



VOICES

TOGETHERNESS, CHANGES, HAPPINESS, FEMINIST

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the first newsletter, *Voices*, for the 2013 – 2014 academic year. In this edition you will find profiles and pearls of wisdom from the recipients of our 100 Years of Women Scholarship and the Outstanding Senior Women Academic Achievement Awards – all of whom we honored at a ceremony during Commencement Weekend. You'll also be introduced to some of our newer additions to the Women's Center community, including Lauren Donais, our Violence Against Women Prevention Program Coordinator, as well as this year's VAWPP TA's. Almost half of our student staff is new this year, and we welcomed them, and this year's cohort of VAWPP peer educators, to the Center at our Fall retreat in September. We also are fortunate to have many individuals who have been affiliated with the Center for years, including some of our long-standing board members. In early October, we held our annual board retreat during which we celebrated our accomplishments from the previous year (especially our 40th anniversary celebration, which was a point of pride for all) and reflected on our priorities and next steps for moving forward this coming year.

Throughout all of these activities a common theme has emerged for this year – engagement. Specifically, how do we get the word out about the opportunities that are available here at the Center, as well as create new spaces and places for students, staff, and faculty to get involved in the work of promoting gender equity. If you have suggestions for new programs, please let us know (womenscenter@uconn.edu). Also, our Advisory Board and sub-committees, which are responsible for helping to plan some of our signature programs such as the Women's Advance Conference and the New Female Faculty Luncheon, are always looking for volunteers. You can find out more about their work [here](#).

And we can't forget our Women's Center alums! We have spent the past several years culling through our rosters of folks who were affiliated with Center during their tenure at UConn. And the list is a long one... we have over 2,100 people who were student staff, VAWPP peer educators, Summer Orientation facilitators, Men's Project participants, Greeks Against Sexual Assault participants, Award recipients (Outstanding Senior Women and Women of Color), scholarship recipients, and former board and/or committee members. So for all of you WC alums – we hope this will be a year of re-engagement. We are putting together an Alumni Engagement Committee and are looking for your feedback and involvement. Please complete the survey [here](#) so we can identify ways to stay in touch.

And continuing with the notion of engagement, I would like to recognize [the passing of Joan Joffe Hall](#) – who embodied this value in not only her scholarly work, but in her activist work within the academy. Dr. Hall was the first female faculty member hired in the English Department and one of the founders of the Women's Studies Program here at UConn. As an English major, who also had the opportunity to benefit from several Women's Studies courses during my undergraduate career, I am personally appreciative of the contributions of Dr. Hall, who made visible the importance of gender in the academic arena.

—Kathleen Holgerson

Inside this issue:

Lauren Donais, VAWPP Coordinator	2
Women's Center's Annual Retreat	2
Outstanding Senior Women	3
Fall Calendar	4
NCCWSL 2013	5
RAs for Social Justice	5
GASA	6
<i>Guerreiras Project</i>	6
First-Year Huskies Learn Consent	7
100 Years of Women Scholarship	8
VAWPP	9
<i>Makers Film Series</i>	10
Julie Kronick, Writing Intern	11
Letter from the Editor	11

LAUREN DONAIS, VAWPP COORDINATOR

In the summer of 2013 we waved goodbye to our former Violence Against Women Prevention Program Coordinator, Venida Rodman Jenkins. Now, after a lengthy search for a new person to occupy this vital position, we're happy to open our arms to our newest addition to the Women's Center's full time staff, Lauren Donais!



I am delighted to have taken up my duties as the Violence Against Women Prevention Program (VAWPP) Coordinator. It is an honor to be associated with a program, that for nearly thirty five years, has done so much to address and prevent all forms of sexual violence, intimate partner violence, stalking, and sexual harassment through education, outreach and advocacy. Looking ahead, I hope to work with students, staff and faculty to foster a more positive sexual culture that celebrates healthy communication and rejects attitudes and practices that normalize, excuse, tolerate, and condone sexual violence. Additionally, I hope to utilize my creativity to integrate media literacy into each of the workshops the Violence Against Women Prevention Program offers. While there are certainly some challenges ahead, we must remain diligent in our efforts to ensure a campus free of violence and abuse for all. I look forward to working with the entire UConn community and would strongly value your ideas and suggestions. Please feel free to contact me directly via e-mail lauren.donais@uconn.edu or phone: 860.486.4738.

