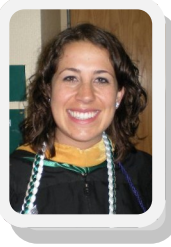




The UMBC Women's Center Newsletter: August 2011

Letter from the Acting Director: Jess Myers



"Love is to the heart what the summer is to the farmer's year - it brings to harvest all the loveliest flowers of the soul." ~Author Unknown

Wow... We're entering into the last few weeks of summer before the

fall semester begins! Where did summer go?! As much as I will miss the hot and "lazy" days, I am anxiously awaiting the fall. So many great things have been happening in the Center (as the quote above mentions, we've been working hard to make sure we have a harvest of all the loveliest flowers) and we're ready to share them with the rest of the community. Come September we'll be:

- ◆ Welcoming new students during our Women's Center open house
- ◆ Holding the first of many returning women's meetings (the first will actually be August 31st at noon) and Mother's meetings.
- ◆ Kicking off our first of three programs with UHS related to body image
- ◆ Celebrating our 20th anniversary with our welcoming picnic and a great photo exhibit in the

library,

- ◆ Showing the first film of our series (*Cut from a Different Cloth*)
- ◆ Hosting yoga sessions on Mondays and Tuesdays
- ◆ Dancing the evening away through Latin dance lessons which will be offered on Wednesday evenings
- ◆ Starting a Women's Center book club

It's a good thing our new acting coordinator, Galina Portnoy, will be on board at the end of this month to help us (*Congrats & welcome Galina!!! We'll share more about you with the rest of the community in September!*) For more information about several of these events and programs, please read on.

In the meantime, we'll just be enjoying August in the Women's Center. **Please also note that the Center will be closed from 10-2pm on August 17th and 10-12pm on August 24th for staff training.** We wish you the best during the last few weeks of summer. We hope you find time to refresh, get some Vitamin D, and enjoy the slower pace. If you're on campus, please stop by and say hello!



Special points of interest:

- ☺ Letters from the Director and Student Staff
- ☺ The 20th Anniversary Celebration Countdown has begun!!
- ☺ Not Oprah's Book Club Information. Take our poll! <http://www.misterpoll.com/polls/529468>
- ☺ Women's Center Fund-raiser
- ☺ Ongoing and Upcoming Events and Groups
- ☺ Did You Know?
- ☺ Information about the Women's Center, the list serve, and newsletter submissions
- ☺ Shout Outs!

August Thoughts from Mah on Harassment on Campus

Harassment on campus...no one really seems to want to talk about it. From my experience, the misconception among many students and staff is that harassment is not prevalent on college campuses. Contrary to popular belief, harassment happens on college campuses including UMBC.

I have been on the receiving end of harassment on campus and I've also heard the stories of others. In such cases, harassers were UMBC students. This behavior is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct and is not valued at UMBC.

The UMBC campus has some really great safety initiatives and resources:

- The Sexual Assault and Relationship Violence Response Team (410.455.2542)
- UMBC Voices Against Violence (www.umbc.edu/vav/index.html)
- Relationship Violence Awareness and Prevention (www.umbc.edu/rvap)
- UMBC Police Department (410-455-5555)
- Escort Services (410-455-3133)
- University Counseling Center (410-455-2472)

Some off-campus resources:

- Hollaback Baltimore (www.bmore.ihollaback.org)

- Turnaround (410-828-6390)
- September is Campus Safety Awareness month, do your part to keep campus safe: if you or someone you know has been harassed, speak up and raise awareness!

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!

20th Anniversary Women's Center

100,000 Stories: Which One is Yours? | 2011 - 2012

If you've been reading past newsletters, you know very well that this September commemorates the 20th Anniversary of the Women's Center. If you follow myumbc and our facebook pages, you know very well that the Women's Center staff is pumped! As we prepare for our birthday, we have learned about the rich history of the Women's Center. From the diligent work of our founding sisters to the creation of our hands mural and Center chairs 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. We're recoding our history and stories via the venue of digital story telling. Two great students, Stefanie M and Andrew Wright have volunteered their time to put together a great piece for us. We need your stories to

make it come alive. If you have favorite memories and birthday wished for the Center, please contact Jess so we can interview you for our digital story telling time.

