

# Unpack That!

October 2012

Volume 1, Issue 5



*New Women Faculty Reception, from left to right:* Meredith Tweed, Dr. MC Santana and Dr. Cecilia Rodriguez-Milanes



## WELCOME

October is the month to register for Spring 2013 and I have great news to share with our minor and certificate students. *WST 4349 Ecofeminism* and *WST 3522 First and Second Wave Feminisms* are both new offerings that will accompany our returning courses like *WST 4023 Virtual Girls* and *WST 3561 Third Wave Feminism*. It is an action-feminism-packed term.

*Ecofeminism* recognizes the intertwined realities of the

oppression of women and the degradation of the natural world. It will focus on the international environmental justice aspects of ecofeminism, combining scholarly, activism, and literary readings. Students will be able to pursue their own research into other aspects of ecofeminism. It will meet T-TH 10:30-11:45, face-to-face with Prof. Patrick Murphy, Chair, English Department.

*First and Second Wave Feminisms* will allow students to comprehend events

and struggles as part of a "moment in time." We will uncover together how change happened and who is responsible for laws, initiatives and organizations affecting the Women's Movement during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This course can be taken as a theory requirement for the WST minor. It is an online course with Prof. MC Santana, Director, Women's Studies Program.

Remember to meet with our advisor, Donna Mercado, CNH 122 or email her at [donna.mercado@ucf.edu](mailto:donna.mercado@ucf.edu).

Cheers,

MC Santana, Ph.D.  
Director

### Inside this issue:

1. New research sources and new books available in the UCF Library
2. Publications, Jobs and Internships
3. Spring 2013 course offerings
4. UCF Faculty and UCF Student Exclusives
5. Events happening this month and miscellaneous announcements

## YAYA Movie Screening:

The Youth and Young Adult Network of the National Farm Worker Ministry – UCF Chapter (YAYA) will be hosting a screening of the documentary “Pueblos Hermanos,” or “Brother Towns,” which follows two towns that are – one town in Guatemala and the second a town in Florida – tied together by issues of immigration, work, and family.

YAYA is a national network of young people actively working to change the oppressive social, political and economic conditions of farm workers. Inspired by the principles of nonviolence of the farm worker movement, YAYAs support a variety of national and local campaigns led by farm workers. These campaigns seek to improve the oppressive conditions faced by the workers who harvest the food many of us consume on a regular basis.

This screening will be taking place October 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at the University of Central Florida in ENG 227. Snacks will be provided and the screening of the film will be followed by a discussion.

## “LIFE *after* COLLEGE” Series

Women's Studies presents a series of 30-minute informative and interactive sessions dealing with résumé building, career planning, looking for internships and jobs online, essay writing for graduate school, interview skills and salary negotiation. Please join us at the 4<sup>th</sup> floor conference room in Colbourn Hall (CNH) with Dr. Rufus Barfield, communication expert, who will discuss “Interview Skills” for our first session on November 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm.

### *Greetings from the*

## Feminist Majority Foundation (FMF)

Hello! We are Kari Ross and Sarah Shanks of the Feminist Majority Foundation, and we are looking for students to help us defeat Amendment 6 in the upcoming election.

Amendment 6 is a trick question – when you read it, it sounds like it will prohibit taxpayer funding of abortion. However, thanks to the Hyde Amendment, there is already extremely limited state funding. However, with Amendment 6, a woman must have a doctor confirm that she will die if she does not have an abortion before the state will consider using funds to save her. This could affect women who are diagnosed with cancer and need to begin treatment and women

who have discovered a severe fetal anomaly in their pregnancy from getting the care they need and deserve.

However, what Amendment 6 is really trying to do is restrict your right to privacy when accessing reproductive healthcare. Hidden in the second half of the amendment is a part that would limit your right to privacy under the state constitution. *Roe v. Wade* and *Connecticut v. Griswold* established a constitutional right to make private medical decisions with your doctor and no one else, but it is not written anywhere in the Constitution. It is written explicitly in the Florida Constitution, and that is where Amendment 6 seeks to undermine your rights. If

Amendment 6 is passed, that explicit right loses its power to defend you against further constitutional attacks on your right to make decisions with your doctor and not with politicians.