—Lauren Donais

WOMEN'S CENTER'S ANNUAL RETREAT



On September 7th we had our annual [Women's Center staff retreat](#). The Women's Center's staff collaborated with the VAWPP class to get better acquainted, and to facilitate an inclusive environment where everyone has a shared understanding of the Women's Center and the work that we do here. We participated in the Four Arrows Challenge Course bonding as a staff using their four core values of growth, reflection, energy and turning point.

Whether this was an individual's first, second, third or fourteenth year with the Women's Center, we all shared in learning, laughing and getting to know each other better. We cultivated an atmosphere of shared understanding and different pieces of knowledge to take away from each other's experiences.

We discussed UConn's Sexual Assault Response Policy, what it means to be a bystander and an individual's responsibility as such, the importance of holding productive conversations and spreading awareness. The returning staff had the opportunity to reexamine our thought processes and reflect outwardly to others on how much we had grown since our last retreat. New individuals were excited to be in this new shared space with like-minded people committed to social justice.

—Takina Pollock



OUTSTANDING SENIOR WOMEN

The Outstanding Senior Women Academic Achievement Award is presented to graduating students from each school within the University. The Award, sponsored by the Provost's Office, the Alumni Association, and the Women's Center, is meant to honor the soon-to-be graduates for their excellent academic work, as well as their dedication to activities on and off campus. I was able to get some questions answered by the 2013 recipients for future students to learn from.

—Julie Kronick



What event/program/experience that you were a part of during your time at UConn do you feel had the most impact on you?

“One of the most unforgettable experiences I had was meeting Doris Kearns Goodwin when she came in the fall of 2012 to speak at Jorgensen. I was one of a small group of undergraduates who got to meet and talk to Doris Kearns Goodwin in an informal reception. I was so nervous to meet such a renowned historian and afraid that someone of her knowledge and experience in the field would have little or no time to waste on an undergrad like me. All of my nerves and hesitation flew out the door when she walked in. Not only was she extremely knowledgeable, scholarly, and funny (which anyone who has

seen her on TV or read her books already knows), but she was also kind and interested in my studies! She took the time at the reception to meet everyone and ask them about their experiences and backgrounds. I will never forget meeting her, and I hope that I can achieve even a fraction of her scholarship and dominance in the historical field. I know that my experience at UConn can help me as I reach for this goal!”

—Rachel Puelle

“My experience in the UConn Creative Writing Program had the most impact upon me. I participated in all facets of the program such as running the Visiting Writing Series, which hosts several authors at UConn each semester, serving for three years on the Long River Review (eventually as its editor-in-chief), and taking every writing course available to me. What was really special about the program is the relationship I developed with one of my professors, Ellen Litman. During an independent study I wrote about a lot of women's issues, for example, the abuse I experienced from my ex-boyfriend and others, the misogyny I faced when I testified against [another student] when he abused his girlfriend, etc., and Professor Litman really helped me transform my experiences from just a jumble in my head to fluid ideas. It took some of the grief away. I'm very attached to her.”

—Alyssa Palazzo

What advice would you give to other women about how to successfully manage your time with so much on your plate?

“The best advice I could give regarding time management for a hectic college schedule is simply to prioritize, to decide what is really most important to you and then make time to do those things. This shouldn't be limited to school or work obligations either; having a passion for an activity completely outside of your professional goals is probably the best thing you can do for your time management skills. Not only does it keep you from going a little crazy looking at the amount on your plate, but having something that you passionately want to do each week forces you to be organized and use time productively so that your block of 'fun time' is free.”

—Lindsay Brand

“Realize that you cannot do everything perfectly, and that no one else is doing everything perfectly. Some people may seem like they are doing and having it all, but everyone makes sacrifices and balances. If you're struggling to manage your time, ask yourself what you enjoy doing most. Don't waste your time in clubs or classes that aren't personally fulfilling.”

—Claire Simonich

“A lot of the more technical aspects of theatre have traditionally been the domain of men. However, if a woman from our department wanted to work in the electrics shop or the carpentry shop, we were allowed to try it, see if we had talent in that area and then continued to work in those shops if we wanted to. There are physical restrictions because the reality of our field is that lifting heavy things into the air to hang on pipes requires strength. But it rarely comes back to a negative sexist stereotype. From the creative perspective, women directors and designers are just as prominent as men. There is nothing stopping women from doing what they want. In fact, I feel theatre is a wonderful outlet for women to explore feminist ideals and question the role of sexism and misogyny. A lot of progress in our society has been from works such as ‘The Vagina Monologues’ or any of Sarah Ruhl's works, just to name some of the more well-known pieces.”

