

WOMEN'S  
CENTER



# VOICES

*WHERE ALL THE PIECES COME TOGETHER.*

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to 2012, which marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Women’s Center. This will be a year of reflection, celebration, and transition for the Center.

*Reflection* – For this edition, our Newsletter Editor, Ryan Gilbert, interviewed some of the women who were active on campus around the establishment of the Center. Their activism is part of the herstory of the Center, which continues to inform how we approach the work of gender equity on campus. And the need for gender equity work is still alive and well in 2012.

You may have heard about the recently aired episode of “Shenanigans” on UCTV that portrayed a woman’s interactions with the blue lights on campus while she was being pursued by a rapist. While the video has been removed, this incident reminds us that the work of addressing sexual assault on campus is still needed. The behaviors and attitudes that connect rape with humor still exist. We applaud the students who have organized discussions and protests to make clear that not all of the UConn community finds this funny.

We also would like to highlight the University’s selection of *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* as the inaugural book for the [UConn Reads](#) initiative. This is a wonderful opportunity for the UConn community to come together to raise our collective awareness on gender equity issues on a global scale; to critically discuss the themes of education, health, economics, power, and privilege; and to strategize on how, as a community, we can be actively engaged in the movement to dismantle sexism and other forms of oppression.

*Celebration* – While our main anniversary event will be held this Fall, we aren’t going to let the Spring semester pass without recognizing this important milestone. Our theme for the 40<sup>th</sup> is “Voices for Equity”, and we are hosting many of our signature programs with an anniversary twist.

*Transition* - In October, we were notified that the Women’s Center and the other cultural centers would now be housed in the Division of Student Affairs. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our Student Affairs colleagues for the many warm welcomes we received. We have worked closely with many departments in the Division previously and are looking forward to our continued collaborations. While this move reinforces the critical work of the Women’s Center related to supporting students in their academic and activist development, we want to remind the community that our education, advocacy, and support work with staff and faculty remains a central component of the Center.

I would also like to take this opportunity to highlight the [Sexual Assault Response Policy](#) and the [UConn Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Policy](#) that were both recently adopted by the University’s Board of Trustees. We encourage all students, staff, and faculty to review these policies and contact us with any questions. Employees must be fully educated on the expectations of how and how much information to request of a student who discloses, so as to appropriately balance meeting the policy obligation and supporting the survivor. Likewise, students must be clear about what to expect from employees so they can make informed choices about whom to disclose to. For more information on the Women’s Center’s obligations, please review our updated “[Privacy and Scope of Services Statement for Informed Consent](#)”.

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- Kathleen Holgerson, February 2012

## 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.*

*Sean Samuels share reflections of his journey through The Men's Project:*

Throughout my time at the Men's Project, we had a lot of discussions about what it means to be a "man." Seeing a lot of different people from diverse backgrounds talk on the subject, it was very interesting. To hear other men's views different from my own was enlightening because it gave me a good insight as to how other males view what is to be a "man": whether it means always being robust and forceful versus showing emotions and being compassionate or a mixture of both. I never really thought this would've been a serious subject until I witnessed two different males with two different views on the definition of the word "man" go back and forth in an intense debate. We even went as far as to discuss sexual preferences for a man (whether straight or gay). During my experience, I was fortunate enough to have in my group different men with different sexual preferences. I say fortunate because on such a broad topic, it's always good to hear different opinions, especially from individuals with different sexual preferences because that way, you get to have a better understanding of how others think.

Other topics that stood out for me during my experiences at the Men's Project were topics concerning sexual assault, economic inequalities and verbal abuse. Whether it was a debate on college guys and understanding the phrase "date rape," a debate on unequal pay for women performing the same jobs as men, or even a debate understanding when "no means no," these types of conversations and discussions were the majority of what the Men's Project was based upon and what we, as men, can do to change any, if not every, negative issue that we come across. We even had a special visit from a few women of the VAWPP class to share their stories with us on the same topics. During that special discussion, they were kind enough to share with us their unfortunate experiences of sexual abuse they received from men in their past. This was very touching for me because I was given the opportunity to see, hear, and actually feel how some of our (men's) actions can dramatically affect others even when we don't realize it. They even brought things into perspective when we were on the topic of verbal abuse. Whether it was direct (like calling a girl a B-word) or indirect (playing sports and telling someone else to stop acting like a B-word), these situations are something that shouldn't be taken lightly because of the amount of negative impact it really has.

