



## Orlando \*\*\* Winter Park BRANCHLINE

### NOVEMBER PROGRAM



Since 1881, our mission at AAUW has been to achieve real equity for women and girls. It's a big, complicated goal, but we have marched steadily along that path for 137 years. We all find personal satisfaction in supporting educational objectives toward that goal right here in our own community with our support of PACE Center for girls, our Branch scholarships, our sponsorship of

UCF women to the best national leadership conference for student leaders.

But, some objectives are too broad, too complicated, too costly for us to address from our Branch. Our answer to that is to join together, once a year, with 170,000 AAUW nationwide members to send financial support for the **Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF)**. The LAF is one of five 501(c)(3) funds under the umbrella of the AAUW fund.

The LAF does not provide legal representation, but instead provides **support** to selected cases which have the potential to set important precedents. These actions arise from the 1964 Civil Rights Act or the 1972 Education Amendments to the act. The support takes the form of "friend of the court" briefs plus financial support for plaintiff travel and accommodation, expert witness travel and accommodation, family of the plaintiff travel and accommodation, and AAUW members standing in the courtroom in support. *Big legal cases are expensive to pursue!* You might be familiar with some of the famous cases AAUW has supported such as Lily Ledbetter's suit for pay equity or one of the many Title IX courses seeking equal opportunity in education.

The November 10 Branch meeting is the date for our annual financial support for LAF. Of course, you can make your tax deductible contribution any time you wish, but we like to use our aggregated contributions to remind us of the power of strength in numbers. You may donate cash. You may write a check for your tax receipt, made out to AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund. You may use a credit card for your donation.

If you are unable to attend the November 10 Branch meeting, you may donate directly through the AAUW website. Call me if you need directions or assistance for that. Every dollar is important!

*Rosemary Vendena*  
Director for Development/Fundraising

### PHYLLIS HALL IS THE NEW RESERVATIONS CONTACT

### GENERAL MEETING

**SATURDAY**  
**November 10, 2018**  
**9 a.m.**

**First Congregational Church of  
Winter Park**  
**225 S. Interlachen Avenue**  
**(at New England Ave.)**  
**Winter Park, FL 32789**

**\$18.00 per person**  
**Reservations Required**

**RSVP: Phyllis Hall**  
**407-265-7164**  
**phylliscath814@gmail.com**

**Cash or check**  
**payable at the door**  
**(Checks should be made out to**  
**"AAUW Orlando/Winter Park")**

**Or mail your check to:**  
**Phyllis Hall**  
**481 Forest Court**  
**Altamonte Springs, FL 32714**

**You must RSVP no later than**  
**Wednesday, Nov. 7!**

**You are responsible for**  
**payment in full if you do not**  
**keep your reservation.**

## From the President



Dear Orlando/Winter Park Branch Members,

Thank you to those members and guests who attended our October meeting that provided both food for our body (thanks to Drew our caterer) and food for thought (thanks to

Michele Levy from the League of Women Voters who presented the pros and cons of the amendments). As I write this we do not know the outcome of this critical election that has at its core ethical and equitable government for all. I have high hopes for an additional reason to celebrate this Thanksgiving.

November is Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) Month for AAUW. Once per year, we ask for donations for this national effort that combats sexual discrimination in the workplace and in educational institutions by providing financial, organizational, legal and emotional support. Almost daily I read of threats to AAUW's fundamental purpose of advancing gender equity. Recently, Secretary of Education, Betsy de Vos, has proposed regulations changing Title IX's accountability and civil rights protection that could easily increase discrimination against students based on sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy and marital status and reduce protection for those experiencing sexual harassment or assault. Money is needed to fend off these anti-equity threats. Here is the opportunity to help do that. Our Branch members have a history of generous giving.

Happy Thanksgiving and LAFgiving,

*Leslie Sue Lieberman, Ph.D*

President

P.S. AAUW.org provides more information about these proposed Title IX changes and AAUW responses.



Saturday, October 13, Michele Levy from the League of Women Voters reviews the often incomprehensible Florida amendments. Raise your hand if you're still confused.



