



# VOICES

*TOGETHERNESS, CHANGES, HAPPINESS, FEMINIST*

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Spring is finally here – a time for renewal, and regrouping after the blustery days of winter. But in the cycle of an academic institution, Spring signals a time of bursts of activity leading up to the ending of the year, and for our graduating seniors, Commencement. Commencement is both a time to celebrate the ending of one phase of a student’s educational journey and the beginning of a new segment of their life’s journey.

In the spirit of Commencement, we would like to thank all of the graduating seniors for the incredible contributions they have made to the University community. Our programming and initiatives this semester would not have been possible without the dedication, vision, and passion of these students. They have worked on everything from assessing our library usage, to programming on pay equity. They have worked to continue extending our reach through graphic design, programs to increase women’s participation in politics, and collaborations with Athletics. They have also organized signature events such as Take Back the Night. They established new activities with Project Unbreakable and Greeks Against Sexual Assault. In sum, they have left their mark on the herstory of the Women’s Center, and more importantly, made UConn a better place for us all.

I would like to welcome our new Violence Against Women Prevention Program (VAWPP) Coordinator, Lauren Donais. Lauren is an alumna of UConn, having graduated with a BA in Human Development and Family Studies and a minor in Women’s Studies. For the past four and a half years, she was the Program Coordinator at the Women & Gender Resource Action Center at Trinity College, where she also received her MA in Public Policy and Law. I hope you will reach out to Lauren to both welcome her to the UConn community, as well as to share with her your experiences with, and suggestions for, the future of VAWPP.

The future for VAWPP... unfortunately, while we celebrate the accomplishments in, and additions to, our community, we must also continue to be mindful of the work that is the mission of the Center – promoting gender equity. And violence against women, which includes many forms of sexualized and racialized violence, is a symptom of the lack of gender equity.

As many of you know, the media spotlight has been on focused on this issue a great deal lately. From Delhi to Steubenville; Torrington to Wesleyan; and right here on our own campus – the news has been filled with stories of sexual violence perpetrated by members of those communities and against members of those communities. Often while the media buzz is at its height, the level of public discourse about this raises. And while we welcome that raised awareness, we also reiterate that these stories do not reflect the full scope of how sexism, racism, and other forms of oppression manifest. These are singular stories that must be connected to the stories we never hear, and most significantly, to the ways in which our personal actions reflect and support institutional structures that allow a culture based on bias, stereotypes, and the devaluation of others to continue. This is the work that the Women’s Center engages in everyday – not just when the media is listening.

—Kathleen Holgerson

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## WOMEN OF COLOR AWARDS 2013

*The Women of Color Awards occurs annually where exceptional UConn women of color are highlighted for their achievements in various fields. This year Sharon Johnson White, Gay Douglas, and Edna Comer were honored for their multitude of successes. Some women were in attendance at the awards ceremony for the first time, while others were veterans of the group, an intermingling of various departments: from cultural centers, to the Accounting department, the Office of Student Support and Advocacy, to the Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies program, as well as University Information Technology Services. Women from many corners of campus were represented. Manisha Desai was the keynote speaker at the event, and she began by discussing the idea that feminists, particularly western feminists, need to learn to avoid perpetuating their own privilege and eclipsing other countries' abilities to "do" feminism their own way. Her discussion of feminism in this light was reflective of the culture of not recognizing the accomplishments of women of color on campus, and how extraordinary things are accomplished with little to no recognition. Desai provided a very productive and powerful conversation about what we can do as individuals to make use of our privilege to make a difference, which the recipients aptly embody.*

Dr. Sharon White, the first African-American woman permanent director for the UConn Stamford campus, was among the recipients of the Women of Color Award. In 1974 she joined the UConn community as an English instructor in the Student Support Services program, and has held various positions at the University, such as Assistant Dean of Students and Associate Director of Student Life, and Director of Student Services. White works to better students' experience at the University, working toward a better retention rate. She is exceptional at entrepreneurship and fundraising, which have greatly benefitted the University. She is also among the "100 Most Influential Blacks in Connecticut." She also extends her abilities outside of UConn into the Stamford community, and is an active member at her church. White has sought to improve the lives of women of color specifically by teaching English at Norwalk Community College. She is an exceptional leader and mentor, making her an excellent candidate and recipient of the Women of Color Awards.



