



The UMBC Women's Center Newsletter

February 2011

Letter from the Director: Mollie Monahan-Kreishman

To the amazing and brilliant UMBC Campus Community:

Welcome to Spring Semester! With all of the snow and freezing rain we've had of late, it certainly doesn't feel like Spring. Bundle up, friends. We've got another couple months of this, at least! We hope that the chilly weather will encourage you to come to the Women's Center for a warm mug of tea and a good talk with friends. As you know, tea and conversation are two things we pride ourselves on.

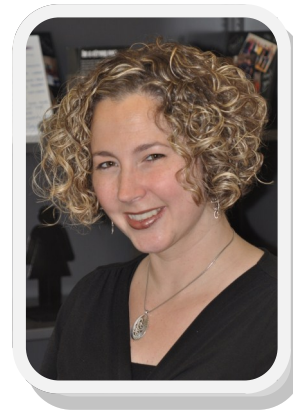
Spring semester at the Women's Center is shaping up to be full of inspiring outreach and education. As al-

ways, you can use the center for lactation, meditation, prayer, yoga, information, crisis response and referrals, course extra credit (like the film series), and so many other things. We hope that our Mothers' Meetings and Returning Women's Meetings will continue to provide community to two very special populations on campus. Keep a lookout for programming in March, which is Women's History Month. We think that this year's campus-wide collaboration is exceptional, and we can't wait to share many interesting, thoughtful, and provocative moments with you all.

Our thoughts are with you as you begin what we hope is

sure to be another great semester at UMBC.

See you at the Center!



Mollie Monahan-Kreishman, UMBC Women's Center Director, mmonahan@umbc.edu

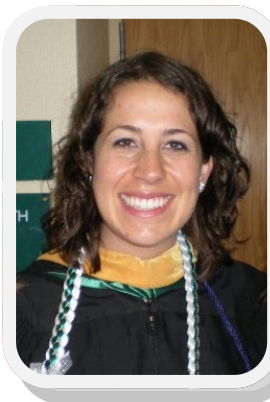


Special points of interest:

- ☺ Letters from the Director and Coordinator
- ☺ What is the I Deserve Campaign?
- ☺ Spring Film Series
- ☺ Women's History Month 2011
- ☺ Scholarship Information
- ☺ Ongoing and Upcoming Events (Yoga, Returner Women Meetings, Mother's Meetings, and more!)
- ☺ Shout Outs!
- ☺ Information about the Women's Center, the list serve, and newsletter submissions
- ☺ Happy Valentine's Day! Check out *Luvapalooza* on the Commons Main Street on the 14th!

February Thoughts from the New Women's Center Coordinator: Jess Myers

Just as I was about to sit down and write this first "article" and hello, I was reminded by a student staff member that this month's newsletter resides in the same month as Valentine's Day. While I often cringe at the thought of commercialized love, I thought about the holiday in a new perspective, and that was simply a perspective of love and gratitude. I am grateful for the love I receive daily from my partner, family, and friends.



What a beautiful gift to be cherished for exactly who I am. And, on this Valentine's Day, I also find gratitude in my new job (that I love!) as the Women's Center's Coordinator. To work in a place with a mission to assist all women, men, transgender, or gender nonconforming students in helping them achieve their full potential in their education, career, and personal life is amazing! Love!! To be surrounded by passionate colleagues and student staff is inspiring! Love!! So, on this Valentine's Day, and every day, I encourage you to simply find gratitude in love, however that may look or be experienced by you.

And, as a side note, or rather a little introduction about me... I am a recent grad-

uate of the Student Affairs in Higher Education Masters Program at Colorado State University. While there I worked as a hall director, did research related to second-year/sophomore issues, served as an advocate for survivors of sexual assault, and earned a certificate in Women's Studies. Having grown up in Baltimore, though, I was excited to come back to my hometown after graduation and start putting down roots. I'm in the Center 20 hours a week so please stop by, introduce yourself, and get to know me better. I truly look forward to a great semester working with you all!

-Jess Myers, UMBC Women's Center Coordinator, jess.myers@umbc.edu

A Campaign of Awareness: What Do You Deserve?

Help raise awareness about domestic violence and abusive relationships on campus by contributing your ideas to the "I Deserve" campaign.

What is "I Deserve..."? In the Fall of 2010 it was announced to the University community that UMBC had received the distinction of being awarded a grant through the Verizon Foundation for relationship violence prevention and education. One initiative of this Verizon Foundation grant is the development of a poster series called the "I DESERVE..." campaign. This poster se-

ries will reflect positive impactful messages submitted by members of the UMBC community about characteristics of healthy relationships.

