



The UMBC Women's Center Fall 2012 Kick-Off Newsletter

Letter from the Director: Jess Myers



"Without leaps of imagination, or dreaming, we lose the excitement of possibilities. Dreaming, after all, is a form of planning." – Gloria Steinem

Welcome to the Fall 2012 semester UMBC Women's Center community! It's so good to have you back & we look forward to a memorable year.

Throughout the summer, I've been asked if this year will be less busy since our 20th anniversary is behind us. Much to their surprise, I reply "No, it's going to be an even busier year!" The Women's Center has been able to take the great energy from last year & use it to fuel new programs, enhance current services, & maintain the same welcoming space we're proud to offer to the UMBC community.

This year, we may not find the Women's Center throwing kick-off picnics or hosting large campus events, but you will find us diligently working with various student populations to enhance student success and development. This year, we have three new Honors College interns working for us. Kathleen Algire-Fedaryck & Lexx Mills will be working as our fundraising/grant interns to help them gain important skills in those areas (while helping us find some additional funds for our programming). Kelly Broderick will be working as our program/outreach intern & will be expanding opportunities to outreach to the UMBC community re-

garding important initiatives that impact women & gender issues. This is an exciting new collaboration with the Honors College & we're extremely grateful for their partnership.

Additionally, M2M: The Men's Initiative will be officially kicking off this semester. Our student staff member, Max Barnhart, spearheaded this new program just for students who identify as men. We're thrilled to have intentional space for men to explore masculinity & how gender impacts their lived experiences. Please spread the word! Finally, Cassandra Morales, our intern turned staff member, will continue to provide an excellent Women's Center Tumblr page with current issues related to women & gender while working on important other Women's Center programming & events.

And, of course, Women's Center staples will be back. We hope to find you in the Center for yoga, the film series, knitting circle, Returning Women meetings (with a hopeful weekend conference!), Mother's Meetings (with new times!), Between Women meetings, the mediation/lactation room, free coffee & tea, and a quiet and safe space to meet friends.

If you're new to our community, we're excited to meet you & get to know you! Keep reading for additional information about our programs & services. Good luck to all & may your semester be fabulous!!



What's Inside!

- ☉ Letters from Staff
- ☉ Intern Corner
- ☉ Ongoing and Upcoming Events & Groups
- ☉ Advisory Board Retreat Photos
- ☉ Information about the Women's Center, the list serve, and newsletter submissions
- ☉ Shout Outs!



Letter from the Coordinator: Galina Portnoy



*"Courage is like a muscle. We strengthen it with use."
~ Ruth Gordon*

I love the energy that the start of an academic year brings. New and

returning students gear up to learn and get involved. Research shows that getting involved and engaged outside of the classroom is a powerful tool for succeeding in college. The new academic year gives students a chance to get connected to the community in both academic and non-academic ways.

When considering programs, groups, and activities that you'd like to get involved with, don't forget those offered by the Women's Center. For example, Are you a woman returning to college later in life (after the traditional age of 18-22)? Check out the **Returning Women's Meetings** designed specifically to address topics that may come up for you as a student juggling multiple roles. Are you a mother? The Women's Center holds **Mother**

Meeting for moms who are also part of the UMBC campus community to connect and learn from one another. Are you a woman who loves women, think that you might, and/or support women who do? Join our **Between Women** group, a discussion and support group for women around sexuality in a women's only space. Are you a man who's wondered about ways to get involved in conversations around gender and masculinity? **M2M: The Men's Initiative** will meet weekly to discuss gender norms and variations in order to promote a healthy and multifaceted masculinity throughout UMBC's campus community.

Are you interested in reading? **The Not Oprah's Book Club** is designed to support women and/or feminist authors and facilitate discussion on the books selected by the group. Do you love movies? Check out our **film series** in which we watch a different film each month and gather to talk about it the last day of the film screening week.

Phew! Can you tell how busy we get?! Hopefully you can find something to get engaged in and passionate about through Women's Center programming.

So while it's important to lead a productive and engaged life, don't forget to also take time to devote to your personal needs and self-care. For these moments, remind yourself that the Women's Center also offers free **yoga**, free **tea and coffee**, and a private space for **meditation and prayer**.

I'll leave you with a wish: As we begin the new academic year, I wish for you the courage to step outside of your comfort zone and challenge yourself to get involved and engaged in new and productive ways this year. I also wish for you reflection and awareness so that you're able to recognize the call for pause, and take that time for self-care and self-love.

THE WOMEN'S CENTER INTERN CORNER

Spotlight on the Women's Center's new Honors College interns!



