk, she opened my eyes to the differences between undergraduate and graduate school and life. She has persuaded me to think about getting a master's degree in women's studies at the Center.



Center Awards Inaugural AAUW– Gainesville Branch Grants



The Center is proud to announce the inaugural winners of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Gainesville Branch Grants. These grants are 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/>



Terri Bailey,
MA Women's Studies
“Back to Center: Reclaiming
Women’s Leadership in African
Traditional Religions”



Priya Gurjar,
MA Women's Studies
“Towards Healing in the Wake
of Sexual Violence: A Photo
Narrative Study”

Center Awards Charles T. Woods Grants

The Center 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.

We thank our external grant review committee members, Roberto Abreu, Greg Allen, Carlene Chase, Berta Esperanza Hernandez, Tiffany Richards, and Rachel Silveri for their evaluation of the applications.



CHARLES T. WOODS, JR.



Maria Saldana,
**MA Women's
Studies**
“Testimonios of
Queer Peruvians in
the Diaspora”



Ecem Ece,
PhD Sociology
“Remote Activism: A
Post-Structuralist
Qualitative Study of
‘Being Spaceless’ in
LGBTQ+ Movements”



Hannah Brown,
PhD Psychology
“Self-Compassion as
Resistance: Examining
Discrimination, Mental
Health, and Resilience
Factors for Trans and
Gender Non-Conforming
People”



Gabriel Lockett,
PhD Psychology
“An Exploration of Community
Support for Black Transmasculine
People within the Context of
Covid-19 and Anti-Black Racism
and Violence”



Jules Sostre,
PhD Psychology
“Black Trans Youth Activists’
Wellbeing Amid Anti-Black
Racism, Trans-Specific Vi-
olence, and COVID-19”

Speaker Series in the Humanities Grant: Dr. Jillian Hernandez



DR. JILLIAN HERNANDEZ

The Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere (CHPS) in the UF College of Liberal Arts and Sciences offers sponsorships of workshops and speaker series with support from the David Yulee Endowment. The goals of the events are to present scholarship, foster the exchange of interpretations and ideas, and be accessible to an audience coming from a variety of disciplines as well as the wider public. CHPS solicits proposals from faculty, curators, and graduate students who wish to organize one-day events or longer-running programs, especially ones that require collaboration between groups of faculty or students.

Dr. Jillian Hernandez, Associate Professor in the Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women's

Studies Research, was the recipient of a CHPS Speaker Series in the Humanities Grant in 2020-2021.

With these funds, Dr. Hernandez organized the ***Radical Femininity: Women of Color Imaginaries, New Political Iconographies series***. This series explored how contemporary artists, cultural producers, and activists are mobilizing feminine aesthetics to transform established political iconographies and create new lexicons. The series included the following events:

- April 6: “Roundtable Salon: Femme Figurations in Contemporary Art,” Featuring curator Christiana Ine-Kimba Boyle and artists Pamela Council, Yvette Mayorga, and Kenya (Robinson)

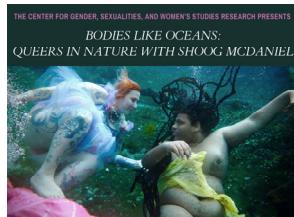
- April 9: Lecture by Dr. Omi’seke Natasha Tinsley, “Femme-inist is to Feminist as PYNK is to Pink”
- May 18: Lecture by Dr. madison moore, “Cooking in Heels: Queer Style in Isolation”
- May 25: “Women of Color Imaginaries, New Political Iconographies Mini-Symposium” featuring Jacquelyn Carmen Guerrero, Eddy Francisco Alvarez Jr., and Gloria Negrete-Lopez

Other co-sponsors joining the Center for Humanities included The Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies Research, the School of Art and Art History, the Department of English and the Lux Art Institute.

