

Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research

University of Florida
<http://www.wst.ufl.edu>

News and Views

Spring 2004

Volume 14, Issue 2

Kathryn Chicone Ustler Hall Restoration Celebration

On March 1, members of the Women's Studies and University community gathered for a symbolic ceremony marking the beginning phases of restorations to the Women's Gym which will be the new home for the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research in 2006.

Kathryn Chicone Ustler, UF alumnus, contributed funds that have been matched by the state in order to make the restoration possible. The building which bears her name is the first UF building named for a woman, as well as the only free-standing building dedicated to Women's Studies in the country. When complete, the building will include faculty and administrative offices, seminar rooms, classrooms, a gallery and a garden.

Remarks were given by UF President, Dr. Bernie Machen, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean, Dr. Neil Sullivan, and Kathryn "Kay" Chicone Ustler. Each reflected on the various purposes the building has served since it was built in 1919. Kay Ustler noted, "My family has always been interested in historical preservation. It's great that you can take an old building, renovate it and make it practical for a new use."

The Woman's Gym has served as a dance hall, movie theater, chapel, and women's athletic center. The University set out to demolish the building in 1979, but a group of faculty members petitioned and saved the building, and the Woman's Gym was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1988.



From left to right: Craig Ustler, Dr. Angel Kwolek-Folland, Kathryn Chicone Ustler, and UF President Dr. Bernie Machen
(Photo by Jane Dominguez)



Kathryn "Kay" Chicone Ustler and her son Craig Ustler
(Photo by Jane Dominguez)

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Dr. Diana Boxer, Juanita Harrison, Dr. Angel Kwolek-Folland, and Dr. Carol Murphy
(Photo by Jane Dominguez)



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

In the United States, March is Women's History Month. Around the world, March 8th also marks International Woman's Day. Both ask us to pause and reflect on the status of women and the state of gender equity. A recent visitor to UF, Agnès Hubert, Conseillère, European Parliament

Commission on Women's Rights, recently told me that because of the attention given to women's issues internationally in the past 30 years, many policymakers she deals with believe that gender equality now exists. I was struck by the fact that many undergraduates I encounter in my own courses also believe that the fight for gender equity is over, and "we won." Dr. Hubert shared my concern that this complacency can undermine the political will to address the inequities that hamper women's access to resources and choices. "There is still a fear," she said, "that women will have too much power!" Thus, when we look at the situation of women in the world, what comes to mind is that French proverb about change: *Plus ça change, rien ne change pas*.

It is true that women's situation in many areas of the world has improved. For example, women's representation in the European Union Parliament has increased from 6% to 31% (largely thanks to gender quotas). In South Africa, the end of apartheid and resulting creation of a new government led to a rise of women in parliamentary seats from 1% to 30%. As of 2000, women in Egypt have the same divorce rights as men, and women's life expectancy continues to be better than men's everywhere in the world.

But gaps remain. The proportion of women in full-time employment in Europe has not increased in 30 years. The Indian Ministry of Women and Child Development recently reported that one woman is raped every hour in India, and that 14 wives are murdered there by their husbands' families every day. Literacy rates for girls and women continue to lag behind those of boys and men throughout the developing world, and in Latin America unsafe abortions account for about half of all maternal deaths.

To put these discrepancies into our own institutional context, a recent article in our local newspaper noted that of the 10 vice presidential positions at UF, only two are filled by women, that there are no female graduate research professors at UF, and that of the 37 eminent scholars at UF, only two are women. Out of 940 full professors, 154 are women. Figures from the Office of Institutional Research show that women's salaries at every faculty level are below those of men's, and women's time to tenure and promotion is slower. Given that women have been in the faculty pipeline in some numbers for over 30 years, and assuming women are no less talented and deserving than men, those figures should be better. The fact that UF is not unusual in this regard points to the breadth of the problem and the complexity that underlies the continuing

lack of gender equity. Obviously we cannot address these discrepancies single-handedly or with simple solutions. The inequities of gender difference are deeply entrenched and widespread. The role of Women's Studies in this remains what it has always been: to uncover the particulars of inequality, to understand the sources and implications of gender difference, and to encourage change for a more humanitarian and equitable world. Clearly, we still have work to do.

