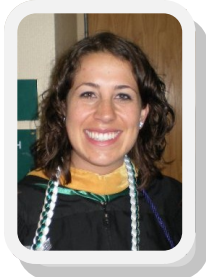




The UMBC Women's Center Newsletter: June 2011

Letter from the Acting Director: Jess Myers



"You cannot, you cannot use someone else's fire. You can only use your own. And in order to do that, you must first be willing to believe that you have it."

-Audre Lorde

Many of my family members have yet to grasp the work I do as a Student Affairs professional

working on a college campus. Though this is not my first summer working by any means, many of them are still surprised when I do not have off for the summer like many of my students. "Well, what do you do then?" is their question. My reply this summer is, "Planning the 20th Anniversary, of course!"

Since the spring semester started coming to a close, not a day has gone by where I haven't thought about the Women's Center's 20th Anniversary. I've been in planning meetings, consulting longtime friends of the Center, and digging through the archives. It is this last task that has got me thinking a lot about the above Audre Lorde quote... "you cannot use someone else's fire. You can only use your own..." As I write these thoughts, the very first minutes of the very first meeting of the Women's Center Founding Committee meeting sits next to me. Though, I'm not much of a historian, I feel awed to hold this document in my fingers. This is the fire in which the Women's

Center has been burning on for almost 20 years. It is the fire that got us started from the humblest of beginnings. It is a fire I believe in. As I dig through documents, I've become intimate with the Women's Center history. It is the history I firmly stand on as the Acting Director of the Women's Center and the fuel in which will keep our fire burning for another 20 years (and more)! As the Women's Center and its Advisory Board plans our celebration over the summer and kicks off our 20th this September, we hope you will find yourself a part of our fire. Though you may be 1 of 100,000 stories, it is your story that keeps us going. Please stay tuned for more information and save the dates throughout the summer!

And, as for what else that keeps me busy this summer?? There's an entire list of projects that include: organizing space, planning workshops, attending orientations, updating the Women's Center website, collaborating with other offices, working on the Fall Film Series and Domestic Violence Awareness Month planning, and whatever else might fall on our plate. We hope you stop by if you're on campus to say hi... the coffee and tea are still brewing and waiting for you!



Special points of interest:

- ☺ Letters from the Director and Student Staff
- ☺ The 20th Anniversary Celebration Countdown has begun!!
- ☺ Women's Center Fundraiser— *Travel Mugs are In!!*
- ☺ Ongoing and Upcoming Events (Returner Women Meetings, Mother's Meetings, and more!)
- ☺ GWST = Fall Courses
- ☺ Information about the Women's Center, the list serve, and newsletter submissions
- ☺ Shout Outs!

June Thoughts from Christy Wilson: Women's Center Student Staff

Interestingly enough, I never visited the Women's Center here at UMBC until just last year when I decided to apply for a position here. I knew immediately upon entering the Center that I had made the right decision. Not only is the Women's Center a great place for resources for women on campus, but it also offers an amazingly positive space for the UMBC community. I must be honest, however. Before even stepping foot into the center, I had falsely made the assumption that one had to be a radical feminist in order to become a part of the Women's Center community. Of course, I am in no way implying that being a radical feminist is unfavorable—only that I did not con-

sider myself to fall into this category. Although I consider myself to be liberal when it comes to women's issues and many of my beliefs do reflect those of "feminists," it was presumptuous of me to think that I would be ridiculed for using make-up and wearing skirts. This is what I expected, but on the contrary, what I encountered here at the Center was a diverse community of women (and men) who came from a medley of backgrounds. Here at the Women's Center there is no "categorizing." Rather, we recognize others for who they are, instead of "what" they are regardless of our religious beliefs, ethnicity, cultural background, sexual orientation, gender identity, & socioeconomic status. When you enter

the Women's Center, it's not about how much of a "feminist you are," or what you have done to contribute to women's issues. It's simply about being in an accepting and constructive environment where we, as women, can empower one another.

