

# Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research

## University of Florida

News and Views

Fall 2002

Volume 13, Issue 1

### *Ntozake Shangé: Visiting Professor at the University of Florida and Guest Speaker at the "Cultivating Knowledges" Symposium*

by Raja Abdulrahim

Ntozake Shangé, a nationally acclaimed poet and award-winning playwright, is a visiting professor in Women's Studies and African American Studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the department of theatre and dance in the College of Fine Arts.

Shangé draws inspiration from many different sources, she said October 25th during a performance at the Samuel P. Harn Museum. Her performance was part of the 25th anniversary symposium for the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research. Shangé first gained national recognition with her choreopoem *For Colored Girls who have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf*. She has gone on to write four poetry books, five plays, four children's books, three novels and a cookbook.

She started the night with a poem that was intended to teach the audience about herself. "Yes, what I write is autobiographical," she said. "Can I prove it? No, I only feel the need to justify my emotional terrain. The richness of my memories bleed into others, my job as a writer is to use them well," she read. "Always I say I'm from Charleston cause that's what I heard my grandmother say."

During the reading of this poem, the audience of about 200 alternated between laughs and sighs. Shangé read several poems throughout the night and explained her inspiration for each one.

One of her readings was from "The Silk Road," written for a competition sponsored by Bvlgari in which writers were asked to write on either leather or silk. "I decided that if I wrote about leather it would be much too lascivious," she said. "So I wrote about silk." Shangé won the contest and the poem was featured in a three-page spread in the *New Yorker*.

Shangé had a radio show in San Francisco for a few years. She would invite musicians to play live on the air from 12 a.m. to 5 a.m. while she commented on their music. One night, when no musicians showed up, she began talking. She spent the whole five hours doing so. Afterwards a poem, "I Live in Music" came from that experience. This



Left to right: Mildred Hill-Lubin, Ntozake Shangé, Shirley Jones, and Judge R. Morgan Hamilton

later became a children's book.

Even though much of her work is drawn from memories or events in her life, she sometimes must sit down and force herself to write, Shangé said after the performance. "They are not always inspired, it comes from discipline," she said. "It's what I love to do, and to explore the African experience in the Western Hemisphere."

Debra Walker King, an English professor at UF who teaches some of Shangé's work in her class, said that Shangé's performance is important in encouraging aspiring writers and activists. "We are at a place now when we need to hear from people who made our history," King said. "People, like her, who changed our times."

After her reading, Shangé was presented with flowers by several of her Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority sisters: Dr. Mildred Hill-Lubin, associate professor of English at UF, Judge R. Morgan Hamilton, Chicago, who was also a participant in the *Cultivating Knowledges* Symposium, and Ms. Shirley Jones.

The Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research is pleased to have Dr. Shangé teaching a class for the Center during the Spring 2003 semester. The class, "Global Voices of Feminism," will explore feminist voices throughout the world with most of the course focusing on women's short fiction and poetry, though theoretical issues will also be addressed.

*Raja Abdulrahim is a junior in the College of Journalism with a concentration in reporting.*

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

This fall we celebrate the 25th anniversary of Women's Studies at the University of Florida. We are firmly a part of this university and our community, and involved in many disparate efforts to educate and learn about women and gender. As we grow with the addition of new courses, degree options, and initiatives, it is worth reminding ourselves why our program and others like it continue to thrive. Women's Studies did not begin in universities and colleges. It began in communities, and in the questions and confrontations of women's and men's everyday lives. Rewriting history from women's point of view, exploring society, psychology, and politics with gender as the lens, and questioning the objectivity of science and economics, occurred because individuals recognized inequities, discrepancies, and absences in the public record or in their own lives. Maintaining that connection to the world beyond the academy is crucial to Women's Studies intellectual purpose.

