



The UMBC Women's Center Newsletter: December 2012

Letter from the Director: Jess Myers



"Telling our stories is revolutionary." - Janet Mock

As many of you are probably looking into the future and trying to get through the last few weeks of the semester, I find myself looking back at the past few months and evaluating the Fall 2012 semester. I am reflecting on what the Women's Center has accomplished and what we can improve upon for the spring semester. Images of Welcome Week flash through my mind, followed by the first meeting of M2M and the laughs shared in Between Women. I think about the personal responsibility many of the Women's Center visitors felt and spoke of regarding being counted in this year's election. Impactful visions of this semester's Clothesline Project and vigil color my mind as do the faces of students who found their way in my office to share a myriad of feelings, both happy and sad.

Each of these reflections call to mind personal stories. Stories of coming out. Stories of grappling with male privilege. Stories of finally feeling like a survivor and not a victim. Stories of pain that needs to be heard. As I tuck each of those away in my heart, I think how revolutionary each of these stories can be. I think of how each of these stories

will one day change the world. When we make ourselves vulnerable enough to share our stories we can incite transformation and authenticity... a revolution of the heart for ourselves and others.

It is with this in mind that I use this space at the end of calendar year to thank each of our community members for being you. Thank you for sharing your authentic self in whatever place in life you may be. You make the Women's Center a revolutionary place to be. A place that defies norms and breaks ground for the world to be a better place. What a gift! I can only hope that more stories will unfold in the spring semester and I look forward to what lies ahead.

Finally, As you wrap up your semester, I wish students the best of luck in your exams and papers. I wish professors the patience and energy to grade exams and papers. I wish staff an opportunity to catch up on projects and planning. I wish us all a deep breath, reflection, and peace in our hearts. Don't forget the Women's Center will have our coffee and tea to keep you warm and caffeinated and our mediation room to clear your mind. Have a safe and happy winter break and we'll see you in 2013!

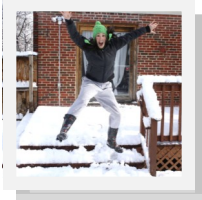


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Letter from the Coordinator: Galina Portnoy



"The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance." - Alan Watts

As some of you may have already heard, I will be leaving my job at the Women's Center at the end of the winter session. This is not a decision that came easily for me. In fact, it is one with which I struggled over the last few months. But ultimately I had to be honest with myself and admit that I'm in a place where I need to focus on my dissertation and commit my time and energy to finishing my graduate training. It's also a decision that is in the best interest of the Women's Center. The Center deserves a coordinator who is able to prioritize her job above other obligations. I feel enormously lucky for the relationships, experiences, and knowledge that I have gained during my last 1 and 1/2 years as

Coordinator. I feel fortunate and grateful to have been a part of the Women's Center community and part of the important work that we do.

It has especially been an honor to work with such a hardworking and driven staff. The students who work at the Women's Center are among the most passionate and dedicated UMBC students that I've met; they consistently go above and beyond to do work for the social justice issues about which they care so deeply.

I will miss many things about this job. Some that stand out particularly for me include: supporting students in their academic, personal, and professional growth; being available to listen and help connect students with services; getting to deeply know so many visitors of the Center; practicing Russian with students learning to speak; learning how to talk

about topics in a way that is accessible, regardless where a student may be in their journey; and most of all, working closely with one of the most devoted, passionate, and hard working women I know, Jess, who I am confident will continue leading the Center to grow, expand, and reach more and more people.

I once read a quote that stated, "celebrate endings, for they precede new beginnings," which is exactly what I hope to do—I look forward to transitioning to my role as a visitor of the Center and taking part in wonderful programming (like yoga!). Thank you to the Women's Center community; I know that our paths will cross again in the future, and for now, I wish you all of the very best!

HONORS COLLEGE INTERN CORNER



It's hard to believe that I'm nearing the end of my first semester with the Women's Center. It has been a wonderful experience thus far and in that time, I have definitely learned a lot and have had the opportunity to contribute to the great work that the Center does. I've gotten to know and love our awesome staff and I have had some really great conversations about things I typically don't get to discuss outside of these walls.

As an intern here, I focus on grants, sponsorship, and fundraising. I have divided my time between a number of projects including, searching for grants, writing letters to potential sponsors in the Catonsville area, and working on our annual report. My latest project is applying for a BreakingGround grant for an amazing event that we are planning in the spring called Take Back the Night (TBTN). TBTN is an event that has two main objectives: to give voice to those who have been victimized by (or survivors of) interpersonal violence; and to create a visible presence, or critical mass, of people working toward eliminating sexual assault and interpersonal violence. TBTN merges education, activism, and socializing all in one truly impactful evening. With the help of this grant, we hope that TBTN will "shatter the silence and stop the violence" that surrounds sexual assault and relationship violence. Please look out for Take Back the Night in April! — Lexx Mills

WOMEN'S CENTER FINALS AND WINTER HOURS

To help our staff have time to prep and study for finals, we're reducing our hours during finals week.

Please plan accordingly!

