



The UMBC Women's Center Newsletter: April 2012

Letter from the Director*: Jess Myers

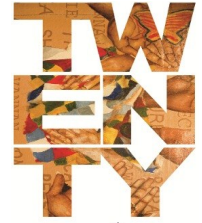


"If you're not outraged, you're not paying attention."

Trayvon Martin's death weighs heavy on my heart. My social media outlets, are filled with news articles and blogs each day regarding communities responses and call for justice. I am encouraged by the outrage. As we enter into April, which is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, I cannot help but to compare the ways in which as a society we often blame the victim. Trayvon was "suspicious" in his hoodie. Some survivors of sexual assault are accused for "asking for it" because they were wearing revealing clothes. It's outrageous to accept these claims as truth. So some take to the streets (and even legislatures) in their hoodies or revealing clothes in Million Hoodie Marches and Slut Walks begging for people to be outraged and to pay attention to racism and sexism. As the Director* of the Women's Center, when I am asked to describe my job responsibilities, I often start with my commitment to creating awareness about sexual assault and serving as an advocate for survivors. It is unnerving for some people to talk about sexual assault

and other forms of interpersonal violence. I sense their nervousness when I bring up the topic... which is exactly why I speak so openly about this epidemic. When 1 in 6 American women are survivors of sexual assault or attempted sexual assault, we need to start paying attention. It cannot just be a women's issue, or a campus issue, but everyone's issue... and everyone's rage. I invite you to join the Women's Center and UHS this month in several events and programs dedicated to Sexual Assault Awareness Month (calendar of events can be found on page 3). The national campaign's theme this year is to promote healthy sexuality as a means to reduce gender-based violence. We feel we've added a good number of programs to address this theme and promote healthy sexuality on campus. We hope there's something for everyone to learn and gain new awareness. June Jordan once said, "rage has lost its respectability." And with this, I invite you in this important month to find respect in rage and question complacency.

**Yes! "Acting" has been removed from my title! I am officially your Women's Center Director as of April 1!*

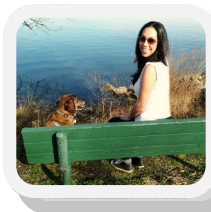


Celebrating 20 Years 1991-2011
100,000 Stories: Which One is Yours?

What's Inside!

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

Letter from the Coordinator: Galina Portnoy



First thing's first: a BIG congrats to Jess on officially transitioning to Women's Center Director!

In honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, I wanted to devote my "letter" to the

discussion 5 things we can *all* do to prevent gender-based violence and sexual assault*:

1. Approach sexual assault as an EVERYONE issue rather than a women's issue. When sexual assault is considered an "everyone" issue, we are all responsible to do the work. We can transition to become empowered bystanders who can (directly and/or indirectly) confront abusive and dangerous behavior.
2. If a friend, family member, classmate, teammate, or peer is abusing or as-
3. Have the courage to look inward. Question your own attitudes. Don't be defensive when something you do or say ends up hurting someone else. Try to understand how your own attitudes and actions might inadvertently perpetuate sexism, gender violence, and abusive patterns. Identifying and understanding your own behavior is the first step to working towards change.
4. Don't fund sexism and sexual assault culture. Refuse to purchase maga-

zines, watch movies, subscribe to web sites, or buy music that portrays girls or women in a sexually degrading or abusive manner. Protest sexism in the media.

5. Be an ally to those who are working to end all forms of gender violence and sexual assault. Support the work of campus groups. For examples of how to support this cause, get involved in the events taking place in April (Sexual Assault Awareness Month). The month's calendar includes a little bit of everything: the events are educational, some are activist in nature, some are fun, and others are a combination of all of these. Check out the SAAM calendar on pg. 3 for more details on how you can get involved in this month.

*These tips were adapted from Jackson Katz's (1999) MVP Strategies, a gender violence prevention, education, and training organization.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

The Women's Center, University Health Services, Student Events Board, Gender and Women's Studies, Women Involved in Learning and Leadership, and community partners will be working together to sponsor a number of terrific events and programs this April to commemorate Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM).

What is Sexual Assault Awareness Month?

The United States has designated the month of April to be a month of sexual assault awareness and consciousness raising. Sexual Assault Awareness Month's (SAAM) goal is to raise public awareness about sexual violence and to educate communities and individuals on how to prevent sexual violence. By partnering with campus and community organizations, we are able to provide a full calendar of events and programs throughout SAAM.

This year's SAAM theme is healthy sexuality and sexual violence prevention.

Healthy sexuality means having the knowledge and power to express sexuality in ways that enrich one's life. It includes approaching sexual interactions and relationships from a perspective that is consensual, respectful and informed. Healthy sexuality is free from coercion and violence.