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



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

September 14th:

20th Anniversary Kick-Off Picnic

September 28th:

Albin O. Kuhn Library Exhibit

October 15th:

Homecoming Open House

October 2011:

Special event through the Theatre Department (more to come!)

March 14, 2012:

20th Anniversary Lecture Event

April 4, 2012:

Women in Technology: 2nd Annual Spring into Leadership Event

April 25, 2012: URCAD

TBA: The Korneman Lecture

On Going:

- Mug Fundraiser
- Collection of stories for our digital story telling documentary (if you want to be on the video, please contact Jess!)

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



Current 20th Anniversary Celebration Co-Sponsors Include:

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

UMBC's Office of Undergraduate Education, URCAD, Albin O. Kuhn Library, The Theatre Department



PRESIDENT'S
COMMISSION FOR
WOMEN



UMBC MAGAZINE



Women's Center Coffee Mug

Fundraiser!

Our mugs have arrived! Show your support to the center by purchasing a travel mug with our logo on it! Your purchase will help us raise funds that are much needed for the operation of the center. This is a multipurpose fundraiser as each mug purchased will help the Women's Center with:

- 1) Donations: Donate much needed funds to the Women's Center
- 2) Sustainability: Help replace Women's Center paper cups with a more sustainable alternative!
- 3) Cost Savings: The Women's Center will spend less money on paper cups and more money on important programs!
- 4) PR: People will see your awesome mug and want to visit the Women's Center for anything from free coffee and tea to critical crisis response and referral!

Thanks for helping us in achieving our goals!

Cost: \$10 each



New Opportunities in The Mosaic Center!

The Mosaic Center has been making some big changes over the summer. This includes new leadership/employment opportunities to include:

- Several spaces on the Diversity Educator Intern Program
- A newly approved graduate assistantship opportunity
- An hourly administrative support position (no tuition remission, 20 hrs/week) with the Office of Student Life's Mosaic Center.

For more information about these EXCITING opportunities, you can stop by the Center (Jess has copies of all the descriptions) or stop by the Mosaic Center/contact Lisa Gray, Assistant Director of Student Life, Cultural and Spiritual Diversity, for more information.

Save the Date! On-Campus Job Fair: August 30th!

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!

Next Meeting: Friday, August 19th at noon in the Women' Center

DID YOU KNOW??

Not a week goes by in the Women's Center where someone doesn't come in to ask questions related to reproductive health and general wellness. It's pretty awesome that students see the Women's Center as a place to gain knowledge and walk away feeling a bit more empowered about decisions they can make related to keeping themselves safe and healthy. Rightly so, we've got some great resources we want to be sure the community knows we have and can use. They include:

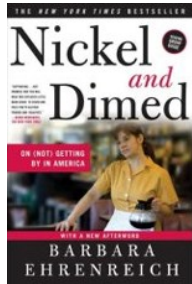
- Books like... *Our Bodies, Our Selves* (in Spanish too!) and *What to Expect When Your Expecting* (and more!)
- Free condoms and dental dams; information about emergency contraception
- Safe space to express breast milk for our working and student moms
- Information related to STIs
- Information on alternatives to tampons and pads
- Conversations (and information) about consent, sexual assault, and relationship violence
- Referral information to campus and community resources

**Be sure to
check it out!**

Not Oprah's Book Club... Coming This Fall to the Women's Center!

The Women's Center is sponsoring a book club and we'd like for you to be a part of it! For avid and novice readers alike, we invite you to come and share your thoughts. Although the NOBC is sponsored by... the Women's Center, our doors are open to the entire UMBC community. More info to come soon. If you would like to be on the mailing list, email Mah Sid-diqui at mah4@umbc.edu A poll will be going out soon to pick and choose between the following 5 books.

