

WOMEN'S CENTER



VOICES

WHERE ALL THE PIECES COME TOGETHER.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Happy Spring! The Spring semester is always one of our busiest times - we get ready to say “goodbye” to our graduating seniors; we are interviewing and hiring students for both next year’s staff and as Summer Orientation facilitators; and finalizing the plans for two of our signature programs, the Outstanding Senior Women Academic Achievement Awards and the Women’s Advance Conference. And with all of that, we are still celebrating our 40th anniversary. The year continues to be one of reflection and celebration.

Reflection has been an important part of the process to address the “Shenanigans” episode that angered many folks both on and off campus earlier this semester. I am pleased to report that the leadership of UCTV and of UConn Students Against Rape Culture have been in ongoing dialogue about how to move forward that have included policy revisions, training opportunities, and ways to promote ongoing collaboration. The dedication and critical reflection these students have demonstrated is a testament to the power of community solutions in times of crisis.

Celebration is definitely in the air with the end of the semester and Commencement on the horizon. In this issue you’ll hear from some of the student staff who will be leaving the Women’s Center this semester to start the next chapter of their lives. We’ve also included a tribute to Michele Labonte, who is retiring from the University this year. Michele has been an indefatigable supporter of the Women’s Center for many years. She enthusiastically gives of herself as a longstanding member of the Advisory Board, the Women’s Advance Planning Committee, and as a donor. We wish her all the best, as she too begins a new chapter. You’ll also get to hear about this year’s “Take Back the Night” event, “Ain’t I a Woman” reception, and Equal Pay Day initiative. And finally, a member of the Host Committee for this year’s New Female Faculty Luncheon will share with you her thoughts on the importance of celebrating the addition of new women faculty into the University’s community of scholars.

We hope you enjoy reading about all of the exciting activities of the Center. And don’t forget to come visit us in June during Alumni Weekend!

- Kathleen Holgerson, April 2012

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Are You a Women’s Center Alumna/us?

We hope you will join us during **Alumni Weekend** on Saturday, June 2nd from 2—4 p.m. for a panel discussion on the UConn Reads selection, *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression Into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* and a reception celebrating the Women’s Center’s 40th anniversary.

We also encourage you to join the **Husky Alumni Network!**

It’s a free service that helps us to ensure we have your most recent contact information for newsletters, event invitations, and so much more.

Also, become a member of the **Women’s Center’s Group on Facebook!**

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PREVENTION PROGRAM



Since 1980, the *Violence Against Women Prevention Program (VAWPP)* has served as the point program on campus for providing education, advocacy, and support services on the issues of violence against women, consent, bystander empowerment, and how to find resources on and off campus. As part of the Women's Center's work on campus, VAWPP trains peer educators through a one-credit Women's Studies course; conducts workshops during Orientation programs and First Year Experience courses; and sponsors events throughout the year to promote the Women's Center's principles of education, advocacy, support and gender equity.

THE MEN'S PROJECT

The Men's Project is an 11-week training for UConn men. Meetings are held weekly and focus on topics relating to gender socialization, masculinities, privilege and gender violence prevention. The Men's Project's goal is to train men who will then positively influence their peers by challenging other men to examine their own socialization, and to prevent things like sexual assault and domestic violence.

Andrew L. Stewart shares reflections of his journey through The Men's Project:

Why We Don't Cry: Men and the End of Sexual Violence

I made sure that no one was around when I started to cry. I felt awful. Sitting for two hours listening to two women tell me details of their rapes made my chest feel heavy, my stomach feel sick, and my mind race from thought to thought to thought. I couldn't make eye contact with anyone. As I left, I cried when no one was around. This session of the Men's Project left me feeling guilty, angry, and motivated to do something.

The next week when we all returned to the Men's Project, one of the facilitators asked me how I thought the survivors' panel went. I told him that it made *me* angry. He asked my "why," and I told him that the stories upset *me* and made *me* realize that rape was a real problem that *I* needed to confront. These stories made the problem concrete and "real" to *me*. The facilitator then started our session and told the entire group that the survivors' panel that we attended was "bad."

