

Center for Women,
Gender and Sexuality Studies
(WGSS) | Newsletter 2014



Message from
the Director

Welcome to the WGSS Center's annual newsletter for the 2013-2014 academic year. I was appointed as Director of the Center in January 2014 and while the learning curve has been steep, I've been fortunate to have a strong network of support to guide me through this first year.

I would like to acknowledge my predecessors, former directors of the Center, Drs. Appleton, Beoku-Betts, Brannon, Leland, Terry, Cameron, and Rose for their contributions to the development of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at FAU—thank you for your dedication to this wonderful Center, ensuring that every generation of students and faculty is able to participate in a vibrant community of feminist scholarship. A special thanks to Dr. Lynn Appleton who, in her role as interim director and chair of Sociology, provided key support to the program and its students. I'm also grateful to the WGSS core faculty, Drs. Beoku-Betts and Caputi, for their open door policy of mentoring me through this first semester as WGSS Director. Thanks go to Regina Goncalves, our office administrator, and the Women's Studies Executive Committee for their commitment and dedication to the success of the Center. The indispensable members of the Feminist Graduate Student Organization not only volunteered their time for many of our events, but also organized their 16th Annual Symposium showcasing graduate research in gender and sexuality studies. We are proud to note that many of them plan to present at the National Women's Studies Association conference that will be held in San Juan, Puerto Rico in November 2014. Congratulations must go to our accomplished graduates and student awardees listed in the pages that follow, and we welcome the new faculty who will be joining the ranks of our WGSS Faculty Associates.

The WGSS Center has made significant strides over the past year. Thanks to the leadership of Dean Heather Coltman, the Center has had its operating budget restored. The Dean has also dedicated a new space for the Center, whose main office was moved to AH 110 on the first floor of the Arts and Humanities building this past summer. Our core faculty and graduate teaching assistants will finally be on the same hallway on the second floor of

the Culture and Society building—enhancing the culture of support and mentorship that already exists in the Center. The WGSS Center was also granted scheduling priority over AH 207, so that it has a dedicated seminar room for its courses and programming. Thank you, Dean Coltman, for your inspiring leadership and for being a friend and ally of the Center.

We are also very appreciative of the efforts made by our distinguished Advisory Council members to support the program through events and fundraising, especially the co-Chairs Skeets Friedkin and Lisa Armbrust. In March 2014, the Advisory Council held a very successful fundraiser at the Delray Arts Garage and during this Spring semester alone, the Council raised over \$11,000, not including donations from faculty, staff, alumni and community members. Many thanks to Martin and Edith Stein for underwriting the fundraiser. We also remain very appreciative of the \$30,000 gift to the program by the Walter and Lalita Janke Foundation, which continues to fund current and future student assistantships. Thank you Advisory Council members for your commitment, leadership, and support in helping us through our program's journey: Lisa Armbrust, Lora "Skeets" Friedkin, Lalita Janke, Lauren Abbott, Penny Ashwanden, Marilyn Davis, Tara Laxer, Julie Pavlon, The Honorable Nan Rich and Edith Stein. We are also grateful to Maureen and George Worthington for their donation of Women's Studies books to the Center, which will be showcased in the library of our new seminar room and be available for students to check out.

We have much to look forward to this coming year, thanks to the Collaborative Research Grant that the College of Arts and Letters awarded the WGSS Center, which includes \$5,000 of seed money for programming and research on combating sex trafficking in South Florida. Also, the Center successfully lobbied the Southeastern Women's Studies Association so that the 2015 SEWSA conference will be hosted by FAU in March 2015. Please stop by and visit us in AH 110, and mark your calendars for the exciting events that we have planned for the coming academic year!

