

Center for Women's and Gender Studies

Annual Report
2014-15



FIU

Arts, Sciences
& Education

School of Integrated Science and Humanity

The FIU Center for Women’s and Gender Studies promotes scholarly inquiry related to women and gender. Through interdisciplinary courses in women’s studies and cross-listed courses in other disciplines, the center enhances student knowledge about women, feminism, and the significance of gender in diverse cultures and contexts.

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Director's Message



We are pleased to share with you the annual report of the Center for Women's and Gender Studies (CWGS). Our center continues to excel in research, teaching and engagement within FIU and the South Florida community. We are proud to announce that CWGS showed strong leadership in laying the groundwork for the establishment of a new university-wide office that will address issues on the advancement of women, diversity, equity and inclusion at FIU.

Another CWGS highlight this year was the successful launch of the International Women, Gender and Violence Initiative aimed at bringing together partners from academic, corporate, nonprofit and government sectors to collaborate on ending violence against women. Domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking are important research foci of the initiative. In Fall 2015, we welcomed Dr. Vicki Burns and Dr. Judith Bernier who joined us to advance this initiative.

The inaugural International Women, Gender and Violence Conference on January 9, 2015 engaged close to 200 researchers, community advocates and service providers, making its mark as a strong force for advancing solutions to violence against women. In her keynote address, Lynn Rosenthal, former White House Advisor on Violence Against Women, spoke about strategies to end the physical and psychological suffering of women and girls across the globe.

The CWGS academic program developed further, adding new courses for the Fall 2015 semester, including "Sex Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery." These courses are part of a new certificate program that is in development. The center's new online 2.0 BA program and WST courses contribute to making us a major producer of interdisciplinary degrees.

More than 9,300 students were enrolled in Women's and Gender Studies courses and the number of majors increased by 17 percent.

Our students have shown a commitment to their studies and to community engagement. Many have served as interns in leading organizations, organized signature events such as the CWGS student association's annual conference, or produced the play *The Vagina Monologues*. Non-curricular activities featured over 30 widely attended events including research conferences, faculty seminars, science workshops for middle and high school students, and cultural activities such as film screenings.

Lastly, for their commitment, advocacy and efforts, I would like to express my deep gratitude and appreciation to all the faculty, staff, students and community activists whose contributions and hard work have made this an excellent year for the center.

Warm regards,

Yesim Darici
Director, Center for Women's and Gender Studies
Associate Professor of Physics

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Audrey Aradanas

Degree: B.S. in Women's and Gender Studies, and B.A. in Political Science and International Relations, Spring 2016

Certificate: Latin American and Caribbean Studies

Audrey Aradanas, a dual degree-seeking junior in Women's and Gender Studies and Political Science and International Relations, puts feminist ideals into practice by being an active leader in many social justice causes at FIU. In Spring 2015, Aradanas was one of the recipients of the College of Arts & Sciences Award for Service Excellence for her work on women's rights and issues in which she identifies as "a hardcore feminist combatting the patriarchy, misogyny and rape culture."

Aradanas belongs to several student organizations, all of which work tirelessly for gender equality and to raise awareness in regard to sexism and sexual violence. Currently, she is the President of the National Organization for Women affiliate at FIU. In this function, she has organized various events, among them

panel discussions on issues like gender and leadership, and men and feminism as well as film screenings. She is secretary of the Women's Studies Student Association and has helped to bring the play *The Vagina Monologues* to campus every year. She was centrally involved in this year's event both in planning and performing. Aradanas also helps to organize and coordinate the Miami SlutWalk — a global initiative and call-to-action to fight against institutionalized sexism. Her main goals are to fight the power, empower with education, and love with happiness.

Upon graduation, Aradanas would like to obtain a doctorate in Women's and Gender Studies, and Psychology with a focus on how American capitalism and consumerism affect ethnic minorities' sexuality in urban settings.