The questions we asked were victim blaming. I remember when one man asked what women can do to prevent their own rapes. The survivors were sitting in a corner of the room with all of us surrounding them. They felt trapped. Men in the Men's Project walked in 20, and even 30, minutes late while these women were telling us the most intimate details of the worst moments of their lives. Some men even approached these women on campus and thanked them in public—in front of other people including strangers!—for sharing their sexual assault stories with us. We disrespected them, disempowered them, and made them feel like helpless victims. Both women returned to therapy and left that institution for a while because of the Men's Project.

I immediately felt horrible and worried. Not only had I been a part of the re-victimization of sexual assault survivors, but I had also only been focused on how *I* felt. I was concerned with *my* guilt, *my* anger, and *my* tears. I was being selfish and blissfully ignorant of how the survivors were experiencing my silence. I had created distance between myself and the women.

Andrea Dworkin asked, "Why are you so slow?" I was slow to realize that these women were human to precisely the same degree as me. This is a fundamental problem with men's role in ending violence against women. Men are so slow.

The Men's Project is a sexual assault primary prevention program that targets college men, who have a history of *not* being involved in the women's movement and fighting for women's rights. The Men's Project therefore provides an introduction for men who may not be aware of the problems of gender-based violence. The Men's Project is successful at reducing sexist attitudes, reducing sexist behaviors, and increasing feminist activism behaviors among the men who participate in the program.

THE MEN'S PROJECT

Apathy and psychological distance from the problems are the largest obstacles to engaging men to work toward ending sexual violence. Most men do not feel culpable or complicit in the subordination of women even though *all people* are in some way. It takes a community of apathetic and silent people to allow sexual assault to thrive. Distance prevents men from feeling *something* about sexual violence. Men are not angry about sexual assault, and they don't cry when they think of the experiences of sexual assault survivors. Instead, men joke about rape, which further diminishes the problem and creates even more distance, and when men are faced with sexual violence, they either feel pity toward survivors or famously blame the victim. To me, pity functions as a way to feel bad about a problem, but it also absolves someone of any responsibility, and pity seems to suggest that the problem belongs solely to the survivor. Blaming the victim is, well, inane.

Most people who actively work toward ending sexual violence are emotionally connected to the problem, either by being a survivor or secondary survivor of sexual violence. They feel anger toward perpetrators, empathy toward survivors, and guilt about their own privilege and inaction. The men who join the Men's Project are diverse with respect to their emotional connection to sexual violence. Some men are survivors, so the Men's Project is a way for them to gain clarity and understanding about themselves, to cope with their history with sexual violence, and to learn ways to prevent sexual violence. Other men know survivors and have been affected by their stories, yet do not know what to do. Other men are completely unaware of the breadth and depth of the problem, except for some vague notion that sexual violence is wrong. For these men, the Men's Project is educational and emotional. They feel guilt about their unearned advantage of being a man, anger about the breadth sexual violence, and empathy with survivors. The Men's Project connects men to the problems of sexual violence, makes them feel personally responsible for supporting a rape culture, and motivates them to rid themselves of this culpability.

The official quote of the Men's Project is:

"If you have come here to help me, please go home; but if you have come because your liberation is somehow bound to mine, then we may work together." - *An Aboriginal Woman*

I strongly believe that men's lives are worse because of sexual violence. First, being a perpetrator of sexual violence is obviously something that no one wants to do and is harmful to the men who perpetrate the violence. Even rapists do not want to be seen as responsible for raping their victims, so they attempt to blame their victims for their own rapes, absolving themselves from responsibility. Second, sexual violence affects the people we care about the most. My life is worse knowing that my 9 year old niece has a 25% chance of being raped. The terror that rapists propagate harms entire communities. Third, we know that men's attitudes and behaviors encourage a small percentage of men to commit acts of sexual violence. Potent masculinity norms that prescribe domination and proscribe being dominated force men to act in ways that hurt other people. Men are praised for being violent, tough, sexually promiscuous, angry, and manipulative. Do we really want men to always be like this? Men suffer because rape exists.

Working with men to end sexual violence is difficult because they have been socialized to separate themselves from the problem, but the Men's Project aims to disrupt these habits and connect men to the problem. Most men who finish the Men's Project are committed activists who propagate egalitarian beliefs and influence their own social networks.

