

Unpack That!

November 2012

Volume 1, Issue 6



Legislative Lunch with Gloria Steinem, from left to right: Hayley Cavatarro, Gloria Steinem, Nicole Elinoff, and Emily Vrotsos



WELCOME

October was the month of women and an incredible month for the Women's Studies Program. It is amazing the amount of agency and community involvement achieved those thirty-one days. I am very proud to work with students, faculty and affiliates so dedicated to social justice and action.

Among our many exciting panels and speakers, we were lucky to have guest speaker, Rachel Hunt lead a conversation about her

personal journey as a transgender woman with Dr. Joanna Mishtal's Sex, Gender and Culture class on October 1st.

Our most incredible opportunity came on October 19th when Gloria Steinem visited our campus for a "Legislative Lunch" discussing the upcoming elections and Amendment 6. Staff, faculty, and students filled to capacity the Pegasus Ballroom (D, F). Here is the video link, thanks to our friends from UCF regional campus:

<http://connect.rc.ucf.edu/p7yrli1xqv8/?launcher=false&fcsContent=true>

[&pbMode=normal](#) Sponsoring a legend like Gloria Steinem at our campus was an honor for Women's Studies.

I look forward to the end of the term and the beginning of a new semester with more and better offerings for our students. Have a safe and wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. I know I have a lot to be thankful for this year.

Cheers,

Dr. MC Santana

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

Thanksgiving Spirit

The Women's Studies Program is requesting support for the Farmworker Association of Florida. This is how you can help put together **100 baskets for 100 farmworker families** in Apopka, Florida.

Thanksgiving is a holiday to celebrate with family and friends. What better way to give thanks but to help a stranger in need—a farmworker family can have a basket with non-perishable goods if you help. The Farmworker Association of Florida is asking for help. Donations have been very slow and they have a deadline for November 16th, 2012.

Please contribute with cash or a can. All donations are welcome in Colbourn Hall - Suite 118 and Colbourn Hall - Suite 114.

Thank you for your generous spirit and! All donations and/or financial contributions are appreciated.

“Unpack That!” Logo Competition

The Women's Studies Program is taking the initiative to create a 'zine with contributions and submissions from our readers and others who are interested in having their written work published. In order to start our first issue off with a bang, we are extending our hand to the local community who are interested in creating an original logo to be featured on the cover of every issue. Please contact Emily Vrotsos (evrotsos@knights.ucf.edu) for more information.

Greetings from the

Young Women Leaders Program

The Young Women Leaders Program is a mentoring program sponsored by the UCF Women's Studies Program. YWLP originated at the University of Virginia, and UCF launched the program in the Orlando community in 2007. YWLP promotes middle school girls' leadership abilities, pairing collegiate women with middle school girls. In mentoring pairs and small groups of Big and Little Sisters, participants focus on learning competence and autonomy, independent thinking, empowerment, self-esteem, and encouraging girls to think about their futures. Mentoring sessions run in the fall and the spring.

UCF women apply to the program, undergo an interview and

selection process, and, if selected, attend the mandatory training session at the beginning of their first semester as a Big Sister. Once you complete the training, you must attend bi-weekly Wednesday afternoon planning meetings with members of your Big Sister group; on alternate Wednesdays, you will attend mentoring sessions with Little Sisters at their middle school. The weekly Wednesday meetings run from 3:15 – 4:45 and for the sessions that take place at the Middle Schools plan for an extra 30 minutes of drive time. You are required to attend three of five Alumnae events and our UCF Day event.

The Young Women Leaders Program strives to foster

competence, autonomy, and connection with others as core strengths of all young women leaders and asserts that all girls are influential leaders with innate leadership abilities. Our program builds on themes of problem-solving, teamwork and cooperation, cultural identity and ethnic pride, advocacy for positive change, identification of unconventional leadership roles, development of goals for the future, and body appreciation to develop girls' leadership abilities both organically with others and in the world as well as online.

In examining the social and cultural expectations for girls, investigating existing themes of girlhood and leadership, and engaging girls to empower themselves, YWLP seeks to

revolutionize how society constructs girls, girlhood, and girls' leadership by inviting girls to create spaces where they can share their real-life experiences, build themselves up and learn from one another.

