



The UMBC Women's Center Newsletter: Spring 2013 Kick-Off

Letter from the Director: Jess Myers



"The giving of love is an education in itself." - Eleanor Roosevelt

This January, I celebrated my second anniversary at UMBC and a Women's Center staff member. That day, I also had a President's Commission for

Women luncheon with Dr. Hrabowski

which I joked was secretly an anniversary lunch for me. Yet, I do not need a lunch or a gift to celebrate my anniversary in the Women's Center. Every day of having one of the best jobs in the world is a gift that I am eternally thankful for. Last year, I reflected on what I learned from my first 365 days in the Women's Center and decided to carry on the tradition.

Here's what the past 730+ days as a UMBC Women's Staff member has taught me:

UMBC students are (still) really smart. This was my number one take away last year and I still haven't changed my mind! When I listen to the constructive and meaningful conversations you have in the Center, I am blown away by your thoughtfulness, your research skills, and your passion to be experts in your fields and areas of passion.

Hospitality multiplies. I am constantly amazed by the generosity of Women's Center friends. From sharing food with each other to donations of tea and coffee, we're a place that keeps giving because of our community members. This reminds of the importance of generosity in my life beyond the Women's Center walls.

Parents need allies too. I've learned that just because

I'm not a parent myself doesn't mean I can't lend an ear to listen, comfort, and advocate for a family-friendly campus culture.

Men need to be included too. My work is made stronger through alliances and partnerships. In working towards gender equity, men must be a part of the solution. I'm proud of the transformations our Rebuilding Manhood group has done and will continue to do.

Books are bridges to new friendships. Need I mention the countless hours we've discussed our love for *Hunger Games* and *Katniss*?

Make yourself available. It has been in my busiest moments that I've had the best conversations. Whether it's sharing stories with the Between Women group or having a random conversation while microwaving food in the lounge, the stories we share with each other have deep impacts and go further than we think they might.

Do things that scare you. The moments I've been most proud of myself as director of the Women's Center have been when I did things that scared me. From those experiences, I learned that I am more skilled than I think I am and should learn to trust in myself more. There is true beauty and growth in challenges.

And, still, there's so much more I've learned and not enough space to share. Thank you all for coming along on this journey with me.... I'm excited to see what the next 365 days teach me! Happy spring semester!



Women's Center
at UMBC

What's Inside!

- ☺ Letters from Staff
- ☺ New Women's Issues Group
- ☺ Film Screening and Discussion
- ☺ Vagina Monologues
- ☺ Spring Semester Programs & Events
- ☺ Shout Outs!

HONORS COLLEGE INTERN CORNER:



Happy Spring Semester! I can't believe it is the second semester of my internship already! After being involved in some really cool events and programs last fall with the Women's Center, I'm looking forward to the spring events and programming we are working on. First, as a returning student myself, I'm excited to see the changes we are making to the Returning Women's Forum. After meeting with the Newcombe Scholars and Returning Women Advisory Board, we decided the group needed a focus on creating relationships and friendships between Returning Women - not just providing resources for newly returned students - so our meetings will be focused on community building and getting to know women in similar situations.

Our first meeting is this Wednesday, February 6th at 10am!

I am also working on creating a mentorship program between women who've been on campus a few semesters and newly returned students/transfers. This is only my third semester at UMBC and I still come across nicknames or acronyms that I don't know. I understand that feeling of frustration at not knowing a UMBC language that seems fluent to everyone else and makes you feel like even more of an outsider. We've started a closed facebook group, since part of the nature of being a Returning Woman is having lots of life things going on outside of college! We understand that not everyone can make the meetings, so having an online component was important.

And of course, I'm looking forward to all of the events the center is putting together! March is Women's History Month and in April, we will be recognizing Sexual Assault Awareness Month with the Clothesline Project and Take Back the Night. It's going to be a great semester!

Women's Issues Group Meeting Times

What is Feminism?

February 11, 12pm in the Women's Center

Women's History

February 26, 5:30pm in the Women's Center

Women's Health

March 7, 6:30pm in the Women's Center

What is Vagina Monologues?

March 26, 5:30pm in the Women's Center

Street Harassment

April 8, 12 pm in the Women's Center

Pay Equity

April 25th, 6:30pm in the Women's Center

What is the future of Feminism?

May 8, 12pm in the Women's Center

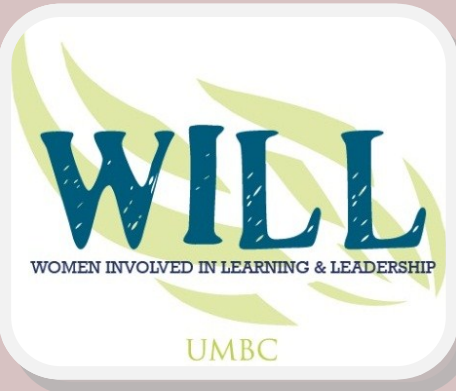


Contact cmorale1@umbc.edu for more information

WOMEN'S ISSUES DISCUSSION GROUP

The Women's Center and Women Involved in Learning & Leadership (WILL) have teamed up and created a new group for the UMBC community! The Women's Issues Discussion Group (WIG) will meet throughout the semester for discussions

related to important issues pertaining to women.