—Alayna Graziani

FALL 2013 CALENDAR



FALL 2013 CALENDAR

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
WOMEN'S CENTER
ESTABLISHED 1972

SEPTEMBER

- 13:** MAKERS - WOMEN WHO MAKE AMERICA PART 1
BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES
Friday, 12:00PM in the Women's Center Room 421G
- 16-17:** FEMALE ORGASM
Monday and Tuesday, 8:00PM in the Student Union Theatre
- 18:** MAKERS - WOMEN WHO MAKE AMERICA PART 1
FILM SERIES
Wednesday, 6:00PM in the Women's Center Room 421G
- 19:** SEXUAL ASSULT, THE BATHROOM WARS, QUEER AND
DISABILITY ACCESS: REFLECTIONS ON THE ROLE OF
FEMINIST FACULTY IN CAMPUS ACTIVISM
Thursday, 12:00PM-1:30PM in the Rainbow Center Room 304
- 23-27:** RED FLAG CAMPAIGN
Survivors and supporters are encouraged to stop by the VAWPP Office
(Student Union Room 419) anytime between Wednesday, September 18 and
Wednesday, September 25, 11:00AM-1:00PM to design a red flag and/or
sign the Positive Bystander Pledge
- 25:** CAITLIN FISHER LECTURE
Wednesday, 4:00PM in the Neag School of Education Room 142/144
- 25:** BRYAN ADAMS: FROM COMBAT TO COLLEGE
SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK KEYNOTE
Wednesday, 7:00PM in the Student Union Theatre
- 25:** SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK MEMORIAL SERVICE
Wednesday, 8:30PM on the Student Union Terrace

OCTOBER

- 8:** MEN CAN STOP RAPE WORKSHOP
Only 30 slots available, so sign up fast! RSVP to lauren.donais@uconn.edu by 10/4
Tuesday, 5:00PM in the Women's Center Room 421G
- 11:** MAKERS - WOMEN WHO MAKE AMERICA PART 2
BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES
Friday, 12:00PM in the Women's Center Room 421G
- 14-18:** FAT TALK FREE WEEK
GET EDUCATED. GET INVOLVED. MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
Tabling Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00AM-2:00PM in the Student
Union on Union Street
- 16:** LOVE YOUR BODY DAY
Tabling Wednesday, 11:00AM-2:00PM in the Student Union on Union Street

- 16:** MAKERS - WOMEN WHO MAKE AMERICA PART 2
FILM SERIES
Wednesday, 6:00PM in the Women's Center Room 421G

- 21-27:** THE CLOTHESLINE PROJECT
Survivors and supporters are encouraged to stop by the VAWPP Office (SU
Room 419) anytime between Wednesday, October 16 and Wednesday,
October 23, 11:00AM-1:00PM, to create a t-shirt of their own in a private
and safe environment. If you cannot make a t-shirt during the times
scheduled, please contact lauren.donais@uconn.edu

- 22:** 13TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL COMPARATIVE
HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE
Co-sponsored with UNESCO on Tuesday, 9:00AM-5:00PM in the
Student Union Theatre. For more information contact 860-486-3054

NOVEMBER

- 8:** MAKERS - WOMEN WHO MAKE AMERICA PART 3
BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES
Friday, 12:00PM in the Women's Center Room 421G
- 15:** ELECT HER - CAMPUS WOMEN WIN TRAINING
Friday, 1:00PM-6:00PM in the Women's Center Room 421G
- 18:** GIRL RISING
Monday, 6:00PM in the Konover Auditorium, Dodd Center
- 20:** MAKERS - WOMEN WHO MAKE AMERICA PART 3
FILM SERIES
Wednesday, 6:00PM in the Women's Center Room 421G

University of Connecticut Women's Center
Student Union, 4th Floor, Room 421
2110 Hillside Road, Unit 3118, Storrs, CT 06269-3118
Fax: 860-486-1104 Email: Womenscenter@uconn.edu

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



EDUCATION

ADVOCACY

SUPPORT

GENDER EQUITY

NCCWSL 2013

The American Association for University Women ([AAUW](#)) is a national organization that works to empower women, improve their quality of life as individuals, and boost leadership. AAUW sponsors the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders ([NCCWSL](#)), and UConn has scholarship opportunities available to send students. This year, I was the recipient of the first [Carol Virostek Scholarship](#) and was awarded \$500 to attend the conference.