Center Events Bring Scholars, Collaborators, and Guests to UF

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

- ◆ **Perreo as Queer Feminist Resistance: A Creative Conversation** was held on October 3rd 2020. The event featured **Dr. Jade Power Sotomayor, DJ Sad Boy, and Dania Warhol**. This Center event was organized and moderated by **Dr. Jillian Hernandez** and Center MA student **Maria Saldana**.
- ◆ **Bodies Like Oceans: Queers in Nature A Discussion with Artist Shoog McDaniel** was held November 18th 2020. This Center event was organized by **Dr. Jillian Hernandez**.
- ◆ **Your Search Algorithm is Political**, A talk by **Safiya Noble** was held on October 21st, organized by the African American Studies program, and cosponsored as part of the Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies Research Edna Saffy Lecture Series. (See Page 2)



- ◆ **Visiting Artist Fatimah Tuggar: Methods, Making, Strategies in the Art of Fatimah Tuggar**, sponsored by the School of Art + Art History
- ◆ **2020 Women's Entrepreneurship Summit: Inspiring Women to be Confident Creators, Collaborators and Changemakers**, sponsored by the Entrepreneurship & Innovation Center at the UF Warrington College of Business and the UF Collaboratory for Women Innovators at UF Innovate
- ◆ **Rethinking the Public Sphere: Data and Democracy**, sponsored by the Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere, included the following events:

Drone Publics: A Human-made Machine World, Dr. Katherine Chandler

Data Feminism, Dr. Catherine D'Ignazio

Race to the Future? Reimagining the Default Settings of Technology & Society, Dr. Ruha Benjamin

Will Robots Feel Pain? The Politics of Race, the Governance of Technology, and the Future of Humanity, Dr. Sylvester Johnson

- ◆ **I Am, Yo Soy, Mwen Se, Eu Sou Poderoso: Resisting Violence Against Womxn, Latina Empowerment Symposium**, sponsored by UF Hispanic-Latinx Affairs
- ◆ **Blackness 360° Series: Art, Culture, Health, and Futures**, organized by Dr. Manoucheka Celeste as Black Affairs Faculty Fellow, sponsored by UF Black Affairs – details featured in this newsletter issue
- ◆ **Radical Femininity: Women of Color Imaginaries, New Political Iconographies**, organized by Dr. Jillian Hernandez with a grant from the UF Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere – details featured in this newsletter issue
- ◆ **Documenting Migration Stories: The Haitian American Dream Digital Archive**, organized by UF Mellon Intersections Group on Global Blackness and Latinx Identity (Dr. Manoucheka Celeste Convener)
- ◆ **A Conversation with Novelist Yaa Gyasi**, sponsored by UF Center for Jewish Studies



The Center also co-sponsored many

UF and community events including the following:

- ◆ **Talking COVID: A Survival Guide for People of Color**, organized by UF Mellon Intersections Group on Global Blackness and Latinx Identity (Dr. Manoucheka Celeste Convener)
- ◆ **Two Centuries of the Equal Rights Amendment**, sponsored by UF Levin College of Law
- ◆ **Conversations in the Neighborhood: Let's Talk About Food**, sponsored by the Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere Public Humanities Series, included the following events:

- Food Access: Race, Class, and the Environment
- Suppressed Narratives: Oral History, Cookbooks, and Museums
- Food Memories of Latin America
- Fruits of the Past, Present, and Future: A Virtual Workshop with Anna Tjé
- The Ecology of Food; Dishes of Africa and the African Diaspora
- Gainesville's Food Producers; Madan Sara

With an Attitude of Gratitude

Thanks to everyone whose generosity helps the Center continue to thrive, including the following donors:

