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Center for Women's and Gender Studies Annual Report 2013-2014

Center for Women's and Gender Studies, Florida International University

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Center for Women's and Gender Studies

Annual Report 2013-14



Arts &
Sciences

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 announce that as of this academic year, the center has a new name, the Center for Women’s and Gender Studies (CWGS) that more clearly reflects our mission. While the original name of the center served us very well these last 31 years, the new name will be more inclusive of our fields of study and scholarship and reflect our core faculty’s wide range of research areas. In addition, it particularly addresses the interests of FIU’s diverse student body.

The goals of the center encompass the study of the diversity of gender-related issues, fostering faculty research and teaching in a broader framework. Areas of study connect gender to economics, science, sexuality, literature, and other fields.

As we continue to excel, the accomplishments and outreach of the center are growing. This year, one of our major achievements is the launch of the International Women, Gender and Violence Initiative, aimed at preventing violence against women. The proposed institute will concentrate on research, education, activism, and training as well as developing a deeper understanding of the issues related to violence locally, national and globally. Our first public event will be a conference on January 9, 2015 at FIU.

Overall, the center was involved in a total of 35 widely attended events. One of the featured events, a keynote lecture in February with Cori Flam Meltzer, titled “Who Says it’s a Man’s World?” drew a crowd of over 150 attendees. This lecture took place as part of the CWGS Executive-in-Residence Day. We also began a popular film series, and co-sponsored “The 2nd Annual Women in Science Lunch & Learn,” in March of 2014, with over 120 attendees. Topics included careers, work/life balance and mentoring.

Our graduate and undergraduate students presented very successful events, including the sixth installment of the play, *The Vagina Monologues*. The Women, Sexuality, and Gender Studies Association coordinated its annual conference and sponsored a series of monthly fitness classes during the fall 2013 semester. And in support of our students and faculty, this past spring we initiated our monthly Faculty Research Series.

Lastly, CWGS completed its seven-year Program Review with accolades from the external evaluator, Dr. Stephanie Shields of Pennsylvania State University. I thank you for your support throughout the year and encourage you to explore the pages of this annual report to learn more about the center.

Warm regards,

Yesim Darici
Director (CWGS) and Associate Professor of Physics

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Jordan Guedes

Degrees: B.A. in Psychology and B.A. in Women's and Gender Studies, with minors in Religious Studies and Art History, 2014

Certificate: Queer Studies

Jordan Guedes was recently honored at Summer Commencement 2014 as an FIU Worlds Ahead student. In Spring 2014, he received the CAS Awards for Service Excellence and Academic Achievement. Jordan plans to pursue a Master of Social Work degree and a Ph.D. at FIU to establish a career as a therapist and practitioner in the area of sexual and relationship health. He wants to have a holistic understanding of the cultural differences that affect society and be able to make an impact promoting sex education.

During his time as a student, Jordan was the first male recipient of the Elaine Gordon Scholarship in Women's Studies. He was always very involved with student activities, joining the on-campus LGBT group, Student Government, and the Psychology Honors Society during his first semester in college. Jordan also participated in two on-campus production groups: The Vagina Monologues and One Billion Rising. Through all his activities at FIU, he continually helped to spread awareness and empower women as one of the few men involved in this field of study.

"My education in Women's Studies and familiarity with women's issues has armed me with the necessary knowledge to form more substantial arguments against sexism, ignorance and intolerance. Through my education and advocacy I will help educate those in our community to end violence and stop inequalities."



Sheyla Marimon



Degrees: B.A. in Philosophy and B.A. in Political Science, with minors in Sociology/Anthropology

Certificate: Women's and Gender Studies

Sheyla Marimon, a junior philosophy and political science major who expects to graduate in fall 2015, has been a fan of the FIU radio station since she was 15-years-old. For the first time in its 26-year history, Radiate FM welcomed a female general manager to the student-run station. Once she became a Panther, Marimon was persistent as she applied to the station and was quickly hired by Radiate. Soon after, she got her own show.