"I wouldn't be the woman I am today if it weren't for the CWGS. Because of Women's Studies, my eyes have opened to how history has shaped the roles that gender creates for people," Aradanas said. "I am more self-aware, and no longer take things at face value, and I look at the world around me critically. This approach helps me to think of ways to progress towards a better world."

PROMOTING REAL-LIFE ACTIVISM

Professor Vicki Burns challenges her students to change the world. Last summer, Burns, a visiting assistant professor at FIU, assigned group projects to students in her Introduction to Global Gender and Women's Studies class. Each group picked a global problem and then began an online petition using change.org to explain the problem, offer new solutions and collect signatures. It was an opportunity for students to take what they learned in the classroom and turn it into real-life activism.

One group chose to target H&M, an international clothing store, and ask that they include plus sizes in all of their stores. This campaign got the attention of change.org Senior Campaigner, Kelly Sawyers, who reached out to the group and asked if she could make their submission an official petition. The students, consisting of group leader Patricia Capitan, Milton Young, Shazeen Sterlin and Astrid Lopez, all agreed.

Their petition has now garnered nearly 2,000 signatures. With 2,500 signatures, change.org will release the petition to their 100 million individual users in 196 countries, including 100,000 organizations. According to Sawyers, once it's released "the potential reach of the petition is a really wide scale, usually from the hundreds of thousands to the millions." At that point, change.org will contact the clothing stores in the United States and ask them to implement the changes that the students are asking for in their petition.

"I hope the petition can reach enough signatures to go viral," Capitan said. "I'm hopeful that through this petition and with the help of FIU students, we will see the change in action that I know we want to see."



Graduate education scholarships for women in the visual arts

Since 1989, Women in the Visual Arts, Inc. (WITVA) has been offering scholarships to talented women who are enrolled in the South Florida based Master of Fine Arts in Visual Arts programs. The selection process is rigorous. Faculty nominate students who then send in portfolios to be evaluated by WITVA's scholarship committee. Out of this pool, finalists are selected to present their work at a WITVA general meeting.

This year, professor Alpesh Kantilal Patel, CWGS affiliate faculty and director of FIU's MFA Program in Visual Arts, was proud to announce that all four students from FIU who were nominated received the 2015 Women in the Visual Arts, Inc. Graduate Education Scholarships.

Congratulations to Lorna Ruth Galloway, Diana M. Garcia, Inga Karelina and Susan Maas. The master's candidates won four of the six awards given by WITVA this year, and it is the first time so many FIU women have been honored by the organization.

FACULTY NOTES

CONGRATULATIONS



CWGS Faculty Recognized as 2015 Top Scholars

FIU President Mark B. Rosenberg honored the university's top scholars in 2015. Among those were CWGS faculty, including: **Katie Hart**, psychology and **Rene Price**, earth and environment, College of Arts, Sciences & Education; **Samantha Paustian-Underdahl**, management and international business, College of Business Administration; **Rene Silverman**, modern languages, Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



Janewa OseiTutu

Janewa OseiTutu, assistant professor in the College of Law, recently published an article, *Corporate "Human Rights" to Intellectual Property Protection* with the Santa Clara Law Review (Vol. 55, #1, 2015). This article draws on her expertise in international intellectual property law and development to discuss intellectual property protection within a human rights framework.

Intellectual property laws contribute to society by stimulating innovation and creativity, and disseminating knowledge. Excessive protections however can be counter-productive. "While questions of access and protection affect everyone, they can disproportionately affect women and the poor, particularly in developing countries," OseiTutu said. Given the importance of intellectual property rights in the technological age, it is critical to consider whether we are prioritizing human rights, or the interests of intellectual property owners.

In an information age, why we protect, what we protect, and how we justify such protection has significant implications for society nationally and globally. Questions of equality arise in a variety of areas relating to access and protection. Professor OseiTutu's scholarship contemplates the role of intellectual property as a social and cultural tool that may benefit or hinder human rights for generations to come.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Francesca Menes '08 & '13

Francesca Menes was named one of the “20 under 40” emerging leaders in South Florida by the Miami Herald and City Year, and she received the Marie Claire Heureuse Leadership Award from Fanm Ayisyen Nan Miyami, Inc./Haitian Women of Miami.

