Women's Studies Center
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Annual Report 2008-2009
began my term as Director of Women’s Studies in August 2008, and am delighted to have joined such a strong and active program. For me, the main highlight of this year has been getting to know our faculty, students, advisory board, alumni, and staff members, as well as many other terrific colleagues at FIU.

My main goal for the year was to preserve the many fine traditions and groups that were started with our first director, Marilyn Hoder-Salmon, and expanded under the leadership of Suzanna Rose, and our interim directors Meri-Jane Rochelson and Aurora Morcillo. This included organizing our annual Women of Distinction Lecture Series; supporting our student organizations and their events (especially, the annual student conference and the Vagina Monologues performance); working with our Advisory Board members who provide role models for our students and connect us to the Miami community; implementing our new bylaws and holding committee elections; planning and holding our spring gala; supporting the women’s book club; and building relationships with our partner institutions in the Women Across Cultures Consortium.

After Beverly Thompson, a WS visiting professor, left for a permanent position, we sought and obtained approval to conduct a search for a new WS tenure-track faculty member. We organized a joint search with a number of programs (Political Science, Anthropology, Criminal Justice, and Modern Languages). Professor Morcillo chaired the search committee, which succeeded in hiring Dr. Maya Boutaghou, who will join us in the Fall of 2010, when she completes a research fellowship at UCLA. Dr. Boutaghou will be a great addition to our faculty, bringing expertise in post-colonial studies and women writers in North Africa. With the departure of Wilma Dagdag to Biology, we also conducted a search for a new administrative assistant. We were fortunate to hire Paula Powell, who comes to FIU with much previous administrative experience, as well as experience in print journalism and radio. We also hired two fabulous Graduate Assistants, Leah Blumenfeld and Christi Navarro, who have made important contributions all year to our Center. Leah will soon complete her PhD in Latin American Politics, and Christi is working on a PhD in Public Health. With the new academic year, Dawn Addy will hold a joint appointment with Women’s Studies and the Labor Center. Dr. Addy brings extensive expertise on women and work, and the history of women workers’ organizations.

We added many new affiliated faculty members to our program, and now have approximately 80 faculty members who teach courses that address gender issues in the social and natural sciences, and humanities. These faculty are also publishing scholarship on women and gender issues, and we were able to highlight some of this work in our Women of Distinction series this year, with book author events that included Professors Vrushali Patil, Kathleen Martin, and Meri-Jane Rochelson.

We expanded our internship opportunities for students this year, by making contacts with many community organizations. We also created a new internship opportunity on our campus by launching XX Radio, directed by Claudia Santos, which will provide students with the opportunity to learn the skills of interviewing, broadcasting, recording and editing, and researching topics and people, while adding feminist voices to our local FM campus radio station. In addition, we hosted two international Women’s Studies graduate students this past...
This has been a year of changes for the Women’s Studies Center. We welcomed Dr. Laurie Shrage as our new director. She brought with her many new ideas and perspectives that have been gradually integrated into the center. Despite take over during a time of severe budget cuts at the university, Laurie has helped the center to stay optimistic and to focus on the many positive developments for women on our campus, in our community, and in the larger world.

My role this year has been to help Dr. Shrage in her transition, and to continue supporting the programs I helped developed in my position of Interim Director. I chaired the search committee for an assistant professor position in Women’s studies. The departments involved in our search included: Modern Languages, Criminal Justice, Political Science/International Relations and Anthropology.

We received a large pool of candidates and interviewed three who visited our campus. We successfully hired a promising scholar, Dr. Maya Boutaghou who holds a PhD in Comparative literature from the University of Limoges and is currently working on a postdoctoral appointment at UCLA under the auspices of the Mellon Foundation.

I assisted Dr. Shrage in the planning of several Women’s Studies events including: our Spring Gala (celebrated in our very own Frost Museum), our women of distinction series, and the women’s studies student conference (organized by our Graduate Student Association).

As the exiting Interim director I introduced Dr. Shrage to some of our Board of donors. Finally, I assisted Dr. Shrage in the organization of the Consortium meeting in Fez, Morocco.

As this academic year comes to a close, I am happy to see our student enrollments growing along with increased faculty involvement. During these difficult economic times, the need to support women’s rights and access to education has never been greater. FIU has grown to meet these challenges.

I want to thank everyone for all the support I have received from everyone in the last eight years of service to Women’s Studies, and renew my support to our program and its new leadership.
NEW WOMEN’S STUDIES STAFF

In the 2008-2009 academic year, the Women’s Studies Center said goodbye to our long time Administrative Assistant, Wilma Dagdag, and Graduate Assistant, Marianna Carlucci. In the Fall, we welcomed our two new Graduate Assistants, Leah Blumenfeld and Christi Navarro. In December, our new Administrative Assistant, Paula Powell joined our staff.

WILMA DAGDAG

WS Administrative Assistant, 2000-2008

“I was in DM 212 for a short period of eight years. I had arrived in Miami from the Philippines two months before starting at FIU. Those long eight years went so quickly, because working in Women’s Studies was like home to me. Drs. Rose, Morcillo, and Shrage were great people to work with, along with our WS faculty affiliates, the donors, the Board of Advisors, graduate assistants and, of course, the WS students. I enjoyed working on events—the book events, gala, conferences, and the like. I have learned a great deal working here. I was so amazed to see how big the program grew from when I joined until I left. Also, I took some FIU classes after work hours: two graduate courses under Health Policy and Management and some IT classes (mind you I got A in all them, I wonder how). At this moment, I am not taking classes, but will surely come back to my studies when I figure out the career path I will take. Now I am in the Biological Sciences Department, a new home to me. In the community, I hope to serve in the prison ministry. May the Lord bless you as I have been blessed.”

PAULA E. POWELL

Administrative Assistant

From Kingston, Jamaica she was formerly the Administrative Assistant to the Senior Vice President of Finance and Corporate Planning at Air Jamaica Ltd., and Executive Assistant to the General Manager, Marketing (N.A.) and Local Sales at Wray and Nephew Ltd., distillers and distributors of world famous Appleton rums. Just prior to immigrating to Florida in 1998, Paula worked as a freelance writer at the Gleaner and Sunday Herald newspapers for eight years.

In Florida, her work experience has been focused in the Education field, having worked for over eight years at a private college prior to working with FIU. Paula continues her keen interest in women’s issues and current events by producing REAL TALK, REAL ISSUES, a community-service radio program, in her spare time.
LEAH BLUMENFELD  
Graduate Assistant

Leah Hutton Blumenfeld is a Doctoral Candidate in the Department of Politics and International Relations. She is working on a dissertation examining the international war on drugs and police reform in the Dominican Republic and expects to graduate during the 2009-2010 year. She has a Bachelor’s degree in Spanish Literature from Harvard University and a Master’s degree in International Studies from the University of Connecticut. Leah joined the Women’s Studies Center as a Graduate Assistant in August 2008 after four years as a Teaching Assistant in PIR where she worked with Dr. Judith Stiehm in several WS courses. She has enjoyed advising students and teaching the Introduction to Women’s Studies course. She plans to teach at the university level after completing her degree, or work with a government organization. Leah is a recently-appointed member of the Miami-Dade County Commission for Women. When not on campus, she can often be found teaching Pilates, practicing yoga, taking ballet classes, and spending time with her husband Jamie.

CHRISTI M. NAVARRO  
Graduate Assistant

Christi is originally from St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. After completing her B.S. in Biological Sciences at FIU, she started her career teaching Biology and Anatomy at the high school level. After seven years of teaching, she returned to FIU as the managing editor for the Journal of Latin American & Caribbean Anthropology during its tenure at the university. Following the journal, Christi served as a coordinator in the Student Affairs department and an adjunct instructor for the Honors College and Undergraduate Studies.

In Spring 2008, Christi completed her Graduate Certificate in Women’s Studies. In Fall 2008, she started the Ph.D. program in the Robert Stempel College of Public Health with a McKnight Doctoral Fellowship. Her main research interests are focused on women’s health issues, especially in the areas of sexual health education and maternal health. She is a graduate advisor in the Women’s Studies Center and the current president of the Women’s Studies Graduate Student Association (WSGSA).
**BOOK PUBLICATIONS**


**BOOK CHAPTERS**


Shrage, Laurie J. (2009)“Sex and Miscibility.” In Laurie J. Shrage (ed.), *You’ve Changed:*


JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS


Lavender, Abraham. (February 2009). “Blacks in Early Miami Beach: A Portrait From the City’s First Census in 1920.” Tequesta (Florida History Journal).