Through countless hours of hands-on learning, Marimon would ultimately fine tune her own show, featuring music of the early 2000s, including indie rock and bands such as the Red Hot Chili Peppers, but her eye was always on the role of general manager.

"I quit Radiate for a while because it was a lot of pressure," she says of applying for the GM position. "I came back more prepared and was ready." Today, Marimon's focus is laser set on raising the bar for Radiate. She says the station is working hard to increase its listenership, provide more DJ services for clubs and organizations on campus, and break the stereotype of being the hole in the wall.



Claudia Vega

Degrees: B.A. in Psychology and B.A. in Sociology/Anthropology, cum laude, 2014

Certificate: Women's and Gender Studies

Claudia Vega served as president for the sociology honor society, Alpha Kappa Delta, and as Public Relations Coordinator for the Global and Sociocultural Studies Club, where she engaged students in

social justice and reform dialogues. Through her leadership, she transformed the clubs into vibrant organizations that have improved the experience of the undergraduate student body.

Claudia was also a research assistant in the Power, Women, and Relationships (PWR) Psychology Lab, where she examined

how power dynamics intersect with attitudes, behaviors, and interpersonal relationships between men and women in the United States. Her honor's thesis focused on verbal sexual coercion among black female adolescents. Claudia received an Award for Outstanding Service and an Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement in Psychology for her work in the Department of Psychology. In addition, she received an Award for Outstanding Service from the Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies (GSS) for her work in the GSS Club. In spring 2014, she was admitted as an Associate Fellow for the Institute for Recruitment of Teachers.

"Thanks to the Center for Women's and Gender Studies, I have had the opportunity to see how gender, power, and culture intersect, and the implications of prejudice and stigma for individuals' intimate lives, attitudes, and behaviors. This knowledge will empower me to continue working on social justice and diversity issues as I pursue a Ph.D in Social Psychology."



High School Essay Writing Contest

In April 2014, seven high school students from several Miami-Dade County schools were selected as winners of the CWGS Essay Writing Contest. They received monetary prizes during a ceremony at the Roxcy Bolton Women's Park. The students were Natalia Gonzalez, Asha Bartholomew, Cassi Johnson, Jacqueline Torres, Gabrielle Bailey, Michelle Rodriguez and Daniela Vega.

The objective of the competition was to allow students to express their views on different topics related to women and gender, such as reproductive health, gender and the media or violence against women. FIU's CWGS Essay Writing Contest was created in partnership with the Miami-Dade County Parks Foundation.



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

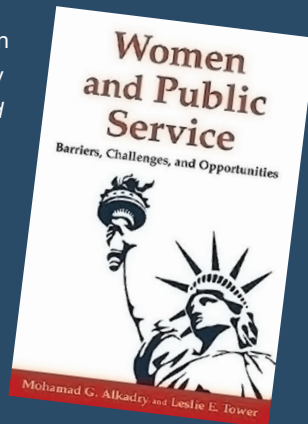


Mohamad Alkadry

Mohamad Alkadry, associate professor of Public Administration and director, Master of Public Administration Program, recently published *Women and Public Service: Barriers, Challenges and Opportunities* (Sharpe, M. E. Inc., 2013). The book explores obstacles women continue to face in the workplace including segregation, pay inequity, sexual harassment and social costs of career progression, and is co-authored by West Virginia University Professor Leslie Tower.

Alkadry drew on data from federal, state and local government and public agencies, including policies on pay equity, family friendly policies and case studies. The explicit message is that a policy intervention is needed to put gender equality on the right track.

"The book is a culmination of many years of research on gender issues in organizations," Alkadry said. "This was our effort to make sense of the many challenges facing women in the workplace. It is a shame that in the 21st century women continue to incur a family cost for their career success and a career cost for their family success."



Purnima Madhivanan, M.D., M.P.H., Ph.D.