I was very grateful to be a part of the Men's Project because it changed me a lot. Personally, my greatest change, thanks to the Men's Project, is my view on individuals with different sexual preferences than my own. Based on my upbringing, I was quick to judge gay individuals, but thanks to this project, I no longer judge them in any way, shape, or form. By meeting with these gentlemen (both of different backgrounds and sexual preferences), I was not only able to learn more about people who think and act different than me, I was also able to learn a lot more about myself and grow as an individual. This experience taught me how to appreciate and love those around you and most importantly to never judge anyone by how they may look, act, or walk because you may have no idea where they're coming from, and you have no idea what they're going through.

*-Sean Samuels*

# UConn Reads "Half the Sky"

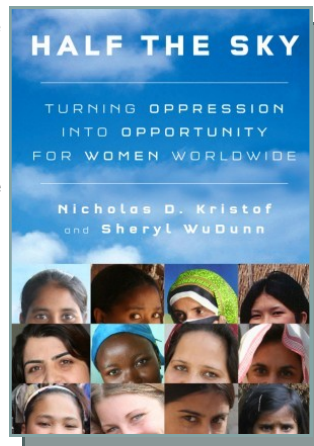
*Half the Sky* is a collection of statistics and first-hand accounts of atrocities being done to women across the world. (We're not talking about foot binding a century ago; we're talking about interviews with 14-year-old girls who were freed from brothels in the last 12 months).

"... a UN report claims that **90 percent of girls and women over the age of 3** were sexually abused in parts of Liberia during civil war there."

Liberia was engaged in civil war from 1989-1996 and again from 1999-2003. Those girls who were 3 years old and had a 90 percent chance of being raped in 1993 are only now in their early 20s. Our generation.

Of course, rape, even mass rape, is not the only topic of the book. It spends a lot of time talking about the maternal mortality rates in various countries.

There's a story of a woman who was married so young that when she got pregnant, her pelvis hadn't grown large enough to deliver a baby, so the obstructed birth had caused a [fistula](#). Also, one interviewed man said it was unfortunate that there wasn't a female doctor in his town because if his mother were sick and dying he would still forbid her from being seen by a male doctor.



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# LUNAFEST COMES TO UCONN



Photo credit: Lunafest.org

LUNAFEST's mission is to celebrate and inspire women through the art of film and community fundraising. It's a national film festival that features short films by, for and about women. LUNAFEST was established in 2000 to simultaneously promote women filmmakers, raise awareness for women's issues and support worthy women's nonprofit organizations.

The films range from animation to fictional drama. They also cover topics relating to women's health, motherhood, body image, relationships, cultural diversity, breaking barriers and more.

All proceeds from LUNAFEST are donated to charity. 85% of profits are donated to local nonprofit organizations, and the remaining 15% goes to LUNA's primary cause partner, the Breast Cancer Fund.

This year's local beneficiary is the University of Connecticut Women's Center. We are also thrilled to be combining this year's LUNAFEST with the celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UConn Women's Center whose goal is to promote gender equity through education, advocacy, and support. In their fifth year of hosting this event, the Women's Center staff and student body shine light on the worthy women behind the camera and encourage the UConn community to support women in the world of film.