### Save the Date!

**The 18th Annual Literary Luncheon**

**Saturday, March 2, 2019**

**Interlachen Country Club, Winter Park**

**Author Charlene Edge will discuss her book:**

*Undertow: My Escape from the Fundamentalism and Cult Control of The Way International*

*(Click here to learn more about Charlene Edge.)*

**PACE Thanksgiving Dinner**  
**Thursday, November 15**  
**11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**



**More details about PACE**  
**Thanksgiving dinner and**  
**Miracle Boxes on page 4.**



## Welcome to our new and returning (R) members



The Branchline does not publish members' addresses and phone numbers. Information on all our members can be found on our website (Orlando-fl.aaupw.net) under the Members Only menu. Contact Linda Fessel (LFessel@embarqmail.com) or Maria Bonnet (Marpazbonnet@gmail.com) for the password to the Members Only menu.

Barry, Janet

JCBMarl@aol.com

Boston College, B.S. Nursing, '72

Boston University, M.S. Nursing, '76

Bellamy, Connie (R)

Cbellamy@vwu.edu

Antioch College, B.A. Philosophy

Mansfield University, M.A. English

McGuill University, Ph.D. English

Breland, Cheryl

Cheri3745@yahoo.com

Brontogeneral School of Nursing, '74

University of Texas, Health Ed., B.A. '85

Coppenhaver, Charlotte Anne

ccoppenhaver@me.com

Duke University, B.A. History, '67

Duke University, M.A. Education, '72,

Duke University, Ed.D. Education, '76

Edwards, Ruth

redwards@wppl.org

Johnson C. Smith U., B.A. Communication Arts, '76

SIU – Carbondale, M.S., Education, '89

Fielding Graduate Univ., M.S. Organizational Sys., '06

Fielding Graduate Univ., Ph.D. Human Develop. '08

Esposito, Camille (Izzo)

Camres52@gmail.com

College of New Rochelle, N.Y., B.A. Psych, '76

Fenster, Lynn

lfenster@tlctravel.net

Educational Background:

University of Miami, B.S. Ed., Education, 1978

University of Denver, J.D., Law, 1989

Hammersla, Linda

Lindah8816@gmail.com

Marymont School of Nursing '66

Advanced Training (Psych certif.)

Hughes, Carol

Dearcarol1@aol.com

University of Wisconsin Madison, B.S. Education '72

Fisher-Nova M.S., Reading

Kirby, Pam

kirpam@aol.com

Tulane University, B.A. French, '69

Indiana University, M.A. French lit., '71

University VA, J.D. Law, '79

McDonald, Ellen

Auburn University, B.S. Math, '68

Bradley University, M.S. Computer Sci., '72

Mould, Kimberley (Kim)

Kmould04@gmail.com

George Mason University, B.A. Psychology, 1991

Rollins College, MLS Master Liberal Studies, 2000

Nelson, Janet (R)

Jsnelson0206@gmail.com

Northern Illinois University

Ed.D. Educ. Psych., 1994

Potter, Penny

Potterp810@gmail.com

Marymount Jr. College, AA, '67

FSU, B.A. International Studies, '69

Rosen, Doris

dorisrosen@hotmail.com

Brooklyn College, AAS Merchandising, '64

Simasek, Karen

esimasek@yahoo.com

UCF, B.A., Film, '91

Stanley, Susan

Susanstanley2010@gmail.com

University of FL., B.A. Edu '76

FIU, M.A. Secondary Ed., '78

Thorndike, Delfine

Del.thorndike@me.com

Northern University, B.S.

Simmons College, MSW

Tudhope, Christine

tudhopec@aol.com

University of Colorado, B.A. English. Lit., 68

Woodward, Virginia (R)

ginger.woodward@icloud.comWyatt,

B.A. Penn State University '59

## PACE

Several years ago, our AAUW branch began the tradition of giving each girl from PACE a gift box filled with items that most teenage girls would like to receive for the holidays. More recently, we have asked each girl what three items she would most treasure receiving as a gift. We then ask our members to choose a girl to shop for, based on what the girl would like to receive. Gifts are placed in a shoe box that has been festively wrapped (top and bottom separately) and brought to the December meeting. This box has the girl's name on the top. Boxes are taken to PACE to be distributed to the girls, usually on the day that the school closes for winter holiday. AAUW members are welcome to attend this distribution—a most heart-warming event. A list of girls and their wishes will be available for you to choose at our November 10 meeting.