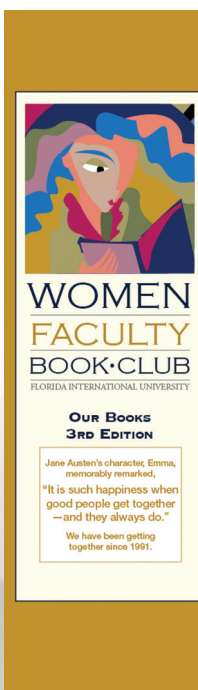


Purnima Madhivanan, an associate professor in the Robert Stempel College of Public Health & Social Work, took first place and won a \$10,000 unrestricted grant as part of the Positive Action for Children Fund film competition. Her three-minute film, "Saving Children, Improving Lives," addresses her efforts in HIV prevention in India. The video logged more than 8,550 public votes to secure first place. As part of the prize, Madhivanan also was given a trip to the International AIDS Conference in Melbourne, Australia.

Dr. Madhivanan is a physician by training with a Masters in Public Health and a Ph.D. in Epidemiology from the University of California, Berkeley. She is also the founder of the Public Health Research Institute of India, a community-based organization that delivers free healthcare to over 140 villages in rural India and conducts public health research related to women's and children's health. For the past 10 years, her research has focused on women's health across the lifespan with a special focus on disadvantaged populations. In 2007, she received the prestigious International Leadership Award from the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation for her research on prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV. She has over 40 publications

in peer-reviewed journals. Her current research focuses on interventions for HIV prevention, and primary and secondary prevention of cervical cancer and health disparities.

Women Faculty Book Club



The Women Faculty Book Club has been getting together since 1991, when founded by Judith Stiehm and Marilyn Hoder-Salmon. This year, the 3rd Edition Women Faculty Book Club bookmark was published, commemorating 24 years of good reading and collective discussion. The Women Faculty Book Club at FIU, like so many others, meets to affirm their membership in a community of book lovers. With each work we discuss, we deepen our shared experience, learn more about each other and ourselves, and honor the heritage of women's creativity across eras and cultures. Please contact petersoj@fiu.edu if you would like to attend the monthly meetings.

FACULTY NOTES CONGRATULATIONS



CWGS Faculty Recognized as 2014 Top Scholars

FIU President Mark B. Rosenberg honored the university's top scholars in 2014 among those were CWGS faculty including: **Maria Fernandez**, teaching and learning, College of Education; **Yuan Liu**, chemistry and biochemistry professor;

Suzanna Rose, executive director of the School of Integrated Science and Humanity and psychology professor; and **Laurie Shrage**, philosophy professor.

Suzanna Rose – President's Access and Equity Award

Suzanna Rose won the President's Access & Equity Award this year. Dr. Rose has been a leader at FIU in building a diverse faculty and staff, and has provided mentoring for young professionals and established colleagues to help them succeed in their careers. In the past three years, Dr. Rose launched and continues to direct three major programs at FIU that provide various types of support to increase diversity and mentoring, including the Awareness, Commitment, and Empowerment (ACE) Program funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), the FIU Faculty Mentor Program, and the Leadership Institute for Women Faculty. She has also consulted with and provided mentoring to faculty at more than 30 universities concerning strategic career planning. Suzanna Rose has worked to successfully develop programs and workshops in higher education that boost participation of traditionally underrepresented groups in certain academic disciplines. She has established and sustained mentoring programs that are crucial to retaining a balanced workforce in academia.

Maria Donoso – Keynote Speaker, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey

Maria Donoso was invited to be the keynote speaker at the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Middle East Technical University, in Ankara, Turkey. She spoke on "Water Security and its Role in Local, Regional and Global Water Sustainability." Within her talk she made reference to the role of women in managing water and reiterated how the consideration of particular gender issues in the different countries is a requirement to reach sustainability.

Lindsay Malloy – Early Career Achievements

Lindsay Malloy was recognized for Early Career Achievements in child mental health research. The American Psychological Foundation (APF) has named Lindsay Malloy, assistant professor of psychology, as the first recipient of the Division 37 Dianne J. Willis Early Career Award. In addition, she received the Early Career Excellence in Psychology and Law Award from the American Academy of Forensic Psychology and American Psychology-Law Society.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Easmanie Michel '04

Easmanie Michel graduated from FIU in Fall 2004 with a Bachelor's in English Literature, a Bachelor's in Women's Studies, and a Certificate in African Studies. She is the writer/director/producer of the film adaptation of Edwidge Danticat's *Caroline's Wedding*. In 2008, Michel approached Ms. Danticat about adapting this story from her novel *Krik? Krak!* to the screen and was granted the rights to adapt it into a feature film.