Prugl, Elisabeth. (Forthcoming, Winter 2010). Feminism and the Postmodern State: Gender Mainstreaming in European Rural...
Development. **Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society** 32, 2.


**Shrage, Laurie.** (June 2008). Commentator on “A Sensible Anti-Porn Feminism,” by A. Eaton, Symposia on Gender, Race, and Philosophy, 4, Winter.


**CURATORIAL**


**BOOK REVIEWS & OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

Lifshitz, Felice. Anna M. Silvas, Macrina the Younger, Philosopher of God, **The Medieval Review**.


and Mental Health: Examining Identity and Development in Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual People. Sex Roles, 58 (11-12), 891-893.

RECOGNITION


Stiehm, Judith. (2008). Recipient, Frank J. Goodnow Award for significant contributions to the political science profession and the American Political Science Association at the 2008 Awards Ceremony, Thursday, August 28, in conjunction with the APSA Annual Meeting in Boston.

Stiehm, Judith. 2008 FIU Faculty Award for Excellence in Research.


Van Den Bergh. Social Worker of the Year, State of Florida, Society of Social Work Leaders in Health Care, June 2008. This award was presented at the annual NASW Florida Chapter conference based on creative and innovative health care practice with at risk populations.

Ophelia, Weeks. “Best in Class” feature in Miami Herald for Merit – Teaching/Service Efforts, and spearheading QBIC, FIU.

FUNDING/GRANTS


CONFERENCE PAPERS


Barrett, Lynne. Three Presentations on Fiction, Florida Gulf Coast University Sanibel Writers Conference, Big Arts Center, Sanibel, FL—Nov. 6-8, 2008.

Bauman, Whitney. Discussant, Women’s Studies Student Conference, Women’s Studies Center, FIU, March 2009.

Blumenfeld, Leah. “Applying Just War Theory to the War on Drugs.” International Ethics in Times of


Harrison, Kimberly. “Professional Identities: When Writing TAs are Not English Majors.” Council of Writing Program Administrator, July 2009.


Patil, Vrushali. “Tourism, Diaspora, and the Realignment of Race and Gender Difference in Contemporary Globalization: Examining India’s new tourism promotion campaign from a Transnational
Feminist Perspective.” FIU Women’s Studies Consortium. Presented at the annual meeting in Fez, Morocco, July 2009.

Patil, Vrushali. Discussant, Women’s Studies Student Conference, Women’s Studies Center, FIU, March 2009.


Van Den Bergh, Nan
“Providing Culturally Competent Health Care Services for Women Partnering with Women.” Presented at the South Florida Cancer Control Collaborative conference on Health Across Cultures, Nova Southeastern University, September 20, 2008.

Van Den Bergh, Nan
“Removing Barriers to Care for Women Partnering with Women.” Presented at the Florida International University Breast Cancer Symposium, September 2, 2008

Van Den Bergh, Nan
“Enhancing Self Awareness Through Creativity.” Presented at the NASW Florida Chapter annual conference, June 5-7 2008, Boca Raton, Florida


INVITED ADDRESSES

Barrett, Lynne. Reading. Gulf Coast Association of Creative Writing Teachers, University of South Alabama, Baldwin Campus, Fairhope, AL, April 3, 2009.


Morcillo, Aurora. “Imaginario de Género: estereotipos y


EDITORIAL BOARDS

Lifshitz, Felice. General Editor for two special issues of the Medieval Feminist Forum: MFF 44.2 (Feminist Approaches to Medieval Visual Culture) and MFF 45.1 (Giving Credit Where Credit is Due (Sketching a Trajectory of Feminist Medieval Studies)).

Patil, Vrushali. Reviewer, Gender and Society.


Prugl, Elisabeth. Associate Section Editor, Feminist Theory and Gender Studies Section, International Studies Association Compendium Project.

Prugl, Elisabeth. Editorial Board Member, Politics and Gender, the Journal of the APSA’s Women and Politics Research Section.

Rose, Suzanna. Sex Roles, Editorial Board Member, reviewed 4 manuscripts in 2008-09.


FILMS/MEDIA


NATIONAL SERVICE
Patrouch, Joseph. Elected to the Executive Committee of the Society for Austrian and Habsburg History.


Shrage, Laurie. Member, APA Committee for the Defense of the Professional Rights of Philosophers.


COMMUNITY SERVICES


Addy, Dawn. *Women Confronting Conflict*, Working with Miami Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP), women in the South Florida Department of Corrections, and leading students and volunteers, ongoing.

Barrett, Lynne. Member, WS Faculty Advisory Committee (elected April 2009).

Harrison, Kimberly. Advisory Board, Center for Excellence in Writing, 2008-present.

Harrison, Kimberly. SACs Quality Enhancement Team Member, Spring 2008-present.

Onorato, S. Chair, Women in Student Affairs current research committee, March 2008 – present.

Patil, Vrushali. Women’s Studies Department Representative, College of Arts and Sciences, Promoting Undergraduate Research Initiative, FIU, 2009.


Pearson, Linnea. Multi-Faith-Faith Prayer Service in celebration of the Inauguration of President Barack Obama at the Universal Truth Center in Miami Gardens in November. The event was attended by over 300 people of many faiths.

Rochelson, Meri-Jane. Associate Chair, Department of English, FIU, 2008-2009.

Rochelson, Meri-Jane. Advisory Committee member, Women’s Studies Center, FIU. Elected Spring 2009.

Rose, Suzanna. Vice President, Miami-Dade Women’s History Coalition, 2006-2009.

Weeks, Ophelia. Audience with President of the Republic of Liberia, Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, in Monrovia, Liberia discussed issues on education in Liberia, with emphasis on the Medical School and medical students at A.M Dogliotti School of Medicine, January 2, 2009.

Weeks, Ophelia. Member, Women’s Studies Advisory Committee. Spring ’07-present.

Weeks, Ophelia. Member, Women Studies Program Personnel Committee, Spring 2009.
2008-2009 WOMEN’S STUDIES GRADUATES
(Summer 2008 - Summer 2009)

Bachelor of Arts
Alexandra Burke
Lisa Corey
Jessica Doherty
Maria Everman
Janniree Gutierrez
Ileana Hernandez
Tiffany Herrero
Araceli Leyva
Marlene Long
Andrea Lopez
Lissette Matos
Vanessa Negron
Frances Ortiz
Gabriela Raccah
Susan Rainsberger
Louise Reiter
Maria Rivera
Brittany Robinson
Lynsey Sczechowicz
Kimberley Thomas

Undergraduate Certificate
Monica Duran
Tiffany Cruz
Alexandra Schneider
Karen Loria
Tiffany Muniz
Jaclyn Heyen
Danielle King
Stephany Perez
Cristina Caviedes
Meliza Frias
Tiffany Fajardo

Graduate Certificate
Catherine Torres
Genevieve Nrenzah
Cruz, Tiffany. (Sociology/Anthro./Women's Studies Certificate, Spring 2009). Tiffany received her undergraduate certificate in Women's Studies in Spring 2009. She plans to explore rehabilitation models used in treating substance abuse among adolescent females. Tiffany says about the Women's Studies Center:

"My time involved with the Women Studies program has allowed me to approach tasks with a sympathetic eye and a broadened perspective. My experience was nothing short of marvelous. The faculty and staff were all incredibly knowledgeable, attentive, and diligent in their pursuits to satisfy student's needs. In particular, I would like to recognize Dr. Lois West for her wonderfully effective classroom instruction and an open-door policy towards her students. She is truly a wonderful asset to the FIU community."