The Women's Center is Now on Facebook!!

Be sure to "Like" our page (look for us at *Women's Center at UMBC*) to make sure all the latest Women's Center updates and happenings find their way to your Facebook newsfeed!



Next year commemorates the 20th Anniversary of the Women's Center. During my short time at UMBC, I have been impressed by the rich history of the Women's Center. From the diligent work of our founding sisters to the dedication of others to keep our doors open during the many transitions of the Center to the everyday activism and awareness of those blossoming within our space, our history is made possible by the 100,000 UMBC community members who have walked into our doors over the past 20 years. Rightly so, the theme of our 20th Anniversary is "100,000 Stories: Which One Is Yours?"

Keeping in mind the same tradition of our history being built by those in the UMBC community, we are looking to you in helping us mark this very special year. A call for programs and co-sponsorships was launched earlier this year in hopes to create a seamless, but diverse experience for faculty, staff, and students. As summer planning begins, we are sending out another call of support and collaboration to ensure this year will truly be a campus-wide celebration. Please think about way you can incorporate our anniversary, theme, and logo into your existing programming. In turn, your

program and event will be included in our 20th Anniversary calendar of events and publicity.

If volunteering at 20th Anniversary events hosted by the Women's Center is a more feasible involvement from you, please know your participation will be greatly welcomed. Some of the events hosted by the Women's Center simply expand the scope of what our small, but mighty staff can handle.

Program proposal and volunteer forms can be found on the Women's Center website (<http://www.umbc.edu/womenscenter>). Forms can be turned in to the Women's Center or be sent via email to jess.myers@umbc.edu.

We appreciate your efforts in making this anniversary the next great marker in our "her"story as we look back on what we were and look forward to what we will become. If you have any questions, please contact Jess Myers, the Acting Director of the Women's Center at x51605 or jess.myers@umbc.edu.

Thank you!

Jess Myers and The Women's Center Advisory Board 20th Anniversary Planning Committee

**Current Calendar of Events:
Save the Date!!!!**

September 14th:

20th Anniversary Kick-Off Picnic

September 28th:

Albin O. Khun Library Exhibit

March 14th:

20th Anniversary Lecture Event

April 2011:

Women in Technology: 2nd Annual Spring into Leadership Event

April 25th: UCRAD

On Going: Women's Center Travel Mug Fundraiser

Other exciting events and programs are in the works and will be announced in the upcoming months!

*Will your event be listed here?
Contact Jess if you're interested!*

Current 20th Anniversary Celebration Co-Sponsors Include:

(and we're excited to be adding more in the upcoming months!)

Albin O. Khun Library, URCAD, UMBC's Office of Undergraduate Education



Returning Women's Support Group

The Returning Women's Meeting is a Women's Center program designed to support women returning to college later in life (after the traditional age of 18-22). The meeting is an informal time for returning women to gather, share stories, struggles, and successes. Coming back to college later in life isn't easy. We, at the Women's Center, want to do what we can to support you. Campus resources will also be made available in order to help you reach your goals.

If anyone from this group is still wanting to meet over the summer, please contact Jess Myers at jess.myers@umbc.edu.

Please also be on the look out for a survey regarding meeting times for next semester!

Mothers' Meetings

All mothers are welcome! Share a cup of tea and your stories/struggles, celebrations about one of life's greatest & most challenging experiences!

If anyone from this group is still wanting to meet over the summer, please contact Jess Myers at jess.myers@umbc.edu.

Women's Center Coffee Mug Fundraiser!

The Women's Center is taking pre-orders for to-go travel mugs with the Women's Center logo on it. For just \$10 you get your very own Women's Center mug to use when you get coffee or tea from the Center AND the satisfaction of knowing you helped raise money for the Women's Center day-to-day needs. Please stay tuned for more information about pre-order and thanks in advanced for your support!



Here's what the mug looks like!



The Women's Center Gets Some Summer TLC

Check out our new space!