Born and raised in Little Haiti, Miami, Menes wants to empower immigrants who live in South Florida by urging local, state and federal government agencies on issues of importance that will encourage Hispanic and Haitian citizens to turn out and vote in their communities.

Menes graduated Cum Laude from FIU in 2008 with a Bachelor's in Political Science, a Certificate in Women's Studies, a Certificate in National Security Studies, and was named a 2008 Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Scholar. In Spring 2013, she earned a Master's of Public Administration and a Graduate Certificate in Community Development at FIU.

In 2011, Miami-Dade County (MDC) Commissioner Sally A. Heyman appointed Menes to a 4-year term on the Commission for Women that was recently renewed for another 4-year term. She assists with the development and implementation of strategic broad-based campaigns, policy analysis, legislative analysis, and targeting based on shifting demographics and composition of districts. Menes was also appointed by Miami-Dade County Commission Chairman Jean Monestime to the Community Action Agency (CAA) Board. CAA advises the MDC Board of County Commissioners regarding programs administered by the Community Action and Human Services Department. In April 2014, Menes was elected to a 2-year term as Secretary of the CAA Executive Board.

Menes also served for two years as the coordinator of a national network of organizations fighting for the designation of Haiti for Temporary Protected Status. She is the policy and advocacy coordinator for the Florida Wage Theft Task Force at the Florida Immigrant Coalition which has led the passage of ordinances in three counties. And she has led the fight for in-state tuition for all Florida residents, regardless of their immigration status, which became law on June 9, 2014.



Christina Lalama '04



Christina Lalama is a licensed mental health counselor at Switchboard of Miami, where she provides supervised training for clinicians and interns, therapy services for youth who are at risk of entering the juvenile justice system, and sexual violence prevention education in the community, with a particular focus on women and

adolescent girls. She manages several programs, including Early Intervention, Neighborhood Empowerment and Family Counseling, including a Non-Offending Caregiver program for parents whose children have been sexually abused.

Lalama completed a B.A. in Psychology in 1977 and a B.A. in Women's Studies in 1999. She went on to earn a Master's in Counseling Psychology in 2004 at FIU. While working toward her master's degree, she served as a Graduate Research Assistant for several years in the Women's Studies Center, assisting with research, manuscript writing, student advising, and developing a research database.

Lalama is committed to helping women and children overcome difficult situations, such as sexual, domestic or childhood abuse. She provides counseling expertise to youth and their parents by helping participants learn skills in anger management, conflict resolution and communication, as well as giving them an opportunity to talk about topics including dating violence, rape and sexual harassment.