Hicks, Crystal (Women's Studies/Sociology/Anthro., Spring 2008). I accidentally got into Women's Studies. This is not to say that it is not something that I was already passionate about, but it wasn't planned. I give all credit to Dr. Aurora Morcillo. I took her Introduction to Women's Studies class and felt like I was finally understood. I learned that I didn't have to be what was expected of me, and I could do anything and everything that I wanted. She is still one of my first sources of advice and I love her entirely. I also have to give praise to Dr. Dionne Stephens for the inspiration she gave me in her Psychology of Women class. She opened my eyes to the way that the world, both men and women, see and use women. She has been a great source for all of my research interests. The Women's Studies Center is one in which you feel accepted, not judged...understood. Everyone wants the best from you, and nothing less. I believe that we have a hand in changing the world. I plan to empower adolescent girls, and am working on designing a pre- and pro-college program for inner city high school girls.

Rainsberger, Susan (Women's Studies, Psychology & English, Summer 2009). The Women's Studies Center at Florida International University is what I believe all education programs should be like. The program is very diverse and thorough in covering a plethora of social, cultural, educational, political, philosophical, theoretical, psychological, artistic, and religious topics. Being allotted the freedom of interdisciplinary study is what has turned me on the most about Women's Studies. There is often a misconception about Women's Studies and Feminism that has been challenging to confront in the workplace. However, the Women's Studies Center at FIU prepared me to face this challenge and have full confidence in transitioning my academic experience to the workplace. In June of 2009, I was offered a position with the Non-Violence Project USA, a local nonprofit organization, as the Executive Assistant. I’ve already received a promotion to become the Chief Administrative Officer, where I am charged with managing Human Resources, Public Relations and Media, Web Development, Volunteer Programming, and Marketing development. As a social service organization, we empower and prepare young men and women, who are confronted with a system of inequity, to be independent and responsible adults, inevitably detering them from becoming a part of the cycle of poverty, violence and drugs. Outside of work, I have taken a recent interest in new age philosophy and spirituality and the sociopolitical impact on the ego. In my future, I plan to go back to school to complete graduate work, and to continue pursuing career opportunities that will further broaden my horizons and have a meaningful impact.
Women’s Studies Alumni Accomplishments

Tiffany Herrero  (Women’s Studies/Psychology, 2008). During Fall 2008, Tiffany humbly accepted her Phi Beta Kappa membership and graduated Magna Cum Laude after completing double majors in Psychology and Women’s Studies. She was also recognized for her achievements and dedication to the Women’s Studies Center at the 2009 College of Arts & Sciences Awards Ceremony. She is hoping to attend graduate school as soon as she settles in the DC area. Above all, her greatest achievement is raising her daughter, Sophia, in the spirit of sisterhood and embracing the philosophies which will eternally pave a foundation full of opportunity and equality for all women.

Taquesha Brannon  (English/Women’s Studies Certificate, 2006). Tequesha graduated Cum Laude with her B.A. in English from FIU in 2006. She is currently working on her Master’s degree in Afro-American Studies with a concentration in Sociology at UCLA. She had a very successful first year in graduate school and has maintained a 3.9 grade point average. She is also enjoying her experience in Los Angeles. She won tickets to the 2009 Grammy Awards and walked the red carpet. Tequesha plans to enroll in a Ph.D. program after she graduates with her M.A. in 2010.

Valenzuela, Chonti  (Women’s Studies/International Relations/Asian Studies, 2006). Chonti graduated with her M.A. in Women’s Studies from George Washington University on May 16, 2009. She recently got engaged on Valentine’s Day this year. She is currently trying to decide what Ph.D. program to pursue at GWU.
**felicidad**

**Felicidad Garcia** (English/Women’s Studies Certificate, 2005). Felicidad recently returned from 2 years in Peace Corps service in Cambodia. While in the Peace Corps, she had the pleasure of teaching English at a rural high school in Tany Village in the Kampot Province, and led HIV/AIDS workshops at the local brothel and orphanage. She was also a presenter at CamTESOL Conference 2008/09 and had the pleasure of traveling to Malaysia, Singapore, Laos, and Vietnam during her time off. She’s happy to be back home among family, friends, and frijoles negros (black beans). Felicidad is currently working at FIU and she is completing pre-requisites for the Master’s program in Speech and Language Pathology.

**zoila**

The 200 Scholarship was donated by A Society of Professional Women, Inc., an organization of Dade County women from different professions. The group established this scholarship program for women students at FIU who demonstrate a strong ability and financial need. The award recognizes that women face multiple barriers to furthering their education. This scholarship is intended to help women students focus their attention mainly on education and career goals. The selection is managed by the Women’s Studies Center. Lis-Marie Alvarado is the fourth recipient of this scholarship in the award amount of $1,500.

Lis-Marie is an immigrant from Nicaragua. She is pursuing a double major in Sociology/Anthropology and International Relations, a minor in Communications, and certificates in Latin American Studies and Women’s Studies. Her goal is not only to increase her educational and job opportunities, but to also continue the fight for a reevaluation of traditional views of women’s role in society and to continue a life of social-justice activism. Lis-Marie is also the host of “Madre Tierra,” a Sunday radio program on FIU’s Radiate 88.1 FM station. She is also the artist of the poster which will be featured on the cover of the Women’s Studies student journal, Making Waves, Vol. 8.
Listen to The Sounds of Cultures that Respect The Earth

MADRE TIERRA
Radiate FM

Sundays
1-4pm EST
88.1 95.3 96.9 FM
Online at WRGP.org
Myspace.com/Showmadretierra
The theme for the 8th Annual Women’s Studies Student Conference was “Seas of Change: Women and Gendered Bodies Riding the Waves.” The event was sponsored and organized by the Women’s Studies Graduate Student Association (WSGSA) and the Women’s Studies Center. The all-day conference was a success with over 200 students, faculty, staff, and guests in attendance. Presenter panels included: Health & Gendered Bodies, Challenging Masculine Domains in Culture & the Arts, Women & Work, and Women, Sexual Objectification, & Physical Attractiveness. Students also displayed their artwork at the conference.

The WSGSA Distinguished Guest Lecture, Women on the Verge of a Political Breakthrough: Maitena Burundarena’s Feminist Comic Strips, was given by Dr. Gema Pérez-Sánchez, of the University of Miami. The conference concluded with a special guest performance of Heather Raffo’s “9 Parts of Desire” by the University of Miami cast, directed by Patricia Nolan.

**Conference Program**

**HEALTH & GENDERED BODIES,**
Discussant: Dr. Laurie Shrage, Women’s Studies & Philosophy

- Virgins, Modest Maidens, & Modern Women: The Hymen Discourse, Kerstin Espinoza, Sociology/Anthropology, History, & Women’s Studies
- Sexualized Medicine: The Medical Analysis of Prostitution in 19th Century Rio de Janeiro, Camille Rivera Quebec, Latin American & Caribbean Studies
- Gender Differences in Addiction, Tiffany Yeomans, Women’s Studies, Sociology, & African and African Diaspora Studies
- Interrogating the Western Birthing Experience: A Feminist Perspective, Christi M. Navarro, Public Health & Women’s Studies

**CHALLENGING MASCULINE DOMAINS IN CULTURE & THE ARTS,**
Discussant: Dr. Whitney Bauman, Religious Studies

- The Scents of a Woman: A Content Analysis of Perfume Ads Executed Towards Women Based on Goffman’s Gender Stereotypes, Alessandra Rosa, Sociology/Anthropology
- Hypersexualization of Race & Gender: Portrayals of Latinas in American Film, Maria Lopez-Boada, Women’s Studies
- Uncovering the Uncovered: Feminism & “Working” Women, Melanie Austin, English & Women’s Studies
- The Influence of Parents’ Work History on Female Leaders’ Work-Related Attitudes, Veronica Averhart, Industrial/Organization Psychology
- Perception of the Emancipated Woman: Stories from the Rebels, Anne Braseby, Sociology
- Innovation & Gender: Technology-Based Music Therapy Developments, Jaclyn Heyen, Music Technology

**STUDENT ART DISPLAYS**

- “Femininity” by Wendy X. Ordóñez, Art Education
- “Memorias de una Viajera Enamorada” by Alessandra Rosa, Sociology/Anthropology
- “Gemin” by Michelle Perez, History & Women’s Studies
- “Madre Tierra” by Lis-Marie Alvarado, International Relations, Women’s Studies
Ava Purkiss

Jaclyn Heyen, Anne Brasby, & Dr. Aurora Morcillo

Dr. Laurie Shrage

All-day Student Art Displays

Dr. Gema Perez-Sanchez
Making Waves has gone through some other important changes for the 2008-2009 academic year: a new look! In addition to the new look, the journal, in an effort to “go green,” we will be printing less copies and providing the full journal issue on the Women’s Studies Center website. The online version of the journal will allow the articles to be accessed by our students and faculty for discussions in Women’s Studies and other courses.

