

UCF Women's Studies

September 2012

Volume 1, Issue 4



NCCWSL Presentation, June 2012, from left to right: Maria Roman, Samantha Daley, Holly Kearl, Nicole Elinioff, M.C. Santana, Emily Vrotsos, and Meredith Tweed



WELCOME

What can I say? I have the best job in the world—working with talented students and caring faculty. I hope this message finds you well. Our biggest priority this academic year is to continue sponsoring our students to present their research and grow as advocates. We maintain our commitment to our students with four scholarships given out every spring term. The available scholarships are as follows:

- **Dorothy Height**, Overall Excellence, WST Graduate
- **Eleanor Roosevelt**, LEAD Scholar, Emerging WST Scholar
- **Honor's College Emerging WST Scholar**
- **Martha Hitt's STEM Emerging Scholar** (new Spring 2013)

Please contribute to our scholarship fund, if possible, to

help us recognize the students who deserve it. At Women's Studies, we believe in the strength one person has in improving the lives of many. Send your donation to UCF Foundation, <http://ucffoundation.org/> or by mail to UCF Foundation, Inc., 12424 Research Parkway, Suite 250, Orlando, FL 32826. And don't forget to write Women's Studies on your check!

Warm Regards,

Dr. MC Santana, Director

Inside this issue:

1. New research sources and new books available in the UCF Library
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4. Meet our new Women's Studies adviser and YWLP Program Coordinator
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Job Placement within Women's Studies:

1. Assistant Professor of Modern U.S. Women's, Gender, and Sexuality History, Department of History/Women's Studies, Ohio State University. Read more at:
http://082511c.membershipssoftware.org/jobs_listing.asp?id=58
2. Researcher with the National Nurses United (NNU), the nation's largest nurses' union and professional association. Read more at:
http://082511c.membershipssoftware.org/jobs_listing.asp?id=19
3. Assistant Professor in Women's Studies and Gender at Grand Valley State University in Michigan. Read more at:
http://082511c.membershipssoftware.org/jobs_listing.asp?id=63

Global Peace Film Festival

Celebrating 10 years in central Florida, the Global Peace Film Festival in Orlando and Winter Park is taking place from September 18-23, 2012. It will feature multiple films by women with 44 films being featured overall. Films come from many diverse perspectives, people, and places around the world. For a schedule and location of films or to gain more information about the festival, please visit their website at www.peacefilmfest.org or contact them by phone at (407) 224-6625.

Publications

Our featured publications:

Leanda Preston-Sidler, an Instructor for our Orlando main-campus and Cocoa regional campus within the Women's Studies Program, will publish her paper, "From Mamma to Mine: Constructing Feminist Homes on the Border(land)s of Italian America," in the anthology *Olive Grrrl: Women of Italian Descent & The Search for Identity*.

Lisa Nalbone, Ph.D., an Associate Professor of Modern Languages and Literatures at UCF, published *The Novels of Carmen Conde: Toward an Expression of Feminine Subjectivity*. Newark, DE: Juan de la Cuesta Hispanic Monographs, 2012.

Conference Papers

Our featured conference papers:

Leandra Preston-Sidler will be giving an individual paper presentation entitled, "Watch Me Disappear: Gendered Bodies, Pro-Ana, and Self-Harm in Virtual Communities."

Preston-Sidler will also participate in a Roundtable discussion called, "Fulfilling Women's Studies' Mission of Social Transformation Through Academic Service-Learning" as well as a Pre-Conference workshop called "Out of the Classroom and Into the Community: A workshop on Incorporating Service and Activist Learning into the Classroom. She will also be moderating a panel called, "The Princess Bribe: Decolonizing Princess Culture."

Conference Papers Contd.

Further conference papers that deserve recognition include that of Dr. M.C. Santana, Ph.D., Program Director of Women's Studies. Her paper, "*Inner Perception Vs. Outer Perception of Fat Bodies,*" has been accepted for presentation at the Biennial Women and Gender Research Conference in October in Vermillion, South Dakota in October 2012.



Meet our new ADVISOR:

We welcome Donna Mercado to our Women's Studies team and feel very lucky to have an advising specialist with her extensive experience in advising and curriculum formation. You can reach her regarding questions, concerns, and guidance pertaining to your education within the Women's Studies Program at Donna.Mercado@ucf.edu

Meet our YWLP Program Coordinator



We welcome Emily Vrotsos as she joins our Women's Studies team. She is a UCF graduate as of May 2012 with a B.A. in English Literature and a minor in Women's Studies. She is excited to begin her fifth semester with YWLP as Coordinator. She was a research assistant and Fundraising Chair on two research grants in Spring 2012 and presented on the research findings at AAUW's NCCWSL conference Washington, D.C. this June. She was second in command while organizing YWLP's fist ever Slam Dunk for School Safety basketball tournament in February.