As I stepped out of my shuttle from the airport onto the University of Maryland's campus, I was met by NCCWSL banners, and women all over campus carrying bright yellow bags loaded with information about the conference. Quickly I was embraced by a group from a university in New York, and they aided me in navigating the conference. Some of the women were returning from last year's event, and they were thrilled to meet someone new and share their experiences. Their career aspirations ranged from a doctor to an art-activist.

The conference went on for three days, loaded with different workshops, speakers and activities for us to partake in. I attended a workshop called *Voices from the Field: A Discussion of the Impact of Racial and Gender Stereotypes of Black Women in the Workplace*, in which we learned the importance of understanding the work we're contracted to do, how that affects our personal lives and vice versa, and how to discuss potential problems with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). I also attended a workshop on the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) Undergraduate Fellows Program (NUFP), which discussed career aspirations in Higher Education Student Affairs and how that program can help; another one on creating a productive peer mentoring program; and another called *Radical and Bold* which was about starting empowering student organizations for women. There were workshops varying from meditation and belly dance, to learning how to communicate better, one about military women, and another about entrepreneurship (for a complete list of this year's workshops, [click here!](#)).



NCCWSL was a very fulfilling experience, and it was refreshing to be surrounded by successful women and aspiring women who are already leaders at their respective universities. It inspired me to work harder, to work smarter, and to bring those things and ideas that I gained from the conference back to the Women's Center, to UConn, and beyond.

—Takina Pollock

RESIDENT ASSISTANTS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE EDUCATION

Residential Life recognizes the importance of social justice issues and has a new position: Resident Assistants for Social Justice Education (RASJE). This allows UConn to address the intersectionality of various issues among students in a new way, alongside the Women's Center and other dedicated organizations. Congratulations to Geena Russo, Nick Farrell, Austin Dodd, Peter Adintori, David Andrew, Scarlett O'Sullivan, Dan Iskandar, and Jaime Diaz, UConn's first RASJEs!

A Resident Assistant for Social Justice Education (RASJE) is a student peer leader who contributes to and supports the educational and personal goals of resident students. They facilitate the development of a vibrant and positive living environment in on-campus housing. This position gives participants of different groups an equal voice through advocacy and education in the residence halls and across campus. The RASJEs serve as leaders and allies to promote inclusivity, tolerance, diversity and greater understanding within the Husky community, qualities highly valued at the Women's Center. The RASJEs work with students and staff to build a more just, equitable and compassionate campus for everyone, promoting the educational, social, and cultural development of students. The work that they do is very much in line with the mission of the Women's Center in raising awareness about different social justice issues, and gender equity is among those goals. The RASJEs serve as another avenue toward educating individuals about the importance of gender equity and social activism.

—Peter Adintori (Summer VAWPP Orientation Leader)

GREEKS AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT

Jose Figueroa, member of La Unidad Latina, Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity, Inc., and Monisha Rao, member of Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority, Inc., are the two facilitators for Greeks Against Sexual Assault (GASA). GASA is a group of undergraduates in UConn's fraternity/sorority community who discuss issues of gender, sexuality, violence, and privilege. They challenge themselves and one another to understand how assumptions, behaviors, and attitudes may contribute to an environment of hostility and aggression towards members of the University community. GASA seeks to eradicate many of the stereotypes that often accompany people's perceptions of Greek life through education.

—Jose Figueroa

GUERREIRAS PROJECT

On September 25th Caitlin Fisher, co-founder and Global Director of the *Guerreiras Project*, came to UConn bringing with her a story about gender. The Project, then, comes from a place where women cannot pick up a soccer ball and run onto the field because it is a "man's sport". "A guerreira," Caitlin spoke, "is a female warrior and that's what every Brazilian woman in soccer calls themselves." The prejudice and sexism Caitlin and her team faced after she moved to Brazil to play in 2004 really frustrated and held them back, to the point where, in 2010, the women decided they would create a piece explaining their story about prejudice and bring it to the Fifa Women's World Cup in 2010 to "just start talking about it".



The reactions of people who attended the exhibit in Germany inspired Caitlin and her colleagues to continue "just talking about it" thus, the *Guerreiras Project* was born. Now, the Project goes from favela to favela and state to state in Brazil hosting community workshops to create a space for young girls and woman to play the sport and as a vehicle to share these women's stories across the country.