This year, LUNAFEST will be held at the UConn Hillel Center (54 N. Eagleville Rd Storrs, CT) on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Presale tickets are \$5 for students and \$7 for general admission. Tickets at the door will be \$7 for students and \$10 for general admission. For purchase, please visit [https://secure.www.alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/UCN/event/showEventForm.jsp?form\\_id=119928&preview=UCN20120120112750\\_0](https://secure.www.alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/UCN/event/showEventForm.jsp?form_id=119928&preview=UCN20120120112750_0)

Tickets will also be sold in the Student Union Hallway (Union Street) on March 19<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Outside of those times, tickets can be purchased at the Women's Center, Student Union Room 421 from 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. - 9 p.m.

- *Brittnie Sutton*

## BESSY REYNA HONORS OUR 40TH ANNIVERSARY



**Why did you originally get involved with the Free Women's Collective and the Women's Center? What personal goals did you set for yourself when you became involved?**

Even before I ever heard of the word “feminist” and from the time I was very young, I had always struggled for the same rights and freedoms as my brother, and the males in my culture had. Most of which were denied to me simply because I was a woman. Becoming part of the women’s movement was the first time I could actualize my ideas and feelings about the inequalities we faced as women. I came to UConn as a grad student to do my MA in what was then known as Child Development and Family Relations. Finding open gay men and lesbians was not easy. In spite of this, I met several lesbians, and we started getting together pretty regularly to talk about issues affecting us as students and women, and in particular, because of the existing homophobia on campus. And, even though we knew some of the women who were active in organizing what would become the Women’s Center, we were a bit unsure that we would be accepted as a collective. It took us a while to go to one of their meetings. When we finally did, I have to say that their reaction couldn’t have been more enthusiastic. It was more like “what

took you so long. We have been waiting for you!” From that first meeting we became one of the center’s collectives. For many of us, the center became our home, a place where we could feel safe and have sometimes friendly, sometimes very heated discussions as to how to go about organizing the Center and getting the word out on campus. At that time, I also joined a few other gays and lesbians on campus who were trying to create a group, have gatherings and provide speakers to classes.

Having just graduated from Mt. Holyoke College, where I lived in a dorm, had lots of friends, and a very structured life; my arrival at UConn was like an extension of the cultural shock I first felt when I arrived in the U.S. In contrast with the small campus and togetherness of students at MHC, UConn was enormous and grad students went to classes and then took off. But because I had always been a political person before and during my studies at MHC, becoming part of the Women’s Center gave me the opportunity to not only to meet people on campus, but also to work towards the goal of equality for women.

**How does your passion for equality influence your art and poetry? When you were an opinion columnist for *The Hartford Courant*, did you use that column as a platform for championing for social causes and beliefs?**

I wrote over 100 columns in the nine years I worked as a columnist. I wrote about hate crimes, homophobia, women’s issues, issues affecting Hispanics and other minorities. I wrote also against the war in Iraq, for which I got lots of hate-mail, and about the hypocrisy of Britney Spears getting married for 72 hours, divorcing, and having the right to marry as many times as she wanted while gays who were in long-term relationships couldn’t. Another topic which brought in lots of mail, both pro-and-against, were my columns on the plight of the Palestinian people whose lands are occupied by Israel. I was doing some research on the Internet, and just by chance, found that some of my columns had been quoted in many different places, translated to other languages. I have always been very proud of my work as a columnist, and even now, almost three years after I left the *Courant*, people come to talk to me about topics I wrote about.

**Are you currently involved with the Women's Center? If so, how? What role does the Women's Center serve at UConn, and how has that role changed since when you first became involved?**

I have not been involved with the center for a very long time. Some things are different: women have more access to jobs and promotions. The idea of a woman “staying home” not because she wanted to, but because she would be labeled a “bad mother” is not part of society’s brain-washing of women as it was then. However, domestic violence, rape, teenage pregnancies are still plaguing women, and there is a lot of work to be done in those areas.

## WOMEN'S CENTER GOES TO NCCWSL

This past June, Women's Center staff members, Rachel Janik and Tess Koenigsmark, attended the National College Conference for Women Student Leaders ([NCCWSL](#)) in Washington D.C. The conference was sponsored by the American Association of University Women, and their attendance was funded by the [AAUW CT](#), [Storrs/Willimantic](#) and [Stamford/Darien/Greenwich](#) chapters, and the Women's Center.