"While receiving my certificate in African New World Studies, I was introduced to the writings of Edwidge Danticat and I was instantly captivated with her authentic portrayal of the life I was living – her stories reflected so vividly my Haitian-American experience. It is my belief that we have to tell our stories in order to reflect our reality."

Michel has also worked on the feature films *Transporter II* (2005), *Hoot* (2006) and *Miami Vice* (2006). She has produced, written and directed several short films including *Harlem Echoes*, which was shown at the New York Insight Meditation's Arts Salon. She came to love film while studying abroad at the University of Westminster in London during her last semester at FIU. Currently, Michel lives in Brooklyn and is in her final semester at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, where she is completing a Master's program in Cinema Studies.

LaToya Eaves '14



While pursuing her Ph.D. at Florida International University in Comparative Sociology, as well as a certificate in Women's and Gender Studies, LaToya Eaves was selected as a pre-doctoral Fellow In-Residence with the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) Program at the University of Connecticut (UC). It is an

interdisciplinary program devoted to the critical analysis of gender and the pursuit of knowledge about women. Eaves joined three other fellows in different units on the UC campus. During the fellowship period, she will have completed her dissertation under mentorship from the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program, as well as the Department of Geography.

As well as a stipend, Eaves received support by having access to an office, computer, library, and professional development opportunities. She taught one course determined by WGSS in collaboration with the Department of Geography and was expected to share a portion of her work in a public forum.

In spring 2011, Eaves first joined the Women's Studies Center as a Teaching Assistant while in graduate school. Her research interests included racial identity, queerness, and life in the American South. Eaves learned recently that she had been chosen as a World's Ahead graduate at FIU.

Jillian Hernandez '06



Jillian Hernandez graduated in 2006 with a Bachelor's in Art History and a Certificate in Women's Studies at FIU. She went on to earn her Master's and Ph.D. in Women's and Gender Studies at Rutgers University in May 2013. In Fall 2013 she began teaching as an assistant professor in Ethnic Studies and Critical Gender Studies at the University of California, San Diego.

Hernandez sponsored many of the Girls Summit events in South Florida. She was also the founder for Women on the Rise! which is a unique gender-specific outreach program that presents the work of contemporary women artists to teenage girls who are served by juvenile detention and drug rehabilitation centers. Miami's Museum of Contemporary Art educators visit these organizations and use contemporary art as a teaching tool.

Recently, an article by Hernandez titled " 'Chongas' in the Media: The Ethno-Sexual Politics of Latina Girls' Hypervisibility," won Honorable Mention for the Best Article Prize from the Latina/o Studies Section of the Latin American Studies Association in May 2014.

"My personal experiences struggling with issues of gender as a working-class Latina and young mother in Miami inspired me to pursue Women's Studies, along with the conversations about gender we were having in the art history, anthropology, and sociology classes I took as an undergrad at FIU."

ELAINE GORDON SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



Laura Hernández – Award Recipient

Majors: Political Science and Women's and Gender Studies

Certificates: Latin American Studies and Public Policy Studies

This year, the recipient of the Elaine Gordon Scholarship in Women's Studies is Laura Hernández. Laura is completing a dual Bachelor's degree in Women's and Gender Studies and Political Science. She is currently the president of College Democrats at FIU and also serves as the vice president of the National Organization for Women (NOW) at FIU. Laura has previously interned with the Women's Fund of Miami-Dade. She is an intern in the Young People For Fellowship program of the People for the American Way Foundation. Laura hopes to pursue a career in public policy where she can help create and improve social and urban policy that does not marginalize the political, social and economic progress of minority communities.

In fall of 2014, she will be serving on the National Student Advisory Committee for the American Association for University Women.

