Fresh Faces at the Women’s Center

With the start of another year, the Women’s Center has seen a few exciting new changes to its staff.

We’d like to welcome the following new student staff members to the Center: Davon Alston, MAVAW Co-Coordinator; Meredith Alvarez, Administrative Assistant; Jamie Bassell, Statistics; Danielle Chin, Generalist/Program Assistant; Yiid Fong, Generalist; Jenna Manghani, Thursday Night at the Movies Coordinator/Program Assistant; Suzy Stockton, Generalist/Program Assistant/National Young Women’s Day of Action; and Shannon Wong, Library Assistant/Advertising.

We have also been training two student interns: Jennifer Laptew, Programming/Women & Oral Health; and Julie DiMauro, Newsletter Editor/IWOMEN Listserv Manager.

In an effort to acclimate the many new students, graduate student staff member Sasha Smith has introduced a mentoring program to strengthen connections among new and old members.

Senior Jessica Warner has been with the Center for about two years, and has signed up to be a mentor to new student staff.

“It’s about half and half old staff and new staff,” says Warner. “A new person would be able to come up to me whenever they had any questions, and we’d encourage them to stick with the Women’s Center and help them out.”

In addition to the new students, the Center’s Advisory Board has new members to offer counsel on the workings of the Center’s administration.

New to the board and our subcommittees are Deborah Becker, Domestic Violence Program of United Services; Nisha Hardnett, Admissions; Jean Main, Financial Aid; Becky McEnery, UConn Foundation; Vernon Percy, Counseling Program for Intercollegiate Athletes; Kelly Shannon, UConn School of Social Work; Janet Barnes-Parrell, Psychology; Judy Vasquez, community member; Michael Stenko, Alumni Association; and Beth Settje, Career Services. The new members bring with them a variety of different experiences and backgrounds.

McEnery, for example, has background with UConn’s Department of Residential Life, and so has experience working with students. When she chaired the University of Connecticut Professional Employees Association (UCPEA) Women’s Issues Committee, she worked closely with Women’s Center Director Kathleen Holcman, who later invited her to help out on the Advisory Committee.

Stenko got connected with the Women’s Center through the Alumni Center’s committee on diversity. He says, “It’s an honor to have been asked to be involved.”

We can expect that these new additions to our staff and Advisory Board will bring some fresh ideas to the Women’s Center’s program planning.

Young Women’s Votes Important

By Sasha Smith

It is no secret that young American women did not participate fully in past elections. Particularly in the 2000 elections, young single women did not vote in the numbers that they should have to fully represent our population. Their votes could have made a difference in their local, state, and national elections, and in the present state the world is in. Young women affect our world’s future. They are becoming leaders, raising the leaders, and have the opportunity to decide who our future leaders are.

The UConn Women Center chose this semester’s theme, “Did You Know You Were Missing” for a reason. It is a theme that the (Continued on page 4)
Some Reminders...

Join Our Listserv!

Want to keep up with the Women's Center on a weekly basis? Then join the UWOMEN listserv, a weekly updated e-mail featuring Women's Center events, on and off campus events, announcements and national/international news. For information on how to subscribe, go to www.uconn.edu/subs subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus subscribus 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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER

02 Election Day
DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

04 Faces of America
Written entirely from interviews and workshops held across the country Faces has been described as the first truly multicultural portrayal of Americans ever created, and "edu-tainment" at its best. Co-sponsored with the Asian American Cultural Center, African American Cultural Center, Puerto Rican/Latino American Cultural Center and the Rainbow Center.
Thursday - von der Mehden - 7:00 PM

14 Women's Book Club: The House of Gentle Men by Kathy Hepinstall
Come and explore the world through the eyes and words of women. We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. All of the meetings will be held at noon in the conference room in the Office of Special Programs, located in the Wilbur Cross Building. Visit the "Groups" section of our website at www.womenscenter.uconn.edu to review past selections.
Tuesday - Office of Special Programs Conference Room - Noon

10 Time for Me: Shamanism: Your Inner Doorways
Discussion will include the various States of Consciousness and some of the methods for Shamanic journeywork. Facilitated by Dawn Martin, a healer of many modalities who thrives on helping people transform their lives through devoting time to the balance of their Body, Mind and Spirit, being in the Now, and having fun. Co-sponsored with Health Education, Office of Special Programs.
Wednesday - Women's Center Lounge - 6:00 PM