But the Project is not just about turning soccer into a sport for women. Even though woman's teams in Brazil have received support from men's soccer leagues and are no longer told not to play, there is still a pressure for these women to be a certain way as sports figures. They are expected to present a hyper-feminine image, i.e. wear makeup and put on skirts afterwards, in order to "sell the game" to fans. "We want to expand the narrow gender scripts in Brazil," explained Caitlin, "so that not only can women comfortably play soccer without needing to be a certain way, but a boy can tell his father that he'd rather dance than play soccer."

The Project is invested in using sport as a tool to break down the gender norms that prevent anyone from living comfortably and equally. The issues on the field are those with roots that spread to other problematic issues as well such as homophobia, violence against women, gender based violence, etc., and they are working against that every day.

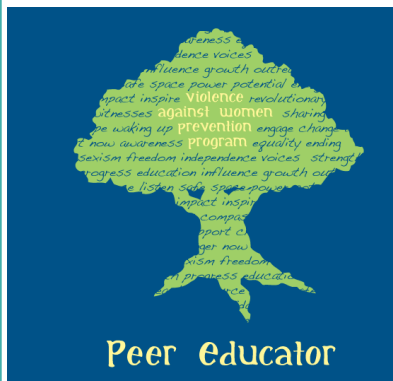
For more information about Caitlin and the *Guerreiras Project*, visit <http://guerreirasproject.wordpress.com/>.

—Julie Kronick

FIRST-YEAR HUSKIES LEARN CONSENT

Over the summer, Violence Against Women Prevention Program (VAWPP) facilitators were hard at work teaching first-year Huskies about UConn's definition of consent and their responsibilities as a student in social, sexual interactions. The twenty-three facilitators had a broad range in each of their experiences facilitating. I was able to catch up with Ahla Amin and Danielle Muir to discuss their thoughts on VAWPP Summer Orientation. Ahla is a senior Allied Health major and an Resident Assistant (RA) in Hilltop Dorms. Danielle is a senior History major and member of Revolution Against Rape (RAR).

Ahla decided to become a Summer VAWPP facilitator because she enjoys the opportunity to work with first year students. She also enjoyed the opportunity to leave her comfort zone and talk to students about things that may be considered taboo or new. Also, being able to work as a Summer VAWPP facilitator relates to Ahla's position as an RA, and she gets to have a serious impact on many more students than she has regular contact with, leaving them with something valuable in a short amount of time. Danielle's dream job is to combine her love of activism with her future career. Right now she is a member of the student organization: Revolution Against Rape (RAR), participating in events like [Slutwalk](#) to take a stand against sexual violence. The Summer VAWPP position was an excellent opportunity for her to exercise those skills and to work toward getting people to understand consent and work against sexual violence from an educational standpoint.



Their primary responsibilities as VAWPP facilitators were to understand [UConn's definition of consent](#), enabling them to answer

questions students had about what consent looks like at UConn. The VAWPP facilitators raised awareness around the difference between persistence and coercion, and how that can change what is considered consensual sex at UConn, using different scenarios.

Both Ahla and Danielle wish they had more time to discuss consent and to clarify some things that students had trouble grappling with. It was hard to change some students' minds on their perception of consent, in order to put their future actions in line with UConn's definition. Danielle wished to reinforce women's rights in particular; many students believed it was a woman's responsibility solely to prevent herself from being violated. The Summer VAWPP facilitators were also responsible for helping students understand sexual violence happens outside of heterosexual relationships.

The great thing about being a Summer VAWPP facilitator for both women is that they were impacted by their position as well. They realized that these issues are a constant learning process, and the value in knowing the facts and being able to communicate them. This way they can help other people learn since many have a long way to go in understanding sexual violence, considering how normalized it has become. They were challenged in different ways to communicate the things that they have come to understand over time and to be patient with others when they don't quite achieve full understanding. They learned the skills to become effective facilitators, making them better leaders on campus with the ability to navigate these difficult issues.

Ahla and Danielle were grateful for the opportunity to make a difference on campus and to see the realization many students had about understanding consent, and the spark of passion that occurred when students were clamoring to sign up for the VAWPP class. They greatly appreciated the opportunity and the experience.

UConn's Definition of Consent

"Consent" is an understandable exchange of affirmative words or actions, which indicate a willingness to participate in mutually agreed upon sexual activity. Consent must be informed, freely and actively given. It is the responsibility of the initiator to obtain clear and affirmative responses at each stage of sexual involvement. The lack of a negative response is not consent. An individual who is incapacitated by alcohol and/or other drugs both voluntarily or involuntarily consumed may not give consent. Past consent of sexual activity does not imply ongoing future consent.