I try to continuously remind myself that I personally contribute to a rape supportive culture even though I am deeply committed to gender equity. I never want to be complacent and feel comfortable until rape is gone. Every time I objectify women or remain silent when I hear sexist language or see sexist behavior, I criticize myself. I remind myself that I have just encouraged a rapist to commit rape and that I (along with everyone in my community) am personally responsible for gender-based violence.

When I first heard those two women tell me their survivor stories, I wanted to cry. But these issues are larger than me. They transcend any one person and affect communities around the world. We must all realize that we are part of a community that allows sexual violence to not only occur, but to *thrive*. Working with men, including the work I have done with myself, has taught me that we all must remain actively committed to criticize ourselves and our actions in order to end sexual violence.

- *Andrew L. Stewart*

THE MEN'S PROJECT

Like most other men participating, I had no idea what to expect from the Men's Project. The previous semester, I had taken a sociology class called "Race, Class, and Gender" which focused on the inequalities faced by each, and how they intersected. This was essentially my first real exposure to these types of problems. Coming from a middle class, white, and suburban town, I certainly didn't have too much personal experience with these issues. While I don't think that I was an ignorant person, I was definitely ignorant to a lot of what was going on around me all over the world (and even in my own state).

After taking the sociology class, I knew immediately that I needed to learn more. Coincidentally, it was around that time that I was invited to join the Men's Project. As cliché as it is, I can honestly say that the Men's Project opened up my eyes and changed my life. At a superficial level, it provided facts and information about issues pertaining to gender inequality, masculinity, and other related issues. But it went much deeper than that. The Men's Project changed the way that I think and how I reflect. I found myself analyzing things what other people said and did, and even things that I said and did. I am not a very confrontational person, but it gave me the tools that I needed to have these sorts of discussions with my families and friends.

Gender inequality issues are as much a man's problem as they are a woman's, and the Men's Project helped me to realize that. Some people say that ignorance is bliss, but if I had the choice, I would never want to go back to not being informed about these issues. They are real, they are here, and we all need to work as one to do something about them. Men and women together.

- Paul Steller

If you are interested or know of men who may be, please forward potential candidates' names and all known contact information, to VAWPP Coordinator Venida Rodman Jenkins at 860-486-4738 or e-mail Men's Project Facilitators Andrew Stewart or Bryce Crapser at andrew.stewart@uconn.edu or bryce.crapser@uconn.edu.

BEFORE I GO, I'D LIKE TO SAY...



"Anything I could write about the Women's Center would fall short of expressing just how important it has been to my undergraduate experience. The Women's Center has given me the opportunity to grow, to learn to think critically, and to become a better leader. It has given me a home - a place where I feel safe and comfortable expressing myself. I've learned so much from both the full time staff and the other student employees at the Women's Center, and have met many intelligent, dynamic women that I hope to model myself after. It means so much to find other people who care passionately about the same issues that I do. After graduation, I would like to find work as a community organizer for reproductive justice issues. The most important thing I've learned at the Women's Center is about change. I've learned that change is slow and incremental. It is not found primarily in laws, policies, or institutions, but in individuals. It is the transformation of consciousness witnessed in individual people that gives me hope and the faith required to continue working for what I believe in." *- Tess Koegnismark*

AIN'T I A WOMAN RECEPTION

Over 60 students, faculty, and staff members gathered in the Student Union Ballroom to celebrate the diversity of women's identities at the "Ain't I a Woman" reception on Tuesday, April 10. The title of this event comes from [Sojourner Truth's 1851 speech](#), which was read in the beginning moments of this event. In this speech, Sojourner Truth calls for a more inclusive definition of the word "woman".

Five panelists – President Susan Herbst, Professor Marysol Asencio, Professor Doreen Simons, Graduate student Cheryl Bell, and Undergraduate student Kelsey Barringham – shared how their identities as women are challenged, often because of how their identity as a woman intersects with their identity as a young person, an academic, a single mother, a racial/ethnic minority, or as a person in the Deaf community. Although the panelists differed from one another on various demographic characteristics, they identified similar ways to overcome these challenges to their identity.



