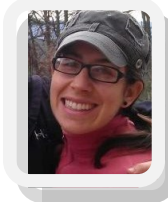




The UMBC Women's Center Newsletter: March 2012

Letter from the Acting Director: Jess Myers



"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure." - Marianne Williamson

At the BMore Proud Conference held on UMBC's campus a few weeks ago, keynote speaker, Delegate Mary Washington took the audience down memory lane. She listed the trailblazers of Maryland's House of Delegates and Senate—the first Jewish delegate, the first woman, the first African-American, the first out-lesbian, and then herself—the first African-American out-lesbian. Mary Washington is creating history and she is with us now. How exciting?!

While I believe honoring our foremothers—women like Harriet Tubman, Alice Paul, Audre Lorde, and the Marabal sisters (to name only a few!)- is important, I believe recognizing those around us RIGHT NOW who are advocating for women and creating the future of women's history is just as important. Who are they? Who is still yet to come? What changes will they continue to make for women?

I look around campus and see fabulous women etching their mark into women's history. The Women's Center has been celebrating these marks as we honor our 20th Anniversary—so many women on campus, past and present, worked hard to create the now. Where will our future lead? What will your etch be? No matter how small or large, it is essential. Thank you for the work you do, your energy, your passion, and your chance for an even brighter future.

We hope you join us in the Women's Center over the

next month as we recognize the important past and the exciting future of women's history. The Women's History Month calendar can be found on page 4 of this newsletter and additional details can be found on the Women's Center group page on myUMBC. Here's a few highlights to get excited about:

♀ **Ironed Jawed Angels!** This is an election year and we just had to talk about the important victory of getting women the right to vote. Stop by on Monday, March 5th at 4pm for the viewing of IJA and a great discussion.

♀ **International Women's Day...** all day on March 8th! We'll be hosting a potluck at noon to celebrate. Hope you'll join us and bring a dish!

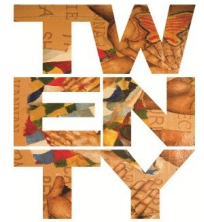
♀ What's in store for present day feminism and the future of it? Talk about it at **UMBC Talks** in the Mosaic Center at noon on March 14th.

♀ Join us on March 14th at 4pm in the UC Ballroom for **1 out of 100,000: The Importance of One**. This is part of our 20th Anniversary celebration and we're honoring the story of a UMBC student—a woman I consider to be one of our current history makers.

Integral faculty and staff will also be present to share their role in her story. This is unique event you surely will want to be a part of! (*Please note the Center will be closed during this event*).

♀ And, more! From learning about the history of sororities, to checking out women's history at the library, to watching *Grrrr! Parts*, there's something for everyone!

Happy Women's History Month... Cheers to a bright future!



Celebrating 20 Years 1991-2011
100,000 Stories: Which One Is Yours?

What's Inside!

- ☺ **Letters from Staff**
- ☺ **Community Spotlight**
- ☺ **20th Anniversary Events**
- ☺ **Women's History Month Calendar!**
- ☺ **Ongoing and Upcoming Events & Groups**
- ☺ **Information about the Women's Center, the list serve, and newsletter submissions**
- ☺ **Shout Outs!**

Letter from the Acting Coordinator: Galina Portnoy



"If I do not speak in a language that can be understood, there is little chance for a dialogue" ~ bell hooks

Next Thursday, March 8th, is **International**

Women's Day! Women's Day is a big deal for me. I have many lovely memories of celebrating Women's Day while growing up in Russia. Every year without fail, my dad would come home from work with flowers for my mom and a new toy for me. My mom and I would go to dinner together or go out to celebrate with other women and girls; it seemed like everyone was having a Women's Day party! I was just

7 years old when we moved to the U.S. but I vividly remember my first Women's Day in America... because it was so strikingly uninspired. There were no Women's Day parties, no celebrations, no mention of it on the news!

We really should do more to celebrate Women's Day as a nation. If you're looking to honor

Women's Day, we invite you to the **Women's Center International Women's Day Celebration & Potluck**. Come celebrate this special day and bring an international dish to share with others!