- ♥ Mr. Gregory R. Allen
- ♥ American Association of University Women, Gainesville Chapter
- ♥ Arts Association of Alachua County
- ♥ Association for Academic Women
- ♥ Dr. Marni A. Brown and Mr. Casey A. Brown
- ♥ Reverend Glen A. Busby & Mrs. Linda C. Busby
- ♥ Mr. Fred H. Cantrell, Jr.
- ♥ Mrs. Jean Chalmers
- ♥ Mr. Evan G. Coe
- ♥ Community Foundation of North Central Florida
- ♥ Mr. Neil O. Contess
- ♥ Dr. Jannar W. Davis & Mr. Douglas E. Curry
- ♥ Ms. Susan F. Delegal
- ♥ Dr. Sheila Dickison
- ♥ Dr. Paul Doughty
- ♥ Mrs. Melissa J. Ellis and Mr. Matthew A. Ellis
- ♥ Ms. Jasmine Esmailbegui
- ♥ Dr. Margaret U. Fields & Dr. Michael J. Fields
- ♥ Mr. Michael B. Friskey
- ♥ Dr. Jamie R. Funderburk
- ♥ Mr. John A. Grannan
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- ♥ Mr. James W. Hicks
- ♥ Dr. Sidney Homan, Jr. & Mrs. Norma M. Homan
- ♥ Dr. Nicole A. Horenstein
- ♥ Dr. Grady E. Johnson, Jr.
- ♥ Mr. Charles C. Kafoglis
- ♥ Mr. Sid Kennedy
- ♥ Dr. Angel Kwolek-Folland & Mr. Nathan O. Folland
- ♥ Dr. Angela Lindner & Mr. James H. Lindner
- ♥ Dr. Madelyn Lockhart
- ♥ Dr. Mary K. Lockwood
- ♥ Lux Art Institute
- ♥ Mr. Grady McClendon
- ♥ Dr. Judith W. Page and Professor William H. Page
- ♥ Mrs. Cheryl D. Paradis and Mr. Kenneth H. Paradis, Jr.
- ♥ Dr. Jaquelyn L. Resnick and Dr. Michael B. Resnick
- ♥ Mr. Juanluis Rodriguez
- ♥ Mr. Jon Rou
- ♥ Ms. Lynne E. Roy
- ♥ Mrs. Lori L. Saxson & Mr. Robert S. Saxon
- ♥ Ms. Christine N. Sheridan
- ♥ Ms. Eleanor Smeal
- ♥ Ms. Clara J. Smith
- ♥ Dr. John M. Spivack
- ♥ Ms. Anita R. Sundaram
- ♥ Ms. Kathryn Chicone Ustler
- ♥ Ms. Deborah Whippen
- ♥ Mr. Robert Wilder
- ♥ Mr. John H. Williams, Jr.
- ♥ Mr. Chuck Woods

Gifts to the Center are used to fund conferences, educational travel for graduate students, scholarship funds, speaker honoraria, and exhibit support.



USTLER HALL

Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies Research

Offers an interdisciplinary forum for the study of gender and sexualities, their intersections with race/ethnicity, class and other sociocultural systems, and their functions in cultures and societies.

Opportunities for Giving to the UF Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies Research

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 | Garden enhancement and plants for the Yardley Garden:
Name a section of the garden for a friend or loved one (a plaque will indicate contribution) |
| \$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) |
| \$1000-5000 | Help us to purchase new furniture/audio-visual equipment for the Atrium (a plaque will indicate contribution) |
| \$5000 | Support faculty research for the summer (Faculty Summer Research Fellowship) |
| \$5000 | Course development (New Course Development Grant) |
| \$10,000 | Inscription on the Yardley Wall |



For major gifts and other naming opportunities, please contact

Christy Popwell, Director of Development, CLAS: (352) 392-1964 or cpopwell@ufl.edu.



CGSWSR Faculty News

Dr. Anita Anantharam published an article on transformative pedagogy through study abroad and service learning in the journal *Frontiers of Contemporary Education*. She presented on Diversity and Inclusion in Business at UF's annual "Inspiring Women Leaders Conference." Dr. Anantharam continued her service and collaboration at UF and nationally, including serving as a US State Department Critical Language Scholarship Program reviewer and Scholarship Campus Advisor.

During this complex and challenging year, **Dr. Kendal Broad** took great value in collaborating with colleagues, staff, graduate students, and undergraduate students of the Center. In addition to continuing as Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Broad was pleased to participate in a Queer job panel with Pride Student Union and to think and study with both undergraduate and graduate students in new learning environments (online and "Hyflex"). As well, Dr. Broad published "Re-Storying Beloved Community: Intersectional Social Movement Storytelling of Antiracist Gay Liberation" in a leading social movements journal (*Mobilization*) and was able to work on a second related article thanks to support

from the Charles T. Woods Grant Faculty award. Finally, Dr. Broad is honored to continue work with six PhD students doing amazing queer and trans sociology (as an affiliate faculty member in the Department of Sociology, Criminology & Law).