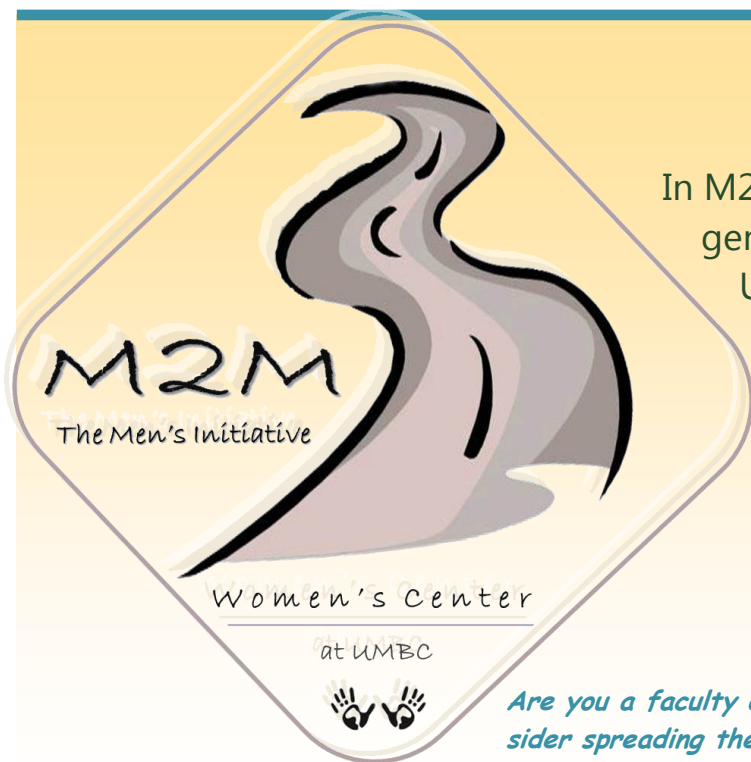
Hi! I'm Kelly, this is my second semester at UMBC after transferring from Howard Community College and working as a retail store manager for a decade previously. I'm majoring in Gender and Women's Studies and minoring in Social Welfare. I'm a co-leader of WILL, the treasurer of the GWST Council of Majors, an ambassador for Planned Parenthood Maryland, and a volunteer with NARAL Baltimore Choice Avengers. This semester I'm excited about the projects I'm helping to plan for WILL and to get involved in fun programming for the different groups that meet at the Women's Center!



My name is Lexx and I'm very excited to be interning at the Women's Center this year. I am originally from Bowie, MD. I am a senior Gender and Women's Studies major and a Sondheim Public Affairs Scholar. I studied abroad in Mali this past spring and I spent the summer doing a public policy program at Princeton University. I plan to work in international affairs, and I would also like to work on advancing the interests of women in the workplace and expanding educational opportunities for ethnic and racial minorities. I am president of Zeta Sigma Chi Multicultural Sorority, Inc. and I'm also very involved with Oxfam Club UMBC. In my position, I am most looking forward to gaining experience in grant writing. It's a skill I've wanted to learn for quite some time, and in the process, I hope to gain significant funding for the Women's Center! And just for fun, I'll share a random fact about myself: I often sing and/or dance right before a delicious meal, sometime during as well.

Hello! My name is Kathleen and I am entering into my senior year at UMBC. I am a social work major and sociology minor and the president of the social work student association. I am also the BSW representative for the Maryland chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. I have really enjoyed my time at UMBC because of all the activities and experiences that students can engage in. Currently, I am participating in the newly formed coalition, Retrievers for Equality and registering students on campus to vote. My goal for my time in the Women's Center is to become proficient at grant writing and to use that skill to continue the great work already being done on our campus.

WOMEN'S CENTER PROGRAMS



M2M: The Men's Initiative

In M2M: The Men's Initiative, men will get to discuss gender and multifaceted masculinity with other UMBC men in a safe and supportive space.

**Fall Application Deadline:
September 7, 2012**

Email us at womenscenter@umbc.edu or visit the Women's Center myUMBC page to download your application today.

**For more info, check us out at BreakingGround:
tinyurl.com/8psde5s**

Are you a faculty or staff member who works with men? If so, please consider spreading the word about M2M and encouraging your students to apply!

We now have an online form! Click here to be directed to the online application:

<https://docs.google.com/a/umbc.edu/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dFJxVE43cWJMUnRmZHBSemVtU3hSNEE6MQ#gid=0>



Women's Center Fall 2012 Film Series



Please consult with your professor and/or syllabus to see if any of our films can be or are currently being used for class assignment and/or extra credit.