To become a Big Sister please complete a YWLP Big Sister application and return your application to the Women's Studies Program office, CNH 118 by the application deadline. For more information provided on the YWLP website <http://womensstudies.cah.ucf.edu/ywlp/bigisters.php>

The Young Men's Leadership Program

The Young Men Leaders Program is a mentoring program sponsored by the UCF Women's Studies Program. It is founded on using males as allies to address violence against women to create social change to contribute to a cultural environment in which males and females can equally participate, contribute and thrive in society. The program is focused on boys and men, exploring issues of self-identity and interpersonal relationships.

YMLP will use a similar model as its sister mentoring program to pair undergraduate men at UCF as mentors to 7th grade boys at local schools.

Mentoring sessions are slated to begin in January 2013.

Please contact Emily Vrotsos (evrotsos@knights.ucf.edu) for more information or visit our office in Colbourn Hall – Suite 118.

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

Read more about Graduate Studies and Internships abroad at:

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

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

<http://womensstudies.cah.ucf.edu/blast/issue-2012-10.pdf>

Meet a Women's Studies Student

Emily Helm is a senior at the University of Central Florida, majoring in Creative Writing with minors in Film and Women's Studies. She became involved with student activism, particularly with YAYA, through Women's Studies classes, and credits these experiences for much of her Academic passion.

YAYA is the Youth and Young Adult Network of the National Farm Worker Ministry, 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 our food.

"Being a part of YAYA gave me a sense of community belonging, of playing an important role in something bigger than myself, and is where I met many beautiful friends. I would have never become involved had it not been for UCF Women's Studies and the Service-Learning programs."

Emily Helm is also participating in a Service-Learning project this semester as a part of the Women's Studies course, *Girls and the Body*. For her class' Service-Learning project, they are working with the Young Women Leaders Program to foster healthy body image and strong body appreciation in the 7th grade participants from Seminole County with the help of YWLP Big Sisters and Facilitators.



Emily Helm, pictured above. Photo courtesy of Emily Helm.

NEW at the UCF Library:

1. *Delusions of Gender: How our Minds, Society, and Neurosexism Create Difference* by Cordelia Fine
2. *Glamour in the Pacific: Cultural Internationalism and Race Politics in the Women's Pan-Pacific* by Fiona Paisley
3. *The Taxing Case of the Cows: A Story About Suffrage* by Iris Van Rynback and Pegi Deitz Shea
4. *When I was Born: Women's Autobiography in Modern China* by Jing M. Wang
5. *Women Warriors for Allah: An Islamic Network in the Netherlands* by Janny Groen and Annieke Kranenberg
6. *Worth a Dozen Men: Women and Nursing in the Civil War South* by Libra R. Hilde

November Events

1. **November 20th**: “Transgender Day of Remembrance” hosted by LGBTQ Services. We will be memorializing our transgender siblings that have been killed due to anti-transgender violence. Along with a candlelight vigil, there will be multiple speakers from the UCF and Orlando community discussing the importance of ending anti-trans* violence, as well as sharing their own stories and experiences. Join us and be a part of an international effort to bring awareness to ending anti-transgender violence! UCF Reflection Pond from 7:00-9:00pm.
2. **November 29th**: The Young Women Leaders Program and the Young Men’s Leadership Program invite you to stop by between classes and enjoy delicious breakfast foods while learning more information about our mentoring programs in Seminole County and how you can get involved. Bring your friends and explore all the ways you can help make a difference in the lives of middle schoolers and positively impact your local community! UCF Student Union from 9:00-11:00am.

Stay tuned for the exciting Women’s Studies events taking place in the coming months in next month’s newsletter.

Spring 2013 Courses

Introduction to Women’s Studies, First & Second Wave Feminisms, Third Wave Feminisms, Virtual Girls, and Ecofeminism are all courses that the Women’s Studies Program is excited to offer for you.

*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>

Submit to the next issue of “Unpack That!”

We are looking for submissions! If you are interested in becoming a contributing writer, please inquire about and/or submit entries to be featured in our next issue of the ‘zine, please contact **Emily Vrotsos** at: evrotsos@knights.ucf.edu

Submissions can be academic or informal pieces. However, each piece should be relevant to one of our themes of Women, Girls, Gender and/or other social justice issues.

Eligible submissions will be organized into categories according to the following list:

- Activist Corner
- Commentary Corner
- Political Corner
- Research Corner
- Organization (UCF and or National) Corner
- Poetry
- Photography/paintings/drawings