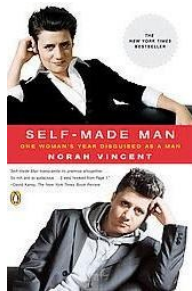
Take Our Poll: <http://www.misterpoll.com/polls/529468>



Nickel and Dimed ~ Barbara Ehrenreich

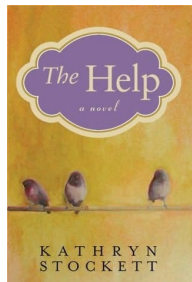
Millions of Americans work for poverty-level wages, and one day Barbara Ehrenreich decided to join them. She was inspired in part by the rhetoric surrounding welfare reform, which promised that any job equals a better life. But how can anyone survive, let alone prosper, on \$6 to \$7 an hour? To find out, Ehrenreich moved from Florida to Maine to Minnesota, taking the cheapest lodgings available and accepting work as a waitress, hotel maid, house cleaner, nursing-home aide, and Wal-Mart salesperson. She soon discovered that even the "lowliest" occupations require exhausting mental and physical efforts. And one job is not enough; you need at least two if you intend to live indoors.

Self-Made Man ~ Norah Vincent



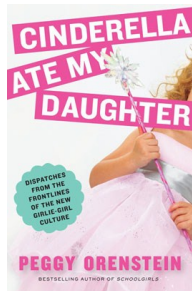
Vincent's first experiment in cross-dressing came on a dare from an acquaintance who was a drag king. When she experienced the intoxicating invisibility and safety that came from wearing the disguise, she wanted to learn more. For 18 months, she disguised herself as a man, renamed herself Ned, joined a men's bowling league, visited strip bars, and dated women. Along the way, she found that the freedom and privileges enjoyed by men were counterbalanced by a constant testing and severe limits on emotions. She also found women to be distrustful, ever ready to criticize men for being emotionally distant yet clearly preferring men who met stereotypical images of strength and virility. Vincent is frank about her experiences--the hard business of sexual transactions devoid of emotions, the easy bonding between men, fear of sexual attraction among men, and, ultimately, the explosion of her own notions of sex roles. She also explores the guilt she feels about her deception. Writing from the perspective of a gay woman who had a view of the male world that women don't get to see, Vincent finds unexpected complexities in the men she meets and in herself as well.

The Help ~ Kathryn Stockett



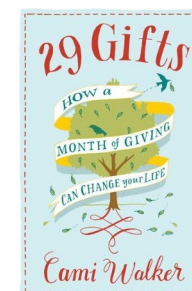
Set during the nascent civil rights movement in Jackson, Miss., where black women were trusted to raise white children but not to polish the household silver. Eugenia Skeeter Phelan is just home from college in 1962, and, anxious to become a writer, is advised to hone her chops by writing about what disturbs you. The budding social activist begins to collect the stories of the black women on whom the country club sets relies and mistrusts enlisting the help of Aibileen, a maid who's raised 17 children, and Aibileen's best friend Minny, who's found herself unemployed more than a few times after mouthing off to her white employers. The book Skeeter puts together based on their stories is scathing and shocking, bringing pride and hope to the black community, while giving Skeeter the courage to break down her personal boundaries and pursue her dreams. Assured and layered, full of heart and history, this one has bestseller written all over it.

Cinderella Ate My Daughter ~ Peggy Orenstein



Orenstein, who has written about girls for nearly two decades (Schoolgirls), finds today's pink and princess-obsessed girl culture grating when it threatens to lure her own young daughter, Daisy. In her quest to determine whether princess mania is merely a passing phase or a more sinister marketing plot with long-term negative impact, Orenstein travels to Disneyland, American Girl Place, the American International Toy Fair; visits a children's beauty pageant; attends a Miley Cyrus concert; tools around the Internet; and interviews parents, historians, psychologists, marketers, and others. While she uncovers some disturbing news (such as the American Psychological Association's assertion that the "girlie-girl" culture's emphasis on beauty and play-sexiness can increase girls' susceptibility to depression, eating disorders, distorted body image, and risky sexual behavior), she also finds that locking one's daughter away in a tower like a modern-day Rapunzel may not be necessary. Orenstein concludes that parents who think through their values early on and set reasonable limits, encourage dialogue and skepticism, and are canny about the consumer culture can combat the 24/7 "media machine" aimed at girls and hold off the focus on beauty, materialism, and the color pink somewhat. With insight and biting humor, the author explores her own conflicting feelings as a mother as she protects her offspring and probes the roots and tendrils of the girlie-girl movement.