In 1993, Ms. Gay Douglas entered the UConn community and is now the Associate Director of the Office of Student Services and Advocacy. Douglas works in the office where "you go when you don't know where to go." Douglas prides herself in aiding students and their families in making smarter decisions about their choices at UConn by providing them with relevant information about their circumstances and their options. She serves on a number of committees on campus and is a pioneer in her craft, including being part of the Hate Crimes training team, participates in the Area Association of Religious Communities, among various other groups. Douglas is a tireless advocate and mentor for people of color, having helped create an ALTRUSA/ASTRA chapter at UConn, which is a community service organization composed of civic-minded people who work to create better communities. She continues to go beyond the call of duty to help the people around her succeed.

Edna Comer came to the University of Connecticut in 1998 and is an Associate Professor at the School of Social Work and the School of Medicine in the Psychiatry Department. Professionally, Comer focuses on bettering the quality of life for people of diverse racial and ethnic groups through social change. She aids in facilitating these changes through education, research, and engaging the public. Comer is a member of the Association for the Advancement of Social Work with Groups, Inc., the National Association of Social Workers, and is an Urban Service Track Faculty member with the Connecticut Area Health Education Center. Comer was led to UConn through being a faculty fellow with the Connecticut Workforce on Behavioral Health, and created a course that addresses specific needs of a high percentage of families from high risk oppressed groups headed by women of color.

—Takina Pollock

## ELECT HER 2013



Again this year, the Women's Center collaborated with the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and Running Start to host *Elect Her: UConn Women Win*. This is part of the only nationwide program that encourages and trains young women to run for student government on campuses. It works to demystify the campaign process and teach young women how to develop and communicate an effective message, how to reach out to their constituency, and how to win a campaign.

This year's training was beleaguered by Mother Nature. After needing to cancel the training in February due to the blizzard that inundated us with nearly 3 feet of snow, we were again hit with almost 2 feet of snow the day before the rescheduled training on March 9. Despite a small turnout as a result of the weather, the discussions were rich and motivating.

We were fortunate to be joined by State Representative Susan Johnson, who represents the 49<sup>th</sup> Assembly District of Windham. While some folks find campaigning intimidating, Susan shared how much she has enjoyed this aspect of seeking elected office. We were also joined by Rebecca D'Angelo, who serves as an Undergraduate Representative on the University Senate, is an INTD facilitator for the Honors Program, and is actively involved in a number of programs on campus. She spoke to the group about the elected positions at UConn, including what those positions are, the basic support provided for all candidates running for office, and about the leadership opportunities in student government and the benefits of that. Jigish Patel, the Student Body Vice President, also joined us, providing additional perspective and enthusiasm for joining USG.

It continues to be our collective goal to encourage more young women to run for student government during their college years, and in doing so, we are confident that we are preparing the women who participate in this training for local, state, and federal office candidacy in the future.

—Kathy Fischer

## SENIOR PROFILE: KAYLA DIAS



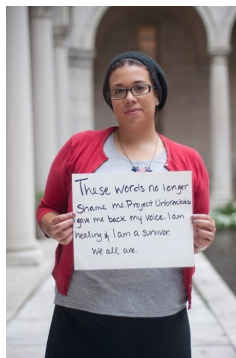
I am graduating with a B.A. in Human Development and Family Studies (CLAS '13). I got involved with the Women's Center my junior year as a Peer Facilitator for the VAWPP Program, and later became a Teaching Assistant. I am also a Women's Center intern, focusing on violence against Native American women. I am a Resident Assistant, President of the UConn NAACP, and President/Event Coordinator of the Native American Cultural Society. From my time at UConn, I have learned to value the importance of inclusion, multiculturalism and activism. I consider myself an anti-racist feminist, and plan to take all I've learned from VAWPP and the Women's Center to implement effective prevention programs in marginalized communities, promoting education and cultural sensitivity. A quote by Jackie Robinson aptly describes my goals: "A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives."