Pat Stamm patsnpans@yahoo.com 407-312-8544  
Karen Gillett karen555g@hotmail.com 407-252-3169



Reminder: Please bring any food for the PACE pantry to our November meeting for drop-off at PACE.

## More from PACE

Our annual Thanksgiving celebration with PACE girls, families, and staff will take place Nov. 15, just a few days from now. All AAUW members are invited to bring food, and several have given donations to make this event special for PACE (and for us!) If you haven't signed up yet and would like to participate, you're welcome to still do so. You can sign up at the November 10 meeting, or you can call or email Pat Stamm or Karen Gillett to let us know you'll be there with food or to help serve.

Please have your food at PACE (445 N. Wymore Road, Winter Park) by 11 a.m. on November 15. We'd love to have you help serve, and you'll have the opportunity to talk with the girls and with each other. Come join the festivities!

Pat Stamm  
patsnpans@yahoo.com  
407-312-8544

Karen Gillett  
karen555g@hotmail.com  
407-252-3169



## Still More from PACE

PACE has also asked us for some items for their STEM projects. Below is the list of their needs as I received it. Please do not ask me to explain things like Wikkistix or coding kits. I have no idea what these might be.

Rolls of masking tape & scotch tape  
2-3 boxes of uncooked spaghetti noodles  
Wooden blocks/ building blocks  
Clear, plastic cocktail cups (9oz)  
Ping pong balls  
Small, rubber bouncy balls  
Pipe cleaners  
Cardboard tubes (toilet paper and paper

towel tubes)  
Rolls of aluminum foil, saran wrap, and wax paper  
Match box cars  
Small action figures  
Flexi straws  
Toothpicks  
Marbles  
Paint sticks  
Milk jug and/or water bottle caps  
Brads  
Large Ziplock bags (2 or 3 gallon sized)  
String: yarn, twine, fishing line  
Small pebbles or rocks  
Rubber bands  
Clothespins  
Wikkistix  
Magnets

Duct tape  
Straws  
Cupcake liners  
Coffee filters  
Playing Cards  
Christmas Lights  
Circuit (electric) kits (EX; Makey-Makey)  
Batteries (various)  
Robotics Kits (EX: cublets robot blocks, sphero sprk)  
Coding (simple) Kits  
Foam paper, Felt paper

Anne Landrum  
[alandrum2@cfl.rr.com](mailto:alandrum2@cfl.rr.com)



## Interest Groups

### November

If you would like to join any of the interest groups listed below, contact the chair or coordinator to get on their email contact list so you can receive information on upcoming events.

*Joan Liberman*  
Interest Group Chair

**Booklovers:** *The Last Painting of Sara de Vos* by Dominic Smith is the book most Booklovers will read in November. However, Booklovers VII will read *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah. Booklovers II is reading *The Black Count* by Tom Reiss.

A new Booklovers Group will have its first meeting November 7 at 10 a.m. in the Conference Room of the Amenities Center at Westminster Baldwin Park. If you are interested in this group or joining another Booklovers Group, please contact Ellen James, Booklovers Coordinator: (407) 857-0044 or at ellenjames54@gmail.com

**Booklovers Lite (aka Booklovers III):** Relaxation Reading has a new name. By popular vote, members chose to call themselves "Booklovers Lite." On Wednesday, November 28, from 1-3:30 we'll meet at my house. Our first book choice is *Open and Shut* by David Rosenfelt, a humorous mystery. Booklovers Lite meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month except December. This group is closed just now with a full membership. I'm keeping a waiting list for those interested in the future. Contact Martha Williamson (bibliamor@aol.com). Our formal name is Booklovers III.