Please visit these sites for resources and more information:

[An Overview on Healthy Sexuality and Sexual Violence Prevention](#)

This overview provides a framework for promoting healthy sexuality as an approach to sexual violence prevention. Also available in [Spanish](#).

[Healthy Sexuality: A Guide for Advocates, Counselors and Prevention Educators](#)

This guide provides guidance and practical tools for discussing healthy sexuality within the context of sexual violence for advocates, counselors, prevention educators, and activists.

[Healthy sexuality glossary](#)

This glossary outlines key terms and definitions for understanding healthy human sexuality. Also available in [Spanish](#).

[It's time... to talk about consent](#)

This fact sheet highlights the importance of consent in healthy sexual interactions and provides information on defining and establishing consent. Also available in [Spanish](#).

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

SAAM



Sexual Assault Awareness Month 2012

“Sex + Money” Film Screening & Discussion

Mon, Apr 2, 7-9pm

Physics Building, Lecture Hall 6

Sex+Money: A National Search for Human Worth is a documentary about domestic minor sex trafficking and the modern-day abolitionist movement fighting to stop it. Discussion will be led by The Samaritan Women. Resources available.

SAAM Kick Off

Wed, Apr 4, 11am-1pm

Commons Breezeway

Pick up an awareness ribbon, a copy of the calendar and other resources about sexual assault.

T-Shirt Making for Clothesline Project

Tues - Thurs, Apr 3, 4 and 5th, 1-4pm

Women's Center, and

Tues, Apr 3, 7-8pm

Harbor Multipurpose Room

Stop by at any time to make a shirt in honor of SAAM. All supplies will be provided. Bring your own shirt if you want.

“Hey Baby” Let's Talk About Street Harassment with Holly Kearn, Street harassment expert

Mon, Apr 9, 7pm

Women's Center

Catcalls, groping, stalking, sexist comments and assault can take place year round, but are significantly higher when the warm weather rolls around. Making public spaces safer for women and LGBTQ individuals is the goal of street harassment education. Raising awareness about street harassment is the first step to combating it in communities.

Good Morning Commuters

Tues, Apr 10, 8:30-10:30am

Commons Main Street

Spend your morning with the Peer Health Educators over breakfast with OCSS. Pick up a calendar of events for the month of April, win prizes, and learn about campus resources for violence.

Promoting a Healthy Sexuality - Pub Chat

Tues, Apr 10, 6:30-8:30pm

Flat Tuesdays Pub, Lower Level

The national SAAM theme this year centers on promoting healthy sexuality to prevent sexual violence. Come ready with questions on anything related to sex, sexuality, reproduction, etc and have them answered openly and honestly. Free food!

Clothesline Project Display

Wed, Apr 11, 10am-3pm

Commons Main Street

UMBC Talks: Navigating the Various Cultural Aspects of Sexual Assault

Wed, Apr 11, 12pm

The Mosaic Center, Commons 2B23

Attend this open and honest discussion about how sexual assault is viewed and approached in different cultures.

Green Dot Training Introduction

Thurs, Apr 12, 2-3pm

Women's Center

“No one has to do everything but everyone has to do something.”

This session will explore the concepts of bystander intervention in power based violence prevention. Information about the Green Dot program and bystander intervention techniques will be shared.

I <3 Female Orgasm

Mon, Apr 16, 7pm

UC Ballroom

Healthy sexuality is another piece of the puzzle in reducing violence against women. Join us for an educational program about female orgasms that's guaranteed to be informative and fun!

Updated Training: Responding to Relationship Violence & Sexual Assault at UMBC

Tues, Apr 17, 2-3:30pm

Commons 331

Faculty & staff are invited to learn about the new guidelines for reporting incidents of sexual assault & relationship violence. Register at <http://my.umbc.edu/groups/training/events>.

Consent is Sexy

Wed, Apr 18, 11am-2pm

Commons Main Street

Stop by our “kissing booth,” pick up information & resources and sign our consent contract.

Take Back the Night

Wed, Apr 18, 6pm

Towson University Campus

A free shuttle will be available from UMBC. The bus will leave at 5pm from The Commons Circle. Contact Mickey Arora in Health Education at parora@umbc.edu or 410-455-3752 to reserve your seat !!! First come, first serve.

Film Series - *Very Young Girls*

Mon - Thurs, Apr 23 through Apr 26

Show times: 10, 11:30, 1, 2:30, 4pm. Fri Apr 27 at 10am only

Take a look into the underground world of teen sex trafficking in New York City.

Film Discussion: Friday, 4/27, 12pm

Facilitated by: Director of “Safe House of Hope”

Clothesline Project Display

Tues, Apr 24, 4-6pm

Harbor Courtyard



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 April Schedule

- 4/04 Career Planning and Networking presentation from the Career Center
- 4/11 OCSS Roundtable Discussion (Lunch Provided)
- 4/18 Couponing: Special guest, Lisa Druillard, from Human Resources (*Library Roving Services Available*)
- 4/25 Film Series (No Meeting)

It's not too late to get your scholarship applications in! Newcombe Foundation & Bryson Neville applications for 2012-2013 are due April 6th!