March is also an extra exciting month for me because I will be heading to the West Coast for my first time! I'll be celebrating Women's Day at a conference of the Association for Women in Psychology in Palm Springs, CA. **The conference reflects how the essential elements of feminism inform psychology and the field of mental health.** The conference aims to honor the history and struggles of the feminist movement in psychology. It also challenges feminist psychologists to extend our influence even more. The research team with whom I work in the psychology department and I will be giving a talk on the similarities, differences, and intersections of resilience and empowerment. We will be discussing our research with women in Afghanistan using a social justice lens to help explore resilience and empowerment in marginalized populations and the significance of promoting resilience and empowerment in under-

served communities. While I'm excited to give this talk at a national conference, I am even more excited to share that the keynote speaker of this conference will be no other than **bell hooks!**

When bell hooks emphasizes the importance of speaking the same language, she is likely not literally referring to *language* but rather a shared understanding of compassion, struggle, and desire for dialogue. She goes on to say that, **"honesty and openness is always the foundation of insightful dialogue."** bell hooks is an author, feminist, and social justice activist. She writes a great deal about the intersectionality of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, and capitalism in her work to unpack systems of oppression. She writes about education, art, love, history, sexuality, media, and feminism. I cannot wait to be inspired by bell hooks next week! I will without a doubt integrate what I learn from bell into my work at UMBC and in Baltimore and hope to bring back stories, knowledge, and a newfound commitment to all that I do!

Returning Women's Group

Meetings held Wednesdays at 12pm at the Women's Center

Join the Returning Women's Group on [Facebook!](#)

Returning to college later in life isn't easy. It is especially difficult when "student" is not the only role in a person's life. Many women coming back to college later in life are also partners, mothers, and work full or part time jobs. The Returning Women's Group is designed to support women returning to college later in life (after the traditional age of 18-22). Weekly meetings serve as an informal time for returning women to come together, share stories of struggles and successes, and support one another.

Those who attend regular meetings describe the group as a place to "relate with others and share experiences". This serves as a unique resource on campus for returning women. One member expressed that the group is "the only place where I know others will understand what I'm going through and they will help support me through it." Another member finds the group helpful for its ability to develop confidence and for the space to share ideas and plans; she shared that the group is helpful for "bouncing ideas off the other women and empowering me to do the things that I may not normally feel confident doing." Other members echoed that the group provides a sense of community that they have not found anywhere else on campus. This sense of community is useful in terms of social support, networking with others, and feeling connected to campus in a meaningful way.

Are you a student returning to school later in life? Come by the Women's Center for our Returning Women's meetings every Wednesday at noon! We'd love to meet you! Also, check out pg. 5 of this newsletter for our Returning Women's Spring calendar.



Is there an organization, group, or department on campus that uniquely promotes women's issues and stories?

Is there a particular person (student, faculty, or staff) at UMBC that you feel contributes to women's success and well-being?

If so...
nominate them!

To
nominate a group or individual for a community spotlight, email Galina at portnoy1@umbc.edu



Celebrating 20 Years 1991-2011
100,000 Stories: Which One is Yours?

WOMEN'S CENTER SPRING EVENTS

February 21
8:30 - 10:30am

Off Campus Commuter Services: Good Morning Commuters!

The Commons, Main Street

We're bringing the Women's Center 20th Anniversary and breakfast to you commuters!

February 27
4pm

Korneman Lecture

Albin O. Kuhn Library, 7th floor

Join Kathy E. Davis as she speaks to Feminism as Traveling Theory:
The Case of Our Bodies, Ourselves

March 7
12pm

President's Commission for Women: Mentoring Tea

Women's Center Lounge

Mentors are everywhere and their stories are inspiring.
Join a UMBC woman mentor for tea and encouragement.

March 14
4 -6pm

I out 100,000: The Importance of One

UC Ballroom

At this capstone event, hear how the story of one student called others to make a difference.
Light reception included.

April 4
6:30 - 8pm

CWIT's Women in Technology: 2nd Annual Spring into Leadership Event

University Center, 3rd Floor

Women in engineering and computing careers are transforming the world! Imagine how you will too at this interactive event of students, professionals, faculty and staff. Light refreshments served.