This year, we were fortunate to publish two issues of Making Waves. Volume 7, which came out in Spring 2009, is a collection of essays, artwork, and poetry from both undergraduate and graduate students who write on women and gender studies topics. I would like to thank WSGSA for raising funds for the printing of the journal.

Most of the essays and artwork found in Volume 8 of Making Waves are from the 8th Annual Women’s Studies Student Conference, “Seas of Change: Women and Gendered Bodies Riding the Waves.” The very talented associate editor, Susan Rainsberger, did an outstanding job on this edition of the journal during her summer internship with the Women’s Studies Center. I would like to personally thank her for her dedication to Making Waves.
As an illustration of the soul of the Women’s Studies Center at FIU, Making Waves not only creates opportunity for students to express themselves and their views of the world, it reflects the diversity and creativity that Women’s Studies envisions.

- Susan Rainsberger, Associate Editor vol. 8
The Vagina Monologues is a unique annual event that not only touches the minds and hearts of those who come see it, but also touches those whose lives have been affected by violence and turn to our chosen beneficiaries for help. It is a play that fosters conversations and allows us to contribute to building a nonviolent culture, while healing the wounds already created.

The Vagina Monologues at Florida International University is a growing tradition for the Women’s Studies Student Association. WSSA’s third annual production of The Vagina Monologues was a huge success; the students performed to almost sold-out crowds on February 13, 14, and 15. They raised $6,130 to support V-Day campaigns to stop violence against women and girls worldwide, and to support FIU’s Victim Advocacy Center and the Women's Studies Center. In fact, the 2009 production raised more money than previous years and was able to benefit a new local charity, Kristi House’s CSEC Project.

The entire cast gave outstanding performances, and received standing ovations and much applause. As the fourth year approaches, WSSA will strive to make a bigger difference and find new ways of contributing to the community.

“\textbf{I}t was really an amazing and rewarding journey for everyone and we hope to continue influencing the lives of women in a positive way.”

– Guadalupe Juarez, WSSA Secretary

2009 CAST & MONOLOGUES

Hair – Alexandra Schneider
The “Wear and Say” Lists – Ambar Meneses, Gabrie Swingler, & Natalie Levy
The Flood – Jessica Katz
The Vagina Workshop – Veronique Nydam
Vagina Happy Fact – Lis-Marie Alvarado
Because He Liked to Look At It – Bree Smith
Not-So-Happy Fact – Lis-Marie Alvarado
My Angry Vagina – Christine Vera
My Vagina Was My Village – Adriana Rodriguez
The Little Coochi Snorcher That Could – Natalie Levy
Outrageous Vagina Fact – Lis-Marie Alvarado
Reclaiming Cunt – Karen Pangantihon
A six-year-old girl was asked… – Begoña Saiz
The Woman Who Loved to Make Vaginas Happy
– Karen Pangantihon
I Was There In the Room – Vanessa Santana
2009 Spotlight – Adriana Rodriguez
Narrator - Ayesha Naseer

2009 VDAY PRODUCTION TEAM

Director: Guadalupe Juarez
Assistant Director/Stage Manager: Leonna Murray
Producer: María López-Boada
### Student Activities & Achievements

**Women’s Studies**

Each of the following students worked at different sites or on projects where they gained practical application and opportunities outside of classroom learning.

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<tr>
<th>Intern</th>
<th>Internship Site</th>
<th>Site Supervisor</th>
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<td><strong>Spring 2009</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Desiree Llopiz</td>
<td>Women’s Center</td>
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<td><strong>Summer 2009</strong></td>
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<td>Amal Ardito</td>
<td>XX Radio</td>
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<td>Maria Cueva</td>
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<td>Eloisa Granado</td>
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<td>Christi Navarro</td>
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<td>Vanessa Santana</td>
<td>Break Away</td>
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INTERNSHIPS

XX RADIO

During the summer of 2009, “XX Radio” was born. Amal Ardito and Chaundra Whitehead were the students enrolled in the radio internship course. They worked on all aspects of producing a radio show: researched issues, searched for guests, scheduled interviews, as well as hosted them. Claudia Santos directed the show. During the summer they were able to interview 13 guests, among them Mayor Cindy Lerner, Professor Jose Gabilondo (Associate Dean, College of Law), Professor Seth Bramson, Florida Historian, among others.

XX Radio will be launched in the fall 2009 on the student-run station, FIU Radiate, FM 95.3 (stay tuned for an announcement about the day/time). “XX Radio” will provide a forum for discussion of women and gender issues, with intelligent, insightful perspectives, and will invite the Dade County community to participate in the discussion.

CLAUDIA SANTOS

Claudia has been working as an independent producer and filmmaker for the past decade. She has honed her craft by producing, directing and hosting academic and commercial videos in Brazil and in the United States. As an independent filmmaker, she produced and hosted the Brazilian segments for the Latin American series "Successful Women in Latin America". In the United States she continued her independent film work: At Cornell University, she produced videos for the International Student Programming Board, and she hosted and produced student videos such as "Latinos at Cornell". Claudia also worked at The Discovery Channel, Time-Warner (Pegasys), and Univision as well as various production houses. In 2008 she finished a Master degree in Intercultural/International Education at Florida International University. For the past year she has been teaching at the Florida Film Institute, and she is now directing “XX Radio Show” for the Women’s Studies Center at FIU- a show about people on the cutting edge of gender issues. Through film, radio, and video she wants to create a dialogue for our universal shared experiences.
October. Celebration of Feminism for Women’s Empowerment Week. Passersby took a quiz composed of historical facts on the women’s movement. The ramen display shows how many Cup Noodles one could buy for the price of one month’s supply of birth control. We had several boards documenting the contribution of the women’s movement.

November. Clothing drive for the Lotus House Women’s Shelter.

December. Toy Drive for Kristi House (http://kristihouse.org). Every year Kristi House holds a Christmas party for its clients, and for the last two years we have donated toys for the children attending this event.
January. Film screening of Sundance favorite *Until The Violence Stops*, which chronicled how Eve Ensler’s hit Broadway solo show *The Vagina Monologues* grew into V-Day, an international grassroots movement.

February. Teach-in on The Democratic Republic of Congo - V-Day’s 2009 Spotlight Campaign focuses on the women and girls of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The atrocities being perpetrated against women and girls in the DRC are nothing less than a femicide – the systematic destruction of the Congolese female population. We gave a lecture put together by The Enough Project, V-Day and STAND (A Student Anti-Genocide Coalition) on the situation in the DRC.

THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES.
The total amount raised was $6130. WSSA divided the proceeds between four organizations: FIU’s Women’s Studies, FIU’s Victim Advocacy Center, Kristi House’s CSEC Project, and the V-DAY campaign. V-DAY received 10% of the proceeds ($610 dollars) and the other three received $1840.

Lupe and Grettel selling vagina pops to fundraise for The Vagina Monologues at the screening of “Until the Violence Stops.”

Adriana Rodriguez performing her monologue piece on the DRC at the Congo Teach-in.
WSGSA had an extremely productive academic year!

In the Fall semester, we coordinated a Feminist Film night series which included films like “Kinsey,” “Boys Don’t Cry,” and “Made in LA.” Our writing group also met to assist WSGSA and other graduate students with their writing assignments. We also collaborated with other FIU organizations and their events: Women’s Studies Center (Women of Distinction series), Graduate Student Organization (Gradskellar), and DOHGSA (”Kinsey” film night).