Our initiatives for this fall reinforce this aspect of our mission. We welcomed our program's first Master's students: Jana Bailey and Kim Helm. We submitted a proposal to institute a regular major in Women's Studies, and if all goes well we hope to be offering a B.A. in Women's Studies by the fall of 2003. Our B.A. will emphasize internships in the Gainesville area, courses on women in international contexts, and study abroad, as well as the more traditional research and writing skills. Our 25th anniversary symposium October 24-26th focused on the research going on at UF on women and gender, provided informal workshops and panels to expand our Women's Studies network, and we shared several exciting guest speakers. We were particularly pleased to be able to sponsor "An Evening with Ntozake Shange." Ms. Shange is an award-winning author of plays, novels, and poetry and one of only four African American women to have their work performed on Broadway. Amy Dickerson of the University Gallery created a new art exhibit in conjunction with the symposium, and performance artist Laurie Anderson was on the bill at the Curtis M. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts the last evening. The symposium also hosted sessions that focused on non-academic activities related to women's lives, including political participation, housing, health, and our community's role in the struggle for women's and civil rights in the 1970s.

Although I'm amazed to realize it, this is my third year as Director. I now have met several people in every school and college of the University, and worked on projects with many. It will be invigorating to celebrate our birthday together.

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**News and Views**  
**Volume 13, Issue 1**

**Angel Kwolek-Folland, Ph.D., Director**  
**Dawn Ramsey, Editor**  
**Paula Ambroso, Assistant Editor**  
**Yelizaveta Batres, Assistant Editor**

News and Views is published each semester to inform faculty, staff, students and Women's Studies supporters of activities at the CWSGR at the University of Florida. For further information about the Center's upcoming events, academic programs, course schedules, and scholarships, or to see the newsletter online, visit our website at: <http://web.wst.ufl.edu>

**Goerings Holiday Book Sale**

Goerings Book Store and the Friends of Women's Studies present the 11th Annual Holiday Book Sale on December 8th, from 5:00-7:00 pm. The book sale will be held at Goerings Book Store at Westgate, 3433 West University Avenue. Tickets for the book sale are a \$3 donation to Women's Studies. Tickets are available at 3324 Turlington Hall or at the door the day of the event. Goerings Book Store will donate 20% of all sales from the event to the Friends of Women's Studies. Refreshments will be served. Bring your holiday shopping list and help support the CWSGR!

**Spring 2003 Courses**

- WST 3000 - Women and Diversity in US History - Kwolek-Folland*
- WST 3015 - Interdisciplinary Perspectives of Women (2 sections) - Rigney Barolet and Davis*
- WST 3930 - Women and Science - Eagan*
- WST 3930 - Witches, Wives, and Whores - Kerley*
- WST 3930 - Feminist Performance - Sfire*
- WST 3930 - Women of Color in the US - Houts*
- WST 4905/6905 - Independent Study*
- WST 4930/6935 - Global Voices of Feminism - Shange*
- WST 4930 - Lesbian and Gay Studies - Alden*
- WST 4930 - Women in Islam - Simmons*
- WST 4930 - Images of Women in Modern Israeli Literature - Balaban*
- WST 4930 - Human Nature and Gender 1350-1650 - McKnight*
- WST 4930 - Immigrant Writing - Wyatt-Brown*
- WST 4940 - Internship*
- WST 6935 - Human Rights Seminar: Women in the Americas - Hernandez-Truyol*
- WST 6936 - Feminist Challenges to Traditional Paradigms - Broad*

**Nora Alter**, German and Slavic Studies, has been recognized as one of three University of Florida Research Foundation Professors.

**Sylvie Blum**, Romance Languages and Literature, attended the "New Women's Writing in French" conference at the University of London, September 26-28, and presented a paper on "Linda Lê's Ghost Stories." She has also done a review of Alison Butler's new book *Women's Cinema: The Contested Screen*, which appears this fall in *L'Esprit Createur*.

**Diana Boxer**, Linguistics, recently published, *Applying Sociolinguistics: Domains and Face-to-Face Interaction*. The book's theme is oral interactions of a variety of situations including social, religious, family, and educational.