## SENIOR PROFILE: MATTHEW DEMPSEY



I am a Special Education Major in the Neag School of Education and currently work in the Women's Center as one of the co-facilitators for the new Greeks Against Sexual Assault (GASA) program. I have had the privilege of having many opportunities throughout my undergraduate time at UConn and being a part of the Women's Center has definitely been one of the most transformative and influential experiences I could have possibly had. Next year, I will be joining the Administrative Office of my fraternity, Beta Theta Pi as a Leadership Consultant, traveling a region of the United States working with undergraduates.

## VAWPP: PROJECT UNBREAKABLE



When the VAWPP class started brainstorming ideas about potential programs to do this spring, we were inspired and captivated by a photography project started by Grace Brown, called *Project Unbreakable*. Grace, a 20-year old woman from New York City, decided to start *Project Unbreakable* after a friend told a story about being a survivor. Grace works with survivors of sexual assault and photographs them holding a poster with a quote from their attacker. She then uploads these images to her Tumblr (<http://projectunbreakable.tumblr.com/>) in order to share them with a wider audience and increase awareness about the prevalence of sexual assault. Her blog is poignant and moving, and the strength and the courage of the survivors radiates through every image.



Photo Credit: Zarrin Ahmed  
The Daily Campus

*Time* magazine has named *Project Unbreakable* one of the top 30 Tumblr blogs to follow. Not only has Grace photographed over four hundred people, and received over a thousand self-submissions, she has been asked to speak at various engagements across the United States at various colleges and universities.

Grace inspires us; with an idea and commitment she has not only made a difference in the lives of the survivors she works with, but she has helped shed light on the issue of sexual assault, which is unfortunately shrouded in secrecy within our larger societal context.

—Theresa Govert

## EQUAL PAY DAY: APRIL 9, 2013



Click the image above to learn more about the wage gap!

## VAWPP TAKES BACK THE NIGHT

Year after year, Take Back the Night brings together hundreds of students to take a stand against sexual violence. This year, on Wednesday, April 17, 2013, we continued this tradition with a moving and powerful event. The slogan, “Making the Choice to Reclaim Our Voice,” set the tone for the evening and reflected the students’ display of courage, strength and collectivity.

The evening began at 7pm with a keynote address. Jennifer Sayers (UConn ‘08) from the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN) Speaker’s Bureau described her own journey to empowerment and encouraged students to exercise their right to be heard. This was followed by an a capella performance by Notes Over Storrs and a number of student speeches. Students in the Violence Against Women Prevention Program (VAWPP), Greeks Against Sexual Assault (GASA) and the Men’s Project shared thoughts on their experience in the movement to end sexual violence on campus.

The second portion of the evening consisted of a campus march. The march route encompassed major areas of campus. Students held candles and large signs, and recited chants such as “2, 4, 6, 8. No more date rape.” Subsequently, everyone reconvened in the Student Union Ballroom for the speak-out portion of the night. A number of students chose to share their stories. Many mentioned how empowering it was to be heard. Lastly, there was a coffeehouse reception held in the Women’s Center with beverages and refreshments for all who wished to debrief.

MAKING THE CHOICE  
TO RECLAIM OUR VOICE



TAKE BACK  
THE NIGHT

EMPOWERMENT  
STRENGTH SURVIVOR

—Kayla Dias & Cassidy Kushner

## DONOR PROFILE: PAT FITZGERALD

### **What was your position at UConn?**

Last fall I retired from the University after 25 years of service. For the last 14 years, I was the Assistant Finance Director for the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. It was necessary to understand where all the College resources came from, the department, program or center earmarked for those resources, and how they were spent. Early on it became clear to me that as the State began to cut University support, resources would need to be obtained elsewhere. The Women's Center Fundraising Committee, of which I am a member, has been tasked with working on increasing donations to the Center.