Now, as if this isn't scary enough, Personhood Florida is gathering signatures to put a "Personhood" amendment in the Florida ballot in 2014. This amendment would grant full rights to a fertilized egg, which would ban not only all abortions, including for victims of rape or incest, but also threaten hormonal birth control and emergency contraception. And Florida's right to privacy would be the biggest obstacle in their way.

We need your help to defeat this. We are able to provide volunteer and internship

opportunities for students interested in helping us mobilize students to vote NO on Amendment 6 and spreading the word about how disastrous the consequences could be. Initially, we need help tabling and signing up volunteers, but also planning visibility events, speaking with other student groups, phone-banking and canvassing, and election-day visibility. And we are definitely open to ideas on how to get the message out!

If you're interested, please let us know! You can reach us at:

Kari Ross

813.294.0189  
[kross@feminist.org](mailto:kross@feminist.org)

Sarah Shanks

910.650.9928  
[sshanks@feminist.org](mailto:sshanks@feminist.org)

## New Research Sources:

1. **"An Ecological Feminist Revisioning of the Masculinist Sublime."** *Revista Canaria de Estudios Ingleses* (Spain) 64 (April 2012): 79-94. By Patrick D. Murphy, Professor and Chair, Department of English.
2. **Women's Studies student covers Human Traffic conference.** "According to the Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking, our state has been identified as a hub for human trafficking activity, citing one of the highest incidences of human trafficking in the country. This crime affects all types of individuals, both foreign and domestic." Read the rest of Alyson Ferrer's article at: <http://www.ocala.com/article/20120916/OPINION/120919778/0/search10?p=1&tc=pg>

## Reminders for our Minors:

If you are earning a Women's Studies minor and have taken at least four WST courses, you also qualify to be awarded the Service-Learning Certificate. When completing your intent to graduate, you must click the "Certificates" option and write "Service-Learning." Students can read more about opportunities to earn the Service-Learning Certificate at: [http://www.explearning.ucf.edu/categories/For%20Students/Service-Learning/159\\_143.aspx](http://www.explearning.ucf.edu/categories/For%20Students/Service-Learning/159_143.aspx)

## Read more about Graduate Studies and Internships abroad at:

[http://www.sfsu.edu/~fellows1/grad\\_fellowships/rpt\\_studyab\\_grad.html](http://www.sfsu.edu/~fellows1/grad_fellowships/rpt_studyab_grad.html)

## Check out our September 2012 issue of "Unpack That!" at:

<http://womensstudies.cah.ucf.edu/blast/issue4.pdf>

## Meet a Women's Studies Student

Nicole Elinoff is a twenty year-old junior at the University of Central Florida. She is a Psychology major and also earning minors in Women's Studies and Leadership Studies. She is a Big Sister mentor in the Young Women Leaders Program (YWLP) at UCF and the current president of the National Organization for Women at UCF (NOW at UCF).

In the Spring 2012 semester, Nicole worked as a research assistant for two grants awarded to YWLP; one grant from the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and another from the University of Central Florida College of Arts and Humanities. On the research team, she was one of the lead organizers for the Leading Out Loud workshop, which had one hundred 5<sup>th</sup> graders from Seminole County participate in anti-bullying sessions created, led, and implemented by the 7<sup>th</sup> grade girl participants of the Young Women Leaders Program. In May 2012, Nicole and other research team members traveled to Washington, D.C. to report the findings of their research at the National Conference of College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) at the University of Maryland – College Park.

In the summer months of 2012, Nicole was also the Logistics Lead for the Youth Organizing and Policy Institute Conference put on by Planned Parenthood Federation of America. She arranged the conference site and the catering for the event, as well as organizing the after-conference events. The conference was a success and took place September 14-16, 2012.

Her goals as NOW at UCF's president include providing the student body with information about social justice issues and to bring awareness to people about oppression. This semester, NOW is working with other student organizations in a voter coalition to register students and to see what issues students care about. NOW is also hosting "Love Your Body" month and will be having events such as a 'zine making workshop and a photo campaign on October 17, 2012. To find out more information about NOW at UCF visit [nowatucf.org](http://nowatucf.org) and like the NOW at UCF Facebook page.



Nicole Elinoff, pictured above. Photo courtesy of Nicole Elinoff.