Tess and Rachel enjoyed their experience at the 3-day conference. The conference featured workshops and speakers focused on helping students improve their leadership skills. On the last morning of the conference, they were led to the auditorium with the wonderful music of an all women percussion band that really made the streets of the campus come alive. After the performance they had the privilege of seeing Shelby Knox, a well-known feminist activist, speak at the conference.

Rachel and Tess also had the opportunity to attend workshops that interested them. There were many to choose from, and they both picked workshops relevant to their interests. One of the workshops attended was on rape culture in the United States, and specifically on college campuses. Topics such as victim blaming and self-defense were discussed, and a lot of the discussion coincided with what the Violence Against Women Prevention Program at UConn teaches. Tess and Rachel also attended a workshop held by a member of the Campus Progress organization, which dealt with LGBTQ issues and how young people can get more involved to end heteronormativity.

Another memory Tess and Rachel took away from their trip was their time spent in the city with the people that they met. The conference was a great way to bond with other women, many of whom shared the same thoughts and beliefs regarding our nation's current problems. Rachel and Tess met some wonderful people who they got to explore the city with, have great dinners and conversations, and whom they still keep in touch with today.

*- Tess Koenigsmark & Rachel Janik*

## BESSY REYNA HONORS OUR 40TH ANNIVERSARY

**What changes, if any, would you like to see the Women's Center make?**

The women who are at the center now are the ones who can determine how much of the past programs and ideas are still prevalent or necessary. I don't feel I can speak of students today who live in a technological world we didn't have. In some ways sexism in TV commercials is as bad today as it was in the 70s, and I cringe when I see an ad with the woman cooking and the guy sitting waiting to be "served."

**What issues and causes do you believe the Women's Center and its staff, faculty and volunteers should focus on to celebrate and honor the 40th Anniversary?**

It's hard to believe it's been 40 years already! I think if it would be possible to find some of the women who were involved at the beginning, and alumnae who are still in the area, it would be wonderful to have a very informal get-together, to say hi, reminisce and compare what's happening with what we believed was going to happen.

*Bessy Reyna is the author of two bilingual books of poetry, [The Battlefield of Your Body](#) and [Memoirs of the Unfaithful Lover/Memorias de la amante infiel](#). For nine years she was a monthly opinion columnist for [The Hartford Courant](#). She is the recipient of the Connecticut Center for the Book Lifetime Achievement in Service to the Literary Community Award (2009), the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education Outstanding Latina in the Literary Arts and Publications Award, the Pioneer Award at the Inaugural Diversity Awards presented by the Vice Provost for Multicultural and International Affairs at the University of Connecticut (2006), and the One Woman Makes A Difference Award from the Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund (2007).*

*- Ryan Lee Gilbert*

# Are You a Women's Center Alumna/us?

If so, please 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.

We are always interested in hearing about what you're up to, whether it be working, pursuing higher education, landing a new job, getting married, moving to a new city, starting a family, and anything else of note.

By informing us of your activities, we can keep you informed of upcoming events, share in your accomplishments, celebrate your successes, and help you out if you're in need.

Become a member of the [Women's Center's Group on Facebook!](#)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