**Kendal Broad**, CWSGR and Sociology, has recently published two articles, "Social Movement Selves" *Sociological Perspectives*, September 2002 and "Is it G, L, B and T? Gender/Sexuality Movements and Transgender Collective Identity (De)Constructions," *International Journal of Sexuality and Gender Studies*.

**Allan Burns**, Anthropology, received the William R. Jones Most Valuable Mentor Award at the 8th Annual McKnight Fellows Meeting held in Tampa, October 25-27. This award recognizes and applauds his outstanding support of graduate students in general and McKnight Fellows in particular in their quest to obtain their Ph.D. from the University of Florida.

**Yumiko Hulvey**, African and Asian Languages, has accepted the position of Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Congratulations!

**M. J. Hardman**, Linguistics and Anthropology, received the 2002 Organization for the Study of Communication, Language, and Gender Feminist Teacher/Mentor award.

**Tace Hedrick**, CWSGR and English, and **Debra King**, English, published a joint-authored chapter called "Theorizing Love: Women of Color and Twenty-First Century Feminism" in *Introducing Twenty-First Century Criticism*, edited by Julian Wolfreys. Dr. Hedrick also published a review of *A Latina in the Land of Hollywood and Other Essays on Media Culture*, by Angharad N. Valdivia, in the *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature*.

**Angel Kwolek-Folland**, CWSGR and History, was awarded the Harold F. Williamson Prize in Business History. The award is presented to scholars who have made significant contributions in business history. Additionally, Dr. Kwolek-Folland's book, *Incorporating Women: A History of Women and Business in the United States*, was published in paperback this year.

**Terry Mills**, Sociology, was appointed as Assistant Dean of the Graduate School with primary responsibilities for the Office of Graduate Minority Programs.

**Vasudha Narayanan**, Religion, was named the 2002-03 President of the American Academy of Religion. This organization consists of 9000 members who conduct scholarly research in all areas of religion throughout the world.

**Judith Page**, English, was awarded a Skirball Visiting Fellowship to spend the Spring 2003 semester in England at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies.

**Milagros Peña**, CWSGR and Sociology, received a \$66,000 grant from the Notre Dame Latino Studies Institute for collaborative work with Dr. Edwin Hernandez of Notre Dame and Dr. Caroline Sotelo-Turner of Arizona State University-Tempe, co-investigators on the Hispanic Church Research Initiative. This grant is part of a larger grant funded by the PEW Charitable Trusts for the Hispanic Church Research Initiative.

### CWSGR Research Scholarships

The following scholarships are available to undergraduate and graduate students through the Center:

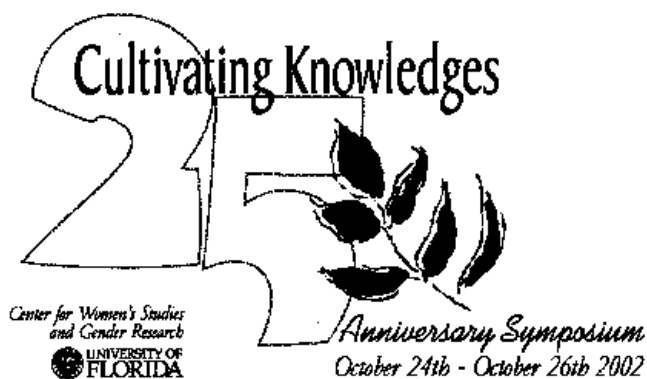
- \*Irene Thompson Scholarship
- \*Judith Brown Women's Liberation Leadership Endowment Scholarship
- \*Alice Charlotte Hogsett Award for Education for Women and Girls
- \*Tybel Spivack Scholarship
- \*Carolyn Osterhoudt Fabal Memorial Scholarship
- \*Madelyn Lockhart Dissertation Scholarship

Applications can be picked up at 3324 Turlington Hall or visit our webpage at: <http://web.wst.ufl.edu/scholars.html>