**Cooking Globally:** The next dinner will be held on Friday, February 15, at 6:30 p.m. at Westminster Winter Park Club 24. The theme is Italy. For more information, contact: Rana Tiwari, ranatiwari@usa.net or Karen Buchan, kgb@unknownegg.org.

**Current Issues:** This group will meet on Monday, November 19, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Fireside Room at Westminster Towers. Bring your own lunch. Coffee, tea, and water will be provided. For more information, contact Marcy Kysilka: Kysilka@bellsouth.net

**Dining Couples is Back!** Dining Couples will meet monthly on the 3rd Saturday (except for December 2018). The first dinner is November 17.

Please join us as we begin a new series of dining adventures to meet new friends, explore new foods, and visit new home venues.

#### SIGN UP TO JOIN

Call Robbi Willenkin at 407-960-4151.

[Robbi will be away from 10/28 - 11/10.]

In her absence, call Rosemary Vendena (407-282-1023)

**Dining In:** Meets Nov. 2 at the home of Myra Gaziano. RSVP to Myra at gazianomyra@yahoo.com. Contact Jane Rosen for more information about this group: 321-295-7689 or mjcroson@hotmail.com

**Dining Out (at night):** Dining Out will meet Nov. 13 at 6:30 p.m. at El Potro, 501 N. Orlando Ave., Winter Park. RSVP to Susan Hoke: 407-637-6857 or shoke@cfl.rr.com

**Exploring Central Florida (ECF)** (Due to Hurricane Michael, ECF was rescheduled to Thursday, Nov. 8.) ECF will travel to the picturesque town of Micanopy to visit the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic State Park. Explore the literary landmark of the author of *The Yearling* and *Cross Creek*. Park admission is \$3 per group. We will lunch at the Yearling Restaurant followed by optional side trips to historical sites in the area. RSVP by Thursday, November 1 to

Rana Tiwari

407-810-67781

RanaTiwari@usa.net

To become a member of this group and receive more details about this visit, contact Max Reed at 407-625-1664 (MaxReedFL@gmail.com.) or Collette Davis at 407-682-1912 (dcollette@aol.com)

**Foreign Affairs:** Foreign Affairs will meet on Sunday, Nov. 25, at 2 p.m. at the home of Rana Tiwari.

1225 Oxbow Lane

Winter Springs, Florida 32708

Topic: The Waning of *Pax Americana*?

Don't forget your RSVP to Rana

Telephone: 407-810-6781

Ranatiwari@usa.net

[Contact Chair Jo-Ann McCaffrey if you would like to join this group: 407-841-3640 or JoAnnRoux327@gmail.com]

*Interest Groups Continue on Next Page*

## Interest Groups

**Foreign Films:** The next foreign film (TBA) will be on Monday, November 26, from 1-3:30. For more information and to be included on the contact list, contact Linda Fessel: LFessel@embarqmail.com

**Lunching Out:** Lunching Out will meet on Monday, November 12, at 11:30 a.m. For more information, contact Linda Fessel: LFessel@embarqmail.com

**Mah Jongg:** Mah Jongg will meet on Thursday, November 1, 8, 15 and 29. (start time approx. 1:30 p.m. after the PACE Thanksgiving on Nov. 15). Beginners welcome. For more information, contact Linda Fessel: LFessel@embarqmail.com or Karen Deo: Karen.deo@gmail.com

**PACE Center for Girls:** The PACE Library, which was set up and organized by AAUW a few years ago, is in need of some resorting and renewal. If you would be able to join the group that will be improving the library, please contact Anne Landrum (407-539-1667) or alandrum2@cfl.rr.com

**Theater Group:** The Chair for this group is Jean Bubriski, jbubriski33@gmail.com (or 949-278-7293). See below for more information about upcoming shows and dates.