### **What prompted you to become affiliated with the Women's Center?**

Over the years I've participated in the Women's Advance Conference sponsored by the Women's Center and have always been impressed with the dedication. Sparked by this interest, I decided that volunteering at the Women's Center would be a meaningful way to give something back to the University. I love being a part of this endeavor that enhances the University experience for so many students.

### **You were on the planning committee for the 40th anniversary; what was that experience like?**

The 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary planning committee was a new experience for me. It enabled me to, not only learn and be involved in the unfamiliar aspects of planning a large event, but it also gave me a sense of accomplishment at its success. The planning included speaker logistics and contracts, event registration, menu planning, music, photography, and media coverage, among other things. Thanks to the experience of seasoned committee members, all aspects of the event went smoothly, and it was a huge success.

### **When did you start donating? Although recently retired, would you continue to donate to, or be involved with, the Women's Center?**

After joining the Fundraising Committee last fall, I realized that if I, as a committee member, am asking other people to donate to the Women's Center, it would be important for me to donate as well. In addition, it was also evident that any financial support I might give, would need to continue in order to allow the Women's Center to expand its support and educational programs for not only students, but faculty and staff, as well. Even though I have recently retired, my experience with the Women's Center has been so rewarding that I plan to stay involved.

### **Why do you think it's important that people donate to the Women's Center?**

As the University grows its student and faculty population in the coming years, I envision that there will be an expanded role for the Women's Center. In order to meet this role, it will be important to encourage people, both at the University, and in the community, to donate to the Center. While the Women's Center currently does an amazing job with limited resources, more volunteers will be needed to accommodate any expansion. I have no doubt that the Center's needs will grow over the next decade.

### **Why do you think the Women's Center is important for students and staff?**

The Women's Center is important for students and staff because it offers an environment that supports and encourages the self-expression, growth and development of women. It brings together women from around the University and empowers and challenges them to strive for a better life not only for themselves, but for all women everywhere. It has been my experience that the broad spectrum of people brought together by the Women's Center helps us to educate each other and expand our view of the world. For students, this can only enhance their academic achievement.

### **What advice would you give people involved with the Women's Center who haven't yet donated?**

Many people who are involved with the Women's Center may not have considered donating. This may be because the Women's Center is part of the University, and there is the misconception that the University supports all functions and programs at the Women's Center. It is true that the University does provide some support to the Center, however, in terms of dollars and what is accomplished, that financial support does not go far enough. Many of the events, like the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, could not have happened without donations. It's up to all of us to ensure that the education, programs and services the Women's Center provides will continue for many years to come. Our donations will go a long way toward making that possible.

## HUSKIES AGAINST RAPE CULTURE

An editorial entitled "[An Open Letter to UConn President Susan Herbst.](#)" written by Carolyn Luby, is compelling and has elicited all kinds of [positive responses](#) from the UConn community. The op-ed discusses President Herbst's current plan of remodeling the logo of UConn, particularly with regard to the Athletics Department. Luby brings up points about how remodeling the "fictional face" of Athletics isn't necessarily productive without internal reform of the culture of violence against women. Her op-ed touches upon points about how the face being seen as "more aggressive" is a part of a larger commentary on the prevalence of rape culture in American men's sports teams, with UConn as an example. The new mascot is used as a personification of a larger, widely ignored problem. The problem being the behavior of athletes and what kind of message the new logo incentive sends to students when athletes are not held accountable, and there is an internalization of acceptance. The new University mascot is an [embodiment of this trending problem](#), as some of our very own athletes are apart of this "hero-worshipping" culture of athletics.