News and Views **Volume 14, Issue 2**

Angel Kwolek-Folland, Ph.D, Director
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News and Views is published each semester to inform faculty, staff, students and Women's Studies supporters of activities at the CWSGR at the University of Florida. For further information about upcoming events, please visit our website at: <http://web.wst.ufl.edu>

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Summer 2004 Courses

WST 3015- Interdisciplinary Perspectives of Women
WST 3930- Transnational Feminism
WST 4905- Independent Study
WST 4940- Internship
WST 6905- Independent Study
WST 6971- Research for Master's Thesis

Fall 2004 Courses

WST 3015- Interdisciplinary Perspectives of Women
WST 3349- Ecofeminism
WST 3930- Gender, Race and Science
WST 3930- Gender, Representation and Visual Art
WST 3930- Transnational Feminism and Its Others
WST 3930- U.S. Women's Literature
WST 3930- Women in Literature
WST 4905- Independent Study
WST 4930- Women in Modern Hebrew Prose
WST 4930- Feminist Movement and Activism
WST 4940- Internship
WST 6348- Ecofeminism
WST 6508- Advanced Feminist Theory
WST 6905- Independent Study
WST 6935- Global Feminisms
WST 6946- Internship
WST 6971- Research for Master's Thesis

Nora M. Alter, Germanic and Slavic Studies, was awarded an Alexander von Humboldt research fellowship and is currently in Berlin, Germany.

Diana Boxer, Linguistics, and **Elena Gritsenko**, Professor at the Linguistic University of Nizny Novgorod, Russia and former Fulbright scholar in WS, have been awarded a Rockefeller Foundation Grant for collaborative research in residence at the Bellagio Center, Italy for summer 2004. They will be working on their project, "What's in a (sur)name?: Women, marriage, identity and power across cultures."

Kendal Broad, CWSGR/Sociology, published two articles, one with **Kristin E. Joos**, "Online Inquiry of Public Selves: Methodological Considerations" in *Qualitative Inquiry* (in press), and the other with **Sara Crawley** "'Be Your[Real Lesbian]self': Mobilizing Sexual Formula Stories through Personal (and Political) Storytelling" in the *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*.

Marsha Bryant, English, published "IMAX Authorship: Teaching Plath and Her Unabridged Journals," which will appear in May in *Pedagogy*; the essay cites several students in her recent undergraduate course on Plath.

Amanda Davis, English, had her essay "On Teaching Women's Prison Writing: A Feminist Approach to Women, Crime, and Incarceration" selected for publication in the Winter 2004 issue of *Women's Studies Quarterly*. She also has a review of *Sister Circle: Black Women and Work* forthcoming in *Feminist Theory*.

Tace Hedrick, CWSGR/English, published "Ana Mendieta" in *Notable American Women*, and "Mae é para isso (Mother is for This): Gender, Writing and English-Language Translation in Clarice Lispector" for *Luso-Brazilian Review*. She also presented "'There is the Quiet of the Indian about Us': Mexicans, Modernity and Gloria Anzaldúa's *Borderlands/La frontera*" at Multiethnic Literatures of the United States (MELUS) conference in San Antonio, TX, March 2004.

Kristin Joos, UF Honors Program, lecturer in Women's Studies, was recently appointed as the Honors Advisor & Coordinator of Admissions, Preview, and Student Activities in the UF Honors Program.

Debra Walker King, English, was nominated and ran for a seat on the Modern Language Association Delegate Assembly. She will serve a three year term as region five (southern) assembly representative, January 2004-December 2006.