**Walking Group:** See Exploring Central Florida

### AAUW 2018-2019 Theatre Group Group Leader: Jean Bubriski

The Theatre Group will be going to Saturday matinees at the Annie Russell Theater at Rollins College. Here are the dates and names of the plays:

Dec. 1, 2018	2 p.m.	Avenue Q
Feb. 23, 2019	2 p.m.	A New Play (based on the <i>Me Too</i> movement)
Apr. 27, 2019	2 p.m.	Sweet Charity

If you do not have the brochure about these plays, please go to the [www.rollins.edu/annie](http://www.rollins.edu/annie) website, or call Jean at 949-278-7293 and she will mail one.

YOU NEED TO BUY YOUR OWN TICKET FROM THE BOX OFFICE. My seat is F124. When you call or email the Annie Russell Box Office, ask to be seated near Jean Bubriski and the AAUW Theatre Group. Their phone # is 407-646-2145 and the email/website is [annieboxoffice@rollins.edu](mailto:annieboxoffice@rollins.edu).

The Box Office Manager, Chelsea Highland, knows about our group.

Please email Jean at [jbubriski33@gmail.com](mailto:jbubriski33@gmail.com) or call 949-278-7293 if you are planning to join us for any of the plays.

LET'S MEET IN THE ROSE GARDEN BETWEEN THE ANNIE RUSSELL THEATER AND THE COLLEGE CHAPEL AT 1:45 FOR EACH PLAY!

If you hear of any member who is ill, undergoing surgery, has experienced a loss, etc., please let our corresponding secretary know so that a card can be sent on a timely basis.

Contact: Judy McDonald  
[murran@bellsouth.net](mailto:murran@bellsouth.net)

On November 6, 1869, the first formal intercollegiate football game was played between Princeton and Rutgers. Each team was made up of 25 men. The winning team was thus able to tear down the goal posts without any help from the spectators, simply by surging over them *en masse*. Those were the days!



On November 12, 1946, an "autobank" was established by the Exchange National Bank of Chicago. Henceforth you could transact business without leaving your car, or in other words stand in line sitting down. You could also honk at those who were taking too long at the teller's window, which had not been possible before unless you carried a horn.

### Spotlight on Neta Villalobos-Bell - Conservation Hero!



Congratulations to AAUW Orlando/Winter Park member Neta Villalobos-Bell who has won a prestigious conservation award for her community volunteerism!

Neta is a former Certified Master Gardener and Certified Florida Master Naturalist with the University of Florida, and a Florida Certified Horticulture Professional with FNGLA (Florida Nursery, Growers, and Landscape Association).

For over 50 years, Neta Villalobos-Bell has rolled up her sleeves to work on many volunteer projects in her community. She shares her experience and enthusiasm for nature through presentations to garden clubs, nature centers, schools and even TV. She was featured in an Orange County Government TV series "*Wildlife Matters*" to promote the benefits of gardening for wildlife.

Neta was heavily involved with the Seminole Audubon Society as a board member and president, where she and another member started a children's program with monthly educational trips and activities. She was a chapter representative on the Audubon Florida Board for a few years.

Her energy has also been focused on planting Florida native plants and restoring habitats at places like Crystal Lake Preserve in Lake Mary, Lake Lotus Park in Altamonte Springs, Ge-

neva Wilderness Area and Kids House of Seminole, where she enhanced and transformed the perimeter of the property beyond the pond at Kids House into a wildlife habitat.

She loves working in her yard which has been on a garden tour for both UF/IFAS (Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences) Extension Master Gardeners and Tarflower Chapter (Orange County) of the Florida Native Plant Society.

In recent years she has been a shining star of Cuplet Fern Chapter, (Seminole County) of the Florida Native Plant Society as a past President and Chapter Representative. One of her presentation highlights is returning every year to do a butterfly program for differently gifted first and second grade students who are always inquisitive and enthusiastic about wildlife.

In view of this dedication over many years, the Chapter nominated Neta for the Regional Cox Conserves Hero - and she won for the Central Florida Region! With the generous COX \$10,000 donation, the Cuplet Fern Chapter can provide more youth with nature experiences through their ECO-CAMP Scholarships. Neta is one of 8 finalists for the National Award of \$60,000.