### MARCH Women's Herstory Month

- 6 **NICKELS: A Tale of Dissociation** with Author Christine Stark  
 "Nickels: A Tale of Dissociation" follows a biracial girl named Little Miss So and So, from age 4-½ into adulthood. Told in a series of prose poems, Nickels' lyrical and inventive language conveys the dissociative states born of a world formed by persistent and brutal incest and homophobia. The dissociative states enable the child's survival and, ultimately, the adult's healing. The story is both heartbreaking and triumphant. Co-sponsored with UConn Co-Op.  
 Tuesday, 4pm, Women's Center
- 7 **Full Frontal Feminism** with Jessica Valenti  
 Feminism isn't dead. It just isn't very cool anymore. Enter Full Frontal Feminism, a book that embodies the forward-looking messages that author Jessica Valenti propagates on her popular website, Feministing.com. Covering a range of topics, including pop culture, health, reproductive rights, violence, education, and relationships, Valenti provides young women a primer on why feminism matters. Co-sponsored with SUBOG. Reception and book signing immediately following at the Women's Center  
 Wednesday, 7 p.m., Student Union Theatre
- 28 **LUNAFEST**  
 Wednesday, 6pm, Hillel  
 Reception to follow.  
 Tickets for the filmfest are pre-sale \$5 for students & \$7 for staff, faculty, & community members. Tickets at the door will be \$7 for students & \$10 for staff, faculty, & community members. For more ticket information visit [https://secure.www.alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/UCN/event/showEventForm.jsp?form\\_id=1199288&preview=UCN20120120112750\\_0](https://secure.www.alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/UCN/event/showEventForm.jsp?form_id=1199288&preview=UCN20120120112750_0)

### APRIL Sexual Assault Awareness Month

- 3 **Films Through A Feminist Gaze - The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo**  
 Join us for a discussion with feminist identified folks on this popular culture phenomenon.  
 Tuesday, 6pm, Women's Center
- 10 **"Ain't I A Woman": A celebration of the diversity of women's lived experiences**  
 Tuesday, 2pm-4pm, SU Ballroom
- 11 **Picking Cotton: Our Memoir of Injustice & Redemption**  
 An evening with the authors, Jennifer Thompson-Cannino & Ronald Cotton.  
 Wednesday, 6pm, New Classroom Building, Rm 101  
 7pm, SU Ballroom

Locations are wheelchair accessible.  
 Additional accommodations available upon request.  
 For more information contact the Women's Center at 860-486-4738



## DONOR PROFILE: DEBRA CAMPBELL



### **Tell us a little about yourself.**

For the last 7 years, I have worked in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences' Dean's Office as Program Coordinator, and I have worked at the University for more years than I care to mention. My current position is involved with all areas of development, but my responsibilities pertain mainly to donor relations and how their contributions are utilized. This means that I make sure our donors know how important they are to us, are kept informed of the College's activities and how their support has helped our students, faculty and programs. If a donor believes their contributions are making a difference, and they are appreciated, the donor will most likely continue to provide support. I know how a donor should be treated because I am one. I love to go hiking and kayaking, plus I volunteer on the Tolland Conservation Corps which is a group of people who establish and maintain trails on the Tolland's open spaces.

### **Why did you initially become involved in UConn's Women's Center?**

I initially became involved because I enjoy attending the Women's Advance Conference and the Women's Center was looking for new members to join their planning committee. I knew it was a very worthwhile effort and still do.

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

I believe the most important goal for the Women's Center is to instill a sense of power for women and others who are experiencing injustices and to provide the means necessary for people to gain control of their destiny.

### **How does involvement with the Women's Center (and other cultural centers) make students' higher education experience richer/better?**

Students who are involved with the Women's Center and other cultural centers get to experience personal growth through the acts of helping others. Most of us know about equal rights and opportunities for women and minorities but, when you are actively involved in the Women's Center, you become even more aware of the injustices still prevalent and accepted on campus, in the community, and the world. You have a keener understanding of everyone's hardships and challenges and find inspiration from those who have overcome obstacles and created a better life for themselves. Attending a university should be more than just doing well academically and receiving a degree. It should be about becoming involved in your community and making it a better place to be in. The Women's Center and cultural centers make the University a better place.

### **What changes, if any, would you like to see the Women's Center make?**

For the Women's Center to make changes it needs the support of all us of at the University. I would like to see more faculty and staff involved in working with the Women's Center. Right now there are 4 staff members and an average of 25 students per semester to plan and implement the numerous educational activities and support efforts offered each year. I serve on the Fundraising Committee and the Advisory Board. I also contribute financially to the Women's Center because I believe the Women's Center can do even more and greater things if they had more financial resources and people volunteering.

