

*From the Director's Desk*

JUDITH W. PAGE  
DIRECTOR, CWSGR

Those of you familiar with the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research will know that we are both a research center and the home of academic programs. In this column, I'd like to focus on the way that our work as a center inspires research and enhances our teaching mission. I don't need to

remind anyone that these are tough times for higher education, especially tough times for the liberal arts and interdisciplinary programs like ours. But hard times require our discipline and determination to move forward—and we have plenty of that!

As a research center with an interdisciplinary focus, the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research brings together faculty from various parts of the university, as well as interested members of the larger community. We have an outstanding group of affiliated faculty from across the university who

work with us on programs and support our mission to bring issues pertaining to women and gender to the forefront. Just this fall, we have partnered with the Levin College of Law for a program on domestic violence, featuring a powerful film, as well as a workshop and talk by Professor Molly Hurley Moran (University of Georgia). Dr. Moran spoke movingly on the loss of her sister to domestic violence and read from the book that she wrote about her experience. We also hosted an interdisciplinary panel on feminism and the environment that brought together members of the community to discuss the

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*Mary Wollstonecraft: Legacies*

Spring Conference planning is well underway in the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research. *Mary Wollstonecraft: Legacies* will be presented on February 23rd and 24th, 2012 in Ustler Hall.

The conference is planned to commemorate the 220th anniversary of the publication of Mary Wollstonecraft's *Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, a text that has had profound influence on political modernity and on continuing discussions about feminist thought.

This conference follows our inaugural conference on Simone de Beauvoir (February 10-11, 2011), and is the second in a series that will commemorate the re-reading of key feminist texts and the legacies of major feminist thinkers.

Professor Janet Todd of Cambridge University and the University of Aberdeen will deliver the keynote address. Other presenters include Anne Mellor, UCLA, Kari Lokke, UC-Davis, Wendy Gunther-Canada, UA-Birmingham,

and Dan O'Neill, Sheryl Kroen, and Danaya Wright from UF.

This event is sponsored by the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research, the Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere (Rothman Endowment), the Office of Research, the Levin College of Law, the Office of the Dean (CLAS), the Albert Brick Chair, and the Department of Political Science.



*From the Director's Desk, continued.*

"AS A RESEARCH CENTER WITH AN INTERDISCIPLINARY FOCUS, THE CENTER FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES AND GENDER RESEARCH BRINGS TOGETHER FACULTY FROM VARIOUS PARTS OF THE UNIVERSITY, AS WELL AS INTERESTED MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY"

-JUDITH W. PAGE,  
 CENTER DIRECTOR

ways that gender has influenced debates about climate change, sustainability, and food security. This panel will serve as a prelude to future discussions as well as lead into our offerings for next semester, when Professor Anita Anantharam will teach a new course on gender and the politics of food. In addition, we have hosted renewed discussions on women and development and are in the process of pursuing new programs relating to women and health.

We are planning several public programs for the spring semester, but the highlight will be our conference "Mary Wollstonecraft: Legacies," which will involve colleagues from across UF and other American universities, as well as the keynote speaker, Professor Janet Todd, from the UK. As far as I know, we are the only institution in the country planning a conference around the 220th anniversary of the publication of Wollstonecraft's *Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, in 1792.

Regarded as a major figure in the history of feminism, Wollstonecraft critiqued the gender structures of her culture and laid the foundation for many of our modern notions of equality in the home, politics, and education. Please join us for this program and keep a lookout for future announcements!



*Fall Reception Features "Schmoozing" Author*

Attendees of the Center's annual fall reception, held at Ustler Hall on September 15th, were treated to a lively talk on "Women, Schmoozing, and Solidarity," by Linguistics

Professor and Women's Studies Affiliate Diana Boxer. The talk was based on material from her recent book, *The Lost Art of the Good Schmooze*.