—Takina Pollock

100 YEARS OF WOMEN SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

UConn was founded in 1881, but women were not admitted into the university until 1892. The 100 Years of Women Scholarship was created to mark the 100 years that women had a presence at the University of Connecticut. The 100 Years of Women Scholarship is an excellent time to reflect back on the herstory of UConn and the importance of remaining steadfast in our commitment to women's progress. The scholarship is open to students who demonstrate a commitment to women's issues through service to their community or school, who demonstrate high academic performance and a need for financial assistance in their enrollment at UConn. The scholarship award ranges from \$250 to \$1000. This year's recipients of the scholarship are Megan Gentry and Marichris Cariaga, two women who have demonstrated remarkable accomplishments in their commitment to women's issues in their personal and professional lives.

Megan Gentry is a Knoxville, TN native and 2nd year law student. Prior to law school, Megan assisted domestic violence survivors in obtaining protective orders. She aided survivors in creating safety plans, pressing charges, and connecting with social service agencies. After law school, she plans to continue working with survivors of domestic and sexual violence through her primary focus, which is public policy work, and she also is interested in litigation. Megan hopes to offer direct representation for survivors of gender-based violence to better understand how laws serve or disserve those they are intended to protect. Megan would like to work with a women's advocacy group or with the government, to end violence against women. In the future, she hopes to use this experience to improve the quality of women's lives in her community and country through legal advocacy. Megan was led to fight for women's issues and equality through her existing interest in social justice. Like any great advocate, she recognizes her own privilege, and the reality that there are some things she hasn't dealt with personally, but that doesn't mean she can't be an ally. So Megan decided to improve the conditions of other women's lives through a grant which provided her the opportunity to work on social justice issues. She had an internship at a domestic violence shelter, sparking a newfound passion for survivor's rights and women's issues. Megan now serves on the 100 Years of Women Scholarship Committee and advises future applicants to "Be honest. Be authentic. Show your passion. And, regardless of whether you receive an award, know that the value of your work is not measured by any scholarship."



Marichris Cariaga is from Norwich, CT, and a senior in the School of Nursing. Her commitment to women's issues has taken on the perspective that feminism is not exclusive to women. She has been involved in a broad scope of organizations as an undergraduate, such as being a Summer VAWPP Orientation Facilitator for the Violence Against Women Prevention Program ([VAWPP](#)), a peer educator in the Health Education Office ([UConn Sexperts](#)), a member of UConn's National Organization for Women ([NOW](#)), a clinic escort at Hartford GYN, and a number of other organizations and positions which have allowed her to take an activist role in a variety of ways. She was able to cultivate her passion for these issues through her connection to the Women's Center, which she considers to be "not only a place of leisure, but a haven for all feminists, whether they know that they are [a feminist] or not." For Marichris, the Women's Center was one of the few places that have influenced her firm identity as a feminist today, as a result of all her involvement across campus. She is currently studying abroad in Cape Town, South Africa with the School of Nursing,

participating in pediatric and maternity clinical rotations. She has plans to volunteer with the Treatment Action Campaign and Doctors Without Borders at one of their chapters in Khayelitsha. When she returns to UConn she plans to continue her activism, graduate in May 2014, and pursue her career as a Nurse Practitioner. As such, she plans to merge feminism, healthcare, and reproductive justice to empower her own generation and work toward a comprehensive U.S. healthcare system reflective of these values for future generations. As one of the recipients of the 100 Years of Women Scholarship, Marichris advises future applicants to be proud of their commitment to women's issues. Through learning to go with choices that appear frightening or challenging she has been able to succeed on various fronts. She once read, "...sometimes all you need is twenty seconds of insane courage. Just literally twenty seconds of embarrassing bravery and I promise you, something great will come of it," and offers this brave, ambitious outlook to future applicants.

—Takina Pollock

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PREVENTION PROGRAM

A new component of the Violence Against Women Prevention Program (VAWPP) is the use of social media, specifically Twitter. Students in the VAWPP class are required to use twitter to engage with academic discourse and social justice discourses outside of the traditional educational setting. The goal of twitter assignments is to expose students to a variety of political views, to encourage students to engage with social justice issues beyond the classroom, and to spread information to other members of the UConn community and beyond. In addition to tweeting original thoughts and re-tweeting other members of the class, students are also encouraged to tweet at organizations and prominent figures to bring these issues into the spotlight.