ABOUT ELAINE GORDON

Elaine Gordon was a person of the highest character and integrity, representing the state of Florida as a legislator for 11 consecutive terms. Gordon became an advocate for equal rights in 1964 and was one of the founding members of the Miami chapter of the National Organization for Women. She was a champion of Florida's 1989 hate crimes law which became a model for the nation, and her many legislative activities and accomplishments have left a legacy of people she has helped.

Consistent over time, Gordon was the voice and guardian of abused children, victims of sexual assault, the elderly, the indigent and the mentally ill. She continually sponsored and passed legislation for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment; and she protected women and children through child support enforcement and protection from domestic violence. While in the legislature, she also introduced the terms Ms. and Chairperson. Gordon was a woman ahead of her time, being the first woman to chair a standing committee in the legislature, as well as the first woman inducted into the Florida Women's Hall of Fame.

The FIU 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.

FEATURED EVENTS



FALL 2013

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

September 4, MARC Pavilion, Modesto A. Maidique Campus

Lecture by Dr. Salwa Al-Jassar, Former Member of Kuwait's Parliament. Dr. Salwa Al-Jassar is a former member of the Kuwait Parliament and a current member of the College of Education at Kuwait University. During her tenure as a member of the Kuwait Parliament, she headed the Education Committee and served as Vice Chairperson of the Kuwaiti Women's Committee. She joined us and spoke about her struggles as a woman in Kuwait's Parliament.

Women's and Gender Studies Information Forum

September 12, Graham Center, Modesto A. Maidique Campus

The Women's Studies Student Association presented a forum where students were able to learn about the Center for Women's and Gender Studies degrees, feminism, and activism as well as testimonies from alumni and insight from professors within the center.

Masculinity Scripts and Hispanic College Men's Perceptions of Female Initiated Sexual Coercion

October 24, DM Building, Modesto A. Maidique Campus

The Center for Women's and Gender Studies Faculty Research Series is a monthly seminar where faculty present their

research to colleagues. Faculty and graduate students were encouraged to attend.

The Spoken Word: A poetry reading by Dorothea Smartt

October 24, College of Business Complex, Modesto A. Maidique Campus

This event was a special night of powerful poetry. Born in London of Bajan descent, internationally renowned poet Dorothea Smartt belongs to a generation of British Caribbean Blacks who have made it a priority to lay claim to all of their identities, and to question, challenge and celebrate the intersecting selves that have emerged from a complex and troubled colonial legacy that began in the Transatlantic slave trade.

A Night to Unite

December 6, 1637 S.W. 8th Street, Miami

A Night to Unite and End Violence. Co-sponsored by the Center for Women's and Gender Studies. In support of the United Nations Secretary General's UNITE Campaign to End Violence Against Women, this event was a celebration of Human Rights and Cultural Diversity with food sampling, music and art from around the world. Dr. Yesim Darici received the Global Advisor Award for her outstanding dedication.

SPRING 2014

The Vagina Monologues 2014

February 20-21, SIPA Building, Room 125, Modesto A. Maidique Campus

V-Day is a global activist movement to stop violence against women and girls. It raises funds and awareness through benefit productions of the award-winning play *The Vagina Monologues*, performed by FIU students, faculty and staff, and based on the stories of hundreds of women interviewed by playwright and founder Eve Ensler. The play explores various issues concerning women all over the world, touching not only on women's rights, but also on empowerment, respect and awareness.

Second Annual Women in Science Lunch and Learn

March 5, Academic Health Center 2, Modesto A. Maidique Campus

The event featured lunch and learn panelist discussions on external vs. self-imposed career obstacles, work/personal life balance and mentorship.

Envisioning Alternatives

Graduate Student Event

March 19, MARC Pavilion, Modesto A. Maidique Campus

The Women, Sexuality, and Gender Studies Association (WSGSA) Conference welcomed scholarly work by graduate and undergraduate students from all disciplines. The annual multidisciplinary conference gave students the opportunity to present their ongoing research and thesis proposals, along with panel discussions.