### **Best piece of advice you've ever received?**

The best advice I received was the same message but in 2 forms: First, "You don't have to say 'YES' all the time" and second, "You can say 'No' without following it with an explanation." These 2 bits of advice are powerful and easy to remember.

## DONOR PROFILE: DEBRA CAMPBELL

### Who are your heroes?

My heroes are typical people who are genuinely giving of themselves because they care about making the lives of others better. They are not being kind, helpful, or generous for recognition or personal gain.

### Why should people give to the Women's Center and/or become involved in its mission?

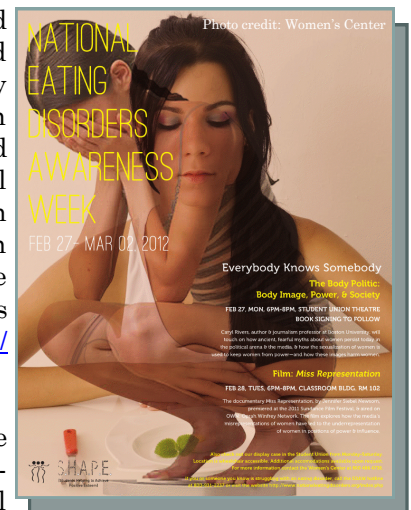
People should be involved with the Women's Center and support it with contributions (payroll deduction is a very easy option) because the Women's Center supports all students, faculty and staff on campus. The Women Center's staff are great and very knowledgeable, but they operate on a tight budget with limited staff and people power. It is amazing what they accomplish each year, but I think they could bring to campus some outstanding speakers and provide even more services if more of us got involved and they had more resources.

- Ryan Lee Gilbert

## NATIONAL EATING DISORDERS AWARENESS WEEK

The National Eating Disorders Awareness Week ([NEDAW](http://www.nationaleatingdisorders.org/)) is a week committed to spreading awareness and education around the topics of eating disorders and body image. As many as 10 million females and 1 million males are currently battling an eating disorder. Despite the enormous growth of eating disorders in the past 20 years, research on eating disorders remains under-funded and insurance coverage for treatment is inadequate, while at the same time societal pressures to be thin are ever-increasing. Seventy percent of normal weight girls in high school feel fat and are on a diet. Over half of the females studied between ages eighteen and twenty-five would prefer to be run over by a truck than to be fat, and two-thirds would choose to be mean or stupid rather than fat. (Statistics obtained from: <http://www.nationaleatingdisorders.org/> and <http://childrencomefirst.com/cms/uploads/bodyimagefactvsfiction.pdf>)

The UConn Women's Center, along with [SHAPE](#) (Students Helping to Achieve Positive Esteem) and [Active Minds](#) put on several events in order to celebrate NEDAW. Starting the week off the Women's Center is sponsored a lecture by Caryl Rivers, a professor of Journalism at Boston University, who spoke on "The Body Politic: Body Image, Power, and Society." She touched on ancient, fearful myths about women that still persist today in the political arena and the media and how the sexualization of women is used to keep women from power. The lecture took place on Monday, February 27 in the Student Union Theatre, and will be available as a [podcast](#) through the Alumni Association. On Tuesday, February 28 the Women's Center screened the film "Miss Representation," a recently released film on body image. The film was screened in Classroom Building Room. SHAPE tabled in the Student Union on Tuesday as well. SHAPE also held an Operation Beautiful posting across campus on Wednesday, February 29 and chalked eating disorder facts. The goal of Operation Beautiful is to end negative self-talk or "fat talk" by posting positive messages in public spaces and on bathroom mirrors and windows.



If you want to get involved or hear more about any of these events please email the Women's Center at [womenscenter@uconn.edu](mailto:womenscenter@uconn.edu) or stop in to visit on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the Student Union.

