

From the Director's Desk



JUDITH W. PAGE
DIRECTOR, CWSGR

This past academic year has been a busy one at the Center, with various speakers, a major conference, and two excellent panel discussions. Although it would be impossible in this space to review everything, I will reiterate a few of the highlights.

Thanks to a lively group of scholars, headed by Toril Moi as keynote lecturer, our conference “Simone de Beauvoir: Legacies,” was an exciting and intellectually stimulating program. Speakers considered Beauvoir’s life and writing from many different points of view: we were all left with a sense of the place and influence of this major intellect of the 20th century and formative voice in feminist thought.

We also had a large and enthusiastic audience for our panel in the fall, “Feminist Scholarship Now,” in which a distinguished group of scholars from across the disciplines

spoke to the history and current status of modern feminism—or more correctly, feminisms. Panelists and audience members commented on the slippage between the sophistication of academic discourse in feminism and the often disheartening way that feminism appears (or does not appear) in public discourse.

As a follow up to this panel, we hosted a group of speakers on the state of women in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) disciplines earlier in the spring, and were pleased to learn of the various ways that institutions are responding to the need to

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Spring 2012 Conference Planned

After our well-attended conference on Simon de Beauvoir, we are once again looking forward to hosting a conference at the Center on the legacies of major feminist thinkers and texts. In honor of the 220th anniversary of the publication of Mary Wollstonecraft’s *Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, we will host a conference on February 23-24, 2012 entitled “Mary Wollstonecraft: Legacies.”

Professor Janet Todd, of Cambridge University and author of *Mary Wollstonecraft; A Revolutionary Life*, among a wealth of other influential publications on 18th and 19th century literature and culture, will present the keynote address. In addition to Professor Todd, our presenters include Anne Mellor (UCLA), Kari Lokke (UC-Davis), and Wendy Gunther-Canada (UA-Birmingham), as well as several UF colleagues.



Please mark your calendars (even ten months early!) and do plan to attend.



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From the Director's Desk, continued.

“OUR STUDENTS AT BOTH THE GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE LEVELS ARE THRIVING, AND HAVE PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE SUCCESS OF OUR PROGRAMS.”
-JUDITH W. PAGE, CENTER DIRECTOR

keep women in these fields and to value their work. Several speakers spoke about the usefulness of “pipeline programs” designed to attract women to the field early on and to mentor them through the pipeline, from their undergraduate years through careers in the STEM professions. There was a particular interest in developing courses in gender and health disparities under the auspices of the Center at UF, and as a start we will offer an NSF-funded course in the fall entitled “Social and Cultural Dimensions of Women's Well-Being.”

Our students at both the graduate and undergraduate levels are thriving, and have played an important role in the success of our programs. Our graduate students have conducted independent research on such topics as queer activism in the South and collaboration between the National Women's Studies Association and girls' programs in the

United States. We were also particularly proud that three undergraduate majors from the Capstone course presented papers on violence against women at the Florida Consortium for Women's and Gender Studies Conference in Boca Raton. The dedication of our students, as well as the fact that our major has grown to over 60 students, suggests a healthy future, as does our recruitment of a strong group of students in the MA program for next year. Nevertheless, we still face many challenges related to the difficult budgetary times and pressures on higher education.

Now more than ever, we depend on the expertise and hard work of our core faculty and our affiliates. I note with pride that Kendal Broad received a CLAS teaching award this year and that Trysh Travis was honored with a CLAS advising award, as well as a Princeton Library Research Grant in conjunction with her

new book project. Affiliates Jodi Schorb and Benjamin Wise also received teaching awards. Angel Kwolek-Folland was named Woman of Distinction by UF's Association of Academic Women, and Anita Anantharam received a national award for her work as an advisor for the Global Living and Learning Community. Florence Babb received an FEO award to support her research in Peru. Last but not least, our office manager Donna Tuckey has been honored with a Superior Accomplishment Award for staff. We also salute the accomplishments of our friends and affiliates, whose books are represented in our new section, Book Nook, and whose dedicated contributions to our programs and to teaching gender-related courses, help to sustain us. On behalf of the Center, thank you!