Olga Torres '14

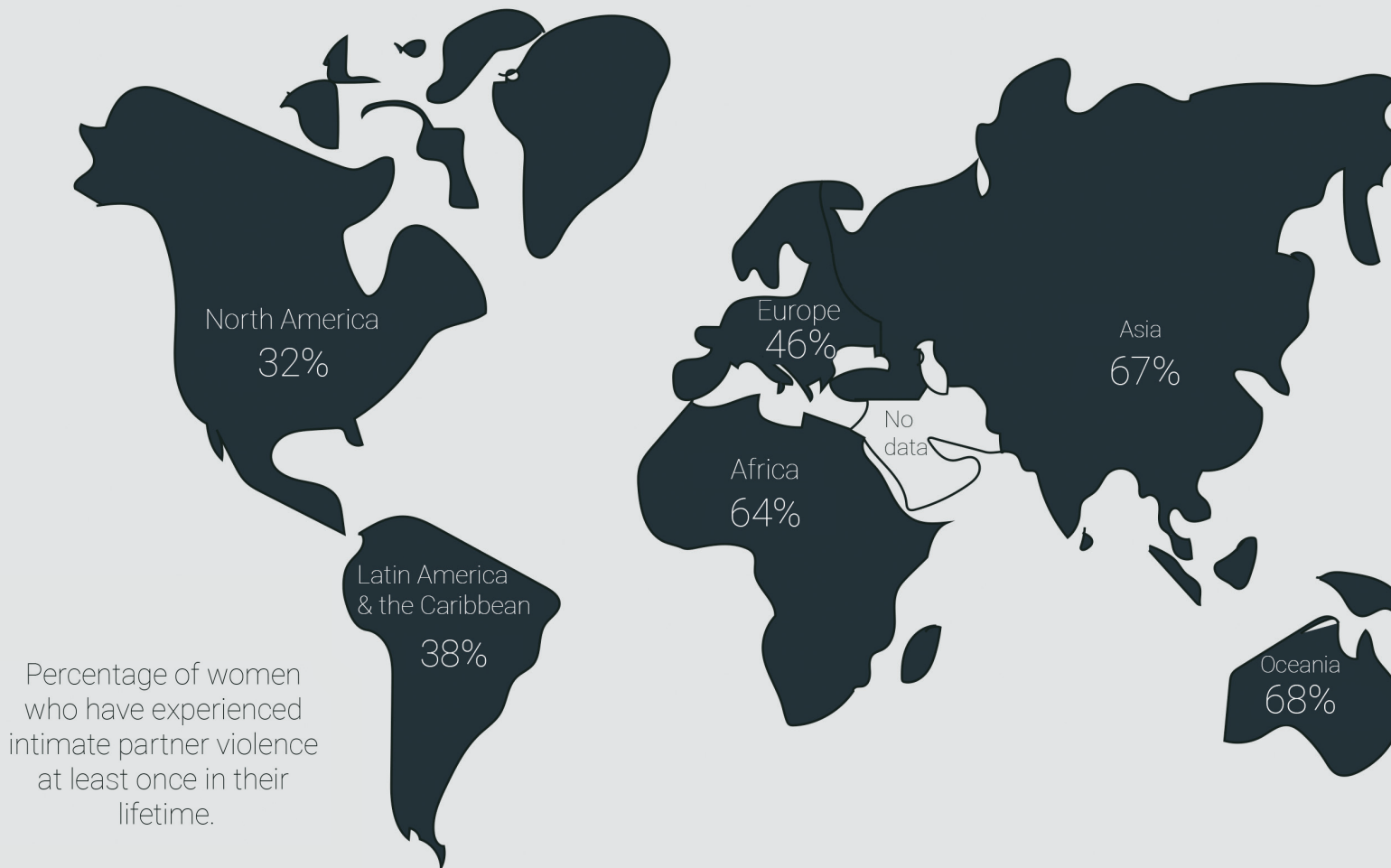


Olga Torres graduated from FIU with a Bachelor's in Philosophy, specializing in Social and Political Philosophy, and a Certificate in Women's and Gender Studies. While at FIU, Torres was a member of Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law Fraternity, International. Soon after her initiation, she became the recruitment chair

of the organization and was then elected Vice-President. She received the Don Hutson Outstanding Pre-Law Chapter Award for her work.

AN END TO VIOLENCE

INITIATIVE TARGETS SOLUTIONS FOR WOMEN



Social gender-based violence is a global pandemic. One in three women worldwide will experience physical or sexual abuse in her lifetime — mostly by an intimate partner — leading to long-term physical, mental and emotional health problems.

Considering this reality, the FIU Center for Women's and Gender Studies has launched an initiative to advance solutions to prevent violence against women. The International Women, Gender and Violence Initiative is focused on prevention and education of the issues related to violence locally, nationally and globally.

In support of the initiative, the School of Integrated Science and Humanity hosted the Inaugural International Women,

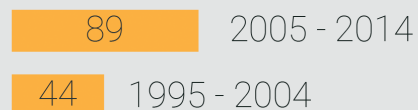
Gender and Violence Conference in January 2015. The conference brought together nearly 200 researchers, community activists and service providers to advance integrative solutions to violence. Lynn Rosenthal, former White House advisor on domestic violence, delivered the keynote address. Her focus was on the future, with hopes to end violence against women and girls.