The University community, including [The Daily Campus](#), and [Undergraduate Student Government](#) (USG), have publicly commented on the necessity of addressing the issue and being supportive of our fellow Husky, Carolyn, as well as those who have been victims of violence against women due to this culture in athletics. On May 1st, students rallied to paint an iconic rock on campus in support of this issue. It read "Huskies Against Rape Culture," on one side, and "Huskies for Carolyn," on the other. The new mascot has sparked an important conversation on campus, and the unfortunate outpouring of negativity surrounding the op-ed only serves to reemphasize points about the culture of rape, and the power dynamic of Athletics that exists not only at UConn, but nationwide. The "heroizing" of male athletes in schools has led to this presumed untouchable culture, which unfortunately extends to issues like rape culture.

Students have expressed great concern for the prevalence of sexual assault on campus. Students are concerned that stigmas like the "Rape Trail" and ideas about alcohol consumption are eclipsing the reality of many other rape survivors, and what the full spectrum of rape actually looks like; the idea of victim-blaming is still very evident. One suggestion is a workshop geared towards the eradication of sexual assault be implemented for athletes. These issues concerning students need to be addressed and taken seriously to chip away the culture of rape at UConn. The passion behind the activists supporting these issues are evident through programs like Take Back the Night, and the administration's understanding of the reality of these issues is vital for progress. Students want to see a visible effort being made to make UConn a safer place.

—Takina Pollock

Postscript note — On Wednesday, May 15th, President Herbst announced the appointment of a Task Force on Civility and Campus Culture "to explore all matters related to civil behavior and speech at the University." The Task Force will be chaired by Professors Veronica Makowsky and Carol Polifroni. Our Director, Kathleen Holgerson, will serve on the Task Force, so if you have questions, suggestions, and/or feedback on these issues, please contact her at [Kathleen.Holgerson@uconn.edu](mailto:Kathleen.Holgerson@uconn.edu).

## CONGRATULATIONS UCONN WOMEN



***We would like to congratulate the UConn Women's Basketball team on their NCAA Championship in a 93-60 victory over Louisville!***

## SENIOR PROFILE: THERESA GOVERT

I am a Psychology major and a Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies minor in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. I worked in the Women's Center as a VAWPP Teaching Assistant. As I prepare to leave UConn, I feel indebted to the Women's Center for the person I am today. This community has challenged me to critically discern my world while teaching me the tools needed to make a difference, a lesson the Dalai Lama says is the most significant meditation of our time. I know I will carry this with me to Botswana where I will be working as a Peace Corps volunteer after graduation. I am forever grateful to the staff who have paved the path and inspired me, and to my fellow students whom I trust will continue to shake things up and do big things. Thank you all for being the community I needed. In solidarity.

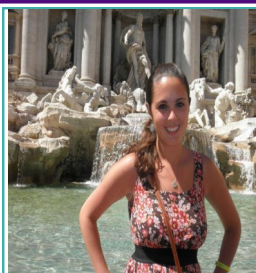


## SENIOR PROFILE: CASSIDY KUSHNER

I am a Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences major and a Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies minor, which are both in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. I took the VAWPP class during my junior year and became a Teaching Assistant in my senior year. I have been involved with UConn-NOW (National Organization for Women) for all four years at UConn and became President my senior year. I feel so lucky to be a part of the Women's Center. I have learned so much here about life that I never could have learned in a classroom. This truly has become a second home. I will miss the amazing conversations I have with my peers here. I will also miss not seeing Carol everyday to cheer me up. I will be going to Northwestern University in the fall for my Master's of Science in Speech, Language, and Learning and hope to volunteer at their Women's Center.

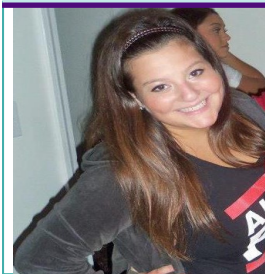


## SENIOR PROFILE: AMANDA BROOKS



Hi everyone! I'm Amanda, and I am a senior Political Science major with minors in Criminal Justice, Sociology, and Human Rights in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. This is my first semester at the Women's Center, and I am really enjoying my experience here! I acquired an internship at the Women's Center through the Human Rights Institute and have been focusing on the pay equity issues in our country. I helped organize \$tart \$mart, an event aimed at educating young women on the gender pay gap and helping them negotiate fair salaries after graduation. My favorite part of working here has been getting to know the staff and faculty. Everyone has been so welcoming and helpful in making my experience here a wonderful one!