New Research Sources:

1. **"Women's Studies as Civic Engagement: Research and Recommendations"**: Study done by the National Women's Studies Association and the Teagle Working group, released in September 2011. Available for your perusal at: http://082511c.membershipsoftware.org/files/WomensStudiesasCivicEngagement2011Revised_Finalpdf-1.pdfS
2. **"Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment in Schools"**: Study done by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) on anti-sexual harassment and bullying in schools (grades 7-12), released In July 2011. Available for your perusal at: <http://www.aauw.org/learn/research/upload/CrossingTheLine.pdf>
3. **Women's Policy Inc.** and the SOURCE on women's issues in Congress. Read more at: http://www.womenspolicy.org/site/PageServer?pagename=the_source

Read more about Graduate Studies and Internships abroad at:

http://www.sfsu.edu/~fellows1/grad_fellowships/rpt_studyab_grad.html

Meet a Women's Studies Student

Samantha Daley is a twenty-one year-old senior at the University of Central Florida. She is Health Sciences major via the Pre-Clinical Track with a minor in Women's Studies. She has been a Big Sister mentor in the Young Women Leaders Program for two years and has recently moved up within the program to become a Facilitator. In the Spring 2012 semester, Women's Studies received one research grant from the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and one research grant from the College of Arts and Humanities, with Samantha participating on the research team as a student research assistant. On this team, she helped conduct research on bullying and harassment that mentees in YWLP have experienced while having those same 7th graders create, develop, and implement anti-bullying and harassment campus action projects at their middle schools and conduct an anti-bullying and harassment workshop on UCF's campus which approximately 100 Seminole County 5th graders attended. After the research was concluded, Samantha attended the AAUW and NCCWSL conference with other research team members to present the findings. Her newest position is that of Student Correspondent for Choice USA; a leading national reproductive justice organization that is youth driven and youth directed.

As a student correspondent, her current endeavor is to bring a Choice USA Chapter to UCF's campus. She provides features on reproductive justice at the Choice USA blog, Choice Words, and uses her voice as a progressive young woman of color on issues that occur in her local community, the state of Florida, and also on a national level. Choice USA is not only an organization but a family, and they provide a stage for young people to have a voice and let their voices be heard. As a reproductive justice organization, they examine reproductive health issues from a social justice frame. As a young woman of color, Samantha feels that she can be heard and her voice will be respected. Choice USA works to promote multiple voices in the movement and vocalize the opinions, needs, and desires of those that are otherwise left out of the dialogue.



Samantha Daley, pictured above.
Photo courtesy of Samantha Daley

NEW at the UCF Library:

1. *Ancient Bodies, Ancient Lives: Sex, Gender, and Archaeology* by Rosemary A. Joyce
2. *Deviant Women: Female Crime and Criminology in Revolutionary Russia, 1880-1930* by Sharon A. Kowalsky
3. *The Gender of Memory: Rural Women and China's Collective Past*, by Gail Hershatter
4. *Thinking through the Mothers: Reimagining Women's Biographies* by Janet Beizer
5. *Women's Movements and the Filipina 1986-2008*, by Mina Roces

September Events

- **Anupama Rao** led an open forum on “India and the Caste Question” on September 13, 2012 in UCF’s Student Union.
- **2012 Youth Organizing and Policy Institute (YOPI)** took place at UCF September 15th-17th for three days of skills and issue based trainings to learn to organize and advocate for sexual health and reproductive rights. College student groups came from universities all over the country to participate. Thanks to all the UCF student organizations who organized and successfully completed this conference.
- **Successful Women Seminar Series:** September 18th from 3:00-4:00pm. Dr. M.C. Santana will be leading a discussion about life as a woman professor, “Discovering the Community Around You.” Contact the Women’s Studies Office for more information.
- **Happy Hour:** College of Education, September 26th from 4:30-5:30pm in the Teaching Academy. Dr. M.C. Santana, “What a Photo is Really Saying: Pedagogical Insight into Visual Literacy.” Contact the Women’s Studies Office for more information
- **The Purity Myth:** September 27th from 3:00-4:30pm; documentary and discussion. The Purity Myth: The Virginity Movement’s War Against Women is a video in which Jessica Valenti, the “poster girl for Third Wave Feminism,” explores the myth that the worth of a woman depends on what she does – or does not – do sexually. Through facilitated discussion, this workshop examines Valenti’s assertions and arguments. Contact the Women’s Studies Office for more information.

Stay tuned for news about the exciting Women’s Studies events taking place in October in next month’s newsletter.

Meet our Advisory Board Members (2012-2013) at:

<http://womensstudies.cah.ucf.edu/adivosry.php>

Meet our Faculty

Affiliates at:

<http://womensstudies.cah.ucf.edu/staff.php>

Find out more about our Young Women Leaders Program (YWLP) at:

<http://womensstudies.cah.ucf.edu/ywlp/>



Find out more about our Young Women's Leadership Program (YWLP) initiative by contacting Emily Vrotsos at 407.823.6502 or evrotsos@knights.ucf.edu