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## Women's Studies Center Annual Report 1986-1987

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

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# FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY MEMORANDUM

TO Selected Distribution  
FROM Marilyn Hoder-Salmon, <sup>MHS</sup> Director  
Women's Studies Center  
SUBJECT Fifth Annual Report of the Women's Studies Center,  
June 1986 - May 1987  
DATE July 15, 1987

For our unit the year began with a move to OE Trailer 5, and a "relocation campaign" to assure continuing university awareness of the women's studies program. Now, at year's end, we can report that in many ways this was our most successful year. To name a few highlights, spring semester brought a record number of courses, 11, and enrollment, 270; our lecture series and colloquium were well received and well attended; we were awarded a Fulbright-Hays Group Project Grant; and the student chapter of N.O.W. flourished.

We continue to benefit, and with much appreciation, from our alliances with various campus units. The Student Government Association assisted with funding for programs and lectures; the Division of Student Affairs allocated funds for student representatives to the National Women's Studies Association Conference at Spelman College; and academic units, such as the English Department, Liberal Studies, and Humanities, assisted with funding, support and/or friendship. We thank all of the units and colleagues who make our program possible. I hope that the accomplishments of the Women's Studies Center, summarized in this report, will serve as a way of saying "thank-you."

## WOMEN'S STUDIES CERTIFICATE COMMITTEE:

Joyce Peterson, Coordinator, History  
Irma de Alonso, Economics  
Lynn Berk, English  
Judy Blucker, Student Affairs  
Sybil de Groot, Industrial Systems  
Mary Jane Elkins, English  
Steve Fjellman, Sociology/Anthropology  
Mary Levitt, Psychology  
Lynda Raheem, Business Administration  
Ann-Marie Rizzo, Public Administration  
Ana Roca, Modern Languages  
Regina Shearn, Criminal Justice  
Betsy Smith, Social Work  
Margaret Wilson, Labor Center  
Gail Massey, Admin. Secretary

WOMEN'S STUDIES COURSES AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAM:

The core of our program is the Women's Studies Curriculum. A range of courses in various disciplines are offered each semester. Students may take the courses as electives and/or work toward a certificate in Women's Studies. The cross-listed curriculum for 86-87 is listed below:

Summer Semester, 1986:

PAD-5435	Administration and the Role of Women	D. Brosnan
SOP-3742	Psychology of Women	M. Levitt
ANT-3302	Male & Female: Sex Roles and Sexuality	J. Chernela

(Courses - 3, Enrollment - 85)

Fall Semester, 1986:

LIT-3383	Women in Literature: British Women Writers	K. McCormack
SOP-3742	The Psychology of Women	R. Udell
HIS-4935	Senior Seminar/Advance Research Seminar: Women's History	J. Peterson
MAN-4781	Women in Management	G. Shapiro
HUM-4391	Female/Male: Women's Studies Seminar	M. Hoder-Salmon
MAN-4781	Women in Management of Business Organizations	J. Mills

(Courses - 6, Enrollment - 121)

Spring Semester, 1987:

LIT 4930	Special Topics: Women and Language	V. Gathercole
IDS 3930	Female/Male: A Women's Studies Seminar	M. Hoder-Salmon
ANT 3302	Male & Female: Sex Roles and Sexuality (Tamiami and Bay Vista Campuses)	J. Chernela
FRW 4583	French Women Novelists	Y. Guers-Villate
AMH 4560	History of Women in the U.S.	J. Peterson
PAD 5435	Administration and the Role of Women	A. Rizzo
LIT 3383	Women in Literature: Women in the Renaissance	M. Free
CCJ 4663	Women, Crime and Criminal Justice	W. Wilbanks
LIT 3930	Wilderness Writing in America	A. La Bastille
SOW 5621	Crisis in the Lives of Women	R. Jones

(Courses - 11, Enrollment - 270)

The total number of courses, 20, and total enrollment, 476, attest to faculty and student support of the Women's Studies discipline at FIU. We now have 26 certificate students, and this past semester awarded the certificate to two students, Lourdes Simon and Ella Holst.

FIFTH ANNUAL FACULTY COLLOQUIUM:

This annual conference continues to promote faculty research and gain university and community support. This year we deviated from prior years' format and held a one day conference (instead of several evenings). The paper call was distributed to universities in South-east Florida and the committee, therefore, was able to select papers from several other institutions. The colloquium was divided into morning and afternoon sessions with two themes, "Revision: Recovery and Rereading" and "Gender: Issues and Implications." Noted scholar, Blanche Wiesen Cook, gave a keynote address during the luncheon, which was particularly well-received. We are pleased that more than 130 faculty, students, staff and community persons representing various groups attended. FIU is still unique in that ours is the only local conference on academic women's studies. The papers presented are listed below:

From "True Women" to "New Women": The Social Gospel and a Changing Ideal of Womanhood	Susan Curtis Mernitz FIU
Elizabeth Bennet: Talking Back from Behind the Wall	Mary E. Faraci Florida Atlantic Univ.
Expatriate Modernism: Women's Writings in Exile	Shari Benstock University of Miami
Sexual Harassment as an Ethical Dilemma	Dolores Brosnan, Ann-Marie Rizzo, FIU
Differential Gender Responses to Sex Group Composition: Implica- tions for Social Group Work	Carol R. Odell, Karen Sowers-Hoag, FIU

The committee for the colloquium includes Glenda Belote, Student Affairs-Housing; Mary Jane Elkins, English; Joyce Peterson, History; Joan Mills, Management. Respondents were Darden Pyron and Glenda Belote. Moderators were Marilyn Hoder-Salmon and Joan Mills.