17 Negotiating with Your Partner
Think you might be ready to have sex with a special someone? Before deciding, make sure you've considered all the issues and talked directly about them with your partner. Join us for a workshop that will help identify strategies for starting and having what can sometimes be uncomfortable conversations while helping you gain confidence by knowing the facts.
Wednesday - Women's Center Lounge - 7:00 PM

18 Thursday Night at the Movies: Mai's America
"Mai's America" is a personal journey that defies all expectations. Mai, a smart, vivacious, and resilient Vietnamese teenager, travels to America for her senior year of high school, shedding her family's high expectations and her own visions of western-style success. Yet, nothing in Mai's wildest imagination could prepare her for what she finds in rural Mississippi. Encounters with white Pentecostal and black Baptist host-families, a local transvestite, and South Vietnamese immigrants challenge her long-held ideas about America, the concept of freedom, her identity and even her homeland of Vietnam.
Thursday - Women's Center Lounge - 6:00 PM

DECEMBER

01 Discovering the Intuitive: Your Manifestation Lines
Learn how to focus your energy and create what you need in your life. This hands-on class will cover exercises and techniques used in manifestation, paying attention to your thoughts/limiting beliefs, and you will create a manifestation/wish box to help you along your path. All supplies included. No experience necessary. Facilitated by Dawn Martin, a healer of many modalities who thrives on helping people transform their lives through devoting time to the balance of their Body, Mind and Spirit, being in the Now, and having fun.
Wednesday - Women's Center Lounge - 6:00 PM

01 Investing in Ourselves: Financial Strategies for Today's Women
Statistics say that more women will outlive their husbands. With divorces on the rise, women are being faced with the task of handling their own finances as well as coordinating their child's college tuition, and their own retirement. Good thing you're a multi-tasker! Whatever you stage in life or your resources, you will get answers to your Financial Planning decisions from one of our successful women executives. Facilitated by Sonia Barksman of Primerica.
Wednesday - Women's Center Lounge - Noon

03 Kwanzaa
Join us for the celebration of Kwanzaa with keynote speaker Yolande Cornelis "Nikki" Giovanni, Jr. Born in Knoxville, Tennessee, she is a world-renowned poet, writer, commentator, activist, and educator. Co-sponsored with African American Cultural Center.
Friday - Rome Ballroom, South Campus - 8:30 PM

09 Time for Me: Stress Down Day
Stress down before finals begin with free massage, Yoga, healthy snacks, aromatherapy and more! Co-sponsored with Health Education, Office of Special Programs.
Thursday - Towers - 11 AM-2PM

14 Women's Book Club: A Room of One's Own by Virginia Woolf
Come and explore the world through the eyes and words of women. We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. All of the meetings will be held at noon in the conference room in the Office of Special Programs, located in the Wilbur Cross Building. Visit the "Groups" section of our website at www.womenscenter.uconn.edu to review past selections.
Tuesday - Office of Special Programs Conference Room - Noon
**VDay and the Vagina Monologues**  
By Tara Maroney

UConn V-Day 2005 campaign will be presenting "The Vagina Monologues" by Eve Ensler on February 15 and 16 at von der Mehden recital hall. The show will be at 8 p.m. and tickets may be purchased prior to the show at the Women's Center and remaining tickets will be available at the door.

V-Day is a global movement to end violence against women and girls. V-Day is a catalyst that promotes creative events to increase awareness, raise money, and revitalize the spirit of existing anti-violence organizations. V-Day generates broader attention for the fight to stop worldwide violence against women and girls including rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation (FGM), and sexual slavery.

Through V-Day campaigns, local volunteers and college students produce annual benefit performances of "The Vagina Monologues" to raise awareness and funds for anti-violence groups within their own communities. In 2003, over 1,000 V-Day benefit events were presented by volunteer activists around the world, educating millions of people about the reality of violence against women and girls and raising $4 million to combat it.

The V-Day movement is growing at a rapid pace throughout the world. V-Day, a non-profit corporation, distributes funds to grassroots, national, and international organizations and programs that work to end violence against women and girls. In its first year of incorporation (2001), V-Day was named one of Worth Magazine's "100 Best Charities." In its first six years, the V-Day movement has raised over $20 million.

The 'V' in V-Day stands for Victory, Valentine and Vagina. This year, in light of the election 'V' is also for Vote. (http://www.vday.org/contents/vday/aboutvday)

For more information or to get involved email: uconn_vday@yahoo.com or for more information about the global movement visit www.vday.org.