Promoting Gender Equality in Africa

March 20, Graham Center Panther Suite, Modesto A. Maidique Campus

Co-sponsored by the Center for Women's and Gender Studies. The Seventh Annual Chris Gray Memorial Lecture Promoting Gender Equality in Africa through the Application of the "Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa."

The Invisible War - Film Screening and Panel Discussion

March 24, Rafael Diaz-Balart Hall, Modesto A. Maidique Campus

A presentation by the College of Law and the Center for Women's and Gender Studies. Co-sponsored by the School of Integrated Science and Humanity and the Women's Law Society.

Faculty Research Series "Having It All Except Equality"

April 9, Graham Center Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Modesto A. Maidique Campus

A lecture and book signing with Mohamad Alkadry. Fifty years after the Civil Rights Act and the Equal Pay Act, this presentation was an evaluation of the impact of 50 years of pay equity and equal employment opportunity legislation on women in public sector organizations.

Women in Leadership - 2014 Featured Events

Cori Flam Meltzer - "Who says it's a man's world?"

First CWGS Executive-in-Residence Day, Signature Event

February 6, - MARC Pavilion, Modesto A. Maidique Campus

The Center for Women's and Gender Studies welcomed attorney and mediation expert Cori Flam Meltzer, launching the school's Executive-in-Residence Lecture Series. Meltzer began her day at FIU with a special presentation titled "Who says it's a man's world?" on how women and men often negotiate very differently - and get different results. She discussed traditional gender-related stereotypes as well as ways women can better represent themselves with authority and confidence. A highlight of the event was when Meltzer asked the audience to assume the Wonder Woman "power pose" with arms stretched overhead - which they did with great enthusiasm.

Fourth Annual Women Faculty Leadership Institute

May 6, College of Business Complex, Modesto A. Maidique Campus

A Guide to Navigating the Gendered Leadership Labyrinth in Academia

Keynote Address by Professor Stephanie Goodwin, Wright State University

Why are there still so few women at the top? Despite 50+ years of increased participation in the labor force, women remain underrepresented in positions of leadership and power across industrial, political and educational institutions.

Risks, Strategies and Rewards in Planning Your Academic Career

The second session was composed of FIU professors who discussed the risks they have taken and the strategies they have used to advance their careers, as well as ways women can work together to promote each other.

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

WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES ACADEMIC PROGRAMS



Bachelor of Arts in Women's and Gender Studies (also online)

The B.A. in Women's and Gender Studies provides students with the opportunity to examine the social, historical, political, and cultural experiences of women, men and gendered minorities from an interdisciplinary perspective. This degree offers a comprehensive theoretical foundation in feminist and cross-disciplinary theory and research, with a focus on evaluating obstacles to, and opportunities for establishing women's rights as human rights, locally as well as globally. Students can also choose to complete a second major in Women's and Gender Studies.

Certificates

The center offers two undergraduate certificates and a graduate certificate that provide an opportunity for students to integrate scholarship about gender from a variety of disciplines with a major in another field. Students may enroll in any of the following certificate programs:

- Undergraduate Certificate in Women's and Gender Studies (onsite and online)
- Undergraduate Certificate in Queer Studies
- Graduate Certificate in Women's and Gender Studies

The Certificate in Women's and Gender Studies includes a core of required courses central to an understanding of women and gender in a social and historical context that combine easily with other majors. The Certificate in Queer Studies empowers students to learn, through focused study across disciplines, about the experiences of individuals with non-normative or minority sexual identities. Upper level undergraduate students, post-baccalaureate students or students enrolled in other graduate programs may pursue the Graduate Certificate.

WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES GRADUATES 2013-2014

Bachelor's Degree

Victoria Butoiu
Daphne Choto
Maria Kil
Angie Luna
Catalina Mantilla
Michesther Mathurin
Lisset Pinelo
Alexandra Sanford
Cristina Santiago
Nicole Ynigo

Undergraduate Certificate

Justin Aguirre
Elizabeth Jarquin
Kolaet Mintze
Tiffany Rios
Omar Roig
Olga Torres
Claudia Vega
Diana Yovera

Internships

Jessica Acosta
Cherilyn Bean
Gabriela Bonilla
Laura Hernandez
Rebekah Knight
Angie Luna
Kolaet Mintze
Grace Miranda
Omar Roig
Cristina Santiago
Eduardo Torres
Claudia Vega
Nicole Ynigo

MINE ÜÇER WOMEN IN SCIENCE LECTURE SERIES



This year, the Mine Üçer Women in Science Lecture Series included 95 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, avid 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.