### Announcing the Custom Copies & Textbooks, Inc., Women's Studies Initiative Fund Challenge

We are pleased to announce the Custom Copies & Textbooks, Inc., Women's Studies Initiative Fund challenge. Until January 1, 2003, your contributions will be matched by the challenge dollar for dollar (up to a total of \$2,000) by Kenneth Roberts of Custom Copies & Textbooks, Inc. This is an excellent time to maximize your giving to the Center! For more information about the challenge, contact the Center at (352)392-3365 or to make a donation, make checks payable to:

**UF Foundation/CWSGR  
University of Florida  
PO Box 117352  
Gainesville, FL 32611**



The 25th anniversary symposium, Cultivating Knowledges was a real success! The event was organized by the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research at UF featuring the knowledge (both theoretical and community-based) created by Florida faculty, students, and community members. The symposium was intended to be a place where Florida researchers, community members, teachers, performers, students, administrators, and activists could examine the ways in which we develop and cultivate knowledge about women and gender. In particular, the symposium focused on three aspects of Women's Studies and gender knowledge(s): Reclaiming Knowledges, Creating Knowledges, and Action Knowledges. In conjunction with the symposium, there were several performances and art exhibits at both the Curtis M. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts and the University Gallery.

The symposium began with a plenary session, *Reclaiming Knowledges: The Work of Zora Neale Hurston*, which



Barbara Risman and Kendal Broad

was presented by Dr. Irma McClaurin. Dr. McClaurin is an associate professor of Anthropology at the University of Florida. She is currently on sabbatical and is serving as Deputy Provost at Fisk University. Dr. McClaurin presented material from the intellectual biography she is writing about Zora Neale

Hurston, the well-known anthropologist, folklorist, and novelist.

As part of the symposium, the CWSGR hosted the opening reception for *Women on the Verge: Cultivating Knowledges* at the University Gallery. This exhibit of original work is from the Bernice Steinbaum Gallery in Miami. The Bernice Steinbaum Gallery is the only mainstream gallery that exhibits the best art made in a democratized culture, represent 50% women, and the only mainstream

gallery whose rosters of artists includes 35% artists of color (African-Americans, Asian-Americans, Latino-Americans, and Native Americans). The exhibit will run through December 14, 2002.

On Thursday evening, *Citizenship or Bondage? Considering Women's Work, Law and The Constitution* was an evening of two performances featuring Judge Martha Ann Lott, Judge Jacqueline Griffin, Judge R. Morgan Hamilton, Professor Jane Larson, Professor Elizabeth Dale, Professor Berta Hernandez-Truyol, Professor Nancy Dowd, Ms. Lindsay Connor, Ms. Katie McKinley, Mr. Scott Underwood, Mr. Steven Klein, and Ms. Kelly Daoud. The first performance was a reenactment of the historic *Bradwell vs. Illinois* case, which was an 1869 case considering whether women should be allowed to practice law. The second performance was a moot court oral argument considering the practice of posting pictures of arrested prostitutes on the web. The evening offered a complex portrait of the variety of perspectives for understanding the place of women and gender in law. The event was organized by Danaya Wright, associate professor of law at UF, and sponsored by UF's Levin College of Law.



Left to right: Heather Alexander, Suzette Robotham, Amanda Davis, Laurean Robinson, and Elizabeth Faist

On Friday, a number of breakout sessions were held throughout the day. A plenary session titled, *Gender Vertigo* was presented by Dr. Barbara Risman. Dr. Risman, professor and director of the sociology graduate program at North Carolina State University, co-chair of the Council on Contemporary Families, and the 2002 Sociologists for Women in Society Feminist Lecturer, delivered an engaging lecture to an audience of students, faculty and community members. She spoke about feminist scholarship, feminist social science, and her book about today's families. She explained that for her book she studied how single fathers, married baby boom mothers, and heterosexual egalitarian couples and their children created families



Participants at the Symposium

without gender as a central organizing principle. Before her lecture, Risman met with a group of sociology faculty and graduate students to discuss research on families and gender.