Image credit: Women's Center

The panelists gave great advice to their peers. President Herbst encouraged women to excel in their profession of interest. She encouraged women to be the best at what they chose, because there is no better evidence to your success than the hard work that you put in. Cheryl Bell, the graduate student panelist, advised her audience to take comfort and seek support through your family. She explains that they always have her best interest at heart, and although they may not know the right thing to say/do all the time, they care about you. Professor Simons also offered similar advice, saying that coming from a family that has a hereditary condition, she was offered the most support that she could ask for.



Professor Doreen Simons & President Susan Herbst

Image credit: Women's Center

Later, attendees engaged in a discussion about gender inequality in the developing world. Each table was assigned to read and to discuss a story from "[Half the Sky: Turning Oppression Into Opportunity for Women Worldwide](#)," a book written by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn that was selected as the inaugural book for the [UConn Reads](#) program. To conclude the event, participants engaged in a larger group discussion about future steps they can take to fight gender inequality. Suggestions included doing the extensive research regarding organizations that you plan on donating to, as well as participating in gender equality and equity in a local way by encouraging women to empower themselves and providing the best information on resources available. The discussion revolved around the fact that while it is important to help abroad, there are women at a local level that are suffering or have suffered gender inequality and could benefit from help that we can offer as educated citizens.

Katerina Montero, the co-mistress of ceremonies and a member of the planning committee, believes that it is important for the university community to openly discuss issues related to gender inequality in the United States and worldwide. She feels that the first step in ending gender inequality begins with engaging and educating the public on such issues. Especially on a university campus as big as UConn, the best way to create interest is by holding events where students can interact and engage in conversation with their peers, as well as their educators, in a less formal environment than a classroom.

- Katerina Montero & Angela C. White

DONOR PROFILE: MICHELE LABONTE



Tell us a little about yourself.

I have been a member of [Student Health Services](#) (SHS) for almost 20 years. I began my position here as the Women's Clinic Coordinator, and worked as an APRN in Women's Health. For the past 9 years, I have served as the Nursing Director. Working within the [Division of Student Affairs](#) has presented me with wonderful opportunities for growth, both professionally and personally. You cannot find better, more committed staff members anywhere that practice the "Students First" philosophy with greater pride. And that philosophy is definitely one that has been a part of the Women's Center for years!

I have two great accomplishments this year: I'm celebrating 40 years as a nurse, and retiring from a position and a university community I love. I am also a UConn graduate from [School of Nursing](#), Master's Program.

Why did you become involved with the Women's Center?

Prior to my position here, I worked for [Planned Parenthood in Willimantic](#), and became familiar with activities that were sponsored by the Center. The Women's Center has always been visible in the community, and because of my position it was important to be aware of the issues that students were experiencing.

When I started at UConn, I immediately became connected with the staff as a liaison for our SHS. I served on the early rendition of what has now become the [Community Response Team](#) (CRT). I was also privileged to attend a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) training program as a result of a grant obtained by the Women's Center.

What do you believe is the Women Center's most important goal?

One of the most important goals that the Women's Center devotes much energy and resources to is that of education. The Women's Center provides programming that is inclusive of all genders, races, and ages, providing information, referral sources, and thought-provoking conversation. The staff is wonderful and nurturing to both students and staff alike.

How does students' involvement with the Women's Center (and other cultural centers) enrich their UConn experience?

I believe that the students involved with the Women's Center are enriched for a lifetime. They gain strength as advocates, the ability to verbalize their feelings in a very supportive environment, and become productive citizens within their communities.

What are some of the most important programs, for you, the Women's Center organizes/sponsors?

I have really enjoyed being a part of the Advisory Board. Also, I've been a member of the Women's Advance Planning Committee for many years; CRT; and [The Vagina Monologues](#).

What's the best piece of advice you've ever been given?

It isn't a piece of advice, but a very moving gesture that I will never forget was when my daughter, Sarah, presented me and my mother with a square on the Women's Center's quilt. She truly honored us both, and she has become a wonderful, strong woman herself!