Some of the lectures this year included: *Typical and atypical development: Understanding the prefrontal cortex through the lens of adversity and ADHD* by Margaret A. Sheridan, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA; *The Dynamic Brain: From the Default Network to Memory Development* by Xiaoqian (Jenny) Chai, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; *The Secret Lives of Bats* by Kirsten Bohn, Ph.D., School of Integrated Science and Humanity, Florida International University; and *Diversity Challenges Facing Physics* by Casey Miller, University of South Florida, Tampa.

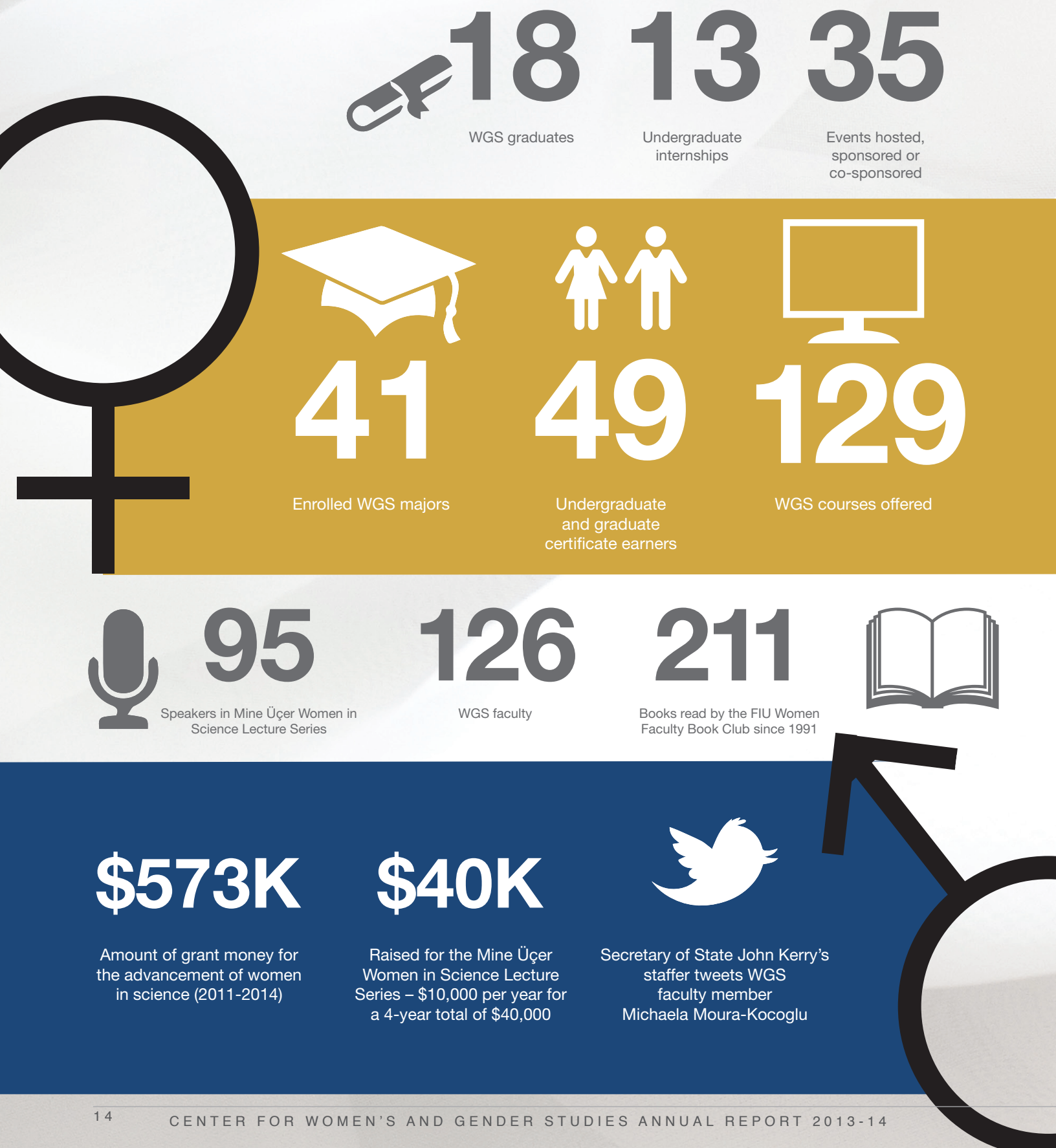
GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