During the well attended reception, the Center recognized the many achievements of our students. CLAS Associate Dean Milagros Peña presented the O. Ruth McQuown Student

Awards and Cheri Brodeur presented the Association for Academic Women's Madelyn Lockhart Dissertation Fellowship and Emerging Scholar Awards. For a complete list of winners, please visit our website at [www.wst.ufl.edu](http://www.wst.ufl.edu).

Center Director Dr. Judith W. Page, addressing the audience of faculty, affiliates, students, and friends of women's studies, affirmed her optimism in the future of the Center and her gratitude for supporters of the Center's mission and programs.

Dr. Page also awarded the Center's Annual "Uppity

Woman Award," an award that recognizes extraordinary efforts on behalf of the Center. This year's award went to Dr. Sandra Russo of the International Center and CLAS Assistant Dean Margaret Fields.



**SPEAKER DIANA BOXER, DIRECTOR JUDITH PAGE, ASSOCIATE PROVOST ANGEL KWOLEK-FOLLAND, DEAN PAUL D'ANIERI, AND MAUREEN TURIM GATHER AT THE RECEPTION**



**DR. MARGARET FIELDS AND DR. SANDRA RUSSO REACT TO THE NEWS OF THEIR "UPPITY WOMAN" AWARD**

## Letter from Guatemala: Bianca Gras, Women's Studies Alumna



**Bianca Gras** graduated in May 2011, double majoring in Women's

Studies and Political Science. She has put the insights she gained in both programs to work as a volunteer with the *Asociación Ak' Tenamit* in Eastern Guatemala (<http://www.aktenamit.org/>). She sent this message about her work to the CWSGR community.

*I was inspired to volunteer abroad after taking Dr. Amanda Davis's class "Women's Autobiographies," and reading I, Rigoberta Menchu. Menchu's testimony made me very*

*interested in the struggles of indigenous communities, and I wanted to find a site at which to work that was not neocolonialist (like many volunteer organizations based in the West seem to be), but that actually engaged indigenous peoples, specifically women, in their communities. I did some research, asked around, and was referred to this organization by Dr. Philip Williams in UF's Center for Latin American Studies.*

*After I arrived in Guatemala City, I took a long bus ride to Puerto Barrios (on the east coast), a taxi ride to the dock, a boat ride to Livingston, and then another boat ride to the Ak' Tenamit site, which is basically in the jungle. The organization serves*

*indigenous communities in the area—currently about 43 villages. I live in a small room with about 8 other volunteers in an elevated space called a galera that overlooks the river. I will be here through December, serving as the volunteer coordinator as well as helping to establish a library here for students and working with a program called *Eduquemos a las Ninas*, which serves to mentor girls at the school and encourage them in their studies there. Life is very simple here-- we bathe in the river, eat basic staples like rice, beans, and tortillas, and spend lots of time building relationships with people-- which I think makes it beautiful.*

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—BIANCA GRAS,

WOMEN'S STUDIES ALUMNA

## Women's Studies Graduate Turns Passion into Project

Sandra Kay Knapp Haile, a 2011 Women's Studies graduate, loves quilts—the craft, the culture, and the stories associated with them. For her senior project, Sandra worked on the history of Alachua County's two quilting guilds. She continues to interview quilters, archiving their stories in the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program at UF. Following graduation, Sandra received travel scholarships to attend the American Quilt Study Group Seminar in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, in September. Contributing organizations included the American Quilt

Study Group, Women's Studies at UF, Quilters of Alachua County Day Guild, and QACDG's Civil War Bee. While there, Sandra studied quilt history and viewed quilts dating from the early 1800s.

She also met Don Beld, an author, historian and quilter, who is the founder of the Home of the Brave Quilt Project. Beld has dedicated his life to honoring the families of fallen soldiers by hand piecing, hand-quilting, and giving a quilt to each family that has lost someone in the Iraq or Afghanistan wars. He also made

remembrance quilts in honor of the victims of 9/11 and other terrorists incidents.