Pay equity, Sexual Assault,
Reproductive Rights,
LGBTQ Rights, Media Critiques,
Women in Politics,
Identity, Intersectionality,
Women in STEM fields

If you are interested in being a part of WIG, please stop by the Women's Center or contact Cassandra at cmorale1@umbc.edu.

FILM SCREENING AND DISCUSSION

The Women's Center & GWST's 6th Annual Korenman Lecture Presents *A Healthy Baby Girl*

1963 Filmmaker Judith Helfand's mother was prescribed the ineffective, carcinogenic synthetic hormone diethylstilbestrol (DES), meant to prevent miscarriage & ensure a healthy baby. At twenty-five, Judith was diagnosed with DES-related cervical cancer. After a radical hysterectomy she went to her family's home to heal & picked up her camera. The resulting video-diary is a fascinating exploration of how science, marketing & corporate power can affect our deepest relationships. Shot over five years, *A Healthy Baby Girl* tells a story of survival, mother-daughter love, family renewal, & community activism. Intimate, humorous, & searing, it is an invaluable resource for anyone interested in the relationship between women's health, public policy, medical ethics & corporate responsibility. (*Running time: 57 minutes*)



Show times:

Mon (2/18) & Wed (2/20) 1:00, 2:30, 4:00, & 5:00

Tues (2/19) & Thurs (2/21): 10:00, 11:30, 1:00, 2:30, & 4:00

Fri (2/22): 11:00

Film Discussion: Friday, 2/22, 12pm facilitated by Dr. Dawn Biehler from Geography and Environmental Sciences & GWST Affiliate Faculty

Join the Women's Center
for a community reading of
"The Vagina Monologues"
over coffee, tea, and
Valentine's sweets.



- DAY
Coffeehouse

When: Thursday, February 14th
Free Hour (11:30am-1pm)
Where: The Women's Center

Women's Center
at UMBC 

WOMEN'S CENTER PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Returning Women's Forum

The Returning Women's Forum is a Women's Center program designed to support women returning to college later in life (after the traditional age of 18-22).

This semester, the Returning Women's Group will be meeting Wednesday mornings at 10am, starting on February 6th!

Join our Returning Women's Forum Closed Group on Facebook!

Email Kelly at kelly23@umbc.edu for more information.

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

February Meeting Schedule:

Fri, Feb 8th, 10am

Thurs, Feb 28th, 1pm

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

REBUILDING MANHOOD

Create a new culture through discourse.

Develop meaningful connections with campus leaders.
Make a difference at UMBC and in society at large.

Because UMBC men can work together to shape our gender and to **Rebuild Manhood**.

Rebuilding Manhood is a 10-week commitment. The group will meet once a week on Fridays from 2-3:15pm beginning February 8th.

Interested in participating? We're accepting applications until Feb 1st. For more information contact the Women's Center at womens.center@umbc.edu or check us out on facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/RebuildingManhood>

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.

Spring Meetings are Tuesdays at 5pm.

Contact us to be added to our myUMBC group page.



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

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:** As always thank you for your support in helping the WC move toward an even brighter future! - Jess

♀ **Women's Center Advisory Board:** Thank you so much for reaching out to faculty and staff and asking them to join our recent Open Houses. Your dedication has been paramount. - Jess

♀ **Janet McGlynn & Anne Roland:** Thank you for meeting with me over the winter to work on awards brainstorming and compiling! - Jess

♀ **Max Barnhart & Cassandra Morales:** Thank you for covering shifts over the winter break! - Jess

♀ **Mike Mower:** Thank you for all of your help and support on website maintenance and edits! The site looks great and we're proud to direct folks to our updated "online home." Additional thanks for helping us translate our scholarship applications to an online format! - Jess and Galina

♀ **Bonnie V.:** Our sincerest thanks go out to you for your offer to help coor-

dinate the Between Women's group! It's because of student leaders like you that the Women's Center is able to expand our reach and develop more and more programs!

♀ **Crystal Diaz & Susan Martin—** Thanks for meeting with me over the break about Women's History Month and future CWIT/Women's Center partnerships. -Jess

♀ **Virginia Byrne:** Thanks for reaching out to brainstorm women leadership ideas for Women's History Month! -Jess

♀ **Kayla Keelan:** Thanks for meeting with me to discuss service options for our non-traditional students and their families! Looking forward to next steps.—Jess

♀ **Human Resources Dept:** Thanks for letting me attend your meeting to discuss family-friendly options for campus! - Jess

♀ **Lisa Gray:** As always thanks for your partnerships and your lending ear. I'm so grateful to

have you as a co-worker and a trusted social justice ally.—Jess

♀ **Elle Trusz:** Thank you for being someone I can always rely on to go the extra mile for me and the Women's Center! - Jess

♀ **Galina:** Thanks for getting the WC ready for your departure over the winter break. You'll never know how much you'll be missed by all of us! - Jess

♀ **Jess:** Words cannot begin to express how grateful I am to your support, encouragement, and understanding. Working for and with you at the Women's Center has been one of the most rewarding opportunities I've ever had. While I am saddened to leave my post, I know that because of your passion and leadership, the Center will not miss a beat. Thank you for all that you do! -Galina

♀ **WC Staff—**Thank you for the lovely goodbye wishes! I have sincerely enjoyed working with each of you and will miss you dearly. -Galina