Cheers,
Elena Machado
WGSS Director and Associate
Associate Professor of English

Advisory Council Fundraiser: Fighting Over Beverley

March 2, 2014



My evening at the theatrical performance of “Fighting Over Beverley” was enchanting and informative. I attended with fellow graduate students Arely Lozano-Baugh and Zoe Lewycky, and undergraduate students Samantha Novaton and Rebecca

Rose Blanc. The play related to many themes we learn in Women’s Studies courses and sparked many relevant and thought-provoking conversations afterward. I was delighted to meet many fun and inspiring people in the community who came to support our program. Arely and I had the pleasure of dining beside two women who both won the raffle, and they promise that the raffle was not rigged! The play and the food were excellent and the event was very well organized. We are all so grateful for the amazing members of the Advisory Council for creating this fun new tradition to support the Center, and especially to Edith and Martin Stein for underwriting the evening. Thanks so much for all of the hard and excellent work you all do for FAU’s Center for Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies! It was a fantastic time!

–Britni Hiatt, MA Student in Women’s Studies



Karen Wilson, Lisa Armbrust, Josephine Beoku-Betts, Julie Pavlon, Lora “Skeets” Friedkin



Marilyn Davis, Holly Friedland, Penny Ashwander



Lisa Armbrust, Paul O’Brien, Sandra Shipley, Edith Stein, Martin Stein, Lora “Skeets” Friedkin



Arely Baugh, Zoe Lewycky, Rebecca Blanc, Samantha, Britni Hiatt

WGSS Advisory Council Members

Lora “Skeets” Friedkin, Co-Chair

Lisa Armbrust, Co-Chair

Lauren Abbott
Penny Ashwanden
Marilyn Davis
Lalita Janke
Tara Laxer
Julie Pavlon
Nan Rich
Edith Stein

Activism On Campus

FAU students have launched a **trans-accessible restroom campaign at FAU**, petitioning the University to make its restrooms more trans-accessible. Since “the University recognizes its obligation to work towards a community in which diversity is valued and opportunity is equalized” (http://www.fau.edu/cdc/flyers/anti_discriminal.pdf), it must work toward providing transgender and gender-non-conforming (TGNC) students with an environment that is safe and responsive to their needs. At a most basic level, **safe and accessible restroom facilities should be available to all students**. Please consider showing your support for this important project for equity, safety and health by adding **your signature to their petition**, which can be found at: <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/trans-inclusive-restroom-petition-FAU>.

Programming Highlights from 2013-2014

Raising Awareness About Sex Trafficking November 13, 2013



In the Fall semester, the Center hosted an event on “Ending Sex Trafficking in South Florida,” with State Senator Maria Sachs as keynote speaker.



“Ain’t I a Woman” Performance

March 17th, 2014



We celebrated our Women’s History Month event with a chamber music theater performance by the Core Ensemble, “Ain’t I a Woman,” which was combined with our Faculty Development workshop on performance and our very first Faculty Associates soiree.

Actress Christy Hall performed the historic personas of Zora Neale Hurston, Clementine Hunter, Sojourner Truth and Fannie Lou Hamer. The Core Ensemble accompanying the performance with music was comprised of Ju-Young Lee on the cello, Chien-I Yang on piano and Michael Parola on percussion.

Student Brunch with Margot Mifflin

March 28, 2014



Arely Lozano-Baugh, a student in the Women’s Studies graduate program, moderated a dynamic discussion with Dr. Margot Mifflin, with participation from 12 undergraduate and graduate students, Karen Leader and Elena Machado at the Ritter Gallery on March 28, 2014.

The conversation began with a discussion of Mifflin’s inspiration for her book, *Bodies of Subversion: A Secret History of Women and Tattoo*. She explained that in the 1990s, she had been interviewing artists for *Elle* magazine, “burning out on the art world” because she was expected to translate obscure art for the public. Mifflin began to explore art by untrained artists, marginal art like nail art in Harlem, which led her to notice that women were getting tattoos as a response to public discourses about women’s bodies, specifically, conversations about pornography, surrogate motherhood and breast implants.

Feminist Graduate Student Association Symposium

March 21, 2014



The 2014 FGSA Symposium showcased graduate student research on the topic of “Feminist Approaches to Identity and Social Justice in a Globalized Era.” The keynote speaker was Amina Mama who presented on, “Women Living as Witches: Reflections on Ethics and Identities in Activist Research.” Professor Mama, a widely published and travelled Nigerian/British feminist activist, is a Professor and Director of Women and Gender Studies at UC-Davis. She and Yaba Badoe co-produced the 50-minute documentary film *The Witches of Gambaga* in 2010.