#### About Cox Conserves Heroes

The Cox Conserves Heroes awards program is how Cox Enterprises and The Trust for Public Land (TPL) honor the unsung heroes in our communities, as well as support the local organizations doing the important work of improving our environment. Through the program, they hope to inspire more people to take an active role in community conservation. To date, the national Cox Conserves Heroes program has donated \$860,000 to environmental nonprofits and honored more than 200 volunteers. Part of the Cox Enterprises' national Cox Conserves sustainability program, Cox Conserves Heroes, awards volunteers for their actions in Arizona, California, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Virginia and Washington.

Submitted by Christine Brown



Did you know that Nickwhistle (NCCWSL) has nothing to do with whistles? NCCWSL was born in 1983, when representatives from national gender equity organizations saw the need for a leadership space dedicated to empowering collegiate women. Since then, AAUW has taken the helm of the conference and NCCWSL has transformed into an essential experience for any woman serious about creating meaningful impact on her campus, mobilizing her community, and preparing for personal and professional success after graduation.

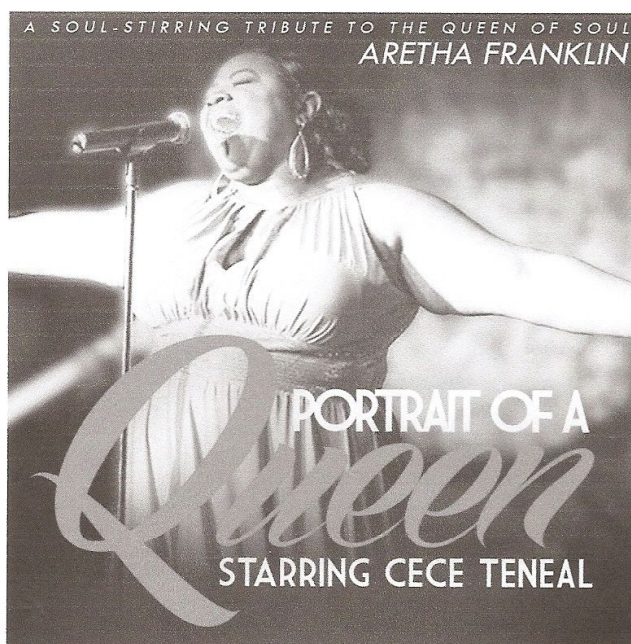
With more than 10,000 attendees over the conference's history, NCCWSL is the premier leadership event for college women in the United States and globally.

Anne Bubriski, our UCF University/College Partner asked us if we had a 15-hour project that one of her students could work on for credit. And this brings us back to Nickwhistle. Sponsoring a UCF student each year to attend the conference is one of our branch's missions. But we normally don't learn too much about their lives post-NCCWSL. So we asked Larissa Hamblin, Anne's student, to track down one of the past attendees and report back on where she is and what she is doing now. As President/Editor-in-Chief of *Odyssey*, we were sure Larissa was up to the task. Her report follows on the last two pages after the calendar.

Oh, BTW, Nickwhistle stands for National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (now you know why we call it "Nickwhistle.")



## CONCERT TO BENEFIT PACE CENTER FOR GIRLS, INC. ORANGE



**Friday, November 2, 2018, 8:00 p.m.**  
Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts  
445 S Magnolia Avenue | Orlando FL 32801



**Tickets: \$50 - \$80**  
**Alexis & Jim Pugh Theater (smaller venue)**  
**Purchase at: [www.drphillipscenter.org](http://www.drphillipscenter.org)**