Through connections with the local quilting community, the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program, and the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research at the University of Florida, Sandra has arranged to bring Don Beld to Gainesville for a program to be held the morning of Armed Forces Day, May 19, 2012, at University of Florida Hilton, followed by a workshop at a location to be determined. Watch for further details, including how to participate and attend the Don Beld trunk show and workshop.



## CWSGR Major Kamal Gray Awarded Boren Scholarship



**CWSGR MAJOR KAMAL GRAY,  
BOREN SCHOLARSHIP WINNER**

**Kamal Gray**, a junior in Women's Studies, has been awarded a Boren Scholarship to study at Boğaziçi University in Istanbul, Turkey during academic

year 2011-12. The Boren Scholarship is a competitive and prestigious award funded by the U.S. Government to encourage students to learn less-studied languages; it is Kamal's second federally-funded language study grant. In summer 2010 he received a scholarship through the State Department's Critical Language Program for intensive language study in Istanbul.

Kamal grew up in Plantation, Florida and graduated from the Environmental Science and Everglades Restoration Magnet

at South Plantation High School in 2009. Since coming to the University of Florida, he has been involved in campus organizations such as A Spring of Hope (a non-profit dedicated to building wells in rural southern Africa) and Pride Student Union; he served as an intern in the LGBT Affairs Office in spring of 2011. Kamal sees his time in Turkey as an extension of this work—an opportunity to build transnational LGBT coalitions and to raise awareness within the US government of the importance of sexual rights at home and abroad. As he notes, “sexual minorities are often persecuted by governments hostile to Western interests because their identity is seen as a result of contamination by ‘deviant, Westerner values.’” The United States, he continues,

“has been a leader on the international stage in the protection of these people, especially in the last few months when Secretary of State Hilary Clinton exclaimed that ‘Human rights are gay rights and gay rights are human rights.’ Particularly in Turkey, a country that presents itself as a modern, secular state in an Islamic nation, there is a nascent internal LGBT rights movement that is struggling to find its way through the governmental system as officials try to shut down LGBT organizations on the grounds that they endanger public morality.” Women's Studies salutes Kamal during his year of inquiry, activism, language acquisition, and some of the best food on the planet.

*Contributed by Associate Professor Trysh Travis*

*“HUMAN RIGHTS  
ARE GAY RIGHTS  
AND GAY RIGHTS  
ARE HUMAN  
RIGHTS.”  
-HILLARY  
CLINTON*

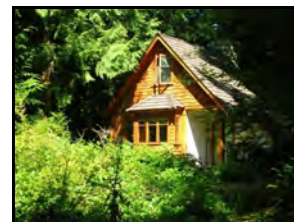
## Affiliate Stephanie Smith Awarded Hedgebrook Residency



**STEPHANIE SMITH AT  
HEDGEBROOKE FARM**

Women's Studies Affiliate Faculty Member and Professor of English Stephanie Smith was awarded a writing residency at Hedgebrook Farm on Whidbey Island in Puget Sound off the coast of Seattle. According to Professor Smith, “Hedgebrook is a women-only writer's retreat, where ‘women authoring change’ are given solitude and a space of their own: each writer, song-writer, journalist, playwright or poet is assigned a self-sufficient, Amish-designed cabin in which to work; each night the writers meet for supper at the farmhouse, where

a sumptuous, locally-grown meal is prepared by one of the farm's chefs. Whidbey is a gorgeous place, mountainous, wild, and isolated. From the 44-acre farm, with walking paths you can see Puget Sound and Mt. Rainier and, sometimes, more of the Cascade Mountain range. If you ride or walk down to the town of Double Bluff, you can see the Cascades from the beach. It is an inspiring and



**HEDGEBROOK FARM ON  
WHIDBEY ISLAND**

glorious part of the USA, cool at night (each cabin has a wood stove) and warm during the day (in July). The application process is steep, but the rewards are many--the women who go come back changed and inspired. Among the alumnae,

Hedgebrook has given solitude to writers such as Gloria Steinam, Ursula K. Le Guin, Claire Dederer, Carolyn Forché and Holly Near.” Congratulations to Stephanie for being in such good company!