Inaugural Career Symposium

April 7, 2014

We had a successful inaugural Career Symposium in April, which included keynote speaker Mary Ann Mason, who discussed effective strategies for ensuring gender equity in the workplace, as well as a panel of FAU alumni speakers. Mason, who is currently professor and faculty co-director of the Earl Warren Center for Law and Social Policy at the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, presented on, “Do Babies Matter?: Gender and Family in the Ivory Tower.” Distinguished alumnae from our Masters program Megan Tomei, Heather Boyer Samuels and Judith Seltzer shared with us their thoughts on how the graduate degree in Women’s Studies prepared them for their careers. Thanks to Jennifer Peluso, Provost of Student Success; Nurgun Erdol, the Chair of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, and Sandy Jacobow from the Career Development Center for their support of the Career Symposium.



Stay Connected On Our Website

<http://www.fau.edu/WomensStudies/>

CONGRATULATIONS!

2013-2014 Undergraduate Certificate Recipients

2013-2014 Student Award Recipients

Fall 2013

Steven Aguirre
Abdull Khan
Anne-Elie Etienne
Melissa Milfort
Andrea Hamilton
Nicole Olivares
Claudia Joa

Randell Johnson
Philomena Dolce
Samantha Lincoln
Taneisha L. Grant
Jennifer L. Murray
Tara Hughee

Viviana Calero
Fayez Kloub
Christina Francis
Amanda Muller
Angela Hawley
Ivete Puga

Laura Sylvia Myers Memorial Award: Selena Quiros

Advisory Council Award for Undergraduate Feminist Vision: Christele Gassant

Provost Fellowship Award: Arely Lozano-Baugh

Walter and Lalita Janke Fellowship Award: Mary Reid Bogue

Graduate Student Leadership Award: Atticus Rank

Annette Van Howe Scholar: Rachel Tunic

Graduate Student Activism Award: Arely Lozano-Baugh

Graduating MA Students: Rachel Tunick, Jillian Kite and Atticus Rank

Graduate Certificate Honorees: Karissa Thomann and

Spring 2014

Andrey Benelli
Peter Bui
Kelli Bullard
Gabriella Camirand
Calli Daniels
Audrey Dellas
Megan Dorschel
Tessa Falatovich
Phyllicia Frazier
Christele Gassant
Jheanelle Gilmore
Selena Quiros

Sarah Grantham
Chanae King
Megan Kiziah
Jameelah Lee
Shamicka Lynch
Diane Macias
Martine Magny
Matthew Morris
Keanne Owens
Rebecca Patrick
Kentavvius Peterkin

Milqueda Saint Elus
Alecandria Sorrell
Jordan Stovall
Ella Tepper
Katherine Westrich
Jasmine Wilson
Jessica White
Heather Wynne
Johanna Yunda
Michael Zewe
Candance Gordon

Alumni, keep in touch with us!

The Center of Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies would love to be updated about your educational pursuits, job, honors, awards and/or community service and work. Please complete this form and send it back to us or email Regina Goncalves at rgoncal@fau.edu.

Name _____

Degree and Year of Graduation _____

Address:

Occupation/Profession/Employer:

Email address:

Alumni News:

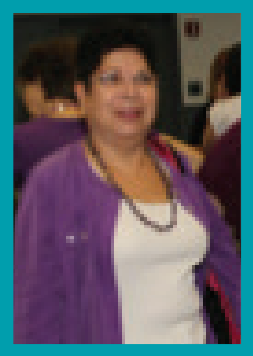
Summer 2014

Ariel Davis
Talia Porte
Kystal Storey

Rene Perez
Amber Kipp
Heather Haroo-Waldron

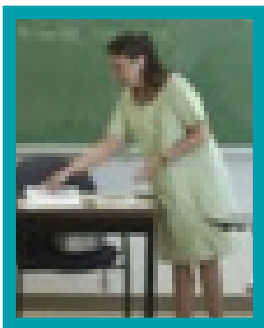
Stephanie Hova
Marissa Tirro

Faculty Accomplishment Updates



Nora Erro Peralta, Professor in the Department of Languages, Linguistics and Comparative Literature, published with Magdalena Maiz-Pena: *La palabra contra el silencio: Elena Poniatowska ante la crítica* (2013). The volume, a co-edition of Editorial ERA and the National Autonomous University of Mexico, includes a prologue and articles by fellow writers