Irma McClaurin, Anthropology, is on leave from UF and currently serving as the Mott Distinguished Professor of Women's Studies at Bennett College for Women in Greensboro, NC, where she will be helping to design a women's studies program.

Bonnie Moradi, Psychology, received a National Institute of Mental Health Grant for a project Examining Minority Stress and Mental Health, and a Wayne F. Placek Grant for a Longitudinal Examination of Minority Stress and Mental Health of Lesbian and Gay Persons. She also published several articles.

Judith W. Page, English, presented a paper titled "Grace Aguilar and the Politics of Cultivation" at the British Women Writers Conference in Athens, GA in March.

Sandra Russo, International Center, and **Jim Barham**, GEAP graduate assistant, traveled to Ghana, South Africa, and Ethiopia to deliver gender training programs to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Missions in March and April. Participants in the programs were Mission staff and partners from 18 African countries. The purpose of the training is to mainstream gender into USAID's development assistance programs in economic growth, agriculture and trade.

Malini Schueller, English, published "Postcolonial American Studies" in *American Literary History*, and "Articulations of African-Americanism in South-Asian Postcolonial Theory: Localism, Globalism and the Question of Race" in *Cultural Critique*.

Stephanie Smith, English, had an article called "Genetics" published in *Glossalalia*, edited by Julian Wolfreys (Routledge, 2003); her next book will be out Spring 2005, *Household Words: Composing Common Sense for a Democratic Culture* (Minnesota); She was also elected to the MLA Elections Committee.

Anita Spring, Anthropology, was elected to the Committee on Ethics of the American Anthropological Association for a three-year term.

Mary Ann Burg, Kevin McCarthy, Phyllis Meek, Constance Shehan, Anita Spring, Nina Taylor-Rosenzweig, and Betty Taylor collaborated to write *Women at the University of Florida* published by the UF Sesquicentennial Committee. Copies of the book can be purchased through Wild Iris Books, Inc.



WOMEN'S STUDIES WELCOMES NEW FACULTY MEMBER TRYSH TRAVIS IN FALL 2004

Professor Travis is a specialist in American literature and culture, cultural studies, and the history of the book. She is currently working on two books, Recovery and Reading: The New Middlebrow Culture, and Reading Matters: Books, Book Men, and the American Century. Dr. Travis will bring her expertise on the study of masculinities to the Center and will be teaching WST 3015 Interdisciplinary Perspectives of Women and WST 3930 U.S. Women's Literature in the Fall.

I admit it: I came to a formal study of Women's and Gender Studies rather late in the game. Perhaps because I'd grown up the only child of a single mother, with feminism as my default setting and a fair amount of disdain for the workings of patriarchy, I didn't pursue an organized inquiry into Women's or Gender Studies in college and graduate school. The research into literary and publishing history that formed the core of my dissertation, however, revealed to me a persistent gender dynamic within mid-twentieth-century popular fiction, one that cast the largely female reading audience as a threat to the masculinity of the largely male culture of publishing. This seemed odd, as those same elite white men are typically represented as the absolute center of WASP patriarchal power in the U.S. How could a bunch of women writing fan letters and going to reading groups seem an encroachment on that power? A rich and diverse literature exploring and explaining the denigration of women readers already existed; less was known about male cultural producers and their sense of themselves as gendered beings, or about their relations-individually and collectively-to the institutions and underpinnings of contemporary power. To understand the history that shaped the literature, I needed to understand the gender norms and expectations and pressures that shaped the history. I became a feminist scholar of men and masculinity.

Why organize a class around the study of men, students often ask me, when the default setting for so much of our curricula is and always has been men? I have two answers to this question. In the first place, despite the advances made by feminism in the last hundred years or so, men still hold a disproportionate amount of power-economic, political, and cultural-in advanced industrial societies. The way men negotiate that power, and the way it finds expressions in culture, are interesting to me because they are exotic, quite different from the kinds of power I wield as a woman. Secondly, while as a callow youth I believed my feminism meant I didn't need to pay attention to gender, I've come to realize that in fact I study men because I'm a feminist. Once I thought about it, I realized that I'd learned to think about the social mechanisms of gender thanks to second-wave feminism.