On Saturday morning, at the Holiday Inn University Center ballroom, Mary Ann Burg, director of UF's Women's Health Research Center, coordinated a morning of networking and creating action plans about the following community issues: health care equity, violence against women, women and poverty, reproductive rights for women, and women aging in our society. Representatives from Gainesville and Alachua County organizations (Area Agency on Aging, Eastside Clinic, Peaceful Paths, Planned Parenthood, and the Women's Health Research Center) spoke to the nature



**Madelyn Lockhart and Mildred Hill-Lubin**

of these issues in our communities, the services presently available, and areas for future work. The session ended with a lively discussion about how to foster coalition between organizations and create opportunities for fruitful links between the university

and the community.

The morning session was followed by the Friends of Women's Studies luncheon also held in the ballroom. The luncheon was well attended by faculty, staff and community leaders. During the luncheon, Dr. Phyllis Meek presented Drs. Mildred Hill-Lubin and Madelyn Lockhart with the CWSGR "Uppity Woman" award.

Dr. Mildred Hill-Lubin, during her time at the University of Florida, has held administrative positions such as Assistant Dean of the Graduate School and Director of the English Program for Specially Admitted Students. She also has been a very productive scholar and writer as well as an outstanding teacher. For example, she was one of the first faculty members to teach courses in African and African American literature with a particular focus on Black women writers from Africa and the United States. She has been an outspoken advocate for students and particularly for women. She was one of the founders of the Women's Studies Program, a controversial program when it was begun in 1977. She has continued as an active affiliate of the Program.

Dr. Lockhart was a member of the first six-woman Steering Committee for the Women's Studies Program. She was an outspoken advocate for both students and other women faculty prior to becoming Dean of the Graduate School in 1985. During her tenure as Dean of the Graduate School

she particularly had to display her strength and courage as she often was the only voice advocating for female students as well as for women faculty and staff. She was not hesitant to take what some viewed as



**Left to right: Helga Kraft, Ofelia Schutte, and Connie Shehan**

controversial positions on certain issues. She especially promoted the recognition of the accomplishments and the presence of graduate students on a predominantly undergraduate campus. She also provided financial support to projects that benefited women graduate students. She remained Dean of the Graduate School until 1993. The center would like to congratulate both women on their awards.

Following the luncheon, Carol Giardina shared her and others experiences in the making of the women's liberation movement in Gainesville, Florida. She told the group about the creation of a manifesto that later became known as "The Florida Paper," that made the women's liberation movement world-known. She also shared her part in the protest of the Miss America Beauty Pageant on the UF campus.

The Panhellenic Council at UF co-sponsored Jessica Weiner's *Do I Look Fat in This? Decoding the Language of Body Hatred* a dramatic program in which storytelling, video, and Ms. Weiner's own personal experiences were woven together to form a dialogue shared from the heart. Ms. Weiner delivered a message of hope and clarity around the worlds of eating disorders, body loathing and self-esteem. The symposium was rounded out with an evening performance by artist Laurie Anderson titled, *Happiness* at the Curtis M. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts. This new solo work featured stories and electronic music. Like much of her work, she looked at contemporary culture through various filters: synthetic language, love songs, animal communication and techno burn out.



**Participants at the Women's Studies Luncheon**

*CWSGR would like to thank the following contributors for this article: Paula Ambroso, Lynne M. Rigney Barolet, Kendal Broad, Angel Kwolek-*

***Fall 2002 Opening Reception***



**Albert Matheny and Ntozake Shangé**

The Center for Women’s Studies and Gender Research Opening Reception for the 2002-2003 academic year was held on September 5th, at the Keene Faculty Center, Dauer Hall. The program began with welcoming remarks and introductions by Angel Kwolek-Folland, Director of the CWSGR.

