

## **CWSGR Internship: Friends of Wild Iris**

**Address:** 802 W. University Ave  
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**Best time to call:** M-F, 11:00am-7:00pm  
**Website:** <http://fowi.friendsofwildiris.org/involved/>

**Contact Person:** Erica Merrell  
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### **Brief description/mission:**

Friends of Wild Iris is a non-profit organization created to support the community space traditionally represented by Wild Iris Books. We have found that the mission of a "safe space" for our community often differs from the motive of a for-profit organization. We want to continue to provide a community center for the sharing of ideas and exploration of how we can better impact our society.

### **Mission Statement:**

To create social, educational and cultural opportunities to empower a diverse feminist community.

**Number of Hours/Credits:** 10 hours/week for a 3-credit internship; most of the work is done on site.

**Schedule Requirements:** Flexible, but once a weekly schedule is set (e.g. Monday, 9-2; Wednesdays, 9-5, etc.) interns will work that schedule all semester.

**Prerequisites/Qualifications:** The only qualifications required for our internship are knowledge about and interest in the issues our organization deals with; a good attitude and professional demeanor; and willingness to work.

### **What activities will the intern take part in, and how do they relate to Women's/Gender studies?**

Interns will be involved in a variety of activities relating to the establishment of a small non-profit feminist community organization. They may work on fundraising activities, coordinate volunteer efforts, help to implement existing programs and research, organize, and execute new ones. Ongoing FOWI programs with which interns may assist include a monthly Arts Walk; readings, speakers, and musical performances at Wild Iris Books; spoken word events and concerts by national touring groups; and Pride Days celebration activities. In the past, interns have helped to organize directories of women-owned businesses and women's services in North Central Florida, created a calendar called "Celebrate Women!" that features work by local artists, and developed the FOWI myspace account for networking and promotional activities. All FOWI activities are undertaken in the spirit of the mission statement above, making them directly relevant to the feminist aims of Women's Studies. This internship will be useful to any student interested in pursuing work in community education or organizing, arts and educational programming, event planning or fundraising.