What I mean by that is that much of the women's studies scholarship that came out of the Second Wave insisted on the exploration of women's issues as structural, not merely personal, issues. As the Statement of Purpose for the National Organization for Women (1966) put it, "we reject the assumption that [women's] problems are the unique responsibility of each individual woman, rather than a basic social dilemma which society must solve." Feminist and women's studies, then, urge us to consider the social category of women and womanhood, not merely individual women. Men and masculinity need the same scrutiny; if we want to understand men, and the patriarchy that they constitute, I think we need to study them as social categories, not as a series of discrete exemplars. While it's true that the bulk of the canon of the humanities and social sciences has centered on men in the past (and that in many places it continues to do so), it has done so unselfconsciously, by default. Women have been seen as "gendered," while men are... well, just men.

Male subjectivity has been the unexamined norm against which female subjectivity is measured. Women might be elevated above men, like the saintly Little Eva in Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, or relegated to the depths below them, like the mindless socialites who "come and go/Talking of Michelangelo" in T.S. Eliot's "Lovesong of J. Alfred Prufrock." In either case, women's deviance from a male norm has been used to explicitly define and rigorously categorize the female, and to naturalize, normalize, and mystify the male. The tacit assumption that maleness is somehow "natural," "normal," or "above" scrutiny contributes to the disempowerment of women. Even more perniciously, I think, it blinds all humans to the fact that gender—a socially constructed set of performances and expectations based in economic and political reality—shapes all of our lives, whether we want it to or not.

Women's Studies Receives Endowment From L. Calvin "Cal" Yeomans

L. Calvin "Cal" Yeomans, a self-employed real estate investor, land developer, and playwright, passed away in October 2001, leaving behind a generous legacy not only in Citrus County, but also at the University of Florida.

Cal Yeomans endowed the Vada Allen Yeomans Fellowship and the Vada Allen Yeomans Professorship in Women's Studies through the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research in honor of his mother Vada Allen Yeoman. Ms. Yeoman was born in Lecanto, FL in 1896, taught school in Crystal River, and served as foster mother to several of Cal's cousins. The great-granddaughter of Citrus County settler John Earl Allen, she inherited the responsibility of managing L.C. Yeomans', Cal's father's, empire after his death – at a time when few women went into business. Cal Yeomans described his mother as "a feminist before her time."

In addition to the endowments left to the Center, Cal Yeoman also established the Lee C. Yeomans Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences Fellowship in the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences in tribute to his father's years as a key figure in the fishing industry. He also donated many of his personal papers to the UF Library archives and endowed a fund at the library called the Calvin Yeomans Special Collections Enrichment Fund.

Bonnie Moradi Receives the Dr. Madelyn M. Lockhart Faculty Fellowship

The Dr. Madelyn M. Lockhart Faculty Fellowship in Women's Studies is designed to simultaneously assist faculty research programs and the development of graduate students' teaching portfolios. Funds for the fellowship are available to help departments pay for a graduate teaching assistant to teach one course as a replacement for faculty release time. The fellowship is administered by the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research.

With the cooperation and support of the UF Counseling Center, this year's recipient, Dr. Bonnie Moradi, and her collaborator Dr. Jamie Funderburk will be working on a project that addresses several important gaps in the literature on the relationship between women's reported experiences of sexist events and psychological symptomatology.

Their study will examine the sexist events-symptoms relationship in a sample of women who are seeking mental health services. This is particularly important in light of the lack of empirical research with such a sample and the fact that women seeking therapy are likely to be experiencing greater distress than those not seeking therapy.

Their study will also examine self-esteem, social support, and empowerment as potential moderators of the sexism-symptoms link. Identifying potential moderators of the relationship between sexist events and psychological symptomatology can point to important areas for intervention in therapy with women. The findings from this research have the potential to expand scientific understanding of women's experiences of sexism and mental health and can inform the development of appropriate treatment and service delivery to women who are seeking mental health services.