Dr. Manoucheka Celeste spent this past academic year teaching and working on various projects. This summer, she is looking forward to traveling and spending time with her communities. Dr. Celeste was selected as the winner of the *Beyond120 Research Mentorship Award in Humanities*. See page 15 for details on Dr. Celeste's work as the inaugural Black Affairs Faculty Fellow this year.

Dr. Maddy Coy joined the Center as an Assistant Professor in Fall 2020. She taught a graduate course on Feminist Methods in Research and Scholarship in fall 2020 and undergraduate courses on Violence Against Women and Sexual Ethics in spring 2021. She is profoundly grateful to the students for their grace and patience with the challenges of online and Hyflex classes. Dr. Coy continued her research with Dr Alyssa Zucker on attrition of sexual assault cases, in partnership with the Alachua

County Victim Services and Rape Crisis Center. A team of undergraduate researchers who have worked on the project have delivered several brilliant local presentations and co-authored an editorial for the Alligator about the importance of focusing on perpetrators of sexual assault. Dr. Coy was honored to receive a grant from the Humanities Scholarship Enhancement Fund to explore feminist activist conceptualizations of "violence against women," to support a book she is writing on violence against women in the U.S.

Dr. Jillian Hernandez published her book *Aesthetics of Excess: The Art and Politics of Black and Latina Embodiment* (Duke University Press), which was recently awarded Honorable Mention for the Emily Toth Award for Best Single Work in Women's Studies from the Popular Culture Association. *Aesthetics of Excess* has been covered in media including the Miami New Times, Bitch Magazine, Art Burst Miami, Ideas on Fire, and Fresh Art International. She won a Getty Residential Scholar grant for Spring 2022 to work on her next project on femme of color aesthetics and gave invited talks at the Museum of Modern Art PS1, Rutgers University, the University of California San Diego, University of Colorado Boulder, Virginia Commonwealth



(Continued from page 12)

University, Florida International University and other institutions. She curated a Spring/Summer 2021 speaker series at UF through a Center for the Humanities in the Public Sphere grant on the theme *Radical Femininity: Women of Color Imaginaries, New Political Iconographies*. Dr. Hernandez also published an invited book review in the March 2021 volume of *American Quarterly*.

Dr. Bonnie Moradi and her coauthors published several articles, including a citation network analysis of intersectionality scholarship and a study on women's critical consciousness and well-being. For the latter article, they won the Research on Psychotherapy with Women Award from the American Psychological Association Society for the Psychology of Women. Dr. Moradi made several national presentations and an invited presentation on intersectional analysis and institutional equity and justice to the UF Faculty Senate. She is co-editing a special issue of the *Journal of Counseling Psychology*, titled Qualitative Research: Method, Power, and Process.

Dr. Connie Shehan continued

her role as Editor in Chief of the *Journal of Family Issues*. She also worked with coauthors on several articles on reproductive health and justice. This year, Dr. Shehan chaired the Graduate School's Teaching Award for Graduate Student Instructors committee, served on the International Committee for the Rosabeth Moss Kanter Award for Excellence in Work-Family Research, and pursued pedagogical innovations and trainings, including the Ms. Classroom Workshop on teaching gender, sexuality, and women's studies courses online in the time of COVID.

Dr. Trysh Travis was a featured expert on the history of self-help and substance abuse on the podcasts "Pursuit of Happier" and "Flash Forward." Her essay "On Bluebird Trail," which examines historical changes in the way feminists retrospectively construct the experience of sexual aggression, appeared in the anthology *Feminist Pilgrimage*, edited by Stacy Russo (Litwin Press). She delivered presentations on "White Privilege and White Fragility in Historical Context" to UF's Department of Occupational Therapy, the Docents Corps at the Harn Museum of Art, and the inaugural CxUF Conference on "Keeping it Real," and spoke on "Where is Behavioral Health in the History of Medicine?" at the annual

conference of the American Association for the History of Medicine.

Dr. Alyssa Zucker published a peer-reviewed paper in the journal *Sexuality Research and Social Policy*. Together with Dr. Maddy Coy, she supervised three undergraduate researchers and one recent alum working on a project tracking outcomes of sexual battery cases in Alachua County, seeking to understand opportunities to improve justice for victim-survivors of rape and other forms of sexual assault. As undergraduate coordinator she learned the joys and efficacy of Zoom office hours, something she will retain as an option even post-COVID. As experiential learning coordinator, she developed a new class, *Feminist Futures*, to focus on professional development opportunities for Women's Studies students. Dr. Zucker is honored to have served as the faculty champion for UF's new LGBTQ+-focused living learning community and thrilled to have chaired two successful job searches this year. She is excited about the new opportunities for the Center and UF in the coming years because of these advancements.