The conference featured short presentations for local and student communities on promoting healthy relationships; provided practitioners with up-to-date knowledge about violence issues for continuing education credit/certification; and opened opportunities for future collaborations to address violence against women and girls — not just in South Florida but all over the world.

Number of countries that have passed laws on:



Countries that collected data on violence against women:



Future conferences are being planned to provide insight to frontline research on the barriers to reporting incidents of violence and abuse, including fear, language barriers, immigration policy, family identity, lack of support or resources and other issues contributing to violence against women.

The international focus of the initiative guides research centered on how to stop these trends of violence and, in some cases, their cultural acceptance. As a solutions-driver, the initiative is partnering with local organizations and shelters to develop progressive programs designed to end the cycle of abuse and serve as a model for creating centers across the United States and the world.

GENDER EQUALITY

As part of 2015 Women's History Month events, associate professor Susanne Zwingel organized a two-day workshop at FIU entitled "Approaching Final Destination: Envisioning Gender Equality as Outcome."

The event brought together international and local activists, academics, and practitioners committed to maintaining and advancing policy outcomes for gender equality. Panelists represented the United Kingdom, Nigeria, Iran, Hungary and Germany, as well as across the United States from California to New York. Participants included representatives from the United Nations, the Due Diligence Project, The World Bank, League of Women Voters, and several South Florida institutions and universities.

As the field of women's rights has become recognized worldwide, Zwingel's work focuses on the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) as the most continuous piece of the international women's rights framework. Adopted by the United Nations in 1979, CEDAW is based on the concept of gender equality and states' responsibility to eliminate discrimination against women.

Zwingel is an associate professor of International Relations and Women's and Gender Studies at FIU. Her forthcoming book, *Translating International Women's Rights: The CEDAW Convention in Context* (Palgrave MacMillan), will be published in early 2016.



1 in 3

women have experienced physical/sexual violence at some point in their lives.



2 in 3

victims of intimate-partner and family related homicide are women.



The World's Women 2015
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/worldswomen.html>

GEEKIWOOD

CONFERENCE PROMOTES STEM EDUCATION, INNOVATION AT FIU



FIU's School of Integrated Science and Humanity along with the Center for Women's and Gender Studies hosted the inaugural GeekiWood conference Sept. 27, 2014. The conference offered tools to empower adolescents to have a greater appreciation for technology, science, engineering, math (STEM) and the arts. It's a way to encourage teens, especially girls, to pursue STEM-related areas in their studies as well as future college and career planning.

"Many of today's adolescents and young adults, especially women, shy away from scientific or technical studies, despite the rapidly growing importance of these areas," said Noreen Legault Mendoza, GeekiWood creator and Geeki Girls, Inc. founding director. "We designed a fun, full day, family-friendly event which appeals to anyone who watches TV, movies, uses a computer or cellphone. It directly connects to young adults without regard to race or economic status."

Producers, educators, technicians and scientists explained to a group of more than 200 middle school girls – and boys – how technology facilitates the creative process. The conference included plenary sessions, breakouts and a student expo hall. The expo featured FIU student organizations and researchers showcasing their STEM-related work including a dogs and drones exhibit, reptiles and their ecological importance in South Florida, 3-D printing and Wall of Wind research.

Thirteen-year-old Sofia Godoy, a student at Walter C. Young Middle School, attended GeekiWood. She enjoys the challenges classes like logic and algebra present as well as the sense of accomplishment she gets from solving a problem or completing a formula.

"She loves technology. We want her to be more exposed to science and math," Godoy's mom said. "Here, she can get hands-on experience in areas that interest her and think about the future."

Godoy's favorite sessions from the conference were Physics and Animation Storytelling and Green Screen Technology. Other sessions included a keynote address by Dr. Steven C. Schlozman, author, "The Zombie Autopsies" and a presentation by FIU physicist, Angie Laird titled Neuroscience and Hollywood. The conference also included tours of the Stocker AstroScience Center and the International Forensic Research Institute's Trace Evidence Analysis Facility.