DONOR PROFILE: MICHELE LABONTE

Why do you donate to the Women's Center? And what do you hope your donations/generosity will contribute to, specifically?

I donate to the Women's Center because it is my way of honoring women I love, and in memory of those I have lost, and as a way to ensure that the great work of our future generation can be enhanced. One of the greatest gifts I have received from the Women's Center has been to provide me with an environment that fosters growth and enhancement in areas of gender, race/ethnicity, and other group identities. The Women's Centers raises my consciousness and, perhaps, takes me outside my own comfort zone in a supportive manner.



Photo credit: Women's Center

Why should others give to the Women's Center and support its mission?

I would advocate for everyone on campus to utilize this wonderful Center, support its mission, and take advantage of the staff and their expertise. It is a warm and welcoming environment for both students and staff alike. And you will meet a group of happy and engaged student workers!

- Ryan Lee Gilbert

LETTER FROM WOMEN'S ADVANCE COMMITTEE

Dear Conference Participants:

On behalf of the Women's Advance Planning Committee, we welcome you to the 2012 Women's Advance Conference as we celebrate our 20th year. We are pleased to offer you an exciting program this year on location at the University's Avery Point Campus overlooking Long Island Sound. This year's theme, "Empowered Women Build Strong Communities: Raising Voices – Creating Change" will provide a day long agenda of thought provoking and inspiring topics.



Our keynote will be delivered by a panel of three women who were part of Wally Lamb's writing group at York Correctional. Lareese, Deborah and Kathleen will discuss how their lives were transformed through their writings and how that in turn assisted them in successfully transitioning from prison to society.

We will end our day with an address by Liz Scott of Alex's Lemonade. Liz, a UConn alum, will tell the story of how her daughter's personal tragedy turned into the Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation. In between, there will be an exceptional complement of presenters who will help us become more empowered through using our voices to create the change we aspire.

The Committee extends its congratulations to the Women's Center in their celebration of 40 years of advocating, educating, and promoting Gender Equity at the University and within the community at large.

We are grateful to the Women's Center, our presenters, and our attendees for the continued support to produce a conference that year after year delivers a forum for educational and networking opportunities as well as personal and professional growth. Click [here](#) to register for the 2012 UConn Women's Advance Conference.

Thank you.

*- Eileen Boisseau & Jane Desrosiers
Co-Chairs, Women's Advance Planning Committee*

“TAKE BACK THE NIGHT” ENCOURAGES UCONN STUDENTS TO SPEAK OUT



Photo credit: Women's Center

Take Back the Night is an annual event organized by the Women's Center and the Violence Against Women Prevention Program (VAWPP) to raise awareness about sexual assault on campus. This year, the event was held on Wednesday, April 18 in the Student Union Ballroom.

Whitney Johnson, a VAWPP Teaching Assistant, and Tess Koenigsmark, the VAWPP Program Assistant, had been working hard to organize this important event along with members of the VAWPP class. The theme of this year's event was "Creating Change One Voice at a Time." This was meant to encourage people to speak out against sexual assault and the attitudes that perpetuate it. One voice speaking out - challenging sexist language,

refusing to blame the victim, or promoting sexual consent - can make a difference.

Take Back the Night offers a unique opportunity to bring the UConn community together around issues such as sexual assault and domestic violence. These issues rarely get the attention they deserve, despite the pervasiveness of sexual assault on college campuses. It's estimated that approximately 1 in 4 college women will be the victim of rape or an attempted rape while in college. Yet, only a fraction of sexual assaults are ever reported, and victims are often made to feel that they are somehow responsible for the actions of the perpetrator. In addition, while women account for the majority of sexual assault victims, men are also victims of sexual assault. Take Back the Night is a stand against all sexual violence, regardless of who the victim is or the type of relationship or circumstance in which the assault occurs.

The event began at 7 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom with a rally featuring keynote speaker Nikki McGary. McGary is a UConn Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies graduate student who has taught classes such as "Women and Violence" and has earned the admiration of her students. There was also a performance by the dance group ENCORE. At 8 p.m., there was a candle-lit march through campus. This was followed by the Survivor Speak Out at 9 p.m., at which survivors have the chance to share their stories. The Speak Out is a transformative experience, both for those who share their stories and those who have the privilege to hear them. At 10 p.m. there was a coffee house in the Women's Center to allow people to relax and reflect on the experience of Take Back the Night. With this annual event, and the year-round activism of dedicated student and employees at UConn, we hope to create a safer, more just campus.