Janis Ian Visits the Center



JANIS IAN SPEAKS TO GUESTS IN USTLER HALL ON MARCH 31ST

Janis Ian, child-star, songwriter, and performer with nine Grammy nominations, visited Ustler Hall on March 31st to give an informal talk to University of Florida faculty and students. Ian's visit was sponsored by UF Performing Arts. Ian discussed her experiences as a young musical artist in the 1960s and described the thrill as well as the obstacles that accompanied her early rise to stardom.

In the spirit of gender studies, Ian focused on her gender

experience as a musician and discussed her interaction with men in the music industry. She described the way in which some men have dismissed her musical talent, while others have treated her with a great deal of respect as a fellow artist. Ian has made an effort to reach out to young female musicians, especially those in academic settings, who are still subject to entrenched stereotypes about women and music. After her brief and engaging talk, Ian opened the floor to questions. One attendee

asked Ian if she believed that men and women approached musical composition differently. Another asked her what it was like to be a “has been” at the age of seventeen. Ian referred back to the importance of art in each of her answers, insisting that “art is the only thing standing between us and chaos.”

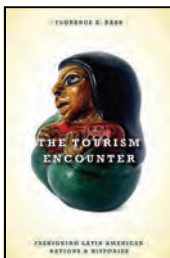
*Contributed by graduate student
Kate Klebes*

Book Nook:

Recently Published Books by Center Faculty and Affiliates

Anita Anantharam, ed.
Mahadevi Varma: Political Essays on Women, Nation, and Culture, Zubaan Books and Cambria Press, 2010.

Florence Babb, *The Tourism Encounter: Fashioning Latin American Nations and Histories*, Stanford University Press, 2010.



Avraham Balaban, *Ten Mothers: Representations of Motherhood in Modern Hebrew Fiction* (Tel Aviv: Hakibbutz Hameuchad, 2010).

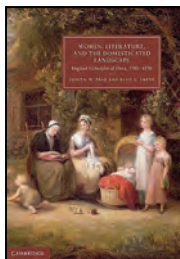
Diana Boxer, *The Lost Art of the Good Schmooze: Building Rapport and Defusing Conflict in Everyday and Public Talk*, 2011.

Pamela K. Gilbert, Scholarly and teaching edition of the Victorian novel by Rhoda Broughton, *Cometh Up as a Flower*, Broadview Press, 2010.

Lola Haskins, *Still, the Mountain* (poems) Paper Kite Press, 2010, and *Fifteen Florida Cemeteries: Strange Tales Unearthed*, University Press of Florida, 2011.

Barbara Mennel, co-edited with Jaimey Fisher, *Spatial Turns: Space, Place, and Mobility in German Literary and Visual Culture*. *Amsterdamer Beitrage zur neueren Germanistik* 75. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2010.

Judith W. Page, co-authored with Elise L. Smith, *Women, Literature,*



and the Domesticated Landscape: England's Disciples of Flora, 1780-1870, Cambridge University Press 2011.

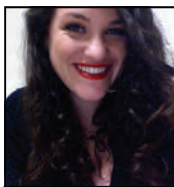
Laura Sjoberg, ed. *Gender and International Security: Feminist Perspectives*, Routledge, 2010, **Laura Sjoberg** and Sandra Via, eds. *Gender, War, and Militarism* Praeger Security International, 2010, and J. Ann Tickner and **Laura Sjoberg,** eds. *Feminism and International Relations: Conversations about the Past, Present, and Future*, Routledge, 2011.

“ MOST OF MY
SUPPORTERS AND
SOURCE OF MOTIVATION
ARE PAST PROFESSORS
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INDIVIDUALS HAVE
TAKEN THEIR TIME TO
LISTEN TO MY IDEAS
AND HELP GUIDE ME IN
THE RIGHT DIRECTION, I
WOULD BE LOST TODAY
WITHOUT THEM. “

-MARIA MUNOZ,

WOMEN'S STUDIES MAJOR,
MCNAIR SCHOLAR.