April 25

Undergraduate Research & Creative Achievement Day

University Center

Look out for the 20th anniversary logo on posters and presentations related to women and gender issues!

May 9
12pm

Closing Picnic

Women's Center Backyard

Help us end our celebration by creating one last memory during our 20th anniversary year.

The Spring Semester will also include the debut of the Women's Center 20th Anniversary digital story telling documentary and the creation of a 20th Anniversary Memory Quilt. Be on the lookout for more details throughout the semester!

Thank you to our many cosponsors and supporters! Without you our 20th Anniversary would be incomplete!

UMBC's Office of Undergraduate Education, The Commons, Chartwells, commonvision, Gender and Women's Studies, The President's Commission for Women, The Albin O. Kuhn Library, University Health Services, The Theatre Department, UMBC Homecoming, The Office of Student Life, URCAD, CWIT, UMBC Magazine, and the Women's Center Advisory Board

Unisex/Gender-Neutral/Gender-Inclusive Restrooms are Here!

Have you noticed a new change to the ground floor of the Commons. The restrooms have gone unisex/gender-neutral (so don't forget to lock the door behind you!) Why are gender-neutral restrooms important? Visit the following links for additional information:

<http://www.amplifyyourvoice.org/youthresource/genderneutral>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2I3y2X6mPCw>

The Returning Women group has a facebook page now! Don't forget to like us! <http://www.facebook.com/returningwomen>



March 2012 Women's History Month



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	1	2	3
<p>Women's Center Film Series, "Training Rules," Feb 27-March 2. See event list for times!</p>						
	- Korenman lecture 4pm	-Free Latin Dancing in the Women's Center at 6:30PM		-Free Yoga in the Women's Center at 6PM	- "Training Rules" Discussion at 12PM. -Women of the World Baltimore Festival	-WOW Baltimore Festival
4 -WOW Baltimore Festival	5 -Iron Jawed Angels film & discussion 4-7PM	6 -Free Latin Dancing in the Women's Center at 6:30PM	7 - Presidents Commission for Women Mentoring Event, 12noon - Women's History & Nat. Nutrition Fair 12-1 - GRRL Parts 8PM (preview) -Stephen Marc lecture at 4PM	8 International Women's Day! -International Women's Day Podluck 12-1:30 - GRRL Parts 4pm (FREE Preview) -Free Yoga in the Women's Center at 6PM	9 -GRRL Parts 8PM (Opening Night)	10 -GRRL Parts 2PM and 8PM
<p>Passage on the Underground Railroad Exhibition at the Library Gallery Jan 29 - Mar 22</p>						
11 -GRRL Parts 2PM	12 -Free Yoga in the Women's Center at 12pm	13 -Free Latin Dancing in the Women's Center at 6:30PM	14 - UMBC Talks: The Other F Word. 12-1PM - I Out of 100,000: The Importance of One Event 4-6 p.m.	15 -Free Yet Bound: The African-American Community of Baltimore, 1800 - 1864 At Goucher College	16 17 Have you visited the Albin O Kuhn Library yet? Check out the Women's History Display going on the last half of the month!	
18	19 Spring	20 Break.	21	22 Spring	23 Break.	24 -Vision in Feminism Conference in DC
25	26	27 -Women in Letters: Sorority Women's Impact in America, 7PM -Free Latin Dancing 6:30	28 -UMBC Talks: Exploring Mixed Identities and Self-Identity at 12PM	29 -Free Yoga in the Women's Center at 6pm	30 "A Place of Rage" Discussion 12-1.	31
<p>Women's Center Film Series "A Place of Rage," 26-30! see detailed list of events for times!</p>						

For Full Details, visit: <http://my.umbc.edu/groups/womenscenter/news/12363>

WOMEN'S CENTER SPOTLIGHTS: MARCH

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). Campus resources will also be made available in order to help you reach your goals. Email jess.myers@umbc.edu for more information and/or **Join us for meetings Wednesdays at 12pm**


Returning Women's March Schedule

- 3/07 President's Commission for Women Mentoring Tea Event
- 3/14 Couponing: Special guest, Lisa Druillard, from Human Resources (*Library Roving Services Available*)
- 3/21 Spring Break (No Meeting)
- 3/28 Film Series (No Meeting)

Newcombe Foundation & Bryson Neville scholarship applications for 2012-2013 are available!