September

Week of September 19th

Papers: Stories of Undocumented Youth

There are approximately 2 million undocumented children who were born outside the U.S. and raised in this country. These are young people who were educated in American schools, hold American values, know only the U.S. as home and who, upon high school graduation, find the door to their future slammed shut. "Papers" is the story of undocumented youth and the challenges they face as they turn 18 without legal status. (90 minutes)

Showtimes:

Monday (9/24) & Wednesday (9/26) 1:00, 2:30, & 4:00

Tuesday (9/25) : 11:30, 1:00, 2:30, & 4:00 & 5:30*

Thursday (9/27): 11:30, 1:00, 2:30, & 4:00

Friday (9/28): 10:00

Film Discussion: Friday, 9/28, 12pm

Facilitated by: Dr. Poggio (MLLI)

*Viewing and discussion on Tuesday at 5:30 hosted by the College Dems. All are welcome!

October

Week of October 15th

Miss Representation

Miss Representation exposes how American youth are being sold the concept that women and girls' value lies in their youth, beauty and sexuality. Mainstream media also contributes to the under-representation of women in influential positions by circulating limited and often disparaging portrayals of women. It's time to break that cycle of mistruths, especially during this important election year. (90 minutes)

Showtimes:

Monday (10/15) & Wednesday (10/17): 1:00, 2:30, & 4:00,

Tuesday (10/16) 1:00, 2:30, & 4

Thursday (10/18): 10:00, 11:30, 1:00, & 2:30

Friday (10/19): 10:00

Film Discussion: Friday, 10/19, 12pm

Facilitated by: Dr. Hussey (Political Science)

November

Week of November 5th

Body and Soul: Diana & Kathy

Diana has down syndrome and Kathy has cerebral palsy. They both work to break stereotypes about disability. The documentary, directed by Alice Elliot, shows Diana as a capable personal assistant to Kathy who has become non-verbal due to her illness. Diana and Kathy break the rules, escape the system, and model a grand experiment in independent living. The two are inspiring in their lobbying effort for equal rights for those disabilities. (40 minutes)

Showtimes:

Monday (11/5) & Wednesday (11/7) 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, & 4:00

Tuesday (11/6) 1:00, 2:30, & 4:00

Thursday (11/8): 10:00, 11:30, 1:00, & 2:30

Friday (11/9): 11:00

Film Discussion: Friday, 11/9, 12pm

Facilitated by: TBA

December

Week of December 3rd

Tough Guise

Looks systematically at the relationship between the images of popular culture and the social construction of masculine identities in the U.S. in the late 20th century. In this innovative and wide-ranging analysis, Jackson Katz argues that there is a crisis in masculinity and that some of the guises offered to men as a solution (rugged individualism, violence) come loaded with attendant dangers to women, as well as other men. (87 minutes)

Showtimes:

Monday (12/3) & Wednesday (12/5): 1:00, 2:30, & 4:00

Tuesday (12/4) & Thursday (12/6): 11:30, 1:00, 2:30, & 4:00

No Friday *Last* Showing

Film Discussion: Friday, 12/7 12pm

Facilitated by: TBA

Much Thanks to Our Fall Co-Sponsors:
OSL's Mosaic Center, GWST, and MLL

WOMEN'S CENTER & COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHTS

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 Returning Women's group meeting every Wednesday at noon. Campus resources will also be made available in order to help you reach your goals.

Email jess.myers@umbc.edu for more information.

September Meeting Schedule:

9/12 : Welcome Back Meeting

9/19 : Getting to Know Your Campus Resources
(AOK Library Roving service available)

9/26 : Undergraduate Research and You (with Janet McGlynn)

Save the Date: Newcombe Scholars and Returning Women Reunion at Homecoming on Saturday, October 13th from 2-4pm

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 meetings take place at 10am the on the second Friday and 1pm on the last Thursday of every month

September Meeting Schedule:

Fri, 9/14 @ 10:00am &
Thurs, 9/27 @ 1:00pm



BETWEEN WOMEN

Between Women is a discussion a 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.