Geeki Girls, Inc. is a non-profit organization. The 2014 GeekiWood Conference was organized with the support of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners in collaboration with FIU.

FEATURED EVENTS

FIFTH ANNUAL WOMEN FACULTY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

May 7, 2015

The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum,
Modesto A. Maidique Campus

Gender and Teaching Evaluations

Keynote Address by

Susan Basow, Ph.D., Lafayette College, Pennsylvania

Given the important role student evaluations of teaching play in many professors' career trajectory, it is important to understand potential biasing factors. In this talk, Dr. Basow reviewed the research on the many subtle and indirect ways in which gender factors may affect student ratings. She pointed out the particular risk factors that may make some professors more vulnerable to receiving biased evaluations than others, and concluded with recommendations for the use of such evaluations.

Panel and Discussion: Advancing Women Faculty at FIU

In this presentation, the Provost's Council for the Advancement of Women and Minority Faculty discussed the steps they have taken in the past year to advance the careers of women faculty at FIU. The panelists then facilitated small group discussions to identify goals and strategies that participants would recommend to enhance hiring, promotion, equity and leadership opportunities for women and minority faculty. Those suggestions were incorporated into the Council's recommendations to the Provost.



MINE ÜÇER WOMEN IN SCIENCE LECTURE SERIES

This year, the Mine Üçer Women in Science Lecture Series included 114 women speakers, featuring visiting scholars and FIU faculty from across the sciences. The Lecture Series is made possible by a generous donation from Mine Üçer, philanthropist and dedicated advisory board member for the School of Integrated Science and Humanity.

The speaker series promotes the awareness, participation and advancement of women pursuing academic careers in science.

OTHER EVENTS

Democracy in the Gulf Region and the Role of Kuwaiti Women in the Political Arena

September 4, 2014 — MARC Pavilion, Modesto A. Maidique Campus



WSGSA Conference

November 6, 2014 —
MARC Pavilion,
Modesto A. Maidique Campus

Faculty Research Series – Women's Rights as Process

December 4, 2014 — LC 309, Modesto A. Maidique Campus

The Vagina Monologues 2015

February 19-21, 2015 — RBD 1100, Modesto A. Maidique Campus



Approaching Final Destination: Envisioning Gender Equality as Outcome

March 19 & 20, 2015 — The
Women's Park, Miami & FIU
Graham Center Panther Suite

For a complete list of past events, go to wstudies.fiu.edu

ELAINE GORDON SCHOLARSHIP IN WOMEN'S STUDIES

The Elaine Gordon Scholarship in Women's Studies was established in 1999 to honor the life and work of Elaine Gordon, a pioneering feminist, legislator and leading advocate on issues involving women's rights, health care, mental health and children's rights. It was one of her final wishes that her work be carried on through a scholarship that would help others. Her children and the extended Gadinsky family honor her wishes through their foundation and this scholarship. In spring 2015, the FIU Elaine Gordon Scholarship in Women's Studies was awarded to Natalia Gutierrez and Michael Powell.



Natalia Gutierrez – Award Recipient

Degree: B.A. in Psychology and B.A. in Women's and Gender Studies, Fall 2015

Natalia Gutierrez is a senior completing a double major in Psychology and Women's and Gender Studies. Growing up during the recession, Gutierrez's family experienced financial loss and illness. As a young woman, she learned what it meant to suddenly go from "carefree and cloudless, to shadowy and uncertain." She realized that moment in time would stay with her forever. As she entered college, these circumstances became a motivator for Gutierrez to work harder. Despite her parents' hardships, they made it clear that her education was a top priority.

As a research assistant and public relations coordinator for Asia Eaton's Power, Women and Relationships (PWR) Lab, Gutierrez had the chance to learn about intimate partner violence and sexual coercion among ethnic minority adolescents. In the future, she hopes to help women, young girls and members of the LGBTQ community by helping them to identify their skills and abilities and ending problematic behaviors. Eventually, she would like to open her own counseling practice where she can lead support groups for teen girls and women in need.