Improving Justice for Sexual Assault Victim-Survivors: Center Faculty and Student Research

By Dr. Maddy Coy

How are sexual assaults investigated and prosecuted in Alachua County? This is the question being explored by a team of Center faculty and students, in collaboration with Alachua County Victim Services and Rape Crisis Center.

Dr. Maddy Coy serves on the Advisory Council for the Rape Crisis Center and, when advocates there asked whether it would be possible to track sexual assault cases “from report to court,” she and **Dr. Alyssa Zucker** designed a project to do just that. The aim is to analyze what factors influence criminal justice attrition of sexual assaults in order to improve judicial processes for victim-survivors. Rape is the most under-reported crime in the U.S. and national statistics suggest that only about 2% of reports end in conviction. <https://www.rainn.org/statistics/criminal-justice-system>

The project was enabled by a grant from the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI), permission from Gainesville Police Department (GPD) to access their case files, graduate students **Alexandra Weis** and **Zoe Muyczka** assisting with data collection, and endless support from Rape Crisis Program Manager **Brittany Coleman** to help navigate the police database. With a plan to analyze five years of cases, in 2019, the team began reading every sexual assault case of adult victim-survivors.

In March 2020, the project ground to a halt when Gainesville was locked down due to COVID-19. By Fall 2020,

University Scholars **Haaniya Ahmed** and **Asia Barlow** and CLAS Scholar **Alexandra Quintana** joined the project. Still unable to access police data due to COVID-19 restrictions, each student selected an aspect of criminal justice responses to sexual violence and carefully reviewed existing knowledge from other jurisdictions, looking for the implications for the research project.



Asia Barlow analyzed literature on what has been termed “downstream orientation” or how police act as gatekeepers for the criminal justice system. Haaniya Ahmed focused on Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner programs and the experience of reporting for victim-survivors. Alexandra Quintana explored the literature on attrition relating to child sexual abuse.

In Spring 2021, **Lanique Griffin** joined the team to undertake interviews with local experts about their “practice-based evidence” of criminal justice and sexual violence. One theme that cuts across all the team’s work is the implications of racism in policing practices, especially how this affects reporting by BIPOC victim-survivors and case outcomes. Racial disparities in arrests and prosecution of suspects and in the profile of victim-survivors are key variables for data analysis.

By the end of their scholarships, the student team had presented to the Alachua County Victim Services and Rape Crisis Center Advisory Council and staff team, the Undergraduate Research Symposium, and Dr. Coy’s *Violence Against Women* class. Every audience was deeply impacted by the succinct synthesis that the students shared and the questions they raised about local responses.

The team has gained insight into how sexual assaults are investigated and prosecuted in Alachua County. Dr. Zucker and Dr. Coy have resumed data collection from the police files, and Lanique Griffin continues to interview local experts. Next, the team will request data from the State Attorney’s Office to track cases through to court.

This project was designed to address a gap in knowledge recognized by local sexual assault advocates. With support from the Alachua County Victim Services and Rape Crisis Center and commitment from GPD, the research is already starting conversations among law enforcement. The team hopes that the completed project will make a real difference to justice for victim-survivors.

See editorial for the *Independent Florida Alligator* written by Haaniya, Asia, Lanique and Alexandra with Drs. Zucker and Coy about ending sexual violence. <https://www.alligator.org/article/2021/05/sexual-violence-column>

Black Affairs Faculty Fellow: Dr. Manoucheka Celeste



DR. MANOUCHEKA CELESTE
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
BLACK AFFAIRS
FACULTY FELLOW

The Black Affairs Faculty Fellowship is a new initiative for the 2020-2021 academic year. The purpose of the fellowship is to create a pathway for students to have access to UF Black faculty and increase their engagement with faculty. The faculty fellow provides ongoing support and guidance to students and connects them with relevant campus resources.