29 Gifts ~ Cami Walker



Just a month after her wedding, 31-year-old Walker was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis; two years later, she was bitter, isolated, and addicted to both pain medication and self-pity. In need of help beyond drug detox, Cami takes the advice of a South African healer: give away something every day, for 29 days. Walker soon learns that being mindful of giving also means being open to gifts from others, and that gratefulness and mutual generosity is the key to a better, more rewarding life. Glimpses into Walker's day-to-day difficulties-work, family life, constant therapeutic treatment and addiction recovery among them-crop up among the stories of her daily gifts, grounding the work (based on Walker's Web site) in personal details. But the meat, an admirable reworking of The Secret (in that it should actually help someone, at least gift recipients), speaks largely to those already initiated into the cult of positivity.



Women's Center Fall Film Series: Save the Dates!

WOMEN'S CENTER FALL 2011 FILM SERIES

September

"Cut From a Different Cloth: Burqas & Beliefs"

In 2005 filmmakers Cliff Orloff & Olga Shalygin returned to Afghanistan's northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif for the third time since the fall of the Taliban in 2002. The all-covering burqa, the high-walled living compounds and cultural restrictions on women limited their access. Olga, a Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist, was puzzled why virtually all the Afghan women she saw still wore the burqa...even though security had greatly improved and a new constitution was adopted that granted women equal rights with men. Through Serena, a 27-year-old American woman, who is living with an Afghan family and their 27-year-old daughter Hasina, we are taken inside the walls that separate women from men. Serena becomes the eyes and ears of the filmmakers. Together, Serena, Hasina and Olga set out on a journey to learn what it means to be a woman in today's Afghanistan. *Filmmaker: Olga Shalygin (2005)*

Run time: 56 Minutes

Show times: 09/19 - 09/21; 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00 09/22; 11:00, 12:00 1:00, 2:30, 3:30, 09/23; 11:00

Film Discussion: 9/23; 12:00 pm
(Facilitated by: Jill Schaefer of the Psychology Dept.)

October

"Maid in America"

Housekeeper. Nanny. Maid. Surrogate mother. Such are the many roles of *las domésticas*—undocumented workers who came to America in search of a better life and found themselves scrubbing toilets and setting tables, working long hours for little pay in private homes. Most have no health insurance, no driver license, no pension and no recourse when it comes to employment injustices. They cook meals they could never afford, clean houses they could only dream of owning and care for strangers' children when their own children are thousands of miles away. Deportation is a constant fear. And still they come to the United States by the thousands in hopes of a better life for themselves and their families. *MAID IN AMERICA* is an intimate, eye-opening look at the lives of *las domésticas*, as seen through the eyes of Eva, Telma and Judith: three Latina immigrants, each with a very different story. *Filmmakers: Anyansi Prado & Kevin Leasingham. (2006)*

Run time: 58 Minutes

Show times: 10/17 - 10/19; 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00 10/20; 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:30, 3:30 10/21; 11:00

Film Discussion: 10/21; 12:00 pm
(Facilitated by: Dr. Sara Poggio of the Modern Languages & Linguistics Dept.)

November

"Lioness"

LIONESS tells the story of a group of female Army support soldiers who were part of the first program in American history to send women into direct ground combat. Without the same training as their male counterparts but with a commitment to serve as needed, these young women fought in some of the bloodiest counterinsurgency battles of the Iraq war. *Lioness* makes public, for the first time, their hidden history. Told through the intimate accounts, journal excerpts, archival military commanders, the film follows five *Lioness* women who served together for a year in Iraq. Together the women's candid narratives describing their experiences in Iraq and scenes from their lives back home form a portrait of the emotional and the psychological effects of war from a female point of view. *Filmmakers: Meg McLagan & Daria Sommers. (2008)*

Run time: 83 Minutes

Show times: 11/14 - 11/16; 10:00, 11:30, 1:00, 2:30, 4:00 11/17; 10:00, 11:30, 1:00, 2:30, 11/18; 10:00

Film Discussion: 11/18; 12:00 pm
(Facilitated by: Dr. Denise Merino of the History Dept.)