Visiting Professor Rose Shayo co-teaches Transnational Feminisms

Dr. Rose Shayo, a specialist in gender and development economics from the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Dar es Salaam, is the Tanzanian coordinator of the University of Florida's new faculty exchange program, as well as a participant in the program. Dr. Shayo is co-teaching "Transnational Feminisms" with Dr. Stacey Langwick this semester. Dr. Shayo is currently working on a book titled *The Impact of Structural Adjustment on Formal Sector Employment in Tanzania: Empowerment or Disempowerment*.

Gender and Development Faculty Exchange Program

The Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research and the Center for African Studies and at the University of Florida have begun a new Gender and Development Faculty Exchange Program with the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania (East Africa). This program has been created to stimulate curriculum development at both universities as well as offer faculty members time to write. Therefore, this three-year program supports three UDSM faculty members and three UF faculty members to participate in an exchange. Each academic year one Tanzanian faculty member will come to co-teach with a UF faculty member here. The following summer that UF professor will spend six weeks in Tanzania.

If you are interested in participating in this program, please contact:

Dr. Rose Shayo at shayorose@hotmail.com or Dr. Stacey Langwick at langwick@anthro.ufl.edu

Girl Scouts of Alachua County Participate in Women's History Month Art Show



Jasmine of Troop 1255
(photo by Susan Patrick)



Ne-teria (left) and Anikeyawna (right)
from Troop 1255
(photo by Susan Patrick)



Dr. Stephanie Evans (center) at the
reception for the girls (photo by Paula
Ambroso)

In honor of Women's History Month, area Girl Scouts created their own unique artwork based on this year's UF theme "What Women Want" during recent workshops held at the Girl Scout Hut. The art supplies were purchased with a mini-grant written by Paula Ambroso and sponsored by the Women's History Month Committee, a division of Dean of Students Office. The artwork was on display throughout the month of March on the second floor of the Reitz Union. The girls were presented with certificates by Dr. Stephanie Evans and Women's Studies t-shirts at a reception by the CWSGR on

Feminist Activists Creating Equality

F. A. C. E., Feminist Activists Creating Equality, is a new student organization, that hopes to create a society free of all forms of oppression and marginalization regarding gender, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, class, and physical ability. F.A.C.E. plans to address a wide range of feminist issues without persecuting individuals because of their beliefs. All UF students are welcome to join. For information on joining or upcoming events, please contact Anna Kunkle, banna46@ufl.edu



F.A.C.E. members (from left to right) Hazel Hamann, Kelly Cuculiansky, Anna Kunkle, Jenn Fauls, and Laura Heston (photo by Kristin Joos)

Artistic Impressions

The Beauty of Nature by Virginia Chen



On display in the Center from May to August 2004. Please join us for a reception on May 19th from 4:30-5:30 pm in 3324 Turlington Hall.

Dualities: Portraits of the Maya by Deborah Rodman

A photo exhibit of the Maya and their Ladino neighbors, who live side by side in a town in Guatemala yet try to maintain separate lives. On display in August 2004. Deborah Rodman is a PhD student in Anthropology and taught in the Center in Fall 2003.





Women's Studies Major, Megan Sapp, Shares Her Internship Experience

I began considering an internship at the end of the Spring 2003 semester because I am passionate about advocating for women's rights to quality health care and reproductive choices. I looked over the list of possible internships that I had obtained from the Women's Studies office and decided that the midwifery school was an organization that might meet my interests in women's health. At the time, I considered it somewhat of a compromise. I did not think that the midwifery school would be inspirational for me because, to be honest, I just was not too interested in soft, warm baby-mommy type stuff. I could not have been more wrong.