## NEW at the UCF Library:

1. *Articulating Right: Nineteenth-Century American Women on Race, Reform and the State*, by Alison M. Parker
2. *Eleanor Roosevelt: Transformative First Lady*, by Maurine H. Beasley
3. *Gender, Humiliation, and Global Security: Dignifying Relationships from love, sex, and parenthood to world affairs*, by Evelin Lindner
4. *Higglers in Kingston: Women's Informal Work in Jamaica*, by Winnifred Brown-Glaude
5. *Material Relations: Domestic Interiors and Middle-Class Families in England, 1850-1910*, by Jane Hamlett
6. *Vivian Maier: Street Photographer*, by John Maloof

## Meet a UCF Faculty Member

We are excited to kick off our very first UCF Faculty Feature by introducing you to Dr. Betty Swart, an adjunct faculty member in the Sociology Department. Dr. Swart is an incredibly intelligent individual whose passion for women's voices around the world is evident not only in her research and teaching, but also in her vibrant personality. She holds dear the philosophy of Chandra Mohanty, actively working to "look up the ladder of oppression" in all of her academic endeavors. Her research interests are largely woman-focused with attention to domestic and gender-based violence, particularly in the Global South. In Spring 2013, Dr. Swart will be teaching several courses: "Global Inequality and Society" (SYP 4454) and "Violence Against Women: A Global Perspective" (SOW 6109).

Dr. Swart has a personal stake in her research project concerning women in the largest slum in Africa. While initially visiting a friend teaching in Kenya, she was drawn in by the unique experiences of street children in the area, particularly the street girls' disempowerment by street boys, and rather than leaving, she began her first project concerned with increasing knowledge about the street girls' experiences.

This first project inspired her to begin a diary project in 2006, which involved 20 women between the ages of 20 and 30. They collected first-person narratives that showed these women are not passive agents, but empowered and strong. In 2009, Dr. Swart made a great effort to decolonize the research by giving it over to the women, who are still collecting research.

The women have since expanded the project to include life histories of their mothers and grandmothers, recipes, songs, dances, fables, fairytales, and bedtime stories. The women also began to name silences in their own language; in the absence of words describing things women do or know they have begun to create their own words to fill the gaps. They noticed the lack of references to women's experiences in their native tongue and are taking an active stand to making women's lives in the slum visible to others and to themselves. This project has led to scholarships enabling women to pursue secondary school education and business entrepreneurs.

Dr. Swart can be contacted at 407.823.3744 or [elizabeth.swart@ucf.edu](mailto:elizabeth.swart@ucf.edu).



*Airborne shot of the largest slum in Kibera. Photo courtesy of Dr. Swart.*



*Veronica, Dr. Swart and Catherine. Veronica and Catherine took over the Diary Project after it was decolonized. Photo courtesy of Dr. Swart.*

## October Events

1. **October 18<sup>th</sup>** (3:00-4:30pm) *Parenting Panel*, sponsored by the Women's Research Center, location TBA.
2. **October 19<sup>th</sup>** (11:30am) *Legislative Lunch with Gloria Steinem* sponsored by the Women's Studies Program, located in the Pegasus Grand Ballroom. Bring a brown-bag lunch and join us for a candid conversation about gender, politics and the impact of the upcoming elections for women. Bring your own questions and be ready to engage with others in your community as we countdown to the 2012 elections. The cost is FREE.

*Stay tuned for the exciting Women's Studies events taking place in November in next month's newsletter.*

## Spring 2013 Courses

- WST 3015 *Introduction to Women's Studies*, Tweed, Meredith, Reduced Time Tu 12:00-1:15PM
- WST 3015 *Introduction to Women's Studies*, Preston-Sidler, Leandra, WWW
- WST 3015 *Introduction to Women's Studies*, Tweed, Meredith, WWW
- WST 3522 *First & Second Wave Feminisms*, Santana, Maria, WWW
- WST 3561 *Third Wave Feminisms*, Preston-Sidler, Leadra, WWW
- WST 4023 *Virtual Girls*, Preston-Sidler, Leandra, WWW
- WST 4349 *Ecofeminism*, Murphy, Patrick, TuTH 10:30-11:45AM

*Visit your adviser, Donna Mercado, CNH 124. **We have new courses for you!** Come join us!*

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

<http://womensstudies.cah.ucf.edu/advisory.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 Men's Leadership Program (YMLP) initiative by contacting Emily Vrotsos at 407.823.6502 or [evrotsos@knights.ucf.edu](mailto:evrotsos@knights.ucf.edu)*