December 12-19th: 9am-5pm

December 20-21st: 10am-3pm

To allow for spring semester planning and reduced staffing, we're reducing our hours for the winter semester.

Please plan accordingly!

January 2nd-25th: 10am-3pm



Thinking of a gift to give for the holidays? Come to the Women's Center to purchase one of our travel mugs! Call to reserve yours today.

Only \$10!

WOMEN'S CENTER PROGRAMS & EVENTS

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 group meets 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.

12/5 **Mindfulness meditation for stress reduction: a workshop by Galina, offered just in time for Exams!**

12/12 **Open Meeting**

We're forming a [Newcombe Scholars and Returning Women's Advisory Board](#) so they we can hear about your needs and wants directly from you! We'll be meeting in January to plan for the spring. If you're interested in being a part of the board, email Jess at jessm@umbc.edu

Mothers' Meetings

All mothers are welcome! Share a cup of tea and your stories, struggles, and 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

**December Meeting Schedule:
Friday, 12/14 at 10am**

Moving to myUMBC! We're hoping to build an online community via a group page on myUMBC. If you're interested in helping build the page, contact Jess at jessm@umbc.edu

Between Women

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

December Meetings

Fridays in the
Women's Center.

If you'll be around for the winter term and would like to meet, please contact the Women's Center.

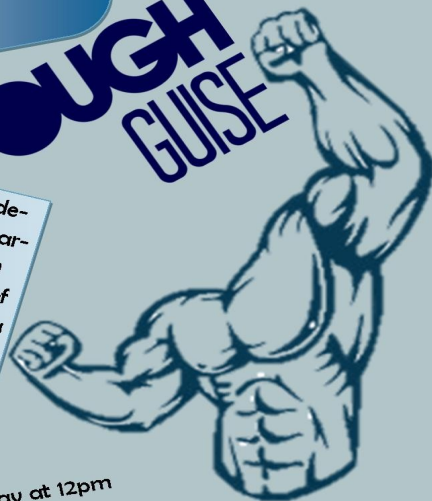


Showtimes:

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



TOUGH GUISE



In this innovative and wide-ranging film, 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)

Film Discussion Friday at 12pm
Facilitated by Dr. Messinger

Women's Center at UMBC | Commons, 004 | 410.455.2714 | www.umbc.edu/womenscenter/

Men's Only Discussion Will be Offered Tuesday, 12/11 at 1pm!

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 :)

Our Hours:

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

Please see inside for details for finals/winter hours.

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 continued support to helping the Women's Center be the best version of us that we can be! -Jess

♀ **Andrea DeSantis** - You will be missed! Thank you for helping the Women's Center over the years. We wish you the best of luck in all the life brings you. Happy Retirement! -Jess, Eryl and the WC Staff

♀ **Brandon Tilghman** - Thanks for working with Galina and Kathleen on the Women's Giving Circle Grant. Your mentorship and guidance has been invaluable! -Jess, Galina, and Kathleen

♀ **Ben Goldberg** - M2M's first cohort has successfully completed their 10 weeks! Thank you once again for your support and dedication in being the lead facilitator for the group. -Jess

♀ **Jen Treger** - Thanks for helping the Women's Center host its very first Women's Center and Green Dot night at the Women's Center basketball game. It was fun! Looking forward to a spring project! -Jess

♀ **Kelly Fahey and Phil Stern** - Thanks for a great Women's Center night at the

Women's Basketball game... Glad they won too!

♀ **Diane Crump-Fogle** - Thanks for joining the Returning Women's group to share important information about career transitions.

♀ **Elle Trusz** - Thanks for your special presentation to the Between Women's Group!

♀ **Max Barnhart** - Thank you for your commitment to M2M and helping the first cohort of men be a success! And for supporting Eryl in tech support on the computer! - Jess & Eryl

♀ **Lexx and Kathleen** - Thank you for working so hard on those grants! You both did a great job! Fingers crossed! -Jess & Galina

♀ **Cassandra Morales** - Thank you for always going above and beyond in your dedication to the Women's Center. -Jess

♀ **Kelly Broderick** - Many thanks for all the projects you worked on over the semester... and especially your flexibility! -Jess

♀ **Madison Miller** - It's been great having you be a part of the team. Thanks for taking the lead on recent projects. Looking forward to having you in the Center more next semester! -Jess

♀ **Eryl Petitt** - Thank you for always being persistent in all the tasks you do that are never as easy as we'd like them to be! -Jess

♀ **Galina Portnoy** - Thank you for your authenticity, honesty, and commitment to doing good work. You've helped me to grow and learn as a supervisor and feminist. - Jess

♀ **Galina** - Victor Hugo described you perfectly when he said "Inspiration and genius - one and the same" Thank you for all your help and support! - Kathleen

♀ **Kathleen & Lexx** - You make supervision so so easy! Thank you for being such a pleasure to work with! - Galina

♀ **WC Staff** - It has been an honor and absolute pleasure to be a part of your lives and for all of you to be a part of mine. Thank you for all of the laughs, thought-provoking conversations, and hard work over the last 1.5 years! - Galina