and distinguished Mexican, Latin American, British and North American critics and scholars, such as Nobel Laureate Octavio Paz, José Emilio Pacheco, Carlos Monsivais, Rosario Ferré and many others. These essays shed light on the talent and personality of one of Mexico's foremost living writers, Elena Poniatowska. This renowned writer is the author of more than 30 books and has won numerous national and international awards for her work including the Alfaguara Prize, the Romulo Gallegos Prize, the Seix Barral Biblioteca Breve Prize and most recently the Cervantes Prize.



Mary Ann Gosser-Esquílin, Professor in the Department of Languages, Linguistics and Comparative Literature, published the article "Mayra Montero y Mayra Santos-Febres, ¿serán de un mismo pájaro las dos alas?" in *Pueblos dispersos: dimensiones sociales y culturales de la diáspora cubana*, edited by Jorge Duany and

Aduana Vieja (2014). Professor Gosser-Esquílin also presented on "Fluid Lyrical Sexualities: Julia de Burgos's Water Poems" at the Discourses of Peripheral Sexualities in Hispanic Studies conference held at FAU (April 2014) and on "¿Son divisas literarias las mulatas puertorriqueñas?" at the XII Congreso Internacional de Literatura Hispánica in Colombia (March 2014). She was also honored to serve as a member of the U.S. Student Fulbright National Screening Committee for Central America/Caribbean during Fall 2013.



Talitha LeFlouria, Assistant Professor of History, has been issued a contract from the University of North Carolina Press for her forthcoming book, *Chained in Silence: Black Women and Convict Labor in the New South*, which will be included in the Justice, Power and Politics series.

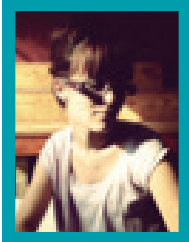
Elena Machado Sáez, Associate Professor of English and WGSS Director, published "Static Signals: Celia Cruz, Santería and Markets of Latinidad in Jennine Capó Cruzet's How to Leave Hialeah" in *Write in Tune: Representing Contemporary Music in Fiction* (2014), edited by Erich Hertz and Jeff Roessner. She organized a three-day seminar on "Canon Formation, Markets of Latinidad and the Shifting Cultural Capital of US Latino Writers Seminar" at the 2014 American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA) Conference. As part of this seminar, Professor Machado Sáez presented on "How Junot Díaz unseated Julia Alvarez: critical popularity, the MFA generation and the US Latino/a literary canon." She was also honored as an invited speaker at UC Berkeley's symposium "From Coalitions to Comparativism: Chicana/Latina Studies and Native American Studies Now" in April 2014.



Christine Scodari, Professor in the School of Communication and Multimedia Studies, published "Roots, Representation, and Resistance? Family History Media and Culture through a Critical Lens" in the *Journal of American Culture* [36-3 (2013): 206-19]. This article was honored with the Carl Bode Award from the American Culture Association

for the best article in the *Journal of American Culture* for 2013. Professor Scodari also published "Breaking Dusk: Fandom, Gender/Age Intersectionality, and the 'Twilight Moms'" in *Age, Media, and Culture* (2014), edited by C. Lee Harrington, Denise Bielby and Anthony Bardo.

Welcome to Our New Faculty Associates



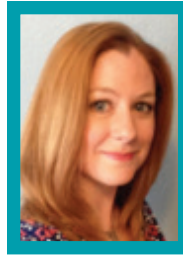
Lauren Guilmette (PhD Emory University) joins FAU's Department of Philosophy. She focuses her research on feminism, continental philosophy, and theories of affect in ethics and politics, engaging such figures as Spinoza, Nietzsche, Beauvoir, Foucault, Butler and Nussbaum. Guilmette is interested in the role of 'affect' in ethics and politics because she finds that lasting systemic injustices like racism, homophobia and misogyny operate as tacitly conscious affect scripts. Hence, people claim that we live in a post-racial 'Age of Obama'; Yet racially-tinged fear (Stand Your Ground laws, Stop-and-Frisk laws), disgust toward non-normative families, and other toxic affects persist structurally in the 'scripts' that we inherit and must, in turn, modify.