## SENIOR PROFILE: ZIA KANNER



I am a double major in Psychology and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. This past semester I have been a co-facilitator for a new program at UConn called Greek Against Sexual Assault (GASA). GASA is a 7 week long program for 25 students who are all active members of Greek Life. I am also a member of VAWPP, and I work at the Women's Center. I have enjoyed my time at UConn and the new community that I have gained from my experience here.

## GREEKS AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT

*Greeks Against Sexual Assault (GASA) is bravely and powerfully lead by two fearless student leaders, Matthew Dempsey and Zia Kanner. Both Zia and Matthew have created a comfortable and engaging environment for the 20+ other Greek students involved in GASA, including me.*

Sitting in the UConn Women's Center meeting room surrounded by strangers and a few familiar faces, I wasn't sure what to expect at the start of my first Greeks Against Sexual Assault (GASA) meeting. Very quickly, I realized how I would grow to know the fellow Greeks filling the chairs around me. We introduced ourselves with the conventional ice-breaker game and effortlessly dove into an exercise discussing gender norms and stereotypes in our society.

During the first meeting, and every meeting since, we have discussed intense, private, sensitive, innovative, and ground-breaking topics that have stimulated debate, agreement, and so much learning. We have read and discussed articles, watched videos, and participated in activities centered around the topics of gender stereotypes, sexual violence and abuse, bystander effect, privilege, and numerous other important issues.

Over the course of the past few weeks, the members of GASA, including members from fifteen Greek organizations on campus, have bonded over discussing the painful topic of sexual violence and a common mission to create awareness of sexual assault throughout the UConn community, and beyond.

Throughout just the past month, GASA members have been asked to think about regular everyday tasks and opinions in a different way. Our privileges have been observed and broken down for us and caused each member to view privilege in a new, and more serious way. Above all, our views of gender, abuse, and consent have been dramatically transformed.

This group is new, innovative, and is paving the way for similar groups on college campuses around the United States. I have been impressed, intrigued, shocked, and touched by my experiences in GASA and while getting to know my passionate group members. I look forward to the many more important issues we will explore as a team during our last meetings.

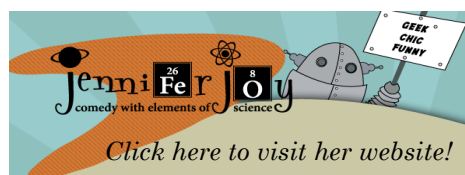
I am truly grateful for my experience in GASA, and I admire and respect the next set of Greek students who join this incredible, eye-opening program.

—Aimee Batuski

## WOMEN INSPIRING INNOVATION

*Women's Herstory Month was focused on Women in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields. To close out the month of March, Jennifer Joy joined us to give one of her talks, entitled, Get Inspired: A History of Women in Science. Joy focused on four of many different women often excluded from the history of science.*

Jennifer Joy is a performing artist based in New York City and self-proclaimed science geek; a very unique combination of traits and professions. She has taught courses at Pace University, as well as the City University of New York. She gave a lecture in the Austin Building as part of our March celebration of Women in STEM, providing the audience with a presentation of many women who are unfortunately eclipsed by men in history.



Joy covered women from all across the globe of different ethnicities and in all different time periods. She emphasized the importance of understanding the consistent struggle of being a woman in each of their situations, with the amalgamation of being a woman in a male-dominated field. Joy gave an accurate representation of a diverse group of women such [Chien-Shiung Wu](#) and [Barbara McClintock](#), who all conquered oppression in the name of science.