December

"The Business of Being Born"

While the United States has perhaps the most advanced health care system in the world, it also has the second-highest infant mortality rate of any industrialized nation, and many have begun to question conventional wisdom regarding the way obstetricians deal with childbirth. While midwives preside over the majority of births in Europe and Japan, fewer than ten percent of American mothers employ them, despite their proven record of care and success. How do American doctors make their choices regarding the way their patients give birth, and who is intended to benefit? Director Abby Epstein and producer Ricki Lake offer a probing look at childbirth in America in the documentary *THE BUSINESS OF BEING BORN*, which explores the history of obstetrics, the history and function of Midwives, and how many common medical practices may be doing new mothers more harm than good. *Filmmakers: Abby Epstein & Ricki Lake. (2008)*

Run time: 87 Minutes

Show times: 12/05 - 12/08; 10:00, 11:30, 1:00, 2:30 12/09; 10:00

Film Discussion: 12/09; 10:00 pm
(Facilitated by: Dr. Jessica Guerin-Rae, adjunct faculty of Social Work Dept.)

For more information about the film series, please contact the Women's Center

Women's Center at UMBC • Commons 004 • 410-455-2714 • women'scenter@umbc.edu • www.umbc.edu/womencenter



Consult with your professor and/or syllabus to see if any films can be used for class assignment and/or extra credit.



UMBC Women's Center

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Phone: 410.455.2714

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womens.center@umbc.edu

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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 :)

Please Note: Our tentative Fall Hours will be Monday-Thursday, 9am-7pm and Fridays from 9-5pm.

August 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.

Lisa Macfarlane and Suzanne Hollis-

Thanks the book donations! So many great reads for the community to take advantage of! -Jess

Lisa Gray—Thank you for the conversations you bring to the Women's Center. You are a professional I admire. You motivate me every day to stay committed to looking at situations from a social justice lens. Thank you for being you. -Jess

Jeff Cullen- Thanks for asking me to be a part of the Code of Student Conduct review committee. It's been a great project and I'm looking forward to the changes/updates. -Jess

Alan Kreizenbeck & Susan McCully-Thanks for a great planning meeting for the 20th Anniversary and theatre department collaborations. Really looking forward to some great shows this year! - Jess

Mickey Arora and Alison Rohrbach- Thanks for the jump start planning for Domestic Violence Awareness Month. I'm looking forward to a month that will honor the stories and experiences and help educate the UMBC community. -Jess

To the Relationship Violence Prevention and Awareness Team—Thank you for your dedication and commitment to generating awareness and education about such an important issue. - Jess

Diane Lee- Thank you for believing in me. -

Jess

Eryl, Christy, and Mah- Thank you for being a constant in the Center. You made the summer so wonderful and productive. Looking forward to an amazing year! - Jess

To The Women's US National Soccer

Team—Thanks for a good run at this year's World Cup title. It was exciting to see you go so far and to feel the energy being devoted to a women's sport. I hope you can keep the momentum up for years to come! - Jess

To the Women's Center

Staff- Thanks for supporting my academics and giving me a place to study! - Jon Cruz

Lisa MacFarlane—Thanks for volunteering your time to the center and for your constant support. We love and appreciate you! - Christy

Lisa Gray of the Mosaic Center—you are such a joy to be around. Anyone who's given the opportunity to work alongside you is very fortunate indeed. Thank you for being you! - Christy

Jess, Eryl, and

Mahnoor—Thanks for providing such a positive environment to work in. You all make work all the more enjoyable.—Christy

A welcoming shoutout to **Galina Portnoy** to say we think you're great and can't wait to begin working with you! - Christy

Jon Cruz—Thanks for helping me reach the heavy boxes so I can go through and shred old documents! - Eryl

Jess, Christy and Mah- Thank you for making the Center a happy place to be, -Eryl

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.

Based on survey results, meetings will continue to be held this fall on Wednesdays at noon with the first one being held on the first day of classes (August 31st)

For more information, please contact: Jess Myers at jess.myers@umbc.edu.