Neil S. Sullivan, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS), discussed the importance of the Center and his desire to see a Ph.D. program implemented in Women’s Studies. Stacey Langwick, who has a joint appointment in Women’s Studies and Anthropology, discussed her research interests and her recent trip to Uganda and Tanzania where she went on a fact-finding mission for the CWSGR for the possible development of an exchange program between UF and the East African universities in the region. She also spoke about the Fall 2002 and Spring 2003 Gender Conversations series, which will feature a number of scholars from around the University.



**Left to right: Symantha O’Byrne, Conner O’Byrne, Rita Munoz, Gil Munoz, Odina Brusso (recipient of the Carolyn Osterhoudt Fabal Memorial Scholarship), and Danielle Munoz-Ostroot**

Celia Andriello and Kathryn Stephan, students who were enrolled in the summer Study Abroad Program in Guyaquil, Ecuador, talked about their positive learning experience in the program. The speakers were followed by the presentation of the CWSGR sponsored scholarships. Tace Hedrick, Graduate and Undergraduate Coordinator of the CWSGR, presented awards for the 2001-2002 academic year. The *Irene Thompson Scholarship* was awarded to Gemma Torvicia and the *Alice Charlotte Hogsett Award* was awarded to Jessica Harless. Odina Brusso is the first recipient of the *Carolyn Osterhoudt Fabal Memorial Scholarship*. This scholarship is given to a student who, first and foremost, shows integrity and a sense of honor as guiding principles to her/his actions. Family members of Carolyn Osterhoudt Fabal were present at this year’s opening reception.



**Fall 2002 opening reception**



**Award recipients: Gemma Torvicia and Jessica Harless**



**Angel Kwolek-Folland and Kenny Roberts of Custom Copies**

**Ecuador Study Abroad Program: A Unique and Wonderful Experience by Elena Bastidas**

Four University of Florida students, from diverse academic backgrounds, participated in the first Ecuador Study Abroad Program/GEAP course, this past summer. The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences offered this interdisciplinary course, in partnership with the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research, and the University of Florida International Center, during the summer semester at ESPOL (Escuela Superior Politécnica del Litoral) in Guyaquil, Ecuador.

The first week of the course was spent in Guayaquil, where students had orientation and introductory sessions at ESPOL, field visits to important agricultural areas of the region and several meetings on different topics related to the

*(continued on page 8)*



**Students in the Ecuador study abroad program, left to right : Katie Stephan, Christina Iturralde, Celia Andriello and Alyson Dagang.**

**Alumni and Student News**

**Kiran Asher**, who received her Ph.D. from the University of Florida in 1998, is an assistant professor in Government at Clark University. Asher was awarded a Rockefeller Fellowship at the Institute for Research on Women at Rutgers University for the 2001-2002 academic year. The fellowship will allow her to complete her book titled, *Contested Marginalities, Contradictory Modernities: Afro-Colombian Rights, Economic Development and Biodiversity Conservation in the Pacific Lowlands of Colombia*.



Faith Amon

**Faith Amon**, Journalism and Communication, is the winner of the *Cultivating Knowledges* logo contest. Faith received a \$200 scholarship for her winning design. Congratulations! (logo on page 4)

The Center would like to welcome it's first graduate students, **Kim Helm** and **Jana Bailey**. Kim's main area of interest is addressing how abortion and reproduction is portrayed in media and its effects on perceptions of women's health in different cultures. Jana's research focuses on how feminist women use tattooing as a form of resistance to "beauty culture" and as an alternative form of beauty for themselves.



Kim Helm and Jana Bailey

**Conversations about Gender Research:  
An Open Forum for Research Discussion  
Fall 2002 Schedule  
219 Dauer Hall**

***Rigorous feminist perspectives guiding qualitative research processes: What, how, and why?***

Mirka Koro-Ljungberg

Department of Educational Psychology  
Tuesday, September 10, 2002, 11:45-12:45 p.m.

***Racial and Gender Inequality in Latin America: Black Women Organize***

Helen Safa

Latin American Studies  
Wednesday, October 2, 2002, 11:45-12:45 p.m.