Junior Cara Kovacs' Research Funded by University Scholars Program



WOMEN'S
STUDIES MAJOR
CARA KOVACS

Cara Kovacs is the most recent Women's Studies major to be selected for the University Scholars

Program, which funds independent research by undergraduates across UF. A 2008 graduate of the Dreyfoos School of the Arts in West Palm Beach, Cara transferred to UF after receiving an Associate's Degree from Santa Fe College.

She has worked at Peaceful Paths Domestic Abuse Network as a Child Advocate, and is a Research Assistant in Dr. Bonnie Moradi's psychology lab, focusing on sexual, racial, and ethnic minority issues and their impact on personal well-being. She is the second author on a paper to be presented at the 2011 Convention of the American Psychological Society, "The Internship Supply/Demand Imbalance: Program-level Accountability."

A French minor and web-

By Associate Professor Trysh Travis

coordinator for *Le Cercle Français*, Cara will be studying French Language and Culture for 10 weeks this summer at the Sorbonne. While there, she will conduct fieldwork for her USP project, which seeks to identify the differences in services provided to the LGBT community in the United States and France, while also examining the degree to which different government structures and degrees of social marginalization influence the delivery of services and identity construction.

Panel at FAU Conference Features Women's Studies Undergrads

By Associate Professor Stephanie Evans



**WOMEN'S STUDIES ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
STEPHANIE EVANS WITH PANELISTS NICOLLE
VASQUEZ, JENNA CALTON, BIANCA GRAS**

On April 1st, UF Students Jenna Calton, Nicolle Vasquez and Bianca Gras presented their research at the Florida Atlantic University Women's Studies Consortium conference.

They nailed it. I

can honestly say I have not participated (as chair or presenter) in a more comprehensive, cohesive, and relevant panel. Their work covered the national, international, and transnational perspectives of activism around violence against women. They presented their work with a seriousness, earnestness, and well-read perspective that reflected the (at least) FOUR written drafts and oral practice sessions they endured to prepare for the panel. The most impressive feature of their work was not only the depth with which they contextualized their own ideas with other scholarly

publications on the topics, but the experiential lens that shaded each of their presentations. Each presenter volunteers at various domestic violence or immigrant service agencies and each is an engaged activist in the area which she studies formally. The engaged part of their work resulted in a 'call for action' section of their papers that was not required, but offered an organic development of the type of work in violence against women that they not only CARE about, but they each WORK to eradicate.

The response of the attendees was revealing.... Of course, I thought Jenna, Nicolle, and Bianca offered outstanding presentations. I have gotten to watch them evolve in their ideas and style. But the audience discussion was phenomenally engaging.. There were two undergraduates from FAU, a graduate student from Seattle, and a faculty member from Texas Women's University who attended and, after my call for

questions, there was a rousing discussion of all three papers with an excited tone and many reference suggestions, questions to consider in further study, and insightful points of curiosity that fueled a full use of the allotted time (and a bit over). That simply does not always happen at conference presentations. It was such a pleasure to be in the room.

In sum, I would love to claim bragging rights for these three scholar-activists in what was a truly stellar conference panel, but alas...they came to me with their own inner glow and gut-level commitment to academic excellence, as well as a commitment to both research and community activism. Thank you to Jenna, Nicolle, and Bianca, for providing true inspiration.

The conference program is available online at: http://www.fau.edu/WomensStudies/pdfs/sewsa_program.pdf.

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-STEPHANIE EVANS,
REFERRING TO WST
STUDENT PANELISTS.

Simone de Beauvoir Conference Well Attended

The Simone de Beauvoir Conference was held in the Center on February 10th and 11th. The two day conference was heavily attended and featured a screening of the 1967 documentary *Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir* on Thursday night and lectures and panel discussions all day on Friday.