Spring semester was the busiest semester we’ve ever had! In the early part of the semester, we coordinated a very successful clothing drive for the Lotus House Women’s Shelter (www.lotushouseshelter.org) and collaborated with WSSA in the Vagina Monologues production. In the latter part of the summer, we organized the 8th Annual Women’s Studies Student Conference which was attended by over 200 FIU students, faculty, staff, and guests. In partnership with the University of Miami, we invited Dr. Gema Perez-Sanchez as a visiting lecturer and the cast of Heather Raffo’s “9 Parts of Desire” to perform at the conference. We hope to continue our outreach to the University of Miami Women’s Studies department in the future.

As a result of the amazing achievements above, WSGSA was able to raise almost $3,000 in special allocations money from the Council for Student Organizations (CSO). This money was used to fund the entire student conference and the printing of the Making Waves Journal (Vol. 7).

I would like to thank our departing WSGSA President, Paula de la Cruz-Fernandez for her devotion to WSGSA this year. I would also like to thank the Women’s Studies intern, Susan Rainsberger, for WSGSA’s long awaited logo (above). We look forward to an even more productive 2009-2010 Academic Year!
Women’s Studies Center Annual Report, 2008-2009

UM’s “9 Parts of Desire” cast performing select monologues.

Attentive at the conference! (left to right): Ashley Matiero, Christi Navarro, Camille Rivera, and Kerstin Espinoza

Paula and new WSGSA member, Jessica Allison.

WSGSA board receiving recognition award from the Women’s Studies Center at the Spring Gala.

Paula & Christi on their way to Lotus House to drop off a truck-load of donations!

PROJECT: EMPTY HANGER

WSGSA Clothing Drive

You can help homeless women and their children by donating essential necessities.

WSGSA is collecting new and gently used clothing for the women of the Lotus House Women’s Shelter. Please help us provide support to the Lotus House’s work to empower women and children most in need to become whole again. For more info, visit http://lotushousefl.org

February 9 - March 9
On Palm, March 15, as well.

Receive your very own donation bag while supplies last!
Community Outreach &
Extra-Curricular Activities
Mary Lou Pfeiffer served on the Advisory Board in the College of Arts and Sciences at FIU and the Board for the FIU Center for Spirituality as well as the Women’s Studies Board of Advisors. She was the contributor of the Helen J. Dunnick Endowment to teach American Indian Studies at FIU. She received a LL.M. in Intercultural Human Rights from St. Thomas University School of Law and a Master’s Degree in Religious Studies from FIU. She is the owner and operator of Pfeiffer Originals art glass studio, President and partner in Caressa-me, an aromatherapy company, and a recipient of the FIU Alumni Torch Award.

Marjorie H. Adler is Human Resources Director for the City of Coral Gables (2004-present). Previously, she was Chief Personnel Officer of Human Resources for the Miami-Dade County Public Schools (2003-2004) and for the school district of Philadelphia (PA) (1997-2002). She has extensive management experience in the private sector as well. Her areas of expertise include labor relations and recruitment strategies, organization development, and risk management. Previously a 40-year resident of Philadelphia, she was very active in the wider community, particularly in women’s issues and cultural affairs.

Carol Alexander is Founder and President of Carol Alexander, C.P.A., PA, a public accounting firm serving the South Florida business community, providing income tax planning and preparation as well as business evaluations. She serves on the boards of several professional and not-for-profit organizations. She also served two years as Club President of the Rotary Club of Miami Sundown. Among her personal interests are fitness, music and art.
**Maria Anderson**, Vice Mayor & Commissioner, City of Coral Gables, FL. Ms. Anderson is a Board Member of the Urban Environment League and a Commission Representative for the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce. She spearheaded a successful community visioning process for the revitalization of downtown Coral Gables, co-sponsored with the University of Miami School of Architecture.

**Elizabeth Baker** is a lawyer with Baker & Cronig, LLP (family, real estate, banking and business law). She has been continuously certified by the Florida Bar in Marital and Family Law. She has been actively involved in Safespace Foundation, a private charity which supports the Miami-Dade County shelters for battered women and their children, for over 25 years. In 2006, she was recognized by the Florida Association for Women Lawyers, Miami-Dade County chapter, with the Mattie Belle Davis Award. Her personal interests include the study of Shakers, a utopian religious sect, and collecting vintage costume jewelry.

**Glenda (Rusty) Belote, Ph.D.** is the retired Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies at Florida International University. She served for many years on the Women’s Studies Faculty Board, the FIU Title IX Committee (concerned with equity in women’s sports), and the Women’s Center Board (Student Affairs Division). She also developed and taught a popular interdisciplinary course, Gay and Lesbian in the U.S.

**Ann (Annie) Goodrich** retired from FIU recently but is still active with Women’s Studies and at the University. She received numerous awards during her many years of service, including the Outstanding Employee of the Year Award from FIU in 1988 and 1995 and the FIU United Way Volunteer of the Year award in 1996. She was the University of Miami Medical School Woman of the Year in 1990 for her outstanding efforts in building the Ronald McDonald House at Jackson Memorial Hospital. The FIU Executive Council in 1997 named an award in her honor, the Ann H. Goodrich Volunteer of the Year Award.

**Lynda Esserman** is a Women’s Studies major and benefactor. She was the hostess of the Spring 2008 Women’s Studies gala.

**Maria Milheiser** is a benefactor and Women’s Studies alumna. Her early career was in nursing. After raising a family, she returned to FIU to complete her undergraduate degree in 2006. She is committed to helping other women gain the knowledge they need to grow and thrive, as well as to protect themselves.

**Pat Klock Parker**, Broker-Salesperson, has been with The Klock-Parker Real Estate Group at Coldwell Banker since 1977. She was a top Real Estate Broker-Agent, selling homes in Coral Gables, Coconut Grove, Pinecrest, South Miami and East Kendall. She was a charter member of the Master Broker’s Advisory Board of the top 200 agents in Dade County and the International President’s Elite top 5% of Real Estate Agents in the Country. She was a past Board of Directors member of the Miami Choral Society and past parent board member of Carrollton School of the Sacred Heart. She and her husband are actively involved at Epiphany Parish.

**Carolina Rendeiro** is Founder and CEO of Business Centers International in Coral Gables and Brickell, a concierge-type service that provides customized workspaces, offices, and lobby and conference rooms that create a luxurious, high tech, executive business environment. She is the Chairman-elect of the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce.

**Helen Venero** has been in the scientific instrumentation industry for 29 years. She currently is president of VTI Corporation, based in Hialeah, Florida, a small company that designs, manufactures and markets scientific instruments all over the world. Venero’s educational background reflects her many interests over the years: Spanish literature, social work, and business. The importance of entrepreneurial skills and the support and mentoring of women in business has been of great interest.
Annie Betancourt epitomizes the consummate change agent. She is a graduate of University of Miami and attended the Senior Executive Program at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. Also, Ms. Betancourt is a former member of the Florida House of Representatives (1994-2002) and Democratic nominee for Florida’s 25th Congressional District. Her experience allowed her to work across diverse political, social, cultural and economic lines. The time she spent in the Florida Legislature was highly productive because she championed laws that foster job opportunities and economic development, promoted changes that facilitate access to higher education through scholarships and fought public corruption in several fronts along with law enforcement agencies. In 2002, as the Democratic nominee for the new 25th Congressional District in Florida, Annie was not afraid to address thorny issues that had impacts at the national and international levels, including a revision to current U.S. policy on Cuba. Betancourt has overcome adversities herself such as breast cancer and losing her husband. Today she lives a happy life in Coral Gables with her daughter Ryanne. She participated as a panelist in this year’s Women Who Lead Conference at FIU.

Gayle Bainbridge has made a career as an insurance agent in Coral Gables after her graduation from FIU in 1975 with a Bachelor of Arts in English. She currently is Vice President of Elliott, McKiever & Stowe, Inc., insurance company. She serves on the Boards of the FIU Alumni Association, UM Friends of Music, and was Chairman of the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Bainbridge was the 2006 recipient of the Thelma Gibson Excellence Award for Leadership from the Miami-Dade Women’s Chamber of Commerce. Her hobbies include traveling, gardening and reading.

Marie Birts is the South Miami Commissioner and a Women’s Studies benefactor.