OCCASIONAL PAPER SERIES:

The committee for the Occasional Paper Series selected and published three articles from the 1986 colloquia. The monographs were distributed through a modest sales campaign and we are pleased by the response from interdisciplinary programs and university libraries.

OCCASIONAL PAPER SERIES cont.:

The 1986 papers are as follows:

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| "Cries and Whispers: Answers to the<br>Politics of Repression in Contemporary<br>Brazilian Women's Fiction" | Elizabeth Lowe   |
| "Rebellion and Affection in an Iberian<br>Society: The Case of Buenos Aries"                                | Mark D. Szuchman |
| "The Poetics of Adrienne Rich"  | Margaret Haun    |

The committee for the Occasional Paper Series includes William Beesting, Undergraduate Studies; Mary Jane Elkins, English; Joyce Peterson, History; Nancy Wellman, Dietetics and Nutrition.

LECTURE AND EVENTS SERIES:

We continue to supplement our academic program with a series of lectures and presentations in women's studies and on contemporary issues. This year, the visiting scholar series, as well as our non-academic programming garnered the largest (and most appreciative) audiences to date.

Annette Kolodny

Prof. Annette Kolodny, a distinguished scholar of literature at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, is the author of a landmark text in feminist criticism, The Lay of the Land: Metaphor as Experience and History in American Life and Letters. Her talk for FIU, "The Influence of Anxiety: A Theory of the Production of Poetry by Women" is based on research for a forthcoming book. After the lecture, Student Government hosted a reception and book-signing.

Blanche Wiesen Cook

Prof. Cook of the John Jay College, City University of New York, is a well-known historian and activist. Among her numerous texts are studies of Eisenhower and Crystal Eastman, and she is senior editor of The Garland Library of War and Peace. Prof. Cook's lecture served as the keynote presentation of our annual colloquium, and was taken from a chapter of her forthcoming text on Eleanor Roosevelt titled, "Eleanor Roosevelt: Women, Politics and Power."

## Events

In connection with other campus groups and departments, such as the student chapter of N.O.W. and Black History Week Committee, we co-sponsored additional events. For example, we held a film and discussion program on artist Betye Saar who is best known for her work on exploring the roots of American black culture. There were two major N.O.W. events, a film festival and a Susan B. Anthony Gala for Women's History Week, which featured national N.O.W. activist, Molly Yard speaking on the history of the ERA campaign. Counseling Services presented a series, "The Balancing Act" for students and faculty that featured such topics as fiscal management and relationships.

## FACULTY DEVELOPMENT AND ALIGNED CAMPUS WOMEN'S GROUPS

As part of a continuing series for faculty women, we coordinated a seminar on "Coping With Multiple Roles." Rather than a formal panel, the seminar was conducted as a discussion group. The Women Administrators' organization continued to meet for monthly network and program exchange, coordinated for 1986-87 by Doris Sadoff. The Steering Committee for the Women's Caucus met to set policy and discuss the organization's agenda.

## Faculty Course Development Award

This year our annual award to encourage course development in women's studies was presented through competitive selection to Susan Waltz, International Relations, for a course titled "From Mexico City to Nairobi: Women as an Issue in International Relations."

In addition to our formal colloquia and development series, we continue to provide individual assistance in regard to faculty and student research projects with bibliographic, text, journal and related data necessary to conduct research in interdisciplinary women's studies.

## GRANTS

Fulbright-Hays Group Project Abroad--we are very pleased to have been awarded, for summer of '88, a Fulbright grant for our proposal "International Women's Studies Seminar on Changing Status Roles in India." The award for \$64,000 will sponsor fourteen Florida faculty (competitive selection based on research and teaching plans) on a six-week study-tour at Indian Universities and with various women's associations throughout India.

#### THE TWO HUNDRED-ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Now in its fourth year, the total funds presented to FIU for student scholarships by this professional women's organization is \$19,225. The 1986-87 first place award for \$1,500 was presented to a student in Health Sciences, Donna Kinney, and the second place award of \$500 was given to Lucille Vargas, graduate student in Information Systems.

#### NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN

The Women's Studies Center sponsors a student chapter of N.O.W. Its mission is to inform students about contemporary women's concerns, such as educational rights, health rights, and economic rights. The chapter meets regularly, is open to any interested persons affiliated with the university and conducts various events such as speakers, films, and discussion groups. Officers include Diana Lalani, Irene Secada, Vilma Valdez, Lauri Johns, Sandi Alvarez, and Connie Brandenburg. The chapter has 35 members.

#### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The multi-faceted description of our program means that on a given day I can be writing faculty recommendation letters, counseling reentry women students, greeting visiting scholars interested in women's studies, attending advisory committee meetings and preparing for a class. To my responsibilities as coordinator of academic women's studies, convener of the certificate faculty advisory committee, programming coordinator, teacher of the interdisciplinary introductory course (twice annually, alternating campuses), can be added a myriad of ad-hoc tasks relative to women's issues and concerns.

To my community commitments as a representative of our program has recently been added, by Governor's appointment, a position on the Florida Supreme Court Commission to conduct state-wide hearings and gather data on "Gender Bias in the Judicial System." I continue to serve on the Florida Educational Equity Act Advisory Committee for the Dade County School Board and act as liaison to the Two-Hundred for the Endowed Scholarship Fund. In addition, we selectively participate in various community groups such as the National Organization for Women, Coalition for Hispanic American Women, and the coalition for Women's History Month.

National Service includes a position on the Coordinating Council of the National Women's Studies Association as the representative for the 503 academic women administrators who hold membership in NWSA. Research includes a paper I recently presented at the Edith Wharton Society's Conference in Lenox, Massachusetts.

I hope that this annual summary of activity and accomplishment serves to remind the university community of our purpose and direction. As always, the comments, suggestions and ideas it may elicit to guide us are welcome.