The Center for Women's and Gender Studies has partnered with the Footprints Foundation and its founder, Lorna Owens, for women's health, education and empowerment in the Democratic Republic of Congo, as well as in Liberia.

In a recent partnership with the Miami-based organization **Hear Congo**, the Center for Women's and Gender Studies joined the global struggle to end violence against women. President of Hear Congo, Kaleba H. Ngoie-Kasongo, works to rebuild the shattered lives of vulnerable women and children in the Democratic Republic of Congo with the help of a global network of partners.



BY THE NUMBERS



BOARD OF ADVISORS



Ellen Cohn is an associate professor of criminal justice and a faculty member with the Center for Women's and Gender Studies. Dr. Cohn graduated magna cum laude from the University of Maryland, College Park, in 1984, earning Bachelor degrees in both psychology and law enforcement. She then went on to earn her Masters of Philosophy and a Ph.D. in Criminology, from the University of Cambridge by 1992.



Kaleba Ngoie-Kasongo is a social-entrepreneur and the founder of Hear Congo, a grassroots volunteer-based organization with a mission to harness the hope and positive actions of caring individuals to help rebuild the shattered lives of vulnerable women and children in the Democratic Republic of Congo - including war survivors.



Lorna Owens is a former midwife, registered nurse, attorney, legal commentator and now author who travels the world teaching the art and science of success to women's groups and organizations. She also hosts a local television talk show called "and the Women Gather" on TeleAmerica Channel 88, as well as a radio show on Blogtalk by the same name.



Joyce Peterson is an associate professor of history and a faculty member with the Center for Women's and Gender Studies. She served as Associate Dean in the College of Arts & Sciences from 1988-2010. Dr. Peterson has been teaching the History of U.S. Women, U.S. Cultural History, U.S. Social History and Labor History, and has an interest in gender history and research.



Mary Lou Pfeiffer is the owner and operator of Pfeiffer Originals art glass studio, president and partner in Caressa-me, an aromatherapy company, and a recipient of the FIU Alumni Torch Award. Pfeiffer has also served on the advisory board for FIU's College of Arts & Sciences and was the contributor of the Helen J. Dunnick Endowment to teach American Indian Studies at FIU.



Bettina Rodriguez Aguilera is a well-known public servant, community activist, entrepreneur and innovator, who works on women's issues and human rights. She was elected to the Doral City Council on November 6, 2012. Rodriguez Aguilera was the first Economic Developer for the City of Doral and served until July 24 2012 where she stepped down to run for City Council.



Suzanna M. Rose is the executive director of the School of Integrated Science and Humanity, as well as professor of psychology. From 2008-2010 she was the Sr. Associate Dean for the Sciences in the College of Arts & Sciences at FIU. She has served as chair of the Department of Psychology (2004-2007) and director of the Women's Studies Center (2000-2007). Rose has published extensively on issues related to women and gender.



Mine Üçer is a philanthropist with a special interest in projects targeting the education of girls and young women. After completing an Economics degree at Gazi University in Ankara, she worked at the British Embassy as a Commercial Officer. Mine and her husband are passionate about expanding the international reach of education. They support valuable projects aimed at bright high school and university students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Mine is the sponsor of the Mine Üçer Women in Science Lecture Series.



Center for Women's and Gender Studies

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