The Florida School of Traditional Midwifery (FSTM) is a socialist, egalitarian, feminist, woman owned-and-operated, non-profit organization that teaches women of all ages, races, and background how to be midwives, childbirth educators, doulas, lactation counselors, and midwives' assistants. These sorts of educators and practitioners support women in gaining the most personal, most thorough, and most considerate care available. FSTM believes that birth is a natural, not a medical condition, and that it should be treated as such.

My goals in coming into this internship were to better understand the operation of a not-for-profit women's health organization and to be competent in some of the administrative duties that are necessary for running this sort of facility. My goals were met and exceeded. Right away, I learned how to file official reports such as licensing requests and accreditation renewals. One of the most important skills for a non-profit worker is being able to raise funds. The school's Executive Director, Jana Borino, made me her right-hand woman on the school's largest fundraising campaign that will supply money for the building of a community center to house the Florida School of Traditional Midwifery and the Birth Center of Gainesville. Through this, I have gained the ability to employ just the right language for obtaining donations in a tasteful and non-obnoxious manner.

Working in this environment has helped me to realize that I feel dedicated to women's health issues. I am now certain that I want to pursue a career in a non-profit women's health organization. Many of the women involved with the school have experience in different types of activism, and I have been inspired by their activist dedication. I am so glad that I completed my internship requirement at FSTM. I could not have hoped for a better experience. I would recommend interning at the midwifery school to any women's studies student who is interested in women's health and is open to working hard and learning new things. I feel privileged that the directors have asked me to carry on as a paid member of their staff. --Megan Sapp

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES OF SPRING 2004

Yelizaveta Batres, Women's Studies student assistant, is graduating with her B.A. in both Political Science and Russian. In the Fall, Liz will attend UF Levin College of Law where she will focus on International Law.

Kim Helm, Graduate Research Assistant in Women's Studies, will graduate with her M.A. in Women's Studies. Kim is taking a year off to travel with her band, and will continue her graduate work in Fall 2005.

Katie Leung, student assistant in the Women's Studies office, is graduating with her B.A. in Political Science. Katie was one of four students from UF accepted into the Teach for America program through Americorps. Katie will teach middle or high school Social Studies in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Student News:

Lovey Chan and Jennifer Paelmo, Women's Studies majors, were accepted into the UF Scholars Program for 2004-2005. Dr. M.J. Hardman will mentor them throughout their year-long project.

Virginia Hamner, Graduate Student in Women's Studies, participated in a rountable on "Global Sex Rights" at the Southeastern Women's Studies Association Conference in March.

Kimberly Helm, Graduate Student in Women's Studies, received a travel grant to attend the Southeastern Women's Studies Association conference in March and to participate in a roundtable discussion on "Global Sex Rights."

Laura Minor, Graduate Student in Women's Studies, presented a paper titled "Too Confessional to be Cool, Too Confessional to Rule: A Feminist Analysis of Reception and the Confessional Women Poets" at the Graduate Student Conference at UCLA in March. She also received a travel grant to attend the Southeastern Women's Studies Association conference where she participated in a roundtable on "Global Sex Rights" and presented a paper on Dolly Parton.

Christina Reitz, Graduate Student in Musicology and Women's Studies student, presented a paper at the Southern Regional Conference of The College Music Society titled "Maria Szymanowska: Marriage of Music and Literature" and won outstanding student paper.

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Transgender Activist Janice Carney Speaks as Part of People Awareness Week

Janice Carney, the Executive Director of the Florida Gender Equality Project, gave a talk titled "The Need for Transgender Inclusion in Human Rights Ordinances" sponsored in part by a mini-grant written by Paula Ambroso. The grant was awarded by the People Awareness Week mini-grant committee, and was sponsored by CWSGR, PRIDE Community Center of North Central Florida, UF Dean of Students Office, and UF Vice President of Student Affairs Office. Ms. Carney spoke to a room of about 45 students, faculty, and community members about the the many difficulties faced by transgendered individuals on both public (political) and private levels.



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