The inaugural Black Affairs Faculty Fellow (2020-2021) was Dr. Manoucheka Celeste, Associate Professor in the Center for Gender, Sexualities, and

Women's Studies Research and the African American Studies Program.

The faculty fellow facilitates Fellow Chats with students, speaks at Black Affairs events, delivers presentations for select Black Affairs staff meetings and serves on the advisory committee for the 50th Anniversary of Black Thursday. Dr. Celeste also delivered a speech at the 50th Anniversary of Black Thursday event on April 15. A new speaker series, Blackness 360°: *Art, Culture, Health, and Futures*, has emerged through the Faculty Fellowship. It is a series of curated experiences designed to deepen knowledge about the multiplicity and complexity of Blackness and Black experiences.

As the Black Affairs Faculty Fellow, Dr. Celeste organized this year's Blackness 360° series, which included the following events:

- March 17 - Writing and Reading the World with Black Women's Stories, A talk by Évelyne Trouillot and Dr. Nadège Ménard, moderated by Dr. Celeste
- March 23 - From Brooklyn to Bahia: Global Black Flows of Culture, Politics, and Resistance in the Americas, featuring speaker Dr. Bryce Henson

- March 24 - Thriving: A Toolkit for Black Student, featuring speaker Orlando White
- March 31 - Cutting Your Crap. Pasting the Pieces, featuring speaker Dr. Grace L. Sanders Johnson
- April 6 - Black Presence and Indifference in Sites of Erasure, featuring speaker Dr. Mandisa Haarhoff
- April 7 - Black Women's Health & Reality TV: Using Black Popular Culture for Health Promotion, featuring speaker Dr. Asha Winfield
- April 13 - Cruel Imitations: Almena Davis vs. Hollywood, featuring Dr. Ellen Scott
- April 20 - Sermon I Wish I'd Heard: Play & Workshop, featuring Lakhiyia Hicks

About the fellowship experience, Dr. Celeste said, "The highlight of this challenging year has been working so closely with Carl Simien to support students and engaging with the amazing students who I got to know through this fellowship. Black Affairs, with the most incredible students, has been life-giving for me and I am grateful for this opportunity to serve them." You can learn more about Black Affairs at: <https://blackaffairs.multicultural.ufl.edu>.

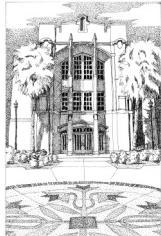




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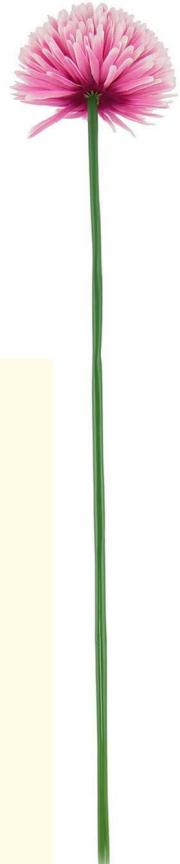
VISIT US IN
BEAUTIFUL
USTLER
HALL, IN
THE HEART
OF THE UF
CAMPUS.



Congratulations to our Graduates

Congratulations to Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies Research's graduates, earning Master's Degrees, **Sunshine Adam, Chelsea Gifford, Sky Martin, and Justine Veras**.

Congratulations to our certificate students **Alexandra Sabo**, who received a Ph.D. in Geography, **Andrew Norris**, who earned a Master of Fine Arts, and **Alexandria Wilson McDonald**, who earned a Ph.D in Political Science. Sabo, Norris, and Wilson McDonald earned graduate certificates in Women's Studies from the Center this spring.



Congratulations to our
Women's Studies majors
just elected to Phi Beta Kappa!

**Maya Barrett
Kelsey Malles
Callie Mims
Evelyn Oldham**

Phi Beta Kappa is the oldest and most respected honors organization in the United States. The Society has pursued its mission of fostering and recognizing excellence in the liberal arts and sciences since its founding in 1776.

UF is one of only six institutions in the state, and one of only 283 throughout the US, which meets the Society's criteria of excellence in the liberal arts and sciences, and can elect students into Phi Beta Kappa. The UF Chapter was founded in 1938. Since then, thousands of outstanding undergraduate students at UF have been inducted into PBK.