—Carolyn Luby



Girl Rising tells the stories of nine different girls and their experiences through child slavery, forced marriages, and more awful oppression. While sexism and misogyny run deep in this world, we cannot combat it without giving the proper tools to young girls and women to change their lives in addition to making ourselves more knowledgeable and aware of what goes into these issues, so we can better apply ourselves in dismantling the inequalities of our world. Education needs to be used as a tool to create social change and help empower girls and women. In *Girl Rising*, we'll explore stories of girls not only facing misogyny, but also class issues, gender-based violence, HIV exposure, and more. The Women's Center will be showing *Girl Rising* on November 18th at 6pm at the Dodd Center in Konover Auditorium.

—Brittnie Carrier

Between October 21st and 25th, the *Clothesline Project* will once again return to the UConn Campus. Sponsored by VAWPP, this Project allows survivors and secondary survivors of domestic violence to decorate t-shirts to be hung on a clothesline and displayed for the entire campus. The Project attempts to bring attention not only to the issues of domestic violence, but the personal stories and the very individual ways in which such violence has affected members of the community.



Started in Cape Cod in 1990, the Project offers survivors a chance to display their emotions and seek healing through decorating a t-shirt that will help tell their story. The Project has been run at UConn for a number of years, and will be taking place this year on Fairfield Way Monday October 21st through Friday October 25th, from 11am to 2pm. During this time, t-shirts and supplies will be made available in the VAWPP office for interested persons to decorate. New shirts are made throughout the week and are hung up with a new message reflecting the stories of our campus community.

—Rachel Stewart



The *Red Flag Campaign* is a public awareness campaign designed to address dating violence and promote prevention on college campuses. Research indicates that in 21% of college dating relationships, one of the partners is being abused. That is 1 in 5 relationships. That is 1 in 5 too many. Intimate partner violence is often an invisible problem having the potential to lead to depression, PTSD or suicide. UConn simultaneously ran a campaign called *Be Aware, Show You Care* dedicated to victims of suicide, planting yellow flags to represent lives lost. The combination of these two campaigns are unfortunately intertwined and there are “flags” to recognize the signs. It's important to be aware and show we care in all aspects. Be an ally, spread the word and help recognize red flags around campus in order to stop intimate partner violence!

—Jose Figueroa

MAKERS: WOMEN WHO MAKE AMERICA

Part One of PBS' Makers: Women Who Make America, aired in the Women's Center's Program room on September 18. The Makers series explores the story of the Women's Rights Movement beginning with the 1950s and continuing its journey to present-day. Part One of the series sets up this journey. It explains a majority of the activism that took place during the second wave of feminism: the passing of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA); the creation of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC); the beginnings of the National Organization for Women (NOW); the major hurdles women faced to get ahead in the work force; and the Civil Rights Movement.

The series first aired February 26, 2013, on PBS. Many viewers exclaimed "it's about time!" as they sat down to absorb the 3-hour piece. *Makers* works very hard to celebrate women in history and lays the foundation of a solid *herstory* as it interviews the myriad "Makers" themselves. Inspirational figures such as Aileen Hernandez, Gloria Steinem, Judy Blume, and Eleanor Holmes Norton give insight into their experience with the movement politically and professionally, but *Makers* also incorporates the accounts of a few women who are neither famous nor political i.e. women who embodied Friedan's "problem with no name."

However, *Makers* is arguably far from being a perfect documentary. One critic, Sonia Saraiya, gave it only a B- in [her review](#). Her issue with the series is that it assumes too much and covers too little. She says that *Makers* is geared primarily toward feminist viewers; it is possible for a viewer to watch this video and not wholly accept, or understand it if they themselves are not active feminists. Saraiya claims that the series could be taken as "left-leaning feminists patting themselves on the back" which is likely to garner little respect from non-feminists and does little to serve those who still went on living as housewives and secretaries in the 50s and 60s, and those who choose that path today.

Makers is also criticized for being white-washed. Although the documentary pays homage to the Civil Rights Movement and incorporates the voices of various women of color, it seems more of a back-and-forth in many regards rather than a coalescence of movements. Parts of the videos seem to say "this is what happened with White women, this is what happened with Black women" as if they did not, and do not, always overlap. *Makers* tries hard to incorporate a variety of voices, and succeeds in its representing a wide range of women, but at times it makes the Women's Rights Movement seem heterogeneous, separate experiences, rather than a homogeneity of people experiencing different things for a common purpose.