Roberta Fox, P.A., Chair, Lawyer and Shareholder for the Law Offices of Roberta Fox. Ms. Fox served as Florida State Senator from 1982-1986 and Florida State Representative from 1976-1982. She was a pioneer in family law reform, equal educational opportunity, employment background screening legislation, and changes to the evidence code concerning testimony by young crime victims. She has received the 1973 One of Ten Outstanding Young Women of America Award, the 1986 Florida Women’s Lawyers Association’s Judge Mattie Belle Davis Award for service, the 1996 Women of Impact VIII Award, and a 2004 Pioneer Award from Miami-Dade County.

Evelyn Langlieb Greer is an attorney with Hogan, Greer & Shapiro, P.A., and was elected as the Miami-Dade County School Board Member from South Miami-Dade in 2004. She was the founding mayor of the Village of Pinecrest from 1996-present. Ms. Greer was also President of Greer Properties, Inc., a Director of City National Bank of Florida, N.A. from 1998-present, a Trustee of Barnard College, Columbia University, NY, from 1995-2004, the Vice Chair for the Board of Visitors, Columbia Law School from 1996-present, Director of Our Kids, Inc., the Miami-Dade foster care umbrella organization, and a Director of the Miami Performing Arts Center.

Diana Parker is Director of Office Brokerage at Cushman & Wakefield of Florida, Inc. Cushman & Wakefield is the world’s largest privately held real estate services firm. It delivers integrated solutions by actively advising, and managing on behalf or Landlords, tenants, and investors through every stage of the real estate process.
ROBERTA FOX, IN MEMORIAM

Roberta Fox’s life exemplified the values at the core of Women’s Studies Programs. We learned from her that women can challenge the status quo and male-dominated power structures at the highest levels in our society. As a lawyer (when most women didn’t study law), as a legislator (when most women didn’t run for office), and as a tireless advocate for the young and poor, Roberta Fox was a model of an engaged and passionate woman leader.

While others had made it around barriers for women, Roberta broke down those barriers, so that other women could come streaming through. Roberta was full of dreams and hopes, and was never stopped by the words, “women just don’t do that.”

Roberta was a founding member and the first chair of our Women’s Studies Advisory Board, and a dear and generous friend to many in our program. She fought for the rights of women and children, not out of bitterness and rancor, but with a sense of joy and humor. It is that spirit that we remember her.

- Aurora Morcillo, Associate Director, Women’s Studies

For her obituary in the Miami Herald, please see:

“As Founding Chair of the FIU Women’s Studies Donor Board of Advisors, Roberta’s stature attracted many notable community leaders in 2003-04 to join the Founding Board. The Board under her leadership and with her membership contributed greatly to fundraising and scholarships. Roberta was an inspiration to Board members, faculty, and students alike. Hers was a voice that could not be ignored. Her courage was an inspiration to all. The tales of her years in the legislature in Tallahassee and of her legal work reminded students of both how far women had come and how far there was still to go to attain equal rights. She challenged students to realize their responsibility and role as feminists and activists and motivated them to lobby for the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment during the annual Women’s Studies trip to Tallahassee. She will be remembered by FIU Women’s Studies, in sisterhood, as a leader, advocate, mentor, and friend.”

- Suzanna Rose, Senior Associate Dean for the Sciences, College of Arts & Sciences
The Elaine Gordon Scholarship Endowment was established in 1999 to honor the life and work of Elaine Gordon (1931-2000). Ms. Gordon was a pioneering feminist elected to the Florida House in 1972 who was a leading advocate on issues involving health care, mental health, children and women’s reproductive rights. In 1982, she was one of the first six women inducted into the Florida Women’s Hall of Fame in Tallahassee. After retiring from the legislature in 1994, Ms. Gordon worked for FIU as an Assistant Vice President until 1999. Seven donors contributed $6,790.60 to the endowment this year. Their generous contribution makes it possible for one Women’s Studies student to receive a scholarship each year. The Friends’ donations were greatly appreciated. Below are the friends we received donations from for the 2008-2009 Academic Year.

The success of the Friends of Women’s Studies fund-raising drive enabled our students to acquire valuable educational experiences outside the classroom and lent support to other Women’s Studies events. Women’s Studies Donations from friends and corporate sponsors funded scholarships, student travel to professional conferences, and outreach activities. The Friends’ donations were greatly appreciated. Below are the friends we received donations from for the 2008-2009 Academic Year.

**Elaine Gordon Scholarship Endowment**

The Elaine Gordon Scholarship Endowment was established in 1999 to honor the life and work of Elaine Gordon (1931-2000). Ms. Gordon was a pioneering feminist elected to the Florida House in 1972 who was a leading advocate on issues involving health care, mental health, children and women’s reproductive rights. In 1982, she was one of the first six women inducted into the Florida Women’s Hall of Fame in Tallahassee. After retiring from the legislature in 1994, Ms. Gordon worked for FIU as an Assistant Vice President until 1999. Seven donors contributed $6,790.60 to the endowment this year. Their generous contribution makes it possible for one Women’s Studies student to receive a scholarship each year. Recent donors are listed on the next page. The Gordon endowment now stands at about $79,000.

**2008-2009 Elaine Gordon Scholarship Donors**

Elizabeth & Seth Gadinsky
Brian Gadinsky
Adrienne diPrima
Meri-Jane Rochelson
Kathleen Close
Molly Harris
Barbara Shulman for the Brian Friedman family
Lourdes Acevedo
Dawn Addy
David Albury
Irma Alonso
María Ayala-Lastra
Yvonne Bare Montalto
Doris Bass
Pascale Becel
Ana María Bidegain
Elaine Bloom
Consuelo Boronat
Elisabeth Brady
Natalie Brown
Deanne Butchey
Bob Callahan
Sherwood Cantor
Carol Cohan
Paula Cook-Ehrlich
Serena Cruz
Ginette Curry
Nanci Deutsch
Joyce Elam
Patricia Elias
Catherine Fahringer
Jackie Farah
Jose Gabilondo
Paul & Joan Gluck
Barbara Goldin
Christine Gudorf
Molly Harris
Elizabeth Hernandez
Susan Himburg
Marilyn Hoder-Salmon
Tometro Hopkins
Susan Jay
Rosa Jones
Sallye Jude
Tara Kai
Nilza Kallos
Betsy Kaplan
Suzanne Keeley
Judy Kilburn
Joanne Kirchoff
Suzanne Koptur
Joanne Koren
David Lawrence
Cathy Leff
Rochelle Levin
Felice Lifshitz
Kenneth Lipartito
Frances MacIntyre
Margaret McCaffery
Kathleen McCormack
Raul Moncarz
Aurora Morcillo
Adriana Moreno-Zarate
Marilys Nepomuceno
Trudy Novicki
Suzanne Onorato
Edith Osman
Janet Parker
Vrushali Patil
Joyce Peterson
Suzette Pope
Elisabeth Prugl
Nicol Rae
Kathy Ramsey
Jennifer Richards
Maria Roberts
Ana Roca
Meri-Jane Rochelson
Suzanna Rose
Cynthia Russo
Helen Salazar-Realini
Jose & Dannaliz Segrera
Ana Sejeck
Laurie Shrage
Ellen Siegel
Isabel Sifuentes
Milenda Sinnreich
Dionne Stephens
Judith Steihm
Danielle Strickman
Melissa Tapanes
Sheila Taplin
Anitra Thorhaug
Ann Van Baalen Travis
Marily Udell
Nan Van den Bergh
Victoria Villalba
Diane Volrath
Bernice Waldman
Sue Wartzok
Ophelia Weeks
Julie & Bob Williamson
Margaret Yoder
This check was a $1,000 donation that we received from Coldwell Banker Cares to buy films for our courses on domestic violence and to support the publication of our annual student journal, Making Waves. Thank you to our board member Pat Klock Parker for helping us get these funds.
Florence Shu-Acquaye
*Women, The Law and HIV/AIDS in Africa*
September 30, 2008

Vrushali Patil
*Negotiating Decolonization in the United Nations*

&

Kathleen Martin
*Discarded Pages: Araceli Cab Cumi, Maya Poet and Politician*

Silvana Paternostro
*My Colombian War*
November 7, 2008
Meri-Jane Rochelson
*A Jew in the Public Arena: The Career of Israel Zangwill*
Co-sponsored with the Wolfsonian-FIU and Institute for Judaic Studies. January 11, 2009

Naomi Zack
*Ethics for Disaster*

Olivia A. Scriven
Co-sponsored with the History Department. February 27, 2009

Tatiana Butovitsch
Tenm
“When You Meet the Expectations of Women, You Exceed the Expectations of Men”
Co-sponsored with the FIU’s Wolfsonian-FIU, European Studies Program, and the FIU/UM’s European Union Center. March 26th, 2009

Linnea Pearson, “Women As Healers”
Co-sponsored with the Center for the Study of Spirituality. Mar. 12, 2009

Women's Studies Center Annual Report, 2008-2009
A Conversation with Middle Eastern Women, October 28, 2009

The Middle East Studies Center/SIPA at FIU hosted a delegation of professional women from the Middle East who will be speaking to us on a wide range of issues affecting democracy and women’s empowerment in the region.