"I deserve quality time."

"I deserve respect and acceptance."

"I deserve a hand to hold."

"I deserve laughs."

The "I deserve..." campaign is not only an opportunity for individuals to express what they

feel they deserve in a healthy relationship but also, an opportunity to raise awareness about relationship violence prevention and education.

This sounds cool, so what do I do?

We want to hear from the UMBC Community - students, faculty and staff! Entries can be submitted at <http://www.umbc.edu/redflag/>, and will be accepted through March 7, 2011.

I submitted. What happens next?

Several submissions will be selected to create the poster series. The posters will be placed throughout the campus and featured online. If you provide your name and e-mail (optional) we will notify you if your entry is selected.



Spring 2011 Yoga

The Yoga Club on campus will be sponsoring free weekly yoga classes in the center. Classes are free and take place on Mondays from 4-4:45pm & Tuesdays from 4-4:40pm. For more information contact Kristin Williams at kwill5@umbc.edu.

Pat Barnes will also be teaching yoga classes on Mondays at 5pm. The course costs \$130 for the full semester (13) sessions, or \$10 per session. We suggest that you sign up for as many sessions as possible at the beginning of the semester so that Pat can plan accordingly. Space is limited. For details about prorating, contact the instructor at otyoga@yahoo.com. To reserve your space, contact the Women's Center at womens.center@umbc.edu, (410) 455-2714, or stop by the center.

Women's Center 20th Anniversary Celebration

The UMBC Women's Center turns 20 in September 2011! In celebration of this momentous occasion, plans are underway for a year of events to mark an important milestone. As you are planning for the 2011-2012 academic year, keep the Women's Center in mind. If your program or event can be linked to the mission of the Women's Center, we would like to consider partnering with

you. Please let us know if you are interested! Whether it is a lecture, book display, art exhibit, photography installation, discussion, film, research symposium, faculty spotlight, video project, slide show, or anything else that may help to celebrate the brilliant contributions of women on and off campus, let us know! Contact us at womenscenter@umbc.edu.

Women's Spring 2011 Film Series

The Women's Center Spring Film Series will be up and running later this month in the Women's Center. The first film will be *Laramie Inside and Out* on February 21, 22, 23, and 24th. The synopsis for the film is as follows:

"In October 1998, Wyoming college student Matthew Shepard was brutally beaten and left to die. The horror of this murder pushed Laramie into the media spotlight and sparked a nationwide debate about homophobia, gay-bashing and hate crimes. Filmmaker Beverly Seckinger returns to her hometown to see how this event had affected the site of her own closeted adolescence. Along the way she meets "God-hates-fags" Westboro

Baptist Church Reverend Fred Phelps, who condemns Shepard and all homosexuals to an eternal hell. But Seckinger meets many more—parents, teachers, clergy and students—telling their stories, speaking out and taking action."

The **showtimes for this film are:**

2/21-2/23: 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00 **02/24:** 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00

Additionally, the following movies will also be a part of our film series this semester:

- ◆ *A Powerful Noise:* March 21, 22, 23, 24
- ◆ *Killing Us Softly: Advertising's Image of Women:* April 25, 26, 27, 28

- ◆ *Middle Sexes: Redefining He and She:* May 2, 3, 4, 5

For additional details, show and discussion times, please visit the Women's Center website at www.umbc.edu/womenscenter.

Mothers' Meetings will take place noon to 1pm at the Women's Center on the following Fridays: February 11, March 11, April 8, and May 13.

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

Women's History Month 2011!

We've already got a great list of events, speakers, and discussion groups happening for Women's History Month. A sneak peak includes a Henna fundraiser for the Women's Center, UMBC Talks events every Wednesday, a fertility awareness event, and several guest speakers. Be on the look out for an official calendar of events later this month.

If your office, department, or student group would like to participate or co-sponsor an event in March, please contact Jess Myers at jess.myers@umbc.edu.

Scholarships Now Available!

The Women's Center is now accepting applications for the Bryson-Neville and Newcombe Scholarships for Returning Women (age 25 and up) who are seeking their first undergraduate degree. For more information please contact us at womenscenter@umbc.edu, or visit us on the web, www.umbc.edu/womenscenter

The BMore Pride LGBTQA Leadership Summit:

This event is taking place on February 12, 2011 on the Johns Hopkins Homewood campus. If you are interested in attending or would like additional information, please visit: For more information, please visit <http://www.bmoreproud.org/summit/about.php>

Family Crisis Center of Baltimore County Benefit Concert

The Family Crisis Center of Baltimore County (FCC) is a non-profit organization, founded in 1979, that provides high quality services to those experiencing family conflict and domestic violence. They offer a 24 hour, 7 day a week emergency safe shelter, transitional housing, victim advocacy services, free legal services to victims, new behavior groups, and a crisis hotline.