<http://my.umbc.edu/groups/womenscenter/news/11953>

<http://my.umbc.edu/groups/womenscenter/news/11951>



BETWEEN WOMEN


Between Women is a discussion and support group for women who love women, think they might, or support women who do. Come and discuss topics related to sexuality and share your feelings and experiences with other women.

Fridays 3-4PM at the Women's Center


If you have any questions, please contact:
Coordinator of the Women's Center:
Galina Portnoy at: portnoy1@umbc.edu
OR
Graduate Coordinator of the OSU Mosaic Center for LGBTQ Programs:
Oteri Esiekpe at: oesiekpe1@umbc.edu

 The Mosaic
Center for Culture and Diversity
The Mosaic is a part of the Office of Student Life
Room 2823, The Commons, 2nd Floor
410-455-2686
mosaic@umbc.edu
<http://www.umbc.edu/studentlife/osaic/>

 Women's Center at UMBC
Commons 004
410-455-2714
womenscenter@umbc.edu
www.umbc.edu/womenscenter



PRESIDENT'S
COMMISSION FOR
WOMEN



1 OUT OF 100,000: THE IMPORTANCE OF ONE

March 14, 2012 | 4-6 p.m. | UC Ballroom

As a UMBC Community, the stories we share with each other form an interlocking and supportive web of connections and relationships. The power these stories hold are immeasurable and call us to action.

Learn how one student's story inspired UMBC faculty and staff to weave a web of care, empathy, and action that allows for student success and growth.

Know Your Body Workshop!

March 12th at 12pm

Let's talk about menstruation! March's Know Your Bodies' topic will be menstruation stories. Listen to stories, share your own and learn how to have positive periods.

The Women's Center now has a tumblr!

Follow us at: womenscenteratumbc.tumblr.com

We post videos, pictures, news stories and much more, all fitting the conversations that we have in the Women's Center everyday.

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! The Mother's meeting takes place the second Friday of every month

Next Meeting: March 9th at 12pm

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHTS: MARCH

A PLACE OF RAGE



This exuberant celebration of African American women and their achievements features interviews with Angela Davis, June Jordan and Alice Walker. Within the context of the civil rights, Black power and feminist movements, the trio reassess how women such as Rosa Parks and Fannie Lou Hamer revolutionized American society. A stirring chapter in African American history, highlighted by music from Prince, Janet Jackson, the Neville Brothers and the Staple Singers. [52 minutes]

Showtimes: M (3/26) & W (3/28): 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00
T (3/27) & Th (3/29): 10:00, 11:30, 1:00, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30 **Friday (3/30): 11:00**

Film Discussion: Friday, 3/30, 12pm
Facilitated by: TBA

The Women's Center at UMBG • The Commons, 004 • 410-552-2714 • www.umbc.edu/womenscenter • womens.center@umbc.edu

FAMILY LOVE LETTER: A Legacy for the Living

March 7, 2012, 12 - 1pm

Rm 312, University Center

Brown Bag Lunch & Learn

to register, visit www.umbc.edu/training

Sponsored by the Department of Human Resources

GUEST SPEAKER:

Annie Mussoni-Morrison,

Calling on Women to Protect and Preserve Your Family through Estate Planning

This brown-bag lunch and learn session will provide important information for women about protecting and preserving their family estates through planning. The session will highlight the goals of estate planning and give steps to reduce the stress when decision making is critical.

Baltimore Symphony Orchestra presents:

WOW! Women of the World, Baltimore

3/2 - 3/4 at the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall

Artistic Directors Marin Alsop and Jude Kelly

WOW is a global movement!

It's a three-day Festival of mentoring, storytelling, discussion and debate, features many of the topics discussed during "think-ins" in fall 2011 that more than 400 women (and men) in Baltimore attended. WOW has reached out to all kinds of women and organizations to craft a festival that reflects women of Baltimore.