Fall Meeting
Day & Time TBD

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: oesiekp1@umbc.edu

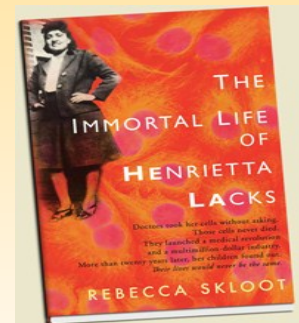
 **The Mosaic**
Center for Culture and Diversity
The Mosaic is a part of the Office of Student Life
Room 2823, The Commons, 2nd Floor
410-455-2686
mosaic@umbc.edu
<http://www.umbc.edu/studentlife/mosaic/>



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

Early Fall Not Oprah's Book Club Reading is:

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks



Read during September and join our book discussion: Thursday, October 4th at Noon

We're excited to have this as our early fall book since it's the New Student Book Experience book that all first year and transfer students will have read over the summer and will be using throughout the fall semester.

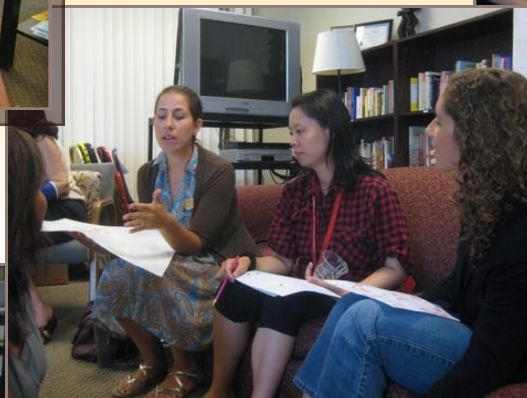


Looking for Daycare Resources? Visit our resource guide at our myUMBC group page: my.umbc.edu/groups/womenscenter

PHOTOS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD RETREAT



The Women's Center Advisory Board for 2012-2013 meeting during our opening retreat



UMBC Women's Center

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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 :)

Our Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9am - 7pm; Friday: 9am - 5pm

If you need to use the Center outside of these hours, contact Jess.

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 always believing in me and the work the Women's Center does.

♀ **Andrea DeSantis:** As always, thank you for helping the Women's Center with all of our questions and picking up our checks on payday! What will we do without you!?

♀ **Women's Center Advisory Board:**

Thanks for a great retreat. Very excited for an excellent year of ideas and positive momentum!

♀ **Tidanke Kaba:** Thanks for being a part of the Women's Center family this summer. It was great to have you on board helping us gear up for the Fall!

♀ **M2M Committee (Max Barnhart, Galina, Ben Goldberg, Craig Berger, David Hoffman, Dan Sym, Derrick Johnson, Renzo Meza, Josh Gamse):** Thank you for your continued support on the M2M program. We couldn't do it without you! **Rabbi Jason:** Thank you for your insights!

♀ **Jodi Kelber-Kaye:** Thanks for helping us make some important connections for the M2M program. Brainstorming with you always leads to positive results!

♀ **Jessica Guzman-Rea:** Thanks for walking all over campus with Jess to help us survey which restrooms on campus are parent friendly and inclusive!

♀ **Lizzy Wunsch and Cassandra Morales:** Thanks for helping keep the Center open during staff vacation time and helping us gear up for the fall!

♀ **Jen Treger:** Thanks for presenting on the Green Dot program at the Board retreat.

♀ **Alison Rohrbach:** Thank you for presenting on VAV and SARVRT protocol at the Board retreat. Such important information to share and we appreciated your expertise.

♀ **Dr. Poggio:** Thank you for your excitement in helping us bring Papers to the Women's Center for our September film series. Looking forward to a great discussion on Sept 28th!

♀ **Oteri Esiekpe:** Thanks for your continued support on the Between Women's group. We always appreciate the collaboration and a person we love to call an amazing teammate!

♀ **Sue Harris, Susan Emfinger, Brandon Tilghman, and Kim Robison:** Thank you for your support in helping us launch the Newcombe and Returning Women Reception for

Homecoming and/or simply providing your advise and expertise to us. We so appreciate our partnership with you!

♀ **Susan Dumont:** Thank you for being a great advocate for the Women's Center and helping connect Greek Life to us and us to Greek Life!

♀ **Yoga Club:** Thank you for coming back to the Women's Center for the fall semester. We always enjoy having you in our space.

♀ **Kyle Weihs—**Thanks for the computer tech support on our scanner and computer screens!

♀ **OPAs & Woolies:** Thank you for talking up the Women's Center during your summer programs here on campus!

♀ **Dr. Bruce Herman:** Thank you for your interest in helping with M2M. We look forward to working with you this year.

♀ **BreakingGround Committee:** Thanks for your hard work in launching such a great new initiative and working with us to spotlight M2M! Everyone check out BreakingGround at: <http://umbcbreakingground.wordpress.com/> And spread the news on Twitter using #digUMBC.