- *Tess Koenigsmark*

BEFORE I GO, I'D LIKE TO SAY...

"When I came here four years ago, I found family I didn't even know I had. I learned a ton, laughed more than any normal human should, and had some of the best times of my life thus far. Everything I have accomplished at UConn is in some way tied to my time at the Women's Center. As I leave this place, I carry a piece of each person who has supported me in my journey as a Nurse and Feminist. I am forever indebted to you. Thank you!"

- *Nisha Wali*



Photo credit: Nisha Wali

EQUAL PAY & \$TART \$MART

Equal Pay Day is a day meant to remind us that women are still paid less than men. It is often argued that overt sexism no longer exists in our modern society, but I'd argue against that idea seeing as a woman makes less than a man for the *same* work. Women make only 77 cents to a man's \$1. That can add up to over 1 million dollars in a woman's life time! Although the Lilly Ledbetter Fair pay Act was passed in 2009, we have not seen a quick closing of the wage gap that exists between women and men.

Equal Pay Day marks the day that a woman has to work to until she has caught up with a man's salary. In other words, a woman must work all of January, February, and March and then until the 17th of April before she can be at the same salary mark a man was at on January 1st. The Women's Center will be handing out pink "77 cent dollars" on April 17th (Equal Pay Day) to raise awareness about the gender wage gap. The Women's Center will also be hosting a workshop for women called \$tart \$mart, put on by The Wage Project

(<http://www.wageproject.org/>). The workshop will touch on salary negotiation skills as well as other key financial information such as balancing a budget. A key finding in equal pay research has shown that women don't negotiate for higher pay or feel that they deserve higher pay in the same ways that men do. Another way that unequal pay persists is that discrimination in the workplace goes unreported and unpunished.

The workshop will provide skillsets and allow participants to practice them for negotiating a higher and deserved salary. The workshop will also give participants important financial information that is rarely touched upon in our formal education, but essential to our survival in the real world.

For more information be sure to check out the sources provided!



Image credit: www.nature.com



Image credit: www.wageproject.org

- Emily Pizzale

BEFORE I GO, I'D LIKE TO SAY...



Photo credit: Emily Pizzale

"It's hard to put into just a few sentences what the Women's Center has meant to me, but I'll try. The Women's Center has meant a sense of community, hope, and passion for the future. It has meant support, laughs and lots of tears. The Women's Center has been the largest factor in shaping me into the young woman I am today. I would be in a much different place had I experienced my undergraduate years without the Women's Center being a part of that. The Women's Center provided me with the tools to change the world and make amazing connections with all sorts of people. I will be attending Simmons this fall in Boston to pursue my MSW Degree (Masters in Social Work). I hope to work with families, women, and children in the future as a clinical social worker. My favorite thing I've learned while at UConn has definitely been how alive and well feminism truly is today, and what a great support network women and activists can be to one another."

- Emily Pizzale

NEW FEMALE FACULTY LUNCHEON

On Tuesday, March 20, the Women's Center hosted a luncheon for new UConn female faculty members. The goal of the luncheon is to introduce the Women's Center to the University's new female faculty and also to provide a venue for networking. Dr. Andrea Hubbard, Associate Professor of Pharmacology & Toxicology and Associate Dean of the School of Pharmacy, is a member of the luncheon's host committee. Dr. Hubbard says the luncheon provides a unique occasion for faculty members to discuss the criteria and challenges of promotion, tenure, and child care, among other important issues.

"One of the issues that have come up is negotiation strategies for salary, teaching load, and service load for new and established female faculty members," says Dr. Hubbard. "The luncheon has allowed us to get to know men and women who have been here for a while, but, especially, new people at the University. It has been a very enriching experience for me."

At UConn and many other universities across the country, more male faculty members typically hold higher positions and there are usually more full-time male professors. Dr. Hubbard points out that UConn has a female president, two "phenomenal vice provosts," and a female police chief, but that the University still needs more female deans and department heads.