## With an Attitude of Gratitude

Thanks to everyone whose generosity keeps the center viable including the following donors:

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



## Bryant and Page Reinvent Domesticity

On November 2, Judith Page and Marsha Bryant presented a program that brought two writers together in an unlikely comparison. Drawing from their respective current books, Page and Bryant demonstrated that Dorothy Wordsworth and Sylvia Plath challenge domesticity's negative associations in women's lives and writing. Each writer reinvented domesticity as a generative source, moving beyond the "domestic/poetic" dualism that can limit our understanding of literal and figurative *homemaking*.

Professor Page's talk came from her book *Women, Literature, and the Domesticated Landscape: England's Disciples of Flora* (co-authored with Elise L. Smith). In her chapter on Dorothy Wordsworth, entitled

"Gardening, Self-Fashioning, and the Creation of Home," Page focuses on Dorothy Wordsworth's creation of the garden at Town End, Grasmere in 1800 (now known as Dove Cottage), arguing that in making the garden and recording the minute details of gardening and other forms of domestic life with her brother William, Dorothy created a home and promoted a particular *idea* of home and homemaking for her intimate circle. Constantly aware of the smallness of her cottage and the boundaries of the garden, Dorothy Wordsworth makes a virtue out of this miniature world, recognizing that small spaces open up the world of detail to the imagination

Professor Bryant's talk came from her new book *Women's*

*Poetry and Popular Culture*, which explores the counterintuitive innovations poets fashion through such materials as movies, magazines, and music. The Plath chapter shows how her *Ariel* poems tap Madison Avenue's dream kitchen—a popular discourse she knew from *Ladies' Home Journal*. Revealing the rich ambiguities of automatic appliances, volatile cleaners, and ornamental cookery, Plath's extraordinary everyday intersects with Henri Lefebvre's *Critique of Everyday Life* (1961) and Roland Barthes' *Mythologies* (1957); all three writers drew from postwar women's magazines. Plath's signature style challenges our assumption that "serious" domestic writing must foreground personal experience and express conflict or critique.



JUDITH PAGE AND  
MARSHA BRYANT SHARE  
THEIR RECENT BOOKS

# CWSGR Faculty News

**Florence E. Babb** is spending much of the 2011-12 year on FEO research leave and sabbatical in Peru, where she is affiliated with the Instituto de Estudios Peruanos in Lima. She is reexamining

feminist anthropological debates on gender and indigeneity in Andean Latin America while conducting new ethnographic research. An article has appeared in *Caribbean Studies*,

and she has contributions in press in *Street Economics: Cultural Politics in the Urban Global South* and in *Central America in the New Millennium: Living Transition and Reimagining Democracy*. She has given talks this fall in Peru and at the Walker Symposium at Colby College in Maine, and she continues her service on the Executive Board of the American Anthropological Association.

**Kendal Broad** published the article, "Coming Out for Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays: From Support Group Grieving to Love Advocacy" in the interdisciplinary journal, *Sexualities*. In July, Dr. Broad presented a paper, "Hard Science, Gay Parents, Good Kids?: Constructions of Science in Rhetorical Contests about

LGBT Families" at the Seventh Annual International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. In November, Dr. Broad was scheduled to present a paper titled, "A New Narrative about Subverting the Master's Tools:

Consciousness-Raising and the Constructions of Gay Anti-Racism by *Black and White Men Together* in the early 1980's" at the National Women's Studies Association meetings in Atlanta. Both of these presentations emerge from Dr. Broad's two research

projects -- one that seeks to map the various positions of interested actors in current debates about LGBTQ families in the US and the other that is analysing the way a group of gay men have constructed anti-racism.