After she graduates with her bachelor's degree, Gutierrez looks forward to pursuing a Master's in Mental Health Counseling.

Michael Powell – Award Recipient

Degree: B.A. in Psychology and B.A. in Women's and Gender Studies, Spring 2016

Michael Powell is the manager of the Power, Women, and Relationships (PWR) Psychology Lab at FIU. His advisor, Asia Eaton, considers him a dream student. Through his coursework and time in the PWR lab, Michael has developed a greater appreciation for how gender, race, power, culture and status operate in the lives of young people.

The journey that brought him to this point has hardly been smooth. As a homeless teenager, Powell dropped out of high school at seventeen due to plummeting grades and a lack of family support after "coming out" to his parents. Ironically, with nowhere to go, he had his first college experience while living with friends in their college dorm rooms. It was then that he realized he wanted to pursue college, but he knew he had to get his high school GED first, and he did just that.

In the six years since, Powell has discovered his passion for research, his commitment to studying gender prejudice and stigma, and his dedication to social justice, feminism, and human rights.

Powell will soon travel to Massachusetts to spend the summer of 2015 working with world-renowned Harvard University social psychologist Daniel Gilbert. He then plans to attend graduate school for social and organizational psychology.

FACULTY AWARDS



Suzanna M. Rose, Executive Director of the School of Integrated Science and Humanity, was part of the Algebra Online Math Pilot team that received the **2014 FIU Presidential Excellence Award**. The team was comprised of Jeremiah K. Hower, Instructor; Elizabeth C. Ferris, Designer; and Leanne Wells, Director, Mastery Math Program. The annual award is given to an individual or team that supports institutional, strategic and operational excellence.



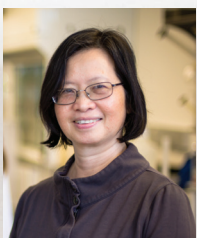
Psychologist **Leslie Frazier** received the **University Graduate School Provost Award for Outstanding Graduate Program Director** for her work in the Department of Psychology. Frazier's stewardship has contributed to many recent milestones, including the launch of the Cognitive Neuroscience Doctoral Training Program which is attracting top students from all over the world.



At the 2014 Faculty Convocation, **Michaela Moura-Koçoglu**, CWGS faculty member, received the **Adjunct Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching** for her engagement of students in a highly interactive and motivational classroom where they pursue social justice on an individual and a societal level. Her new course, "Introduction to Global Gender and Women's Studies," also received top marks for the "Quality Matters Certification."



Epidemiologist **Dr. Mary Jo Trepka** was recognized by President Obama with a **Presidential Early Career Award for Science and Engineering**. Dr. Trepka also received the **FIU Excellence in Research and Creative Activities Award**. She is a forerunner in researching the social determinants of infectious diseases. A 5-year R01 grant from the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities supports her study to investigate the role of poverty, racial residential segregation and rural/urban residence in racial disparities for AIDS survival.



Professor **Yuk-Ching Tse-Dinh**, director of FIU's Biomolecular Sciences Institute, and her faculty team, Yuan Liu and Irina Agoulnik, received a \$50,000 grant from **The Community Foundation of Broward** to fund their research project on prostate cancer. The award supports innovative ideas that solve community problems and are awarded to organizations that lead boldly and present unique projects.