- Emily Pizzale



## ELECT HER: UCONN WOMEN WIN



The University of Connecticut was again selected to host *Elect Her: Campus Women Win*, one of 30 colleges from across the nation and Jamaica that hosts this unique campus-based program that teaches women how to run for elective office, in 2012. Originally participating as a pilot site in collaboration of AAUW and Running Start, *Elect Her—Campus Women Win* is in its third year at UConn, working to address the disparity between the high percentage of women in colleges and universities and their low representation in student government by encouraging women to run for campus leadership positions. This day-long program covered skills such as how to mobilize your constituency, how to win debates, how to craft your message, and how to speak and present yourself confidently as a candidate.

*Elect Her: UConn Women Win* was a well-attended event, including engaging and passionate trainers and speakers. In addition to the keynote speaker, State Representative Mae Flexer, the female elected officials panel at the end of the day highlighted even more about the experience of women running for and being elected to public office. The inclusion of additional speakers from both local and state-level government demonstrated the various levels of engagement for women in office, and students did not hesitate to ask questions about campaigning and the realities of holding office. This training also proved to be an invaluable networking opportunity; many students took advantage of this opportunity by engaging in one-on-one conversations with speakers between training sessions.

One student who participated in the first *Elect Her* at UConn decided to attend the training again this year. Amy Holland states, “When I participated in February 2010, I had not yet held an elected position on-campus. Two months later, coincidentally, I was elected to president of Active Minds at UConn. I held that position for one year and now am hard at work on my graduate school applications and Honors Thesis. I gained strong advice and inspiration from the women featured at this event and hope to network further with this year's attendees.”



- Jamilah Tigner

## UConn Reads “Half the Sky”

*continued from page 3*

The topics in this book are by no means new to most readers, but the scale is alarming and overwhelming. Story after story of girls younger than us brutalized, left for dead, generally thought to be unworthy of saving merely because they were born female.

One of the great points the book makes isn't just “Hey, look at these atrocities and feel guilty.” It reminds the reader over and over again that educating girls, lowering the maternal mortality rate, and allowing women to be productive members of society is good for them, good for all of us, good for the world. Education and equality boost economies. Edification and equity pull entire villages out of poverty and the hands of gangs.

Helping women isn't just helping women, it's helping you. The last chapter of the book is “What you can do now” because by the time the reader gets to the end of the book, all he or she want to do is pitch in. And the book provides dozens of options. Charities that help women with fistulas, schools, organizations that accept money, organizations that accept volunteers, interns; whatever you have to give, they make it easy for the reader to connect with someone who will appreciate it.

- 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:

As we come to the year's end, we'd like to take a moment to remind you that your contributions to the Women's Center ensure that the major activities 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*
- *The 100 Years of Women Scholarship*
- *Enhanced programming in honor of the Women's Center's 40<sup>th</sup> 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 look towards next year's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, your support for the *Women \$4 Women Campaign* enhances the collective of voices at our University in our pursuit of gender equity. If you haven't already, I hope you'll join us in supporting the programs and services of the Women's Center by making a gift today. If you have already, thank you for your past support, and we hope you will consider increasing your contribution for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

For more information on ways to support the Women's Center, please visit our giving page at <http://womenscenter.uconn.edu/support/give.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?



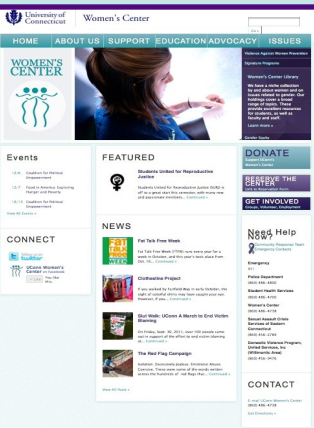
contact the  
**Community Response Team**

**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) 456-4700

**University Police**  
911 or (860) 456-4500 (for routine calls)



Don't forget to check out  
our new website!

<http://www.womenscenter.uconn.edu/>

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

We are located at:

**Student Union, Room 421**  
**2110 Hillside Road, Unit 3118**  
**Storrs, Connecticut 06269-3118**  
(860) 486-4738

[www.womenscenter.uconn.edu](http://www.womenscenter.uconn.edu)