**Judith W. Page's** article on "Susanna Blamire's Ecological Imagination:

Stoklewath or the Cumbrian Village" appears in *Women's Writing* 18:3 (August 2011): 387-406.

Professor Page also presented a lecture and discussion on July 27 at the Harn Museum on 18th and 19th century

women botanists and botanical writing, including the work of Priscilla Susan Bury and Jane Loudon. This presentation was part of the course that she team taught, "Knowing Nature," based on the extensive new collection of natural history prints at the museum. Earlier in the summer Professor Page conducted research for her new project on women and gardens in England, 1880-1945, at the British Library and at the Wolseley Collection of the Hove Public Library in the UK.

**Milagros Peña**, Associate Dean for Social and Behavioral Sciences, CLAS and Professor of Sociology and Women's Studies, published an article with JeffriAnne Wilder who graduated in 2008 with a PhD in Sociology with a concentration in Women's Studies. The citation for the article is: "Mentoring Transformed: When Students of Color See Diversity in Leadership" by Milagros Peña and JeffriAnne Wilder, *Women of Color in Higher Education: Changing Directions and New Perspectives*

(*Diversity in Higher Education*), ed. Jean-Marie Gaetane and Brenda Lloyd-Jones, Volume 10 (Fall 2011), 345-363.



RESEARCH ASSISTANT  
EVA VALENZUELA SNAPS A PHOTO OF  
DR. BABB (RIGHT) INTERVIEWING A  
MARKETER IN HUARAZ PERU.



DR. JUDITH PAGE DISCUSSES  
PRISCILLA SUSAN BURY WITH HER  
STUDENTS IN HER COURSE, "KNOWING  
NATURE" AT THE HARN.



## Making the Connection: Gender and Economics Power

Contributed by Associate Professor Trysh Travis

This fall marks an exciting moment in the growth of the undergraduate Women's Studies program: for the first time, we have two students pursuing double majors in Economics and Women's Studies. We have had two other Econ/WST doubles in the history of the CWSGR: 2005 graduate Jessica Haynes is currently pursuing a PhD in Economics in UF's Warrington College of Business, while Bianka Ballina, a 2011 graduate, has just enrolled in Tulane University's MA program in Latin American Studies. This is an especially demanding double major to pull off, since UF offers few classes that count towards both majors; students must be organized as well as determined to meet all the requirements. But sophomores Aseel Hawi and Hannah Willard recognize the unique possibilities that the dual areas of expertise offer for effecting real change in women's lives. Here, they talk about what led them to the double major.



**Aseel Hawi:** *Three years ago I was granted a scholarship to Norway to represent my country, Yemen, in an International*

*Baccalaureate school. I faced a number of challenges because I am a female Muslim student from a very conservative country. These generated massive motivation for me to work in the field of feminism. As a result, I managed to attain high academic achievements, especially in Economics, which granted me another great opportunity: I became an international student at the University of Florida.*

*When I enrolled at UF in August 2010, I was overwhelmed with the very long list of majors that I could choose from. I knew that I liked Economics, but Women's Studies was also very appealing for me for the concrete reasons of the gender segregation and exclusion that I had experienced when I was growing up. In Yemeni society, women do not routinely attend a college or have the same rights as their male counterparts. Now, in my third semester at UF, I have been enjoying different courses of both majors and looking forward to getting into depth of each area.*



**Hannah Willard:** *I am a second year Economics and Women's Studies double major, with a minor in International Development and*

*Humanitarian Assistance. I'm from Orlando, and I was first exposed to women's issues and the problem of human trafficking in high school, at a student conference held at Colorado State University. I began to do a lot of research and reading on my own, and decided I wanted to travel and work with non-profits so that I could learn more.*

*I have spent the last two summers in Southeast Asia, working with organizations that promote the empowerment of women, especially the economic autonomy of victims of human trafficking. My goal is to combine the pragmatism of economics with an international perspective on gender to promote equality for women and sustainable economies that don't rely on their exploitation. I want to work with non-profit organizations that specialize in microfinance loans for women, and I am excited to study two such applicable majors.*



## Domestic Violence Symposium Draws Crowd

The Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research and the Center for Children and Families, Levin College of Law, were privileged to sponsor a domestic violence symposium on September 22nd and 23rd. The symposium featured a discussion by Dr. Molly Hurley Moran in conjunction with the September 22nd film screening of Peter Cohn's "Power and Control: Domestic Violence in America."