Leila Hadjarab (Algeria), Lawyer, Member of Algeria’s Rally for Culture and Democracy (RCD) Party National Bureau.

Laurice Chinder (Lebanon), Ministry of the Economy in Tripoli, President of the Lebanese Council for Violence against Women.

Sarah Bou Sleiman (Lebanon), Public Relations Officer on the Women’s Committee in the Lebanese Forces (LF) Party.

Asmaa Debbagh Boutarbouch (Morocco), Private Physician, Member of Casablanca’s Local Elected Council.

Laila Amili (Morocco), Senior Attaché to the House of Representatives for the Socialist Union of Popular Forces (USFP) Party.

Rasha Hefzi (Saudi Arabia), Public Relations Representative for the German Foundation for Technical Cooperation in Jeddah.

Om Alkhair Al-Saaidi (Yemen), Chief of Social Affairs at the local ministry, Local Council Member for the General People’s Congress (GPC) Party in Aden.

Zahra Chagaf (Morocco), Member of the Moroccan Parliament, Member of the Political Bureau of the Popular Movement.

Whitney Bauman
Co-sponsored with the Women’s Park
January 21, 2009

Kia Lilly Caldwell
“Transnational Black Feminism in the 21st Century: Perspectives from Brazil”
Co-sponsored with FIU’s African and African Diaspora Studies
March 6, 2009
FiU’s Women’s Center: WOMEN WHO LEAD CONFERENCE

Keynote Speaker: Lindsay Hyde, founder and president of Strong Women, Strong Girls

Women Who Lead is a day-long conference designed to further enhance the leadership development of female students at FIU. To accomplish this, the conference has three parts; (1) to promote awareness about the scope of women in leadership in our society today; (2) to assist our female student leaders in developing a strategic plan for their leadership development; and (3) to provide an opportunity for our students to network with women in the community who serve as leaders, and connect them to community resources.

Co-sponsored with FIU’s Women’s Center and College of Arts and Sciences.
The Third Annual Women’s Studies Spring Gala was held in April at the Frost Art Museum. The event included a tour of the museum with new director Dr. Carol Damian and music by FIU Women’s Studies Alumna, Elisa Melendez, and her husband and Evan Lamb. More than 100 people attended the gala and $2,610 was raised for Women’s Studies Scholarships.
Women’s Studies Director Laurie Shrage and Friend of Women’s Studies, Maria Roberts.

Associate Director Aurora Morcillo performs an impromptu guitar solo for the audience.

Women’s Studies Faculty & Friends take a private tour of the Frost Museum hosted by Museum Director Carol Damian.

Women’s Studies Staff Christi Navarro, Leah Blumenfeld, and Paula Powell greet the gala attendees.

WS Director Laurie Shrage and Friend of Women’s Studies, Maria Roberts.
WOMEN’S STUDIES

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

By Aurora Morcillo

Aurora Morcillo (FIU), Christi Navarro (FIU), and Angela Robledo (Universidad Nacional de Colombia)
The Women's Studies Center has a strong commitment to international education. In 2005 we launched the Gender and Women's Studies Across Cultures International Consortium which includes: Universidad de Granada, Spain; Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University in Fez; Universidad Nacional de Colombia and FIU. The second meeting of our consortium took place this year in Morocco.

Six FIU Women's Studies faculty members from the College of Arts & Sciences and one graduate student participated in a conference in Fez, Morocco on “Women, Culture, and Development,” from July 9 to July 11. The participants were: Dr. Laurie Shrage, Director of Women's Studies, Senior Associate Dean for Sciences Suzanna Rose, Professors Aurora Morcillo, Vrushali Patil, Maya Boutaghou, and Dawn Addy, and doctoral student Christi Navarro. The conference was hosted by Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University (http://www.usmba.ac.ma) in Fez,
and included papers by scholars from a number of countries. Papers were presented in Arabic, French, Spanish, and English, and simultaneous translations were provided at all sessions. Faculty from many universities in Morocco attended the conference, along with pre-college teachers, social workers, students, and public officials representing the national government, the city of Fez, and several universities.

While in Morocco, five Women’s Studies faculty and the student representative also presented a panel on “Interdisciplinary & Transnational Women’s Studies” at Al Akhawayn University (http://www.aui.ma) in Ifrane to 75 students and faculty, and met with various administrators at the University on July 8, 2009.

The third meeting of Gender and Women’s Studies Across Cultures International Consortium will be hosted by the Women’s Studies center at FIU in 2010. Our center will be also launching a website for the consortium and a logo competition.

RABAT
Rue de Consuls, Rabat Medina

At the Masoleum for King Mohammed V in Rabat.
Aurora Morcillo with her sister, Emilia Morcillo Gómez.

Women’s Studies Center on the roof of Restaurant Le Ziryab.
Panel discussion on FIU Women’s Studies faculty research at Al-Akhawayn University.
Femme, Cultures, et Développement: Perspective Méridionale

Student from University of Fez giving opening prayer.

Left to right: Aurora Morcillo, Suzanna Rose, Suoad Slaoui, Fatima Sadiqi, Laurie Shrage, & Dawn Addy
addition to our Consortium, the Women’s Studies center is part of the GEMMA Master’s Degree in Women’s and Gender Studies in the European Union. This is the first Erasmus Mundus Master in Women’s and Gender Studies in Europe. GEMMA is an interdisciplinary program that provides high quality academic education and professional competencies for personnel working or intending to work in the areas of Women's Studies, Gender Studies and Equal Opportunities across Europe. There are eight universities in this European consortium:

- KOZEP-EUROPAI EGYETEM (CENTRAL EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY), Hungary
- UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA, Italy
- UNIVERSIDAD DE GRANADA, Spain
- UNIVERSIDAD DE OVIEDO, Spain
- UNIVERSITEIT UTRECHT, the Netherlands
- UNIWERSYTET LÓDZKI, Poland
- FAKULTETA ZA PODIPLOMSKE HUMANISTICNE STUDIJE - INSTITUTUM - STUDIORUM HUMANITATIS, Slovenia
- UNIVERSITY OF HULL, England

Last Spring (2008), the Women’s Studies Center at Florida International University was invited to be part of the Action 3 GEMMA World and successfully joined four other institutions in this global dimension of GEMMA. English and Spanish are the two official languages of instruction of the Master’s program.

Partners of the GEMMA Consortium in GEMMA World:

Prof. Dra. Nora Dominguez, Interdisciplinary Institute of Gender Studies, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Prof. Dra. Aurora Morcillo, Women’s Studies Center, Florida International University, USA.

Prof. Dra. Norma Blazquez Graf, Feminist Research Program, Center of Interdisciplinary Research on Sciences and Humanities, National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), Mexico.

Prof. Dra. Mary E. Hawkesworth, Women’s and Gender Studies Department, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, USA.

Prof. Lucero Quiroga, Center for Gender Studies, Technological Institute of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.
GEMMA World makes it possible for European students of the GEMMA program to visit non-European research and higher education institutions. The students receive a scholarship of 3,100 euros to spend a short research or study period (up to 3 months) in one of these prestigious third country institutions during the 4th semester of the program.