Passage on the Underground Railroad Exhibition at the Library Gallery through 3/22

The Albin O. Kuhn Library Gallery presents Passage on the Underground Railroad, artwork by **Stephen Marc** whose fascinating photographs and digital montages explore the history of freedom seekers on the Underground Railroad. With this body of work, Marc combines contemporary images with historic documents and artifacts to create richly-layered objects that bring the past palpably into the present. For seven years the artist photographed the routes traveled by fugitive slaves in their search for freedom, documenting and interpreting his research along the way. In Passage on the Underground Railroad, Marc shares the results of these explorations through eighty-seven thought-provoking, unconventional, and haunting digital images.

Wednesday, March 7th at 4 pm, Stephen Marc will present a lecture on his work.



What do you love about yourself?

Let us know by filling out:



In the Women's Center until 3/2/12!

UMBC Women's Center

The Commons, Room 004
1000 Hilltop Circle
Baltimore, MD 21250
www.umbc.edu/womenscenter

Phone: 410.455.2714
E-mails:
womens.center@umbc.edu
jess.myers@umbc.edu
portnoy1@umbc.edu

Facebook Page: *Women's Center at UMBC*

myUMBC group page: <http://my.umbc.edu/groups/womenscenter>



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 List-serve: 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 list-serve.

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 :)

Please Note: Our Spring Hours are Monday-Thursday, 9am-7pm and Fridays from 9-5pm.

March 2012 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.

♀ **Diane Lee**— Thank you for your continuous support of the Women's Center. We feel lucky to have you as an advocate! — Jess

♀ **To Our Friends in OUE:** Thanks for the great tea donation! Congrats on your new space in Academic IV too!

♀ **Janet McGlynn**— Thank you for your PR perspective and always looking for new ways to get the Women's Center noticed throughout campus. Your ideas are so helpful. Thank you for being a reliable friend to the Center.

♀ **Dr. Nicole Cousin-Gossett** — Thank you for your upcoming facilitation of our February film series discussion!

♀ **Stefanie Mavronis and Drew**

Wright—You've been so amazing the amazing work and EDITING you've been doing to make the 20th Anniversary documentary a possibility. Can't wait to see it!

♀ **Mickey & Sandi**—The first Know Your Bodies program would not have been able to happen without you. Thank you so much for your help, presentation and patience with the copious amount of emails you got.— Cassandra

♀ **Peggy and Patti from Capital One**— Thanks for leading a great Returning Women's meeting on finances and budgeting! You were so helpful and the workshop left us with some great tips!

♀ **Kate Drabinski**—Thanks for the brainstorming session about ways to bring the Women's Center and Will together as better campus partners. Looking forward to new and exciting programs and ideas!

♀ **Lindsey Mitchell & Stefanie Mavronis**—Thanks for the partnership and helping bring an amazing program to campus in April for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. We can't wait! A special thanks to **GWST and WILL** for helping co-sponsor the upcoming event as well!

♀ **UHS**—Thanks for the amazing donation of tampons! What a help!

♀ **GWST Faculty and Staff** — Congrats on a great Korenman Lecture! As always, thank you for your support. We appreciate your partnership.

♀ **Lisa Gray, Oteri Esiekpe, and the BMore Proud Student Leaders**— Wow! Thank you for an amazing conference. We felt proud and honored to be a part of something so important!

♀ **Erika & Jim from Creative Services**— Thanks for all the website support and revamping!

♀ **Max**—Thank you for your enthusiasm and hard work as you continue to bring together Men's Engagement programming—Galina

♀ **Oteri**—Thanks for your help and collaboration on Between Women!

♀ **Jodi Kelber-Kaye**—Thank you for all of your ongoing support, help, and advice! Thanks for being such a great friend to the Women's Center!! —Galina

♀ **Andrea DeSantis**—Thank you for being so faithful in picking up our checks from payroll on pay day.—Eryl

♀ **Christy, Lisa, & Juliette**—Thank you for being my helpers in computer problems and information!—Eryl

♀ **Alison Ginder & Lindsey Barclay**— Thanks for your help so far on bringing the Clothesline Project to the Res Halls. It'll be an awesome event and I can't wait to see it happen! — Cassandra