**UConn NOW Chapter**  
By Taylor Woods

The UConn chapter of the National Organization of Women has made voter registration a priority for this semester. As a part of this effort, we are planning a concert on campus to register as many new voters as possible. The concert, called Rock to be Heard, will take place on Saturday, October 16th, from 1 to 5 PM, in the new Student Union. Rock to be Heard will feature local acts like the Chordials, an all female a capella group made up of UConn students. Groups like the UConn College Democrats will also be involved to help educate voters about the issues, so that every UConn voter is an informed voter.

**Men Against Violence Against Women**  
By Kurt Graf

Men Against Violence Against Women (MAVAW) began on campus in 2000 as an extension of the Violence Against Women Prevention Program (VAWPP). The work of MAVA W is based on the premise that men must work in alliance with women to end men's violence against women. Bi-monthly meetings begin October 14th at 5:00 PM in the Women's Center Lounge. All men are welcome!

**Violence Against Women Prevention Program**  
By Hillary Jones

The Violence Against Women Prevention Program (VAWPP) is a group dedicated to educating peers on issues of sexual violence, body image, consent, dating violence, and relationship rights. This semester the program welcomes a new group of trained student facilitators. VAWPP will be involved in planning and volunteering during the events for Domestic Violence Awareness Month. We continue to provide educational and thought-provoking workshops such as "Healthy Relationships" and "Saturday Night Hook-Up" to the University community. Any instructor, community assistant or student group interested in hosting a workshop can contact Hillary at the Women's Center, (860) 486-4738.

**Eualogy’s PlayRights Comes to UConn**  
By Julie DiMauro

On Monday, October 4th, the group Eualogy presented two short dramas from their PlayRights series. The first of these, Four Hearts Changing, addressed the difficult issues of dating violence and other forms of abuse. The cast of four presented their topics of discussion in the form of a brief play with several intermissions in which the audience was allowed to question the characters.

Most poignant of the issues examined was of physical abuse. However, the actors made it clear that other types of control can be just as damaging. Says Heather Dyar-Fried's character Erica, "Emotional abuse is like brainwashing... I used to be so independent and so confident, but now I don't know who I am anymore."

The second performance, One Night, as the title implies, takes place in the course of one evening as a rape causes the lives of four friends to come to a dark turn.

"Each program provided a lot of facts, statistics and information," said student Marissa

(Continued on page 4)
(Continued from page 3)


How to Register to Vote

Looking for more information on how to register to vote? Check out some of the following nonpartisan resources for helpful advice on how to become an informed voter. Remember, CT voters must register by October 19!

Project Vote Smart www.vote-smart.org
DemocracyNet www.dnet.org
CT Secretary of the State www.sots.state.ct.us
Get Out Her Vote www.getouthervote.org
League of Women Voters www.lwv.org/voter

Announcements

QUAD (Queer United Against Discrimination) is seeking contributions from Women who love women for a project entitled "LO" (short for Lesbian Quilt). The final project will be a visual representation of women who love women and their allies. It will be a mixed media "quilt" representing your experiences and feelings of love towards women. Your contribution should fit a 12" by 12" square, and it should be somehow attachable.

There are no other requirements; we are very open to different forms of expression! The aim of this project is that once it is fully assembled (by the spring semester) it will be displayed in a prominent place (or places) on campus in order to give a voice to women who love women. Your contribution will be completely anonymous.

If you would like to come to a queer-friendly environment in which to make your piece, please join us on Saturday nights at the Craft Collective, from 7-9ish, in the 4th floor faculty lounge of the Chemistry building. We will have supplies (as well as great company and snacks!) available. If you would like more information, or to contribute a piece at another time please contact Kim Garland at kimbie@hotmail.com or Sheena Williams at sheena.williams@huskymail.uconn.edu.

The Allies and Queers Undergraduate Association (AQUA) is sponsoring "Halloween Drag Dance 2004!" This will be a talent show hosted by Jujube and Venus, and DJ'ed by WHUS with 80's music, dancing, and all that fun stuff! Come bend your gender with us on Saturday, October 30th from 9 PM to 1 AM in Student Union Room 304.

AQUA and AhAVA Dream are collaborating on a panel for World AIDS Day (Wednesday, 12/1), to discuss the social ramifications of the HIV/AIDS pandemic on an international scale. Contact the Rainbow Center for further details.

"Though no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending."
- Carl Bard

VOICES