This summer we hosted two students at FIU: Agata Ignaciuk, from the Universidad de Granada, Spain has been working on a project entitled “Mujeres, feminismo y el control sobre la reproducción: los debates sobre la anticoncepción y aborto en Polonia e Italia” under the mentorship of professor Laurie Shrage. Ana Frank, from Studiorum Humanitatis, in Slovenia, has been working on a project entitled “Stereotypes and Representations of Minority Women in America and Europe – a comparison” under the mentorship of professor Alexandra Cornelliuss-Diallo.
Laurie Shrage, Director, Women's Studies Center, and Professor Women's Studies, Philosophy

Dawn E. Addy, Director, Center for Labor Research & Studies, and Professor Education, Women's Studies

Aurora Morcillo, Associate Professor Women's Studies, History

Vrushali Patil, Assistant Professor Women's Studies, Global & Sociocultural Studies

Suzanna Rose, Senior Associate Dean for the Sciences, College of Arts & Sciences, and Professor Psychology, Women's Studies

NEW FACULTY
Maya Boutaghou
Assistant Professor Women's Studies, Modern Languages
Dr. Boutaghou was hired as a result of the Women’s Studies search in the Fall of 2008 and will begin teaching at FIU in 2010.

Faculty Search Committee
Dr. Aurora Morcillo, Chair
Dr. Ellen Cohn
Dr. Maria Gomez
Dr. Kathleen Martin
Dr. Rebecca Salokar
Dr. Laurie Shrage

WOMEN'S STUDIES ELECTIONS & FACULTY COMMITTEES

FACULTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE:
Alexandra Cornelius Diallo (History)
Claudia Matus (Education)
Whitney Bauman (Religious Studies)
Lynn Barrett (BBC/Creative Writing)
Meri-Jane Rochelson (BBC/English)
Ana Maria Bridegain (Religious Studies)
Aurora Morcillo (WST/History)
Pascale Becel (Modern Languages)
Tatiana Kostadinova (Political Science)

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:
Aurora Morcillo (History)
Ophelia Weeks (Biology)
Sarah Mahler (GSS)

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE:
Vrushali Patil (WST/GSS)
Dawn Addy (Labor Center)
Lara Kriegel (History)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:
Vrushali Patil (WST/GSS)
Cristina Eguizabal (LACC)
Rebecca Salokar (Political Science)
### WOMEN’S STUDIES AFFILIATED FACULTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Irma de Alonso</td>
<td>Professor, Economics</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Clair Apodaca</td>
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WOMEN’S STUDIES COURSE SUMMARY

Latin American Feminist Filmmaking
Dr. David William Foster, Visiting Professor
Spring 2009
The course provides a basic knowledge of principal contemporary examples of feminist filmmaking in Latin America in English. The critical presentation of the films viewed involves an ideological interpretation of the film text, informed specifically by concepts drawn from American and Latin American feminism, including lesbian theorizing about the film as a viable cultural product for the presentation of women’s homoerotic issues. The course focuses on subaltern women’s groups like nuns, immigrants, prostitutes, proletariat, single mothers, indigenous groups, political prisoners, and the poor. Films to be viewed may include: Frida (México), Xica (Brasil), Mecánica celestial (Venezuelan), Hasta cierto punto (Cuba), La extranjera (Argentina), Yo la peor de todas (Argentina), De noche vienes, Esmeralda (México), Que bom te ver viva (Brazil), Mujer transparente (Cuba), La ciénaga (Argentina), De eso no se habla (Argentina), Madeinusa (Peru), Brincando el charco (Neo-Rican), Real Women Have Curves (Chicana), A hora da estrela (Brazilian).

Race, Gender, Science, & the African-American Experience
Dr. Alexandra Cornelius-Diallo
Spring 2009 - BBC
This course introduces students to the scientific and social constructions of race and gender. Students will explore the ways in which science, race, and gender intersect by learning about the history of the eugenics movement, reproductive and contraceptive technologies, environmental racism, and the case study of the Tuskegee Syphilis experiment. By the end of the course, students will gain knowledge about the ways in which discourses in anthropology, biology, and history have shaped our contemporary understanding of race and racial identity.

This course will consider the ways in which ideas about race and gender, and scientific practices have shaped American and, more specifically, African American men and women’s racial identity and well-being. The course will begin with an examination of race as it has been scientifically and socially constructed. Topics will include: the history of racial classification; the construction of racial identities; the social construction of gendered differences; the eugenics movement; reproductive and contraceptive technologies and race; the Tuskegee Syphilis experiment; technology, culture, and black community development; environmental racism; science, stereotypes about black physicality and the world of the black athlete; The Human Genome project; and health, healing, and medicine in African American communities. In addition, the course will examine these issues as they inform and have been informed by transnational social, economic, and cultural forces. While we will consider the ways in which science has been misused, the purpose of the course is not to vilify science. Instead we will end the course with a consideration of the possible ways in which practitioners may use medical and scientific knowledge as a liberatory tool.

NEW COURSES
A total of 4,505 students were enrolled in the 133 undergraduate and 21 graduate level courses offered by the Women’s Studies Center for Summer 2008 and the Academic Year 2008-2009 (Fall 2008 – Summer 2009). There were 48 students majoring in Women’s Studies and 43 students pursuing a certificate. By June 2009, 20 students earned a B.A. in Women’s Studies and 13 students earned a Women’s Studies certificate.

### Academic Year 2008-2009 Summary
( Including Summer 2008)

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### FALL 2008

#### COURSE # | COURSE NAME | INSTRUCTOR | ENROLLMENT
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WST 3015 | Introduction to Women’s Studies | Patil | 34
WST 3641 | Gay/Lesbian in the U.S. | Loynaz | 35
WST 4930/EUH 4286 | Gendered History of the Body | Morcillo | 17/19
WST 4930/IDS 4920 | Women in Technology | Walker | 7/39
AML 4606 | 19C African American Literature | Russell | 50
AML 4624 | African American Women Writers | Russell | 48
HIS 4935 | Women & Gender | Lograno | 19
LBS 4154 | Women & Work | Addy | 1
LIT 4930 | Renaissance Gender & Sexuality | Strycharski | 47
MAN 4102 | Managing Diversity | Osborne | 63
PHM 4123 | Philosophy & Feminism | Beer | 34
REL 4364 | Quran, Gender, & Jihad | Musa | 11
REL 4361 | Women in Islam | Musa | 33
SYD 3804 | Sociology of Gender | West | 70
SYG 4060 | Sociology of Sexuality | West | 96

#### FALL 2008 University Park Campus - Undergraduate

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WST 3641 | Gay/Lesbian in the U.S. | Weir-Soley | 33
AML 4573 | Diasporas, Migration, & Globalization | Patil | 19
EUH 6932 | History of Childhood & Youth | Friedman | 14
INR 5088 | Feminism & International Relations | Prugl | 5
LBS 5155 | Women in the US Workplace | Addy | 3
REL 5365 | Adv. Quran, Gender, & Jihad | Musa | 4
SPW 5486 | Modern Spanish Women Writers | Gomez | 13

#### FALL 2008 Biscayne Bay Campus - Undergraduate

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WST 3641 | Gay/Lesbian in the U.S. | Owles | 26
AML 4571 | African American History 17-19C | Cornelius-Diallo | 9
AML 4624 | African American Women Writers | Weir-Soley | 33
ENL 4254 | Late Victorian Fiction | Rochelson | 19
ENL 4260 | Women Writers | McCormack | 21
LIT 4931 | Multicultural Working Class Women | Weir-Soley | 19
REL 3171 | Sex & Religion | Livini | 27
SOP 3742 | Psychology of Women | Stephens | 71

#### FALL 2008 Biscayne Bay Campus - Graduate

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AMH 5935 | African American History 17-19C | Cornelius-Diallo | 1
ENL 5505 | Late Victorian Literature | Rochelson | 5
FALL 2008 (continued)

FALL 2008 Online Courses - Undergraduate

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FALL 2008 Summary

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SPRING 2009

SPRING 2009 University Park Campus - Undergraduate

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### SPRING 2009 University Park Campus - Graduate

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### SPRING 2009 Biscayne Bay Campus - Undergraduate

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### SPRING 2009 Pines Center - Undergraduate

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### SPRING 2009 Online Courses - Undergraduate

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FIU Women’s Studies in Morocco, page 51