—Takina Pollock



## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

*As my feminism grows and progresses I find myself amid all different kinds of debates and conversations. One that comes up frequently is the idea that we don't need feminism and these goals and ideas that many of us share in the Women's Center are essentially pointless. I've lost track of how many arguments I've gotten into, with all kinds of people, about women needing to "stay in their place," and to stop trying to be equal to men because it's "unnatural," or whatever other excuses one may find for sexism to be viable. We need feminism just because I still have to have these conversations on a regular basis. I find that many people treat feminism like a dirty word, and still operate under the pretense that all feminists are this rigid stereotype.*

Marissa Mayer was the first female engineer at Google, and is now the CEO of Yahoo — and no, Mayer is not a feminist. I respect everyone's right to choose what they do and do not identify with, but it's her reasoning that I find bothersome. Mayer is part of a PBS documentary called *Makers*, and I watched a brief portion of her interview (which can be seen [here](#)) in which she cites a belief in equality amongst the sexes, but refuses to be labeled a feminist because she doesn't think she has:

“...sort of the militant drive and the chip on the shoulder that sometimes comes with [feminists]. It's really too bad that feminism has become kind of a negative word. There are amazing opportunities all over the world for women, and I think that there is more good that comes out of positive energy around than negative energy.”

As the first female engineer at Google, and as the CEO of Yahoo, I'm highly disappointed and floored by her lack of understanding of feminism and the women's movement. Clearly this woman is brilliant, but still maintains the stereotype of what it means to be a feminist. It's especially disheartening because she is in the STEM field, which time and again we are confronted with being vastly underrepresented by women. I can appreciate that Mayer would like to be viewed as more than just her gender, and be regarded for her skills, but I can't approve of her outdated and inaccurate stance on feminism.

It's very bothersome to me when women in particular possess a negative connotation for feminism and what it means to be a feminist. If you're a woman in America and you've ever worn pants, gotten a job, been enrolled in school, or received appropriate healthcare, it's because a feminist afforded you that opportunity. Great strides have been made in the women's movement, but that doesn't mean we can abandon women and feminism. Native American women's protections were modified in the Violence Against Women Act just this year. Native American women are 2.5 times more likely to be sexually assaulted than women in the U.S., who already hold a 1-in-5 chance of being sexually assaulted themselves. 97% of rapists will never see the inside of a jail cell for their crimes. We're still dealing with cases like what happened in [Steubenville, Ohio](#), in which a young girl was passed out and raped by two of her male classmates, and outwardly shamed by the media as they glorified her convicted rapists. Women are still making seventy-seven cents for a man's every dollar; few businesses recognize a need for paid paternity leave; women are underrepresented in Congress; and history books inaccurately display the contributions of women (and people of color), so it astounds me that anyone can say that we don't need feminism anymore. Past feminists have made so much progress in the women's movement, creating a different era than which they lived in, for me. As a feminist, I hope to create a starkly different era for girls and women in the future. Feminism is not a dirty word. It's not an attempt to castrate men, and most importantly: it's not pointless.



All feminists aren't the same and we may go about things differently, but we do have one common goal: to achieve gender equity. As a feminist, I would like women to be so present and so powerful that it's no longer remarkable, but something commonplace and expected. I challenge Marissa Mayer and other anti-feminists of the world to reexamine their thought processes. If you agree with equal pay; if you would like to see a decline in violence against women; if you think women are underrepresented in STEM fields; and/or if you're for gender equity in general— you might just be a feminist.

—Takina Pollock

# 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 student success; distinctions in research; philanthropy; promoting excellence, and progressing in our values of civility and diversity. 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 you consider your end of the year gifts, we would like to encourage you to contribute to the Center in recognition of the close of our 40th anniversary year to 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*
- *Summer Orientation facilitators/peer educators from VAWPP to engage incoming students in discussions around consent, prevention, and bystander empowerment*

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

100 Years of Women Scholarship: #30231

**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**  
456-2759

**Women's Center**  
(860) 486-4738

**Student Health Services**  
(860) 486-4700

**University Police**  
911 or (860) 486-4500 (for routine calls)

**Don't forget to check out our 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)  
Hours: 8am-9pm, Monday through Thursday;  
8am-5pm on Fridays