Dr. Moran is a professor at University of Georgia and author of *Finding Susan*, a memoir of her sister's abusive relationship, subsequent disappearance and unsolved homicide. Dr. Moran's

talk, "Domestic Violence: A Sister's Story," focused on the enduring emotional strain that family members experience with unresolved cases such as her sister's case. She spoke particularly of the obstinacy of the legal system to prosecute domestic violence cases based on circumstantial evidence; it is more difficult with cases involving violence against women, whereas circumstantial evidence holds significantly more water in almost any other type of case. Her book describes the arduous task of searching day and night for the entirety of the two years it took until Susan's remains were found. The task involved enlisting the help of the begrudging

authorities and the media, who proved useless in providing a resolution even after the remains had been found. The miscarriage of justice that Dr. Moran experienced inspired her to write *Finding Susan*.

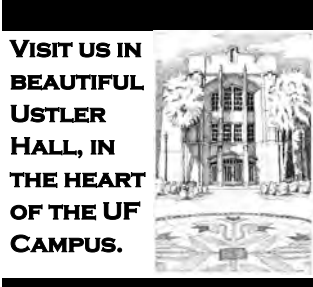
The event was very well attended with standing room only at the Cohn film screening. Despite the sad nature of Dr. Moran's story, the overall message was empowering. The book stands as a strong example of healing through writing and her presence was a testament to her personal strength.



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*Panel Discusses Feminist Scholarship and the Environment*

Interdisciplinary feminist scholars met on Friday, October 14th in Ustler Hall for an informal panel discussion hosted by the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research.

Dr. Whitney Sanford, Department of Religion, moderated the panel. Participants included Dr. Vandana Baweja, UF School of Architecture, Anna Prizzia, Director of the UF Office of Sustainability, and Amy Brown, a graduate student in the Department of Religion.

During the brown bag lunch session, the panel focused on issues of sustainability, ecology, and feminism. They discussed the ways that gender—broadly speaking—enhances or complicates environmental activism.

Panelists also argued for the relevancy of ecofeminism to sustainability efforts locally in Florida, as well as the influences of gender on

efforts in global environmental sustainability.

The audience, consisting of students, faculty and staff from across the university, questioned the panel on how they could help local efforts and global sustainability.



**PANELISTS ADDRESS THE AUDIENCE DURING THE DISCUSSION ON FEMINIST SCHOLARSHIP AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

*Graduate Student News*

We were joined this fall by graduate students **Molly Green, Kelly Korman, Michelle Harris, Nathalia Ochoa Hernandez, and Lauren B. Smith.** Returning Women Studies graduate students **Kate Klebes, Catherine Jean, Atalia Lapkin, and Whitney Shadowens** are continuing coursework for the M.A.

**Whitney Shadowens** was invited to present a poster of her ongoing research titled, "De-Gendering Intimate Partner Violence: New Strategies for Victims of Same-Sex Intimate Partner Violence," at the National Women's Studies Association's Annual Conference held in Atlanta from November 10th through the 13th. She received travel funding through the UF College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.



**NEW M.A. STUDENTS (L TO R) NATHALIA OCHOA HERNANDEZ, MICHELLE HARRIS, LAUREN B. SMITH, MOLLY GREEN, AND KELLY KORMAN GATHER IN THE CENTER AFTER THEIR GRADUATE STUDENT ORIENTATION.**