<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: portnoy@umbc.edu
 OR
 Graduate Coordinator of the OSI, Mosaic Center for LGBTQ Programs:
Oteri Esleke at: oeslekp@umbc.edu

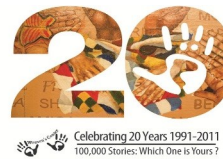


The Mosaic
Center for Culture and Diversity
The Mosaic is a part of the Office of Student Life
Room 2823, The Commons, 2nd Floor
410.455.2688
mosaic@umbc.edu
<http://www.umbc.edu/studentlife/osaic/>



Women's Center at UMBC
Commons 904
410.455.2714
womenscenter@umbc.edu
www.umbc.edu/womenscenter/

Only 3 Anniversary Events Left!!!



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

Know Your Body Workshop!
Friday, April 20th at noon... more information to come

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: April 13th at 12pm

Couponing Workshop: Wednesday, April 18th, 12pm

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHTS: APRIL



April 25, 2012

As part of the 20th Anniversary celebrations, check out the Women's Center my.umbc group page for a "of interest of the Women's Center" document outlining all the great oral presentations and poster

email: unitewomenmd@gmail.com

website: UniteWomenMD.org

facebook.com/[unitewomenMD](https://www.facebook.com/unitewomenMD)

twitter: @WOW_MD



Critical Psychology Confronts Racialized Crises

April 30th, 4pm
Albin O. Kuhn Library Gallery

Dr. Michelle Fine, Distinguished Professor of Social Psychology, Women's Studies and Urban Education, Graduate Center, City University of New York will be giving a distinguished Lecture in Psychology.

Dr. Fine will discuss social psychology's long and often buried history of critical psychological engagements with movements for social justice. She will then review two participatory action research projects, one with New York City youth and one with women in prison, that focus on the school to prison, and prison to college, pipelines as racialized dynamics during times of growing inequality gaps.

Baltimore, Maryland
War Memorial Plaza
102 N. Holliday Street
Saturday, April 28
10am - 2pm
UniteWomen.org

the female orgasm

a program on female sexuality and pleasure
by sex educators Marshall Miller & Rachel Dart

**Monday, April 16th, 7 p.m.
University Center Ballroom**

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.

April 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

♀ **Catrice**—Words will never be enough to express our gratitude. You are an amazing woman and we are blessed to have you be a part of our community. Thank you for having the courage to share your story and allowing us to have you be our keynote speaker and storyteller.

♀ **Dr. Berman, Dr. Anderson, Cassie Kilroy Thompson, Isabel Garrido, and Mollie**—Thank you for being a part of Catrice's panel and sharing your story at our March event. We are so fortunate to have dedicated faculty and staff members like you at UMBC. You helped make our event a success!

♀ **Dr. Hrabowski and Dr. Rous**—Thank you for your support for the 20th Anniversary/PCW Event. We felt honored to have you there and provide opening and closing remarks!

♀ **Dawn Stoute and the PCW Spring Event Committee**—Thank you for helping the Women's Center create an amazing event. Your thoughts and input were so helpful! We appreciate the PCW for financially supporting the

event as well! Thank you!

♀ **Erika & Jim from Creative Services**—Thanks for all the website support and revamping! Each time we get updates we get more and more excited. Can't wait to launch it to our community!

♀ **Stefanie Mavronis and Drew Wright**—We love the final cut of the Women's Center's 20th Anniversary documentary. The feedback has been awesome. We were so lucky to have you help us actualize this project!

♀ **Simon Stacey**—Thanks for suggesting a new partnership with the Women's Center. Looking forward to the brainstorming session!

♀ **Advisory Board Applicants**—Thanks for applying to the Women's Center Advisory Board. We love your commitment to wanting to be more involved with the Women's Center. We'll be in touch soon with updates!

♀ **To All 20th Anniversary Quilt Square Makers**—Thanks for taking the time to get creative and share your group's story as it relates to the Women's Center! Excited for the big reveal on May 9th!

♀ **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!

♀ **Maureen Evans Arthurs**—Thank you for helping collaborate with us on some great UMBC Talks topics for Women's History Month and Sexual Assault Awareness Month. You're awesome!

♀ **Women's Center Staff**—Thank you for being patient with me during the busy and crazy times of planning leading up to the 20th Anniversary event. I couldn't have done it without your support and flexibility! - Jess

♀ **Barbara Smith**—Thank you for picking up our paychecks and bringing them over to the Center instead of one of us going over to collect them - Eryl

♀ **Elle Trusz**—It was such a pleasure to work more closely with you this month! Thank you for contributing to

Between Women



thank you