Guest lecturers included Nancy Bauer of Tufts University, Judy Coffin of the University of

Texas, Mary Beth Mader of the University of Memphis and Duke Professor Dr. Toril Moi, who gave the keynote address.

UF Participants included Sylvie Blum-Reid, Tace Hedrick, Carol Murphy, Alioune Sow, Maureen Turim, and Brigitte Weltman-Aron. The Conference was co-sponsored by the France-Florida Research Institute, the Center for Humanities and the Public Sphere with support from the



**KEYNOTE
SPEAKER
DR. TORIL MOI**



**PANELISTS MARY BETH
MADER, JUDY COFFIN,
BRIGITTE WELTMAN-ARON,
AND NANCY BAUER**

Yavitz Fund, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.



With an Attitude of Gratitude

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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.



Sandra Kay Knapp Haile to Graduate, Began College in 1962

As Women's Studies most senior senior heads towards graduation, she reflects on her educational career

I was born in Hamilton, Texas in 1943, and got married in 1962. Other than a few years between my son's birth in 1971 and his starting kindergarten, I have worked all of my life since graduating from high school. My first college course was Shorthand, taken in the fall of 1962. It was to benefit my job performance, as I was working to help support my new husband while he was getting his degree(s). Having gotten married so young, it never seemed important for me to get a degree. He would support us after he got his education. As I was told many times, being a secretary did not require a college degree. Our marriage ended after 29 years. My husband had three degrees, I had none.

Working in a university setting most of my married life

and beyond brought me out of the era that I grew up in. After getting my Associate of Arts degree from Santa Fe Community College in 1979, I was working in the Sociology department at UF, and the class "Sociology and Sex Roles" caught my attention. I started thinking about how I felt about my life as a woman. Shortly after that, Women's Studies was established: this program would expand my analysis of how my life and background influenced what I had been and what I wanted to be in the future. So I again started my studies, moving towards a BA. The course in Women's Studies that made the biggest impact on me was "Gender and Language." I will never read about or listen to issues again without thinking on how the written and spoken word portrays women.

At age 62 ½, after working out a small budget, I decided to retire early. I dropped out of college after the spring semester of 2003, with only one class left to finish, still feeling that "as a secretary you don't need a degree." I had given up. But it still nagged me that my now ex-husband had three degrees, and I still had none. Well, here I am now 67: in thinking of my possible "bucket list," finishing my Bachelor's degree became important again. Late in the Fall of 2010, I approached the Women's Studies program to see how and what was needed to finish. I am currently enrolled in the Capstone Seminar, and the degree is within sight.

My final project involves research and documentation on the history of the two quilting

guilds in Gainesville, Tree City Quilters' Guild, founded in 1993, and Quilters of Alachua County Day Guild, founded in 2003. I have interviewed seven women who are some of the first organizers and participants in these two quilting guilds. It is important that the oral history of the guilds, these women, and their lives be documented for future research. Materials from my research will be housed both in the Samuel Proctor Oral History program at the University of Florida and the Matheson Museum in Gainesville, and I will graduate with the Bachelor's degree in Women's Studies and Gender Research, April 30, 2011.

I am now more in control of my own life – whether it be good or bad – it is mine to control. I do have a voice in it.

-Sandra Kay Knapp Haile

Anita Anantharam was named National Faculty Member of the Month for a community service event she organized with several Women's Studies undergraduate students. Her activities with "A Girl's Place" were voted Best Campus Community Service Program of the Month. Dr. Anantharam has served as the Faculty-in-Residence (FIR) for Yulee Hall since 2007. Additionally, Dr. Anantharam received two awards. The first is from the Humanities Scholarship Enhancement Fund to pursue her work on slow food politics in France and Italy. She will conduct this research during summer 2011 in conjunction with her book project, "Fasting and Feasting: Transnational Food Politics on Three Continents." The second award is a curriculum development grant from the Center for European Studies for a course titled "Gender and Food Politics in Europe and North America." This course will be cross-listed in Women's Studies and the Center for European Studies and will be targeted for undergraduate students. Dr. Anantharam's monograph, *Bodies that Remember: Women's Indigenous Knowledge and Cosmopolitanism in South Asian Poetry*, is in press with Syracuse University's Series in Gender and Globalization and scheduled for publication in 2011.