There is understandably some room for criticism concerning the epic series, as there is with any documentary or art form. Even still, *Makers* definitely presents a positive, informed image of the feminist movement and pays careful attention to historical and political influence. What's important, though, is that the Women's Movement is being addressed seriously and constructively through the voices of many important women themselves and that this documentary prompts us to ask where we are now and where we can go from here.

If you're interested in learning more about the Women's Movement, but you missed out on Part One, don't worry! Parts Two and Three will also be available through the Women's Center. You can watch Part Two in the Women's Center Program Room on October 11th at noon or October 16th at 6pm and Part Three on November 8th at noon or November 20th at 6pm.

—Julie Kronick



LETTER FROM JULIE KRONICK, WRITING INTERN

In the interest of biographical statements, my name is Julie, and I'm what I guess you could call a typical college student: I'm almost holding my degree in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; I've been averagely involved in events and groups around campus; my favorite afterschool activity is napping; and I really like to buy coffee before class (the best coffee is at The Benton). My passionate interest in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) blossomed over the years I've been at UConn experiencing classes, relationships, information and trying to become an adult. What brought me here—what is allowing me to write this down right now—is my writing internship. I'm an English Major with a Minor in WGSS, so here I am writing for the Women's Center.

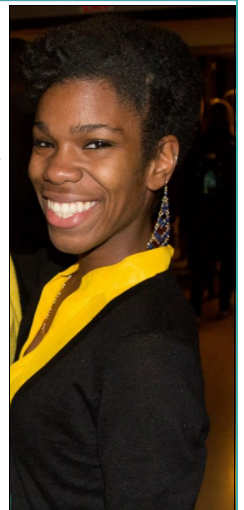


I'm excited to be working here at the Center, but before I say the things I would like to yield from this experience, I wish to impart those that I *should* not have experienced: hearing, my first year, about girls down the hall being sexually assaulted; my advisor telling me that I should *really* be taking classes that will *impress my future boyfriends* in place of classes intended for my major; listening to people I know talk about how they still have to handle racist or prejudiced roommates, classmates, or colleagues; feeling ashamed about my experiences with intimate partner violence; listening to other students explain their intense reservations about “coming out” and being accepted. And the list goes on.

No one should have to deal with these experiences, young or old, student or otherwise. But I did, and we all essentially do. I'm tired of it; but if there is any chance for me to make a difference, I feel it starts here at the Women's Center. I hope to walk away with better relationships with people, information, social issues, and myself. I want to help in any way I can because maybe someday my list of grievances, my *should nots*, will no longer be shared experiences that those of you who read this now might nod your head at in agreement or impart knowing empathy towards. I know I will learn and grow from my time here, and I hope that anyone reading this knows that the Women's Center can help you too.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

I find humility to be a wonderful thing. I don't think I know anyone who likes to listen to anyone brag, ever. But I also find there to be a difference between bragging and openly discussing one's accomplishments. Here at the Women's Center that's something I'm consistently learning. When I attended NCCWSL, there was a speaker discussing how women are conditioned not to “take up too much space.” She started off her speech by requesting that all the women in the audience “sit like men.” The result was a lot of elbow and leg bumping, slouching, and limbs spilling over into aisles. The speaker used this as a physical representation of the idea that women aren't allotted as much space as a man is, so we tend to minimize our presence as not to take up too much space. This translates as a fear of being seen as a braggart and thinking the work that we do is not as valuable or important. I learn and relearn this lesson all the time at the Women's Center, through conversations that I have with Kathleen and those around me. I've been told since high school to stop qualifying what I do with negative or minimizing descriptors because it can hurt me in the long run, and I never paid much attention to it until working here at the Women's Center. Sometimes I find myself saying “it's not that big of a deal,” when in actuality, the work that I do on a regular basis is amazing. I work as the Women's Center's Newsletter Editor, in combination with my volunteering my time for different projects: I'm an RA in North Campus; I'm taking a full course load; applying to graduate schools; and other programs — and that's just my professional/student life. That doesn't take into account the twenty other things going on in my personal life at any given time. My whole life is a balancing act, and I do a great job juggling everything, and all the time I'm getting more comfortable in communicating that, and letting people know what my strengths are as a person.



Oftentimes we assume talking about the work that we do in a positive light is only reserved for interviews and workspaces. We minimize our accomplishments and successes in daily life, which only sets us up to use that minimization in all areas. There is no shame in being proud of the hard work that we do, as women, men or however we choose to identify. Believing in yourself starts from being able to speak positive things about yourself.

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
Hours: 8am-9pm, Monday through Thursday;
8am-5pm on Fridays