On Saturday, February 19th at 7pm a benefit concert will be held to raise money for this valuable center. The concert will feature Brickfoot and Pet-

ticoat Tearoom at the Skyloft Galleries on 3701 Bank Street. Tickets in advanced are \$10, tickets at the door are \$20. 21 and over only. For additional information, please visit www.the6thbranch.org/family.

Additionally, the Family Crisis Center of Baltimore County is currently looking for volunteers for its crisis line. Please visit their website for more information: www.familycrisiscenter.net



The Women's Center Staff

(soon to come...

a new updated photo of the full staff!)

National Conference for College Women Student Leaders

AAUW and NASPA proudly present the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders — Leadership for Today and Tomorrow, the only conference that brings together college women to address important and contemporary leadership issues. The conference provides a transformative experience for attendees, and students return home ready to improve their campuses and their communities. The conference takes place at University of Maryland, College Park from June 2-4, 2011. For information regarding registration, scholarships, and program proposal information, please visit <http://www.nccwsl.org/Pages/Home.aspx>.

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.

Meetings will take place every Wednesday at 12:00pm during free hour (with the exceptions of 2/23, 3/16, 3/23, 3/30, 4/27, 5/4 when no meetings will take place). Please feel to bring your lunch. Complimentary tea and coffee are available to all guests.

UMBC Women's Center

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

Phone: 410.455.2714

E-mails:

mmonohan@umbc.edu

jess.myers@umbc.edu



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 :)

February 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.

- ◆ Thanks and praise to Dr. Judith Schneider in the MLLI department for being so patient and supportive as, both, an adviser and professor. Also, thank you for genuinely caring about your students. You are greatly appreciated! -From Christy Wilson
- ◆ Thanks to Jess for coming on board and becoming a part of the UMBC Women's Center and thank you for always having a smile! -From Christy Wilson
- ◆ Many thanks to Carolyn Good and Fontella Bateman in the MLLI department for always being so eager to answer any questions I may have regarding my classes. The MLLI department is fortunate to have you both! -From Christy Wilson
- ◆ Fritzie Charne-Merriweather, for your hard work putting together the speaker series for the Verizon Foundation grant to address domestic violence on campus. -From Mollie
- ◆ Kim Leisey- for your continued support, leadership, and dedication to addressing sexual violence issues on campus. -From Mollie
- ◆ Laura Schraven for coordinating website, poster series, and other projects for the Verizon Foundation grant addressing domestic violence on campus. -From Mollie
- ◆ Ryan Bos, Kim Leisey, Cindy Paige-Desi, and Jill Wardell for providing excellent sessions at the Verizon Foundation Domestic Violence Prevention Advocates training. It was a pleasure serving with you on the training team. -From Mollie
- ◆ Patricia Wick for your continued dedication to addressing domestic violence and abusive relationships on campus. -From Mollie
- ◆ Paul Dillon for your work with the UMCP police department and the Verizon Foundation grant to address domestic violence on campus.
- ◆ All of our Domestic Violence Prevention Advocates (Faye, Amy, Kiesha, Avery, John, Alyssa, Nwamaka, Jillian, Emma, Jessica, Sharon, Sara, Eleanor, Stephanie, Dana, Chantelle, and Kim) for a great first day of training. You are thoughtful, smart, and caring - I look forward to a great semester with you! -From Mollie
- ◆ Janet McGlynn- for donating a tea diffuser to the Women's Center. Now we can actually use the loose leaf tea we have on hand! -From Mollie
- ◆ Tom Beck, from the Library Special Collections- for planning a special exhibition of women photographers for next year's Women's Center 20th Anniversary Celebration. -From Mollie
- ◆ Jess Myers - congratulations on your new position as Coordinator here at the Women's Center! We are thrilled to have you on board. It is clear that your background, energy, enthusiasm, and overall commitment to social justice issues make you a perfect fit for the center. Welcome to the UMBC family! -From Mollie
- ◆ To Adam K. for all of your support of the Women's Center. We appreciate all of the help and attention you give to us and our space. What would we do without you? -From Mollie and Staff
- ◆ To Anna Millillan for your work on the Women's Center website, and for your spirit and energy in general - you are such a star! -From Mollie
- ◆ To Doug Twomey for helping us find a good solution to our twelve year old (no joke!) computers. The center is working much more efficiently now! -From Mollie