***A Burned Bridge? How Radical Activists Birthed A Liberal Jewish Feminist Movement***

Tamara Cohen

Department of Religion  
Wednesday, November 13, 2002, 11:45-12:45 p.m.

***Reconfiguring Primitivism: the Artist as Spectacle in Anglophone Caribbean Accounts of Post WWI Europe***

Leah Rosenberg

Department of English  
Tuesday, December 3, 2002, 11:45-12:45 p.m.  
Check out [www.wst.ufl.edu](http://www.wst.ufl.edu) for Spring schedule

Congratulations to **Paula Ambroso**, office manager for CWSGR who received the 2001-2002 CLAS Employee of the Year Award!

**Artistic Impressions**



**The Spirit of the Southwest  
A Multi-media Art Exhibit and Installation**

The CWSGR Fall 2002 art exhibit features the work of Meika A. Alberici titled *The Spirit of the Southwest*.

Meika's artwork is on display until November 27, 2002 in 3324 Turlington Hall. Meika uses a variety of media including photography, pottery, and sculpture. The exhibit is free and open to the

**College of Liberal Arts & Sciences  
USPS/TEAMS Employee Excellence Award 2003**

CLAS will once again sponsor a program honoring College staff performing outstanding and meritorious service. This year's program, CLAS USPS/TEAMS Employee Excellence Award, will encompass all USPS and TEAMS employees. This includes those formerly classified as A&P employees, who were not eligible last year. Two award winners will receive \$1,500 and a plaque at the Service Pin Ceremony in March 2003.

CLAS faculty, staff and students can submit nominations. Self-nominations will also be accepted. Nominees should have made a significant achievement or positive contribution that reflects the highest standards of quality, excellence and innovation. The evaluation committee will consider a list of criteria including strong work ethic, service-oriented attitude, dedication to the job and unit and willingness to assist beyond normal expectations.

Visit <http://web.clas.ufl.edu/CLASannounce> to download an application form, or pick one up from the Dean's Office in 2014 Turlington Hall. Applications must be submitted to Mary Anne Morgan, 2014 Turlington Hall, PO Box 177300, no later than Monday, February 3, 2003.

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### *Ecuador Study Abroad Program (continued from page 6)*

course. Christina Iturralde said, "Arriving in Ecuador was the beginning of a three-week long journey that has helped bring my studies full-circle. In the first few days of the course, the knowledge I have accumulated in my Political Economy and Development courses at UF was reaffirmed and brought to life in the discussions we were privileged to have." The second week, students traveled to the Sierra by car, where the group interacted with local farmers in La Libertad commune, hiked in the paramo of *El Angel* and visited development and conservation projects. "In La Libertad, we slept in the homes of the farmers who guided us on our hike (in the paramo)...Staying with the families was the most impacting event of our course...What impressed me was the simplicity of their homes and lifestyles and how happy they were despite the difficulty of their lives," commented Katie Stephan. During the third week students explored the Pacific Coast, traveling through the "route of the sun" where students had the opportunity to watch the humpback whales that come to breed off the coast of Ecuador. Celia Andriello stated, "One's first whale sighting stirs a multitude of emotions and brings the viewer back into focus with the reality of his or her own self."

GEAP plans to offer the course next year. For more information about the 2003 Ecuador course, please contact Jeff Luzar, Program Assistant at 392-1965 or by e-mail [jluzar@ufl.edu](mailto:jluzar@ufl.edu) or visit the website at <http://web.wst.ufl.edu/ecuador.html>.

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

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**Additional donations are needed for the following categories: conferences, symposia, travel funds for graduate students to attend conferences, scholarship funds, speaker honoraria, exhibit support, etc. If you would like to make a contribution, please mail to:**

Center for Women's Studies & Gender Research  
 University of Florida  
 3324 Turlington Hall  
 PO Box 117352  
 Gainesville, FL 32611



Center for Women's Studies

and Gender Research  
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