**We recently received word that ticket prices have been reduced to: \$30 - \$60.**



# NOVEMBER 2018

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1 <u>1 p.m.</u> Mah Jongg	2  <u>7 p.m.</u> Dining In	3
4  <b>Turn clocks back one hour tonight</b>	5	6  <u>1 p.m.</u> B-Lovers I  <b>Election Day</b>	7  <u>10 a.m.</u> B-Lovers IX  <u>1 p.m.</u> B-Lovers II  <u>1 p.m.</u> B-Lovers VII	8  <u>11 a.m. thru lunch</u> Exploring Central FL.	9	10 <u>9—11 a.m.</u>  <b>General Meeting</b>
11  <b>Veteran's Day</b>	12  <u>11:30 a.m.</u> Lunching Out	13  <u>1:30 p.m.</u> B-Lovers VI  <u>6:30 p.m.</u> Dining Out	14	15  <b>PACE THANKS- GIVING</b>  <u>2 p.m.</u> Mah Jongg	16  <u>10 a.m.</u> B-Lovers IV	17  <u>6 p.m.</u> Dining Couples
18	19  <u>10 a.m.-1 p.m.</u> Current Issues	20  <u>1 p.m.</u> B-Lovers V  <u>1:30 p.m.</u> Board Mtg.	21	22  <b>THANKS- GIVING</b>	23	24
25  <u>1 p.m.</u> Foreign Affairs	26  <u>1 p.m.</u> Foreign Films	27	28  <u>1-3:30 p.m.</u> Booklovers III (Lite)	29  <u>1 p.m.</u> Mah Jongg	30	



Good food, good company . . . Never in short supply with the Dining-In Group.



And it appears that food has also become a principal focus of the Foreign Affairs Group. Bon appetit, Ladies

## INTERVIEW WITH CAMILLE ROBINSON

By Larissa Hamblin

From Jacksonville, to Orlando, to Washington D.C. and all the way to London, UCF graduate Camille Robinson travelled the world to not only pursue an education, but one that also focused on Women's and Gender Studies. She has worked with UCF's Young Women Leaders Program, the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders and will now take her experience into the field. The NCCWSL is a conference held in Washington D.C. to help educate women leaders about pressing issues within communities, allow these individuals to further develop leadership skills and help these women create life-long connections with other individuals in their same positions nationwide. In our interview, Camille delved into her passion for the field and the people who she wants to work for in the future.

**Larissa:** You graduated with a degree pertaining to Women's and Gender Studies, and you went into working with that field right after college. But what specifically did you major in, and what have you done with your degree post-grad?

**Camille:** At UCF, I actually graduated with a degree in interdisciplinary studies, so my focus areas were health and biomedical sciences, and then my minor was women and gender studies. But after that, that summer after I graduated in May 2017, I went and interned in D.C. at my Congressman's office of Jacksonville District 4, and then I had another internship at this place called Florida House, which is like a welcome center for Floridians. Then right after that, I went to grad school in London, so I haven't had a job yet in the field. I went to graduate school at King's College London and my degree was called Conflict, Security and Development. So I was working with the intersection of those three things, with "conflict" meaning more like civil wars, armed conflict and anything like that, mixed with security – security of borders, security of people pre-, and post-, and during conflict. And then the development post-conflict and even during conflict. One of my electives was gender, international politics and security. I studied things ranging from feminist security studies, sexual violence in war and conflict. I did my Master's thesis on "The implementation of the conscious engagement of Afghan women and U.S. counter-insurgency operations in Afghanistan." So far, I haven't taken it into the field, but I have taken women's and gender studies further in my Master's degree, which is finished now. I don't formally graduate until January, but all my course work and everything is done.

**Larissa:** How remarkable. With all that being said, I'd like to take it back to the beginning. What made you take that internship in Washington D.C.?

**Camille:** It was with Congressman John Rutherford and it was a congressional internship. He's the congressman for Jacksonville which is my hometown, and I helped do admin things—led tours of the capital building, helped constituents by answering phones, emails, and writing down concerns. But I got that through my Florida House internship. They advertise themselves as Florida's embassy, and it's the only quote on quote state embassy on the Hill. But it's pretty much a welcome center for Floridians, and they host Florida delegation speakers and other events at the House. And they set you up with a congressman or congresswoman in Florida, and I just asked for him because of Jacksonville.

**Larissa:** I'm sure that was some great experience. So then to go a step further, why did you choose to pursue your master's degree in London?