"There absolutely has been some movement in the right direction," says Dr. Hubbard. "But we really need to have more women apply, especially in the science departments. That's another reason why the luncheon is vital – it can be a really significant introduction to people outside of your department."

Dr. Hubbard also uses the New Female Faculty Luncheon as an opening to network and impart bits of wisdom and advice with new faculty members. "I like to share with them that if their time affords it, they should consider every opportunity that comes their way," she says. "Scholarship and teaching responsibilities obviously come first, but you never know where some of these opportunities will take you. My career has been significantly shaped by the people I've met and the opportunities I've taken."

- *Ryan Lee Gilbert*

BEFORE I GO, I'D LIKE TO SAY...



"The Women's Center has enhanced my college experience by not only teaching me about advocacy and how it plays a role in my life, but also by giving me opportunities to incorporate my passions into my work. It has provided for me an environment in which I have been able to push myself to achieve more than I had expected."

- *Parag Bhuya*

"The Women's Center made my final year at UConn something special. I had the opportunity to make great friends, and learn about issues that aren't just important to women—they're important to all of us who care about equality, respect, and education. I will carry my experiences at the Women's Center with me into my career and the rest of my life. The opportunities, the challenges, and the successes have made me a better advocate and person."

- *Ryan Lee Gilbert*



WOMEN'S CENTER



SUPPORT THE WOMEN'S CENTER EDUCATION | ADVOCACY | SUPPORT | GENDER EQUITY

The University Of Connecticut's Women's Center is committed to our work with students, staff, and faculty in an effort to promote gender equity on campus. Our efforts are spread widely throughout the University Community and support all aspects of the University's mission of teaching, research, and service. We are a key contributor to the University's priorities of supporting an engaged undergraduate experience, enhancing the institution's research portfolio, and increasing the diversity of our community. While we are proud of our successes, we need your help to support and enhance this work.

Dear Friends of the Women's Center:

Help celebrate the Women's Center 40th anniversary with a contribution to the Women's Center's General Fund or the 100 Years of Women Scholarship Fund. Your donation ensures that the major activities of the Women's Center can continue to address areas of priority around gender equity.

Your gift can support:

- *Student participation in a variety of out-of-class academic experiences, such as regional and national conferences*
- *The Women of Color Recognition Award Celebration*
- *The 100 Years of Women Scholarship*
- *Enhanced programming in honor of the Women's Center's 40th anniversary*
- *Program development around issues of gender equity and social justice on campus, such as our continued work through our Violence Against Women Prevention Program to educate our community on and advocate for the prevention of sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and sexual harassment on campus.*

As we recognize the Women's Center's 40-year herstory of education, advocacy, and support, your contribution to the Women's Center enhances the collective of voices at our University in our pursuit of gender equity. If you haven't already, I hope you'll join me in supporting the programs and services of the Women's Center by making a gift of \$4 (or \$14, \$24, \$40) today. If you have already, thank you for your past support, and we hope you will consider increasing your contribution for the 40th anniversary.

For more information on ways to support the Women's Center, please visit our giving page at <http://womenscenter.uconn.edu/about/donate.php>
Or, visit the [UConn Foundation's giving site](#), select "other" under Purpose and include one of the following designations:
Women's Center: #20447

Need Help Now?

contact the Community Response Team

Domestic Violence Program, United Services, Inc
(860) 456-9476 - Willimantic Area

Sexual Assault Crisis Services of Eastern Connecticut
456-2789

Women's Center
(860) 486-4738

Student Health Services
(860) 486-4700

University Police
911 or (860) 486-4900 (for routine calls)

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Women's Center website. It features a navigation menu with links for HOME, ABOUT US, SUPPORT, EDUCATION/ADVOCACY, and ISSUES. There are sections for Events, Featured (Students United for Reproductive Justice), News (For New York Women, Collaborative Project, First Walk, UConn A Month to End Women's Learning, The New Play Company), and a DONATE button. A 'GET INVOLVED' button is also visible.

← **Don't forget to check out our new website!**

We welcome you to visit UConn's Women's Center!

We are located at:
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