Rebecca LeMoine (PhD University of Wisconsin—Madison) joins FAU's Department of Political Science. She focuses primarily on ancient political thought (particularly ancient Greek and Platonic political philosophy), theories of global justice, politics and literature, and American political thought. LeMoine's current project, "Philosophy and the Foreigner in Plato's Dialogues," offers the first full-length study of the treatment of foreigners in Plato's dialogues. Against the conventional characterization of Plato as hostile to diversity, she shows that Plato regarded cross-cultural engagement as essential to the pursuit of wisdom.



Angela Nichols (PhD University of North Texas) joins FAU's Department of Political Science. Nichols studies international relations, human rights, comparative politics, peace and conflict studies and international law. Her research interests include transitional justice, international norms, human rights, post-conflict processes and gender politics.



Kelly Shannon (PhD Temple University) joins FAU's Department of History. She specializes in the history of US foreign relations, the modern Islamic world and international feminism. Shannon is an active member of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR) and is currently working on her first book, "Veiled Intentions: Islam, Global Feminism and the U.S. Foreign Policy Since 1979," which examines how Americans' concerns about the rights of women in Islamic countries have been integrated into U.S. foreign policy in recent decades.



Adam Spry (PhD Columbia University) joins FAU's Department of English. He specializes in Native American literature, specifically the literary history of the Ojibwe people. Spry's current research traces that history from the passage of the Dawes Act in 1887 through the present day in the context of a transnational conversation between Indian tribal nations and the literary history of the United States. His work explores Ojibwe writers like Theodore Beaulieu, Gerald Vizenor and Louis Erdrich in conversation with non-Ojibwe writers about the Ojibwe like Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Ernest Hemingway, Janet Lewis and Frances Desmore, in order to interrogate received notions of American Indian "authenticity."

Sunny Xiang (PhD University of California, Berkeley) joins FAU's Department of English. She studies Asian American literature, Asian Anglophone literatures, narrative theory and the novel, Cold War culture, Critical Race Studies, Human Rights, War and Ethics. Xiang's current project explores the intersection of narrative theory surrounding "unreliable narration," the Cold War interpretation of the stereotypically unreliable Asian, and the historically variable definition of the "human" in order to suggest the ways in which Asian-American and Asian Anglophone writers use unreliable narration in order to reject such stereotypes and redefine their narrators as "human."

Elena Machado
Newsletter Editor
Salvatore DaiZovi
Graphic Designer

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FALL 2014 SEMESTER

Thursday, September 11
WGSS Advisory Council Fundraiser
With Guest Speaker Katie
Ford of Ford Modeling
and the non-profit
Freedom for All

Friday, September 12
Building Bridges Workshop on
"Surviving Slavery:
Sex Trafficking in South Florida"

Friday, October 24
WGSS Career Symposium

The Advisory Council WGSS Invites You to

On Thursday, September 11, 2014

"Human Trafficking: The Modern Day Slave Trade"

A Discussion with Katie Ford, David Aronberg
and Katarina Rosenblatt
\$50 per person; all proceeds to benefit the Center
City Fish Market Boca Raton
6:30 – Free Valet Parking
For Information Contact
Skeets Friedkin , 561-750-4662
RSVP by September 8
to 561-297-2337

SPRING 2015 SEMESTER

March 26 - March 29
Southeastern Women's Studies
Association (SEWSA)
Conference at the Wyndham
Hotel in Boca Raton

Please visit
<http://sewsaonline.org>
for more information about
the association and
future announcements.

Thanks To All Our Donors!

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FAU CENTER FOR WOMEN, GENDER
AND SEXUALITY STUDIES

Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters
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