**Camille:** I actually come from a pretty international background. My dad was a foreign service officer, and my mom is from the Philippines and was born and raised there. My parents met while my dad was working in the Philippines teaching English to Vietnamese refugees. It's funny when I'm saying it all because it really is an international background. My parents lived in Africa, and I was born in London because they were in Africa and were sent to have me in London. Then I lived in D.C. until I was around 4, and then finally came to Jacksonville. My dad was also the director of international affairs at [the University of North Florida], so he was always traveling. He spearheaded the study abroad program at UNF, so I always heard about it. Since I was studying health and biomedical science, I was talking to my dad about how badly I wished I had studied abroad for international relations. I was thinking about studying abroad for grad school, but my dad said it was silly to go abroad for two weeks to spend a couple thousand dollars, when I could just go abroad for my whole degree. I began looking all around Europe, but I only speak English unfortunately, so a lot of the programs I wanted weren't offered in English elsewhere, so I knew going to the UK was the best fit for me. I found King's and it was one of the highest-ranking colleges in the world at the time, so I applied on a whim but got in. I applied to get in through international relations and I was denied, but then I was accepted into their Conflict, Security and Development program and I think it's because I was already working

## INTERVIEW WITH CAMILLE ROBINSON (continued)

By Larissa Hamblin

with Women's and Gender studies, and I was working with the YWLP. The YWLP is the Young Women Leaders Program, which allows UCF students to get paired up with 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls after school as a mentorship program. I incorporated it into the development work I've done, and, in my essay, I tied all my experience into global health and development. If I didn't get it, I don't know what I would have done.

**Larissa:** So, what made you so interested in studying Women's and Gender studies?

**Camille:** Through YWLP, I became really interested. Throughout college, I was always interested in women's studies. With YWLP, I met a lot of people and a professor, Anne, and she became my mentor at UCF just for everything, and I'm still really close to her. I just became more interested in it, then I took Anne's class, *Global and Transnational Feminism*, during my senior year. We were learning more about dowry deaths in India, and child marriages in Afghanistan for 12-year-old girls, and I knew I wanted to do something in the field to stop that.

**Larissa:** You've gone through some schooling now, so are you looking to continue to further your education or are you going to start looking for a position within the field?

**Camille:** Right now, the thesis was really hard for me and I want to put a Ph.D. off for a few years. I'm not going to say no completely to that, but if I did, it would be something in sociology. I'm looking all around right now, especially since I need to work on making funds, so I'm in the process of applying to jobs. I would love to work for a development agency or a non-profit that focuses on women, but I don't know if that's what I can do right now. I'm also looking in the defense industry as well. Just getting out of school, I'm going to just put my foot in the water and see what comes up. I would love to work for the U.N. or Women's U.N. as a diplomat to work for women and children and their families. It's stressful, but I have a lot to try out for.

**Larissa:** What's one thing that you would want to tell a student looking to major or minor in Women's and Gender Studies who may be steered away by criticism?

**Camille:** I would emphasize that feminists don't hate men. Women's and Gender Studies is the study of people that are marginalized in other places of the world and even in the U.S. today. It's really interesting to study and learn from a perspective not always heard about

mainstream. And Women's and Gender Studies is not only about studying struggles. Of course, you have to learn about the hardships and struggles of women in history, but you also learn about good things too, like how we interact with our communities and other celebratory moments. I feel like a lot of people will say you can't or won't do anything with the field, but at the end of the day, it's critical thinking and broadening your horizons. At the end of the day, women are the centers of community. We are important, and without us, how will any human even be born? It's important to remember that it's about women and anybody of any gender – at its core, it's just the study of people. Keep an open mind. You will learn a lot. It's integral to all fields as well. Even in medical fields, you have to know women's struggles to identify their situation and what someone's life may look like at home. I want to create awareness and emphasize that women are people too, and that we deserve equality to men in our everyday lives. We deserve to feel safe. We deserve to not have to think twice about what we're wearing, where we're going. We deserve to feel normal, and I know it's going to take a long time, but we can get there.

*[We want to thank Camille and Larissa. These young ladies will continue the work begun by so many before them. We will continue to support their efforts, and we wish them the best in all their future endeavors. ed.]*