Thanks to one of our graduating seniors, Anna Mallillin, who donated her couch, coffee table, and kitchen table and chairs to the Center. Anna will be moving to Seattle this month and could not take these items with her. Though we're sad to see Anna leave, it's great knowing her spirit will still be very present in the Center through her donated items. The couch is super comfortable for those looking for a place to rest and the kitchen table will be a great new study space once the semester picks up again.

We've also taken advantage of the down time in the Center to reorganize our book shelf. Books are now organized according to subject matter (i.e. Women's History, Interpersonal Violence, Aging, LGBT issues, etc). We hope this re-organizing will help our lending library be more user-friendly and get more use from the community. In this reorganization, we realized many of our books are outdated and we're missing many great collections from this decade. *If you have any newer books looking for a new home, please consider donating them to the Women's Center.*

What's next on our list?

Mah and Christy will be tackling the overwhelming amount of pamphlets we have EVERYWHERE in the Women's Center. We'll be getting rid of anything old and outdated and condensing as needed. Eryl will be keeping our shredder busy as she cleans out old documents from our storage cabinets as Jess continues to meet with many wonderful people as the 20th Anniversary planning continues. We're certainly staying busy here!

Summer and Fall Courses Offerings in Gender and Women's Studies!

Here's a run down of some of the GWST courses offered this summer and fall.
This is NOT all of them so please contact GWST for more information!

Fall 2011 Courses!

GWST 210: Introduction to Lesbian and Gay Studies

Monday/Wednesday, 1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Instructor: Dr. Kate Drabinski

This course examines various lesbian and gay experiences in contemporary American society. Using an interdisciplinary approach, the course examines historical origins and precedents, theoretical frameworks and contemporary case studies to understand the issues affecting the social relations between American society and lesbians and gays. Primary goals of the course are to conduct a critical inquiry into the patterns of lesbians' and gays' subordinate status, to explain their origins and persistence and to consider various routes for changing these patterns. Throughout the course, special attention will be given to the diverse experiences of lesbians and gays based on race, class and disability.

GWST 322: Gender, Race, and Media

T/TH 5:30-6:45pm

Instructor: Dr. April Householder

This course analyzes the consumption and production of media and the intersecting constructions of gender, race, class, and sexuality, as produced through a range of genres and forms. These include: advertisements and commercials, television and film, music and music videos, visual arts, printed media, gaming, and digital cultures. We use intersectional and critical analyses to raise questions such as: who owns and controls the media, who makes decisions about content, how financing effects the texts produced, and how profit motives drive production, in order to examine how people communicate, do business, buy products, entertain themselves, form virtual communities, and even organize politically. We will also interrogate media as powerful, pervasive sites where dynamic relations between dominant representations and resistance are staged. We explore how activists are using the media to create positive change, empower communities, and form democratic media cultures.

GWST 340: Global Perspectives on Gender and Women

Tuesday/Thursday, 11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Instructor: Amy Bhatt

The course addresses gender issues in the local context of women's movements in several regions and countries around the world as articulated by feminist scholars within those countries. Taking a comparative perspective, the course considers the diversity of issues and perspectives within women's/feminist movements around the globe as well as the relationship between U.S. women and global feminist struggles. Interdisciplinary readings, including fiction and feminist theory, bring the gender perspective to global/international political and economic structures.



We're taking suggestions now for films and facilitators for our Fall 2011 Film Series. If you have an idea you'd like to share, please email Jess at jess.myers@umbc.edu or fill in our recommendation form (which can be found on the Women's Center website).

We're especially looking for faculty members who may be interested in facilitating a film discussion!

UMBC Women's Center

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This, That, and the Other...

Newsletter Submissions: Do you have an event, organization, course, announcement, or other information that would be useful to the UMBC Women's Center community? If so, please send it to womens.center@umbc.edu so we can post it in next month's newsletter.

Women's Center Listserve: To learn about upcoming events, scholarships, and other opportunities from the Women's Center, please email us at womens.center@umbc.edu and we will add you to our listserve.