Bachelor's Degree

Jessica Acosta
Genesis Adrian
Skyler Ann Archer
Yessica Valeria Ardila
Diane Ashouri
Andrea Checa
Ximena Auxiliadora Cuadra
Crysta Marie Diaz
Melissa Diego
Cristina Garcia
Carla Sofia Gonzalez
Jordan Michael Guedes
Rebekah Knight
Daniela Marie McDowell
Grace Mercedes Miranda
Ian H. Roland
Olivia Aubry Schonert
Rosario Somarriba
Coveannda Sumpster
Tia Tyndal
Chana Adina Weinberger

Undergraduate Certificate

Skyler Ann Archer
Kirsten Castillo
Brittany Deeter
Samantha Gallego
Isabella Gastaldi
Karla Gonzalez-Rubio
Jeanely Guzman
Priscilla Martin
Laura Sanchez
Alejandra Trujillo

Internships

Yessica Valeria Ardila
Diane Ashouri
Melissa Baralt
Jonathan Cedeno
Andrea Checa
Rose Constantin
Ximena Auxiliadora Cuadra
Crysta Marie Diaz
Melissa Diego
Carla Sofia Gonzalez
Natalia Gutierrez
Kali Kahn
Sarah Lecky
Daniela Marie McDowell
Danielle Rollins
Megan Shade
Rosario Somarriba
Tia Tyndal

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

ACTIVIST, FEMINIST, EDUCATOR AND LEADER



Gayle A. Bainbridge pledged a generous bequest of \$250,000 to the Center for Women's and Gender Studies. This gift will be known as the Gayle Bainbridge Women's Studies Endowment, and will provide scholarships, awards, lectures and research opportunities to support CWGS students and faculty. The center is honored to be granted this bequest.

As a proud alumna of FIU, Bainbridge earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1975. She believes in the power of giving back to her alma mater and to the community at large and has done just that through her many years of mentoring, volunteer work and philanthropy. She was a founding member and President of the Women's Studies Advisory Board and also served as

President and Lifetime Member of FIU Alumni Association. As an active member of the President's Alumni Circle, she continues her strong interest in mentoring students.

Presently, Bainbridge is a Founding Partner of Global Risk Insurance, a full service personal and commercial insurance agency. After completing her bachelor's degree in English at FIU, Bainbridge pursued a career in insurance. During her 30 years in the industry, she quickly earned a coveted reputation as a noted, well-recognized and highly respected professional. Gayle is in an elite class of insurance agents, being among the 1% of all agents who have earned the prestigious Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter (CPCU) designation and received the designations of an Associate in Risk Management (ARM), an Accredited Advisor in Insurance (AAI), and a Construction Risk Insurance Specialist (CRIS).

Bainbridge was recognized as one of Miami Today's Best of Miami in 2008. She has received numerous community awards, testified as an expert witness, interviewed as an insurance expert by CBS4 (WFOR), and quoted frequently in publications including The Miami Herald, South Florida Business Journal and Miami Today. In addition, she is a past President of the Commercial Real Estate Women (Miami Chapter) and a past chairperson of the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce. As a dedicated board member for GeekiGirls, she supports STEM and Arts education for middle schoolers, and partners with the CWGS each year to inspire young students visiting FIU.

Since 1989, Bainbridge has given generously to FIU. Her contributions and commitment to alumni, students and women's initiatives are well regarded. Fittingly, Bainbridge considers receiving the FIU Torch Award for Service in 2002 as one of her proudest accomplishments. The Torch Award exemplifies her involvement with the university and its values of truth, freedom, respect, responsibility and excellence. According to Bainbridge, "the best memories are the connections I have made with students, staff and alumni through my work with the Center for Women's and Gender Studies and the Alumni Association."

WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES BY THE NUMBERS



31

Graduates

18

Undergraduate
internships

31

Events hosted, sponsored
or co-sponsored



48

Enrolled majors



38

Enrolled
certificate earners



130

Courses offered

153

Faculty

9,300

Students in
course enrollment

\$40K

Raised for the Mine Üçer
Women in Science Lecture
Series – \$10,000 per year for
a 4-year total of \$40,000



114

Speakers in Mine Üçer Women
in Science Lecture Series



Center for Women's and Gender Studies
Modesto A. Maidique Campus
11200 S.W. 8th Street, DM 212
Miami, Florida 33199

Phone: 305-348-2408
Fax: 305-348-3143
Email: wstudies@fiu.edu

wstudies.fiu.edu