Florence E. Babb published "Out in Public: Lesbian and Gay Activism in Nicaragua," in *The Politics of Sexuality in Latin America: A Reader on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Rights* (University of Pittsburgh Press). An online article, "Gender Justice and Political Inclusion: Sandinistas, Feminists, and the Current Divide," appeared in *Enlace Académico Centroamericano*, Managua, Nicaragua. Dr. Babb is guest editor of an issue of the journal *Voices* in honor of Elizabeth Lapovsky Kennedy; her introduction, "Feminist Anthropology Meets Queer Anthropology," will also appear in the issue this spring. Her article "Sex and Sentiment in Cuban Tourism," is forthcoming in *Caribbean Studies*, in an issue in honor of Helen I. Safa. She was on a roundtable on "Generations of Knowledge and Research Traditions: 60 Years of Applied Anthropology in the Callejón de Huaylas and Wider Peru," Society for Applied Anthropology, Seattle, in March. There, she also served as a discussant on the panel "Moving Beyond the Actors in Tourism." Dr. Babb was on a panel at UF, presenting on "Rethinking Gender and Indigenous Identity in Andean Latin America," for the 80th Anniversary Conference, Center for Latin American Studies, in March. She spent a week at the School for Advanced Research in Santa Fe, where she was a discussant for a

seminar on "Street Economies, Politics and Social Movements in the Urban Global South." She plans to return to Peru this summer to continue research.

Kendal Broad is continuing research on two projects, one analyzing the way a group of gay men have constructed anti-racism and the other mapping the various positions of interested actors in current debates about LGBTQ families in the US. Related, Dr. Broad presented a paper, "Men Loving Men: Consciousness-Raising and Anti-Racism for Better Relationships, A Better Community and a Better World," at the Eastern Sociological Society meetings. In addition, Dr. Broad and three graduate students have had a paper ("Professional Allies: The Storying of Allies To GLTBQ Students On a College Campus") conditionally accepted for publication in the *Journal of Homosexuality*. Finally, Dr. Broad was awarded a College of Liberal Arts and Sciences 2010-1011 Teaching Award.

Director of African American Studies, **Stephanie Evans**, invited Michelle Duster, great-granddaughter of Ida B. Wells, to give the keynote lecture at the Annual Ronald C. Forman lecture on Friday April 15, 2011, beginning with a reception at Ustler Hall. The Center for Women's Studies was among the event co-sponsors. Evans also taught a Spring Break 2011 Study Abroad Course in Paris: "African Americans in Paris." Twelve students enrolled in the course explored the African American presence in Paris. Since the mid-1700s scores of African Americans have visited, lived, and worked in France. Students researched the experiences and perceptions of Black Americans and studied why and how a sustained pattern of visitation has occurred.

Tace Hedrick recently published the article "From *House on Mango Street* to *Becoming Latina in 10 Easy Steps*: Genre, Marketplace and Chicana Identity" in a special issues of *La Nueva Literatura Hispánica*, Pasaporte latino: viaje, cultura e identidad en la literatura hispana en los Estados Unidos (Latino Passport: Travel, Culture and Identity in US Latino Literature), edited by Ignacio Rodeño (Valladolid, Spain: Editorial Universitat Castellae). She also participated in the February 10-11, 2011 conference "Simone de Beauvoir: Legacies," moderating a panel on "Beauvoir's Narratives." Dr. Hedrick was the co-coordinator of the 10th Annual American

Studies Symposium, March 17-March 18, 2011: "The Cultures of Empire," at the University of Florida. She was also invited as speaker at two Women's History Month events in March 2011: a talk on the popular paranormal romance *Twilight*, and as moderator and discussant for the "Manel," a panel of male students invited to answer questions about women, feminism, and equal opportunity.