And please, visit us! We're located in The Commons, Suite 004 (right next to the Yum Shop). We have: a private lactation/mediation room, comfy couches, library, free coffee, tea, tampons/pads, condoms/dental dams. We're also here if you just need to talk... if you are going through a hard time, have something to celebrate, or need a hug, we are here :)

June 2011 Women's Center Shout Outs!

We would like to offer our "Shout Outs!" section to everyone in the UMBC Women's Center community. If you would like to send a Shout Out! To someone who has achieved something great, made a positive difference in your life, or just deserve a few kind words, email the UMBC Women's Center at womens.center@umbc.edu and we'll include them in our next month's newsletter.

- ◆ Thank you to everyone for your continued excitement and welcoming to me in my new position as Acting Director in the Women's Center. Your help, guidance, and support in my transition has been so helpful and appreciated! - Jess
- ◆ Thanks to everyone for a great end of the year pot luck! The Women's Center was jammed packed with lots of food and fellowship to help us congratulate our grads and give a good send off to Mollie!
- ◆ Thank you Eryl for your continued perseverance as you navigate payroll and Foundation accounts. We wouldn't know what to do without you! - Jess
- ◆ To Lindsey Loeper, Special Collections Archivist at the Library— Thanks for looking through all the archives in search of a photo from the Women's Center when it first opened. We appreciate you help! -Jess
- ◆ Adam K- As always, thanks for being a great friend to the Women's Center. Your help with the 20th Anniversary planning is priceless! -Jess
- ◆ Delanna Gregg- Thank you for helping me out in my transition. I appreciate your words of wisdom and insight! - Jess
- ◆ Janet McGlynn- Thank you for our brainstorming session as the Women's Center moves forward on our 20th Anniversary planning. Your knowledge and ideas will be so valuable to the success of our 20th birthday! -Jess
- ◆ Laura Shraven—As always, thank you so much for all of your help and ideas for publicity for the Women's Center and especially our 20th Anniversary. You are a great friend and ally to the Center! - Jess
- ◆ Mah and Christy (and Anna too!) - Thanks for taking on the huge project of organizing the book shelf! What a relief to know it is more user friendly now! - Jess
- ◆ To Vickie Williams, Kim Moffitt, and Robin Farabaugh: Thank you for giving of your time this year (and every year) to helping the Women's Center select our award recipients for the Bryson Neville and Newcombe scholarships.
- ◆ Thanks to Lesley Low, Kim Robinson, and Carmel Todd for helping the Women's Center issue the Bryson Neville and Newcombe scholarship awards to our selected returning women. It was a pleasure working with you! - Jess
- ◆ I want to say how much I enjoyed working with Mollie and appreciated all she did for the Center. She brought so much energy to what we do here. Thank you Mollie.—Eryl
- ◆ I have enjoyed working with Alyssa and Kiesha over the last two years and will miss their presence with us. This last year has been particularly special and I have appreciated each of you. My good wishes to you both I whatever it is that you choose to do with your lives.—Eryl
- ◆ To Christy and Mah, I am glad you will continue to be with us through the summer and into next year. I have enjoyed working with you and I appreciate your friendship. Thank you. -Eryl
- ◆ Jess you are doing a great job as Acting Director. I appreciate your presence here in the Center, your friendliness and help. Well done.—Eryl
- ◆ To the Women's Center Advisory Board— Thank you for a great year! We appreciate your time and dedication. We're sad to see some of you leaving. Please know you always have the Women's Center as your friend!
- ◆ To our new Women's Center Advisory Board Members (Adam Krawsczyn, Brandy Harris-Wallace, Sara Poggio, Susan Dumont, Galina Portnoy, Mahnoor Siddiqui, Christy Wilson, Lisa Macfarlane, and Jonathan Cruz): We thank you for applying to be a part of the Board and look forward to your invested interest and time in helping the Women's Center be successful.