Judith W. Page was appointed Director of the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research this spring. Her book, *Women, Literature, and the Domesticated Landscape: England's Disciples of Flora, 1780-1870* (co-authored with Elise L. Smith) was published in March by Cambridge University Press. She also published "Grace Aguilar's Victorian Romanticism" in *Romanticism/Judaica: A Convergence of Cultures*, ed. Sheila A. Spector, Ashgate Press, 2011), 85-98, among other pieces. She presented a paper on Victorian garden style at the Victorians Institute Conference last October in Charlottesville, VA, and served as organizer or panelist for several different events at the Center during 2010-11.

Milagros Peña, Associate Dean for Social and Behavioral Sciences, CLAS and Professor of Sociology and Women's Studies has a forthcoming article, "Mentoring Transformed: When Students of Color See Diversity in Leadership" by Milagros Peña and JeffriAnne Wilder, in *Women of Color in Higher Education: Contemporary Perspectives and Changing Directions* Emerald Series, eds. Jean-Marie Gaetane and Brenda Lloyd-Jones, Volume 9 (forthcoming 2011).

Trysh Travis was awarded the CLAS Advisor of the Year Award for her work as the Undergraduate Coordinator in Women's Studies. She coordinated the February 10-11, 2011 conference "Simone de Beauvoir: Legacies," in the Center for Women's Studies. With funding from a UF Humanities Scholarship Enhancement Grant and a Princeton University Rare Book and Special Collections Fellowship, Dr. Travis will travel to Princeton's Mudd Library to conduct research this summer for her book, *Reading Matters: Books, Book Men, and the American Century, 1930-1970*.

Maria...Muñoz...McNair!

By Associate Professor Trysh Travis



MARIA MUNOZ

Maria Muñoz has been accepted into the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program, a federally funded program

designed to increase the presence of underrepresented groups in doctoral studies. Funded by the McNair program and advised by CWSGR Affiliate Faculty member Louise Newman, Maria will spend next year pursuing research that will prepare her for interdisciplinary graduate work in gender and LGBTQI theories. She is the first Women's Studies major to be a McNair scholar, and follows in the wake of minors Leila Adams (2007) and Vanessa Attia (2011).

A first generation American whose family fled Cuba to avoid political persecution, Maria grew up in Miami and graduated from G. Holmes Braddock Senior High in 2002. Not content to stop there, she earned an AS in culinary arts from the Orlando Culinary Academy Le Cordon Bleu program in 2004, and an AA from Miami Dade College in 2008. Before beginning at UF in 2009, she worked in a variety of jobs in the health and human services field, including as a staff interpreter and Interpreting Services Coordinator for the Deaf Services Bureau.

While her McNair project will evolve over the course of the next academic year, at present Maria seeks to bring ideas of female masculinity articulated by Dr. Judith (Jack) Halberstam into

dialogue with the scholarship on female and queer incarceration, which has seen a shocking increase over the last decade. Her ultimate goal is to increase the number of women in academia, particularly the number of women of color, in the hopes that she will be able to influence and motivate other members of underrepresented minorities to pursue a life in academia. Of her ambitions, Maria says, "Most of my supporters and source of motivation are past professors and advisors. These individuals have taken their time to listen to my ideas and help guide me in the right direction, I would be lost today without them. I look forward to fulfilling this honor for others."



Graduating Senior Nicolle Vasquez Selected as One of UF's Outstanding Student Leaders

By Associate Professor Trysh Travis



NICOLLE VASQUEZ

After working for the Graham Area Residence Council planning educational and social events for the students of her residence hall, **Nicolle Vasquez** became involved in IDEAL, the student ambassadors of the

Center for Student Activities and Involvement, where she has served as Secretary, Director, and Internal Director. Promoting undergraduate involvement across campus, IDEAL serves over 900 student organizations as well as the entire student body; their goal is to help students find their own niche on campus and make the "big pond" of UF a bit smaller.

Complimenting her work with IDEAL, Nicolle was a Peer Leader for a First Year Florida class in the summer and fall of 2008, assisting in the facilitation of the class by providing a student's perspective on life as a Gator and advising new students on how to get acclimated to life as a college student. She became Preview Staffer in 2009, welcoming over 6,000 freshmen and their families to the UF campus, and registering students for their first semester at UF.

In addition to inviting others to become more involved members of the UF community, Nicolle has also been a strong advocate for women's rights and education. After an internship with the Peaceful Paths

Domestic Abuse Network, she worked through UF's Women's Leadership Council and Ignite: Peaceful Paths on Campus to raise awareness about domestic violence and rape on college campuses. This impressive outreach work led her to be selected to represent Peaceful Paths at the Women's Leadership Council's annual conference in 2010. At the same time, she was involved with Teach For America, speaking out about educational inequality and recruiting top senior leaders into the 2011 TFA teaching corps.

Nicolle is presently weighing admissions offers from the law schools at Northeastern (Boston) and American Universities (Washington, DC), where she plans to study public interest law with a focus on women's rights issues.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

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



Women's Studies faculty and students hosted a meet and greet for 20 girls from "A Girl's Place" on Wednesday Nov 3rd, 2010 from 4-6pm. "A Girl's Place" is a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering girls of all racial, religious and economic backgrounds to grow confident, strong, and independent in order to thrive in the world around them. **Anita Anantharam**



was named National Faculty Member of the Month for this community service event she organized with several Women's Studies undergraduate students, including **Cynthia Valdez**, who interned last semester with the organization and helped spearhead the event. The "meet and greet" was conceived of as an opportunity to showcase empowerment, leadership, and education success at UF. The event also provided the young girls with a tour of the beautiful UF campus.

Graduate Student News

Graduate Student **Sarah Steele** successfully defended her thesis, *Queering Intersectionality: Practical Politics and Southerners on New Ground*, on Thursday, March 3rd, 2:00 pm in the Ustler Hall conference room. **Dr. Broad** (chair), **Dr. Pena** (member), and **Dr. Emery** (member) served on her committee.

Graduate Student **Erin "Toni" Williams** successfully presented her project, *A Forum for Connecting: Fostering Collaboration between Girls' Programs and the National Women's Studies Association*, on Wednesday, March 30th, 11:00 a.m. in the Ustler Hall conference room. **Dr. Evans** was the chair of her committee.

Women's Studies Certificates were awarded to **Giselle Moore-Higgs** (December 2010, College of Nursing) and **Emily Casey**,

(Spring 2011, CLAS, Department of History) and **Kristen Allukian** (Spring, 2011, CLAS, Department of English). A Ph.D. Concentration in Women's Studies was awarded to **Rachel Hallum-Montes**, (Fall 2010, CLAS, Department of Sociology, Criminology and Law)

Current Women Studies Graduate students **Kate Klebes**, **Audrey Dingeman**, **Catherine Jean**, **Atalia Lapkin**, and **Whitney Shadowens** will be joined by **Yaneilys Diaz**, **Molly Green**, **Michelle Harris**, **Nathalia Hernandez Ochoa**, **Kelly Korman**, and **Lauren Smith** in the Fall of 2011.

Sarah Steele was invited to present her paper titled, "Queering the Boundaries of Activist Work: Intersectional Queer Community Organizing

with Southerners on New Ground (SONG)," at SEWSA's (Southeastern Women's Studies Association) Annual Conference in Atlanta, April 6-7.

Kate Klebes will attend a workshop titled "Beyond Rights: Vulnerability and Justice" at Smith College. Kate is currently working on a paper titled, "Human Under Law: the Power of Resiliency for the Vulnerable Subject." Both Sarah and Kate's expenses were partially funded with CLAS Graduate Travel Funds.

